

*I/V Foster, Fawn-Transcript of Sup#18 Spiritual Warrior Help 2009 C27

On October 26, 2009 Fawn Foster was interviewed in person at the Angel Valley Facility by Yavapai County Investigators. The following is a transcript of the interview. Please see the report prepared by Detective Poling and the Audio file placed into evidence.

Interviewer: I record this for my note because sometimes I think you know I can't remember what they said so I need to go back and be sure what they said. I don't know if we have talked to you other than just briefly I think on the first night when it happened. But basically we just want to hear from you, apparently you have a lot of first hand information about what you saw as I understand you were helping with the sweat lodge so you kind of saw from beginning to end, the entire thing that happened. So that's kind of mainly what we want to talk to you about. Have you seen any of this on the news, have you watched --

Respondent: Some of it, I just turned off. I saw it first hand I don't need to hear it.

Interviewer: Have you listened to any of the participants discuss what they remember seeing?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. What about Beverly Bunn she was one of the participants, did you see any interviews with her on TV?

Respondent: Actually yes I did, I saw a portion of her interview the other morning. I caught the tail end of it from the TV yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. The reason I ask this, because I want to make sure that what you tell us is what you remember from that day as opposed to what you remember hearing happened on that day. You know what I mean?

Respondent: Well nothing that I have heard compares to what I have seen.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewer: Can you spell out your name, I don't have any information --

Respondent: My name is Fawn Lee Foster.

Interviewer: And the date of birth?

Respondent: Foster, [REDACTED].

Interviewer: What's the contact number for you?

Respondent: It would be [REDACTED] and the cell phone number [REDACTED] and those are both [REDACTED]

Interviewer: Okay, and [REDACTED] is that your office --

Respondent: That's my home number.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewer: Do you live here?

Respondent: No, I live in [REDACTED]

Interviewer: What's your address there?

Respondent: [REDACTED]

Interviewer: All right, have you been a part of a sweat lodge before this as a participant or helping?

Respondent: As a participant as well as helping.

Interviewer: Okay, what about James Ray sweat lodge?

Respondent: No, I have not ever witnessed anything like this, ever.

Interviewer: Okay. So then this was the first time that you have ever been a part of the James Ray sweat lodge?

Respondent: Right, when he was here last year I was in the kitchen washing dishes, I didn't know that, I didn't even see any of it so I couldn't speak of it.

Interviewer: What was your role during the entire event, what were you doing?

Respondent: Support, basically I was running waters, watermelon and oranges and electrolyte water, lemon water you know making sure there was enough towels that there was plenty of stuff there to keep people hydrated. That was what my purpose was.

Interviewer: Okay. So were you involved before you went into the sweat lodge?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: So when you were involved with the water and all that kind of stuff was that after the --

Respondent: No, I brought water over, let me just start beginning, at about

1:45 I headed over with three gallon jugs of water or mineral water and electrolyte water and two big pans of watermelon and oranges.

Interviewer: Who asked you to do that?

Respondent: The kitchen, that was just food running and the fire had already been started, the lodge was supposed to start at 2 o'clock in my estimation because I don't wear a watch it started around 2:30. When I ran over to the kitchen to get the rest the watermelon and stuff, they were doing their smudging and stuff so I don't, wasn't a party to that so I don't know what they did there. Right somewhere around 2:30, 2:45, they enter the sweat lodge, Ted put 20 plus rocks in the first round. I counted 18 rocks when I got back in, he was more than that, I just know that the numbers that I counted each round didn't add up to what was in that pit. So there had been 20 plus rocks in that first round.

Interviewer: Who told them how many rocks to put in?

Respondent: James Ray did.

Interviewer: Okay. And how many rocks did James Ray ask for?

Respondent: I wasn't there when he asked for the first set, I counted 18 rocks when I was there.

Interviewer: So 18 rocks when you --

Respondent: The first round.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Every sweat lodge I have ever been in my life, I have never seen any more than four-five max.

Interviewer: Okay, whose decision is it how many rocks going --

Respondent: Whoever is running the sweat.

Interviewer: Which would be James Ray?

Respondent: James Ray.

Interviewer: Okay. Then what happened?

Respondent: Then I just sat down on a log and watched, listened James Ray say "the end of the round", I had no idea of how much time passed. He opened the flap, three people came out, collapsed.

Interviewer: What do you mean by collapsed?

Respondent: Well they didn't get this far off ground, they just kind of crawled out. And his Dream Team members were holding them on their backs to keep them down you know stay down, stay down, obviously they didn't want to stand up because they really got hurt if they fell.

Interviewer: Was anything else said to these three people that came out?

Respondent: Not really no.

Interviewer: Did anybody say, you know I am glad you came out or you need to go back in or --

Respondent: I heard several people inside the lodge encouraging them to go back in as well as the Dream Team on the outside encouraging them to go back in. These three people did not want to go back in, so they didn't.

Interviewer: Okay, you said they held them down so they couldn't get up.

Respondent: Right, they were crawling out of the lodge like this (demonstrated) you have to, to get out of the lodge.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent:: When they tried to stand up the Dream Team held them on their back so they could not stand up.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Which I have never seen --

Interviewer: Okay, but they were telling them-

Respondent: Stay down, stay down.

Interviewer: Stay down, stay down, how did that transition doing, go back in?

Respondent: Well the people inside, James Ray and a couple other people inside the lodge, I can't give their names because I didn't, I heard just voices, trying to get them to come, come on back in, come on back in for the next round come on back in, okay we put in more rocks. And James said okay shut the flap, they shut the flap. However much time passed, they opened the flap up, three more people came out

Interviewer: Were you still sitting on the log?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: How far were you from the --

Respondent: About from here to there.

Interviewer: Were you close to the front door?

Respondent: About from here to him.

Interviewer: About from here to him, about 5 feet?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you hear everything James Ray was saying?

Respondent: Pretty much yeah, like the flap opened, now with the flap down I couldn't hear everything that he was saying.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: When he got loud a couple of times, I heard what he was saying but other than that --

Interviewer: On the second round, at the end of it, when the flap opened, how many people came out?

Respondent: Three more people came out and again they encouraged all these people to go back in.

Interviewer: How did they do that and who?

Respondent: Come on, come on back in here you can do this, you can do this, you are not your body, you can do this, you are stronger than your body, this is what James Ray was shouting from the door, you are stronger than your body, you are not your body, come on back in here, you can do this, just encouraging like that.

Interviewer: Did any of those three go back in?

Respondent: No, they did not. Now the third and fourth round, one lady that came out in the first round, she was wearing a white bathing suit like thing, started to go back into the lodge and she got to the door and said no. And she did that about four or five times, got to the door and said no. And I witnessed that two was Dream Team members trying to push her back into the lodge physically pushing her back into the lodge. And I heard

Debbie say no, she doesn't want to go, let her go. And they let her go and she move around them and ran away. She never went back into the lodge.

Interviewer: So the Dream Team members were actually reprimanded by Debbie who was working in the fire?

Respondent: Right.

Interviewer: She is saying it's not right or saying something like that that you can't make her do that?

Respondent: Right.

Interviewer: Okay. So did that woman not go back in then?

Respondent: No she did not go back in.

Interviewer: So now there were six people that --

Respondent: Yeah there were six people and we were at the end of the fourth or the fifth round at this point. I don't remember which round it was the gentleman fell into the fire, he was trying to crawl out and he landed into fire burned his whole arm --

Interviewer: Was the flap opened when that happened?

Respondent: It was not when he fell into the fire and the flap was opened and somebody hovered he is in the fire. And he crawled out and the one of the ladies on the Dream Team that said she was a nurse grabbed a towel and wrapped it around his arm and I said no, don't do that, you don't do that to a burn. You know that right there said this woman was not a nurse, she would know you don't wrap a towel around a burn. Anyway I ran to the kitchen and got a five gallon bucket, filled it full of water, put his arm in it, got ice, put it in there cooled it off took the heat out.

Interviewer: You're the one that did the water?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay that's good that's what I thought you did to a burn, isn't it?

Respondent: Well you don't wrap a towel around it for sure.

Interviewer: Okay and let me, this is important thing. When he fell in the fire, you said you heard somebody say he is in the fire, did you hear him screaming or did you hear him --

Respondent: No, I did not hear him screaming at all, he actually, he had passed out is what happened. Or that's what he told me, is he passed out into the fire.

Interviewer: Okay. And when that happened was the door immediately opened?

Respondent: To be honest I don't--

Interviewer: Okay, in other words, when the door was opened the next time, was it opened because he got burned --

Respondent: No it was not opened because he got burned.

Interviewer: Okay it was opened that was the end of the round?

Respondent: Right.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Because the flap was standing open when I heard somebody holler he is in the fire or in the hot rocks.

Interviewer: Was the flap already open when you went there?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: So it was already between rounds

Respondent: Yeah so the round was starting over.

Interviewer: And this was possibly at the end of the fourth or end of the fifth --

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, did anybody else come out?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. And the time when you went to go get the water, did you miss a round or miss a flap open?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. So you were there every time the flap opened?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: How far was it from the water, to get the water?

Respondent: I grabbed the bucket from the kitchen, it takes me approximately five minutes to run from there to there to back.

Interviewer: So 2.5 up and 2.5 back

Respondent: Right.

Interviewer: And you had to fill water or was the water already filled--

Respondent: No I filled it up at the sweat lodge with the hose.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And it still felt a lot of heat coming out of his arm so then I ran back and got ice afterwards, so actually 10 minutes altogether that I was running back and forth.

Interviewer: Okay. So you have been taking care of Lou, he has got an injury, was that you were supposed to do there?

Respondent: No, I was just basically there, to be honest my gut told me to be there. I can't, I was there because my gut told me to be there.

Interviewer: So you weren't contracted to give medical treatment --

Respondent: No, not at all, I am not by any means, I have no CPR, I just have commonsense.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewer: Who had asked you to do this?

Respondent: Nobody.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewer: So you see him burned in itself you take it upon yourself --

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you hear anybody say anything to James Ray about Lou getting burned?

Respondent: No, I did not.

Interviewer: Okay. All right, what's the next thing you remember?

Respondent: Next thing I remember is the end of round 6, flaps opened, the young man that got burned in fact you'd know his name I don't even know his name,.

Interviewer: Lou.

Respondent: Lou, decided to go back into the last round, why I don't know, but at the end of all of it, he thanked me for telling him to go back in, it's like I never said a word to the man other than are you okay.

Interviewer: Did anybody else tell him to go back in?

Respondent: I don't know, I couldn't answer that. I know while the flap was opened, I heard somebody within lodge and I can't say who because I don't know, somebody say there is three people down back here. And somebody else said are they breathing. And I didn't hear the answer to that.

I did hear James Ray say "leave them there, we have one more round to do, we will deal with them afterwards."

Interviewer: His exact words?

Respondent: His exact words.

Interviewer: Leave him there?

Respondent: Leave them there, we have one round left, we will deal with them after.

Interviewer: Let me go back to, you heard people say we have three people down back here. Did you get an idea where in the tent they were?

Respondent: In the back of the tent somewhere.

Interviewer: When you say back, you mean opposite the front door?

Respondent: Yeah the door is here in the back somewhere, I sounded like it was coming from the back.

Interviewer: Okay. And the response you said you heard James say leave them there.

Respondent: Leave them there, we have one round left.

Interviewer: How do you know that was James Ray?

Respondent: Because he was sitting right at the door, I was looking at him when he said it.

Interviewer: Okay. So you were looking at James Ray when he said leave them there.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewer: Do you know who James Ray is?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you know who James Ray was before this event?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I did meet the man last year. I just didn't participate in his sweat or anything I was just cooking and doing dishes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Before that I had no knowledge of him, to be honest.

Interviewer: So he says leave them there, can you remember about how many people would have come out, if anybody?

Respondent: To be honest no, it's all at this point a blur to be honest, I couldn't tell you.

Interviewer: Were there people coming up before or the end or being drug out?

Respondent: Not drug out, no, there were plenty of people, people crawling out but not like I can't say how many because I don't know. I just know it went from that point there to the end of the seventh round and it's just being bad all over.

Interviewer: Okay. So then what happened next?

Respondent: At the end of the seventh round the flap is opened everybody comes out, James Ray comes out like this, going "hose me off" and they hosed him off, everybody else is on the ground screaming and hollering and out of their senses in my mind. And Debbie looked inside the lodge and said there is three people still in here can I open the back of the lodge and James said that would be "Sacrilegious" real flipish like that. And then he said, "but if you have to go ahead." Well by that point Debbie was already

ripping the back of the lodge open. Those three people were blue when they got pulled out.

Interviewer: Do you know who those three people were?

Respondent: They were Kirby, and James Shore and I don't know the name of the other lady.

Interviewer: There was a Sidney and Liz that were both in critical condition. And we are not real sure.

Interviewer: And how do you know as to who those people were?

Respondent: Because I was standing there.

Interviewer: But how do you know it was James?

Respondent: I knew it was James.

Interviewer: How?

Respondent: I knew it was James because my boss told me it was James.

Interviewer: That's what I am asking, how do you know these people and (Inaudible).

Respondent: That's the only reason I know these people's names, okay.

Interviewer: Was this afterwards when you found out based on

Respondent: I found out their names, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, that makes sense.

Respondent: You know I can tell you exact depths who they were because I know who I saw being pulled out of there.

Interviewer: I'm asking if you knew them before that

Respondent: No I did not know their names before that, no.

Interviewer: Okay. So you said when, you think back to when Ray first comes out of the tent, you kind of raised your arms in the air, hose me off you said.

Respondent: Because he raised his, that's exactly what he did, he did this and said hose me off.

Interviewer: Was it, did he raised his arms saying hose me off or did he raise his arms like you know hey everybody we did a good job, was it like a triumph type thing?

Respondent: No, not at all, it was hose me off.

Interviewer: Okay. And did they hose him off?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: But there is other people that are --

Respondent: Yeah and everybody I mean there was one lady foaming at the mouth, like I said there were people laying everywhere screaming--

Interviewer: Did he stay around there for a while, did he stand around middle of anything or where did he go after he got hosed off?

Respondent: Debbie said call 911. I saw Amyra go one way, I saw Debbie go the other way, James Ray walked to the end of the tarps where there were several people laying on the ground. He looked down at them and within minutes we heard ambulances, yeah he was there for a good 15 minutes, 20 minutes, because when we heard the ambulances coming down the driveway, up or down the mountain he said, "Anybody that can't walk, get up and go to your room", those were his exact words, anybody that can walk get up and go to your room now. And after that I lost track of James Ray there were too many people who needed help.

Interviewer: Did he help anyone out?

Respondent: I never saw him help anybody. I saw him bend down to one guy and take his hand and go good job and that was the only thing I saw the man do, that was it.

Interviewer: It was James Shore, was it?

Respondent: No, it was, I can't tell you his name because I don't know his name (Inaudible) James Shore was over here behind the tent. James Ray never even walked over to look at those people.

Interviewer: So you were watching, he never went over there?

Respondent: He never walked over there to look at those people.

Interviewer: What if somebody and I just want to make sure you are there the whole time in this area, right, what if somebody told us that James Ray went over to these people and said hey what do you guys need, can I get you something, what do you need, if somebody told that me that, would they be telling the truth?

Respondent: I would call them a bold face liar.

Interviewer: Okay so you are sure that that conversation could not have gone on or this could not have happened--

Respondent: In my mind I never saw anything like that, I saw James Ray walk over here to the end of these tarps. Those people that were blue were way on that side and like I said I lost track of James Ray after that.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Now I am not going to say that positively did not happen because I didn't see it. So no, I cannot say that positively did not happen, I didn't witness it.

Interviewer: But you probably would have seen something like that if that happened?

Respondent: Well yeah because I was keeping an eye on those people over there getting CPR while I was trying to get this lady up off the ground it took me an hour and 15 minutes to get her back to where she could get up.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: It seemed like an hour and 15 minutes it could have been 10 minutes so I don't know.

Interviewer: If you don't mind me asking where were James and Kirby at. This the tent, this is the back, this is the front, this is the fire, this is the water station, where was Kirby in them, Kirby is over here?

Respondent: Let's say here's the flap. The flap was right here and there was one right here and there was another person right here (demonstrated).

Interviewer: Okay and on this side, so when James was going over here to check that guy and shake his hand or did he go around this way

Respondent: No. Here is one tarp and here is the other tarp over here. This is fire, he walked over here, and there is a log I was sitting on. And this is not a good model here but anyway these three people were here. James walked, he came out right here, he walked this way and he walked over here to this person right here --

Interviewer: If you are sitting here, how can you see him inside --

Respondent: His drawing is not very good.

Interviewer: You can draw a little picture if you want

Respondent: Can I have a blank piece. Here is the lodge, here is the door way, chairs all the way around here, a big camp right here, watermelon and drinks, there is a log right here, and there were tarps here, tarps here, fire here, and they had a little fire another reason I was sitting there is because they had burnt some prayer tires or ties and some writings and stuff they had burned here so I was putting things out as they were flying. Anyway we had a water hose running this way, water hose running this way, these three people were here and one laying this direction and the flap is right here, this would be open flap where they pulled it up, here is the front door here.

Interviewer: Were there two places that were open or just one --

Respondent: There was the front door here and they opened just one right here, they pulled the back of the lodge up to take these three people out.

Interviewer: Was anybody else drug out from underneath the tent?

Respondent: Just those three people.

Interviewer: And it was just one hole that was open, okay.

Respondent: As far as I know. Anything else that got opened up was because we were putting blankets off the lodge to wrap people up, they were going into shock.

Interviewer: What do you think happened? (This is where we were parked, command was over here, we were over here. NO command was over here.

Respondent: You were all up here

Interviewer: So I mean you were there, you have as many of the answers as anybody else would have, what do you think happened?

Respondent: Well I think that these people were put out on a hill for two days with no water, you don't do that to people that are from the city in the desert, #1. #2 you don't have a two/three-hour sweat lodge for a bunch of novice that have never been in a lodge in their lives. #3 you don't put that many the heat in that lodge had to be unbearable. I have sweated off and on my entire life, I am half Indian. I can't imagine going to a lodge with that many rocks, just I can't even phantom that in my brain, you just don't.

Interviewer: Have you ever been to a lodge built like that ?

Respondent: I have been in that lodge, yes I have, four (4) beautiful rounds, enjoyed it, loved it, you know with 40, 50, 60 other people. I didn't have any trouble breathing.

Interviewer: This was not a James Ray event?

Respondent: No, this was with Singing Bear, last year.

Interviewer: Okay. How long have you worked here?

Respondent: I have been working here since April of last year.

Interviewer: Okay. And how many sweat lodges have you seen here in the property?

Respondent: I would say four.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Only one that I've participated in.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you know there ever being a problem because of the lodge.

Respondent: I have never seen anybody have a problem.

Interviewer: Okay. Were you around in 2008 during the James Ray Spiritual Warrior.

Respondent: Yes I was but like I said I wasn't involved in any of that and I didn't.

Interviewer: So you wouldn't have known

Respondent: The only thing I could say to you would be hearsay, what somebody told me about last year so I am not even going to speak on that, I wasn't there.

Interviewer: I have talked to them in detail about that already.

Respondent: Well that's what I am saying; it would be hearsay so I'm not even going to bother repeating it.

Interviewer: All right, I just wonder, you know we look at everything you know because it seems like two sides' to a story develop over time and we need to look at which story is accurate and so that's why we explore every angle that we can. What we'll do, I'm probably have more questions, I am almost positive, I am going to have more questions for you, what I can do is I can give you a call or give the Hamiltons a call and tell you what the information that I need to get. What you can do is contact the attorney and tell him you know this is the information they need, you know what should I do?

Interviewer: Do you have an e-mail?

Respondent: No, I don't, I wish, I have a computer but it's not hooked up yet.

Attorney: Might be faster just to email me your question.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Interviewer: That will probably be easier.

Interviewer: Yeah, I think so. Okay, we're all set, thank you.

Respondent: All right, if I could do anything else to help

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