

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT
DOCKET NO. 2281-CR-99

COMMONWEALTH

v.

ARTHUR LOUIS MASSEI

COMMONWEALTH'S STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Introduction

Now comes the Commonwealth in the above-captioned matter and submits this Statement of the Case. This statement is provided to assist the court and is not intended to be a bill of particulars, nor does it contain all information known to the Commonwealth at this time.

On June 10, 1971, Natalie Schueblin was brutally murdered at her home in Bedford. The defendant, Arthur Louis Massei, was first identified as a potential suspect in 1999 when his left thumb print was found to match a latent print recovered from the victim's automobile, which had been stolen at the time of the murder. When initially interviewed by police, Massei claimed that he had never before been in Bedford and didn't know anything about the murder. During a subsequent interview, he stated that in 1971 he had been solicited by an organized crime associate to murder the wife of a banker and to make the murder look like a break-in. Mrs. Schueblin's husband was the president of a bank and the murder appeared to have occurred during the course of a break-in. During these interviews Massei also made false and contradictory statements. A grand jury investigation

conducted in 2021 and 2022 revealed that Massei had previously confessed to a confidant that he had once killed a person with a knife.

The Murder

In the early evening of Thursday, June 10, 1971, Raymond Scheublin, the President of the Lexington Trust Bank, returned from work to find the murdered body of his wife Natalie Scheublin, age 54, in the basement of their Bedford home. He found her face-down on the floor, her ankles bound and a makeshift gag tied around her neck.

Mr. Scheublin immediately contacted the Bedford Police Department, whose officers arrived within minutes. An autopsy revealed that Mrs. Scheublin had been stabbed with a knife in both the left and right sides of her chest, resulting in the collection of blood in each lung. Her skull had also been smashed with an unidentified object, causing a massive blunt force injury to her head. Rigor mortis had not yet set in when police arrived, meaning that the victim had been deceased for only a short time.

No items of substantial value were taken from the home, but Mrs. Scheublin's automobile, a blue and white 1969 Chevrolet Impala, had been taken. Police immediately canvassed the area, interviewed neighbors and looked for the missing vehicle. At 8:42 PM, police located the Impala in the parking lot of the nearby Veteran's Administration Hospital, less than half a mile away from the murder scene.

The Fingerprint

Although the car appeared to have been intentionally wiped down to remove fingerprints, police were able to observe and collect several latent fingerprints from it, including one from the right rear window. However, despite dozens of potential suspects being identified and interviewed by investigators, police were initially unable to match any

of the latent fingerprints to a suspect. In 1999, fingerprint examiners from the Massachusetts State Police used a new tool, the FBI's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), to attempt to identify the fingerprint found on the Impala and the other latent fingerprints found at the crime scene. Through AFIS, they were able to identify the defendant as a candidate. Subsequent analysis of that print by a State Police fingerprint expert confirmed that the latent print recovered from the victim's vehicle matched the defendant's left thumb.

Massei's Statements

When investigators located and interviewed Massei in 2000, he denied any knowledge of or involvement in Natalie Scheublin's murder, and further denied ever having been in the town of Bedford. He claimed that in June of 1971, when the murder took place, he had been in custody at the Charles Street Jail in Boston. This was false. Although Massei had been convicted of numerous offenses between 1962 and 1972, he had in fact been a fugitive from justice on the day that Mrs. Scheublin was murdered.

During a subsequent interview of Massei in 2005, he changed his story. Although he again denied involvement in Mrs. Scheublin's murder, Massei now claimed that in 1971 he had been solicited by an organized crime associate to murder the wife of a man who "runs a bank," and to make it look like a break-in. Massei said that he had been told that the banker was friendly with members of the Winter Hill criminal organization. Massei claimed he had been offered a large sum of money to carry out the murder, but that he had declined to participate.

During this interview, Massei also revealed a detail that explained why the victim's vehicle had been stolen at the time of her murder. Massei claimed that one of the murderers, a cousin who had died before the interview, had told him that the man they had recruited to act as a getaway driver had "gotten lost" or "got cold feet" and as a result had "left them stranded."

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Massachusetts State Police troopers and Bedford Police detectives pored over old documents and sought out information about Massei's past in an effort to identify new witnesses. During the course of their wide-ranging investigation, they identified a woman who admitted that she had been involved with Massei in schemes to defraud banks in the 1990s. She revealed that Massei habitually carried a knife and had bragged to her about having killed someone with a knife.

Respectfully Submitted
For the Commonwealth

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