

CAMDEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Investigation Report

Offense Type: Homicide and Attempted Homicide

Offense Date: May 1, 20XX-1

Report by: FRED DURKIN

Report date: June 16, 20XX-1

On May 2, 20XX-1 at approximately 0115 hours, writer was contacted at home by Camden County Communications Operator FRED MERVIS. MERVIS advised that there had been a shooting at the Infernal Club and that the officers on the scene were requesting writer to respond. Writer responded to the Infernal Club at 1313 Perry Lane, Camden City.

Upon arrival, writer observed Camden County Emergency Medical Services personnel transferring w/m JOHN ELDER from the club into an ambulance. Upon entering the club, writer approached Patrolman NICK CHARLES and inquired as to what had occurred. CHARLES advised that there had been two persons shot and a gun discovered. CHARLES pointed to a .38 revolver lying on the floor of the club and indicated that one of the persons who had been shot was lying on the dance floor dead. Writer went to the dance floor area and observed w/m MOE HELTON lying on the floor with his mother, MARIE HELTON, kneeling beside him crying. Camden County Deputy ATHELNY JONES was with the HELTONS. Camden County Deputy GILES LESTRADE was standing by the revolver to preserve it as evidence. Writer also was able to determine that JOHN ELDER, who had been transferred to Camden County Hospital, was the second shooting victim.

Writer spoke with Camden County Deputies JOHN ROBERTS and WILLIAM GEORGE, who both were identifying and interviewing possible witnesses. Writer learned from ROBERTS and GEORGE that the suspect in the shooting, a w/m named GARY LEE GOODMAN had fled the scene.

Writer, assisted by Deputy GEORGE, then began to process the crime scene. Writer and George measured the crime scene in order that a diagram could later be prepared. A copy of that diagram is attached to this report. Writer collected the revolver into evidence and secured the weapon. Writer checked the interior of the Infernal Club for additional evidence and discovered a bullet lodged in the floor near the body of HELTON. Writer recovered the bullet from the floor. Writer then observed the body of Helton and determined that he had been shot in the back at least twice, because there were three bullet wounds in the back. Writer thought at that time that one bullet wound could possibly be an exit wound. After examining the body, writer authorized its removal to the Medical Examiner's office and released the crime scene.

Writer spoke with the officers who had been interviewing possible witnesses and learned the following:

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1. The shooter was possibly a w/m GARY LEE GOODMAN.
2. That at the time he was shot, MOE HELTON had been engaged in a fist fight with GOODMAN'S brother, BARRY GOODMAN.
3. That ELDER was apparently shot while struggling with GARY GOODMAN over the gun.
4. That the GOODMAN brothers fled the scene after the shooting

Writer then went to the Camden County Hospital to check on the condition of JOHN ELDER. At the hospital, ELDER was in the trauma room being attending to by a host of emergency room personnel. Writer learned that ELDER had a single gunshot wound to the stomach and several abrasions about his head. ELDER was unable to give an interview at that time.

Writer located witness NATHAN BEDFORD and interviewed him concerning the altercation. BEDFORD advised as follows:

MOE HELTON had gotten into a fight with BARRY GOODMAN while they were on the dance floor at the Infernal Club. While GOODMAN and HELTON were fighting, GARY LEE GOODMAN walked up behind HELTON and shot him in the back. JOHN ELDER then grabbed GARY GOODMAN and they began to struggle and GARY GOODMAN shot ELDER. BEDFORD did not see this happen, it is what others told him. When he first heard shots, BEDFORD took cover under a table and stayed there until he heard no more shooting. After the shooting stopped, BEDFORD crawled out from under the table and saw HELTON and ELDER lying on the dance floor.

At 0900 hours, writer attended the autopsy of MOE HELTON at the Camden County Medical Examiner's office located in the Camden County Hospital. Writer learned from Dr. Tavis Wood that there were actually three gunshot wounds. The wounds on the back were all entrance wounds and there were no exit wounds. According to Dr. Wood, one bullet had entered HELTON'S heart.

At 1200 hours, writer conducted a tape recorded interview with SHEMP CAMPBELL. A transcript of that tape is submitted herewith.

At the conclusion of the interview with SHEMP CAMPBELL, Officers ROBERTS and GEORGE provided writer with hand written statements from various witnesses. The substance of those statements is set forth below:

DENISE HUGHES: I know MOE HELTON, JOHN ELDER, and SHEMP CAMPBELL, but I'm not friends with them. I went to school with BARRY GOODMAN. I didn't see GARY GOODMAN having any trouble with anyone while he was dancing. I was sitting at a table when the shooting started. I heard a shot and turned to look, and I saw GARY standing over MOE and he shot him three or four more times. I didn't see JOHN ELDER get shot, but I did see BARRY standing over JOHN beating him with a chair.

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MACK ANTHONY: I know MOE HELTON, JOHN ELDER, BARRY GOODMAN, and GARY GOODMAN as acquaintances. I was at the Infernal Club that night and MOE and JOHN were copping an attitude and being rude to people. GARY and BARRY weren't bothering anybody. I was standing on the dance floor when somebody bumped into me. I turned around and saw MOE on top of BARRY. Then I heard gunfire. It sounded like three or four shots. I don't know where it was coming from. I dove over the half wall and took cover. When I looked back up after the shooting stopped, I saw BARRY hitting somebody on the ground with a chair. Somebody else came up and hit BARRY in the head. BARRY went down to a knee and got up and ran out of the Infernal Club. I never saw GARY involved in the fight at all.

ELLA QUEEN: I had been at the club about 30 minutes when the fight started. I was on the dance floor dancing with GARY GOODMAN when the fight started. I looked around and saw two men wrestling. I don't know who they were. It looked to me like there was going to be a riot, so I ran and hid in the bathroom. While I was running, I couldn't see what was going on. When the shooting was over, I came out of the bathroom and saw MOE HELTON lying on the floor. He looked dead.

SIMON KENT: I was at the Infernal Club dancing that night when I saw BARRY GOODMAN and MOE HELTON fighting. MOE was getting the best of BARRY and had him down on the floor pounding on him pretty good. I saw GARY GOODMAN walk across the floor and try to pull MOE off BARRY, but MOE was on him pretty tight. GARY pulled a gun out of his pocket and started shooting. I decided it was time for me to leave, and I didn't see anything else that happened. I went outside and waited until I saw BARRY and GARY GOODMAN run out of the club and jump into a car and drive off. I went back in, and I saw MOE and JOHN ELDER lying on the floor.

ERVIN JAMES: I know MOE HELTON. He has a bad reputation for being a fighter and a bully. I went to the Infernal Club with GARY and BARRY GOODMAN that night. GARY had a gun that he was holding for a friend who was too drunk to hold it. I was dancing when the gunfire started, and I hit the floor. I didn't see nothing after that.

ROSE THAMES: I just know MOE HELTON and his friends when I see them. Same for the GOODMANS. Before the fight started, I saw GARY and BARRY looking hard at MOE HELTON. They looked like they were mad about something. When the fight broke out, I looked over and saw MOE HELTON on top of BARRY GOODMAN and I heard GARY yell to MOE that he was going to shoot him if he didn't get off his brother. MOE didn't get off and GARY started shooting. I heard two shots and then JOHN ELDER jumped GARY. They scuffled over into a dark area and I heard more shots. The next thing I know, I see BARRY standing over JOHN ELDER hitting him in the head with a chair. Then people started picking up chairs and throwing them around, and the GOODMANS ran out the door. I went over to MOE and tried to give him mouth-to-mouth, but it didn't help.

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Writer was able to locate BARRY and GARY GOODMAN and arrange for them to come in on May 3, 20XX-1, at 1800 hours for tape recorded interviews. Transcripts of those interviews submitted with this report.

On June 15, 200XX-1, writer interviewed JOHN ELDER at the Camden County Hospital. A transcript of that statement will be provided when available.