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MO 44-272

INTERVIEWS WITH WITNESSES

The complainant and all other witnesses who could be identified and located were interviewed and signed statements were obtained from each. These statements are dated July 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1953.

1. WILL McDUFFIE  
Alberta, Alabama

Alberta, Alabama  
July 6, 1953

I, WILL McDUFFIE, Alberta, Alabama, voluntarily make the following statement to ROBERT R. PERRY and JOHN P. BRADY, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I am 65 years of age and have lived in or near Alberta for the past 21 years. I have been operating a cafe in Alberta called "Della's Place" for about 5 years. About 2 years ago Mr. Lummie, the high Sheriff, told me that I had to close at midnight. This is, he told my wife that we must close at midnight on Saturday night and told her to tell me.

On the night of April 25, 1953 I was working in the back of the cafe when HATTIE HUDSON, who was in back of the counter, told me that it was 6 minutes after twelve. I told her to tell her father to turn off the Rockola and about that time someone told me that there was a man at the back door to see me. I went to the back door and started to unlatch it when I heard a commotion out in the cafe and heard some shooting. A bunch of people began running past me out the back door and I never did get to see who it was that wanted to see me.

I went into the cafe and folks were crowding around and running and I couldn't see what had happened at first. Then I saw MR. LUMMIE standing near the back of the cafe by my wife. He had a long black object in his hand that might have been a hose and I saw him hit a boy and then turn to another man and hit him on the shoulder.



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A second man that had come in with Mr. Lummie was standing near the counter toward the back of the cafe. This was a big man but I do not know his name. There were two men in uniform at the front door just inside the cafe and one of them had a gun in his hand and I saw him fire one shot toward the ceiling. I went to the rockola and turned it off and then went over to my wife.

My wife has been sick the past 7 years and is not able to move around. She was sitting in a chair near the back of the cafe and went I went to her I said "Now Della, don't let this frighten you." She asked me to carry her into the room and I started to pick her up. ROBERT RUSSELL helped me carry her into the bed..

When we picked her up, DELLA held her head to one side and I told her to hold her head up. She said "SNOW, they hit me, they hit me". I said "DELLA, sure MR. LUMMIE didn't hit you". She said yes he did, that he had told her to get up and get to bed and when she said she couldn't get up, he had hit her.

As soon as we got my wife into bed, I sent OSCAR HUDSON to run get the Doctor. When the doctor came in, he turned to OSCAR and said "OSCAR, how come you didn't tell me that DELLA got a lick". OSCAR told him that he didn't know that she got a lick and the doctor said "you're lying".

The doctor began to look after my wife and I told him that I thought she was dying. He just said no she's not and went about feeling her pulse and then went to his bag to get a needle to give her some medicine. Before He was able to give her the medicine, he looked up and said "Snow, your wife is dead". She died with her head in my lap.

DELLA had a dark place just above her right ear on her head that looked like she had been hit there. Just before she died, I saw some blood running from her right ear. Her left arm flopped around too as though it had been broken. The arm had a knot on it and it was bleeding.

My wife died 7 minutes after 1AM Sunday morning and the undertaker came down from Selma a few hours later and DELLA was buried at Glover's Church near Consul, in Marengo County.