

A General Overview of the Case on Christiansen Highlights on Kenneth Christiansen as the hijacker 'D.B. Cooper'.

Submitted by Robert Blevins, the staff of Adventure Books of Seattle,
and Skipp Porteous of Sherlock Investigations Inc, New York City. (Retired)

- 1) We believe the hijacking was done by Kenneth Peter Christiansen, with the direct assistance of Bernard Wayne Geestman. We also believe that Geestman's former wife Margaret Ann (Miller) Geestman did not discover what the two men had done until shortly after the hijacking. And that she continues to keep their secret to the present day.
- 2) That the hijacking was planned over the summer of 1971 and that this planning occurred mainly at the Geestman' home in Bonney Lake, WA.
- 3) That approximately six weeks prior to the hijacking, that Mr. Geestman purchased an Airstream trailer via a bank repo sale, and a station wagon from a used car lot in Elma, WA. That he parked the trailer on property he owned in Oakville, WA and then drove the station wagon back to his home in Bonney Lake. Additionally, that this action was a part of the planning done for the hijacking.
- 4) That Kenny Christiansen told at least two people he knew that he would be flying back to Minneapolis to visit his family that Thanksgiving, but in fact, he did not go.
- 5) For Thanksgiving 1970, the year prior to the hijacking, that both the Geestman couple and Kenny Christiansen attended Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Helen Jones in the Sumner, WA area and were expected to attend again in 1971.
- 6) That less than a month prior to the date of the hijacking, a family member of Bernie Geestman's (his niece, daughter of witness Dawn Androsko) walked into a shed on the Geestman's property and observed Kenny Christiansen working with items similar in nature to items that could have been used to create the bomb used by the hijacker.
- 7) That Kenny Christiansen, when he saw her in the shed, said: "You're not supposed to be in here," and asked her to leave, which she did. The witness was approximately thirteen years old at the time.
- 8) That on the Monday or Tuesday prior to the hijacking, Mr. Geestman told his wife he was driving to Oakville to pick up his recently-purchased Airstream trailer and go camping over the Thanksgiving holiday, including the weekend following. An argument ensued over this between Mr. and Mrs. Geestman, but Mr. Geestman took the station wagon and left anyway.
- 9) That Mr. Geestman drove from Bonney Lake to Kenny Christiansen's apartment a short distance away in Sumner, WA, picked him up, and the two men went on to Oakville.

- 10) That on the Wednesday morning of the hijacking, Mr. Geestman and Kenny Christiansen drove to Portland International Airport. Christiansen was then dropped off at the airport, while Mr. Geestman drove back up north to the property in Oakville, and waited at the trailer. That there was a shop building on the property, but not a house, and that a telephone may have been installed at the shop.
- 11) That Kenny Christiansen then bought a ticket to Seattle at the NWA counter at Portland International and boarded Flight 305. Further, that Christiansen did not actually make a final decision to hijack the flight until he was sure he would not be recognized by the stewardesses who were on board the flight that afternoon. Since the hijacker, as far as we know, did not get a good look at the flight crew up front, that this was part of his motivation for insisting that none of the flight crew members be allowed to go aft. (Because he might be recognized) That Christiansen then passed a prepared note to stewardess Florence Schaffner shortly after takeoff stating his intentions, and made demands for money.
- 12) That due to certain statements made by the hijacker while the plane was enroute to Seattle, that such statements demonstrate the hijacker was probably from the Puget Sound area. Also, because of certain requests while on the ground in Seattle, that the original plan was for Christiansen to bail out much further north, and closer to the two men's homes, than was actually done. This is indicated by the fact that the hijacker asked for the plane to take off from Seattle with the stairs already lowered, but that this request was refused on the grounds of safety. If the plane had been allowed to depart Seattle with the airstairs down, it is likely the hijacker would have bailed much sooner and further north.
- 13) Because of the same reasons, and the fact that both Christiansen and Geestman lived less than thirty miles from the Sea Tac Airport, it is believed the original plan called for Christiansen to bail out somewhere between Seattle and Olympia, along the V-23 flight corridor.
- 14) That due to Christiansen being forced to bail out further south than he intended, this resulted in Christiansen having to walk out of the woods a further distance before he reached a phone. That after he reached a phone, he contacted Mr. Geestman, who drove from Oakville and picked him up. That Christiansen was driven to his apartment in Sumner, while Geestman took the wagon and trailer back to his home in Bonney Lake. And that this occurred on the Monday following the hijacking.
- 15) It is at this time we believe Margaret Geestman was told about what the two men had done, or soon afterward. We believe that part of Geestman's motivation for the hijacking was to assist his sister Dawn Androsko to obtain enough money to move she and her children out of the Geestman home. An additional motivation was likely Geestman's desire to finance a new home on his property in Oakville, which he later did using house plans he ordered sent to his own address, but under a name of another man he knew, Richard Blume.

- 16) That the trailer used in the hijacking was sold to a buyer from Arizona after December 1972, having never been used by Geestman except over the week of the hijacking. Testimony from witness Helen Jones indicates that she and her family were loaned this trailer temporarily while repairs were made to their home after a fire that started on Christmas Eve, 1972, and that the trailer was sold by Geestman immediately after the repairs were complete.
- 17) That little, if any, of the ransom money from the hijacking was spent between the date of the hijacking and April of the following year, and that by April, (source: FBI agent Larry Carr's radio interview) most if not all banks had given up the search for the ransom bills.
- 18) That in April 1972, Mr. Geestman approached Kenny Christiansen and obtained \$5,000 cash from Christiansen, which was given to Geestman's sister Dawn as a down payment for a house she later purchased in Buckley, WA. And that this money was eventually repaid to Christiansen by the sister.
- 19) That in June 1972, Mr. Geestman referred his friends Ann and Joseph Grimes to Kenny Christiansen, and that Christiansen eventually purchased a permanent home from the Grimes' located in Bonney Lake, WA. That this sale was arranged by signing a promissory note with the Grimes' for approximately half the price of the home and the balance financed with a mortgage from SeaFirst Bank. Further, that Christiansen did certain remodeling on the home he purchased, which included tearing out the Formica kitchen counters and replacing them with similar-colored counters. And that he used a scrap piece from the old counters and a pair of smaller boards to construct a hiding spot for the ransom money in his attic, just above his bedroom. This 'box' was discovered in October 2010 by Scott Rolle, cast member of 'Brad Meltzer's Decoded,' after an infrared search was done of the home.
- 20) That after the date of the hijacking Christiansen stopped attending union meetings at Northwest Airlines, changed his general appearance, as well as his former mode of off-work dress, and stopped wearing a toupee he had occasionally worn prior to the hijacking.
- 21) That during their initial investigation, the F.B.I. failed to consider that the hijacking could have been done by an employee of the airline, and that this failure assisted Mr. Christiansen in escaping the notice of law enforcement.
- 22) That the ransom money found near Tina Bar in 1980 could have been a plant, in an effort to make the F.B.I. believe the hijacker died in the jump. The exact method of such a plant is not known, but we believe it would have been done after November 24, 1976, when the F.B.I. bypassed the Statute of Limitations and obtained a John Doe warrant for the hijacker. The warrant enabled the F.B.I. to continue seeking the hijacker, instead of ending the investigation, which could have motivated the hijacker to attempt what is commonly known as a 'red herring'.

- 23) That for a time directly after the hijacking, Mr. Geestman's sister Dawn Androsko and some of her friends speculated on the idea that Christiansen could be the hijacker, but later dismissed these speculations because it seemed not in his personality. At the time, Mrs. Androsko and her friends were not aware that Christiansen had been a paratrooper in the U.S. Army near the end of World War 2.
- 24) On a separate note, that the Seattle F.B.I. failed to provide a reason why the parachute found near Amboy, WA in 2008 was not one used by the hijacker. The F.B.I. stated initially that the parachute was not only the right color and size, but found in the most likely area they believe the hijacker may have jumped. The following week, they dismissed all of those things without giving a reason, basing that conclusion mostly on the word of Earl Cossey, who had said for years he not only owned the parachutes, but delivered them to the airport for the hijacker. It has been discovered through the FBI's own records that neither of those things was true.
- 25) That the only people who actually knew the truth about the hijacking were Ken Christiansen, Bernie Geestman, and his wife Margaret Geestman, and that the Geestman couple continue to keep that secret to the present day. Mr. Christiansen himself died in 1994. Further, that Mr. Geestman traveled to his ex-wife Margaret's ranch less than six weeks after Christiansen's death and stole his Foss Tugs logbook for 1971, a document which would have shown he was not working the week of the hijacking, although he claimed he was working that week during an interview with Mr. Blevins. That he also ransacked ex-wife's home for all pictures of he and Christiansen, as well as additional documents from the home. We believe he did this shortly after Christiansen's death in order to cover his involvement in the hijacking.
- 26) That Mr. Geestman lied when he told the cast of the *Decoded* program in October 2010 that he had visited Christiansen on his deathbed. Witnesses who were with Christiansen at his home while he was under hospice care have stated that Geestman only called on the telephone, and that Christiansen then asked for privacy on the call. And that the two men spoke for several minutes. At this time Christiansen was completely bedridden and under heavy physical care, due to being in the late stages of colon cancer.
- 27) That Mr. Geestman had not contacted Christiansen in years, and that his true reason for making the phone call was to see if Christiansen planned to make a last-minute confession to the hijacking. Christiansen did not make a confession, but shortly before he died a few days later, he told his brother Lyle 'there is something you should know, but I can't tell you'. We believe that Geestman pressured Christiansen to stay quiet and used Christiansen's friendship with Margaret Geestman as a motivator, telling Christiansen he would get everyone into trouble.

Basic Points on the Present Investigation into Christiansen (2007-2014)

- 1) That the idea Christiansen could be the hijacker first emerged when his brother Lyle saw a television show about D.B. Cooper, suspected his deceased brother might be Cooper, and eventually contacted New York private investigator Skipp Porteous with his suspicions.
- 2) That both Porteous and New York Magazine writer Geoffrey Gray then launched an investigation into Christiansen as possibly being 'D.B. Cooper'. Their results were inconclusive, but both men began doing additional research for separate books on Christiansen, or the hijacking itself. The book by Porteous ('Into The Blast') focused more on Christiansen, while Gray's book ('Skyjack') covered more about the other suspects, as well as previously unknown details on the hijacking itself, such as the differing descriptions given of the hijacker by the witnesses.
- 3) That Robert Blevins contacted Mr. Porteous in late 2008 and offered his assistance in the creating of a book about Christiansen. That Mr. Blevins motivation for this, at least partially, was when he saw that Christiansen had lived in the same town where he went to high school at the time of the hijacking, and that Mr. Blevins was familiar with the area.
- 4) Additionally, that Mr. Blevins was sent all files collected to that point on Christiansen by Porteous' company, Sherlock Investigations, under a confidentiality agreement. And that after examining these items, Mr. Blevins told Porteous that he needed additional evidence in order to actually produce a book on the idea that Christiansen was the hijacker.
- 5) That Mr. Blevins suggested that Geoffrey Gray had not spoken to people who were exceptionally close to Kenny Christiansen, and the truth about Christiansen might be better served if these people were interviewed.
- 6) That the official investigation by Adventure Books of Seattle staff into Christiansen began in January 2009, after Mr. Porteous ran extensive background and investigative checks into all the people who were closest to Christiansen. These background reports and names were then provided to Mr. Blevins, who began interviewing these people, beginning with Bernie Geestman's sister Dawn Androsko.
- 7) That during an interview with Mrs. Androsko at her home on Fox Island, WA that Mrs. Androsko stated she had received the \$5,000 loan from Christiansen and that the money was delivered to her by her brother. She also identified the tie-tack from the tie left behind by the hijacker as one she had seen Christiansen wear several times. It was at this time she stated that she and some of her friends had suspected Christiansen had been the hijacker, but later dismissed it.
- 8) That during seven separate interviews of Mrs. Geestman at her ranch in Twisp, WA that she consistently pointed to her ex-husband Bernie as an accomplice in the hijacking, but refused to give details about Christiansen's possible involvement. That she attempted to name other people besides Christiansen as the actual hijacker.

- 9) That on the final interview with Mrs. Geestman, she admitted that it had been Christiansen who disappeared during the entire week of the hijacking with her husband. This admission came after Mrs. Geestman was presented with the full evidence (available at that time) against Kenny Christiansen and her ex-husband Bernie Geestman.
- 10) That family friend and witness Helen Jones of Sumner, WA testified that Christiansen was the one who went missing the week of the hijacking with Bernie Geestman, and that neither man attended Thanksgiving dinner at her house that year. She also testified they had attended the previous year, and again the year following the hijacking. She also testified that approximately six weeks after the hijacking that she saw Christiansen at a laundromat in Sumner and asked him why he had not shown up for Thanksgiving at her house that year. Christiansen replied that he had been out with Bernie Geestman, but avoided giving Jones any further details.
- 11) That approximately eighteen months after a television program and two books emerged on Christiansen, that Mrs. Geestman sold her ranch in Twisp, WA for \$491,000 to the State of Washington's Fish and Game Department, and instructed both her attorney (S Renee Ewalt) and the bank officer who handled the sale (Dave Thomsen of Winthrop, WA) to not reveal her present whereabouts. Her current location is unknown.
- 12) That on January 6, 2011 the History Channel program *Brad Meltzer's Decoded* first aired the episode exploring Kenny Christiansen as the hijacker, and that this was when Bernie Geestman's immediate family first became aware he was suspected of being an accomplice in the hijacking.
- 13) That Mr. Geestman did not inform his family that he would be appearing on the show, and that they only found out by watching the program. Further, that some family members of Geestman's questioned why he would point to Christiansen as the hijacker during his appearance on the show, when some of them already knew he was with Christiansen the week of the hijacking.
- 14) That a member of Geestman's family, (his niece, the daughter of witness Dawn Androsko) after seeing the History Channel program, told others in the family about the incident in the shed at the Geestman' property, and gave them details on what Kenny Christiansen was doing at that time. One key detail about this incident is believed known only to the stewardess on the flight who actually saw the bomb, and the Seattle F.B.I. That detail is being held in confidence as a control. (Later released publicly, this detail is that the witness stated there was red electrical tape used to wrap filled, quarter-sized coin rolls, with electrical wire being attached to these rolls. And that the rolls were being taped together in twos by Christiansen to make longer rolls. The obvious object being to create what resembled dynamite sticks with wires attached.)
- 15) That the entire family began following the case and ordered books and programs related to the investigation into Geestman and Kenny Christiansen to determine whether there was any merit to the allegations presented in the book and the television program.

- 16) That family members attempted to contact Mrs. Geestman in Twisp to verify certain things, but since she had no phone and only a P.O. Box for an official address, they were unable to find her. This is moot, since by this time she had sold her ranch in Twisp and moved.
- 17) That in June of 2013, three of Geestman's family, including the witness who allegedly observed Christiansen creating the bomb, contacted Mr. Blevins and asked for details of the investigation.
- 18) That Mr. Blevins provided this information via email, in the form of a partially-completed report with pictures and image files, but that he did not meet with these people at that time. When Mr. Blevins attempted to contact them later, they only had brief responses.
- 19) That in May 2014, these same family members contacted Mr. Blevins again by email and phone and asked for a private meeting, due to things they had discovered by using the report Mr. Blevins had provided them the previous year. The meeting was done at the Dairy Freeze restaurant in Sumner, WA with four people in attendance: They were: The family witness who claimed to have seen Christiansen constructing the phony bomb, (Bernie Geestman's niece) her son, the son's girlfriend, and Mr. Blevins.
- 20) During this meeting, Mr. Blevins provided the family members with a more complete report on the investigation, and everyone in attendance went over the report together page by page. This report was given to the family in print form when the meeting ended. Mr. Blevins did provide them with the contact information of a key witness they already knew personally, Helen Jones of Sumner, WA, and he urged them to contact her.
- 21) Approximately six weeks after the meeting, Geestman's niece came forward with the story of seeing Christiansen constructing the bomb shortly before the date of the hijacking. All family members were warned that their statements would be added to the report, which would eventually be sent to the Seattle FBI. The witness also stated: "We'd rather wait until he (Bernie Geestman) is gone before saying anything." (About his involvement in the hijacking.) The witness was warned that the Seattle F.B.I. might insist otherwise, and the witness accepted this possibility.
- 22) That in general, it has been difficult for Geestman's immediate family to reconcile that he may have been involved in the hijacking. They now believe he was involved, but it is difficult for them nonetheless. They have said they would like to know the truth, but are not interested in financial gain.
- 23) That in general, Geestman's family now understands that he lied on several key points, including his television appearance, his conversations with former History Channel producer Marisa Kagan and in his interview with Robert Blevins.
- 24) In November 2014, a representative from a film production company inquired about the rights to the Christiansen story and was told they were available. After some further inquiries, the full report on Christiansen and a copy of the book on Christiansen were sent to the representative in PDF format.

- 25) That initially there was some debate on whether the full report on Christiansen should be withheld from the Seattle F.B.I. until either the film was produced, or after its release.
- 26) After some discussion with the film company, it was agreed the final report on Christiansen/Geestman would be provided to the Seattle FBI, along with a full DNA profile on Christiansen's brother Lyle, for comparison to the partial DNA profiles taken from the tie by the F.B.I.
- 27) That Mr. Blevins has consistently turned down any money offered to him for either television appearances regarding this case, or offers for the film rights unless the truth is presented. Mr. Blevins has done this three times. The first time was a \$2,500 offer for his appearance on the Decoded show. The second was a \$1,000 offer from Comcast Sports for his participation in the Cooper episode of the show Adrenaline Hunter. The third was a modest five-figure offer for the film rights from a film production company represented by Paradigm in New York City. Mr. Blevins refused the Paradigm offer because the film company wanted to take extensive liberties with any presentation about Ken Christiansen.
- 28) That this final report would be submitted to the Seattle F.B.I. by January 30, 2015 and to major Northwest media about two weeks afterward.
- 29) That this document is only a partial review of the evidence, and intended only as a general guide.

Submitted by: Robert Blevins, Skipp Porteous, and the staff of Adventure Books of Seattle.