

February 28, 2010

A preliminary copy of this report was prepared by Steven Powell, father-in-law of missing Utah woman Susan Powell, for meeting with FBI agents Russell Johnson and Gary France in FBI Tacoma office, on February 24, 2010. This draft is being copied to Detective Gavin Cook of the West Valley City, UT Police Dept.; Detective Adam Olmstead of the St. George, UT Police Dept.; and Detective Robert McKay of the City of Henderson, NV Police Dept.

This meeting with the FBI office in Tacoma was set up by Agent Russ Johnson of the FBI office in Salt Lake City.

To the above-mentioned agents and detectives:

I am sure you have connected the dots between Susan Powell and Steven Koecher, in spite of the fact that, as one news article about the Koecher disappearance expressed it, "tips have come in. Some seem unlikely, like the theory that [REDACTED] disappearance is related to missing West Valley, Utah mom Susan Powell." Contrary to what this quote says, I think it is extremely likely that the two are connected. So I want to make sure you have some insights about Susan that I am aware of, based on personal interactions with her. I think the basic connections between Koecher and Powell are hard to miss when one looks at the Koecher timeline (sites.google.com/site/parallelcooler/home/koecher-html), but there are a few things that might help confirm that you are on the right track. So I would like to give my thoughts on where I think they are and where to look to find out how they arrived; why Susan would have abandoned her husband, children and parents; and how she may have paid for their abscondence.

I recognize that both Susan and Koecher would not break any laws by absconding, if both did so willingly, and may not be guilty of any infractions. And they can certainly stay where they are if found. That having been said, it is possible that Susan only wanted this disappearance to continue for a short time, and that ultimately Steven Koecher abducted her, and is holding her against her will, or that she is being subjected to human slavery/prostitution. It is also possible that they have broken laws by creating and continuing a scenario that suggests Susan's husband is responsible for her disappearance.

I would also like to point out that now that my initial shock and depression caused by Susan's disappearance have worn off, I believe I am thinking more clearly. Early on, notably in December 2009, it never occurred to me to even entertain the possibility that Susan may have absconded. However, having become 99.9% certain that my son is clueless as to Susan's fate and whereabouts, and having extreme difficulty coming up with any believable scenario in which she might have been abducted (she could have gone outside for her daily jog, and been abducted, but she usually used a treadmill in winter, and did that outside run in better weather), toward the end of January I began to wrap my mind around the possibility that her "disappearance" may have been an "abscondence."

I gave that possibility at least a chance until February 12, the day I began looking at the Steven Koecher case. I read very little about Koecher's activities during the week Susan disappeared before I said, "Bingo." The more I read about him, the more I learned about him, and the more I looked at the timeline for him during the week of Susan's disappearance, the more convinced I became that the Koecher and Powell disappearances were related. I also concluded that I was in denial when I refused to accept the possibility that Susan may have been involved in a love affair, and have run off with another man, something I should have accepted readily, given my above-average familiarity with her sexual proclivities.

SUSAN'S INTEREST IN PORTUGUESE AND CASUAL BELIEF IN MORMON CHURCH

First among personal tidbits about Susan, a few years ago she told me she wanted to learn Portuguese, because a line of her ancestors was traced to Portugal. For that reason, and based on hints in the attached timeline, I believe Susan Powell and Steven Koecher may be somewhere in Brazil, where he served a mission. On at least one occasion she expressed regret to me that she had not served a mission for the LDS Church before getting married. Brazil and Portugal would have been mission destinations of interest to her. Below I will offer a possible trajectory from West Valley City, Utah to Brazil.

Koecher served his LDS mission in Fortaleza and Teresina, in northeastern Brazil. I would start there in a search for them, since Koecher would know people they might be able to stay with until they became established. However, Koecher knows Portuguese, and could make his way anywhere in Brazil. He might avoid areas where people knew him as a missionary. Although Susan was a very casual Mormon and, in a Mormon testimony meeting last October at her West Valley City ward, specifically stated she did not truly believe in the church, she also stated she was appreciative of the support of the members who were trying to help her get a testimony.

It would seem that Susan likes being involved in the church despite her non-belief, and has been able, throughout her life, to separate her risk-taking sexual mores from her beliefs in the moral pronouncements of the church. For her it is very easy to do what makes her feel good, and repent and confess to the bishop later. For that reason, even though a relationship with Koecher would seem out of keeping with her beliefs, Susan would easily quash any cognitive dissonance. I believe Susan and Koecher will continue to be active in the Mormon (Latter-day Saint) Church. I would even venture a guess that they are likely to have arrived in Brazil claiming to be fiances and, since both no doubt had current LDS temple recommends, moved forward to get married in a Mormon temple. For that reason I would suggest checking marriage-license records in Brazil if other areas of investigation do not locate them.

An argument against the likelihood that they are involved in the LDS Church in Brazil is that as an automatic course of action their new ward in Brazil would be requesting that their records be forwarded from their old ward in Utah. Those records would be transferred at church headquarters, I believe. However, with the right friends in ward leadership (and Koecher appears to have been close to his president, ██████████ there would certainly be ways to cover the abscondence, and to create bogus church records for Susan. Can anomalies in the church records of Koecher's St. George ward be checked? If ██████████ did do something to help this along, one would expect that he would cover his tracks.

I would check with Mormon ecclesiastical units throughout Brazil, visiting them personally with pictures of Susan and Koecher, beginning with the Fortaleza and Teresina metro areas. Perhaps the LDS Church can contact leaders throughout Brazil with pictures (although the church tends to turn a blind eye to scandals and likes to keep things like this hush hush).

If the Mormon Church is willing to help, maybe they can urge church leaders to look at web sites with pictures of Susan and Koecher. One important thing to note is that I can show you 20 pictures of Susan, and you would not necessarily know you were looking at the same person. And this is before she plays with her makeup and hair color. I noted this years ago. Interestingly, Josh Powell recently set up a web site called www.SusanPowell.org, and some of his detractors said he included pictures that did not even look like her. They are dead wrong. I noted to myself many years ago that Susan is a human chameleon. Koecher could also give himself a different look (all pictures of him show a clean-cut Mormon-missionary look) by simply growing a beard and mustache and/or donning a hat.

Please note that Susan is a trained cosmetologist, and worked in that field in a salon in Puyallup before she branched into other fields, including property management (she and Josh were co-managers at a number of retirement communities) and investment counseling. She could easily change her hair color and style. I don't even know what Susan's natural hair color is. I don't think I have ever seen her with the same hair color for more than a few weeks. When I first met her she

was a bleached blonde. When I saw her last February, she was a brunette. I would venture a guess that she has now taken on the black-haired Latin look, if she is indeed in Brazil.

Susan spent a lot of money at beauty supply stores. If this investigation leads to Brazil, I would check such suppliers out.

I would start in Brazil's northeast and check with on-line newspapers and other on-line publications, since Koecher's last two jobs in Utah were with such. It would be helpful to publish their pictures together in local newspapers (but does Susan look like any of the pictures we have on a given day?) I am sure there are so many newspapers that that would be difficult, and there is the possibility that Koecher works at one of the papers. I also would expect him to consider working for a university or a government agency.

Josh Powell (Susan's husband) says she did not have a passport. I would surmise that she did have one, and the date of acquisition of her passport may give us a clue as to when she hatched this alleged plan to go to Brazil. I would check passport applications out under Susan Powell, Susan Cox and Susan Koecher. Other possibilities would be Susan Marie Cox and Susan Marie Powell (her legal name, and the name she has gone by since 2001). She likes her middle name, suggesting that Marie Cox, Marie Powell, or Marie Koecher could be used. I assume the FBI can check on passports without additional information.

News reports say that when Koecher absconded from Henderson, NV on December 13 he had his passport with him. However, it would make sense that he would also use an assumed name. He has that clean-cut Mormon-missionary appearance, but anyone who would stage a disappearance in such a way that it might frame an innocent person will certainly not hesitate to apply for a passport under an assumed name. Appearances are deceiving. The Mormon bomber, Mark Hoffman, began his forging career while on his mission in England.

WHERE THE ALLEGED TRIP TO BRAZIL BEGAN

In one news article Koecher's mother refers to him as an avid boater. I would check boat rentals (and missing boats) in and around Boulder City, Nevada for December 12-13, 2009 (it was established by a cell-phone ping that Koecher was near Overton on Dec 12, the day before he absconded), for use below Hoover Dam. I would show Koecher's picture to boat rental agencies, along with Susan's, as well as a picture of his close friend and church leader Greg Webb, who was also in the Las Vegas area the day Koecher abandoned his vehicle in Henderson, NV. In the week prior to his disappearance Koecher made a number of small meal purchases (about \$3.00 each) with his debit card, including in Mesquite, NV on December 12. Small purchases may have been a ruse to make investigators think he traveled alone.

Another possibility that occurred to me is that on December 12, Koecher and Powell could have driven to Bullhead City International Airport to pay cash for plane tickets to another domestic airport. They could have gone south from there. I guess it would be difficult at this late date to find any airline personnel who might remember a cash transaction from December 12. The fact is, on December 12 they could have driven all the way to Lake Havasu City to buy plane tickets with cash, if that was their plan. It might be possible to examine cash transactions at these two airports for that date.

If they took a rented boat south from Boulder City, I would guess they might have headed for Mexico City or a coastal port to take a flight or a ship to Brazil. Could they have taken a bus to Mexico City, possibly all the way from Bullhead City above Davis dam, or from Lake Havasu City, above Parker Dam? There are also "international" airports in these cities. Is there a way to check passport usage under their names? Of course, that is of no value if they used assumed names. I don't think it likely that they took a boat rented in Boulder City all the way down the Colorado River, since I understand it is not navigable all the way to the Gulf.

I would check flights from Mexico City to destinations in Brazil and passport usage for the same. If they avoided flights, they may have taken other ground transportation, or traveled by ship through the Panama Canal to reach Fortaleza, a coastal city of Brazil that Koecher would be familiar with. Are there passenger ships that travel from points in Mexico to Fortaleza? Can passport activity be traced at seaports?

I surmise that Susan and Koecher may have been together on December 13, the day he absconded (that he absconded seems apparent from the surveillance video of Koecher walking briskly away from his car on Dec 13). He abandoned his car in a Henderson, NV neighborhood, about a half hour from Boulder City. He may have been picked up by a waiting friend, who already had Susan in his vehicle, for the short ride to Boulder City, where they picked up the rented boat. Certainly they could have rented a car and driven south, but I would guess that Koecher would want to enjoy his first opportunity to share his boating hobby with Susan. I would check to see if Susan's DNA is in Koecher's car, and in the vehicles of specific friends. If a boat can be identified, perhaps there is DNA in it. Perhaps my boat-rental theory does not hold water for those investigating this, but maybe it will spur some other thoughts on what Koecher was doing near Overton on December 12.

Susan had her own financial resources. Her parents said recently that they set up a separate account for her. They did not say how many years ago they did this. How much seed money did they give her? Susan had control of the family's only debit card, and was certainly capable of withdrawing cash at any time to deposit in the secret account set up by her parents. She may have had investments of which Josh was unaware, since she worked for [REDACTED] and later [REDACTED]. I believe she had a safe deposit box, for which she had the only key, and may have stored cash in it, for all we know. Some time ago she urged Josh to withdraw cash from their savings, to be placed in a "family preparedness" home storage area. A large amount of that cash, which I understand started out in the \$7-10,000 range, disappeared and was unaccounted for.

Koecher presumably had savings, since he was out of work for several months before their disappearance, and apparently put hundreds of miles on his car every month. In the three days before his disappearance he is said to have put 1200 miles on his car, passing through West Valley City during those travels. However he was used to getting bailed out financially by his parents and a grandparent, and maybe by Susan Powell. He also stiffed his landlord for three to four months' rent prior to their disappearance. He may have done so to conserve money for their abscondence.

Susan also has parents who have habitually bailed out at least one of their daughters with huge sums of money. Susan would have no worries about a possibility of getting stranded in Brazil, should she have second thoughts about this alleged relationship, since plenty of money is there to bring her back if she just calls home. Susan's mother inherited a lot of money, and the Coxes have been in an above-average financial situation for many years. And speaking of second thoughts, I am inclined to believe that Susan would be having second thoughts by now, and could be missing her children terribly.

MOTIVE

Susan will have a difficult time being happy, no matter who she is with or where she goes, principally due to life-long emotional abuse by her mother. She and Josh were seeing a counselor for a few months prior to her disappearance. Josh is not the easiest person to get along with, but Susan was the one with the true issues to deal with. Josh was very concerned about the way she treated their children, and told the counselor that he believed Susan's occasional out-of-control anger was a result of the severe emotional abuse suffered at the hands of her mother. This emotional abuse by her mother continued into Susan's adulthood. I personally saw Susan reduced to tears a number of times while she was talking to her mother on the phone, and was told by Susan

that "my mother was screaming at me."

Susan deeply resented her father for being totally spineless, and letting her mother's abuse continue. Susan's "disappearance" could be payback. These motivating factors might be verified by speaking to Susan's parents and their friends (who have undoubtedly witnessed this emotional abuse, but who are currently very sympathetic with the Coxes due to their loss of Susan), her sisters (who probably also suffered similar treatment by their mother), and their ex-husbands and boyfriends (and current ones) who, like Josh, seemed very careful to avoid Judy Cox (Susan's mother). There is good reason that one of Coxes' daughters has lost custody of two children produced with a boyfriend as a teenager, and has also lost custody of two children produced in a marriage that recently ended. This [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I truly do not want to cast aspersions on Susan or her sister [REDACTED], and would appreciate confidentiality for their sake. I am making these comments about her family so that you may confirm this aspect of Susan's psychological profile by interviewing family members, etc. (not that they will be forthcoming or admit the prevalence of emotional abuse in the Cox family).

Susan was having extreme difficulties dealing with her children. Josh at times had to "rescue" his children from her wrath. Josh would remind Susan that she was treating the children as Judy Cox (her mother) treated her. In recent weeks many blogs and commentaries on the internet have advanced the idea that Susan "would never leave her children." On the contrary, I think she would welcome a chance to start over, because she could not break the pattern, established for her by her mother, of occasionally reacting to her boys with violent anger.

Susan may even already be pregnant, and under a doctor's care (check with OB-GYNs, perhaps here as well as in Brazil), since she wanted to have at least one girl. This may have made her abrupt departure necessary, if she was beginning to show the effects of pregnancy. Josh would know that it was not his, since he was practicing "safe sex." Susan's parents made the comment (this is hearsay, since I have only heard about this statement) in one news article or blog that Susan planned to file for divorce in April 2010. Go figure. Supposedly, as the Coxes and others seem to be trying to paint the picture, she was in a failed marriage, and possibly was even afraid of Josh.

Sometime last summer or fall Susan urgently asked Josh to get her pregnant, but he did not feel they (she in particular) were ready for another child. At the time Josh told me about this urgency Susan seemed to have, I asked him if she might be so anxious to get him to take the condom off because she was already pregnant by someone else. Was she trying to make it seem like Josh impregnated her? I was not inclined to believe she was having an affair, but it did cross my mind. Hence the question to Josh. Susan was also anxious to get pregnant because she had gained a massive amount of weight, particularly during her pregnancy with the second of two children (the weight was lost in drastic dietary and exercise measures). She was anxious to have her "last" child, so that she might get a tummy tuck over with and move on with her life.

As for whether Susan might abandon her husband Josh, I don't think there is any question that she would do so, and even frame him on the way out. She was being egged on by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was evidently physically and sexually abused as a child. [REDACTED] believed that all men are abusers, and Josh's quirks were interpreted by her as being controlling, and therefore abusive. Susan was frequently at [REDACTED] house, helping her with chores and giving her food and money (over and above the [REDACTED] received from Josh and Susan) and even gave [REDACTED] a key to the Powell house, something Josh did not know until after Susan disappeared. Josh had a difficult time keeping Susan from joining [REDACTED] in her male-bashing fantasyland.

As for framing Josh, what better way could Susan have found to divert attention from an abscondence, particularly to a foreign land, where she might cause herself to disappear permanently? This has probably worked more perfectly than she expected. Until now there have been no media reports connecting her with Koecher, and there has been a media circus around

Josh and the boys.

It is interesting to me that about a year ago Josh took the boys on a winter campout similar to the one on December 7. After they returned Josh called me to tell me about it. They had left at about 10:00 p.m. and spent the night in the family van. Josh said it was pretty cold, and that next time they did a winter campout he would have a generator and a heater. I have no doubt Susan knew about this plan to eventually buy a heater for camping. So Josh did buy one sometime in November 2009, and waited for a good night to go on a snow campout. If Susan actually did abscond, as I believe she did, and did plan it in advance, the purchase of the generator and heater would have been her cue that she would be able to implement the plan soon. Within days of buying the heater, Josh took it out to a snowy campground for its maiden voyage and, like Steven Koecher, Susan walked away "with a purpose."

WERE OTHERS INVOLVED? THOUGHTS ON WHO TO TALK TO

I am of the opinion that there are at least two people in Utah who know where Susan and Koecher are. One is in West Valley City, and one is in St. George. Someone in WVC had to receive Susan into their home when she left her home in the early hours of December 7. Josh created the perfect disappearance-by-husband scenario for her by just being Josh. She knew it was a matter of time before he repeated his regular pattern of leaving to camp with the boys late at night.

In what I view as the apparent timeline, Susan went to someone's house (which I refer to "safe house" in my timeline) in WVC, or was picked up and taken there, and waited until Koecher arrived, which was probably by the evening of December 7 (December 7 and 8 appear to be undocumented in the timeline that has been created around Koecher's disappearance). Still in WVC on December 8 they decided, as a ruse to cover Koecher's tracks in the WVC area, that Koecher would drop in on his ex-girlfriend's parents in Ruby Valley, NV to feign interest in seeing her, which he did on December 9. He headed back to West Valley City via Wendover, NV the evening of Dec 9 (evidenced by a food purchase in Wendover), and he and Susan headed for St. George on Thursday Dec 10 (there are expenditures on his debit card in Springville and Nephi that day).

The "safe house" could have been that of [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] (both Susan's confidantes), but that would be too obvious, and they live within the boundaries of Susan's Latter-day Saint ward. However, it might be well to show neighbors of these people pictures of [REDACTED] vehicle, to see if they recognize it. Checking [REDACTED] cell-phone records in recent months for calls to West Valley City, and for his presence in the Utah Valley area would also seem productive, although pre-paid cell phones are plentiful, and are probably not traceable.

Susan's days off were Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and it would be of interest to know if [REDACTED] trips north targeted Wednesdays and Thursdays. She frequently claimed she was going to the temple on those days, and usually drove Josh to work so as to retain their vehicle at home for her own use. Josh never questioned mileage or gas consumption when Susan used the vehicle. Josh's cell phone records should also be checked (I believe WVC PD already have them) for calls to St. George or other numbers [REDACTED] used (Bountiful?), since Susan frequently used his phone due to the unlimited minutes available.

WHERE SUSAN POWELL AND STEVEN KOECHER MAY HAVE MET

Both worked in downtown Salt Lake City for a number of years. Susan worked at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] worked as an intern in the office of the Governor's secretary. Susan took a hiatus from work to have her first son, and later worked at [REDACTED] which was further from the downtown core. Koecher worked for a while at the Salt Lake Tribune, which appears to be about two blocks from [REDACTED] but I don't believe the time periods match. They may have met at the temple.

They may have been introduced by a mutual friend in West Valley City. It would appear that Koecher has a connection there, since he spent Thanksgiving Day in WVC, November 26, 2009, less than two weeks before Susan disappeared. His timeline says he played volleyball in WVC in the morning of November 26, went to Bountiful for lunch (with his parents?), and returned to WVC that evening for a "piece of pie." Josh does not recall if Susan went out for errands on Thanksgiving morning or evening. They (the Powells) attended a Thanksgiving dinner at Josh's uncle's house in Ogden. Interestingly, Susan insisted that they go to the uncle's house over Josh's objections. This uncle tends to take advantage of people, and has taken advantage of Josh in the past. Did Koecher stay through the rest of the Thanksgiving weekend? Possibly. He had no job. He was free to come and go as he pleased.

I would check with Koecher's cousin in Layton, UT (██████████) and a cousin in Las Vegas, NV (J██████████) and ask some pointed questions, to determine if they were aware of Susan's and Koecher's planned disappearance. ██████████ Koecher's church leader in St. George may be aware of some plan. Koecher moved to St. George in April 2009. Why? Why St. George? Did he know ██████████ prior to moving there? Koecher had a roommate up until about three months before his disappearance. Can this former roommate be located for questioning? Was Koecher's move to St. George part of the plan for both him and Susan to disappear?

SOME OTHER COMMONALITIES

Susan's father plays guitar and sings, as do I. Susan loves singing, and has been in choirs regularly since junior high school. She has recorded two music projects with me. Koecher's guitar playing and singing would have been of interest to her. And of course there is the common interest in Portuguese. Koecher's physical appearance would seem to fit the profile that would attract Susan.

MY LEVEL OF CERTAINTY

I have no complete certainty about any of this. I hope what I have written offers some viable possibilities for finding their trail. I am about 100% certain that Koecher absconded, and about 75% certain that Susan did likewise. I am about 75% certain that if one is found the other will be with them. I am not nearly that certain that they went to Brazil. However I can't think of a more fitting place for a couple with their background to disappear without a trace.