

TRANSCRIPTION OF TAPED STATEMENT

OF JOSEPH I. WILKES

7/14/99 13:09 HRS.

COPY

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APPEARANCES

DETECTIVE LLOYD (BUD) SAMPSON
DETECTIVE WILLIAM MUCKLO
DETECTIVE JOHN LEECH
MR. JOSEPH I. WILKES
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Q. (Sampson) Today's date is July 14th, 1999, Wednesday, it's 13:09 hours. My name is Detective Bud Sampson. We're in the Ravenna Police Department interview room. Along with me is Detective William Mucklo and Detective John Leech of the Alliance Police Department. Also in the room is Ed Wilkes, no Joseph Wilkes, Joseph Isaac Wilkes. I couldn't read your writing. Um, this is in reference to Alliance case AL9903469, a reported, uh, homicide in the City of Alliance which occurred on April 1st, 1999. Joe, I'm going to read you your rights. You know that you are not under arrest at this time, is that correct?

A. (Wilkes) Yes sir.

Q. Okay, you have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. Do you understand that?

A. Yes sir.

Q. You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him present while you are being questioned. Do you understand that?

A. Yes sir.

Q. If you cannot afford a lawyer one will be appointed to represent you before any questioning if you desire. Do you understand that?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And, you can decide at any time to exercise these rights and not answer any questions or make any statements. Do you understand that?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Okay. Prior to us talking, uh, you had, uh, signed this form, is that not correct?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Okay, and you, you, you affixed your initials to each one of these five lines?

A. Yes sir I did.

Q. Okay, and you signed it two times?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Okay. And, under Waiver of Rights it says, "I have read and had read to me the above statement of my rights, and having them in mind, I waive them and willfully make a statement." Is that, did you sign that there?

A. Yes I did.

Q. Okay. "I have been advised I am not under arrest, and that I am free to leave and need not give any statement." Did you sign that line there too?

A. Yes sir.

Q. All right Joe.

Q. (Leech) Joe, has anyone threatened you?

A. David, when I did it.

Q. Has anyone in this room threatened you?

A. No sir.

Q. Has anyone in this room promised you anything?

A. No sir.

Q. Okay.

Q. (Sampson) Okay, we're investigating the homicide of Yvonne Layne. Can you tell us your part in this?

A. David, I've know David Thorne for about four years now. He's been training me in shoot fighting, and he's always been talking to me like, how much he wishes that woman was out of his life and that he could have his little boy, and then I, for years I told him to keep me out of it, I wanted nothing to do with it. And then...

Q. (Mucklo) What woman was that, Joe?

A. Yvonne Layne.

Q. Okay.

A. And then one day, I just lost everything and I didn't care about life no more and David knew about it and he took advantage of me. And...

Q. (Sampson) We're you having some hard times at that...

A. Yes. I lost my family, I lost all my friends, I lost my little brother and sister, I lost everything. I had nothing anymore. And, David knew it.

Q. David knew that?

- A. Yes, he knew it, cause I always talked to him about my problems.
- Q. What did David say to you?
- A. David was like, well, he goes, "Do you want your life to be better, cause I can make it that way." He goes, "I'll pay you to do something for me, and I'll make sure that you're gone, and out of the state, and everything, and have a better life to live." And, Joe asked, I asked him what it was, and he said to kill somebody. And, at that point I really didn't care about life or nothing but David, and he asked me if I would do it and I told him yes.
- Q. (Mucklo) When did he approach you to do this Joe?
- A. Like, two, I want to say about a month before it happened.
- Q. Okay.
- A. And he, he told me that he'd make sure I was okay, and that I'd stay out of it, and so he picked me up one morning, took me to Alliance Mall, at the Comfort Inn, and had me pay for a room with a hundred dollar bill, and then sent me to get a knife and some baseball gloves, and, like, we rode around all day and he told me how to do it, he told me, he's like, "Just leave the store, the mall about nine, nine-thirty. Just make sure it's done by ten o'clock," because then he'll be covered, he'll be leaving, he'll have Josh with him and, and, and the cat.
- Q. Okay, go ahead.
- A. And the, uh,
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- Q. (Leech) Take it easy, (UTU).
- A. Then he'll be leaving shoot fighting class, and stopping at, uh, BP or something to get something to drink, or eat, and he, he would be covered on the camera, and that it would be done before he got back. So I said okay and he dropped me off that night and I left around nine, nine-thirty.
- Q. (Mucklo) And how did you get to the house from the mall?
- A. I walked from the mall to the house, and, I, I'd taken the gloves and my knife, and I was in some (UTU) or Nike gear, and I was walking down, and I walked to her house and the door was unlocked, I opened it, I screamed her name, and I was walking up the first flight of stairs, and she was coming down her bedroom.
- Q. Does she know you?
- A. And, she's met me once.
- Q. Okay. What did she say to you?
- A. She was like, "Hey, what are you doing here? I haven't seen you in a long time." I was like, "Oh, David just wanted me to stop by and see how things were." And, then, we were sitting there talking for about three to five minutes, and then I, I did it.
- Q. Okay. I know this is going to be hard, but we gotta go through, and you tell me what happened here. Where were you sitting, were you sitting upstairs or downstairs?
- A. We were, we were on the second floor, not the third one.
- Q. Okay.
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- A. And, we were sitting on the couch talking, and I reached over and grabbed her hair and cut her neck.
- Q. Okay. Did she get up and try to run?
- A. Yes, she tried to run out the door.
- Q. Which door did she try to run out?
- A. The big glass door that slides. And then, she...
- Q. Go ahead, take it easy.
- A. Then she asked me why, and I told her David wanted me to. Then she fell on the floor, and I walked down by her, and said, "I never did it." and I walked out and ran and throw the knife in one of the side street gutters. And I went back, and I, I set up all night at the motel.
- Q. What did you do with the clothes, did you have blood on the clothes?
- A. Yes. I threw them away somewhere after David picked me up. And,
- Q. (Leech) Do you remember where you threw them?
- A. No, I don't.
- Q. (Mucklo) How did you, how did you leave the house, the same way you come in, through the basement, or did you go out the sliding glass doors?
- A. No, I went out the basement. I went out, I run past, I ran down the steps and out the basement door. And, and...
- Q. And you walked back to the mall?
- A. And I ran back to the mall. And I set up all night thinking about what I did, and thinking about my family and everything,
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and how David took advantage of me.

Q. (Sampson) How much money did David pay you?

A. Like, three hundred and something dollars. He told me he was gonna get me out of here to get my life better, and I was what I needed.

Q. (Mucklo) So he gave you three hundred dollars?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he give you more money after that?

A. He gave me a hundred dollars to get the room and everything, then he gave me like two hundred to get new shoes and clothes, and as far as I remember that was it.

Q. (Leech) Did he give that all to you at once?

A. At different times, but it, it, pretty much in the same, within the same week or two.

Q. Okay, did he give you the hundred dollars before, and then the rest of it later?

A. He gave me the hundred dollars to get the room, and after if it was done he gave me two hundred dollars, and then like three weeks later he gave me another hundred dollars, for me to get, uh, an outfit, so he gave me three hundred dollars, and a hundred dollars to get the room, and buy that stuff.

Q. (Sampson) When you checked out of the motel, okay, can you go back, think back, he picked you up?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you go back by the house?

Q. (Leech) Where did he pick you up at, the mall?

A. Yes. No.

Q. (Sampson) No?

A. No, he wouldn't go by the house. He pulled left out of the mall and went down the back road to go into Atwater.

Q. (Leech) Where'd he drop you off at?

A. He dropped me off, uh, in Randolph at my friend Summer's house.

Q. So, somewhere along the road that you threw the clothes out?

A. No, it was after that. He, he was, he told me, he goes, "Just put them in a bag and just hold them." and I did and I gave them to him. And, my pants, though, my pants were here in Ravenna, cause I wasn't thinking of it and I was at my friends house and I just, I threw them in the woods.

Q. (Mucklo) Okay, what about your shoes? What'd you do with your shoes?

A. Uh, I don't remember sir.

Q. Okay.

Q. (Sampson) You still, do you still got them?

A. No, I don't.

Q. (Mucklo) That morning, when you checked out, before you checked out, did you try calling Dave's phone number, from a pay phone?

A. Yes sir. I did, I called him twice I think, two or three times, and I think he, he might have, but I'm not sure, but he might have answered once. But, no cause he was at work, and he was picking me up from work.

- Q. Did you call his work, place of work?
- A. No I didn't.
- Q. (Leech) Did you page him?
- A. Um, I'm not sure if I did. I don't remember.
- Q. (Mucklo) Okay, just, just to rehash, uh, where did he drop you off at again Joe?
- A. He dropped me off at the mall.
- Q. Okay, now, after he, after he picked you up at the mall that morning.
- A. Oh, after he picked me up, he dropped me off at my best friend Summer's house, and told me that he'd be back, and he'd give me the rest of my money, and that he would make sure everything was okay.
- Q. (Leech) That was in Randolph?
- A. Yes.
- Q. (Mucklo) Who's Brett Enoch?
- A. That's Summer's, uh, step-father.
- Q. (Leech) Do you remember where you threw the pants in the woods?
- A. Down by, um, if you go down, uh, eighty, I want to say eighty-eight, going towards Maplewood, and you hang a right on the first road, you go down there, and there's like a little white house on your left hand side, they were laying right there in the woods. I just tossed them in, and...
- Q. They have blood on them?
- A. Yes they did.
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- Q. You want to, you'd be able to show us where they're at?
- A. If they're still there, yes sir.
- Q. (Mucklo) That night, what was Yvonne wearing, do you remember?
- A. No I don't.
- Q. Okay. What kind of things were you talking, uh, to her about, when you got there?
- A. She just asked me how things were going, and how come I haven't been around, and I told her "Well, me and David really hasn't been together", which we really haven't, and I just called him on his, on the phone and talked to him, and talked to him about my problems, and thought he was helping me, but he wasn't. And, she asked me, she was like, "So where's David?", and I said, "He's at shoot fighting." and she was like, she goes, "Oh yeah, I forgot, it's...", was it Wednesday or Thursday?, and...
- Q. (Leech) So, what'd she say when you pulled the knife out?
- A. She didn't see me.
- Q. She had her back to you?
- A. She had her head turned, she was looking over to the side, and I pulled it out and was holding it down by my leg, and we continued talking, then when she turned her head again I did it.
- Q. Did you grab her by the hair?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Pulled her hair pretty hard?
- A. Yes.
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- Q. She was standing next to the sliding glass door?
- A. No, she was sitting on the couch to begin with, then she jumps up and runs over to the sliding glass door.
- Q. After you cut her?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why did you throw the, uh, TV stand on top of her?
- A. I tripped over it.
- Q. (Mucklo) The gloves, where were the gloves at, Joe?
- A. Um, they were, I threw them in a dumpster at McDonald's up by her house. And, I didn't see them since.
- Q. Okay.
- A. (UTU - high pitched mumbling)
- Q. (Sampson) When you, when you left the house and you ran back to the motel, did you run down State Street?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And, do you remember running past an elementary school? Is that...
- A. I'm not sure.
- Q. Is that, right by McDonald's.
- A. Then yes, if it's right by McDonald's, then yes.
- Q. Is that right where, about where you got rid of the knife?
- A. Um, no, it was when I was coming out of her house, I ran up a side street, and I ditched it in a side street, and I ran down.
- Q. (Mucklo) Okay, do you think you'd be able to show us where you ditched it at?
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- A. Yeah, if I can, it's on one of those side streets.
- Q. Okay. Joe, you've been to the house before, is that correct?
- A. Once, well now twice.
- Q. Okay. 916 Devine Street? What, when was the first time, um, just explain how you were the first time, and who was with you.
- A. Me and David Thorne went there the first time to pick up his son Brandon and, uh, we were standing there talking, and Eric got an attitude with me, which is her boyfriend, and me and Eric almost got into it, and we ended up leaving, and, uh, she took, he took Brandon, and Eric had a fit, and wanted to fight both of us, cause he didn't want Brandon to go. Excuse me. And, and...
- Q. (Leech) What'd the little boy do? The little boy that was walking around in there?
- A. I didn't see no little boy. I did not.
- Q. He keeps talking about a man hurt mommy, and big mess, and gotta get a towel and clean it up, little guy like that.
- A. I never seen anybody. The only person I saw was her.
- Q. (Sampson) So, why did David want this done?
- A. So David could have his little boy, and he wouldn't have to pay so much money.
- Q. (Leech) For child support?
- A. Yes.
- Q. (Sampson) He told you this?
- A. Yes.
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Q. (Leech) Did you ever talk to him about it when Amy was there?

A. No, he wouldn't talk around Amy, and as far as I know, that's what he told me, he wouldn't talk around Amy.

Q. (Mucklo) Did you tell anybody else what you had done? Joe?

A. Um, one person here in Ravenna.

Q. Who was that?

A. My best friend Sam Pegg.

Q. Do you know where he stays at?

A. She.

Q. She?

A. She stays over off of Diamond. I told her like, maybe, it wasn't even too long ago, because I like, was drinking, and I flipped out about it, and I told her like, last night or the night before, and she told me she just didn't know what to do.

Q. Her name once again is?

A. Samantha Pegg.

Q. Samantha Pegg.

Q. (Sampson) How old is Samantha?

A. Nineteen.

Q. She live by herself or with her parents?

A. No, with her mom and dad.

Q. How about a phone number?

A. I think it's 6926, 296.

Q. Are you sorry for what you did Joe?

A. Yes I am sorry. I can't believe I did it. He took advantage of me.
