



Memorandum of Interview

Date: September 9, 2015

Time: 12:20 - 12:40 (CST) hours

Person Interviewed: Joseph (Joey) M. Shipman

Interviewer: Jack L. Barnhart

Details:

On the above time and date, Reporting Investigator interviewed Joseph M. Shipman at Shipman's residence in Gulf Breeze, Florida. The purpose of the interview was to obtain detailed information regarding Shipman's recall of the events of 02/05/1982 in Moraine, Ohio, and his testimony at Wampler's trial. At the time of David Rowell's murder, Shipman was seven years old.

Shipman stated that he lived at 2754 Cozy Lane in Moraine, Ohio on 02/05/1982. Shipman said that on 02/05/1982 VICTIM visited Shipman's residence. Shipman said it was late in the afternoon, but could not remember the exact time. Shipman stated that he was standing in the living room looking out the front window when VICTIM came to his residence and knocked on the door. According to Shipman, James Shipman Jr., Shipman's older brother, answered the door and talked to VICTIM. Shipman said VICTIM was at the base of the stairs that were located at the front door of Shipman's trailer. Shipman said that VICTIM asked for a cigarette. Shipman stated that VICTIM stayed for approximately five minutes and left. Shipman stated that he overheard VICTIM talking to James and that VICTIM said he was coming from Wampler's trailer. Shipman said that he did not know where VICTIM went after he left Shipman's trailer.

Shipman said that when VICTIM left his residence, VICTIM was walking in a westward direction, through the cul-de-sac that housed Shipman's trailer. Shipman said that he did not see VICTIM cross Cozy Lane towards Wampler's trailer, nor did he see VICTIM enter Wampler's trailer. According to Shipman, he could not see Wampler's trailer from his trailer because of several trailers between the two.

Shipman said that the only time he was at Wampler's trailer was later on the evening of 02/05/1982. Shipman said that his older brother, James, was intoxicated and went to Wampler's trailer. According to Shipman, his brother knew that Wampler usually had beer. Shipman said that James and he were at Wampler's trailer and that James drank some more beer and became tired. According to Shipman, two other teenagers arrived and began drinking beer. Shipman said that James tried to tear a beer can in two and in the process he cut his hand. Shipman said that James wanted to lay down and that Wampler showed James where his bedroom was. Shipman stated that he followed Wampler and James to the bedroom and stood in the doorway to the bedroom as Wampler returned to the living room. Shipman said that he noticed the door to the master bedroom was open two to three inches and that room was unlit. Shipman said that he did not see anything unusual or sense anything wrong while at Wampler's trailer. Shipman stated that after James rested for a while, they left Wampler's trailer and returned home. Shipman denied hearing a scream or yelling, as was described in the Moraine Police report.

Shipman stated that he recalls Wampler was wearing cowboy style boots with smooth soles. (Note: The description of the footprints from Wampler's trailer to the body indicated that the boots were similar to hiking boots because they left a pattern that contained ridges and were not smooth.)

Shipman said that his parents were not home on 02/05/1982. Shipman stated that they were in Piqua, Ohio, at the SOHIO gas station that his father managed.

Shipman said that he did not know Wampler because Wampler was much older. Shipman stated that James knew Wampler. Shipman, also, said that he did not know Mike Johnson, Mike Rowell, David Rowell or Ted Ritchie.

Shipman stated that the Moraine Police interviewed his parents and James on 02/06/1982, after VICTIM's body was found in the field. Shipman said that the police did not interview him that day. Shipman stated that he was interviewed twice, prior to trial, by the prosecutors. Shipman opined that he did not realize it at the time, but does realize it today that he was pressured, by the prosecutors, to say certain things in his testimony. Shipman described the pressure as being coerced.

The interview ended under favorable conditions.

Investigator's Note: Shipman's information does support statements regarding his activity on 02/05/1982. Shipman, also, verified the findings of the Crime Scene Investigation, which state that he could not have possibly witnessed VICTIM returning or entering Wampler's trailer. Shipman, also, corroborated the suspicion of coercion on behalf of the prosecution. Shipman brings into question the validity of police reports. Shipman appeared to be honest and forthright in his responses.