

SHERIFF JAMES U. (PEANUT) CARPENTER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT
STATEMENT OF: John R. LaFollette AS TAKEN BY
DEPUTY: Detective Ron Pollock ON: 06-18-97

TR: 06-19-97

CASE NO. : 97-0836


DEBBIE BEROS

STATEMENT

- 01: This is Detective Ron Pollock of the Guernsey Co. Sheriff's Dept.
02: Today's date is 06-18-97. I'm at the Butler County Prison. Sitting here
03: in the prison with me is John LaFollette.
04: P. John, before I turned the tape recorder on, I read something commonly
05: known as your Miranda Rights. Do you remember me reading me reading your
06: rights to you?
07: L. Yes sir.
08: P. Do you understand your rights?
09: L. Yes sir I do.
10: P. Do you have any questions concerning your rights?
11: L. No sir.
12: P. Okay, and are you giving this statement of your own free will?
13: L. Yes sir I am.
14: P. Okay, approximately a month ago, I believe it was on the 17th of May.
15: It was on a Saturday.
16: L. Yes sir.
17: P. Do you remember the incident that happened at Leo Sinnett's house?
18: L. Yes sir I do.
19: P. Okay, in your own words can you start before the incident of that day
20: of what happened?
21: L. Yes sir, uh....I sent Chip Andrews and Skippy Roberts after a case of
22: beer. They went and got the case of beer and come back. I walked out
23: to the car, got a 12 pack of beer, walked back in the house, put it in
24: the refrigerator, walked back outside and they was still sitting in the
25: car. They yelled over at me and said, "hey, you want to go for a ride?"
26: P. Okay, whose house was you at?
27: L. Mia Andrews.
28: P. Mia Andrews, so you was at Mia Andrews house and that's where they
29: come to?
30: L. Yes sir.
31: P. Okay, the people in the car, being Skip Roberts, right?
32: L. Skip Roberts and Chip Andrews.
33: P. Okay, his real name is Albert?
34: L. Albert, yeah.
35: P. Okay, Albert Andrews and then Clarence Skip Roberts?
36: L. Clarence, I didn't know that.
37: P. But he goes by Skip.
38: L. I just know him by Skip.
39: P. When you refer to him....
40: L. I just met him too.

STATEMENT

01: P. Okay.
02: L. But anyway, they said....asked.....yelled out to me, do I want to go
03: for a ride, well I figured, yeah I'll go ahead and go for a ride, drink a
04: couple of beers, no big deal. I've done it before, you know, lots of
05: times, lots of times. So we take off, we pull into the place that....uh,
06: the day before my cousin, Jack Siddle asked me if I would clean this tree
07: up. I'm thinking, oh this is real cool. So I had walked around the
08: house. He walks to the house, I go around, I check the tree out, start
09: back to the door, out comes Skip Andrews....not Skip Andrews, but Skippy
10: Roberts comes out of the house. He said, "you can't talk to him, he's
11: dead." I was like, "what" and we just took off. Right after that, we get
12: picked up.
13: P. Okay, when he come out of the house, he told you, Skip told you, "he's
14: dead."
15: L. Yeah, "he's dead."
16: P. Was there blood on him, Skip?
17: L. Blood all...from his hands to his elbows.
18: P. Did he have it on his clothing or did you notice or did you just see
19: the blood?
20: L. I seen more on his arms and hands, both of his arms.
21: P. Okay, and then you went and got in the car, both of you?
22: L. Yeah.
23: P. Who was driving the car?
24: L. Chip.
25: P. Chip was driving.
26: L. Albert Andrews.
27: P. Then you left, where did you go?
28: L. We went straight down. I don't know what street that was, but went
29: straight down, hit 313 and as we was going out 313 the state patrol where
30: the turn around...where the big turn around is where you get off the
31: interstate...
32: P. Yeah.
33: L. The state patrol was sitting there. Well, we took passed him, the
34: state patrol pulls right out and we pulled into the next farm house on
35: the right. Right there in Derwent. Right as you go right into Derwent.
36: P. Okay, now lets back up a little bit.
37: L. Okay.
38: P. When you got in the car, what did Skip say? Did you ask him what
39: happened or...?
40: L. I didn't have to ask. He said, "I stabbed that son of a bitch, he's
41: dead."
42: P. What did Chip say?
43: L. He didn't say nothing.
44: P. Did he....he didn't say a word?
45: L. No.
46: P. When you guys left, did you go by Mia's house?
47: L. No.
48: P. You went straight down the street.
49: L. Straight...straight down the street and then turned left towards
50: the Duke and then we took a right and went out towards Derwent.

STATEMENT

11: P. And then the state patrol pulled you over down the road, just past
12: the interstate?
13: L. Yeah.
14: P. Okay, and what happened there?
15: L. Pulled....got pulled over and uh...they got Chip out of the car, was
16: questioning Chip. They come over to the car. The state patrol come back
17: over to the passenger side of the car, asked...asked Skippy, said, "what
18: did you do, just murder somebody, just killed somebody?"
19: P. Why would he say that?
20: L. Because he....he...blood from his hands to his elbows.
21: P. Okay, what did Skip tell him, the state patrol?
22: L. "No, we just skinned a....a deer, just gutted a deer."
23: P. Did he ask you anything about it?
24: L. I was never asked any questions at all.
25: P. Then after that what happened?
26: L. After that, I got out of the car. They told me....told me to get out
27: of the car. Skippy told me to go ahead get out of the car. I went into
28: this house. I don't know who the fellow was or anything, asked him if I
29: could use the phone.
30: P. Okay.
31: L. As I go in toward...to the house...towards the house, Skippy tells
32: me, he said, "don't do nothing real stupid." So I go in and call my
33: sister. I said, "Kim can you come and get me?" She said, "well, what's
34: wrong?" I told her, I said, "just got pulled over and we're going to have
35: to go get Chip out of jail." So we get...she comes and picks us up...
36: P. Now your sister is...?
37: L. Kim.
38: P. Kimberly?
39: L. Yeah.
40: P. Okay, she picks you up?
41: L. Yeah, her and Matt picked me up.
42: P. Matt Robins?
43: L. Yes.
44: P. Okay.
45: L. Matthew Robins, we go in, she drops...she drops me and Skip off at the
46: hill top....uh I don't think it's the hill top, but where the Pancake
47: House is up on the hill.
48: P. Okay, at the bar?
49: L. Yeah, at the bar.
50: P. Okay.
51: L. Dropped us off up there and they go back to the state patrol barracks
52: to pick up Chip Andrews.
53: P. What did you two do in the bar?
54: L. I was sitting there drinking. I was drinking whiskey and he was
55: sitting there telling me how I shouldn't do anything, shouldn't say
56: nothing, that I would end up really in bad shape, in the worst kind of
57: shape and the same shape that Leo's in.
58: P. So Skip threatened you after telling you that he killed somebody, so
59: he was basically telling you, that he was going to kill you too if you
60: said anything?

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STATEMENT

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01: L. Yes sir.
02: P. Alright, and then what happened after that?
03: L. My sister come back, she says, that the highway patrol had already
04: taken uh...Chip home.
05: P. Okay.
06: L. So we get in the car and uh...Skippy says, "well, take me over to
07: get my pickup truck." So one door in Kimberly's car didn't work. So I
08: had to get out. When I got out and he got out, Kimberly just left, so I
09: didn't make it back in the car. So...
10: P. Lets back up, when you left....
11: L. We were in Quaker City.
12: P. Alright, when you...lets back up a little bit. When you left the
13: Pancake House....
14: L. We went to Quaker City.
15: P. Yeah, but where did you go between? Did you stop anywhere? Did you
16: stop at Quality Farm and Fleet?
17: L. Yes...oh yes sir.
18: P. Okay, what happened there?
19: L. Went in and got a t-shirt.
20: P. Who went in?
21: L. I did.
22: P. Okay, what kind of t-shirt did you get?
23: L. A black...had a black with a dog on it.
24: P. Okay, how many shirts did you get?
25: L. One.
26: P. One, who was that shirt for?
27: L. Skippy.
28: P. Why did Skippy want a shirt?
29: L. I guess he had blood on his. He wanted rid of it and....
30: P. What did he...what happened...you went in and bought a shirt, you
31: brought it back out to the car, Kimberly, Matthew and Skip's in the car
32: and you get back in the car....
33: L. He put the shirt on.
34: P. What did he do with the shirt that had blood on it?
35: L. I don't know.
36: P. Okay.
37: L. Really, I don't know.
38: P. Okay, and then Kimberly took you guys and where did she take you to?
39: L. She took us to Quaker City to pick up his pickup truck, Ford pickup.
40: P. Alright.
41: L. Okay, we leave there, we're going back to Mia's house to see what was
42: going on with Chip. He said, "lets go back to see what Chip's doing."
43: He said, "I gotta find out, so he don't tell nothing, to make sure he's
44: not going to say anything." But in between there, we run out of gas in
45: the truck.
46: P. Okay.
47: L. He jumps out, he flags a car down, which is no less than Peanut
48: Carpenter himself.
49: P. Okay.
50: L. He asked Peanut if he would take him to Lore City to get some gas in
51: Lore City.

STATEMENT

1: P. Alright.

2: L. So he dropped us off at Gary Knoll's station.

3: P. Both of you?

4: L. Yeah, oh yeah.

5: P. Now, what happened....how did Skip kill Mr. Sinnett?

6: L. Stabbed him.

7: P. Alright, where's the knife at, that he stabbed him with?

8: L. Out there by Coal Ridge uh....out...well, his pants and his knife is

9: out there.

0: P. When did he get rid of the knife?

1: L. The next morning.

2: P. The next morning, so he kept the knife that night?

3: L. Yeah.

4: P. Okay, did you guys go to the Airport Inn and pick up some beer about

5: closing time?

6: L. Yeah, yeah.

7: P. When you was riding around, did you start a fire anywhere? Did you

8: burn anything?

9: L. Not that I know of, no.

0: P. You can't remember burning anything?

1: L. No sir.

2: P. Okay, alright. But the knife and the pants are out by Coal Ridge?

3: L. Yes.

4: P. Are they in the weeds or...?

5: L. No, they're in the creek.

6: P. In the creek out there?

7: L. You're coming down the big hill, it would be on the passenger side of

8: the car, about 20 yards out, the pants and the knife...

9: P. At the bridge?

0: L. Yeah.

1: P. Okay, alright. Now lets back up and go....you was in Buffalo

2: approximately five days before all of this happened.

3: L. Yes sir.

4: P. You was staying at Mia's?

5: L. Yes sir.

6: P. Now while you was at Mia's uh...did anybody ever talk about going up

7: to Leo's?

8: L. No, just....the day before all of this happened, Jackie Dean Siddle

9: come and asked me if I would do a tree job for him. He had already got

0: paid for the job and that uh...he told me where it was at, Leo's. I said,

1: "I know Leo, I know Sandy, I know all of them." But he asked me if I

2: would go ahead and go look at this tree. I said, "yes, that would be

3: fine." This was...this was Friday.

4: P. That was on Friday?

5: L. I imagine it was Friday, that's the same...Thursday I got into a

6: fight with Griffy Woods and Friday I went down to see Jackie Dean to what

7: kind of...what he had in it because he come up with Rick and that's when

8: he asked me if I would clean that tree up.

9: P. So nobody ever said anything prior to that. Was you ever riding

0: around in the car and it was discussed in the car, you and Mia?

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STATEMENT

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01: L. No.
02: P. Nobody ever discussed going up and robbing him?
03: L. No.
04: P. Okay, the reason I'm asking is because I got information that you
05: guys stopped in front of the house and Skip wanted to go ahead and do him
06: and Chip just wanted to roll him and you was in the car and never said
07: nothing and Mia said, "no, lets go get a case of beer."
08: L. No.
09: P. You was never in the car?
10: L. No.
11: P. So nobody ever said anything like that in front of you or around you?
12: L. No.
13: P. Okay, is there.....if...if we get you back there, you have no problems
14: showing us right where he threw the stuff in the water?
15: L. No.
16: P. If we can't find it.
17: L. I'll...I'll go in and get it for you.
18: P. Is everything you told me the truth, the whole truth?
19: L. Yes sir.
20: P. And are you giving this whole statement of your own free will?
21: L. Yes I am.
22: P. Okay.
23: VanHorn: We haven't made you any promises? This is Arnold VanHorn from
24: the Prosecutor's Office. I haven't....Ron Pollock or myself haven't made
25: you any promises or anything in any way, shape or form? Is that correct?
26: L. No sir you haven't.
27: VanHorn: Okay, and you talked to us of your own free will because you've
28: known both of us for your whole live?
29: L. For my whole life, yes sir.
30: P. This is Detective Ron Pollock of the Guernsey Co. Sheriff's Dept.
31: I'll conclude this statement at this time.
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CASE NO. 97-836

PLACE Butler Co. Prison

DATE 2-18-97

TIME 10:15 AM PM

YOUR RIGHTS

Before you are asked any questions you must understand your rights.

You have the right to remain silent.

Anything you say can be used against you in court.

You have the right to a lawyer for advise before we ask you any questions and to have him with you during questioning.

You have the same right to the advice and presence of a lawyer even if you cannot afford to hire one.

If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer one will be appointed for you by the court at no cost to you.

If you decide to answer now without a lawyer present, you still have the right to stop answering at any time until you contact a lawyer.

WAIVER

I have read this statement of my rights and I understand what my rights are. I am willing to make a statement and answer questions. I do not want a lawyer. I understand and know what I am doing. No promises or threats have been made to me and no pressure or coercion of any kind has been used against me.

John R. LaFollett
Signature

6-18-97

(Date)

Det. Richard P. ...

(Witness)

Thomas Van Horn

(Witness)

ADULT JUVENILE

AGE: 28 YEA

NAME: John LaFollett

DOB: 10/8/68

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