

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, JOHN OREN GAMBLE, 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 28 years of age, and I live at 124 FANNIN, HEWITT, TX ph 666-1022.

I WAS WORKING AS A CEMENT CONTRACTOR IN THE NEW GROSS -
YOWELL ADDITION SOUTH OF SPRING VALLEY ROAD AND WAS LEAVING THE
JOB AT APPROXIMATELY 4:00 - 4:15 pm, AUGUST 26, 1986. I PULLED
UP TO SPRING VALLEY ROAD IN MY TRUCK WHEN I NOTICED A
CHARCOAL-COLORED SMOKE COMING FROM THE RESIDENTIAL AREA ACROSS
SPRING VALLEY ROAD. I HAVE A MOBIL PHONE IN MY TRUCK SO I HEADED
IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SMOKE TO SEE WHAT WAS BURNING, IF
I COULD HELP OR CALL IT IN ON MY MOBIL PHONE. WHEN I
ARRIVED ON ANGEL FIRE STREET I SAW A BLACK CHEVY BLAZER
BELONGING TO A FRIEND OF MINE, KENNETH MAYS, A BRICKLAYER
AND A POLICE CAR PARKED IN FRONT OF WHERE FIRE WAS. I DON'T
REMEMBER ANY OTHER VEHICLES PARKED ON THE STREET AT THAT TIME.
A POLICE OFFICER WAS THERE AND KENNETH MAYS WAS IN THE
FRONT YARD GETTING A GARDEN HOSE ATTACHED TO A SPIGOT AT
THE LEFT FRONT OF THE HOUSE (FACING THE HOUSE) WHERE THE SHED
WAS ON FIRE IN THE BACK YARD. I WENT UP TO HELP KENNETH
AND GRABBED THE END OF THE HOSE, WITH KENNETH BEHIND ME,
AND I WENT TO THE LEFT REAR OF THE HOUSE AND STARTED
SPRAYING WATER ON THE FENCE BESIDE THE SHED AND THE HOUSE TO
KEEP IT FROM SPREADING. AT THE LEFT REAR OF THE HOUSE

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 3 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 20 day of SEPTEMBER 1986.

WITNESS: Frank Latham

John Gamble
Signature of person giving voluntary statement.

WITNESS: _____

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I am _____ years of age, and I live at _____.

THE SHED WAS BURNING OUT OF CONTROL AND THE HEAT WAS SO INTENSE, I HAD TO HOLD ONE HAND OVER MY FACE IT WAS SO HOT. I COULD SEE THROUGH THE SHED, SEE THROUGH THE STUDS, AND ALL THE WAY THROUGH IT THE FIRE HAD ALREADY DONE SO MUCH DAMAGE. I REMEMBER SEEING A FOLDED-UP SPRING BED IN THE SHED. RIGHT AFTER I STARTED SPRAYING WATER, I SAW A MAN I DIDN'T KNOW NEAR THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SHED SPRAYING HOSE WATER ON IT. I COULD ALSO TELL WATER WAS BEING SPRAYED OVER FROM THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR'S BACK YARD, WHICH WAS THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR CLOSEST TO THE SHED. PEOPLE STARTED ARRIVING BUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT YET ARRIVED. SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ARRIVED AND SOMEONE HOLLERED AT ME TO GET OUT OF THE WAY AND THEY BROUGHT A HOSE ON BACK. I JUST DROPPED THE GARDEN HOSE RIGHT THERE. I THEN SAW JOHN SNAPP, WHO I KNEW, STANDING AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE JUST WATCHING. I WENT OVER TO JOHN AND ON MY WAY OVER I SAW A MAN COME OUT OF THE HOUSE, WHO I ASSUMED WAS THE OWNER, AND HE WALKED OVER TO SNAPP ALSO. THE MAN FROM THE HOUSE DID NOT HAVE A BABY WITH HIM. I

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 3 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 Newitt, TX, this 20 day of September 1986.

WITNESS: Frank Lester

John Darby
Signature of person giving voluntary statement.

WITNESS: _____

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ASKED THE MAN WITH JOHN SMARR WHAT HE THOUGHT STARTED THE FIRE AND HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW. I ASKED HIM THEN IF HE THOUGHT SOME KIDS MIGHT HAVE STARTED IT, AND HE SAID: "NO, THEY COULDN'T HAVE HAD TIME, WE JUST GOT HERE." WE STOOD THERE FOR A FEW MINUTES AND I SAW THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SEEMED TO HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL SO I JUST WENT OUT TO MY TRUCK AND LEFT J.G.

~~J.G. J.G. J.G. J.G.~~

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Dated at Hewitt, TX this 20 day of Sept 19 86
WITNESS: Frankharter John Smarr
WITNESS: _____ Signature of person giving voluntary statement.