

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT  
(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, WALTER S. SMITH, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to FRANK LATHAM. Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

I am 44 years of age, and I live at 615 ANGEL FIRE, HEWITT TX.

ON AUGUST 26, 1987 AT APPROX. 4:50 PM WHILE DRIVING HOME FROM WORK, AT THE CROSSING OF SPRING VALLEY & OLD TEMPLE RD I SPOTTED A LARGE PUFF OF SMOKE AHEAD & TO MY RIGHT. AS I GOT CLOSER I REALIZED IT WAS COMING FROM WITHIN MY SUB-DIVISION. TURNING OFF SPRING VALLEY ONE STREET EARLIER THAN NORMAL I PROCEEDED TO THE FIRE. I SAW A MAN IN THE YARD BEHIND THE FIRE WITH A RADIO. I VERIFIED THAT HE HAD CALLED FIRE DEPT. & WENT TO FRONT OF 505 ANGEL FIRE, THE LOCATION OF FIRE. SHED WAS FULLY INVOLVED IN FIRE & REAR THIRD OF FENCE WAS ON FIRE. (BETWEEN HOUSES) I KNOCKED ON THE DOOR OF 505 AND THE MALE OCCUPANT ASKED WHAT I WANTED. I TOLD HIM <sup>WAS</sup> ABOUT THE FIRE AND SUGGESTED THAT HE LEAVE THE HOUSE. HE STATED HE WAS JUST CALLING THE FIRE DEPT. & I TOLD HIM THEY WERE ON THE WAY.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 2 page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at HEWITT TX, this 21 day of FEB., 1987.

WITNESS: J. Whart 108

Walter S. Smith  
Signature of person giving voluntary statement.

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF: WALTER S. SMITH

Date 2-21-87

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THE MAN THEN SAID HE HAD TO FINISH CHANGING  
BABY AND WOULD BE OUT AFTER.  
I THEN HELPED OTHER PEOPLE HOOK UP WATER  
HOSES FROM THE TWO HOUSES AND HANDED THEM  
OVER THE FRONT FENCE TO HELP FIGHT FIRE  
ON THE SIDE FENCE. A FEW MINUTES LATER A  
FEW MEN KNOCKED THE FENCE DOWN TO  
ALLOW THE APPROACHING FIRE MAN ACCESS TO  
THE FIRE. THE MAN FROM 505 ANGRY FIRE  
CAME OUT FRONT DOOR TO COMPLAIN &  
ASKED WHY FIRE MEN COULD NOT USE DRIVE-  
WAY GATE ON OTHER SIDE OF HOUSE.  
AFTER A SHORT EXCHANGE OF WORDS HE WENT  
BACK IN THE HOUSE. JUST BEFORE THIS  
HAPPENED THE FIRE BECAME HOT ENOUGH TO  
BURN THROUGH POWER LINES TO HOUSE,  
WITH POLICE ON SCENE & F.D. ARRIVING  
I WENT HOME, WHILE WATCHING ~~TV~~<sup>W.S.</sup> T.V.  
DURING SUPPER I HEARD ABOUT THE DEATHS  
& TOLD MY WIFE "HE NEVER ONCE ASKED  
WHERE HIS KIDS WERE OR ASKED IF ANYONE  
HAD SEEN THEM."

Walter S. Smith

Witness  
Walt 108