

File No. 20-2524



Statement of Gene Walls Harris

White Male DOB: 5/20/31
Weight: 210 lb.
Height: 5'9"
Route 1, Box 32
Alexander City, Alabama 35010
DL #0934343 Alabama
SSAN: 418-42-3688
Phone: 329-1484

Date: 7/27/78 Time: 8:58 a.m.

Present: Joe Neighbors, Investigator
Terry Browning, Jailer
Gene Harris, Witness

Location: Coosa County Sheriff's Department, Rockford, Alabama

Time Started: 9:02 a.m.

On July 20, 1978 on a Thursday afternoon I, Gene Harris, left home to go to Fishpond Community to campaign. You see I am running for Road Commissioner of District One in Coosa County. Anyway I started at the county line on Highway 259 in Fishpond area, working back toward Equality, Alabama. The last house I went to before entering Alford Grocery was, I believe it was Mrs. Lissie Neighbor's son I can't remember his name, but I know she was at this residence. Anyway I pulled into the parking lot of the store away from the gas pumps so not to block them. The time was approximately 5:30 p.m. or a little earlier. The reason I didn't stop at the house next door is because I thought being the store right next door the owner of the store lived there. Anyway I got out, there was nobody around in site of the store. I went to the door of the store and looked in. I didn't see anyone inside so I yelled to see if anyone would answer but nobody did. I then walked on in and saw a lady, a white female, lying on the floor in front of the counter. She was nude and was laying face down. Blood was bright red running out and off of her shoulder and back of her neck. The blood was just running out it wasn't sprutting. Before I found Mrs. Alford, I noticed when I yelled for someone when I came in the store, I noticed the door in the back of the store on the right side was open. I thought who ever owned the store may bein that door, that's the reason I started walking in the store. That's when I found this lady. When I found her I looked up to see if anyone was in the store, such as the person who may have done this. I turned I jumped to the door, out of the store, off the porch and ran to the car and went up to Mr. Spivey's residence to call for help. The reason I went there is because I knew he was at home because I had just left his residence a little earlier. Mr. Spivey's wife called the police and I talked to them and told them to get there fast.

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Then Mr. Spivey and I went back to the store and waited for the law to get there. It wasn't but a few minutes before the deputy arrived. I didn't look to see what time it was. I think Mr. Spivey went in and looked but nobody else did, I don't think.

Time stopped: 9:33 a.m.

Signed: Gene W. Harris
Witnessed: Joe Neighbors