

Birmingham, Alabama
November 28, 1949

BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Statement of Mody Andrew Weeks, white male, 2917 18th Avenue, North, made in the Council Chamber at the City Hall at 9:00 A.M. on November 28, 1949 in the presence of Detectives R. A. MacMurdo and W. J. Haley.

RE: ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO MURDER
VICTIM: SAMMY LEE WILLIAMS, black male.
DEFENDANT: W. A. WEEKS, white male.
DATE: 7:25 P.M. on November 20, 1949.
PLACE: On streetcar # 306 in front of 1820 8th Avenue, No.
OFFICERS: R. A. MacMurdo and W. J. Haley.

(MacMurdo interrogating)

Q. What is your name?
A. Mody Andrew Weeks.
Q. Where do you live, Mr. Weeks?
A. 2917 18th Avenue, North.
Q. Where do you work?
A. Birmingham Electric Company.
Q. This past Sunday, November 20, 1949 were you on duty?
A. I was.
Q. Were you on a Pratt-Muley car #306 that was working Sunday evening between 7:00 and 7:30?
A. I was.
Q. On that date did you have trouble on that streetcar?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. In your best judgment what time was that?
A. Around 7:25 I'd judge about that time.
Q. Just tell us in your own words to the best of your ability what happened at that time.
A. When this negro boarded the car at 7th Avenue and 17th Street, outboard, I realized before he had gone up in the car that he was in an intoxicated condition. He paid his fare and proceeded to the white section of the car. I reminded him that colored passengers were seated in the rear of the car. He stepped back to the position where he had paid his fare and demanded that I make room up front for him or reserve a part of the white section for him. I told him that there was room in the back and through insistence of some of the colored passengers he then went back to the second part on the parallel seat next to the door from which he had entered.
Q. With this car traveling in a westerly direction that seat would be on the north side of the car?
A. Yes, sir. After being seated he proceeded to curse me in a voice that could be heard from any part of the car. He being seated about four feet from my stand I taken one step toward him lifted my right hand to attract his attention in order to remind him that cursing on the car in such manner would not be accepted or that I would call the law if he did not cease. But before having a chance to speak a word he rising at the same time grabbed me by the right hand and clenched his nails into my hand and wrist. Well, I jerked loose from him, started backing away and he was fighting at me and I started around the upright rod running in the center of the car and he joined his arm around the rod and I came back around on the other side and still him following me. I backed up into a position about four feet in the white section. He was still following me. I was trying to ward him off with my left hand at the arms length and he was fighting to grasp me at the same time. I pulled my gun and began to fire. And he was fighting until the last shot was fired. After which I jerked my left arm loose from him. He remained standing, then walked back to his original seat which he had been occupying and seated himself.

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Q. He never did fall down but stayed on his feet all the time that this trouble took place?

A. He never did fall or sit down until after the firing ceased. He then turned around and went back to where he had been seated.

Q. How long have you been at the electric company?

A. Thirty years this past September 26.

Q. Have you had any previous trouble on this line?

A. Well to tell you the truth I have on this line every since this equality and the bombing out there they are awful and I have taken from those negroes everything from son-of-a-bitch to a streetcar man. I have taken that off of them but ignored it that is for the sake of the company for they expect me to take it rather than spend a little money or what it might be but when it comes to something like this that the negro's intention was mopping the floor with me and when it reached that stage as to protecting myself that's why I did what I did.

Q. You have noticed a marked difference in the attitude and character of the colored passengers on these cars since the bombings and that trouble in that particular section?

A. Yes, sir I have, and there are around a dozen people in this section that will stand if they can't sit in the white section. They get on the car and if the whole rear is empty they want to sit up in the front. When it is crowded it is necessary that we provide two seats ahead of the doors in the white section and that's next where they want to sit. If they can't sit there they will stand in the door. That's about a dozen in this section that will do that.

Q. On this particular night the colored section was not full?

A. No, sir, there was no one standing.

Q. Every passenger in the colored section was seated and there was room for more?

A. Yes, sir. He did not ask if I would arrange for him to sit there, he demanded that I do.

Q. It wasn't a request, it was a demand?

A. It was a demand. It wasn't a request or anything like that.

Q. Is there anything else that you would like to say?

A. No, sir, that's about all.

Q. Has this statement been made of your own free will and accord?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You haven't been mistreated, threatened, or abused, or promised any rewards or hopes of rewards to get you to make this statement?

A. No, sir.

Q. And it is the truth?

A. Yes, sir.

I have read (have had read) the foregoing statement and certify that it is true and correct.

(S) _____

WITNESSES:

Barbara Smith, Stenographer.