

05/16/2011

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription

Investigation on

at

File #

Date dictated

by

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On May 16, 2011, EVA MAE SANFORD-RANDALL, black female, date of birth, April 30, 1931, residing at 136 Martin Luther King Drive, Cochran, Georgia, telephone number 478/934-4808, was contacted and re-interviewed at her home concerning the death of her brother, WILLE JOE SANFORD, in 1957. Also present during this interview was [REDACTED] Mrs. RANDALL'S [REDACTED] Both SANFORD and [REDACTED] were advised as to the nature of the interview and to the identity of the interviewing agent by display of badge and credentials. SANFORD provided the following information openly and freely:

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SANFORD advised she is WILLE JOE SANFORD'S sister and, as children, they were raised in Cochran, Georgia. SANFORD advised ARTHUR KING was a friend to the family and close to her brother, also living in Cochran, Georgia. KING was much older than WILLIE JOE SANFORD, at least 15 years older, and worked in the local cotton mill. He got her brother a job there, as well. KING was known by the locals as a gambler. KING was married to LIZZIE MAE KING and had a son by an "outside woman." SANFORD did not know the son's name.

SANFORD stated the day before her brother's death he was missing. She and KING had tried to find him at the spots he was known to frequent but were unable to locate WILLIE JOE SANFORD. After approximately one week, KING notified SANFORD the BLECKLEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE had spoken with him and told him of finding a body believed to be WILLIE JOE SANFORD. KING was told by the sheriff to notify SANFORD and they would come and pick her up to go and determine if the body was in fact her brother. SANFORD stated the sheriff and a deputy picked her and KING up and took them to the place in Pulaski County where the body was found and being held. SANFORD advised they were told to lie down in the back seat as they drove through the city limits of Pulaski County, Georgia.

SANFORD was told by the sheriff to not say a word other than "yes" or "no." SANFORD was also told by the sheriff not to scream or discuss the condition of the body. SANFORD identified the body as that of her brother, WILLIE JOE SANFORD. Her brother's body was open from the chest down and the top of his head was gone. His arms and hands had been bound with wire. It was a day SANFORD will never forget. SANFORD was not able to have the funeral nor was the body returned to Cochran. The body was buried by the

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SA [REDACTED] alh

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SANFORD-21-CCRCA

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coroner in north Georgia. Approximately one month later, SANFORD was taken to the grave site. At that point, the grave had sunken in and was covered with a blackberry vine.

To SANFORD'S knowledge, KING was taken into custody for his own protection and possibly taken to Fulton County, near Atlanta, Georgia. After a short time, KING returned to Cochran to live and work. SANFORD'S [REDACTED] advised she remembered seeing KING in the area and thought she might have been [REDACTED] years old at the time. Her brother's death has always bothered SANFORD and she can only guess what happened and who was responsible. SANFORD advised, "God knows and he sees all."

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SANFORD advised in 1957, in Cochran, Georgia, there were two funeral homes, one for blacks and the other for whites. FISHER'S funeral home was owned and operated by the FISHER family. The FISHER's had a black man operating the black funeral while FISHER operated the white funeral home. SANFORD could not remember the name of the coroner during that time in Cochran, but was aware the MATHIS family has since taken over as coroner.

SANFORD recalled having a dream about her brother's death and stated in her dream he would be found in water. WILLE JOE SANFORD's body was found in a body of water in Pulaski County, Georgia.

SANFORD and [REDACTED] advised any work or investigation by the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION would mean a great deal to their family. SANFORD could not provide any additional persons to be interviewed who are still living.

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