

Floras Lake Oregon State Police investigation

Witness phone transcript

FIRST CALL

Witness: Hello

OSP: Hi, I am calling for [redacted].

Witness: Yeah, this is [redacted].

OSP: Hi [redacted], my name is Scott Punch I'm the patrol sergeant here with the Oregon State Police in Gold Beach. How are you?

Witness: Good.

OSP: Hey, I got a couple of questions for you if you have a moment sir.

Witness: Yeah.

OSP: Somebody pointed you out as a possibly for somebody who does backhoe work.

Witness: A...Yes.

OSP: Ok, what I'm doing is I'm kind of making an inquiry as to some backhoe work that was done up at the Cape Blanco Airport.

Witness: Cape Blanco Airport?

OSP: Yeah, up by Port Orford, have you done any work up there?

Witness: Oh! Hell no, I think I know who did it though. Are you kidding me that's the State Parks land.

OSP: Yes sir.

Witness: Um, actually I believe..... oh boy if I tell you this, you got to keep me out of it because a

OSP: I will sir.

Witness: I don't want to be, I don't want to be named in anything.

OSP: Right.

Witness: ... but I think, I mean this is all preliminary but I think that it was um Jeff Garcia. I believe Jeff Garcia was the geologist um that was up there inspecting the holes and stuff that were dug.

OSP: He is somebody there local in Brookings?

Witness: No, I think he is Gold Beach.

OSP: Ok

Witness: Could be, I think it is Garcia Consultants or something

OSP: OK, but you have no idea of who actually did the backhoe work?

Witness: Um, tell you what, let me get to my pick up here and I will make a phone call and try to find out.

OSP: OK, I just, you know were not

Witness: From what I understand I think they, I think they might have rented a backhoe

OSP: Ok, cause we're not you know I am not interested in who did the actual, I mean I am interested in who did the actual work but I am trying to find out who hired them to do it.

Witness: Um, well.... yeah...let me; ok what's your number.

OSP: You can call me 247-6641.

Witness: Ok, what was your name?

OSP: Scott Punch.

Witness: OK.

OSP: I am at extension 222

Witness: As long as I can remain anonymous, it's a small town and I don't want Garcia....

OSP: I won't say anything; I won't reveal your identity.

Witness: OK, I a..I am pretty sure I can find out, I 'll call ya right back.

OSP: OK, I appreciate it sir.

Witness: But everybody....everybody in the whole county has been talking about that because it was on state property with no permit.

OSP: Ya

Witness: I got to admit I was approached to do it and I said hell no.

OSP: Ya well somebody gave me your name.

Witness: I know [redacted] was.

OSP: Somebody gave me your name somebody else's name and I am just following down the leads to try and figure out, you know, like I said, I am not really concerned by who did it I am concerned about you know, who paid for it and asked for it to be done.

Witness: Ok, I call you right back.

OSP: Ok sir, thank you.

Witness: Bye

OSP: Bye

SECOND CALL

OSP: Sergeant Punch

Witness: A...Mr. Punch, this is [redacted]

OSP: Hi

Witness: Um ... asking the question now is completely falling on deaf ears but I can tell you this, a...whoever hired Jeff Garcia to go out there and do the geologically report is the same one who paid for everything.

OSP: OK

Witness: And I will try and do some snooping around and if I find out anything I'll a...

OSP: Well who approached you with the job?

Witness: Garcia.

OSP: Garcia, ok.

Witness: Because they were all looking for somebody to go out dig holes and I know they approached some other people too um and it a...there was no way I was doing it.

OSP: Well you know, the thing about this is, it's not hard to track a payment if it came from a certain source.

Witness: Right.

OSP: It eventually becomes public knowledge or public record so um, you know, do you have any suspicion of who hired Jeff Garcia?

Witness: Um...I...you know I don't, that I'm not sure about, I mean that would be a ... I'd almost be lying, I mean there are some suspicions, um but I don't know if it's the guy from the sports company, cause it was, there was, there was other people involved in that.

OSP: Um hm.

Witness: Um and that's all I knew about it and once I said hell no, I am not going to do it and

OSP: What sports company are you talking about sir?

Witness: What's that?

OSP: What sports company are you talking about?

Witness: It's some guy that flies in, that was looking at a golf course over there or something.

OSP: Ok, I know who you are talking about now.

Witness: But that I don't know I can't remember the guy's name or anything.

OSP: Right.

Witness: And they were saying, hey if you do this it might get you some work and I was like man I don't care.

OSP: Yeah.

Witness: Unless you can show me permits or something I ain't going out there.

OSP: Right. And you know in your opinion have you done this type of work before for geologists?

Witness: Oh yeah.

OSP: Um what are they looking for?

Witness: Just soil quality and soil type.

OSP: Ok for compaction?

Witness: Yeah, it's usually not much of disruption or anything like that, that's why, I mean I don't know how far they went or you know and that's why I heard, rumor has it that they left open holes out there.

OSP: Well they did a job on it, I mean there are like 17 or 18 test holes that were dug and

Witness: Well the thing that gets me is most of the time I have never left more...a hole open more than 24 hours without filling it. That's why I don't understand it.

OSP: Right well these were filled but the problem is that you're looking at a place that is kind of scared to the Coquille tribes as far as shell middens and other archeological sites and then that endangered lily

that's out there and so any time that this was done without a permit it's raising the ire of some groups that are you know, kind of politically connected.

Witness: I can imagine.

OSP: So you know there all kind of looking at me like you need to find this person so um

Witness: Well I don't actually know who or what but I do know that Jeff Garcia was in the middle of everything.

OSP: Ok.

Witness: And he was the geologist and he is a licensed professional.

OSP: Right.

Witness: So I don't know why he wouldn't lie and I guess I shouldn't say I know he was out there, I know that I heard he was the one that was out there.

OSP: Ok, well ...

Witness: And I think he would be able to give you and I think his company is Garcia Consultants.

OSP: OK, well I will go and talk to him and I will leave your name out of it.

Witness: Thank you I appreciate it. If there is anything else I can give you, I'll either get a hold of you or something cause it's, I've got no qualms with somebody going out there and digging up holes and a I mean it is not that big of deal but it puts you in a pinch.

OSP: Well ... yeah ... I just ... you know I want to find out you know, I mean I have my suspicion of where this is all coming from and going to but I got to ask the questions so...

Witness: Right.

OSP: Um but if you leave a, if I don't answer and you leave me a message on my phone, I am the only one that checks it so you don't even have to leave me your name.

Witness: OK

OSP: OK

Witness: Well any information I get I will give it to you.

OSP: OK, I appreciate that sir.

Witness: No problem

OSP: OK

Witness: Bye

OSP: Bye