

BH 44-226

MARIE DAVIS PATTERSON, 2013 Avenue P, Ensley, who works for Mr. MIMI DiGRAZIA, 3525 - 17th Avenue, North, executed the following signed statement which is being retained in the files of the Birmingham Office:

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Birmingham, Ala.  
August 13, 1951.

I, MARIE DAVIS PATTERSON, age 20, willingly make this statement to PEYTON NORVILLE and HENRY A. DONAHOO, who have identified themselves to me as special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I realize that I do not have to make a statement.

I lived with TOM PATTERSON as his wife for about two years but I was not married to him. I considered myself his common-law wife. We had no children.

In July 1951 I worked at Christy's Cafe in Homewood. I was supposed to work July 3, and TOM PATTERSON thought I was working. He was very jealous of me and wanted to know where I was all the time.

I was in town part of the day of July 3, and I started to go home about 5:30 P.M. and I just happened to see TOM at 20th Street and 3rd Ave. North. We went out to see his brother's house at 14th Street and Tallapoosa. His brother's name is WILLIE PATTERSON. We only stayed there about 20 minutes. We argued some while we were out there about the fact that I wasn't working when he thought I should be. Neither one of us were drinking.

When we left TOM's brother's house we went back to town and visited my cousin, HELENA BURTON, who lives at 824 N. 25th Street. We stayed there until shortly after midnight.

We did not drink anything while we were there but we argued off and on the whole time we were there. He cursed me some while we were arguing and he accused me with running around with another man.

We left the Burton house about 12:20 a.m. July 4 and walked about a block to the Swank Club near 8th Ave. and 24th Street N. We both went into the club and TOM bought some cigarets and played the juke box a few times. They sell whiskey and beer there but we did not buy any. We did not argue at all while we were in the club.



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We left the club about 12:30 a.m. and went out on the street and walked to the corner of 8th Ave. and 24th Street, North. We were arguing most of the way on the street and he was cursing me.

When we got to the corner TOM slapped me down and then pulled out a switch blade knife and opened it. I had a package in my hand and hit at him with the package. We were arguing all the time but I did not call for help.

I don't know exactly how long it was, but very shortly after I got up off the ground a car drove up and a man with a gun in his hand jumped out and he told TOM to drop the knife. The man was not in any kind of a uniform and TOM said "this is my wife, who is you?" The man also said "leave that woman alone."

When TOM asked the man who he was the man said, "I am a policeman" and TOM said, "Let me see your badge." The man then pulled out his badge and showed it to TOM. TOM then said, "I am sorry" and he dropped his knife on the ground. The officer then said, "You seem to be a smart ass negro, I ought to kill you."

When the officer said that I jumped between him and TOM and I asked the officer not to shoot him. The officer then slapped me and pushed me back and then he hit TOM with the butt of his pistol. TOM then staggered back from the officer and the man shot him one time. TOM was not attacking the officer at the time he was shot. TOM and the officer were about 18 inches apart when the officer shot him.

The only witnesses that I know of to the shooting was a 13 or 14 year old colored boy whose name I don't know. He was standing across the street. The officer had two ladies and a man in the car with him. I imagine they saw. I think there was a man sitting in a truck across the street but I don't know the man or the kind of truck he was driving.

I have read this statement of three and a half pages and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) MARIE DAVIS PATTERSON.