Volume VIII- Ottis Toole File File 7 STATEMENT- Mack Caulder 10/28/83

1. ARRESTEE, COMPLAINANT, DRIVER #1, VICTIM 2. ARREST NO. 3. COMPLAINT NO. 81-56073

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The following will be a voluntary sworn statement reference to an abduction/homicide that occurred on or about July 27, 1981, this offense occurring at 300 Hollywood Mall located in the City of Hollywood, County of Broward, State of Florida. This statement is being taken by Det. J. Hoffman #0038 and is being obtained from a witness identified as CAULDER, MACK, W/M, DOB: 5-6-30 who resides at 735 Linda Drive, Jacksonville, Florida, telephone 904-765-9732.

Prior to obtaining your sworn statement Mr. CAULDER are you aware that it is a crime under Florida State Statutes to knowingly furnish false information?

- A. Yes.
- Q. At this time I am going to place you under oath by virtue of my commissic as a Notary Public for the State of Florida, Broward County. At this time would you please raise your right hand? (Let the record reflect that the witnesses right hand is raised). MACK CAULDER do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?
- A. I do.

MACK CAULDER HAVING APPEARED BEFORE ME A NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA, BROWARD COUNTY, HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN DEPOSES AND STATES:

- Q. For the record would you please state your complete given name, date of birth and home address?
- A. Mack Caulder, May 6, 1930, 735 Linda Drive, Jacksonville.
- Q. Place of employment?
- A. Southeast Roofing and Sheet Metal.
- Q. How long have you been employed there sir?
- A. Approximately ten years.
- Q. And your position with the company?
- A. Roofing superintendant.
- Q. Okay during your employment with Southeast Color Coat did you have an occasion to know an individual by the name of OTTIS TOOLE?
- A. I did.

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Q. How long	have you	known that	indiv	idual?				

- A. Since I came to Jacksonville approximately ten years ago.
- Q. Okay what I would like you to try to focus on would be the year of 1981 okay, were you familiar with the date that his mother passed away?
- A. I recall OTTIS and VERNON telling me that ah, when his mother passes away yes.
- Q. Okay. Well for the record his mother passed away on May 16, 1981. Okay was OTTIS employed by Color Coat at that time?
- A. Yes I believe he was, I'm quite sure he was yeah.
- Q. Okay and what was his job at Southeast Color Coat.
- A. He was a laborer.
- Q. And that was roofing work.
- A. Roofing work.
- Q. When these people reported for work they would have to punch a time card?
- A. No.
- Q. How would it go when the employee showed up for work?
- A. When they showed up for work, we went to the job site, had roll call and I kept the time on a time sheet.
- Q. Okay so they just showed up and the supervisor would take roll call, who was there and then you would submit the time sheet.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. What happened if he showed up late on the job site?
- A. When the person showed up late I'll just accept his excuse or don't, I'd

ł	either let him wor	rk or send him	back.			
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- Q. Did they have to sign any type of documents the day they worked?
- A. No.
- Q. To show that they were there?
- A. No.
- Q. So if they weren't present there's no way they could, somebody could have signed their name of vouch for them being there so they would get paid even though they were there. Is that possible?
- A. I don't think so, no.
- Q. Now what type of tools woult OTTIS come into contact while he's working for the roofing company/
- A. Work with shovels, axes, pick axes, and ah just normal roofing tools, knives whatever.
- Q. Knives, any large type knives?
- A. I've had large type knives, ah.
- Q. What type of knives would they be?
- A. Like a machete that I kept in my pickup at times to ah cut bushes that might be up around....
- Q. Was that your personal machete or was that JOHN REAVES?
- A. That was my personal.
- Q. Do you still own that machete?
- A. It might be at the house or it might not be, I could't tell you for sure whether I still got it or not.
- Q. Do you ever recall missing it at one time?
- A. Ha, you miss tools quite often in this trade.

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- Q. Yeah. Could OTTIS TOOLE have come into contact with that machete?
- A. Yes.
- Q. With no problem?
- A. No problem at all.
- Q. Do you remember like ah, I have documents showing the last date of employment was June 4, 1981. I'm just trying to refresh your memory. Do you remember the summer of '81 if ah, what OTTIS did or his whereabouts?
- A. No OTTIS came and went quite frequently. He would take off and then come back and go back to work. It's hard to say, I could not tell you...
- Q. Do you remember when he worked for REAVES ROOFING?
- A. OTTIS ah, I don't believe ah worked for REAVES ROOFING, now he ah, when Southeast Color Coat and REAVES were working out of the same building.
- Q. Right the same building, that's what I'm talking about. What year was that?
- A. Well I got here in about '73 or somewhere, '74, and ah he was working there.
- Q. Were they working out of the same building back in 1979 or had they already split?
- A. I believe we had ah, we were right across the street from REAVES.
- Q. Right, okay. Let me ask you this. Did any of the bosses or anybody entrust OTTIS with maybe keys to the compound if they needed tools or keys to the office, if the requested them to clean up the office?
- A. Not to my knowledge, I've never known OTTIS to have any keys. Now its a possibility that ah someome might have gave him keys when he was over there

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to maybe let trucks in or whatever, but I couldn't tell ya.

- Q. If somebody did give him the keys to let trucks in for instance, could he have had it for a period of time where he was able to duplicate those keys somewhere?
- A. Possibility yes.

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- Q. Ah do you know a woman over at I believe it's a called R.G. GATE Construction Company, ah.
- A. R.B. Gay?
- Q. FAYE McNETT?
- A. Oh yes.
- Q. Do you remember when she sold OTTIS a vehicle at one time and they were deducting the money out of his paycheck for it?
- A. I believe she sold him ah a Cadillac.
- Q. Right. Do you know the color of that Cadillac?
- A. White and black, I think white bottom and black top.
- Q. Okay. Do you remember when he purchased that car?
- A. Ah I can't recall the dates I know he purchased the car and then she repossessed it if I'm not mistaken.
- Q. She repossessed, he failed to pay, he gave it back to her?
- A. Uh huh.
- Q. Now where was that car stored do you know?
- A. I don't, I don't think OTTIS lived over on Louise Street at the time, I believe he lived ah, he might have been living over on the west side.
- Q. Did Mrs. MCNETT keep that car in the compound there at the roofing

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company where the vehicles were kept?

- A. Yes it was there.
- Q. Okay now, is it possible or is it feasible that if OTTIS had another duplicate set of keys and he had a duplicate set of keys to the compound that he could go in there, use Mrs. McNETTS vehicle for a day or two and then return it to her, I mean leave it back in the compound without her ever missing it?
- A. This is a possiblity but I don't ah...
- Q. Was Mrs. MCNETT concerned about that vehicle?
- A. No I wouldn't think so.
- Q. Was an older car?
- A. An older car she never did drive it.
- Q. Do you have any recall of the summer of 1981?
- A. No, I really, I don't believe I could tell you what ah...
- Q. Okay. Do you recall when OTTIS moved into a rooming house over at BETTY GOODYEARS?
- A. (inaudible)
- Q. Or when he was married to NORVELLA?
- A. I never did know what his wife's name was until here recently ah, I knew he got married but I don't know where he lived, whose rooming or whatever.
- Q. Did there come times during his employment at Southeast Color Coat that he'd show up for work maybe a week or a day or two and then won't show up for a couple days or a week or two?
- A. OTTIS has always had the habit of ah, he'd work good for a while, then

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I. ARRESTEE, COMPLAINANT, DRIVER #1. VICTIM 2. ARREST NO. 3. COMPLAINT NO WALSH 81-56073  $\Delta D \Delta M$ 

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he'd take off maybe be gone for a month or so and then come back, ask him where he'd been, oh I've been out California, west coast or whereat.

- Did he ever tell you he went down to South Florida, ever been in South Florida such as Miami. Fort Lauderdale area?
- I can't recall whether or not he said he'd ever been down there, probably did. it's a possibility but ah you listen to OTTIS and ah....
- Q. Did you have knowledge if OTTIS always seemed to have money on him or was he was the type of guy that was always broke and borrowing money?
- Well there's times OTTIS had money on him and then most of the time he didn't have money but then again he'd have quite a bit on him.
- Q. Alright Mr. CAULDER I can't think of anything else to ask you at this time is there anything else you would like to add to this statement at this time before we conclude it?
- Α. No.
- Has everything you said in your statement been the complete truth as you know it to be?
- Yes. Α.
- I'd like to ask you a favor before I conclude this statement. like you to check back at your home and see if you can locate that machete, if it's still in your possession and if so just notify Det. Bud Terry of the Jacksonville Police Department to confirm that you still have that machete Α, Okay.
- Q. Okay?
- Okay I sure will. Α.

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Q. Okay?									
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