

Mitch Brown

Mitch saw Ronnie Johnson's car coming out the lane, as if it was leaving the party at approximately 12:20-12:30am. Ronnie's car was very distinct and would not be easily confused with another car. Mitch says he didn't notice the headlights until the car turned the corner, leading Mitch to believe the headlights had been turned off previous. This car being seen leaving just after Lesa's time of death is very troubling. This was barely checked out and I wonder why. To this day, even with Billy convicted, most still believe someone else had something to do with Lesa's murder.

Notice on page 28 of the 1-74 how the investigator tries to tie the speeding red car to Mitch's car. This would mean Mitch would have had to pull into the lane of the barn as he was leaving then pull back out onto the lane which exits the property. Mitch does not mention ever being on the lane to the barn. Whose red car did they see? The news article brings out that Investigator Swihart did not question Lisa or Ronnie Johnson because they couldn't place them at the party. But, Ronnie was seen exiting the lake area and coming from where Lesa's body was found. Lesa was not killed at the party, so the person did not actually have to be at the party to do this.

See pages 22 & 28 of the 1-74 and the news article for more details.

PREBLE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT.

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

I Mitch Brown do hereby make the following statement of my own free will and accord concerning The party which occurred at Cedar Lake on Gray Mtny Rd on the 28th day of July 1990 A.M. _____ P.M. _____

Q1 What time did you get to this party
A1 I got there around 12:20 am to 12:30

Q2 Were you there for the fight
A2 No the fight was just over Phil was there and Eric was gone

Q3 Do you know Lisa Buckley
A3 Yes very well her sister grandparents live next door

Q4 Did you see Dese Buckley at the party
A4 No

Q5 What time did you leave
A5 about 1:45 am I was only there about 15 min and I left

Q6 Unless you arrived at the party driving down the lane did you pass any vehicle on the way out

A6 The first vehicle I passed was Ronnie Johnson's car

WITNESS: _____
WITNESS: _____

Signed G. Mitchell Brown
Address 4076 Lincoln St.
Date 7/17/90
Phone No. 437-6291

Q7 How do you know Ronnie Johnson and his car

A7 I just know him from ~~an~~ around town. I know his vehicle because I ride in it. The car has a total of 4 head lights. The lights are devices than all new cars. It's got a yellow hood, fender, and most of the car is green. I know for sure that was his car.

Q8 Could you see how many people were in it

A8 No. I can't remember if I was or not

Q9 Was the vehicle going unusually fast

A9 No. He was just cruising

Q10 Where was your car when you saw Ronnie's car.

A10 If you go off Gray Mundy Rd. into the lane and you make that about left turn that's he was.

Q11 Did you see his headlights on when you first on in the lane

A11 No. I did notice any when I first pulled in. In fact I didn't notice them until I turned the corner and then they were.

Q12 What type of vehicle were you in.

Dated at

this _____ day of _____

[Signature]

[Signature]

A13 Red 1984 Chevrolet

Q14 When you came on did you see any car in the lane.

A14 Miss Dreyfus car was there on the left side and she was talking with a couple of people

Q15 When you left ~~the~~ were they still there

A15 Yes

Q16 How fast did you go when you left

A16 Really fast. I saw Miss's car and I just zoomed on by

Q17 Were you drinking that night at all

A17 No not at all

Q18 One you saw the car you saw driven out was Ronnie Johnson

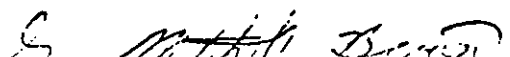
A18 Positive

Dated at

this

day of





SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT
MIDDLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Larry J. Green, Sheriff

OFFENSE _____
COMPLAINANT _____
ADDRESS _____

REPORT NO C16-90-

Page: 22

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF OFFENSE, PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION, ETC.

Supplement C16-90-04
Page 3:.....

We spoke with Mitch Brown, 406 Lincoln Street, New Paris. he went to the party at approximately 12:20 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. He had not been drinking at all that night. He left the party at approximately 12:45 a.m. The fight had just got over. He said when he was coming back to the party, driving down the lane he passed Ronnie Johnson's car coming out. He said Ronnie's car was not going that fast, it was just cruising. He was positive it was Ronnie Johnson's car. He described it as a Green Chevelle with a yellow hood and fender. The car has 4 headlights and are dimmer than the newer cars. We asked if he saw the headlights on this car while he was going down the lane. His reply was, no, he didn't notice any. In fact, he didn't notice any until he went around the curve and there they were. Deputy Petitt and I went to this area and it appeared to us, if a vehicle coming down this lane would have had its lights on, it would be obvious. It's unknown why Mitch did not see lights unless the headlights were not on until he turned the corner. As Mitch got closer to the party, he saw Missy Longemyer's car off to the side of the lane and a few people around it. He was at the party for approximately 15 minutes and left. When he left he said he was going pretty fast. He said Missy and the people were still there. He just zoomed past. Mitch was in a red Chevette. This would be the red sports type car that left fast. Mitch said David Scott had told him Ronnie Johnson told him he was never at the party. Mitch told David he saw Ronnie's car.

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED:
UNFOUNDED
CLEARED BY ARREST
EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED

SIGNED Investigator Larry Swihart
INVESTIGATING OFFICER 68-6
SIGNED _____
DATE

DATE 07-16-90

SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT
FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Larry J. Green, Sheriff

OFFENSE Code 16

REPORT NO C16-90-

COMPLAINANT

ADDRESS

Page: 28

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF OFFENSE, PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION, ETC.

SUPPLEMENT C16-90-04

Swihart and I went to New Paris Police Department and met with Missy Longmire and took a statement, Missy Longmire helped clear up some of the vague areas about the incident of Lesa Buckleys death. Missy explained to us that the small red car that she had seen leave the area of the barn, and after the fight between Eric and Phillip Melody was parked up into the driveway going to the barn, and closer to the lane than the barn. Also that she was standing to the east of the barn driveway approximately 50 to 75 yards to the east and when the car turned right to go out the driveway. The car stopped when its headlights hit Missy and her friends standing, talking. The car took off like hell, speeding down the lane and past Missy and her friends. Missy described the vehicle as a small red sporty type car, like the car owned by Jimmy Maddox, but she could not be sure it was the Maddox vehicle. Missy said that there were at least two people in the vehicle, but could not see who they were.

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED:

UNFOUNDED
CLEARED BY ARREST
EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED
INACTIVE (NOT CLEARED)

SIGNED Dep. George Pettitt 68-10 DATE 07-14-90
INVESTIGATING OFFICER

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

Scott's lawyer says others had motives for murder

By STEPHANIE REEDY
Paladium-Item

HAMILTON, Ohio — A defense attorney hinted through his questioning Thursday that Preble County investigators didn't follow up on leads they were given about Lesa Buckley's death two years ago.

H. Steven Hobbs questioned the Preble County Sheriff's Department's investigation and introduced testimony he said indicates several people other than Guy Billy Lee Scott had motives to kill Buckley.

Scott, formerly of Richmond, is being tried on rape, murder and involuntary manslaughter charges in Butler County Com-

■ Burkhart testifies

— Page A3

mon Pleas Court. He is accused of sexually assaulting and killing Buckley July 7, 1990, at a party at the American Aggregates Lake near New Paris.

One charge against Scott was dismissed by Judge George H. Elliott Thursday after Hobbs argued there was no evidence to prove Buckley had been forced to perform oral sex on Scott.

Hobbs called Ronny Johnson, Buckley's former boyfriend, who reluctantly testified of a violent and turbulent relationship that ended with an argument in the

first few months of 1990.

Johnson was visibly uncomfortable when answering Hobbs' questions about how hard and how much he hit Buckley when they dated. Johnson said he never hit Buckley hard enough to blacken her eye.

When Preble County Prosecutor Rebecca Ferguson asked Johnson if he killed Buckley, he answered emphatically, "No."

Lisa Johnson, Johnson's cousin, testified that she and Buckley argued about the prom in the spring of 1990, and said she unintentionally ran over Buckley's foot after the argument.

A Richmond doctor called earlier by Hobbs who treated Buckley for her foot injury said she told

him she was afraid of Lisa Johnson.

Daniel Barker told jurors he had worked as an informant for Preble County Investigator Larry Swihart, and said he had talked to Ronny Johnson about Buckley's death.

"I said to him, 'I know you and Sam was together (at the party). But when you and Lesa was having your little scuffle, where was Sam?' He said, 'Sam was puking by the car. Then he looked shocked, disturbed.'"

Under questioning by Hobbs, Preble County Investigator Larry Swihart said he didn't talk to either Lisa or Ronny Johnson when he was investigating Buckley's death, despite information from a

witness who said he had seen Ronny Johnson's car at the party.

Swihart said he never questioned the Johnsons because "we couldn't put them at the party." He also said only one person had mentioned seeing Ronny Johnson's car.

Hobbs questioned Swihart about making deals with witnesses to get their testimony, and recalled a witness who said Swihart had offered him a "substantial reward" for testimony that would convict Scott.

Swihart denied offering witnesses "considerations" of any kind. Deputy Frank Ford, another investigator, also denied giving favors or dropping charges to get witnesses to testify.