

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF MCLEAN)

BEFORE THE CORONER OF SAID COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUEST INTO)
)
THE DEATH OF WILLIAM W. LITTLE)
)
DECEASED)
)

CASE #911-011

* * * *

APPEARANCES

The Honorable William T. Anderson, Coroner of McLean County Illinois.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| LaDonna Lynch | Foreman of the Coroner's Jury. |
| Leona J. Albert | Member of the Coroner's Jury. |
| Phillip T. Young | Member of the Coroner's Jury. |
| Larrin O. Nierman | Member of the Coroner's Jury. |
| Margaret L. Esposito | Member of the Coroner's Jury. |
| Duane a. Meade | Member of the Coroner's Jury. |

THE SAID PROCEEDING OF A CORONER'S INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF

WILLIAM W. LITTLE PROCEEDING BEING HELD IN THE COUNTY

BOARD ROOM OF THE LAW & JUSTICE CENTER, 104 W. FRONT STREET

ON THE TWENTIETH DAY OF MAY A.D. SCHEDULED AT 11:00 A.M.

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT AN Inquisition taken before William T. Anderson, Coroner of McLean County, for the People of the State of Illinois, upon WILLIAM W. LITTLE then lying dead upon the oaths of six good and lawful people of the County of McLean, who being duly sworn to inquire on the part of the People of the State of Illinois into all circumstances attending the death of said decedent and by whom the same was produced, and in what manner and where said decedent came to his death, heard the testimony of the several witnesses produced and sworn to testify the truth in regard to said Inquisition, is as follows:

CORONER ANDERSON: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, witnesses, and others present, this is an inquest into the manner and cause of the death of William W. Little, male, age 18, last of #2 Wilmette Drive, Normal, Illinois who died at his work place at 802 East Empire St. Bloomington, Illinois on March 31, 1991.

The McLean County Coroner's Office was notified and an investigation followed.

This is neither a civil nor a criminal trial procedure, rather an Inquest into the manner and cause of this man's death.

WHEREUPON THE WITNESSES WERE SWORN IN BY THE CORONER

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT AN Inquisition taken before William T. Anderson, Coroner of McLean County, for the People of the State of Illinois, upon WILLIAM W. LITTLE then lying dead upon the oaths of six good and lawful people of the County of McLean, who being duly sworn to inquire on the part of the People of the State of Illinois into all circumstances attending the death of said decedent and by whom the same was produced, and in what manner and where said decedent came to his death, heard the testimony of the several witnesses produced and sworn to testify the truth in regard to said Inquisition, is as follows:

CORONER ANDERSON: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, witnesses, and others present, this is an inquest into the manner and cause of the death of William W. Little, male, age 18, last of #2 Wilmette Drive, Normal, Illinois who died at his work place at 802 East Empire St. Bloomington, Illinois on March 31, 1991.

The McLean County Coroner's Office was notified and an investigation followed.

This is neither a civil nor a criminal trial procedure, rather an Inquest into the manner and cause of this man's death.

WHEREUPON THE WITNESSES WERE SWORN IN BY THE CORONER

TESTIMONY GIVEN IN THE INQUEST OF WILLIAM LITTLE

May 20, 1991

CORONER: Please raise your right hand to be sworn in: Do you solemnly swear and affirm that the testimony you are about to give in this inquest will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

WITNESS: I do.

CORONER: Please state your name, residence and occupation.

WITNESS: Paul Williams, I am a police officer for the city of Bloomington.

CORONER: On March 31, 1991 were you a sworn police officer for the city of Bloomington?

OFFICER WILLIAMS: Yes sir, I was.

CORONER: In that capacity, were you along with others called to a death scene in the city of Bloomington?

OFFICER WILLIAMS: We responded to a hold-up alarm, sir.

CORONER: About what time did that come in?

OFFICER WILLIAMS: The alarm came in at approximately 8:18.

CORONER: What was your location when you received the call?

OFFICER WILLIAMS: When I received the call, I was on routine patrol at Jefferson & McLean Street.

CORONER: So, within a matter of minutes, you arrived at the scene of the alarm?

OFFICER WILLIAMS: Yes.

CORONER: When you arrived there, were you the first police officer at the scene?

OFFICER WILLIAMS: Officer Pelo and I arrived at the same time. Officer Pelo got out on foot before I did in the area.

CORONER: Would you describe to the jury what you saw and what you did?

OFFICER WILLIAMS: Officer Pelo had arrived and I had parked my squad car on Linden Street and waited until I heard him arrive. Once I heard him arrive, he stated that he was out on foot by the gas station. So, I pulled my squad up closer. I had been sitting there about 15 or 20 seconds and hadn't seen any unusual activity, so I got out of my squad car and as I approached the station, Officer Pelo exited and said there was someone on the floor inside the station.

CORONER: Then what happened?

OFFICER SHEPHERD: I went up to the station, entered the station and observed the attendant inside the station on the floor.

CORONER: Had the rescue squad been called by then?

OFFICER SHEPHERD: No sir, not yet.

CORONER: But soon after that it was?

OFFICER SHEPHERD: Soon after that it was.

CORONER: And they responded?

OFFICER SHEPHERD: Yes sir.

CORONER: And they found no life?

OFFICER SHEPHERD: No sir.

CORONER: Then what did you and your fellow police officer do?

OFFICER SHEPHERD: Well I had taken control of the scene. I was the senior officer at the scene. The only people who were allowed in, once I entered the station, was Lifeline

rescue. Once they stated that the person was beyond help, they left and no one re-entered the scene until I released it to Sergeant Irvin.

CORONER: Then what, did you talk with anybody at the scene?

OFFICER SHEPHERD: I talked with Sergeant Irvin and also Sergeant O'Brien of the Detective Investigation Division. Eventually Lieutenant Emmett, also of the Investigation Division.

CORONER: Other than this the preliminary response to the scene and waiting for the detectives to take over the investigation of the scene, that was the extent of your investigation at this point.

OFFICER SHEPHERD: At that point, it was sir.

CORONER: Was there anything else that you've done?

OFFICER SHEPHERD: No sir, other than when I got there, when the attendant was on the floor, I did check his body for vital signs, but did not find any.

CORONER: Thank you very much.

CORONER: Please raise your right hand to be sworn in: Do you solemnly swear and affirm that the testimony you are about to give in this inquest will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

WITNESS: I do.

CORONER: Please state your name, address and occupation.

WITNESS: Randall D. McKinley, Crime Scene Investigator for the Bloomington Police Department. I work out of City Hall, 109 E. Olive, Bloomington, Illinois.

CORONER: On March 31, 1991 you were a sworn police officer for the city of Bloomington?

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: Yes, I was.

CORONER: Again, in that capacity you were called to investigate a shooting in the county, or in the city?

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: That is correct.

CORONER: Why don't you describe to the jury what you did at the scene and then what transpired thereafter.

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: Upon arriving at the scene, I had a brief discussion with immediate Detective Supervisor Sergeant Irvin, Sergeant O'Brien and Lieutenant Emmett. They described to me what they had at that point, and the scene was turned over to myself. The scene was photographed, fingerprints were taken. The floor was, we used an electro-static lifter on the floor to try to get dust prints, footprints. The scene was inventoried and eventually the body was removed.

CORONER: Pictures #1, 2 and 3 show the inside and the outside of the gas station, would you describe those?

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: Picture #1 is a view looking west inside the station. You are looking at the cash register area. You will notice that there are cigarette containers around there holding packages of cigarettes, the counter area with the cash register and the pump control is on that. Photograph #2 is also looking west. You can see the same counter, however it is a lower picture and you can see the victim laying on the floor on his back, behind the counter. Picture #3 is a view from standing on Locust Street looking north at the Clark station. You can see at least the northeast portion of that Clark station, including the door, the one entry and exit to this gas station.

CORONER: Pictures 4 and 5?

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: Pictures 4 and 5 were taken at the McLean County Coroner's Office during or briefly before the

autopsy began. It shows the victim's upper chest area and you can note the 2 different wounds in the chest area.

CORONER: Has there been anyone arrested in the incident?

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: No, there has not.

CORONER: The case is still under investigation?

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: Yes, it is.

CORONER: It's being considered as a homicide by the Bloomington Police Department?

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: Yes, it is.

CORONER: Would the jury have any questions of the city of Bloomington Police Department in this case?

JUROR: What was the location of this happening?

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: The address, it was at Linden & Empire, I guess the address is 802 E. Empire. That's the Clark station right at the corner of Linden & Empire.

JUROR: O.K. I heard you say something about Locust Street and that's where I got confused.

DETECTIVE MCKINLEY: I can see why, I was wrong. I was standing on Empire Street when that picture was taken. Thank you for calling that to my attention. I did have the wrong street.

CORONER: Thank you very much, Randy.

CORONER: Please raise your right hand to be sworn in: Do you solemnly swear and affirm that the testimony you are about to give in this inquest will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

WITNESS: I do.

CORONER: Please state your name, address and occupation.

WITNESS: Dicksy Smith, 1108 Elmwood Road. Chief Deputy Coroner, McLean County.

CORONER: On March 31, 1991, were you a sworn deputy coroner for the McLean County Coroner's office?

DEPUTY SMITH: Yes, I was.

CORONER: In that capacity, were you called along with others to investigate the death of William Walter Little?

DEPUTY SMITH: Yes.

CORONER: How was he identified?

DEPUTY SMITH: Originally the crime scene was secured. None of us entered until the crime scene technician came. At that time, they removed his billfold and his father and step-mother were present. When we brought him down to the county morgue, his uncle came down and positively identified him.

CORONER: Was an autopsy done?

DEPUTY SMITH: Yes, it was.

CORONER: What was the cause of death?

DEPUTY SMITH: Hemorrhagic shock, due to bilateral hemothoracies and hemopericardium, as a consequence of gunshot wounds.

CORONER: To the chest area?

DEPUTY SMITH: Correct.

CORONER: A body diagram was made of where those bullets went in?

DEPUTY SMITH: Yes, it was, during autopsy.

CORONER: Was toxicology taken?

DEPUTY SMITH: Yes, it was. No level of alcohol or drugs.

CORONER: What had happened was that he was employed at the gas station, is that correct?

DEPUTY SMITH: That is correct. He was on duty and apparently was shot during a hold up.

CORONER: The family was then notified. They came to the scene and also came down to the Coroner's Office, is that correct?

DEPUTY SMITH: Yes, a family member had been called because they had heard on the radio that there had been a robbery and a shooting at that particular gas station and they knew that their son was working there that night, so they came immediately to the scene.

CORONER: Does the jury have any questions of either the city of Bloomington, or the McLean County Coroner's Office in regard to this death, so that you can determine your manner and cause of death? We have the State's Attorney present, is there anything else that we should add Mr. Reynard?

MR. REYNARD: No.

CLOSE.

WITNESSES

NAME	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION
<u>Paul D. Williams</u>	<u>109 E Olive, Blm.</u>	<u>Police Officer.</u>
<u>Nicky Smith</u>	<u>1108 Elmwood Rd</u>	<u>Chief Deputy Coroner</u>
<u>Randall McKay</u>	<u>109 E. Olive Blm</u>	<u>CSI Bloomington Police</u>

Does anyone present know of any further information of value to the jury in arriving at a just verdict in this Inquest? Hearing none, I will proceed to close.

CLOSING STATEMENT

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury: This constitutes the evidence available in this Inquest. It will now be your duty to deliberate your findings, and if possible, arrive at a verdict as to the cause of death; whether you deem it to be accidental, suicidal, homicidal, undetermined or from natural causes; whether it was avoidable or unavoidable; also whether or not blame should be placed on the part of anyone concerned. When you have reached your verdict you will report to me, Coroner of McLean County, State of Illinois. You ladies and gentlemen will now retire and deliberate in privacy.

WHEREUPON THE JURY RETIRED TO
DELIBERATE, RETURNING AT 11:28 A.M. ♂
ON SAID DATE WITH THE FOLLOWING VERDICT:

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF MCLEAN)

An Inquisition was taken for the People of the State of Illinois at Bloomington in said County of McLean on the Twentieth day of May A.D. 1991, before William T. Anderson, Coroner in and for County of McLean upon the body of

WILLIAM W. LITTLE then lying dead upon the oaths of six good and lawful people of said County, who being duly sworn to inquire on the part of the People of the State of Illinois into all the circumstances attending the death of said WILLIAM W. LITTLE and by whom the same was produced, and in what manner and when and where said WILLIAM W. LITTLE now lying dead came to his death on the Thirty-first day of March A.D. 1991.

VERDICT STATEMENT

WE THE JURY, FIND THAT William Walter Little name

CAME TO his DEATH ON 3/31/91, AT 8:41 P.M.
his/her date time

AT Bloomington Ill city or township

WE FIND THAT his DEATH WAS DUE TO Hemorrhagic Shock
his/her medical cause of death

WHICH WAS A RESULT OF G.S.W. To left upper chest and left lower chest
circumstances or incident causing death

WE BELIEVE THE MANNER OF his DEATH TO BE homicidal
his/her accidental, suicidal, homicidal, undetermined or natural causes.

(OPTIONAL ADDITIONS)

ACCIDENTAL BUT AVOIDABLE: (ON THE PART OF WHOM AND WHY) _____

IT IS OUR OPINION/RECOMMENDATION THAT: _____

Ladona Lynch, FOREMAN OF THE JURY
Liona J. Albert, MEMBER OF THE JURY
Phillip T. Young, MEMBER OF THE JURY
Larwin O. Tierman, MEMBER OF THE JURY
Margaret L. Eposito, MEMBER OF THE JURY
Juan A. Meade, MEMBER OF THE JURY

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, the said Coroner and the Jury of this Inquest have set their hands and seal this day and year aforesaid.

William T. Anderson
CORONER OF MCLEAN COUNTY

DEPUTY CORONER, MCLEAN COUNTY

I, Mary D. Westfall, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct and complete copy of the proceedings of a Coroner's Inquest into the death of WILLIAM W. LITTLE said proceedings being held in the City of Bloomington, Illinois, May 20, 1991 A.D.

Mary D. Westfall
SECRETARY, MCLEAN COUNTY