

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

\* \* \* \* \*  
Investigation of: \*  
\*  
MV ETHAN ALLEN, \*  
LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK, \*  
OCTOBER 2, 2005 \* Docket No.: DCA 06 MM 001  
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\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: CAROL A. MARSH

Tuesday,  
October 4, 2005

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to  
notice at 1:08 p.m.

BEFORE: MARIETTE BURER

APPEARANCES:

MARIETTE BURER  
National Transportation Safety Board

PAT BARNES  
National Transportation Safety Board

MAJ. STEVE RIVENBURGH  
New York State Park Police

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(1:08 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 MS. BURER: Okay, today is October 4th, 2005, and it  
4 is approximately eight minutes after one o'clock in the  
5 afternoon. My name is Mariette Burer with the National  
6 Transportation Safety Board, and next to me is --

7 MS. MARSH: Carol Ann Marsh.

8 MAJ. RIVENBURGH: Okay.

9 MS. BARNES: And I'm Pat Barnes with the National  
10 Transportation Safety Board.

11 MAJ. RIVENBURGH: And I'm Steve Rivenburgh with the  
12 New York State Park Police.

13 INTERVIEW OF CAROL A. MARSH

14 BY MS. BURER:

15 Q. Okay. What I would like to do is for you to go ahead  
16 and just tell me your story. Start with the morning and how it  
17 all evolved throughout the day.

18 A. We left New Hampshire and were headed toward Lake  
19 George, New York, and we went through Vermont. And it was a  
20 long trip and we didn't stop and there was no place to stop,  
21 and we pushed ahead until we got to Lake George. Actually, we  
22 made one stop on the way to go to the bathroom at some place.  
23 But anyway, we got here and they dropped us off and everybody  
24 scattered and ate. And then, when we got back, we were on our  
25 way back to the bus and we were passing where you go down to

1 the docks. And they said, well, everybody just go down to the  
2 docks. Don't go back to the bus. So we walked down to the  
3 docks. We didn't go back and get our sweaters or jackets or  
4 anything. We walked down to the docks and they said go ahead  
5 and board the boat. It was approximately 48, 50 people on our  
6 bus.

7           And we started down to the docks. And my mom is  
8 under five-foot. She's walking with a cane. She's got a bad  
9 half of her leg or whatever it is, but she does work every day.  
10 So we're walking and I said I'm going to get a good seat this  
11 time. I'm sitting in the back next to the thing. I'm going to  
12 see everything. And the captain is standing there and somebody  
13 said, where's the best place to sit? And he said, well of  
14 course the best place to sit is on the left-hand side of the  
15 boat by the shore. There's three -- a bench for three of us  
16 and a bench for two on this side. When I sit down, like, seven  
17 people sat down at the same time and the boat starts going down  
18 and they all laughed at the dock about --

19           Q.    Um-hum.

20           A.    -- how I sat down and the boat started to sink.

21           Q.    Right.

22           A.    So he says, no, no, no, people, go on the side of the  
23 boat. Straighten this out. We can't have everybody on one  
24 side of the boat. Now, we're sitting like this, me, my mom,  
25 and Eunice sat down, so there's three on our bench and our side

1 filled up. There was a couple of open spots. This side is  
2 full. And up in the front there was some seats that went this  
3 way, and we still got people that haven't got on. So we say,  
4 can't you get a few more on? How many can you hold? He said,  
5 I could hold 50 capacity.

6 Q. Um-hum.

7 A. But we didn't ask how much it weighed when there were  
8 50 capacity. But anyway, so we said, okay, everybody scooch  
9 together and let's get these last couple of people on. They  
10 moved a couple more people in and everybody -- well, there were  
11 seats for them. They scooched up in front. We already were  
12 loaded. And it got down to a set of sisters and another lady  
13 and she said, that boat is really full and it's sitting low.  
14 This is what this woman said. I'm not riding this boat. And  
15 the sisters said, we'll take the next boat, because it was  
16 full. We had nobody -- and we pull out and everything's cool  
17 and we're chugging along and we're watching the stuff, and  
18 we're going real fast. I didn't think we were, like, buzzing  
19 along, do you know what I mean?

20 Q. Um-hum.

21 A. We were just going -- and I'm sitting right here with  
22 my arm and looking -- well, I had -- anyway, all of a sudden,  
23 we made this major fast turn. And the reason I thought it was  
24 weird is because we were going along at this even pace. I  
25 mean, it wasn't like we were accelerating, we were just kind of

1 going at this -- and all of a sudden, we make this mad-dash  
2 turn, and I'm looking at the water and I'm looking and I  
3 thought, if this guy is trying to scare us, he's doing a good  
4 job, because there ain't six inches between me and this water.  
5 And all of a sudden, all these people from the other side  
6 started sliding over and pouring on top of us and that was it.  
7 I'm like this and the water is in my face. That was it. And I  
8 think the boat is going over top of us. When I reached, there  
9 was nobody. I mean, there was nobody. My mom wasn't there.  
10 And all I can think of is the boat's going this way. I got to  
11 go down and up. And I swam towards the light. Anybody that  
12 swam towards the dark never got out. I swam towards to the  
13 light and I started to go up towards the surface, and people  
14 were pulling on my legs to crawl up me, so they pulled me down.  
15 I went up once and they pulled me down under. I went up a  
16 second time. Somebody else pulled up on me. I broke the  
17 surface for the third time and I turned around and there was  
18 the boat. The boat was upside down by now and we're looking at  
19 a railing of about two inches. I see that people were hanging  
20 onto that, so I went to grab it. And I grabbed that and  
21 somebody else grabbed my feet and I thought, you know, if  
22 they're going to keep grabbing at me, I better anchor myself.  
23 And then I couldn't find my mother and I was looking around and  
24 I said -- the guy next to me says, can you hear the people on  
25 the inside? They're yelling we're still in there. And I said,

1 maybe I better go back down and see if I can't bring my mom  
2 out. And he grabbed my hand and he -- and I said, I know I'm  
3 not that strong of a swimmer. I'm never going -- he said,  
4 you're not going to make it down and back out. You can't do  
5 it. You got to stay here. Everything's going to be okay.  
6 They're going to be out. But we don't know who was on the  
7 other side. You don't know who made it out.

8           So somebody's yelling, you know, we need help. Help  
9 us. They're yelling at the boats. And I said, where's the  
10 captain? And he says, I'm over here. He was to my right. I  
11 thought that guy -- he made it. Everybody should've made it.  
12 You know, I hope everybody's hanging on and -- and the boats  
13 were coming in, and their yelling for help. The people were  
14 yelling, you know, I can't swim. Help me. And the one guy  
15 yelled, throw us your jackets. Throw us your jackets. It's a  
16 rule. Throw us your jackets. And this guy brought his boat in  
17 as close as he could, and boats were coming from other sides.  
18 Maybe there was only three in the beginning. And they threw us  
19 the jackets that they had. And the jackets were getting closer  
20 and I see the jacket about six-foot away from me and I said,  
21 you know, I can swim to that jacket and I can make it to that  
22 boat, and then I could throw the jacket back for somebody else  
23 to come. And I said, if I get onto the boat, you know, I can  
24 do this.

25           So I started to swim and I got to the jacket. Now

1 I'm looking back and I thought what a dunce I am, because I'm  
2 swimming with the jacket in my hand instead of putting it over  
3 my head. So I mean -- you know, and then the guy says, just  
4 hang on to the jacket and I'll pull you in. And he brought me  
5 in, and he has a boat with five kids on it, and they  
6 immediately threw towels around me and they're holding me, and  
7 I turned around and looked and sat down and I'm watching this  
8 whole thing in front of me, and there's still people hanging on  
9 the boats and there's people screaming. In the meantime, now  
10 there's several more boats. The guy from my boat didn't go in,  
11 but other people went to try to help people that were screaming  
12 that they couldn't, they couldn't swim. And they were pulling  
13 them out, and the guy next to me goes, my wife is dead. I can  
14 see her floating.

15           And then I thought -- and then boat started to come  
16 like this and I thought, well, the ones underneath got a chance  
17 of getting out now, because the boat's started to go like this,  
18 but it didn't. It went like this and went down, and then more  
19 bodies were floating. And then I decided that I better look  
20 for mom, whether she's alive or dead. And this ski-jet -- jet  
21 ski, whatever it was, it went (indiscernible) back and they  
22 pull this person up and it was mom. I knew it was mom. And I  
23 said, that's my mom. I know that's my mom. I can tell. And  
24 she looked like she was nine months pregnant. She was all  
25 blowed up. And they were hitting her chest and they were

1 trying to give her the mouth to mouth, and I said, she's dead.  
2 I got to go over to mom. I got to be with her. And the guy in  
3 the boat says, you can't leave. You got to stay here.  
4 Everything's taken care of. You're fine. There's five people  
5 in the boat, and I said, oh my god, your kids are watching this  
6 whole thing. And he kept sending his kids back down in the --  
7 and then they took my mom to -- but when I looked back, it  
8 looked like there was nobody left in the water -- on the boat.  
9 The boat was going down. And it looked like everybody -- my  
10 god, it was just loaded with crafts of all sorts and they were  
11 pulling people. The last people that got there were the rescue  
12 team. When the rescue team got there it was too late. By the  
13 time they came it was -- we were either dead or alive by then.  
14 There was no -- anyway, my mom was in the boat next to me and I  
15 told them, I said, I should go over there. And they said, you  
16 know, just stay here. And I said, at least I should hold her  
17 hand. She shouldn't be alone.

18           And then they started bringing us in to the shore.  
19 And they docked and -- my camera was -- then they docked the  
20 boat and they said take the (indiscernible) to the other deck.  
21 This is for the dead. And we're watching and the one lady was  
22 laying there and the guy, he goes, that's my wife. And they  
23 said, well, you don't know. You know, she's not identified.  
24 And he said, that's my wife's watch. That's my wife. I know  
25 that's my wife. They took us off the other way. And the

1 people were wonderful on the shore. They wrapped us up and the  
2 kept us warm and they gave us Kleenex, and we called home to  
3 tell whoever was there what was going on. Then the rescue  
4 units come in and they put this tent up and I said, you know, I  
5 think my mom's over there. And I said, do you think I can go  
6 over and identify her? And they said, everybody over there has  
7 a tag and they're all identified. He said, you're the only one  
8 that don't have tag on. Who are you? And I said, oh, my tag's  
9 on my hat. My hat's on the bottom of the lake along with my  
10 glasses. I can't see. But I said, I know I should go with my  
11 mother. And he said, no, you should stay here, you know,  
12 they're over there. And I said, there's probably seven people.  
13 And he said, there's probably 17 people over there. Half of  
14 them didn't make it.

15           So then they started taking us out. They told me I  
16 should take my top off and wrap up in a blanket. I still  
17 didn't feel cold. They put me in the sun. I still wasn't  
18 feeling cold. And they took me out and I had to go to the  
19 bathroom so bad and they wouldn't let me go to the bathroom.  
20 When we take you to the hospital, immediately, they'll deal  
21 with you there. And I said, you know what? I'm not -- I'm  
22 okay. Take somebody that's worse than me to the hospital  
23 first. And he said -- I don't remember what worker this was,  
24 but he said to me, they're either dead or they're alive.  
25 There's nobody worse than you. Everybody goes to the hospital,

1 that's what they said. We're transporting them.

2 All I can say is the people in New York are  
3 wonderful. Everybody helped. The neighbors came. They  
4 brought chairs. They brought blankets. We got to the  
5 hospital. All the people there, the volunteer people, they had  
6 cops and -- they came from home. They were just wonderful  
7 people. Everybody was great. I guess that's it.

8 Q. How long did you stay in the hospital?

9 A. Four or five hours. They took us from there down to  
10 another room and they had, I don't know, half of our group that  
11 was -- some of them showered. I guess I didn't smell as bad as  
12 some them. But they did X-ray me because they thought -- they  
13 didn't know how much I swallowed. I said, I don't remember  
14 swallowing anything, but -- but I got X-rayed in a bathroom, I  
15 want you to know. They brought a portable unit in and me and  
16 the toilet were taking pictures together. And then they had  
17 chaplains in there and they dressed us in scrubs. And I don't  
18 know who else was in there. A congressman came in and the  
19 sheriff's department. We gave interview after interview, and  
20 then they took us about back way about a quarter to 7:00. They  
21 took us to our hotel and said everything would be secured. And  
22 we still made the news. Our pictures still got there with  
23 those long cameras.

24 Q. Did you sustain any injuries at all from the  
25 accident?

1           A.    I had a lump on my head and they brought the  
2 paramedics in to check me, but it was open.  I was fine.

3           Q.    Okay.

4           A.    And went last night because I got -- I know I have --  
5 I have a urinary tract infection.  I couldn't sleep and I knew  
6 my problem, and I went back to the hospital last night and I  
7 got some medicine.

8           Q.    Okay.

9           A.    I don't think so.  I would say, if anything's going  
10 to happen to me, it's going to be in a couple of weeks from  
11 now, because I have MS, and if anything, this will probably  
12 agitate me.

13          Q.    Okay.

14          A.    Hopefully I'm keeping myself under control, but who  
15 knows.

16          Q.    Okay.  Here's kind of like a generic map.

17          A.    Oh, that -- oh, okay.

18          Q.    Well, this is the right side and then this is left  
19 side.

20          A.    This is the point?

21          Q.    Yeah.

22          A.    This isn't right.  These are the three-seaters and  
23 these are two-seaters.

24          Q.    Correct.

25          A.    Okay, it was me --

- 1 Q. Um-hum.
- 2 A. -- and mom --
- 3 Q. Um-hum.
- 4 A. -- and Eunice. CAM --
- 5 Q. Whoops. CAM, okay.
- 6 A. That's me. And then my mom was AGB, AGB.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. And Eunice is -- I don't know her last name.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. Eunice and me made it out.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. When we made the turn and that water hit me, I don't
- 13 know if I was thrown -- I had to be -- I don't know. I
- 14 couldn't have been thrown out because I remember I had to go
- 15 down to go out whatever it was. I went down and then up.
- 16 Q. So you were on the last bench?
- 17 A. Absolutely.
- 18 Q. Okay.
- 19 A. Here's the guy right here driving the boat.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. Here's the little door. Heaven only knows, I might
- 22 have went out the little door.
- 23 Q. Where's the little door?
- 24 A. Right here.
- 25 Q. Okay.

1 A. The one walked through, you know.

2 Q. Okay. All right. Were you one of the last people  
3 that actually got seated or --

4 A. No, I was one of the -- no, there's -- no, no. I  
5 was -- maybe there was like -- I was maybe number 10.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. But there was people up in here, then they all filled  
8 in. Eunice was one of the last ones and she moved in with us.  
9 They filled in the front.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. No, I wasn't the last.

12 Q. Okay. And then, when you actually -- when everyone  
13 was seated or was on board and the captain, did he -- do you  
14 remember him performing a safety briefing?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Do you recall where a location of the --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- lifejackets?

19 A. Afterwards, somebody told me were they up in the  
20 front and they were sitting on them. But I'm going to tell  
21 you, if we had lifejackets, we wouldn't have made it out of  
22 there.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Because we had to go down to get out. If we'd had  
25 lifejackets, we would've gone up. We would've all been inside

1 that boat. That's my personal opinion. Somebody else can say  
2 what they want, but if I'd had a lifejacket, I'd have been  
3 dead.

4 Q. Okay. Do you recall any of the other people that  
5 were sitting in that same area?

6 A. No, I'm sorry, I don't remember anybody.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Not over here or there.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. I met the guy afterwards that sat there and I said,  
11 you're probably the reason I'm out. He probably ran into me.

12 Q. Um-hum.

13 A. But I don't remember. I'm sorry. I'm a terrible  
14 person. I don't -- I didn't even pay attention to who was in  
15 front of me.

16 Q. Do you recall any kind of waves or any other traffic  
17 in the area?

18 A. I'm going to tell you the truth. I don't know what  
19 was happening over there. I don't remember seeing it, because  
20 when we made the turn, I had my arm out and I'm looking at this  
21 water and I thought, we're making a really fast turn. I'm  
22 looking at the land and I'm looking the water and the boat is  
23 turning and tipping and I'm going, we're getting way too close.  
24 I never looked anywhere but at the water, and then it was in my  
25 face. So anything is possible. It could've happened. I don't

1 know.

2 Q. Right. Oh, you mentioned something later on and said  
3 that -- I guess you sort of felt that the boat was still kind  
4 of rolling or whatever it was, and then you saw people  
5 floating?

6 A. Are you talking about after I got out?

7 Q. Yeah, after --

8 A. I was sitting on the other boat.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And it was like this and then it started to go like  
11 this.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And we thought it was going to go up. Instead of  
14 going up -- no, when it went like this, I thought, all these  
15 other people that were underneath there are going to get out  
16 now. And instead of coming up, it went down.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I mean, it wasn't coming, it was coming down. And  
19 these people in here floated out. They didn't --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I mean, I thought they had air. I mean, we thought  
22 they had air to breathe because we could hear them yelling at  
23 us to come and help them.

24 Q. Um-hum.

25 A. They were screaming, help, we're screaming, help, and

1 the guy next to me goes, they're in there. That's why  
2 someone's got to go down. And I thought -- I didn't. We went  
3 down so fast, the boat went so fast.

4 Q. Um-hum. Did you notice any kind of water in the boat  
5 prior to having to draw over or --

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. And did you hear any kind of strange noises or  
8 foreign noises?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. That's before or after, during? Any --

11 A. No.

12 Q. Any -- okay.

13 A. A lot of screaming.

14 Q. The window that you were sitting next to, was that  
15 open or closed?

16 A. Everything was open.

17 Q. Everything was open? Okay.

18 A. Everything was open and the thing was up, because my  
19 arm wasn't level. Because I said, wow, this is really -- this  
20 isn't comfortable. So I had to sit like this. And I don't  
21 know what I put my feet on, because it as upside down. Oh, it  
22 had to be the bottom. It had to be -- that's where we were  
23 sitting. Because this is all open, so I couldn't have put my  
24 feet there where the windows were. I had to be above that.  
25 See, I don't know how deep the boat was.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Do you know what I'm saying? When it flipped over  
3 and we had this little strip we were holding on to, and I  
4 braced my feet -- I had to brace my feet on what was like the  
5 side of the boat.

6 Q. Um-hum.

7 A. And the top had to be way down there.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And I didn't stay that long on the boat. When I see  
10 a chance to go, I went. I'm sorry. That was --

11 Q. When you were actually just sitting there with your  
12 mom and Eunice, did you guys have a lot of room in front of you  
13 and around you, or was the seating arrangement --

14 A. We were --

15 Q. -- pretty close in?

16 A. We were cramped.

17 Q. Cramped? Okay.

18 A. Shoulder to shoulder, person to person.

19 Q. And also front to back?

20 A. Absolutely.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. They put a lot of people in the front. They scooted  
23 over and let them in. But there was a lot -- there's a lot of  
24 heavy people and they didn't -- I don't want to say they didn't  
25 balance, but three heavy people on this side and two light

1 people side are not going to balance.

2 Q. Right. Okay.

3 A. We looked around and we looked at it. I mean, we  
4 were saying, maybe some people should move. Maybe -- you know,  
5 I said, I'm not getting up and giving them my seat, so I'm  
6 staying here. And mom's bigger than me, if not bigger.

7 Q. And then nobody actually took the initiative to move?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And the captain, he didn't --

10 A. No, because the boat had balanced and --

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. They probably should've had two and two. You know,  
13 they probably should've had us two and two --

14 Q. Right.

15 A. -- but they didn't. And it was an accident and I'm  
16 sorry. And I don't know why he made that fast turn, but --

17 Q. Did you see any kind of safety equipment at all on  
18 the vessel?

19 A. You mean like a ring or a -- I didn't look.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I don't remember. Maybe up at the front point, maybe  
22 there was one hanging. I can't remember.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. He didn't use it, that's for sure. But I think it  
25 was everybody got it out for themselves. I don't think there

1 was -- the one guy told me -- I said, how did your wife ever  
2 make it out of there? And he said, I held onto my wife and  
3 kicked out. And I said, you got to be kidding me, that this  
4 guy was strong enough to hang onto his wife and -- who's going  
5 to think of that?

6 Q. Right. Did you feel like people were sliding onto  
7 you when it was rolling over or --

8 A. When we made the turn --

9 Q. Um-hum.

10 A. -- and all the weight was coming to my side --

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. -- you could definitely feel people coming in,  
13 because my mom's -- yeah, I felt people sliding into me. I can  
14 feel them -- I could feel it. Yes. I don't know about the  
15 other side. I knew I could hear them, like, coming.

16 Q. Um-hum.

17 A. I didn't turn to look because I never took my eyes  
18 off the water and that's why I got a face full of it.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. I'm like this and I could hear it moving and -- maybe  
21 I should've grabbed my mother. I don't know. I mean, I don't  
22 know. I don't know why I lived and she died. I don't know why  
23 any of those people died. Because they didn't swim out, that's  
24 why. They didn't go for the light.

25 Q. How long do you think that you were actually in the

1 water before you were rescued by the boat?

2 A. Five, six minutes, maybe -- between hanging on  
3 here -- you mean just in the water, like --

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. -- swimming over or --

6 Q. Once you --

7 A. You mean, like I came out and I grabbed a hold, until  
8 I got on that boat, it could've been six, seven minutes. Maybe  
9 it was longer, I don't know, but --

10 Q. Right.

11 A. -- it doesn't seem like it was that long. I sat on  
12 the boat longer than I was in the water.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I felt I had a better chance on that boat than I had  
15 on this one, that's for sure. And I felt I was a strong enough  
16 swimmer to go over there. Either that or I would have been  
17 dead. I mean, I don't know. I just felt I had a better chance  
18 kicking over. The hardest part of all was when he dropped that  
19 ladder for me to get up and that's when I realized I had my  
20 shoes on and --

21 Q. Um-hum.

22 A. -- how everything was heavy.

23 MS. BURER: I don't have anything right now. Pat,  
24 would you like to?

25 BY MS. BARNES:

1 Q. I just want to -- I think you've said this, but I  
2 just want to verify that when, basically, things started to --  
3 we have the quick turn and after that, the capsizing was  
4 basically one movement? There was no rolling in the water?

5 A. Absolutely not. We made the turn and it started  
6 going like this, closer and closer and closer, as we're turning  
7 we're getting closer. Just like this. You could hear these  
8 people coming and boom, the thing rolled. The water's in our  
9 face and then that's it. It went completely over and I was on  
10 the boat and there was like one time when it come up like this  
11 and then it went down. Like, I mean, no, there was nothing  
12 like this at all.

13 Q. Okay. And there wasn't anybody that tried to roll  
14 it?

15 A. Other people said they tried to crawl up the boat to  
16 hang on. I don't know, they were, you know, different -- all I  
17 know is that I thank God that I took swimming and I hung on  
18 like I was a spider. I don't know how long I could have  
19 done -- I think I knew I couldn't hold on long and I figured I  
20 had a better chance of swimming and let somebody else have that  
21 spot. I don't know why I did that, but I did.

22 Q. And, again, this is just to verify, you didn't see  
23 any waves in the water that you felt might have affected --

24 A. No. I didn't see anything. If it happened, it would  
25 have been over there. I didn't see it in front of me or

1 nothing --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. What I seen was little ripples and -- no. I didn't  
4 see it. I just thought we made too fast, too sharp a turn.  
5 After the way we were going like this, all of a sudden we're  
6 making this big sharp turn. Something wasn't right. You know  
7 what I mean? This wasn't the norm. And when your body's being  
8 twisted like this, you know something ain't right.

9 Q. Okay. Sorry for the hold up, I just want to scribble  
10 this. Okay. I actually think that Mariette has asked the  
11 questions that -- I mean between your comments and Mariette's  
12 questions, I believe that --

13 A. You've got all you're going to get out of me.

14 Q. -- yeah --

15 A. I don't think I know anything else.

16 MS. BARNES: I don't have any more questions, so --

17 MS. MARSH: Good luck, ladies. I hope you find your  
18 answers.

19 MS. BURER: Right. No. Hold on.

20 BY MS. BURER:

21 Q. I want to ask you, when the boat rolled over, when it  
22 first started actually happening, I mean, did you feel that the  
23 water -- what was exactly going on with the boat, I mean,  
24 whether it was in the front or in the back? Was the water  
25 coming in one side more than another?

1           A.    When we made the turn, like this, we leaned and the  
2 back end was going down, like this.

3           Q.    Leaned to left or right side?

4           A.    Leaned to the left.  I'm on the left.  It was going  
5 down lower and lower.  You could hear the people coming over on  
6 us.  And when it flipped, it went completely over.  You asked  
7 me if one side more than the other, it -- the whole -- I'm at  
8 the back end.  All I seen is water.

9           Q.    Yeah.  Right.

10          A.    I mean, it just went over.  I remember, oh, my God,  
11 it wasn't a joke.  I thought it was a joke.  The whole time, I  
12 thought he was just kidding with us.  You know what I mean?  I  
13 thought, this isn't funny any more.

14                    When you hit the water, you think, oh, I've got to  
15 get out of here.

16          Q.    Did you notice any of the other passengers that maybe  
17 had wheelchairs or --

18          A.    There was no wheelchairs.

19          Q.    No wheelchairs?  Or what about --

20          A.    There was canes.

21          Q.    -- canes?

22          A.    The one woman that came on, the last one to come on,  
23 her and her husband, she had a walker that had a seat on it --

24          Q.    Uh-huh.

25          A.    -- so she could walk and if she got tired, she could

1 turn around and sit down. It was not a wheelchair. The  
2 Captain said to her, you've got to fold that up. The same  
3 thing on the bus, she had to fold it up and put it underneath.  
4 The Captain said she had to fold it up. She said that she felt  
5 he was very mean to her and yelled at her. He said, "You've  
6 got to fold that thing up." Like he didn't want her on there.

7 I think we pushed him to put more people on. We kept  
8 saying, we've only got a couple more people, a couple more  
9 people, a couple more people. And he kept saying, okay, we'll  
10 take two more.

11 Q. So, you feel that the passengers --

12 A. Forced the Captain to take more.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And then there was a seat. You know, we'll make  
15 room. There's a seat here. Because we didn't have what he  
16 said we could have. He said we could put on 50 people. We  
17 only had 46, or whatever it was and we felt, you know -- My  
18 seat was full. That's what I said. I said, my seat's full, we  
19 ain't taking nobody else on. But they said, oh, there's room  
20 here, there's room. Let's put one more here, we can, you know,  
21 there's only two here. But they weren't thinking of the  
22 weight.

23 Q. What do you think the Captain's demeanor was during  
24 the whole trip then, from beginning, from right before you left  
25 the dock to --

1           A.    He wasn't a happy camper.  But he was nice when he  
2 was telling us this and that about the scenery.  I think when  
3 he took over and started telling us everything, I thought he  
4 was very nice about that.  I don't know if he was mean to that  
5 woman or not.  You know what I'm saying?

6           Q.    Right.

7           A.    Because we kept saying, can we take a couple more,  
8 can we take a couple more?  There's only two more on the dock,  
9 let's just take two more and, you know, he said -- I don't know  
10 what he said.  I don't know what he said, but we put two more  
11 on.

12          Q.    And did he help the lady at all that had the walker  
13 or --

14          A.    He helped her on and her husband folded it up and she  
15 went and got in a seat.  I don't know who put the thing away.  
16 He had to move it out of the way, obviously.

17          Q.    Did you see him help other passengers get onboard?

18          A.    Onboard?  No.  He didn't help them.  He didn't help  
19 me.  He didn't help my mom, that I seen.  He might have.  I  
20 didn't see it.  I mean, I wasn't real observant.

21          Q.    Right.

22          A.    The trip was beautiful.  We seen some beautiful  
23 houses and, you know, he was telling us about the different  
24 things.  He seemed informative.

25          Q.    Yeah.  How far into the trip do you think you already

1 were before --

2 A. Well, you know what? When we made that turn, I  
3 thought we were turning around to come back.

4 Q. Oh, okay.

5 A. And I thought, this is a heck of a turn for us to go  
6 back. This is, you know, I mean everything else was kind of  
7 like steady and then all of a sudden we're making this big turn  
8 like this to go back, like somebody was missing lunch, you  
9 know. Why are we making this big turn now?

10 Q. Right.

11 A. It just didn't make sense. I mean, I didn't have a  
12 lot of time to think, but I was thinking why are we making this  
13 big-ass deep turn now? And just kept getting closer and  
14 closer, closer and closer, and I'm going, oh, this ain't good.

15 MS. BURER: Okay. I think that's it for me, too.

16 MS. MARSH: Thank you.

17 MS. BURER: Could you just acknowledge that it's been  
18 recorded and we'll conclude with this interview.

19 MS. MARSH: I, Carol Ann Marsh, say that's all I know  
20 at this point, and I hope you finish your investigation.

21 MS. BURER: Okay. Thank you.

22 (Whereupon, the interview in the above-entitled  
23 matter was concluded.)

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           MV Ethan Allen  
                                  Lake George, New York,  
                                  October 2, 2005  
                                  Interview of Carol A. Marsh

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA 06 MM 001

PLACE:                       Washington, D.C.

DATE:                        October 4, 2005

was held according to the record, and that this is the  
original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been  
compared to the recording accomplished at the hearing.

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David Martini  
Transcriber (p. 1-22)

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Kimberly J. Zogby  
Transcriber (p. 22-29)