

From: Peter Lance <pl@peterlance.com>
Subject: bringing justice to Eduardo and his family
Date: September 22, 2021 at 11:50:43 AM PDT
To: Jacque Wuest <JWuest@CityofNewport.com>

Det. Wuest,

I appreciate you getting back to me in your email below with your assurance that “no one is impeding (your) investigation;” a point you reiterated to me in your email of August 19th, which is part of the attached pdf record of our correspondence. But after what is now more than three (3) months since you reopened “the Duke case,” you haven’t given me a hint as to what, if any, progress you’ve made and you’ve left several issues which I raised in my multiple emails to you unanswered.

Please let me enumerate:

- 1) In your initial email to me of August 2nd, 2021 you asked for me help in your investigation, but despite my multiple offers to speak to you by phone, you have never scheduled a time when I could answer any of your questions by phone. Why not?
- 2) Is it because your Lieutenant, Corey A. Huck, has forbidden you from speaking to me, an order, which is evidence (despite your denials) that you are being impeded in your search for the truth?
- 3) Why, as of Sept. 15th when you went to Bob’s house and told him that you had not yet finished my book, has it taken you 3 months to examine my findings, which, taken together with Bob’s confession, give you everything you need to “bring justice for Eduardo” as you promised in your August 2nd email to me. You didn’t even have to read the entire 438 page book, which most people get through in a few nights. I’ve cited the key chapters in multiple emails to you from August 10th to Sept. 16th. See below.
- 4) Why, during your meeting with Bob on Sept. 15th did you seem to backtrack and ask him – at that late date after finding him “credible” during your July 2nd interview – whether he had read my book and then come forward to you – risking not only the ridicule of his friends in Newport (if he was lying) but possible obstruction of justice charges? On one hand you found him “credible” but months later you seemed to be suggesting that he was lying to you about why he came forth? Why did you raise that question at this late date?
- 5) I note that your email to me this morning is signed Det. Jacque Wuest, though you have been promoted to Sergeant. You told Bob during the meeting at his house that you would hold onto your “cold case” load while taking on new responsibilities in The Traffic Division. So I’ll ask again: If it’s taken you 3 months to make as little progress as you have, how will you be able (in your own words) “to bring justice for Eduardo and his family” when you are taking on new responsibilities, and (according to what Bob told me) going off on three weeks vacation?
- 6) Why did you tell Bob at that meeting that you would have to get “The State Police” involved in the case and that you couldn’t close your investigation of Eduardo’s homicide without the criminal courtroom standard of “proof beyond a reasonable doubt?” That threshold doesn’t matter in this instance since Doris Duke, the “person of interest” died in 1993 and can’t be indicted. So there can be no trial.

Your investigation, which Lt. Huck, not once, but twice told the local media had not been “reopened,” does not require a legal finding of “murder.” You can reach a finding of fact, based on the evidence you’ve had since August 10th: that the death of Eduardo Tirella on October 7th, 1966, outside the gates of Rough Point was proximately caused by a series of intentional acts committed by Doris Duke.

Absent any phone conversation with me (which I’m happy to schedule forthwith) you have all the evidence you need. But, because the pdf of my August 10th email doesn’t have viable hyperlinks, I’m attaching this point-by- point road map, highlighted in red, so that you can to reach a finding in the next 24 hours – not in three weeks or another 3 months but now:

THE EVIDENCE OF INTENT-TO-KILL MURDER

In HOMICIDE AT ROUGH POINT, the book, backed up by sixty (60) pages of end note annotations, I report irrefutable evidence of intent-to-kill homicide by Miss Duke in Chapters, One, Two, Thirty-Two and Thirty Three, the latter two chapters entitled, THE CASE FOR MURDER and IT MOVED LIKE A ROCKET.

In granular detail, accompanied by crime scene photos, taken by Ed Quigley moments after Mr. Tirella’s death, a photo of the damaged gates taken by Jerry Taylor the day after and other forensic documents including Eduardo’s long-missing autopsy report and death certificate, you can see that all of that evidence supports the “up on the hood” theory of the homicide, determined within hours of the incident by Sgt. Fred Newton, the Newport PD’s chief accident investigator at the time, as documented in interviews to me by former patrolman Edward Angel, the first officer on the scene.

Sgt. Newton, who later became Newport Police Chief, was not then, in a position to challenge the sitting Chief, Joseph A. Radice, who corruptly reached that “unfortunate accident” conclusion and closed the case within 96 hours of Mr. Tirella’s death with Doris Duke as the only living witness to the homicide – until Bob came forward to the NPD with a call to Lt. Huck on July 1st, 2021.

As documented in my book, Sgt. Newton concluded that as Eduardo stood at the gates to open them, Doris Duke committed four (4) intentional acts:

- 1) She slid behind the wheel; something her caretaker Harold McFarlane told RI Registry of MV investigators she never did when leaving the estate;
- 2) She released the hand brake on the two-ton 1966 Dodge Polara wagon by hand;
- 3) She shifted from park to drive and;
- 4) She then slammed down on the accelerator, leaving tire-wide gouges in the gravel driveway photographed by Eduardo’s brother-in law Robert Aughey the next day – photos of which (now missing) were entered into evidence at the 1971 wrongful death civil trial in Providence in which Miss Duke was found liable for Eduardo’s death. I have a copy of his testimony at that trial and quote from it in the book.

By Sgt. Newton’s account, as related to me by retired Patrolman Angel, Miss Duke then roared toward Eduardo who jumped up on the hood of the wagon to save himself, sustaining a broken right hip but alive, as the billionaire’s burst through the wrought iron gates, knocking out five of the baluster rungs in the lower portions of the gates and bending them over a metal “stop” at the foot of the driveway before roaring out onto Bellevue Avenue.

5) She then hesitated, tapping the brakes, at which point, injured but alive, Eduardo rolled off onto Bellevue.

6) Then, after a few moments, Miss Duke decided to commit and roared forward, dragging him across Millionaire's Row whereupon the wagon mounted the curb, knocked down 20 feet of post and rail fence on Quatrel, the estate across the street, before veering left and crashing into a tree with Mr. Tirella dead under the rear axle.

Therefore his death, as determined by Sgt. Newton, from the moment she slid behind the wheel, was the result of six (6) intentional acts.

Yet in a statements to [The Newport Daily News, the day after on October 8th, 1966](#), the chief wrongly claimed in paragraphs (2) and (8) that Miss Duke had "crushed" the decedent against the gates – a conclusion controverted by [the photo of the scene taken by Ed Quigley after Eduardo's body had been removed](#). Not only does it show Sgt. Newton working the gates but there is zero debris or blood trail at the point where the gates went over the metal "stop" riveted into the driveway to keep the free swinging gates from opening outward.

Only later when he began to fill out his report, did patrolman Angel tell me he found "blood and skin" a number of feet into Bellevue Avenue, consistent with Sgt. Newton's "up on the hood" conclusion.

Further, while [this photo of the gates the next day taken by Newport photographer Jerry Taylor](#) shows that all of the damage was to the lower portion of the gates, [this Autopsy Report by the RI Medical Examiner](#), which had been missing for years, indicated that except for a "fracture of right hip," which Eduardo sustained when he went "up on the hood" all of Eduardo's fatal injuries were to his upper body, the result of him being dragged across Bellevue Avenue under the two ton station wagon with Miss Duke at the wheel, intentionally crushing him to death after he rolled off when she'd tapped the breaks.

[The Death Certificate confirms that](#), even noting that the victim was "struck by auto while opening iron gates and then dragged under the vehicle."

Yes, he was struck at the time he jumped up on the hood to save his life; fracturing his hip, but at that point he was still alive and was only "dragged under the vehicle" after Doris Duke, behind the wheel of the Dodge Polara burst through the gates, then tapped the brakes, causing that "slight skid" that Bob Walker heard, whereupon Eduardo rolled off the hood onto Bellevue, only to be crush to death moments later.

Bob Walker told me (and you) that just before he reached the service gate he heard a man cry out "Noooo," in what was clearly Eduardo's last plea to Doris for his life.

THE FABRICATED TRANSCRIPT

As reported in my book, when Chief Radice corruptly conspired with Aram Arabian Miss Duke's attorney, to declare the case "an unfortunate accident" and allow her to escape criminal charges, most of the details to support Sgt. Newton's theory were excised from the police report.

[Chapters Six, Seven and Ten](#) document how the initial “accident” conclusion was based entirely on the word of Miss Duke (thought to be the only witness to the incident until Bob Walker came forward) as reflected in [this paper thin “transcript”](#) of a four question/five answer “interview” conducted in Miss Duke’s bedroom at Rough Point on Sunday, October 9th, 1966.

On the basis of that brief interview, witnessed by Registry of Motor Vehicles investigator Lewis A. Perrotti, who told me that “the fix was in” by the time he and his partner, the late Al Masserone, got to that bedroom, [Chief Radice closed out the case](#), only to “walk back” that conclusion within hours on Monday October 10th, 1966 after the then RI Attorney General, J. Joseph Nugent, cautioned against a rush to judgement in The New York Daily News.

[Almost immediately, Chief Radice declared the case still open](#) and then, as documented in Chapter Seven THE FABRICATED TRANSCRIPT, the Chief conspired with Arabian who suggested that The Newport PD write up a fake Q&A of an “interrogation” purportedly done at Rough Point Tuesday, October 11th, 1966.

Once that “transcript” was signed off on by Arabian and Miss Duke, the “unfortunate accident” story held – as it has for nearly 55 years [until Bob Walker, the only known living witness was interviewed by you on July 2nd, 2021.](#)

[This is a link to that fabricated “transcript”](#) which shows “prima facie” (on its face) to be a fraud, since in answer to the very first question, the interrogator (purportedly the Chief Detectives Paul Sullivan) got Miss Duke’s birth date wrong, requiring her to cross out 1928 and write in 1912, then initial it: D.D.

Clearly if a live stenographer had been present during an actual interrogation, then he or she would have caught that mistake and corrected it in the final transcript. But this extraordinary example of police corruption, which for more than half a century has supported the “unfortunate accident” myth, [is not only an ongoing blight on the reputation of The Newport PD – but continues to mislead the citizens of Newport, RI and cause ongoing pain to Eduardo Tirella’s living family members.](#)

Now consider how Bob Walker’s account, dovetails precisely with Sgt. Fred Newton’s “up on the hood” conclusion in Eduardo’s death. [In my most recent VanityFair piece on August 5th, 2021](#), he says that he felt compelled to approach The Newport PD [only after he realized that what he heard on the late afternoon of October 7th, 1966 synced perfectly with Sgt. Newton’s theory of the homicide](#) as told to me by retired NPD Patrolman Angel, who also underscored the importance of Bob’s revelations.

REMOVING AN CONFUSION YOU MAY STILL HAVE

Since I painstakingly transcribed the audio of your two hour interview with Bob in CID Interview Room No. 1 on July 2nd, 2021 and sent you the transcript, it became clear to me that, hearing his story for the first time and only having read [my initial piece in VF published July 16th, 2020](#), you were a bit confused.

To fully appreciate Bob's near photographic memory of the events of Oct 7th, 1966 which he told me were “seared” into his memory, I took him up to Rough Point on July 4th, 2021, two days after his confession to you, and he made it clear precisely where he was as he quickly peddled from the SE corner of Ledge Road to the service gate at Rough point, during which he heard every beat of the last moments of Eduardo’s life and then, turned to confront Doris Duke herself, who got out of the crashed Dodge Polara (unwounded) prevented him from seeing under the vehicle, then angrily chased him from the scene.

The essence of my interviews with Bob were compiled [in this 5:08 video](#) by the editors of Vanity Fair, whose attorneys vetted and reviewed all of my findings prior to publication online on August 5th. If you haven't seen that video by now you should watch it forthwith. As soon as you hit "play" you have to increase the audio via the icon at the bottom of the screen.

THE CONTINUING ANGUISH OF EDUARDO'S FAMILY

Having declared in your initial email to me that "this case (is) not going to be ignored" and that you "would love to bring justice to Eduardo and his family," your failure to expeditiously evaluate the treasure trove of evidence presented to you by me and Bob Walker, continues to weigh on them.

Just recently I came across this June 4th, 2021 [report by The NBC affiliate in Boston](#) on the 20+ year investigation into the murder of Molly Bish, which led to the largest police man hunt in Massachusetts history. Based on a recent informant's tip, the Worcester County D.A. identified Frank Sumner Sr. as the principal person of interest in her abduction and murder. Sumner died in 2016, just as Doris Duke died in 1993.

But that has not kept the Worcester County authorities from staying on Molly's case. If you watch the report you will see the continuing anguish in the faces of Molly's sister and mother, who, as it turns out, saw a man resembling Sumner near the point of Mollie's abduction.

So the Bish family and the Tirella family each share an enduring need for justice and closure. The difference between those two cases is that while the police in Warren Massachusetts can't be 100% sure of the killer's ID, WE KNOW WHO THE KILLED EDUARDO TIRELLA— not only do we know it was Doris Duke, but she was found civilly liable for his death in the 1971 wrongful death trial which I detail in my book.

So I reiterate: what are you waiting for?

Will your promotion to Sergeant, in which you'll be working in the Traffic Division and carrying your same cold caseload, impede you further?

Following the coverage of my second piece on [VF.com](#) by [The Associated Press](#), there is now worldwide interest in the progress of your investigation. So, Detective Sergeant Wuest, how much longer will it take you to "bring justice for Eduardo and his family?"

Please get back to me and let me know if you need anything else in the way of help from me wrap up your investigation so that the corrupt conclusion by then Chief Joseph Radice, that Eduardo's death was the result of "an unfortunate accident," can be forever erased from the official records of The Newport PD.

Respectfully,

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From: "Wuest, Jacqueline" <jwuest@CityofNewport.com>
Subject: Response
Date: September 22, 2021 at 4:38:18 AM PDT
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Mr. Lance,

I'm writing to update you on your e-mail from September 14, 2021. Yes, I talked to Mr. Walker after receiving his e-mail since he was a reporting party for this case. Out of respect to him, as a reporting party, I wanted to clear some things so that I could make sure he understood what was going on, on my end. I advised him that I would be responding to your e-mail and I would be passing on the same information to you. Mr. Walker told me he was going to advise you I stopped by, but I still wanted to get back to you so you heard it from me.

Again, I will state that no one is impeding my investigation. It is my case and no one else is involved, get involved, or tells me how and / or what to do. My immediate supervisors are there to assist if I have any questions and / or concerns and give helpful advice if it is needed.

Respectfully,
Det. Jacque Wuest

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