

Volume VIII- Ottis Toole File
File 11
STATEMENT- Vernon Toole
10/28/83

**SUPPLEMENT REPORT
HOLLYWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1. ARRESTEE, COMPLAINANT, DRIVER #1, VICTIM WALSH, ADAM,	2. ARREST NO.	3. COMPLAINT NO. 81-56073
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<input type="checkbox"/> FORM USED AS CONTINUATION SHEET FOR CURRENT REPORT			<input type="checkbox"/> FORM USED TO REPORT FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION		
4. EXTRA COPIES	5. PAGE NO. 1-S	6. TRAFFIC CITATION NO.	9. OFFENSE AND CLASSIFICATION ABDUCTION/MURDER		
7. KIND OF REPORT CONTINUED <input type="checkbox"/> OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> ARREST <input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOWUP OR SUPPLEMENTAL			10. STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> UNFOUNDED <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGED <input type="checkbox"/> CLEARED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT CLEARED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
8. OFFENSE OR CHARGE STATEMENT OF TOOLE, VERNON MEREDITH			11. MULTIPLE CLEAR-UP? (LIST OTHER COMPLAINT NOS. IN NARRATIVE) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		13. VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED \$
INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP OR SUPPLEMENTAL USAGE.			12. FURTHER POLICE ACTION & REPORT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
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The following will be a voluntary sworn statement with reference to an abduction/homicide that occurred on or about July 27, 1983, occurring at the Sears Mall located at 300 Hollywood Mall, in the City of Hollywood, Broward County, State of Florida. This statement is being taken by Det. J. Hoffman #0038 and is commencing on Friday, October 28, 1983, at approximately 1406 hours. This statement is being obtained from witness identified as TOOLE, VERNON MEREDITH, W/M, DOB: 3-29-36, business address 2021 Market Street, Jacksonville, Florida

Prior to taking your statement Mr. TOOLE are you aware that it is a crime under Florida State Statues to knowingly furnish false information while under oath?

A. That's right.

Q. At this time I'm gonna place you under oath by virtue of my commission as a Notary Public for the State of Florida, Broward County. Will you please raise your right hand? (Let the record reflect that the witness right hand is raised) VERNON MEREDITH TOOLE do you solemnly swear to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

A. I do.

VERNON MEREDITH TOOLE HAVING APPEARED BEFORE ME A NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA, BROWARD COUNTY, HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN DEPOSES AND STATES:

Q. For the record would you please state your complete given name, date of birth and your home address?

A. MEREDITH VERNON TOOLE, I was born March 29, 1936.

Q. Your business address?

A. Ah 2021 Market Street.

Q. And who are you employed by sir?

A. SOUTHEAST COLOR COAT.

Q. And how long have you been employed by them?

A. Off and on for ten years I imagine.

Q. Okay. Who is the owner or SOUTHEAST COLOR COAT?

A. JIMMY REAVES.

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Q. JOHN REAVES JR.

A. Yes sir.

Q. Okay. Now did your brother OTTIS TOOLE work for Southeast Color Coat?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How long did he work for them?

A. Umm, that's a different story there cause I left and went up Detroit.

Q. When was that?

A. Ah I left in '68.

Q. And then you came back?

A. Yeah I come back but I've been back three times since then.

Q. I'm not, we're not concerned about 1968. Did OTTIS TOOLE also at one time work for REAVES ROOFING?

A. I can't remember tell you the truth ah.

Q. Let me ask you something if you remember or know any information pertaining to possibly set of keys. Is it feasible that OTTIS may have had keys to the compound over at REAVES ROOFING where they kept their equipment and vehicles.

A. Not of my knowledge, I don't know.

Q. Would he be entrusted to have keys to the compound to clean up or clean up the office or anything like that?

A. Well he might, they might have given him something like that but as far as I know, I don't know myself, I mean you know, I don't want to say yes and I don't want to say no.

Q. Okay. I wanna go back to May of 1981 when your mother passed away.

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A. Uh huh.

Q. Do you recall that date?

A. Yeah I was in Detroit and they called me on the phone and I flew down here. But I stayed two weeks at the hospital with her day and night.

Q. Right.

A. OTTIS and HOWARD used to come by in the afternoon and see her cause we take turns you know goin in to see her.

Q. Okay she dies on May 16th, 1981 is that the correct date?

A. I believe so, I ain't sure.

Q. And you were down here at that time, you were in Jacksonville?

A. No sir.

Q. You flew down for the funeral?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Okay after the funeral, I believe the funeral was May 19th 1981, to the best of my recollection from the information I received. Did you remain in Jacksonville or did you fly back somewhere else?

A. I flew back to Detroit.

Q. How long did you stay in Detroit after May of 1981.

A. Ah I guess about six months.

Q. When did you return back to Jacksonville?

A. Um, 'bout six months after momma died, I heard the house had burned up stuff like that and I said well I'm goin back down there and maybe I can see what's goin on.

Q. Okay during that period of '81 around the time of your mothers death,

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Ah do you remember or do you recall any vehicles that OTTIS may have owned or had an opportunity to drive?

A. Yeah him and LUCAS was gonna buy a truck from my brother and both of'em left from here, I don't know where they went but they left from here, from Jacksonville, but they went down towards up north (inaudible)

Q. Know what kind of car it was?

A. No it was a pick up truck.

Q. That would have been when of '81 do you remember?

A. I imagine it was about a month after momma died, I ain't sure you know.

Q. Alright so around June of '81. Okay and he went up north with HENRY.

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay do you know where he went from there?

A. No sir I don't.

Q. Do you remember when he returned to Jacksonville?

A. Ah they wasn't gone too long. The way I understood (inaudible) called the law or I don't know what town he come from cause I never did like the man myself.

Q. Right.

A. I know he's a snake.

Q. Do you remember when OTTIS returned to Jacksonville?

A. They turned, I think they turned together.

Q. No they never returned together.

A. No, no, no, they didn't.

Q. HENRY was arrested and went to jail.

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A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, you right there! OTTIS come back by hisself cause ah him and my brother had a few words about all the mommas valuabe stuff was gone and guns was gone and...

Q. What kind of stuff did your mother own, what valuables?

A. Well watches, rings, old antique stuff.

Q. What about any type of tools. Did your mother own any type of tools you know, things for gardening or anything like that?

A. Umm, well they always had 'em around the house, shovels and stuff like that...

Q. Yeah right.

A. Yeah hoes, rakes.

Q. What about any type of bladed instrument for cutting? Was there any of those around the house.

A. Not if I can knowledge of.

Q. Excuse me?

A. Not that I know of, see cause I was in and out from Detroit.

Q. Okay did you ever know your brother to own or possess at one time a large knife such as a machete or ah you know big knife?

A. No sir.

Q. Did you ever see one around your mothers house in the garage?

A. No sir.

Q. Okay. When he returned to Jacksonville do you know what his activities were after he returned, his whereabouts, where he travelled, what he did?

A. Let me think now. I think he worked some for Southeast if I ain't

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mistaken, I'd say now, to tell the truth now I think he did I don't know.
Cause my brother he run him down..

Q. I verified that okay. He did work for Southeast up until June of 1981.

A. Ah huh.

Q. So he did. Let me ask you this. You work for Southeast correct?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do they have an assortment of tools that they use on the job such as shovels like you mentioned and stuff?

A. Ah not no (inaudible) we use 'em old big wide ones.

Q. I know but do they have shovels?

A. Yeah.

Q. Do they have any other type of bladed instrument for cutting shrubbery away from the roof or trees or limbs?

A. Nothing but a little 'ole small saw about about that, a hand saw.

Q. Yeah. What about machete's.

A. No sir.

Q. Do you know if your brother OTTIS ever went down to South Florida such as Miami-Fort Lauderdale area during '81, 1981. Do you have any knowledge of that?

A. No sir I don't.

Q. Do you know in the past has he ever travelled to Miami?

A. Ah, I heard something about he went to Fort, Miami or Fort Lauderdale somewheres. That's hearsay I don't know.

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Q. That's hearsay?

A. Yeah it's hearsay.

Q. You don't have knowledge of him making those trips?

A. But as far as, I know that him and LUCAS went to Winterhaven or Lakeland where my niece was staying at. They was gonna kidnap her and bring her, and he's, they were gonna keep her down here.

Q. They were gonna kidnap your niece?

A. Yeah (inaudible)

Q. That's FRED A right, FRED A POWELL?

A. Yeah.

Q. That's your niece?

A. Yeah.

Q. Oh okay.

A. They was gonna go down there and I think he step daddy called the law and thataway they couldn't get it lessen the went through courts and all that there.

Q. Do you know an individual by the name of FAYE McNETT?

A. McNETT?

Q. Yeah.

A. Yeah she's ah JOHNNY's sister.

Q. JOHN's ah..aunt?

A. Yeah.

Q. You know here?

A. Yeah.

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Q. Do you know if she ever sold OTTIS a vehicle?

A. I heard somethin about him buying a Cadillac from her.

Q. Right do you remember when that was?

A. No sir I don't.

Q. But you heard that she sold him a Cadillac?

A. Yeah.

Q. Do you know what color that Cadillac was?

A. No sir. Not unless it was that blue one he had.

Q. Ah I verified that through Mrs. McNETT, it was a black vinyl over white Cadillac four door.

A. Well he's bought so many Cadillacs to where.....

Q. Now Mrs. McNETT indicated that OTTIS kept that car for a couple months I guess paid her so much money and then gave it back to her. Are you aware of that?

A. No sir I am not.

Q. Okay. Were you aware if Mrs. McNETT stored that car in the compound over at the roofing company?

A. No sir I don't.

Q. When was the last time you saw OTTIS?

A. Ah I think a couple days before they arrested him. I know I did. It was about a month, month and a half cause they sent me to Orlando and I'd been back from Orlando about three weeks now.

Q. So you spoke to him about how long ago now, a month and a half you said?

A. Yeah just 'fore that there.

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Q. Was he in jail at that time, was he arrested at that time?

A. Well I didn't know he was arrested til ah I come back you know over the weekend.

Q. Okay. Did he ever discuss any of these cases with you?

A. No sir.

Q. Or the charges that are pending against him?

A. No sir, I had't (inaudible)

Q. Did he ever tell you that he went down to Hollywood Florida and abducted a child down there?

A. No sir. If he did I'da turned his ass in myself.

Q. Yeah. So you really can't account for OTTIS' whereabouts during, from the time after your mother's funeral until you returned to Jacksonville sometime in the fall of '81.

A. When he worked for Miss GOODYEAR I lived in the same apart...I lived in the same rooming house that he lived in there.

Q. Did he live over there by Mrs. GOODYEARS rooming house?

A. Lived in it. He was a maintenance man for her.

Q. Right. Do you remember when that was? Was that when he lived with NORVELLA?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. Do you remember when that was?

A. Ah I stayed there about a year I guess or a little longer and he worked everyday.

Q. Do you remember when he moved into Mrs. GOODYEARS rooming house?

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**SUPPLEMENT REPORT
HOLLYWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1. ARRESTEE, COMPLAINANT, DRIVER #1, VICTIM WALSH, ADAM	2. ARREST NO.	3. COMPLAINT NO. 81-56073
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<input type="checkbox"/> FORM USED AS CONTINUATION SHEET FOR CURRENT REPORT			<input type="checkbox"/> FORM USED TO REPORT FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION OR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION		
4. EXTRA COPIES	5. PAGE NO. 10-S	6. TRAFFIC CITATION NO.	9. OFFENSE AND CLASSIFICATION ABDUCTION/MURDER		
7. KIND OF REPORT CONTINUED			10. STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> UNFOUNDED <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGED <input type="checkbox"/> YES		
<input type="checkbox"/> OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> ARREST <input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOWUP OR SUPPLEMENTAL			11. MULTIPLE CLEAR-UP? LIST OTHER COMPLAINT <input type="checkbox"/> YES NOS. IN NARRATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
8. OFFENSE OR CHARGE STATEMENT OF TOOLE, VERNON MEREDITH			12. FURTHER POLICE ACTION & REPORT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		13. VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED \$
INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP OR SUPPLEMENTAL USAGE.			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.		

A. No sir I don't.

Q. Do you know the year?

A. No sir.

Q. Was it the same year your mother passed away?

A. He was, I think already working for, no he wasn't either...oh yeah him and HENRY was junking together, that's what they was doin.

Q. When was that?

A. The year that momma died.

Q. 1981?

A. Uh huh.

Q. Okay can you narrow that down to when he went into Mrs. GOODYEARS roomin house? Do you remember what month it was?

A. No sir I don't.

Q. Do you remember what month him and HENRY were doin junk together, collecting junk?

A. That was 'fore momma died.

Q. Oh before your momma died?

A. Yes sir. Cause I, well me and my sister, oh man, we kinda got on HENRY and OTTIS for having so much junk in the yard.

Q. Let me ask you something. Did your brother always have money, was there always, did you know your brother to always have money on him?

A. Yeah he had money on him, he was stingey with his money.

Q. Did you ever know him to have hidden money like buried somewhere, maybe in your mom's house?

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4. EXTRA COPIES	5. PAGE NO. 11-S	6. TRAFFIC CITATION NO.	9. OFFENSE AND CLASSIFICATION ABDUCTION/MURDER		
7. KIND OF REPORT CONTINUED			10. STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> UNFOUNDED		
<input type="checkbox"/> OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> ARREST <input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOWUP OR SUPPLEMENTAL			11. MULTIPLE CLEAR-UP? (LIST OTHER COMPLAINT NOS. IN NARRATIVE)		
8. OFFENSE OR CHARGE STATEMENT OF TOOLE, VERNON MEREDITH			12. FURTHER POLICE ACTION & REPORT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		13. VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED \$
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A. No sir. But momma kept most of his money anyway.

Q. Yeah but after she died?

A. Well, he, he wouldn't even give his old lady, he allowed her one pack of cigarettes a day.

Q. Okay so everything you've told me about OTTIS' whereabouts during 1981 is the truth to the best of your knowledge?

A. Yes sir it is, cause I live in the same, well I was livin on ah 1st and Market and I told him I said if an apartment comes open in the same building I want it. So OTTIS was living in the main building and he decided you know he'd get a smaller place for him and his old lady cause I had alot of girlfriends in and out, and ah but I stayed with him and his old lady when I first come from up north you know (inaudible)

Q. At that rooming house?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay so when did you first come from up north?

A. Uhm, right after momma died.

Q. Alright so that would have been June of '81, correct?

A. Yeah.

Q. And you were in Jacksonville throughout the summer of '81 or did you travel back and forth?

A. Well I travelled, every weekend I took ah, we was doin a job in Tallahassee but I'd come on the weekends.

Q. Yeah did your brother every tell you that when him and LUCAS got separat up in Virginia when LUCAS was arrested that he had to go to Salvation Army

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4. EXTRA COPIES	5. PAGE NO. 12-S	6. TRAFFIC CITATION NO.	9. OFFENSE AND CLASSIFICATION ABDUCTION/MURDER		CHANGED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES
7. KIND OF REPORT CONTINUED <input type="checkbox"/> OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> ARREST <input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOWUP OR SUPPLEMENTAL			10. STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> UNFOUNDED	11. MULTIPLE CLEAR-UP? (LIST OTHER COMPLAINT YES NOS. IN NARRATIVE) <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
8. OFFENSE OR CHARGE STATEMENT OF TOOLE, VERNON MEREDITH			12. FURTHER POLICE ACTION & REPORT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	13. VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED \$	
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and get money from them to get him a bus ticket back to Jacksonville?

Do you recall that incident?

A. I hear somethin about it I mean ah I didn't...

Q. Do you remember when he arrived in here in Jacksonville from Virginia on that Greyhound bus?

A. No sir I don't. I know him and his wife went to, started to Texas, I don't know they ever made it there. I heard him say something about he had to go to mission and get clothes and everything, they wrecked the car, he, he some guy they picked up wrecked the car and...

Q. So most of the summer of 1981 is really very vague in your mind is that correct?

A. Yes sir cause I was not around there. Cause I've been back down here about three and a half to four years with JIMMY now.

Q. During the summer of '81 do you remember OTTIS disappearing for a day, two days at a time, three days at a time, leaving Jacksonville and going somewhere maybe that you haven't seen him?

A. I know him and Miss GOODYEAR got into it one time and he was gone, I didn't know where he went to.

Q. Then you didn't see him on an everyday occasion, I mean you wouldn't run in to him everyday this summer?

A. No cause ah I come in, eat and take a bath and go to bed cause in this work here you don't stay up all night. He could but I couldn't.

Q. Okay Mr. TOOLE I don't know of anything else to ask you. Is there anything else you want to add to your statement at this time before it's

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4. EXTRA COPIES	5. PAGE NO. 13-S	6. TRAFFIC CITATION NO.	9. OFFENSE AND CLASSIFICATION ABDUCTION/MURDER		CHANGED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES
7. KIND OF REPORT CONTINUED <input type="checkbox"/> OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> ARREST <input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOWUP OR SUPPLEMENTAL			10. STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> UNFOUNDED	11. MULTIPLE CLEAR-UP? (LIST OTHER COMPLAINT)	
8. OFFENSE OR CHARGE STATEMENT OF TOOLE, VERNON MEREDITH			<input type="checkbox"/> CLEARED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT CLEARED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES NOS. IN NARRATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
			12. FURTHER POLICE ACTION & REPORT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		13. VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED \$
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concluded?

A. Well I don't know there's anything I could tell you tell you the truth, except I told you he went to Texas and he come back on a bus and it was a little while later before he come back.

Q. Okay.

THIS STATEMENT IS BEING CONCLUDED ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 28, 1983, at approximately 1425 hours.

The foregoing statement consisting of thirteen (13) pages was SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this ___ day of _____, 1983.

Notary Public

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