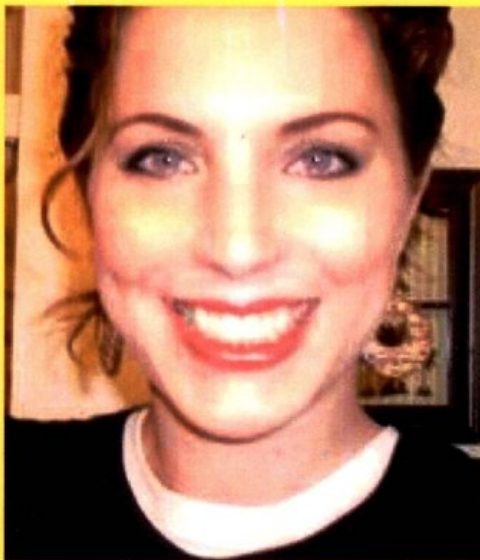


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Exclusive Interview With Jessica Cooper Daughter Of The Late William Cooper

(Please Note Reservations About Some Of The
Content) By Timothy Green Beckley

Recently we received an unexpected email from Jessica Cooper requesting that we get in touch her as she was anxious to talk about her father, whom she understood we knew relatively well having published **DEATH OF A CONSPIRACY SALESMAN**, following what some were saying was a government organized "assassination." There were some issues she wanted to have clarified and some things she wanted to discuss. We asked if we could record the conversation and print a transcript of it in this volume.

Jessica readily agreed and we spoke for a little over an hour. She admitted that she was uncertain about some parts and so we offered her the opportunity to read over the transcript and make any necessary factual changes. We explained that we had a deadline and had to get this in to the printer on a specific date. Unfortunately, the time has come and gone and we have not received

any changes, though Jessica told us that she wanted to make some alterations in what she had said so as to clarify some points and perhaps to correct others. We are running the interview without these changes because Jessica has been leading a complicated life lately, which we understand.

We will update this interview if necessary and will continue our discussion hopefully in future issues of our two publications *Bizarre Bazaar* or *Conspiracy Journal*. In any case, the interview contains some very fascinating information that friends, associates and perhaps those not so pleasantly disposed to "Wild Bill" will find of immense

interest. So here we go. Let's say hello to Jessica Cooper.

Timothy Green Beckley: Jessica, how old were you when you last saw your father Bill Cooper and under what circumstances?

Cooper: I think I was nineteen. I had gone to meet him and I was going to stay with him for fifteen days, at his house in Eagar, Arizona.

Beckley: Now what were the circum-

stances of that visit?

Cooper: Well, I had found him online. I found his website and I sent him an email saying "You're my Dad and I'm your daughter." He emailed me back and we communicated several times through email and then he called me. We spoke over the phone for a while and he bought—not too much time passed—me plane tickets to go and meet him. So I went.

Beckley: Now, previous to that, when had you separated? When I met Bill he was married to a different lady and had another child that I originally had thought was you but obviously it wasn't. When had you left him or parted company as a child?

Cooper: I was three and a half.

Beckley: So you had had no communication with him from the age of three and a half to nineteen?

Cooper: Absolutely none.

Beckley: What had you heard about him? Anything at all?

Cooper: I had heard that he was in the military and that he loved my Mom very much but that he was abusive and an alcoholic and

that's why she left him. And I didn't really want to hear those things, but I just didn't really ask because that seemed to be all my mother could say.

Beckley: When you went to visit him in Arizona, did you realize the pressure that he was under or who he was? Obviously, he had quite a bit of notoriety. He was quite a controversial person. People tended either to like him and think he was very sincere, but on the other hand there were people who didn't think too much of him at all. What had you heard about him as far as his controversial nature goes?

Cooper: I had really learned about him from his website and speaking to him. I'd never heard of him or his infamy in his areas of work and expertise before I found him. And I found him via his website so I only learned positive things because that was his forum. Not somebody else's who was critiquing him. But when I got to Eagar, I definitely realized that it was real. I mean, I was never into any of that, conspiracy theory, anything like that. He had to have someone else run all his er-

rands for him (because he would have been arrested if he had left his secluded retreat). To me, he seemed like a very intelligent man, so he wasn't just paranoid. I could see a basis for his paranoia, just all around. There were people watching him and I could see this with my own eyes. I wasn't in to any of this so I wouldn't have seen it if it wasn't there. This told me it was all very real, (not just a mental aberration).

Beckley: So did you say to him upon your arrival, "Pops, what's going on here?" Would you describe it as a fortified compound?

Cooper: No, it was a house. I would describe it as "well-defended," not fortified. It was on top of a hill, so he had a great view of anyone approaching. You really couldn't approach him without him knowing it unless you were dropped from a helicopter. And he had guns everywhere, so that basically if anybody approached through any area of the house, he would be armed and able to defend himself and put up a fight.

Beckley: You say guns. Are we talking about semiautomatic, automatic—

Cooper: No, I didn't see any automatics or semiautomatic weapons. I don't know anything about handguns. They might have been semiautomatic, but I wouldn't know. But they just looked like handguns, revolvers, shotguns or rifles or whatever. I'm not a gun expert so I wouldn't quote me. They were of different shapes and sizes.

Beckley: In other words, there was more than one gun lying on the coffee table?

Cooper: Well, he didn't have multiple guns in one area, but there was a gun here in this room, a gun here in that room. He always had one with him when he left the house. And the law enforcement agencies knew that.

Beckley: Did he tell you why he was under siege?

Cooper: Sort of. At least half of our conversations encompassed that type of stuff. The other half was just patching up things as father and daughter. He sort of said, "The government has federal warrants out for my arrest, and the warrants technically are for tax evasion." His thought was that they would like to apprehend him because of the things that

he said and the things that he knew. And no one can know for sure, but he

had a very real fear and a very real reason to be afraid. They definitely wanted him.

Beckley: Was he the sole occupant of this house? Were there other people that were there defending his freedom?

Cooper: There was a man—I don't use this word often, but I will literally say I hate that man. He didn't live there, but he practically did. He may as well have. He did everything for my father. He was wonderful to my father. He got his mail for him. I think he did his grocery shopping. Anything that my father would have had to leave the house for, where he could have possibly been apprehended by the police, This person helped him with his website and his work (in the patriot movement) and all of that. So he was there a lot, but he didn't actually live in the house.

Beckley: Why would you dislike him so much, if he was doing all this for your father?

Cooper: Because of how he treated me when my father died. It was horrific. I had letters coming from people I didn't even know

who were at his funeral who were commenting on it.

Beckley: Now how many children did Bill have altogether?

Cooper: He had first, my sister Jennifer. She lives in Italy and I talk to her. And he had her with a woman named Angie. Then he had my brother Tony. I'm very close with Anthony. He lives in California. I can't remember his mom's name. Robin perhaps. And he had me, with my mother, Dolly. And then he had Dorothy and Allison, with Annie.

Beckley: Annie is the lady that I met and the little girl I assumed was you. So getting back your dad's "associate," why would this gentleman dislike you so much? You're a legitimate child of Bill's. You didn't come there looking for anything in particular, am I right?

Cooper: No, I didn't. But once my father died and I was the only family member at the funeral, I posed a legitimate threat in the eyes of these people. And it was very clear that that's how they saw me. Because they even put traffic cones, blocking off the driveway to my father's house, so I couldn't get there.

Beckley: What revelations would you have, though, that would be so upsetting to them?

Cooper: I didn't have any. They were just afraid, I don't know, probably that I could take everything if I wanted, if I went to court. Saying I'm the only child who was close to him or something. Maybe I could get his house. I didn't want any of that. I think they were just afraid of that. I went to the house and I saw his will. And each separate page was for a different person. So I don't know if I was in it or not.

Beckley: I knew Bill fairly well. I don't think you could describe him as a wealthy individual.

Cooper: I don't know. I don't care. I didn't want any of that. All I wanted was a set of books he promised me so I'd have something from him to hand down to my kids.

Beckley: How long were you actually there for? How long did you stay on the property?

Cooper: That's a tough one. Let me think. My memory's really bad time-wise, and I don't have any way to—

Beckley: Well, are we talking about three days? A week? More than that?

Cooper: I'm thinking it was about a week. It was probably five to seven days. We had a really wonderful time together until the day all hell broke loose.

Beckley: Were you there when the confrontation with the police took place?

Cooper: Yes, I called them.

Beckley: You called them?

Cooper: What do you think happened?

Beckley: You tell me. I wasn't there. I mean the newspaper reports basically—

Cooper: Oh, no, no. We're not talking about that confrontation. No.

Beckley: So did you have a confrontation with him?

Cooper: Here is the way it went down. . . we were watching a movie and he'd been drinking straight vodka. And he started yelling at me over whether or not some movie was Blackboard Jungle, and I got upset because he was yelling and it was starting to scare me. I said, "Okay, I thought we were just talking about a movie. I'm going to go in my

room." I went in my room and he came outside the door and was yelling and screaming at me. I was very afraid because my whole life, all I'd heard was that he when he was drunk, he was violent. So I was very frightened, and I tried to call my friend and he got on the line and said, "Why are you making this phone call?" Blah, blah, blah. So I blocked the door with the dresser and I know that the only thing you can call when someone's on the line, the only thing that will go through is 911. So I called the police. One of the people who worked at the police station is the girlfriend of my dad's associate. So I didn't know how safe I was with them either but I called them. And I said, "He's not threatened to hurt me and has not hurt me. He hasn't touched me at all. I'm only afraid. Don't do anything to him. I would just like you to come so that I can safely get out of the house. Please take me away from the house." Well, they did and he was very upset about that, because to him involving the police at all is a huge form of—this is a bad thing to do.

Beckley: Was that the only time you saw

him then?

Cooper: That week I was there, yeah. I talked with him forever after that. I spoke with him a lot. I had a relationship with him over the computer and over the phone. He sent me a computer and he set me up with an email account. And he set it up as "Daddy Loves Me" at hotmail.com, and my password was "mdemms," which is "My Daddy's eyes, my Mother's smile." And he got an 800 number so I could call him anytime from anywhere for free. He was a very loving Dad.

Beckley: When you went to visit him, how long was this before the final incident that took his life?

Cooper: About two years.

Beckley: And that would be what year then?

Cooper: I think I visited him in 1999.

Beckley: You were there for about a week. You said you had read about him on the internet, so you must have known then that he had some interest in UFOs, the Kennedy assassination, different conspiracy theories. He was known as a patriot. I'm not sure exactly what

that—I guess that has different definitions to different people. But he was a world class speaker. In fact, I was just thinking tonight, Jessica. There's a place in Rachel, Nevada, called the Little A-Lee Inn—you've probably

seen that on TV—which is near Area 51. And I sponsored Bill out there for a weekend seminar and skywatch. I was going to say we packed the place but the Inn only holds about forty people. It's in the middle of the desert, and in those days people had just started traveling out there. And of course we did sponsor him at some conferences in Phoenix and San Diego. On a hot summer evening, when the temperature was probably close to 100 degrees, he packed, on a Monday night, well over one hundred people, and they stayed for five and a half hours, to hear him converse about all of these subjects. Did he take you into his confidence and tell you about any of these things? About his military career? I know one of his claims, in *Behold, A Pale Horse*, is that he had a UFO sighting while he was in the Navy.

Cooper: That's true. He told me that. One rose up right out of the ocean. He told me—

I'm going to be perfectly honest with you, because it's my goal that any lies on the part of the government or my Dad— because I'm sick of it. He told me that there was a truthful basis for everything he said. That some things he elaborated on, mostly alien stuff. He saw that saucer rise up out of the ocean when he was in the military. But some of the things he said he sensationalized to make people want to hear it, basically, like any good writer would. Hypothesize things.

Beckley: He did say, while he was in the military, he had seen some top secret papers, the MJ-12 papers or some documents that purported to tell about aliens who were collaborating with the government —

Cooper: I know that's true, because when I was a little girl my mom and I—she packed up everything when she left my father, including some of his things. One of which was a set of encyclopedias. And when I was ten, we were unpacking a storage locker and we found a set of encyclopedias. In one of them were a bunch of government papers that actually said "Top Secret" on them, which I thought they only ac-

tually wrote that on Top Secret papers in the movies. But apparently not. I guess we were hiding them for him and we still have those somewhere.

Beckley: You think you still have these papers?

Cooper: They're somewhere in a storage locker with black widows in California. That is if my mom didn't get rid of that stuff. So it's a possibility.

Beckley: What else did he tell you about his military career?

Cooper: His military career, he was a little bit sneaky about. He was a deep sea diving instructor. After he lost his leg he couldn't do the actual diving anymore so he became an instructor.

Beckley: How did he lose his leg?

Cooper: That he lied about. He drove under a semi and lost his leg. It had nothing to do with the government or anything else.

Beckley: In other words, it was a traffic accident. What else about his military career? Where was he stationed? What did he do while he was in the military?

Cooper: Unfortunately I don't know much about when he was in the military. All I know is that he was a deep sea diving instructor, and that he was in the army as well, I believe, and the navy. I don't know anything else about his military career.

Beckley: So he got interested in UFOs and all because of his sighting?

Cooper: Yes. That and seeing things that he was lied to about that were supposed to be secret and not being allowed to say anything and being treated like he didn't see anything. . . or that he was crazy when he could see these things with his own eyes. It made him very suspicious. When you go into the military, you're supposed to have this sense of—that you believe everything they say and you don't question anything and yes sir, yes ma'am and that's it. But he started to question that and to become upset. Then he started to look into things and he started to learn more and more. Like the JFK assassination. He became interested in (who wanted Kennedy dead or what the reason was for Kennedy being killed).

Beckley: When did he started doing this ~ how long had he been out of the military?

Cooper: I tried to ask my mother, and she said it was—he was only just starting to be interested in this stuff when he left us.

Beckley: He was a friend of John Lear. Do you know who John Lear is?

Cooper: No.

Beckley: Well, you know, the Lear aircraft. John Lear's his son and lives in Las Vegas and is involved in the UFO cover-up mystery as well. I guess somehow Bill and John hooked up, and Bill started telling him about some of these things that he'd seen in the military. And John Lear posted some of this on the earliest versions of the internet bulletin boards. Also, your dad had published a position paper which involved what had happened to him in the military that revealed a lot. He was immensely interested in the various secret societies. Did he tell you anything about that?

Cooper: No. He didn't tell much except for the things that I've told you. It's really what the government tried to do that I know about.

Beckley: Okay, so you're there for several days, probably a week or so. Then you leave after this incident with Bill involving his drinking and so forth. Did you return to California then? Is that where you were living?

Cooper: Yes, in California.

Beckley: And at this point he was under surveillance by the FBI? When you went to visit him?

Cooper: I mean I can't be sure, but there was a white van with dark windows that was always parked down at the end of the road leading up to the house. It was like the vehicle never left, if you know what I mean. My assumption is that it could have been keeping surveillance on him. What agency were they with? I can't say for sure.

Beckley: You mentioned to me that you were approached by the FBI-

Cooper: Federal marshals.

Beckley: Under what circumstances was that, and how did you find out that there was a problem with the IRS and the feds?

Cooper: I already knew about the IRS. But can I just clear one thing up?

Beckley: Absolutely.

Cooper: Annie and Dorothy and Alison, they weren't sent out of the country for any vacation. Annie turned witness against my Dad. She left him. The government hid her.

Beckley: You mean the government hid her? They put her in some kind of a witness protection program? I don't believe Bill would be the type of person—like a gangster or anything like that!

Cooper: What I mean is that there are some fanatics into my dad who might search her out.

Beckley: Tell us about the incident with the federal marshals.

Cooper: Okay. I was home. I was living with my mother. I had to live with her because I had just had my second back surgery and I was recuperating and couldn't really work at the time. And they just searched me right out because they had obviously been tapping my phone. They knew everything about me, my life . . . everything! They sent a young, good looking man. I'm sure they did it on purpose because I was a young twenty-year-old girl.

And they said that they knew I had gone to visit my father. They knew that while I was there to visit him, he had taken me to eat at a restaurant in another town. And that he never left his house except when I was there to visit him. He also took me to the grocery store and let me pick out a bunch of groceries. I wanted to cook for my dad while I was visiting him.

The Feds wanted me to go and visit him again. They wanted me to take one of their agents undercover working as my friend. To go and visit him under the guise that because of what happened last time I didn't feel safe going alone, which seemed to be a very plausible explanation. And have him take me out to the same restaurant again. And excuse myself to use the restroom. While I would be in the restroom, perfectly safe and out of harm's way, other agents, disguised as customers in the restaurant, would arrest my father. And the agent with me would never break cover. The reason they wanted to do it this way was because, in his words, quote, "We can't afford another incident like Ruby Ridge or Waco."

I didn't even know what Ruby Ridge was.

I knew what Waco was, and because I knew about Waco, I knew he must have been talking about two such incidents of bad publicity where they just wanted to arrest them based on some little warrant for some little thing like taxes and ended up shedding some innocent blood.

Beckley: A lot of people don't pay their taxes under various other circumstances.

Cooper: Tax evasion.

Beckley: Bill didn't make tons of money. They don't normally send anybody if they owe the government a couple of thousand dollars off to jail... OR SHOOT THEM!

Cooper: My dad had some money. Not a lot, but he had plenty. He could say one night on his radio show that he didn't have the money for this or his CD changer was broken. I swear to God, the next day, overnight mail, he would have a brand new five-disc changer sent to him by a fan. There were checks, there were money orders. He had a radio station in his house that he broadcast out of. Many cars. He had two dogs, Sugar Bear and Crusher. Crusher was shot by the police. The bastards!

He had a big house on the top of the hill. He had a huge satellite dish. A truck, an old 50s car. He was fixing up a limo for me, which I didn't want. He had money. Ask and you shall receive in his business. And when people love you in that business . . . I'm serious.

Beckley: So obviously you told the Feds you weren't about to do this.

Cooper: Well, wait. I'm not finished saying what they said.

Beckley: Okay.

Cooper: They also told me that my father had made the statement that he would never be taken alive. That wasn't all they said to me. They asked me questions. They wanted me to tell them the complete layout of his house, all the rooms, how big they were, and where every gun I had seen was. And I told them, "Don't go try and arrest him. He always has his guns. When he leaves the house, there's a gun in his car. Just don't do it. Because if you don't want it to end bad, don't even try." That's why they wanted to do the restaurant thing because that would be one place I hadn't seen him take his gun, was into the restaurant.

Beckley: When I first visited him in Verde, Arizona, we met at the Dairy Queen and he had a gun with him. He had it on the seat of the car next to him all the time he was driving. I didn't really blink. I figured he is trying to show me he is packing. Well in Arizona you can pack legally as long as the gun is kept in full view.

Cooper: He had a wooden leg, and that's a pretty good place to hide a gun. But you know, I'm his daughter, and he might not have wanted to have the gun in the restaurant around me in case something happened. He was different around me. He was different. There was Bill Cooper the conspiracy theorist and there was Bill Cooper the father. And they were two very different people. And I hate them so much for taking him away from me. But that's another issue altogether.

So they wanted to know where all the guns were and what the layout of his house was. I said, "I'll tell you that he has a gun everywhere. I'll tell you that so you don't go try and arrest him." And they said, "We know you hate your life here with your mom. We know that

you hate living here, that you don't like how messy it is, and that because of your recent back surgery you can't go back to work right at the moment and save up the money you need to go and get out on your own." Which just floored me, just dropped my jaw and I didn't know what to say, because they had obviously been monitoring my conversations.

Beckley: I was just going to say that's obvious.

Cooper: That's a little bit before the Patriot Act, isn't it?

Beckley: Yeah. Well of course they have the ability to do that. There could have been other ways they could have gotten to him. What would have brought their attention to you exactly?

Cooper: Because I am the only person he had left his house with. Since he'd been living in that house having other people do everything for him.

Beckley: But it seems from what you've told me that they were watching you or monitoring your activities even before that.

Cooper: Oh, it looks like they were mon-

itoring me the whole time I was with him. They knew exactly where he took me, what we did. I take it back. I do know who's in the damn van. (laughter)

Beckley: Well, your dad must have known who was in the van as well.

Cooper: I don't even know how they followed us to the restaurant out of town. This was a tiny restaurant in a town that closed down in the winter. It's so tiny and up in the mountains. There's only one road in and out of it, and I saw no other cars. None. There was nobody following us. They must have been in the sky or—

Beckley: We just published a book called *Mind Matrix* that has a lot of patents for inventions that people have developed that are used to snoop on Joe Q Public. They don't have to be very close to your premises at all. They can point something at your windowpane and pick up the vibrations of the conversation that's going on in the room.

Cooper: Well, I want to say one thing. You don't go to all that trouble, using that kind of man hours and technology and time to get

someone for frigging tax evasion. There are a lot of people spouting crazy ideas out there. Unless something he was saying was true, they wouldn't have cared.

Beckley: Now, what do you think that might have been?

Cooper: I know that the things he saw were true. Because he wanted to be honest with me. He flat out told me the things he lied about. The things I know he lied about are because he told me so. So I believe that the things he told me were true were true. And I saw those documents with my own eyes when I was a little girl.

Beckley: Do you know the details of what was in the documents?

Cooper: They just were typed pages and I didn't have time to read anything in them except the big Top Secret at the top.

Beckley: Couldn't they have been copies of other documents that might have been falsified?

Cooper: Sure, they could have been. How could I possibly say they couldn't have been faked? I didn't get to read them, I didn't know

what they were and anything is possible. However, why would he hide them with us? Why would he be hiding some fake papers?

Beckley: Yeah, you're absolutely right, because the MJ-12 papers were published. I have a book that Sean Casteel and I worked on called MJ-12 and the Riddle of Hangar 18 which has supposedly classified documents in there. So you're right. There's no reason to hide copies of something that's been printed in a million different places. Did he take you into his confidence about anything else? The Kennedy assassination for example? I remember he gave a lecture for us one time on the subject and said that the secret service agent in the car had been involved in the assassination and actually had fired one of the guns.

Cooper: I'm pretty sure he believed that. I don't know. He knows it's a theory. He can't prove it. We had a long discussion. I said, "Tell me about your work," and he said things about this and about that. He basically just said what you said. "I have a theory about this, and dah dah dah, and I have a theory about that." He was very honest with me. He never

spoke to me like he was speaking to a crowd that he was trying to win over. He spoke in truth and lies. "This is true. I said this and it wasn't true. I fudged this, it sounds better that way. To get people's attention so they'd listen to the things that are really important, that I'm trying to tell them true things I've seen." He was very honest with me. But I've told you the main things he told me. The other things were personal.

Beckley: Did he seem concerned for his life? Did he think that something untimely was going to happen?

Cooper: He had a premonition that he was going to die soon, that they were going to come after him soon. And he was right. Shortly before they killed him. Who actually killed him? The local cops.

Beckley: This was pretty widely reported in the newspaper, even back here in the East. I remember I heard it on the radio the morning that it happened. And it was in the New York Post and probably the New York Times. It received certainly a great deal of attention. As if it were a warning to other people, don't try

this because it could happen to you as well.

Cooper: Back to the U.S. marshals that came to see me. We kind of got waylaid. They offered me \$500 and to set me up in an apartment. To go with an agent to get my dad. I just thought that part might be important.

Beckley: Now what did you think about that, though? Did you feel like these guys were being scumbags?

Cooper: I was disgusted ... I was so disgusted that they would dangle in my face what I wanted more than anything in the world. But I had to betray my father, who I'd wanted my whole life, who I had just met again, who I loved, who loved me, or I couldn't have it. I hated them. I hated them for it. What a horrible thing to do. It was a horrible thing to do.

Beckley: So you told them obviously that you weren't going to be a part of this?

Cooper: Yes. I told my father immediately what they did, too.

Beckley: And what was his reaction to that?

Cooper: He wasn't surprised. I called him

and he just was not at all surprised. He asked me about the conversation and I told him every word. What they knew, what they had seen. And when I told him, I said, "I would never do that to you, daddy. I know you'd rather be dead than be in jail. I would never betray you."

Beckley: And this was about two years before his death?

Cooper: I think about a year, a year and a half.

Beckley: At that point, when you refused to do this, did the federal agents back off because they didn't want to create an incident?

Cooper: I don't know if they backed off of him, but they backed off of me. My father and I didn't talk for a few months after I got back because the night I left, when the cops came to get me, I was in my pajamas. And he said I could only come to get my things if I came into the house without anybody else. And I was afraid so I wouldn't. So the cops put me in a safe house for three days. I had no toothbrush, no hair brush, no change of clothes. And we haggled with the airport to get my

the house?

Cooper: She'd been there, yeah.

Beckley: Now what were the circumstances that led to your dad being shot?

Cooper: Well, this is a story that I've really had to dig to get the facts here. And apparently what happened is one Fourth of July a young couple went up onto the circular driveway in front of his house on top of the hill to watch the fireworks. He came out of the house with a gun, because anybody coming to the front of his house posed a threat, even though they were just a couple of young kids. And just using the gun as an "influence," told them to get off his property. So they did, but they went to the police and reported it because he scared them. The police sort of filed this away. I'm sure the U.S. Marshals did contact them somehow because they knew he was wanted, and decided that since they were little know-nothing cops in Eagar, Arizona, and the intelligent U.S. Marshals wouldn't go and arrest him that they should be stupid and go and try to arrest him. So they sent two officers up there. I think it's entrapment or something. But they

sent two officers up there disguised in plain-clothes, like regular people up there for the view to lure him out of his house. When they tried to arrest him, SWAT was around the corner. And SWAT came from around the corner —

Beckley: Well, let's go back a bit. According to the newspaper accounts, they were just two local—a sheriff and a deputy. Is that correct?

Cooper: That's what I heard at first too.

Beckley: Now you're saying there was a SWAT team there?

Cooper: I looked into it further and was told that SWAT was there. If you were those cops—think about it—and you were going to arrest him, with information about him, and all the guns and who knows who's in there, wouldn't you have a SWAT team there for backup? Just in case all hell broke loose and there was a firefight?

Beckley: They had gone there under the pretense as I understand it that somebody had complained that he had drawn a gun on them and threatened them. It was a neighbor?

Cooper: Wasn't he killed in November? That complaint was from the Fourth of July. How does that add up to you? They went up there posing as two people because they had heard that when two people went on his property for the view he had come out with a gun by himself just kind of innocently telling them to leave. Just so they could see the gun so they knew he meant business. And they thought, well, gosh, this is a great way to get him out and get him arrested. Dress in plain-clothes and go up there. I'm not sure what they were wearing, but they were just posing, creating the appearance of two people—

Beckley: He died November 5, 2001.

Cooper: Yeah. So he turned around when they tried to arrest him. I believe it was the sheriff and a deputy. He turned around as if to go back inside the house. Which was a trick. When he turned around he was actually getting his gun out. He turned back around and shot at them. And to put an ironic and completely un-comedic twist on this whole thing, shot the deputy I believe, shot the sheriff. And they shot his dog, Crusher. Sugar Bear ran

away, never to be found again. And they killed my father.

Beckley: Did you attend the funeral?

Cooper: Yes. I went through hell to get to that funeral. I got up there, very tired and cranky and everything from my journey. I wanted to go to my father's house first, and they had coned off the driveway. Once the "important" people got there. Apparently this girl who was his girlfriend or something, she lived in another state, I don't remember her name . . . There was a man who identified himself as my father's lawyer. I'd really like someone to find out if he's got a law degree. I wanted to see my father's will, and they showed me. Each page pertained to a different person and was signed by him at the bottom. But if you wanted to get rid of a person in the will, all you'd have to do is get rid of one page. And so everybody in the room had a page that was in his will, and I wasn't, even though my father told me I was. And I said, "It's okay. I just want that set of books." Like gothic novels, where you look at the edges of the page and they're gold. And I wanted to

hand them down to my kids. I had nothing of my father's to hand down and I wanted part of him, something from him to hand down to my children. And for their children and so on. And they said it was fine, I could have those books. And they never gave them to me. They lied. I've emailed them and called them a thousand times.

But after that, we went up to the building, I don't know whether it was a church or not. I didn't pay much attention to that, you know.

There were so many people and I was furious that the FBI was there. And that's fine that they're going to be there, but they were so rude. They wore those tacky FBI jackets that are like on *The X-Files*. They actually wear those. And they wore those to my father's funeral. They didn't wear a suit or something appropriate. They couldn't show a hint of respect.

They cut me out of everything. And my father had dedicated a song to me. He played it on his radio show and I had a tape of it. I asked the emcee if he would play it at my father's funeral and he did. And it's like, "You said you

loved me, you'd never leave me, I wish that you won't go, most of all I miss you so." It's a really sweet song. And I got to play that for him at his funeral and they played Amazing Grace and all these people spoke. There were things that I really wanted to say because everybody was talking about Bill Cooper the conspiracy theorist, and I was the only family member there and I was the only one who could talk about him as a father. I felt like it needed to be said. I had held it together so far without crying and I got up there and started to talk. "It's really hard for me to come up here, but I know that if my dad was here, he'd want me to do this. I wanted to tell you there's a father part of my dad that you didn't know. He loved me very much and I've only got him for two years. But he loved all his children, and I miss him a lot. He called me 'princess.'" Then I lost it. I totally started crying. So I went to sit down and about ten people went up after that and they were saying, "I wasn't going to say anything but the little girl was so brave and she was right. That's exactly what Bill would say." Then my mother went up and talked, and

I could have killed her. She was so inappropriate.

Beckley: Why was it inappropriate?

Cooper: Well, first of all, his girlfriend is sitting there and she knows it, and she's saying how Bill always said she was the most beautiful woman he'd ever seen and while everybody knows that he was a drunk and had such alcohol problems and of course he'd knock her around when he'd been drinking, and he could be violent. I was mortified. I was absolutely mortified. We then went to the cemetery and we buried him. Are you supposed to give the flag to the family member?

Beckley: I'm not sure.

Cooper: Well, they didn't give me the flag. That's okay. It's just that it felt wrong. Like I was just shunned.

Beckley: There were no representatives of the military there I take it?

Cooper: I don't know. There were a lot of people there. One guy said that he was a very famous rock musician, and he looked really familiar to me. But he didn't want to give his name. The funeral wasn't about him, it was

ticket changed and then we drove for four hours to wherever the airport was and I got on the plane. My friend got me immediately and brought me a whole new wardrobe. I had been planning to stay in the crazy weather of Arizona for fifteen days so everything I owned was with me at his house. And eventually my mom sort of put me back on the phone with him and we smoothed things over and became closer than ever.

Beckley: They had no reason to approach your mom, though, because at this point she wasn't—

Cooper: I don't know if they approached anyone else. What I don't understand is one of his associate's girlfriend was a police officer in Eagar, Arizona. Isn't it illegal for her to be associating with my dad? Why wouldn't they approach her? She was a cop. If there's anybody they could use against him, it would be her. She could get inside information like that.

Beckley: Was she there at the house?

Cooper: She was at the police station the night the police picked me up.

Beckley: I mean in general, had she been at

about my dad. I remember one man who was a good friend of my father's, I don't remember his name, went up and said, "My friend!" and then he burst into tears when he saw my father in the open casket. There were so many people there. It made me feel so good that they all loved my father so much. And when I got home, after seeing how I was treated, all these strangers started sending me pamphlets from the funeral and programs. And they pressed flowers and sent them to me in a beautiful box with a glass front. A shadowbox they made for me with some of the memorabilia from the funeral. And they sent me letters. "We're so sorry that they treated you that way and you were so brave and yadda, yadda." And I was like, wow, it was amazing and moving and I couldn't believe these people did this. I emailed the family a hundred times just about the books and they won't even acknowledge that I exist.

Beckley: We probably ought to wrap this up. Is there any kind of summing up statement you'd like to make?

Cooper: I'm only just now starting to

learn about what my father's work was and the things that he said. I'm very interested in it. I really want everybody to know that, for all his faults, he was a very good man. And an intelligent man. And there is truth behind so much of what he says. He really inspired a lot of conflict and negative feedback. But anyone who says anything controversial does. That doesn't mean he was bad or wrong. So try and remember that.

EDITORS NOTE: At the point where Jessica starts telling of the circumstances of her father's death she seems hesitant and unsure and indicates there is probably more she needs to say, meaning she will research the matter more. In order to provide balanced reporting we are reprinting a copy of the official police report concerning Bill Cooper's death.