

December 17, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor's Office
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear sir:

My name is Lillian Shaffer, I am the sister of Dr. Peggy Ryen. I do not think that Kevin Cooper killed my sister, Doug (her husband) , Jessica(her daughter) and the neighbor's child Christopher. It seems impossible that he could have done all of that destruction by himself. Indeed, my experience is that he was not aware of my family's existence on that hill.

In 1978, my eight children and I traveled by car across the United States from Pennsylvania to California. After a week in close quarters with the children, especially four independent teenagers, I was ready for my own vacation. When we arrived in California, my kids all went up to Peggy's ranch and had a great time with the horses and various animals that Peggy had. My mother's home was nearby and that was where I stayed doing a spring cleaning for her. It was therapy for me and a big help to her. After six days of hard work, I got up on a ladder in the living room to wash a couple of small windows. For the first time, I looked out and said to myself " Oh, there's Peggy's house ! " I could just see the roof and a small portion of the building. I had not been aware that it was so close.

The back door of my mother's home (the house that Kevin Cooper hid in) is the one used the most. It opened out onto the driveway and there was a retaining wall on the side that was the closest to Peggy's house. Above the wall there were very high weeds which blocked any view of what was higher on the hill. Nearby, there was a pathway leading up to Peggy's house which the family used to go back and forth. If you wanted to use the front door of the house, it would only lead to a patio and a small grassy area which looked out onto the valley below. To see Peggy's house from this area you would have to go to the very end where it dropped off and it is very visible to people below. I don't think Kevin would have done that. He was hiding. When the jury was taken out to the location, they said there was no way he could not have known about Peggy's house—they were wrong. We were there in June of 1978 and the summertime weeds were high. Kevin was there in June, 1983. As I said before, it was six days before I realized how close the Ryen house was.

Another experience is when Peggy shot a snake in the head in her bedroom with one try. Peggy and I finally were together and she was giving me a tour of the property. As we looked into the master bedroom, I saw a snake up in the corner on some wooden crossbeams. I called out " Peggy, there's a snake!!" She took a few steps to the closet and grabbed a gun. It only took about ten seconds for all of it. Peggy had BB guns starting when she was 11 years old. She was good with them. Doug had been attacked first as the police report goes. There is no way my sister would have stood around without getting a gun out of that closet.

Doug and Peg were both very strong people. I was watching Peggy working with a stallion they

owned. The horse reared up and as I was close to it, it seemed gigantic. She got that huge powerful animal under control quickly and it knew who was boss. Doug and Peg had to be overwhelmed by several people who worked together for them to be subdued. One person certainly did not do it alone.

There is new evidence as I understand it and I ask that a fresh look be taken at Kevin Cooper and his conviction.

Sincerely ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lillian Shaffer". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Lillian" and the last name "Shaffer" clearly distinguishable.

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