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# Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation

*ACISS Investigative Report*

Report Number: **05-1776/2** Report Date: **11/09/2005**

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| Primary Information | |
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| Report Number: | 05-1776/2 |
| Report Date: | 11/09/2005 |
| Type Of Report: | Investigative |
| Description: | TERESA MARIE HALBACH Interview / Angela M. Schuster |
| Occurence From: | 11/06/2005 09:07 |
| Occurence To: | 11/06/2005 12:27 |
| Dissemination Code: | Agency |
| Reporting LEO: | McGrath, Neil J (Milwaukee Special Assignments / Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation) |
| Approval Status: | Approved |
| Approved Date: | 11/11/2005 |
| Approved By: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson / Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation) |

## Synopsis

On Sunday 11-06-2005 S/A Neil McGrath met with Auto Trader Magazines Manager Angela Schuster at the Auto Trader Magazine office located at [redacted], Hales Corners, WI 53130. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the disappearance of Teresa Halbach and obtain records from Auto Trader Magazine. Schuster was very cooperative and concerned about Halbach.

## Subject #1 - Interviewed #1 - Schuster, Angela M.

*Schuster, Angela M. (Interviewed) - Primary Information*

| | |
|---|---|
| Record Type: | Person |
| Subject Name: | Schuster, Angela M. |
| Race: | White |
| Sex: | Female |
| Birth Date: | [redacted] |
| Age: | 41 YEARS |
| Juvenile: | No |

## Record Status Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Record Origination Operator: | Blue, Barbara J (Criminal Investigation / Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation) |
| Record Origination Date: | 11/09/2005 10:05 |
| Last Update Operator: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson / Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation) |
| Last Update Date: | 11/11/2005 12:01 |

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| McGrath, Neil J (Milwaukee Special Assignments / Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation) | | Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson / Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation) | 11/30/2005 |
| | | | |

**Narrative begins on the following page.**

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EXHIBIT
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On Sunday 11/06/2005 at approximately 9:07 a.m., Special Agent Neil J. McGrath met with ANGELA M. SCHUSTER, W/F, DOB: [redacted], the manager at Auto Trader Magazine, telephone number [redacted], [redacted], Hales Corners, Wisconsin, [redacted]. Special Agent Thomas J. Fassbender asked S/A McGrath to contact ANGELA M. SCHUSTER to obtain records from Auto Trader Magazine and discuss the disappearance of TERESA MARIE HALBACH who was employed as a photographer with Auto Trader Magazine.

SCHUSTER stated she has been with Auto Trader Magazine for approximately eight years. SCHUSTER has approximately ten photographers working for Auto Trader magazine. Each of these photographers covers a territory in Wisconsin and takes photos of vehicles to be displayed in the magazine. SCHUSTER stated that her photographers did not typically meet and believe she is the only person with Auto Trader Magazine who had personally met HALBACH when she hired her in Green Bay. The photographers handle most of their business with the main office by phone, fax and mail and these photographers cover various locations in Wisconsin.

TERESA HALBACH has been employed with Auto Trader Magazine since 10/08/2004. SCHUSTER is HALBACH's supervisor and stated that HALBACH was referred to her by a customer who needed a photo taken of a vehicle and SCHUSTER did not have a photographer in that area. This customer (whose name SCHUSTER cannot recall) stated that he knew HALBACH and shortly thereafter HALBACH contacted SCHUSTER about being hired with Auto Trader Magazine. SCHUSTER believed that HALBACH lived in Hilbert, Wisconsin and stated that HALBACH normally worked Monday, Thursday and Saturdays. HALBACH covers the Green Bay, Appleton and Calumet County areas. HALBACH is temporarily covering the Manitowoc and Sheboygan County areas; however, these areas tend to generate less business in the winter months and would be covered less frequently by HALBACH.

SCHUSTER stated that as the manager she provided "leads to the photographs out in the field." Individuals wishing to advertise a vehicle in Auto Trader Magazine call the main office in Hales Corners and make an appointment to have photos taken of their vehicle. The office then contacts the photographer assigned to the specific territory where the request came from to notify the photographer and confirm the appointment. Approximately 90% of all "leads" will go through the main office in Hales Corners, however, occasionally photographers will leave their cell phone numbers directly with clients in order for the client to get a hold of them privately. When a photographer generates business by having a client contact them directly, it is called a "hustle shot." Photographers get paid more for "hustle" shots.

After completing their appointments photographers will typically send a disk containing the photos along with the appropriate forms to the main office in Hales Corners utilizing Fed Ex, UPS or Airborne Express. Photographers will also fax their appointment sheets into the Hales Corners office for review by SCHUSTER to determine how much the photographer is to get paid. Auto Trader

Magazine has supplied each of the photographers with a fax machine, a digital camera and disks, and postage to ship the documents to Auto Trader Magazine. At the end of a typical day of photographing vehicles, photographers remove the disks from the digital camera and send them using a parcel service to the Hales Corners office. Included with the disk would be 25 word description of the vehicle written by the client, and a photo log including bar-coded stickers. These bar-coded stickers were to be attached to the appropriate forms by the photographer along with the payment. The deadline for Auto Trader Magazine was Tuesday in order for the vehicles to be listed in the next issue.

A typical day for a photographer could vary from two to twelve photos in one day. Photographers are paid $9.25 per photo and are given a gas allowance of $15.00 per day. SCHUSTER stated that it was common for customers to do repeat business with Auto Trader Magazine. It was also common for the customer not to be present when their vehicle is photographed by Auto Trader Magazine. If the customer is not present, a description of the vehicle form filled out by the customer along with payment would be left with the vehicle. The photographer would collect the documents and payment when photographing the vehicle. A typical payment for a 12 week ad to run in Auto Trader Magazine is approximately $40.00. Clients are allowed to pay with cash, credit card or check and it is policy for the photographer to leave a receipt for the client that states how long their ad will run in Auto Trader Magazine. SCHUSTER also stated that the disk on the digital camera that stores the photos will keep the photos in the order that they were taken. If the disk is removed from the camera a separate file is created for the photos that are taken after the disk is re-inserted. All photographers are instructed not to remove the disk to avoid confusion in the order that the photos were taken. After taking photos the photographers fill out a photo log listing in order the photos of the vehicles that they took and a brief description. SCHUSTER believes that HALBACH was issued a Canon digital camera from Auto Trader Magazine and Brother Model 560 fax machine utilizing ink cartridge PC-401.

SCHUSTER described HALBACH as a great person who was cute, vibrant and very cordial. SCHUSTER stated that HALBACH was very thorough and responsible and did not believe that HALBACH was the kind of person to spontaneously go somewhere without notifying other people. SCHUSTER was disturbed that HALBACH was missing. SCHUSTER was not aware of any complaints about HALBACH from clients. SCHUSTER is not aware that HALBACH has ever been late for an appointment and believes it is extremely out of character for HALBACH not send reports back into the main office following her photo shoots. Typically SCHUSTER will contact a photographer if she has not received a faxed appointment sheet from the photographer the day following the appointments. Because of a busy schedule, SCHUSTER was not aware that HALBACH had not faxed her appointment sheet into the office. SCHUSTER became aware of this on Thursday afternoon, 11/03/2005, when SCHUSTER received a call from HALBACH's mother who was very concerned. After talking to HALBACH's mother, SCHUSTER immediately contacted HALBACH's other arranged appointments and the photography studio that she works at in Green Bay, telephone number [redacted]. SCHUSTER is aware that HALBACH works in a

professional photography studio located in Green Bay as well. SCHUSTER stated that several of their photographers worked for Auto Trader Magazine to supplement their income from other jobs. SCHUSTER found that HALBACH had not called or shown up to any of her scheduled appointments or at the photography studio. HALBACH had a scheduled appointment on Thursday, 11/03/2005 with MARK L[redacted], [redacted], Green Bay, telephone number [redacted]. SCHUSTER had spoken to L[redacted] who had stated that he left several messages on HALBACH's cell phone and had not received a call back from her. SCHUSTER also contacted CHAD F[redacted], [redacted], Green Bay, telephone number [redacted] who had a scheduled appointment with HALBACH on Thursday, 11/03/2005 as well. SCHUSTER left a message for F[redacted], however, did not receive a call back.

In reviewing records SCHUSTER stated that the last fax she received from HALBACH was time stamped 12:13 a.m. on 10/31/2005 from fax number [redacted] which was the typical fax machine that HALBACH used to fax her appointment reports into the main office. SCHUSTER believes that this is the fax number always used by HALBACH. SCHUSTER is not aware if the time stamp on the fax machine is accurate. SCHUSTER stated that HALBACH is quite thorough about taking notes of the photos she has completed during her appointments. She typically signs her name on the top of the fax and dates it for when the photographer detail appointment report was due. If she was unable to fax it SCHUSTER would contact HALBACH if she had not received the fax and SCHUSTER would fill in the report while speaking to HALBACH on the phone, however, this did not happen often.

SCHUSTER stated that TERESA HALBACH had scheduled appointments on Monday, 10/31/2005 with GEORGE ZIPPER, [redacted] CTH B, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, telephone number [redacted] for a 1977 Pontiac Firebird; CRAIG SIPPEL, [redacted] Highway A, New Holstein, Wisconsin, telephone number [redacted] for a 1955 Ford Thunderbird (however the appointment had been rescheduled); and B. JANDA, 12930A Avery Road, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, 54241, telephone number [redacted] for a 1989 Dodge mini-van. The appointment for B. JANDA was made on Monday, 10/31/2005, after an individual called into the office attempting to arrange the appointment. SCHUSTER believed that the receptionist at the office, DAWN PLISZKA, contacted HALBACH in the field and arranged for HALBACH to shoot the appointment on Avery Road. SCHUSTER stated there is also a possibility that HALBACH had other appointments that she would have arranged on her own and SCHUSTER would not be aware of these appointments until HALBACH faxed in her appointment report the following day.

SCHUSTER believes that PLISZKA attempted to call HALBACH on her cell phone and left her a message about the appointment. HALBACH later called back and PLISZKA was out to lunch. In the afternoon HALBACH did make contact with PLISZKA and they spoke on the phone around 2:27 p.m. SCHUSTER stated that she believes the call took place at 2:27 p.m. because she had spoken to a Manitowoc County Detective named MARK who advised SCHUSTER of the time that the call had taken place. SCHUSTER stated that she spoke with DAWN PLISZKA about the

conversation between PLISZKA and HALBACH and PLISZKA stated HALBACH informed her she could make the appointment and take photos and also stated that she had been out on Avery Road before. SCHUSTER believed HALBACH made a remark that an individual at that address had come out on a previous appointment dressed only in a towel and that HALBACH and PLISZKA had joked about it.

SCHUSTER stated that DAWN PLISZKA could be reached at telephone number [redacted] and attempted to reach her, leaving a message with PLISZKA to contact S/A McGrath.

SCHUSTER was anticipating that HALBACH's photos would have arrived on Monday morning, 10/31/2005 or Tuesday, 11/01/2005, to meet the deadline. HALBACH has never been late sending photos to arrive by the deadline for as long as she has been employed. It was also possible for customers to pre-pay for their photos however SCHUSTER stated that HALBACH did not have any pre-pays for the entire week and therefore would have had to collect cash, check or credit card from the client. If a client used a credit card the credit card number is filled out on a form and it is processed at the main office in Hales Corners. The main office is responsible for collecting if the customer does not pay. The photographer will still send the photos and information to Auto Trader Magazine but the vehicle will not be advertised in the magazine until payment is received. SCHUSTER stated that checks are the most common form of payment by customers.

SCHUSTER also did research on their internal computer program displaying to S/A McGrath that B. JANDA had never scheduled an appointment prior to 10/31/2005. However, TOM JANDA, 12930A Avery Road, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, telephone number [redacted], made an appointment for 09/18/2005 and photos of two vehicles were taken. One vehicle had been scheduled and one vehicle was a "hustle" photo. SCHUSTER also noticed that telephone number [redacted] was also listed to STEVEN AVERY on his account #42860.

STEVEN AVERY's account with Auto Trader Magazine was opened on 06/20/2005 during his first appointment for photos of a boat trailer. STEVEN AVERY listed an address of 12932 Avery Road, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, telephone numbers [redacted] and [redacted]. SCHUSTER stated that their computer system typically keeps client information for six to eight weeks before purging it, however, if a client remains active their prior appointments will remain within the system. AVERY's second appointment was on 10/22/2005 at 12932 Avery Road, Two Rivers, WI, account number 42860. AVERY's third appointment was 08/29/2005, at 12932 Avery Road, Two Rivers, WI, account number 42860, where two appointments were made for photos of a 1988 Chevy Blazer and a Lincoln Continental. STEVE AVERY's final appointment was made on 10/10/2005 for a Pontiac Grand Prix at 12932 Avery Road, Two Rivers, Wisconsin. SCHUSTER believes that AVERY had arranged the final appointment on his own directly with HALBACH, or had called the office on that day to arrange the appointment, however, it was not listed in the system that the call had come through the main office. It is possible that HALBACH was notified by the main office of the appointment while she was out in the field and went to the appointment from there.

SCHUSTER provided S/A McGrath with a copy of HALBACH's Auto Trader Magazine job application, customer information for HALBACH's appointments on 10/31/2005, and copies of all Photographer Detailed Appointment Reports for TERESA HALBACH beginning on 12/30/2004 up until the end of October 2005. (See Attached Documents).