Confidential Report

Subject: The D.B. Cooper Hijacking on 11/24/1971

Suspect: Kenneth Peter Christiansen

Alleged accomplice(s)
Bernard Wayne Geestman
Margaret Ann Geestman (nee Miller)

Created by Robert Blevins and the staff of Adventure Books of Seattle
We understand that the Seattle FBI has never officially investigated Kenneth Peter Christiansen as a suspect in the unsolved ‘D.B. Cooper’ case. The reason given is because the F.B.I. believes Christiansen doesn’t match the description given by witnesses to the hijacking. However, when we inquired officially on Christiansen’s possible status as a suspect in 2011, Special Agent Fred Gutt said that some in the Seattle office believe he’s a good suspect, while other agents believe there are better suspects, and that Christiansen had not been eliminated. That said, we offer you this package of illustrated pictures and documents, along with a written report on Christiansen and witness testimony. It is a summation on what private investigator Skipp Porteous of Sherlock Investigations in New York and I were able to discover about Christiansen, as well as the people Christiansen knew best.

The single biggest reason we decided Ken Christiansen is still a good suspect is because of the testimony of Bernard Wayne Geestman and his ex-wife Margaret Ann Geestman (nee Miller). And to a lesser extent, the testimony of witnesses such as Helen Jones, Dawn J. Androsko, and others. The Geestman couple knew Christiansen for decades, and we believe that Mr Geestman was a direct accomplice in the hijacking, and assisted Christiansen in the laundering of the ransom money later. Mr Geestman has been caught in several key lies, some by us, others by Marisa Kagan of Go Go Luckey Productions in Los Angeles. She was a producer for the television show *Brad Meltzer’s Decoded* for the History Channel. All of these lies by Mr Geestman were related to distancing himself from any possible involvement in either the hijacking, or Christiansen’s unexplained spending afterward. From the first time I (Robert Blevins) interviewed Mr and Mrs Geestman, both immediately pointed to the other as being involved in the hijacking. At the time of their initial interviews, they had been divorced about fifteen years. Mrs Geestman was living on a small ranch up in Twisp, WA, without a phone. Mr Geestman was living just outside Port Angeles with another woman. This immediate finger-pointing by both of them was strange behavior for supposedly innocent people, and made stranger because the first time I interviewed them; they were both cold-call interviews. The report contains highlights from the testimony of witnesses, most of whom are living in Washington State today and can be contacted. Their names and addresses (if available) are included.

In a more recent development, we have been working with the family of alleged accomplice Bernard Geestman. Relevant testimony from them has been included with this updated report. If there are differences between the book we published on Christiansen, ‘Into the Blast,’ and this report, *the report is the much more accurate source*. At the time of publication of the book, some key elements had not yet come to light, and some minor mistakes appear in it. *The book itself should be considered only a general guide on Christiansen, and not a real reference on the evidence against Christiansen.* The book was released four years ago and much more was discovered regarding Christiansen and the Geestman couple since that time.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Blevins and Skipp Porteous
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Part One: The Witnesses, Their Relationship to Christiansen, and Their Testimony

Witness: Bernard Wayne Geestman
227 Mar Vista Way
Port Angeles, WA  98362-8185
Phone: (360-417-0215)

Interviewed in-person by Robert Blevins in January 2010 on the recommendation of private investigator Skipp Porteous from Sherlock Investigations in New York. I approached Mr Geestman and told him I was doing a biographical book on Christiansen’s life, avoiding any mention of the Cooper case. He was very open with me for the first twenty minutes of the interview, which was done on his front porch. He talked about serving with Christiansen on Shemya Island oiling and fueling planes for Northwest Airlines. He said they had been good friends from about 1951, when they met on Shemya, until Christiansen’s death in 1994. During their time on Shemya, Geestman was the supervisor, doing the mechanical repairs when needed, and Christiansen worked under him. Geestman said he lost track of Christiansen for a while after he (Geestman) transferred to Seattle to continue mechanic work for NWA. Later, he quit NWA and went to work on the 727 program at Boeing in Seattle. About 1967, Geestman got a job working as a diesel mechanic for Foss Tugs in Seattle. He then met up with Christiansen again when Christiansen moved from Renton to Sumner, WA. Enclosed are photos of Geestman’s wedding in 1968 to Margaret Ann Miller. Christiansen is in several of the pictures. There are also photos of the two men working together on Shemya.

As the interview progressed, Mr Geestman finally stopped and said: “Why are you asking about Kenny again?” I admitted that I was actually investigating Christiansen for involvement in the Cooper hijacking. Mr. Geestman turned white as a sheet, and wanted to end the interview right there. He said: “No, it couldn’t have been Kenny.” He immediately went into denials. I responded by showing him some pictures and documents about the house Kenny purchased in Bonney Lake shortly after the hijacking. I asked him how Christiansen, who made no more than $512 before taxes in a good month, could qualify to buy the house and an adjoining lot in 1972 for a total of ten dollars, a promissory note for 50% of the price, and a mortgage on the balance. It seemed suspicious. He said: “I thought those airline people did pretty well.” This was a strange response, since Geestman had worked for Northwest Airlines and was well aware of the poor pay and strikes that went on there.

I moved on to questioning Geestman about a $5,000 cash loan made in April of 1972 to Geestman’s sister, Dawn J. Androsko of Fox Island. The week previously, I had interviewed Mrs Androsko at her home, with her grandson Jonathan in attendance. She freely admitted to receiving the loan, and testified she used the money to put a down payment on a house in Buckley, WA. At the time of the loan, she was living with Mr. and Mrs. Geestman. Mrs Androsko was recently divorced and had moved she and her children from Minnesota to her brother’s house in Bonney Lake. She and her family have confirmed these facts. (See her testimony for details)

During his interview, Mr Geestman admitted knowing about the loan, but not the arrangements on it. However, Mrs. Androsko testified that it was Mr. Geestman who approached Christiansen (on her request) and asked for the money, and that the money was actually delivered to her by Geestman. She said she paid it back to Christiansen in two years. Geestman became noticeably agitated at this point in the interview. He also pointed to his ex-wife Margaret Ann Geestman (nee Miller) as possibly being involved in the hijacking. He claimed that he had been gone to sea with Foss Tugs in Seattle for ‘ten or eleven months’ in 1971, the year of the hijacking. Later, I spoke to a
senior executive at Foss Tugs who had been with the company for over 35 years and he told me this was not possible. He said Geestman would have been out no more than a week or two at a stretch and then receive time off.

I asked Mr Geestman if he knew exactly how Christiansen selected and financed his house in Bonney Lake from the previous owners, Ann and Joe Grimes. (Documents attached) That is, if he knew the arrangements on it. Geestman denied knowing anything about it, except for his claim that he thought Christiansen was paid very well. This seems unlikely, because we discovered later that Mr. Geestman was actually the Best Man at the Grimes wedding, and is shown in wedding photos that were taken by witness Helen Jones. This makes it difficult to believe that Christiansen bought his house from the Grimes’ and that Geestman either didn’t know the arrangements, or had nothing to do with it. We believe he did. Why he would lie about it is another matter. Shortly after this point in the interview, Geestman ended it suddenly and went back into his house. He promised to send me pictures of he and Christiansen together, but he never did. On the matter of the house in Bonney Lake that Christiansen purchased shortly after the hijacking, the alleged arrangements are that Christiansen signed a promissory note with Ann and Joe Grimes for $7,500 (no record exists of this note) and financed an additional $7,500 mortgage through SeaFirst Bank, taking eighteen years to pay off the mortgage. He also paid ten dollars to the Grimes couple for a lot adjoining the house. A caveat in the paperwork indicates there may have been an additional payment, i.e. ‘and other considerations’. We believe he actually paid the first $7,500 in cash to the Grimes under the table and financed the balance with Seafirst Bank, as well as paying cash for the adjoining lot, also under-the-table.

**General Comments on Geestman:** A few months after my interview with him, Mr Geestman was contacted by producer Marisa Kagan at Go Go Luckey Productions in Los Angeles by phone, after she read the book ‘Into The Blast’. Kagan was responsible for researching out possible episode ideas for the History Channel program *Brad Meltzer’s Decoded*, and then doing general research for that episode’s actual content. She contacted me and said execs at Go Go Luckey had also read the book and were interested in exploring whether Christiansen was D.B. Cooper. I gave her what information I could, including Mr Geestman’s and Dawn Androsko’s contact information. Kagan then called Geestman on the phone. She called me back later and said that Geestman told her he hardly knew Kenny Christiansen and thought he was a dishwasher. Kagan did not believe this, since she had already seen photos of the two men together that spanned more than twenty years. Then Ms Kagan called Geestman’s sister Dawn Androsko at her home on Fox Island and discovered that Mr Geestman had called Dawn on the telephone immediately after Kagan had contacted him. Mrs. Androsko told Kagan that her brother had demanded she retract anything she said in her interview for the ‘Blast’ book and to not speak to anyone further. Androsko told Kagan that she had refused her brother’s request to do this, but also told Kagan she would not appear on television against her brother. Today, Dawn Androsko still sticks to her testimony, and in August 2012, her daughter contacted us and offered her support. Many in the Androsko family now believe Mr Geestman was involved in the Cooper hijacking and that Christiansen assisted him.

Marisa Kagan responded to all of this by calling Geestman a second time and confronting him about the call to his sister. She told him that basically he was witness tampering. Mr Geestman admitted to calling his sister, as well as admitting his long-term friendship with Kenny Christiansen. Geestman then volunteered to drive down from his home in Port Angeles, WA and make an appearance on the *Decoded* show when the film crew was scheduled to shoot in the Bonney Lake area. In October of 2010, he was interviewed by the cast and crew of the *Decoded* program for more than three hours at a motel in Puyallup. They got less than five minutes’ of film they could actually use. According to Pete Berg, an associate producer on the show, and some of the cast and crew, Mr Geestman would simply refuse to say a single word to most questions. No response at all. Finally, he did a general denial and called Robert Blevins a liar. **However, two key things emerged from his appearance on the show:** First, when asked if Christiansen could be the hijacker, Geestman says “Yes, he looks just like him.” (The FBI
This statement is in direct conflict with multiple witnesses who have already placed Mr Geestman and Kenny Christiansen together (and missing) over the week of the hijacking. In addition, Geestman claimed on-air that Christiansen left Shemya Island before he did, and this is not true, although that may not be important. He also claimed to have been with Christiansen at the time Christiansen died of cancer, and this is not true either. (Source: Christiansen’s caretaker Carolyn Tyner (nee Powell). The real question is: why would Geestman point to Christiansen on national television as possibly being the hijacker when he was WITH Christiansen over the time of the hijacking? This does not make sense. If he was with Christiansen, then you would expect he would offer an alibi for Christiansen, not agree that he could be the hijacker. However, at the time of the filmed interview, Mr Geestman was not aware that witnesses had already placed him with Christiansen.

When the Decoded episode first aired on January 11, 2011 the conclusions stated on the show were that the cast members firmly believed Kenny Christiansen was D.B. Cooper, but that Bernie Geestman was not involved. After the show aired, we contacted associate producer Peter Berg and asked him why. He told us something in confidence, that we were requested not to reveal until after he was no longer working for History Channel. He claimed that lawyers from Go Go Luckey Productions had contacted the director of the show during filming. Berg said that the director was warned that unless Geestman confessed to something linking him to the hijacking, that the production company could be sued if the cast members said they thought Geestman was involved. Berg went on to say that the director hinted the same thing to the cast members (WSU professor Buddy Levy, former State prosecutor Scott Rolle, and engineer Christine McKinley).

After Peter Berg left History Channel to form his own production company, we contacted two of the cast members privately, and asked them for their updated opinions on Geestman during filming. There responses are below, via email. We have these emails on file:

From Scott Rolle:
‘My sense of Bernie was that he was (to use a police term) squirrelly during our interview. I found it interesting that he would throw his ex-wife under the bus and basically say SHE could have been an accomplice. I had no reason to think he was drunk (no smell or the like) but he seemed a bit dimwitted. I don’t feel he told us everything he knows, and his denials were tepid. I am not prepared to say with certainty that Bernie helped Kenny in this case. As a person trained and highly experienced in body language and questioning witnesses, I found Bernie a tough nut to crack in the sense that he appeared credible to a certain extent, and he even cried at one point. However, he left out large chunks of information. I wish I’d had the information on the tugboat records going missing as I would have pressed him hard on that. Hope this helps you... I love this case and this was my favorite episode out of the 23 that we did. My cell is 301-748-5544. Feel free to call if you want to discuss more.’

From Buddy Levy:
‘Geestman was very cagey, even shifty during the interview. My personal suspicion was that he was actually drunk. But in the end he was pretty convincing—probably having spent years answering questions and even convincing himself that what he was saying was the truth. I have very little doubt that Kenny is guilty, and I went away from the interview with Geestman confused and uncertain about his involvement as an accomplice. You have to remember that we were given very little time to process the interview and think about all he had said—they filmed us coming out the door, and those were our initial, on the spot responses. Then we filmed about an hour later in the diner and still, not much processing time and we’d been running around filming for weeks, months even. Having had more time to think about it it would not surprise me in the least if Geestman was an accomplice, or at the very least knew about it and aided Kenny in some ways before or after.’
After we received these messages, we sent both cast members the original version of this report. This only reinforced their opinions on Geestman, which were that he was being deceptive and may have been involved in the hijacking.

In any case, Bernie Geestman has been caught in several lies, and those lies should be addressed. We suggest putting him in one room at the Seattle FBI offices, and putting Helen Jones, Jones’ daughter, former KC house owner Ann Grimes, Mrs Geestman, and Geestman’s sister Dawn Androsko in another room and ask questions. We are certain that the truth on Christiansen would soon emerge, whether or not that truth leads to Christiansen being the hijacker. You will understand our position on Christiansen better once you read the remainder of this report. For verification on some of the previous statements, Marisa Kagan can be reached at 818-451-3071. This is her last known cell number. She is also on Linkedin and relatively easy to locate.

**Witness: Dawn J. Androsko**
(Sister of Bernie Geestman)
1124 Queets Drive
Fox Island, WA  98333-9628
Phone not available (unlisted)
Email for Dawn’s daughter and grandson Jordan, who sometimes visit the home and help care for her:
jordanmacauley@yahoo.com  Note: Grandson JONATHAN was in attendance at Dawn’s interview. She has three grandsons, all with the first initial ‘J’.

**Notes from Robert Blevins:** This was the first interview I did regarding Christiansen, and it was a cold-call, since I was unable to obtain Mrs. Androsko’s private phone number. As I did with her brother Bernie Geestman later, I was careful not to let on at first the real reason for the interview. I used the same excuse, i.e. that I was doing a simple bio on Christiansen’s life. When I arrived at the house, her grandson Jonathan answered the door. After a brief wait on the porch, I was allowed inside and I spoke to Mrs. Androsko for about an hour. This interview is covered well in the book, so I will just go over the major points of her testimony.

One of the first things I did was to present a large unmarked photograph with the FBI’s picture of the clip-on tie and the attached tie-tack. Androsko said she didn’t recognize the tie, but she had seen Christiansen wear the same tie clip many times. I pressed her a bit on this, asking if she was sure whether the tie clip in the picture was exactly the same as the one she had seen Kenny Christiansen wear occasionally. She said she was absolutely sure. At this point, she was not aware of the significance of her statement. She freely admitted to receiving the $5,000 cash loan from Christiansen in April of 1972 as well. I finally had to tell her the real reason I was asking about Christiansen, and she was not surprised at all. Some of her statements are listed:

1)  She claimed Christiansen owned a toupee, but never wore it after the date of the hijacking.

2)  Stated that Christiansen made a habit of telling people the airline paid him very well. He was not paid well.

3)  Stated she received an expensive handmade cuckoo clock made in Japan from Christiansen the year after the hijacking, and showed its location on her wall.

4)  Said that ‘she and some of her friends’ wondered whether Christiansen could have been the hijacker after it first happened, but later dismissed the idea. She said Christiansen never volunteered any opinions or comments on the hijacking, even in normal conversation, and she considered this ‘strange’. The reason being that everyone was talking about the hijacking after it happened and she thought it was strange that Christiansen avoided talking about
it, even though everyone knew he worked for NWA. (This same comment about Christiansen was voiced by people he worked with at NWA, as well as the fact he quit attending union meetings after the hijacking) Mrs Androsko added that the reason she dismissed her initial suspicions later was because she considered Christiansen a ‘nice guy’ and it just didn’t seem possible.

5) When I suggested that the evidence showed Christiansen could not afford to loan her five thousand in cash and spend thousands more on a house in the same year, she agreed he could have been the hijacker. She does not know for sure, but said this: “So that’s where he got all that money. Figures.”

Dawn Androsko used the five thousand dollars she received from Christiansen (via her brother Bernie Geestman as delivery person) to purchase a house in Buckley, WA. At the time, she and her children were living with Mr and Mrs Geestman. She was recently divorced and had come out from Minnesota to live with them. Mrs. Androsko testified to this in her interview with Robert Blevins, and it was later verified by her daughter during a phone call between the daughter and Mr Blevins.

Note: Geestman has testified he didn’t know the arrangements on the $5,000 loan, although he was aware of it. His sister disputes this, saying that she asked him to approach Christiansen for the loan, and that Geestman was the one who actually delivered it into her hands from Christiansen. Mrs. Androsko stated that Christiansen gave her three years to repay the money, but that she paid it back within two years.

Witness: Jordan Macauley
(Grandson of witness Dawn Androsko)
Contact address: Bonney Lake/Sumner area (exact address unknown)
jordandmacauley@yahoo.com

Jordan is one of three grandsons of Dawn Androsko, a woman interviewed as a witness in the case at her home on Fox Island, WA. His mother is the niece of the alleged accomplice, Bernie Geestman. When the History Channel show Brad Meltzer’s Decoded (DB Cooper episode) first aired in January, 2011, Mr Macauley contacted me about a year later by telephone and said his mother and other members of his family had been following the case ever since. This is because Bernie Geestman did not tell anyone in his family that he would be appearing on the program and the entire family was very surprised when they saw him. Jordan said his mother was living with the Geestmans in Bonney Lake at the time of the hijacking, and that after seeing the program members of her family began to suspect that not only was ‘Uncle Bernie’ involved, but that they wanted to know more. In May of 2013 I sent them a PDF copy of the book on Kenny Christiansen and a preliminary report on the evidence.

In July of 2014, Mr Macauley contacted me again, saying his mother and some members of the family would like to meet me in person. On the first Sunday of August in 2014, we met at the Dairy Freeze restaurant in Sumner, WA. At that time I presented them with a draft copy of the report you are reading now. I discussed this report with them for about two hours and let them keep the copy and take it home for further examination. The next day, Macauley contacted me by email and said that his mother wished to speak to Margaret Geestman herself because she was convinced that Margaret would be forthcoming and truthful regarding whether Margaret’s ex-husband Bernie was actually involved in the Cooper hijacking. She said Margaret was family and she would be truthful with her. I had to inform them that Margaret had sold her ranch in Twisp for $491,000 to the State of Washington Fish and Game Department in May 2012, and was no longer living at that address. (Enclosures on this) I told them further that the bank officer who handled the sale and Mrs. Geestman’s lawyer, S. Renee Ewalt, had been instructed not to reveal Margaret Geestman’s present location. I had made several attempts to locate Mrs Geestman previously because she
had done all of this not long after the History Channel program aired, and the two books on Christiansen had emerged. (*Into The Blast* and *Skyjack*, by Geoff Gray) I told the family that this seemed more than coincidence and since I had a friendly relationship with Mrs. Geestman during our seven interviews, that the only reason she would sell the ranch and leave like that was because she was trying to avoid talking to the FBI or the media. They asked me to keep looking for Mrs. Geestman and to keep them informed.

On December 7, 2014 I received another email from Macauley. **He said that shortly after the History Channel program aired that his mother had told the family a story that possibly linked Kenny Christiansen to the actual creation of the bomb that was used to hijack Flight 305.** His mother says this is how it happened:

That at the time just before the Cooper hijacking, his mother was one of four siblings living with Margaret and Bernie Geestman up in Bonney Lake, WA. Bernie Geestman’s sister, Dawn Androsko, was their mother and had recently divorced, moved to Washington from Minnesota with her children, and moved in with her brother and his wife. The mother says she was about 13 years old at the time. She said that not long before the hijacking, she walked into a shed on the Geestmans’ property and Kenny Christiansen was inside. He was working on something, and he turned to her and said, “You’re not supposed to be in here.” So she turned and left the shed. But before she did, she says, she got a good look at what he was doing. Allegedly, she saw Kenny wrapping red electrical tape around filled paper coin tubes, the type used to store quarters.* In addition, she says he was attaching wires to the coin tubes at the same time. But she never associated what Kenny was doing with anything Cooper-related or the hijacking until she saw the TV program on Christiansen. After the show aired, she began relating this story to her children and other family members. (It is known that Christiansen was a coin and stamp collector and left a large collection to his brother Lyle Christiansen in 1994 that was auctioned off for about $20,000.) Macauley asked me not make his mother’s story public, but said his mother would cooperate with the FBI.

This family has been reasonably cooperative with the investigation, but they are also hesitant about the whole thing because it involves a family member. Macauley’s mother told me at the restaurant, “We’d rather wait until he (Bernie Geestman) is gone (passed away) before saying anything.” (about his involvement in the Cooper hijacking) I told them that was their choice, but that the Seattle FBI might not accept that answer. Some family members, since they live close to witness Helen Jones, have spoken to Jones. Some of these same family members also realize now that Bernie Geestman and Kenny Christiansen went missing for the week of the hijacking and did not attend Thanksgiving dinner 1971 at the Jones’ house, because they were in attendance, too. This is one of the main reasons they continue to cooperate to a degree. They saw Bernie Geestman tell the cast of Decoded on television that Kenny could be the hijacker. But the problem is that they know the two men were together at that time and they wonder (as we do) why Mr Geestman would throw Kenny under the bus like that when he was WITH Kenny that week. I continue to maintain contact with the family, but on a low-key level.

(* The reference to ‘red electrical tape’ being used to wrap the coin rolls might be significant. Nothing has ever been said about this previously. If the stewardess who saw the bomb can verify that the ‘red sticks’ she saw inside Cooper’s briefcase looked as if they were tape-wrapped, this would add much credibility to the witness’ statement. Or, if this information is already somewhere in the FBI’s files on the Cooper case. We also feel it is unlikely that Cooper used road flares for the phony bomb because flares have writing on them and are easily recognizable.*)
Witness: Margaret Ann Geestman (nee Miller)
Ex-wife of Bernie Geestman
Former address: 600 Twisp Carlton Road
PO Box 184
Twisp, WA 98856-0184

Note: Mrs. Geestman no longer lives at this address, which was a small ranch just outside of Twisp, WA. Current address is unknown. Her attorney, S. Renee Ewalt, and a bank officer handled her May 2012 property sale. They are the only people who know her current location. I spoke to the bank officer on the telephone once. His name is on the attached document showing the record of the sale of the property to the Washington State Fish and Game Department. Mrs. Geestman cashed out the ranch for $491,000 and left instructions to Ewalt and the bank officer to not reveal where she was going. We believe her motivations on this sale were based on the publicity from the Decoded TV show and the book. Twisp is a small town in north central Washington of less than a thousand people, and Mrs Geestman was well-known there. The bank officer’s name is Dave Thomsen. His phone number out of Winthrop, WA is 509-996-2121.

I (Robert Blevins) did seven separate interviews with Mrs Geestman in Twisp between February and October of 2010. Mrs. Geestman was generally a non-cooperative witness, although she freely agreed to all the interviews. Margaret Geestman did not have a telephone, so the interviews were arranged by sending a letter with an SASE inside to Mrs. Geestman and waiting for a positive response on a particular appointment. After the first two interviews, subsequent interviews were arranged in advance at the end of the ongoing one. I describe her in two ways: dodgy, and definitely afraid of the FBI. It was difficult to get straight answers from her, but one thing she did consistently was to point to her ex-husband Bernie Geestman as being involved in the D.B. Cooper hijacking. However, she just as consistently avoided implicating Kenny Christiansen in the crime, instead naming others she knew as being the actual hijacker. These people included Paul Lutz, a pilot from the Portland, Oregon area, and a man from Oakville, WA named Dick Blume. (Neither Lutz or Blume come close to the official description of the hijacker) She admitted that she and Christiansen had been lifelong friends up until his death in 1994. During her next-to-last interview, when asked the names of any other people who may have known Christiansen well, she suggested Helen Jones of Puyallup. Jones and her daughter were then interviewed over a two-day period. During her seventh and final interview, after Jones had provided incriminating testimony possibly linking Christiansen to the hijacking, I showed Mrs. Geestman testimony from Jones and her daughter (age of daughter 14 in 1971) claiming that Mr. Geestman and Kenny Christiansen were together, and missing for the entire week the hijacking occurred. At this time, Mrs. Geestman admitted that this statement by Helen Jones was true, and that the people she had named previously were never part of the hijacking. She claimed she had named other people in an attempt to protect Christiansen, whom she obviously liked very much. Some highlights from her interviews are listed below:

1) Said Christiansen told her a few weeks prior to the hijacking that he might be flying back to Minnesota to visit family over the Thanksgiving the hijacking occurred. (Testimony from Helen Jones and Christiansen’s family indicate that Christiansen did not go to Minnesota, but was with Bernie Geestman)

2) Admitted that her ex-husband Bernie Geestman disappeared two days before the hijacking when he was supposed to attend Thanksgiving dinner with her at Helen Jones’ house in Sumner, WA. He was gone until either the following Monday or Tuesday after the hijacking.
3) Stated that Geestman purchased a station wagon and an Airstream trailer a few weeks prior to the hijacking, (for camping, he said) and that instead of bringing it to their house in Bonney Lake, he parked the trailer on property they owned down in Oakville, WA. The property was empty except for a shop building, although electricity was there. It is unknown whether a phone had been installed.

4) Said she protested the idea of leaving the trailer on their unattended property, but that Geestman told her he knew what he was doing. (She was worried about a break-in on the trailer)

5) Said the trailer was sold in early 1973 to a buyer from Arizona. Side Note: Helen Jones testified that she and her family were loaned this trailer just after Christmas Eve in 1972, after they had a house fire. They were allowed to park it on their property and stay in it until repairs were complete on the house. It was sold sometime afterward. Margaret Geestman admitted it was never used except for the week of the hijacking, and during the time the Jones’ family used it. In other words, no one ever went camping in it.

6) During one interview, I asked Mrs Geestman about her ex-husband’s claim that he was gone ten to eleven months at sea for Foss Tugs the year of the hijacking. She dragged out a big box with his tugboat log books in it, and said maybe I should look at the one from 1971 to track his whereabouts. The log for the year 1971 was missing. All the others were there. The dates on the front of the logs ranged from 1968 to about 1973, maybe 1975. But the log for 1971 was gone. I saw she was genuinely surprised it was missing. When I asked her about it, she said that about a month after Kenny Christiansen died, Mr Geestman drove up to Twisp and broke down the front door to the house and stole several items, mostly photo albums and personal papers, and that he must have taken the 1971 log at the same time. I noticed that several of the doors in her house – even some of the interior doors – had padlocks and hasps attached to them. In an adjoining room, she had more than thirty boxes of documents stored, but I was not allowed access to them. That door was also padlocked from the outside. I later questioned a senior exec from Foss Tugs and asked him the feasibility of Mr. Geestman being out to sea for ‘ten to eleven months’ in 1971. The exec, who had been with Foss more than thirty years, said that this was impossible, since the usual routine for diesel mechanics was one or two weeks on duty, with comparable time off.

7) After one of the interviews, after Mrs Geestman had seen some of the evidence on Christiansen, she approached me in my car as I was leaving. She said this: “No matter what he may have done, Kenny was still a nice guy.”

8) After her next-to-last interview, she sent me a letter, which I still have in my possession. In it, she claims that even if Christiansen was aboard Flight 305 the day of the hijacking, that he wasn’t hijacking the plane. He was doing his job as the purser, she said. It was also during this interview that she suggested I speak to Helen Jones of Puyallup, WA since Jones was also good friends with Christiansen.

9) Emphasis: In her final interview, after I presented her with the testimony from the witness she had recommended to me (Helen Jones) Mrs. Geestman admitted that yes, Christiansen could have been the hijacker. She also admitted it was Christiansen, and no one else, who went missing with her husband the entire week of the hijacking. This statement was voice-recorded by me, and a video copy of it is in the possession of Go Go Luckey Productions in Los Angeles. On that interview, they had loaned me a video camera. The footage was not presented on the Decoded show, however.
General Notes:

It’s our opinion that Margaret Geestman knows whether or not Christiansen was the hijacker, but stubbornly refuses to give details about the hijacking itself. We believe this is because she is afraid that if she were personally linked to the hijacking, that she could lose her ranch somehow. However, Mrs. Geestman placed herself into a difficult position from the start by firmly stating her ex-husband was definitely involved in the crime, and she did not realize at first the extent of the evidence against Christiansen. As the interviews progressed, she realized it was becoming more difficult to keep his name out of it. The idea that she could lose her ranch over some kind of legal action regarding the Cooper case is no longer a problem for her. In May 2012, about fifteen months after the Decoded program aired, she sold her ranch to the State of Washington Fish and Game Department (documents attached) for $491,000 and moved without leaving a forwarding address. She also instructed her lawyer and the bank officer who handled the sale to not reveal her whereabouts. During interviews, I did make efforts to assure her that the Statute of Limitations had expired on anyone except the hijacker himself, but she was obsessively afraid of the FBI and would not budge. It may be more than coincidence that she decided to cash out her ranch in Twisp after the book and the Decoded show appeared on Christiansen. I (Robert Blevins) know that the reason for her actions on this are not because of me. During her last interview, I told her I would not be returning for another one. It was about eighteen months between the time of her final interview and when she sold her ranch, so she was not doing that because of me.

On another point, we believe that if Christiansen and Mr. Geestman were involved in the hijacking that Margaret Geestman was not told what the two men had done until after-the-fact. In other words, that Christiansen and Mr. Geestman planned it without her knowledge and that she found out later. There is no doubt that Christiansen and Mrs Geestman were lifelong friends. Shortly before he died of cancer in 1994, Christiansen drove from his house in Bonney Lake up to Twisp to visit her. (Picture attached)

Witness: Helen Jones (and daughter)
11504 Valley Avenue East
Puyallup, WA
(253-848-5775)
Witness notes below by: Robert Blevins

I interviewed Mrs Jones on two consecutive days in October of 2010, as the Decoded show was busy filming up in Bonney Lake. She is a friend of Margaret Geestman and Kenny Christiansen. Helen Jones was the final person I interviewed, recommended to me by Margaret Geestman during Margaret’s sixth interview. (I interviewed Mrs Geestman one final time soon afterward) In that last interview, Margaret Geestman finally admitted that Christiansen could have been involved in the hijacking with her ex-husband, and at the same time said I should speak to Jones. She explained that Jones and her family had known Christiansen very well, and for many years. So after I returned to Auburn and had a couple of days off from filming for Decoded, I contacted Jones. Some of the major points from her interview:

1) Prior to the interview, I called Mrs Jones to set up an appointment. In an effort to avoid tainting or slanting her responses to questions, I gave her my usual story about doing a simple biography on Christiansen. She agreed to the interview, but called me back a few minutes later and asked me again why I wanted to talk to her about him. I went ahead and gave her the real reason, i.e. Christiansen was being investigated in the Cooper case. She was unhappy about this, but still agreed to talk to me.
2) When I arrived, the first thing she said was 'Kenny was a nice guy. You have a lot of nerve even hinting that he could be a criminal.' She was angry at me right from the start. I was very polite, and had brought both a copy of the book and a series of large foam boards which had mounted to them pictures related to the case against Christiansen, with explanatory text next to each picture. (These were from displays from my presentations at the Auburn Avenue Theatre.)

3) Mrs Jones asked me to leave the book and the displays, and come back after an hour or so. I agreed, and went to lunch in town.

4) After I returned, her attitude was much subdued. She was no longer angry with me. She said she didn’t know whether Christiansen was the hijacker, but that she was willing to answer questions. Her daughter, age about 14 at the time of the hijacking, was now there as well. Mrs Jones had called her and asked her to come over. I did two interviews with them in total. One that day, the other the next day.

5) Jones testified that Bernie Geestman, Margaret Geestman, and Kenny Christiansen were scheduled to have Thanksgiving dinner at her house in 1971, as they had the previous year.

6) She said that only Mrs. Geestman actually showed up, and that Mrs Geestman was very upset at her husband. Jones said that the reason given for Mr. Geestman’s absence was that he had decided to go camping in his recently-purchased Airstream trailer. And that he had sprung this plan on Mrs Geestman on the Tuesday prior to the hijacking. Nothing was said about Christiansen during the Thanksgiving meal because Christiansen had told several people in the weeks prior to Thanksgiving that he might catch a free NWA flight back to Minnesota to spend the holiday with relatives. (His family says he did not) So at the time, no one who was there for dinner with the Jones family associated Geestman’s disappearance with Christiansen, or even the hijacking. Jones and Mrs Geestman have both testified also that there was no television at the Jones house, but that everyone heard about the hijacking on the radio.

7) Jones’ daughter corroborated this story, since she was also there for Thanksgiving.

8) When asked what brand of cigarettes Christiansen smoked, Jones said Camels at first. However, the following morning she made a trip up to the Bonney Lake Library in an attempt to locate me. (I had told her I would be filming a segment for Decoded there) She told producer Pete Berg (I wasn’t due for filming until later) that she had made a mistake in saying Camels. She said that Camels were her brand, before she quit. She said she remembered after our interview that Christiansen actually smoked Raleighs. “I remember now...,” she said. “Because he saved the coupons.” The next day, I contacted her one last time to find out whether she had heard that the hijacker smoked Raleighs and if she was just saying that. She claimed not to know that fact, and I believe her on this. This was when I told her about the butts left behind on the plane by the hijacker were identified as Raleigh cigarettes. Her surprise seemed genuine.

9) During her interviews, she testified to the following: That she saw Kenny Christiansen about six weeks after the hijacking at the Sumner Laundromat. She asked him why he hadn’t come to Thanksgiving dinner. Christiansen told her he had been gone with Bernie Geestman, but he would not provide details.
10) Jones also said that the following Thanksgiving in 1972, that Mr and Mrs Geestman, as well as Christiansen, did come to Thanksgiving dinner at her house, as they usually did. She noted that Christiansen ‘seemed to be doing quite well financially,’ and that no one spoke of the two men being absent the previous year.

11) Jones said that on Christmas Eve, 1972, there was a fire at her house that made the house unlivable until repairs were completed. She said that Mr Geestman brought the Airstream trailer to her property and allowed her family to stay in it until repairs were complete. It was then sold sometime afterward.

12) Jones has stated that she is afraid of Bernie Geestman, which was the reason she gave producer Pete Berg for her refusal to appear on the Decoded show. (Berg asked her if she would be willing to go on camera, after he spoke to her.) Jones calls Mr Geestman ‘a liar and a crook’.

**General Notes:** In our opinion, Helen Jones and her daughter are very good witnesses for a couple of reasons. First, Jones has no axe to grind, and in fact was very angry at first when I told her Christiansen was being investigated for the Cooper case. Second, she presents very well as a witness and is absolutely sure that Christiansen and Mr Geestman were together, and missing, the week of the hijacking. Her daughter verifies most of these allegations, since she was also in attendance for dinner that Thanksgiving in 1971.

**Witness:** Carolyn Tyner (formerly Carolyn Powell)

**Currently married to:** Daniel T. Tyner

1450 Edelsborough Circle, Gardnerville, NV 89410

(775-392-0989)

[carolyntyner@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyntyner@yahoo.com)

Notes by: Robert Blevins

Carolyn Tyner was interviewed twice by telephone in late 2010, with a follow-up email and another call in November 2012. I was directed to her by Skipp Porteous, who had seen the name Carolyn Powell associated with Christiansen’s house in Bonney Lake. She was married previously to Robin Powell (picture enclosed) and at that time she and Robin Powell were living with Kenny Christiansen. In fact, they were left the house after Christiansen died in 1994. The adjoining lot out back of the house was left to another Christiansen roommate, Kenneth ‘Mac’ McWilliams, the man mentioned in Geoff Gray’s 2007 article about Christiansen for New York Magazine. I contacted Mrs Tyner in an attempt to verify the story of a plastic bag of twenties being found out back of Christiansen’s house after his death. She said that this story was true and happened sometime between the time they acquired the house in 1994, and when they sold it in 1999. Mrs. Tyner later called me in 2012 to correct me on her current husband’s employment, which I apparently got wrong in the Blast book. She said Daniel is a police officer, a sergeant, (not specified which branch, she says ‘Federal police officer’) and that he is currently serving at the Mountain Warfare and Training Center near the California border. He is not a US Marine as I said in the book, but had previously served in the Army.
Highlights of her interview:

1) Tyner said she met her then-husband Robin Powell while Powell was living with Christiansen. She married Powell and moved in with Christiansen as well. They lived there until Christiansen’s death.

2) Tyner claims that the story of a bag of twenties being found on the hill out back after Christiansen died is true. This story was previously related by the present owner of the house, Dan Rattenbury, who turned it into a print shop that is in operation today. Rattenbury and Tyner do not know each other and have never met. This money was supposedly found after Kenneth McWilliams acquired the lot in probate and then sold off all the trees for money. It was allegedly found by a boy playing ‘forts’ in the stump piles a few years after Christiansen’s death.

3) When I asked Carolyn Tyner why neither she or her then-husband Robin Powell ever made inquiries about the found money, she said they didn’t think much about it because they didn’t own the lot on the hill and the money wasn’t theirs. She added that they didn’t know the name of the boy who had found the money anyway.

4) **On Kenneth McWilliams:** She states that it was strange that Christiansen left them the house and only the lot out back to McWilliams, when it was McWilliams who had known Christiansen years longer, and assisted in caring for him before Christiansen’s death from cancer. Tyner added that McWilliams sold the trees from the lot almost immediately after probate cleared, then the lot itself, and then left town. (Our best information is that McWilliams currently lives in the Yakima, WA area. He abandoned his apartment almost immediately when he found out Skipp Porteous was trying to contact him. This is from McWilliams’ last apartment manager.) McWilliams is heavily mentioned in the 2007 New York Magazine article about Christiansen by author Geoffrey Gray.

5) Carolyn Tyner says she does not know whether Christiansen was the hijacker. She describes her former relationship with Robin Powell as ‘emotionally and physically abusive’. In the last months of Christiansen’s life, she was one of three people helping to care for him. The other two were her former husband Robin Powell and Kenneth MacWilliams. Hospice workers also visited occasionally. Christiansen died of cancer in his home in July 1994. (Death certificate attached)

6) Tyner testified that Christiansen not only owned the house in Bonney Lake and the adjoining lot, but also a large wooded lot behind what is now the Bonney Lake Safeway. Tyner added that Christiansen told her he bought this wooded lot before he bought the house, which means it was done prior to the hijacking. But our best information on this is that he signed a promissory note with the owners for at least a couple of years, making minimum payments, and then paid it off after the hijacking. (We already know that Christiansen made a great deal of money selling off the trees on that lot years after the hijacking. But at the time of the land purchase he was only making $512 a month before taxes.)
7) After Christiansen’s death, Carolyn Tyner and her husband Robin received the house, but sold it in 1999. They then moved to Nevada, and Carolyn divorced him. She also stated that her ex-husband Robin was once charged with ‘attempted murder’ on his own mother, and when he drank he sometimes became violent. ‘He put me into the hospital more than once,’ she says. Upon checking the records on Mr Powell, he was actually charged with assault, not attempted murder, although he has several assault charges on his record.

8) Carolyn stated that she later married Daniel Tyner and is much happier now. She says she still has a few stamp sheets from Christiansen’s extensive stamp and coin collection, which he gave her as a gift just before he died. She says she is willing to cooperate with any investigation by the FBI.

General Notes on Tyner:

Carolyn Tyner’s demeanor during her interview was open and honest. I had no reason to doubt her. I did tell her that because no one could verify the bag of twenty-dollar bills found out back of Christiansen’s house, that even if it is true there is no way to prove it. She agreed, and added that if any law enforcement or media wanted to contact her later, she would be willing to speak to them. One question that might be asked of her is if she knows the brand of cigarettes smoked by Kenny Christiansen. Helen Jones has already testified they were Raleihs, but it might be good to seek a second source. Robin Powell, Tyner’s ex-husband, now lives in the Tacoma area and apparently has an extensive criminal record, most of it involving alcohol or violence. However, he may have additional information on Christiansen, since he was closer to Christiansen and knew him longer than his ex-wife did. Lyle Christiansen, Kenny’s brother and administrator of his estate, testified that when he arrived at Kenny’s home after Kenny’s death, that Mr. Powell was busy searching through Kenny’s personal effects and he made him stop.

Witness: Lyle Christiansen
Brother of Kenny Christiansen
701 Imperial Drive
Morris, Minnesota  56267
(Phone is available via White Pages)
Notes by: Robert Blevins

Lyle was contacted by FBI agents out of Minneapolis sometime in 2007 or early 2008 and he says he gave a DNA sample. We base very little on his claims. Not because we don’t believe him, but because he is a family member. He did sign a contract with our company, Adventure Books of Seattle, disallowing him or any members of his family from benefiting financially should his brother be proven to be the hijacker. He signed over all rights to the Christiansen story to us at the very beginning of the investigation. I insisted on this in order to preserve some semblance of credibility with him. Frankly, any case against Christiansen for the Cooper case relies very little on his brother’s allegations.

Lyle Christiansen has not been formally interviewed by me directly, although he was interviewed by the cast of the Decoded show. I have spoken to him informally by phone on a few occasions. His biggest contribution to the case against Christiansen was a series of letters and pictures, some of which demonstrate possible motive, or
provide some circumstantial evidence against Christiansen. After exchanging many emails and letters with Lyle Christiansen over the last three and a half years, I have come to some conclusions about him. First, he doesn’t know for sure if his brother was the hijacker. Second, his only interest is to know the truth about Kenny Christiansen one way or another before he passes on. Lyle Christiansen is quoted most as hearing this statement from his brother as Kenny was dying: ‘I have something you should know...but I cannot tell you.’ At first, Skipp Porteous and I thought that this was an attempted confession by Kenny that he was gay. Lyle Christiansen said that the entire family knew Kenny Christiansen was gay from about the time Kenny was sixteen onward. Whatever the secret was, it was not about being gay. Christiansen was not ‘obvious’ in his sexuality. This is how he was able to get past Army recruiters in 1944. Several people we interviewed were surprised to hear he was gay.

Lyle Christiansen has stated that he was visited by an FBI agent in 2007 who spoke to him in his car at the Morris East Side Park in Morris, MN. The agent, he says, either drove in from St. Cloud or Alexandria.

Witness: Dennis J. Grimes  
(Son of Joe and Ann Grimes)  
(360) 273-9637  
17340 Sargent Rd SW, Unit 30  
Rochester, WA 98579-9501  
Special Note: The above address and phone lists back to Dennis Grimes’ sister. Mr Grimes lives in a small house on property outside of Rochester, WA at 133 Jylha Road.

In an attempt to secure more details about the sale of the Bonney Lake house by Joe and Ann Grimes to Kenny Christiansen, I located their son and drove down to do a cold-call interview in October 2014. Mr Grimes met me at the door. When I asked how to locate his parents, he informed me they had died several years ago, but he would be willing to speak to me.

Highlights of the Interview:

1) I spoke to Mr Grimes for about thirty minutes on his front porch and showed him several documents about the sale of the house. He did not know Kenny Christiansen and was unaware that Christiansen was a suspect in the Cooper hijacking. He remembered the house in Bonney Lake, but was unable to offer any details.

2) I showed Mr Grimes the sales documents a second time and pointed out that it looked like his parents had agreed to accept a promissory note from Kenny Christiansen, and that this note was used as leverage to obtain a mortgage from SeaFirst Bank on the balance owing for the home. In other words, that Christiansen had somehow convinced them to trust him for approximately $6,500 on a total price of about $15,000. Mr Grimes seemed very surprised at that.
Moving on, I told Mr. Grimes that Bernie Geestman had been the Best Man at his parents’ wedding, and that although Geestman had denied knowing anything about the house sale, that this seemed unlikely, i.e. that he would know nothing about it. Grimes replied that he had heard Geestman’s name but knew nothing about him.

My final question was about the promissory note. I told Grimes that at the time of the hijacking, Kenny Christiansen was only earning $512 a month before taxes. I asked his opinion on whether his parents were the type who would be willing to wait for a number of years to receive their money from a promissory note. Mr Grimes replied, “Absolutely not,” and made comments about his father being a cash-on-the-barrelhead sort of person.

Conclusion: This interview strengthened our position that Bernie Geestman most likely assisted Kenny in the purchase of the Bonney Lake home, despite his denials on it. We believe he convinced the Grimes couple to accept a promissory note from Kenny Christiansen, which was then used to help secure a mortgage on the balance. We believe that Christiansen then paid back the note in a relatively short time, although without seeing some paperwork from the Grimes’ family records, there is no way to verify this. However, we do know that Christiansen took almost 19 years to pay back the $7,500 mortgage to SeaFirst Bank. We doubt the Grimes would have waited that long for a similar amount from the note. This is another example of Christiansen somehow finding the funds to do this, when his yearly income at that time was little more than six thousand dollars a year before taxes.
Part Two: The Available Circumstantial Evidence on Christiansen.

1) **Original letters from Christiansen to his family back home**, expressing his unhappiness with the airline and his financial situation. One in particular talks about an ongoing strike by Northwest Airlines prior to the Cooper hijacking that made Christiansen very unhappy. (‘Those eight million dollar jets are sitting on the ground...’ and ‘the peanut butter is getting low...’)

2) **A picture taken Christmas 1971** which shows Christiansen walking into his apartment (Rainier View Apartments, Number J-3, Sumner, WA) dressed similarly to the hijacker and showing him with a briefcase and a paper bag. This picture was discovered behind another photograph in one of Christiansen’s photo albums after he died. It was found by his brother, Lyle. Since Christiansen lived alone, our best guess is that Bernie Geestman was the photographer, or it is a self-portrait. We do not believe the items in the picture, even though these are the same type of items carried by the hijacker, are the actual bag and briefcase from the hijacking. We believe the photograph is more of a personally-staged memento that Christiansen had done and then later hid away.

3) **Immediate finger pointing by witnesses**: The fact that both Bernie Geestman and Margaret Geestman immediately pointed to each other in first interviews as possibly being involved in the Cooper hijacking is suspicious. Mr Geestman’s sister Dawn Androsko added that she and some of her friends suspected Christiansen was the hijacker right after it happened, but later dismissed those suspicions because she thought Kenny was ‘a nice guy’.

4) **A piece of Formica countertop**, roughly cut, found sitting on top of two ceiling joists in the attic of Christiansen’s house. Between the joists, someone had nailed a pair of boards to make a sort of box, and then laid the Formica piece on top, which was covered in insulation. This was found by Scott Rolle, a cast member on the *Decoded* show, using an infrared scanner to check the walls and ceilings of Christiansen’s old house in Bonney Lake. The Formica board is now in the possession of Adventure Books of Seattle, kept in a plastic bag. We had a Formica installer examine the piece in late 2011. He could tell us little about it, except that it was probably made prior to 1975.

5) **Three key points on the Formica section**: First, witness Helen Jones testified that Christiansen replaced his kitchen countertops soon after moving into the Bonney Lake house in 1972, and she said this only one day before the Decoded crew discovered the hiding spot. This is beyond the scope of coincidence, and points strongly to Christiansen being the person who built it. Also, a photo taken in 1992 of Robin Powell in the kitchen of Christiansen’s house shows the same color countertop as was found in the attic. This points to the attic piece being a leftover from the original installation in 1972. (Picture enclosed) Second, the attic is not accessible from inside the home. You have to use a ladder and unscrew an octagonal attic vent to get into the attic from the outside of the house. Third, the hiding spot was located above what used to be Christiansen’s old bedroom.
6) **Unexplained spending directly after the hijacking:** Bernie Geestman claims that he knew nothing about the arrangements on the $5,000 loan to his sister Dawn Androsko by Christiansen, and that he didn’t know the arrangements on how Christiansen bought his house. We already know Christiansen made about $512 a month at that time. However, Mr Geestman’s sister says it was Geestman who asked Kenny for the loan and actually delivered the money. Mr Geestman had motivation to do this, since the money enabled his sister and her children to move out from the Geestman home. On the house purchase, the deed of purchase from Pierce County (enclosed) shows the house was purchased by Christiansen from a couple where Geestman served as the Best Man at their wedding. Our conclusion, which is partly based on the fact that he has already been caught in several lies, is that Geestman was involved in both transactions. We believe he may have been the go-between on the arrangements for the house purchase, and may have suggested the house to Christiansen because he (Geestman) knew the Grimes couple very well. The best way to determine the truth on this sale is to speak to the son and daughter of the Grimes couple and see what they still have in their family records. Joe and Ann Grimes are deceased, but the son and daughter live in the Rochester, WA area. Their son Dennis was interviewed in October 2014 by Robert Blevins.

7) **Missing for Thanksgiving in 1971:** Three witnesses, Margaret Geestman, Helen Jones, and Jones’ daughter have claimed that both Christiansen and Mr Geestman went missing for several days at the time of the hijacking. Mrs Geestman says from the Tuesday prior to the hijacking, until the following Monday or Tuesday afterward. Margaret Geestman was a more reluctant witness on this, claiming her husband was not with Christiansen, but someone else, although she finally admitted in her last interview that he was with Christiansen. However, Helen Jones and her daughter were absolutely certain the men were together at that time.

8) **Parachute Experience:** The Seattle FBI currently believes that the hijacker had little to no experience in skydiving. We dispute this, but offer some caveats. Christiansen was a former US Army paratrooper, but had not jumped in nearly twenty-five years at the time of the hijacking. The hijacker asked for ‘front and back chutes,’ and selected the military-type canopy in the Navy Backpack Six container, instead of the newer sport model when he jumped. He also missed the training chute for what it was. This could point to someone with military experience, but who had not jumped in a long time, and never as a civilian.

9) **Christiansen’s bank balances:** After Christiansen’s death, statements were obtained from the West One Bank in Sumner, WA showing the estate settlement that was turned over to his brother Lyle after Kenny’s death. (statements enclosed) They show a balance of over $180,000 in savings and $22,500 in his checking account. There was also a coin and stamp collection that Lyle Christiansen estimates a value on of about $30,000. Private investigator Skipp Porteous was instrumental in researching Christiansen’s life and his finances. He discovered that Christiansen ordered most of the coins and stamps from a PO Box in Sumner, WA, rather than his address in Bonney Lake, or the nearby Bonney Lake Post Office.
10) **Christiansen’s sudden wealth:** In a nutshell, it just doesn’t add up. At the time of the hijacking he was living in a cheap apartment in Sumner, WA and making $512 (before taxes) a month. Yet between April and October of 1972, he went through much more than his annual income with no suitable explanation on how he managed it. Our belief is that if Christiansen was the hijacker, he not only invested the ransom proceeds in a loan to the alleged accomplice’s sister, but also a house, and later some additional coin purchases and land investments. There is no doubt that no matter how he did it, Christiansen went from dirt poor to never having to worry about money again.

11) **Location of oxygen on board Flight 305:** According to Geoffrey Gray, when stewardess Tina Mucklow told the hijacker that there was oxygen on board if he needed it, the hijacker responded, “I know where it is, and if I need it, I will get it.” This could point to a person who had experience with Northwest Airlines, especially if such oxygen was not kept in sight of passengers.

12) **Lies by Bernie Geestman:** He lied when he told Marisa Kagan that he hardly knew Kenny and thought he was a dishwasher. He lied when he claimed he didn’t know the arrangements on the $5,000 loan to his sister from Christiansen, or how Christiansen bought his house. He lied when he claimed he was gone to sea with Foss Tugs for ‘ten to eleven months’ the year of the hijacking. He may have slipped up when he told the *Decoded* cast that Kenny could have been the hijacker, which we think he would not have said, had he known of the witnesses placing he and Christiansen together over the week of the crime. (He was not told this prior to filming) His exact statement to the cast of the show, when he was asked whether Christiansen could be Cooper was this: ‘You’re asking me for my opinion? Yes. He looks just like him.’ (The FBI sketch) Since multiple witnesses have already placed Mr Geestman and Kenny Christiansen together (and missing) for the entire week of the Cooper hijacking, we believe he should have offered an alibi for Christiansen rather than saying he could be the hijacker. Our best information also indicates that Geestman once worked for Boeing in the early 1960’s when the 727 was being developed, and may have known about the tests Boeing did flying the 727 with the airstairs down. This is from Geestman’s interview, although his actual employment with Boeing has not been verified.

13) **The Hiding Spot in the Attic:** This is almost too much to be coincidental. The Formica piece matches the countertops installed in Christiansen’s kitchen, as shown in the (enclosed) picture of Robin Powell from 1992. The attic is difficult to access from outside, and the built box was located just above Christiansen’s old bedroom. In any case, someone went to a great deal of trouble to build it, and according to Helen Jones, those countertops were switched out right after Christiansen moved into the house. Although nothing was found inside this hidden box, you have to wonder what would motivate Christiansen to build it. He kept the main part of his coin collection either in the bank, or a storage unit.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Blevins - Managing Editor, Adventure Books of Seattle
2415 I Street NE #D  Auburn, WA  98002
Phone: 253-929-6259   Email: adventurebooksofseattle@gmail.com

Skipp Porteous = Sherlock Investigations, New York City, NY (retired)
Lyle Christiansen DNA Profile for Comparison to the Cooper tie DNA

(Sample sent to the offices of Adventure Books of Seattle remains sealed and available for running the profile. When the profile is run, a copy of the document showing the actual profile for Kenny’s brother Lyle Christiansen will appear here) Unfortunately, the FBI has refused to release the results of the partial profile they obtained from the tie left behind by the hijacker.
Part Three: Conclusions and Theories

It is impossible to say for certain Kenny Christiansen was the hijacker without additional investigation by either major media or law enforcement. The only people who can settle that question are the witnesses listed in this report, who in our opinion should be interviewed as a group. The following are theories or comments based on the available evidence against Christiansen.

1) From what we have heard through the people who knew Christiansen, we believe that Bernie Geestman may have been the instigator, and was the one who talked Christiansen into hijacking Flight 305, rather than the reverse. We also believe the hijacking was planned at the Geestmans’ home in Bonney Lake, and the phony bomb used in the hijacking was created by Kenny Christiansen, also at the Geestmans’ home.

2) That after the hijacking, Mr Geestman was able to extract a $5,000 loan from Christiansen so that he could move his sister Dawn Androsko and her children out of his house. The obtaining of this money could have been part of the motivation behind Geestman’s possible involvement in the hijacking.

3) **As far as the exact details on how the hijacking ‘went down,’ this is our theory:** Geestman picks up Christiansen at his apartment in Sumner, WA on Tuesday, November 23, 1971. The two men drive to Geestman’s shop building property in Oakville, WA, and stay in the Airstream trailer until the next morning. Then Mr Geestman drives Christiansen to Portland and drops him off at the airport. Geestman then returns to Oakville to wait for contact from Christiansen. It is possible there was a phone installed at the shop, although we don’t know one way or another. We think Christiansen landed safely, disconnected the parachute from the harness and backpack, buried the chute, and then used the chute pack to carry the money out of the woods. Later, he probably broke open the coin rolls with the red tape and used some of the quarters inside to contact Mr. Geestman at the first pay phone he found and get a ride to safety.

4) Christiansen hijacks the plane, and during this time makes sure no one on the flight crew except the stewardesses get a look at him. This was probably one of the biggest risks Christiansen took, i.e. that he might be recognized by another NWA crew member. However, Bruce Kitt, the curator of NWA History.org has testified that if Kenny Christiansen mostly did the Orient routes, his chances of being recognized by a domestic NWA crew from back east were probably slim. He testified on-camera about this on the *Decoded* program. However, later Mr Kitt tried to retract some of these statements, saying the Decoded producers pressured him a bit. His opinion could be moot, though. He was not working for NWA at the time of the hijacking.
5) It is known that the hijacker requested the 727 to take off from Sea-Tac airport with the airstairs down. This led us to believe the hijacker was not planning to stay aboard the aircraft very long after takeoff. Looking at the flight path, you can see it comes very close to where Christiansen actually lived at the time of the hijacking. When the hijacker’s stair request was refused on the grounds of safety, the entire process of opening the airstairs, getting ready to jump, etc. took longer than the hijacker expected. We believe the hijacker had no intention of jumping south of Olympia, but was forced into this scenario because the cabin had to be pressurized for takeoff, and then depressurized again for the actual jump. Because of these added delays, the hijacker was forced to jump somewhere between Ariel, WA and probably Battleground. Once on the ground, he hikes out to the nearest pay phone and calls Geestman, or they meet at a pre-arranged location known to both men. We considered Paradise Point State Park for a while, which is right off Interstate 5 near the Lewis River. But later it was discovered that at the time of the hijacking that Mr Geestman owned property with a shop building on it in Oakville, WA. And that after he purchased the Airstream trailer shortly before the hijacking, he parked it there instead of bringing to Bonney Lake. If Geestman waited on the shop property in Oakville, and there was a phone installed at that time, it would explain quite a bit. Or perhaps Geestman provided a phone number where he could be reached in Oakville, and waited for a call from Christiansen.

6) That the money found at Tina Bar in 1980 could have ended up there AFTER the John Doe warrant was obtained in 1976 on Cooper, in an effort to make the FBI believe the hijacker was dead, once the hijacker realized the Statute had been bypassed. We think it was either deliberately planted there, or (more likely) was thrown into the Columbia River not far from Tina Bar, inside a paper bag possibly, and later washed up at Tina Bar. To support this, we point to the fact that the amount of money found equals more than one bundle of the ransom. If a great deal of the ransom had been discovered, you could theorize that Cooper landed nearby and was killed in the jump. If less than an amount equaling one bundle was found, you could theorize that single bundle floated for miles and ended up on Tina Bar. But unless these bundles (amount found equals roughly three bundles) were somehow attached, it’s hard to explain how three of them could have ended up in the exact same spot. Tina Bar is at least six miles or more from the known flight path. In August of 2010, I (Robert Blevins) spoke to former Seattle FBI agent Bob Fuhriman, one of the agents who interviewed the passengers in Seattle in 1971. We spoke for about an hour next door to Third Place Books in Seattle with author Geoff Gray in attendance. Fuhriman agreed that this made sense, i.e. that the amount of the money found together was a clue. I asked him if the FBI had considered this theory about how three bundles could have landed in the same spot, and what significance this might have. He said no one thought of it. Since the only conceivable ‘river route’ for this money to have arrived at Tina Bar encompasses miles of river travel, it is difficult to believe three bundles or more could have become deposited naturally in the same spot. Researcher Tom Kaye (and his Citizen Sleuths team) were allowed to examine some of the physical evidence in the case, including packets of the ransom bills. Kaye is quoted as saying his tests show it is extremely unlikely those bills arrived by water. He points to human intervention as the most likely possibility. He is quoted on this subject in pages 255-56 of Gray’s book, Skyjack. When I asked Mr. Kaye to explain further on this, he sent me the following message by email.
7) **Tom Kaye’s email:**

‘Hi Robert, Well nothing we came up regarding the bill stack was CONCLUSIVE so let me state that right off the bat. The money we examined was sort of adhered to the other bills in the stack and when they were separated, in some places a stack of bill chunks came with the single bill. You could see that the bills were all lined up one below the other when they were buried. The float tests we did showed that the money fanned out within minutes of becoming soaked. Any movement down a river etc would disorient the bill stack and you wouldn’t expect them to all line back up again if they landed on a beach. So we think that this indicates that they did not float on to Tena Bar. Certainly you would not expect this result after going through a dredge. We can not come up with a NATURAL means to get the money from Ariel to Tena. That doesn’t mean its impossible, just that we can see no sensible way to connect those two dots unless the flight path info was wrong (we think the flight path is fine). If its unlikely to be natural, then the other two choices are mechanical or people. Of those two, people would be the odds on favorite. If you like 'people' then your choices are Cooper himself or a hiker or forest service guy in the woods finds the money. Of those choices, Cooper probably edges out the random hiker since the hiker would have had to find the money before the rubber bands degraded within a few months. Given the fact there was no chute found etc, that throws some more weight on the Cooper side.

This is a chain of decisions made using weighted arguments. This is the way we weight them. If someone else weighs them differently at any point, then they would come to an arguably different conclusion. Gray’s book translated some of our research well and other parts were misconstrued. We don’t normally make public statements, but in order to set the record straight, we will answer questions regarding things in the book. This is one of those issues, feel free to post this in its entirety.

The Cooper Research Team  
Tom Kaye, Alan Stone, Carol Abraczinskas’

8) Stewardess Florence Schaffner has seen pictures of Christiansen. She told Geoff Gray they were the closest she had ever seen to the hijacker, and although she wouldn’t do a positive ID, she told Gray “he might be on to something.”

9) Although much has been made about Kenny Christiansen’s height (5’8”) as not matching descriptions of the hijacker, we offer the following points. First, witness Robert Gregory stated he thought Cooper was no more than five foot nine. Second, witness William Mitchell told the Washington State History Museum in a 2013 interview that Cooper’s hair was either dyed or a toupee. Christiansen was known to own a toupee. Third, we believe it might be more difficult to determine someone’s true height within the confines of an aircraft cabin, especially if most of the time Cooper was seated. All three stewardesses also gave different facial combinations from the FBI’s Facial Identification Catalog, and have testified they were extremely frightened the whole time during the hijacking.

10) We find it highly suspicious that after seven separate interviews in 2009-10 where Margaret Geestman points to her ex-husband and Christiansen being involved, that she would cash out her ranch for nearly a half-million dollars and move without leaving a forwarding address. And that she would do this a short time after the television show and two books on Christiansen came out. Not even her family knows where she is, although her lawyer and bank officer Dave Thomsen do.
In conclusion, although Kenneth Peter Christiansen may not be Cooper, we believe enough evidence has been presented for the Bureau to at least do a cursory investigation and interview the witnesses listed. We also suggest the DNA profile done on Christiansen’s brother Lyle be compared to the DNA sample from the tie left by the hijacker. Another possibility is to compare Christiansen’s full fingerprint set taken by the U.S. Army to fingerprints taken from NWA Flight 305.

**We can definitely prove four things:** That Christiansen and Geestman disappeared over the week of the hijacking, that Christiansen was unhappy with both his financial situation and the airline, that he knew how to use a parachute, and that he went through a great amount of cash during an eight-month period following the hijacking. He also went from making $512 a month at the time of the hijacking to leaving an estate just over twenty years later in the amount of nearly $300,000, mostly in cash and a coin and stamp collection. This does not include the home in Bonney Lake, WA.

Above: A general look at Christiansen over the years, and some of the people he knew best.
Other Addresses and Locations of Interest:

Place where Ken Christiansen lived at the time of the hijacking:
Rainier View Apartments, #J-3. 6205 Parker Road E, Sumner, WA 98390. Apartment is still there.

Florence Schaffner, former stewardess for NWA, now Mrs. Florence Wheeler:
216 Rama Lane, Lexington, S.C. 29072. Phone unlisted, but allegedly is 803-808-2914

Bill Rataczak, co-pilot for NWA Flight 305 (ret):
7522 Pleason Avenue NW, South Haven, Minnesota 55382 Phone: 320-236-7982

Dave Thomsen, bank officer from Winthrop, WA. Phone: 509-996-2121
He handled the sale of Margie Geestman’s ranch in May 2012 to the State of Washington Fish and Game Department. He was instructed by Mrs. Geestman to not reveal her present whereabouts.

S. Renee Ewalt – Attorney for Margaret Ann Geestman. 10 Golden Road, Oroville, WA 98844-9766
Phone: (509) 476-3286 Email: srenee@nvinet.com
She was also involved in the sale of the ranch and and got the same instructions from her client, to not reveal her location. She also paid off the last electric bill for the ranch. Ewalt has been previously censured by the Washington State Bar, but it was a relatively minor item. (attached with documents)

Dona Elliot: (Runs the annual Cooper Days celebration at the Ariel Store and Tavern)
288 Merwin Village Road, Ariel, WA 98603 360-225-7126
Notes on the Parachute Discovered in Amboy, WA in 2008

1) Over the years, the FBI has relied on the late Earl Cossey for any identifications on any parachute evidence discovered in the Cooper case. This is because Cossey claimed for years that he not only packed the parachutes, but owned them and actually delivered them to SeaTac.

2) It has been discovered that this assertion by Cossey is not true, and this was discovered through the FBI’s own records. In reality, Cossey did pack the chutes at one time, but he never owned them. A note from the actual FBI file on this is reproduced below:

SE 164-81
JSD:klb
1
Parachutes

Mr. George Harrison, Northwest Airlines (NWA), Flight Operations, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, (SeaTac) advised that he talked with Mr. Barry Halstead of Pacific Aviation at Boeing Field, Seattle, in order to secure parachutes to furnish to the hijacker in this matter. He stated that two parachutes were obtained through Halstead, these two parachutes being back pack parachutes. He stated that two chest pack parachutes which were also furnished to the hijacker were obtained from Mr. Linn Emerick of Seattle Sky Sports in Issaquah, Washington. He stated that these two chest pack parachutes were transported to Sea-Tac by the Washington State Patrol.

Mr. Barry Halstead, Pacific Aviation, Boeing Field, Seattle, advised that the two back pack parachutes which were furnished to Northwest Airlines were obtained from a Mr. Norman Hayden of Hayden Manufacturing Company at Renton, WA.

Mr. Norman Hayden, Hayden Manufacturing Company, Renton, advised that two back pack parachutes which were his property, were furnished to Northwest Airlines. He stated that he called a taxicab in Kent, Washington, and had the taxi cab deliver the parachutes to Boeing Flight Service, Seattle. He described the two back pack parachutes as follows:

1) Civilian luxury type, tan soft cotton material outside, 26-foot white canopy inside. The parachute inside is a military parachute. The parachute has a foam pad cushion and a fray mark down the rib on the back from rubbing on metal.

2) A military back pack parachute, standard olive-drab green on outside, 28-foot white canopy on inside. He stated that this parachute also has a foam pad cushion.

He stated that both parachutes bore lead seals which had not been broken, and it is possible that the seals may bear a confidential number, such as a rigger’s number. He stated that both of his parachutes were assembled for him by Mr. Earl Cossey, who works at Sky Sports at Issaquah, Washington, and has a telephone number of SU-3-0475. Hayden said he can positively identify both of his back pack parachutes.

(End of PDF excerpt)
Notes on Amboy Chute continued:

When the FBI first announced the finding of the chute, there were several hopeful statements made by the FBI in the media. The chute, it was said, was the right size and color, and found in the prime location alleged to be Cooper’s drop zone. There are also media references to consulting outside sources on the parachute, having it studied by the Seattle FBI’s lab, etc.

However, about a week later, after a brief consultation with Earl Cossey, the Seattle FBI announced that the chute could not be Cooper’s. The important point here is that absolutely no reason was actually given for this determination. The only published reference says, “by a totality of the information,” and that is all.

Even today, there is still a great deal of debate among Cooper researchers about the parachute. The two reasons are because Cossey obviously lied about owning the chutes and delivering them for the hijacker. It is now known neither of those things is true. The other is the non-reason given by the Seattle FBI on how exactly they concluded the chute was not used in the hijacking. If Cossey lied about chute ownership and delivery, then how can his word alone be trusted? Perhaps he had a motivation for not wanting to identify the chute because he had lied all those years about them. Or...maybe he couldn’t really identify them. No one knows.

It is our suggestion that the Seattle FBI issue a more detailed statement regarding the parachute, i.e. how it isn’t Cooper’s, and allow outside parachute experts in the Seattle area to examine it. Or to allow access to the chute to the civilian group who were previously allowed to examine the Cooper evidence: The Citizen Sleuths. This would put to rest any further questions about the Amboy parachute.
**Document List and Enclosures:**

**General Notes:** Most of the documents have accompanying text to better explain their significance. Descriptions are linked directly to the documents for easier access.

1) **Kenny Christiansen entering apartment number J-3** at the Rainier View Apartments in Sumner, WA. A date stamp on the front of the original says ‘MAR 72’ but the Christmas wreath on the door indicates it was more likely taken shortly after the hijacking. This picture was found by Lyle Christiansen, in one of Kenny’s old photo albums. Christiansen did not have any roommates, yet the look of surprise means someone snapped the picture, or it is a self-portrait. He is dressed somewhat similarly to the hijacker, and carrying a paper bag and a briefcase, the same type of items carried by the hijacker. We do not believe they are the same items actually used by the hijacker. If Christiansen was indeed Cooper, we believe the picture is more of a staged memento, and may have been taken by Bernie Geestman.

2) **A copy of a real-estate document** from Pierce County showing the sale of an adjoining lot to Kenny Christiansen, the one next to the house he bought in Bonney Lake three months previously from the same couple. The owners, Ann and Joe Grimes of Puyallup, WA, have been associated with Bernie Geestman. Although Geestman denies knowing any of the arrangements on the sale of the house or the lot, Geestman served as Best Man at the Grimes’ wedding.

3) **Copy of the final payoff note on the mortgage** against Christiansen’s house in Bonney Lake.

4) **Copy of the actual sales document on the Bonney Lake house itself.** It shows that Christiansen allegedly signed a promissory note for about half the value of the house with the Grimes couple, and then financed the balance through a mortgage company. Our belief is that Christiansen, rather than getting the house and the adjoining lot for a mere ten dollars total down payment, paid off the Grimes in cash instead, and got them to agree to the mortgage arrangement on the balance.

5) **Copies of documents from the West One Bank** in Sumner, WA showing Kenny Christiansen’s bank balances, which was turned over to his brother Lyle after Christiansen’s death. Total amount is $206,817.

6) **Picture of Kenny Christiansen and Margaret Ann Geestman,** taken in 1994 shortly before his death.

7) **Picture of the countertop piece** discovered by the crew of the History Channel show Brad Meltzer’s Decoded, using an infrared scanner. They spotted a cold spot in the attic of Christiansen’s old house. In order to investigate, they had to use a ladder and open an attic vent secured with screws. There was no inside access to the attic from the house. Just above what used to be Christiansen’s old bedroom, a piece of rough-cut Formica matching the countertops Christiansen installed in his kitchen in 1972 was found. A pair of 2”x6” boards had been nailed in between the ceiling joists, with the counter piece laid on top to form a box. The whole thing was covered in old insulation.

8) **Comparison picture of Christiansen and the FBI sketch of the hijacker,** and a picture of Kenny Christiansen at Bernie Geestman’s wedding in 1968.
9) **Robin Powell** standing in Christiansen’s kitchen at the Bonney Lake home in 1972. Notice the countertops match the piece later found in Christiansen’s attic. Two pieces of wood were cross-nailed across the ceiling joists, and the Formica piece had been laid on top to form a sort of box. This was located just above Christiansen’s old bedroom.

10) **Picture of Christiansen and some members of his NWA flight crew.** Undated photo, but probably taken between 1964-66. The crew members are not identified.

11) **Robert Blevins** with the cast of the History Channel show *Brad Meltzer’s Decoded*.

12) **Picture of Kenny Christiansen and Margaret Geestman** from 1970. Shows Christiansen working for extra cash digging a septic tank ditch for the Geestmans at their home in Bonney Lake. At the time, Northwest Airlines was on strike.

13) **Marisa Kagan from History Channel**, and a picture of Margaret Geestman from one of her interviews in 2010 at her ranch in Twisp, WA.

14) **Christiansen’s Bonney Lake home** as it appeared shortly after he purchased it, and the same house as it appears today.

15) **The ‘Geestman Option’ document** showing the May 2012 sale of Margaret Geestman’s ranch to the Washington State Fish and Game Department for $491,000. Mrs. Geestman instructed both her lawyer and the bank officer listed on the document to not reveal where she was going after the sale was complete.

16) **An admonishment letter** from the Washington State Bar, regarding an incident involving Mrs. Geestman’s lawyer and the settlement of an estate her lawyer had handled, prior to the sale of Mrs Geestman’s ranch.

17) **Kenny Christiansen’s Army DD-214** showing his service in the paratroops. His thumbprint is visible.

18) **Picture and address** of Bernie Geestman’s present house in Sequim, WA.

19) **Copy of a letter from the CEO of Northwest Airlines** to Kenny Christiansen. It congratulates Kenny on his service with the airline. It is dated on the same day the Statute of Limitations on the Cooper hijacking was due to expire. Christiansen did not attend the banquet, even though his family lived near where it was held, and he could have flown to the banquet for free.

20) **Kenny Christiansen’s 1994 death certificate.**
Christiansen entering his apartment, number J-3 at the Rainier View Apartments, Sumner, WA in December 1971, approximately three weeks after the hijacking. Date stamp on front of picture reads ‘MAR 72,’ which is the date the photograph was actually developed, but the Christmas wreath on door indicates picture was taken closer to Christmas. Christiansen is dressed similarly to the hijacker, and carrying a paper bag and a briefcase, the same type of items taken on board Flight 305 by Cooper. Since Christiansen lived alone, the person who took the photo is very likely the alleged accomplice, Bernie Geestman. We do not believe that the paper bag are the actual items used in the Cooper hijacking, and that this photo is more likely a staged mememto.
A copy of a document from Pierce County, WA showing the sale of the adjoining lot to Christiansen by Joe and Ann Grimes of Puyallup, WA. Although Bernie Geestman served as Best Man at the Grimes’ wedding, he denies knowing anything about the sale of the lot, or the house itself from the Grimes couple. We believe he put the two together. Christiansen’s extremely low pay from the airline make it difficult to believe he acquired the money by honest means to buy the house, or loan the alleged accomplice’s sister Dawn Androsko $5,000 by honest means. In fact, Christiansen went through about twice his yearly income in cash purchases, within eight months of the hijacking. Our best estimate is about $7,500 (50% down) on the house in Bonney Lake, with an additional $5,000 to Dawn Androsko, sister of alleged accomplice Bernard Geestman.
**Item: A payoff note from the Christiansen house.** Note it gives a balance owed of $7,500. The original price of the home was about twice that much, meaning Christiansen somehow paid out a great deal of money for the down payment, but for some reason decided to stretch out the balance for almost 18 years. Our theory is that Christiansen did this because he was trying to avoid drawing attention to himself. He must have paid a great deal of interest along the way. Notice that the holder of the mortgage is SeaFirst Bank – the same bank that paid out the $200,000 ransom to the hijacker.

![Payoff note](image)

**Additional Notes:** How did Christiansen pay the other $7,500 for the home? This was done on a Promissory Note between he and the Grimes’ couple. Unfortunately, both Ann and Joe Grimes are deceased. But in an interview done with their son by Robert Blevins in August of 2014, the son claimed that his parents would not have waited long to get their money. In other words, he was certain they would have wanted to be paid off on the note in a very short time, not an additional 19 years as it took Christiansen to pay off SeaFirst Bank.
MORTGAGE

T.T.
JUN 26 97

2451888

THE MORTGAGOR(S): Joseph C. Grimes and Ann M. Grimes, husband and wife

of Yakima, Washington, hereby mortgage the AMERICAN FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION
of Tacoma, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Washington and having its chief place of business in the City of Tacoma, hereinafter called the MORTGAGOR, the following described property, which is not used principally for agricultural or farming purposes, to wit:

The west 60 feet of Tract 12 of CRANDALL FRUIT TRACTS, Pierce County, Washington, as per map thereof recorded in Book 111 of Plat at Page 11, records of Pierce County Auditor, except the west 60 feet thereof.

SITUATED IN THE CITY OF Bonney Lake, County of Pierce and State of Washington

SITUS IN THE COUNTY OF Pierce, State of Washington, together with the improvements, betterments, rights, privileges and appurtenances, now, or hereafter belonging to, or used in connection with, the above described premises; and all window shades, plumbing, lighting, heating, cooking, refrigerating, ventilating, draining, watering, and irrigating appurtenances and fixtures, trees, shrubs, vines and shrubbery, water and water rights of every kind and description and however evidenced or manifested, which now or hereafter may be appurtenant to said premises or any part thereof, or incident to the ownership thereof, or any part thereof, or hereafter may be appurtenant to said premises or any part thereof, and shall be secured hereby.

R.S. 7,500.00 ($7,500.00) together with interest thereon as evidenced by a promissory note of

Hundred and No/100 Dollars ($ 100.00) and is payable in accordance with the conditions of the note.

Upon notice to the MORTGAGEE of a sale or conveyance of the above-described property, it may elect to declare the unpaid balance owing on the note secured hereby immediately due and payable, and in the event it agrees to an assumption of said note and mortgage by a purchaser of the property, it may make a reasonable charge for transferring its records, provided, however, that

the MORTGAGOR(S) agrees to such assumption shall not be superior to any mortgage or deed of trust hereafter recorded in the county in which the property is located.

The MORTGAGOR(S) hereby agrees to the same terms and conditions as are set forth in the Note.

The MORTGAGOR(S) covenants with the MORTGAGEE as follows:To the owner(s) in fee simple of all the above described real estate, and that all of the same is unencumbered; to permit no waste of said premises during the term of this mortgage; to remove all current taxes and assessments on said premises; to clear the same from any future leases or encumbrances which may impair the MORTGAGEE'S title to said premises; to pay all taxes as assessed on said premises; to keep the said premises in good repair and condition; and to pay all amounts required by said mortgage.

In the event of non-payment of any or all payments required by the terms of this mortgage, the MORTGAGOR(S) shall pay all costs and expenses incurred by the MORTGAGEE in enforcing this mortgage, including reasonable attorney fees.

Should the MORTGAGOR(S) fail to keep any of the foregoing covenants, then the MORTGAGEE may perform there, without waiving any right or remedy, and all such costs and expenses shall be paid by the MORTGAGOR(S) on demand; and any and all costs and expenses incurred by the MORTGAGEE for the purpose of paying such sums shall be secured by this mortgage regardless of the amount thereof.
any sums expended by MORTGAGEE for the purpose of completing any building, remodeling or repair work for which this loan is made shall be secured by this mortgage up to a limit of twenty-five (25%) per cent. in excess of the face of this mortgage.

The rents, issues and profits of the property herein described shall belong to the MORTGAGOR(S) provided all payments are made as they mature and the covenants required of the MORTGAGOR(S) to be performed are performed, but in case of default in any payment or covenant hereunder, the MORTGAGOR shall have the right, and it is hereby appointed as agent, to collect such rents, issues and profits which are hereby assigned and transferred to it, repay any necessary portion thereof for the maintenance and operation of said property, and apply the balance, less reasonable costs of collection upon the indebtedness hereby secured. All delinquent payments and interest have been paid or tendered, and in case it becomes necessary, it shall have the right to have a receiver appointed to collect and apply such rents, issues and all costs incident to the appointment and services of a receiver, including reasonable attorneys' fees for advice and/or services shall be paid by the MORTGAGOR(S) herein upon demand, or may be deducted from the rents as collected.

In case of default in the payment of the installments of said debt, or if a breach of any of the covenants herein contained, then the entire debt hereby secured shall become due immediately the without notice and the mortgage may be foreclosed. The MORTGAGOR(S) shall pay the MORTGAGEE a reasonable attorney's fees in any suit that may be instituted for the foreclosure of this mortgage, and in any suit which the MORTGAGOR(S) to protect the lien hereby, is obliged to prosecute or defend, and shall pay such reasonable costs of suit, and expenses of soliciting and obtaining the same as may necessarily be incurred in foreclosing this mortgage or defending or protecting the same, which sums shall be secured hereby and may be added to the principal balance of, in the event of foreclosure, included in a decree of foreclosure.

The MORTGAGOR(S) further agree(s) to pay to the MORTGAGEE the necessary expenses and traveling expenses of its agents or attorneys incurred for the purpose of inspecting the property herein described, the collection of such indebtedness or any part thereof or in the protection of its security if such expenses or traveling expenses are incurred at a time when the mortgage is in default.

In case of foreclosure, the MORTGAGOR(S) hereby expressly waives any claim of homestead and all right to possession of the premises during the period allowed by law for redemption. The MORTGAGOR(S) renunciation of a personal deficiency judgment for any part of the debt hereby secured which shall not be paid by the sale of said property.

The covenants and agreements herein contained are joint and several and shall be binding upon and to the benefit of, the debt, devisees, legal representatives, successors in interest or assigns of the parties herein. If more than one join in the execution hereof or if any be of the female sex, the present and relative words used shall be read as if written in the plural or the feminine gender respectively.

Dated at: Auburn, Washington this 22nd day of June 1972.

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF

THIS IS TO CERTIFY That on this 22nd day of June, A.D. 1972, before me

[Notary Public]

Joseph C. Grimes and Ann M. Grimes, husband and wife

to me known to be the individuals described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they signed and sealed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the use and purpose therein mentioned.

WITNESS by hand and official seal the day and year in this state thereof first above written.

[Notary Public]

[Seal]

[Address]
Copies of documents from the West One Bank in Sumner, Washington showing Christiansen’s final bank balances upon his death in 1994. This money was turned over to his brother Lyle Christiansen of Morris, Minnesota. Lyle was extremely surprised that his brother died with this much money. We believe these funds are not from the actual hijacking, but from investments, mostly in land, that Christiansen made with the ransom money he extorted from Northwest Airlines.
Picture of Kenny Christiansen and Margaret Ann Geestman (nee Miller), taken in 1994 shortly before Kenny’s death. Location: Mrs Geestman’s ranch in Twisp, WA. In six separate interviews, Mrs. Geestman consistently pointed to her ex-husband Bernie Geestman as being involved in the Cooper hijacking, but denied Christiansen was a part of it. On her final interview, she admitted Christiansen was the one who disappeared with Bernie the week of the hijacking. About a year and a half after her final interview, she sold the ranch for nearly a half-million dollars and left town. She instructed her lawyer and the bank officer who handled the sale to keep quiet on where she was going. Her present whereabouts are unknown.
The countertop piece discovered in October 2010 in the attic of Christiansen’s old house by the cast of the History Channel program, *Brad Meltzer’s Decoded*. Later investigation revealed that this piece was part of the scrap from Christiansen’s kitchen countertop installation that he did shortly after purchasing the house in Bonney Lake in July 1972. He had taken a pair of short 2x6 boards and nailed them inside the ceiling joists to form a sort of box between the joists. It was located directly over his old bedroom, and could only be accessed by using a ladder outside the house, unscrewing an attic vent, and climbing inside. The distance between the peak of the roof and the ceiling joists and insulation is less than four feet, so it is a very tight space. He then laid the counter piece on top, and then covered it with insulation. Although nothing was found in the hiding space, it is believed this is where Christiansen may have hidden the bills from the hijacking.

Helen Jones testified that Christiansen tore out the old countertops soon after he moved into the house in Bonney Lake, and replaced them. This ragged-cut piece was found in the attic, covering a hiding spot built between the ceiling joists using a couple of 2x6 boards.

Color of countertop piece matches the color of the countertop design Christiansen used to replace his old ones in 1972. See picture of Robin Powell standing in KC’s kitchen for details.
Bernie Geestman and Kenny Christiansen at Geestman’s wedding in 1968.
When contacted by Marisa Kagan from the History Channel, Geestman initially claimed he hardly knew Kenny and thought he was a dishwasher. Notice that Christiansen is heavily tanned from spending time on the beach during his layovers in Japan. Some witnesses described the hijacker as having an olive complexion. One of the biggest detractions from Christiansen as the hijacker is his lack of hair. However, witness Dawn Androsko testified that Christiansen sometimes wore a toupee. An original witness from the hijacking, Robert Gregory, who sat directly across from the hijacker, told the Washington State History Museum in a 2013 interview that the hijacker may have been wearing a toupee.
A picture of Robin Powell in Christiansen’s kitchen at the Bonney Lake home in 1992. Notice that the countertops, the ones Christiansen installed, match the countertop piece found by the History Channel in the attic of Christiansen’s house. Robin Powell, and his then-wife Carolyn Powell (now Tyner), lived with Christiansen for a while in the years before Christiansen’s death. Carolyn Powell, now the wife of a Federal police officer based at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in California, said a plastic bag of twenty-dollar bills was discovered out back of the house after Christiansen died. This story was confirmed by the present owner of the house, Dan Ratttenbury. He had never met Robin or Carolyn.
A photograph of Christiansen with some of the people he worked with at Northwest Airlines. The photo is not dated but was probably taken about 1967. Bruce Kitt, the curator of NWA History.org, is currently attempting to identify the other people in the photo.

Kenny Christiansen (third from left) with some of the crew he flew with on Northwest Airlines. This is a recently discovered picture. The other people in the photo have not yet been identified.
Crop from the previous photo of Christiansen, compared to the FBI sketch of the hijacker.
Alleged accomplice Bernard Wayne Geestman and Kenny Christiansen, working on Shemya Island in the Aleutians for Northwest Airlines.
Geestman from his January 2011 appearance on the History Channel show *Brad Meltzer’s Decoded*. He denied any involvement in the hijacking, but admitted that Christiansen could have been Cooper when he was asked directly. *Quote from the show: ‘You’re asking me for my opinion? Yes. He looks just like him,’ Geestman said, referring to the FBI’s sketch on Cooper.* However, he refused to say anything about his own whereabouts the week of the hijacking. At the time of filming, the cast and crew of *Decoded* were not aware that several witnesses had already placed Geestman with Christiansen the entire week of the hijacking. *This brings into question why he would endorse Christiansen as possibly being Cooper, when in reality he should have offered Christiansen an alibi, since he was with Christiansen when the hijacking occurred.*

Mr Geestman was contacted by Adventure Books of Seattle staff after the publishing of Into The Blast. He asked for six free copies of the book, which were provided to him. Although he was named as the accomplice several years ago and continues to be discussed both in articles and on the internet, he has not made the slightest protest or tried to cease publication of the book by legal action.
A picture of Bernie Geestman’s sister, Dawn Andrusko of Fox Island, Washington. She identified the tie-clip from the FBI picture as one she had seen Christiansen wear several times, and admitted receiving a $5,000 cash loan from Christiansen five months after the hijacking. Christiansen was being paid $512 a month by NWA, before taxes. When her brother Bernie Geestman was contacted by History Channel in 2010, he called Dawn and demanded she retract her statements. She refused to do so. Later, Marisa Kagan at History Channel confronted Geestman about the phone call, since she was also in contact with Mrs. Andrusko. She told Geestman he was engaging in witness tampering. He admitted to it, and agreed to appear on the Decoded program. After filming, Mr Geestman mailed Ms. Kagan a teddy bear and some flowers, which she found very strange. Ms. Kagan served as an associate producer on the Decoded show. She is now an attorney in the Los Angeles area.

Note: This interview with Andrusko was done in 2009 and witnessed by her grandson Jon Macauley. In 2013, Andrusko’s daughter and another grandson, Jordan Macauley, began to come forward and offer additional information. During her interview, Dawn Andrusko testified that she and some of her friends suspected initially (directly after the hijacking) that Christiansen may have been Cooper, but later dismissed these suspicions because he was ‘a nice guy’. However, she was certain on her identification of the tie clip, and ID’d it before she was told Christiansen was a suspect in the hijacking.
A picture of Robert Blevins with the cast of Brad Meltzer's Decoded.
Date: October 2010

It's a wrap! Robert and the cast of the History Channel show Brad Meltzer's Decoded. Left to right - Scott Rolle, Buddy Levy, Robert Blevins, and Christine McKinley.
Kenny Christiansen digging a septic tank ditch for the Geestmans’ in 1970 to pick up extra money. Margaret Geestman is shown in the picture. The following year, Christiansen went through more than $12,000 in cash, including a house. Friends testified that he never seemed to lack for money again. As this report indicated earlier, Christiansen was a former US Army paratrooper, although he seldom discussed it.

Another picture of Christiansen on the same job.
Marisa Kagan. She was on the staff of Go-Go Luckey Productions, the company that produced Brad Meltzer’s Decoded for the History Channel. She is now studying law. She caught Bernie Geestman in several lies, but eventually convinced him to appear on the show. When Geestman refused to admit his role in the hijacking, the cast had no choice but to conclude that Christiansen was probably the hijacker, but they could not prove Geestman was involved. Within a year after the episode aired and new information emerged on Geestman, cast members Scott Rolle and Buddy Levy changed their minds to a degree and stated they believed Geestman was less than honest on the show. Ms. Kagan later left her production job to return to law school in Los Angeles.

Margaret Ann Geestman during an interview at her ranch in Twisp, Washington in 2010. After the Decoded episode aired on Christiansen, she sold her ranch to the State of Washington’s Fish and Game Department for $491,000 in cash and moved, and instructed the bank officer who handled the sale and her lawyer to not reveal where she was going. It is believed she knows all the details about the Cooper hijacking, including she and her ex-husband Bernie Geestman’s role in it. Our belief is that she cashed out and moved because she was trying to avoid speaking to either the FBI or media as a result of the History Channel program and a couple of books that had emerged on Christiansen.

She was interviewed at her ranch a total of seven times by Robert Blevins. In every one of them, she pointed to her ex-husband Bernie as an accomplice in the hijacking, and testified he had gone missing the week of the crime. However, she also denied it was Christiansen who was the actual hijacker for six of those interviews. On interview number seven, when she was confronted with the testimony of witness Helen Jones, she admitted it was Christiansen who had gone missing that week with her husband. When informed that she had just named Christiansen as the hijacker, and her husband as the accomplice, she admitted she understood this. Her present whereabouts are unknown.
1972 photo of the house in Bonney Lake, WA that Christiansen purchased under suspicious circumstances shortly after the hijacking.

Related item: The same house as it appears today. It was a print shop owned by Dan Rattenbury up until about 2013, when it was sold again.

Next four pages: The sales document on the sale of Margaret Geestman’s ranch to the Washington State Fish and Game Department.
OPTION TO PURCHASE LANDS

MARGARET ANN GEESTMAN, as her separate property, hereinafter known as "SELLER", whose address is P.O. Box 184, Twisp, WA 98856 and whose telephone number is, c/o Dave Thomsen, (509) 996-2121, in consideration of ONE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS ($100.00) to be credited towards the purchase price upon WDFW's election to purchase and the receipt and adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant unto THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, hereinafter known as "WDFW", the exclusive right and option (this "Option") to purchase the lands hereinafter described, together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances, including easements, any and all shorelands, bedlands and tidelands, timber rights, mineral rights (including rock, sand, gravel, oil, gas, and hydrocarbons) and water rights, including claims, permits, title to water and associated structures and easements, thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining collectively hereinafter referred to as the "Property", subject to the terms and conditions herein set forth for FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($491,000.00), said lands being situated in Okanogan County, State of Washington, and being more completely described as follows:

THOSE PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING EAST OF THE COUNTY ROAD.
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER;
THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER;
THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER;
THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER;
AND THAT PORTION OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER LYING WEST OF THE METHOW RIVER;
ALL IN SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 22 EAST W.M. LESS ROADS.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY:
THAT PORTION OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 22 EAST, W.M., LYING BETWEEN THE METHOW RIVER AND THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LINE;
BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 34;
THENCE SOUTH 89°42'42" EAST, 1004.83 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER TO THE NORTHERLY EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING FENCE LINE;
THENCE SOUTH 06°33'29" EAST, 1238 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE METHOW RIVER.

ALSO EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE NORTH 60 FEET OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 34 LYING BETWEEN OKANOGAN COUNTY ROAD NO. 9102 (AKA TWISP-CARLTON ROAD) AND THE WEST BOUNDARY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL.

ALSO EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PORTION OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 22 EAST, W.M., LYING SOUTHEASTERLY OF THE METHOW RIVER.

SELLER and WDFW, by executing this instrument, mutually covenant and agree on the following terms and conditions of this Option:

1. All rights of WDFW herein shall be forfeited, and both parties shall be relieved of any obligation or responsibility if WDFW shall fail to exercise this Option to purchase within 120 days of full execution of this instrument by both parties.

NOT LATER THAN MAY 17, 2012

Geestman Option

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For additional information and outside articles concerning this document, you can visit the following sites:
https://thedbcooperhijacking.wordpress.com/
Sincerely,
Bob, Gayla, Geoff, and Greg from Adventure Books of Seattle
www.adventurebooksofseattle.com