

1 **Officer: Lt. Stanley Sutton**

2 **Reference to talk with Ronald Wayne "Cotton" Salmon 3-14-2002**

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4 **SS: 'kay, testing, testing one two three – had a little problems with the um, tape**
5 **recorder, I had to change batteries – 'kay, this is Investigator Stanley Sutton -**
6 **'day is March the 14th, Thursday evening at 7:15 P.M. Today I had went up to the**
7 **Floyd County Jail and interviewed uh, took a guy out by name of Ronald Wayne**
8 **Salmon - he's got a nick-name Cotton - I been knowing him 'bout thirty years.**
9 **But he was incarcerated in the same cell block as Mark Free that uh, we, the**
10 **County Police had arrested Mark Free, charged him with the murder of Joey**
11 **Watkins – but I received some information that Cotton Salmon had some**
12 **information 'bout Mark Free, telling him about the killing of Isaac Dawkins and**
13 **knew a great detail an so I pulled him out and talked to him today between 1:30**
14 **and 2:34 P.M. And basic what Cotton told me that he spent five months in the**
15 **cell prior to Mark Free going to trail uh, this year 2002 in February that uh, he**
16 **bragged to uh, Cotton that he was a hit man that he hit moving targets and the he**
17 **was 9 millimeter expert sharp shooter and told him all about the Army and about**
18 **how that he could uh, you know, kill people and that's what he's gone do, that**
19 **he's gone be a hit man and he told Cotton that if he had anybody that he wanted**
20 **hit just to let him know and he gave him his numbers and everything where he can**
21 **get - get in touch with him when he got out. But he also talked about how him**
22 **and Joey Watkins were together that night - that they had been stalking Isaac**

23 Dawkins for three days and that they were at the Golden Gallon on 27 South and
24 they saw Isaac Dawkins and - and they were in a blue pick up truck and he said
25 that uh, they got the blue pick up truck from Joey Watkins' father's car lot in
26 South Broad - Johnny Watkins - so anyway when they saw Isaac in his white
27 truck and that's what he said - that Isaac was driving a white truck - they
28 attempted to get him to stop but he sped away and they shot one time up in the air
29 and this was around the Coke Cola Plant on 27 South heading North towards and
30 they shot one more time in the vehicle - Mark doing the shooting. Said after the
31 shot then uh, Isaac uh, went off the road and they had slowed down and was
32 turning around to go back to ss- to make sure that uh, that they had killed him -
33 but they were several vehicles, several cars that pulled in there to check on Isaac
4 Dawkins and so they just left and immediately went to uh, Johnny Watkins car lot
35 and changed vehicles. He went on to say that - that Mark Free and Joey Watkins
36 went to Alabama, that supposedly Johnny Watkins had a place down there, a
37 house or a cabin on Lake Weiss or uh, leased a place and they went there and
38 walked on - walked out on the dock - long dock and Mark Free threw the gun uh,
39 as far as he could into Lake Weiss right after the shooting on Janu- January 11,
40 2000. He also - Cotton said that the pistol was a 9 millimeter Ruger that he used
41 that - that Joey got it from his daddy from - from the car lot in a - in a safe or at
42 the house, he couldn't remember that - but he went on talked during the whole
43 five months period of time how you know, that he was a hit man - that he talked a
44 lot about Bill Shiflett and a lot about Stanley Sutton - talking about he couldn't

45 stand uh, the son-of-a-bitches that he was gone get 'em - he's gone -- he said his
46 words were - he's gonna put 'em in Hell -- and he talked about you know, getting
47 our sons uh, Bill's son, my son -- he didn't mention any of their names but he said
48 that Mark talked about Bill Shiflett's son supposedly uh, was going to Coosa and
49 that he talked about wanting to do them - do them in and that my boys uh, one of
50 my boys in particular lived in Armuchee. So uh, any way I wanted to put this on
51 - on tape and keep it filed and record it -- I'm gonna get back with um, Cotton later
52 on and see we can obtain any more information concerning uh, Ronald Wayne
53 Salmon -- he did in fact - I mean, uh, on Mark Free. He did say uh, Cotton said
54 that um, that Mark was a dangerous man and that he was gone be - he's gonna kill
55 again - -that we need to get him off the streets. Okay I'm on end this interview at
56 the present time.

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