

**GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

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| <b>OFFENSE</b><br>Homicide   | <b>TYPE REPORT</b><br>Criminal/Investigative | <b>REPORT NUMBER</b><br>8502172303   | <b>DATE OF REPORT</b><br>2-26-85 |
| <b>VICTIM/ADDRESS/PHONE</b><br>Ronald D. Owens      W/M      36<br>7117 Scepter Dr.<br>Bartlett, TN. 38134      388-0435 |  | <b>COMPLAINANT AND/OR WITNESSES</b><br>Marcia G. Owens      F/W      32<br>7117 Scepter Dr.<br>Bartlett, Tn. 38134      388-0435 |                                  |
| <b>ADDITIONAL PROPERTY</b>   | <b>VALU</b>                                  | <b>INVESTIGATOR</b><br>Wray  | <b>APPROVED/DA</b>               |

**SUMMARY**

2-17-85 Writer arrived on the scene at 7117 Scepter at approximately 2336 hours, and 35 mm photographs were taken of the crime scene by Sgt. W.P. Freeman. Writer began a Crime Scene Sketch of the laundry room (south side of house) kitchen and den. Writer observed the rear door to the residence (leading into the laundry room) standing open with a key in the lock with other keys on the ring. Blood splatters were observed on the kitchen floor, on the doorway between den and kitchen, floor of den as well as walls and ceiling. Victim had already been removed to Methodist North in critical condition by Bartlett Fire Department Ambulance. Writer observed the kitchen table appeared to have been shoved toward the south wall and 2 chairs lying on their sides. A pool of blood (1'8" X 2' 1") had saturated the den carpet in front of the fireplace (eastwall) 4'10" from east wall, 9'10" from south wall. Several other blood smears were observed close by. Outside the residence, writer preserved several foot prints that had been left in the mud, however, later determined the prints matched the victim's tennis shoes and another pair of shoes in the residence. The back yard was lit by the use of flood lamps by the Bartlett Fire Department and area checks for evidence, none found. Measurements were taken for Crime Scene drawing. Writer was notified by Lt. B.J. Bowen at approximately 0245 hours that the victim Ronald D. Owens had just died at Baptist Central where he had been flown to by Medic Vac Helicopter. Scene secured at approximately 0303 hours.

Writer, Sgt. W.P. Freeman, Ptlm. D.P. James, and Lt. B.J. Bowen went to the City of Memphis Morgue at approximately 0400 hours, where **STATUS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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further photos (SX70 and B/W 35mm) were taken of the victim. Finger-prints were not taken of the victim due to the possibility of evidence being intact on the hands or under the fingernails. The hands had been placed into paper bags at Baptist Central by Ptlm. James after victim's demise.

~~2-18-85~~ 0600 hours. ~~Writer, Sgt. W.P. Freeman, Lt. B.J. Bowen, and Ptlm.~~  
D.P. James returned to 7117 Scepter and searched the surrounding area for evidence. All probable escape routes were checked but no weapon or evidence found.

2-18-85 1000 hours. Writer and Sgt. W.P. Freeman returned to the morgue and spoke with Dr. O.C. Smith. A preliminary exam was performed on the victim with hair samples removed from the hands. No determination on the type weapon could be made without a complete autopsy.

Writer and Sgt. Freeman went to 4190 Oakcrest and spoke with the victim's wife, Marcia GAile Owens, and requested her to sign autopsy authorization papers which were done. The wife stated she had been at that residence (4190 Oakcrest) Sunday night until approximately 2245 hours, then upon arriving home, found her husband lying in the den, bleeding and unconscious. She stated that she had observed the interior light on in victim's vehicle and keys in the back door. She stated her husband had not gone to Sunday evening services but had been playing golf at Woodstock Country Club, arriving at the church late. He then played basketball at the church and she did not see him again until arriving home at approximately 2300 hours.

Writer and Sgt. W.P. Freeman returned the autopsy papers to the morgue and was advised the autopsy would not be done until the next date. 2-19-85.

Writer and Sgt. W.P. Freeman went to Baptist Central and met with J. McCaleb, Chief of Security who advised that officers could look at property in victim's office. Officers found several cards and notes from a "Gala", found to be Gala Scott and a Dianne Wood. Officers interviewed Ms. Scott at 1123 hours and she verified she had an affair with the victim during 1981 and 1982, but had since stopped seeing each other romantically

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She stated they had decided they had no future together. She stated that they both had been married but her marriage dissolved during that period, and they had planned on getting married, however, victim could not leave his boys. When questioned about jealousy on her ex-husband's part, possibly playing a part in victim's death, she was adamant that he could not have had anything to do with the death as he was about get remarried, had become a Christian, and was very happy. She stated she had no idea who might have wanted to kill victim. She stated she did not know of any employees he had fired that might want to harm him. She stated she did know of financial problems caused by the wife in the past. She also described her (Gala's) and victim's present relationship as friendly.

Officers then spoke with Dianne Wood who stated she had a friendly (but not romantic) relationship with the victim. She stated she had no idea who would want to kill the victim.

2-19-85 1030 hours. Writer and Sgt. Freeman went to 4190 Oakcrest and asked Mrs. Owens for a consent to search the 7117 Scepter address again for possible clues. Signed consent was given and officers went to Scepter address and searched but no other evidence found.

1249 Sgt. Freeman and writer returned to the City Morgue and observed the final stages of the autopsy. Doctor Smith stated wounds to the skull were conclusive of blunt trauma, not "AX TYPE" as previously speculated. Dr. Smith advised cause of death would be ruled as repeated blows to the head with a blunt instrument.

1435 hours. Writer and Sgt. Freeman went to Baptist Central and spoke with Chief McCaleb, and was shown a list of persons dismissed over the past year. None of the persons however had been violent over this dismissal.

2-20-85 0905 hours. Writer and Sgt. Freeman went to 4190 Oakcrest and again interviewed the wife, Gaile Owens, and she recited the same information. The family had attended Sunday Morning Services, and victim left directly from Church and went to play golf at Woodstock Country Club.

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Victim did not attend Sunday evening services but had arrived at the church at approximately 1900 hours as she had observed victim standing in the vestibule. She stated she spoke with the victim briefly after services and that he went to play basketball in the church. She stated she then went to get a bite to eat with her children, then straight to ~~the 4190-Oakcrest address where she visited with her sister and several~~ other people from the church until about 2230 hours.

She advised she and her 2 sons went home and found the car door slightly open and the kitchen door open with her husband lying in the den. She then went next door and phoned police.

Writer spoke with Jim Greer, family's pastor, who stated family had been counseled, and stated Mrs. Owens told him that she and her husband had been talking more openly the past few months. He stated the couple had difficult times in the past but he felt things had been improving.

1002 hours. Writer and Sgt. Freeman went to MPD Violent Crimes Offices and advised Capt. C. Keenan of facts known in the case. He stated he would be glad to assist BPD with manpower if needed. Writer spoke with Sgt. J.D. Douglas and Sgt. B.G. Townsend who advised officers to look for a jealous boyfriend or someone close.

Writer and Sgt. W.P. Freeman went to U.T. Toxicology lab where Crime Scene photos were shown to lab Tech. Paulette Sutton and victim's clothes were turned over to her for analysis. Victim's athletic supporter was checked for semen and none found. While at lab, Writer spoke with Chief Cheatham who advised he had just received a tip from a Bill Gillespie, an inspector with the U.S. Postal Service, that an informant who had assisted him reliably in the past, had related to him that he had knowledge of the murder and had information concerning the same. Lt. Bowen and D.P. James went to #1 Front to interview informant.

1357 hours. Writer was notified to meet him at #1 Front Street to speak with the informant. Writer and Sgt. W.P. Freeman arrived at 1402 hours. Writer and Lt. B.J. Bowen spoke with the informant George James, B/M,

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8-10-56, who stated he had been approached late in December, by the victim's wife, "Gaile", in the area of Second and Keel, and she asked him if he wanted a job. He stated he thought she wanted him to do some type yard work or similar work. She told him to get in the car and rode around. She told him she wanted her husband killed and would pay \$10,000. He told her he would need some money to show good faith. He described the woman exactly, her car, (dark blue 2 door) and had her home phone memorized. Subject stated that "Gaile" had furnished him with a key to the house and car, a photo of her husband and their home. He stated she had taken him at one point to Leader Federal bank across from a shopping center and withdrew money to give him. She gave him a little over \$500.00, showed him their church, the door her husband used to enter and exit the gym, a field in the rear of the church that could be used as an escape route if he wanted to kill the victim at the church. He stated she told him he coached a basketball team at the church on Tuesday night, got off work around 1545 hours. Subject stated he never intended to carry out the job and was just running a scam. Writer asked subject when he learned of the murder, and he at first stated Monday morning, but later stated he had meant early Tuesday morning. He stated his woman had told him after she had seen his picture on T.V. and had seen the photo of the victim after Mrs. Owens had given it to him, as she had seen the photo at his home. He also stated his woman had seen the lady known as "Gaile" at his apartment at 867 Mosley 15. He stated he had told Mrs. Owens he did not intend to do the job and told her Bubba Sykes might do it. He then introduced Mrs. Owens to Bubba Sykes. He stated he later sold the keys and photos back to Mrs. Owens for around \$51.00. He stated he would be willing to show writer the bank and the church. A meeting was set up for 2000 hours.

2030 hours. Writer and Sgt. W.P. Freeman went to 867 Mosley 15 and picked up George James. Writer asked him to show writer where Bubba lives. Writer was directed to the area of Auction and Main, and shown a duplex at the top of a slight hill, found to be 895 North Main. Writer then went to the Raleigh Area, drove North bound on Jackson Ave. from 240 and subject stated the bank was on he believed Raleigh Frayser Rd. Writer drove to the area of Ral-Frayser and Hollywood where he stated the bank was on

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the left, (South side), indicating a Leader Federal Bank at 2595 Frayser Blvd. He stated Ms. Owens had let him out of the car across the street and he waited next to the closed Jefferson Ward, 2506 Frayser and drank a bottle of Thunderbird wine. He stated the bottle still may be in the bushes on the west side. He walked over and retrieved a green wine bottle with a Red-Thunderbird label on the front. Writer then drove to the Raleigh area, Raleigh Millington and Yale, and subject pointed out the Exxon station at the North west corner as the station where he and Mrs. Owens had stopped to get gas. He stated that the church was just up the street. As writer approached the church, subject advised that the church was right up here. Subject directed writer to turn into the south drive, as he stated the drive circled around the rear of the church and came back out. He pointed out a door on the south east end of the gym stating that was the door shown him by Mrs. Owens. Writer asked subject if he could take writer to the house but he said no, he had only seen pictures of it. Writer took him north bound on Oak and as the house was approached without him knowing the names of the street or being told, stated that the house on the south west corner of Oak and Scepter looked like the house. The car in the drive was hers, and was positive of the house from the front. Subject was taken to BPD where he was interviewed by George McCrary, Bartlett City Prosecutor, and he related the same story. Subject was then taken home. Subject did state during his interview that he would give officers permission to tape a telephone conversation with Mrs. Owens and he stated he would get her to talk about the murder.

2-21-85 1000 hours. Writer and Sgt. W.P. Freeman went to Violent Crimes and spoke with Sgt. J.D. Douglas, B.G. Townsend, Capt. C. Keenan, and Lt. J. Bursi, advising them of the information gained. Writer asked Sgt. Douglas if he would interview James to ascertain if he felt subject was telling the truth as writer felt. Writer, Sgt. Douglas, and Sgt. Freeman returned to #1 Front, and were met by Bill Gillespie and George James. After interviewing George James, his girl friend, Yvonne, was brought in and told officer that she had observed the lady in a blue 2 dr. car come to their home and pick up George. She also stated she had seen the keys and photographs mentioned earlier. She was unable to identify Mrs. Owens in photo line up. George had earlier, however, picked Mrs. Owens 6 year

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mug shot out of a series of 10 photos of women. A meeting was set up for 0900 hours the next date.

0855 Writer and Sgt. Freeman arrived at #1 Front and met with Bill Gillespie, Sgt. J.D. Douglas, Sgt. B.G. Townsend and George James. George James signed a waiver to allow officers to tape his telephone conversations. He called the telephone number given him several days before by Mrs. Owens' sister, Carolyn, 377-3794. Mrs. Owens answered the telephone, greeted the subject but told him there was no way she could get away from her family today, it would be next week. When asked if she knew what it was about, she said yes. When told he wanted something she said OK. At one point she was asked who it was on the phone by someone in the room with her and she replied a policewoman, then called the subject Becky. She then told subject call back later. During the next phone call, subject was more adamant as to having a meeting with her and she stated she was just too busy with relatives, but called back in an hour and she would see. The next phone call she advised him to call her at 1400 hours and she would try to meet him. Next phone call she agreed to meet him.

Writer, Sgt. W.P. Freeman, Sgt. B.G. Townsend, and Sgt. J.D. Douglas, met with 2 officers from the Organized Crime Division of MPD, F. Hester and D. Jones at the Raleigh Springs Mall where subject was equipped with a body wire. Subject was taken to Raleigh Millington and Yale by an agent of U.S. Postal Service in a gold Camaro. Subject called Mrs. Owens on the telephone and she told him to meet her in front of Skaggs on Raleigh Millington. Writer observed Mrs. Owens' car pull into the parking lot and observed Mrs. Owens go into Skaggs. Then exit several minutes later, and pull into the south end of the lot. Conversation was monitored by Frank Hester and Sgt. Freeman, where Mrs. Owens stated he had her husband killed because they had a bad 13 year marriage. After several minutes, Officers were advised enough information had been obtained and to arrest the subject. Mrs. Owens was arrested, advised she was being arrested for Murder, and advised of her rights by Sgt. B.G. Townsend. Subject stated while enroute to Violent Crimes Offices that she had just met the subject because he had information regarding the murder. Writer told subject that was not going to float because we had monitored her conversations with t

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James subject all day. She then stated that she just wanted her husband coughed up because of affairs he was having. Upon arrival at Violent Crimes Offices, she was again advised of her rights, and she confessed to writer and Sgt. J.D. Douglas of the fact that she did in fact contract the killing, supplied information to persons regarding her husband's activity, and had last spoken Sunday evening with a man named Little Johnny or Little Sonny at Watkins and Hwy 51. She stated she thought the matter was still unsettled until she arrived home Sunday night.

She stated the basic same information already known to Officers, with the exception of the last person she'd met. She stated he owned or worked in a garage on Second Street at Marble. She later stated his name was Porterfield. She was asked to give a typed statement and she agreed. She was again advised of her rights and agreed to talk to writer and gave a complete, signed admonition, waiver, and confession.

The MPD Tact Unit had, at Capt. Keenan's request brought 3 persons in for questioning. George "BUBBA" Sykes, Larry Gant, and Sidney Porterfield. All three subjects were questioned, writer speaking initially with George Sykes. Mr. Sykes stated he knows Mrs. Owens and had been approached by her regarding killing her husband for money, however, he never intended to kill her husband, but only take money from the woman. He also kept making statements regarding a "Stonewall" and "Mike", found to be John W. Jordan and Mike Powell. Statements had been taken from them earlier in the day, by Sgt. Garner and Wright, indicating they too had been approached by Mrs. Owens to kill her husband. Sykes was shown a photo lineup and he immediately identified Mrs. Owens as the person he knew as "Gaile". He stated Larry Gant had been at his home Sunday, 2-17-85 until late waiting on Sidney Porterfield to return his car.

Gant was questioned and he stated Porterfield had arrived at his house at 820 Garland in a Little John Cab, asked to use Gant's car for a couple of hours. Porterfield took Gant and his girlfriend over to George Syke's residence on Main, then left with the car. He stated he had seen the woman before but never spoken with her. Writer was advised by Sgt. J.D. Douglas:



Homicide  
Owens  
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that Porterfield had confessed to the Murder and was ready to make a typed statement.

Writer and Sgt. B.G. Townsend advised Sidney Porterfield again of his rights, which he waived, and he gave a complete confession, stating he was alone and had killed Mr. Owens with a tire iron. (see attached statement).

Porterfield was transported to Bartlett Police Department.