

SEALED FILE

ENVELOPE C

Print this file without reading it. Put the pages in an envelope marked “C” and seal it.

Do not open until your team agrees on an answer to the question on the next page.

C

ENVELOPE C

Who killed Silas Wren, why, and what physical evidence proves it?

Cut here and seal. Open only when your team agrees on an answer.

EVERETT LUSK

Why. Lusk’s whole south-shore development depended on the Tern Point parcel. Silas refused to sell; his widow Nora would not stand in the way. Once the estate was settled, in June 1980, Nora sold the Point to Tern Point Holdings for \$85,000 (Registry of Deeds).

How. Lusk made a show of leaving on the 5:30 PM ferry and checking into the Harbor Inn. At 9:30 PM he told the night clerk he was going for a walk, rented skiff #3 as “E. Lawson” — writing down his own office number, (617) 555-0148 — and crossed to the Point at low water. Silas let him into the tower. On the third landing Lusk struck him twice with the lamp’s winding crank and let him fall.

Proof.

- The skiff ledger’s phone number is the number on Lusk’s business card.
- The night clerk saw him leave at 9:30 PM and return after two, wet to the knee — his statement that he stayed in all evening is false. The inn register shows the guest in Number 4 was Everett Lusk.
- The J. Press brass button on the third landing matches the Bayview Cleaners ticket: on Monday Lusk had one J. Press button replaced on his navy blazer, and a salt stain cleaned from his trousers.
- Size-11 wet leather-soled prints climbed from the landing; Silas wore size-9 rubber boots.
- The crank’s 2.5 cm round boss matches the two 2.5 cm fractures.

Everyone else. Tom Wren was in The Anchor from 19:05 to 01:12, and no crossing is possible in eighteen minutes. Dale Brody’s Sally B was hauled out at the boatyard all week. Nora Wren and Ingrid Sorensen were on the island, but neither came by boat or wears a size-11 man’s shoe — and Ingrid was the Coast Guard’s automation inspector, which is why she was watching the light. The insurance policy and the lobster-trap quarrel are red herrings. Lusk’s letter claims Nora “would not stand in the way”, but her own statement says she told him the decision was Silas’s — nothing puts her on the stair or in the plan.

EPILOGUE

CASE CLOSED

Everett Lusk was never charged in 1979. Tern Point Holdings built eleven summer cottages on the south shore of Tern Island in 1981; the light was automated the same year.

When the Cold Case Review reopened the file, the Bayview Cleaners ticket was still in a box of the shop's old receipts, and the marina's ledger still carried a Boston phone number beside a name nobody on the coast had ever heard of.

Your file is closed. Silas Wren's is, finally, too.

INVESTIGATOR

DATE CLOSED
