

INTERVIEW WITH LETTIE HARRIS FRAZER

LS: Lettie Harris Frazer. Rtl, Box 77.

LF: No, it's different now, it's 204.

LS: 204, Waverly? 11-19-22?

LF: That's what on there.

LS: 260-60-8381?

LF: Uh huh.

LS: Okay, do you have a phone number?

LF: Uh huh, 265...

LS: 265.

LF: 6835...

LS: 6835.

LS: Okay, -bad tape- church last night?

LF: Uh, about 7:30.

LS: Okay, that was about time for the meeting to start?

LF: Uh huh, uh huh.

LS: All right. After you got to church, what can you recall happening there? At the church?

LF: Uh, when I got there me and another lady... Everybody else.

LS: Who was that?

LF: Now this was Gwen Owen. Everybody else was already there because nobody came after we got there. We was the last ones came.

LS: All right, but you were still there around 7:30?

LF: Yes, uh huh. I think they had already begin the meeting when we went in and we just went on in and went into the meeting. We just was in there in to the meeting up until the time this person came in.

LS: Okay, tell me about that.

LF: Uh, well anyway we was about to end the meeting. I think we was gettin our dues together, our money? One of the ladies said she had to go pick up her daughter.

LS: Do you know who that was?

LF: That was Vanzola Williams. That was the one that met the guy at the door. When she went and pushed the door, the fellow must was standing, you know the swinging door. He was already inside the main door, and he was standing inside of the swinging door. And when she push it, that's when I saw his face. And he peeked his head around and uh, she asked him what did he want and he said he wanted to talk to somebody inside.

LS: Did you hear that?

LF: I didn't hear him say it. But I heard her talking.

LS: Heard her say what do you want?

LF: Uh huh, yea, I heard her say it. So she pushed the door out enough for him to look in. And she say, well, who you want to speak to? And he pointed to uh, Harold.

LS: You saw him point?

LF: Uh, well, I'm not sure whether I saw him point but...

LS: You saw Mr. Harold react?

LF: Well, see the girl what was at the door, was taking the message from him, I heard her say you wanted to see Decon Swain. That what we call him. And then she come she say, Decon Swain, somebody out here wanta talk to you. He didn't say, he just say I want to speak to him. Cause he didn't call no names.

LS: He just said him.

LF: Uh huh.

LS: Okay.

LF: He got up and goes on to the door and uh, went on through the door. Vanzola said he asked, do you want to talk to me? And he said yes, and said Swain say, well let's step outside the main door. Cause they was still in the meetin room, so let's step outside the main door. And she said he replied, said no, said we're gonna talk right here.

LS: Okay.

LF: And so she went on out. She was going to her car to go pick up her daughter. She went on out to go to her car and I think she was already gotten into her car when she heard the shots.

LS: All right, well, what did you hear inside. -inaudible-

LF: Well, what we, what we heard inside after Harold went through the door. We didn't hear any conversations, no talking, all we heard was sounded like a scuffle. And when Harold wife heard the scuffling, and about that time some, one of the other ladies say well what's happening back there. Then she jump up and run toward the door when she heard the scuffling. And as soon as she got there, and I don't think the shot fired until she pushed that door, and one of the ladies they thought they saw Harold fall on the

floor, you know in the scuffling he must have thrown him down, I believe he must have shot Harold while he was down on the floor. And Thelma pushed the door, he shot her as she opened the door.

LS: Okay, did you heard the shots, the other shots before she opened the door?

LF: That's why I don't know whether the other one was before she opened the door, because when she opened the door, I can remember looking back, and I could see the fire from the gun, life it was low down, you know through the crack.

LS: Right. So when she first opened the door, he may have been shooting Decon Swain.

LF: Right, uh huh.

LS: And then when she got the door open, he shot her.

LF: Uh huh, that's right. That the way seemed like it was.

LS: You didn't see him?

LF: I couldn't see him. See the door just was cracked like so. And I could see the fire, you know from the...

LS: But you saw him when he first looked in?

LF: Oh yes, the fellow, yea. I just saw his face, I couldn't tell too much how he looked, but I know it was a white male. And I just, he looked like he had a white mustache maybe about like you have there or maybe a little bit thinner. Or whatever but, Vanzola say he have long blond hair. I didn't see his hair, I just saw the front part of his face.

LS: Did you see any hair at all?

LF: No.

LS: Okay, Did you see any of his clothing?

LF: Well no, I don't cause see he was standing, you know beside the door and he just stuck his head around the corner of the door like this. And I...

LS: Did he have on any glasses or anything like that?

LF: No, I don't think so. I believe he...

LS: But he could have had a mustache?

LF: Yes, uh huh. That's what Vanzola said he had a mustache. I say he could have had one, cause it looked like he had hair on his face.

BK: Ms. Lettie, you said he was standing beside and just stuck his head around. One of the swinging doors was closed and one of them was opened? And he pushed his head around the one that was opened.

LF: Uh huh, uh huh, that's right. Cause he was standing, the door, say this the door. He was standing like on the left hand door. Cause Vanzola was standing on the side and she pushed the right hand opened to go out and that's when he put his head around, you know and looked in like that.

LS: You know about how old a fellow he might have been?

LF: I don't know, he looked like he, he, he was a young lookin fellow, well he have been in his 30's or late 20's. He wasn't...

LS: Older or younger than me?

LF: No, uh uh. I don't think so.

LS: Younger?

LF: I say he didn't look any older than you. He could have been younger.

LS: What type of build?

LF: Well, I didn't see that, enough of him. Vanzola said he was kinda slender built. He wasn't a large person. And she said he was dressed in black clothing. All he had on was black. But she saw him, you know cause she's the one who opened the door. But I didn't see that.

LS: Anything in particular stick out about him?

LF: No, not with me because, because uh...

LS: About his talk?

LF: No, cause see I didn't hear enough of that to really know. Cause whenever he talked, he was talking very low. And she at the door heard what he was saying but we back there couldn't hear, you know.

LS: Where were you sitting? You were sitting in the 14th row? -inaudible-

LF: No uh, Gwenn and I, one lady was sitting behind me and Gwen and I was sittin on the same seat.

LS: The six, the little girl, the six year old girl that was there.

LF: That's Gwen's, that's Gwenn's daughter.

GO: That's Leslie, I'm Gwen.

LS: Okay, you're Gwen.

GO: Right.

LS: All right, is that Leslie?

GO: That's Leslie.

LS: All right, so uh, ya'll were on... You were sitting next to Ms. Cora Fisher?

LF: Cora Fisher, uh huh.

LS: All right, all right, and uh, Ms. Mattie Owens was behind you.

LF: Behind me, that's right.

LS: Okay all right, all right. Did somebody get to speak to you today?

GO: No.

LS: Nobody's seen you today, Okay. We, do you work at the hospital? Okay, we had somebody over there and we were gonna try to run up with you. But that's just as well. Okay, well, we'll just stay right here and get to see everybody don't we? I do appreciate it. If anything else comes to mind well...