

**JUDITH GANNON
DEPOSITION, June 26, 1973
(MS 81 vol. 39)**

Excerpt 1

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Q. What time would you estimate you left home for work?

A. I left the house at exactly 8 o'clock, and I was about two or three minutes late for work.

Q. Did you drive it in your ordinary time, approximately five minutes?

A. Yes.

Q. When you got to the office was anybody else there?

A. No, I was the first one there that morning.

Q. How long was it after you got there before you received that phone call from your mother?

A. Let's see, it was about ten minutes I suppose I hadn't been there very long. The other lady who worked came in and she didn't have a babysitter that day and brought her daughter with her. The little girl came back to the switchboard where I was and she was sitting on my lap. It was the first call I got that morning and it was my mother. You're pretty accurate on times.

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A. I'm a clock-watcher for one thing.

Q. From what you have said I gather you got this call from your mother pretty close somewhere from 8:13 to 8:15

A. Approximately.

Q. As best you recall, what did she tell you?

A. She was a little bit hysterical. I answered the phone and my mother said, "Judy, get out of that office." And I laughed and I said, "Why?" She said, "Don't argue with me, get out of the office." She said, "The water is coming, get out." And at that the phone went dead and I couldn't imagine what she was talking about. I have an over-protective mother anyway. The night before it had been raining and I thought the creek was up and she was being silly again. So, I took Darla, Ruth Browning's daughter and walked to the hall in the outer office and I could see the

water in the creek was coming up over the road and I told Ruth about it and we both left -- first, I set up night connections. I thought I had better get out and go see about my mother because I knew she was upset. I set up night connections and Ruth and Darla and I all left and Ruth started running with the little girl. She would not get in the car with me, she started running. I got in my car, backed out of the parking lot and started up the main road.

Q. Started up the main road?

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A. Yes, toward my mother. I thought I could get up there. Then all of a sudden it wasn't water coming across the road any more, it was coming down through the parking lot, it was everywhere real fast. I panicked. I did not know what to do. I turned my car around and headed behind the office up toward the tipple.

Q. By this time were you on a dirt road?

A. Yes. And I was trying to drive as fast as I could and there were people running. I didn't know if I was going to hit anybody, if I could drive. with everybody running like that. My foot would not stay on the gas I was shaking so bad. I didn't know what to do. I got up the road to the road going up the mountainside and parked my car and got out and ran and I caught up with Ruth and her daughter then and I got up on top of the mountainside and just looked.

Q. What did you see?

A. Down below and there was a huge amount of water. It looked like a river just passing by so fast it was going so fast I couldn't believe what was happening and I could see houses, some were broken up and some looked like whole houses still in good shape just floating down this water. Some were going real fast and crashing into each other and people were screaming., And I thought, "My God, what's happened?" Then, it dawned on me my mother and family

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were surely dead. Then I felt horrible because I thought she took the time out to call me and that's what's caught her in the house then. I kept looking at the houses going 'by to see if any of them were mine and you couldn't recognize any of them hardly. You couldn't recognize one house from another. You could see people were in there. And I just sat down on the hill and closed my eyes.