

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE CASE # 59-276-261
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT—Under Arrest B-71
SHERIFF DEPT.

POLICE DEPT. _____ MISC. _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS }
COUNTY OF GREGG }

Date January 25, 1956

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

After I have been duly warned by Ralph Prince, Criminal District Attorney
the person to whom said statement is made, that I do not have to make any statement at all, and that any
statement I make may be used in evidence against me on the trial for the offense or offenses concerning which
this statement is herein made, I wish to make the following voluntary statement to the aforesaid person:

My name is Barry Dean Ross

My address is Box 43, Tatum, Texas

I am 31 years old

On the night of October 22, 1955 I picked up Joe Simpson in Tatum at about 6 o'clock and we came to Longview. We went to a beer joint and had a couple of beers and then we bought one-half (1/2) case of can beer and put it in the car, then we went to a Drive Inn Theatre and saw one show and most of the second one, and it was about 11 o'clock P. M. when we started on back to Tatum. I told Joe Simpson "Let's go on a raid", which was the name we used for shooting at the negroes in the Mayflower community. He said alright, and asked if I had my rifle and I said yes. I had a Mossberg .22 automatic rifle in the back seat and Joe Simpson loaded the rifle with about 10 or 11 shells. I was driving my car, which is a 1949 Ford 2 door, club coupe, and it is dark blue in color.

When we got even with Hughes Cafe, which is a negro cafe on Highway 149 in Gregg County, Texas, out near Lake Cherokee, I told Joe Simpson to hand me the rifle. He asked me what I was going to do and I said I was going to shoot the gun myself. I held the steering wheel with my left hand and laid the gun across the left door. I was going about 85 miles per hour at the time and I fired nine (9) shots in the front of the Hughes Cafe.

We drove on down the road at a high rate of speed and stopped at a little filling station and Joe Simpson re-loaded the rifle. We then drove on until we got to the Mayflower turn-off and we came to where a school bus was parked by a house. Joe Simpson shot the rifle 5 or 6 times at the school bus. The rifle that Joe Simpson shot at the school bus with is the same one that I used to fire into the cafe.

After the second shooting we drove on down and Joe Simpson loaded the rifle again and we got to a house and I asked him to pass me the rifle, and I did the same thing again. I shot at a house which I knew was where some negroes lived. I fired the rifle about 9 times at the house. Then we drove on to Tatum. We pulled into a filling station at Tatum which is run by Jim Young. We stopped at the filling station and talked to Freddie Murray a while and had another can of beer, then we went on home. This was about mid-night at that time.

The next morning I got up and went to work and got back home about 5 o'clock and heard that a negro had been killed in the cafe and two others wounded. This shooting happened on Saturday night, October 22, 1955 and on Sunday I got in touch with Joe Simpson and asked him to hand the rifle for me. The next night Joe told me he had had the rifle. Joe Simpson and I in April, 1955 fired into a school bus and school house in the Mayflower Community, in

Signed by the arrested party

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE CASE # 59382
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT—REC'D FROM SHERIFF DEPT.

POLICE DEPT. _____ MISG. _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF GREGG }

Date January 26, 1956

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

After I have been duly warned by Ralph Prince, Criminal District Attorney,
the person to whom said statement is made, that I do not have to make any statement at all, and that any
statement I make may be used in evidence against me on the trial for the offense or offenses concerning which
this statement is herein made, I wish to make the following voluntary statement to the aforesaid person:

My name is Joe Reagan Simpson.

My address is General Delivery, Texas City, Texas.

I am 22 years old

On the night of October 22, 1955, Dean Ross picked me up at
Tatum about six o'clock and we drove to Longview. We went to Johnny's
Beer joint and had a couple of beers, and then we bought a half case of
canned beer across the highway and put it in the car. Then we went to
a drive-in theater and stayed until about eleven o'clock.

On the way back to Tatum Dean Ross said, "let's go on a raid,"
which was the name we used for shooting at negro school buses and negro
houses in the Mayflower Community.

I took his automatic rifle out of the back seat and loaded it
with a full load of shells. Dean Ross was driving and before we got
to the Hughes Cafe on the north side of Highway 149 in Gregg County,
Texas, out near Lake Cherokee, he stuck the barrel of the rifle out
the window on his side and fired about nine shots into the front of
Hughes Cafe. We were going about as fast as the car would run. We
drove on down the road and stopped at a little filling station and I
reloaded the rifle. We then drove on until we got to the Mayflower
turnoff, and went on that road until we came to a school bus, which
was parked by a negro house. I shot the rifle five or six times into
the school bus trying to shoot out the windows. After this we drove on
down, and I loaded the rifle again and before we got to another negro's
house Dean asked me for the rifle, and he fired into the house where some
negroes lived. This time he shot about nine times into the house.

Then we drove on to Tatum and pulled into a filling station
where we talked to Freddie Murray while we had a can of beer. Then we
went on home about midnight. The next afternoon about two or three
o'clock I came to town and first learned that a negro had been killed
in the Hughes Cafe where Dean had fired the rifle into it. Later
that afternoon I saw Dean. Later on that afternoon I saw Dean Ross and
he told me he wanted me to get rid of the rifle. I first hid it
in some bushes near my house, and later on I took it to the coal bed
near the Sabine River. When I got down to the river I tied the rifle
with string to the bottom of a log that was floating in the river, and
pushed the log out in the river where it would float off. I told
Dean Ross that I had buried the rifle because he didn't want to know
where it was.

In April 1955 I fired several shots into a school bus in
the Mayflower Community, in Rusk County, Texas, when I was riding
with Dean Ross.

Witnesses:

Signed by the arrested party