CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE 9-3-80

FULL NAME BROTHER EDMUND COAKLEY/BORN ROBERT J. COAKLEY
(No initials if you can possibly give full name)

ADDRESS 7718 W. WELDON AVENUE

CITY PHOENIX STATE ARIZONA ZIP CODE 85026

DATE OF BIRTH (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE 39 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION ROMAN CATHOLIC NATIONALITY NOT KNOWN

OCCUPATION TEACHER - ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

EDUCATION

WEIGHT 190 HEIGHT 5' 11" RACE CAUCASIAN

COLOR OF HAIR RUST COLOR OF EYES NOT KNOWN

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS Ruddy Complexion

MARRIED OR SINGLE SINGLE CHILDREN ' N/A

WIFE'S NAME N/A

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

*SEE APPENDIX 'B'*

UNIT # CITY STATE OFFICE DATE REGISTERED DATE RESIGNED
Troop 337 Emerson NJ SN 9/70 11/73
Post 337 Emerson NJ Advisor 5/73 11/78

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND ATTACH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

NOTED

JAN 20 1981

JOSEPH L. ANGLIN

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

DYKES_L_007186

Plaintiff's Exhibit 532
Page 2 of 17
November 11, 1991

SUBJECT: INELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER FILE
        EDMUND COAKELEY

FROM: Mark L. Dama
      Assistant Director
      Insurance and Risk Management

TO: Paul I. Ernst
    Director
    Registration Service

Please find attached various information on the above referenced individual who may be a possible candidate for the Ineligible Volunteer File.

The attached is as follows:

    Newspaper article in reference to the alleged abuse

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.
September 11, 1980

Mr. David Baur
Scout Executive
Bergen Council #350

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Brother Edmund Coakley/Robert J. Coakley, Troop 337, SM

Dear David:

Thank you for the detailed information concerning the above Scouters. We are reviewing this case with our Attorney and will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration & Subscription Service

tl
January 22, 1981

Mr. David Bear
Scout Executive
Bergen Council #350

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Brother Edmund Coakley/Robert J. Coakley

Dear David:

Thank you for the detailed information concerning the above Scouter. We have reviewed this case with our Attorney and have now placed this man on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Title]

Registration, Membership and Statistical Services
NEW YORK POST - Tuesday, September 2, 1980

SCOUTMASTER IN $10 MILLION SEX SUIT OVER ASSAULT OF BOY

Captions under pictures:
Picture of the boy - [redacted] - His mental anguish started to become apparent.
Picture of Scoutmaster - Robert Coakley - Quit religious order.

A New Jersey mother and father are suing the Catholic Franciscan Brothers and the Boy Scouts of America for $10 million charging that a Christian brother Scoutmaster was sexually involved with their two young sons.

One of the boys committed suicide as a result of his experiences the parents said. The other is undergoing psychiatric care along with his parents.

Also named as co-defendant in the suit was the Brother, Robert Coakley, known as Brother "Edmund", who has since left the order and now reportedly works as a laborer in Phoenix, Arizona.

He has denied sexual misconduct with the boy.

The parents who state "their family life has been destroyed by the incidences" charged that the Franciscans and the Boy Scouts were negligent in allowing a man like Coakley to be affiliated with them.

The incidences alleged occurred during 1978 and mainly involved the dead boy, [redacted], when 11 years old, of Emerson, New Jersey. His brother, [redacted] 13 at the time.

Most of the incidences also allegedly took place at Pine Creek Reservation, a Boy Scout affiliated camp in Forrestport, New York.

[MORE]
The camp owned by Peter Grandy is connected with Explorer Post 337 operated out of the Assumption School in Emerson...

Coakley was a history and science teacher at the school as well as Scout-master and camp operator.

In the suit filed late Friday by Attorney David Jaroslawicz, the parents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], allege that Coakley made [REDACTED] swim in the nude at the camp, provided him with pornographic materials and also "provocative underwear" which the boy was made to wear.

Coakley also forced the boy to sleep with him in his private trailer and "engaged in direct physical contact" with him the suit stated.

[REDACTED] was further made to "undergo simulated rape scenes and otherwise sexually molested" him, and these actions were taped on video the suit said. That fall Coakley had further physical relations with the boy in the basement of the church Friary in Emerson the suit said.

He also made [REDACTED] "engage in sado-masochistic activities including bondage" and later made the boy beat him with a rope the suit alleged.

The parents further charged that Coakley, who they said possessed several handguns and a rifle, threatened to harm or even kill [REDACTED] if he told anybody about the incidences.

But by the late fall [REDACTED] "could no longer conceal what had occurred, since mental anguish started to become apparent" and he told his parents everything.

After a pair of hospital stays connected with his trauma, [REDACTED] swallowed a bottle of oil of wintergreen and died in Holy Name Hospital May 29, 1979, after telling a nurse that he had been molested and "it is not worth living" the parents said.

(MORE)
The parents meanwhile had forced Coakley's ouster from the Brotherhood but did not seek prosecution on the advice of a physician who said [redacted] could not withstand additional pressure.

But after the boy's death they contacted the office of the Oneida County district attorney in New York and also the Bergen County, New Jersey prosecutor's office.

The father also said he spoke via telephone with Coakley who was at the Franciscan Brothers headquarters in Fayetteville, Ohio, and Coakley allegedly admitted everything "up to the point of physical contact" with [redacted] the dead boy's father told the POST.

Oneida and Bergen County detectives told the POST that their investigations were hampered because the boy's death deprived them of direct testimony.

Coakley faced a charge of endangering the welfare of a child - [redacted] - in Oneida but since the charge was a misdemeanor, authorities there did not feel the justification to extradite him from Arizona, a New York state police investigator said.

The Bergen County case was dropped because it was felt there was no strong basis for prosecution, the POST was told.

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David Baur  
Scout Executive  
Bergen Cncl., BSA  
1060 Main St.  
River Edge, NJ 07661  

Council for Emerson, NJ

Russell Swenson  
Scout Executive  
Hudson - Delaware Cncl., BSA  
21 Orchard St.  
Middletown, NY 10940  

Council for Forrestport, NY
RE: BROTHER EDMUND COAKLEY/BORN ROBERT J. COAKLEY

APPENDIX 'B'

FACTS LEADING TO RECOMMENDATIONS
Attached are the following:

1) NEW YORK POST article of Tuesday, September 2, 1980
2) THE RECORD article of Wednesday, September 3, 1980
3) Statement given to Bergen County Prosecutor's Office by (age 13 approx.)

ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INFORMATION
Brother Edmund Coakley, a member of the religious order known as the Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis. His New Jersey address was 30 Locust Avenue, Emerson, New Jersey 07630.

Edmund Coakley was registered and served as Scoutmaster of Troop 337, though he was not officially replaced as Scoutmaster until the unit rechartered in April of 1979. Prior to May of 1973 he has been registered as an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 337. From May of 1973 to April of 1979, Edmund Coakley was registered as Advisor of Post 337 under the name of Robert J. Coakley.

Reason given for his resignation as Scoutmaster and Advisor in November of 1978 was his reassignment by the religious order to which he was a member.

DB: csm
9/4/80
out with a girl" but it was on the "on the surface" force as such. I felt sorry for him and won't remarry it's "tired" or "like this.

He then asked me whether or not I ever "remembered" we went to I the, "a piece of cloth? or my "rare kind". We were in the trailer at this time. I said, "I don't know." He took a piece of cloth from a sheet or something, loosened his pants, covered himself with the blanket, and lay down on the bed. He then complained about "a pain in the kidneys" and the only way to get rid of it was to masturbate. He said he did it "once before." I figured he was doing it because I heard a snuffling if noise and saw his hand moving fast, up and down. It took about fifteen minutes. I was scared and nervous with perspiration, and I had wanted to leave the trailer, but he didn't want me to go. Mrs. Brown then called about dinner, and it stopped.

Mr. Brown said, "Don't tell anyone about this, because it won't sound right about a brother masturabating." I don't think I said anything, but felt confused about it, and tried to sit further away from him the next day in the truck on the way home.

In the little while we went down to the house for dinner, and after dinner, we stayed and watched TV, and later on we went back to the trailer and I went to bed.

Monday we started for home and we were around the Albany area when we had a flat tire. It was fixed and we arrived home later that day.

A week or so later, during recess at school, he mentioned to me that he didn't like the way the pictures were cut, and he wanted to do some of it over. I just showed it to "off", and he would only do whatever I had time to do it, and I was always too busy.
It was in the middle of the afternoon of the 16th of August, another boiling hot day. Everything was very dry, and even if I had wanted to see any signs of the sea, I could not have seen any. The sky was very blue, and the wind was blowing from the south, bringing with it a slight breeze.

I arrived at the cabin, called "Longboat," and put my stuff in the wood stove trailer. On Friday night and the other night that followed, I slept in the top bunk and he (Edmund) slept on the bottom.

I think it was the day before we left to go up, that Brother Edmund brought up the idea of my going to Christ for the station of the cross up at camp. I think I kind of shrugged it off. I think he meant that I would be lost without someone to help. Memorial Day. I think it was at this time also that he first mentioned about Mike Heiner. He said that Mike had said if he was ever going to do that about the stations of the cross at the station where we live. I think it was here. He said he (Mike) would be one of his attendants, to be sure.

I was on Saturday that I became aware that he wanted to do the pictures then—and I don't remember the conversation that led up to the pictures. I don't know why, but I agreed to do it.

In all the pictures I had some type of clothing around my waist and belt. Then I got changed and unchangeable in the trailer, I noticed that Brother Edmund was in the trailer, sitting on his bunk, watching me, but I didn't know what to say. I asked him how the pictures were going, and he didn't see any other way.

Some of the pictures were taken in the afternoon. Most of the pictures were taken in the afternoon, after this time of the pictures, I felt somewhat. Later, then they were two,
and I was in the trailer, we (Ms. . . .) went up. We hit my mother, mother and then both of us, all 6 of us, in the head with a bottle. "I’m sorry, I try to be good," she said. I still can’t believe it. "I tried to, as a man, and I tried to be good," she said. After that, they were asking for the flow of the trailer. I don’t remember what the conversation was, but after about five minutes, he untied me, and I went back and sat down. I think I changed first, and then he asked me to tie him up—something about that I was mad at him for doing that, and wanted to get even with him. I didn’t want to tie him up, but I did anyway—giving in to him because he was sort of helping me to in it. Then I tied him up, (I think it was just his hands), he was sitting on his bunk. He could get out of it, and we did tie him over. And this went on for three hours."

"Four men, a kid driver at the back, and Mr. Drexler. I’m not sure if he was there. I stayed to the back, the kids, however, we then went back to the trailer and sat to be. Nothing else happened."

Throughout the weekend, he offered me cigarettes from a pack that was menthol-flavored. He asked people, waitresses.

On Sunday, we got up and dressed and went to church—the Catholic church in Ponce. After that, we stopped at the store and picked up something to eat when back in the trailer. I don’t remember what happened the rest of the weekend.

He hit me, hit me hard, and I remember, in the room, he started yelling questions, what did you do? And then he asked about pornographic magazines, and asked me questions, like, did I ever make..."
The following day, I met with an old friend at her apartment. She was very surprised to see me, as I had not been in contact with her for several months. I explained that I was in town for a business meeting, and she invited me to stay for the weekend. I accepted, and we spent the day catching up on old times. The conversation was very enjoyable, and we laughed a lot.

As we walked down the street, I mentioned something about the "pain" I had had over the weekend, and that I was in the process of getting a massage. She asked if I needed any help, and I said yes, please. She then offered to drive me to the spa, and I accepted. We arrived, and I got my massage. Afterward, we went to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

The following day, I met with an old friend who had moved to the area. She was very surprised to see me, and we spent the day catching up. We talked about old times and shared stories. At the end of the day, we walked down the street, and I mentioned something about a "miracle" that had happened. I was very excited to share the story with her.

"If only you knew what happened," I said. "I might have asked, but I couldn't talk about it. Only, "If you only knew what happened.""

On the second day I arrived, she offered to show me her birthday present, which I had brought from a trip. The day before that week, I had three bottles of beer, and I offered to share them, but she declined. She slept in her own tent that night.

During our stay, she would sometimes prepare a meal for me, and I would often join her. She would share stories about the city, and we would listen. She would also tell me about her life, and I would share my stories with her. She was a wonderful host, and I enjoyed my time with her.
The scene in the house, as she described it, seemed to her incredibly violent and terrifying. She said they had been arguing extensively for days, and that the situation had only worsened over time. She recounted seeing her husband physically assault her, and feeling fear as she tried to flee. She said she had never felt more vulnerable or in danger before.

She also mentioned feeling a sense of isolation and desperation, as if she were trapped in a never-ending cycle of abuse. She said she felt powerless to escape, and that she was afraid of what might happen if she tried to leave.

The witness emphasized that her husband had been increasingly aggressive and controlling, and that she had felt her safety was constantly at risk. She said she had tried to reach out for help, but felt unable to trust anyone.

The witness described feeling overwhelmed by the experience and the fear it had instilled in her. She said she had felt a sense of hopelessness, and that she had never felt so alone and vulnerable before.

[Redacted section]

8/4/22
Parents blame molestation for suicide

By Paul Feldman

Charging that their young son committed suicide as a result of being sexually molested by a scoutmaster, an Emerson couple has filed a $10-million lawsuit against the Boy Scouts of America and an order of Roman Catholic friars.

The parents of the deceased boy claim that their son, who was molested by Edmund Coakeley, a former scoutmaster at the Assumption School in Emerson, Coakeley, who was a member of the Ohio-based Franciscan Brothers of the Poor, taught history and science at the school.

Coakeley, who has since left the Franciscans, is accused in the suit of molesting the child, then 11, at a Boy Scout-sponsored summer camp in Forestport, N.Y., during the summer of 1978. The suit also charges that later that year, Coakeley forced the boy to perform sexual acts in the basement of the fraternity of the Assumption School. The suit says that Coakeley gave the boy pornographic magazines and materials.

Suicide's parents sue Boy Scouts and friars

FROM PAGE C1

Arla, was removed from the Emerson school after the family told officials of the Archdiocese of Newark and the Franciscan Brothers of the child's allegations.

The civil suit, filed in New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, charges the Franciscan Brothers and the Boy Scouts with negligence for entrusting Coakeley with young men.

The family's lawyer, David Jacobowicz, said the Bergen County prosecutor's office was notified of Christopher's allegations but declined to prosecute.

Mrs. [redacted], a nurse, said yesterday that she and her husband have filed suit "because we were left with no other legal recourse."

"I don't think it's a topic people care to address," she said. "Yet it happened."

Mrs. [redacted], said her son told an emergency room nurse that he swallowed the poison because "it's not worth living."
Scoutmaster in $10M suit over sexual assault on boy, 11

By LENE BERTINI

A NEW JERSEY mother and father are suing the Catholic Franciscan Brothers and the Boy Scouts of America for $10 million, charging that a Christian brother scoutmaster was sexually involved with their two young sons.

The mother, allegedly involved during 1976, told the Post at the time that her 11-year-old, of 21 years old, of Pine Creek, was engaged in direct physical contact with the boy and was further made to "engage in simulated sexual acts and other sexual acts which the boy was made to perform.

Coakley was found guilty of raping a 12-year-old boy and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Coakley was a history and science teacher at the school as well as a scoutmaster and a camp counselor. In the suit, filed late last week, the parents, Richard and Margaret, allege that Coakley has engaged in sadomasochistic activities, including bondage and later made the boy beat him with a rope, the suit alleged.

The parents, meanwhile, had forced Coakley's health and the court ruled that the boy's death was not a suicide.