

Joe Dozier Investigation:

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On March 29th, 1993, I was able to interview Cindy Tabor, Medivac Nurse on duty at Springdale Memorial Hospital, on the night of the shooting.

Cindy Tabor stated to me that when they arrived, Joe was conscious when they arrived on the scene. Although alert, he was very combative, and was told not to be combative once they were in flight.

She recalled that Joe spoke to her, saying that he was having difficulty breathing, and that he didn't want to die.

She recalled that he had been shot 4 or 5 times, once in the neck and jaw area, the right shoulder, mid-chest, left knee, and maybe some place else that she couldn't remember.

According to Tabor, Joe didn't say a word about who shot him or why. He never mentioned Misty Pearson in any of his conversation with Cindy Tabor. During the flight back to the hospital in Springdale, Joe began to slip into unconsciousness, and when they landed, she said he was still alive, but in her opinion, he expired just as they passed through the emergency room doors.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE:

Cindy Tabor's recollections follow very closely to other eye witnesses accounts of that night.

Also on the same date, I interviewed Randy Riley, flight paramedic. Joe was found lying on his back in the front yard.

Randy Riley told me that he remembered the incident, and that they picked Joe up at the Siloam Springs Hospital Emergency Room, where he had been transported from the scene of the shooting by ambulance.

Riley stated that Joe was awake when he arrived on the scene, but that he was going down hill fast. He was very combative, and fought them, causing a sever loss of blood.

Riley remembered his wounds as being mid-chest, neck, mouth, left knee area and possibly in the back. He said that Joe was talking and shaking his head to yes and no questions. In flight he was awake--semi-conscious, but died going through the E.R. door at Springdale Memorial Hospital.

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On March 30th, 1993, I interviewed John Shoptaw, paramedic with Siloam Springs Fire Department. He reported that the first report he received was that there was a man down in the front yard of the apartment complex.

Upon arriving, he stated that Joe was laying just outside the front door of the apartment complex, the victim of multiple gun shot wounds.

Joe was conscious at this state, lying on his back, and rocking back and forth from side to side. Upon approaching Joe, Shoptaw stated that Joe called him a S.O.B. He accounts the locations of Joe's wounds to be approximately where the other paramedics interviewed also put them.

He noted upon first attention to Joe that there was no lung sounds on the right side. This meant to him that blood was entering the lung, making it less able for the heart to beat next to the full lung, and thus cutting down on the stroke or beating pressure of the heart.

Transport time was approximately 4 minutes from the scene to the hospital. (See enclosed report)

Interview: Kathy (Youngblood) Smith - Siloam Springs, Ark.

On the afternoon of March 30th, I was able to interview Ms. Smith. It had been reported that she had been seen talking to Misty or Kim Pearson in the cafe where she works.

In talking to Kathy, it was obvious that she didn't know either party by name, and said that she might be able to identify them if she had a photo to look at. A letter was written to you asking for photos of Misty, Joe or his truck, etc., which was received for use in this case a few days later.

Interview: Kelly Gargrave - Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Ms. Gargrave is the next door neighbor in the apartment where the shooting took place.

She stated that she had heard no argument that night, but did hear shots fired about 9:05 p.m. She stated that several shots were fired, then they stopped for a few seconds, and then 2 or 3 more shots were heard.

When police arrived, she then went to the front door, and was able to see Joe lying in the snow on the front lawn. He was alive and conscious, and tried to respond when police told him to put his arms in the air. (It was unknown to police

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at that time just who the shooter was, and who the victim was)

She stated that Joe was in a rocking motion, side to side, and that he told police he was choking. She stated that she also saw police handcuff Denton, and lead him away.

When I asked her how Denton looked, she said he looked as if he was in shock, and had trouble walking. I asked the question to see if she could recall any blood, bruises, or anything that looked as if the two had been fighting. She did not, and said that Denton was in such a state of shock at having just shot Joe that that is why she felt he had such a hard time walking to the patrol car.

She did not see any weapons at the scene held by either party.

On April 1, 1993, Dean Long, apartment maintenance, let me in to view the apartment where the shooting took place. He and his men were there to replace the carpet, paint the walls, and repair the areas where police had taken the base boards off the walls, and to repair a large square hole in the sheet rock where police had also taken part of the wall into evidence.

I noted that the baseboards taken into evidence could only mean that they exhibited bullet holes and/or blood samples where the shooting occurred.

Bullet holes in baseboards would indicate to me that after the first initial shock of being shot (probably the chest wound) that Joe fell or stumbled in the apartment door way, and then fell down. The following shots were fired in a downward direction at Joe while he was lying on the floor, or was trying to crawl to the front door. These shots all came from the rear. Police reports of the crime scene should bear this out.

Dean Long told me that Kim and her mother had only lived in the apartments for about a month before the shooting, and that during that time he had not seen any police at the apartment.

While at the apartment complex, I spoke with another neighbor. Pam Parks told me that she lived across the parking lot where the shooting occurred. She said that she hadn't heard the shooting, but did see the emergency vehicle lights, and went to the front door. There she was able to see them put Joe in the ambulance. She also stated that she didn't see any weapons from either party.

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From here I went to the Siloam Springs Hospital to interview emergency room attendants present during the night of 2-19-93.

At first I was told to speak with Hospital Attorney John Elrod. Later, I was told that the Hospital would co-operate by answering my questions, but I didn't go back because so much information had been gained from talking with para-medics at the scene, I felt like it might be a waste of time and money.

On April 1, 1993, I did interview David Page, paramedic at Siloam Springs Fire Department. He again stated what others had already told me, mainly that he noticed Joe had been shot several times. He quoted Joe as saying that he was hurting, and that he had been shot. He also stated that Joe was conscious at this point but was disoriented.

He did not enter the apartment, and did not see any weapons from either party.

Taped Interview: Kim Pearson - Mother of Misty Pearson

On the afternoon of April 1, 1993, I traveled to the Child Development Center, where the mother of Misty Pearson, Kim, was working.

Permission to tape record my interview with Kim Pearson is obtained on the tape at the very beginning of the tape, and she is told that she is going to be recorded. Her permission to record is heard on the tape.

During the interview, Kim Pearson told me that on the night of the shooting, that Misty and Dustin were babysitting her youngest daughter Shelly. She stated that she was going to a party.

She said that Joe had called the apartment while Dustin was there. (This can not be corroborated with any police report that I know about.)

Denton, then fearing for the girls, took the girls out to the grandparents, about 12 miles. She said from what she gathered from Misty, that Misty called a girl friend, and had her call Joe, to tell him NOT to come over.

She went on to relate that they had trouble with Joe harrassing Misty, and that once he had entered her bedroom window at 3:00 in the morning. Police do have a report of this incident.

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From the information given to her by Misty, Denton then came back to the apartment, and let himself inside, even though no one else was home. She said he had wanted to talk to Joe.

According to Kim Pearson, she had called you, as the parents of Joe, to enlist your aid in keeping Joe away from Misty.

She is heard on tape as saying you did nothing and police did nothing to help, even when Joe pulled the screen off the window, and entered Misty's room at 3:30 a.m.

She stated on tape that she knows Lt. Wales, and that he had been seen at her apartment before because Misty had run away from home once, and he had also brought her back.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE:

Lt. Wales has told me that Misty also accused her stepfather of sexual abuse on one occasion, and that on another occasion, her stepfather had been arrested for shoplifting, thus his connections in being seen at the apartment of Misty or Kim Pearson was strictly in the line of investigating a crime.

Further in the interview, Kim Pearson stated that Denton had brought a pistol into her apartment before. She stated that she thought he carried one all the time because he was afraid of Joe.

She also stated that since they had been summoned to the prosecutor's office several times, she thinks that they want to charge Misty as an accomplice to the murder. Misty is not in school at the recommendation of a doctor and school officials.

She went on to say that on the night of the shooting, that she saw Denton come in, and he didn't have a gun then. She thinks that Joe pulled into the parking lot, saw Denton's car, grabbed the pick handle that he always carried, and entered the apartment. The shooting followed.

She said that after the birthday party she had attended, she called her apartment to check on the kids, and the police answered the phone. That's when she realized that something was wrong, and she hurried home.

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On Monday, April 19th, 1993, at a bond hearing in Judge Tom Keith's court, Denton was ordered held without bond.

I took the opportunity to speak with Deputy Prosecutor George Spence about this case.

He stated that initially the Dozier family had angered him because of the accusations made against him and Lt. Wales.

He indicated that he thinks Misty was involved in a minor way, and that he would like to charge her with a crime, if the evidence will support the criminal charge.

He wouldn't arrange for Denton to speak to me, and didn't think Misty would speak to me. Finally, it was agreed upon by both of us that it would not be a good idea for me to try to interview Misty Pearson at that time.

He indicated that a club of some kind had been found in addition to the gun used in the shooting of Joe Dozier, but that it did not have any prints on it at all.

He at first thought that the first shot (chest shot) was fired point blank, but the autopsy results show that it was not fired at close range.

He thinks Joe was shot in the hall, the same as I do, and that Joe fell or stumbled for the door almost immediately. Denton then went upstairs to reload, and when he returned, Joe had made it outside the apartment. Denton then called police, and police found the club that was confiscated inside the apartment.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTES:

A problem area lies in the fact that Denton was able to go back to the apartment where he did not live, did not have a key, and where no one was now home, to let himself in to lie in wait for Joe Dozier's arrival. This is no doubt the material used by police to charge Denton with Joe's death.

But, since Denton is at the apartment where he doesn't reside, how is it that he is able to go back upstairs to "reload"? How did a speed loader get upstairs in the apartment, and when was it put there?

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Conclusion:

If Denton is so afraid of Joe Dozier, how many times did he report to the police that he was having trouble with Joe, or that Joe ran him off the road, as was once reported?

These questions apparently were a part of the original police line of thinking, and resulted in the arrest of Denton, as it well should have.

Autopsy results and other information that is not available to me or you now through this report, will be available at the trial of Dustin Denton.

From other information that I have gathered from Lt. Dick Wales, they were very close to charging Misty Pearson in Joe's death. However, as of the morning of June 21, 1993, he didn't know if Misty Pearson would be charged or not. Charges against her had not been filed as of this date.

According to Wales, there is a report filed with the Siloam Springs Police Department regarding Joe Dozier's unlawful entry into the apartment of Misty Pearson. I asked Wales for a copy of the police report, and he claims he will send it along with other reports that I have asked for. I will hold up mailing this report to see if these other reports get here within the next few days.

It is my feeling that Lt. Wales and others would like to link Misty Pearson to Joe's death, but are having trouble doing so.

If she is involved, it is in a "behind the scenes" way, and there just is no evidence yet linking her to the shooting.

However, any further hearings, in Judge Keith's chambers or not, circumstances could change if Denton decides to tell of her involvement, such as repeating things that alarmed Denton, told to him by Misty Pearson in such a way as was meant to alarm him toward Joe, and thus resulted in Denton's scheme to shoot Joe at the apartment on the night of February 19, 1993.

Facing life in prison, or worse yet, a possible death penalty, it is still possible for Denton to relate something that might implicate Misty Pearson in Joe Dozier's death.

My report is complete up to this point, if you have additional questions or assignments, please get in touch with me.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Rhodes