

February 9, 1982, and the time is 10:03 a.m. and the location is the Moraine Police Department, 4200 Dryden Road, Moraine, Ohio and present is Officer Adkins, Sgt. J. D. Wynne and myself Det. Mullins and the witness. We're going to ask you a few preliminary questions and then we'll get in to some more of it.

W.M. First we'd like to ask, what is your full name?

T.R. Ted Daniel Ritchie

W.M. Could you turn your chair a little bit so you, that way you can, you might turn all the way around so you still hear Sgt. Wynne, but sort of face the mike. Where do you live at Ted?

T.R. Gordon's Trailer Park

W.M. Is that 2791 Kreitzer Road, Moraine, Ohio?

T.R. Yea

W.M. You live at lot 24, is that correct?

T.R. Yes sir.

W.M. Your date of birth is September 12, 1964. Is that correct?

T.R. Yes sir.

W.M. And I believe earlier you said something, you moved here from Chicago or Florida, Florida? About a month ago with your parents, and your parents work?

T.R. My mother does.

W.M. Your mother does?

T.R. Yea

W.M. Where is she employed at?

T.R. Uh, I really don't, Dryden (inaudible), I think. It's right down the road, factory, Drydens Molders, or something like that.

W.M. Ok, ok I'm going to ask you about certain individuals, then ask you if you know them, and then we'll go into some more details. Do you know a [REDACTED], I'm going to show you the picture. Do you know this boy? Have you ever seen him [REDACTED]

T.R. I've seen him once or twice. [REDACTED] or anything?
[REDACTED], that's about all.

W.M. Where did you see him at?

T.R. He was with his a, one of his friends, I don't know his Friends name.

W.M. You don't know his friends name?

T.R. No

W.M. Do you know his brother [REDACTED]?

T.R. No, I've never seen him.

W.M. Ok, going back to last Friday, which would have been February fifth, 1982, tell me about what you did last Friday.

- T.R. Well, ok there's a guy named Mike Johnson came over to my house, and a me and him went up to one of his friends named Kieth, you know I just met the guy cause I've only been up here from Florida about a month, so we went over to, you know next trailer court over and we went over to Keith's house, you know and they were, you know he was talking and stuff and he was telling us that, you know him and this other guy, just drunk like half a fifth of vodka and you know that he was still drinking beer and he said the guy just left and he was telling us also that he was supposed to work over some guy for a hundred bucks and a you know we had (inaudible) Jim with us and we let him take him in the bedroom, you know let him lay down for awhile cause he had drunk too much, so you know we sat there and drunk a little more and I guess it was about 11:00 when we left, you know Keith's trailer, so we went over to another guy over in dog patch, behind the Civic Center that next street over, behind there, we went over to this guy named a I think it was Dwayne, I'm not for sure, but I just met him too and so we went in there and his dad went to bed and everything and there was his older brother I guess and another guy and we went down in the basement cause they had this video game in the basement that they wanted to play, we were sitting in Dwayne's room and they, they just started talking really wierd like they were queer or something, and they were showing off this knife and everything so, Mike said it's time for us to go, so me and Mike left and I guess it was around 12:00 when we left there, you know we went on to home and you know stayed up and watched television.
- J.W. Who all was present at Dwaynes?
- T.R. A, me, Mike, Dwayne, his mom and dad were in bed, and him and there was, I don't know, there was another guy, he was about 19, had a hat on, curly hair, you know, kind of tall, and there was also, I guess it was Dwayne's older brother they looked alike but you know I didn't know him so I assumed that it was, his older brother cause they looked alike.
- W.M. Ok, this Kieth, that you mentioned earlier, where does he live at?
- T.R. He lives in the next trailer court, it's the trailer on the far end by the field.
- W.M. It would be the last street over facing towards the interstate?
- T.R. Yea, it's facing towards the interstate, and you know the fields between the interstate and the trailer up there on the end.
- W.M. Describe to me what's in that field.
- T.R. I never got a really good look at it, but there's it's I guess bare field, but there's trees in it, you know.
- W.M. Whole lot of trees, or clumps of trees or is it open?

- T.R. Over in this area there's a lot of trees back in there and over in this area there's not many trees.
- W.M. Describe Keith to me.
- T.R. He's about, he's 17, and he's I guess he's about as tall as I am, maybe a little bit taller, he's skinny, he weighs about 140, 145, and he's got long brown hair.
- W.M. How tall are you?
- T.R. I'm about 5'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-5'10"
- W.M. (inaudible)
- T.R. I'd say he's about 5'11"-5'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- W.M. You say his hair is brown, is it a light brown or dark brown?
- T.R. It's light brown, it's long.
- J.W. Dark as your hair?
- T.R. No, lighter
- W.M. How did you know where his trailer was at, or how, what made you go over there?
- T.R. Ok, well the guy, Mike Johnson, the guy I was with, he knew him, and you know he was telling me things about him cause you know he'd stoled a bunch of stuff from his dad and he Mike got the blame for it, and everything, you know he never told on him, he stoled a bunch of battery chargers and everything and sold them for like five dollars.
- W.M. So in other words, you're saying Mike stole something from Keith's father, is that
- T.R. No Keith stole it from his own dad, but Mike got the blame for it.
- W.M. So what else did Mike tell you about, this Mike Johnson, what else did he tell you about Keith?
- T.R. He just, you know, him and his sister said that, you know he was gay, Keith was gay, that's you know.
- W.M. What else, I don't want to embarass you, but it's very important that we know, we all have an idea that gays kind of a common term, there are different types of gay people What was described to you by Mike Johnson and Mike Johnson's sister about this Keith being gay. What did they say he liked to do?
- T.R. Well, they said that you know, he'd make moves on other guys, you know grab their legs and all that.
- W.M. How about, what else did he do? Again, I'm not trying to embarass you, but it's very important that we know.
- T.R. Well, that's all, I got, they you know, they didn't really come out and say it that he went to bed with any guys or anything, they didn't really they just said he was gay.
- W.M. Like to feel around on people, is that correct?
- T.R. Yea

W.M. Before, you went over to Keith's trailer, where were you at?

T.R. Over at a lady named Judy's.

W.M. Were you over at a place called, a guy name Darrell?

T.R. Yea, we were over at a guys named Darrell.

W.M. And had you guys been drinking over at Darrell's?

T.R. Yea

W.M. Smoking a little marijuana?

T.R. Yea

W.M. So, whose idea was it to go to Keith's?

T.R. It was Mike's, suppose, he asked me if I wanted to go over to guys, meet him, I said sure, you know.

W.M. Who all was at, that was the last place you left before you went to Keith's, over at Darrell's?

T.R. Yea

W.M. Who all was at Darrell's place? That you can recall.

T.R. There was me and Mike, Darrell, Judy, Alice, and my sister and her boyfriend Donald, that's all, there was also a guy named Donnie too.

W.M. You know who Donnie is?

T.R. No I just, that's Judy's boyfriend I guess, he was over once in a while.

W.M. Do you know if a guy by the name of [REDACTED] came in?

T.R. No

W.M. How about a Jim Shipman?

T.R. Yea, that's right, there was a guy named Jim there, he was he had his little brother with him too, yea

W.M. Jim Shipman and his little brother go over to Keith's with you?

T.R. Yea.

W.M. Now, what all had you drank at Darrells?

T.R. I drunk about maybe 3 or 4 beers down, and

W.M. How many joints did you smoke?

T.R. We smoked about, I guess, 2 or 3.

W.M. So, who all left Darrell's and went up to Keith's then?

T.R. It was me, Mike, Jim and his little brother.

W.M. You walked over?

T.R. Yea

W.M. About what time did you get there?

T.R. We were up there somewhere between 9:00 and 9:30. I'm pretty sure.

W.M. Once you got there, you go up and knock on the door or what?

T.R. Yea, we knocked on the door and Mike hadn't seen him in a little while, he was, they were friends, but he hadn't seen him in awhile, you know, come on in and everything, then we drunk a few beers there, about maybe 3 beers there.

W.M. What kind of beer did you drink?

T.R. Old Milwaukee Light.

W.M. Did you have anything else to drink at Keith's, is there any other alcoholic beverages?

T.R. There was some vodka, but we didn't drink any of it, he was saving it for a party.

W.M. What party?

T.R. He said he was supposed to have a party, him and his dad, and some other guys were supposed to come over there the next day.

W.M. Was his father there that night?

T.R. No, he said his father was gone somewhere, he was supposed to be back anytime now.

W.M. Ok, when you got there, what was Keith wearing?

T.R. He was wearing a pair of cordoroy's, they were cut off like at the bottom and a pair of boots, no shirt, and a hat.

J.W. (Inaudible)

T.R. They were dark blue.

W.M. Dark blue cordoroy's?

T.R. Yea

- J.W. Are you sure?
- T.R. Sure.
- W.M. Did he have shoes on?
- T.R. Boots, cowboy boots
- J.W. Was there any horse play, wrestling going on?
- T.R. I don't know, but they, Jim was in there laying down, Keith and Mike they went into the bedroom and I guess I heard like a little bit of horseplay, and I don't (inaudible) what they were doing, cause I was sitting out there in the livingroom drinking beer.
- J.W. Which bedroom did they go in?
- T.R. The first, it's the first one going back before the bathroom, it's on the right.
- J.W. Is that where Jim (inaudible)
- T.R. Yea, he was laying in there (inaudible) and his little brother was in there with him.
- J.W. With him?
- T.R. Yea, for a little, off and on, he came in there, and he only laid down for maybe 45 minutes at the most, half an hour, something like that.
- J.W. Anybody go into the rear bedroom?
- T.R. No, noone went in the rear bedroom.
- J.W. Was the door open?
- T.R. I think it was closed, I'm not really sure, but I think it was closed, because when I went through the hall, you know, I didn't know where the bathroom was, and I seen that door down there closed and a I think I'm pretty sure it was, then a you know I went on down and there was the bathroom.
- W.M. Had you ever been to Keith's before?
- T.R. No, I didn't even know the guy until that night.
- W.M. Ok, once you got there and everybody was inside, go back the best you can recall and tell us about what was talked about and how Keith acted.
- T.R. Well, when we first got there, him and Mike and Keith were talking about, you know, as I already told you, Keith said Keith told Mike that he was supposed to get a, he was supposed to work over some guy, I don't recall his name, for you know

- T.R. a hundred dollars and get some information out of him, the reason why is cause he was supposed to stole some doberman you know, no some pitbulls, that's what it was, pitbulls, from somebody in, somebody elses was paying to find out where it was and also he give him a hundred dollars, and we just we were mostly talking about, you know, that we get together some night and go out and get drunk, you know cause Mike and Keith they said they went out alot and get drunk and you know they been in some fights and stuff, you know we talked about what kind of food we all like and all that, that's about it. Oh yea, he showed us his pool stick, we talked about his pool stick, we were arguing about how much it cost that's about all I can remember.
- W.M. Describe the pool stick.
- T.R. It's a, one of those that's got solid brass all around it and it's wood and its got some encarvement and it's about this long, you know well, you see, you unscrew the bottom and the other part comes out and you attach it.
- W.M. Did you see anything else in there?
- T.R. We went into the bedroom where James was laying down, he showed us some fishin poles and his closet was a mess, had a bunch of clothes and stuff in there.
- J.W. How would you describe the livingroom, did it look like somebody had been sitting around drinking alot? Were there cans and glasses sitting around or...
- T.R. Well there was a whole 12-pack empty, and plus what we had drunk, we had drunk about a nother 12-pack, but when we got there there was already a half a fifth, he said he'd had somebody over there drinking with him before we got there. There was about a half a fifth of vodka gone and a 12-pack gone.
- W.M. What was his condition when you got there?
- T.R. Well he was asleep, he wasn't asleep he was dozing off when we got there, and I'd say he was, he wasn't really drunk, but he was buzzing.
- J.W. Where was he dozing at, do you know?
- T.R. He was on the couch.
- W.M. How did he act?
- T.R. He acted ok I guess, he didn't talk much, he really didn't not until he got to know us, you know me, then we started talking more after that.
- W.M. Did you talk about who his friends were or anything?
- T.R. He mentioned a guy named James about he had got a hat off a

T.R. guy named James, I don't know if

W.M. He talk about where he went to school?

T.R. No

W.M. Talk about his family?

T.R. No, he just said his dad, you know was cool, he let him drink and all that, that's about all he said about his family. He said they used to live in Florida and that's, we talked about that too, we were talking about Florida, cause you know I found out he used to live in there too.

(inaudible)

T.R. He said he lived all over Florida, Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale,

W.M. What else did you guys talk about?

T.R. A, we were watching a television show, there was some good lookin women on there and we were you know talking about we'd like to have em, you know, that's about it.

W.M. What'd Keith say about the girls?

T.R. He said they were ok, you know

W.M. Let's go back and talk about Mike Johnson and his sister referring or making statements about a Keith being a homosexual. It's very important that you remember as best you can. What was said?

T.R. Well Alice, his sister, was the one that brought it out, she just said that you know he a when she was around him that he played with the guys legs and all that, she just said he's a queer, and Mike he didn't have too much to say about it he said you know Keith is but it didn't really matter to him cause he never tried nothing on him before they were just friends

W.M. Do you recall anyone naming a certain person who may be Keith had had any sexual relations with as far as another boy?

T.R. Uh uh, No, but I haven't known, see I haven't known Alice and Mike long because I've only been up here a month.

J.W. What brought the conversation about Keith up when you guys decided to go over there or what?

W.M. Did somebody make the statement like well let's go over to the queer's house or, what we're asking you to explain how that conversation came about?

T.R. Well we were around walking around the trailer court it was boring and there wasn't nothing to do, all the beer was gone everything, Mike said let's go over to my friend Keith's house and I said alright, you know he said he might have some beer

- T.R. or something or his dad might not be home you know, said alright. So we walked over there, that's about it.
- J.W. What I meant was, you said, was Alice with you at the time you were walking around or
- T.R. No Alice, she was there but she wasn't with us, she was in trailer.
- J.W. Ok, what brought the conversation up on Keith about him being a (inaudible)
- T.R. Well after we decided to go over to his house, that's when it came up
- J.W. Ok, somebody said let's go to Keith's
- T.R. Then they was telling me about him, he's stole a bunch of stuff off his dad, and he was like a little wierd and stuff.
- J.W. Did you at any time see the knife or anything on Keith, was he packin anything?
- T.R. I never seen a knife at his house, I didn't see one.
- J.W. When you went down to Dwayne's, or (inaudible), you said you were down there and playing the video game and you said they were playing real nice
- T.R. Yea, they were, they were showing it off and stuff, you know it was one of those ones that come out like that and it's about, I guess it'd be about that long when the blade come out. They were just showing that off and everything and the guy that I was telling you about, the one with the curly hair I don't think it was his brother, he pulled it out and you know was playing around with it.
- D.A. Was Keith playing around with it?
- T.R. Keith wasn't there.
- W.M. You talking about the knife?
- T.R. Keith stayed at his house when we went over to Dwaynes.
- J.W. What time do you think you left?
- T.R. The news was just coming on, it was about 11:00
- J.W. 11:00?
- T.R. Yea
- J.W. He said that he was expecting his dad any minute?
- T.R. Yea

- J.W. He didn't say where his dad was?
- T.R. No he just said his dad, would be home any time now.
- W.M. Did he act like he was in a hurry for you to leave?
- T.R. Not at first, but I guess you know it did seem that way, we were there a while, you know after about an hour, hour and a half, you know he seemed like, well in a way he did but in a way he didn't, cause he was telling Jim that he could stay there as long as he wants cause he knew if he went home you know he'd get in trouble by his parents cause he was drinking, he's only 15, Jim is, plus he had his little brother out with him all that time.
- W.M. You've had an opportunity to view a lot of people and talk to a lot of people during your lifetime
- J.W. I think what he's trying to say you seem to be pretty much (inaudible) you've been around a little bit
- W.M. What I'm asking you, in your opinion, what you've seen over your lifetime and the people you've talked to, certain people who are calm other ones are nervous, a that along that line how would you describe Keith as to that particular night on Friday night, how did he act?
- T.R. When we got there he'd just got up he was acting pretty calm, you know he didn't seem scared about anything or he was acting pretty calm, like I said he's you know you know he said he had to work over some guy for a hundred bucks, you know I got to the idea that he was that kind, I don't know.
- J.W. You mean rough?
- T.R. Yea, thinking he was a rough guy.
- W.M. You mean an aggressive type person?
- T.R. No, Mike, you know Mike he's a little guy, the guy I was with he said he'd whip Keith a few times he said he could whip his butt any day.
- W.M. Talking about backing, somebody went back in the bedroom, you know some horseplay, who was back in the bedroom?
- T.R. Jim was laying down and his little brother, I don't, his little brother went back and in there and come back out, I don't know if he was in there at the time or, but Mike and a Keith, and Jim, Jim was laying down on the bed. I guess he was asleep, I don't know.
- W.M. Describe this horseplay you were talking about earlier, or whatever it was.
- T.R. Well when I was there you know Mike and Keith they'd grab each other, you know, head locks and stuff, so I guess that's

- T.R. what was happening, you know, grabbing each other in head locks, just horsing around with each other.
- W.M. Anybody hit him, did they hit each other or was it just wrestling.
- T.R. No it was just wrestling, really, just wrestling.
- J.W. Did anybody get hurt while they were there?
- T.R. Yea, Jim cut his hand on a beer can.
- J.W. (inaudible)
- T.R. He was, he was going like, like you know, going like this and twisting it up and he didn't even know he'd cut hisself he was so polluted.
- J.W. (inaudible)
- T.R. No it was only little scratches, you know, he didn't bleed very much.
- W.M. It wasn't an open wound with blood running out?
- T.R. No
- W.M. Is that correct?
- T.R. Correct.
- W.M. After you guys left there where did you go?
- T.R. We went over to, I think the guy's name is Dwayne, I don't know the names very good.
- W.M. Who all, when I say you left, now, tell me who left.
- T.R. This was me and Mike, cause Jim and his little brother had went home.
- W.M. They had already left?
- T.R. Yea, they had already left.
- W.M. What time did they leave?
- T.R. They left about, maybe about 15 till 11, they left about 15 minutes before we did.
- W.M. Do you know where they went?
- T.R. They went home, Jim said he was going home.
- W.M. So that left Keith there, is that correct?
- T.R. Yea

W.M. Yourself and Mike Johnson.

T.R. Yea

W.M. You guys stayed until right round 11:00 p.m.?

T.R. Yea

W.M. So then, when you talk about you left, you're talking about yourself and Mike Johnson left and went down to Dwayne's house.

T.R. Yes

W.M. What I'd like to do is have you go back and think what all have you heard about Keith. You told us about Mike Johnson and his sister, however that came about, but in that general area in that neighborhood, down in West Moraine Plat, what conversations you may have had with other people, what was sort of people's thoughts and views and what have you about Keith?

T.R. Well, I don't, theres you know, I've only really talked to Mike about Keith and his sister, cause you know I don't hardly know anybody else around there, but they said, Mike says he was cool and you know to go out and party with and everything, but behind your back, you know, he was a bad guy, you know he'll steal from you or anything.

W.M. When you were told that Keith was a homosexual, how was the word they used?

T.R. Queer

W.M. Queer?

T.R. Yea

W.M. What was your comment?

T.R. Well I just said, you know, huh, you know if that's, I don't really remember what my comment was, I really don't. I really didn't say anything, I just

W.M. When did they tell you this?

T.R. It was before we went over to Keith's, I guess, we were on the way walking over there, yea, we were walking over there yea, and it just, you know he mentioned it.

W.M. What was there, best you can recall if you remember, what was there words?

T.R. A

W.M. Or whoever, this was you're talking about Jim right, cause his sister's not with you at that time, right?

T.R. Mike

W.M. Mike? What did Mike say?

T.R. Well his exact words, he was telling me on the way over there he stole, that first he was telling me about all this stuff he stole from his dad, and then he said that he's also queer, I think that's his exact words, or you know, or he's also queer

W.M. Did you say what do you mean or anything like that?

T.R. Well, yea I did ask him I said what exactly do you mean by that, and he said I mean you know gay, cause he said then earlier before that, that's when his sister told me he was gay, Keith was gay

W.M. Where was that at?

T.R. It was over in Judy's trailer.

W.M. When wasthat?

T.R. It was Friday night, I guess it was probably 8:00 or 8:30

W.M. What brought that about?

T.R. When she found out we were going over there.

W.M. What did she say?

T.R. She just told me that a you know watch out for that guy cause he's a little wierd.

W.M. Did you ask her what she was talking about?

T.R. No cause I kind of got the point of what she meant, when she said that.

W.M. Do you know a young man by the name of Andrew, Andy?

J.W. Choate

W.M. Choate

T.R. Andrew

J.W. Lives on the first street of dog patch.

T.R. That's the guys house we went over to.

J.W. The mother sort of short heavy set?

T.R. That's not Dwayne, that's his name, Andrew, that's his name that's where we went.

W.M. Ok, when you got to Andrews did he ask you where you'd been?

T.R. Oh, he asked Mike, you know where he's been all this time, or something like that, they hadn't seen each other for awhile

W.M. What did Mike tell him?

T.R. Uh, I really really wasn't paying no attention, cause I was like listening to everybody else, and they were over here to the side of everybody else, but also, Mike told me that Andrew was gay too, that he had beat him up with a baseball bat one time, at school.

W.M. Was there any mention about Andrew and Keith?

T.R. No

J.W. Who told you that Andrew was gay?

T.R. Mike

J.W. Who had beat, which one

T.R. Mike had beat him up with a baseball bat, when he found out he was gay, see cause they used to be best friends until Mike found that out, he says there still friends but not as good.

J.W. How'd he find out?

T.R. He said that his come out and told him one day and then one day he tried to make a move on him and you know when Andrew told him, he said you know it's all right, as long as he doesn't try nothing with him, and he did try something one day, and that's when Mike beat him up with the baseball bat.

W.M. When you guys went over that night on your way there were you loud or anything like that?

T.R. On the way where?

W.M. Keith's

T.R. We were talking, I don't know, no but when we got to the edge of the street, you know Jim told us to be quiet because his parents lived there and he didn't want them to know he was going up to Keith's, so we went real quiet from the road to Keith's trailer.

W.M. I'd like for you to go back and I know it would be hard for you to remember, but it's very important that we know as best you can recall, about the conversation that took place while you were at Keith's on Friday night, everything that you can recall about who said what to who and what have you

- T.R. One other thing I can remember that I haven't already told you, a Keith sat way over there at the edge of the couch and Mike was sitting like at this end of the couch, and I don't know how this came about, but, you know they were talking about something and Mike, you know Mike just told Keith he said, I can beat you up any day you little queer, you know, that's
- W.M. I'm sorry, tell me that again now. Mike said that to Keith?
- T.R. Yea, Mike said that to Keith, you know, cause I guess he was only kidding around, but he did call him a queer, but he said I can beat you up any day you little queer, you know
- W.M. What did Keith say to that?
- T.R. He didn't really have nothing to say, he just, that's when he reached over and got his (inaudible) you know like this and bend it behind him and stuff, so
- W.M. Keith did that to Mike?
- T.R. Yea Keith did that to Mike.
- W.M. What did Mike say?
- T.R. He didn't say nothing, he said let's go outside right now you know, I guess he was gonna (inaudible) I don't know, but he stood up Mike did, and then they just dropped it somehow I don't know, they just didn't talk about it any more
- W.M. After you guys left Keith's that night, did you talk any more between yourself and Mike Johnson, did you talk any more about Keith?
- T.R. No, I just when we left I just said he was a pretty nice guy, Mike said yea I know, but you know, and Mike also said you know, Keith's father didn't get along with him cause he still thinks that he stoled the stuff and Keith really done it, but Mike said he wouldn't never tell on him cause they was friends
- W.M. Is Mike Johnson homosexual?
- T.R. No
- W.M. Can you think of any reason why he would want to go around a homosexual men?
- T.R. I guess because they're just friends, I don't know, I don't know how he is when I'm not around him.
- W.M. Did Keith seem pretty, type of person who would be free with the booze and liked to entertain people and like to have them around him?
- T.R. Yea, I guess he did, you know he was, he was letting us

- T.R. drink his beer when it was supposed to be for a party
- W.M. Somebody like, you were trying to wine and dine a young lady, in order to, win her favors, would that be a fair and accurate description of Keith's action that night, he was trying to wine and dine and please everyone.
- T.R. Yea, I suppose.
- W.M. No, I'm asking you what your opinion is, not what I what you think I want you to say cause I don't want you to say anything that's not true.
- T.R. I know, I could say yea.
- W.M. I'm asking for your opinion, in your opinion. Only rather than trying to wine and dine a young lady, he was trying to wine and dine young men, is that fair and accurate description of your opinion of what was taking place that night?
- T.R. Yea
- W.M. You said when you left that your opinion of him was that he was a nice guy.
- T.R. Yea
- W.M. Do you think maybe you'd like to go back over there? Again I'm not trying to embarass you, what a
- T.R. Yea, you know, wouldn't bother me none, cause, I just met the guy, to me he seems pretty nice, and if he's a homosexual that's his business, as long as he doesn't try nothing with me, that's the way I feel about it.
- W.M. Ok
- J.W. Otherwords, his sexual preference(inaudible)
- T.R. That's right, that's right.
- J.W. Did Mike, did he tell you exactly what Andrew tried to pull on him at one time that made him mad?
- T.R. He said that he grabbed his leg one time, that's about all I can remember.
- J.W. He said that Andrew told him he
- T.R. Yea he told me, and then but after that you know they dropped it and Mike said as long as you don't ever try nothing with me you know, but then he grabbed his leg, I guess a few days after that, that's why he beat him up with the baseball bat.
- W.M. What have you heard since Friday?
- T.R. On what?

J.W. Have you heard anything about the homicide (inaudible)

T.R. Well I talked with Jim, you know the guy that you got his name or whatever

W.M. You mean Shipman that lives near by

T.R. Yea he lives in the next trailer court, I talked to him and he says that, you know, Keith said that he'd seen him and what's his name, that kid

W.M. The boy that was murdered?

T.R. Yea, he said that he had seen him and Jim out 5:00 in the morning, you know Saturday, when he got killed, you know at 1:10 or something like that

W.M. And saw Jim Shipman?

T.R. Yea, Keith said he saw Jim and that boy out at 5:00 Saturday morning, that's what Jim told me Keith said.

W.M. Otherwords, let me get this straight, Keith told Jim who? Shipman?

T.R. I guess that's his last name, he lives in that next trailer court

W.M. He told. Keith told Jim Shipman that he had saw this boy [REDACTED] out at 5:00 in the morning with who?

T.R. With Jim. He said that to Jim.

W.M. Otherwords, Keith's saying to Jim, I saw you with [REDACTED] at 5:00 in the morning

T.R. Yea, that's right.

W.M. Ok, go ahead

T.R. That's all I've heard, that's all Jim said, but you know he said that they had Keith downtown questioning him, he said something about, this is probably a bunch of lies that I've heard, but he said you know, feet print led from Keith's trailer out to the field where they found the body, but you know, I don't know, cause (inaudible)

W.M. Let me ask you something, when you went there at 9:00 that night, you'd been drinking,

T.R. Yea

W.M. you'd been smoking

T.R. Uh huh

W.M. What was your condition?

T.R. I was straight, pretty straight, I knew what was going on but Mike, you know he was

W.M. If you recall, you remember how the weather was at 9:00 or when you were walking from Gordon's Trailer Park at Darrell's trailer, to

T.R. It was cold

W.M. Cold?

T.R. Not that I recall, it wasn't.

W.M. Do you recall, I'm sorry Joe, go ahead

J.W. Was the wind blowing pretty good?

T.R. Yea, it was windy

J.W. It wasn't snowing? It was cold and windy, but no snow

T.R. It was cold, windy, cause I remember telling Mike the reason it's cold is because the wind.

W.M. Do you recall what time it stopped snowing that night?

T.R. Stopped snowing?

W.M. Uh huh

T.R. No, sure don't

J.W. You say, Mike you felt was to consider him (End of Side 1 of Tape)

W.M. We took a brief break and I believe you went to the bathroom and I went and got some coffee, we're gonna wrap this statement up, there's a couple brief questions that I've got to ask you again, told you several times, I don't want to embarrass you but I have to ask you these questions.

T.R. Alright

W.M. Don't take it personal, or have any hard feelings towards me. Are you a homosexual?

T.R. No sir

W.M. Ok, did you kill [REDACTED] ?

T.R. No

W.M. Have you been totally truthful in the statement that you have given me this morning?

T.R. Yes sir

W.M. Have you withheld any information? Is there anything that you think we should know that you have not told us?

T.R. No sir

W.M. You've been fully cooperative?

T.R. Yes sir

W.M. Is there anything else that you would like to say?

T.R. No

W.M. Have you lied to me this morning?

T.R. No sir

W.M. If you don't have anything further, what we will do is shut the tape off and you can go back home.

T.R. Alright

W.M. Again, we thank you.

T.R. That's alright.

W.M. You weren't forced to come here this morning?

T.R. No sir

W.M. The time is now 10:58 and we are going to shut the tape off and Ted we'd like to thank you for your cooperation, ok

T.R. That's ok

Taped statement of Ted Daniel Ritchie, Lot 24, Gordon's Trailer Court, 2791 Kreitzer Road, Moraine, Ohio transcribed on Thursday, February 11, 1982 consisting of 19 typed pages.

Karen L. Schmidt

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Transcriber

Det. W. L. Mullins
Witness