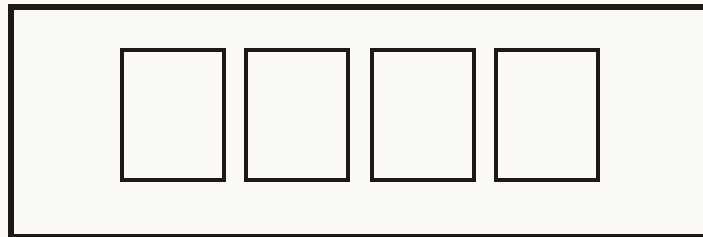


LAST CRUSH

ENVELOPE 3

RACK 9, BARREL 3



Sealed. Do not open until you have the four-digit combination from Envelope 2.

Inside: Dolores's fourth letter, what was behind the barrel, the Medical Examiner's final report, a pharmacy label, a traffic citation, and four handwritten notes.

San Antonio
November 13, 1989

Dear Detectives,

Rack 9, Barrel 3. I drove up Saturday. Denny came with me into the barrel room because I did not want to go alone and because I could not have moved a barrel if my life depended on it. There was nothing in the barrel, of course, it is full of wine. It was behind it, wedged in the gap between the barrel head and the wall, wrapped in a piece of oilcloth and tied with baling twine. You would never find it unless you knew. Denny found it in about a minute once I told him where to look. I have photographed it as found and sent you what was inside: an agreement between Walt and Hollis Teague, a laboratory report from Dr. Sato with Walt's writing on it, and a torn ledger page with more of Walt's scribbles that I cannot read. I think you can.

The Medical Examiner's final report came to Ruth on November 3 and she gave it to me without a word. Read it first. Then read everything else again. I had Baird call Sheriff Purcell about it. Purcell says he is "reviewing." Baird says that means he is hoping it goes away.

Some other things have come to me since I wrote last, and I set them down in the order they happened.

At the funeral home, before the service, Cal took me into the hallway and gave me a piece of paper and said, "I wasn't there, Aunt Dee. I didn't tell Kimbrough because I'd had six beers and the trooper didn't test me and I got lucky. I wasn't there." It is a speeding ticket. I have enclosed it.

I sat with Denny on the bunkhouse porch for an hour. He is not what Cal says he is. He gave me a note from Walt and asked me to give it back when I was done with it, and he told me one thing he had not told the deputy, which I have typed up for you as near to his words as I could get them.

Marisol came to the house while I was there and gave me a Christmas card from 1981 with a note from Walt on the back, and a note of her own. She said she wanted me to know what he was to her. I have enclosed both. I do not know what to say about them yet.

Ruth answered a question I put to her about the house keys, in writing, because I asked her to. She also let me photograph her pill bottle, which I did after reading the Medical Examiner, and which she watched me do without asking why, which tells you something about Ruth.

Last. I asked Baird about the "addendum for M." in Walt's ledger. He says it is privileged until the estate is settled and that Ruth is executor. He did say that Walt's safe deposit box is not part of the estate, because my name is on it, and that if Walt wanted me to have something, that is where it would be. The bank would not give me the box number over the telephone, so I went in on Monday with Baird's letter, and the girl at the desk, who was in my class in 1971, looked it up. I have opened it. What was inside is in the next envelope, sealed with the box number. I am not going to write the number here. If Walt's scribbles on that torn page are what I think they are, he already wrote it down for you, in the only code he ever taught Cal, and I think he would want it read the way he wrote it.

Sincerely,

Dolores



Rack 9, Barrel 3, as found after Denny pulled the bundle out and set it on the barrel. Sat. Nov. 11. - D.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER • TRAVIS COUNTY,
TEXAS

1213 Sabine Street, Austin, Texas 78701 • Anne Castellano, M.D., Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

FINAL REPORT OF AUTOPSY AND TOXICOLOGY

ME CASE	AGENCY CASE	DATE OF REPORT	DECEDENT
ME-89-2210	Blanco SO 89-1013-A	11/02/89	BRANNOCK, Walter D., 61

TOXICOLOGY (Travis County Forensic Laboratory, report 89-T-3391, 10/31/89)

SPECIMEN	ANALYTE	RESULT	REFERENCE
Blood, femoral	Ethanol	0.09 g/dL	-
Blood, femoral	Secobarbital	2.4 mg/L	Therapeutic 0.1 - 0.5 mg/L; toxic > 1.0; fatal range reported 1.5 - 5+
Vitreous	Secobarbital	1.9 mg/L	Consistent with antemortem distribution
Gastric contents (250 mL)	Secobarbital	approx. 180 mg unabsorbed	-
Gastric contents	Ethanol; sugars; grape pigment	Present; consistent with fortified sweet wine	-
Blood	Digoxin	0.9 ng/mL	Therapeutic
Blood, urine	Comprehensive drug screen	Negative for other drugs of abuse or sedative-hypnotics	-

INTERPRETATION. The femoral blood secobarbital concentration is approximately five to twenty times the therapeutic range and is inconsistent with the ingestion of one or two 100 mg capsules. Together with the unabsorbed drug recovered from the stomach, the findings indicate ingestion of an estimated **600 to 900 mg of secobarbital** within approximately one hour of death, in a liquid vehicle consistent with fortified wine. In combination with ethanol at the level found, a dose of this size would be expected to produce marked dizziness, ataxia and loss of consciousness within **ten to thirty minutes** of ingestion in a man of the decedent's size, and would by itself have been potentially lethal.

No prescription for secobarbital or any barbiturate was identified for the decedent. The decedent's physician (H. Whitfield, M.D., Blanco) confirms by telephone that none was ever prescribed and that the decedent expressed a specific aversion to sleeping medication. Secobarbital capsule contents are readily soluble in wine and are bitter; a fortified sweet wine would substantially mask the taste.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Asphyxia due to displacement of oxygen by carbon dioxide, with aspiration of liquid, following a fall into a fermentation tank.

CONTRIBUTING: Acute secobarbital and ethanol intoxication.

MANNER OF DEATH: **UNDETERMINED** (pending investigation; the circumstances of ingestion cannot be established from the autopsy alone).

Investigating agency (Blanco County SO, Sheriff Purcell) notified by telephone 11/02/89 and in

BLANCO DRUG · 5th & Main, Blanco, Texas · (512) 833-2500

Rx **4471186** Date filled: **10/03/89**
BRANNOCK, RUTH C. 4410 RR 165, Blanco
SECONAL SODIUM 100 MG PULVULE (Lilly)
TAKE ONE CAPSULE AT BEDTIME AS NEEDED FOR SLEEP.
QTY: **30** Refills: 2 Dr. H. WHITFIELD RPh: JMT
CAUTION: Federal law prohibits the transfer of this drug to any person other than the patient for whom it was prescribed. MAY CAUSE DROWSINESS. ALCOHOL MAY INTENSIFY THIS EFFECT.

I did not open it. Ruth did, and tipped them onto the counter, and counted them in front of me. Eleven. Same as the deputy. She said she had not touched them since the funeral. She cannot sleep, but she will not take them now. - D.

Nov. 10

Dee,

You asked who has a key to this house and I will tell you and then I do not want to talk about why you asked.

Walt. Me. Cal. And Marisol, since 1983, so she can see to the dogs when we go to Port Aransas. Nobody else. Denny has never set foot in this house and would not know which door to try. Hollis Teague has not been through that door since the Fourth of July, 1987, and you know why. Evelyn Sato has been in for supper twice, both times with us at the table.

The doors were locked from nine o'clock on. Walt locked up himself when the Ochoa boys kept running in and out for ice and letting the dogs out. I know because I had to let the caterer in the front door with my own key at half past nine and I said something to Walt about it.

The pills. I count them, Dee. I have always known how many were in that bottle. I had not looked since the funeral. When I tipped them out for you it was light and I told myself I must have been taking two. I have never taken two in my life.

Ruth

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Brannock / Teague - Cypress Creek

October 13, 1989. Cypress Hollow, cellar office, 4:30 PM.

1. Brannock will remove the low-water dam on Cypress Creek at his own expense on or before December 1, 1989.
2. Brannock will cause a conservation easement to be recorded over the Cypress Creek frontage of his property, not less than 150 feet in width, in perpetuity, preserving the natural flow of the creek to the Teague Ranch. The easement will run with the land and bind any purchaser.
3. Teague will dismiss Cause No. 89-CV-211, Blanco County, with prejudice, within ten days after the dam is removed and the easement is recorded.
4. Each party pays his own lawyer.
5. This memorandum records our agreement in principle. Formal documents to be prepared by Baird and Haskell within 30 days. Nothing is recorded or filed until then. If either of us dies first, God forbid, the other will see this through with the survivors as a matter of honor, because that is the kind of men we were raised to be.

Walt Brannock

Hollis Teague

Baird says paragraph 5 is worth exactly what Ruth decides it is worth, and that Lantana's bank will want the easement anyway, and that Hollis is "in a very bad spot" without Walt. - D.

SATO ENOLOGICAL SERVICES

Evelyn Sato, Ph.D. (U.C. Davis) · 214 W. Main St., Fredericksburg, Texas 78624 · (512) 997-3310

LABORATORY
REPORT
No. 89-0412
Date: 9/26/89

Client: **Cypress Hollow Vineyard** Material: **Block C Cabernet Sauvignon** Received: 9/24/89

PARAMETER	C-1 (ROWS 1-40)	C-2 (ROWS 41-58) (ROWS 59-72 BACK ROWS)
Brix	23.8	22.1
pH	3.71	3.82
Titrateable acidity (g/L)	5.9	4.6
Volatile acidity (g/L as acetic)	0.62	1.41
Acetobacter, plate culture	trace	heavy growth
Visual: sour rot / Botrytis, % clusters	5-8%	30-40%

Recommendation. Declassify Block C for the 1989 vintage. Do not co-ferment with Block B; the acetic load in C-2 will carry. Sorting C-1 from C-2 at the crush pad is possible but labor-intensive and the fruit will not make reserve quality this year. The best economic recovery is bulk sale to a producer of fortified or blended product. I can arrange this with Pedernales Ridge at the market rate for compromised fruit, currently \$400-425/ton. I understand this is not what you want to hear.

E. Sato

For Dee. If you're reading this, you did
the barrel. Good girl. One more. Cal's
code. You'll find the card.

U E > ^ O F E C E < F E E E

V O ^ O O U E J O L E O O J > L

- W

Given to Dolores by Cal Brannock, Oct. 18, 1989. Driver's copy (yellow).

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - UNIFORM TRAFFIC CITATION No. K-4471882				
DATE 10-13-89	TIME 2332	COUNTY Hays	HWY / LOCATION RR 165 @ US 290, Henly	
DRIVER (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) BRANNOCK, CALVIN WALTER		DOB 06-14-55	DL NO. / STATE 07331498 TX	
ADDRESS 4410 RR 165, Blanco TX		SEX / RACE M / W	HT / WT 5-11 / 180	
YEAR 1984	MAKE Ford	TYPE PK F-150	COLOR Brn	PLATE / STATE 887-TXN TX
VIOLATION SPEEDING - 71 MPH IN A 55 MPH ZONE (RADAR)			DIRECTION NB	
COURT Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4, Hays County, Dripping Springs - appear within 10 days			FINE \$78.00	
OFFICER (PRINT) R. SALINAS		BADGE 4410	UNIT 2A-17	
SIGNATURE OF DRIVER - NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT - PROMISE TO APPEAR Cal Brannock			REMARKS Odor of alc. Driver coherent, coop. No FST.	

Henly is 14 miles north of the vineyard gate by RR 165. Twenty minutes if you drive like Cal. - D.

Given to Dolores by Denny Pruitt, Nov. 11. Torn from Walt's pocket notebook. To be returned.

D -

Take the 6 cs of '86 to Herrera's.

Tom will give you \$75 a bottle and
no questions. Keep what you need for
your mother. Pay me back when you
can or don't. Don't tell Cal or Ruth,
they wouldn't understand and I don't
feel like explaining.

- W 9/16

DENNY PRUITT - bunkhouse porch - Saturday Nov. 11, about 4 PM - typed from my notes that night. D.B.A.

"I told the deputy everything I saw. He didn't ask what I heard, and I've been thinking about it since, and I should have said it anyway.

"After the rain quit, I was still on the porch. I heard the chain on the tank room door. It's got a sound, that chain, it rattles on the hook when you hang it. Half past eleven, maybe. Could've been a little later. I figured it was Mr. Brannock closing up like he does, and I didn't think about it again till the next morning when Cal said the chain was up when he got there. Well, sure it was. Somebody hung it.

"I didn't see who. From the porch you see the door but the light over it burned out in August and nobody fixed it. You see a shape if you're looking, and I wasn't looking, I was listening to the creek run.

"Ma'am, I know what Cal says about me. Mr. Brannock gave me those cases. That's his note. My mother's on dialysis three days a week in San Marcos and Mr. Brannock knew it and he never said one word about it to anybody, he just did that. Tom Herrera paid me \$5,400 and it's all gone to the hospital and I can show you every receipt. You give that note back to me when you're done. It's the only thing I've got with his writing on it."

From Marisol Reyes, at the main house, Saturday Nov. 11. A Christmas card, 1981, and a note. Both enclosed below.

(back of a Christmas card - a snowy barn, "Season's Greetings")

Mari -

Five years you've broken your back out there and I've paid you like a field hand because that's all I could pay. When this place is worth something, a fifth of it is yours. I mean it. Hold me to it.

- Walt

Christmas '81

Mrs. Avery -

You asked what Walt was to me. I want you to have this. He wrote it in 1981 and I have kept it in my Bible since.

I do not want anything from anybody. I want people to know he was a good man who kept his word.

- Marisol