

HELEN STRUTHERS
Residence: 1419 S. Osceola Avenue
Orlando, Florida
425-1000
Telephone:
Employment: Main Public Library
Audio-Visual Section
Orlando, Florida
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It came to the attention of MR. HADLEY that MISS STRUTHERS, supra, had turned around on Dillard Avenue, Winter Garden, Florida, utilizing the parking lot of the W. T. Ziegler Furniture Store during Christmas Eve during 1975 and may have seen or observed some pertinent information. It was determined that MISS STRUTHERS parents reside at 372 North Park Avenue, Winter Garden, Florida.

An attempt was made to contact MISS STRUTHERS at this address and it was determined from her mother she resided in Orlando, Florida, and worked at the Main Public Library in Orlando as set forth above.

On January 3, 1976 MISS STRUTHERS was contacted at her place of employment at which time she furnished the following information.

On December 24, 1975 she was off duty and was at her residence on Osceola Avenue most of the day. She left her residence at 6:15 pm to proceed to her parents home in Winter Garden, Florida, as listed above. She turned right on Dillard Street in Winter Garden and was proceeding north on Dillard Street when she decided she was almost out of gas and that she had better fill up since the service stations would undoubtedly be closed on Christmas Day. This was of course during the evening of December 24, 1975. Upon realizing this, the first convenient place to turn around to go back to SR 50 to obtain gasoline was the front parking area of the W. T. Ziegler Furniture Store. Accordingly she made a left turn into the parking area in front of the store making a left turn facing south, turned around, and proceeded north in the parking lot area and made a right turn to turn out on SR 50. She knows that it was after 6:30 pm at the time she made this turn because she was supposed to be at her parents home at 6:30 pm and she is certain that she did not arrive at her parents home until 6:45 pm. She later learned that her brother had called at her parents home at exactly 6:30 pm to try to get in touch with her and had learned from her parents that she had not arrived at her parents house as of that time. She is certain so she believes that she pulled into the W. T. Ziegler Furniture Store parking lot at about 6:35 to 6:40 pm on December 24, 1975. This is as close as she can pinpoint the time she pulled into the lot. Her parents live a very short distance from the W. T. Ziegler Furniture Store and it did not take her long to get there after making this turn. It also did not take her very long to get gas since her tank was not empty and there was no delay at the service station in getting her gas. When she pulled into the front parking area of the furniture store she noticed that there was two cars nosed in side by side in front of the front door of the furniture store. She does not recall the make, model or color of these cars. She thought at the time it was odd that these cars were parked there when the store appeared to be closed. She does not know for sure but she does not believe that there were any lights on in the store except some in the rear which appeared to be night lights. She indicated that the lighted sign at the front of the store was on. She could not see any one in the store but there could have been since she only looked in the windows very briefly when she noticed the night lights on. She did not see any movements or any silhouettes that indicated that there might be some one in the store.



She then completed her turn and was starting to go out the entrance way in to the front parking area of the furniture store on to Dillard Street and was facing east waiting for the traffic on Dillard Street to clear so she could make her right hand turn that is, to the south to return to SR 50. It was dark at this particular time and she had her headlights on.

As she was waiting for the traffic to clear she noticed a pick-up truck make a turn into the W. T. Ziegler Furniture Store. This pick-up truck was heading south, that is coming from the ~~west~~^{west} on Dillard Street and turned in right beside her. Since this was the only vehicle she was watching in order to make her turn on to Dillard Street she immediately turned on to Dillard Street leaving the parking area after this truck turned in as described above. The only thing that she noticed about this vehicle is that it was a light colored pick-up truck with Ziegler Furniture Store name painted on the driver's side of this truck. She could not give the exact color of this pick-up truck nor could she tell how many occupants were in the truck. She could not see the driver very clearly and did not know whether it was a male or female driver. She was given plenty of time to think and was questioned very closely concerning the color, make, model and other pertinent data concerning this truck as well as the time element involved. She could furnish no additional information concerning the description of this truck other than set forth above.

She did alter the time element somewhat stating that she can be absolutely certain that this truck turned into the furniture store between 6:30 and 7:00 pm. These are the maximum limits as far as the time element is concerned. As mentioned above, she pinpointed the time nearer 6:35 to 6:45 pm that she made her turn into the furniture store parking lot. She indicated that it could not have taken her at the most 5 minutes to go from the service station where she got her gas which was located on the corner of Dillard Street and SR 50 to her parents home.

On January 12, 1976 this investigator picked MISS STRUTHERS up from her employment at Orlando Florida returning to Winter Garden Florida where she viewed the blue pick-up truck belonging to EDDIE WILLIAMS which was still located parked in the rear of the Ziegler Furniture Store and she was also taken to the residence of TOMMY ZIEGLER where she viewed the golden colored pick-up truck with the name of the Ziegler Furniture Store on the sides truck.

After carefully viewing both of these vehicles she advised that she could not identify either vehicle as being the one that she had seen turning into the parking area of the furniture store at approximately 6:40 pm on December 24, 1975. To the best of her memory the truck that turned into the furniture store parking area was lighter in color than either of these cars. She also observed the truck belonging to TOMMY ZIEGLER's father which was parked next door to TOMMY's residence after which she advised that she did not believe that this was the truck since it was much, much, too dark. Considerable time was spent with MISS STRUTHERS in trying to definitely pinpoint the particular vehicle described above that turned into the parking lot and the above is all that could be obtained from MISS STRUTHERS.

