

45
Dr. A. Francis
Physician and Surgeon

New Denver, B.C. Feb. 4th

19 43

RECEIVED

FEB 8 1943

File No. C 81-4

Dept. of Attorney General,
Parliament Bldgs.,
Victoria, B.C.

Re- Death of Kimiko Kireto, Slocan City.
Jan 6th 1943.

Dear sirs,

The above mentioned Japanese girl died very suddenly at Slocan City on the above date under unusual circumstances. In view of these circumstances and because of international aspects I deemed it wise that a thorough investigation of her death should be made.

Accordingly, Constable J. Dowling of New Denver assisted by some of the R.C.M.P. constables at Slocan City and myself have gone into this case as completely as possible.

The girl did not receive medical attention previous to death nor did she make any ante-mortem statement. I considered it necessary that a complete post-mortem examination be made with a sectioning of tissues. The nearest doctor qualified to do this work was in Nelson and I ordered the body to be transferred there for the autopsy. This was done by Dr. G.R. Barrett and sections were sent to Dr. F.P. Sparks, Assistant Pathologist, Vancouver General Hospital, for examination. Both Drs. Barrett and Sparks have been of the greatest help by their comprehensive reports. I asked Dr. Barrett to be present at the inquest and explain the pathological findings together with the cause of death to the jury, who very much appreciated his clear explanation of his findings.

I might say that this inquest was carried on under rather trying circumstances of roads due to the recent severe weather. As the Japanese insist on cremation, I refused to give a death certificate in this case until after the inquest was held. The body being held at the morgue at New Denver in the meantime.


From a perusal of the evidence taken at this Inquisition, you will note that one Yoshitaka Takashima admitted having intimate relations with the deceased when she was 14 years of age. From various sources evidence apparently can be forthcoming which will prove this man to be one whose activities should be restricted; and as a result of this inquest, Const. Dowling is laying a charge against him of contributing to delinquency.

Considerable concern has been manifested by the local Japanese and rumors of lynching were abroad. The complete investigation we have made has done something to reassure them that acts such as this even among their own people will not go unnoticed.

I wish to express my thanks to Const. Dowling of New Denver, Const. Deeks of the R.C.M.P., Supt. Fowell, R.C.M.P. and Mr. Tadasu Ide, an experienced interpreter recently employed by the Vancouver City Police Court, for their efficient assistance in this inquest.

I am,

Yours truly,



A. Francis, M.D.
Coroner.

AF/M.
encl.

DIVISION: " B "

DISTRICT: WEST KOOTENAY,

DETACHMENT: NEW DENVER.



FILE No.

DATE: 15-1-43

PR or PCR.

NIL

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

R E P O R T *46*

RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of.

H'ORS. REF.

DIV'L REF.

DIST. REF.

DET. REF.

1. With reference to the above I beg to report that on January 6th at about 11 P.M., R.C.M.P. Constable D.A. Deeks of Slocan City informed me, by phone, that this girl had died in Slocan City Hospital at 10.50 P.M. and that cause of death was unknown. I contacted Dr. A. Francis, Coroner, and he stated that he would hold an inquiry the next day.
2. On Thursday, January 7th, Coroner and I proceeded to Slocan City and after learning that the girl had never had medical treatment and therefore cause of death being unknown the Coroner ordered an inquest to be held. The following were sworn in as jury at 2 P.M., William Kline, Malcolm Cameron, James Howard, Desmond Hood, Archie Rae and James Draper (Foreman.). After the body was viewed by the Jury and identified by Joan Takashima, friend of deceased, Coroner adjourned inquest until he received report of post-mortem he had ordered done on body by Dr. Barrett of Nelson. Body was taken to Nelson by Somer's Funeral Parlours' hearse and on same date at 8.30 P.M. in Somer's morgue at Nelson a post-mortem, at which I was present, was performed by Dr. Barrett. Dr. Barrett stated that before he could give a report of his findings it would be necessary to send samples of the various organs to Pathologist in Vancouver for examination. These parts were prepared for shipment by Kootenay Lake Hospital and were sent by express to Dr. F.P. Sparks, assistant Pathologist Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, B. C.
3. As a result of investigation I learned that this girl was 15 years of age and lived with her sister, Mrs. Y. Takashima at Bay Farm near Slocan City. Deceased girl's mother is dead and her father is living in New Denver. Dr. Kami Takahara of Slocan City said there were rumours that deceased girl had been pregnant but had lost child around 1st or 2nd of December. Her condition apparently improved and she was up and around on December 25th. She was alright until about 2 or 3 days before her death when she began to be quite sick. She refused to have Doctor but when her condition became alarming on night of January 6th, her sister called Dr. Kami Takahara and he ordered her to Hospital. When she arrived at hospital, Miss G. Reynolds, Matron, said girl was breathing very heavily and after being placed on cot she just gave two gasps and was dead. As far as I can learn this girl had never mentioned her pregnancy to anyone, even her sister. Girl was evacuated from Vancouver Island last May to Hastings Park, Vancouver and came to Slocan City in September.
4. Dr. Barrett explained after post-mortem that girl had been pregnant about 5 or 6 months when she apparently lost her child around 1st of December. He said she had a bad case of peritonitis which he claimed could have been caused by pneumonia which he found present. He could find no evidence of any instruments being used and said it was possible girl lost child owing to severe fall. If the unborn child was 5 or 6 months old it would mean the deceased girl was made pregnant at Hastings Park, Vancouver, B. C.

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Cont'd:

RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of.

5. Further report will be submitted after inquest is held.

UNCONCLUDED.

To the N.C.O. in charge,
West Kootenay District,
B.C. Provincial Police,
Nelson, B. C.

J. Dowling, Constable #624
i/c New Denver Detachment.

FORWARDED TO
THE O. C. B. DIV.

JAN 18 1943

N. C. O. i/c DISTRICT

HQRS. REF.

DIV'L REF.

DIST. REF.

DET. REF.

FORWARDED TO
COMMISSIONER

JAN 18 1943

INSPECTOR O/C "B" DIV.

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C.I.B. HQRS.

JAN 21 1943

B. C. POLICE
VICTORIA, B. C.

Address all communications to:
THE COMMISSIONER
British Columbia Provincial Police
(C.I.D.)
Victoria, B.C.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
VICTORIA

Your File No.

In reply quote File No.

SUBJECT:

Kimiko Kireto,
Deceased.

February 9th,
1 9 4 3.

The Deputy Attorney-General,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPT.

RECEIVED

FEB 9 1943

Sir:

With reference to our telephone conversation this morning, I am enclosing copy of the only report we have received so far. You will notice that Constable Dowling states he is submitting a further report. I have sent a radio message asking what progress has been made in the investigation and when this further report will be received.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

R. Parsons
msp

for. T.W.S. Parsons,
Commissioner of Provincial Police.

RP/DN
Encl.

File

DIVISION: "B"

DISTRICT: WEST KOOTENAY,

DETACHMENT: NEW DENVER,



FILE No.

DATE: 6-2-43

UNORGANIZED TERRITORYPR or PCR.R E P O R T

15-1-43

RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of

1. With reference to the above and m/n report, I beg to report that on Monday, February 1st, 1943, at 2 P.M. the Inquest was reopened by Coroner, Dr. A. Francis of New Denver, in the Orange Hall, Slocan City, B.C. Owing to one of the original jurors being absent, John S. Perkinson was sworn in to take place of Desmond Hood.

2. The following witnesses were called and questioned by the Coroner:

1st Witness: Gladys Louise REYNOLDS, Slocan City, duly sworn:

Q. Do you recall the death of this girl, Kimiko Kireto?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you describe how she died?

A. She was brought to the hospital in the Doctor's car. I happened to be there, and was called to see her. She was gasping for breath when I saw her, so I notified Dr. Kamitakahara, and in the meantime got her in the hospital. The Doctor came over and she just gave two more gasps and died. The heart stimulants we were getting ready for her, of course were too late.

Q. What day was that?

A. 6th of January, 10:15 P.M.

Q. Do you know if she had any medical attention?

A. No, none as far as I know. Dr. Kamitakahara, as far as I know had not seen the girl.

Q. Was this young lady able to speak?

A. She was not.

Q. Did she make any statement?

A. She did not.

H'ORS. REF.DIV'L REF.DIST. REF.DET. REF.

2nd Witness: Doctor George Raymond BARRETT, Nelson, duly sworn:

Q. Are you a duly qualified Practitioner for the Province of British Columbia?

A. I am.

Q. Did you perform the post-mortem on the body of Kimiko Kireto?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you please give the Jury a report of that inquest?

A. External Examination:

The body is that of a thin Japanese female of about 15 years of age, measuring 46 inches in length and weighing about 90 pounds. There were no external marks of violence nor any burns on the lips or mouth. The pupils were both dilated, measuring 7 mm. in diameter. The breasts were small. The abdomen was distended with gas and fluid, and abdominal skin showed striagruvid-arum.

Thorax and Neck:

The pericardial cavity contained a small amount of clear fluid. The heart and great vessels were negative, grossly. Both right and left lungs showed large coalescing patches of red consolidation, with the cut surface showing bleeding and exudation. Both pleural cavities contained fluid and the left lung showed a walnut sized pus cavity at it's pleural surface.

Abdomen:

The abdomen contained over a quart of fibrin flaked fluid with poorly walled over pockets of pus, above the liver, down the

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right side, and on the left side from the spleen to the pelvis. There was a good deal of fibrin adherent to most of the organs. The kidneys, spleen, liver, stomach and bowel, when out, were grossly normal. The bladder contained two ounces of clear urine. The bladder mucosa was normal.

Genitalia:

Both ovaries and tubes were grossly normal though involved somewhat in the general inflammation in the abdomen. The uterus was enlarged considering the age of the subject. The cervix was discolored and dilated. Neither it or the uterus or the vagina showed any evidence of recent trauma. The hymen was not present. On opening the uterus anteriorly its walls were grossly smooth and lacking endometrium, except for one thickened patch in the anterior fundus. This patch was of well organized tissue, firmly adherent to the anterior wall. Sections of the various organs, the complete stomach, the complete tubes, ovaries and uterus were removed for examination, also sections of lungs and heart tissue.

The skull was not opened.

Diagnosis - Gross:

- (1) Septic pneumonia
- (2) Diffuse peritonitis
- (3) Dilated cervix and enlarged uterus which appears to have recently been emptied.

Report on Tissues submitted by Dr. R. Barrett from Post-mortem performed on the body of Kimiko Kireto, Japanese female age 15 years. GROSS TISSUES submitted consisted of Stomach, uterus, with both Tubes and Ovaries attached; portions of lungs, kidneys, spleen liver; and portions of heart muscle.

Gross Examination:

Specimens of stomach, liver, spleen, kidneys and heart muscle did not reveal any gross abnormality.

LUNG...The portions of lung reveal on cross-section, definite white circumscribed areas of consolidation. Cross-section through one portion of lung tissue reveals an abscess cavity measuring 1 cm. in diameter. Besides this abscess there is another whitish area, showing a darker centre--this area strongly resembles an early embolic abscess.

UTERUS, OVARIES, and TUBES...The ovaries measure 2.5 x 1.5 x 1 cms. respectively. The tubes measure 5 cms. in length. Gross examination of ovaries and tubes fails to reveal any abnormality. There is no evidence of corpus luteum formation in the ovaries. The uterus measures 9x6x5 cms. It is definitely enlarged for a fifteen year old female. The cervical is definitely dilated and the cervical wall is thinned out. The uterus has been opened longitudinally from the cervix to the fundus. Examination of the uterine cavity reveals no definite evidence of a normal endometrium. There is on the anterior wall of the fundus a medallion shaped thickened area 3cmx3cmx1cm in thickness. Section through this area reveals many large haemorrhagic areas beneath its surface. There is also at various levels between the cervix and the fundus small areas suggesting old haemorrhage scattered throughout the muscular coat of the uterine wall.

Microscopic Examination:

HEART...Sections through the heart muscle reveals some fragmentation of the muscle fibres, with swelling and degeneration.

LUNGS...Sections of the lungs reveal scattered and diffuse areas of broncho-pneumonia consolidations. In one area the alveoli

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PR or PCR.

H'ORS. REF.

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RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of

are filled with masses of polymorphs; in another area there is a large abscessed cavity, filled with acute inflammatory exudate. In a nearby blood vessel there is well organized infected embolus. Many of the bronchi are filled with acute inflammatory exudate. The alveoli distant from the definite broncho-pneumonic areas contain heart failure cells, polymorphs and red blood cells; suggesting an infarction.

LIVER...Cross-sections of the liver parenchyma reveal cloudy swelling of the liver cells. There is a congestion of the central sinusoids, in which are seen many of the large so called heart failure cells.

SPLEEN...Section of the spleen reveal a fibrosis of the splenic pulp, with few red blood cells in the sinusoids and an occasional area of extravasation of red blood cells into the pulp. Otherwise the spleen is not notable.

STOMACH...Sections through the stomach wall reveals the serosa to be covered by an acute exudate. The muscular layer and the glands of the mucous membrane are normal in all respects.

KIDNEYS...Sections of kidney tissue reveal cloudy swelling of the proximal convoluted tubules.

UTERUS...Sections through the various portions of the lining of the uterine cavity fails to reveal any normal appearing endometrial tissue. The uterine musculature, both in the cervical and fundal regions, is very edematous. Sections through the plaque like area, mentioned in the gross examination, reveals well organized placental villi. Large areas of organized and infected haemorrhagic exudate. What remains of the stroma, near the organized placental villi, shows a marked decidual reaction, also a marked inflammatory reaction suggesting a definite process.

H'ORS. REF.

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DIST. REF.

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DIAGNOSIS:

1. Septic pneumonia.
2. Embolic abscess formation and infarction of lung tissue.
(Organized infected emboli in the small pulmonary vessels)
3. Well organized infected placental villi and decidual tissue in uterine walls.

CAUSE OF DEATH:

I would assign as the cause of death in this case; a septic pneumonia with pleurisy and effusion and abscess formation of the lungs; together with an acute generalized peritonitis resulting from a fairly recent infected abortion.

Signed: "F. P. Sparks, M.D."
Pathologist.

G. R. Barrett, M.D.

Cause of Death:

1. Septic pneumonia with pleurisy and effusion, and abscess formation of lungs and acute generalized peritonitis due to
2. A fairly recent infected miscarriage.

Signed: "G. R. Barrett, M.D."
Acting Pathologist

Signed: "Chas. F. McHardy"
Notary Public
Nelson, B. C.

SWORN before me at Nelson, on 30th day of January, 1945.

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RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of

Questioned by Coroner:

- Q. From your examination and the Pathological Report, what would you give as the cause of death?
A. Well, I would say that the ultimate cause of death was the poisoned condition from the Broncho Pneumonia and the Peritonitis.
Q. This girl was undoubtedly pregnant at some time previous to that?
A. Yes.
Q. You found no evidence of mechanical interference with the pregnancy?
A. No, there was no evidence of interference.
Q. Could the infection from the pregnancy have caused the Peritonitis and Pneumonia?
A. Yes, it could have.
Q. Were you able to estimate the length of the pregnancy from the post-mortem findings?
A. Not very closely.
Q. Were the post-mortem findings such that this girl could have had a full term pregnancy?
A. No.
Q. Would you say that the child had reached the degree of viability?
A. No.

H'ORS. REF.

DIV'L REF.

Question by Foreman:

- Q. You mentioned signs of considerable haemorrhage. What in your opinion could have been the cause of this haemorrhage?
A. These haemorrhages are not unusual in a uterus that has been delivered or has been emptied of its contents.

DIST. REF.

Questioned by Constable Dowling:

- Q. Is there any way of estimating the length of time prior to death that the child had evacuated the uterus?
A. Yes.
Q. Could you tell us the approximate time?
A. I would estimate that the length of time was about four weeks. This is an estimate only.
Q. Can you estimate the length of time to the child's evacuation from the uterus had elapsed since conception?
A. Yes. I would estimate five and one half to six months because of the size of the uterus at post-mortem, because of Stria Gravidarum in the abdominal skin.
Q. What various ways could a uterus be evacuated other than by mechanical means?
A. (1) Spontaneous separation of Placenta.
(2) Taking of poisonous drugs.
(3) Falls and accidents.
(4) Death of the baby inside itself.
(5) Toxemia or low physical condition of the patient, anaemia, etc.
Q. In view of these possibilities, do you consider from your post-mortem findings in this case that it was possible for the pneumonia or peritonitis to have caused the evacuation of the uterus?
A. No.
Q. Was there any evidence in the post-mortem reports to suggest poison in the sense of drugs as being the cause of the death of either the baby or mother?
A. No.

DET. REF.

Mr. Tadasu IDE, INTERPRETER, duly sworn:

- Q. Have you had any experience translating Japanese to English?
A. I have had twenty years experience in the Vancouver City Police Court.

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RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of

3rd Witness: Mr. Gunichi KIRETO, New Denver, duly sworn:

Q. Was Kimiko Kireto your daughter?

A. Yes, she was.

Q. When was she last living at your home?

A. She was living in my home up to the 22nd or 23rd April, 1942, or just prior to when we came to Hastings Park.

Q. Where were you living?

A. Fanny Bay, Vancouver Island.

Q. If she left home, where did she go to live?

A. We all came into Hastings Park together with my daughter.

Q. Who did she go to live with after the 22nd April?

A. She was living with her sister who was already married.

Q. What is her sister's name?

A. The name of the sister is Kazuo Doi.

Q. When did Kimiko come to Slocan City?

A. I do not remember the exact date, but it was sometime during the month of September.

H'ORS. REF.

Q. Who did she live with here?

A. She lived with Mr. and Mrs. Takashima.

Q. Did you know that Kimiko was going to have a baby?

A. I did not have the slightest idea.

Q. Why didn't Kimiko stay with you in your own home?

DIV'L REF.

A. When we went into Hastings Park men and women were segregated.

Q. Where are you living now?

A. I am living at New Denver at present.

Q. When did you come to New Denver?

A. Approximately about October 5th.

DIST. REF.

Q. Why didn't you have Kimiko go and live with you at New Denver?

A. Her sister, Mrs. Takashima, had a baby three months old, and when we came up to Slocan, and in order to help her out, I asked Kimiko to stay with her.

Q. Did Kimiko have any trouble with men before this time?

DET. REF.

A. I do not know.

4th Witness: Mrs. Yoshiye TAKASHIMA, duly sworn:

Q. Was Kimiko Kireto your sister?

A. Yes.

Q. How long has she lived in your house?

A. Since September.

Q. Did you know that Kimiko was going to have a baby?

A. No.

Q. Did you ask her if she was going to have a baby?

A. Yes.

Q. Why did you ask her?

A. She appeared to be pregnant.

Q. When you asked her she always said "No"?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you find out she was pregnant?

A. Since September I was suspicious that she was.

Q. Did she lose a baby?

A. She had a fall about December 1st or 2nd, and she was bleeding. At that time she told me she was pregnant.

Q. Where did the fall occur?

A. Outside.

Q. Did you see the baby?

A. No.

Q. How did she get rid of the baby?

A. Mr. Takashima's Mother took care of it.

Q. Was Kimiko sick at your place after the fall?

A. We just kept her in bed. She was feeling alright.

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RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of

- Q. When did she get really sick?
A. She caught a cold after Xmas, and she really got sick two or three days before she died.
Q. Did you call a doctor when she was sick?
A. Yes.
Q. When?
A. On January 6th.
Q. Why didn't you get a doctor to see her before that?
A. I asked her how she was feeling and she said she was alright.

5th Witness: Mrs. Tugi TAKASHIMA, duly sworn:

- Q. Do you live with Mrs. Yoshiye Takashima?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. How long have you lived with her?
A. Since September.
Q. Did you know that Kimiko was going to have a baby?
A. I did not know.
Q. When did you first find out?
A. About December 2nd when she had a fall was the first time I noticed.
Q. How soon after she had this fall did the baby come?
A. I do not know how soon after the fall the baby came.
Q. Did you see the baby?
A. I did.
Q. When?
A. Shortly after six o'clock on December 2nd.
Q. Was the baby as big as an ordinary baby?
A. I cannot estimate the size, but it wasn't as big.
Q. What did you do with the baby?
A. The baby was already dead and I picked it up and burned it in the kitchen stove.
Q. Why didn't you have a doctor see Kimiko when she was sick?
A. I sent immediately for the doctor on the night in question but could not locate the doctor at the time, and left Kimiko lying quietly on the bed till the doctor should come.
Q. Was Kimiko sick after this?
A. Next day I spoke to her and asked her to go to the doctor for a consultation, but she shook her head and would not go. It appeared to me she was getting well.
Q. When did she first become really sick?
A. On the 6th of January she became very ill, but prior to that date she was feeling very good.
Q. When she had this bad bleeding on December 2nd, who did you send to get the doctor?
A. Yoshitaka Takashima.
Q. Do you know that it is against the law to burn a stillborn baby?
A. I am sorry, I did not know it was against the law to do that, but due to the fact that the baby was born dead, I picked it up and burned it.

STATEMENT BY THE CORONER: This is a serious offence, and you can go to jail for several years for it. Do you understand that?

- A. I did not know, but I understand it now.
Q. How many children have you?
A. I had five children.
Q. You lived in the same house with Kimiko since September?
A. Yes, that is correct.
Q. And you still did not know that she was going to have a baby?
A. No, I did not know. It appeared to me that there was something unusual, so I questioned her several times, but she would

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R E P O R T

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RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of

not answer.

Q. Was anyone else with you when you burned the baby?

A. My husband, Mr. Y. Takashima.

Dr. Barrett recalled.

Questioned by Coroner: You have heard the evidence just given, Doctor. Does the story of these witnesses coincide with your pathological evidence?

A. Yes, in the main it does. The only thing further to illuminate it by the evidence I have heard, is the fact that pregnancy may have been of a slightly longer duration than six months.

Q. It would be impossible to give the exact time by pathological evidence?

A. It would be.

Q. Could the fall described in the evidence be the cause of losing the baby?

A. Yes, it could be.

H'ORS. REF.

6th Witness: Mr. Fred DOI, duly sworn:

Q. What relation were you to Kimiko Kireto?

A. She was my wife's sister.

Q. Did Kimiko ever live with you or your wife?

A. No.

Q. Do you know where she has lived during the past year?

A. Yes.

Q. Tell us where she has lived as far as you know, in the past year.

A. She lived with her father on the Island until the evacuation, April 15th, 1942.

Q. What happened to her after that?

A. She lived in the Park from April 15th until she came to Slocan City, and since she came to Slocan City, she was living with Mr. and Mrs. Y. Takashima.

Q. When she was in Hastings Park who did she live with there?

A. With her sister, Mrs. Takashima.

Q. Were the women separated from the men?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if she was ever out of the Park?

A. I could not say.

Q. Did your wife ever mention the fact that Kimiko was pregnant?

A. Yes, she did.

Q. When?

A. Before she was evacuated from Hastings Park my wife heard this from her friends.

Q. Did she ask Kimiko?

A. She did, but Kimiko would not say she was pregnant.

Q. How did your wife find out?

A. We moved to Tashme. I got a wire from my brother and father-in-law saying that Kimiko was dead.

7th Witness: Mr. Yoshitaka TAKASHIMA, duly sworn:

Q. Kimiko was your sister-in-law?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did she live with you?

A. She lived with us since she evacuated to Slocan City, around the fifth of September.

Q. Did you know that Kimiko was going to have a baby?

A. No.

Q. Did she stay with your wife when she was in Hastings Park?

A. Yes.

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R E P O R T

RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of

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Q. Do you know if she was ever out of Hastings Park?

A. She used to go shopping with my wife.

Q. Did she ever go with you?

A. No.

Coroner Instructed Interpreter to Explain in Japanese that there is a Severe Penalty if he does not Tell the Truth.

Q. Do you want to change any of the answers you have given me?

A. Yes, I will tell the truth.

Q. Was Kimiko ever out of the Park with you?

A. Yes.

Q. For how long?

A. Once or twice.

Q. How long at a time?

A. For a day.

Q. Were you ever out of the Park over night with Kimiko?

A. No.

Q. Now, realizing the seriousness of your Oath, did you or did you not know that Kimiko was pregnant?

A. No, I did not know.

Q. Did you ever ask anybody to help you get rid of a baby Kimiko was carrying?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever sleep with Kimiko?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever lay in bed with her?

A. Yes.

Q. Where?

A. At the Park.

Q. Did you have sexual connections with her?

A. Yes, twice.

Q. When was this?

A. I cannot give you the date when.

Q. Is it likely that you were the father of her baby?

A. I do not know.

Q. Do you know of anyone else that had sexual connections with her?

A. I do not know. She had lots of friends.

Q. Was she ever out of the Park with any other man?

A. I do not know, I was working all the time.

Q. Did Kimiko ever tell you that she was going to have a baby?

A. She never said anything to me.

Q. She never asked you to help her get rid of it?

A. No.

Q. Were you home at the time she fell?

A. Yes, but I did not know that she fell.

Q. You did not see her fall?

A. No.

Q. When did your wife tell you about her falling?

A. I did not know anything about this falling.

Q. Did your mother send you for the doctor?

A. Yes.

Q. What time?

A. Between six and seven. I went after the doctor; the doctor was not home then. I waited around for a time, and went back to the doctor's place again about an hour later. He asked me the cause. I told the doctor she was very ill and it might be pregnancy or something. He went to the hospital for the instruments and he never returned.

Q. Do you mean to say the doctor did not go to the house at all.

A. No, he sent a messenger boy up saying that he could not come.

Q. Did you tell the doctor that she was bleeding badly.

CONTINUED

H'ORS. REF.

DIV'L REF.

DIST. REF.

DET. REF.

DIVISION: "B"
DISTRICT: WEST KOOTENAY,
DETACHMENT: NEW DENVER.



FILE No.
DATE: 6-2-43

PAGE 2

REPORT

PR or PCR.

RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of

- A. No, nothing like that, because I did not know anything about it.
Q. Do you know who helped Kimiko into the house after she fell?
A. I think she must have walked in herself.
Q. After she got better and before she became very sick, did you realize how sick she was?
A. Yes, I did the night she died but that was the only time.

8th Witness: John Thomas Edward Dowling, Provincial Constable, stationed at New Denver, B.C., duly sworn: Proved jurisdiction. Gave evidence of being present at post mortem held in Nelson and also of being present when parts of the various organs were sealed and shipped to Pathologist in Vancouver, B.C.

3. After hearing the evidence the Jury brought in the following verdict.

"We, the undersigned Jury, at Slocan City, February 1st, are agreed that Kimiko Kireto came to her death on January 6th, 1943, from Toxic Poisoning, due to pregnancy and miscarriage, result of a fall on December 2, 1942, near her home. We are of the opinion that those whom she was living with, lacked getting medical attention for the said Kimiko Kireto during the time of the fall, and after, till the time of death."

Signed: James Draper (Foreman)
James Howard
Archie Y. Rae

M. Cameron
John S. Perkinson
William Kline.

H'ORS. REF.

DIV'L REF.

DIST. REF.

4. Further investigations are being made, by the undersigned, into events leading up to this girl's death and for future reference I have given evidence in detail.

WAXX CONCLUDED

To the N.C.O. in charge,
West Kootenay District,
B.C. Provincial Police,
Nelson, B.C.

J. Dowling, Constable #624,
i/c New Denver Detachment.

DET. REF.

To:
The Officer Commanding,
"B" Division. FORWARDED. 10-2-43. Reference paragraph 1. Constable Dowling informs me that during the adjournment period, the Juror Desmond Hood had received his Military call and was stationed at Trail. It would appear that not being out of the Province, his services could have been easily obtained. The procedure carried out by the Coroner in this case does not comply with Section 16 of the Coroner's Act. Perkinson did not view the body.

Reference witness No 5. Mrs Tugi Takashima, Page 6. A charge could be laid against this witness under Section 237(b) and Section 271(b) of the Criminal Code.

Reference witness No.7. Yoshitaka Takashima, Page 7. Witness admits in evidence an offence committed by him in Vancouver under Section 301(2).C.C. There is nothing in the evidence to show if the witness obtained the protection of the Court before giving his evidence and being a foreigner it is doubtful if this evidence under the circumstances could be used against him.
(Contd).

DIVISION: "B"
DISTRICT: West Kootenay
DETACHMENT: District H.Q.



FILE No.
DATE: 10-2-43

(10)

PR or PCR.

Re - KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of.

The girl being now dead it would be difficult to obtain sufficient evidence to obtain a conviction. Constable Dowling is investigating further in this matter, and a further report will be submitted.

Taking into consideration the medical evidence in this case, and the verdict rendered by the Coroners Jury. I would like the opinion of the Department and any instructions they may have concerning charges against Mrs. Yoshitaka Takashima.

H.N. Wood
H.N. Wood, S/Sergt.,
NCO i/c West Kootenay District.

H'QRS. REF.

DIV'L REF.

DIST. REF.

DET. REF.

FORWARDED TO
COMMISSIONER

FEB 10 1943

J. Macdonald
INSPECTOR C/C "B" DIV.

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C.I.B. HQRS.

FEB 12 1943

B. C. POLICE
VICTORIA, B. C.

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British Columbia Provincial Police
(C.I.D.)
Victoria, B.C.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
VICTORIA

Your File No.

In reply quote File No.

SUBJECT:

Kimiko Kireto,
Deceased.

February 13th,
1 9 4 3

The Deputy Attorney-General,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPT.
RECEIVED
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C 81-4
File No.

Sir:

Further to your request by telephone for
a report in this matter, I enclose copy of Constable
Dowling's report dealing with the proceedings at
the inquest.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

T.W.S. Parsons

T.W.S. Parsons, *RP*,
Commissioner of Provincial Police.

RP/DN
Encl.

60

The Commissioner of
Provincial Police,
BUILDINGS.

February 22nd 1943.

Re Kimiko Kireto, Ded.

With reference to your letter of the 13th instant, enclosing police report, this matter has been discussed with the Attorney-General and he is of opinion that a prosecution should be undertaken against Mrs. Tugi Takashima under section 272 of the Code for disposing of the dead body of the child. It appears from the inquest that the only direct evidence of the disposition of the body is the evidence of Mrs. Takashima herself who stated that as the baby was born dead she took the body and burned it in the stove. This evidence was given without the protection of the "Canada Evidence Act" and therefore would be admissible against her in a prosecution. I presume the stenographer is present who took this evidence at the inquest and can swear to same, and no doubt the Coroner is available who can also testify as to the evidence in question.

Deputy Attorney-General.

DIVISION: " B "

DISTRICT: WEST KOOTENAY,

DETACHMENT: NEW DENVER.



FILE No.

DATE: 15-2-43

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

PR or PCR.

NIL

CRIME REPORT

RE: TAKASHIMA, Yoshitaka, J.R.#06880 - RAPE

1. With reference to the above and my report of 6-2-43 (RE: KIRETO, Kimiko - Inquest into death of) I beg to report that I have made an investigation into events leading up to this girl's death and have found the following:
2. Kimiko KIRETO was born at Bowser, B. C., on March 3, 1928, father's name being Gunichi KIRETO, J.R.#08998. Birth certificate #840 issued at Cumberland on April 3rd, 1928. Prior to being evacuated to Hastings Park on April 15th, 1942, she was living with her father, her mother having died, at Fanny Bay, Vancouver Island. Her sister Yoshiye Takashima, J.R.#06891 and her husband (suspect) were also living in same house. When they went to Hastings Park Kimiko was living in same building as her sister helping her with two children. While in Hastings Park Kimiko became pregnant.
3. Jiro Kumagaya, now of New Denver and previously teacher of Japanese at Fanny Bay, informed me that on the day Kimiko and Takashimas were leaving Hastings Park, being September 3rd, Yoshitaka Takashima came to him in the Park and when Kumagaya asked him what he wanted he said, "I made great mistake and I want to ask your advice what to do about it." Kumagaya said, "Do you mean about Kimiko?" and Takashima said, "Yes, I have been trying to tell you about this many many times but wasn't able to." Kumagaya advised him to see Mr. Kireto about it. Kumagaya said nothing more was said until he went to see them off on train and at that time he advised them not to quarrel.
4. Suspects wife, Yoshiye, had a baby while in Hastings Park and Kimiko was taking care of her other two children while she was in hospital, naturally at this time suspect and Kimiko would be together a lot.
5. On February 10th, 1943, at 6.15 P.M., at Slocan City, after duly warning the suspect, I obtained the following statement from him. Constable D. A. Deeks, R.C.M.P. was also present.

"I was evacuated to Hastings Park from Fanny Bay, Vancouver Island on April 15th, 1942. Kimiko Kireto was staying with my wife in Hastings Park. I was first involved with Kimiko, that is I had intercourse with her around May, 1942, at Hastings Park. I had intercourse with her once in her bed and once outside. These two cases were about seven or ten days apart. It might have been June and not May when I had intercourse. I saw Mr. J. Kumagaya in Hastings Park and I told him I was involved in Kimiko's case and asked him what to do about it. He never said anything. I spoke to Mr. Kumagaya the morning we left Vancouver for Slocan City. I think it was September 3rd, 1942. I never ever tried to do anything for Kimiko after I knew she was pregnant. I have known I have done wrong."

Signed: Yoshitaka Y. Takashima

Witness: J. Dowling
D. A. Deeks

At the time suspect made statement he seemed to believe that he would have to pay for the wrong he had done and seemed to want to get it over with.

CONTINUED

DIVISION: " B "
DISTRICT: WEST KOOTENAY,
DETACHMENT: NEW DENVER.



FILE No.

DATE: 13-2-43

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PAGE 2

CRIME REPORT

PR or PCR.

Cont'd

RE: TAKASHIMA, Yoshitaka, J.R.#06880 - RAPE

H'ORS. REF.

DIV'L REF.

DIST. REF.

DET. REF.

6. Mrs. Sueno Fujioka, J.R.#01372, now of Slocan City, informed me that sometime in May or June 1942, Takashima and Kimiko came to visit Fujioka's at 358 East Cordova St., Vancouver, sometime about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Takashima said he was going to Kammond and when Mrs. Fujioka asked Kimiko to stay with her, Takashima said her had got in the World Hotel and she could stay there. Toshio Fujioka, age 19, saw Takashima around the Powell Ball Park, on the same evening after stage for Hammond had left. Toshio told his mother about this. The next day Takashima told Mrs. Fujioka he had gone to Hammond. Mrs. Fujioka, thinking Takashima had lied told her friend, Mrs. Imai Terakita, now of Slocan City, about this and Mrs. Terakita asked the daughter of the manager of the World Hotel, Miss Sumiko Sasaki (now of Greenwood) if Kimiko had stayed there and Sumiko said she didn't know Kimiko. I am submitting this information as there is the possibility they registered as man and wife.

7. I also have information that J.L. Torry, previously supervisor at Hastings Park for B.C. Securities Commission, was approached by Takashima regarding the baby Kimiko was going to have but I am unable to confirm this as Torry is not available. I understand Torry was working at Tashme for Security Commission but was let out about a month ago. B.C. Security Commission in Vancouver might know whereabouts of Torry.

8. As this offence was committed in Vancouver I am attaching an extra copy of this report for their information.

9. This report submitted for your information and advice.

CASE UNCONCLUDED

To the N.C.O. in charge,
West Kootenay District,
B.C. Provincial Police,
Nelson, B.C.

J. Dowling, Constable #624,
1/6 New Denver Detachment.

To:
The Officer Commanding,
"B" Division. FORWARDED. 15-2-43. I fail to find evidence in this report that would warrant any action being taken on a charge of Rape. I would refer you to paragraph (3) of my footnote on the report submitted by Constable Dowling, dated 6-2-43, headed "KIRETO, Kimiko. Inquest into death of."

For a charge of Carnal Knowledge to be laid, I am of the opinion the evidence at present is very weak. True we now have a statement made by Takashima to Constable Dowling admitting Carnal Knowledge. The statement however may not be admitted in a higher Court.

Takashima also approached one named Jiro Kumagaya saying Quote "I made great mistake and I want to ask your advice what to do about it." Kumagaya said "Do you mean about Kimiko". Takashima said "Yes, I have been trying to tell you about this many many times, but wasn't able to." unquote. Takashima does not say what his great mistake was and we are left to presume it was what he told Constable Dowling. It would also appear by Takashima's statement, questions had also been asked by the police which are not in the statement.

DIVISION: "B"

DISTRICT: West Kootenay

DETACHMENT: District H.Q.



FILE No.

DATE:

63

PR or PCR.

(3)

Re - TAKASHIMA, Yoshitaka, J.R. #06880 - Rape.

H.N. Wood
H.N. Wood, S/Sergt.,
NCO i/c West Kootenay District.

FORWARDED TO: THE COMMISSIONER C.I.B. B.C. POLICE. VICTORIA. B.C.
I am of the opinion there is sufficient evidence to put the accused on his trial on a charge of Carnal Knowledge, but as the offence was committed in Vancouver maybe proceedings could be taken against him there, or if he is apprehended in this district on a charge, proceedings could be taken here. I would be glad to have your opinion.

J. Macdonald
J. Macdonald, Inspector,
Commanding "B" Division.

H'QRS. REF.

Nelson, B.C.
15-2-43.

DIV'L REF.

DIST. REF.

DET. REF.

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FEB. 19 1943
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VICTORIA, B. C.

DIVISION: " B "
DISTRICT: WEST MONTANA,
DETACHMENT: NEW DENVER



FILE No.

DATE: 12-2-43

PR or PCR.

NIL

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

CRIME REPORT

RE: TAKASHIMA, Mrs. Tsujiko - J.R.#13970 - Indignity to human remains.

1. With reference to the above and my report of 6-2-43, RE: KIRETO, Kimiko, Inquest into death of; wherein Mrs. Takashima, who gave her name at that time as Tuji Takashima, gave evidence of burning the body of baby born to Kimiko Kireto on December 2nd, I beg to report that on February 10th, I interviewed this woman at Slocan City and after duly warning her obtained the following statement through an interpreter, George Shoji:

"Kimiko Kireto had a baby second of December, 1942, about six o'clock in the evening. I found baby stillborn. I could not recognize what the sex was. I wrapped the whole thing up in blanket and placed in stove. At the time baby was born Mrs. Yoshiye Takashima was in the kitchen and I called her and she came into room, she saw me burn the baby, my husband was in his bedroom. This all took place in House B.2, Bay Farm, Slocan City, B. C. I didn't notice specially she, Kimiko, was sick except little weakness until she vomit black stuff at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 6th of January, 1943. I noticed something strange in Kimiko's physical condition so I asked her if she is sick or not but she was deny and told me she was alright. Just before time baby was born she told me that she had a fall. Soon as Kimiko started to suffer she called me to bedroom. I did not know Kimiko was going to have a baby until the night it was born."

Owing to Mrs. Takashima being unable to write English she signed her name in Japanese. Witnessed by undersigned and Constable B. A. Deeks of R.C.M.P.

2. I interviewed Mrs. Yoshiye Takashima, J.R. #06891, daughter-in-law, who resides in same house and she claims she was in the kitchen when suspect was attending Kimiko and that she saw her mother-in-law throw a parcel wrapped in paper into stove after she came out of room where she had been attending Kimiko. She also stated Kimiko had a fall about two days prior to time of being treated by mother-in-law. I also saw husband of suspect, Tetsuzo Takashima, J.R.#13971 and he claims he was in his bedroom all the time and did not see anything.

3. Dr. G. R. Barrett of Nelson, who performed th post-mortem on Kimiko's body could give evidence that the girl was pregnant around December 2nd and that she had lost baby before her death on January 6th.

4. I am submitting this report for your information and advice.

CASE UNCONCLUDED

CONTINUED FOR FORWARDING PURPOSES

HQRS. REF.

DIVL REF.

DIST. REF.

DET. REF.

DIVISION: " B "

DISTRICT: WEST KOOTENAY,

DETACHMENT: NEW DENVER.



FILE No.

DATE 12-3-43

PAGE 2

CRIME REPORT

PR or PCR.

RE: TAKASHIMA, Mrs. Tsujiko - J.R. # 13970 - Indignity to human remains.

CONTINUED FOR FORWARDING PURPOSES

To the N.C.O. in charge,
West Kootenay District,
B.C. Provincial Police,
Nelson, B. C.

J. Dowling
J. Dowling, Constable #624,
i/c New Denver Detachment.

H'QRS. REF.

To:
The Officer Commanding,
"B" Division. FORWARDED. 15-2-43. I wish to draw your attention
to paragraph (2) of my footnote to Constable
Dowling's report dated 6-2-43, heading "KIRITO, Kimiko. Inquest
into death of." There appears to be sufficient evidence to
charge Mrs. Tuji Takashima.

DIV'L REF.

H.N. Wood
H.N. Wood, S/Sergt.,
NCO i/c West Kootenay District.

DIST. REF.

FORWARDED TO: THE COMMISSIONER C.I.B. B.C. POLICE. VICTORIA. B.C.
I am of the opinion a charge should be laid against this woman,
but before doing so I would be pleased to get the opinion of the
Department.

DET. REF.

Nelson, B.C.
15-2-43.

J. Macdonald
J. Macdonald, Inspector,
Commanding "B" Division.

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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
VICTORIA

In reply quote File No. 17-43
3188-2

Your File No.

SUBJECT:

Kimiko Kireto,
Deceased.

February 23rd,
1 9 4 3.

The Deputy Attorney-General,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPT.
RECEIVED
FEB 24 1943
C 81-4

Sir:

On the 13th instant at your request I sent you copy of a report received from Constable Dowling in this matter. I have now received two further reports and enclose copies.

In regard to the report dated the 13th instant, I do not understand why the Constable should include the word "rape" in his heading as there does not appear to be any suggestion of this. There does appear to be indications that an offence against Section 301 C.C. (carnal knowledge) has been committed, but apart from the statement obtained from the person responsible there is no other evidence, the girl being dead.

It would appear, however, that the Japanese will be somewhat bewildered if action is not taken. It is even possible that Takashima may plead guilty in view of his statement. Under the circumstances would you suggest that a charge be laid?

With regard to the other matter - "Indignity to Human Remains" - may I have your views as to whether or not we should proceed with a charge.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

T.W.S. Parsons

T.W.S. Parsons, R.P.
Commissioner of Provincial Police.

RP/DN
Encl.

67
The Commissioner of
Provincial Police,
BUILDINGS.

February 24th 1943.

Re Kimiko Kireto, Dad.

Replying to your letter of the 23rd instant, it is noted that the police have now obtained a statement from Takashima, the putative father of the child, admitting intercourse with the girl and giving the approximate dates. If this statement was obtained voluntarily and without threat or inducement and after a proper warning had been given, there would seem to be no reason why it should not be admitted in evidence. If such is the case I would suggest that Takashima be prosecuted for carnally knowing Kimiko Kireto, a girl of previous chaste character under the age of sixteen and above the age of fourteen, not being his wife, pursuant to subsection (2) of section 301 of the Code. In addition, there is the statement of Takashima given at the Coroner's inquest, wherein he admitted having intercourse with the girl, although he was unable to state when, and this statement appears to have been given after something in the nature of threats were made to him by the Coroner to get him to tell the truth. It is somewhat doubtful whether this latter statement would be admissible under such circumstances.

Deputy Attorney-General.