

STATE OF ALABAMA	*	
	*	GRAND JURY NUMBERS
VS:	*	
	*	107 and 108
WILLIAM ERNEST KUENZEL	*	
and HARVEY LEONARD VENN	*	

Grand Jury testimony of APRIL HARRIS taken before the January 1988
Grand Jury on March 9, 1988.

BY NELSON G. CONOVER:

Q. Raise your right hand, please. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. State your name, please.

A. April Harris.

Q. Okay, April, you're going to have to speak up so all these people can hear you, hear? What's your address, please?

A. Route 1, Box 215F, Sylacauga, Alabama.

Q. Okay.

BY DENNIS SURRETT:

Q. Okay, April, I believe you and Crystal Epperson on the night of November the 9th, 1987, went to visit a friend over there in Hollins?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay, and I believe you went over there and stayed a little while and the three of y'all returned back to Sylacauga, to get something to eat, is that right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you have a judgment as to what time y'all arrived over there in Hollins to begin with?

A. It was fairly early in the evening. It hadn't got good and dark yet. I'm not really sure about what time it was. It may have been five or six at the latest.

Q. Okay, and do you have any idea about what time it was when y'all came back into Sylacauga to get something to eat?

A. About eight.

- Q. Okay, and the roadway that y'all used is what is called Highway 511 and going up 511 toward Hollins you get the frontal view of the store -- Joe Bob's -- is that right?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Coming back down, you get the side view with all the windows and part of the frontal view?
- A. Uh hmm (positive)
- Q. Okay, and then y'all left Sylacauga going back to drop your friend off?
- A. Right.
- Q. Okay, and on your way back in what's your best judgment as to the time that y'all were coming home?
- A. Between ten and fifteen till eleven at the latest.
- Q. Okay, did you see something that you recognized or someone you knew?
- A. All I saw was Harvey Venn's car parked at the side of the building.
- Q. Okay, that would have been this car here?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay, and did you see anything else?
- A. No, sir, not -- I thought -- I know that there were people in the store but I couldn't make out for sure whether it was Harvey Venn and William Kuenzel or not.
- Q. Okay, do you remember me talking with you down there at Sylacauga Police Department?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And do you remember telling me that's who it was inside there?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay, and now you're saying you can't say that's who it was?
- A. I don't -- under oath -- I don't really want to say that it was them, but I feel sure I couldn't tell what they were wearing or give a description of them because we were going, driving by, but judging from the stature of the people that were in there I believe that it was them.

Q. Has anything happened to get you to change?

A. No, sir.

BY ROBERT RUMSEY:

Q. April, I'm Robert Rumsey, district attorney, and I certainly don't want you to tell anything that you don't know is true, but obviously, and I know that you know Venn and I know you know Kuenzel. It's awfully -- it's obviously also a very important case.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see anybody else in the store other than two white males?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see any other cars there?

A. No, sir.

Q. You know that to be Venn's car.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. It's your judgment that it was those two people?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Venn, and Kuenzel? But you're just a little leary about saying --

A. For sure.

Q. That you're 100% positive?

A. Yes, sir. Because I couldn't identify the clothes and I couldn't tell for sure. You know, couldn't really see them enough to know that, you know, like I'm looking at you and would know who you are. I couldn't say that it was them, but the statue -- the statue of them

Q. Frame, size, height?

A. Their heights, yes, sir.

Q. Length of hair, color of hair?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Facial Hair? Was the same?

A. I couldn't get any description. I couldn't really see a face.

Q. Has anybody been and talked to you about this?

A. Not anybody but Detective Brasher. Since I gave an affidavit at the Sylacauga Police Department --.

(Tape ends)

(Tape begins)

A. Were at a place called Moses Grocery and Harvey had just got this car and he was showing it off and when he pulled up there he called us out to come and look at it and I walked out with Christy and Chris to look at his car. He opened it up, showed us the interior, we felt of the interior on the inside of the car and I would know the car anywhere.

Q. Where were the two people standing in the store when you saw them?

A. In front of the counter.

Q. In front of the counter?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Could you see anything else?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see whether they had anything in their hands or anything like that?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did Mrs. Kuenzel say anything to you while ago as she was leaving?

A. Not directly to me but she made the statement that the gun was at -- she said something like the gun was at her house that night.

Q. Okay.

A. And several of the other witnesses out there heard her say the same thing.

Q. Are -- your not -- are you scared or anything?

A. No, sir.

Q. But you told Dennis back then that then that it was Kuenzel and Venn but now you just can't say that positively?

A. No, sir, not positively.

Q. Did you say it positively then?

A. I said that I believed that it was them.

Q. You still do?

A. I still -- I believe that it was them, but I couldn't get a good desc -- I couldn't even tell him what they had on.

Q. But it'd be your best judgment that it was?

A. It was.

Q. Do you know anything else about it?

A. No, sir.

Q. Have you talked to either one of them or anything before?

A. No, sir. Not -- the only conversation that we had was about the car, and since then I hadn't talked to either one of them. Hadn't even saw either one of them.

Q. And nobody's called you and--

A. No, sir, I haven't even --

Q. Talked to you about the case whatsoever?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay.

(Inaudible)

BY GRAND JUROR:

Q. Did you see the cashier?

A. No, sir.