

Transcript of Scott John Johnson Video Interview (2:08:38) – final

Date: August 1, 2008, commencing at approximately 11:58 A.M

Location: Marinette County Jail, Marinette, Wisconsin

Officers: Detective Anthony O'Neill
Detective Todd Baldwin

Baldwin: Have a seat right there. Obviously, we had a talk out there. We want to get cha down here and get you all cleaned up and stuff, but, you know, obviously you are in custody, okayay. So what we're going do is read you your rights again?

Johnson: Sure.

Baldwin: Ah, just so you understand 'em. What -- before we start, Scott, what's your home address over there?

Johnson: Um, it's 521 Hemlock. If you want to call that home, I mean that.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: From, but that's the last place of residence there.

Baldwin: Hemlock Street?

Johnson: Hemlock Street.

Baldwin: Okay. And that's in um

Johnson: Kingsford.

Baldwin: Kingsford. I'm sorry. Okay. Can you read and write?

Johnson: Pardon?

Baldwin: Can you read and write?

Johnson: Yes.

Baldwin: It's just a question on the form. I figured you could. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be held against you in a court of law. You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have them present with you while you're being questioned. If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent

you before any questioning if you so wish. You can decide at any time ta, time to exercise these rights and not answer questions or make any statements, do you understand all those rights?

Johnson: Yes, sir.

Baldwin: Realizing you have those rights, are you willin' to answer some questions and make a statement?

Johnson: Yeah. I'll do the best I can --

Baldwin: Okay. This is the first day of August. What time you got, Tony?

O'Neill: 11:58 a.m.

Baldwin: Huh?

O'Neill: 11:58.

Baldwin: We'll just have ya sign this one, if you can. Can you do that? Um, sign right here, basically just that I read you those. You can read 'em over again if you like. Um, you can take off his handcuffs.

O'Neill: Yeah. I can do that. Let me grab a key

Baldwin: You got it though?

O'Neill: You got a handcuff key?

Baldwin: What's the, what's the zip code up there in Michigan?

Johnson: You know, I don't know, cause I've never -- that's the, that's the second time I signed my name in seven years.

Baldwin: Oh. Okay.

Johnson: And ah I think it's 711 -- I don't want to tell you. 71 -- I'm not sure.

Baldwin: Okay. That's alright. No big deal.

Baldwin: Tony -- You want to just take the belt right off?

O'Neill: Ah nah. Not right now.

Baldwin: Other (inaudible). Yeah. That's fine.

O'Neill: (inaudible)... no issues, no problems with us. Can you grab his water, too?

Person off Camera: Where is it?

O'Neill: Just stand up for a second.

Person off Camera: Bobby, where is his water?

Person off Camera: Get a big cup.

Person off Camera: Okay.

Person off Camera: As soon as he comes in, I'll bring it in.

O'Neill: Alright have a seat.

Baldwin: Obviously, we talked up there um for a bit. Um, just want to get you down here and get the cuffs off you and stuff, and get you comfy. Um, basically, this, as we discussed up there, this kind of all started um for you several years back?

Johnson: Yeah.

Baldwin: Um, started having issues since probably around, you figure, your marriage ah dissolved?

Johnson: Yeah. That's -- that's back in what, '99. Yeah. And, ah, I tried it for two years, you know, having the kids up there, they were up in a house down in Shreveport, it's about a thousand miles away, an I, I tried, you know, it didn't work. For me. I mean, try to eat and try to cram a whole year's worth of family time in in a couple o' two weeks. It doesn't work. Not for me. I mean, I know maybe for you, but not for me it didn't. And that was just, you know, just part of it.

O'Neill: What kind of work were you doing after you were in down there?

Johnson: Um, I was in my fifth year apprenticeship as a plumber.

O'Neill: And then by trade in the military, what were you doing? Your MO?

Johnson: Um, in the military, I was a, um, a 71 Gulf, and when I went to the Guard, I was a 91 Bravo, which is a medic, field medic.

O'Neill: What's the first one you said, 71 Gulf?

Johnson: It's, it's, it's a -- like a type of clerk, hospital type stuff, administrative.

O'Neill: Okay.

Baldwin: So you were in the medical field while you were in the service?

Johnson: Yes.

O'Neill: But you had basic training, too?

Johnson: Basic training was at Ft. Sill.

O'Neill: What did that, what was that composed of, just briefly tell us?

Johnson: At Ft. Sill?

O'Neill: Yeah.

Johnson: Just drill, ceremony. Um, weapons, of course, um.

O'Neill: Customs?

Johnson: It's been a while. Yeah. Both, you know.

O'Neill: Physical training?

Johnson: Yeah. Courtesy. I mean, just --

O'Neill: I mean don't you learn basic infantry skills when you go to boot camp, everybody starts -- my understanding --

Johnson: What it is, is a crash course, it's eight week crash course. It's -- you really don't learn nothing until you get into your advanced individual training and I, just the break down, basically just gets you wet a little bit, and get you in your clothes, and then then it's -- you go off to somewhere, wherever you're going decide to, s, you know, specialize in.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And that's where you really learn.

O'Neill: How many years were you in?

Johnson: Um, I think four and a half active, and, ah, I think four in the Guard. I almost almost nine years.

O'Neill: Pretty impressive.

Johnson: Not really.

O'Neill: You did your Guard time up in Iron Mountain?

Johnson: No. I did my Guard time in ah Shreveport.

O'Neill: Oh, you did?

Baldwin: When did you get out of the service, 2001?

Johnson: No. I got out of the service, was, in um, I think '98. Yeah. '98 was, ah -- I think the summer of '98.

O'Neill: Were you ever deployed anywhere?

Johnson: Ah, no. No.

O'Neill: Okay.

Baldwin: Okay, um, now you, wa, ah, you were living in Shreveport prior to moving back to -- you grew up in Kingsford, right?

Johnson: Correct.

Baldwin: Then you went in the service, and then you were living in Shreveport at that time?

Johnswon: Um hm.

Baldwin: When you got out of the service?

Johnson: Um-hmm.

Baldwin: Um, from Shreveport, you moved back up to Kingsford?

Johnson: That's correct.

Baldwin: Okay. Um, about when was that?

Johnson: Um, I think the exact date was December of um -- I don't know if it's 17 or 18. I think it's you can say 17th, give or take two days, of ah 2001.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: So, I've been here for what, two, three, four, five, six, almost seven years.

Baldwin: Okay. So you've been living here for seven years?

Johnson: Almost seven years.

Baldwin: With your mom, there?

Johnson: Yes.

Baldwin: Okay. And your brother's been living there, too?

Johnson: Correct.

Baldwin: Okay. Um, but you you talked to us a little bit about these issues that are going on, um kind of starting probably four years ago.

Johnson: Well, I had a lot of stress. You got to understand um. This doesn't justify, of course, what I did, but just to understand, I was under a lot of stress. When I was in the military, I was goin' to school, I was goin' to college, workin' two jobs, plus I was goin' through at one point I was goin' through OCS, Officer Candidate School. Um, plus trying to raise a family and stuff like that. People never eh -- people don't even know the workloads I had. Never -- I never complained about it, I just did it, but people don't realize that I did whatever just the average person did, times two. A lot of the times.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: Even at work. Even at work, ah, I put in a lot of 80, 90 hour weeks when I was going through plumbing, I mean, plus work all the time. You know, I loved the work, just do what I can. But it seems like that was never enough. Seems like whatever I did was never enough. It seems like whenever I, I was almost at the point of obtaining something or getting somewhere, seems like somethin' would happen and take it away. You know, it seems like it's been like that way through my whole life. When I almost reach a pinnacle at somethin', it's taken away. It's always been like that. I don't know. It seems like sometime I'm almost afraid of success, because if I knew I achieve a certain something, it will be taken away.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: I don't know if you understand that. I mean, it's --

Baldwin: Sure.

Johnson: You know, people -- how can you be afraid of success. Well, if you get something and right away, it's taken away. I don't know. That's the just the best way I can explain it.

Baldwin: Yeah. Um you, you been havin' these thoughts, you said while we talked last, for the last --

Johnson: People have --

Baldwin: four or five --

Johnson: People have -- I have thoughts on and off, but really, sometimes you say -- thinking and doing are two different things.

Baldwin: Sure.

Johnson: Big time, two different things. Thinking and saying. And ah, and to actually do something, that's when reality, it's like almost being -- it's like sa, a movie in slow motion, it's -- it seems almost surreal.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: It's like --

Baldwin: Well, when would you say that you started having these thoughts about the the actions that you took ah yesterday?

Johnson: Actually, considering yesterday, I mean, I thought about it, but actually, yesterday around -- I don't know, around 3:00 o'clock, or something after.

O'Neill: Can we back up just a little bit? You had told us for four years you've been thinking about something like this?

Johnson: Yes, on and off.. To really, yeah, to really think about doing that, I thought about it.

O'Neill: But you actually had your bags and your stuff that you put in different locations, where you put in locations, you said that was going on for four years, right?

Johnson: Yeah.

O'Neill: And that bag that you had contained --

Johnson: The weapon. Yeah. The rifle

O'Neill: Anything else?

Johnson: Um, knives. Just ah, I told you what, a sleeping bag, I think. I, I had some other stuff, too, in it. But it's several years ago, someone, um, someone actually stole it. I had like a back pack, and, ah, ah, like a, I don't know what you call it, but it's almost like a machete and an ax combined -- I forget what you call those things.

O'Neill: But the sole purpose of you doing that was that you knew that a day like this would come?

Johnson: Well, a day like this would come, well, what I thought of it this -- the reason why I got, like, all that gear, I almost planned on just leaving somewhere and going (inaudible) one of the purpose, one of the choices I had was, use that stuff just for survival. Just to run away. Not to do what I did but, but another part of it was the plan, if it come to that, if I decided, you know, that it come to that, that's what it would be used for, too.

Baldwin: Just (inaudible)

Johnson: The whole purpose.

Baldwin: Okay. So the one purpose is, of course, for survival?

Johnson: Yeah. Another purpose. For yesterday.

Baldwin: For yesterday. Which, you kind of described as you had two paths to take yesterday, right?

Johnson: I had two paths. Yeah. I was, uh that's, that's right. I was really I was really weighin' it. I was thinkin'.

Baldwin: Your one path was what?

Johnson: To come in, accept the sexual charge, and then after that follow up through with the child support, and then the bad checks, I don't know what kind of time it takes, but I'd be -- I know I'd be tied up. I mean, the end of that future, was, I was I was looking at --

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: --weighing the two futures, and um --

Baldwin: The second path, the path you chose was --

Johnson: Yeah, to do it

Baldwin: How do you describe it?

Johnson: Yeah. I said, um ta, ta, to put it point out, it's like, you know, like over several years, I mean, uh I don't know if I want to say I was just filled with hate. Hate and anger, I don't know what you call it. Not any more, I mean, just -- I don't feel anything right now, I'm just kind of numb. It just uh, but over the past several years, I'm just filled with anger, hate, just -- I just, you know, I have no hope. What is life, or whatever with, I don't have any hope. I just, I mean, you know, you're in a spot, you can look down the road, and there is just no, just no future. There's just nothing there. Right now, I could be making almost \$30.00 an hour, plus tons of overtime. But look, here I am. A bum, basically. I mean, so ...

O'Neill: Anybody else knew about this, did you talk to anybody about this?

Johnson: Um --

O'Neill: You sure you --

Johnson: I think, like and my mother and I, we talked a couple of times explained. But it seems likes I was always repeating, my -- it seems like she -- I don't know, some people just, I don't know why they need to hear it 10,000 times, but it seems like they want to hear somethin' else but the truth.

O'Neill: So what would you say?

Johnson: I just tell her the same thing. I told her the same thing I told her before. I says, um, an example, um, like with the child support, well they, oh, well you're bonking (inaudible) do that to my kids. Well, the reason why I did that, not to be an asshole about taking money from them, I la, everyone loves ki, if you're a normal person, you love your kids. But, ah, I know by me, by me not sending her money would keep those kids with her -- I trust her parents, you know.

O'Neill: Mm-hmm.

Johnson: I got a lot of respect for her parents. I trust them. Um, but my ex-wife, I don't. I don't trust her judgment. She has poor -- she's a she's a good person, great with kids, but poor judgment. I felt safer by not giving, I, I made that choice. I sacrificed that, myself so that those kids would stay there and be safe. And then have her shack up with some guy and have what nearly happened, you know, to what I did, I mean, or something worse.

O'Neill: Mm-hmm. So you chose to pull yourself away from the kids to save basically the kids because you didn't know what you would do --

Johnson: Well, I was, I was already separated from them anyways, people say, well, why couldn't you get the abandonment law. Well, I thought we'd get back together. After we were separated for several months, I couldn't do jack squat. That was the situation, I'm down there, stuck, she's up there.

O'Neill: In Ohio?

Johnson: In Ohio.

O'Neill: What's her maiden name?

Johnson: Wortman. W-O-R-T-M-A-N. Now I took everything, I took all the credit -- you know, we had -- like everyone else, we had credit cards. I took -- I took all the financial brunt. I took everything and put on my shoulders. And I was willing to pay a certain amount of child support, whatever I could afford, plus I had the house payment. I mean, basically, it see, wha, what people don't understand is, they expect a certain amount to come out of your check. Well, with plumbing, you work your 40 hours, and then you get overtime. Well, if you don't work that 20 hours overtime, they expect still that money to come out, regardless. That'd be constant adjustment. It would be -- it's -- it's hell. It's financial hell. Every week, I might work maybe 50 hours, I might work 80 or 90.

O'Neill: Mm-hmm.

Johnson: Or -- what if one week's a slow week, and I only work 30 hours. I already got money going out for child support, money going out for the house, now, too, and foo, and I mean, I'm stuck. Fi, I'm, I'm a bum down there. I didn't have a vehicle that-- I was driving -- the only vehicle I had for a while was was the company vehicle. How in the hell am I supposed to get grounded, I mean just who, who's gonna wanna go with me, who's gonna wanna marry me when all the money is gone. Women love money. We all know that. What, what future did I have. I mean I tried it for a couple years. It just wasn't -- it wasn't clicking. And I just -- and after I seen the kids the last time, it was in uh the summer of 2001, they came, um, I agreed -- we -- they came up to Kingsford for three weeks. And it just so weird. I felt like I was racing, constantly racing, trying to cram a whole year's worth of time, I mean, just -- we're trying to go here, I'm trying to do things with them, I just, and just as quickly as it started, it's you know, it's over with. I snapped after that. I said, screw it, I ain't doing this no more. And there's still, like, there's there's tons of other stuff, too, there's -- I'd have to really think about and write down, I mean, to get it all -- I mean, that's the piece of it.

Baldwin: We're going to let you do that, of course, okay?

Johnson: Yeah.

O'Neill: Did you ever journal, write stuff down like a journal or diary and stuff, or a journal?

Johnson: No. I never did that. I did that in high school, I think, cause the teacher made us when we were a senior.

Baldwin: Yeah, but I don't know, it seems like it seems like you feel like you can express yourself a little better if you write it?

Johnson: If I organized it, and then I fee --

Baldwin: And were gonna let you do that.

Johnson: Feedback.

Baldwin: But we want to talk just for a bit, of course, and get through this.

O'Neill: Can we recap today again, or yesterday, I should say up until today?

Johnson: That's fine, if you wanna, yeah.

Baldwin: Why don't we start with the day before, actually, where where --

O'Neill: What's her name?

Baldwin: Jennifer. This this thing with Jennifer started, how did that start?

O'Neill: You guys been friends for how long?

Johnson: We were just friends, for, maybe, I think January, well, I just -- I'd seen her at a store and started talking to her, and just like seems like she was always out, and I was always out because I'm a bum, you know, I was just always out just doing whatever, go to the library a lot, just go look around the stores, just cruise around. And, um, I seen her, start talking to her, and, and, ah, well, I, I gained her trust, and stuff like that. Well I, I don't know, I just -- I fantasized, um, my last actual relationship with a woman was in 2002 when when I first moved up here, I met an older woman, Janice Thomas. She's been recently married, I gue, I don't know, a couple years ago got married, but then when I broke it off with her, because her kid was all messed up. And being 'cause th sit, situation I was in, I try to avoid police as much as possible. I didn't want no involvement, I mean, as soon as you do a check on me, bam, I'm, I'm busted for a couple things, for the bad checks, and the child support. Well her, her kid was a ticking time bomb so that, that relationship ended, and I hadn't been with a woman since 2002.

Baldwin: So you struck up this friendship with her?

Johnson: So, so somentin' you know, what I, she's not the most attractive and that, but she's, but she's a nice person. She's real good-hearted and stuff like that, and ah it's, it's more of a less, I don't know, uh, like a whim, like a spur, a mo, I thought about, you know, we fantasize about all kinds o' stuff, but then I just, you know, I was saying, can I really do this, can I do this.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And, ah, so we went out to this, to the place, and, ah, then it happened, and ah -- but I couldn't go all the way through it, 'cause I was, after it kind of started, I kind of felt like I was going into shock, I don't know, not shock, but somethin'. Just, just weird. And, um.

Baldwin: What, it didn't feel good, as good as your fantasy?

Johnson: No. Well no. Well I always thought, like you know, a lot of times woman, they go into shock, they just kind of limp, go limp or relax, but um she she fought back. You know, we talked -- I talked to her about after, I said -- you know, I was impressed. I mean, I didn't think you had it in you. And that just impressed me. And you know, a lot of times you watch people, they don't fight back, and it kind of angers me when they don't fight back, you know. They sh do something. And uh --

Baldwin: So you weren't expecting it to go the way it went, is what it came down to?

Johnson: No. Basically. Yeah. Then ah, I couldn't even -- I couldn't, you know, get it up. I mean, I, I was trying to stimulate her, [demonstrates hands to chest] trying to stimulate,

trying do it, but just, it just didn't -- didn't happen. It just felt wro, all of a sudden it just felt really wrong. Then, you know, then I seen like, you know, like the terror in her eyes, and it just -- that did -- that was it. That was the end of it. Couldn't go through, couldn't go through with it.

O'Neill: That ever happen before? Did some. did yer, I mean, you said the idea that, you know, you expected this because, almost like you saw this before.

Johnson: We watch T.V., you watch stuff on T.V., see something happening, you listen to women talk and stuff like.

O'Neill: So it's nothing that you experienced before, it's just that's what you expected?

Johnson: That's what I kind of expect -- I didn't expect that much of a fight or that much of, a will you know, her will just won out my will, basically. I don't know, I mean ...

Baldwin: I, I understand what you saying um -- but you said that you had, um you had thought about this prior?

Johnson: Well, not even with her, or stuff like that, but with anybody with anybody.

Baldwin: With a, just in general?

Johnson: I think it might have been easier if it was against a perfect, a perfect stranger.

Baldwin: Okay?

Johnson: Then maybe I could'a done it. I don't know. I, eh.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: But with her, I knew her.

Baldwin: So when you see her on Wednesday --

Johnson: Well -- so after this, so that this happened, I think around between 8:00 and 9:00-ish on Wednesday.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: And after after the incident, she got dressed, and then we -- you know, we talked, I thought things, you know, might not be so bad. You know, we talked about it. I talked about maybe think up a punishment for me, you know, think of something. You know, anything, I'll do anything, can we work, can we do something, you know. I'm in your debt. And, ah, well, she sounded iffy. You know, she -- so I told, I even told her, I said, you got a right, you feel the need to, call the police. I told her that. And, ah, I was hoping that she wasn't, of course, but but apparently she did, and uh she did right away.

Well, I'm not stupid. To be on the safe side, I ducked out. I didn't go home. I just kind of sat back and watched.

O'Neill: Where did you sit back and watch from?

Johnson: The neighbor's house. Uh, there's like our house and there's like a sand pit, and it's a couple houses down, but I can see, like, the front. I can see. So, um, it's around 11:00 o'clock, I looked at my watch, it was exactly 11:00, so I started walking, and um sure enough, a patrol car, and I said -- and it's not a coincidence.

O'Neill: Nighttime or daytime?

Johnson: Night.

O'Neill: Okay.

Johnson: It's 11:00 at night. This has only been, so this is only like two, a couple hours after the incident.

O'Neill: Okay.

Johnson: And, ah, as soon as I seen the lights, just the way he was drivin', drivin' slow, usually people drive real fast, so what does that tell you? I just start -- I hurried up and I ducked. I just sprawled out, laid flat, he drove past. I took off and spent the night out in the woods. Come back the next day, early. I come back to the house around 10:00 o'clock. In the morning. And, ah, I talked to my mom, and I said, ah, were the police here last night. She says no. I didn't tell her exactly, but I said there was an incident I had. And, ah, I said the police might be lookin' for me. And so I, I got somethin' to eat, and uh we talked a little bit, and I said, I'm going to duck out again and I'll come back later. And sure enough, I come back later, I come back 3:00 o'clock, and she said the police were -- they were here, so that told me right there, I knew what has happened with the police.

O'Neill: She called?

Johnson: The house of cards is is crumbling down and everything is really. So now my dilemma, I said, well if I'm gonna go to jail, I'm going to get something to eat first, relax -- so I, so I don't have to worry about it. So I, so I went, and I think I went to Subway. So as I'm walkin' back, I think it's around, so now it's got to be about 4:00-ish. And -- I, I think about 4:00-ish. So I'm walkin' back, and ah I said, now, I'm weighing this, I said, I'm ah, I'm goin' ta go to jail. My picture and everything's gonna be in the paper, it's for a sexual -- I mean, it wasn't that -- um I can't, it's can't be fair to say -- I don't know how bad it was -- it wasn't that bad, I mean, I didn't hit her or nothin' like that, it wasn't violent violent. I mean like slappin' or hittin', nothing like that. Er, and I was thinking, Jesus, this is bad, and I mean, I'm going to go to jail for this. I said, I was willing to do the time, but then you're also listed then as a sexual predator or whatever the law is, what you can't go within certain distance.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: So now I'm really screwed, now, I said, after this -- I was willing to think about me, I was willing to do the time, but then I got this, and then after I do that, I got the child support thing I gotta deal with, and then those bad checks, for buying the weapons and all that stuff. And, ah, what's gonna happen then, you know, what I'm thinking, what's going to happen, what goes on in jail, you hear stories, and stuff like that and so I'm thinkin', do I go out with a bang, you know, I got nothin' to lose, do I just go out and just, you know, I think that's part of the reason is the only power I have in this life is to take. I don't know, it's, you know, it's not fair, but life's not fair, but I, I don't know if that's part of reason, I can't, I, -- some -- I can honestly say that, yeah, I know what some of it was, but deep down, I really don't know what actually made me go through with it. Now I was weighin' -- I was weighin' it really heavy, I was just -- what do I do, what do I do. I was adamant So then I, finally I said, I said, I'm going to go get geared up and, ah, and I'll, I'll think about it some more.

O'Neill: Where did you get geared up from, what area, where was your gear at?

Johnson: In Wisconsin.

O'Neill: Ok. I'm gonna show you a quick map.

Baldwin: You got that map?

O'Neill: I got one, do you have the other one?

Baldwin: I think I have the blow up there.

O'Neill: I have the big overall. You have, maybe hopefully, ah (inaudible).

Baldwin: I think I do.

O'Neill: Okay. I've marked north on here, north being Michigan. So --

Johnson: Okay.

O'Neill: Here's Wisconsin, here's Michigan. You were over in this area, right?

Johnson: Okay. Um, we got Michigan, we got Wisconsin. Okay.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: My house -- my mother's house, would be way over here.

O'Neill: Okay. Off the chart?

Johnson: Yeah.

O'Neill: Okay.

Johnson: Okay. I -- my stuff, I'm gonna put a little "x"-- is that okay. If I draw on it?

Baldwin: Yeah, go right ahead –

Johnson: I put a little "x".

O'Neill: Is it obvious -- so I can see it. Yeah. There you go.

Johnson: So all my stuff is over here, and it's already put away. I, I, I geared up earlier, like I said before, remember I said I was going to watch and see if anyone was going to come to the scene, and I just –

O'Neill: Before Subway then?

Johnson: No. That was the night before.

O'Neill: The night before, you did?

Johnson: Yeah. I spent a night out there.

O'Neill: So the first night of the incident?

Johnson: Yeah, after I -- I watched, I seen the police were there.

O'Neill: The sand pit, you were at the sand pit?

Johnson: Yeah.

O'Neill: That same night?

Johnson: Yeah. That was the night.

O'Neill: So you geared up that night?

Johnson: I think I got stuff ready, just -- just to be prepared and to have the option of either just running, or -- or shooting it out.

O'Neill: Did you take something from the house and bring with you as well that night, did you go home and get stuff, or – was it already there?

Johnson: No. I, I didn't go to the house. What happened was, after -- when I saw that patrol car, I just took off. I didn't go into the house. I said, I'm not gonna going to be there.

O'Neill: Where was your gear that night?

Johnson: Everything was right here.

O'Neill: Okay. And the second night it was right there, too?

Johnson: Yeah. Everything was right there.

O'Neill: Go ahead.

Johnson: So -- and there's a little road, there's a parking -- there's parking. Yeah. There's a road, kind o', you can see it right here, and people park their cars right here.

O'Neill: Minnesota, it's called I think? Michigan.

Johnson: Michigan.

O'Neill: Is that right? Skidmore, it's called, too?

Johnson: Skidmore. Yes. It's the end of Skidmore, it's a dirt road.

O'Neill: Right.

Johnson: There's concrete blocks, people park their cars off to the side, it's like a --

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: Cul-du-sac.

O'Neill: Is that where normally people that go swimming park and they walk down?

Johnson: Correct. They park around here, and then they walk.

O'Neill: There's like a trail that goes right to the tracks?

Johnson: Used to be an old road, yeah. Yeah. And un, now it's a trail. You walk here and come down, and they come down here and swim on this side, right here.

O'Neill: So what did you do up here?

Johnson: So as I was comin' in, when I was coming in to do the -- to do that thing after, after I ate at Subway.

O'Neill: So this is not sand pit night, but the next night?

Johnson: The next night. Yes.

O'Neill: So, after Subway, Subway is about between 3:00 and 4:00?

Johnson: About 4:00-ish. Yeah. And uh.

O'Neill: And you're comin' through here then?

Johnson: I'm comin' through, and ah, my mind's racing, you understand, it's like it's racing. I'm sweating a lot.

O'Neill: Did you see anybody when you were walking through?

Johnson: As I was coming in, I seen a couple of people.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: Then I seen two more.

O'Neill: Did they see you?

Johnson: Yes.

O'Neill: Did you have a conversation with them?

Johnson: I, you know, hi.

O'Neill: What were you wearing then?

Johnson: What was I wearin'?

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: This right here.

O'Neill: Okay.

Johnson: I think I was wearin', when I was walkin' in, I was wearin', I, I might have had some other sh -- I might have had some other clothes. I can't remember.

O'Neill: And then shoes, I mean, you had boots when you came here?

Johnson: I left the shoes at the scene. I left -- whatever I didn't use, I just left there. They, I imagine they found a bunch of my junk, right there.

O'Neill: Okay, go ahead, I'm sorry.

(inaudible)

Johnson: I'm walking in, I seen two people, and I seen two more. And then there's another guy on a bike, he comes pedalin' in. And I'm walking across the bridge, and he's followin' me for some reason.

O'Neill: Guy on the bike?

Johnson: Guy on the bike. Yeah. What is this, is this some kind of supernatural thing, am I being blocked now again, or somethin' am I being -- is there somethin', I mean this is unusual. I mean --

O'Neill: How many times have you been back to this area in your life, do you think?

Johnson: I've been in there a lot. I can't, I can't give you a specific number, because I don't know, but I've been there a lot, I know the area, I know every -- I swam this thing up and down, I hiked all this area. But I know people, and he's ba, he's just an older guy, he was just trying to be friendly. He just, he's never, I guess he's never been out there, but I kind of brushed him off, I just -- because I was -- I was trying to get focussed. And uh he, he stopped, turned around, and he said something to the kids down there, how's it going, and I guess he, he took off.

Baldwin: So there was kids swimming at the time when you crossed the bridge?

Johnson: Yes.

Baldwin: The same kids?

Johnson: Not these yet, but yeah, the same kids. Yeah. They were already down there, just like eight of 'em.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: So I, I crossed the bridge, I go over here, I get stuff, get loaded up, and ah --

O'Neill: Where was the stuff over there, I mean, where was it, in a log pile, or under the ground, or covered up?

Johnson: Just -- just -- just in a bag, just like in a, in a duffle bag and a plastic bag, keep it dry.

Baldwin: Did you have it hidden?

Johnson: Yeah. It was ah, where a tree blew over.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: So you got all this material, roots, it's like a wall --

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And just like a little – just I my bags are right down in there, just throw maybe like a couple branches over it, and the way it was-- you'd have to be looking at it, almost right on top of it to see it. Very well hid.

O'Neill: How long has your stuff been sittin' there previous to that day?

Johnson: I think ah a year or two.

O'Neill: So how, what, tell me what was in the bag that's there then that day?

Johnson: Ah, like I said, sleeping bag, ah, blanket, um, now, I kept my rifle, and, separate, but just only not that far away.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: I kept that separate. And the ammunition, I kept, I kept that in an ammo box, that was separate, but again, but but in the plastic bag was just clothes, just just clothes and a sleeping bag, just something to change.

O'Neill: The weapon and the ammunition was someplace close by but different?

Johnson: Yes.

O'Neill: Was in that in plastic as well?

Johnson: Ah, not the ammunition box. That's pretty much self-sealing.

O'Neill: Yeah.

Johnson: But the the rifle was kept in a plastic bag, was in it.

O'Neill: Was there a tree, like, there too that you put that in there, or?

Johnson: Pardon?

O'Neill: What kind of concealment, or did, area?

Johnson: I hid that in a rock face, it was kind of like, and I just kind of blended into the wall, because I don't have to worry about no one climbing up this wall, it was so jagged and so much debris the way that it, it you'd almost have to be right on top it to see it.

O'Neill: Okay. So you gather up your sleeping bag, blanket and stuff, and then you go over and get your --

Johnson: Well, I gather, gather up everything and I dump everything out.

O'Neill: Mm-hmm.

Johnson: I figure out what I'm going to use. I get dressed.

O'Neill: And your camo stuff's all there?

Johnson: Yes.

O'Neill: Pants, the jacket, the hat?

Johnson: Mm-hmm.

O'Neill: That's -- with the sleeping back and stuff?

Johnson: That's with the sleeping bag and stuff.

O'Neill: Okay.

Johnson: So I, I get in there, and um I get dressed, get suited, get ready. And then uh I hike it, come down, there's like a little gully right here.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And, um, see all the kids were right here. Teenagers. So I figured, well, the best place to do this, best shot would be lay up on the hill, it's perfect camouflage, just lay right down and ah, turkey shoot, whatever you want to call it. But I climbed up, I get situated there, now I'm thinking, can do I this, can I really go through with this, can I do this. Well, as I'm debating this, I'm sweatin' profusely. I'm just, I'm constantly wiping with my shirt, and just. The kids are, are, the four of them are swimmin' across right down here. Usually when they swim down across, they usually climb up here and they just walk back across, 'cause they're too weak to swim back. Or sometimes, there's a little rock face over here where they like to jump off from, too. Well, I'm right, I'm right about here, I'm going to put a little, this, it's close, it's close.

O'Neill: Between the rock face that you talked about where --

Johnson: I'm right here.

O'Neill: --they jump off of and the bridge?

Johnson: Yes.

O'Neill: Okay.

Johnson: So you got the rock face over here, so I'm I'm thinkin' they're just going to climb up and over and over and you know and go back. But now, they're comin' my, they're comin' my way. And I'm pinned, I'm trapped, I got nowhere to go, 'cause it's like a

little point that I'm on right there. If I get up, I got all my -- I'm busted, and I know kids, everyone's got cell phones, and --

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: So as they're comin' up, I hear the voices are getting closer, 'cause you really can't tell if you're sitting here, you don't, you really can't tell if they're getting closer or they're climbin' up the hill, you can't tell, so I, so that's what I said, they're right up on me. They got right up on me, and uh I let go.

Baldwin: Were you sittin' down when they came up the hill?

Johnson: I was laying down, kind o' like in a prone, just layin' on my side, lookin' at them over there.

Baldwin: Over -- this --

Johnson: Yeah.

Baldwin: You were looking at them --

Johnson: I was looking at them. All the sudden, they come up—

Baldwin: Then you (inaudible)

Johnson: to my right, and, ah, and I, I just jumped, I jumped up, and I just leaned into it, and just started, you know, spraying prey, whatever you call it, just let go. Emptied uh --

O'Neill: You said there were four?

Johnson: There was -- I realized there were four. I counted the heads, and I could tell by listening to the voices there were two female.

O'Neill: Um-hmm. And as they were getting closer, you could hear a little more?

Johnson: I could hear 'em talkin'. Yeah. And ah, like I said, I couldn't, I couldn't tell if they were coming closer, I could just tell that there was two female and there was two male. And ah, and it was just like, I don't know, just -- I don't know what what made me -- the push with the force, or just didn't, I, I don't know, I don't know, but I did it. I let go, and uh, and uh after I gave them a volley, these people over here were, were whoopin' and hollerin'. They thought it was fire works.

O'Neill: Mm-hmm.

Johnson: I don't know how people can't tell fireworks from gunshot. I mean, that .308's really loud. I mean, it ain't no firecracker. I mean, I was goin' deaf after I, I let go with them. I was, they must have been yellin' loud for me to hear 'em. With my ears are ringin'.

And, ah, I think a couple of kids fell over here. I don't know if they were playing dead. I still don't know how many are dead or wounded or what. I don't know.

O'Neill: So, then two fall?

Johnson: But, I think I see a couple fall, I don't know, one playing dead, and I think that-- one kind o' fell kind of funny, like, you know when somethin' happens when your knees just give out and you just buck, I seen that, I think, well, maybe I have a hit. But um, if they wanted to run, 'cause I don't know, if I was gonna get to, you know, some people, during times like you get a hero once in a while, I was worried about that hero factor. I was thinking, maybe one guy is gonna turn around. So I was more concerned, instead of chasing them, I, I started reloadin'.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And --

O'Neill: You think you had an empty mag at that point, or did you just reload?

Johnson: I don't know. A gun ja--, yeah things were happening so fast, I'm just movin' things.

Baldwin: You strip, you strip your uh you strip your mag, did you throw it down on the ground, or did you?

Background voice: Todd Metras from Dickingson County is here.

Johnson: I think I set it down. I think at one point the weapon jammed a couple of times, too, so I'm trying to clear it, just in case this guy comes up behind me and tries to killin' me with a rock or somethin', you know, do somethin'. So -- but when I see that, I don't see them any more. I'm just focused on them.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And they don't real -- as soon as -- I think at the point they realized it's not fireworks, or right after, maybe just right after I, I fired the first shot at 'em --

O'Neill: Um hmm

Johnson: But I'm, I'm nearsighted, I can't -- I had to, it's zeroed for about a hundred yards, I think I had it figured, but, um, I just started sprayin' as best I -- just , did, I really didn't take aim, I just started sprayin'.

O'Neill: Across the river?

Johnson: Across, yeah, I started sprayin' over here and over here, and then, ah, I know some screamers, I, I heard some screamin', and so some guy that, I must o' hit somebody. And this one kid, I guess, I don't know if I wounded him but he wouldn't leave his

friend. I guess he was holdin' him or somethin'. Or, I don't know what happened to the other two, they ducked behind the wall. I just don't know. I was -- But this kid was screamin' there, something, "give me a chance" or ca -- I don't remember, he was screamin' somethin'.

O'Neill: This was the kid across the river?

Johnson: Across the river. Yeah. He's, I think he's holdin' his friend.

Baldwon:: Did you shoot at him again?

Johnson: Then I reloaded. Yes. I did. I was, I was going to take him out, or -- he still wouldn't move so I don't know if I wounded him and he couldn't move or he just petrified with fear. I don't know, but ah, I loaded up and gave another big volley, and then ah, then I could hear sirens, someone was already on the cell phone.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And I, I could hear -- I could hear the sirens.

O'Neill: Now, you said that that was your initial intended targets, right?

Johnson: I --

O'Neill: The only thing that surprised you was that they came across the bridge and up the --

Johnson: Well --

O'Neill: --where you were?

Johnson: I, I was almost considering uh chicken out, what ever you want to ca--. I wasn't gonna do this.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: But when they kind of jumped up and surprised me, that's, that's it.

O'Neill: You said you zeroed in the rifle for a hundred yards?

Johnson: I think so, it was about a hundred yards.

O'Neill: And you told me what they did, after four years that this was somethin' you'd been thinkin' about, right?

Johnson: Well, I always wanted to have the rifle just ready just to shoot, 'cause I do like to shoot, I just go and shoot, and ah, if the case ever happened, I like to have the option to be ready. If you fail to plan you can plan on failure. I'm just sayin', I mean --

O'Neill: Did you do any practice runs by going out there and?

Johnson: No. I didn't do any practice run. Everything was on a whim, everything was kind of half-assed.

O'Neill: Okay.

Baldwin: So you never kind of sat up on the hill before?

Johnson: Well, what threw, do everything half-assed, was, I was going to maybe set up a plan, get a better plan, but, but the thing with Jennifer was basically on, more or less on a whim. Wasn't -- it was kind of half-ass planned.

O'Neill: Mm-hmm.

Johnson: But like I said, I didn't know I was gonna be able to go through with it. And then when all that stuff started coming down, that just pushed that event all the much faster.

Baldwin: So that that event was inevitable, it was going to happen, in your opinion?

Johnson: Not really. Not, not -- if the thing with Jennifer didn't happen, if that didn't happen, if she hadn't, you know, if she didn't call the police, that wasn't going to happen. I was goinna go turn myself in for, 'cause I felt really bad about what I did with her. And ah -

Baldwin: Scott, what I'm, I guess what I'm trying to say is, even with the -- even with Jennifer event, let's say that didn't happen?

Johnson: That wasn't going to happen.

Baldwin: Okay. This would have never happened?

Johnson: That would o' never happened.

Baldwin: Not that day, but in the future, did you think it would happen?

Johnson: No. It wasn't going to happen, because I talked to my mom, I was, ah, you know, after we were talkin' about, like, the incident you know. She didn't know what exactly happened. I'm saying, well, if she don't call the police on me or somethin' like that, I'm gonna turn myself in and try to, you know, have a go at it. I mean, about the child su--, you know maybe try. 'Cause I was just so sick of hidin', livin' the way I was livin'. And ah so, so I waited, and when I found out that happened, that, that kind of pushed me to that point. So I got ready, I got to that point, saying, even at that point, I didn't know if I was going to do it or not. I was still havin', had a lot of fear, and ah, what kind of set it all into motion, was those kids come up and spooked me.

O'Neill: But, but you went over and got your sleeping bag, your blanket, your clothes on. You, you --

Johnson: I wanted to have that option.

O'Neill: You suited up, so so you know, that that option at some point even four years ago was going to be something you had, whether to flee and hide, 'member we talked about that?

Johnson: Yes.

O'Neill: Or do something, and depending upon, you had that option?

Johnson: I wanted to have that option, depending on what my heart was telling me to do, or how I felt.

O'Neill: Now you saw your mom that day before you left there, 'cause you, she said, hey, the officer was here, right?

Johnson: That's co, when, yeah.

O'Neill: You told her, you said, uh she says, hey, you need to contact the officer, you said, I'll take care of it. What did you mean by that?

Johnson: Okay. When I said I'll take care of it, I said um, she gave me the card, I said give me give me some money. I went, I went and got something to eat. I was gonna think about it. I said, do I turn myself in, that's when, do I turn myself in, or do I go out and do this. You know, do that. And, ah, and I was jugglin' it. I was weighin' it and.

O'Neill: Okay. After --

Johnson: So. Let's get to this so I can finish up with this.

O'Neill: Sure.

Johnson: And after them, I load up, I gave them, I gave them, I think it was a second. They might say different, but I emptied a couple of clips. I got one, I think one 20 round, one 10 round, and ah reloaded. I couldn't put that, you can only fill, you can't fill those clips anyways max, like they say you can. Yyou really got to fight, and so I think it's like 75 percent full, maybe seven in a 10, maybe maybe 15 in a 20 at one point, maybe, if that many. But after I let go, with them, I was thinking about reloadin' again and doin' it again, 'cause he's still screamin'. I think I might have missed him or somethin', 'cause I was just, just sprayin'. I couldn't really, couldn't see, I got sweat and stuff, I couldn't, couldn't really -- I was having a hard time trying to focus. And then I heard the sirens. Uh, and I almost thought, do I sit here and wait and let them come down, because I had planned, I had planned for them to be my bait.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And I was, the truth, that I was lookin' for, I was going to, I was lookin' for maximum, you know, numbers. How can I get the most out of this.

O'Neill: How much more ammo did you have?

Johnson: Didn't you guys find it out there?

O'Neill: We didn't do that.

Baldwin: We haven't been out there since we talked to you.

Johnson: Because I left it. After I while I was hoofing it through the woods, that stuff was getting heavy, so I just ditched it. I just kept one clip, just enough ta, ta end it.

O'Neill: Where do you think you ditched it at?

Johnson: Well, that -- that's -- that stuff is, um, I'd, I'd have, I'd have to, I'd have to tell you it's somewhere over here. The ammo box. But I had about I think there's a couple hundred rounds, or 150 rounds.

O'Neill: Was it all that type of ammo?

Johnson: Just, no. All one kind.

O'Neill: Okay. And that was for that rifle?

Johnson: Just yeah, just for the rifle.

O'Neill: And you just ditched it while you were out there?

Johnson: Yeah. After I got tired, after I walked it and walked over here, I was getting' tired o' carryin' it. I said, I ain't gonna need this.

O'Neill: So you were thinkin' about the ambulances comin', and that's your bigger picture, and you want to get mass-max number?

Johnson: Maximum numbers. Yes. But after, when I, after I, after they fell, after I got them, they all got, 'cause this all happened so fast, this happened.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: Then when I had time to think about it, that's when the, um, your reality sets into orbit or somethin', but I heard the sirens, and I said, do I really want to push this any fur --. I mean, I could o' done a lot more damage. A lot, lot more. 'Cause I know where to

move around, I can, I know how to maneuver through there and ah. Do I wait and just peck 'em off as they come in.

O'Neill: So you made a choice?

Johnson: So, so I didn't. So, I said, nah I'm just gonna -- I'm just gonna -- so, I started running, or actually just walked cuz a fast, walk -- walked over here and uh. Then when I was over here somewhere, um, I guess the police were just shootin' wildly into the woods, they didn't know where I was, but I heard gunfire. I, I, they had to o' been the police over here, had to o' been Dickinson -- somebody over here. Shootin'. 'Cause I heard gunfire probably just shooting wildly over there.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And I don't know why they were doing that, 'cause there, there were kids over there -- that someone, that I should, could have been alive. They could have been shootin' at, shootin' them up for all I know. But I heard gunfire. So they, that told me they didn't know where the hell I was. So I was over here, and, um, and then I just, I laid down for a while, I laid down in a spot, I was watching 'em go around me. I was, I picked out a spot, just kind of like a little ditch or whatever. I just laid down in it. I laid, like, I laid at one point, just I guess about three hours. I didn't have a watch on, but about three hours, I just laid there, and everyone just kept zoomin' past me, zoomin' past me, I was right there, and I, I spent the night there.

Baldwin: So you were in this area over here all night?

Johnson: Over here. And then --

Baldwin: So that's, that's like a little island, right? Or is that a peninsula-type thing?

Johnson: There's a little peninsula right here and then I was over here.

Baldwin: You were on the other side of the peninsula?

Johnson: Yeah. There's a little peninsula, yeah, there's a little island here, but I was, I was over here.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: And then this morning, I got up, I said, well, the way the light's comin' in, I'm a sittin' duck, you can really see me easy, depending when the light's, certain angles of the light. I said, I was looking at the sun coming up, I said, I'm, I'm a sitting duck right here, so I got up. I started moving. So I, I, I walked to the tracks. This is, I don't know if ah the officer seen me with, he had uh his binoculars on, but I kind of poked my head out just. I knew they had the tracks covered. I knew they were gonna have it covered, and uh I was just trying to see where they were at, and he was steppin' out and lookin', it looked like he was lookin' right at me, but, ah, you know, this happened this mornin', and and

then I kind of started to step back, and I, and I just kind of stepped back, I went back in the woods a couple of yards and I just waited right there. Wait, I was gonna wait for them to come to me, but no one did, so I don't know if they saw me or not.

Baldwin: If they would have came to you, what would you have done?

Johnson: I would o' killed 'em. Those rounds would o' ate through that vest, no problem, that vest wouldn't gonna do no good. I was gonna, I was gonna probably gonna kill 'em.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: But.

Baldwin: Where were those officers that you seen, were they this way, or --

Johnson: Over here.

Baldwin: Okay, so --

O'Neill: On the road, or the tracks?

Johnson: This, this is on the tracks. So I waited. I said, well, that's odd. If they'd seen me, shouldn't they be comin', or comin' in numbers. If they seen me. And that plane just kept circlin' around. I don't know if that plane ever saw me. I don't know how it could, but what got to me is, don't they have infrared? They should o' spotted me that easy layin' on the ground, that for how many times they circled. You know, what if I wasn't, I was thinking, jez what if I didn't, what if I just dropped all my gear. I used to, I do a lot of running, run eight miles. And ah, I could o' dropped all my stuff and I could o' ran and been on the other side of County N, and here everyone's right here. I could o'been gone to Pembine or whatever, and everyone's, I mean, how do they know I was there. I mean, just lucky, I mean. But I didn't do that. So I stayed. So I come around back after I seen those officers and I, I kind of waited. Then I was gonna, I walked around again, and ah, I guess he had ah some kind of alarm set by the road but I tripped it or somethin', some kind of, maybe, you know, where you walk through a door, walk through, you got these two beams, must have been a beam or something, I tripped on somethin', but there is alarm. And, and ah, I looked out there, I seen 'em everywhere. There was a pile of 'em right at the tracks, right there, where it intersects, the road and the tracks. I was thinkin', well, what do I do, I was thinking about runnin' out there and just you know, lettin' go. And just do like that. And, then, ah, but then I didn't. You know, I thought about it. But I didn't do it. I just, I don't know. But that was it, then, then I turned myself in. I just (inaudible) --

Baldwin: So basically, you spent the night in this area?

Johnson: Over here.

Baldwin: And then --

Johnson: And in the morning, I walked out, I was (inaudible).

Baldwin: You never went across the tracks back over again, right?

Johnson: No.

Baldwin: You just kind of just kind of stayed in this area the whole morning?

Johnson: Stayed over there.

O'Neill: You talked, you talked about the idea, in the last time we talked, shoot-em-ups. You kept saying, shoot-em-ups?

Johnson: I don't know just, I don't know how do you call it, or --

O'Neill: You refer to it as, ah --

Johnson: I don't know, I don't know what's a better word for it, I mean, should I just say killed each other or somethin', I hope we kill each other or. I don't know, that's what I wanted. You know, but.

O'Neill: Single shot?

Baldwin: Yeah. Early this morning there was a single shot. Did you hear that? Was that you?

Johnson: A single shot?

Baldwin: A single shot right around, right, probably an hour before you may have turned yourself in?

Johnson: Hell, no. No. I'm not that stupid. You shoot, that lets them know where you're at.

Baldwin: Did you hear one?

Johnson: No.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: Where I was laying down, I was, I was lying down this morning. I got, I got up when the sun ca--, I didn't have a watch, but I'm guessing 5:00-ish, 6:00-ish, but I got up over here and, um, I said, uh, I, I need to move over here, so that's what I did, but.

O'Neill: What else did you ditch in the woods besides the ammo canister when you were on the move?

Johnson: Um, I had a bag with a blanket in it, and I think some bug spray.

O'Neill: Did you have any medical supplies or things like that, or?

Johnson: I had a couple of things in my pockets, stuff just in case if I got shot, I could put a tourniquet on or somethin', so I could keep going, I mean, for a little while.

O'Neill: Mm-hmm.

Johnson: If that'd be the case. You know, I wanted to have that option. Whatever. But other than that, no.

O'Neill: How come you didn't take the .350 the ah Desert Eagle with you? --

Johnson: Didn't need it. Not for out there.

O'Neill: That wasn't a part of your plan at all, to take that with?

Johnson: No. I kept that at the house just in case if I was at the house and someone come knockin' on the door for me, I use that and walk through, you know, kill 'em there. If that, that'd be the case. I don't know if I would o' done so or not. I don't know.

Baldwin: I got, Scott, now this position that yer, that you took up on the rocks?

Johnson: Um-hmm.

Baldwin: Yer, is this like part of this thing, that scenario that's goin' on in your head for the last how many ever years?

Johnson: No.

Baldwin: Was this like what you had planned, that perfect thing, or this, was this happenstance?

Johnson: No. This happened -- that happened half-assed. I mean, I just, I just know from the military, I know from my military training, I know from just common sense what positions to take up, what's best to look. I mean, just by common sense.

Baldwin: Sure.

Johnson: But, but this stuff ain't, I'm not sitting up at night saying, oh, yeah, I'm going to do this -

Baldwin: No, no. I don't mean --

Johnson: --do that. No. Nothing like that. But I just knew what to do.

O'Neill: Well, it appeared that when you were tellin' us, when you were walkin' on the tracks to go over --

Johnson: Um-hmm.

O'Neill: You saw the kids swimming?

Johnson: Um-hmm.

O'Neill: You said, yeah, and I figured okay, I'm going to go up there. So you were making up your mind as you were going past those kids and walkin' across the tracks, right?

Johnson: Yeah. That's right. Yeah. Yeah. Right. You know, I'm thinking, wherever they're at, I'm gonna set up my position, you know, to get the best --

Baldwin: The best sh--

Johnson: --the best shot. And, ah, that's when I said that guy was, that I bumped into that older guy.

Baldwin: As you were crossing the bridge, did you, is that when you noticed, okay, I'm going to go set up over there, or after you geared up? You were (inaudible)

Johnson: I ki--, I ki--, I know the, yeah, well, the best ,well, I thought about settin' up right below the bridge. But then I'm kind of pinned myself, because you gotta climb up a big hill, if somethin' starts happenin'. I don't want to be trapped. I want -- I left, I left myself a place where I could run if I had to, I mean kind of after the shooting, I could ditch back this way.

O'Neill: Well, when those kids surprised you, I mean, you heard them walking, right, you saw them swim up to the land there. --

Johnson: Yeah.

O'Neill: You knew -- (inaudible)

Johnson: I didn't, I didn't know if they were gonna come back. I know what you're saying. I know what you're saying, left to run, but I didn't, I was laying down, and by the time they come up, he was look, he was looking at me. And then I jumped up. You know, I'm saying, I wanted to leave myself room to run from, if I get over-swamped by police when they start coming in.

O'Neill: So you weren't concerned about them?

Johnson: No. I wasn't concerned about the kids. I was, I was kind of, I was thinkin' about, yeah, I took up position here, and maybe had a better shots at 'em. But I said, come over here, I need to leave myself a way out, as the case when, when like, like I said, my initial plan was to use those people as bait so anyone start pourin' in.

Baldwin: You wanted to kill cops as well, or (inaudible)

Johnson: Well, ki—anybody. Anybody.

Baldwin: Anybody that came in for help?

Johnson: Anybody. Yeah.

Baldwin: Were you still in your position here when help arrives fer --?

Johnson: No. I was gone. When I heard -- when I heard the sirens comin', I was gone.

Baldwin: That's (inaudible).

Johnson: That's when I left. Yeah. I left.

Baldwin: If you would o' seen somebody come in fairly fairly quickly, if you'd o' been in that position, what would you done?

Johnson: Probably shot.

Baldwin: Probably shot. Okay.

Johnson: I mean.

Baldwin: Um, okay.

Johnson: I don't know.

Baldwin: It could have been any kids, were you after kids, or were you just after anybody that was gonna be there?

Johnson: I wasn't gonna shoot no kids. There's hardly any ever kids down there. The only time there's kids there is if there's people that come down there with boats and stuff like that, but like babies and, nothing, nothing like.

O'Neill: Young adults?

Johnson: No. Just -- I was -- I knew, I knew the type of people that were down there. Basically teenagers, or sometimes there's older people down there, too. That's rare. But.

Baldwin: That's what I mean by kids. I guess I'm a little old.

Johnson: I wasn't talking like five or six year olds, nothing like that, but it didn't matter who was down there, I was -- it didn't -- I wasn't bein' selective that way. I --

Baldwin: You were just in that mode that you were --

Johnson: Well --

Baldwin: --going to take people out?

Johnson: Yeah. At that time. I don't know.

Baldwin: When did that stop for ya?

Johnson: Well, when I still, after I heard the siren, after, after I said, that gave that kid, over, see he's holdin' his friend, I gave him a second volley, and then I was thinking, and then I, I heard the sirens comin', I said, do I sit here and wait for them, or do I go, and then I just got up and I left.

Baldwin: Okay. Did you ever see these other two kids anymore after that, the ones that --

Johnson: I didn't see, the only thing, the only person --

Baldwin: See when you're coming down this way, you must have walked past --

Johnson: I walked past --

Baldwin: You must o' walked past a couple bodies?

Johnson: I seen, the only thing I saw when I come back here, I saw one female. And I I looked at her, and I said, you can stop playing dead now.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: And, ah, that's the only that's the only person I saw.

Baldwin: So you didn't see? Okay.

Johnson: Then I looked, I looked, I gave -- that's the only thing I saw. I wasn't going to shoot her again, she was laying down. I didn't, I was just headed on out, and ah, I looked, I said, you can stop playing dead. And ah, I looked, I think, I think, I knew I killed one. I think I saw she had a hole in her head.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: And then I, I don't know, I just got, I got numb. I, I'm still na-- I just, I started, I started walkin'. I didn't know what I was gonna do. I was just, I was gonna try to run. Do, I didn't know, I was just, didn't know, whatever happened, I was just gonna roll with the punches, just roll with it as things happened. And, there was no more real plan or anything.

Baldwin: I guess what I meant by when I, when I asked you that was, of course, you left this position when you start hearing sirens, okay. At that point you're kind of disengaging a bit, correct?

Johnson: I want, I'm ta -- well, I, I just, I'm yeah --

Baldwin: You're done?

Johnson: I'm done with sh-- at killing at that moment. Yeah.

Baldwin: At that moment. But you ain't done thinking about it, as far as the next day, you're thinking about?

Johnson: Oh, yeah. I'm still, I'm still thinking about, I'm thinking about how to kind o' end my life.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: How can I get them to take my life.

Baldwin: So that was your second thinking --

Johnson: My second thought was, how can I get them to take my life.

Baldwin: How come you didn't take your own life?

Johnson: I don't know. Ah, you might consider this. I don't, I don't believe in suicide.

Baldwin: I'm just wondering? Yeah I --

Johnson: I don't believe in ss—I, I just don't believe in suicide. I mean, I thought about it. I'd rather have someone else do it.

Baldwin: Okay. That's understandable?

Johnson: I don't know if there's -- see, I don't know, see you gotta consider the scale of this. I don't know if you're Biblical or something like that. I'm not, but ah, if there's a hell, I, I just don't believe in suicide. Suicide's, might go to hell.

Baldwin: Well, you were pretty religious at one time, weren't you?

Johnson: Yeah. But I also looked at some things, too, that makes the Bible look really stupid. You know, like after, like, Noah's ark stuff, all the sudden we got all our different languages from, just like, the Tower of Babel, but no one ever really talks about that. That's, that's one of things that everyone believes in, but doesn't wanna talk, they wanna sweep that under the rug. And, that's, I just don't believe in that stuff any more.

Baldwin: What did do you to your thumb?

Johnson: This?

Baldwin: Is that from last night, or no?

Johnson: That was, um, I think I was cleanin', when I was getting' the stuff ready, you know, in excitement, I think I, I cut it on the, on the rifle or somethin'. I was, maybe trying --

Baldwin: Kids are down there when that happened?

Johnson: When I was getting re-- when I was getting ready, getting stuff put together, and stuff, I think I was loading.

Baldwin: Was your rifle broke down, is that what you mean by puttin' things together?

Johnson: Yeah. Ah, I give it ah, I was cleaning it, I just -- I ran the um, a brush through the bore.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: Just to be on the safe side, want everything to be functional.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: So I think as I was puttin' it back together I nicked it and then I grabbed a first aid thing and grabbed a Band-Aid and stuck it on.

Baldwin: Was this the first time you've ah, been involved in killing anything, or anybody?

Johnson: No. No. No. Um, um I killed, I killed a few cats.

Baldwin: No. I mean anybody?

Johnson: Anybody. I'm sorry.

Baldwin: I'm sorry. I, I, that came out wrong.

Johnson: Um, no. I mean, that's, that's it.

Baldwin: That's it. You've never been involved in anything else like this, where you've killed another human being?

Johnson: No. No. Um, the one, the one thing that I did, I did pull a, a, a rifle one time on my ex-wife, and I threatened her with it.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: Um, that was back in I think '99. And, ah, I think I was more scared than she was, 'cause I realized what would happen to the kid, I ki-- you know. It's just, it's just ah an explosive anger. Just like I said, some other things piling up on me, the stress, whatever you would want to call it, but, snapped, and uh, and I did that. And I was more terrified than she was, at realizing what I did. At that moment, I I freaked, I mean.

Baldwin: So you never actually seen a psychologist or anything like that for your problems, or, I think you said you did, but --

Johnson: When I was going through the sheriff's department. I, I talked to a --

Baldwin: Really wasn't working for you, or you didn't think it was --

O'Neill: Pre-Employment?

Johnson: While I was going through the pre stuff and ah --

Baldwin: But I'm talking about, did you ever go on your own, to just maybe work out your problems with a --

Johnson: I took psychology in college and stuff like that, but ah --

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: But, as far as like psychologist and stuff like that, that's a kind of a messed up religion in itself. That's kind of, people know right from wrong. I don't know if you want to call it right from wrong. People know what they're doing.

Baldwin: Yeah, I couldn't agree more.

Johnson: This is what's funny. People talk about, oh, that kid's bipolar, he does this and does that. But does he piss and shit himself? No. He chooses to go use the bathroom. So he controls himself. Right? People control what they do. I mean --

Baldwin: Just like you?

Johnson: That's, that's right.

Baldwin: You know this was wrong?

Johnson: Wrong. And everyone I caught (inaudible). I chose to do it. And, yeah. This wa -- whatever, I mean. It's. Yeah. I knew it was gonna lead up to, we're, where --

Baldwin: You knew the consequences?

Johnson: Consequences.

Baldwin: --of those actions?

Johnson: That's right.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: Just like everyone else.

O'Neill: Where did you buy the gun at again?

Baldwin: Yeah, I was gonna touch on that.

Johnson: That was, um,

Baldwin: Was that Shreveport –

Johnson: I got that at, um, at Shreveport at a gun and knife show.

O'Neill: Why did you buy it?

Johnson: Well, I bought all that stuff, that's right after after I quit my job, after I had the kids back in '90, no, 2001. After I had the kids for a while, and I was here. Kingsford. And, ah, I worked for a couple more months, and then, ah, I just snapped. I said, I ain't going to do it any more. I'm just going to quit, I'm just going to drop everything. I mean it's I'm not doin' this any more, so I went on a shopping spree.

O'Neill: And you bought the, the rifle?

Johnson: Bought the rifle, the pistol, bought everything, bought all the, bought everything, ammunition, everything. And ah, I was planning on just, just running away, just --

O'Neill: So this ammunition that you had with you that you had in the case, I mean, you didn't buy anything new recently, right?

Johnson: No.

Baldwin: Bought all the camo, everything that's out there that was purchased yesterday was purchased at that time?

Johnson: Pretty much. Yeah. About 95 percent of it.

Baldwin: Okay, Couple odds and ends didn't come with that. Um, if we provided you with a map, you could probably show us pretty close to where you dumped that ammo, right?

Johnson: Yeah.

Baldwin: Did that ammo come with the gun?

Johnson: No, I bought that separately.

Baldwin: Okay.

O'Neill: In Louisiana?

Johnson: Yeah. Everything was.

Baldwin: So you've had that stuff for a while, too? The ammo?

Johnson: Yeah. That was purchased down there and brought up up here. Just stashed out there.

Baldwin: Got anything else stashed out there that we should know about, other than --

Johnson: That's what, that's what I'm thinking. I mean, um, well, you know where all that, you know where all that stuff is right here.

Baldwin: Yeah.

Johnson: So, no. That, that's --

Baldwin: Okay. You ain't got any --

Johnson: Wait, I think I got a vest, I do have a bullet-proof vest somewhere right in here somewhere. That was purchased at the gun show, too. I think right around here, there's, there's a vest.

Baldwin: Okay.

O'Neill: Why didn't you put that on before you --

Johnson: It was stupid to put that thing on. It was cumbersome and plus, you guys use a rifles, you use a .223, so that'd eat right through that thing.

Baldwin: That's true.

O'Neill: Is it hidden someplace there?

Johnson: Yeah. It's in a plastic bag.

O'Neill: What kind of concealment? Is it buried?

Johnson: Just buried. It's under some leaves.

Baldwin: Okay.

O'Neill: How long ago (inaudible)

Johnson: I haven't touched it since I put it there. I don't think, I think I might have moved it once, check, see if it was dry, then I just left, said I'm never going to use this.

Baldwin: No, no other firearms out there, so in case somebody would get a hold of this, and no?

Johnson: No. That's what I'm thinking. No, mm-mmm.

O'Neill: Any other ammo that was at the house, do you have guns for those, where'd they go?

Johnson: Now there's some ammunition there, I think. There might be some ammunition scattered around. I know there's some .308s or something that, that might be scattered, but --

O'Neill: But at home you had some .40 caliber ammunition, right?

Johnson: Yeah.

O'Neill: Did you, did you used to have a .40 caliber gun?

Johnson: No, no.

O'Neill: Why do we have .40 caliber ammunition?

Johnson: Well, in case, ah, you know, take one of your firearms. You guys use .40s, right?

O'Neill: We don't.

Johnson: .357's, 40's. But I have the option if you, if I take someone's weapon, you got a .40, or.

O'Neill: Where did you get that ammo at?

Johnson: That was, ah, I think I bought all that, I just, I think I bought that at the gun show, too. I think I might, no. I think I was, I think it was. No, it was, I take that back. I think I was ah, I think I was trying to get a, a .40. But all I could get was the .44.

Baldwin: Okay.

O'Neill: The 12 gauge ammunition and No. 2 shot?

Johnson: That, that came from um, I think from Janice Thoma -- I think one of um, I think a garage sale, or somethin' like that, that's one girl I met when I first moved here. I think. Can I get -- (Indicating more water)

Baldwin: You sure can. Um, I think just a couple quick questions real quick, and um we'll get you a break and get you some water. Um, you, you ah, you said you got down there

probably around 4:00 o'clock you thought, 4:30 maybe, to that area, when you walked in?

Johnson: Yeah. When I, yeah, out here, I'm gonna sa -- yeah. I'd say 4:00 ish. I'm not sure, but I know --

Baldwin: So it didn't take you a whole lot of time to get geared up?

Johnson: Well, I went and I ate. I left, I think it was around 3:00 o'clock. So I went and ate, and I walked. I was getting, I was headin' towards Aurora Liquors, I was going to use the phone call. I was almost there. And then, ah, I backed peddled to the woods, and --

Baldwin: Now, I can kind of surmise by talking with you that um, the situation with Jennifer really, you ain't likin' to talk about that a lot?

Johnson: Well, it's wrong. It's bad. It's embarrassing.

Baldwin: Yeah. And I understand.

Johnson: It's um --

Baldwin: But could you tell me a little bit more about that, what a, what exactly happened out there?

Johnson: Well, I'm not gonna talk about that, because there's no need to talk about it. You can trust whatever she said, I mean, I trust her, she's not a liar, I mean.

Baldwin: So what, what she says is probably accurate?

Johnson: What she says. 'Cause ah, for me to tell you, I might be lying, 'cause I was stressed, I was nervous, I was sweating, I was, I was not um --

Baldwin: She says you took her to show her a rock. That was one of your initial --

Johnson: Well, when we go, stuff like that, I show her stuff, we just talk about stuff. She'll, she likes to eat berries, pick berries, she was wanting to get some plants, or somethin' like that. I just thought o' something, just something to get her off the track, just, just somethin' stupid, just anything to --

Baldwin: Where about was that rock?

Johnson: That was, I think right about here.

Baldwin: Oh. Okay. So you weren't too far.

Johnson: It was just right off the tracks, just somethin' to get her off, just somethin' to just --

Baldwin: Get her off the tracks?

Johnson: Get her focused on that, and then --

O'Neill: Why no relationship with her? You guys were friends. Why didn't you ask her if you could be?

Johnson: How can I have a relationship with somebody when I can't hold a job? How can I get a job? I don't have no ID. I haven't had ID since 2004. Like I said, I had no future.

O'Neill: So she didn't think that you were worthy? Did she say something like that or what?

Johnson: Well, I think at first she kind of liked me, but then when I told her, told her that, you know, I'm not working or somethin' like that, seems like then she started maybe distancing, distancing herself.

O'Neill: Sure.

Johnson: 'Cause maybe she saw no future in me. Or maybe, I don't know what. I was tellin' her, I was thinkin' about goin' back into the military. And ah, but, but as far as having a future, I mean, no, I didn't see it there. I mean, I seen it. I just seen us as friends. I was, I was kind of hoping maybe sometime in the future that we might be more, but she told me somethin' else, that she had a bad experience with somebody, and ah, I guess that turned her off all together towards --

Baldwin: Towards men in general.

Johnson: Yeah. And just, you know, just my luck, you know, the only person I find that's halfway nice doesn't want to. And then when I, when I, when I forced it, you know, it just, it just felt felt all wrong. It just, I wanted to. I wanted her to want me. It just --

Baldwin: One last question, from me. What made you decide to turn yourself in, or come on out of the woods an --?

Johnson: The last, um, I don't, I don't want to fill you up with any bullshit, but I just uh, I was kind o' thirsty.

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: I hadn't had any, anything to drink. I was kind o' thirsty. I said, should I go, er, and another part, I didn't want to end up in a damn wheel-- be in prison plus being in a wheelchair, being shot up and not dead, have someone, be just being shot up and not have the job done right.

Baldwin: alright. So, you had a few fears goin' through your head about what could happen?

Johnson: If I want to be put down, I want to be put down, I've got no problem, I'm not afraid to die, it's just, if I'm going to be put down, then put me down.

O'Neill: I'll get you some water, okay?.

Baldwin: Alright.

O'Neill: Now it's up to you if (inaudible). Get his water and somethin' to eat, how's that?

Johnson: Yeah. Yeah.

(inaudible)

(Whereupon Detective O'Neill leaves the interview room.)

Baldwin: You talked about, um, you kind o' talked about, Scott, that you'd like to kind o' write out some feel--, some, the way you're feelin'?

Johnson: Not really feeling', but right now, I'm not gonna do -- I'm not gonna do anything now until --

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: 'Til I get, 'til I get a help of a lawyer to help me organize.

Baldwin: Oh. No problem.

Johnson: Put my uh--

Baldwin: Okay. I just thought maybe you, you felt more comfortable doin' that. That's fine?

Johnson: But, um, he can help me organize, organize my thoughts, organize everything where --

Baldwin: Okay.

Johnson: --I can convey, regardless of the outcome, convey the actual truth of of the whos, hows, and whys.

(Whereupon Detective O'Neill returns to the interview room.)

Baldwin: Is that lunch? Let him have a little bite. I suppose you're getting hungry, huh?

Johnson: Ya, I haven't ate since yesterday.

Baldwin: Little bag o' lunch. Get some water, chew on that. Let me get some water for you.

(Whereupon Detective Baldwin leaves the interview room.)

Johnson: Let me ask you a question.

O'Neill: Sure.

Johnson: How does it feel to be talkin' to somebody like me?

O'Neill: Well, Scott, you're not the first.

Johnson: Well I know that. I'm not. So I know that. So do you, I mean, do you get numb?

O'Neill: How do I feel? If I get past the idea o' what actually happened, what do I think about you as far as the way you are? You articulate well. You're very, well you're smart. I was in the military as well, not in the Army. Ah, I feel a certain kinship to the idea that, you know, I understand structure. As far as having my legs taken out of you in your personal life, I've had the same issue. And I, I somehow under, I underst -- I understand that part. You know. I told you before I was married once before. I had kids. Those kids are not part of my life, I mean, I've been cheated on, I had all these things happened in my life. And when you get to a point where you just feel despair, you know, I, I'm not gonna walk in your shoes, I can't, you know, but I, I can say this, you know. If I don't have the proper tools to be able to deal with the things that are given to us, like they are, sometimes things happen.

Johnson: Yeah. People want answers, people want to hear this and that. I don't know what, what to tell them, you know, honestly tell them, sometimes, I don't know.

O'Neill: I got that right away. I got that from you right away. I'm not -- I'm not gonna walk in your shoes, you know what I'm sayin', but I have certain things, when you ask me about how do I feel talkin' to someone like you. You don't think I've been there too. Not this extreme, but I've been there. But you know what I'm saying, was thankful about, I'll tell you this, here's what I was thankful about. My support. People I could talk to. People I could vent to, people I could say, hey, look, there's how I'm feeling. And you know what they told me, you're going to feel that way for a while, but here's what's gonna happen. You know, I had a little road map as to what feelings I was gonna feel because of the relationship that went bad, and, and, and you're going to feel those things, but here's what's gonna happen. Next year, you'll be talk about something different, um, you're gonna act a lot different, you're gonna feel a lot better. You know. I can only -- God, you grow up here, you go in the Army, you get out, you're tryin' to do better for yourself, you got kids, you got a wife, you know, you say you're workin' like a dog, you're goin' to school like a dog, you're a 110 percenter, is what you're tellin' us, you know, and I tell you what, when you don't feel that by others that you're doin' enough, or enough isn't enough. And I think that's the thing that you're tryin' to say, I've done so much that it was just projected to me that enough wasn't enough. What do you do? Throw your hands up in the air and say, what am I doing wrong?

Johnson: I mean, and, and part of it, part of it is, um, you know, it's like with religion, I used to be really, you know, I used to be really religious and stuff like that, I used to try to use that, and I just don't--.

O'Neill: Scott you lost me on it, you lost me on it.

Johnson: I just don't see it. You know, I just don't, I just don't see the hope. I don't see what's, what's --

O'Neill: You lost me on this is the point.

Johnson: Lost. What do you mean?

O'Neill: You lost me. You lost me. We felt the same things and experiences that we've had, in relationships you know, same thing about the kids and everything else, but you've lost me on this part right here that we're dealing with today.

Johnson: Well, okay. I understand. But, but (inaudible)

O'Neill: But you didn't have, did, did you have the su--, did you have support structure built in, family and friends, people you talk to, people you can say, hey, here's how I'm feelin'? I mean --

Johnson: I tried, I try, I ta--, I talked to people in the past and stuff like that, but seems likes it never helps, seems like, like you said, over time some things do get better, some things don't get better over time.

O'Neill: If you don't have the supports, you know. Sometime our own worst enemy is us, you know, and then you realize --

Johnson: That is very true. I am self-destructive. I mean --.

O'Neill: But if you had the proper support structure, people you could talk to, that's one of the questions that I asked you, who did you talk to about this? You know, I'm not putting no blame, because --

Johnson: No, I couldn't talk to nobody 'cause, well, in the past several years, but. I think I might have talked to, I talked to like when I was working, I talked to workers, I talked to coworkers and we'd talk about stuff and --

O'Neill: How old are you 37 or 8?

Johnson: I just turned 38?

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And I'll be spending--

O'Neill: How old are your kids?

Johnson: I got ah, I don't, um, Sean'll be turning 16, I think in November.

O'Neill: What's the name?

Johnson: Sean.

O'Neill: Mine, too.

Johnson: And then uh there's Amanda. She just turned, I think, ten, but I haven't had no contact. And this is what gets me, is like after I, I said I was going to quit –

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: to my wife, then like a year later, I said, you know, I still want to see the kids. Well, I don't want to let you, you know she, well I'm not going to let you see 'em. In my mind, she was telling me, she was holdin' those kids for ransom. In order for me to see the kids, I have to send money.

O'Neill: What happened between you and her?

Johnson: Um, I never really loved her, I guess. Bad sex. Um, she was a good mother, she was good about some things, and stuff like that, but, ah, I loved, I, I don't, I don't see how people turn their hearts on and off, for people say, oh, I love you today and I don't love you tomorrow. I believe in unconditional love. I loved one woman in my life, and that was, I had a girlfriend in high school, and I loved no other since. I gave my heart to her and that was it. And I, I basically married my ex-wife out of necessity or certain needs, and, she kind of, I, I kind of fell in love with her family more than I did her.

O'Neill: Um-hmm. And it hurts even worse when you lose that part and you lose that family, too.

Johnson: I mean, they had a structured family, I didn't. I grew up around, you know, I grew up in kind of a semi-broken home, alcoholics and you know, dumb crap, and ah. Butt you know, I liked her family I think more so than her. And that kinda –

O'Neill: How did you meet her?

Johnson: I was in the military and ah --

O'Neill: Was she, too?

Johnson: Um-hmm, ah, I met her at ah church.

O'Neill: You guys were both in the military?

Johnson: No. She was a military brat.

O'Neill: Oh.

Johnson: Her father was in the military.

O'Neill: Sure.

Johnson: So I met her at church. My fir--, after a month, I was at Ft. Polk, um. I just looked down, looked for the first church, I looked for a certain church, and when I was fairly close, and started going there, and uh that's where I met her at. But it just, I kind of deceived her, 'cause I never really gave myself to her, you know, completely.

O'Neill: Mm-hmm.

Johnson: Maybe things would have been different if I, you know, really loved her. But then when you have kids, that just that changes all the dynamics.

O'Neill: It sure does.

Johnson: When you got kids. It's different when you don't have kids, well you can just get separated and that's it. But when you got kids, everything changes, and, ah, that was kind of my focus, and, but I never really felt, you know, I used to do a lot but, I never, I think I did too much, I don't know, I was always worried about the kids and stuff like that, and it's, I don't think I got enough, um, respect out of what I done. I mean I done a lot. Worked a lot. At one point, I was um, back in '96, I was goin' through OCS, Officer Candidate School, I was goin' to college, um, in the National Guard, workin' two jobs, workin' at a adolescent teen center where troubled teens go. I was workin' with those kids, and then I was workin' uh as a driver, as a casino driver, I worked at a hotel, worked at Ramada Inn and drove a shuttle for the casinos there.

O'Neill: Is that down by Tunica, or what?

Johnson: Pardon?

O'Neill: Is that down by Tunica?

Johnson: (Inaudible) Shreveport.

O'Neill: Shreveport has their casino?

Johnson: They got five of 'em. And then while I was in the OCS, I was doin' a two-week thing in um Kansas.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: Then my grandmother died. While I was there.

O'Neill: Your mom's side?

Johnson: Yes. So I leave for a couple days, and they gave me the shits about leaving just for a couple days to go to her funeral.

O'Neill: From OCS?

Johnson: Um-hmm.

O'Neill: How long was the OCS class?

Johnson: Oh, it's, it's goin' on for two years, but it was kind of structured like the Guard.

O'Neill: You doing blocks, then, for OCS?

Johnson: Kind o', yeah, through the Guard, you go once a month.

O'Neill: Right.

Johnson: And then you do your two weeks

O'Neill: Right.

Johnson: in the summer.

Johnson: Well, I was in my two-week thing. So I do that, I go to her funeral, I come back, and they're kind o' jokin' about, givin' me a real hard time about it. Plus I got to make up the two days I lost. So I'm doing everything times two everyone else is doin'.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: I'm making all this, I'm doin' all these tests and stuff. So here I'm at the pick--, the pinnacle getting' my, my butter bars –

O'Neill: Um hmm.

Johnson: And then all this shit starts happening, and crumb, it seems like I hit a pinnacle, I hit a critical point in my life, and that was chopped down on me, taken away from me, kind of, and I didn't want to be a part. I thought officers are supposed to conduct themselves a certain way and stuff like that. And just, I didn't want to be a part of that. It just, it just wasn't workin', it just. So I left that. I mean, I felt bad over my grandmother's death, I wasn't there for, I mean, I didn't see her in a long time, just a lot of stuff was weighin' on me, because I had to deal with them assholes coming down on me for that. I mean it's just --

O'Neill: That was the OCS staff, not the fellow --

Johnson: The staff. That's right. And um, I didn't go whining to, I ga-- gave t'em some bullshit letter that showed them my resignation and that, but I didn't tell them the truth, what, the stuff that happened, the commanding officer.

O'Neill: You didn't want to taint your career?

Johnson: I didn't want, I wanted to protect their structures. I mean but it just seems like all through my life, I hit a certain point and it, stuff just goes wrong, just. I don't know.

O'Neill: You talked about being so angry and bitter?

Johnson: That's just over, that's just with my family, the kids and stuff like that, and not being able to see them, not seein' 'em grow up, missing out on all that, just. I know I could o' been so much more.

O'Neill: I, I, I tell you. I'll agree --

Johnson: I could o' been a whole lot more.

O'Neill: I'll agree --

Johnson: But then I look where I am. So --

(Whereupon Detective Baldwin returns to the interview room.)

Johnson: That's, that's why I'm so pissed off. That's what happened, I mean.

O'Neill: Was your dad --

Johnson: My dad's dead.

O'Neill: Did he die when you were young?

Johnson: No. I never knew my dad. I think I met my dad one time when I was 17, and he didn't want nothin' to do with me. I met him when, I found where he was, and I hooked up with him for a couple weeks just out of curiosity to see what he was like. And then after that, just nothing. I was 17. And then, ah, he died a couple years ago, I think.

O'Neill: Now, Steve, your brother, is he older than you?

Johnson: He's a half brother.

O'Neill: Half brother. Okay.

Johnson: He's a half brother. And his dad's alive, but he's total ass, so he don't do nothing with him, and he only lives a few miles away.

O'Neill: Did your wife work, too, or no?

Johnson: Yeah. She, she worked. Um, she worked a little bit, you know, when she wasn't pregnant, I mean, worked at the day care, but now I, I don't know what she does now, I think she's a secret--. I, I don't know what she does. I mean, I haven't had any contact. My last contact I, verbal contact I had with them was in ah the summer of 2002.

O'Neill: After the kids went back?

Johnson: Well after, in 2001 is when the kids went back.

O'Neill: Right.

Johnson: Then a year later, after I quit. So now I'm just basically a bum. Then you know, so, in 2002 I want to hook up with the kids. She said, I'm not going to let you see them because o' the money thing. And that just, that just rubbed me raw there, I mean, and that was the last contact I had, I mean. What possible relationship could I have with 'em, you, you know. Even before this. You know, deep down, I want to s--, you know I believe I need to, I wanna be punished. I want to pay. I just, I just want it to end, or you know, I just, I just don't see any hope, or no light. I mean, I don't know about now, I don't know what's gonna happen now, I mean. You ever, do you ever, um, what's it called, um, something with the the Bible, ah, scholar's Bible, Bible code. You ever read, you know what the Bible codes are, have you ever read that?

O'Neill: Um-um. Tell me?

Johnson: Well, the Jewish people, or somethin', there's a certain group, they said they cracked the code to the Bible, there's a few books on it, they said, certain things that predicts the future.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: And one of the things I was kind o' I was hopin', hangin', even though I don't believe in that stuff any more but I was kind o' hopin', maybe I'm wrong, they said 2006 the world's supposed to, somethin' big supposed to happen. Nothin' happened. Then again in 2012, something's supposed to happen. But, you can get a better understanding if, you know, if you ever decide to, you know, to look at that, read that. It's, it's kind o' interesting in a way, and they, and they swear by it, there's a whole group, I mean, they used the computer to crack the code, and they swear by it up and down. And then it's like, there's part of me, I'm, I'm, I'm curious to see what's going to happen in the next few years, plus, by watching the news.

O'Neill: Um-hmm.

Johnson: You know, as things get changes, is there going to be revolutions, somethin' gonna happen. Then maybe I can have hope, maybe somethin'll break or crack, or then I can find a way out.

O'Neill: Best piece of advice I got, there's always tomorrow. And it'll come. Like I told you, you know, as far as you asking me the question about what I thought about you. I told you. And that's, that's pretty good stuff. But where we make this big sharp split, and you know what I'm talkin' about?

Johnson: Oh, yeah. I understand. Yeah. I'm a monster.

O'Neill: But you and I, and just about half the people I know, in our lives go through similar things, but if you don't have the tools to cope with it --

Johnson: You know, the reason -- you know one of the big reasons I think why it happened is the hate, you know, the power, like I said earlier, the power, to you know, my only power to have in this world is to take away. To take. You know, as sick as that might sound, just I, I feel like I can't do nothing. It's just --

O'Neill: Well, the one thing we haven't talked about that's really kind of concerning is the idea of, you know, these kids. There's three dead.

Johnson: I didn't know. I didn't know. I didn't know.

O'Neill: I'm telling you now, there's three.

Baldwin: 17 years old. 18.

O'Neill: And I said, what do you tell them. We can all say to ourselves, boy, I really dug myself in a hole, and it's my hole. But what do you tell these parents and and what do you, and you said something --

Johnson: I thought about that, what you said.

O'Neill: And you said something about there's really no words to express that. There really isn't.

Johnson: 'Cause they're shallow, but it, it, it's nothing.

O'Neill: I thought about it, too. It is a shallow statement to say I'm sorry. But you know, this wasn't personal to those kids, right?

Johnson: I didn't know 'em. I didn't know 'em. I might o' knew them in passing, but I didn't, I didn't know 'em. I mean, it's whoever's gonna be there, I mean, it wasn't person -- it was just they were there, you know, what's the saying, wrong time and right place, wrong time, whatever, I mean, they just happened to be there. And those people were are walkin' out as I was walkin' in, they're lucky that they left, you know, when I was coming in.

O'Neill: So you were --

Johnson: They were the lucky ones.

O'Neill: You were a train just basically --

Baldwin: What is it you, what is it you felt you accomplished with this?

Johnson: Absolutely nothing.

Baldwin: Nothing. Just per personal gratification?

Johnson: Not even personal gratification. I feel nothing, I feel empty. I feel, this is something I want to, yeah I do. There is a point. There is somethin' to learn. I mean, somethin' needs to happen, somethin' needs to change with the laws or somethin', where someone can't arrive to my, to my point to be able to do somethin' like this. This shouldn't never o' happened.

O'Neill: You broke it. But remember what I said?

Johnson: I mean --

O'Neill: You gotta have the support structure, you gotta have people to help you, you have to have friends and family --

Johnson: Somethin' needs to change.

O'Neill: --to help you deal with the issues that you had back when these things occurred. Were talkin' about the divorce, the job, the working part with the kids, and everything else. Okay?

Johnson: I mean, yeah, the laws or something, stuff needs to change.

O'Neill: But they work for a lot of other people. You know you can blame it on the laws.

Johnson: You're right.

O'Neill: You know, you can blame it on that, but you got to say to yourself, okay, if it's working for a lot of other people, I mean, a lot of other people, why did it not work for me. It's not the best system, but it's the only one we have. So we're at a point here where, you know, you said about the idea that I could probably put down in writing the best way of of putting out my thoughts as to how did this happen?

Baldwin: I talked to him about that.

O'Neill: Uh huh.

Baldwin: I talked to him about that. He can really do that with a lawyer.

O'Neill: Okay.

Johnson: He can give me, help me out the with structure. I mean, I can be able, I don't want to be, I'm still out there, I don't want to be writing things down and have stuff wrong. I want to get it right.

O'Neill: I can understand that.

Baldwin: We can wait 'til, what, you know. Whatever you feel is right time.

O'Neill: Yeah, you remember us, my name?

Johnson: Tom?

O'Neill: Close. Tony.

Johnson: Tony. Tom?

Baldwin: Todd. But close.

Johnson: Todd.

Baldwin: Yeah. Tony and Todd.

O'Neill: Tony and Todd.

Johnson: I think I'm, I know you told me. I'm not being disrespectful.

O'Neill: No but, any time you want to talk to us --

Baldwin: You got a lot a stuff going on in your head --

O'Neill: You want to talk to us, Scott, you just give us a yell, we're usually here, okay?

Baldwin: We have somebody else out here (inaudible)

Johnson: I'm sorry. Okay. Okay. Um.

Baldwin: What, murder, somethin' like that --

O'Neill: Like I said, we make this divergence, us, we do. Okay. You know that. But if you ever need to talk to us, give us a yell.

Johnson: So now, how long does it take for this to get out and go to trial, get it done with, and --

O'Neill: Well, here, here's the thing. We have 48 hours?

Baldwin: Probably more. They'll probably file an extension on it.

O'Neill: Yeah, 72 hours, would you say?

Baldwin: Yeah. So probably by Monday, you're going to get arraigned.

O'Neill: Yeah.

Baldwin: And that's basically where you'll go out –

O'Neill: Things will start.

Baldwin: Things will start.

O'Neill: Court appearances, judges, attorneys.

Baldwin: They'll assess you a bail. Appoint you an attorney.

O'Neill: And that's something that, as far as, you know, timing, and what you're gonna do and what you're not gonna do, those are things you definitely want to discuss with your attorney. Okay. And you know, ah --

Johnson: Now, what about um, yeah, I know I'm going to be, but, I'm gonna, how do I gotta ask that. Ah, maybe I should just wait.

O'Neill: If I can answer it, I'll answer it for ya, so go ahead, try. I'm not gonna steer you down the wrong direction, Scott.

Johnson: Well, there's gonna come to a point where I'm not gonna want, I'm not gonna be locked up forever, I mean, 'cause I'm gonna wanna – I'll ha--, I'm gonna stick around and see what the future may -- maybe there's a possi, maybe there's a possibility when I get to a certain age, maybe can – I don't know, I mean, is Wisconsin -- can they ever bring the death penalty back in, can I get it, or?

O'Neill: No. From my training and experience, okay. Only from what I know, I'm not an attorney.

Johnson: Um hum.

O'Neill: I don't think they can apply something in the future to something in the past. Right?

Baldwin: Right.

O'Neill: That make sense?

Johnson: Understood. Yeah.

O'Neill: Okay.

Baldwin: Just like when they abolished the death penalty United States-wide, remember that? Manson kind o' got off and all those goofy --

Johnson: Oh, yeah.

Baldwin: And ah, once they reinstated it, that's been, they were immune from it because it was already --

O'Neill: You asked us that question before. Why are you concerned about that?

Johnson: "Cause I, I don't wanna, there is no, like, I want to stick around, but at a certain point, there is no hope or no future, then I don't wanna, I don't wanna live any, you know, who wants to live, like, penned up, I mean. Unless you know, there is stuff to keep busy with, you know I'm kind of a busybody, but --

O'Neill: Okay.

Johnson: I don't want to da to give somethin' to the family and. That's, that's another thing about laws, I mean, somethin' that I done, I mean I should have the same thing done to me, is you know I kind o' believe in an eye for an eye. I mean, I should be lined up and shot. I mean, that's how I should be punished. But people don't see it that way, and I don't understand that.

Baldwin: Oh, yeah.

O'Neill: A lot of people see it that way, you know what, but probably a lot of people that wouldn't disagree with you.

Johnson: I mean, that's what should happen to me.

O'Neill: But the law is the way it is.

Johnson: Yeah.

O'Neill: We've got to deal with what we have. You know what I mean?

Johnson: alright.

O'Neill: We're, we're, we're around. Alright?

Johnson: Okay.

O'Neill: Anything else?

Johnson: No. So, I just what, I just finish this here, or ?

Baldwin: Yeah. Go ahead. Help yourself.

Johnson: Okay.

Baldwin: This other guy wants to talk to you.

O'Neill: Lt. Metras is from the Michigan side, okay. Per the matter of him having a record as to what happened over there. With the person that got shot over on that side. That's his concern. Okay. So.

Baldwin: He's basically just going to talk to you about when you shot across the river.

Johnson: So I shot two people across, on the Wisconsin side?

O'Neill: Correct.

Johnson: Okay.

O'Neill: From, from what we know. Okay. Now, we haven't been out to the scene. From what we know. So you know, I can't give you the hundred percent of that.

Baldwin: Now, this is kind of important. Alright. You don't remember shooting at anybody else, this group that was right in front of you that came up to you, and that group across the river, correct? There's no other –

Johnson: The only people that I shot at was Wisconsin group and the Michigan group, but no other time no other place, nothing.

Baldwin: Didn't shoot any other directions, you didn't shoot any other people?

Johnson: No. And you told me -- you guys heard -- there was a shot?

O'Neill: Well, it was reported to us.

Baldwin: Yeah. We, we, it was --

Johnson: Fireworks, maybe, or somethin'.

O'Neill: It could have been a lot of different things, you know.

Baldwin: Yeah, I don't think --

Johnson: No. That was it. That was –

O'Neill: Okay.

Baldwin: You definitely would o' heard it, because from where your position was, they weren't far from ya.

O'Neill: But we didn't have, like, many people report it. We only had one.

Baldwin: Yeah. By the way, one more thing before we stop with you. You'd said somethin' earlier this morning when we talked to you about, I could o' killed five or six cops while you were over there?

Johnson: No. I'm saying, yeah, I was thinking about it. The way they were, they were walking --

Baldwin: You were actually watching cops?

Johnson: I was watching people. Yeah. I was watching, maybe thinkin' I can do this, the same thought, you know, I'm not saying I actually did it, but I'm sayin', I was thinking about crossing at a certain point, thinking about crossing --

Baldwin: But you didn't actually see cops --

Johnson: Yeah.

Baldwin: --you could o' shot at?

Johnson: Yeah.

Baldwin: You did?

Johnson: I saw, well, I was talking about the one with the, with the goggles.

Baldwin: Binoculars?

Johnson: Binoculars. Yeah. I thought he looked right at me, but I don't get it, if he saw me, I think, I don't know.

Baldwin: Okay. Other than him, you didn't see any other cops, or did you, did --

Johnson: I seen some -- bunch by the road, there. When I was, when I was back in there, all that bunch there, and um there's, you had, I was hearin', seein' four-wheelers and stuff, people cruisin', there's people cruisin', and people goin' up and down this road, I was sittin' in between two houses, layin' down and I was hearin' people, and seein' people come up and down the road. And --

O'Neill: Did you, ah, I gotta ask this. Was anybody else that was with you doin' this?

Johnson: Anybody with me?

O'Neill: Yes.

Johnson: No.

O'Neill: And you were by all alone throughout the whole time?

Johnson: Yeah.

O'Neill: Okay.

Baldwin: Alright. We'll let him have a chat. You can finish eatin' up.

O'Neill: Alright.

(Whereupon O'Neill and Baldwin leave the room at approximately 13:38)

(Whereupon O'Neill re-enters the room at approximately 13:49:43)

O'Neill: Hey Scott. It's a matter of formality, but I wrote the date down here, signed my chicken scratch and so did Todd, okay. I want to do the same is indicate that you drew things on there.

Johnson: Okay, today is Friday, right, it's the first?

O'Neill: Yeah, today's Friday, it's the first. Thanks. You feeling okay?

Johnson: Yeah, I, I feel like, feel like I let you know, like I let people down, you know, disappointed you know, and just this week like somethin' you know like a big disappointment, just.

O'Neill: There's next week.

Johnson: A big empty.

O'Neill: There's next week, okay.

(Whereupon O'Neill left the room and the proceedings were concluded at approximately 13:50:35)