

ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE'S REPORT REGARDING THE 1972 MURDER OF ARLENE CLEVESY

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

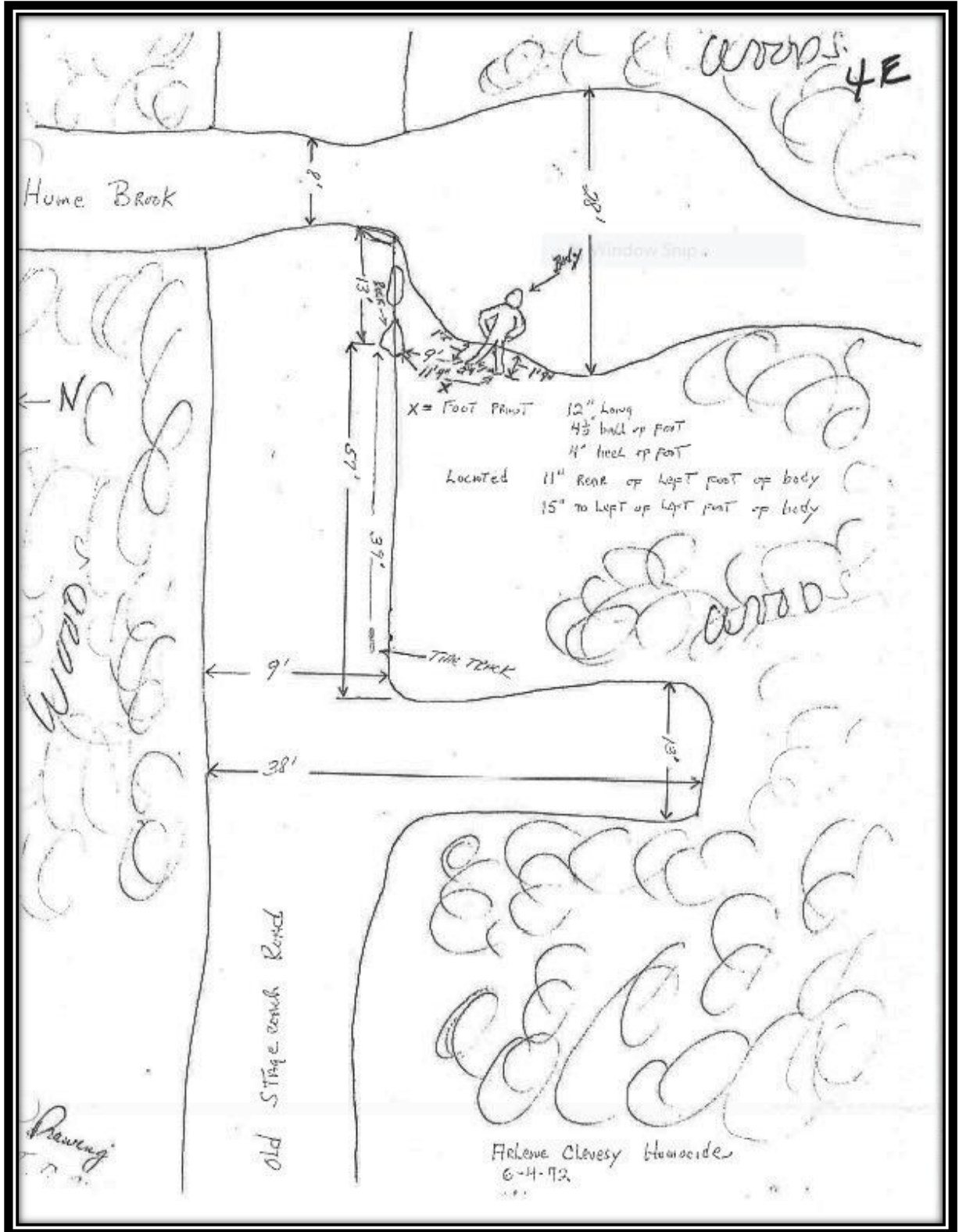
Arlene Clevesy's body was found in Newton, New Hampshire at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Sunday June 4, 1972. Stephen Bennett was on his way to Hume Brook to fish when he saw what he initially thought was a mannequin in the water. Upon realizing that it was a person, he notified the local chief of police, who made contact with New Hampshire State Police. Trooper William Thompson arrived and observed her nude body lying face down in the water of Hume Brook approximately nine feet off the south side of Old Stagecoach Road¹. He saw that her head, arms, and shoulders were underwater, but the lower half of her body from the hips down was out of the water. It appeared that she had not been there long as her body was not bloated and her curled hairdo was not yet affected by the water.

When Trooper Thompson initially surveyed the heavily wooded scene, he saw leaves and dirt that were disturbed between the road and the area where the body lay, which he believed to be caused by someone sliding the body. He noted two 12" long footprints in the soft mud and leaves. He also saw tire tracks in the mud on the road that he was unable to preserve due to a sudden thunderstorm. The only item of clothing located in the initial search of the crime scene was a "girdle-type garment" caught on the branch of a bush in the brook approximately 20 feet to the right of Ms. Clevesy's body. The following day, June 5, 1972, a pink flowered dress was found hanging on a tree on Lone Goose Road in Newton, New Hampshire, approximately seven-tenths of a mile from the entrance to Old Stagecoach Road where the body was located. A closer search revealed a pair of pantyhose below the dress on the ground. These items were turned over

¹ Old Stagecoach Road appears to be an unmarked dirt road that joins at a 4-way intersection in Newton, New Hampshire with Currierville Road, Currier Street, and Dugway Road. Old Stagecoach Road intersects with Hume Brook near or on the town line of Newton and South Hampton, New Hampshire.

to State Police, and Arlene Clevesy's sisters, Audrey Spaulding and Eunice Shahinian, later identified the dress as belonging to her.

As part of the investigation, the scene was sketched and photographed by investigators:



On the night of June 4, 1972, Dr. George Katsas at the Brewitt Funeral Home in Exeter performed an autopsy on Ms. Clevesy's body and observed multiple blunt injuries, including to her neck, along with a recent focal subarachnoid hemorrhage to her skull. He also observed that she had inhaled water and twigs. He was able to conclude that the cause of death was "traumatic asphyxia, including drowning." A toxicology report showed her blood alcohol content to be .09.

On June 5, 1972, investigators spoke with Arlene Clevesy's sisters. They were able to provide background information on Ms. Clevesy and identify articles of clothing that she was wearing, including the pink flowered dress that was recovered on Lone Goose Road. Investigators took Ms. Spaulding and Ms. Shahinian, along with Arlene Clevesy's husband, Harold, to Brewitt's Funeral Home that day where they positively identified the body found in Hume Brook as Ms. Clevesy. It was determined that some jewelry and other items that she had been wearing at the time of her death were missing from her person, including her wedding and engagement rings, a gold wrist watch, black rim glasses with stones in the frames, her handbag, and her white sneakers.

At the time of her death, Arlene Clevesy had been happily married for almost a year to Harold Clevesy and they lived on Union Street in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Harold Clevesy told investigators that on the night of June 3, 1972, he and Arlene went to the Hotel Whittier in Haverhill for drinks and stayed until around 9:00 or 9:30 p.m. At that time Harold returned home but Arlene stayed out as she often would. Harold became concerned when Arlene did not return home the next day. He called Arlene's sister, Ms. Spaulding, around 10:00 a.m. to see if she knew where Arlene was but she did not know. The next day, June 5, 1972, he called Arlene's sister, Ms. Shahinian, who told him there was a picture of a woman in the local newspaper. He did not think that the photo looked like Arlene, but Ms. Shahinian wanted to be sure so she and Ms. Spaulding went with him to the funeral home where they identified Arlene's body.

Investigators talked to a number of witnesses who saw Arlene Clevesy after she left the company of her husband on the night of June 3, 1972. One of these individuals was Forrest Hicks, an acquaintance of Albert Moore's who arrived at the Eagles Club in Haverhill, Massachusetts at around midnight on the night of June 3, 1972. At that time he saw Mr. Moore sitting with a woman later identified as Ms. Clevesy and introduced the people he was with to Mr. Moore. When the club closed, they all left together and were talking outside. At that time, Mr. Moore said something to Mr. Hicks's sister who confronted Ms. Clevesy, asking her "What are you doing here? You just got married?" Mr. Moore responded, "I'm the one who is going to screw up the honeymoon." At some point during the conversation, Mr. Hicks's brother-in-law, Tony Leo, made a remark to Mr. Moore about Ms. Clevesy that Mr. Hicks could not hear. Mr. Moore responded to the comment by reaching up under Ms. Clevesy's dress and grabbing her between the legs.

Witnesses reported seeing Ms. Clevesy and Mr. Moore getting into Mr. Moore's truck, only to have Mr. Moore get back out when he mistakenly thought that Mr. Hicks was being bothered by a man. Mr. Moore was heard identifying this man as Puerto Rican and making racist remarks. Witnesses saw Mr. Moore reach under his shirt to pull out a pistol, pull the slide back, and point it in the direction of the man. Mr. Hicks finally convinced Mr. Moore to put the gun away and Ms. Clevesy yelled to Mr. Moore from the truck to leave. Mr. Moore got in the truck with Ms. Clevesy. Mr. Hicks saw the truck start to move but did not actually watch them drive off together. Mr. Hicks described Mr. Moore as short-tempered and easy to anger, especially when he had been drinking.

Investigators also spoke with Tony Leo, who largely confirmed Mr. Hicks's account of what happened at the Eagles Club, stating that when he left the club around 1:00 or 1:15 a.m., he saw Mr. Moore and Ms. Clevesy leave in a "van type" vehicle that was either tan or brown.

Numerous other witnesses also described seeing Mr. Moore and Ms. Clevesy together at the Eagles Club around or after last call that night.

Based upon these accounts, it soon became clear to investigators that Albert Moore was the last person to be seen with Arlene Clevesy prior to the discovery of her body. In order to learn more about his whereabouts that weekend, they spoke with Mr. Moore's estranged wife, Nancy. The two were in the process of getting a divorce. Nancy was living in their house in Newton, New Hampshire, with their two children, ages three and four, whom Mr. Moore would visit on Sundays. Nancy told investigators that Mr. Moore came to her house on Friday, June 2, 1972, and left for work around 5:30 a.m. the following morning, June 3, 1972. Nancy did not hear from Mr. Moore again until around 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 4, 1972 when he called asking to come see the children. Mr. Moore told Nancy that he had been at the Eagles Club on Saturday night and had been drinking, so he stayed at his place in Danvers, Massachusetts instead of coming to her house. This seemed unusual to her, because when Mr. Moore was drinking he would usually come to the house and give her a hard time. When he came to her house around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nancy said Mr. Moore was pleasant and seemed to be in a good mood. She described him as the nicest person when he was sober, but mean and violent when he had been drinking.

Albert Moore owned a bronze 1972 Chevy Van believed to be the same vehicle Tony Leo saw him driving when he left the Eagles Club in Haverhill with Ms. Clevesy. The location where Ms. Clevesy's body was found was only approximately 20 minutes away from the Eagles Club.

On June 11, 1972, Albert Moore waived his *Miranda* rights and spoke with investigators at the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office. He reported that he spent the night of Friday, June 2, 1972, at the cottage he lived in with Edward Bransky in Danvers, Massachusetts. He said that he called his wife, Nancy, on Saturday, June 3, 1972, and she agreed that he could come up for a

visit. He confirmed that he then went drinking at a few places on Saturday night, June 3, 1972, and ended up at the Eagles Club in Haverhill, Massachusetts. He said that he saw a number of people there, including Arlene Clevesy, who was sitting across from a bald-headed man he didn't know. He danced with Ms. Clevesy and another woman, and was drinking most of the time. He confirmed that he saw Forrest Hicks and his family, talked to them and sent drinks over to them. He then decided that it was too late for him to go to his wife's house so he was "just out to kill the night." Moore reported that he didn't talk much with Ms. Clevesy, but she said it was her birthday so he bought her a few drinks. He told investigators she asked him for a ride home which was "just up the street."

They all left together and went down to the street in front of the club. While they were in front of the Eagles Club, he was talking to Mr. Hicks and saw that Ms. Clevesy was talking to some guys that he thought were Puerto Rican. He said he got into his van and Ms. Clevesy got into the passenger side and began to tell him how to get to her house.

He claimed that once they started driving, he noticed a car following him and when he mentioned it, Ms. Clevesy told him that it was her friends making sure she got home all right. He said, "What the hell are you bothering me for then?" pulled over to the curb, and told her to "get the hell out" about two blocks from Finburg's Plumbing Supply. He said that she told him "You're not a very nice man, you were going to take me home," after which he left her on the side of the road. He said that he had only seen the lights of the car behind him, and did not know what kind or make it was. Mr. Moore told investigators that he left her there, drove to Danvers, and slept there. He got up about 10:30 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, June 4, 1972, talked with Edward Bransky, and then went to a job in Salem, Massachusetts, before going to see his wife and children in Newton, New Hampshire, late in the afternoon.

Investigators immediately noted that parts of Mr. Moore's interview were contradicted by other witnesses. He claimed that he spent Friday night in Danvers, Massachusetts, but his wife

said that he stayed at her house in Newton, New Hampshire. He said that he called her on Saturday, June 3, 1972, about coming up to visit but she said he didn't call until Sunday, June 4, 1972. Additionally, Mr. Moore did not mention important events included in the statements by Forrest Hicks and Tony Leo, including that he pulled a gun on the man he thought was fighting with Mr. Hicks, that he reached under Ms. Clevesy's dress and grabbed her between the legs, and that he said "I'm the one who is going to screw up the honeymoon."

Investigators were later able to interview Edward Bransky who said that Mr. Moore didn't arrive home in Danvers until around 6:00 a.m. on June 4, 1972.

About a month after Arlene Clevesy's murder, during the early morning hours of August 14, 1972, a 27 year old man named Donald Rimer was killed in his home in Salem, Massachusetts. He suffered blunt force injuries to his head and face. At the time of the murder, Albert Moore and Edward Bransky were working for Mr. Rimer on the construction of several townhouses; additionally the cottage in which Mr. Moore and Mr. Bransky lived in Danvers, Massachusetts was owned by the victim's father. Mr. Moore soon became a suspect in this case, which was primarily investigated by Detective Lieutenant Leo McNulty of Massachusetts State Police.

In August of 1974, Mr. Moore was sentenced to prison at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut (FCI – Danbury) for theft. With Mr. Moore in prison, witnesses who had previously indicated that they were afraid of him were now willing to give information to law enforcement.

On June 2, 1975, Detective McNulty interviewed Edward Bransky with his attorney. Mr. Bransky shared new details implicating Mr. Moore in the murder of Donald Rimer. During this interview, he also talked about statements that Mr. Moore made about the death of Arlene

Clevesy. He said that Mr. Moore talked to him about how to beat lie detector tests and told him that he beat the lie detector test about “the woman” in New Hampshire.²

Mr. Bransky was surprised that Mr. Moore did not say anything about Ms. Clevesy’s murder when Mr. Moore returned to their cottage in Danvers the morning it happened. The first time that Mr. Moore said something to him about it was about two days before he killed Donald Rimer on August 14, 1972. At that time, he told Mr. Bransky that he was going to take care of Mr. Rimer “like he did” that woman in New Hampshire. Mr. Moore later told Mr. Bransky that he threw the woman’s jewelry all over the highway, but did not say where. Mr. Bransky was not sure he believed Mr. Moore at that time because he knew that the police had searched Mr. Moore’s van and he thought the van’s tires would have matched tire tracks at the scene if Mr. Moore had really killed her.

On July 23, 1975, Detective McNulty interviewed Paul Morse, a former neighbor of Albert Moore. Mr. Morse explained that he and his former wife used to live across the street from Albert and Nancy Moore in Newton, New Hampshire, and would socialize with them. He learned of Arlene Clevesy’s murder soon after it happened, and heard that the Sheriff’s Department was looking for Albert Moore in connection with it. He believed this was because Mr. Moore was the last one seen with her, and the police had tire tracks that matched his van. At some point after Mr. Morse heard this, he told Mr. Moore that he heard law enforcement was looking for him, and Mr. Moore replied that it wasn’t him.

Paul Morse saw Albert Moore the day after Mr. Moore was questioned by the police. Mr. Moore told Mr. Morse that he was “clear,” explaining that he had beaten or passed a lie detector test. Paul Morse said that a short time later that day he saw Mr. Moore again when Mr. Moore was drunk. At that time Mr. Moore put his head down, lifted it back up and told Mr.

² Mr. Moore participated in a polygraph exam on June 11, 1972, following which there is a note from the investigator that Mr. Moore “was cleared of the case.” Polygraphs are not admissible evidence and polygraph testing was very different in 1972 than it is today.

Morse, "I did that but they'll never prove it." Mr. Morse understood that Mr. Moore was referring to the murder of Arlene Clevesy.

During July of 1975, Richard Jones was in segregation with Mr. Moore at FCI – Danbury in Connecticut. Mr. Jones provided interviews to Detective McNulty on July 30, 1975, and then again to New Hampshire State Police Detectives on September 9, 1976. He said that Mr. Moore talked about the murder of a "girl" in New Hampshire. Mr. Moore told him that he was drinking with her at a bar in Massachusetts near the New Hampshire border called the "Avis" or "Eagles" Club, where they had gone out before. He said that when they left the bar some men whom he described as Puerto Rican approached his van and he pulled a .45 revolver on them to get them to back off. Mr. Moore told Mr. Jones that he and the girl left there and drove to New Hampshire. On the way, they got into an argument and he slapped her, calling her racist obscenities because she wanted to be with the men.

Mr. Moore told Richard Jones that he pulled off into a wooded area, and when he left the girl she was lying face down in some water. He said the area was near where he lives and he knew it like the back of his hand. He said that if she was there long enough they would not be able to identify her. He said he took her clothes off so that when she was found it would look like she had been sexually assaulted. He then threw her clothing and personal items along the highway as he was leaving the area.

Mr. Moore told Mr. Jones that he was questioned by police and gave them a story about the men following behind the van. Mr. Moore explained that he told the police that the girl told him to stop and let her out as she wanted to go with the men. Mr. Moore told Mr. Jones that this story was not true, but that he had to tell the police this because a lot of people saw him drive away from the club with her, and there would be no way to prove that he did not let her out. He said that he was given a lie detector test that proved he was telling the truth. He also said that he thought they would be able to check the tire prints of his van so he changed the tires at a garage

or a house. He never explained to Mr. Jones how he killed her, but said that he had told his friend Eddie Bransky about the murder.

On March 9, 1976, Detective McNulty interviewed inmate Robert DeMatteo at FCI – Danbury. Mr. DeMatteo said he first met Albert Moore when they were inmates together in Connecticut, and again in September 1975, in Pennsylvania. Mr. DeMatteo said they had conversations about people that they were accused of killing. Mr. Moore told Mr. DeMatteo that he had killed a woman in New Hampshire, and referred to it as “taking care of that ‘pig.’” Mr. Moore did not say how he killed her, but said that he had been with her in a club in Haverhill called the “Elks” or the “Eagles” Club. He described having words with someone at the club, and said that he knew he was the last one seen with the woman.

Mr. Moore told Mr. DeMatteo that he told the police that he was driving the woman on some road after the club closed and that he noticed some men whom he described as Puerto Rican in a car to his rear. He told the police that he asked the woman who was following them and she told him that they were friends of hers who were making sure that she got home alright. He said he told the police that he stopped the car and told the woman to get out and that was the last he saw of her. Mr. Moore admitted to Mr. DeMatteo that he had, in fact, killed the woman, and said that she deserved it for hanging out with people of color. Mr. Moore also boasted to Mr. DeMatteo about beating a polygraph test concerning his New Hampshire victim, and two additional polygraph tests when questioned about Mr. Rimer’s murder.

In April 1977, Albert Francis Moore was indicted in the Rockingham County Superior Court on one count of Second Degree Murder, pursuant to RSA 630:1-b, for “knowingly causing the death of Arline L. Clevesy by drowning her in a brook.” Court documents indicate that, after several continuances, the case was scheduled for trial on December 3, 1979. On November 30, 1979, the Attorney General’s office *nolle prossed* the charge. At this time, Albert Moore had

been convicted of the Donald Rimer murder in Massachusetts on June 18, 1976, and was already serving a life sentence in Massachusetts.

On January 20, 2015, Aimee Wallace, the grand-niece of Arlene Clevesy, contacted the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office to inquire about the status of the case. This began a renewed discovery of Arlene Clevesy's death and Albert Moore's involvement. The matter was not previously known to the CCU members when the unit started in 2009.

Between the dates of March 19, 2015, and June 10, 2015, CCU investigators interviewed Mr. Moore three times. Mr. Moore agreed to speak with the investigators each time, but maintained his denial of any involvement in the murders of both Ms. Clevesy and Mr. Rimer. On one occasion he stated that he had no memory of Ms. Clevesy's death, and did not know whether or not he had killed her. When asked if it was possible that he did and forgot, he responded "anything's possible."

CCU investigators also spoke with Wayne Healy, an inmate with Mr. Moore at MCI – Norfolk. He said that the last significant comment Mr. Moore made to him was around the time of the investigators' visit in June of 2015. Mr. Healy had commented to Mr. Moore that he was an old man and asked what the police could do to him since he was already incarcerated. Mr. Moore stated something to the effect of "she wasn't the only one, she was one of many," and then said he did not remember much about "it." Mr. Moore did not clarify which murder he was referring to when he said "it."

In March 2021, at the request of the Attorney General's Office, Detective James Soucy of the CCU initiated an investigation into the location and status of Mr. Moore. On April 14, 2021, Detective Soucy obtained a death certificate which confirmed that Albert Moore passed away on November 11, 2019, as a result of metastatic prostate cancer.

II. CONCLUSION

The only reasonable conclusion that can be drawn from the evidence in this case is that Albert Moore killed Arlene Clevesy after he drove her away from the Eagles Club on June 4, 1972, and left her body in Hume Brook. He was the last person seen alive with her in the early morning hours of June 4, 1972. Several witnesses paint a picture of him as intoxicated and violent that night to the point of pulling a gun on an individual. His whereabouts between approximately 1:15 a.m. when he left the club with Ms. Clevesy and 6:00 a.m. when Edward Bransky saw him home in Danvers, Massachusetts, are unaccounted for. This left a sufficient window of time for him to make the short 20 minute drive from the Eagles Club to the Hume Brook area, kill Ms. Clevesy, dispose of her clothing and jewelry, and return home. It appears that nothing of substance was recovered in the search of Mr. Moore's van, although this supports his statements that he discarded Ms. Clevesy's personal items and changed the tires on the van to avoid detection.

During the course of the investigation, no other credible suspects emerged. In addition to incriminating circumstantial evidence, Mr. Moore made numerous admissions to different individuals in the years following the murder. As part of these admissions he described very specific details related to the murder of Arlene Clevesy which showed knowledge as well as premeditation. He admitted that he drove her to a wooded, secluded location with which he was familiar because he believed that her body would not be easily found there. He admitted to becoming violent with her, killing her, and leaving her lying face down in the water, all statements that were consistent with the coroner's observations during the autopsy. He also described how he took the calculated steps of staging her body to look as if she was the victim of sexual assault.

Albert Moore also accurately described to witnesses the steps he took to cover up his crime. He explained how he fabricated a story for police about Puerto Rican men in a car behind

them to divert attention from himself. He repeatedly expressed pride in his ability to “beat” polygraph tests. He explained how he hid evidence by disposing of Ms. Clevesy’s clothing and jewelry along the highway and thought enough to change his tires after the crime. The statements that Mr. Moore made to these individuals are compelling, and corroborated by the specific details that he told investigators in his interview, by physical evidence found at the scene, and by independent witnesses. His admissions paint the picture of a drunk, violent person who was fueled in part by racist anger that he directed in a calculated manner toward Ms. Clevesy.

The evidence derived from this investigation, and all of the reasonable inferences that can be taken from that evidence, establish beyond a reasonable doubt that Albert Moore murdered Arlene Clevesy on June 4, 1972, by beating and drowning her in Hume Brook in Newton, New Hampshire. Here, the person the evidence proves to be the murderer, Albert Moore, has died. Therefore, the case will now be administratively closed with this closure report instead of prosecution.