

F. Admissions:

1. *Look Magazine*: The January 24, 1955 edition of *Look* magazine contained an article by author William Bradford Huie, entitled "The Shocking Story of Approved Killing in Mississippi."¹⁷⁴ Bryant and Milam were paid \$1,500 each for the interview, with their attorneys receiving \$1,000. The following excerpts outline key portions of the story as reported by Huie:

- On August 27, 1955, J.W. Milam drove to Minter City, to his brother-in-law's (Melvin Campbell's) store, where he worked until 12:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, August 28, 1955. Milam then left and went home to Glendora, Mississippi.
- After returning home to Glendora, Milam decided not to go to bed. Instead, he filled his truck up with gasoline and went to Money, Mississippi.
- Milam arrived in Money, Mississippi about 2:00 a.m. and found Roy and Carolyn Bryant asleep. Milam knocked on the back door and Roy Bryant came outside.
- Both men were sober.
- Milam and Bryant (no other persons are mentioned) traveled to Mose Wright's home and took Till.
- If there was doubt about Till's identity the group would have stopped in Money and had Carolyn Bryant identify Till.

¹⁷⁴ [redacted] William Bradford Huie, "The Shocking Story of Approved Killing in Mississippi," *Look Magazine*, January 24, 1955, [redacted]

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- They attempted to find a bluff along the Mississippi River at which to whip Till and scare him, but could not find it, after driving almost 75 miles. They then drove to Glendora, Mississippi, arriving at about 5:00 a.m.
- They took Till into a shed located behind Milam's home in Glendora and pistol whipped him there.
- After deciding to kill Till, they traveled to a cotton gin at Boyle, Mississippi and picked up a discarded gin fan there. Milam is quoted as saying, "When we got to that gin, it was daylight, and I was worried for the first time. Somebody might see us and accuse us of stealing the fan."
- The two forced Till to load the fan into the truck and then drove back to Glendora, then north to Swan Lake, crossing the Tallahatchie River bridge. They traveled south about two miles on a gravel road that paralleled the Tallahatchie River. Once at a spot Milam was familiar with, they forced Till to carry the gin fan to the river, made him strip his clothing off, and Milam shot Till. This occurred or was just prior to 7:00 a.m.

A comparison of the *Look* magazine statements and the evidence reveals a number of inconsistencies or differences. They are:

a. Roy Bryant stated to Cooperating Witness [] hereinafter referred to as [] in 1985 that on the night they took Till there was a lot of drinking and the group had not gone to Boyle, Mississippi that night to get the gin fan. Additionally, Roy Bryant took [] to the barn in which they beat and killed Till, and [] photographed the barn. The barn is the same as that identified

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by [redacted] and is located on the former Clint Shurden Plantation where Leslie Milam operated a farm in 1955, as discussed earlier.¹⁷⁵

b. On August 28, 1955 civil twilight began at 5:06 a.m. and sunrise was at 5:22 a.m.

Daylight arrived while, according to Huie's account, the group was in Glendora, Mississippi, beating Till in the shed behind Milam's home. Milam is quoted as being worried about being seen after arriving in Boyle as daylight had arrived.

c. The distance from Money, Mississippi to Rosedale, Mississippi is 56 miles. The distance from Rosedale, Mississippi to Glendora, Mississippi is 50 miles. The distance from Glendora, Mississippi to Boyle, Mississippi is approximately 33 miles. The group would have traveled over 164 miles (139 miles plus the additional 25 miles stated in the article spent looking for the bluff on the Mississippi River) from the time they kidnaped Till at approximately 2:30 a.m., until the time they arrived at Boyle, Mississippi. With an average speed of 45 miles per hour, and allowing for a ten minute stop in Money, Mississippi (as related by [redacted] the total time in travel would have been approximately 3 hours 38 minutes. This calculation has the group arriving in Boyle, Mississippi after 6:08 a.m. and does not allow any time for the beating of Till in Glendora, Mississippi.

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Dawn arrived on August 28, 1955 at 5:06 a.m. It appears difficult for the travel distances and times outlined in the article to be physically possible when arriving at Boyle, Mississippi at or near day break.

d. The proximity of the buildings in Glendora, Mississippi at the time would have created a situation wherein the noise created by someone being beaten in a shed behind Milam's home would

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in all likelihood have been heard by other residents of the town. No interviews, press accounts or anecdotal evidence indicate this occurred.

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e. [redacted] advised that Roy Bryant, J.W. Milam and a man named Kimbrell brought Emmett Till to [redacted] in Money, Mississippi during the early morning hours of August 28, 1955.¹⁷⁶

f. Willie Reed's testimony in 1955 stated that four white men and three black men were in the truck with Till.

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g. Amandy Bradley testified as to an individual, whose physical description was that of J.W. Milam, being at Leslie Milam's farm when Till was there.

h. Add Reed testified that Leslie Milam was present at Leslie Milam's farm when Till was there.

[redacted] observed J.W. Milam to be near Milam's pickup truck, which contained something underneath a tarpaulin that was bleeding, in Glendora, Mississippi, early on the morning of August 28, 1955. At or near the truck were Oso (Otha Johnson, Jr.), "Too Tight" Collins (Levi Collins), and [redacted] was approaching the truck. The *Look* magazine confession does not mention a stop in Glendora during full daylight hours.

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j [redacted] stated that there was no barn located behind her and [redacted] in Glendora, Mississippi, stating "There wadn't any barn [redacted] It was just a field out there and then the river."¹⁷⁷

2. J.W. Milam's Admission: During the course of conducting research on Emmett Till's murder Confidential Source [redacted] interviewed Milam on three occasions over the telephone. During these conversations Milam related the following details about Till's kidnaping and murder:

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On the Saturday evening and Sunday morning of Till's kidnaping, Melvin Campbell and J.W. Milam were together and Roy Bryant was at his home/store in Money, Mississippi. Sometime during the evening Campbell, J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant met and were playing cards and drinking moonshine. While together, the story of Till whistling at [redacted] came up and Milam, Bryant and either "Too Tight" Collins or [redacted] using Hubert Clark's car, traveled to Money, Mississippi to pick up [redacted] and then to Mose Wright's home.

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Once the group had Till, they dropped [redacted] off in Money, Mississippi and drove back to where they had been drinking. Once there, J.W. Milam, Roy Bryant, Melvin Campbell, Hubert Clark, "Too Tight" Collins and [redacted] were present. The group beat Till there and eventually loaded him into Milam's truck to take him to a place on the Mississippi River to scare him.

They couldn't find the location on the river and rode around for a long time. Eventually, it was beginning to get light and they had to do something, so they went to Leslie Milam's farm, outside of Drew, Mississippi. Leslie Milam was not happy about the group showing up with Till because he had work to do that day.

The group now included Roy Bryant, Leslie Milam, J.W. Milam, Hubert Clark, Melvin Campbell, "Too Tight" Collins and [redacted]. They took Till into a barn and continued to beat him. At some point Till's wallet fell out of his pants and the group discovered a photograph of a white woman in it. During the beating Till was never respectful to the men and did not say "yes sir" or "no sir." Things got out of hand and Till stated something to the effect of "he was as good as they are."

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Till was killed in the barn on Leslie Milam's farm. After he died Till's clothing was stripped off and Collins and [redacted] were directed to clean the blood up that was on the floor. After cleaning the blood up a second time they spread cotton seed on the floor to cover up the blood stain.

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J.W. Milam, Roy Bryant and Melvin Campbell took Till's body in Milam's truck, left Leslie Milam's farm and picked up a gin fan somewhere. They took Till's body to a bridge in a secluded area, affixed the gin fan to Till and threw him off the bridge, into the Tallahatchie River. At about the same time Clark, utilizing Leslie Milam's car, took Collins and [redacted] to bury Till's clothing, however, Till's shoes were overlooked and remained in Leslie Milam's car. After burying the clothing [redacted] and Collins walked home.

The night after the kidnaping and murder Collins was drinking and talking too much at a café. A friend of Collins named Buck, got Collins out of the café and took him to Treola Collins' house.

After Roy Bryant was arrested the Bryant/Milam family met at their mother's home to discuss what to do. The brothers were concerned about Roy Bryant "running his mouth" and didn't think he could stick to the story. It was decided that J.W. Milam should get himself arrested so he could be with Roy Bryant in jail and help control what Roy Bryant did.¹⁷⁸

3. Roy Bryant's Admission: In 1985 an individual, who is now a cooperating witness, but who was unaffiliated with law enforcement at the time, hereinafter referred to as [redacted] met with Roy Bryant and approached him about [redacted] [redacted] and Bryant rode together to the Wright home, Bryant's Meat Market and Grocery and to the barn where Till had been beaten and killed. During the trip [redacted] was equipped with an audio cassette recorder and successfully recorded portions of their conversation. The following statements were made by Bryant and captured on tape:

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- When asked about taking Till to a bluff on the Mississippi River near Rosedale they were going to "put his ass in the river", the Mississippi River. ¹⁷⁹
- When asked if they were drinking "Yeah, hell yeah we was drinkin" "Now we wasn't drunk" "...wasn't nobody drunk." ¹⁸⁰
- About killing Till "Well, we done whopped the son of a bitch, and I had backed out on killin' the mother fucker..." "...and we gonna take him to the hospital. But we done whopped that son of a bitch. I mean, it was, the, carryin' him to the hospital wouldn't have done him no good (laughs)." "Put his ass in the Tallahatchie River." ¹⁸¹
- When asked why they stopped in the woodshed over there (Leslie Milam's) "I donno. Tryin' to make our minds up." ¹⁸²
- About going to Boyle to get the gin fan "We didn't go to Boyle." ¹⁸³
- About Glendora "Didn't go back to Glendora. Went through Glendora." ¹⁸⁴
- About other people knowing what had happened that night with Till "I'm the only one who's livin' that knows it (laughs)" "That's all that will ever be known" "That's the only two that was ever tried." ¹⁸⁵

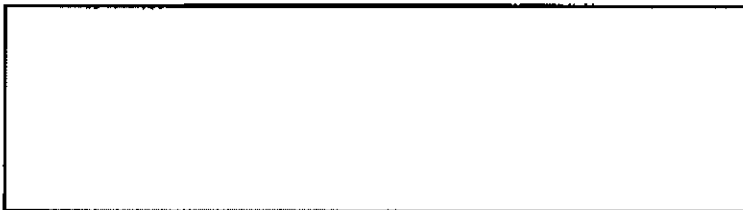
4. **Leslie F. Milam's Death Bed Confession:** Sometime just prior to his death in

August of 1974 Leslie Milam requested that [redacted] appear at his residence.

[redacted] was aware that Milam was dying of cancer and traveled to his home. Upon his arrival

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Milam told [redacted] he (Leslie Milam) had something he wanted to get off his chest, that he had



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been personally involved in the murder of Emmett Till in 1955. Milam told [redacted] that Milam knew it was wrong and it had bothered him for all the years since the incident took place. Milam did not provide any details as to his role in Till's murder, where the events transpired, or the identities of any other persons involved in the matter.¹⁸⁶

5. Leslie F. Milam's Statements to Confidential Source [redacted] During 1965 and

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1966 Confidential Source [redacted] hereinafter referred to as [redacted] was the owner of a business located in Drew, Mississippi. While employed there [redacted] met two brothers with the last name Milam at a [redacted] [redacted] described one of the brothers as living in Ruleville, Mississippi and who operated a "mom and pop" store. The other brother was described as living in Cleveland, Mississippi and whose spouse was named [redacted] [redacted] also understood that [redacted] owned [redacted] [redacted] Mississippi.

During [redacted] conversation with the Milam brother who lived in Cleveland, Mississippi the brother revealed the following information about the killing of Emmett Till:¹⁸⁷

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- Till's body could not be located by authorities in a river because it had not been thrown in a river.
- Till had gone to a "mom and pop" store owned by the Milam brother who lived in Ruleville, Mississippi and had asked [redacted] for a date. This infuriated the Milam brothers and they decided to kill Till.
- The Milam brothers took Till out to the woods and "beat the hell out of him with chains." Believing Till was dead, they placed his body in the back of a pick-up truck and drove around trying to figure out what to do with the body.

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- Two blacks, who worked for the Milams, were part of the group that beat and killed Till. One of the blacks discovered Till wasn't dead so the two blacks killed him and helped in the disposal of his body.

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- Till's body was buried in a barn on property owned by [redacted] [redacted] owned a farm that was located on [redacted] just west of the country club, outside of Drew, Mississippi.

An analysis of the information provided by [redacted] indicates the following:

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a. The information provided appears to have been provided by Leslie F. Milam due to the fact that Leslie F. Milam resided in Cleveland, Mississippi at the time of the alleged conversation and that [redacted]

b. The second Milam brother [redacted] net appears to be either Stanley Lamar "Bud" Milam or Roy Bryant. According to information provided by family members both Stanley Lamar "Bud" Milam and Roy Bryant owned and operated small country stores in Ruleville, Mississippi at some point in time.

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6. Carolyn Bryant-Donham's Admissions: Bryant-Donham testified on behalf of the defense at trial in 1955. Additionally, during the course of this investigation [redacted]

[redacted] During her testimony [redacted]

[redacted] in the events under investigation here. These are:

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- At trial, [redacted] Bryant-Donham related the story of Till's entering the Bryant Grocery and Meat Market on August 24, 1955 wherein Till grabbed Bryant-Donham's hand, waist and made advances toward her. [redacted]

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[redacted] whom [redacted]

[redacted] 188, 189, 190

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• [redacted] stated she was afraid to tell [redacted] about the incident at the store with Till because [redacted] .."go find [Till] and beat him up" and "... [redacted] what had happened, [redacted] not to tell J.W., because [redacted] because [redacted] of what they would do." 191, 192

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• On Saturday, August 27, 1955, when confronted by Roy Bryant about what had happened at the store, [redacted] gave him a detailed account of the incident where Till grabbed her hand, waist and made advances toward her. 193

• On Saturday, August 27, 1955, "...there was a lady and her little boy or her grandson or somebody was in the store and, I don't know, Roy said something to 'em, and I remember telling him to leave him alone, that, you know, that wasn't him." [Emmett Till] 194

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• On Sunday, August 28, 1955 Roy Bryant, J.W. Milam and a man named Kimbrell brought Emmett Till to [redacted] "[redacted] they probably asked [redacted] who, if that was him and [redacted] [redacted] Because [redacted] no mater what [redacted] said no that's not

188 Appendix A - Transcript - State of Mississippi vs. J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant, Second District of Tallahatchie County, Seventh Judicial District, September 1955 - Testimony of Mrs. Roy Bryant, 258 to 277

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[redacted]

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him because [redacted]

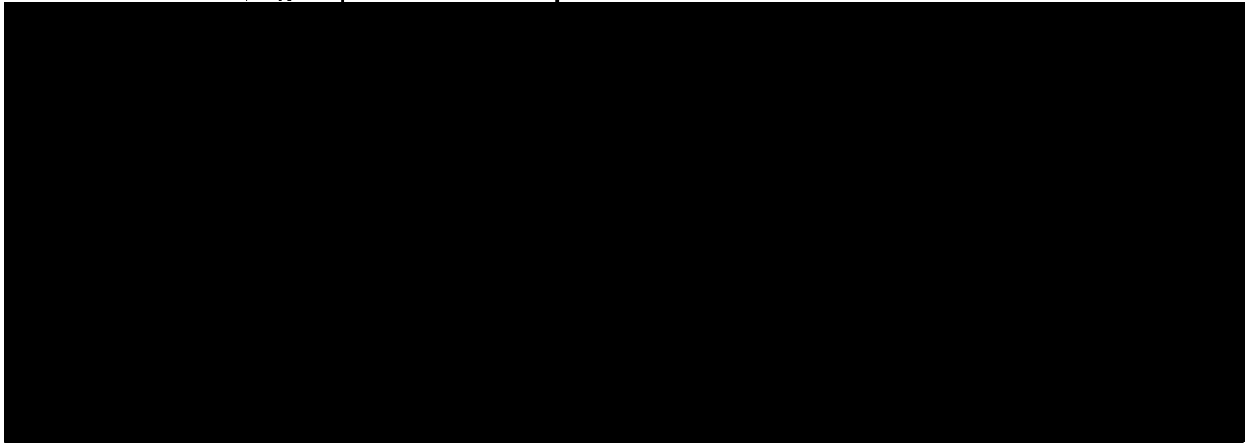
[redacted] 195, 196, 197, 198

7. **Lamarcus Pilate:** Memphis television station Fox 13 conducted an interview with Lamarcus Pilate. In the interview, Pilate alleged that J.W. Milam confessed about Milam's involvement in Till's murder to him when Pilate was fourteen years old. Pilate described Milam as living in Ruleville, Mississippi at the time of the confession and as being employed as a police officer at some point in time after Till's murder. Pilate also alleged Milam told him and [redacted] and [redacted] were involved in Till's killing.¹⁹⁹

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- Pilate's statement regarding Milam being a law enforcement officer appears to be in reference to Stanley Lamar "Bud" Milam, a Milam brother, who was a law enforcement officer in Sunflower County sometime after the Till incident.²⁰⁰

- No other information learned during the instant investigation indicates an [redacted] [redacted] or a [redacted] was involved in this matter.



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195	[redacted]
196	[redacted]
197	[redacted]
198	[redacted]
199	Interview of Lamarcus Pilate by Fox 13 News, [redacted]
200	[redacted]

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