

## **Jason Burkhart – Statement October 9, 1990**

His statement is a virtual carbon copy of what Larry Swihart attempted to get Kevin Gray to say had happened. Notice Swihart is the one who "took the statement" from Jason. There are also witnesses who were present when Larry Swihart tried to get Kevin to go along with them and fabricate testimony about Billy. Jason took the deal. Kevin Gray did not.

Buckley Case

Dal  
POA ✓  
RF ✓  
WGP ✓  
EK ✓

TAPED INTERVIEW WITH JASON BURKHART

LS: Today's date is October the 9th, 1990, the time is approx. 2:15 PM, Ohio Time. We are currently in the Wayne Co. Sheriff's Dept. Interview Room. Present is Larry Swihart from the Preble Co. Sheriff's Dept., in Eaton, Ohio, and Jason Burkhart. Is that correct?

JB: Yea.

LS: Jason, I'd like to get a little background on you. If you would, give me--your date of birth-----

JB: 12-03-69.

LS: Your Social Security Number, if you know it.

JB: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~.

LS: Your home address

JB: Be ah, 1641 South 4th.

LS: And your phone number, if you have one.

JB: 966-4145.

LS: Okey. (SIGH) Jason, is it true--that you---contacted an individual at the Wayne County Sheriff's Dept. and told them that you might have some information---on a homicide that occurred in--Preble County?

JB: Yes.

LS: And is the homicide we're talking about--ah, Lisa Buckley, the girl who was found in the lake--there at New Paris?

JB: Yes.

LS: Okey. (NOISE) Is it true that ah, a guy by the name of Kevin Gray and a guy by the name of Billy Scott, came to your house one night and picked you up and you guys went to the Triangle in Greenville and that's when you learned about this homicide?

JB: Yea.

LS: Okey. Did you know about it before then?

JB: I knew ah--I knew about it, but I didn't know--pretty much about. I know, well, Kevin come up on me before he left and let me that you guys was (INAUDIBLE) Billy wanted to talk to him and about that and everything, so he left.

LS: So, Kevin left?

JB: Yea.

LS: Okey. Were you at that party?

TAPED INTERVIEW OF JASON BURKHART CONTINUES

JB: No, I was suppose to go though.

LS: Okey, you was suppose to go, but didn't.

JB: Didn't.

LS: Okey, ahm--you know Billy Scott?

JB: I know him--yea, I know who he is.

LS: Okey. And you know--Kevin Gray.

JB: Yea.

LS: Raised around him?

JB: Yea.

LS: Okey, well you-you and Kevin and Billy are on your way to-to the Triangle and-and on the way and on the way back was there a discussion--about--Lisa Buckley?

JB: Yea.

LS: Well--was the discussion brought up by you--or by Billy or by Kevin?

JB: It started out talking about me--Billy and Kevin-----

LS: Okey-(talking at same time)

JB: ---was talking about me, about how much trouble I was in and whether or not they was going to be able to prove anything and all this other.

LS: Okey, what kind-what kind-what were they talking about?

JB: Well, see I'm charge (NOISE) with attempted murder-----

LS: Okey--that's over here at Wayne County?

JB: Yea, in Richmond. And-I'm-I'm pretty much ah--we was talking about it and I think I'm innocent, you know, cause--you know, there wasn't nobody had any serious injuries and I had the doctor testify about that-----

LS: Okey.

JB: had a gun pulled on me there at (INAUDIBLE)

LS: So--they're talking about you having---these charges filed

JB: yea-----

LS: on you-----

JB: yea-----

TAPED INTERVIEW WITH JASON BURKHART CONTINUES

LS: and then--what else was brought up?

JB: And then ah-- then Billy and Kevin was asking me about, you know, what all did they question you and all this other stuff and I said no and then we was sitting there and we was talking about Lisa--alittle bit and Kevin goes, well, the only difference between you and Billy is is that you're innocent and he ain't---like that. And then we was talking about--ah--just about my-ss-my case and about--him and Lisa and everything and--and ah, just talking about how ah, that I was suppose to went to that party and I should have went and I didn't go and about that.

LS: Okey, did---did Billy say what happened?

JB: (INAUDIBLE) ah, it was something was brought up about what happened and she ah, and he said ah,--more or less that he left with her, because he was wanting some pussy off of her and they left the party together and ah, they went out walking around a little bit and around by the woods, down by the lake and everything and back around in that way and ah, he wanted some pussy off of her and he wouldn't-she wouldn't give him none, so--he kind of smacked her a little bit and---and ah, then we was talking about some other things and then got back on that subject and it was like-more or less he just wanted some pussy off of her and he smacked her and you know, she wouldn't give him none, so he thought he smacked her around a little bit and got some and he was going to let her go and they was going to go back to the party and everything like that and she said-she told him she was going to tell on him, you know, so ah, he more or less smacked her a little bit and drowned her in the lake.

LS: Okey.

JB: and come back to the party.

LS: And that's-that's what Billy's telling ya?(TALKING AT SAME TIME)

JB: Yea, but not ex-not all of that was Billy, but the first part was basically Billy and we talked-dropped me and then-----

LS: Okey, so-so-so did Billy----- (TALKING AT SAME TIME)

JB: talked about that---

LS: tell ya he left the party with her because he wanted to get some pussy?

JB: Yea (TALKING AT SAME TIME) yea.

LS: Did Billy tell you that he smacked her around?

JB: Yea.

LS: Did-Billy tell you he got some pussy?

JB: Yea.

LS: After he got some pussy--did he smack her around some more?

JB: He-said-that he was going to bring her back, you know, they was all going to come back and then that's when she-said she-was going to tell on him and then that's pretty much when it all-you know what happened and then the next day I talked to Kevin about it and then, but he did not sit and tell me-yea, I killed her-and I drowned her, you know, but---everybody knows that what he did, because-----

LS: When it-when it got to the place where--okey, he got some pussy--she said she was going to tell-----

JB: Yea, more or less you're right (LAUGH)

LS: (TALKING AT SAME TIME) and he smacked her around-----

JB: Yea.

LS: and-----

JB: I think what happened-----

LS: then-then--well, he never said anymore.

JB: Yea.

LS: Is that accurate?

JB: Yea. Then we just kind of started talking about some, you know something else and stuff. We was just--talking about-----

LS: So-so did Billy Scott tell you that--he killed that girl?

JB: He didn't, no he did not come out and say-I killed her.

LS: In the conversation you had with-with Billy an-and Kevin Gray--

JB: Yea.

LS: What was your conclusion--about Lisa Buckley?

JB: That he took her in the woods and--raped her and beat her and drowned her.

LS: That's-----

JB: Bottom line.

LS: Okey. You mentioned that you'd talk to Kevin Gray a few days after that.

JB: Yeah.

LS: What was that conversation?

JB: I was just talkin' to him and I said...you know just sittin' there and I said, Well man, you know, why did.... did he kill her or what...? And he was like yeah, you know, I guess that is what Billy told Kevin, you know, that he told him everything. And you know, just ask him why he killed her and everything and he said that he was afraid that he was going to tell on her and stuff. I guess he, uh I don't know, I guess Kevin knows a lot about it.

LS: So.....

JB: I know that he, he knows I guess that he wasted some other people too.

LS: Kevin and Billy are pretty tight?

JB: Yeah. Kinda like me and Kevin.

LS: Do you think Kevin will talk to me?

JB: I don't know, I'll talk to him. To be honest about it, I'll see.

LS: O.K.....

LS: Is there anything else you want to put on this tape?

JB: That Billy didn't come right out and tell me that he killed her, but I know he did. He said he didn't beat her, you know, he raped her and everything and he kind of like went on around. The killin' and murderin' part. But he didn't act like he was sad about it, I'll tell you that. He was kinda.....He wasn't braggin about it, but he wasn't.....It was a accident and all this other shit.

LS: And we're talking about the night of the party?

JB: Yeah. Whenever he killed her. Then he went and found her.

LS: O.K. Did he tell you that?

JB: Yeah.

LS: O.K. He said he went and found her.

JB: Yeah. Cause I was sittin' there, and I said, well man, I said I've heard so many different stories about who found her. And he was like, no man, I went the next day and I found her, cause I wanted to make sure that "I" found her.

LS: Why did he want to make sure that he found her?

JB: I don't know. Something.....something about he wanted to make sure that, I think that he left his belt or something. I ain't exactly sure, but he wanted to make sure that he found her.

LS: Cause he left something there and he wanted to find that....

JB: Basically, that is what it is, cause he was all half drunk and it was dark and everything. He wanted to check the scene out before.....

LS: Before the cops found her?

JB: Exactly.

LS: Did he say anything to you about the cops talking to him?

JB: He said something about you guys questioning about it.

LS: What else do you guys know he did, but you can't prove it.

JB: That's the reason he got scared and he blew it, and I told him how stupid, he should never had did that.

LS: He's back now, isn't he?

JB: Yeah. I ain't seen him for awhile, since the last time I saw him at the...inaudible...

LS: O.K. We're going to conclude this statment at 2:25 Ohio Time.

Larry Swihart, Investigator  
Preble County