

Intake: ME
 Processing: ME
 Entering: ME
 Verifying: _____
 Scanning: _____

FILED IN STEVENS COUNTY
 SUPERIOR COURT
 DEC 16 2024
 8:00 AM
 MICHELLE ENRIGHT
 SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
 COUNTY OF STEVENS**

STATE OF WASHINGTON,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 CHARLES LLOYD TATOM,
 DOB: 04-30-1951
 Defendant.

No. **24 1 00397 33**
 INFORMATION
2 COUNTS
(INFO)

<u>DOB</u> 04/30/1951	<u>SEX</u> M	<u>RACE</u> W	<u>HGT</u> 5'10	<u>WGT</u> 190	<u>HAIR</u> BLK	<u>EYES</u> BLU	<u>WSDOL #</u> TATOMCL490JT	<u>SID #</u> WA16283477
<u>PCN</u>		<u>JUVIS #</u>			<u>DOC #</u>			

TO: CHARLES LLOYD TATOM

LKA: 2260 Aladdin Road
 Colville, WA 99114

COUNT 1

By way of this Information, the Prosecuting Attorney accuses you of the crime of **Aggravated Murder In The First Degree**, the maximum penalty for which is Life imprisonment and/or \$50,000 fine, plus restitution, assessments and court costs, in that the said Charles Lloyd Tatom, in the County of Stevens, State of Washington, on or between June 26, 1997 and June 27, 1997, with premeditated intent to cause the death of another person, caused the death of Marlene Emerson, a human being; and: Charles Lloyd Tatom committed the murder to obtain or maintain his or her membership or to advance his or her position in the hierarchy of an organization, association, or identifiable group, and/or there was more than one victim and the murders were part of a common scheme or plan, and/or the death of Marlene Emerson was

1 committed during the course of, in furtherance of, or in immediate flight from the commission of
2 the offense of Burglary in the first or second degree or Residential Burglary, Kidnapping in the
3 first degree, or Arson in the first degree;

4 Contrary to RCW 9A.32.030(1)(a) and 10.95.020 (6)(10) & (11), and against the peace
5 and dignity of the State of Washington.

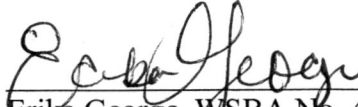
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

COUNT 2

By way of this Information, the Prosecuting Attorney accuses you of the crime of
Aggravated Murder In The First Degree, the maximum penalty for which is Life
imprisonment and/or \$50,000 fine, plus restitution, assessments and court costs, in that the said
Charles Lloyd Tatom, in the County of Stevens, State of Washington, on or between June 26,
1997 and June 27, 1997, with premeditated intent to cause the death of another person, caused
the death of Cassandra Emerson, a human being; and: Charles Lloyd Tatom committed the
murder to obtain or maintain his or her membership or to advance his or her position in the
hierarchy of an organization, association, or identifiable group, and/or there was more than one
victim and the murders were part of a common scheme or plan, and/or the death of Cassandra
Emerson was committed during the course of, in furtherance of, or in immediate flight from the
commission of the offense of Burglary in the first or second degree or Residential Burglary,
Kidnapping in the first degree, or Arson in the first degree;

Contrary to RCW 9A.32.030(1)(a) and 10.95.020 (6)(10) & (11), and against the peace
and dignity of the State of Washington.

Dated: Dec 13, 2004


Erika George, WSBA No. 43871
Prosecuting Attorney

FILED IN STEVENS COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT
DEC 16 2024
8:00 AM
MICHELLE ENRIGHT
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF STEVENS**

STATE OF WASHINGTON,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CHARLES LLOYD TATOM,
DOB: 04-30-1951
Defendant.

No. 24 1 00397 33

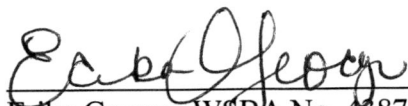
**MOTION AND DECLARATION FOR ORDER
DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF ARREST
WARRANT (PROBABLE CAUSE)**

I. MOTION

The undersigned moves the court for an order directing the Clerk of this Court to issue a warrant for the arrest of the defendant for the reasons set forth in the declaration below and for the reason the defendant has been charged with the crimes of Aggravated Murder In The First Degree (2 counts)

This motion is based upon the case record to date and upon the following declaration.

Dated: Dec 13, 2024


Erika George, WSBA No. 43871
Prosecuting Attorney

1 II. DECLARATION

2 Under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Washington, the undersigned hereby
3 declares:

4 1. That I am the Prosecuting Attorney for this County and make this declaration in that
5 capacity;

6 2. That I am familiar with the police reports and investigation conducted on this case;

7 3. That the information contained herein was received from the Stevens County Sheriff's
8 Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US Attorney's Office of the Eastern District,
9 King County Medical Examiner's Office, and the WSP Crime Lab;

10 4. That probable cause exists that the Defendant committed the crimes as set forth in the filed
11 information, based on the following facts and circumstances:

12 5. a. See attached statement of Probable Cause by Special Deputy Michael George,
13 signed under penalty of perjury.

14 6. The State seeks a no bail warrant for the defendant. The Washington State Constitution,
15 Article 1 § 20 states that bail can be denied in capital cases and "bail may be denied for
16 offenses punishable by the possibility of life in prison upon a showing by clear and
17 convincing evidence of a propensity for violence that creates a substantial likelihood of
18 danger to the community or any persons." While the State of Washington no longer has the
19 death penalty, so no "capital cases" per se, Aggravated Murder in the First Degree would
20 have been a capital case at the time this section of the Constitution was amended in 2010.
21 Separate from the capital case provision, the Court can hold this defendant without bail
22 under the constitution. The Washington State Supreme Court held in *In re Sargent*, 1
23 Wash. 3d 580, 530 P.3d 566 (2023) that crimes where the maximum sentence of life meet
24 this requirement, regardless of the fact that a life sentence may not be a real outcome in a
25 specific case the way that case is charged. In this matter, under RCW 10.95.030, the
26 mandatory penalty for aggravated murder in the first degree is life imprisonment without
27 the possibility of parole. The statute also gives no authority for the sentence to be
28 suspended, deferred, or commuted, nor can the ISRB grant any type of parole, nor can any
29 sort of release through a furlough program be granted.

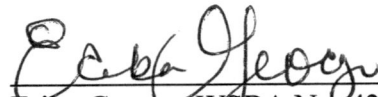
30 In this case, the defendant has a clear propensity for violence. The defendant has a previous
conviction for Murder in the State of Oregon in the 1977. He has federal weapons
convictions in 2006, in conjunction with his dismissed UPF charges in Stevens County that
same year.

1 This case had a significant delay, especially in the early years of the investigation, because
2 of the affiliation with the outlaw motorcycle gang and a fear of any witnesses to cooperate
3 for fear of retribution. Witnesses didn't want to come forward, they didn't want to make
4 statements. The facts of the investigation show that there were severe consequences for
5 individuals who cooperated with law enforcement or wronged the club. Even with the
6 passage of time, there is a danger to any person who has given statements to law
7 enforcement regarding the murders of Marlene and Cassie Emerson, and for the first time,
8 the defendant will have real information of who has said what against him. Despite the fact
9 that he is now 73 years old and has had no criminal history since release from federal
10 probation, until now, there has been no reason for the defendant to think that he was in
11 jeopardy of facing charges or arrest over these matters. Now, he will be facing the
12 possibility of dying in prison if convicted and will have full knowledge of all the evidence
13 against him and all who have made statements against him.

14 WHEREFORE, your declarer requests the court issue a warrant for the arrest of
15 CHARLES LLOYD TATOM, and asks that bail be set for \$ no bail , to cover area of:

- 16 Washington only Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana
17 11 Western States Entire United States

18 DATED this 13 day of December , 2024.

19 
20 _____
21 Erika George, WSBA No. 43871
22 Prosecuting Attorney

STEVENS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

DEFENDANT: CHARLES LLOYD TATOM

CHARGES: **RCW 9A.32.030**
Aggravated Murder in the First Degree

A person is guilty of aggravated first degree murder, a class A felony, if he or she commits first degree murder as defined by RCW 9A.32.030(1)(a), as now or hereafter amended, and one or more of the following aggravating circumstances exist:

- (6) the person committed the murder to obtain or maintain his or her membership or to advance his or her position in the hierarchy of an organization, association, or identifiable group;
- (10) there was more than one victim and the murders were part of a common scheme or plan or the result of a single act of the person;
- (11) The murder was committed in the course of, in furtherance or, or in immediate flight from one of the following crimes:
 - (c) Burglary in the first or second degree or residential burglary
 - (d) Kidnapping in the first degree; or
 - (e) Arson in the first degree

Murder in the First Degree (RCW 9A.32.030(1)(a)):

- (1) A person is guilty of murder in the first degree when:
 - (a) with a premeditated intent to cause the death of another person, he or she causes the death of such person or of a third person;

Burglary in the First Degree (RCW 9A.52.020):

- (1) A person is guilty of burglary in the first degree if, with intent to commit a crime against a person or property therein, he or she enters or remains unlawfully in a building and if, in entering or while in the building or in immediate flight therefrom, the actor or another participant in the crime (a) is armed with a deadly weapon, or (b) assaults any person

Kidnapping in the First Degree (9A.40.020):

- (1) A person is guilty of kidnapping in the first degree if he or she intentionally abducts another person with intent:
 - (b) to facilitate commission of any felony or flight thereafter; or
 - (c) to inflict bodily injury on him or her; or
 - (d) to inflict extreme mental distress on him, her, or a third person; or

Arson in the First Degree (9A.48.020):

- (1) A person is guilty of arson in the first degree if he or she knowingly and maliciously:
 - (a) causes a fire or explosion which is manifestly dangerous to any human life, including firefighters; or
 - (b) causes a fire or explosion which damages a dwelling; or

(c) causes a fire or explosion in any building in which there shall be at the time a human being who is not a participant in the crime; or

State of Washington)
) ss.
County of Stevens)

The undersigned, being competent to testify and sworn on oath, deposes and testifies as follows: That he believes a crime was committed by the above-named defendant in the County of Stevens, State of Washington, because:

At 3:54 am on Friday, June 27, 1997, Stevens County dispatch received a report of a mobile home on fire in the Panorama Mobile Home Court located at 539 Orin Rice Road in Colville, Washington. The fire involved the trailer in space number 24. A fire crew responded from Fire District 3 and extinguished the fire. Inside the mobile home, responders found the remains of the tenant, 29-year-old Marlene Emerson. Emerson's 12-year-old daughter, Cassandra (Cassie) Emerson, was missing and was presumed to have been abducted.

Fire investigators from Stevens County and the ATF investigated the fire and determined that it was arson. An ATF report describes the trailer as a 1976 Nomad 5th wheel trailer with a wood frame addition consisting of a single room that had been built over a wooden deck. The fire was discovered by George Hornaday, who was living at the trailer in Space # 32. Hornaday woke up around 3:45 am to get ready for work. Shortly after he woke up, he heard a truck idling nearby. A few minutes later, the vehicle accelerated rapidly from the area. Approximately two minutes later, Hornaday heard two explosions. He went outside and saw Emerson's trailer on fire. Hornaday ran to the trailer but was unable to get inside. Hornaday obtained a garden hose and directed a stream into the trailer through a broken window. Hornaday's wife went to a neighboring trailer in Space # 33 and pounded on the door. The resident, Marty Paquette, answered the door and called 911. David Paquette ran to the burning trailer and turned off the exterior propane tanks. The resident in Space # 23, Bobbi Wagner, reported hearing something like a sonic boom between 3:45 and 3:50 am. This was followed by the sound of a loud vehicle taking off along the mobile home park's lower road. Bobbi Wagner looked out her window and saw the Emerson trailer on fire, after which she also called 911. Other residents at the mobile home court made similar reports: Katheryn Hughs in Space # 31 reported hearing a "pop" at about 4:00 am. This was followed by the sound of male voices running then the sound of a vehicle leaving at a fast speed with a noisy exhaust.

The first fire crew arrived at 4:08 am. By that time, the roof of Emerson's trailer had already collapsed, and flames were extending ten to fifteen feet above the roofline. The crew emptied its tank of water in approximately three minutes and reduced the blaze to a smoldering fire. Arson investigators, including BATF Special Agent Lance Hart, arrived later that morning and processed the scene until 5:30 pm. Emerson's body was found on the floor with her head approximately four feet south of the north wall in the single room wood frame addition. Her body was severely burned and charred with portions of her lower extremities detached. An irregular burn pattern on the floor of the addition from the south doorway to the north end of the room was consistent with an ignitable pour pattern. A strong odor of gasoline was also present near Emerson's body and carpet samples from the trailer were later examined and determined to contain ignitable residue consistent the gasoline. Investigators also saw an ignitable liquid pour pattern in the trailer extending from the south opening between the addition to the kitchen

area. The ignitable liquid vapors were allowed to diffuse with the ambient air before they were ignited. The effects of their ignition were sufficient to break the window in the single room addition.

Emerson's body was positively identified through dental records by Forensic Odontologist Frank Morgan on July 1, 1997. An autopsy was conducted on Emerson's remains by Dr. George R. Lindholm, M.D., on June 30, 1997. Dr. Lindholm concluded that the manner of death was homicide. Dr. Lindholm found no substantial evidence of smoke inhalation but could not conclude from this whether Emerson was killed before the fire started or succumbed rapidly to a flash outbreak of the fire. Emerson's right ear was still visible; her left ear was missing.

On July 27, 1997, Cassie Emerson's body was found in a wooded area above Orin Rice Road by two people recreating in the area. The Washington State Patrol was called out to assist in recovering the remains. The remains had visible insect activity and depuration from animals. Cassie's head was located several feet away from her body. The remains were examined by Forensic Odontologist Frank Morgan who identified them from dental records as Cassie's. Small items of jewelry found on the remains were also consistent with Cassie. An autopsy was conducted on Cassie's remains by Dr. Lindholm on August 11, 1997. Dr. Lindholm rendered an opinion that Cassie's cause and manner of death were homicidal violence. Dr. Lindholm noted that the state of the body was consistent with exposure to the elements for a several weeks.

On January 28, 2000, Marlene Emerson's remains were examined by Forensic Anthropologist Noel T. Boaz, Ph.D. Dr. Boaz found a 12 mm long cut mark in her fifth cervical vertebra (C-5). The damage was "sharply defined and incised as by a knife." The cut mark was oriented from lower left to upper right, and there was a slight trauma to the carotid tubercle at the left tip of the next lower vertebra (C-6). The report went on to note that the location of the damage to the two vertebrae "correspond[ed] to the position of the common carotid artery on the left side." As reported by Dr. Boaz, the damage to the bone "indicates peri-mortem cutting of the left carotid artery." In conjunction with the autopsy report, Dr. Boaz that Emerson's carotid artery was severed prior to the body having been burned. In a similar examination conducted on Cassie's remains on January 29, 2000, Dr. Boaz found no evidence peri-mortem trauma.

Emerson and Cassie's remains were later exhumed and submitted for further examination by Forensic Anthropologist Katherine M. Taylor, Ph.D., D-ABFA, at the King County Medical Examiner's Office in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Taylor also obtained a sample of Cassie's DNA for comparison with DNA profiles recovered from a 1978 Chevy Blazer that investigators believed had been used to abduct Cassie. Both remains were received by the King County Medical Examiner's Office on September 6, 2013. In examining Cassie's remains, Dr. Taylor found evidence of perimortem sharp force trauma to three cervical vertebrae. She noted that the damage was not consistent with damage caused by an animal. She observed the multiple defects on the vertebrae (C-3, C-4, and C-5) and concluded that the represented a minimum of three separate wound tracks. In examining Emerson's remains, Dr. Taylor noted the same to cuts to C-5 and C-6, observing that they were at an angle on the same plane, which was consistent with a single wound. Thus, she concluded that the remains exhibited defects consistent with perimortem sharp force trauma on two cervical vertebrae representing a minimum of one wound track. Dr. Taylor's report was reviewed in September 2023 by Andrew Seidel, a forensic anthropologist working at the King County Medical Examiner's Office. Dr. Seidel concurred in Dr. Taylor's observations and conclusions.

Witnesses reported that Emerson had been receiving threats in the weeks leading up to her murder. These threats related to Emerson's association with people involved in the outlaw motorcycle club community in the Colville area. Among these was Michael Alexander ("Griz"), who was a tattoo artist and methamphetamine supplier. Based on witness statements and admissions, other people involved in that community included Alan Hodges, Butch Forrest, Charles Tatom, Michael Wooster, Dan Schoonover, Robert Dunlap, Dale Morrow, Steven Wynhoff, Horst Krewetzki, and Debbie Moore.

On January 26, 1997, (Superbowl Sunday) Emerson burglarized a tattoo shop in Kettle Falls owned by Michael Alexander. Emerson committed the burglary with her brother-in-law, Gerald Stephens. In addition to the theft of tattoo equipment, some witnesses reported that the theft included a club roster and drug ledgers belonging to the Iron Horsemen outlaw motorcycle club, and methamphetamine. Despite these reports, no club rosters, ledgers or other club property were ever recovered, and both Michael Alexander, who had been the victim of the burglary, and Alan Hodges, who was a past president of the Iron Horsemen motorcycle club, denied that the burglary involved club property. Emerson was charged with the burglary in Stevens County Superior Court Case No. 97-1-00016-0. She pled guilty to the offense and was sentenced on March 14, 1997, to 30 days in custody. Following the burglary and prior to Emerson's sentencing hearing, a "patched" member of the Iron Horsemen motorcycle club, Richard "Butch" Forrest was arrested and charged with conspiracy relating to the distribution of methamphetamine and cocaine. Forrest's arrest occurred on February 18, 1997. His case was pending in federal court at the time of the Emerson murders, and Emerson was believed to have cooperated with police and had been ordered to leave the area. Emerson refused. Following her murder on or about June 27, 1997, and the abduction and murder of her daughter, Forrest pled guilty at a hearing conducted on July 22, 1997, and, at a later hearing, was sentenced to 292 months in custody.

Deborah Moore had knowledge of some of the conflicts that began for Emerson after her participation in the burglary of Alexander's tattoo shop. Soon after the burglary Moore contacted Emerson at a residence in Colville where Emerson was living with her sister, Connie Stephens, and her brother-in-law, Gerald Stephens. Moore went there to sell Emerson methamphetamine. Emerson showed Moore a tattoo gun and some body piercing rings that she had taken from Alexander's tattoo shop. Moore told Emerson that she wished Emerson had never showed her those things because she would have to report it to "the group." Moore reported Emerson's possession of Alexander's tattoo equipment to Butch Forrest. Following this, Alexander called Emerson and told her he wanted his stuff back. Moore confirmed to Alexander that Emerson was responsible for the burglary. Moore met with Alexander, then went to the residence where Emerson was staying to get the stolen items back. Moore met Alexander the next morning. Alexander told her that some items were still missing. Alexander felt that Emerson was "jacking him around" and wanted to talk to her directly. Alexander and Moore went to Stephens' residence to confront Emerson. Emerson told Alexander that some of the items may be at a storage unit rented by Gerald Stephens. They went to the storage unit but could not find the missing items. Alexander again said that Emerson was "jacking him around." A day or so later, Alexander and his wife (Terry Alexander) came to Emerson's residence with firearms and confronted Emerson. Moore attempted to stay out of the room but claimed that Terry Alexander pointed a handgun at Emerson and threaten to harm Emerson's daughter and to kill Emerson if the property was not returned. In a later sworn statement, Moore said that Michael Alexander also pointed a handgun at Emerson and told her he was going to kill her.

Elements of Moore's statement were corroborated by Mary Clayborn. During an interview conducted on September 15, 2006, Clayborn recalled having contact with Emerson in the late winter of 1997. At the time, Emerson was living at a residence in Colville. She said that Emerson offered to exchange tattoo

equipment for methamphetamine. She told Emerson that she would think about it then reported the offer to Debbie Moore. Moore told Clayborn about the burglary of Alexander's tattoo shop. Moore later called Clayborn and asked her to go to Emerson's residence with Moore because Moore had been directed to collect the tattoo equipment. They went to Emerson's residence where she recalled seeing Emerson's brother-in-law, Gerald Stephens. Moore took the tattoo equipment from Emerson and told Emerson that she better have everything "or else." Clayborn drove Moore to another residence in Colville where Moore delivered the tattoo equipment.

During an interview conducted on April 13, 2007, Terry Alexander admitted to being present for what she described as one of the meetings between Michael Alexander and Emerson after the burglary. She claimed the meeting occurred at Debbie Moore's house in Colville and that Alexander was angry at the time because they had spent four days trying to get their stuff back. She was unsure if threats were made but did not believe that she made any threats. She said that Michael Alexander always carried a handgun. She believed that she may have had a revolver in her boot but did not believe she pointed it at anyone. In a later sworn Grand Jury testimony, Terry Alexander was more explicit, saying that Griz had a gun with him that he had put in the back of his pants and that threatened Emerson with it. Nevertheless, she said that Michael Alexander did not threaten to kill her, he just demanded his stuff back, telling her to stop lying and just give him his stuff. She reiterated that she and Michael Alexander had driven around for four days trying to recover all his stolen items. She said that although she often carried a small .38 caliber handgun in her boot, she did not believe she had it with her during the meeting with Emerson and did not threaten Emerson.

In an interview conducted on April 12, 2007, Gerald Stephens admitted that he participated in the burglary of Alexander's tattoo shop with Emerson. Stephens claimed that he wanted to get a tattoo gun for his wife, Connie. He said he did not know that Alexander was the owner of the shop until after the burglary. He said that Emerson had gotten tattoos from Alexander before and knew that he was supposed to be associated with "bikers." He said that he took tattoo guns and foot controls for the guns while Emerson got into the case drawers. Emerson took some piercing rings and jewelry. He did not believe that they took any money or methamphetamine but acknowledged that Emerson was looking for other things and that he left the tattoo shop before she did. When she came out, she had a manilla envelope that she kept to herself and may have had a leather jacket. Stephens said that he was scared when the burglary was over. After Alexander learned that Stephens and Emerson had committed the burglary, Debbie Moore's husband, Dave Moore, told him to get Emerson and come by his house. Stephens got Emerson and they went to Moore's house. Debbie Moore was there with Michael and Terry Alexander. Alexander accused them of taking the tattoo guns, money, and a list of tattoo names. Stephens and Emerson denied taking anything besides the tattoo guns and related equipment, but they kept accusing them of more. They gave Stephens and Emerson some time to round up the stolen items and return them. They did but when they gave the equipment back, Alexander still accused them of taking money, lists, and tattoos (i.e., stencils) and of not returning those items. Stephens claimed that Terry Alexander began screaming and pulled a gun, telling them that they wanted their stuff, or they would kill them. Michael Alexander also had a gun tucked in the waistband of his pants. Stephens and Emerson went back to Moore's place the next day and again claimed that they had returned everything that they had taken. Alexander seemed okay with their explanation and let them go. Following this, Stephens and Emerson were arrested by police and charged with the burglary. At some point after Emerson got out of jail, she started living at the Panorama Trailer Park. Stephens said that he and Connie were supposed to pick up Cassie the day before the trailer fire but for some reason they did not.

Steve Wynhoff was another member of the biker community who was acquainted with Emerson. Wynhoff dated Emerson for about one month in December of 1996 and January of 1997. Wynhoff's association with the Iron Horsemen began in 1992 when he began working with Dan Schoonover in Schoonover's motorcycle shop. Schoonover was not a patched member of a motorcycle club but was a close friend of Hodges and his motorcycle shop was a hangout for bikers. Eventually, Wynhoff began using methamphetamine with Schoonover and then began selling it, with Schoonover serving as a source of supply. Problems began in the summer of 1994 when Schoonover asked Wynhoff to drive Butch Forrest to Spokane. In Spokane, Wynhoff was given a package weighing one to two pounds that he was to transport to Colville. Wynhoff believed he was being followed by police and discarded the package on the way. At first, he was told that he acted correctly. Two days later, however, he was told that he now owed Schoonover \$10,000 in cash or he was in servitude until the debt had been paid. Schoonover would determine the duties and the length of time to pay off the servitude. Schoonover explained to Wynhoff that his first duty was to report to Schoonover at the motorcycle shop whenever Schoonover called him or told him to come see him. When Wynhoff reported to Schoonover, he was told to go and tell people identified by Schoonover that the package arrived, and those people were to come to the motorcycle shop. Wynhoff kept these duties until two weeks before Schoonover's death in a plane crash on December 1, 1997.

After the burglary of Griz's tattoo shop, Griz came to Wynhoff and told him that he lost \$1,100 from the burglary. Wynhoff believed that Griz owed \$1,100 for drugs and was using Emerson as a scapegoat. Schoonover was angry because Emerson had told the police about a threat made by Griz that she was going to get a visit from "the people" (meaning the bikers). Wynhoff said that Emerson's statement to the police made the bikers angry and got Emerson in trouble. Over a several week period, Wynhoff was ordered by Schoonover and Hodges to beat Emerson as part of his servitude to Schoonover. The beating was intended to put Emerson in her place and force her to leave the area. Wynhoff contacted Emerson and told her that she better leave the area because "they" were going to do something. He told her that she should take Cassie and move to Spokane. Emerson indicated that she did not want to leave and was proud of standing up to the bikers. According to Wynhoff, that was the last time he spoke to Emerson. Since Wynhoff still cared for Emerson, he refused to give her a beating. Consequently, Wynhoff was required to take the beating for her. That occurred at Schoonover's motorcycle shop with Schoonover, Hodges, and several others. Wynhoff was blindfolded and hit several times in the body. Wynhoff was also tasked with harassing Emerson through means that included vandalism of her trailer. At Hodges' direction, Wynhoff participated in shooting Emerson's windows with a BB gun from his vehicle. Emerson reported the harassment to neighbors, to her mother, and to the Police Department. Emerson also complained about the harassment in a letter that was mailed just before her murder. Emerson reported that the phone line to her trailer had been cut, that someone shot out a window of her trailer, and that a vehicle would shine its headlights into her trailer at all times of night. Some of the harassment was observed by Emerson's neighbor, Marty Paquette. In an interview conducted on April 27, 1999, Paquette reported that in the late spring of 1997, Steve Wynhoff came to her trailer and told Paquette to make sure she was not at home at about 8:00 pm on a particular day. She was told to take her children and avoid the area because Wynhoff was supposed to frighten Emerson. Emerson later told Paquette that Wynhoff showed up at around 8:00 and started screaming at her while he was parked in the driveway. Paquette said that for the next week, every night, cars were driving by Emerson's trailer between 3:00 and 4:00 am making a lot of noise. She recognized two of the vehicles as Wynhoff's and Terry Alexander's.

Horst Krewetzki was another person who had associated himself with the outlaw biker community. According to Marty Paquette, Krewetzki was a "do boy" or errand runner for Schoonover. When Hodges

was released from prison, Krewetzki was transferred to Hodges, and Steve Wynhoff became Schoonover's "do boy." In 1997, Krewetzki was serving as a "gopher" or errand runner for Alan Hodges. Prior to the Emerson homicide, Krewetzki was living with his girlfriend, Connie Bedford, in a trailer in Smitty's Trailer Park in Kettle Falls, Washington, and driving a 1978 Chevrolet Blazer with a glass-pack exhaust system that gave it a distinctive, loud sound. Bedford left Krewetzki in the spring of 1997 over conflicts with the biker lifestyle. Soon after this, Krewetzki began dating Mary Paquette. In early June of 1997, Krewetzki was forced by Hodges to give up his trailer and Blazer and to leave town. Hodges turned the trailer and Blazer over to Charles Tatom. Tatom moved into the trailer with his girlfriend, Michelle Becker, and began driving the Blazer that Hodges had confiscated from Krewetzki. These events were corroborated in some form by Krewetzki, Bedford, Becker, Tatom, Marty Paquette, and Debbie Moore.

In an interview conducted on July 7, 1997, Krewetzki said that he had known Emerson since early 1994. To his knowledge, she was not using drugs at that time. They briefly dated each other during which time Emerson introduced Kewetzki to Mary Paquette. In the year or so before Emerson's murder, Emerson started using methamphetamine. Krewetzki moved to Oregon away from the Colville area on or about June 15, 1997. He last saw Emerson approximately two to three weeks before leaving the Colville area when Emerson had moved into the Panorama Trailer Court. Krewetzki had been seeing Marty Paquette for two months in the spring of 1997. Krewetzki reported that Paquette had been talking about things that members of the outlaw biker community did not want to have discussed publicly—specifically the names of members of outlaw motorcycle clubs in conjunction with drugs. According to Krewetzki, Alan Hodge's tasked him with making Paquette stop. Krewetzki confronted Paquette who told him that she had obtained her information about patched club members from Emerson. This did not resolve the issue, so Krewetzki had to come up with another plan to convince Paquette that she needed to keep her mouth shut. Part of the plan was also to determine where Paquette was getting her information. On or about Memorial Day Weekend, Krewetzki invited Paquette to join him, Schoonover, and "Rooster" (Michael Wooster) at the Addy Inn with the intent of scaring her. As the evening progressed, they left Addy for a bar in Chewelah, and Paquette ended up riding with Wooster. Instead of joining Krewetzki and Schoonover at the bar in Chewelah, Paquette and Wooster returned to the bar in Addy where Paquette retrieved her car, after which Paquette and Wooster traveled on to Paquette's trailer. Krewetzki and Schoonover went to Paquette's trailer where Schoonover confronted Wooster about not following instructions. Emerson came over to Paquette's trailer to try to break up the fight. Krewetzki broke up the fight then left with Schoonover. Krewetzki reported that Emerson was hanging around people with "loose lips" and had been talking about drug deliveries made by patched members of outlaw motorcycle clubs, whom she was identifying by name. Alan Hodge's told Krewetzki to stay with Paquette to see who was saying what in reference to motorcycle club members. Krewetzki said that following this incident with Paquette, people's attitudes toward him changed. He said that he had unknowingly disrespected Hodges by not taking care of the problem with Paquette. An additional issue emerged with Hodges because Krewetzki had taken Schoonover with him to Alexander's house to pick up Wooster without prior clearance. Hodges found Krewetzki "guilty as charged" for these infractions and told Krewetzki to leave and to not return to Hodges' house or property again. Hodges told Krewetzki to leave his vehicle and keys with Hodges. Krewetzki was not permitted to retrieve his jacket or any personal property from his vehicle before leaving. Krewetzki did as he was instructed and left Hodges' property on foot. The next day, Krewetzki learned that he was to vacate his trailer at Smitty's Trailer Park in Kettle Falls and to leave everything behind. Krewetzki recalled that this occurred on June 12, 1997. Hodges sent an associate to Krewetzki's trailer to collect Krewetzki's personal telephone book, which included names and addresses for Krewetzki's family members along with motorcycle club members and associates whom he had met or with whom he had communicated on behalf of Hodges. The associate then directed Krewetzki to ride with him to Schoonover's motorcycle shop for a meeting.

Once there, Schoonover accused Krewetzki of stealing motorcycle parts. Krewetzki said he had not taken the parts, but they were no longer where he had left them. Hodges girlfriend, Dana Cory, then delivered the message that Krewetzki was to abandon his trailer with all his personal property and leave. Krewetzki said that he took the message for what it was worth and left Stevens County. He spent that night in a shelter. The following day he retrieved a duffle bag of clothes from his trailer and left. Krewetzki said that Charlie (Tatom) was living on Hodge's property. He said that Charlie was not a patch-holder but acted as a watchdog for Hodges and protected his property. This began in 1986 when Hodges went to prison, and Charlie moved to Stevens County from Oregon. Krewetzki also referred to Charlie as "51/50," which was a term meaning crazy or violent. Krewetzki reported that he was aware of Wynhoff taking a "spanking" for Emerson and that he was present with Marty Paquette when Hodges administered a "spanking" (beating) at Schoonover's motorcycle shop to a person he identified as Rick Napp. Krewetzki described the vehicle that he left with Hodges as a green 1978 Chevy 4WD Blazer with a white top. The vehicle had some primer spots and a couple of bumper stickers, one of which read "Support Your Local Iron Horseman." The vehicle had a cracked windshield and a glass pack exhaust system. The addition of glass packs made the vehicle louder. Krewetzki was not aware that Hodges gave Tatom use of his Blazer. On July 8, 1997, Krewetzki signed a permission for Stevens County to retain and search the Blazer.

Michelle Becker, who was living with Charles Tatom in June of 2007, corroborated Krewetzki's statement concerning the confiscation of Krewetzki's vehicle and trailer and their use by Tatom. Becker said that she lived with Tatom on Alan Hodges' property for about two years until the fall of 1997. While on Hodges property, they lived in a '57 Chevy school bus that had been converted to a residence. At the time, she was 18 years old and had a small child; Tatom was 45. From living on Hodges' property, Becker became acquainted with Michael Alexander, Michael Wooster, and Horst Krewetzki, all of whom she described as friends of Hodges. Krewetzki had been living in a trailer with Connie Bedford in Kettle Falls. He was subordinate to Hodges and did whatever Hodges told him to do. She explained that "something" happened with Krewetzki and that Hodges "took" Krewetzki's Blazer and trailer. This occurred about two weeks before the Emerson murder. Krewetzki disappeared after Hodges confiscated his vehicle and trailer. Becker was instructed to move from Hodges' property to Krewetzki's trailer. She was supposed to take care of the trailer and the associated property in exchange for living there. This included dogs that Hodges claimed Krewetzki had abandoned. In conjunction with this, Tatom was driving Krewetzki's Blazer.

Debbie Moore reported that Emerson was believed to be a snitch and was not trusted. She attributed a visit by a Colville PD Detective (Richart) to her residence to Emerson because Emerson knew that Moore had used drugs. Emerson's sister, Connie Stephens, corroborated that it was a common belief that Emerson was providing information to Det. Richart. She said that Richart would often stop by Emerson's to ask for information and that he had also come to her residence looking for Emerson.

During an interview conducted on July 3, 1997, Marty Paquette said that she originally met Charlie Tatom through Horst Krewetzki. David Paquette moved into her trailer one week before they were married on June 18, 1997. Paquette said that Emerson received a warning before then. Paquette explained that Tatom had come to her trailer on foot at around 10:30 pm and asked her if she was being a "good girl" and "keeping her mouth shut." She indicated that there was small vehicle at Emerson's trailer that she did not recognize. After Tatom left, Emerson came to her trailer and asked to use the phone. She asked Paquette to watch out the window because Cassie was still at their trailer. Marlene told Paquette that she got a warning and needed to use the phone, adding that it was "bullshit." When Emerson became louder, Paquette advised her to calm down because Paquette's child was sleeping.

According to Paquette, Emerson was aware of rumors that she had provided information to police. She denied to Paquette that she ever provided information to Detective Richart and was upset about being called a snitch. Paquette disclosed that prior to Emerson's homicide she had been tasked by Hodges to go with Emerson to Emerson's attorney's office and obtain a copy of the reports regarding the burglary. She said she obtained a copy of the reports as directed and delivered them to Steve Wynhoff at Schoonover's motorcycle shop.

After the burglary of Alexander's tattoo shop, Emerson, Cassie, and Connie and Gerry Stephens were staying with Aleeta and Rudy Krager in Stevens County. On February 3, 1997, Emerson's mother, Elaine Williams, went to Colville to get Cassie. Cassie confirmed that Michael and Terry Alexander and Debbie Moore had come to the house and threatened to kill both Cassie and Emerson if their stuff was not returned. Cassie came to Spokane to stay with Elaine Williams and her husband, Daryl Williams, until Emerson got out of jail. When Emerson was released from jail, she came to Spokane several times and reported continuing threats from members of the biker community. Emerson confirmed that the threats were over "the thing at Grizz's." Both Williams tried to convince Emerson to leave Colville. Elaine Williams made a record of the following dates during which Emerson reported threats: March 8, 1997; May 6, 16, 17, 21, and 30 of 1997; and June 8, 10, and 23 of 1997. Emerson told Elaine Williams about the beating that Wynhoff had taken for her and reported that after that Wynhoff had threatened to beat her up and to take Cassie. In a signed statement written on June 29, 1997 (before the discovery of Cassie's remains), Elaine Williams reported the following exchange with Cassie:

I told Cassie several times that if anything happened to her or her mom that if she could she had to call me. She repeated the number over which she knows by heart and promised me she would. I asked if she was scared and she said yes.

On another occasion, Cassie told Elaine Williams that she really believed someone would kill her and her mother and was scared. When visiting Emerson in the Panorama Trailer Park, Williams saw what she believed to be bullet holes in her living room windows. She asked what had happened, and Emerson told her it had happened while she was gone. Williams noted that the damage was in an area where Emerson slept, and Cassie did her homework.

Another person who associated with the outlaw biker community in Stevens County was Joshua Johnson. Johnson was the son of Connie Bedford, who had lived with Horst Krewetzki in the trailer that was later confiscated by Hodges. Johnson came to Stevens County with the intent to confront Krewetzki over what he believed was Krewetzki's mistreatment of his mother. Instead, the two became friends with Johnson staying with Krewetzki for about three-and-a-half weeks. Through Krewetzki, Johnson met "Beanie" (Alan Hodges) and others involved in the outlaw biker community, including Mike Wooster and Charles Tatom. Johnson explained that the trailer where Krewetzki lived originally belonged to his mother and that she gave it to Krewetzki when she left Stevens County. He was aware that the trailer was later confiscated by Hodges. Johnson reported that after his mother left Stevens County, Krewetzki started going out with Marty Paquette, who was living in the Panorama Trailer Park near Emerson. Johnson explained that Krewetzki was supposed to give Paquette a spanking for "running her mouth." As a result of hanging out with Krewetzki, Johnson became aware that Hodges did not like Emerson and had tasked others to "go after her." Johnson was present at one gathering when he learned that Emerson was accused of "running her mouth" to the police. Steve Wynhoff was supposed to take care of it with help from Charlie Tatom. Wynhoff was supposed to beat her. They talked about "spanking" Emerson, and then the discussion escalated to giving her two weeks to get out of the county. Johnson was present at the Panorama Trailer Park on one occasion when he saw Steven Wynhoff's vehicle with

Wynhoff and someone with him. Three rounds were fired from Wynhoff's vehicle at Emerson's trailer. The problems with Emerson were again discussed at a later meeting at Hodge's house. Charles Tatom and Daniel Schoonover were both present. Tatom said they should shoot her with a shotgun and throw the shotgun in the river. Schoonover was not really pushing for Emerson's death. Hodges never said that they should get Cassie, but he did say to "do" anyone that witnesses it.

Emerson's sister, Connie Stephens, said that the threats against Emerson escalated after Emerson moved into the Panorama Trailer Park on April 12, 1997. On June 5, 1997, Emerson's brother-in-law visited Emerson at her trailer. She reported that someone had cut her phone line and showed him where her window had been shot at. She said that she couldn't wait for "Rick" to get home to protect her and Cassie. On June 13, 1997, Stephens visited Emerson in her trailer and saw the hole in her window that looked like a bullet hole. Marlene reported that a person named Mike visited her and gave her a "gag order," threatening to kill her in front of her daughter before taking her daughter away. Emerson did not explain why she was being threatened except to say that it was "club business."

On Monday, June 23, 1997, Emerson mailed a letter to a social acquaintance named Richard Hawley who was in the Snohomish County Jail. In her letter, she described assisting Marty Paquette with the payment of a debt. Emerson stated in part: "Marty got a message tonight (last night). She has to pay on a debt at noon or she will be having company. Not friendly company either. She wants me to go and make the payment for her. I'm kind of stressin' over that too because of that warning to stay out of the middle. I want to help her, but I don't want to get involved in any more club business. These people are aggravated by me enough as it is. I don't want things to get worse . . ." Emerson went on to describe the payment as follows: "Yesterday I got money from Marty to pay on her debt. We just met him on the road, and I passed the money through the widow. We didn't even stick around long enough for him to count it." On that same day, Emerson had a phone conversation with her mother, Elaine Williams, during which Emerson told her that they were "at it again." Emerson went on to explain that she was warned to leave or else they would kill her.

On Tuesday, June 24, 1997, Emerson visited a palm reader named Kimberly Jo Stiers at Good Medicine Way. Emerson told Stiers that she associated with a motorcycle gang. She said that she had done something wrong and was supposed to get a spanking, but another guy took it for her. She told Stiers that someone had shot through her trailer window and the motorcycle gang was after her. Stiers told Emerson that "she was going to be burned." After the reading, Paquette and Emerson stopped by Excel Foods and bought some white candles, which Stiers advised her to burn in her trailer with some incense.

On Wednesday, June 25, 1997, Connie Stephens met with Emerson for about 90 minutes during which they made plans for Connie and Gerry Stephens to pick up Cassie for a camping on Friday. Gerald Stephens took Cassie shopping to prepare for the trip.

Emerson was murdered sometime between the night on Thursday, June 26, 1997, and the discovery of the fire on the morning of Friday, June 27, 1997.

At about 1:00 pm on Thursday, June 26, 1997, Marty Paquette sent her seven-year-old daughter, Tommie, to Emerson's trailer to pick up some cigarettes. Emerson came down to Paquette's trailer a short time later with cigarettes and money. Emerson asked Paquette to buy her some cigarettes in town because Emerson did not have a car. When Paquette returned, she visited with Emerson from 2:00 to 2:15 pm at a picnic table next to Emerson's trailer. Cassie was present and said that she was going camping with her Aunt Connie. The camping trip caused a change in the plans for where Cassie was to

spend the night of June 26. Cassie was good friends with a girl named Jennifer Geistwhite, who lived with her parents Annette and Randy Geistwhite in trailer No. 22. The day before the fire, Cassie had been playing with Jennifer and the Geistwhites had planned on Cassie staying the night. Cassie told Annette Geistwhite that she couldn't spend the night because she was going camping with her aunt the next day. Randy Geistwhite confirmed that they had planned on Cassie spending the night on June 26. He said that Cassie had come by their trailer around dark and told Jennifer that her mother had changed her mind and wanted Cassie to spend the night at home. Randy Geistwhite said he last saw Cassie walking towards her home from his trailer.

At some point in the afternoon, Jason Brooling from Trailer No. 5 walked by Emerson's trailer and noticed that she was burning white candles in the window. According to Marty Paquette, Emerson returned to Paquette's trailer at about 3:30 pm to use her phone. Emerson called DSHS to check on a grant. Afterward, Paquette and Emerson watched the movie *La Bamba* on HBO from Paquette's bedroom. Paquette later added the detail that Emerson was doing laundry for Cassie while watching the movie. Paquette recalled that Emerson cried during the movie and that Paquette had made fun of her. Emerson told Paquette that she did not have any hot water and did not know how to light her hot water tank pilot light. She said she had not been able to reach her landlord (Ronald Campbell) and asked if Paquette's husband, David Paquette, could help her when he got off work. Emerson borrowed some flour and a cookbook from Paquette and left Paquette's trailer at 5:00 pm to make dinner. When David Paquette came home, he went to Emerson's trailer to turn on the gas for the hot water tank. Shortly after David arrived home between 7:00 and 7:30 pm, Marty and David got into a fight because a friend of Marty's named Richard Hawley was supposed to be released from jail the next day. Hawley was Emerson's current boyfriend, but David understood that he was returning to reengage a past relationship with Paquette. Paquette called up to Emerson's trailer and Emerson came down to help. Emerson clarified that she was the one corresponding with Hawley and read some of her correspondence to David. Emerson stayed for about ten minutes then left, explaining that she had company at her trailer whom she identified as Anna (Helms). Paquette recalled that Emerson was scared at the time because of the prediction that she had received during her "reading" from Kimberly Stier that she was going to be burned. Paquette believed that Emerson left between 7:15 and 7:45 pm. That was the last time Paquette saw Emerson.

Emerson's neighbor, Harold Baldwin in Trailer No. 25, reported that on Thursday, June 26, a small white automobile was in Emerson's driveway at about 4:00 pm. The vehicle was driven by one woman and left before dusk. Another neighbor, Rebecca Hanes in Trailer No. 27, saw a silver four-door hatchback in Emerson's driveway on the afternoon of June 26. Danna Helms in Trailer No. 27 recalled visiting with Emerson and Cassie during one of their walks around the trailer park. She said she then visited with Emerson at her trailer between 5:00 and 8:30 pm. She said that Emerson briefly went to Paquette's residence during that time because of an argument between Marty and David Paquette. She said that Emerson and Cassie were both upbeat at that time: Emerson was excited about her boyfriend getting out of jail and coming home and Cassie was excited about her camping trip. George Hornaday in Trailer No. 32 said he last saw Emerson at Paquette's trailer around 8:00 pm. He said that his wife went to Emerson's trailer at about 9:00 pm to pay Emerson \$150 for a clothes dryer that they purchased from Emerson. Annette Carver in Trailer No. 22 also recalled visiting briefly with Emerson and Cassie while they took an evening walk through the trailer park with a disabled resident identified as Anna. Anna used a wheelchair. Annette reported that it was not uncommon to see Emerson and Cassie walking through the mobile home park with Anna. At approximately 10:45 pm, Rebecca Hanes and her mother, Anna Helms, walked past Emerson's trailer and saw that all the lights were off.

In her initial statement to police on June 27, 1997, Paquette said that she went to bed at about 9:00 pm and, except for a brief incident when Tommie woke up from a nightmare, did not wake up until Shannon Hornaday knocked at her trailer door yelling that Emerson's trailer was on fire. Paquette later admitted that Charlie Tatom and Michael Wooster stopped by her trailer between 10:00 pm and midnight and wanted her to take them to Emerson Trailer. She said that she was upset because David Paquette had gone to sleep, and she did not want him to be woken up by two men coming by the trailer. They were in a pickup truck at that time, not Krewetzki's Blazer with the loud exhaust. She said that Wooster claimed to be looking for a hat that he had allegedly left at Emerson's trailer on a prior occasion. She said that she had been asked to help locate the hat on prior occasions and was frustrated that the issue had not been resolved. She took them to Emerson's trailer, knocked at the door, and told Emerson that she wanted Emerson to resolve the issue because she did not want to deal with it any longer. Michael Wooster confirmed that he drove past Emerson's residence between 10:00 and 11:00 pm on the night of June 26, 1997, but claimed that he had been with Alan Hodges. He said that he and Hodges went to Marty Paquette's trailer to pick up a white Cadillac ball cap that he had left at Paquette's trailer during a previous visit. He said that Paquette had left it at Emerson's. He said that he was at Paquette's for ten minutes then drove to Emerson's. He said there were not lights on, so they didn't stop. Although he initially claimed to be there in search of his ball cap, he also said that he was "just riding with Beanie" (Alan Hodges) and was not there for any business of his own.

Stewart Onstott lived in the Yellow Pines Trailer Park in Kettle Falls and was acquainted in Charles Tatom, Michelle Becker (who was living with Tatom in the trailer confiscated from Krewetzki), Alan Hodges, and Steve Wynhoff. Onstott met Tatom in the mid-1980s. He met Alan Hodges, whom he knew at "Beanie," through Tatom when Hodges was released from prison in the early 1990s. When he met Hodges, he believed that Hodges had just retired from being president of the Iron Horsemen motorcycle club. Onstott was aware that Tatom had been living in a bus on Hodges' property. At the time of the Emerson fire, Onstott was living in a trailer at the Yellow Pines Trailer Park in Kettle Falls. Police interviewed Onstott the day after the fire on June 28, 1997. In a statement dictated by him and handwritten by his then wife, Linda Onstott, Onstott said that he came home from work on Thursday, June 26, 1997, at 4:40 pm and found Charlie Tatom and Mike Wooster there with Dan Schoonover, another man identified as Jason Gardner, and a person identified as Onstott's co-worker, Dan Ambrose. Dan Schoonover left Onstott's at 4:30 or 5:00 pm. Between 7:30 and 8:00 pm, Tatom and Wooster left in a blazer that matched the description of the blazer that Hodges confiscated from Krewetzki and gave to Tatom. After Tatom left, Onstott ate dinner with his family then went to bed around 9:00 or 9:30 pm. Tatom later told Onstott that Emerson owed some money and that Mike had gone to collect it. He said that Mike may have been involved in Emerson's murder but that some things were meant to be "hush-hush."

During an interview conducted on January 25, 2007, and in subsequent sworn statements, Michelle Becker told law enforcement that she had been living in Krewetzki's trailer with Tatom in Kettle Falls for several days before Emerson's murder. She said that Tatom left the trailer after dinner with "Griz" and Mike (Wooster). Becker did not know where they were going and explained that she "had learned not to question anything." She stayed up until 11:30 pm, and Tatom had not returned. Tatom was not with her the rest of the night. She woke up the next morning between 6:30 and 7:00 am and Tatom was there. He had a burn on the outside of his right ankle above the boot. Tatom said that he burnt his ankle while burning garbage on at Hodges place. Becker looked that the Blazer that Tatom had been driving and realized that Tatom had removed the seat covers that had been in the front and back of the vehicle. Becker asked Tatom about the missing seat covers, but he would not answer her. Becker explained that

she noticed the missing seat covers right away and when she asked Tatom about them he “just pretty much blatantly didn’t answer [her]”.

Becker’s statement and sworn testimony in 2007 differed from a statement she initially gave to an FBI agent and a Stevens County Sheriff’s Detective when they contacted her in the driveway on Hodges’ property on June 30, 1997. 649.09. At that time, she told investigators that Tatom dropped her off at Krewetzki’s trailer on the morning of June 26, 1997, then continued to Linda Onstott’s residence. She spent the day cleaning the trailer until Tatom returned with Onstott at 3:00 pm. She spent the rest of the afternoon with Tatom and Onstott, returning to Krewetzki’s trailer with Tatom by 7:00 pm. At 7:30 or 8:00 pm, “Grizz” showed up with Mike (Wooster) and another man in Griz’s truck. The men brought hamburgers, stayed for 30 to 45 minutes, then left. She claimed that she and Tatom went to bed together at 10:00. Becker claimed that Tatom got up the next morning around 7:00 am. Becker makes clear through her subsequent statements that this version of events was false and that Tatom was not with her during the night of June 26, 1997. In describing the circumstances under which she gave her initial false statement, Becker explained that she had been allowed access to Krewetzki’s trailer by Hodges and Tatom. The trailer was a step up from the bus where she had been living on Hodges’ property because the trailer had running water. Hodges had told her that the trailer was in his name and that he would give her a chance to buy it. He also let Tatom have Krewetzki’s Blazer. However, Becker left Tatom for a short period after Emerson’s homicide; when she returned, Tatom had traded the trailer for another bus, and the two of them moved back to Hodge’s property. Tatom told Becker that he got rid of the trailer to punish her for leaving. Becker temporarily left Tatom because she had become afraid of him. Tatom had been physically and emotionally abusive toward Becker, including an incident during which he hit her in the face and broke his hand and incidents during which he drove at high rates of speed while intoxicated. During the incidents of drunk driving, Tatom would threaten to hit her if she cried; despite this, Becker would lay on the floorboard and cry because she was unable to look at the road. Tatom also maintained a collection of ponytails that Becker understood came from people with whom Tatom had been in fights. Hodges had also asked Becker what Tatom told her about the Emerson murders. Tatom told her not to tell Hodges anything about why detectives had come to Hodges’ property and to tell Hodges to talk to him about it. Hodges had also told Becker that he had the ability to get paperwork on anyone who made a statement against him and that it was better to be loyal. Although Becker denied that Tatom ever told her what to say, he did claim that he was being framed, and Becker reiterated numerous times that she felt threatened by Tatom and had learned not to question him.

In a supplemental statement to law enforcement on November 27, 2007, and in later sworn testimony, Becker also described an incident during which, after the Emerson murders, Tatom burned what she believed to be a human ear in the wood burning stove in the bus on Hodges property where they were then living. Becker made this statement after being served with a subpoena. After serving the subpoena and leaving Becker’s residence, the investigators received a call from Becker in which she asked the investigators to return because she had further information that she had not previously disclosed. When law enforcement returned, Becker said she had not told everything she knew about the Emerson homicides because of “the peculiar and frightening actions of Charlie Tatom.” She said she decided to tell what she knew because it was time. Becker then said that soon after Emerson’s murder, Tatom entered their bus with a piece of aluminum foil. Tatom told her that he had to dispose of the foil because it had an ear in it. Becker explained that she was afraid to ask any questions. She said that the implication from Tatom was that the ear was from Emerson. Tatom disposed of the foil and its contents by placing them in a woodburning stove that they kept lit in the bus. Becker said that she was in shock and was uncertain in retrospect whether Tatom showed her the ear or told her it was an ear. Becker

understood, however, that it came from Marlene Emerson and not from Cassie. Tatom also explained that he was throwing it in the fire to get rid of evidence.

Initially when Becker asked Tatom questions about the murders he would neither admit nor deny his involvement. He claimed that he was being set up by Mike and Griz, which she claimed did not make sense because Tatom was with them at time of Emerson's murder. Becker said that Mike Wooster had been living on Michael Alexander's property in a small trailer. Tatom identified Mike Wooster as a member of the Hells Angels. She said she did not know if Alexander was "patched," but he wanted to be affiliated with bikers and bragged about his association with them. She said Tatom was a biker associate who was not "patched." She said that Tatom told her that Emerson had been getting methamphetamine from Alexander and had owed a considerable amount of money in addition to stealing Alexander's tattoo equipment. Tatom went on to explain, however, that his role in the murder was to "clean up." He said that he was cleaning up for someone else and that Mike and Grizz were framing him. He went on to say that he was completely intoxicated at the time and did not remember where he was or what he did the night of Emerson's murder. He acknowledged that he left with Mike and Griz but claimed that they could have used his vehicle.

Martin Podoll spent the night of the Emerson homicide and fire at Michael Alexander's residence. Alexander lived on a rural compound in Stevens County approximately a five-minute drive from the Panorama Trailer Park. Podoll was interviewed about contacts he had with Charlie Tatom and Michael Wooster that night. Podoll had previously been involved in the distribution of methamphetamine with Butch Forrest and was aware of continuing efforts to collect debts owed to Forrest after Forrest's arrest and prosecution. On June 26, 1997, he intended to help Alexander with the construction of a studio above Alexander's garage and barn. Podoll was working in exchange for a tattoo. Alexander lived in the main residence with his wife, Terry. Michael Wooster was also living on the compound in a trailer. He met Alexander at Alexander's tattoo shop in Kettle Falls at approximately 2:00 pm. He rode with Alexander in Alexander's truck to Hayden's Bar and Grill in Kettle Falls where Terry Alexander worked. They ate lunch then bought some burgers that Alexander took to Tatom's trailer at Smitty's Trailer Park. Tatom, who was known to Podoll as "Charlie," was at the trailer with Michael Wooster. Alexander went into the trailer briefly to talk to Tatom and Wooster. Charlie was driving a Blazer that was a faded blue color with a white top and had a cracked windshield. After stopping at Tatom's, Podoll and Alexander returned to Alexander's residence and started hanging fiber board in the studio. While they were working, Charlie and Wooster arrived in Charlie's Blazer. They quit working and ate dinner as it was starting to get dark. Podoll ate outside of Alexander's residence on the porch. Podoll said that he had a couple of beers and some tequila shots. He said that they were all drinking, but he was not paying too much attention to Tatom. There was a campfire in a fire pit at Wooster's trailer. Podoll may have been at the fire for a short time. He went to sleep in a chair in Alexander's house. When he woke up the next morning, Tatom was gone. Alexander said that Tatom left around 5:00 that morning. Podoll did not see Wooster until around noon.

Terry Alexander was married to Michael Alexander from 1992 until shortly after the Emerson arson and homicides in 1997. They lived on twelve acres of land outside of Colville. Her residence was only a few miles from the Panorama Trailer Park. In entering or exiting the property, it was necessary to drive by a neighboring residence. Michael Alexander went by the moniker "Griz." He associated with members of the biker community, including Butch Forest, who had been to Alexander's residence many times, and Michael Wooster (a/k/a Indian Mike), who lived in a trailer on Alexander's property for three or four months leading up to the Emerson homicides and who was identified by several witnesses as a Hells Angels prospect. She was acquainted with Charlie (Tatom), whom she knew to live with his younger

girlfriend in a bus on Alan Hodges' property. Alexander gave Terry money to leave the area soon after Emerson's murder but before Cassie's remains had been discovered. Terry had wanted to visit family in South Dakota. Terry's relationship with Alexander was strained at the time because Terry had learned that Alexander was paying young women with methamphetamine to engage in sexually explicit videos. At Alexander's direction, Terry left in the middle of the night. Once she arrived in South Dakota, Alexander filed for a divorce and published notice of the proceeding in a South Dakota newspaper.

On June 26, 1997, Terry Alexander worked at Hayden's Bar and Grill from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm, returning home at 6:30 or 7:00 pm. She believed that Michael Alexander may have come into Hayden's earlier in the afternoon for some take-out food. When she arrived home that evening, Michael Alexander was there with Marty (Podoll), Mike Wooster, and Charlie (Tatom). Terry distinguished Marty from Wooster and Charlie as someone that used to come up and help Michael Alexander chop wood and put walls up in the shop. The men were hanging wallboard in rooms that Alexander was building above his garage/shop. Earlier in the day, Tatom had killed and cleaned a wild turkey that she cooked for dinner. They ate dinner as it was getting dark between 9:00 and 10:00 pm. Terry Alexander provided a range of times for when she may have gone to bed; however, it would not have been before 11:00 pm and not later than 2:00 am. Before going to bed, she went outside to say goodnight to Alexander. The men were gathered around a campfire near Wooster's travel trailer. As she approached, she overheard Wooster say: "The bitch is dead." When Terry went to bed, the men were still out drinking beer by the fire. Marty Podoll slept on the sofa in her residence. She assumed that Charlie (Tatom) would sleep in Wooster's trailer. She does not know what time Michael Alexander went to bed, but he was there when she was woken up sometime between 3:00 and 4:00 am. She was woken up by the sound of a vehicle leaving the property. The vehicle had a loud exhaust, consistent with Tatom's Blazer. Police came out the following day, June 27, 1997, looking for Cassie. After this, Alexander instructed Terry to say that they had been in bed together the night of the murder. Alexander later told her that he believed that Wooster and Daniel Schoonover were responsible for the murders. He told her to keep her mouth shut or he would kill her and her family and that she would be dead if she talked about the murders.

Alexander's neighbor, Patrick Hall, reported that he was outside between 7:00 and 8:00 pm on the evening of June 26, 1997, when a Chevy Blazer entered the gateway and proceeded to Alexander's residence. He believed the vehicle was 1973 to 1985 vintage with a gray-green base body color and spots of primer on the body panels. The vehicle had a loud and distinctive exhaust noise. It was occupied by two males with long dark hair that estimated were between 25 and 35 years old. To Hall, they appeared to be familiar with the gated entrance because they knew they could drive through it by pushing it with their front bumper. The vehicle remained at Alexander's all evening. After Hall went into his residence, he heard several gunshots, which he attributed to Alexander and his visitors target shooting. Later, between 3:20 and 3:50 am on June 27, 1997, Hall was awaked by the sound of the same Chevy Blazer coming back out of Alexander's driveway and gate. Hall reported that the vehicle was easily distinguishable by the loud sound of its exhaust. The Stevens County Sheriff's Office later seized the Blazer driven by Tatom, and Hall identified it as the same Blazer he saw on June 26, 1997.

In an interview conducted on July 19, 2007, and in subsequent sworn testimony, Dana Cory explained that she came to Colville from California in August of 1992. She met Alan Hodges (also known as Beanie) in 1993 or 1994 when he was released from federal custody. She met him through Daniel Schoonover during a celebration for Hodges' release. She later learned that Schoonover had orchestrated the introduction as a getting-out-of-jail gift to Hodges. They developed a relationship, and Cory moved in with Hodges about two months later. She lived with Hodges for about five years and was living there at the time of the Emerson murders. Their residence was in a rural area east of Kettle Falls. During the time

that Hodges was in federal custody, Charlie Tatom served as a caretaker for his property. Tatom previously served a 10-year sentence in Oregon because of a fight that culminated in the death of a man. Other people, including Hodges, participated in the fight, and Hodges felt a debt to Tatom for taking the blame for the man's death. Tatom lived on the property in a bus. Michelle Becker eventually joined him. Although Becker worked for Hodges as a housekeeper after Cory left, Hodges initially excluded Becker from their residence. Tatom's bus did not have running water, and Cory would allow Becker to use the shower in Hodges' residence when no one else was around. Cory and Hodges' relationship ended in 1999 over domestic violence, and Cory left the area in 2000. In addition to physical abuse, Hodges kept tight control over Cory's social contacts and any visitors to their residence

Hodges was a past president of the Iron Horsemen motorcycle club, which was self-described as an outlaw biker club. According to Cory, Hodges did not like Michael Alexander because Alexander acted like he ran things in Colville and Kettle Falls during the time that Hodges was in prison. Nevertheless, Hodges could use Alexander when he needed to, and Alexander would ultimately do whatever Hodges told him. Members of the motorcycle club took care of the property of other members when they were arrested. Bikers took care of problems on their own and did not involve law enforcement in their affairs. Thefts and other acts of disrespect could be punished with beatings or banishment from the area. Cory corroborated other reports of a beating administered by Hodges to a man at Schoonover's motorcycle shop. Cory indicated that several people were present and witnessed the beating. At the time of Emerson's murder, Richard Forrest was in custody and his property was either kept by Hodges or was under Hodge's protection. A woman who was suspected of cooperating with law enforcement and who had taken some personal items belonging to Forrest was forced to return the items then she was taken out of state where she was held and physically abused. Cory did not believe that Emerson owed money to Forrest; however, there was speculation that she had cooperated with law enforcement following her participation in the burglary of Alexander's tattoo shop. In addition, Emerson had been openly disrespectful of Hodges. Approximately one week before the fire, Emerson approached Hodges in a bar and told him that she was not afraid of him and was not going to let anyone run her out of town. Hodges swore at Emerson, but Hodges was on federal supervision at the time and did not respond further.

The night that Emerson was murdered and her trailer set on fire, Cory saw Charlie Tatom and Mike Wooster remove a couple of gasoline cans from the shop building at Hodges' residence. In one statement, Cory associated this with her preparing dinner and believed it happened between 7:00 and 8:00 pm. In another statement, Cory placed this incident at around 10:00 pm. Cory was familiar with Michael Wooster, who was also known as Indian Mike. She understood that he had been a prospect for the Hells Angels in Alaska but was forced to leave that area. At the time of Emerson's homicide, he was living on Michael Alexander's property. They arrived at and left the residence in Horst Krewetzki's Blazer. While at the residence, Wooster got some cigarettes and took some beer out of the refrigerator. They told her they were going to Alexander's house to tear down and burn an old outbuilding and were going to stay and party there that night. Cory described the gas cans as two old aluminum cans that were tall and had twist tops. Cory did not question the men and believed that Hodges must have known about it because nothing left his property without his permission. At about 5:30 or 6:00 the next morning, the dogs started barking, and Cory saw Tatom and Wooster returning to Hodges' property. A few hours later, Cory heard that dogs again and saw Tatom walking up to Hodges' residence. Tatom took something and stuck it up under the house where the hose connects to the house. Tatom entered the house and had a short, private conversation with Hodges. Tatom and Wooster smelled of gasoline. The hair on Tatom's hands and face appeared singed and he had a blister on his ankle. Tatom told Cory that they were burning brush at Alexander's house and made a big bonfire by tearing down and burning an old farm building. A couple of days later, Cory was outside smoking a cigarette. Tatom returned and put

his hand back up under the house. When Tatom pulled his hand back out, he was holding a knife that looked as though it had blood on it. According to Cory, Tatom said, "Oh, I got to clean this." He said if Hodges got caught with it under the house, he might get in trouble because he was on probation. Tatom explained that he had gut a deer the other night and now had to clean the knife. After the Emerson murders, Wooster started staying on Hodges' property more often. Cory observed that when Wooster and Tatom were near each other they both seemed to make an effort not to look at or say anything to one another. Cory talked with Michelle (Becker) who was living with Tatom in a bus on Tatom's property. Cory said that Becker had become worried after hearing that Emerson's trailer had burned down and she walked down to the bus where Becker was living to calm Becker down. She said that Becker was afraid because Tatom had come home the morning of Emerson's murder smelling of gas "really bad" and had "fringed" (i.e. singed) hair. Not long after this, Tatom moved from Hodges' property.

At 9:00 pm on June 27, 1997, Michael Wooster was contacted at Michael Alexander's property by Stevens County Sheriff's Detective Steve Bruchman. Wooster admitted that he had been at the Panorama Mobile Home Park between 10:00 and 11:00 on the evening of June 26, 1997. Wooster said that he and Beanie (Alan Hodges) went to Marty's (Paquette's). He said they drove there to pick up Wooster's white Cadillac ball cap that he had left at Marty's during a prior visit. He said that Marty had left it at Emerson's residence. He said that after being at Marty's for about ten minutes, he and Beanie drove to Emerson's. He said there were no lights on, so they did not stop. Wooster said that he was just riding with Beanie and was not there for any business of his own. He said he did not know Emerson very well and only since the beginning of the summer. He said that on June 26 and 27, he and Griz went to town in the afternoon and that he was helping Griz move things out of the tattoo business location. They took the Chevy pickup truck, returning home at 3:00 to 4:00 pm. 245.57. Afterward, they did carpenter work on Griz's shop until dusk. He said that Byron came over at 5:00 pm and remained there and spent the night. He said Charlie Tatom arrived at Griz's at about midnight. Tatom was driving a truck and the two of them went to Colville to buy a sixpack of beer and cigarettes at Whitty's gas station. He said they returned after 15 or 20 minutes. They stayed home the rest of the night. Wooster said Tatom left early the next morning. He said that he had asked Emerson out approximately one month ago while visiting Marty's. Emerson told him no because she had a boyfriend. Wooster said that he moved to the area in February of 1997 from Alaska and that he first stayed at Schoonover's motorcycle shop then moved to live with Griz. Wooster expressed no interest in the reasons why Det. Bruchman was asking him to account for his movements. When told that Emerson was dead, he showed no interest in knowing how, why, or where it happened.

On June 27, 1997, Michael Alexander gave permission to Stevens County Sheriff's Detective Sergeant Colin Webb to search his home shop for Cassie Emerson. Alexander claimed that during the night of June 26, 1997, he, Marty Podoll, Mike Wooster, Charlie Tatom, and his wife (Terry Alexander) had a party that extended into the morning hours of June 27, 1997. He said they were drinking mescal most of the night and that most of the people there were intoxicated. He said Tatom had arrived around midnight then left between sunrise and 5:30 am. He said that everybody stayed in the residence, and no one went anywhere. Regarding Emerson, he said that he got approximately \$6,000 of the \$8,000 loss returned to him by Emerson and had no anger towards her. He did not expect to be repaid the remaining \$2,000 but did not hold that against her. In fact, he said that Emerson had called Mike Wooster for help because she was having trouble with a guy, whose name he thought was "Spike." Alexander said that someone had killed Emerson's dog and trashed her place, and he thought the person who did it may be this guy named "Spike."

On June 8, 2010, Alexander was interviewed by FBI Special Agent Andrew Caster and Stevens County Sheriff's Detective Michael George. At the time, Alexander was in custody following his arrest on a federal indictment charging him with being an unlawful user of controlled substances in possession of a firearm and maintaining a drug involved premises. Relevant to the Emerson homicides, Alexander first said that he had told law enforcement everything and that nothing had changed. After the plane crash that killed Michael Wooster and Dan Schoonover in December of 1997, Alexander claimed to have gone to the Colville Airport and talked with a mechanic who told Alexander that the Sheriff's Office had caused the plane to crash. Alexander said that Charlie Tatom left his residence at 7:00 am and Mike Wooster stayed at Alexander's residence during the morning of Emerson's murder. When challenged about Tatom leaving at 7:00 am when reports indicated he had left at 3:00 am, Alexander said he was asleep, and he did not know. He said that he was asleep with his wife, and Marty Podoll was asleep on the sofa. He said that Tatom and Wooster left before midnight to get beer but returned before midnight (prior to the fire at Emerson's residence). Alexander claimed to have met Krewetzki once and did not know that Tatom was driving Krewetzki's Blazer. He believed that Schoonover had possibly been responsible for Emerson's murder because Emerson had embarrassed him in front of other bikers. Alexander then claimed to have not known Emerson but changed his statement when reminded that Emerson had burglarized his tattoo shop and had previously partied with Alexander. He further denied ever threatening to harm Emerson or her daughter if he did not get back the property stolen by her during the burglary.

At 9:27 pm on June 28, 1997, Steven's County Sheriff's Detectives Steve Bruchman and Mike Nolander interviewed Charles Tatom at the converted school bus where Tatom lived on the lower portion of Hodges' property. He was advised that the detectives were there to speak with him about his whereabouts on June 26 and 27 and any knowledge he may have about the whereabouts of Marlene or Cassie Emerson. Tatom admitted to being at the Panorama Mobile Home Park between 6 and 8 pm on June 26, 1997. 116. He said he was driving the Blazer that had once belonged to Horst (Krewetzki). He said that earlier that day he had stopped by the Jackpot Gas Station and Mini Mart in Colville. While there, he claimed that Horst Kewetzki was busy moving cars. Horst requested that Tatom deliver a message to Marty (Paquette) in the Panorama Trailer Park that Horst was looking for her. Tatom said he drove to the trailer park, went to Marty's trailer, but did not exit his vehicle. He drove from there to Emerson's where he remained for two to three minutes but did not exit his vehicle. He said the entrance to Emerson's mobile home was open that that he talked to a little girl that was standing in the doorway. He said the girl came toward the Blazer to speak with him. He said he told the girl that Horst was looking for Marty and the girl said, "She ain't here." Tatom said he then left. He said that prior to that he had been to Emerson's with Krewetzki on three occasions. He said the first time he went to Marty's with Horst Krewetzki Emerson was there. He said that he and Emerson walked to Emerson's trailer and stayed there for an hour or so waiting for Horst to leave Marty's. Tatom said this happened two other times. Regarding June 26, 1997, Tatom said that he went to Colville in the afternoon, stopped by the Jackpot and spoke with Horst Krewetzki. He then went to Fuhrman's Feed to purchase dog food, then he went to the Panorama Trailer Park. He said he then returned home and cleaned some fish that he had caught earlier in the day. At that time, it was dusk. He said he then went to Steward Onstatt's and visited with Steward and Linda Onstott's for forty-five minutes before returning to Horst's trailer in Smitty's Trailer Park. He found that his girlfriend, Michelle Becker was there and spent the night with her. He said that Horst asked him to deliver a message to Marty about the trailer title. As the interview progressed, Tatom said that the trailer title was not the reason for his visit to the Panorama Trailer Park. He also said that he did not actually stop by Marty's residence. He said he was going to drive out to the Westside Valley Road, or Orin-Rice Road area, to drive past an acquaintance's residence named Larry

Fetkey. Tatom described Fetkey as an x-ray technician for Mt. Carmel Hospital and that he lives on Orin-Rice Road below the mobile home park.

When asked to repeat the events of June 26, 1997, Tatom said he left his house, went to the Jackpot, spoke to Horst Krewetzki, went to Fuhrman's Feed and purchased dog food, went by Larry Fetkey's, then talked with the girl at Emerson's. He said he left the Panorama Trailer Park, went home then to Onstott's, then went back home, cleaned the fish, then went to Horst Krewetzki's and spent the night with his girlfriend. When told that this was a different sequence of events than the one that Tatom previously provided, Tatom denied that it was different. Tatom was unable to explain why he first said that he was supposed to deliver a message to Marty for Horst about the trailer title. Tatom was also unable to explain why Horst could not deliver the message for himself. When asked if he was offered gas money to deliver a message that could have been delivered by phone, Tatom said that he had not been offered any money but was otherwise unable to explain why he would go and deliver a message for Horst. In response to further questions, Tatom explained that he was a "hang-around" for the Iron Horsemen Motorcycle club and that Horst was a "go boy" for the club. When asked if it was common for a "go boy" to direct a person like him to do personal message deliveries at his own expense, Tatom agreed it was not common practice.

When asked again what he did after arriving at Horst's trailer in Smitty's Trailer Park he said that he and his girlfriend slept together. He said that Michelle's child was the only other person at the residence. When told that other persons were observed at the mobile home that evening, Tatom admitted that Griz, Mike (Wooster), and an oriental looking man carrying a tanto-style knife on his right side visited Michelle's the night of the 26th before dark. He said they drove a dark colored 4x4 Datsun pickup truck. He said that Griz brought a half a case of Budweiser beer and hot food in Styrofoam containers. He said that the three men were there visiting inside the trailer with Michelle upon his arrival. He said that Griz and the oriental looking man wanted him to leave with them to put up sheets of building material at Griz's property. He said that Mike wanted him to leave with them to party but didn't say where. He said he had two beers at Horst's with the three men. He said the three were there for approximately ninety minutes and left while it was still light. He said he accompanied the three large men to their vehicle. When questioned about all three men arriving in a Datsun 4x4 pickup, Tatom said that there were actually two vehicles. He said the oriental looking man was driving a small grey car and that Mike Wooster rode with him. Griz drove along in the blue Datsun pickup. Tatom said that Mike was the man who lived at Griz's place.

When questioned further, Tatom said that he had been to Griz's house on two prior occasions. He agreed to travel to the Sheriff's Office to view a photo montage in an attempt to identify the oriental looking individual. While at the Sheriff's Office he was asked again about the message that he was supposed to deliver to Marty. Tatom said the message was, "Tell Marty I'm looking for her, I'll be over later." When asked what vehicle Horst was driving, Tatom said he was at the Shell Station with a guy in a grey truck with racks, and that was the last time he saw him. When asked why he was driving Horst's Blazer while Horst was riding with someone else, he said that he had the Blazer for one week or so and that Horst said he could drive it. Tatom said he had been denied a membership in the Iron Horsemen Motorcycle Club because the club considered him to be crazy or "51/50." Tatom explained that he lived on Beanie's property in exchange for paying a partial property tax to Beanie (whom he identified as Alan Hodges). When asked if he was aware of any of the problems between Beanie, Griz, and Emerson, he said that he was once visiting inside of Beanie's house and saw a copy of the burglary report for Griz's tattoo shop on Beanie's coffee table. Tatom said that Griz was not an actual member of the Iron Horsemen, but he was good friends with Beanie, who is a retired chapter president of the club. When

asked again about his use of Horst's Blazer, Tatom said the keys are always left in the ignition and anyone can use it as long as they return it with gas. When asked about the last time he had seen Griz, Tatom said that Griz delivered dog food to Horst's trailer where Michelle was staying on Friday (June 27). When asked why Griz would need to drive from south of Colville to deliver dog food to Horst's trailer west of Kettle Falls since Tatom claimed to have just purchased dog food the prior afternoon, Tatom said that Griz must have just thought that they needed dog food but was unable to explain why Griz would think that.

When asked again about the timeline of occurrences on the evening of June 26, 1997, Tatom said that he stayed up with Michelle after the three men left the residence. He said that he and Michelle went to Stewart (Onstott's) until after dark. He said they returned to Horst's trailer and did "house things." When asked what those were, he said they had relations. Tatom denied killing Emerson, saying "No, I'd never do that." When asked whether he started the fire or helped someone do that, he said, "No way." When asked if he knew who did, he responded, "Nope." Tatom then gave consent for the Sheriff's Office to search and to take and retain Horst's Blazer.

On July 3, 1997, Charles Tatom was interviewed by FBI Special Agent Raymond Lauer in conjunction with SA Lauer administration of a polygraph examination. At the time of the examination, SA Lauer noted that Tatom had an untreated broken right hand and untreated burns on his right leg, which Tatom claimed to have sustained approximately three days before the examination. Tatom claimed that he was burning garbage in his yard. He said he threw some saw dust into the fire that flared up and burned his leg. Tatom reported that he was arrested by Oregon State Police in 1976 for homicide and subsequently served ten years in Oregon State Prison. Tatom said that Hodges was later sent to prison and requested that he move to Washington to take care of Hodges' property while he was in jail. As part of the polygraph examination, Tatom was asked if he started the fire at Emerson's trailer; if he knew who started the fire; if he planned with anyone to burn the trailer; if he took Cassandra from the trailer that night; and if he could tell SA Lauer where Cassandra was at that time? Tatom responded "no" to each question. SA Lauer's report included the following conclusion: "It is the opinion of the examiner that the recorded responses to the above questions are indicative of deception." After the test, SA Lauer conducted a further interview of Tatom. During the interview, Tatom admitted that he had more information than he had given, but he took an oath to fellow gang members "not to snitch." He said he was more afraid of "organized crime" than the police and felt the "gang" could reach out to him no matter where he was and kill him. He said that because of his fears, he was going to take the information to his grave.

In recounting the events of June 26, 1997, to SA Lauer, Tatom said he spent most of the morning and early afternoon at his home. He left his house sometime between 3:00 pm and nightfall. He went to the Flour Mill to buy dog food. At the time he was driving Horst Krewetzki's vehicle. He claimed that Krewetzki left the vehicle with him about three weeks earlier and had never come back for it. From the Flour Mill he went to Larry Fetke's home. Fetke was a hospital x-ray technician, and Tatom thought he could set his broken hand. From the road he could see that Fetke was not home, and he left without actually going onto the property. From there he drove directly to Stuart (Onstott's) house. He said that contrary to what he first told police, he never went to Emerson's trailer park that day. He said that when the police asked him if he went there, he told them he had, but what he meant was that he had been in the area. When questioned further, he said that he answered "Yes" because Fetke lives about half a mile from Emerson's trailer. He said that he never got closer to the trailer park than Fetke's property. Tatom said he drove straight from Fetke's house to Stuart (Onstott's) house. There he drank at least twelve beers. He said he was pretty drunk and did not remember much. He said that Stuart and Stuart's

girlfriend were the only two people he specifically remembered being at Stuart's home. He said that Stuart later told him that he left his house with Mike (Wooster) at 7:30 or 8:00 pm. 118.09. After being told this, Tatom said his memory came back to him and he vaguely remembered being driven home by Mike Wooster. The only other clear memory he had of the early morning was waking up in the middle of the night and trying to have sex with his girlfriend, Michelle.

When asked to further clarify some points, Tatom said that after finding that Fetke was not home, he went to Colville to put gas in his vehicle. He said he went to the Shell gas station and ran into Horst Krewetzki. The only conversation he had with Krewetzki consisted of Krewetzki asking him if he was going to see "Mary" (i.e., Marty Paquette) that day. Tatom answered, "Maybe." Krewetzki told him that if he saw her, he should tell her that he was looking for her. He said that Mary lives in the same trailer park as Emerson and Krewetzki had taken him to Emerson and Mary's on one occasion. Tatom said he subsequently traveled to the trailer park where Mary and Emerson lived. He was not sure which trailer Mary lived in, so he went to the trailer that he thought Emerson lived in so he could ask where Mary was. He said he asked a young female about Mary and although he previously told police that the female was Cassandra, he did not think it was. Tatom was shown a flyer with Cassandra's picture on it and said he was certain that the girl he saw was not Cassandra. He described the person he talked to as a white female with "very blond hair" who was fifteen to twenty years old and wore a yellow or white dress. He said he asked the girl if she knew where Mary was. The girl said "No," and Tatom told her to tell Mary that Horst was looking for her. No other conversation took place.

Detective Colin Webb participated in the post-polygraph interview of Tatom on July 3, 1997. Detective Webb noted that after being told that he had failed the polygraph examination, Tatom indicated that he was drunk on the night of June 26, 1997, that he had a 12-pack of beer at Steward Onstott's house that evening prior to leaving with Mike Wooster to go to Giz's house. He said that Wooster was driving the Chevy Blazer that used to be Horst's vehicle. He said he did not remember anything else. Tatom said he did not see Marlene Emerson being killed and did not see Cassandra being taken away. He said he had no memory of what had happened the night of the 26th and the morning of the 27th. He said he would talk about Beanie (Alan Hodges) and did not know anything about his business. He said that he would take his secrets to the grave before talking with them. He went on to say that the people he lived with trusted him, that he was not going to ruin somebody else's life, and that he did not see it done. Before driving Tatom back to Hodges' property, Det. Webb noticed that Tatom's right hand was swollen. Tatom explained that his hand had been broken and he had surgery on it in the spring. Tatom was barefoot and Det. Webb also noticed burns on his feet. Tatom said he received the burns while burning slash pile at Alan Hodges' property. He said that one of the piles came back over on his feet and burned him. Tatom gave Det. Webb permission to photograph the injuries on his hand and feet. When Det. Webb arrived at Hodges' property with Tatom, he found three smoldering burn piles. Tatom gave Det. Webb permission to photograph the burn piles and some gas cans.

On February 1, 2006, Tatom was recontacted by FBI Special Agent Andrew Caster and Stevens County Sheriff's Detective Michael George. Tatom was living at a residence on Aladdin Road in Colville. Tatom said he moved there eight years ago after he had a falling out with Hodges (1998). Tatom claimed that he had a severe hangover the day of the Emerson murders and did not remember much about the day. Tatom did not elaborate on the reasons for his falling out with Hodges. He said that his girlfriend from that time, Michelle Becker, had run off with Stewart Onstott and he no longer knew where she was. Tatom was now living with Onstott's former wife, Lynda Dalrymple. Tatom said that Beanie had taken advantage of him through a transaction involving motorcycle parts. When asked again how he burned his ankles at the time of the fire at Emerson's trailer, he said he burnt himself on a sawdust bag at

Beanie's. Tatom blamed Wooster and Dan Schoonover for the murders. He said he had been to Griz's house but could not say he was there on the night of the murders. He could not remember being with Mike Wooster on the night of the murders. He remembered taking a polygraph, but claimed he could not recall the results of the examination. At the time of the murders, Tatom was driving Horst (Krewetzki's) Blazer. Tatom explained that Horst had "fucked up" and been kicked out of the area. Tatom did not know why but believed Krewetzki must have gotten behind in his payments for something.

On September 26, 2007, Alan Hodges was interviewed by FBI Special Agent Andrew Caster and Stevens County Detective Michael George. Hodges was later interviewed on October 15, 2007, by FBI Special Agent Raymond Lauer in conjunction with SA Lauer's administration of a polygraph examination on Hodges. Hodges recounted that he had known Tatom since high school in California, and their relationship was based on having common friends. Sometime in the mid-1970's, Hodges stabbed a person in a fight. A warrant was issued for his arrest, so he fled California and moved to the Roseburg, Oregon, area where Tatom and others were living. He was eventually arrested for the warrant and ended up going to jail in 1977. He said he was originally given a sentence of six years to life, but the California sentencing law changed, and he was released in 1979. Shortly before his arrest, Tatom was arrested for killing someone at a rest-area near Camas. Tatom told Hodges that he stopped at the rest area to use the bathroom then found someone trying to break into his truck and, somehow, killed him. Hodges said he knew that Tatom was telling people that Hodges killed the person, and he took responsibility for him. Hodges claimed that was not true and that he was not in the area at the time. Tatom went to jail for about ten years for the murder.

After being released from jail in 1979, Hodges was on parole for two years. In 1981, he moved back to Oregon and stayed there for two years then moved to California with his girlfriend and worked in construction for between four and six years. After breaking up with his girlfriend, he moved to Riverside, California, in 1985 or 1986. He lived there for about two years before moving to Kettle Falls in 1988 or 1989. Hodges began associating with the Iron Horsemen motorcycle club in 1971. He became a patched member in 1981 or 1982 and within 90 days was elected as the club's vice president, and shortly thereafter was elected as the president. He officially retired as the club's president in 1995. Retirement allows a club member to keep their patches, belt buckles, and other club property. In 1989, Hodges was sentenced to five years in custody. He returned to Kettle Falls on December 7, 1994, (which he recalled as Pearl Harbor Day). Hodges said he did not have any involvement with the club while in prison and has not had voting rights or other management authority in the club since 1989.

Shortly before he went to jail in 1989, Hodges invited Tatom to Kettle Falls for Christmas. Dan Schoonover was supposed to watch Hodges' property while he was in jail, but Hodges instead worked out a deal for Tatom to watch his property. The deal called for Tatom to live on the property and maintain it. Tatom only needed to pay the property taxes and bills. Tatom continued to live on the property until sometime after the Emerson murders. His parole officer found out that two convicted felons were living together and made Tatom leave.

Hodges said that he probably knew and had conversations with Marlene Emerson but could not remember any specific conversations he had with her. He said he probably had conversations with her in Kettle Falls bars. Concerning reports that he had a fight with her one night, Hodges said he thought that people were confusing an argument that he had with another woman over a bill she claimed to have paid while he was in prison. He claimed that Mike Wooster liked Emerson. Hodges first heard about the Emerson murders when he was first contacted by FBI Special Agent Mark Thundercloud. He said that he volunteered to take a polygraph at that time concerning whether he was at the trailer park

where Emerson's murder took place. Shortly after hearing about the murders, Mike Wooster came to him and told him something about Tatom dragging the little girl off and raping and killing her. Hodges said that Wooster just seemed surprised and left him with the impression that he was shocked that Tatom would kill someone. Something in what Wooster told Hodges left him with the impression that Wooster was also present when the Emersons were killed. Shortly after this, Wooster and Schoonover died in a plane crash. Tatom came to him after the crash and said something about how with Wooster dead, he could not go to jail for the Emerson murders. Hodges claimed that he asked Tatom how he could kill them. Tatom responded by saying something about how Hodges did not like Marlene anyway so why should he care. When asked why Tatom would say this if Hodges did not know Emerson, Hodges could not recall any follow-up conversation he had with Tatom about Tatom's remarks. During the time that Wooster was still alive and living with Michael Alexander, Hodges asked Alexander why Wooster and Tatom killed the Emerson. Alexander simply said that the two of them went out one night and "things got carried away."

Following this interview, Hodges was given a polygraph test concerning his knowledge of the murders. During the test, Hodges was asked whether he was present when the Emerson were killed and whether he was at the trailer park when the Emersons' trailer burned. Hodges answered "no" to both questions. According to SA Lauer, the polygraph results for these two questions were inconclusive. Hodges was further asked whether, other than the two people they discussed (i.e., Tatom and Wooster), he knew for sure the names of those responsible for the Emersons' murders. Hodges answered "no" to this question. According to SA Lauer, Hodges response to this question was indicative of deception. Finally, Hodges was asked whether he made plans with anyone to hurt or scare Marlene Emerson. Hodges again answered, "no." According to SA Lauer, Hodges response to this question was also indicative of deception.

On July 16, 1997, Washington State Patrol Forensic Scientist William Schneck assisted in processing the Chevy Blazer that was registered to Horst Krewetzki and driven by Charles Tatom at the time of the murders. Tape lifts were taken from the interior of the vehicle. A paper bag with other items was seized from the vehicle. One cigarette was also collected from the front ashtray. Red stains were observed on the interior passenger side window. A presumptive test conducted on the stains was positive for the presence of blood. Several of the stains indicated directionality from back to front, indicating that their source may have originated from the back passenger seat. These were preserved for later analysis. The window was later removed and preserved with the stains intact.

The paper bag contained miscellaneous audio cassette cases. On July 11, 1997, these were submitted to the Latent Print Section of the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab for fingerprint analysis. The brown paper bag was treated with ninhydrin. Three identifiable latent impressions were developed on the bottom of the bag. These were identified as the left index, ring, and little fingers of Charles Tatom.

On December 17, 2009, Washington State Patrol Forensic Scientist Stephen Greenwood examined the passenger window that contained blood stains. Two DNA samples from the same person were recovered from the blood stains. The DNA was consistent with coming from Cassie in that it was 1000 times more likely to be from a biological child of Marlene Emerson rather than an unrelated individual selected at random from the United States population.

On September 4, 2013, investigators obtained judicial authorization to exhume Emerson and Cassie's remains for further examination. Cassie's remains were exhumed on September 6, 2013, and

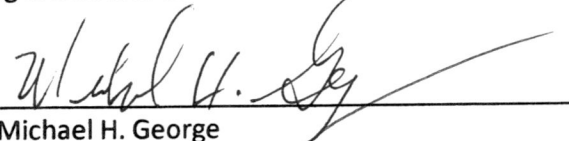
transported to the King County Medical Examiner's Office. Portions of Cassie's remains were retained for use in extracting DNA. After examination was complete, Cassie's remains were returned to Colville and reinterred on September 24, 2013. Cassie's DNA was then compared to the DNA profile from the blood stains found on the rear passenger window of the Blazer. The DNA from the blood stains matched the DNA reference from Cassie Emerson. According to the report prepared by Forensic Scientist Stephen Greenwood, the estimated probability of selecting an unrelated individual at random from the U.S. population with a matching profile was 1 in 81 trillion.

Since confirming the presence of Cassie's blood in the Blazer, two more DNA tests produced relevant results over the summer of 2024. These provide further evidence of Cassie's presence in the vehicle with Tatom. On June 6, 2024, Washington State Patrol Forensic Scientist Brittany Wright produced a report on her examination of a cigarette butt recovered from the ashtray of the Blazer on July 16, 1997. DNA from two different people was obtained from the cigarette butt. Charles Tatom (identified as Individual C) was identified as the source of one of the DNA profile, using a match of a DNA profile maintained in CODIS. Wright determined that the DNA profile of the second contributor was consistent with Cassie, stating that "[t]he DNA profile is 5,700 times more likely if Cassandra Emerson and one unrelated individual are the contributors, rather than if two unrelated individuals selected at random from the U.S. population are the contributors." Wright concludes that the analysis provides "moderate support for the proposition that Cassandra Emerson is a contributor to this profile." Marlene Emerson was excluded as a contributor. Based on discussions with Brittany Wright, these results are more consistent with Tatom smoking a cigarette after being in physical contact with Cassie than with Cassie having direct contact with the cigarette.

On August 20, 2024, Washington State Patrol Forensic Scientist Brittany Wright produced a report on her examination of tape lifts taken inside of the Blazer on July 16, 1997. Tape lifts refer to the use of sticky tape to collect fibers and other trace evidence from surfaces. The tape lift relevant to this case was obtained from the console of the Blazer. DNA from three different people was recovered from that tape lift. Wright's report indicates that "[t]he DNA profile is 680 septillion times more likely if Cassandra Emerson and two unrelated individuals are the contributors, rather than if three unrelated individuals selected at random from the U.S. Population are the contributors." Charles Tatom (identified in the report as Individual C) was also included as a contributor to this profile, using a match of a DNA profile maintained in CODIS. Marlene Emerson was excluded as a contributor.

Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe that Charles Lloyd Tatom was a direct participant in the premeditated murder of Marlene Emerson, in the arson of Emerson's trailer, and in the abduction and premeditated murder of Cassandra Emerson.

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct" 9A.72.085.


Michael H. George
Special Deputy
Stevens County Sheriff's Department