



SBI CASE: 1994-01642 (494-4-26)
ACTIVITY: June 15, 1995
VICTIM: Viktor ake Lennart Gunnarsson
DICTATED: August 2, 1995
RECEIVED: August 9, 1995
TYPED: August 11, 1995
COPIES: (1) Records; (2) SA D.S. Wilson; (3) SAC J.S. Momier, Jr. (4) District Attorney J.T. Rusher

Robbie Christopher Smith. W/M/DOB

Business: Laborer, witness:

Interviewed between 1:49 and 3:40 p.m., on Thursday, June 15, 1995, at his residence, by Detective Sergeant P.M. Townsend and SA D.S. Wilson. Present were Smith's wife and infant son.

He knows Brandon Shelton and is of the opinion he says what is on his mind, and thinks that cops are stupid.

He first met Brandon nine or ten months ago when Smith's wife first became pregnant. Michael Blackwelder had gone to school with Brandon and was talking to him. Brandon invited him to his home to visit. They got together and partied with friends. Brandon and Michael got into some dispute over a girlfriend or something.

One time in Food Lion, Robbie saw Brandon and asked him about the murder. Shelton said, "OK, I'll tell you. I killed Viktor Gunnarsson." Brandon was sober when he made this statement. Robbie and Brandon went back to Robbie's trailer. Brandon told and warned Robbie if he ever told anyone he would kill him. Shelton was sober when he made the confession to the murder, and the threat to Robbie. Robbie took Brandon seriously.

Robbie said on another occasion that Brandon told him he came home from work at Ryan's Steakhouse one night in November 1993, to find Viktor and some other guy at his house. Brandon told Robbie that he was angry and mad, and he started cussing Viktor and his wife. Brandon told Robbie, he told Gunnarsson he would kill him and his wife to. Brandon told Robbie after Gunnarsson and the other man left, he made his wife admit she and Gunnarsson were having an affair. Brandon said that his wife told him if he would not hurt Gunnarsson she would end the affair. Brandon told Robbie he was extremely jealous of his wife, and he hated Gunnarsson for what he did. According to Robbie Brandon was sober on this occasion when he made the confession and statement.

When Brandon was moving out of a residence in China Grove, North Carolina he was present.

Shelton had a white briefcase with snap latches. This was before Brandon had bragged about killing Viktor. Robbie said that Brandon put the briefcase in the back of the truck and specifically told him not to mess with the briefcase. Robbie said he was picking on Brandon and acted like he was going to pick up the briefcase again. Robbie tried this again later and Brandon caught him. Robbie never saw inside the briefcase. Later Brandon told Robbie that inside the briefcase was a confession to Viktor's murder, a long with the gun that was used to kill Viktor. Brandon was sober when he made the confession.

Robbie said that when Michael Blackwelder, Brandon and he were friends, that they were at his mobile home. Brandon wanted to tell and did tell Robbie something. They said they trusted me enough, but Blackwelder did not want to tell me. Robbie said Brandon told him, "me and Michael killed someone." This was after Viktor Gunnarsson's murder. Brandon was sober when he made the confession. Robbie took Brandon very seriously. Brandon said they killed Viktor Gunnarsson.

Robbie said that Brandon told him that on December 3, 1993, he and Michael Blackwelder went to Gunnarsson's apartment that afternoon. Robbie said Brandon told him he was going to "do" Viktor then. But (Viktor's) friend was there and did not want to hurt him. Brandon told Robbie that he had borrowed a .22 pistol from his neighbor. Robbie said Viktor got a telephone call from a woman and told Brandon he had a date. Robbie said Brandon told him they decided to come back that night and "get" Viktor. Robbie said Brandon was sober when he made the confession.

Robbie said, Brandon told him that on the night of the murder that he (Shelton) and Michael Blackwelder went to Viktor Gunnarsson's apartment and Blackwelder let them in with a key. Gunnarsson was in bed. They coaxed Gunnarsson out of bed on the pretense of going to a party and jumped him when he got out of bed. Robbie said Brandon told him that he found some tape at Viktor's apartment and gagged him, taped his hands behind his back with some of the tape. Robbie said Brandon told him that he and Blackwelder carried Gunnarsson down and put him in the trunk of Viktor's car. Robbie said Brandon told him that they drove Gunnarsson to the mountain's and shot him in the head, then drove Gunnarsson's car back to the apartment and cleaned out the car and threw Gunnarsson's clothes in a dumpster. According to Robbie Brandon was sober when he killed Viktor Gunnarsson, and Michael Blackwelder helped him.

Brandon said his father was in Green Correctional Institution for breaking and entering.

Robbie is a "straight guy", went to church, etc., and tried to be an example for Brandon.

Brandon use to work at Hardee's at China Grove. He lives near Robbie.

Once he saw Brandon kissing a 15-year-old girl, and this is another reason Robbie and Brandon stopped being friends. He was going to tell Brandon to stay away, but it was the next day that Brandon stole \$50, terminating their friendship.

Brandon said he was arrested once for holding some girl against her will. Brandon said he was 16 at the time.

He last saw Michael Blackwelder about two weeks before Brandon and Robbie stopped being friends. This was around Valentine's Day 1995.

Robbie knew that Michael Blackwelder had lived with Gunnarsson and had a key to his apartment. Robbie asked Michael Blackwelder once if it was true as to what Brandon had told him about the murder and he said, "yeah we killed him". Robbie believed Michael was telling the truth.

He believes Brandon and Michael would cover for each other.

Robbie said that Michael Blackwelder told him that he had sex with Gunnarsson for money. Robbie said that Michael Blackwelder and Gunnarsson were bisexual.

Robbie has told investigators the truth as to what Brandon Shelton told him. He feels that Brandon killed Gunnarsson and Michael helped him. Robbie is afraid of Brandon.

The interview concluded at 3:40p.m.

DSW: bs