



Witness Statements

Police Documents

11-22-1954

54/11/22, Henry Fuehrer

Bay Village Police Department

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The following is the statement of HENRY FUEHRER, W.M. 51 yrs (2-14-03) married in reference to the Marilyn Sheppard Homicide.

Now HENRY FUEHRER, you have come forward with information pertaining to the homicide of Marilyn Sheppard and the following is your statement. Anything that you say now can be used for or against you. Now that you understand this do you wish to tell us the truth about this matter.

HENRY FUEHRER: I arrived in Cleveland, Ohio from Toledo, Ohio by bus the evening of July 2, 1954. I hung around the bus station and slept there that night. The next day, July 3, 1954 I wandered around and went into a saloon. About 11:00 A.M. I met a guy who called himself "Pal". We got to drinking and I told him I had come from Tennessee where I had done time for burglary. He later told me that he done time and when I asked him where he told me not to ask to many questions, he was getting drunk. About three o'clock in the afternoon after moving around from tavern to tavern he suggested to knock a joint off that night. I was interested in his car, a Black Ford, around a 1951 figuring I could take it and go to Tennessee to see my wife, so I stuck with him., hoping he would leave the car with the keys in it. He was cagy and at no time he left the car with the keys in it while I was in the car. Around seven o'clock that night we drove around town looking for joints to satisfy him, still hoping he would leave the keys in the car. We went into a couple of joints and drank and drove around some more but didn't find anything to suit him. I wasn't interested so it didn't worry me. He got drunk and mean talking and after the joints started closing up he said "I'm going to get some money if I have to beat somebodys head off for it". He said we'll go out to Bay Village where peoples got money, I thought thats OK, this time he will leave the keys in the car. We drove around for a while, maybe a hour, talking and looking over places. I was in the back seat and got sleepy, I beleive that the 1st place we pulled up to that he didn't have his lights on. He got out of the car and took some tools with him, and said wait for me here I will be back. I looked at the switch and he had taken the keys with him again. I thought this bastard doesn't trust me just like I don't trust him. I thought about getting out of the car then and leaving, I then changed my mind and decided that I would stay with him till I got the Ford. Then I dozed for a while in the back seat. I don't know how long I was there when I roused up and lit a cigarette when I heard what I thought was a fight off to the right. I thought here is a burglary that has backfired, I got out of the car and took off running. I ran away from the back of the car down the road a peice, then t~~h~~rough open fields, grass and weeds until a came to a creek bank. I followed the creek bank to a bridge, and finnally worked my way back to a road and hitch-hiked back into Cleveland. I got into Cleveland about 4 to 4:30 A.M. I got a cab to the bus station where I got a bus for Toledo, Ohio. I got into Toledo sometime in the afternoon. That evening I went onto Detroit, Michigan. A couple of days later I read in the papers what happened in Bay Village. I have been thinking about it ever since.

Q. Do you know what saloon or tavern you met this man "Pal" in?

A. No.

Q. Could you identify it if you saw it again?

A. Yes.

Q. What was this fellow named "Pal" wearing?

A. Dark pants, dark sport shirt, dark Eisenhower jacket, no hat.

Q. What was this fellow named "Pal" physical description?

A. He was about 6.1 or 6.2, wide shoulders, big boned, big head, husky from the waist up, about 185 to 200 lbs. grey eyes, dark brown or black hair, fair complexion, one or two days growth of beard.

Q. Can you describe this man named "Pal" in more detail concerning his hair?

A. It was a heavy shock of hair.

Q. Can you tell or give any more information about this fellow named "Pal"?

A. He had a southern accent, I believe he was or ginally form the South, he was one of those kind of guys that didn't want you to ask to many questions.

Q. Could you identify this man named "Pal" if you saw him again?

A. Yes.

H W F

Statement of Henry Fuehrer

- Q. Can you describe the car that this fellow named "Pal" was operating?
A. Black Ford, 2 door sedan, Ohio license number, seat covers, black and green, red and green, radio, he didn't play it.
- Q. Where this fellow named "Pal" pulled his car up and stopped with out any lights, could you give a complete and accurate description of what you saw where you were parked.
A. I was pretty drunk, it seems to me what lights there were were off to the left, there were houses around us, to the front and to the right in back. I feel we were off the pavement, The lake was to the right, it seems I could hear water lapping.
- Q. Where these street lights about?
A. Yes, to my left.
- Q. What kind of pavement were you on?
A. I believe it was macadam.
- Q. Were there or was there a curb on this road?
A. I didn't notice any where I was at.
- Q. Were there any sidewalks about?
A. I didn't notice any.
- Q. Can you identify this place?
A. I may be able to.
- Q. What kind of tools did this man named "Pal" take out of the car?
A. I thought he took a pinch bar and a screwdriver, and a flashlight.
- Q. Relate just what you heard when you say you heard a fight?
A. I heard somebody running and stumbling on wood, I heard cursing, thats about all, I got away from there.
- Q. How far away would you say this was coming from?
A. A couple hundred feet or more.
- Q. From what direction away from the car did it come from?
A. It came from the right front.
- Q. Describe in detail the area on which you ran from the car?
A. I left the car from the left side, it seems I ran on macadam for a hundred feet or more, then I ran on dirt grass and weeds for about 100 or 200 yards when I slowed down to a walk, I seemed to be going off to my right, from the way the car was, then circling to my left. Then I came to a creek, there were some trees there, I then followed the creek to a bridge. The bridge I believe was stone and set off or above the creek about 12 to 15 feet. I was about a hour from the time I left the car till the time I got back on the main road. I came up along the side of the bridge and walked down this road to another road where al got a ride.
- Q. Do you know or could you identify the road that you were picked up on while hitchhiking?
A. I may be able to find it again.
- Q. Could you state the time and the circumstances regarding being picked up while hitch-hiking?
A. It was around 4 to 4:30 A.M., two men were in the car who said they were coming from Toledo, I don't know what kind of car it was but it was dark 4 door sedan, I sat in the back.
- Q. Did these men take you all the way into Cleveland, Public Square?
A. They dropped me off somewhere in Cleveland and I hailed a cab.
- Q. Did you tell them what happened?
A. No.
- Q. While along with this fellow named "Pal" did you or he have the money from which the drinks were bought?
A. I had money, but he didn't know how much I had.
- Q. Have you ever seen this fellow named "Pal" since July 4, 1954 or had you ever seen him before this had happened?
A. No.

Q. Where and when were you born?

A. Born Feb. 14, 1903, Cincinnati, Ohio

Q. How much education did you have?

A. Common school education.

Q. Have you ever been arrested?

A. About 6 or 7 times.

Q. Would you tell us about the circumstances?

A. I was arrested the first time in 1922 in Cincinnati, Ohio for burglary of a dwelling, I plead guilty and was sentenced to Mansfield. In 1925 I was arrested for auto theft and was sentenced to Ohio Pen for 1 to 20 years. I was paroled in 1927, and returned for parole violation the same year and escaped in 1929. I was picked up in Fairmont W.Va. for auto theft in 1929 under the name of James Carter, the only alias I ever used. I was sentenced to the W.Va. Pen for 5 years. I got out in 3½ years and was returned to the Ohio Pen for parole violation. I was released in 1938 on parole and received my final release in 1940. I was married late in 1940 and had a happy home life and one child which died, until 1952. When I was picked up in Knoxville, Tennessee for burglary and served 2 years of a 3 year sentence in the Tennessee State Pen. No parole, flat time.

Q. Have you ever been in a Hospital?

A. Once for a operation, nine days.

Q. Where is your wife now?

A. Somewhere in Tennessee.

Q. In general what have you done since being released from the Tennessee Pen.?

A. Worked five months in a restaurant, till about June, 1954, then came north and just wandered about doing odd jobs.

Q. After you left Cleveland, Ohio the morning of July 4, 1954 what have you done?

A. I went to Toledo, Detroit and Chicago, back to Detroit, Toledo, Lima, Dayton, Cincinnati, Knoxville, Tenn., back to Cincinnati, Dayton, Lima, Toledo, Detroit, Toledo, Lima, Dayton, Cincinnati and hear, Bay Village. I was looking for work.

Q. Why have you waited so long before coming forward with this information?

A. I am an ex-convict, my natural way would be not to say anything about anything like this, except where some innocent person may suffer from my silence.

Q. Have you followed the Sheppard Homicide in the newspapers?

A. I have read about it.

Q. Why did you go forward to the Police in Elmwood Place, Ohio with this information rather than the Bay Village authorities?

A. I felt I had withheld the information to long, and I knew that they would be able to contact you people.

Q. Have you ever been in Bay Village, Ohio before July 4, 1954 or since that date other than now?

A. No.

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Q. Do you know any person connected with this case, the Sheppard homicide?

A. No.

Q. Has anyone prompted you with promises of some type of remuneration for making this statement?

A. No.

Q. All that you have said is true to the best of your knowledge?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you willing to submit to a Lie Detector Test or Polygraph?

A. I probably will after I have consulted an attorney.

Q. Approximately what date did you leave Knoxville to come to Toledo, prior to July 4, 1954?

A. June 29th or 30th.

H. W. F.