AT 44-879

MARY EDITH ROBINSON was interviewed on June 5, 1958, by Special Agents HENRY L. BURGETT and JAMES J. WARD and furnished the following voluntary signed statement, the original of which is being maintained in this file:

"Dawson, Ga. June 5, 1958

"I, Mary Edith Robinson, make the following free and voluntary statement to James J. Ward and Henry L. Burgett who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been advised of my rights to talk to a lawyer. I have been advised that I do not have to make any statement and that any statement I do make may be used in a court of law for or against me. No threats or promises of reward have been made to me to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born 4(3) I presently reside at 120 Porters Alley, Dawson, Ga.

"I lived with Willie Countryman for about one year. We had a room in the home of his Grandmother, Cornelia Countryman, 318 W. 3rd Ave., Dawson, Ga.

"On May 22, 1958, Thursday night about 10:30 p.m. Willie and I had a fuss about moving out from his Grandmother's house and getting some other place to stay.

"Willie said he wanted to move but wasn't making enough money to buy furniture to put in another place.

"The next morning, Friday, May 23, 1958, I got up and started packing my things to go to my mother's home to live. Willie had already left for work.

"I finished packing my things and called a cab. I took my things and baby and went to my mother's home.

"I saw Willie about 6:00 PM that Friday after he got off from work. He was at the Pool Room near Main St.

"I had been drinking some that day. I wanted to talk to Willie about me staying at my mother's and wanted to know what he was going to do about moving.

"He thought since I had been drinking that I wanted to fuss. He tried to avoid it by leaving me and going into the Pool Room and sitting down.

"I went into the Pool Room and asked him to come walk with me a little piece.

"He, Willie, said OK. We went through Dale's Alley on around up to the new Highway. We walked on up to the corner. We were fussing and arguing about he was trying to leave and go on and I wanted to talk to him. I hit Willie three or four times. My hand got caught in his shirt once and caused me to tear his shirt. Willie did not hit me.

"About that time the Police car drove up. The officer asked us what was wrong.

"Willie told the policeman that I was trying to fight him and he was trying to go and leave me along.

"The policeman told Willie to get in the car. Willie got into the car. The policeman then went over to the mill and talked to two white men. I did not hear what they said. The policeman then came back to the car, told Willie to get out and told me to get in. The policeman then drove me to jail where I was locked up from about 7:00 PM Friday to about 9:30 AM Saturday.

"About 4:00 PM, Saturday, May 24, 1958, I went to Louise Wilburn's uncle's home where I found Willie. I called him and told him to come there and he came out there to where I was.

"He, Willie, asked me where the baby was.

"I told him that the baby was at home. I told him that I was sorry for what happened Friday and I asked him if he still wanted to make a go of it. He said, yes.

"I asked him what he was going to do.

"He said that when he got his check he was going to try to get us somewhere to stay. He asked me what was I going to do Saturday night.

"I told him that if I had the money I would go to the movies. He gave me fifty cents.

"I asked what he was going to do.

"He said he was thinking about going himself.

"I asked him if he would take me or would I just meet him up there. He said he was going to take me.

"I told him I was going up town at seven o'clock. He told me to come back there when I got ready to go. I left and didn't see him until about 7:00 P.M. when I met him on the street. We walked on to the movies. I told him about Mr. Harold Jones, a policeman that got me out of jail, telling me that if we couldn't get along to stay away from one another and for me not to be seen back down at his house.

"Willie said it would be best that we not go to the movies.

"I left him and didn't see him until about 11:00 PM when I met him on the street. We talked for a short time. He asked where I was going. I told him I was going home. He asked if he could come down Sunday to see the baby. I said yes. He left, said he was going home.

"I got into J. W.'s Cab and went with him on a call. When we got back to town everything was closed. J. W. went to the Barber Shop to check in. When he came back to the car I asked him to take me to my mother's house. After we got to her house I decided to go over to Dorothy Folk's house. I asked J. W. to drive me there. When we got to Dorothy Folk's house I got out of the car and went to the door. Carrie Sumlin came to the door and said Dorothy was not home. J. W. drove off when I got out of the cab. After Carrie told me that Dorothy was not home I left her house and walked to Willie's house.

"Willie was in bed when I got there. He got up and came to the door where I was after I had called him. He came outside, I did not go in the house. We were standing near the corner of the house talking. We were there about half an hour when we heard a noise behind the little house in the back yard. The noise sounded like someone was urinating.

"Willie said nothing but just walked out there to see what the noise was. It was so dark we couldn't see what was out there.

"I could see Willie until he was under the tree in the back yard. He was walking in the path which crosses the year to Odell Williams yard.

"I heard something fall, it sounded like someone fell. Then I heard a shot. I heard Willie say I'm sorry I didn't know it was you all.

"I saw one person flash a light on Willie where he was on the ground laying on his back.

"I did not hear either of the men say anything since it was so dark I could just see well enough to tell that there was two people there when Willie walked out there. One was behind the little house and one under the tree in the back yard.

"I ran from behind the house. I walked to my mother's home. No one saw me at Willie's house. When I ran from back of Willie's house I saw the police car parked on the side of the road, below the house alongside the field which is next to Willie's house.

"I have read the above statement of this and seven other pages I have inilialed each page and each correction. I ham singing this statement because it is true and correct in every way

/s/ Mary Edith Robinson

"Witnessed
/s/ James J. Ward, SA, FBI, Atlanta Georgia 6/5/58
/s/ Henry L. Burgett, Special Agent, F.B.I., Atlanta, Ga. 6/5/58"