

*I/V Randall Potter by Det. Johnson #C22

On 10/24/2009 I spoke to Randall "Randy" Gordon Potter by phone. The 2hr and 12 minute interview was recorded in its entirety and later placed into evidence with this incident as Evidence Item #4.

Randy said he learned of James Ray through a friend who had been to one of the events.

Randy said he had attended the following events:

San Diego, CA	Harmonic Wealth Weekend	3 Day	12/2007
Kona, HI	Modern Magic	5 Day	4/2008
Las Vegas, NV	Quantum Leap	3 Day	9-10/2008
Lake Tahoe	Practical Mysticism	5 Day	6/2009
Sedona, AZ	Spiritual Warrior	5 Day	10/2009

Randy mentioned that during the event in Kona, Hawaii his friend broke his hand breaking a block, by using too much force, and hitting the floor after breaking the cinder block.

Randy said that approximately 14 years ago he had been in a sweat lodge in Utah. He said there were 5 people in the lodge. He said the heat was intense and they couldn't lie down because it was in a teepee shape. He said it only lasted 45 minutes to an hour.

Randy said in the Utah sweat lodge they got fresh air from the open door that allowed them to breathe normally. Randy said in contrast in this sweat lodge on the north side where he sat in the first four rounds there was no air from the open flap.

Randy said he didn't eat or drink at all for the 36hrs before Thursday. He said he ate a large breakfast. He said he drank 1 quart of water before breakfast, 1 quart of water with breakfast and another 3-4 quarts of water after breakfast.

Randy said he knew what to expect from the vision quest because he had done a similar event in Utah 14 years ago. Randy said he never got hungry or thirsty but it was very cold.

Randy said that during the briefing in the conference room James Ray told them that the person heating the rocks had done so for multiple events. He said how hot it was for the person heating the rocks. He said James asked them to tip that person. He said they all gave the guy three to five dollars as they went into the lodge.

Randy said that the guy who had heated the rocks before they entered the lodge said the fire was hotter than in any of the prior events.

Randy said he knew the sweat lodge would be intense because it was such a long event. He said James Ray told them in the meeting room "it's going to feel like you're going to

die. I assure you will not, embrace your fear of this." He said he told them when they got through it they would be stronger people.

Randy said they didn't discuss any safety procedures to be used in the event of a problem in the sweat lodge.

Randy said that James Ray had told them the sweat lodge lasted two to three hours. He said it lasted as least two and one-half hours.

Randy said James Ray also told them that even Native Americans said his sweat lodge was the most intense.

Randy said James Ray told them it would be dark and the pit was a hazard and they needed to be careful of the pit. He said he told them it would be nice for the people in the front row to recline on the knees of the people behind them.

Randy said James Ray told them in the meeting room that heat rises and the lower people were the easier it would be for them to breathe and to deal with the heat.

Randy said James Ray told them in the sweat lodge or immediately before "if you pass out you will be taken care of." He said he felt that led people to stay and allow themselves to pass out thinking they would be okay because he would take care of them.

Randy said he thought it was safe when he entered the sweat lodge because James Ray was leading the event and had done it many times before. He said he also knew a similar number of people had participated in prior sweat lodges.

Randy said he sat on the north side in the front row with Kirby behind him and James was next to him or his friend.

Randy said James Ray told Sean during the lodge that "Sean when you make it through this you will never feel like an old man again." He said Sean had made a comment earlier about being old. He said he thought James may have been trying to engage with people to make sure they were okay.

Randy said the pit was off center towards the north. He said that gave the people in the north less room and they could not as easily lay down. He said the people in the north did not get any fresh air or coolness when the door was open as the people in the south did.

Randy said when they threw water onto the rocks from the south the people on the north got hit by water and the hot steam.

Randy said there was a small packet of sandalwood that was smoking.

Randy said when he was on the north side his eyes were burning, and his muscles were tight from sitting. He said there was Skoal winter green chewing tobacco in the hanging pouches.

Randy said he felt himself losing consciousness. He said it was hard to breathe at the beginning of the rounds. Randy said he left at the end of the fourth round.

Randy said when people initially started to leave James Ray was telling them "you're more than that," and "you can do this." He said James was talking like that when he (Randy) went out.

Randy said when he left after the fourth round he felt he was being looked down on. He said James Ray asked who was leaving.

Randy said James stopped making comments like that at some point possibly after the 6th round or so.

Randy said between rounds James was asking the people who left if any of them wanted to come back in the lodge.

Randy said when Greg (James' business development manager) left he could hear James encourage Greg to come back inside the tent. He said when Greg went back in he (Randy) also went back in.

Randy said he came back in between the fifth and sixth rounds. He said he then sat on the front row in front of the flap. He said he was next to Aaron who was bringing the rocks in the lodge.

Randy said as people came back in he moved to the left into the second row and then laid down on the second row.

Randy said when he went back into the lodge at the beginning of the sixth round there were "many indications that things were not going well."

Randy said he saw Lou was crawling towards the pit on his stomach. Randy said he screamed at Lou to stop but Lou continued into the rocks burning himself. He said Lou then crawled out.

Randy said James Ray asked what had happened when Lou crawled into the rocks. He said he told James that Lou crawled into the rocks and James said they needed to get him out.

Randy said James Ray asked Bill Leversee to help the people who needed assistance.

Randy said he and Bill helped Lou inside the lodge.

Randy said there were people passing out at the beginning of the sixth round and he was assisting people who were unconscious or disoriented out of the lodge.

Randy said about 4 people had to be helped out of the tent soon after he entered before the sixth round.

Randy said at the beginning of the rounds there was light from the glow of the red hot rocks and he was able to see the participants.

Randy said at the 6th round James was the closest to the door. He said James had his legs out and was supporting himself on his elbows. He said his head was about 8-10" off the ground. He said James' view of the inside of the lodge would have been obstructed by his position.

Randy said, on the north side after the 6th round, someone pulled the tent up and stuck their face towards the opening. He said it was while the door was open on the south side. He said it was in the area on the north side where he was sitting at the beginning.

Randy said James Ray asked "what's going on?" He said after being told someone lifted the side of the tent James told them "put that down."

Randy said they didn't immediately obey the order so James or someone else repeated the command.

Randy said James Ray didn't lead chants or prayers after the first 4-5 rounds.

Randy said you could hear people hyperventilating. He said towards the end of the lodge James Ray would yell out to people that they needed to control their breathing.

Randy said while he was laying down it was difficult to notice everything going on. He said he had to focus all his energy into controlling his breathing and staying calm.

Randy said he was shocked when Lou returned to the lodge.

Randy said he stayed in until the end of the eighth round. He said there were 2 women on each side of him and they asked him to stay with them because they were scared and experiencing a loss of motor skills.

Randy said his friend Sean was passed out in the path that they needed to leave. He said he tried to wake up Sean and Sean woke up, swung at him, and then passed out again. He said Sean eventually started crawling towards the outside edge of the tent.

Randy said he only got the women five or eight feet when he realized he was going to collapse so he went on alone. Randy said when he left the lodge at the end of the eighth round, Sean, the two women, James and Kirby were all inside.

Randy said he crawled out on the tarp and he looked up at James Ray and his staff who were there standing up. He said he yelled at them "hey somebody needs to get in there and help these fucking people because they're in trouble."

Randy said in response to Randy's request James Ray looked at one of his female staffers and said "they'll be okay."

Randy said he was on the tarp in bad condition with his vision blurred and experiencing balance disruption. He said he waited about five minutes and then moved off the tarp.

Randy said James Ray was just standing around and looking at people. He said it looked like James Ray was not concerned.

Randy said he started bringing people water and talking to them.

Randy said there was one woman who was hysterical and he had to physically hold the woman for several minutes to calm her down.

Randy said he then saw James and Kirby laying there with people performing CPR on both of them. He said it seemed like they delayed calling 911 to avoid an incident.

Randy said he was helping his friend Sean, talking to him and giving him water. He said James Ray came up to him and asked him to leave.

Randy said he never saw James Ray help any of the people in distress except he saw James talk to a specific woman that had been asking for him. He said James got down on his knees because the woman was on her back.

Randy said after he walked away the first EMS units started arriving.

Randy said Kirby and James were taken out the east side of the tent after the eighth round. He said Sean was taken out the north side.

Randy said Greg threw up in the sweat lodge after going back in the lodge.

Randy said they were not questioned about any of their medications or health problems. He said he later learned that one of his prescription medications made entering the sweat lodge more dangerous.

Randy said when he first left the lodge his vision was distorted, his balance was disrupted, he was physically exhausted and he felt like he was going to die. He said he still had a pounding headache the next morning.

Randy said he didn't remember any comments about a flashlight.

Randy said he didn't remember anyone talking about a heart attack.

Randy said he thought James Ray and the staffs were delayed in their response and looking to preserve their organization. He said he thought they were negligent and should have taken different measures before and throughout. He said someone, he believed it was one of the dream team, Jennifer, that told him that she had heard conversations between James Ray's staff not to talk to law enforcement.

Randy said Jennifer also said the volunteers and James Ray had a disagreement. Because one of the volunteers had a glass of wine on the last night of the vision quest and James didn't like that choice.

Randy said he didn't leave sooner because he wanted to make it through the whole ceremony.

Randy said he never saw anyone discouraged from helping someone in distress.

Randy said he realized there was problem after Lou climbed into the rocks and he had to help people out of the lodge.

Randy said he thought the cause of the problem was the off centered pit, the door only on one side, the rounds were too long, too many rocks and too many people to manage the event.

I asked Randy what James had said of his qualifications. Randy said James Ray told them that he was a member of 4 shamanic orders. He said James told them he had spent time in Egypt, Peru and been an employee of Tony Robbins.

Randy said during the event they were doing holotropic breath work that induced an altered state of consciousness similar to LSD by changing your breathing into very rapid respirations.

NFI

Date, Time, Reporting Officer:
Detective John Johnson #6863
Fri Oct 30 16:43:14 MST 2009

Thu Nov 05 14:59:00 MST 2009
Apvd C16/0394 DBW