

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2000
TIME: 3:05
CASE: HOMICIDE

THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE MIKE KEY OF THE ROME POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH JOEY WATKINS. THIS INTERVIEW IS IN REFERENCE TO THE HOMICIDE OF ISAAC DAWKINS.

KEY: This is Det. Mike Key, I'm at the office of uh, William Odell, attorney at law, uh, today's date is 2/11/the year 2000, uh, time is 3:05. Uh, we're talking with Joey Watkins in reference to uh, the events and the times that uh, that he can recall through the time of 2/11, no I'm sorry, 1/11/2000. Joey, just start off with it if you would and tell me—you were fishing with your uncle is that, is that correct?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Okay, where were y'all fishing?

WATKINS: Lake, well, Lake Weiss.

KEY: Okay now this was, this is on the afternoon of uh, of the 11th of January is that correct?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Okay. And your uncle's name is what?

WATKINS: Toby Garrison.

KEY: Toby Garrison, okay. What type of vehicle were you over there in?

WATKINS: I was on my motorcycle.

KEY: Okay. Do you recall about what time you uh, what time you left? Or what...

WATKINS: Yeah, around...

KEY: ...time you arrived?

WATKINS: Around 6:45, 6:30 when I left Alabama.

KEY: Okay, okay. Georgia time, Alabama time?

WATKINS: Georgia time.

KEY: Okay. And you came in?

WATKINS: And I arrived home probably around 6:45 and 7.

KEY: Somewhere between 6:45 and 7. Okay, what'd you do when you got home?

WATKINS: Uh, I came in and I called Aislynn and then I got in the shower.

KEY: Okay, so you must've called Aislynn what, around 7? It's either 6:45 to 7 whenever you got in.

WATKINS: Somewhere...

KEY: Somewhere in that time.

WATKINS: ...somewhere in that time.

KEY: Who was at home when you got there?

WATKINS: Tim and Tandi.

KEY: Okay, you're talking about Tim Hughes and Tandi your sister, right?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Okay, you called Aislynn and how long did y'all talk, do you know?

WATKINS: When I called her a couple minutes maybe.

KEY: Okay.

WATKINS: If that long.

KEY: Okay, did you uh, did y'all make plans to get together that evening or what?

WATKINS: She told me to come on down cause she wasn't feeling well.

KEY: Okay, at some point did you talk to her again?

WATKINS: Yes sir, she called me right before I left.

KEY: She called you back?

WATKINS: Called me back.

KEY: Okay, when you called her uh, from your phone call did you call her from the home phone?

WATKINS: Uh-huh.

KEY: Okay, so she called you back right before you left, would you think maybe around 7:15, 7:20?

WATKINS: Somewhere around in there.

KEY: Okay. Uh, about how long did you talk then do you remember?

WATKINS: Maybe five minutes.

KEY: Okay.

WATKINS: It was five, ten minutes somewhere around in there.

KEY: When she called you back who answered the phone?

WATKINS: Tim.

KEY: Tim Hughes?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: And he called you to the phone?

WATKINS: He called me to the phone.

KEY: Okay uh, okay when she called you back then you, you had planned to go see her?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Is that y'all were going, you were going to Cedartown—she lives in Cedartown is that correct?

WATKINS: That's correct.

KEY: Okay. Was anyone else at home before you, before you left?

WATKINS: My parents.

KEY: Okay, Johnny and uh, Cindy Watkins?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: What uh, were they there all the time or did they just come in or?

WATKINS: They came in a little after 7.

KEY: Okay. So about what time do you think maybe you left the uh, left your house going to Aislynn's?

WATKINS: Somewhere around 7:20.

KEY: Okay. What vehicle did you leave in?

WATKINS: I left in my truck.

KEY: What kind of truck do you have Joey?

WATKINS: Dakota '93 model.

KEY: Uh, what color is it?

WATKINS: White.

KEY: White in color. Did uh, was everybody at home aware that you left in your vehicle?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Okay, you didn't leave in a blue vehicle?

WATKINS: No.

KEY: Do you ever drive a blue vehicle?

WATKINS: No.

KEY: Uh, okay tell me what events happened while you were on the road. The first thing you noticed on the road that might lead you to believe that something was wrong.

WATKINS: Well, right after I passed Blackwood's I was coming around the curve right there where you can either go to Cedartown or Rome, and an ambulance passed by right in front of me, I had to slow down for it, and the ambulance went on down as I was coming through the, there was a couple of vehicles stopped and I noticed there was some police cars and ambulance and all off the side of the road, and there was a officer sitting there with a flashlight slowing everyone down and waving 'em through like one at a time, and I looked over and I seen it looked like Isaac's truck.

KEY: Okay, was traffic stopped or just moving?

WATKINS: Traffic was stopped.

KEY: So you were bumper to bumper and moving...

WATKINS: We were bumper to bumper.

KEY: Okay, okay. How far were you from this accident when you saw it?

WATKINS: Not far at all.

KEY: Okay. Okay, so you said you looked over and it looked like Isaac's truck, what, what made you think—are you familiar with Isaac's truck?

WATKINS: Somewhat.

KEY: Somewhat, what, what made you think it might be his? Just the markings and whatever on it or?

WATKINS: The markings and I seen kind of like a brush guard cause his headlights were still on, and I seen something that looked like a brush guard in front of his truck, and I knew his truck had a brush guard with fog lights on it, that's about all I knew.

KEY: Okay. Okay, at that point what did you do once you passed the accident?

WATKINS: Right as I passed the accident I called my sister and I told her it looked like, you know, it looked like Isaac's truck that he may have had a wreck she might want to call his sister. And I wasn't sure that it was his truck but she might want to call his sister.

KEY: What did she say, did she say she would call his sister?

WATKINS: She said that she wasn't calling his sister.

KEY: She would not call?

WATKINS: She would not call.

KEY: Did she seem alarmed or did she just seem like well, you know.

WATKINS: No, she said well I hope it ain't nothing bad you know.

KEY: And, okay. Uh...

WATKINS: Cause she asked me, are you sure it's him, and I said not a hundred percent sure.

KEY: Okay, you called your sister at your home phone number?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Give me your home phone number if you don't mind.

WATKINS: 706.

KEY: Uh-huh.

WATKINS: This is what it used to be 234.

KEY: Uh-huh.

WATKINS: 6596.

KEY: Okay, this is the number you called?

WATKINS: Yes sir, that's the number I called.

KEY: And you called from a cell phone?

WATKINS: Cell phone.

KEY: Give me your cell phone number too if you don't mind.

WATKINS: 706.

KEY: Uh-huh.

WATKINS: 506-1457.

KEY: Okay. All right, so you called uh, Tandi and then what happened?

WATKINS: And then after she said she wasn't calling her whatever, I went on down a little bit and I called Aislynn and asked her you know, did she need anything before I got there because I knew she was sick. And she told me yeah, she said just get me a Gatorade.

KEY: Okay, so you called her on, from your cell phone again? Give me, I'm sure we know this but give me Aislynn, you know Aislynn's number right off?

WATKINS: 770.

KEY: Uh-huh.

WATKINS: 748-1209.

KEY: Okay. And you called her going—after you passed the accident, between the accident and Cedartown and asked her if she needed anything?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: She told you to do what?

WATKINS: Stop and get her Gatorade.

KEY: Okay.

WATKINS: She felt kind of dehydrated cause she hadn't drank anything.

KEY: Okay, did you stop and do that?

WATKINS: I stopped at, I stopped at the Exxon right before the Sav-A-Ton.

KEY: Uhhh...

WATKINS: In Cedar, in Cedartown.

KEY: Inside Cedartown?

WATKINS: Inside Cedartown.

KEY: Okay, okay. Do you, did you do, did you stop anywhere else or go anywhere else other than straight down there other than that one stop?

WATKINS: Other than that one stop I didn't.

KEY: Okay. So about what time did you arrive at uh?

WATKINS: Around 8.

KEY: Around 8. Okay, did you and uh, Aislynn talk at all about the incident?

WATKINS: No, I didn't even...

KEY: She doesn't know...

WATKINS: She doesn't even know Isaac.

KEY: She doesn't know Isaac? Okay, so there was anything to talk about then.

WATKINS: Wasn't anything to talk about it and you know, I wasn't even sure it was his truck. I was pretty sure but I wasn't sure.

KEY: Okay. Did you see uh, Aislynn's dad or anything?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Who was at home at Aislynn's I guess is the best way to put it?

WATKINS: Her mom and dad and, well her mom wasn't home yet her dad was there when I first got there.

KEY: Okay.

WATKINS: Her mom pulled up maybe five or ten minutes after I did.

KEY: Okay, so both of them were home...

WATKINS: Both of them were home.

KEY: ...while you were there, and they both know you were there right?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Okay. Uh, you spoke to uh, Aislynn's dad?

WATKINS: I spoke to her dad right as I, right as I was walking in the door because she was in the bed.

KEY: Okay.

WATKINS: He came to the door.

KEY: What'd y'all do just sit and talk, and watch t.v.?

WATKINS: Just, yeah we watched t.v. cause she was sick and that was about it.

KEY: Okay, do you recall about what time you left?

WATKINS: Around 9:45 to 10, say 9:40 somewhere around in there.

KEY: Okay, was, was the accident still on the road when you came back or do you recall?

WATKINS: I recall seeing the acc—I recall seeing the accident and I seen some cones set up like blocking the other lane. I think it, I think that's what it was because I was on the other side of the road.

KEY: The accident's on the other side of the road now, you're going to Cedartown, or coming from Cedartown, okay.

WATKINS: It was on the other side when I was coming from Cedartown.

KEY: Okay, you recall seeing cones and...

WATKINS: I recall seeing cars, like police cars still there.

KEY: Okay. Did you stop then?

WATKINS: I didn't stop then.

KEY: All right, so you arrived home and what'd you do when you got home? Did you talk...

WATKINS: Came in...

KEY: ...to anyone or?

WATKINS: ...came in and called Aislynn and then I went to bed.

KEY: You called Aislynn back when you came in?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Okay, about what time would.

WATKINS: Around 10 maybe a little after 10, I ate before I called her so it may have been a little after 10.

KEY: Okay, and then you did what?

WATKINS: Went to bed.

KEY: Okay, what did you do the next morning, I mean did?

WATKINS: I got up pretty early and went, went fishing.

KEY: Okay, did you talk...

WATKINS: Went fishing.

KEY: ...with anyone else the next morning about the incident with the truck or anything?

WATKINS: Not early, I was already—I went and got Tim that morning, early that morning and we went fishing and we were on the lake and then my mom called me and told me he'd been shot. Because Tandi had just come from school, she stops when she goes to Floyd too.

KEY: What?

WATKINS: There's a little shop down there.

KEY: What time did you uh, did you go fishing that morning, was it early?

WATKINS: It was early, probably around, I left early I left around 6:30.

KEY: Oh it was really early.

WATKINS: Really early.

KEY: Okay.

WATKINS: 6:30, 7.

KEY: Okay. I can't think of anything else that I need to put in that time frame. Uh, anything else you can recall that you did during that period of time or that you, anybody you talked to or?

WATKINS: That's pretty much it.

KEY: Okay. Why were, why were you off those uh, it was like two days there you, you went fishing two days in a row?

WATKINS: I just had quit my job with Mike Ford and I was fixing to get a job working in Adairsville.

KEY: I see.

WATKINS: (inaudible)

KEY: Took two days off?

WATKINS: Two, two days off.

KEY: Okay. And again I don't know if I asked you but uh, on, on your last uh, contact at all with Isaac do you think maybe that was around what time, the last time you talked with him?

WATKINS: I think the last time I even seen Isaac was at the fair.

KEY: Okay. When, when's the last time you had any conversation with him do you recall at all?

WATKINS: The night he came to my house.

KEY: Was this a confrontation, were y'all having problems then?

WATKINS: Yeah, he, he followed me home from town and...

KEY: And this was like prior to the fair?

WATKINS: Yeah, it was prior to the fair.

KEY: Looking back towards summer now or something?

WATKINS: Yeah, right, right, I can't say really, I think it was right after school started, maybe somewhere around...

KEY: Okay, but y'all had not had any contact since then, you not call one another and threaten one another?

WATKINS: Not call him and threaten him any, we haven't even talked since then.

KEY: Okay. All right, this will conclude the interview for the time being, time is 3:20.

This is Detective Mike Key, I'm at the office of uh, Attorney William Odell uh, present with me is Attorney William Odell and Joey Watkins. We're going to talk about some of the rumors that have surfaced in the last uh, few weeks concerning the uh, death of Isaac Dawkins. Uh, Joey, let me ask you, let's see, I think I've asked you already the last time you saw Isaac and that was like at the fair or so.

WATKINS: Right.

KEY: Last year at the fair. Uh, have you ever threatened to kill or shoot Isaac?

WATKINS: I never threatened Isaac like that.

KEY: Okay. Uh, how about guns do you, what kind of hand, what kind of guns do you own Joey?

WATKINS: I've got a 20 gauge SKS, and a .30-06.

KEY: Okay, did you buy any of those yourself or has someone bought them for you or?

WATKINS: They were all bought for me.

KEY: Okay, your parents?

WATKINS: My parents.

KEY: Bought, furnished you with these guns. These are, you use these for hunting or,
or?

WATKINS: For hunting.

KEY: Okay, you a deer hunter?

WATKINS: Yes sir.

KEY: Okay. Uh, how about handguns, do you own a handgun?

WATKINS: No sir.

KEY: Uh, do you have any friends have you, you run with anybody that, that carries a
handgun?

WATKINS: No sir.

KEY: Okay. I think I asked you did you know Isaac was attending Floyd College and
that...

WATKINS: No.

KEY: ...on the 11th of January.

WATKINS: I had no idea.

KEY: Uh, you definitely knew what type of vehicle he drove because we've covered that. Uh, and you know, we, we know what kind of vehicle you drive. All right uh, did you, are you familiar with Isaac having a dog that was killed? Did he ever mention anything about a dog when y'all were talking?

WATKINS: No sir.

KEY: Uh, did you ever kill Isaac's dog?

WATKINS: No sir.

KEY: You ever been around his house, stalking around his house or anything like that?

WATKINS: I've been to his house, but it's been to like parties and you know, just on...

KEY: And y'all ...

WATKINS:friendship basis.

KEY: Okay, you, you've never been around his house other than that?

WATKINS: No.

KEY: And you didn't know his dog had been killed? Did you hear rumors that maybe you had killed his dog?

WATKINS: I heard rumors.

KEY: Okay. Did you know what kind of dog it was?

WATKINS: I have no clue.

KEY: You never, you don't have a, you haven't saw the dog?

WATKINS: Never seen the dog.

KEY: Okay. Uh, your sister has a, a bluish car, blue/green or something like that.

WATKINS: It's a green Sunfire.

KEY: Were you at, did you drive that car at all on the uh, the 11th?

WATKINS: I don't ever drive the car I'm not on the insurance.

KEY: You're not insured on that car?

WATKINS: No, I'm not, daddy's got a separate policy for her and I've got my own.

KEY: Okay. Any other rumors that you can think of that you need to dispel while we're, while we're here?

WATKINS: No, not right off hand.

KEY: You went to uh, you definitely went to Cedartown by yourself right?

WATKINS: I was by myself all day except when I was with my uncle.

KEY: Okay, you didn't have other people...

WATKINS: I didn't have any friends or family.

KEY: Oh okay. Did you ever buy a gun, a handgun Joey? Did you ever buy one in Cedartown or Calhoun or anything like that?

WATKINS: No sir.

KEY: You ever own, you ever owned any handguns of any kind?

WATKINS: No.

KEY: Okay. Uh, I can't think of anything else right off hand. If uh, let's do this, if anything comes up, and I'll, I'll put this on tape, if anything comes up that is a very blatant rumor or whatever that I need to identify as a rumor or not, uh, I'm going to call uh, your attorney, Mr. Odell, and just have him call you. Would that be, would that be...

WATKINS: Fine.

KEY: ...sufficient. And you can you know, whatever he wants to do you can call me or you can give you, you can give him the answer and then him bring it to uh, to me.

WATKINS: That's fine.

KEY: Just to, just to do a little uh, investigation on some of the rumors. Okay, if there's nothing else this will conclude the interview, the time is 3:40.

Detective Mike Key
Rome Police Department

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