

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  
\*  
\*  
\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: EUNICE STEVENS

National Transportation Safety Board  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20594

Wednesday,  
October 12, 2005

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to  
notice, at 3:03 p.m.

BEFORE: MARIETTE BURER

## APPEARANCES:

MARIETTE BURER  
National Transportation Safety Board

BOB FORD  
Investigator in Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

MAJ. STEVE RIVENBURGH  
New York State Park Police

Also Present:

BEN JOHNSON, ESQ.  
Attorney for Eunice Stevens  
Feiger, Feiger, Kenny and Johnson  
Southfield, Michigan

MEG LAVIS  
Daughter of Eunice Stevens

I N D E X

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Eunice Stevens	
By Ms. Burer	4
By Mr. Ford	16
By Maj. Rivenburgh	21

I N T E R V I E W

(3:03 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 MS. BURER: I'm turning on the recording. My name is  
4 Mariette Burer, with the National Transportation Safety Board.  
5 Today is October 12, and it's approximately 15:03. And to my  
6 left is --

7 MR. FORD: Bob Ford, investigator in charge, National  
8 Transportation Safety Board.

9 MAJ. RIVENBURGH: Steve Rivenburgh, New York State  
10 Park Police.

11 MS. BURER: And go ahead, Ms. Stevens.

12 MS. STEVENS: My name is Eunice Stevens.

13 MR. JOHNSON: I'm here also, Ben Johnson, attorney on  
14 behalf of Ms. Stevens, law firm of Feiger, Feiger, Kenny and  
15 Johnson in Southfield, Michigan.

16 MS. LAVIS: And Meg Lavis, Eunice Stevens' daughter.

17 MS. BURER: Okay, thank you.

## INTERVIEW OF EUNICE STEVENS

18  
19 BY MS. BURER:

20 Q. Ms. Stevens, I understand that you were a passenger  
21 on the Ethan Allen when the capsizing occurred on Sunday,  
22 October 2. Can you in your own words tell us your story?

23 A. Yes, I can.

24 Q. Go ahead.

25 A. Okay, we were -- I was sitting on the left side, to

1 the very back of the boat, sitting on the aisle seat very close  
2 to the captain. And the trip and everything went real smooth  
3 and good. And then all of a sudden I heard -- felt a little  
4 tipping of the boat, so I immediate turned to look at the  
5 captain to see what was going on or what went what. And I saw  
6 him and he was cranking the wheel rapidly, real hard and real  
7 fast, and real fast. His eyes were real big and he was  
8 doing -- and I thought to myself, "What is he doing? What's  
9 going on?"

10 And then I -- the boat tipped. The man in the seat  
11 next to me jammed into me, and I was able to see the light in  
12 the water and I swam out. And by the time I got up there, the  
13 boat was turned over and I was able to hold onto the side of  
14 the boat, took off my jacket and my shoes so I could swim or  
15 figure out what I could do to save my life. So I decided to  
16 swim to shore. I saw some land, and I tried swimming. And I  
17 got much too tired and I stopped. And I saw a private boat and  
18 took my arm and waved, "Help us, help, help." I put my arm up  
19 in the arm so everybody helped. And finally they came. They  
20 threw me a life jacket and then they threw me a rope. And then  
21 I was able to come in. And after that they brought in a few  
22 other people, either nine or ten. And that's all I can really  
23 tell you.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But I know the water -- I did forget one thing.

1 Prior to that, in just looking at the water, I could see the  
2 water very easily and it was very smooth. You know, I didn't  
3 see any waves or anything. And as far as any conditions like  
4 that, I didn't see any reason. But then, I don't know so much  
5 about water conditions when other boats go by and, you know,  
6 that type of thing. But it was a beautiful, smooth day. And I  
7 just never will forget this man thinking that we were all doing  
8 that for no reason.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. That's all I know. That's what happened. There's no  
11 more.

12 Q. Okay, Ms. Stevens --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- you said earlier that you were sitting on the left  
15 seat, aisle seat?

16 A. I was on the left --

17 Q. Left part?

18 A. -- back and I was on the aisle seat. I could very  
19 easily -- very easily see the captain. And I could watch him  
20 talk and asked him a couple of questions, even. But that's how  
21 it happened, very quickly.

22 Q. Okay, can you tell me a little bit before you  
23 actually boarded on the vessel, when you were at the dock area  
24 and you came onboard. And tell me about the captain and the  
25 passengers.

1           A.    What I could tell you is this.  I thought we were  
2 going on one of the larger vessels, and we found that that we  
3 were going on to this small one.  I didn't pay attention to the  
4 name or anything.  At any rate, "Oh, we're going on this small  
5 one."  And they were going, "This is much better because you  
6 can see so much more and the tour is much better."  You can get  
7 closer to the shore and it's much better than a larger vessel.  
8 I said, "Oh, okay, that sounded good to me."  Because I've been  
9 on a lot of ships and vessels and boats, you know, through my  
10 travels and stuff.  And I got on there.  I didn't have any fear  
11 of anything going wrong and sat down next to two people that I  
12 knew, that I sat by on the bus.  And I did not -- other than  
13 that, that's about all.  I made conversation with the people  
14 that I sat down by, and that was it.

15           Q.    Were you one of the first passengers?

16           A.    I think I was -- I'm not sure about that.  I think  
17 that I was one of the later ones.  I kind of followed the two  
18 ladies and sat right down with them.  It was quick and easy.  I  
19 didn't want to go way up to the front.  I just sat right there.

20           Q.    And you sat next to those ladies that you followed,  
21 then?

22           A.    Mm-hmm.

23           Q.    Do you remember who they are?

24           A.    A mother -- I believe her name is Carol Ann.

25           Q.    Okay.

1           A.     And then there was Ann.  And I knew them a little  
2 bit, because for the whole trip I was sitting across from them  
3 on the bus.  I know the mother didn't make it.

4           Q.     Did you observe anything else as far as the vessel is  
5 concerned, aside from that you thought maybe in the beginning  
6 it was a little small?

7           A.     I thought it was small.  But the people fit in there.  
8 I figured this is what they do all the time, so as long as  
9 there are seats for everyone -- they had it full, that's what  
10 they do all the time.  I didn't -- I had no fear at all or no  
11 question came to my mind.

12          Q.     Okay.

13          A.     Or anything like that.

14          Q.     Okay.  Can you describe to me the benches or the  
15 seats that you were --

16          A.     The bench I sat in only fit the three of us, and it  
17 was very sturdy and bolted to the floor.  And the one in front  
18 of me was, too, because I kind of put my arm around it.  So  
19 that's all I know.  The seat that I was sitting on was bolted  
20 to the board.

21          Q.     Okay.  And when you had conversation with the  
22 captain, how was his -- could you describe his demeanor to me?

23          A.     Well, he was willing to answer the question or two  
24 that I had, but I really can't remember the questions that I  
25 had.  But I do remember I had difficulty in understanding what

1 he said because he had a very groveling voice. His voice went  
2 real -- you know, not real easy to understand what he said.  
3 And I think these probably why I asked. I couldn't understand  
4 him, "Would you repeat that," you know, because I could hear  
5 him very easily when he wasn't on the stage system.

6 Q. Did you have good eye contact with him when you were  
7 having conversation?

8 A. Yes, indeed, yes.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. The look on his face and the way he rapidly turned  
11 that, the way I felt, I felt that something was not right, just  
12 as long as I live. I couldn't understand it. And that's  
13 exactly what happened. That is it.

14 Q. Were the windows -- can you tell me anything about  
15 the windows of the vessel?

16 A. Well, the windows right by me were totally open.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I thought they were all open in the whole boat, I  
19 hear now that they were not open. So the windows by me were  
20 open. That's all I can tell you.

21 Q. Okay. When you -- you were sitting with two other  
22 people on the bench. Were you comfortable?

23 A. Yes, I was. Yes. We were talking. I was very  
24 comfortable. No discomfort, you know, it was fine. I could  
25 see all around and everything. And if you wanted to take

1 pictures, you could. And there was one other thing I wanted to  
2 stress, too. No one stood up to take pictures. Everybody  
3 stayed in their seat. There was no walking around to take  
4 pictures. There was no room to do that.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. No.

7 Q. Do you by any chance knew the people that were  
8 sitting in front of you?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And what about next to you?

11 A. I knew both of them. I knew the mother and I knew  
12 the daughter.

13 Q. Okay, and then when you crossed the aisle, in the  
14 other seats on the right-hand side, do you know those people.

15 A. I knew the man and the lady. I knew them, yes.

16 Q. Do you know what their names are?

17 A. Their name is Bob and Bev U-Z-A-R-S-K-I.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Now wait one minute. I've got one thing about that.  
20 After we got off of that and I see these people, later they  
21 told me, "I'm so sorry I banged into you," because he came  
22 right smashing into me. And he really apologized. Well,  
23 that's something he couldn't help, but he felt really bad that  
24 he had to come crashing into me.

25 Q. Do you remember how you actually got out of the water

1 and started swimming?

2 A. Well, what I did -- evidently what I -- it happened  
3 so fast. What I did was I did, saw the water, saw the light,  
4 and like I was going to take a stroke or swim, breast stroke,  
5 and went up to the top. As soon as I got up there I could see  
6 what was going on and I grabbed onto the boat next to the man  
7 who was calling for his wife, "My wife, my wife, my wife." I  
8 could see I had to get out of there because the ship was  
9 sinking. And so that's what I did. I just took care of myself  
10 and started swimming to some land. And then I couldn't go and  
11 then I saw the other boat happen. But that man was so  
12 distraught and tearful. He lost his wife. He couldn't hold  
13 onto her anymore.

14 Q. Okay. Do you remember the captain mentioning  
15 anything at all about a safety briefing or safety instructions?

16 A. Absolutely nothing.

17 Q. Do you know where the life jackets were?

18 A. And I didn't think about them, either. That's  
19 terrible that I didn't. But I thought people -- you know,  
20 people not being able to move very good. You know, as an after  
21 thought it should have been done, but nothing, nothing at all.  
22 I didn't see any horns or anything, you know. There was  
23 nothing in safety gear that was visible to me.

24 Q. Okay. Did you hear any kind of strange noises during  
25 your trip or after your trip?

1           A.    I do remember Darryl was one of the characters, one  
2 of the people that saved people, and he dove in and was taking  
3 people ashore. I mean, I talked to him and we said  
4 afterwards -- a day later. And he said -- "did you notice we  
5 thought it was the engine or something?" I said, "I didn't  
6 notice any of that, no."

7           Q.    Okay. What were you wearing that day; do you  
8 remember?

9           A.    Yes, I do. I was wearing a light Polo short-sleeved  
10 top, light-colored khaki three-quarter leg pants, and I had a  
11 pair of sandals on. And I had a green, not check but green and  
12 light green plaid jacket on.

13          Q.    Okay.

14          A.    My glasses did not come off. I can't believe it. My  
15 glasses did not come off all this time, too.

16          Q.    When you were looking around during the trip on the  
17 tour, what did you see? What did you notice in the area?

18          A.    He was pointing out different big mansion homes and  
19 the things attached to them, mostly just homes and estate, like  
20 that. And that's about what I remember.

21          Q.    Okay.

22          A.    I'm sorry, if I heard the names I could tell you if I  
23 heard it or not, but I don't remember exactly what he said.

24          Q.    Right.

25          A.    But he did give a pretty good story. I mean, he did

1 do a good job on that.

2 Q. Okay. What about traffic, did you see any other  
3 vessels in that area?

4 A. When I first got -- when we first started out I  
5 remembered seeing a big ship and it was called the Mohican, you  
6 know. And I thought that's a nice name for this area, you  
7 know. And it went by. I don't remember seeing any other  
8 vessels at all. I don't -- I did not see any other ones. The  
9 one I did see, but it was in the early part of the tour.

10 Q. Do you recall how early on in the tour you saw it?

11 A. I'd say within the first maybe 10 minutes, but I  
12 couldn't swear to it.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Again, I thought we were going to be going on one of  
15 these long -- one of these bigger ships, but then they told us  
16 this. So -- and I was satisfied with going on the smaller one  
17 because of the advantages of going on the smaller one.

18 Q. From the position of your seat, do you feel that you  
19 had a good view?

20 A. Yes. I could see left. I could turn back. I could  
21 turn to the right. I had a good view, yes.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I was very pleased with what I could -- and the  
24 breeze, and I had the window, and I could see well. And it was  
25 good.

1 Q. Okay. You felt comfortable during the whole ride  
2 with the vessel itself?

3 A. I'm comfortable about anything.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Until that very second I felt the unusual evenness of  
6 the boat, the shaking or whatever.

7 Q. Do you recall who picked you up?

8 A. Yes, it was a couple, a man and a woman, and they had  
9 two dogs in their boat.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And they -- they're the ones that picked me up, and a  
12 few other people, too. They were absolutely wonderful. They  
13 tried to tell the people don't hang on, try to swim away.  
14 Because they were very, very good. And they tried -- they all  
15 tried -- "I'm coming to help." They tried to get all the  
16 boaters to come in. They seemed to stay away. Finally, I  
17 guess a lot of people came to help. In the beginning they just  
18 kind of shied away and they didn't know what to do or, you  
19 know --

20 Q. Right.

21 A. Or they felt they couldn't drive their boat back  
22 within the situation. You never know. I don't know.

23 Q. And then you ended up actually -- did you go to the  
24 hospital?

25 A. I sat on the shore for quite some time. They gave me

1 a blanket and a towel, and I was still wet. My chest was  
2 really hurting. I thought it was my heart or something. I was  
3 really scared. I had a lot of pain, and I didn't really want  
4 to move too much because any time I moved it would hurt awful.  
5 And then after they come and changed my clothes and took my  
6 blood pressure. And before I knew it, they put me in an  
7 ambulance with another lady. And they said -- they said they  
8 didn't think it was my heart, but they were going to take me to  
9 the hospital and check me out anyway.

10 Q. Did you stay overnight?

11 A. No, we were discharged and we went to the hotel.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I forget the name of the hotel. Northern Resort, I  
14 believe it was Northern Resort. There they had -- they had the  
15 Red Cross there and the nuns and they had the people from the  
16 cancer area there, and they provided us with whatever we  
17 needed.

18 Q. Okay, did you talk to any of the members from the Red  
19 Cross?

20 A. I don't think I needed anything, you know, to ask  
21 them.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I know when I was in the -- I was very well taken  
24 care of at the hospital, too.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. At Balls Hospital, I believe.

2 Q. Yeah, that's correct. That's correct.

3 A. They took excellent care of me, excellent. They were  
4 wonderful.

5 Q. Did you sustain any injuries?

6 A. What I have is in my neck. What I have is a skeletal  
7 muscle type of injury. And every time I cough or move or --  
8 it's very painful in my chest. However, it's getting better.  
9 They told me don't go to work for a week and go see a doctor.  
10 But I had to go back to work and I did go yesterday and got --  
11 I didn't have a neck brace. I do have a neck brace. And  
12 emotional, it's very hard for me to stop thinking about this  
13 all the time and getting to sleep and that type of thing.

14 MS. BURER: Okay. I'm going to go ahead and turn it  
15 over to Mr. Ford.

16 BY MR. FORD:

17 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Stevens. This is Bob Ford. I'm  
18 the investigator in charge with the NTSB.

19 A. How do you do?

20 Q. Very good. Have you taken a lot of boat rides in  
21 your life?

22 A. Quite a few.

23 Q. And so you have a fairly good feel when you get on a  
24 boat how it's riding?

25 A. Yes, I do. I think I do.

1 Q. Okay. Before I get into that, was there another crew  
2 member on board identified?

3 A. Oh, just Mr. Paris. That was the only person.

4 Q. Did you hear any discussions about anyone acting as a  
5 crew member, another crew member?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Not at all, you said? I think we're --

8 A. No, I didn't hear anyone else.

9 Q. Okay. I want to just kind of walk you through the  
10 sequence of events. I certainly don't want to put words in  
11 your mouth. I just want to see if I have it straight what  
12 you're saying. The boat apparently left the dock, and from  
13 what you're saying it sounds like it remained fairly level or  
14 stable --

15 A. Absolutely, absolutely, yes.

16 Q. It never tipped to one side or the other?

17 A. I didn't notice -- it might have been a little bit,  
18 but nothing -- nothing to exaggerate, just very normal.

19 Q. When you were looking towards the bow, the front, did  
20 it look like water was being pushed up, or did you feel you  
21 were also in a -- in a bow to stern direction, fore to after  
22 direction? Did it look fairly level?

23 A. Everything looked level and smooth.

24 Q. Okay. So now right up to the point where you said  
25 you felt something and it took a tip -- correct?

1 A. Exactly.

2 Q. And then you looked at the captain and he was  
3 reacting at the wheel. Is that correct?

4 A. Exactly.

5 Q. And then, as I said, I don't want to put words in  
6 your mouth. I just want to make sure I have the sequence  
7 straight. Is that when the passengers began to slide?

8 A. Oh, this is -- I would say yes.

9 Q. Okay, so the passengers did not start sliding and  
10 then the boat heeling. Would that be correct?

11 A. Well, I would say it was like this. I looked at  
12 him -- I felt the jiggle like. I looked at him to see what he  
13 was doing and everything let loose. That's when everything let  
14 loose. That's all the time I had, to quick and look to see  
15 what was going on, and then it started tipping within seconds,  
16 you know, after his turning that vehicle terrible fast and  
17 everything.

18 Q. Okay, now you were on the aisle side on the left side  
19 of the boat?

20 A. That's correct. I was on the inside aisle on the  
21 row, yes.

22 Q. So maybe for a second, if you can just kind of close  
23 your eyes and think. At the first jiggle that you felt, did  
24 you move towards the right or did you move towards a passenger  
25 which would have been a little to the left of you?

1           A.    I moved towards to look at him, but they couldn't  
2 right.

3           Q.    Okay, but you don't know which way the boat moved.  
4 Did it heel to the right or did it heel to the left?

5           A.    The boat went to the left, definitely.

6           Q.    The first jiggle you felt the boat went to the left?

7           A.    I think so, yes.

8           Q.    Okay, thank you very much I think that's -- now I  
9 have to answer these questions. And it's not I'm trying -- I'm  
10 not trying to challenge you, it's just -- it's something we  
11 need to ask, because sometimes memories can be influenced. Did  
12 you talk to any of the other passengers?

13          A.    Prior to when, afterwards or --

14          Q.    When you went home, did you go back with the group or  
15 did you go back separately?

16          A.    I went back -- I went back in the ambulance.

17          Q.    No, I mean to go back to Michigan?

18          A.    Oh, I'm sorry. I was on the bus, on the original  
19 bus.

20          Q.    And did you talk to any of the other passengers about  
21 the accident?

22          A.    Mostly they did most of the talking and I was  
23 listening, because I wanted to get it off my mind.

24          Q.    Okay. Did you hear things that you may have  
25 disagreed with, with what other passengers were saying?

1           A.    Boy, that's a tough one.  I sat next to two girls  
2 that didn't even take the tour, so they weren't really talking  
3 about that, about it too much.

4           Q.    Okay, so basically what -- it's pretty much your  
5 recollection of what happened and not -- like I say, I'm not  
6 trying to question you.

7           A.    I understand.

8           Q.    Okay, good.  So now the next question is, how about  
9 media accounts, have you been reading the papers and is there  
10 anything in the media that really jumped out and you said,  
11 "That is correct," or something that jumps out and says, "No,  
12 that's total nonsense"?

13          A.    What I heard and saw, that the seats were not -- we  
14 used -- I said that's absolutely wrong, because where I was  
15 sitting it was all nailed down.  It was bolted down.  That was  
16 a big thing that I noticed.

17          Q.    Okay, and just one other question.  When you looked  
18 at the captain, would you say he was swinging the wheel in one  
19 direction?  Was he swinging it back and forth?  Do you recall  
20 that?

21          A.    The wheel all in one direction, I don't to counter  
22 clockwise or which way.  But he was swinging that wheel so  
23 rapidly, very, very rapidly.

24          Q.    Okay, and just one final question.  If you could just  
25 give me the sequence -- if you recall, you said it first went

1 to one direction and then the other and then it capsized. Can  
2 you tell me in how many steps that -- from heeling before it  
3 capsized?

4 A. I would say maybe two.

5 Q. Two. So it went from one side to the other. So it  
6 would have gone to the right and then it would have gone to the  
7 left and gone over?

8 A. That's the way I recall it.

9 Q. Thank you very much. Like I say, I'm not trying to  
10 put words in your mouth. I'm just trying to --

11 A. I would say that would be correct.

12 MR. FORD: Okay, I have to step out. I really wanted  
13 to talk to you, and I want to thank you very much for your  
14 information. It is very helpful. And I hope you start getting  
15 some sleep. Your information is really going to help us.  
16 Thank you, very much.

17 MS. STEVENS: Me, too, I'm glad to be able to help.

18 MR. FORD: Mariette.

19 BY MAJ. RIVENBURGH:

20 Q. Ms. Stevens, this is Steve Rivenburgh, with the New  
21 York State Park Police. I'd like to follow up just on a couple  
22 of questions. Are you still there?

23 A. Yes, I am.

24 Q. Okay. We apparently have a little bit of an  
25 intermittent connection here.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Okay. You mentioned you were looking at the water  
3 and it appeared smooth, no waves or anything. Can you  
4 elaborate on the directions you were looking from your position  
5 in the boat?

6 A. Just before everything happened I was looking at the  
7 water next to the cabin. I could look down and see the water.  
8 And that was actually the last time I looked in the water, and  
9 it was very, very smooth, just a little bit three or four inch  
10 ripple. It was very smooth.

11 Q. Okay, that would be out on his side of the vessel?

12 A. His side.

13 Q. On the right side, correct?

14 A. Right. That's right.

15 Q. A small ripple, huh?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you recall seeing other -- any other vessels in  
18 the area traveling with you?

19 A. No. Only in the beginning I did see the Mohican, and  
20 that was all I saw. But maybe I didn't look at them when they  
21 went by. So as far as my eyes, I could not see any other ones.

22 Q. Okay. Now you mentioned seeing the Mohican go past  
23 and you've also mentioned that you've taken several boat tours.  
24 Do you recall the boat that you were on going through the wake  
25 of the Mohican?

1 A. What was that again, please?

2 Q. Okay. Do you recall the vessel that you were riding  
3 on going through the wake that was left by the Mohican?

4 A. I was not aware that there was a wake that was  
5 created by the Mohican. I was not aware of that at all.

6 Q. Okay, you didn't feel it, didn't see it?

7 A. I didn't hear about it and I didn't know anything  
8 about it.

9 Q. Okay, I'm just making a couple notes, so I haven't  
10 gone away from you yet.

11 A. Okay. That's okay.

12 MS. BURER: My apologies.

13 MS. STEVENS: Okay.

14 BY MAJ. RIVENBURGH:

15 Q. Okay, now you mentioned that you saw the -- you saw  
16 the captain turning the wheel.

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And Bob has asked you about it and you've had a few  
19 moments in the back of your mind for your mind to work. Can  
20 you recall when you're sitting there what direction he may have  
21 been turning that wheel?

22 A. I don't know, to the clockwise or counter clockwise.  
23 I don't know.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. I know that he was turning very rapidly. His eyes

1 were big. And that was the end. I knew that was the end.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. That quick, very few. No time to check which way,  
4 you know. I just saw him moving the wheel.

5 Q. Okay, when you felt the jiggle, that's when you  
6 looked back at him and you -- was that when he was turning the  
7 wheel?

8 A. Exactly. As soon as I felt it uneven, I looked to  
9 see what he was going to do or what was going on. And when I  
10 saw that, "Oh, my God. What is he doing?" You know,  
11 everything went to my mind and everything just happened  
12 quickly, and I did what I had to do to get out.

13 Q. So he was already turning the wheel when you looked  
14 at him?

15 A. Exactly. He was already onto that wheel. I would  
16 say -- I don't know how long, but that's what created that  
17 problem as far as I can see.

18 Q. Okay. Where was the island in respect to your  
19 location at that point?

20 A. You mean when I got off, when I swam up, you mean?

21 Q. No, no, while you were still on board.

22 A. Oh, it was right to the left. I could see the houses  
23 and things there.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Oh, yeah, I see what you mean, yeah.

1 Q. You felt the boat go left, then right, then back to  
2 left again?

3 A. I would say so, yes.

4 Q. I don't want to put words in your mouth.

5 A. I know, I know. I would say to the right and then to  
6 the left. That's what I would say. That's what I think.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I heard the movement. I'm going to keep it this way.  
9 I felt an uneven something going on, unsteady, and then I  
10 looked. I didn't make a nod to whether it was left or right,  
11 because it happened so quickly. I wasn't interested in that.

12 Q. Okay. Can you give me a -- I was going to ask you  
13 for a better description of "jiggle," but I don't think I will.

14 A. A better description of what?

15 Q. A better description of "jiggle" or "unevenness."

16 A. Jiggle, oh -- that's all I could -- I just know I  
17 felt the unevenness and that was it.

18 Q. Okay. When -- after you got on the boat, while it  
19 was still at the dock, do you recall seeing any other crew  
20 member other than the captain?

21 A. Only the captain.

22 Q. Only the captain, even at the dock?

23 A. Yes. There was a lady that walked us to it that was  
24 telling us this is the best way to go, because you can see more  
25 and it's a better tour by going on the smaller vessel. But she

1 did not get on or anything. She just was there on the dock.

2 Q. Okay. Now you've mentioned Carol Ann and Ann and Bob  
3 and Beverly.

4 A. Right.

5 Q. You've mentioned that you did not know the people on  
6 the seats in front of you directly.

7 A. Well, I didn't look at their faces. I wouldn't know  
8 them, because it was a pretty large group. I may have seen  
9 them and known them before, but just from the back I didn't  
10 know who -- I did not know who was sitting in front of me, no.

11 Q. Okay. How about across the aisle in front of Bob and  
12 Beverly?

13 A. Across the aisle to the right I didn't recognize the  
14 two -- I did recognize the man that was there on -- oh, what is  
15 his name? His name is -- oh, he was the man that lost his  
16 wife, and they're from Warren. I do remember seeing them  
17 across the aisle farther down, but that's all I really took  
18 notice of. Because I know him because I met him in the morning  
19 at the school, when we boarded the bus to take the trip.

20 Q. What was his name, again?

21 A. I don't know if we have it. I don't think we have it  
22 here. I don't have his name. I know it's in one of the -- I  
23 do not know their name right off.

24 Q. Okay, not a problem. What was he, a couple of seats  
25 forward of you?

1           A.    I would say they were about halfway down on the  
2 right-hand side.

3           Q.    Okay.

4           A.    That's the only people I can recognize from the back,  
5 because he was baldheaded, and I knew him because I sat in the  
6 car while we waited for the bus that morning to board the bus.

7           Q.    Okay, okay.

8           A.    Right offhand.  That doesn't mean any -- you know.

9           Q.    That means you were enjoying yourself?

10          A.    Yes, I was.  I certainly was.  No fears at all, and I  
11 felt comfortable.  The girls waited for me.  They didn't feel  
12 any -- they weren't -- never mentioned, "Gee, this is a little  
13 rickety boat.  I wonder if their boat --" nothing like that was  
14 said, very normal.  We were anxious to hear what he had to say  
15 and take the trip and go onto our next little adventure.

16          Q.    Okay, and you did say when you felt the jiggle and  
17 looked at the captain you did notice there was just a small  
18 ripple out on the right side of the vessel, correct?

19          A.    Yes, because I was kind of staring at it and looking  
20 at it, yes.

21          Q.    Okay.  I had one more question, but I've got to tell  
22 you it slipped my memory.  It's gone.  It's not going to come  
23 back.  So --

24          A.    I did the best I could do and as honest and as much  
25 as I can remember.  I can't do anymore than that.

1 Q. Well, that's all -- that's all we ever ask.

2 A. Okay.

3 MAJ. RIVENBURGH: I'm going to turn it back over to  
4 Mariette.

5 MS. BURER: Ms. Stevens, I'm going to go ahead and  
6 conclude this interview, but I really don't want you to hang  
7 up. Because I still need to get some personal information from  
8 you, but I don't want it to be on the recorder. Okay, so what  
9 I'm going to do is turn off the recorder. And that concludes  
10 this interview.

11 MS. STEVENS: Okay.

12 (Whereupon, the interview in the above-entitled  
13 matter was concluded.)

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:            Investigation of MV Ethan Allen  
                                 Lake George, New York  
                                 October 2, 2005  
                                 Interview of Eunice Stevens

DOCKET NUMBER:            DCA 06 MM 001

PLACE:                        Washington, D.C.

DATE:                         October 12, 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.

-----  
Phyllis Jarvis  
Transcriber