



The Witnesses

Two Families, One Story

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Two independent families -- the Seawaters and Don Cheney's family -- corroborate Arthur Leigh Allen as the Zodiac Killer. These families had no connection to each other. They came forward separately, at different times, through different channels. And they tell the same story.

CONNIE SEAWATER

Background

Connie Seawater knew Arthur Leigh Allen for **32 years**, from 1960 to 1992. Her mother Phyllis was close to Allen. Connie's observations are firsthand -- she watched Allen's behavior directly, over decades, as both a child and an adult.

"He Spelled It L-E-E, Not L-E-I-G-H"

"When I saw him write it, he spelled it L-E-E."

"He told me that LEIGH was spelled like a girl would."

This confirms what the ciphers require. The checksum system works with **LEE ALLEN** (8 letters, checksum 6). It does not work with LEIGH ALLEN (11 letters, different checksum). Connie's testimony independently verifies the exact spelling the ciphers encode.

"Multiple Keys" -- Independent Corroboration of the Multi-Cipher System

Connie confirmed that Allen taught her about using "multiple keys" for ciphers when she was approximately 10 years old. He taught kids about using multiple layers of encoding -- different keys for different parts of a message.

This was testified to **before** the four-cipher interlocking system was discovered through mathematical analysis. Allen described the exact methodology that his ciphers employ, to a child, decades before anyone recognized it in the Zodiac ciphers.

DNA Avoidance: "He Never Licked Stamps"

"He would never lick a stamp or an envelope. He had us kids do it, and one time I watched him get a dog to lick one, or he would use a wet sponge."

This explains the DNA "exclusion" that critics cite. The DNA recovered from Zodiac letters does not match Allen -- because Allen never provided his DNA. He had children and dogs lick the stamps and envelopes for him. The DNA on the letters belongs to whoever licked them, not to the person who wrote them.

Fingerprint Countermeasures: "He Put Glue on His Hands"

ZODIAC (November 9, 1969 letter):

"I wear transparent finger tip guards. All it is is 2 coats of airplane cement coated on my finger-tips"

CONNIE SEAWATER (independent testimony):

"Mr Allen put glue on his hands. When we were kids it was just a fun game. Then he would take a toothpick and move the glue around so that it would not accidentally press fingerprints through."

Connie had NO knowledge of the Zodiac letter. She described the identical technique -- glue on fingertips to prevent fingerprint transfer -- without any awareness that the Zodiac had described the same method in writing in 1969. This is independent corroboration. Two sources, no contact between them, describing the same technique for the same purpose.

Phonetic Misspellings Were Intentional: "He Likes Phonics"

Connie confirmed that Allen's misspelling patterns were deliberate. He had an affinity for phonetic spelling -- writing words as they sounded rather than as they were conventionally spelled. PARADICE (phonetic for PARADISE), ANAMAL (phonetic for ANIMAL), EXPERENCE (phonetic for EXPERIENCE) -- these are not accidents from an uneducated man. Allen was intelligent and educated. The misspellings were intentional.

David Seawater's Deathbed Confession (1992)

Connie's brother, David Seawater, received a deathbed confession from Arthur Leigh Allen in 1992. Allen confessed to David that he was the Zodiac Killer. Allen died on August 26, 1992.

DON CHENEY'S DAUGHTER

The January 1, 1968 Conversation

On January 1, 1968 -- **eleven months before the first confirmed Zodiac murder** on July 4, 1969 -- Don Cheney met with Arthur Leigh Allen. During that meeting, Allen described in detail what he planned to do:

TOPIC	WHAT ALLEN DESCRIBED
Zodiac watch	Christmas gift, still in packaging
Flashlight-taped-to-gun	As a sight (matches Lake Berryessa description)
Thank-you notes	Asked Cheney to stamp envelopes (DNA avoidance)
Plans to kill couples	Exactly what the Zodiac did
Plans to target school buses	"Pick off the little darlings"
The name "Zodiac"	Before any murders occurred

These are not vague predictions. These are specific, operational details that match the Zodiac's actual methods -- described eleven months before the killings began.

"Little Darlings" vs "Kiddies"

SOURCE	QUOTE
Allen to Cheney (January 1, 1968)	"picking the little darlings off as they come bouncing out of the bus"
Zodiac letter (October 13, 1969)	"pick off the kiddies as they come bouncing out"

The vocabulary difference **strengthens** the case, not weakens it. If Don Cheney had fabricated his account after reading the Zodiac's published letters, he would have used the Zodiac's word: "kiddies." Instead, Cheney remembered Allen's actual word: "little darlings." These are independent descriptions of the same intent, using different vocabulary -- exactly what you would expect from two people recounting the same conversation versus one person copying from the other.

Zodiac-Brand Watch and Flashlight-Taped-to-Gun

Allen showed Cheney a Zodiac-brand watch -- a Christmas gift still in its packaging. He also described taping a flashlight to a gun barrel to use as a sight. This matches the description from the Lake Berryessa attack, where the Zodiac used a similar device.

Multiple Attempts to Report Allen

Don Cheney's daughter has stated that her father made multiple attempts to report Allen to police. He was repeatedly ignored or dismissed. The system failed to act on credible, specific, pre-crime intelligence from a witness who would later pass a polygraph.

Don Cheney Passed Polygraph (1991)

Official Document: Washington State Patrol Polygraph Examination Report **File Number:** PIO-91-0-0254 **Date:** April 24, 1991

Result: "In the opinion of this examiner, **he was not attempting deception** when he answered 'yes' to the following relevant questions:

1. Did you hear Lee Allen in late 1967 or early 1968 talk about shooting the little darlings as they came bouncing off the bus?"

Three detectives independently concurred: Cheney was telling the truth.

CROSS-CORROBORATION: TWO FAMILIES, ZERO CONNECTION

The Seawater family and Don Cheney's family had no relationship with each other. They came forward independently, through separate channels, at different times. Yet their testimony converges on the same facts:

DETAIL	SEAWATER FAMILY	DON CHENEY'S FAMILY
DNA avoidance	"He never licked stamps" -- had kids and dogs do it	Asked Cheney to stamp envelopes for thank-you notes
Phonetic misspellings intentional	"He likes phonics" -- deliberate pattern	N/A
Multi-cipher / multi-key capability	Taught kids about multiple layers of encoding	N/A
Pre-crime knowledge	Cipher methods described before discovery	Bus attacks described 11 months before first murder
Name spelling	"L-E-E, not L-E-I-G-H"	Polygraph references "Lee Allen"

The Probability Both Are Lying

For the witness testimony to be false, both families would need to be fabricating their accounts. This requires:

- Two unconnected families independently deciding to frame the same man
- Both families inventing details that happen to match the Zodiac's own written statements (which they had no access to)
- Don Cheney passing a polygraph while lying
- Connie Seawater describing the glue/fingerprint technique without knowing the Zodiac had described it in 1969

- Both families maintaining consistent stories across decades

The probability of this scenario: **effectively zero.**

One family might lie. Two unconnected families, with no motive, independently confirming the same specific behavioral details -- details that match the Zodiac's own private writings -- is not fabrication. It is corroboration.

READ THE COMPLETE PROOF

This analysis is part of a comprehensive mathematical proof. For the full evidence chain -- including all four ciphers, the checksum 6 system, and the complete case:

[The Zodiac Solved: Complete Mathematical Proof](#)

RELATED ARTICLES

- [Z408 Cipher Decoded](#)
- [Z340 Cipher Solved](#)
- [Z13 Cipher: Complete Proof](#)
- [Z32 Cipher: The Confession](#)
- [Who Was Lee Allen?](#)
- [The Checksum 6 System](#)
- [The 1978 Letter](#)