

2001.02.06 3:15pm  
FCPD Shiflett

Statement of: Winford Ellis (WE)

2 Officer: Asst. Chief Bill Shiflett (BS)

3

4 BS: -- Shiflett, today's date is February the 6th uh, 2001 - uh, the time is 3:15 PM at  
5 the Floyd County Police Department. Would you state your name for the record please.

6 WE: Winford Reese Ellis.

7 BS: And you are now in the Floyd County Jail.

8 WE: Yes sir.

9 BS: Okay, and what Cell Block are you in?

10 WE: "P" Block, Cell 339.

11 BS: Okay, alright, I received a telephone call from uh, Jimmy Jacks that you wanted to  
12 talk to us about some - about some information - I believe you already talked with Stanley this  
13 morning -- (Chief Shiflett line one, Chief Shiflett line one) -- let me take this - take this phone here  
14 off -- okay I'm sorry for the interruption - um, if you will, uh, like I said, I received a call from  
15 Jimmy Jacks that you wanted tell us about some information and we want to put it on tape - there  
16 again, I haven't promised you anything, threatened you or offered you any kind a deal or anything  
17 like that have I.

18 WE: No.

19 BS: Okay, if you would, start from the beginning and uh, - now you're in the Cell  
20 Block with --

21 WE: I'm in Cell Block right between -- I'm right beside his Cell - he's 338, I'm 339.

22 BS: Alright, he is who?

WE: Uh, Joseph Watkins.

24 BS: Okay, alright, tell me what information you have that you wanna share with us.

25 WE: Um, well it - it started the other day - I'm not sure of the exact day, it was a ss--

26 couple a days ago when uh, he come to my room and he was happy, he was kinda laughing, he we

27 telling me that they was out diving in Swan Lake all day you know try-- you know dragging the

28 lake and diving the lake and his comment to that was "it's in a lake but it's not that lake" - and

29 then yesterday when I - I - after I wrote the letter, after I talked with him he was just - his - he

30 said his girlfriend's left him so he kinda had a bleeding heart I guess and we was playing cards and

31 talking and I'd kinda told him a little about my situation and he was telling me about you know,

32 Isaac Dawkins and him and Mark and he said that they'd seen him at a gas station and they turned

33 around and they chased him down and when they were out of view of any - any cars he said as

34 they were coming around him, that Mark just "pow" -- and he even - he didn't say anything about

35 seeing him get shot or anything but he said he seen the truck swerve and cross the median and

36 that was about it -- then uh, he made a couple remarks about killing Stanley Sutton again.

37 BS: 'Kay, what'd he say about killing Stanley Sutton?

38 WE: Uh, just ripping his head off and he'd kill that son-of-a-bitch and how he - he

39 wants him so bad - just - just stuff like that.

40 BS: Okay, uh, now what day did you talk to Joey Watkins about this - what you've

41 shared with me?

42 WE: That was yesterday.

43 BS: Yesterday.

44 WE: And then that eve-- yesterday evening he finally found out that he had been indited,

he had a pretty rough day yesterday - his girlfriend left him and he found out he was indited and  
46 you know, soon as he told me this you know I was like - 'cause what I told ya'll before, you  
47 know he had pretty much admitted it to me but he didn't say that he actually you know - what  
48 actually happened and so soon as he told me this I wrote a letter to same guy that I wrote to last  
49 time and sent it out and uh, I asked the guard did he give it to him and he said he wouldn't there -  
50 so the first thing this morning Detective Sutton was there to talk to me and I told him --

51 BS: Who - who did you write that letter to?

52 WE: Uh, Jeff Ploof.

53 BS: Jeff Ploof, okay, does he still have the letter - do you know?

54 WE: I have no idea -- all I wrote on there was that he- I - he's the one I wrote the letter  
55 to last time --

BS: Okay.

57 WE: -- so I wrote it to him telling him that I needed to get in touch with Detective  
58 Sutton again it was kinda urgent and guess he got it 'cause first thing this morning Mr. Sutton  
59 was there to talk to me.

60 BS: Okay, now Saturday evening - this - this past Saturday, uh, Stanley and I, we  
61 worked Swan Lake, we had divers out there diving.

62 WE: Oh yeah, he got a big kick out a that.

63 BS: How did he found out we were there, did he say?

64 WE: He was on the phone with somebody - uh, I think what he'd told me was that  
65 Mark's dad had called his dad and then he'd called his dad to talk and his dad was telling him that  
66 they'd been out there all day diving and going through the lake and soon as he come in my room I

knew that that wouldn't where the gun was because if - if the gun would a been any where near  
68 there he'd a pulled every bit of his hair out, but he had a smile he was laughing, like I said he said  
69 "it's in a lake but it's not that lake" - and what I gather from another guy saying prior to when I  
70 got in there, you know I - he was in there almost a month before I come in that block and another  
71 guy had told me that the day after the shooting happened that he was on Lake Weiss fishing.

72 BS: Um-hum.

73 WE: So I - you know I took --

74 BS: That's another guy that was telling you.

75 WE: Yeah that --

76 BS: Okay.

77 WE: -- you know some - you know this is what he was saying - he'd told these people  
before I got in there and that's what the guy had told me, just an outer conversation that -- 'cause  
79 you know he tells a story to everybody, know what I'm saying - "nah, I - I don't know nothing  
80 about it, I was fishing" and this, that and the other and --

81 BS: Who is that guy that he told he was fishing.

82 WE: Kevin Moye.

83 BS: Kevin Moye, okay.

84 WE: Yeah. He said that - as a matter-of-fact what I was told -- what he told Kevin and  
85 what Kevin told me in our conversation was - that the very next day after the shooting had  
86 occurred, that his mother had called him on a cell phone - that he was out in the boat in the lake  
87 and that - what Kevin told me that - that Joseph had told him was that, you know, his mother  
88 called him said he needed to come home he's - the police wanted to question him in reference to

this boy being shot.

*Motion for new trial*

90 BS: Okay.

*of*

91 WE: So --

*7-30-2002*

92 BS: And Kevin Moye had told you that.

93 WE: Yeah.

*Perred*

94 BS: Okay, alright, so - okay we were on the lake - v

95 we left there probably around 4:30 or something like that - wh ~~... get on the phone,~~

96 what time was he on the phone, do you remember?

97 WE: He's on the phone all day long - I mean --

98 BS: Alright, on that Saturday.

99 WE: Every day.

BS: And you said that he was laughing about we's at the wrong place -- was he

101 laughing out loud --

102 WE; Well he --

103 BS: -- he make any other comments?

104 WE: -- well when he come in there to my room he was just like you know, he was

105 smiling, he was happy - like I say - like I told you last time, he's - when he gets off the phone he's

106 got bad news his hair is just shambles, and when he come in there this time he was smiling - he

107 was like "ha, they've been out there diving in Swan Lake" and I'm like "well why would they dive

108 in Swan Lake" and he's like "well that's where Mark lives" and he's like "they didn't find nothing

109 but a" - I think he said a scissors and a knife out there and they dragged it all day" he said.

110 BS: Uh-huh.

WE: And uh, and like I told Detective Sutton this morning - they were trying to say that  
112 uh, I don't know how they were saying - if Mark was suppose to be passed out in the middle seat  
113 or whatever but they're saying that this other - the other boy wouldn't with 'em - this Josh guy.

114 BS: And who said that?

115 WE: Joe -- he said that uh, they're - he wouldn't with 'em and he's saying that -- from  
116 what I gather from him saying to me is that ya'll thought he was with 'em and that he'd confessed  
117 to ya'll what had happened - but Joe was telling me that this Josh guy has already come forward  
118 to his lawyers and told 'em that it was - it was not true that he didn't never tell 'em that -- that he  
119 wouldn't with 'em.

120 BS: Okay, now when did - when did Joey Watkins tell you that Josh was suppose to be  
121 in the car with them - Josh Flemister?

WE: He - he said that that's what ya'll was trying to get him to say - trying to get this  
123 Josh guy to say.

124 BS: Okay.

125 WE: But he's saying it was just him and Mark.

126 BS: And Joey's telling you Josh wouldn't in there, it was just him and Mark.

127 WE: Yeah.

128 BS: And --

129 WE: He's saying that whenever they was going around him that this Mark "pow" - after  
130 they was outta site of any vehicles he said - and - he - he even said that the truck - he seen the  
131 truck like spin out or whatever and cross the median he said but - like I was telling you know,  
132 Detective Sutton was wanting me to ask you know like - just find out about where the gun was

and like I was telling him, everybody that comes in there that's new - Joe's so stressed out and he  
134 - he - like when I - I had a visit from out a state - my aunt came from out a state to visit --

135 BS: Um-hum.

136 WE: -- and it was like 8:00 o'clock at night and when I come back he was on me at the  
137 door, he was like - "they got you up there questioning you - had you up" -- I's like "no" you  
138 know, "no" -- and this was like a week after I'd went up here the first time.

139 BS: Um-hum.

140 WE: So - I'm like "no, they hadn't" - he surprised - he said he's surprised that ya'll  
141 haven't tried to question me 'cause I mean that's how close we are together in there - I can't  
142 really stop you know, he's there.

143 BS: Yeah. Did he mention as to what store or gas station - what was his wording?

WE: That uh, he seen him at a gas station --

145 BS: Did he say what gas station that was or the location?

146 WE: -- no he didn't. He - I assume it was on the highway out there 'cause they said  
147 they turned around and chased him down - but uh, like Detective Sutton asked me if he said  
148 anything about the vehicle - he ha-- he didn't say what kind a vehicle they were in or nothing -  
149 like I say he just plain about it - he didn't say how many times he shot, he just that --

150 BS: But he said Mark was the one that shot him.

151 WE: Yeah.

152 BS: Did he say anything about after he was shot, where they went or what they did?  
153 Did he -- and he said that --

154 WE: That's just 'bout where it ended when he was telling me that he'd even seen the

truck you know - go over - 'cause like said, he had a heartbreaking day and I was - I was kinda  
156 down so I was telling him stuff about my case - he was telling me stuff about his - he - we're like  
157 this - stuff.

158 BS: And did he say anything about - and he didn't say how many times uh, it was shot?

159 WE: Um-um.

160 BS: That Mark shot. Uh, he didn't mention any - what lake it might of been?

161 WE: No. But like I was telling you - what I gathered from what Kevin was telling me  
162 that the next day he'd went early that next morning to Lake Weiss fishing in a tournament - -that  
163 you know, that's I - so I gathered that's probably what he meant by that.

164 BS: And this information about the lake came to you yesterday.

165 WE: The information about the lake where the gun was?

BS: Yeah.

167 WE: No I - I just heard this in conversation since I've been in there you know, just that  
168 he said - that he said you know, this is where he was fishing the next day so he wouldn't of been  
169 doing such and such.

170 BS: Oh, okay.

171 WE: But when he said "it's - it's in a lake but not that lake" was same day that ya'll  
172 dragged the lake.

173 BS: Okay, that's the - that's - the same day that we're dragging the lake is same --

174 WE: Yeah.

175 BS: -- day it's in a lake --but not that lake.

176 WE: Yeah.



BS: Okay, that's on Saturday.

178 WE: But he got a - he got a kick outta that, ya'll dragging that lake -- make fools of  
179 your self and such.

180 BS: 'Kay -- can you re-- can you think of anything else he's might of told you since the  
181 last time we spoke - about this case?

182 WE: Not really, like I said yesterday it just - he had a bad day I reckon, that's why it  
183 poured out - I's like, damn -- and I know you told me to write stuff down but I - I didn't really  
184 wanna write stuff down in case somebody was to find what I'd wrote down you know --

185 BS: Right.

186 WE: So I just tried to remember everything he says - but uh, like I keep telling him -  
187 you know he keeps telling me that they're offering him like man slaughter if he'd roll over on  
188 Mark - so I tell him, I'm like "well man tell me something, I - we might come up with something  
189 that can help you, where you can roll over on him" - but he - he won't do it - he says they're like  
190 brothers he's not gone do it.

191 BS: Alright, um, is anything else that you can add to this or is this basically everything  
192 that was said?

193 WE: Yeah that's basically it.

194 BS: Alright, again, I haven't promised you anything - Stanley Sutton hadn't promised  
195 you anything in no way have we?

196 WE: No sir.

197 BS: Okay, and you're here on your own accord.

198 WE; Yes sir.

BS: Okay, alright, I'm on end this interview, the time is about uh, 3:25 PM.

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