

2000.12.19 3:55 pm
Sutton Buck's Pawn Shop

1 Statement of: Clay Burkhalter (CB)

2 Ref: Isaac Dawkins

3 Officer: Sgt. Stanley Sutton (SS)

4

5 SS: 'Kay, this is Sgt. Stanley Sutton with the Floyd County Police Department - 'day is

6 December the 19th, the year 2000 - be a Tuesday afternoon at 3:55 uh, 3:59 P -- 3:55 um, PM -

7 I'm in -- I'm interviewing a Clay Burkhalter at place of business Buck's Pawn Shop in Lindale,

8 Georgia - this interview is in reference to a homicide investigation I'm conducting on Isaac

9 Dawkins. Clay Burkhalter, just state your name, your address and date of birth, Social Security

10 Number please.

11 CB: My name's Clay Burkhalter, I live at [REDACTED] Old Rockmart Road, Silver Creek,

12 Georgia 30173, date of birth [REDACTED], 1981.

13 SS: And your address - did you give that your home address--

14 CB: Yes sir.

15 SS: -- and phone number.

16 CB: Phone number is [REDACTED].

17 SS: Okay do uh, Clay I talked to you back in November concerning this case, do you

18 know Isaac Dawkins?

19 CB: No sir I didn't know him personally.

20 SS: Okay, do you know a guy by name of Joey Watkins?

21 CB: Yes sir.

22 SS: How do you know him?

23 CB: I was friends with him kinda for a while - I knew him because I dated his sister.

24 SS: Who's his sister?

25 CB: Tandy Watkins.

26 SS: On a - were you with him one night when him and you and Adam Elrod and
27 several other people in a truck and chased Paul Allen, Isaac Dawkins down on Highway 140?

28 CB: Yes sir.

29 SS: Do you know when that happened?

30 CB: It was the - it was last Summer - the Summer of '99 - and when Joey came in the
31 house it was - to my knowledge that it was Pa-- just Paul Allen by his self and that Paul had done
32 something to Joey and Shay Highfield on her four wheeler - we's at her residence and that I knew
33 - he said it was Paul so we chased him - came out on the Old Dalton Road and turned left onto
34 Highway 140.

35 SS: Who's vehicle were ya'll in?

36 CB: It was my Nissen pick up.

37 SS: Okay, what were ya'll chasing?

38 CB: Paul Allen's black Camaro.

39 SS: 'Kay, how long have you known Joey Watkins?

40 CB: Since - what about, two years.

41 SS: Had uh, Joey ever - Joey Watkins, ever made a statement to you that uh, about
42 Isaac or anything about Isaac - making any kind a threats, anything to you?

43 CB: He's told me before that he wanted to catch Isaac, you know, wan-- was wanting
44 to catch him out to whoop Isaac and I've heard that comment on a couple of occasions.

45 SS: From Joey?

46 CB: From Joey.

47 SS: Joey Watkins.

48 CB: Yes sir.

49 SS: Why did uh, he wanna get Isaac so bad?

50 CB: 'Cause Isaac was dating Brianne.

51 SS: 'Kay, and uh, who is Brianne?

52 CB: Brianne Scarborough, she dated Joey Watkins and then broke up with Joey and

53 started dating Isaac and I guess Joey got jealous.

54 SS: And - and Joey's made this comment to you on several occasions?

55 CB: I've heard it a couple a times about him wanting to catch Isaac out and whoop

56 him.

57 SS: Um, Joey - at Joey's house or were ya'll riding around or - or what?

58 CB: Uh, I - I think at Joey's house at the old residence.

59 SS: Where's the old residence at?

60 CB: Uh, off Kingston Highway.

61 SS: Do you know about what time the month - uh, this killing happened on January the

62 11th of 2000 - do you know when this conversation took -- took place between you and Joey?

63 CB: Uh, it was some where around the time that - the evening that we chased Paul and

64 somewhere within you know, couple a months after that 'cause that at-- that happened on - it was

65 some where in the Summer - late July, August, some'em like that.

66 SS: That he made a comment to you about that.

57 CB: Yes sir.

68 SS: Did uh, do you - have you ever seen I-- uh, Joey Watkins' demeanor or disposition
69 or anything?

70 CB: I've seen him, you know, try to be you know, ba-- real bad and try to - I've seen
71 him kinda loose his temper - his sister says - has told me when me and her dated, that he's got a
72 real bad temper and just will kinda snap and I've seen him get ill.

73 SS: Yeah - did uh, you - you said on uh, January the 11th -- did Joey ever make
74 contact with you - talk to you after this killing?

75 CB: It was either that night or night or so after the killing happened, Joey called at - me
76 and me and Delane Roach and Jeremy Shuler's house - he was real nervous, he kept you know,
77 saying they're gone suspect me, they're gone say it was me, they're gone think I did it and then
78 from Brianne Scarborough shortly after that I heard, the very next morning - well, the morning of
79 the 12th, that Joey had done contacted his lawyer and was trying to - uh, what she said lawyer uh,
80 go ahead and get him in line.

81 SS: When he called you, what did Joey say to you on the - you said either the night of
82 the 11th or the 12th, do you remember exactly what day it was or what time it was?

83 CB: I know it was in the evening, it had to be past 7:30 - 'cause that's 'bout the time
84 I'd always get out at Jeremy's house - and it was just him - he kept saying to me and to Delane
85 Roach, over and over - they're gone suspect me, they're gone think it was me, they're gone say I
86 did it.

87 SS: How was he acting when you's talking to him on the phone?

88 CB: He was real nervous.

89 SS: Real nervous?

90 CB: Yes.

91 SS: Was that unusual, did you think that was unusual or was that normal?

92 CB: Under the circumstances, it was real unusual 'cause he was real - he just repeatedly
93 kept saying, they're gone suspect me, they're gone think it was me.

94 SS: 'Kay, and did he ask you to do anything or say anything or he just - just called you
95 out of the blue and what all did he talk about?

96 CB: He just called that evening and that's all - he said that and that's really all he said -
97 was they're gone say it was me, they're gone think I did it and --

98 SS: And this was either the 11th or the 12th and you're not sure, you think it was the
99 day after?

100 CB: I think it was the day after.

101 SS: Had he ever made con to you -- contact with you any more after this?

102 CB: Uh, a little but he never - you know, he never spoke a the stuff again - I guess -
103 well it's a few months after that and he never spoke of it.

104 SS: Well did he tell you he was going to Cedartown or coming from Cedartown or
105 what did he tell you - at all - anything about it?

106 CB: On one occasion I heard he was going to Cedartown--

107 SS: Is that what he told you?

108 CB: -- yes sir, that's what he told me.

109 SS: On the phone that night?

110 CB: Well uh, it was - I believe it was night that he called and then there a couple a

111 months later, it was a story of he was on his way back, saw Isaac's truck, called his sister and told
112 her to call Samantha and ss- tell her Isaac had -had a wreck.

113 SS: Did uh, and said that was - he told you one time that he was going then he told
114 you one time he was coming.

115 CB: Yes sir.

116 SS: And he saw Isaac's truck.

117 CB: Yes sir.

118 SS: How'd he know it was Isaac's truck?

119 CB: I - I guess he just knew what Isaac had - was driving at the time.

120 SS: Okay, and that's all that he's ever discussed about?

121 CB: Yes sir.

122 SS: 'Kay I'm on end this interview with Clay Burkhalter on the 19th of December -
123 time is 4:04 PM.

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