

Transcript of interview with Karen Knox, Jack Wall's sister-in-law

INTERVIEWER: (asks her to ID herself)

My name is Karen Knox, K-A-R-E-N, K-N-O-X, from- (CLEARS THROAT) Excuse me. My Lone Oak(?) Arkansas.

INTERVIEWER: Let's start, what we were just talking about now. You're talking about family, and how you think they're trusting. That was the case with you, right?

KNOX: Well, I- (CLEARS THROAT) We had- Charlie and I have three children. And we built right next to his sister. And they had three girls. Thank goodness. And we share the same driveway. We've lived there for oh, thirteen, fourteen years now. And we wanted to build close to them, because we wanted our kids to grow up together.

INTERVIEWER: How are you related?

KNOX: Jack is my ex-brother-in-law. My husband's sister is married to Jack - or was married to Jack. And so we moved over there when the kids were little. And they grew up together, and they were in my house every day, and they called me Aunt E, for some reason; I don't know why; but we had little- special little things like that, you know. You know how families do. So- but- And I helped raise her kids, and she helped me with mine, and they were in my house every day; mine were over there with them. (CLEARS THROAT) We vacationed together. We had family get-togethers together. We had- we

STOCKS (Cont.): went to church together. We went to Sunday school together. The whole bit. Stood in the same Sunday school rooms for years, and held hands and prayed together. They knew our troubles, and we knew theirs. We shared our joys together, we shared- shared our sorrows together.

INTERVIEWER: Was- was Pam a- a- a confidant of yours? Did- I mean, if you had some problems or something?

KNOX: (over Interviewer) Yes. Yes. She was just like a sister to me. She was like a sister.

INTERVIEWER: And what about Jack?

KNOX: He was just like a brother. I mean, we were so close. (CLEARS THROAT) We- Like I said, we shared everything. And I- I thought our main focus in life were our children. That's what we talked about when we got together, was our kids. And then when we started having problems, naturally, we went and shared our problems with them. You know. Because Jack was so close to our kids. He had started them out in scouts. And he had taken them on several camping trips. They had gone to New Mexico, to Philmott(?) several times. Excuse me.

INTERVIEWER: Do you want some water?

KNOX: (COUGHS) No.

INTERVIEWER: Ok.

KNOX: And- and he was- he was close to those boys. Or my boys. And so naturally, when we started having trouble with the youngest one, you know, of course we shared our problems

with them.

INTERVIEWER: What were the- what was the- For instance, give me an example; what- what problems were you having?

KNOX: (over Interviewer?) Problems at school. Social problems, anger, outbursts. Couldn't fit in. Lots of depression. Lots of years of counseling. Family counseling. I mean, he's been in counseling since he was nine years old. He has a learning disability. He- he is dyslexic. (Interviewer: Mm-hm) And he has attention deficit disorder. (CLEARS THROAT) And so that deserves a lot of treatment. And, you know, evaluations, and assessments, and we kept up with all of those during all those years. So that, I'm sure, added to some of the frustration. But I've been a teacher now for 27 years. And I know the difference between social adjus- social problems and academic problems. We could handle the academic problems, because I was a teacher. I knew all about the IEPS, I knew how everything was supposed to be set up. And I was in

KNOX (Cont.): constant connection with the teachers, every single day, because he was in my school. And I knew what the expectations were. But when the social problems started, the- the anger outbursts, the running away from home on different occasions, the- talkin' of suicide, things like that, that's when we went and started getting help. And I mean, a lot of help.

INTERVIEWER: And he was talking of suicide. (Knox: Yeah) He was talking openly?

KNOX: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: That must'a scared the-

KNOX: It did. It did, and we stayed in counseling for years. Well, we've- we've been in counseling all of our life(?), if you want- you know, and family counseling. Wade was even taken to a- a center for youth and families, here in Little Rock, and stayed a year. In, ya know, in house. And received counseling every day. Because of the- the anger and the fi-ustrations and- just could not fit into society.

INTERVIEWER: What were they telling you? What were the reasons why they thought this was happening?

KNOX: Nobody knew. Nobody knew. We thought it was- we thought it all went back to the fi-ustrations of not being able to read or learn, you know, like the others do. Of all- of all my children, he's probably the brightest one I have. He just can't read that well. (Interviewer: Mm-hm) He's very- He makes decisions, you know, too fast. Ya know, things like that. And- So we were dealing with all of that. And he- he stayed there for a year. (Interviewer: Hm) And the only person that could check him out was my husband and Jack.

INTERVIEWER: What do you mean check him out?

KNOX: Well, he came home on the weekends. He- For good behavior, he came home on the weekends. And- And of course, the family, our family, ya know, we- and we went up once a week as a family, for counseling. And we participated in all the activities up there. And we were there probably as much as two and three times a weeks, some weeks. And-

INTERVIEWER: So this is not a family that says, "I can't deal with this kid."

KNOX: No. No.

INTERVIEWER: "You do it."

KNOX: (over Interviewer) No. We dealt with them. We called every day. And you know, when you put your child in a place like that, you are scared of them being molested or abused in some way. So I watched so carefully. I checked him so carefully. I observed everything so carefully. And we were up there, and I got to know every one of the staff members. You know. And we talked extensively about his care there, and how they were assessing him, and what the outcome was gonna be, and what we had to prepare for when he came home. And I thought: Well, ya know, this is- It was such a wonderful place. It was a good place. The- the people there were very good. Not- Good people, caring people, understanding people. Compassionate people. So I thought, you know: Well, this is gonna help. And it did for probably two, months. You know, when he came home. He started back to school. And then that's when all the problems started again.

INTERVIEWER: When you were- You were just saying that you checked this center out thoroughly, and one'a your concerns was sexual molestation. Did you talk to Jack about that, too, that that was one'a your concerns?

KNOX: No.

INTERVIEWER: Did you ever say anything to him?

KNOX: No.

INTERVIEWER: Because I would think, ya know, 'cause just in general, ya know; I'm gonna make sure everybody's alright; I hear all these stories, it happens. (Knox: Right. [Inaudible]) But you had never-

KNOX: I didn't. (Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah) But he kept up with his progress. You know, and when he came home on the weekends, often he would go with the scouts on camping trips. You know, and things like that. Charlie and I bought a Suburban, when our children were little. And we'd load those scouts up on weekends, and we would take 'cm out to the campsite. And then we would go back early Sunday morning and pick 'cm up. Get 'cm dressed up and take 'cm to Sunday school and church. Ya know, that was our life. That's what we- that's what we lived for. We wanted our kids in the scouts. (CLEARS THROAT) We wanted them out in- having wholesome good fun. You know, learning constructive things. You know, learning how to cope, you know, how to survive, how to- how- how to interact with other children. And it was a big deal in Lone Oak to be in the scouts, and there was a lot of 'cm.

INTERVIEWER: Was- What did Wade like about the scouts?

KNOX: He liked to be- he liked the outdoors. He liked learning all the techniques on survival. He liked earning his badges. You know, and you have to go through all this to earn your badges. And he liked being around those other kids. They were all out in the woods, for a whole weekend. You know, and- and all you had to do was, when you got

KNOX (Cont.): hungry, go eat. Ya know, so- I mean, they- they were fishing; they were building teepees. They were doing what little boys like to do.

INTERVIEWER: Did he have- did he have a lotta friends?

KNOX: Yes. Yes. He sure did.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. So meantime, you're still close with the- with the family next door, which is your (Knox: Inaudible) brother-in-law.

KNOX: Right.

INTERVIEWER: So... Two months go by and all the troubles start again. And whatwhat year was this, do you know? How old was-

KNOX: He's in the fifth grade by now.

INTERVIEWER: So this is a while.

KNOX: Yeah. See, he stayed- He went- When he was in the fourth grade, he went to the Elizabeth Mitchell Home, the Centers for Youth and Families. And he stayed there through the fourth grade, and when he came back he entered school in the fifth grade. Al'id

KNOX (Cont.): our psychologist, Katherine Shimot(sp?) was absolutely wonderful, and she came down to the school, and talked to the school about his IEP, how it should be met, what his capabilities were. You know, so we had it all goin' for us. You know, we were all doin' all we could.

INTERVIEWER: What's IIP?

KNOX: IE- (Interviewer: What is it?) IEP? That's just a formal plan for these children, like- It's all written out on paper, what their goals are, (Interviewer: Oh, ok) what their expectations are, and what their strengths and weaknesses are, and how you should follow through with classroom work and- Just like Wade had everything read to him, like for a test or whatever. Instead of him being- having to sit down like the others, he had somebody to come in and read his tests. And somebody came in and took his notes, (Interviewer: Mm-hm) things like that. (Interviewer: Right) He was responsible for the same learning. But we just had ways that he could function better in the classroom.

INTERVIEWER: Right, 'cause it would take him too long (Knox: Right) to sit and read it (Knox: Right) and he couldn't- he would fall behind (Knox: Right) the rest. Yeah. And... Before we get into the actual thing, tell me... How would you, back then, describe Jack?

KNOX: Wonderful. Caring, compassionate. A wonderful uncle. I thought he- I thought he loved my kids. I loved his. Charlie loved his kids. It was in our will that if something should happen to us, they would take our children. And if something should happen to them, we would take their children and raise them. And we had talked about this a lot. You know, how we would react and what we would do, and what their future would make; we were gonna(?) make sure everybody got a college education, you know, and things like that. So we talked extensively about things like that.

INTERVIEWER: And was it a given in the town that Jack Walls was a great guy and- (Knox: Yes) and... It- it- it follows that he should be involved in Boy Scouts.

KNOX: (over Interviewer) Right. A lady that I talked to after all this happened summed it up. She lives on the highway that leads to the Walls' fan-n. And she said every Saturday mornin', she would look up, and Jack had an old Ford pickup, and she said there would be kids hangin' all over that truck. And they would be goin' out to the far. And she said everybody was just, you know, hangin' on the truck, goin' out to the farm. And sheand- and she just said to herself. What a guy. What a nice guy.

INTERVIEWER: When Cletis and Doug Hogan- Well, let me back up a second. A lotta people say that they always heard rumors about Jack. (Knox: Mm-hm) And that he had problems, you know, back in 1969, and- and they shipped him off to Vietnam. Did he ever talk about that?

KNOX: No. No. I've been Lone Oak and with, you know, married to Charlie for 26, '7 years now. They- Charlie had lived all- there all of his life. Right down the street. Charlie says he

never heard a thing, ever. Ever. I married Charlie in 1972 and moved to Lone Oak. I never heard anything about Jack. Never.

INTERVIEWER: And Pam never told your husband.

KNOX: No. He was a scout leader. And we had a good scouting program in Lone Oak, we thought. He was Chamber of Commerce- he was the Man of the Year. You know, he- he was in church every Sunday. He doted over his children. He doted over his wife. He doted over my children. If I ever needed help with anything, he dropped what he was doing, and it was totally about me. Or Charlie, or the- or our children.

INTERVIEWER: Didn't you think: This guy's too good to be true?

KNOX: Yes. Yes.

INTERVIEWER: This guy that you (Inaudible, Knox over)

KNOX: (over Interviewer) Now that I look back, I thought there were- there were signs there. Your- People are good people. But they're not that good. (LAUGHS) You I-,now, you don't drop what you're doing every time somebody needs help and offer to

KNOX (Cont.): sacrifice your- your needs every time for somebody else's. It was just like- And I just thought he was the nicest person in the whole world. Very accommodating. If I needed a ladder for something, I mean, Jack was there. If- if we had trouble with- with one'a the boys, Jack was there. And our kids quit talkin' to us. We had normal kids. Brook, my oldest one, was about in the sixth- fifth, sixth grade, somewhere along in there; had all kinds of friends; was doing so well. And then all of a sudden, changed friends, dre- grades dropped in school. He got out of everything, and turned everything in. He was a loner. He was a loner. Didn't excel in school until his senior year. Went to work when he was fourteen on a (inaudible) farm(?), and worked from daylight 'til dark, seven days a week. And we were very concerned about that. We couldn't imagine why. We had a beautiful home. We had all the- everything those kids would want, we had it. And we got it for them. So they could just have a good- just a happy childhood, life, you know, childhood. We had a 24 by 24 game room. Bought(?) a acre of property in town, just so our kids could play baseball in the backyard, play basketball in the front yard, whatever. We had (inaudible). You know- you know... Why he wouldn't stay at home, we just didn't understand. He would get up at four or five o'clock in the morning and go to work. Stay all day long, come in at seven thirty or eight o'clock at night, and go out with his friends - and do the same thing seven days a week. Seven days a week. Broo- I would say, "Brook, is everything ok?" "Everything's ok. It's ok." But there was no life in that child's eyes, and I knew it. And I watched him, and I watched him. And I watched him wither away.

KNOX (Cont.): And I thought it was me. And I was always at home. I know I taught school, but I was there from four o'clock on every night. I was there every weekend. Charlie and I both were there. We were good parents. And we talked about it a lot, about how Brook just pulled out of everything. There's no life, there's no sparkle in those eyes anymore.

INTERVIEWER: Dead.

KNOX: Dead. Wouldn't talk to us. And so what did we do? We went over to Jack. 'Cause he was in scouts. And we thought, you know- We'd say, "Jack, you know, would you just talk to Brook and see what's goin' on? He won't talk to us anymore." Oh, yeah, he'd be glad to. He'd be glad to.

INTERVIEWER: When Brook was in scouts.

KNOX: Yes. And then he would come back in a day or two and say, "He's- he's fine, he's just

goin' through this(?)- just teenage stuff. He's a kid. Teenagers just do things like that." He'd say, "You know." And he said, "There- there's ups and downs, there's ins and outs. You know, changin' friends and all that, there- He's just tryin' to find his niche." He said, "He's happy, he's ok. It's just that he's just not into parents right now." Well, why shouldn't he be into parents? I love my child.

INTERVIEWER: Or why is he into (Knox: Ya know[?]) Jack?

KNOX: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Why is he telling Jack, (Knox: Yeah) and not telling you?

KNOX: Right. And so we went through that with Brook for a few years. Never had any problems. But he just... It was like he was just existing.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

KNOX: Ya know, he was just goin' through life, You could tell there was not anything... goin' on. It was just, he was goin' to school and everybody would say- Ya know, and I brought these children up. And I taught them how to learn. I taught that the- they should have goals. They should have a real(?) wonderful education; they should apply themselves; they should look people in the face and speak; they should be Christians. We lived that for them. And then when you see your child wither away for no reason, then Charlie and I began to think: Well, it's us. (PHONE RINGS) It's us. (PHONE RINGS)

INTERVIEWER: Oy. (brief comment; tape stops, re-starts)

(brief comment of crew)

INTERVIEWER: So you started blaming yourself. Did-

KNOX: (over Interviewer) Charlie did, too. We couldn't imagine.

INTERVIEWER: Did the two of you have- I mean, I don't wanna get in- But did you- Did you think: Well, maybe they think that Charlie and I- that you and I aren't getting along and-

KNOX: No.

INTERVIEWER: There wasn't anything-

KNOX: (over Interviewer) No, they- they saw- They saw the love there. You know. There was nothing that should've- There was nothing in our home that should've made them sad.

INTERVIEWER: And your daughter was fine-

KNOX: (over Interviewer) She was fine. She was a leader in school. She was in- she was- She was in dance, she- she had been to New York, she had been everywhere dancing. She had friends. But then again, this all did affect her, also. Because there's always trouble. There was always turmoil in our house. Ya know. There was always KNOX (Cont.): We were always worried about: Well, what's wrong? You know, you... There was this thing in my gut every day when I woke up, thinkin': What is wrong? Somethin's not... Something's not connecting here. Somethin' is not right. But I watched. And I just sit back and observed. I couldn't- I couldn't put my finger on anything. So then that's when- (BACKGROUND NOISE) that's- That's why Charlie and I began to think: Well, it's us. And I watched other parents. I watched other mothers... work with their children, you know? And I was goin': I'm doin' everything they're

doing. Ya know, I just didn't understand. (Interviewer: Mm-hm, mm-hm) So I tried even harder. Ya know, I cooked and we had- tried to have kids over. No birthday parties. Nothing. They didn't want any- they didn't want company. They- they would go places. And- But they didn't want company.

INTERVIEWER: So when did the light go on? Which- what- Was it when the Hogans came out?

KNOX: No. We heard about that. And we talked to those boys about that. My husband did. Charlie did. And they said no. No. They didn't know anything. You know, thatthat couldn't happen. But my- Charlie's mother, my mother-in-law, is very close to the grandchildren. She's a wonderful grandmother. And she has a lotta special qualities. And she could always talk to those grandkids. And she talked to- for- one day. She said, KNOX (Cont.): "Brook, could that be true?" And she said, "Karen, now that I look and see how he answered me," she said, "He was tellin' me yes." But she said, "I saw- He sal 'd no. That it was not true." But she said, "He did not look me in the face and tell me that it wasn't true." She said, "He ducked his head and said- He just shook his head; he never sal 'd anything." So he- they were tellin' us then. We just didn't- We just didn't hear it. You know, we should- we shou- But nobody...

INTERVIEWER: Should we stop?

(brief comment of crew)

KNOX: Nobody in the town... I mean, it was all just like a nightmare. Why would these people be accusing this scout leader of such atrocity things? Why?

INTERVIEWER: Did you talk to Jack about it?

KNOX: Yes. Daily. And he told us that the Hogans were accustomed to suing people, and that he thought they were trying to get some of the Walls' money. So we didn't know. We didn't know 'em. I didn't know Doug Hogan or Cletis. I didn't know who they were. So I believed him. You know. And I never checked anything out, because nobody ever came to us and said, "You know, you need to listen to the Hogans." (inaudible; interviewer over)

INTERVIEWER: Did Pain ever say anything?

KNOX: Yes. She was so upset that this could happen. You know, she just didn't understand where it was all comin' from. And of course, Jack had answered for it all: they were tryin' to get some of the Walls' money. They were tryin' to get some of their land or whatever. So we went to court. I- And I testified for Jack. Tellin' him what a wonderful person he was. My kids were on the stand for the Uncle Jack. And something came out in the paper. And he had written a letter of apology. (Interviewer: Right) And Charlie said- And Jack was sitting in my kitchen, and it was just as clear as it- yes- that day, that it is right now; and he said, "Jack, why would you write such a thing like that?" And Jack is so- was so humble, so compassionate. Said, "I would do anything for my family, just to keep it outta the news, and keep it out, and just to get it settled. I would do anything prote- to protect my family." And we were so gullible, we were so trusting, we thought: Well, ya know, he may have a point there. Ya know? I- I be- Ya know? I could understand that.

INTERVIEWER: Looking back now, do you think the Walls family used their muscle-

KNOX: Oh, I know they did. I know they did.

INTERVIEWER: How?

KNOX: Lone Oak is full of old money. There's a lot of- of control in Lone Oak. And all these

older men- It's an old Southern town, with old Southern money. And they had a hold on Lone Oak, and what came into Lone Oak, and what left Lone Oak, and the what grew, and what didn't grow, and if you made it or if you didn't make it. Ya know. They had a lotta control there. And I know they did. I know they used their power, I know- And I know these people knew all this. Because when all this came out, I went to my family physician. And he's in the- Jack's mother and father's age. And they all ran together. And I had lost probably 30 pounds in about three weeks. I mean, it was horrible; I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep. And I went to this man, and- and... Because we'd always (MIC NOISE?) gone to him, (Interviewer: Inaudible) for years.

INTERVIEWER: I'm sorry, this fell out.

KNOX: And I went to this man for some medication, just so I could hold food down. And so I could just sleep, just a- half way through the night. Of all the- Ya know, when I learned all this. And he said- And he was- He said to me - I never will forget it - he said, "I'm not giving you anything until you tell me what is wrong." He said, "You've lost all this weight." He said, "You look like you haven't slept." He said, "You look you're- you're gonna have a nervous breakdown. You're not- I'm not giving you anything until you tell me what is wrong." He said, "This is not you." And I said- and I told him. I said, KNOX (Cont.): "Well, we have just found out that Jack had been molesting our children, our boys, over the past year(?), and everybody else's that was in the scouts." And of course, I was crying and sobbing. And he told me then, he said, "Yeah," he said, "Jack's been known for that." He said, "Yeah, he got in trouble at- at Fayetteville for that, when he was at the University of Arkansas. He got in trouble for that, and he was in his first or second year of law school, and all of a sudden he packed up and he was in Vietnam." And he said, "Yeah, he did, he got in trouble for that." He said, "And in fact, he got in trouble for that before he ever left Lone Oak. When he was a young man, he got in trouble for that."

INTERVIEWER: Well, what was- What did you say?

KNOX: I was so devastated, and so sick, and so hurt, that I just stood there and I- I just stood there and stared at him. And- This is the way they think. He looked at me, he said, "Now, you don't take those kids to any psyc- those psychiatrists or psychologists up there in Little Rock." He said, "Now, you don't go that route." He said, "They'll do more harm than good." And he said, "We've had these people come into Lone Oak before." These pedophiles, you know? And he said, "Honey, we just send 'em on down the road."

KNOX (Cont.): And I was just- It was unbelievable, what I was hearing. I went to this man for help, and I came back- came out worse that I was when I went in there. I never- I've never been back to him. I've never been back.

INTERVIEWER: How we doin'?

(brief comments of crew)

INTERVIEWER: . Boy, talk about an old boy's network, huh?

KNOX: Yeah, good ol' boys.

INTERVIEWER: So it's- it's-

KNOX: All the old timers knew it. They had heard it and knew it.

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INTERVIEWER: -politics and money hushed everything up. And a lotta the people that we

Heard...
they're- the other side...

they could not even learn up... he had- He had played mind games with these kids. "Who would believe you? Look at you. Look at me. Now, who'd believe you?" He said, "The(?) people think you're a liar. Besides that, they're gonna think you're queer." Now, you hear that since you're eight years old or ten years old or twelve year old, when- you know, when life is hard anyway, and you're havin'- you're trying to fit in, you know, and find your place. And then you hear that day after day after day. No, you don't fight back. You don't fight back; you give into it.

INTERVIEWER: So going back to Cletus, and he fought for five, six years. And the reports got changed and things happened - that's what he claims, you know. There were- First the report just said, you know, "Unfounded, not enough information."

KNOX: They didn't investigate it.

INTERVIEWER: Why.

KNOX: Thoroughly. I don't know why.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think?

KNOX: Well, whowouldbelieveit?Thisisajudge'sson.Youknow,thesearewellthese are well-liked people.

INTERVIEWER: But this isn't-

KNOX: (over Interviewer) This is- this is- this is- this is- They're good people. They're the backbone of Lone Oak. The Hogans had a name for suing people, was what we were told. So that's what Jack told everybody; that's what everybody believed. Because the Walls' were the Walls'. Don't ever- I- I've learned a very important lesson there: You don't judge people. You don't judge people like that. You don't take somebody else's word for it; you get out and find out what they're like yourself. I've learned a very important lesson. Name means nothing. It's what your heart is, it's what you are inside.

INTERVIEWER: When- So all this was going on with Brook, as well.

KNOX: Right.

INTERVIEWER: When did you finally learn that it had affected your children? When did it all happen?

KNOX: Well, Wade went through years of, like I said, counseling, running away. And C... course, you know, what did we do when he ran away? We ran and got Jack to go help us find him. So Jack would always come up with Wade and find Wade. And I'm sure he had said(?) - gave him specific instructions. "You tell, you're dead. You tell, you know, nobody'll believe you. Look at you. You're out here in the middle of the woods in the middle of the night, runnin'. Who'd believe you." So Jack always got to him first. And so we would always have Jack- Jack to come help us. I mean, we were family. This is what families are for. You help in times of need like this. You- you gather, you know, and you- you work this out as a family. So we would always help Jack, we would we'd always ask Jack to come help, you know, or whatever.

And... Years went on. And just trouble, all the time. Charlie and I got out of everything, except church. 'Cause we thought it was us. We couldn't hold our head up in society. We couldn't- We didn't have any life. 'Cause there's something wrong with us, because our- our kids didn't- (Interviewer: Yeah[?]) They didn't- they didn't function right. One was an introvert. He- he stayed to himself One had mental problems, social problems. So it- You- you go to work and then you come home and you hide, is what we did. We hid for years.

INTERVIEWER: Were people talking behind your back?

KNOX: I don't know. I didn't go out to- I don't know. I didn't wanna deal with that part of it. We just tried to cope with what was happening to us, and try to figure out what was wrong with our kids. And I would look at Brook sometimes, and I would just- I watched him a lot. I watched him a whole lot. And I looked at their eyes a whole lot. 'Cause I think eyes will tell you a lot. (Interviewer: Mm-hm) And I remember, one of the last times I asked Brook, I said, "Brook, is there anything wrong? Can I do anything? Can I- Let us know what's goin' on." And he said- He looked at me, and he said, "Mama, everything's gonna be ok." And I just turned around and said- And Brook, Wade, there was so much pain, there was so much hurt. And so much anger. And so much times there was nothin' there. There was nothin'- (Interviewer: And you had no idea) No life. No life. No sparkle, that I had worked for years, and Charlie had worked for years to put there. We had- we had taken these kids everywhere. We wanted them to fit into society; we wanted them to be an asset to humanity. And they would blank us(?). They just existed. And my daughter had problems because, by now, because well, who would want to bring anybody home in this atmosphere? Mama's not happy, Daddy's not happy, Brook's in his room. Ya know? We couldn't- we couldn't function. (Interviewer: Yeah) We came home and we hid in those walls, is what we did, for years.

INTERVIEWER: (over Knox) So it wasn't until the Heath Stocks case came about?

KNOX: Well, I remember the morning that this- We knew- Joe and Barbara and Charlie and I were best friends. Charlie and Joe had started first grade together, and had gone through the Army to- basic training together, and we had remained friends all these years. Very close friends. The last time I was around Joe and Barbara was the summer before all this came out. And we had gone to Branson(sp?). The four of us. And I remember, they were having so much trouble with Heath. And I remember, all the way up there and all the way back, this- that was the extent of our conversation. Heath, Heath, Heath and Heath, and Wade and Wade. And we- our problems were so similar. The- Couldn't make 'em happy. No matter what you did, it was never right, it was never enough. There was no end to it. There was no end to it. Joe and Barbara were absolutely beside themselves. They couldn't control him anymore. They didn't understand what was makin' him tick. They did not understand the anger. And Barbara, she was the kind- she was the kinda mother that she would never- Her children were her life. I mean, that's- that was what she was here for is raise those kids. And she would do that- She worked two jobs. To get those kids what they needed. And I kept thinkin': Well, maybe she's doin' too much; maybe she's givin' I em, too much. I don't know. You know, maybe we've given ours too much. I- We don't know. Ya know, but we were just tryin' to survive in life; we were just tryin' to parent. (Interviewer: Yeah) Ya know, we were just tryin' to have a happy life, have a happy home. We were just tryin' to get these kids raised.

KNOX (Cont.): And that was the last time we were with 'em. And then that fall, about five thirty one Saturday mornin', we got the call. And one of the neighbors out there called us and told us that Joe and Barbara and Heather had been found dead. And my first thing was... It- it was 'ust a 'gut feelin'. Ya know, you don't wanna believe anything. i But you think: They'll find- If Heath did it- This was just me thinkin' to myself. If Heath did this, they'll find him dead, too. Because he'll- he'll kill himself too, if he did it- (Interviewer: Hm) He'll commit suicide. And I was so relieved when they didn't find him dead, because I thought: Well, good, he didn't do it. He didn't do it. Thank God, he didn't do it. And then, by Sunday, they had arrested him, and he had said that he did it. (Interviewer: Do you think-) Complete(?) devastation. But I can remember Jack. They- they were killed on a Friday night. That Saturday... Maybe- maybe two

Saturdays before all this happened, Jack came to our house. And Heath stayed over at Jack's quite a bit during these last few days, two or three weeks before all this happened, 'til two and three o'clock in the mornin'. Because, I mean, I can look out my bedroom window and see right there. I mean, it's there. He would stay over there real late. 'Cause it was during Christmas break, and 1, you know, was up quite a bit, too. And he just- ya know. And I would hear noises over there, whatever, and I'd get up and look.

KNOX (Cont.): But anyway, I never will forget Jack coming in my kitchen. Standing there. It was like it happened a few minutes ago. He came to my kitchen, and he said, "I think Joe and Barbara are abusing Heath." And I looked at him like he was- And I never- This is not me. I always try to listen to what people have to say. You know, and try t6 understand, try to feel what they're feelin'; but this time, I looked at him and I said, "You are crazy. You are crazy." I said, "You know Joe and Bother- Joe and Barbara Stocks. You know what they've been through with that child. You know what they've tried to do for him. You know how much they've tried to help him. You know. And you tell me that they're abusing him?" I said, "Jack, uh-uh. No. I'm not buyin' into that at all." I said, "Sure, maybe they haven't done everything right. (Interviewer: @-hm) But they were not abusing that child." And he turned around and walked out. And that's not like Jack. But he was settin' me up. He was settin' us up then. Because he knew what he was doin'. He was over there plannin' Joe and Barbara and Heather's faneral with Heath. This mind thing. This mind thing that he's got goin' with these kids. It's horrible.

INTERVIEWER: So it was- Before you even found out that they were dead, he came (Knox: Yeah) in there, and it was-

KNOX: (over Interviewer) Yes. About- about a week or two before.

INTERVIEWER: Before.

KNOX: Uh-huh. And he told me that he thought that Joe and Barbara were abusing Heath.

INTERVIEWER: How much is Jack responsible for the- those murders?

KNOX: He's- he's- He didn't pull the trigger. But it takes more than a finger to pull a trigger; you have to think about this. And Jack was up here in Heath's mind. Jack was up here. Heath did the trigger thing. But Jack was up here. Barbara found out about what Jack had been doin'. He could'a stopped that(?) And we have had it confirmed that we were next. When we found out- Charlie and I were next.

INTERVIEWER: How did you confin-n that?

KNOX: I (inaudible) boys' statements.

INTERVIEWER: That he was telling Hea- Wade?

KNOX: Mm-hm. Especially Charlie. I think he thought he could really snow me andand control me. Because he had for so long. But now, Charlie was- he was a- he- he was a little bit more untrusting. Ya know, he wou- he would question Jack. I didn't. KNOX(Cont.): 'Causeliust... I just believed him. But Jack and Charlie would- they would disagree about things.

INTERVIEWER: When Heat@ was taken in and arrested, what- what was Wade's response to all this?

KNOX: Wade said, "No, he didn't do this. Mama, he couldn't've done it. He couldn't've done it. He did not do this." And Wade was so upset. Well, we all were. My daughter had- My daughter had to come home from the University of Arkansas. She had to just come home for

a few days; she couldn't take it. We were so desi- devastated. It was like we were livin' in a nightmare, and we we're gonna wake up and it's- it's gonna be a bad dream. You know, why would this child do this? Why?

INTERVIEWER: Good home, good parents.

KNOX: (over Interviewer) Good- Well, you know, maybe not so good all the time, but what is good all the time? We just try to make it through life. We try to do the best we can with our kids. Things were not wonderful; they're not wonderful anywhere. They were j ust- they were just striving to be good parents, striving to- to have him fit into somewhere.

INTERVIEWER: And Jack was the first to visit him in jail.

KNOX: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

INTERVIEWER: And you still, at this point, didn't know.

KNOX: (over Interviewer) No. No.

INTERVIEWER: You hadn't heard that Barbara had found out about Heath.

KNOX: No. (Interviewer: Ok) We didn't know any'a that. We- a whole-

INTERVIEWER: So-

KNOX: This happened in January. And on July the 28th, we found out.

INTERVIEWER: Because Heath ... ?

KNOX: No. Because July the 26th of '97, which is a few- (Interviewer: Two years) that summer following their deaths, our next door neighbor drove up to my husband's office, and he was crying, at eight o'clock in the morning. And he was crying. He told my husband, he told Charlie, he said, "Jack has been molesting our son, Josh." And Charlie- And he was cryin' and he- You know when a man cries, you know, and you're- you're real good friends, you know, somethin'- somethin's wrong, somethin's not right. And

KNOX (Cont.): Charlie said his first reaction was: Why would Josh say that about Jack? What- what's goin' on here? And he said, "Josh has admitted that Jack has been molesting him for some time. An(- an@ - an Wade, a: so. He said, "You get Wade home and you ask him." Charlie came to- back to home. I was off during summer break then from school. Charlie came home and told me that, and my first reaction was: Why would Josh say that? Why? I couldn't figure it out. And we went through that whole day thinkin': What is goin' on here? But when that- We- we went and got Wade. And Charlie took Wade into his bedroom, and sat him down on the bed and he said, "Son," he said, "Has Jack been molesting you?" And he said yes. So we immediately got on the phone, called Jonesboro(?), where my oldest son was, and said, "Brook, this is what has happened. This is what we've learned. Is this true?" And he said, "Daddy, you believe every word those boys tell you." So we knew then that Brook had been molested, too.

INTERVIEWER: You must've gone absolutely-

KNOX: and he was crying, at eight o'clock in the morning. And he was crying. He told my husband, he told Charlie, he said, "Jack has been molesting our son, Josh." And Charlie- And he was cryin' and he- You know when a man cries, you know, and you're- you're real good friends, you know, somethin'- somethin's wrong, somethin's not right. And KNOX (Cont.):

Charlie said his first reaction was: Why would Josh say that about Jack? What- what's goin' on here? And he said, "Josh has admitted that Jack has been molesting him for some time. And- and- and he has Wade, also." He said, "You get Wade home and you ask him." Charlie came to- back to home. I was off during summer break then from school. Charlie came home and told me that, and my first reaction was: Why would Josh say that? Why? I couldn't figure it out. And we went through that whole day thinkin': What is goin' on here? But when that- We- we went and got Wade. And Charlie took Wade into his bedroom, and sat him down on the bed and he said, "Son," he said, "Has Jack been molesting you?" And he said yes. So we immediately got on the phone, called Jonesboro(?), where my oldest son was, and said, "Brook, this is what has happened. This is what we've learned. Is this true?" And he said, "Daddy, you believe every word those boys tell you." So we knew then that Brook had been molested, too.

INTERVIEWER: You must've gone absolutely-

KNOX: I was- it was... It- I was so no numb. I was so numb. And we did not know to what extent. We didn't know- We were- we were just numb. So Wade was taking a shower- And Jack was always in his front yard; he was always watching us. And we laughed about him for years. He would go through our trash, when he didn't think we were watching him. He watched us all the time. He stayed in that yard all the time. And KNOX (Cont.): when those boys came in at night, Jack was there. When those boys left, Jack was there, watching us, seeing what was goin' on. And we- and Jack was out there that night. And it was about eight fifteen; it was getting dark. And we told Wade that we were gonna go over to the Augus'(?). And he said, "I'm gonna take my shower." Well, we were over at the Augus'. And we were sitting in their family room. And we were all just, like: Well, what do we do? We- we were so- It was(?) just so dumbfounded; we were so numb; we were just so lost in all this. We did not know what had happened, what we were supposed to do, what was gonna happen, how we supposed to get through this? We didn't know. And the doorbell rang. And Wade had got in the gun cabinet and got out a gun, put it to Jack's head, and brought him over and rang the front door. And said, "You go in there and you tell my mama and my daddy what you've been doin' to me all these years.

INTERVIEWER: And he walked with him, with a gun to his head. And you're sitting in the family room. wrenching that I just looked at him and I was ust, like, "This is- this is so evil. You are- you are the definition of evil and sin."

KNOX (Cont.): And he just stood there. And Wade hit him. He said, "I said you tell my mama and daddy what you been doin' to me all these years. You tell 'em how you've run my life." And Jack looked at Wade like he was gonna kill him. I mean, this anger, this hate, came outta his eyes. I've never seen any human look like that before in my life. And then all of a sudden, his whole body just dropped. And he said, "It's true. It's all true." And we all just stood there. There was just dead silence. And we just kinda went from there. His daughter and wife were at Fayetteville. They were supposed to come up the next morning and go to Fayetteville; she was gonna be at a cheer leading camp up there. And Charlie said, "Jack, you go over right now and you tell Pam what you've done." And he said, "I don't know what we're gonna do about this," he said, "But you need lifetime therapy." And he said, "I want you to go, if it takes you 30, 60, 90 days, whatever, you get a full evaluation. We- we want to know why you've done this." Not knowing the extent of it all. We didn't know- We didn't know what had even transpired.

INTERVIEWER: You didn't connect the dots yet.

KNOX: No. No. No.

INTERVIEWER: (over Knox) You didn't know about Heath, you didn't (Knox: Inaudible) know anything. (Ynox: No) So did it occur to you: My God, Doug Hogan KNOX: No. I knew in a flash, I knew in a second, what was wrong with my boys (BACKGROLTND NOISE) for all

their- for their life. I knew. I knew right then. And I told him, I said, "You're the reason my boys are like they are." I said, "You sucked the life out of them, Jack. You- you deliberately, cold heartedly connived it. You sucked the- the life outta them. You took their life outta their bodies."

INTERVIEWER: His nephews.

KNOX: Yes. And he stood there and looked at me. So- But anyway, he was supposed to go tell Pam. He never did tell her. He never did tell her. She got up the next mornin', she went to Fayetteville; he went to work. And never slept the whole night. He came in the next day, when- when he usually does, went on about his way. She came in from Fayetteville on a Wednesday afternoon. And we had- Charlie and I had already been to our pastor, the prea- the- our minister at our church and told him what was goin' on. And- Because we didn't know what to do. But this is God. This is God. We had learned about a new medication for attention deficit disorder, and it was called Aderall. Wade could not handle the Ritalin. And he- he- I had found out about this Aderall, the new medication that was out. He had a doctors appointment with the psychologist for three months. And this appointment was the day after we found out what all had happened. (Interviewer: Inaudible) And so when we went there, we went there with a whole new story. And when we went to this psychology- psychologist, and we went into this (Inaudible), we had to tell them what had been goin' on, and they turned it into DHS.

INTERVIEWER: And then they came and arrested Jack.

KNOX: No, no. No, no. No. Several days last(?), Jack had gone to some place in Little Rock. He had had evaluation, and they said that they could cure Jack in eight to ten hourly visits. That he was addicted to sex.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of treatment is this? What- Did he choose the treatment center to go to?

KNOX: Well, his HMO. His HMO. That's where he had to go.

INTERVIEWER: So he came back (Knox: Inaudible) saying that-

KNOX: (over Interviewer) And- and his wife handed me this and said, "This is what they want Jack to do." And I said, "This is ludicrous. No. This will never do. No." And But anyway, as- as time went on, Jack was arrested, finally. Finally. After all these weeks. You know. And we were scared of Jack. He was an excellent marksmanship with guns and things like that. We slept in different bedrooms, and slept in different Because he had a key to our house, and he- You know, he- he- He came into my house at night. Well(?), our be- Our house is, like- It's a large house, with three kids, you know? And so our bedroom is at one end of the house, and all three of the children's bedrooms were at the other end of the house. That man, I learned later, had sneaked into KNOX (Cont.): my child's bedroom at night, when Jack would get off a work, and raped him in his own bedroom. And we were gettin' up the next mornin' and punishing Wade for the screened- because the screen was tore off the window. (Interviewer: Oh) And it was Jack. And the screen was always bent. So I would go in there in the mornin' to get him up, and the air conditioning would be going full blast, and the window would be up. And I couldn't figure out- Noth- nothin' about my life made any sense. It was tl,iings like this that I never could put together. I just never could figure anything out. This is like livin' in a dark room, and you're just reachin' out, tryin' to find a doorknob. Somethin' to hang onto so you can open the door and maybe there's a light out there that you can come out. But-

INTERVIEWER: But why did- why did it take so long to arrest Jack in between?

KNOX: Because of who he was. Because of who he was.

INTERVIEWER: But then, Wade-

KNOX: And finally- and finally, DHS called. Of course, they had to investigate it, you know. And Wade had to come to terms with it and make a statement. When they were gathering up all this information. And finally, he was arrested.

INTERVIEWER: And the statement included detailed information. And-

KNOX: (over Interviewer) Pages and pages and... volumes of boys' testimonies. They ranged from age 40 to sixteen. They came forth and made statements. Some of 'em were crawlin' in. Had families. Some of 'em couldn't do it at all.

INTERVIEWER: And was there a common theme throughout?

KNOX: My husband, to back up a little bit, when we found out the extent of what happened to our boys... There was always boys at Jack's house. There would be boys that would come to our house that would never come back. They came one time. And they never came back. And I would cook and dote and, you know. And... And it just never- they never came back. (BACKGROUND NOISE) And... I'm- I'm awfully sorry; I've lost my train of thought. But anyway... All- My husband went out. And for probably a solid three weeks, every single night, after he ate his evening meal, and he and Terry August(sp?) went out and talked to boy after boy, after young man after man, after family man, after father, that had always hung out at Jack's over the years. And every one of 'em had the same story. Ever one of 'em felt the same. They were so humiliated they couldn't tell anybody.

INTERVIEWER: And it was the same pr-

(brief comments of tape)

KNOX: Same thing. Exact same details, exact same- everything was the same.

INTERVIEWER: The sex, the alcohol, the- the porno, the attic.

KNOX: Did anybody tell you all about him dressin' up like a woman?

INTERVIEWER: Mm-hm. In the attic, right?

KNOX: No, in his living room.

INTERVIEWER: No, we didn't talk about that.

KNOX: (inaudible)

INTERVIEWER: Is it true that Pam said to him, "I thought you stopped; you promised me you were gonna stop that?"

KNOX: "Thought you had stopped this."

(brief comments of crew)

KNOX: And I took it one way, and the neighbor took it another way. "I thought you had changed."

(TONE; END OF TAPE 22)

INTERVIEWER: -because more and more boys come out and give statements onin- Witness statements. And you found out the extent that he had done to your child.

KNOX: I still probably don't know everything. I know they let us look at some'a the statements, but... I- I just- Somehow, I think there's so much more out there. There's something about a grave that Jack dug, that we dealt with all one summer. And I think he- he dug it out in the woods, and I think he told Wade that, "If you tell, you or your friends will end up here." We never found the grave. Eve- eve- even though Wade looked for it. You know, we just- There's- there's things you just have to let go of

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

KNOX: Ya know. Maybe there was, maybe he told 'em there was; I don't know. But in his mind, whether it's real or not, it was real to him.

INTERVIEWER: There has to be a sense of - I don't know if this is the right word. Your son... There has to be a sense of, I guess, pride that- or not pride, but... He- he was, in the end, he was very courageous. @I mean, yeah, he might'a killed Jack Walls. But he- I mean, it was like he knew he was gonna just explode.

KNOX: (over Interviewer) He knew. He knew. One of 'em was going to end up dead. Either Jack or Wade. It had come to that. I do believe that. Wade had had all he could take. Mentally, physically, he had had all he could take. And then when Heath, you know, did what he did, that- that rang a bell; that set off the alarm system, you know, in Wade, I think. And he knew. And I'm not so sure that it wasn't getting close to time for us to die. You know, because... The- I can't even explain it, because we- Even though we- we were still in the dark, we were beginning to not- not trust Jack so much, because of what he said about... that- that he thought Joe and Barbara were abusing. And he had said little things that just didn't set well with us. So it might'a been time for us to start putting some of the pieces together. I don't know. I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: But you think that Wade- the reason why Wade did that was that you and Charlie were next. (Knox: Mm-hm) Possibly. K

KNOX: Mm-hm. I know we were.

INTERVIEWER: Did Wade finally tell you that?

KNOX: No, he's never told us (BACKGROUND NOISE) that. It was confirmed otherwise, though.

INTERVIEWER: By whom?

KNOX: Betty Dickey and Joye Cook. When we found out we were- were the ne- we were next. And I had this gut feeling that we were. I had this gut feelin' that we were. You know. When we found out all this, and we found out why Joe and Barbara died, you know, and Heather, we- when we found out. And I don't know. I just felt like that somethin' bad was gonna happen to Charlie and me. Especially Charlie.

INTERVIEWER: You- So then came the impact hearing and Jack's plea and...

KNOX: Well, so much more went on before all that, because we had to... I remember... We- we were seared. Because Wade- Wade had told me- He- he said- He kept sayin', "Mama, you don't know Jack." And I kept sayin', "He's- he's in- he's in jail now. He's never gonna get to you again." He said, "You don't know Jack. Nobody knows Jack like I know Jack. Nobody knows him." And the thing about it is that he kept tellin' these kids, and all these kids that

came forth, and men that came forth were talking about that Jack had told them all these years that he had burnt people alive, just to watch 'em pop. That was the first thing that Wade told me. The very first thing. He said that he enjoyed the- the smell of burning flesh. And that's the reason he said- And Wade said, "Mama, he'll kill us. He'll kill all of us." He said, "You don't know Jack." He said, "He's- he's really burnt people before. He's burned people. And he said he liked to watch 'em pop." And he said, "He'll- he'll- he'll hurt us." That's the first thing that Wade told me after I talked to Wade. He said, "He'll hurt all of us." And Wade said, "You don't know Jack. You don't know the way he works." He said, "Maina, you can be- You can have your house locked up, dead bolted. You can be in the shower, thinkin' you're by yourself," and he said, "You can turn around in that shower, and Jack'll be in that shower with you, grinnin' at you." He said, "That's kinda the way he works. That's- that's Jack."

INTERVIEWER: And that happened to Wade.

KNOX: I'm sure it did. If it didn't, he had to- he had made Wade believe that it could happen, that he was capable of that. He... What Jack said he did, good or bad, to those kids, they all believed him. Every word he said, because he was very articulate about if he promised 'em somethin', he carried through with that promise. If he was gonna take 'em somewhere, he dropped everything and he took 'em. Ya know, I mean, everything he said, he made sure he went through with it. And those kids believed him. There's no tellin'. I KNOX (Cont.): remember Wade tellin' me that lots of the- He- he destroyed everything that we ever taught those children.

INTERVIEWER: All the values, all the laws, everything.

KNOX: The alcohol, the drugs. There's alcoholism on my side of the family, and there's alcoholism on Charlie's side of the family. So you don't touch alcohol. You don't drink. You never know if you have that gene. And I know they're gonna experiment with it, Iya Imow. But I wanted to make such an impression on those kids that they would be scared to- they'd really think- It wouldn't be a casual thing. And he would take 'em out there. And they were so young when they started drinkin' that they called it the red jungle juice.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, my God.

KNOX: And I would say, "Wade, what would happen?" He said, "Well, I don't know what- really, what happened out there, because Jack would give us the jungle juice," and he said, "I didn't remember anything after that." ... So there's no telling what went on out there in those camping trips.

INTERVIEWER: So did the boys talk about it together?

KNOX: No. No.

INTERVIEWER: It was understood: You don't talk about it.

KNOX: Well, who would? It's so humiliating. And they didn't know, really, what they'd done, anyway, if they were drinking. And they were, you know, drunk, they- they didn't know.

INTERVIEWER: But later on, I'm talking about, too.

KNOX: (over Interviewer) Yeah. Yeah. No. I don't think they- No, they never did communicate with each other about all this. Things were too humiliating, too sick, that they didn't talk about this. The incident with the girl on the couch, you know, with them on the sofa, and Jack was dressed up like the woman.

INTERVIEWER: I don't know that.

KNOX: You didn't know that story?

INTERVIEWER:, No.

KNOX: My boys were not involved with this, because it's- this happened to the older boys, years ago. These are grown men now, with families. Pam and the girls were somewhere, I don't know; he- he made sure those girls went and did and got out of the way. You know, but anyway... He- he told the older scouts years ago that there was a girl named Betty, and she was a prostitute, and that he had made arrangements for Betty to come over - excuse me, ya'll(?) - and give them (BACKGROUND NOISE) oral sex. Except he named a specific act, ya know? And they were young. And they did. They came over. And Betty showed up. But Jack said, "Now, she doesn't want you to see her. (Interviewer: Hm) So they blindfolded the boys on the sofa. The "Betty" was Jack.

INTERVIEWER: We heard that, that it happened in the attic.

KNOX: No. This was in- this was in the- sitting in their living room. Things happened in their attic. Things happened everywhere, all over that house, because when they came in... See, I had been on. a rampage, because they never would search the house. You know, I said, "There are things (BACKGROUND NOISE) in that house thatand- Be- because we could see Pam at night, loadin' things up outta the house, and takin' it somewhere. And I knew she was probably takin' out information that was valuable to proving our case. And so eventually, they worked it to where (BACKGROUND NOISE) There was a statute of limitations about something. Well, anyway, it proved that they- 'Cause Wade was molested- The last time Wade was molested was around the KNOX (Cont.): tenth of July, somewhere along in there. Well, they did not know that. And the- They didn't think they could search the house, but then they did. And (inaudible) came home one day and ATF was there, FBI, police, state police. You know, everybody. There was probably- there was- And- and they were goin' through that house. They found semen all over that house. Everywhere. Up in the attic, out in the shop, in the game room, under the staircase - they found it everywhere. So... And Wade knew his hiding places out in that shop, about the pornography magazines. So they had been exposed to a lot, quite often.

INTERVIEWER: How is it possible that Pam Walls-

KNOX: She knew. I'm sorry. You would know if your husband had pornography in that house. You'd know it. I know what's in my house; my children know what's in my house. They know. They snoop. I- I'm not- (LAUGHS) Ya know, when we- I know my kids. You know. I- I went through my mother and father's things. You just know what's in that house. She knew. She knew. If she- I- I have a real hard time even thinking that she knew exactly what was goin' on. But now, she was raised in a good home, a good Christian home. She knew pornography was wrong. She knew normal people do not have that much pornography in their home.

KNOX (Cont.): There was parts of that house where they were not allowed to go into. Now, if my husband walked out of our house and said, "Now, don't go in there. This is my stuff." What do you think I'd do when he drove off?" (Interviewer: Right) I'd go in there. I don't like secrets like that.

INTERVIEWER: What about the ammunition, the bomb building?

KNOX: Oh. All that was- Mm-hm. See, we've had trouble with guns all of our life.

INTERVIEWER: But that was in the house, right? (Knox: Inaudible) They were building in there?

KNOX: Oh, well, no. They did it- There was a (BACKGROUND NOISE) shop out there. And a big shop, and- You know, when Wade would fall out with us - and we had told Wade and told Wade and told him, "You do not drink and drive. You know, you're gonna kill somebody; you're gonna get killed. You know, it's against the law. You don't do it." So I remember the last time Wade was over there, before all this came about, I just walked past his truck. And I saw empty beer cans in the back of his truck. And I was so hurt and so upset with him that he would do this, after we'd talked to him and talked to him and talked to him. So I said, "You know-" I confronted him with it. And he said, "Those are not mine." I said, "I don't care whose they are. If you are drinking, you're accountable." And I said, "If they're in your truck, I'm going to assume they're yours." I KNOX (Cont.): said, "@y else would they be in there?" I said, "If they're not yours, find out who's throwin' 'em in the back end of that truck, and deal with it. But you don't do that." So we- And he wanted to- he wanted his truck that night to go uptown. And it was on a Friday night. And I said no. And Charlie said no. "No . You broke the rule. We asked you not to drink and drive. We told you. And now you're not getting in that truck. You're gonna learn your lesson. If you're gonna do that, you're gonna pay the consequences. No. You're not takin' (BACKGROUND NOISE) the truck. You're- you're here." So what did he do? Wa- And Wade got real upset with us. (CLEARS THROAT) He went straight over to that Jack-Jack's shop. And he and Jack stayed in that shop from about eight o'clock that night 'til about two o'clock the next morning. And I was over there twice. (CLEARS THROAT) I went over there about ten, to check on Wade, to see if he was still over there, and what they were doing. And then I went back about midnight, twelve thirty, to check on him. Talked to both of 'em; they were just sittin' there talkin'. Didn't have a clue that Jack was so drunk he couldn't even get up. I knew his face was red, but it was hot. Wade had a specific place to sit; Jack had a specific place to sit, in that shop. They went- And Wade told us this after all this came out, that they had drill after drill after drill after drill on what to do if someone came in that shop, to hide what he was doin' to 'cm.

INTERVIEWER: So everything was very systematic.

KNOX: Everything was calculated. Everything was planned. Everything he did was to the T. And Wade said, "God forbid that if you messed up."

INTERVIEWER: What happened to you if you messed up.

KNOX: I don't know. (inaudible) too scared to ask. (Interviewer: Inaudible) He says(?)- He would say, "You paid for it."

INTERVIEWER: Was he teaching Wade, also, how to build bombs and-? Mm-hm. He was teaching all of 'em. (BACKGROUND NOISE) Grenades and grenades, you know, over there. We didn't know all this. I mean, who would- who would- ya know. There was enough in that shop to blow up our whole neighborhood. The whole end of our town. If something should've happened. I mean, he was an excellent gunsmith. Wa- Jack was. So, you know, we- we were- we were glad that (CLEARS THROAT) he was spendin'- excuse me - (COUGHS) time with those boys. About gun safety. They had been through the hunter's education. You know. And Jack was very careful with those guns. And he would take those boys out and let 'em shoot those big, expensive guns. (BACKGROUND NOISE) You know, and work with 'em. That's my phone-

INTERVIEWER: (brief comments; tape stops, re-starts) (brief comment of crew)

INTERVIEWER: So we were talking about the ammunition, and he was teaching them, using expensive guns.

KNOX: But(?) that was their reward. You know, that's how he enticed those boys. And then, (BACKGROUND NOISE) I know one'a the boys said, "You know, after- after he let me shoot these real expensive guns, and taught me all this stuff, you know, and took me all these places, and, ya know, and doted over me," he said, "He made me feel like I owed it to him.

This is what I had to do. And that I owed it to him." So the guilt- Ya know- (inaudible; Interviewer: Manipulation) Mind manipulation, and control, and the mind games.

INTERVIEWER: Did he tell Wade the same thing he told Heath? "If ya have a problem, kill it."

KNOX: I don't know. I don't know. I know he was told, "You just tell your mom and daddy exactly what they wanna hear, and get 'em off your back." And he learned that lesson well.

INTERVIEWER: What problems - and I know you've had a million problems on top of this. What's happening with Wade? What happened?

K-NOX: Well, I have found him in our shop in the fetal position, tellin' me he didn't wanna live. So we had to deal with that. Living on the edge. Living- still living as a victim.

INTERVIEWER: He's living at home.

KNOX: But he's been in... He's been in the hospital two, three times. He's had extensive psychiatric care. He can't get past it. And he's in jail right now. For fleeing from a policeman. There's still so much anger. And when- And the policeman said when he got out of the truck, he said, "I fine- we finally caught him," and he said, "WI-ien he got out, he just put his hands out like this; he said, 'Shoot me. Just go ahead. Shoot me. I don't care. Shoot me.'" So we're dealing with things like that. And then the anger. The anger.

INTERVIEWER: How long- He's in jail now?

K-NOX: Mm-hm.

INTERVIEWER: And you have to have a sentencing and ... ?

KNOX: Well, he's going to be arraigned Tuesday. And we've- you know, we've had to hire a lawyer. But...

INTERVIEWER: Assault and battery, was it?

KNOX: Mm-hm. He- he struck a police officer. He- he Red.

INTERVIEWER: Why did he flee in the first pla- Why did- why were they stopping him?

KNOX: Be- because he didn't give a- a signal. But now- And- and there's no excuse for that. There's no excuse for his behavior. I- I know he's been through a terrible time. But your- But this is Wade. The- the second time, we had him put into a psychiatric hospital. He was keepin' us up all night long. And we could see him doing a tailspin down. But he was keekin'- keeping us up all night long, because people were gonna kill us, people were after us, people were after him; and we was lookin' in the win- out the windows. He had all the lights off, and he would stay up all night long, going from window to window, looking and- and- and really seeing people outside. You know, "Do you hear 'em? Do you hear 'em talkin'? They're comin'." And I would- I- I stayed up with him, and Charlie did, too, night after night after night, tryin' to talk him down. "There's nobody out there; there's nobody after us." And trying to convince him that we have not noticed anything out of the ordinary. And he said, "Yeah, ya'll are in danger. You're in danger." A strange car come through the neighborhood, and he just went bonkers. "Who- who is that?" And, "What are they KNOX (Cont.): doin'?" And, "Who do you think they're here to see?" And, "Did you recognize- Did you get that license plate?" He has(?) a big thing on license plates, you I-,now, so... And... He didn't trust the policeman, because he thought maybe they were in on the- thetryin' to get us, you know? I mean(?), it i ust- it j ust- it just went on and on. And no matter how we talked, no matter how- no matter- We could talk him through the night. And get him to lay down and go to sleep. And then the

next night we'd be up to do(?) all over again. I couldn't hold up to it (Interviewer: That's exhausting) physically or mentally.

INTERVIEWER: It's exhausting.

KNOX: It was exhausting. And I- I got in my Suburban one momin' to go to school. And he- he had borrowed my Suburban every now and then. (BACKGROUND NOISE) And he was up getting ready for work. And he said, "I wanna show you something." I said, "Ok." And he went out there in my Suburban and looked under the- the driver's seat. And there's a little control box under there that- It's a motor in a box that conthat adjusts your seats. (Interviewer: Mm-hm) And he said, "You don't trust me, do you?" I said, "What are you talkin'-" I didn't know what he was corn- I didn't know (Interviewer: Mm-hm) what he was talkin' about; I didn't know where he was comin' from. I said, "Of course I trust you." And he said, "Well, then why do you have a listening device in your Suburban?" And I said, "What are you talking about?" And he said- And KNOX (Cont.): he showed me the box. I said, "Wade, that controls our seat." He said, "No, it's not. You- you've planted a listening device to try to catch me at something. (Interviewer: Oh) So... A lot- And... A lotta paranoia. (Interviewer: Yeah) Lots of paranoia. (BACKGROUND NOISE) And he finally just lost it one day, one afternoon. And... I didn't want anybody to get hurt, and I was scared of him. So I called- we called the police and had the police to come and get him. And they took him to the state hospital. And then I had to testify. Before they could keep him, I had to testify what all had been goin' on, and the paranoia. And, ya know, just couldn't control it, and they- I had him committed.

INTERVIEWER: That must've been the hardest thing for you.

KNOX: (over Interviewer) It was. I ended up in the hospital myself You know, so- It was the hardest thing I ever had to do. And... Then I had to deal with what I did. But I knew it was the best thing for him. He was- He was scaring me. (Interviewer: Yeah) He wa- he was scary to me. I didn't-- I didn't know him anymore.

INTERVIEWER: Right. He wasn't-

KNOX: So he got outta there. And he was doing good. And then all'a sudden, he just...

INTERVIEWER: How old is he now?

KNOX: He's 20. He comes up- He's a- he- he lives in a pattern. He's comes up, like he's under water, and he ta- takes a deep breath; and it's kinda like he looks around and smells the air, and smells at what's going back- goin' aroun- goin' on, and looks around, and then he goes back down. You know, he'll do that. And he can't live like that. You can't (Interviewer: Right) live up and down and up and down. You've got to you've got to accept what happened to you. You've got to deal with it. And- and honestly believe it was not your fault. It was not our fault. And it wasn't God's fault. God didn't do this. He put a end to it. Hasn't been to church, and that just- that bothers me so bad, that he can't- He can't (inaudible; BACKGROLTND NOISE)

INTERVIEWER: Heath has written him a letter. (Knox: @-hm) He told us about that. He said, "The one person I'm really worried about@'He said, "I worry about everything. But Wade," he said, "I just- I'm just really worried about him." Did that help, that letter? Did it?

KNOX: He was in such a state of mind when I read him that letter, I don't think he comprehended it, you know? And I've still got the letter. And Wade has not chosen to read it. I don't know how far- far to push him. (Interviewer: Right) I don't know how far to take it. When I think when- And he knows I've got the letter. And I think when KNOX (Cont.): he's ready to sit down and read it again, he will. He'll ask for it. (Interviewer: Is[?]-) But I don't wanna- I don't wanna push. I don't- I don't know what to do.

INTERVIEWER: You don't know what to do. So you wanna just tread lightly.

KNOX: Right.

INTERVIEWER: Does he talk about Jack? ... No.

KNOX: He feels- There's been a lot of turmoil in our family. Just like Pam, Charlie's sister, has not spoken to us in two and a half years, and we share the same driveway. And Jack always told 'em that if they told what he was doin' to 'em that they would break up the family. And- and- and our values were family is everything. You know, if you don't have a soul that you believe in, if you don't ever have a soul to go to, you can always depend on your family. They're always here. We- we drilled that in them. We instilled it in them. We lived it. And then look what he did; he broke up the family when he told. They've not spoken to us. Those girls have not spoken to us. (Interviewer: Oh) And then to find out what Aunt Pam really thought of him. You know, to- Just like she said, when she found out this had happened, she came over and told me, she said, "Your little boys will be ok; it'll be little girls that suffer for the rest of their life." You know, KNOX (Cont.): it's- there was no compassion shown. I often wonder if she- I knew we couldn't be like it was; it was never- it's never gonna be like it was. Because there's holes in us everywhere, you know, he- Jack rent(?) these holes in us that are empty. You know, because he was so much a part of our life. But if- if Pam could've found it in herself, and those girls could've found it in themselves, just to put their arms around my kids and say, "I'm sorry this happened. If I'd'a known it I would've stopped it. (Interviewer: Right) And you come talk to me any time you want to." We don't have to be friends. You know, they don't- (Interviewer: Right) they don't- We know they're not Aunt Pam anymore. I'm not Aunt E anymore. They're strangers, and I'm a stranger to them. By their choice. Because we told Jack when this happened that we would take care'a those girls, we would take care of Pam. We would make sure she had a living 'cause she didn't work.

INTERVIEWER: In spite of what happened, you still told (Knox: Mm-hm) Jack that.

KNOX: Mm-hm.

INTERVIEWER: You could- he- You could look him in the eye, knowing what he did to your son, to all these other kids, and you could still say, "Don't worry about Pam and the girls."

KNOX: Mm-hm.

INTERVIEWER: How could you do that?

KNOX: 'Cause I loved'em. (BACKGROUND NOISE) They were family. They were victims, too. And I told- we- And we said, "You don't ever have to worry about Pain and those girls." But I told him - to back up - on the 31st day of July - we found out about it the 28th. On the 31st day of July, about nine fifteen one momin', Jack called us over there. 'Cause we had to tell that Pam momin', because he never did. And we called Pam over to our house on the 31st of July and told her. Charlie did. She called him home from Remington. And she looked at me and she said, "I hope he commits suicide on the way home." She said, "I hope I never see him again; I hope he kills hisself on the way home." Well, he came home. And he called us over there. And I can't believe we were so numb and out of it, but we went over there. Not knowing what he wanted, what he was gonna do. (Interviewer: Right) And it was my husband's birthday. And I- I remember walkin' over to their house, and I took- ya know, holding hands, and I told Charlie, I said- I don't know why I thought'a this; I said, "If- if we don't make it outta there alive," I said, "I've loved my life with you." And he said, "Me, too, Karen. Me, too." But we went over there, and we sat down at his kitchen table. And I asked him point blank. I said, "Why did you rape my boys? Why mine, Jack?" He looked at me, so cold, so arrogantly, and said, "I like the outdoorsy kind." That's the only explanation he had.

INTERVIEWER: I didn't hear you.

KNOX: He said, "I like the outdoorsy kind." That's why he told me he'd raped my kids, he said, 'Cause he the outdoorsy kind."

CREW: (over Knox; inaudible)

END OF TAPE 23

(brief comment of crew)

INTERVIEWER: Ok. You were telling me about Wade and- I mean, what do you do now? He's in jail. What do you ho- What can- what else can you do?

KNOX: I can pray for Wade. I can hope he changes, and I can help him change. But I can't do it for him. Wade's gonna have to be accountable for himself now. You know, he's had a lot of therapy. He's had total support. You know, and it's up to him now to get outta the ditch, so to speak, and come on and- and co- come through- and go on with life. You know, and he is a hero. He's- he's the one that put a stop to all this. The- the children in our neighborhood are safe. All the little boys in our neighborhood - and we've got a whole neighborhood full of young little boys. And Jack was already workin' on 'em.

KNOX (Cont.): He was already takin' 'em gifts. (CLEARS THROAT) Things like that. So- But they're safe now. You know. And he's got to realize that (BACKGROUND NOISE) what he did was courageous, and it was the right thing to do. And what he did had to be done. And get on with his life. That he is a good person. He can- he can do anything he wants to do with his life. But he's got to get out of this victim mode. He's got to quit living as a victim. Jack is not here anymore. Jack is not here. And I know all the psychologist, that- that- that we have deal with told us that there's be a- there's a big empty hole in Wade's life because Jack- Jack filled his life (Interviewer: Hm) with so much. He was so much a part of it. And then you- All of a sudden, you take that away from him, and there's an emptiness there and- But he's got to fill that up with something else, and go on. And we've been there to help him and support him, but now it's up to him. And I'm gonna wrap that child up in a blanket and give him to God. 'Cause we've done everything we know to do. And we'll support him, and we'll help him, and we'll be there, and we'll love him. But now he's got to do- he's got to make himself a life. He's got to make up his mind to be happy, and to live in society, and to adjust to what's happened to him.

INTERVIEWER: Sounds like you're at a point now where you're saying, "I love you, (Knox: Mm-hm) but I'm gettin' angry at you now. (Knox: Mm-hm) Because this has been horrible for everybody.

KNOX: And I told Wade... I said, "If you ever want to get back at Jack, if you ever want to even the score, make somethin' of yourself." I said, "If you ever wanna get even with him, make something of yourself. Have a good life." I said, "That's the way you can hurt Jack the worst. Because he didn't want you to. (CLEARS THROAT) He didn't want you to. He trained you to- for defeat. He trained you to crawl on your belly." I said, "You stand up and you walk. You get up. You get up outta that ditch, and you walk." And I said, "You show Jack Walls you can do something with your life." And I said, "As long as it's honest, it doesn't matter. I don't care if you sweep the halls somewhere. Ifif you- If it's an honest job and you're proud of yourself and you're proud of what you can do, there's nothin' wrong with it."

INTERVIEWER: And what does he say when you say this to him? "Yes, ma'am, I know. I know. Mm-hm. Mm-hm-" But then he- he loses it. He loses it.

INTERVIEWER: I- I... Is there anything else you wanna add? I think we've just talked about everything. I- I wanna thank you so much for sitting here.

KNOX: I just wanna say one more thing.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

KNOX: I was- Charlie and I were so particular with our children. I mean, we had a lotta disagreements, because if they didn't- (BACKGROLTND NOISE) we didn't know the people, they didn't go. They didn't go to parties if we didn't know 'em. And we did let 'em go, when they get old- got older, we would take 'em out there, we would meet the people, see what kinda people were there, what was gonna be goin' on. And then we would go back and pick 'em up. Now, anybody could come to my house (BACKGROUND NOISE) that wanted to. They were always welcome. But we were so particular with our children. Strangers. 'Cause we knew there were people like that out there. But we never, ever told them about a family member. That it could happen in the family. (Interviewer: Mm) And eighty ti- eighty- eighty percent of the molestations come from family members. Eighty percent of 'em are done by family members.

INTERVIEWER: Who do you trust now?

KNOX: Nobody. Nobody. I can accept you. And I can- I can... I can live with you, and I can like you and love you. But there's a line. There's a line now that I don't- I- I don't go beyond that. And I could tell you my life story, because I think it's gonna help somebody else. But too much has happened; I don't think you should trust anybody that far with your children. 'Cause (BACKGROUND NOISE) you have to give 'cm to different people; you have to give 'cm to scout leaders, and teachers, and church people, ministers, and group workers, you- you have to hand 'cm over to people. But you better- you better watch out. I mean(?),. you have to let 'cm go places, you have to let cm do; but you better watch out. 'Cause I never thought - I never thought, in a trillion years, it would ever happen to us, or could happen to us, because we were so particular. Al'id it was under our nose, right next door, across the driveway, for years, and didn't see a thing.

INTERVIEWER: And it was your brother-in-law.

KNOX: Mm-hm. And that's scary. That is- that scared- That has scared me to death. And now I teach school - and I have for twenty seven years. And I've always watched for signs of abuse like this, and- and, you know, signs of molesting. But now that's part of my curriculum at school. You- you don't let anybody do anything to you that you don't want 'cm to. You do not let anybody touch you where you don't wanna be touched. And you go tell somebody. And if this person doesn't listen, you go to another person. That KNOX (Cont.): what's on your body is yours. And if you don't think it's right, then it's probably not right. (CLEARs THROAT) And my kids know. (LAUGHS) And I may get fired for it, but they know. They know that their body is theirs. And they know that it's- nobody's supposed to violate that. I don't care if it's your daddy, or your grandfather. Nobody's supposed to violate that. And you go tell somebody. Somebody will listen. So I just hope- I mean, what are we doing to society? What are we doing to families? What are we doing to ourselves, when we- when we treat(?) our children like this? What's gonna happen to our society if we keep on allowing this, and keeping this behind closed doors. And small town people keep it in the town. And people with power and money can control who finds out and who doesn't. What are we doing to our kids? They're our future. They're our tomorrows. We don't have a tomorrow if we allow this to happen. We don't have one. That's all.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much. Ok.

(END)