

## Jim Ardu's Police Report, 1996

In August of 2017 I submitted a FOIA request seeking to locate additional information about the investigation into Alan Bruce Palovaara as a suspect in Karl Heikell's death, other than what was included in the 1981-1985 police reports provided to me about Heikell's disappearance and death. A FOIA coordinator called me and mentioned that she will also send me information about other suspects in the Heikell case from 1992 and 1996. As it turned out, the 1992 report had absolutely nothing to do with the Heikell case and did not mention Palovaara. The 1996 report also didn't mention Palovaara, although police do make a seemingly fleeting connection to the Heikell case.

### March 14, 1996

- Sergeant Vandenbusch at the Calumet Post had a conversation with Calumet Village Police Chief Lt. Gene Thornton about information Thornton had received from REDACTED, owner of the REDACTED, reported that REDACTED told him Jim Ardu and his wife Jan had told Glinn (police must have failed to redact this name) they were involved in cult activities some 12 to 14 years ago and were involved in the killing of a young boy in the Houghton area and the burying of the body in a Houghton area gravel pit.
- Sergeant Vandenbusch and Chief Thornton speculated that if there was anything to this information it may somewhat coincide with the disappearance of Karl Heikell on 10-31-81. Parts of Heikell's remains and clothing were discovered in a wooded area north of Centennial Heights in October 1982. The crime has never been solved.

### April 15, 1996

- Police run a criminal history report of Jim Ardu on this date, the results of which are redacted from the report.
- On this date at 2:45PM, Trooper Koljonen and Thornton interviewed with REDACTED at her residence. Thornton advised her of the nature of their investigation, specifically that they had information that supposedly came from her husband that their neighbor Jim Ardu and his wife may have been involved in some cult activity and the murder of a young boy in the Houghton area.
- REDACTED said from the onset that this is news to her. She said she did recently make a complaint against Ardu who she described as weird and said she suspected him of being involved in some window peeping approximately eight years (Eight years ago? Or for eight years? The report is not clear). Within the last two months, she made a complaint after seeing Ardu leave the home of an elderly neighbor for whom she and her husband were caretakers.
- REDACTED contacted the neighbor and discovered that Ardu, who is unemployed and not known to work, had been trying to get the neighbor to give him money. She then

called Ardue and told him to have no further contact with the elderly people. Following this, she received a threat to the effect that he was going to shoot her and reported it to the State Police.

- REDACTED said she has never heard any information to the effect that Ardue and his wife were involved in any cult-type activity or in the murder of a young boy. REDACTED said her husband is away on business but she will have him call police when he returns in the event he may have information.
- At approximately 3:30PM on the same day, Thornton received a call from REDACTED who had returned home and had spoken with his wife. REDACTED is a REDACTED and appeared to be very cooperative in giving information.
- REDACTED said they have had problems with Jim Ardue over the years. He personally feels Ardue is a little weird but did not necessarily consider him dangerous until he recently threatened his wife over the phone.
- Redacted said he has never received any information to the effect that Ardue and his wife were involved in cult activity or in the murder of a young boy in the Houghton area. Thornton then told him this information had come from REDACTED. REDACTED acknowledged knowing REDACTED and his wife REDACTED and said he has talked with him but never mentioned anything that could be even remotely construed as an allegation they were involved in cult activity or murder. REDACTED said he simply does not know where REDACTED received that information.
- Police then add post-interview remarks to the report: REDACTED of REDACTED is known to Thornton. He was involved with a family in Ontonagon over the last couple of years whose daughter disappeared and has never been located. REDACTED contacted the family claiming to have psychic powers and subsequently obtained several hundred dollars in cash from the family for services in helping them locate their daughter. The ultimate result was that REDACTED provided no useful information to the family of the missing woman but continued trying to obtain more money from them to provide further services. His credibility at best is questionable.
- The report then lists the status of the case as closed.