

JERRY BERG

11/25/80

DOB 12/25/53

Berg died under a falling tree on 12/27/79 while chopping trees with Barry Dosanko. Dosanko put the body on a truck and drove it to St. Joseph's hospital in Minot, at which point he felt his obligations re: the facts of the case ended.

When contacted by police, Dosanko referred them to an attorney in Fargo. He was later persuaded to visit the scene with police and give them his version of what happened. He said that he and Berg were about one-eighth of a mile apart when he (Dosanko) didn't hear Berg's saw. He went to investigate, and saw Berg under a tree. Berg was known to be an accomplished woodsman. Homicide suspected, but not proven.

Autopsy said death came from asphyxia from concussion. Berg also had three broken ribs on one side, six on the other, and some small bruises on his back. Incident occurred approx. 12 noon on Dec. 27, 1979.

Two letters written by Berg detail his occult involvement. One, on Nov. 16, 1979, to a "Dan and Karen", went into some detail on the logging business he was entering with Dosanko, and then talked about his problems with his brother, Mike Berg. Jerry Berg wrote that he "considered creating a magical situation" to get his brother. He then mentioned possibly contacting his "former Black Magic" teacher, known as Aquarius Hodor (or Hador), now in Minneapolis. Berg wrote that Hador "is as evil as he's ever been--perhaps more so."

He went on to mention "UNC" (perhaps Univ. of North C.) and say perhaps someday it will ("have a top soc. dept.") He added: "I trust you worked carefully in the woods this year and that you had no accidents." He mentioned two apparent friends, probably from UNC, a John Vonk and Jim Marckel.

In a Nov. 8, 1979 letter to his mother, he mentioned his Odiyan (or Odeyan) training; said that his brother thought he was insane; and said his late father spoke to him in a dream. He talked in detail about death, how it can happen any time to any one.

"Odiyan" may refer to the Norse god Odin, god of death, war, art, and creator of the cosmos.

In addition to the above, Berg was a known friend of John Carr's, and he came into possession of some of the occult books owned by another Carr friend, Phil Falcon, when Falcon left town.

A couple of things come to mind on Arlis' death. Berk says there was a motive. Accepting this as true, and given the fact that the killing occurred in California, two possibilities emerge.

One, whatever Arlis did, saw, heard, or learned was "big" enough for them to follow her to the coast and kill her. They didn't just say "the hell with it" when she left Dakota.

Two, whatever it was, it was "big" enough to warrant her death, in their eyes, but it would have been too obvious if it was done in Dakota and so they waited until she went to the coast. There, it could be categorized as a coast nut who did it, with no Dakota connection. Put another way, if the killing had occurred in Dakota, who would have been the suspects?

According to Berk, it'll be easy to solve once we know where she came from. To him it's obvious and he believes it's going to be obvious to us. If that was the case, it made sense to kill her in California, where the murder would be attributed to someone there, not the obvious suspects in Dakota.

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