

"About 7:00 - 7:30 A.M. on Thursday, May 21, 1953 I walked back of my house, going to my garden which adjoins gardens of PEARL HARREL and HENRY THOMAS. As I walked into PEARL HARREL's yard, I saw PEARL have her dog catch her chicken which she put into her pen. I noticed another chicken in her yard, which her dog ran after and caught out in a corn patch over towards HENRY THOMAS' house.

"I couldn't see what heppened, but I heard PEARL HARREL tell HENRY THOMAS not to hit her dog because she, PEARL, would take the dog off of the chicken. I saw PEARL walking back towards her house, and about that time I heard a shotgun blast. This shot came from the direction of HENRY THOMAS' house, but I don't know whether the shot was at PEARL HARREL, her dog, or at something else.

"After hearing the one shot, I came up the street and told SAM WILLIAMS, father of PEARL HARRELL, about hearing the shot. I then came home and don't know what else happened. I didn't go to HENRY THOMAS' house until 1:00 P.M. that day, when I testified at the inquest concerning HENRY THOMAS' death.

"I have read this statement of this and one other page, and sign my name below stating that these facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ "IRENE HODGE

"Witnesses:

"PRUE C. CLINKSCALES, Special Agent, FBI, Miami, Fla.
"WILLIAM J. JAMISON, Special Agent, FBI, Miami, Fla."

PEARL HARREL and IRENE HODGE identified the common-law wife of victim HENRY THOMPSON as "QUEENIE", who upon interview gave her name as ELIZABETH QUEEN VICTORIA THOMPSON, age 74. With her was her son by a former husband, JAMES GORE, who resides at 759 West Olive Street, age 33.

GORE advised he was not present when the trouble began or during the shooting, but came to victim THOMPSON's residence immediately after the shooting. Consequently, he could furnish no information regarding what had happened prior to his arrival.

QUEENIE advised that she was not legally married to victim HENRY THOMPSON, better known locally as HENRY THOMAS, but had lived with him intermittently for the past 17 years. She advised she has not lived in the house with HENRY THOMAS for the past four - five years, but had cared for victim THOMPSON by preparing his meals and taking care of his laundry.

QUEENIE advised on Thursday morning, May 21, 1953, she had brought victim THOMPSON's breakfast to him, had returned to her room some several blocks away, and was returning to THOMPSON's residence by way of the residence of PEARL HARREL.

She advised she did not hear the first shot allegedly fired by victim THOMPSON at PEARL HARREL or her dog. QUEENIE stated that PEARL told her of her trouble with the victim; that victim had shot at PEARL or PEARL's dog, whereupon QUEENIE requested PEARL not to call the police officers. PEARL told her that she had already telephoned for police officers to come to her home.

QUEENIE denied knowledge of previous trouble between victim THOMPSON and PEARL HARREL and her father. QUEENIE alleged that she proceeded through the corn patches and trees to THOMPSON's residence and upon her arrival she noted that victim was sitting in a chair just inside the door of his house with his shotgun and rifle leaning against the front door. QUEENIE stated that victim usually kept his guns in his bedroom.

She advised she obtained victim's clothing, and walked out into the front yard in preparation of beginning her washing. She recalled victim had told her of shooting at PEARL HARREL's dog after the dog caught one of his chickens.

QUEENIE advised that the two officers, Officer FIELDS and an unknown man wearing plain clothes, came into the yard at THOMPSON's house, stopping near a dilapidated shed where she was preparing to do her laundry, at which time Officer FIELDS advised victim THOMPSON that they desired to talk with him. She stated that THOMPSON was then sitting in a chair just inside the door of his house, and that THOMPSON advised the officers not to come nearer to him, not to come inside his house unless they had a warrant for his arrest,

and that he was not coming out into the yard to talk with them. QUEENIE could not recall whether or not victim THOMPSON had his gun in his hand at this time while talking with the officers.

QUEENIE related that Officer FIELDS kept talking to victim THOMPSON requesting him to put down his gun, as they only wanted to talk with him, and after several minutes of such requests, during which time THOMPSON declined to put down his gun, the man in plain clothes returned to the police car, then parked on Hartsell Avenue, just west of THOMPSON's home, separating it from the West Lake Housing Project.

QUEENIE related that after several minutes talking to victim THOMPSON asking him to come out and talk to the officers, Officer FIELDS returned to his car, parked it just west of the THOMPSON house on Hartsell Avenue, and waited in the car until other officers, whose names were unknown to her, came up to the rear of the THOMPSON residence.

She recalled that HENRY THOMPSON was then standing in the front door of his house with his shotgun in hand, and that Officer FIELDS, prior to departing, had drawn his revolver and held it in his hand. She recalled further that prior to Officer FIELDS departing, he had requested her to go into the house in an effort to persuade victim THOMPSON to put down his gun. She stated she did so, but victim THOMPSON refused her request. After this, QUEENIE returned to the yard, after which a neighbor, CHARLIE FOOTMAN, came up West Hickory Street, which runs approximately 60 - 70 yards south of THOMPSON's residence. QUEENIE did not recall the conversation between FOOTMAN and HENRY THOMPSON, other than FOOTMAN tried to persuade victim THOMPSON to put down his gun and talk to the police officers. She did recall that victim THOMPSON fired a shot in the direction of FOOTMAN after conversing with him.

QUEENIE further stated that at the request of some of the police officers she went to the back of the THOMPSON residence and stood some distance to the rear behind some trees. She advised that as best she recalled, HENRY THOMPSON fired at the officers from inside his house, whereupon the officers returned fire, shooting numerous times, and when she returned to the house, victim THOMPSON had been wounded and

MM 44-373

had fallen in his yard with his head near the doorstep. When QUEENIE first saw THOMPSON lying on the ground she advised that police officers had collected THOMPSON's shotgun and rifle and had wrapped them in an old apron taken from her clothes line.

QUEENIE advised that when she arrived the police officers refused to allow her or anyone else to touch the victim's body and refused her request to remove from the body victim's two wallets, which allegedly contained \$600 in one wallet, and approximately \$100 in another billfold. QUEENIE claimed that she last saw these amounts of money in the victim's possession three days prior to his death, and to the best of her knowledge the money should have been in victim's possession at the time he was killed.

Because of her feeble condition, and somewhat incoherent conversation, QUEENIE declined to furnish the above information in a signed statement.

CHARLIE FOOTMAN, 820 West Hickory Street, Lakeland, a neighbor to victim THOMPSON for several years, advised that shortly after the shooting started between victim THOMPSON and police officers of the Lakeland Police Department, he proceeded from his home in the direction of THOMPSON's home. He furnished his version of the incident, as best he could recall, in the following signed statement, the original of which is maintained in the files of the Miami Office:

"Lakeland, Fla.
May 28, 1953

"I, CHARLIE L. FOOTMAN, do make the following voluntary statement to PRUE C. CLINKSCALES and WILLIAM J. JAMISON, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats, or promises have been made to me to make this statement, and I know that what I say herein may later be used in a court of law.

"I am 42 years old, and live at 820 West Hickory Street, Lakeland, Florida.