

Interview with Mark Free - 10/2/2000 7:47pm

On 10/2/00 Bill Shiflett and Stanley Sutton went to the Floyd County Jail to pick up Mark Free. Free was brought to the Floyd County Police Station. He was handcuffed and leggings were placed on him.

While in the car on the way down to the police station, Shiflett asked him where he went to high school and Sutton asked him his date of birth and how old he was. Free stated he went to Armuchee High School and Model High School, but that he got his G.E.D. Shiflett asked him which school he liked best and he said Armuchee. He stated he was 24 years old and that his date of birth is 12/21/75. Once at the police station, he was carried to Sutton's office. At this point, Sutton introduced Shiflett and himself again and advised him that over the last eight months, they have been investigating the Isaac Dawkins murder and that the investigation clearly shows that he and Joey Watkins were involved. They also told him that murder warrants would be forthcoming. Sutton told Free that they picked him up first before they picked Joey up so they could hear Free's side of the story. At that time he stated that he didn't kill nobody and that he wasn't with Joey and that he didn't kill Isaac. He also said he had nothing to hide. At that time, Sutton advised him of his miranda rights. He stated he understood his rights. He again said he had nothing to hide and that he didn't kill anybody. Sutton told Free that Joey had been talking. Free said that Joey couldn't say that Free was with him because Free was at David Brown's house all day or he said he could have been at his home in Swan Lake Mobile Home Park. Sutton asked him how they could verify that and Free stated, with his dad. He said he thought it was on the 12th of January, that a Johnny Williams called him at David Brown's house and told him that Isaac got killed. Shiflett asked Free, about when he was at David Brown's house, what girl picked him up. Shiflett asked him what kind of car she picked him up in and he said it was either her mother's Honda, burgundy in color, or her Geo Storm, green in color. Sutton asked Free about him and Joey going around bulldogging and intimidating people. He stated no. Sutton asked him about the incident at the mall with Ronald Vines. He stated, yeah, they got in a fight and girls were hollering in his face. Sutton asked him about the night Free and Joey were on Turner McCall and Joey pulled a shotgun on Ronald Vines. He said he wasn't with Joey. Sutton told him that people said he was. He stated they were lying because he wasn't with Joey. Sutton asked him about being good friends with Marshall Smith. He said yeah. He told him that Marshall feels like Free would tell the truth. He said he wasn't with Joey the night that Isaac was killed. Then Sutton asked him who he loved most of all. He said he loved himself. Sutton asked him who besides himself. He stated his mom and dad. Sutton asked him if something happened to them like Isaac got shot. He stated yeah, he would want justice. Shiflett told him to look at him, and he told Free that justice would prevail in this case because a young man was killed senselessly and his mother comes to us daily, crying, and with a broken heart and dad can't even hardly work, so justice will be served in this case. Shiflett told Free that he could take the smirk off his face because they know Free and Joey were involved. Sutton asked Free if he wasn't there and he didn't kill Isaac with Joey then Joey told him that he did it. Free said I swear to God on my mama's life and my daddy's life that I didn't do it and Joey didn't tell me that he did it. Sutton told him that he was lying and he could tell by the way Free was acting that he was lying. Sutton then stated that he would be back in touch with Free and also told Free that he hadn't seen the last of us.