

Statement of: Hugh Don Wyatt (HW)

Re: Isaac Dawkins homicide

1 Officer: Assistant Chief Bill Shiflett (BS)

2 BS: (Inaudible), today's date is uh, November the 15th, uh, 2000. Time is uh, 3:28pm.

3 My name is Bill Shiflett and for the record would you state your name, please.

4 HW: Hugh Don Wyatt. Hugh Don Wyatt.

5 BS: Ok. Mr. Wyatt, this interview is in reference to the death of Isaac Dawkins and
6 umm, I believe that if you remember correctly, me and Stanley Sutton came up umm, uh, on the
7 20th of October to talk to you about the same thing and we're gon put it on tape now.

8 HW: Ok.

9 BS: And umm, uh, are you familiar with a guy by name of Mark Free?

10 HW: Yeah, I'm familiar with him. I was in the cell with him.

11 BS: Ok. And do you remember when you were in the cell with him? About what
12 months and how long you were (Inaudible),

13 HW: (Inaudible) probably around uh, December, January, somewhere along in there.

14 BS: Ok.

15 HW: January, February, somewhere along in there.

16 BS: (Inaudible) was it, could been February too?

17 HW: Mmm, hmm.

18 BS: Ok. And uh, where did Mark Free bunk at?

19 HW: He bunked uh, directly across from me. Think it was across from me (Inaudible)

20 mistaken.

21 BS: Ok.

22 HW: Anyway it was in the same general area (Inaudible).

23 BS: What cell block was ya'll in, would that a been in?

24 HW: We was in T-1 at that time.

25 BS: Ok.

26 HW: Mmm, hmm.

27 BS: And did you ever had, have conversations with Mark Free about the death of Isaac

28 Dawkins or about the kid that got killed on, on Highway 27 South?

29 HW: Yeah, I heard him talkin' about it, (Inaudible) guy that got shot down there on 27.

30 At that time, we didn't know who, who it was or how (Inaudible) how it happened. Some of 'em

31 got to talkin' about that it was a, somebody shot him with a rifle (Inaudible), but uh, that's what

32 everybody was thinkin', but he (Inaudible), he said that it was shot with a pistol. And uh, he uh,

33 he knew the kid. He, he said that him and uh, his friend had got in a fight with that guy, I don't

34 know whether it was a couple days before or what, but they said that he had got in a fight with

35 him and that he knew that it was a gun, a pistol that was used. At that time we didn't know that it

36 was a pistol. We thought it was a rifle. And he was talkin' (Inaudible).

37 BS: Did he say how he knew it was a pistol?

38 HW: No, he didn't say how he knew it was a pistol, uh, he didn't say at that time how

39 he knew it was a pistol, but he knew more, he knew more about the situation than we did. Uh,

40 BS: What else did he know about the situation, more than, than ya'll did. You talkin'

41 'bout the other inmates, right?

42 HW: Yeah. Yeah. The other inmates. I can't hardly, I can't hardly remember now
43 what all he was sayin', but I do remember that he was talkin' (Inaudible) and that he knew a little
44 bit more about it than we did. And that uh, he said he knew who, who did it, I think it was, like
45 who did it. And uh, but afterwards, uh, he got called out, outta the dorm and when he came back
46 he clammed up, he got real nervous about it.

47 BS: Do you know who called him outta the dorm?

48 HW: Mmm, well we took it, I took it to be that uh, after he had talked so much about it,
49 I took it to be that somebody had came out and told, told ya'll about it. And I took it that ya'll
50 called him out. I thought that uh, I mean I was just guessin' because when he come back in he
51 quit uh, he was real nervous about it.

52 BS: Ok. Uh, Hugh Don, I got in front of me my notes that the day that, that when we
53 talked to you and umm, and I wrote down and that you told me that Mark told us that he knew
54 that who did it. And that's what you just said while ago, right? Is that correct?

55 HW: Yeah, yeah, he was sayin' (Inaudible) uh, he knew who did it because, well, umm,
56 I don't know, it was after,

57 BS: (Inaudible),

58 HW: Before that when they put that reward up, they come in there and they put a
59 reward up, \$10,000, and (Inaudible) uh, I didn't know whether he was sayin' cause he wanted to
60 claim the reward or what, you know.

61 BS: Mmm, hmm.

62 HW: And uh, I think that's why the people's, I believe somebody went and told on him
63 and uh, I thought that's why he got called out and that's the reason I think he got nervous. I

4 didn't know (Inaudible), why he got nervous about it.

65 BS: Do you remember the, you and the other inmates, the people were talkin' about
66 that it, that it had to be a, like a rifle that was used and umm, and that, and he told you, told you
67 and the other guys is that (Inaudible),

68 HW: That it was a pistol. See at first we thought (Inaudible) had been a, you know,
69 somebody took a rifle and uh, shot the uh, guy what was in the truck as he was ridin' by,

70 BS: Mmm, hmm.

71 HW: Everybody was up under that impression and I mean, we just presumed that's what
72 it was cause (Inaudible) you know, we did not know. But he was adamant about it, said no, it
73 wadn't no, we didn't know what we's talkin' about because it was no rifle, that it was a gun.

74 BS: Ok.

75 HW: And that's how we uh, found out that he said it was a gun. I don't know what
76 caliber gun he said it was, but I knew he said it was a pistol, not a rifle.

77 BS: Do you remember tellin' me that uh, he told you that his friend got in a fight with
78 the guy that got shot?

79 HW: Yeah, yeah.

80 BS: Ok.

81 HW: Yeah, he said that uh, his friend had got in a fight with this guy and that he knew
82 this guy personal like that, but he had got in a fight, I don't know what it was, a day or two
83 before that killin' or a week before, but he said that they had got in a fight and the way he talked
84 like it was previously you know,

85 BS: Mmm,

86 HW: (Inaudible) close.

87 BS: Ok.

88 HW: And that he knew (Inaudible).

89 BS: Uh, we also talked that day uh, about when it first came on the tv that, that when
90 you and the other inmates would talk about (Inaudible) how did Mark act at that point, when ya'll
91 were givin' your like theories or talkin' about it. How did he act about it?

92 HW: Well, uh, when they first started talkin' about him (Inaudible) these other boys
93 started talkin' about him and (Inaudible) it was one you know, like wise guys bein' (Inaudible)
94 know more about the situation than it really is and he seemed like he got sorta agitated because
95 people was sayin' things that he felt like it wadn't true. That he knew more about it than they did.
96 And they was sayin' that all kinda wild speculation about it and he got sorta agitated and then
97 that's when he started, I don't really know all what he was talkin' about cause I didn't listen to
98 everything that he was sayin', but that's when he was sayin' that, like that he knew uh, more
99 about it and his, his knowledge of it was uh, more correct than ours was.

100 BS: Mmm, hmm. Do you remember that you told me that, I think your words back
101 then was that, mostly he was, mostly uh, boastin' about it.

102 HW: Yeah, yeah, that what I'm sayin', he, he uh, like, like well, you don't know what
103 you talkin' about, you know. And uh, he was mostly in that kinda attitude.

104 BS: (Inaudible).

105 HW: Mmm, hmm.

106 BS: And when we were, when we're talkin' uh, back then too, there's another thing
107 that I've got written down said that uh, uh, when ya'll were, basically on the same line as ya'll

'08 were talkin' about how it happened and you told me that Mark kinda wanted to straighten 'em
109 out about it. Did you, do you remember,
110 HW: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's what I was speakin' about. He, you know, was like
111 (Inaudible) jail house talk, they didn't, you know, they was sayin' all kinda wild stuff (Inaudible)
112 was like sayin', no, that ain' the way it happened, and you know this, this what's happened and
113 things like that and uh, (Inaudible) you had some and one guy there he was a loud mouth, you
114 know, he was tryin' to say that it was a lie and stuff like that and uh, this other guy, that's when I,
115 that's when everybody started settin' up takin' notice to what he was sayin' and I think it was not
116 only me, it was other people there too that uh, they had uh, after he had start talkin', uh, it was
117 two or three people (Inaudible) put up right there. They uh, I think they wanna talk to the
118 authority because I think they was tryin' to get the reward after he had said as much as he had
'19 said.

120 BS: Mmm, hmm.

121 HW: And it was uh, I 'member two black boys, I forget their name (Inaudible), because
122 they uh, after they had heard what he had said, you know, they tried to put two and two together
123 and I think they wanna talk to the authority because what he had said.

124 BS: Mmm,

125 HW: I 'member that. (Inaudible) these two black boys, I 'member that.

126 BS: When he was talkin' (Inaudible) umm, Hugh Don, did, did you take it that his, that
127 his friend did it, what he was sayin' when he was talkin' about the fight and all?

128 HW: Well, when he said that (Inaudible) uh, I was just more uh, surprised uh,

129 (Inaudible) I guess I went the way he wanted us to go, you know, (Inaudible) I was, knew that he

130 knew more about it than anyone in there and that, I felt that he knew what kinda gun it was and
131 (Inaudible) he said that him and his friend had had a fight with this, this boy.

132 BS: Mmm, hmm.

133 HW: And I don't know whether it was over a girl or what. But uh, I umm, I sorta
134 stopped right there because him and his friend, you know, uh, I took it like he might've, like his
135 friend mighta did it or uh, you know, but I sorta stopped right there.

136 BS: Ok. I'm gonna pause it just a second ok?

137 HW: Ok.

138 BS: (Inaudible).

139 {TAPE OFF}

140 {TAPE ON}

141 BS: Ok. Umm, Hugh Don, did he ever come to you and umm, like wanna confide in,
142 in with you and, and take you into confidence just by yourself? Did he ever wanna talk to you
143 just by yourself about this stuff?

144 HW: No, not necessarily, I was uh, no, not necessarily. I wadn't his age group.

145 BS: Mmm, hmm.

146 HW: Umm, after, after he slept beside me and uh, (Inaudible) we'd talk, you know,
147 general talk.

148 BS: Uh, huh.

149 HW: But I still wadn't his age group. (Inaudible) like I told you (Inaudible) last time, I
150 think Gene was in his uh, little crew (Inaudible) uh, age group.

151 BS: Gene Singleton?

152 HW: Yeah. Did you ever talk to him?

153 BS: Yeah, we've talked to Gene. Yeah. Yeah.

154 HW: (Inaudible) Gene, uh, he was in his age group, I think. (Inaudible) when he was
155 sayin' these things, this was first, because see didn't none of us knew (Inaudible) this had
156 happened,

157 BS: (Inaudible).

158 HW: (Inaudible) while back and didn't none of us know anything about him. And uh,
159 when he was talkin', but uh, after he had said a lot and said what he had said, I think, and got
160 called out, he quit talkin' about it. He got nervous, got real nervous about it. I 'member that. He
161 was uh, nervous like (Inaudible) he'd said that uh, they tryin' this, after he'd come out he got real
162 nervous about it an uh, (Inaudible), I 'member some of the boys turned and said, well, he shoulda
163 kept his mouth shut, that he had talked too much. I 'member they was sayin' that:

164 BS: That's some of the other inmates?

165 HW: Uh, huh. Yeah, they had said that uh, after he had got nervous, everybody started
166 thinkin' what he wanted 'em to think and I guess after that he got scared about it and then
167 everybody kept sayin', well, he shoulda kept his mouth shut about it if he didn't want people to
168 know, you know.

169 BS: (Inaudible).

170 HW: Cause uh, (Inaudible), he got nervous about it and uh, people got to thinkin' you
171 know, he knew more about it than he should have known about the situation.

172 BS: Mmm, hmm.

173 HW: (Inaudible).

74 BS: Ok.

175 HW: (Inaudible).

176 BS: Can you think of anything else, Hugh Don, that he, he mighta said about this that I
177 haven't asked you or that you can remember?

178 HW: No, I hadn't really uh, meditated on it or concentrated on it (Inaudible) thinkin'
179 about the (Inaudible) 'member what he said after he'd got nervous about it all that he did say,
180 course I wadn't tryin' to keep no record of it at that time.

181 BS: Right.

182 HW: And uh, I can't remember.

183 BS: Ok. Well, Hugh Don, if you, if you have the opportunity to think about it anymore
184 while you're here, uh, would you get in touch with myself uh, or Stanley Sutton umm, we would
85 appreciate uh, if you could think about it and if there's anything that you do remember, if you'd
186 let uh, umm, Jimmy Jacks or somebody know to get in touch with us, I'd appreciate it.

187 HW: Ok. I tell you what do, I'll try to think about it cause I hadn't tried to meditate on
188 it and stuff so, I just thought about somethin' I have to put myself back into that frame, you
189 know,

190 BS: Ok.

191 HW: At that time. I hadn't did that.

192 BS: Alright.

193 HW: Uh, I seen him, I think I seen him uh, the other day too.

194 BS: Mmm, hmm.

195 HW: (Inaudible) in jail, come back in jail (Inaudible) T-2, I think it was.

16 BS: Yeah, he's back in jail.

197 HW: (Inaudible).

198 BS: But umm, we umm, uh we, we, I, I appreciate you talkin' to us and umm, like I

199 said it's uh, it's uh, a tragic death of a young man and anything that you can remember uh, this

200 guy died for no reason, if you can think about it and put yourself back in that time frame and, and

201 if you come up with anything else that you remember,

202 HW: (Inaudible).

203 BS: Uh, (Inaudible) you know, bein' the truth about it, I would appreciate talkin' to

204 you again.

205 HW: (Inaudible) how 'bout those two black boys? Did you get to talk to them?

206 BS: Uh, yeah. We've talked to, we've talked to several people up here.

207 HW: Oh, ok.

208 BS: But if you (Inaudible) I'm gon turn the tape recorder off and uh,

209 HW: Ok.

210 BS: If anything else you come up with, if you'd call us, I'd appreciate it. Uh, the time

211 is 3:43 pm.

212 Tape received from Chief Bill Shiflett 11/20/2000

213 Typed 11/27/2000 aeb