

including vehicles.

In July 1994, Final Harvest was running an evening shift to take advantage of the cool weather. One of Anita's co-workers was Michael Williams. After her arrest, Anita tried to send letters to Michael and his sister Joan through Diane Fields, but she turned the letters over to the OSBI (Appendix 36). After Jessie's trial, Anita boasted to Sherry that she had fooled Jessie while working for Final Harvest, because she had an affair with somebody at work behind Jessie's back. Michael Williams most likely is the person with whom Anita was having an affair at the time of the arrests.

#### M. The July 1994 Arrests.

Six weeks short of three years from the deaths of Judy and Melissa, Anita Cummings gave Jessie the startling news that she had shot and killed Judy. On Sunday, July 24, 1994, Jessie and Anita had driven to Durant, OK, for a major food-shopping trip. On the way back, they got into an argument which resulted in Anita becoming more resolved to leave Jessie.<sup>7</sup> Anita had always gotten the short end of the stick in this pluralistic marriage, because Sherry dominated and controlled her, and Anita had to share Jessie with an ever increasing pool of women. Jessie's health problems, and the loss of all his teeth that summer, had made him less attractive to her, and she was looking for a man who would give her his undivided attention.

On Wednesday, July 27, 1994, Anita decided to tell Jessie she wanted to leave. That evening, the usual group of people were at the Cummings' house: Chick, Cliff Long, Shirley Cunningham and her kids, Vicki and Orlin Yaws, and Omar and Mandy Bayles. Anita asked Jessie to come to their bedroom with her to talk. Once alone with Jessie, Anita shared with Jessie her intent to leave. She also divulged to him she was the person who had shot and killed his sister Judy. Not thinking beyond the potential consequences of disclosing this information to Jessie, Anita naively thought this admission would cause Jessie to turn her out of the house.

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<sup>7</sup>In her pre-trial statements to the police, Anita acknowledged that she had been planning to leave Jessie for several weeks before she went to the police to seek assistance in getting her children from Jessie (Appendix 19, p. 29).