

\*I/V Scott Barratt 10/23/09 C36 Willingham:

On 10/23/09, at approximately 0915 hours, I spoke with Scott Barratt by telephone. I audio recorded the interview and this was his first interview.

Scott told me he played full out and paid a lot of money and was going to get the most for his money.

Scott thought the Vision Quest was the vocal of the event and so he ate a light breakfast and drank some juice. It was not until the Sweat Lodge was talked about that Scott started to drink more water.

Scott recalled James Ray talking about the spiritual aspect and how to enter the sweat lodge about two hours prior to the event. Ray told them it would be something they had never experienced before and it was going to be hot, your skin will feel like it will fall off, you will be detoxifying. Very dark, the door will be opened at different times to bring in more stones. He told them that when the door opened that is when you could leave, but he recommended they play full out to get the maximum from the experience. Scott said they were told they would be hosed off when they came out to cool off and close the pours. It would be uncomfortable, they would reach an altered state of mind. Scott also mentioned that since the sweat lodge he has had some speech and hearing problems.

Scott said he went in with Kirby and another friend of hers and they crawled to about three quarters around the tent. He is not sure if he was seated next to Kirby or her friend. A man was in front of him, but Scott did not remember his name. Scott said it immediately became very uncomfortable from the heat and as the round went on they seemed terribly long.

By round 4 Scott said his body was telling him there are problems. Scott told me he was in the military and a pilot. Scott had trained to be a pilot in the military and had received training on the physiological effects to the body from hypoxia and the effects of gravity. He said he had also suffered heat exhaustion. From that he knew his body was telling him he was starting to lose consciousness. Scott was very concerned with what his body was telling him.

When round 4 ended and the door opened for round 5 the man in front of Scott crawled out and by instinct Scott crawled out behind him. At this point the heat was very intense. Scott said he was not even thinking of leaving because he intended to go through the entire event. Once outside he was hosed down and rolled around on the ground for a while. Once he realized he was outside he said he thought no I'm suppose to be inside and crawled back inside at round 6.

Scott intended to crawl back to where he was seated near Kirby, but once he got inside there was a woman lying passed out where he needed to crawl so he squatted down where he was. James Ray was telling someone to move the woman back, but the person said he could not because she was lying on his leg. Scott said he moved toward her to help move her and James Ray told him not to. James Ray said well we need to continue on. Scott then said he thought he could just crawl over and lay in front of her to shield her, but was afraid Ray would tell him not to. Scott said even with being hosed down he was still very uncomfortable. Scott said he did crawl over and straightened the woman out and pulled her back a little. Scott said he just kept thinking we need to get this over.

Once it finally ended he knew he needed to get out of there or they all were going to die. Initially no one was really moving and he went over to the woman and was tugging on her to get her out. Scott felt bad that he was having to drag her through the dirt and knew he was scratching her face. Finally Greg came over and was helping him get her to the door.

At the door Scott rolled to the side so others could come out. He looked back and saw two guys passed out in the back of the lodge. He tried to get up and go back in, but his body totally shut down on him. Scott described himself as 6'5", 230 pounds and pretty strong, but he had nothing left. Someone told him Scott don't go back in there. Jennifer hosed him off and he went into shock and was convulsing, he raised his legs up to get blood flow back to his core. He kept going in and out. Scott described the effects as being worse than any other hang over he has ever had. Scott thought he was told he drug out Linda.

At one point he heard helicopters and looked up and saw the medical helicopter and thought "I used to fly those." Then he heard people saying things like come one Sally breathe. He looked back into the tent and saw the two guys who were still inside were getting help. Scott remembers James Ray telling Dennis he needed to quiet down. Scott said he learned that Dennis had died and been resuscitated. Dennis was yelling he did not want to die.

Scott said he became very cold from being hosed down and lying in the wet mud. He then crawled over to where the fire had been and someone put a towel over him. He remembered sharing the towel with someone, but does not know who. He heard someone yell for them to bring all the blankets they could find. A while later Scott was asked if he could walk. Scott said he was still too weak. After a little longer Scott was able to get to his feet and started walking toward his tent. Scott was given a ride by someone driving a golf cart to the showers. Scott showered and then returned to his tent, he crawled into bed and fell asleep. Scott said when he woke up he remembered they were told to go to the dining hall. He got dressed and went up to the dinning hall. Scott was not sure how long he slept.

At the dinning hall he ate some toast and drank a little bit. He then returned to his tent. The next morning he was pretty screwed up still. Scott did call his brother and told him he was all right. Scott said he knew two people had died and was feeling that he was not a very good buddy because Kirby was near him and when he left he did not know of anyone in distress. Scott felt that he would not have survived if he had not left for a round and gotten cooled down. Scott said he was directly across from his original position when he returned.

Scott said the staff was totally overcome with the number of people who were having problems and many people continued to get worse even once they were outside. Scott said no one went inside to help the ones that were still inside and as he went in and out of consciousness at one point he looked and saw the tent open and those in the back were getting help.

Scott said James Ray told them to help deal with the heat they could lay down and get closer to mother earth and it would be cooler.

Scott saw that someone was lifting up the back of the lodge at the same place where he was sitting when he first went in. Ray saw it and told them to put it back down. Scott said he was astounded by how hot his air was when he would breathe out so he

found himself breathing very shallow, but he realized that was not good either. The sweat lodge was much more intense than a sauna and normally you would not spend more than 10 minutes in a sauna. Scott estimated they were in the lodge about two hours.

Scott said he assumed it would be safe and a well planned event. They have done some very astounding things and came out great. Scott knew it would push his limits.

Scott had a conversation with Elsa and asked her what she was thinking. Elsa told Scott that she knew if she went into that sweat lodge she would die. Elsa did not enter because she knew this would not be a situation she would survive. Later Elsa thanked Scott for encouraging her to follow her instincts.

Scott said his speech and mental clarity is still not back to normal. He did go in and see a Doctor who told him that he experienced a real native sweat lodge by someone who was not a "quack" and at this time he is doing all right.

Scott believed the deaths and illness were the result of way too hot for way too long. Scott, also from his training and experience, calculated that for the area and length of time being an hour and half they used up the air in the sweat lodge 4 times. Air quality was very poor, steamy and moist and all the carbon dioxide that was being exhaled. Scott felt anyone walking into a sauna at that temperature, a person would not stay more than 10 minutes.

Scott said James Ray is quite proud of his sweat lodge and claims it is the very best and most intense. James Ray claimed even the Natives say he has the best sweat lodge ever. Scott did say that James Ray did have the advantage of the air from the door. He does not believe Ray participated in the fast.

This was Scott's first time in a sweat lodge. Again he feels it was way too hot and way too long and he survived by going out, getting fresh air and being hosed down. He is not sure how many rounds he was out, but believes he was back for at least the last two rounds.

Detective Shonna Willingham

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