November 23, 1949

BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Statement of Lola Blair, black female, of 313 North 13th Avenue.

RE:	SHOOTING OF SAMMY LEE WILLIAMS
VICTIM:	SAMMY LEE WILLIAMS, black male, age 34
DEFENDANT:	M. A. WEEKS, white male
TIME:	7:25 P.M. on November 20, 1949
PLACE:	ON PRATT ENSLEY STREET CAR #306, in front of 1520 - 8th Avenue North
OFFICERS:	R. A. MACMURDO AND W. J. HALEY

(Interrogated by MacMurdo)

Q. What is your name?
A. Lola Blair.

Q. Lola Blair?
A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Where do you live, Lola?
A. 313 North 13th Avenue.

Q. Last Night around 7:30 P.M., were you on #6 street car going west on 8th Avenue?
A. I don't know exactly what time it was. I left town around about 7:10 the best to my ideas about it.

Q. Now, was there some trouble took place on that street car that you were riding?
A. Yes, Sir.

Q. When did you first notice any trouble?
A. Well, it continued after the man gotten on, the colored man.

Q. Do you know where he got on at? What corner?
A. No, Sir. I really don't know, Sir. It was dark.

Q. Was it on 8th Avenue that he got on? Did he get on previous to 8th Avenue, before he got to 8th Avenue?
A. I don't know hardly because it was dark.

Q. When did you first see him?
A. When I first seen the man?

Q. That's right.
A. It was when he entered the car and he wanted to sit over on the little seat where colored people been sitting, right behind the white people.

Q. Just on the left of the conductor as you come in?
A. To the right of the conductor when he came in.

Q. Towards the back end of the car?
A. See, the car was coming this a way and the man got on _____ and the car was coming this way and he wanted to sit on that little end seat up there next, right behind the white people.

Q. And then what was said?
A. And the conductor told him to not sit over there, there was a seat back in the back and the man said there wasn't no seat back there and . .

Q. Did he go to the back or did he stay up there?
A. And the colored man said "Give me my fare back and I'll get off" and the white man said he wasn't going to give him nothing.

Q. Did you hear any more that was said?
A. Then after the shooting started, then the colored man got up and said "I'll get off," and I don't know who said "It's too late now."

Q. Did the colored man ever sit down?
A. Two colored man reached and got him and sit him down.

Q. Where did they sit him?
A. Sit him up there near the door.

Q. On which side of the street car?
A. On the . . . .

Q. Was the car going west? Was it on the north side?
A. Yes, he was back in the colored part near where they sit him down.

Q. On the north side of the car or the south side of the car?
A. It was on the right hand side of the car, coming out towards out here.

Q. That'd be the north side?
A. Yes . . .

Q. Where abouts were you seated in that street car?
A. I was on the side the street car man was standing.

Q. You were opposite this man then?
A. Right across in front of him.

Q. And you say two other men sit him down and he was seated?
A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Was there anything said at that time?
A. Well, I just remember it scared me so bad.

Q. Did he say anything to the conductor?
A. I don't know, Sir, what they were saying.

Q. Well, when was the first part that you saw of the shooting?
A. That the street car man pulled out a gun and went to shooting the colored man. He was sitting down over there.

Q. Where was the conductor at this time?
A. The man who run the street car?

Q. The man in the middle of the street car, the one you pay your fare to.
A. He was shooting this colored man.

Q. Was he back in his own place where he always stands?
A. Seem like to me he made a step up, something like that and went to shooting.

Q. And the colored man then at that time was sitting down?
A. Yes, Sir, sitting down on the seat.

Q. Did this colored man ever get a hold of the conductor, do anything to him?
A. I didn't see the . .

Q. Did he have a bottle or a knife or anything on him?
A. I didn't see no knife. The colored man had a package in this pocket for when he was standing up there and the man was pulling him back, I saw a big package in his left pocket and that there street car man shot that package and it was a glass or something, cause the glass scattered all over me and all down there around my feet and on my feet.

Q. Did the colored man ever get ahold of the Conductor, hit him, strike him or do anything in any way,?
A. I didn't see that.

Q. You didn't see that?
A. No, Sir.

Q. In your best knowledge, all that happened, the Conductor just shot him?
A. Yes.

Q. And you didn't see the colored man get ahold of him or do anything, or you didn't hear him say anything at that particular time?
A. The colored man got up and said he was going to get, and somebody said, I don't know who it was, Streetcar man or not, say, "Too late now."

Q. That was before the shooting?
A. It was after the shooting. He'd done shot him.

Q. And you didn't see the colored man do anything?
A. No, Sir. No, Sir.

Q. And the way you saw it, the Conductor come out of his place and went over there?
A. The streetcar man didn't come over to the colored man, but he did move kinda up a little bit.

Q. And stayed across the car from him?
A. Yes, Sir.

Q. And started shooting?
A. Yes, Sir.

Q. That's the way you saw it.
A. And then for, I don't know what it was, whether, cause I jumped out the window.

Q. Is there anything else about this case that you haven't told us or anything, any questions that we have failed to ask you?
A. I know that two men right by me got shot.

Q. But they were not involved in the argument or in any trouble?
A. No, Sir.

Q. They were just by-standers?
A. They was just, all crowding up on me to get, had me mashed up against the wall and I was, had on out the window, that's when they was trying to get out the window and the window fell on my hand, right across here .

Q. But those boys, they were not in it, they just happened to be there, that's all.
A. They wasn't in it.

Q. They hadn't said anything to the conductor in any way or nothing.
A. Wasn't nobody but this here colored man what got on drunk.

Q. He was drunk?
A. Look like to me he was drunk.

Q. Is that all you know about this?
A. Yes, Sir.

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

Q. Voluntary?
A. They didn't ask me no questions like that last time, they asked me my name.

Q. Have you been mistreated, threatened, promised any rewards, or hope of rewards to make this statement?
A. No, Sir.

Q. And it is the truth?
A. That's the truth.

Q. That's all.

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

(s)_____

WITNESSES:

_____

_____
Inez George, Steno.