Volume VIII- Ottis Toole File File 20 STATEMENT- James Poole 11/03/83

SUPPLEMENT REPORT HOLLYWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT				STEE, COMPLAINANT, DRIVER •1, VICTIM 2. ARREST NO.  ALSH, Adam				-56073
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The following will be a taped statement taken from Mr. James Michael POOLE, W/M, DOB being 1/21/54, last known address of 507 N.E. 7th Street in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Poole has information possibly relative to the homicide investigation that occurred in Hollywood, Broward County, Florida 300 Hollywood Mall on July 27, 1981. This statement is being taken by Det. Ron Hickman #0434 and Det. Jack Hoffman #0038 of the Hollywood Police Department and is being obtained on Thursday, November 3, 1983 at 10:55 A.M. This statement is being obtained at Baker Correctional Institute located at Olustee, Florida.

CHANGE CLEARLY SHOW DISPOSITION OF RECOVERED PROPERTY AND INVENTORY NUMBER.

- Q. Mr. Poole, before I take your statement, I'm going to place you under oath by virtue of my commission as a Notary Public at Large in and for the State of Florida. Would you raise your right hand? Do you solemnly swear the information you are about to give me in this statement to be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?
- A. Yes Sir.

OR SUPPLEMENTAL USAGE.

- Q. You are aware that it is a crime under Florida Statutes to knowingly, while under oath, offer false information?
- A. Yes Sir.
- Q. Would you for the record James, state your complete given name, your date of birth?
- A. James Michael Poole, 1/21/54.
- Q. And where did you reside before you were here?
- A. Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- Q. What was the address?
- A. 507 N.E. 7th Street.
- Q. Were you employed before you came here?
- A. Yes Sir I was.

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- Q. Where were you working?
- A. I was working in Crabby Johns on 441.

JAMES MICHAEL POOLE, HAVING APPEARED BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC AT LARGE, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND AFTER HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN, DEPOSES AND STATES:

- Q. We want to go back to when you first met Ottis Toole and then just work it from there. We've been talking about five minutes now so we'll start over again.
- A. Okay, I uh met uh Mr. Toole at uh uh B.T.U. which is a Transient Unit.
- Q. Department of Transient Unit?
- A. Yes Sir.
- Q. Okay
- A. And uh I met him, he was in the same dorm that I was in, I had gone over for a snake bite.
- Q. What month and year was that Sir?
- A. Uh, I believe it was July but I know it was for 28 days but I can't remember if it was July or August.
- Q. Summer of 1983?
- A. Yes Sir. Uh so while I was there I met Ottis through him coming over and asking me for uh a cigarete every now and then and that's when we started conversing, so I asked him what he was in for and he said Arson, and I said well that's what I'm in for and uh we started talking about how he was suppose to have set a fire at a warehouse, a paint warehouse or something, I don't remember exactly where it was, and uh so from that

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uh you know he asked me what mine was about and I explained you know just a little bit to him and uh so we started talking from there, and uh I had thought that he was from Fort Lauderdale at first.

- Q. What made you believe that?
- A. Just the way he was carrying on a conversation. He said that uh he'd done a lot of traveling and the reason that came up is because my real father lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and I lived in Los Angeles for ten years, so he asked me what I did and I told him I had a record you know personal management company which is a record company in Los Angeles, which was called Productions, and uh so he said yeah I've been to uh Los Angeles, and I've been to Texas and he was talking about you know every place that I'd been, he'd been, so you know I just kind of shyed him off as not being very truthful.
- Q. Did it sound like uh he was in the, had been in the Fort Lauderdale area, was he familiar with that area?
- A. Well that's what, that's what I was going to say, he said uh, because I told him I was busted in Fort Lauderdale and he goes yeah, they were trying to bust me in Fort Lauderdale, he says, but I inherited some money, he may have said I was going to inherit some money and that everything had been taken care of so I said Oh man I said, some people have all the luck or something, you know it was just general conversation, and then I asked him what did he do for a living and he said that a partner of his and he was in business in the child repossession business or something like that

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and you know I kind of chuckled at it because I thought it was kind of funny the way he said it, and uh so at that point I said, I asked him, what do you mean and he said well when a family is going through a divorce or they're not finished divorcing yet or something, we go and we pick the child up from this family, if we have to go all the way across the country to do it, we're paid to do this, and you know I looked at the guy and I just, I figured this guy is nuts, he's not being honest at all, so uh it started from there and that's when he said he'd been in Fort Lauderdale and I said, what part of Fort Lauderdale, so he said uh I was in uh, he said first he was staying down off Ives Dairy Road I believe and uh.

- Q. He told you he had stayed off of Ives Dairy Road?
- A. Yes Sir.

OR SUPPLEMENTAL USAGE.

- Q. Did he say what type of place he stayed in?
- A. No Sir, he didn't.
- Q. He just mentioned Ives Dairy Road?
- A. He just said I stayed off of Ives Dairy Road, cause he asked me if I was familiar with North Miami, South Broward area and I said somewhat. I lived up in the north part of Broward so I didn't know that much about it.
- Q. And he indicated South Broward area?
- A. Yes Sir, he said South Broward, North Dade, and I said yeah I know where Ives Dairy Road is but I'm not familiar with the area and uh so it went on from there and uh he said that uh his partner was suppose to have met him down there, that he was out on bond or something and his partner was suppose

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to meet him down there and then they were going to pick up this money from some relatives or something.

- Q. Did he say who his partner was?
- A. No Sir, he never, all he said was his partner all the time.
- Q. This money he indicated he had to pick up, this was as a result of them abducting a child and bring him to the people that wanted the child abducted and brought back, the parent?
- A. He said that, he said that his partner was going to pick up the money and that they were going to go to the other parent to get the child and take him back, uh.
- Q. The partner was suppose to have met him in South Broward or North Dade?
- A. Yes Sir.
- Q. Did he relate what time, what year this occurred in?
- A. He didn't say, he said it was just before I got arrested.
- Q. Okay
- A. And he said that he had gotten arrested in Broward and I said well, uh you know, I asked him about the Broward County Jail and he didn't seem to know that much about it.
- Q. What do you mean Jim, did he know anything at all about the Broward County Jail or he knew nothing at all about the Broward County Jail?
- A. He really didn't indicate, he just you know, I said well where were you at in the Broward County Jail, he said I think I was on the fifth floor, he says I don't remember, he says I wasn't there that long. He said that's

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when you know I got out and I came back to Jacksonville so I said well.

- Q. Did he indicate to you that he had possibly an alias when he was in jail, a different name?
- A. No Sir, he didn't indicate that at all. But then I said to him, I said well what is this this child repossession, I said most of the time uh you know, private detectives do that type of thing or or somebody, child counselor you know, I didn't know what he was talking about so he said well no no he said, we we've been doing this for a long time and I said well I said I don't know anything about it and then he said the only problem was I had to go get my own son from my wife and I said Oh yeah.
- Q. He had to go get his own son from his wife?
- A. Yes Sir, and he said that uh uh when he went to get his own child from his wife he had to go to Hollywood and that's when it clicked on me, he had to go to Hollywood, and I said well I know Hollywood pretty well and he said she lived off of, right over by the racetrack okay, so I'm familiar..
- Q. You know what type of racetrack?
- A. No Sir.
- Q. Did he indicate horse, dog?
- A. He said it was a dog racetrack I believe, so I said well, I said I don't know that area persay but I know Hollywood Beach area and all that and he said no well it wasn't around there. So he started talking, all the conversation ended that day, and the next day I was out in the field and that's when he came up to me and we were talking and he had asked for a

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CHANGE, CLEARLY SHOW DISPOSITION OF RECOVERED PROPERTY AND INVENTORY NUMB

cigarete and I said uh, how much time did you get, I'd never asked him, he says I got twenty years, and I said for a second degree arson you got twenty years, I said that's a second degree felony, you can only get the max. fifteen, I said man you got screwed royally, and he goes well he says I think it has something to do with they may have found this car that I had down there and found something in it and they may be holding me for that. I said they can't at a time and hold you for that.

- Q. Who did he mean by they?
- A. They found the car, that's all he said, so uh I said I don't, you know the guy confused me when he was talking to me and I said what do you mean what car and he said well I was bringing my son back up to where I was going to be living in Jacksonville with my friend and my, I guess my wife call the cops, he said I saw a cop car and I had to get rid of this cop car and I said what do you mean and he says well I took my son out and told him to wait there for me that I'd be back for him and I said where did you put your son, I said that's not making any sense at all to me, he said I took him off Atlantic, and I said what do you mean Atlantic, and he says uh Atlantic up in West Palm Beach, I said there's an Atlantic in Fort Lauderdale and he said no, Atlantic in West Palm Beach, he says I got off there, and I said well did you ever go back and get him and he said no, my wife got him back.
- Q. Did he tell you what his wife's name was?
- A. No Sir, he just said my wife, but then he said but if the cops find that

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car I'm in trouble because of the evidence that's in that car. I said what were you doing drugs or something and he says no it wasn't drugs but I don't want them to find my clothing and the other clothing that I've got in the car and I said well, I said if you put it in a good place they're not going to find it, and he says Oh I put it in a good place, it's under water, and that was pretty much everything else he said, but there was something that made it click on me and for three days now I've been trying to remember what it was he had said you know, but uh, so anyhow it just continued to go on and he says well, he says once my inheritance comes through I'll be able to walk out of all of this, he says and then he says I think my partner got busted but I haven't been able to find out any information on it and I says well you guys had a good profitable business it sounds like to me, if it was legal, if you want to get this family, I said to me it sounds like kidnapping. He says Oh no, it's perfectly legal and uh I said well, I says you wouldn't catch me doing it, too much problems you know, family type things.

- Q. Did he ever mention, since you've seen all this notoriety about Ottis on the news and you guys read the paper here, did he ever mention any of the murders he was involved in?
- A. He had mentioned that he was facing a murder trial, that the twenty years wasn't nothing, he was facing a murder trial but he didn't say what it was for. He just said his partner and he was involved in a murder, he said the police say his partner and he was involved in a murder and uh....
- Q. Did he ever mention killing kids?

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No Sir, he didn't. Α.

- He mentioned that he got rid of his clothing and the other clothing 0. plus the vehicle, did he ever describe this vehicle to you?
- No Sir, he just said car, he said I hope they don't find my car, that's when I said to him well it's under water they're never going to find it. I mean it's obvious, and he goes yeah but you get all these kids diving off the canal bridges and all of this, someday somebody's going to run into it, I said well some day probably all the clothes will be deteriorated and the car will be rusted away.
- Did he describe the clothing? Q.
- No Sir he didn't. Α.
- Q. What did he say what happened to his son, did he go back and get him?
- That's what I asked him, I said what happened to your son, he said I don't know, I think my wife got him, and I said well you didn't call her and tell her where he was and he said no he said uh I think a cop spotted me when I got out of the car, I just told him to wait, I figured they'd come over and see the car and pick him up and take him back to my wife, something along those lines, but I've been egging my brain and egging my brain, and by the way I haven't been reading the newspaper, the only time I read the newspaper was the other day and then this morning I saw yesterday's paper saying that he was trying to retrack his confession, but uh when this started getting to me I went straight to the Chaplin cause I didn't know who to go to, you know I didn't want to give out any information here to any

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of the officers or anything here, so I went to the Chaplin and asked him what should I do, but I've been trying to egg my brain and egg my brain and there was something that he said that when he said it it clicked on me because at that time he said it I said yeah there was a kid named Adam Walsh killed there in Fort Lauderdale and when I said that he clammed up, he didn't say anything at all and uh I said to him I said uh you know it was something he said, I keep egging my brain and egging my brain, and egging my brain, even to the point where I was going to volunteer to pay for it myself to get a hypnotist in or somebody and see if that could break through it because the minute I said that, that's the only time I ever brought and I couldn't even remember Adam Walsh's name, I just said it was uh Alan Weed or something, I wasn't, you know, it's been, it was something that didn't mean anything to me and uh the minute I said that he clammed up, he clammed up, he didn't talk to me for a couple days and then he came back over and started talking again and uh that was pretty much everything that he had said, except for the one thing and I keep egging my brain and egging my brain and egging my brain about it and I just can't remember what it was he said.

- Q. How much of a period of time were you with him in sincerity?
- A. About, I guess about two weeks.
- Q. Two weeks?
- A. Yeah
- Q. He never mentioned killing any children? Did he ever mention killing

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#### I. ARRESTEE, COMPLAINANT, DRIVER #1. VICTIM SUPPLEMENT REPORT 2. ARREST NO 3. COMPLAINT NO. HOLLYWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT WALSH, Adam 81-56073 🗆 FORM USED TO REPORT FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATIO ☐ FORM USED AS CONTINUATION SHEET FOR CURRENT REPORT 4. EXTRA COPIES 5. PAGE NO. 6. TRAFFIC CITATION NO. 9. OFFENSE AND CLASSIFICATION CHANGED? 11S HOMICIDE/MURDER U YES 7. KIND OF REPORT CONTINUED UNFOUNDED II. MULTIPLE CLEAR-UP? (LIST OTHER COMPLAINT □ OFFENSE □ TRAFFIC ACCIDENT □ ARREST □ FOLLOWUP OR SUPPLEMENTAL 8. OFFENSE OR CHARGE Coleared | | Not cleared ☐ YES NOS. IN NARRATIVE) 13. VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED 12. FURTHER POLICE ACTION & REPORT REQUIRED?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP OR SUPPLEMENTAL USAGE.

STATEMENT OF POOLE, James Michael

UNDER NARRATIVE, RECORD ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE SUBSEQUENT TO LAST REPORT, DESCRIBE AND RECORD VALUE OF ANY PROPERTY RECOVERED, NAMES AND ARREST NUMBERS OF ANY PERSONS ARRESTED. EXPLAIN ANY OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION CHANGE, CLEARLY SHOW DISPOSITION OF RECOVERED PROPERTY AND INVENTORY NUMBER.

### any adults?

- A. Yeah he did, he mentioned killing somebody but you know he didn't say who it was or where it was, he just said that he thought his partner was in jail but he didn't, he couldn't get in touch with his partner and he said that his sister, his sister or sister-in-law or something uh had an attorney working to get him out of the county jail and his inheritance was coming through.
- Q. Did he ever mention his niece Jim?
- A. He mentioned something, he mentioned something about a niece but it wasn't his, it was uh.....
- Q. Did he ever mention his partner's name?
- A. No Sir, not that I can remember. He may have cause he kept saying his partner a whole lot and I can't remember.
- Q. Did he mention the fact that uh, or did you know for a fact that he was a homosexual?
- A. No Sir, not at that time.
- Q. He never told you he was?
- A. No Sir.
- Q. He acts very feminine.
- A. He did. He acted very very feminine, because you know when he come over to me and asked me for a cigarete, it was, it was you know kind of apparent and that's why I figured that everybody that was in that dorm didn't have anything to do with him, see I have nothing against anybody, if they come

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over and ask me for something you know, if I could do it I'll give it to him.

CHANGE, CLEARLY SHOW DISPOSITION OF RECOVERED PROPERTY AND INVENTORY NUMBER

- Q. About this business that he described as abducting children, did he ever describe any other place of employment he had during the time he was in Jacksonville?
- A. He did too. He was either, I think he said he was in maintenance, maintenance or or something like that when he wasn't being paid to go out for another family but you know it's been so long, I'm trying to think, and since yesterday when I talked to Lieutenant, the Lieutenant Williams here and I told him you know, I've been trying to think and think and think what he said that uh he was in and I forgot.
- Q. When he told you that he got rid of, when he let the child out and his mother got him back and he got rid of the vehicle and the evidence being clothing, did you ever question him about how he returned back to Jackson-ville?
- A. Well no, but I did question him about if he left the car and his son in the car, why did he go back and get rid of the car, I said if his mom came and got him, and he said cause there was some stuff in the car I didn't want anybody to find.
- Q. Did he ever talk to you about any weapons he owned?
- A. No Sir.
- Q. What did he primarily talk about in the two weeks you were with him?
- A. Mostly it was about the arson case, about this money he was inheriting, and about uh....

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- Q. How about the arson case that's pending against him?
- A. Yeah he said he was burnt, he says that they had a bunch of them pending against him, he said that he wasn't worried about it, he says that they're not going to be able to get anything on him.
- Q. Did he tell you what member of his family that he was getting this inheritance from?
- A. It seems to me it may have been an aunt but well you know just trying to rack my brain the way I've been doing it you know I tried to figure out what was pertinent and what wasn't pertinent but it seems to me everything he was saying was a lie so nothing was really pertinent because that's what he struck me as.
- Q. Alright, you mentioned that he did mention the South Broward area, the racetrack, Hollywood, did he describe anything else about the South Broward area that you would have been familiar with that you know he was telling the truth?
- A. No, not that I can remember.
- Q. You just recalled the racetrack and Ives Dairy Road?
- A. Right, the minute he said Ives Dairy Road, you know, unless you've been to South Florida you don't know Ives Dairy Road, and that's why I figured you know, he's been down here.
- Q. Did he ever mention the fact that he was down in Miami?
- A. Well during that course of time he said he was living off Ives Dairy Road, he said he lived in North Miami, South Broward section, so that was

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

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about it.....but you know, I didn't anticipate you coming over because Lt. Williams said that it may be important to him but it may not.

- Q. That you wanted to talk about it because you had contact with Ottis Toole and what he told you.
- Q. Was he close to anyone else, did he talk to anybody other than you?
- A. No, No Sir, he talked to a friend of mine as a matter of fact, now if you have to verify how much time he spent with me, the guy that he talked to who was Frank, what was his last name, I've got it written down, I've got his address and everything written down because he went to uh, went to uh, uh, Laudie, not Laudie but went down near Ft. Myers, okay, and he slept next to me so you know he knows we spent some time together and uh....
- Q. Was he close with this guy Frank too or just you?
- A. Not really, no, he wasn't close with Frank at all. I mean nobody was close with him, he was dirty and he was you know. If I have to live with a guy I ain't worried about it, you know, but uh he just uh, it was the things, when he started, when he told me about leaving his son in the car I thought that was real strange because nobody, I mean if the cop pulls you over, he's your son, but the kid's going to say it's my son, you know, and uh I asked him how old his son was because I was curious you know, because if he was an infant he'd be a fool but he said he was seven, seven or eight.
- Q. Did he describe his son to you?
- A. No Sir, he didn't, he just said he was seven or eight years old.

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- Q. Seven or eight?
- A. Yeah, he said that uh he wanted his son back and he was going to get his son back from his wife.

CHANGE, CLEARLY SHOW DISPOSITION OF RECOVERED PROPERTY AND INVENTORY NUMBER

- Q. Was he on drugs in here?
- A. I don't know, I have no idea.
- Q. Did he ever tell you what color hair he had?
- A. Who?
- Q. His son.
- A. No Sir.
- Q. Did he ever tell you if he liked certain things like you know what type of sports he might have liked or anything like that, what kind of school he went to?
- A. No Sir, I...
- Q. Did he tell you what his son's name was?
- A. He sure didn't, all he said was when he got his son he was going to go with his partner and go back out west, he said that he would be finished with his business here and he would go back out west and live with his partner out there.
- Q. I have no more to ask you James in this statement, has this been the truth to the best of your knowledge?
- A. Yes Sir.
- Q. Is there anything you'd perhaps like to change about your testimony at this time, or add to it?

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

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A. Not that I can think of.

THIS STATEMENT CONCLUDED AT 11:17 A.M.

4. DATE/TIME REPRODUCED-SERIAL 15. REPORTING OFFICER SERIAL DATE/TIME 16. SUPERV. APPROVING SERIAL 17. REVIEWER 11/5/83 0799 DETS. R. HICKMAN/J. HOFFMAN 0434/0038