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State of Florida

vs

Izuel Chambers
et al

Transcript of Testimony

Broward County, Florida

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY

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CHARLIE DAVIS, having first been duly sworn, being called by the Court on his own behalf testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY THE COURT:

Q Charlie Davis, how long have you been living right at Pompano?

A I came to Pompano along about the 15th of January, of this year.

Q Where had you been prior to the time you came to Pompano?

A Picking beans.

Q Where?

A Picked for Mr. Bailey.

Q Before you came to Pompano?

A I had been in Miami.

Q How long had you been living in Miami?

A Since December.

Q Where did you live before you came to Miami?

A North Carolina is my home.

Q Did you come directly from North Carolina to Miami?

A Came down from Atlanta to Miami.

Q How long have you been in Atlanta before you came to Miami?

A I went to Atlanta in June I believe it was.

Q Last June?

A Yes sir.

Q When did you first meet Izell Chambers?

A I met Izell Chambers about a month and a half or two months after I was in Pompano.

Q And you came to Pompano in January?

A Yes sir, January 15th.

Q And you met Izell along the first of March is that right?

A Somewhere along then I was picking beans working there and I first seen him; he used to be around there right smart; and then started to staying there.

Q When is the first time you ever knew Walter Woodard?

A The first time I saw him was that night.

Q Had you ever seen him before?

A No sir.

Q Don't know anything about him?

A No sir.

Q What was Irell Chambers doing the time you first saw him?

A He was picking beans; he left and went to the lake and came back.

Q When did he come back?

A When I saw him was Saturday afternoon.

Q That was the first time you saw him since he was on the lake?

A Yes sir.

Q How long had you been knowing him?

A Two or three weeks.

Q Where did you first see Jack Williamson?

A At Delray when I was picking beans.

Q When was that?

A Three months ago.

Q How long were you and he together up there?

A He was toting beans. I was picking next to his sister, Walter's wife; him and Walter is brothers-in-law.

Q And you met him that one time and never saw him any more until this night?

A No sir, never saw him any more.

Q Did I understand you to say this afternoon in giving

your testimony that you went up to the lake and saw Izell up there?

A No sir, I haven't ever been to the lake in my life.

Q Do you know who went with him up to the lake?

A I only know that his brother was going with him, they said, and I saw them both on the truck when they were leaving.

Q What time was it that Saturday night when Mr. Darcey was killed did you see first Izell Chanters, that afternoon or night?

A That afternoon, about 3:30.

Q Where was it?

A I was coming from the post office.

Q Met him on the street?

A Yes sir.

Q Was that when you first talked to him about undertaking this killing, that night, or this robbery?

A Yes sir, I didn't know about it being a killing. I wanted to know how he was going to get that money; I tried to get him to tell me but he wouldn't tell me.

Q I believe you said he told you before he went to the lake he knew where to get some money?

A No sir, he didn't tell me then.

Q He just told you that afternoon he knew where he could get some money?

A Yes sir.

Q Did he tell you who was going to help you in getting the money?

A No sir.

Q Did he ask you to go with him?

A Yes sir.

Q Where did he tell you to meet him?

A Told me to come up town here.

Q Did he tell you to bring anything?

A No sir.

Q Where did you get that stick that you used and were shown here in the evidence this afternoon, that broke stick?

A I picked it up not far from this Ford place.

Q Had you put it under the car as some of them said before?

A No sir. I hadn't put it under the car.

Q And you just looked around there and found that stick?

A Yes sir; they told me to get a stick.

Q Who was that?

A Izell and Walter.

Q You had seen Izell and Walter before that?

A Yes sir.

Q Was Walter with Izell at the time you met Izell?

A Yes sir; they were going up the street. I had forgot about the money proposition.

Q Was Walter with Izell when you met him going to the post office?

A No sir. Not at that time.

Q Did Walter tell you to meet him?

A No sir; told me he would see me on the corner up there.

Q Where was it that you met him?

A He called me there where he was by the Orange filling station.

Q Who was with him then?

A Jack and Walter.

Q You never had seen Jack before?

A At Delray; Walter was the one I never seen before.

Q You didn't know anything about Walter at all?

A No sir.

Q And Walter was with Izell, and Jack was with Izell, when you got back down there that night?

A Yes sir.

Q What time was it?

A As near as I can get at it it was a little after 9 o'clock.

Q At that time did either of them have any of these clubs or sticks that you had in evidence this afternoon?

A Yes sir.

Q Walter had the hammer?

A I didn't see a hammer.

Q Walter didn't have anything so far as you saw?

A They had plenty things; I didn't know what he had.

Q Jack had the big club?

A Yes sir.

Q Izell had the little club?

A Yes sir.

Q And they told you to get a stick?

A Yes sir.

Q What did they tell you they were going to do?

A They told me they were going to get some money and about that time they saw a man coming and Izell say, "Here he comes now", and when he got along where Jack was standing over on the right hand side --

Q Jack was the one by the pump?

A By the gas tank, -- he hit this man. He fell over towards me; I had a stick that was already broke, and he fell --

Q Then you got this money and ran?

A Yes sir.

Q And Walter ~~helped and ran too?~~

A Yes sir.

Q What did Walter say at the time you all met there that night?

A He told us none of us better not tell it.

Q I mean the time when you first met, the three of them together, and he called to you?

A He looked at me.

Q What did he say about the robbery at that time?

A He was saying something to Izell; Walter hadn't told me anything; Izell told me.

Q How long had you folks been together that night, all four of you before you struck Mr. Darcey?

A I imagine it was about 15 or 20 minutes, because one of them said "It nearly about time for him now," but I didn't know what they was talking about.

Q You knew they were going to rob somebody?

A I'd of thought something like that, after they told me to get the stick.

Q And Izell was the first one that told you about it?

A Yes sir.

Q And Izell and Walter and Jack all joined in when they saw you that night?

A Yes sir, they called me.

Q Charley, was there anybody else in this killing except you four?

A No sir. No one but us four. If anyone else, they must have told them; I didn't tell anyone.

Q There wasn't anybody there but you four and Mr. Darcey?

A That is all.

A That is all.

Q I believe you are the one that carried Mr. Helton to your place and showed him where you had put the purse?

A Yes sir.

Q What have you done with the money, Charley?

A I taken the money out, there was a kind of hole in the mattress and I put it there, pulled the sheet back and put the money down in there, and pulled the sheet over it.

Q It wasn't there when you went there?

A I was so sure it was there, but when I got there it wasn't there.

Q That is where you put it?

A Yes sir, that is where I put it.

Q Did you divide up any except that little you gave to Walter?

A I give Walter the change in the sack. He taken the change out of the sack and threw it down back of the jail house.

Q Then you put this purse in the side of the wall there and it dropped out?

A Yes sir, it dropped through the crack.

QUESTION BY MR. GRIFFIS:

Q You say you didn't find the money in that mattress when you went back there?

A No sir.

Q Somebody had gone in there and gotten it out?

A Somebody had taken it out.

I beg for the mercy of the court.

THE COURT:

All right, Charley, I will consider that when the time comes.

(Witness excused)

R.C.HELTON, first being duly sworn, being called by the Court, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY THE COURT:

Q Mr. Helton, when you went with Charley Davis up to his house to find this money and the purse I don't believe you told us anything about the money. He had told you prior to the time you went where you could find the money?

A Yes sir.

Q You did not find it when you got there?

A No sir.

Q Did you find any hole in the mattress that it could have been in?

A Yes sir, the mattress was pretty near torn all to pieces. Most of the cotton was torn out of it.

Q You have no reason to believe now, Mr. Helton, that more than these four were in this robbery and killing?

A No sir. That is all.

(Witness excused)

JACK WILLIAMSON, first being duly sworn, being called by the Court, on his own behalf testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY THE COURT:

Q Jack, how long have you been in Pompano?

A Come here in January, the second week in January, 1933.

Q Where did you come from Jack?

A I come from Screven, Georgia.

Q Did you come direct from there to Pompano when you came down?

A Come in Mr. Brown's truck, come to work.

Q You came from Screven, Georgia, to Pompano the second week in January?

A Yes sir.

Q When did you first meet Izell Chambers?

A I have been knowing him a long time.

Q Been knowing him before you came to Florida?

A Yes sir, knew him in Georgia.

Q Did he come down before you or after you?

A He come down before me; he was here when I got here.

Q You and Walter are brothers-in-law, are you not?

A Yes sir.

Q How long have you been knowing Walter?

A I met Walter in August.

Q Was that the first time you ever saw him?

A The first time.

Q When did you first meet Charley Davis?

A Met him at Delray, I was working at the Kirby bean farm.

Q Is that the time he was talking about that you were toting beans and he was picking?

A Yes sir.

Q That was the first time you ever saw him?

A Yes sir.

Q When did you see him next time?

A That Saturday night.

Q Didn't see him until night?

A No sir, didn't see him until night.

Q Jack, when did Izell first mention to you about robbing Mr. Darcey?

A He first mentioned to me about three weeks before he went

to the peanut farm.

Q Was it when you came up on the lake?

A Yes sir, Lake Okeechobee.

Q Did you go up there with him?

A No sir, I went up there ahead of him. I went Wednesday and him and Walter come Sunday on a truck. We went ahead and they come later.

Q You say you went up there on Sunday before he went up when?

A I went Wednesday before he come Sunday. He come Sunday, later.

Q What did he first say to you about robbing Mr. Darcey?

A Him and Walter come in and was setting down talking about it and they asked me to help them, tried to persuade me to come on and help them.

Q Where were you at that time?

A I was at Walter's house, before any of us went to the lake.

Q That was in Pompano?

A Yes sir.

Q Anybody present at that time, except you, Izell and Walter?

A No sir, wasn't no one present but us.

Q Did he tell you then where he was going to get the money?

A Yes sir. He told me where he was going to get it.

Q What did he tell you?

A We told him that they did send for us on the lake to work, but I wasn't going.

Q When did he tell you about getting money?

A Him and Walter was talking and Walter said, "Yes, I have noticed him having a bag, sack of money."

Q Did he mention Mr. Darcey's name?

A He said "fish man".

Q Did you know who he was talking about?

A No sir didn't know exactly the man he was talking about but I learned later.

Q Which one of them was talking to you?

A Both of them was talking.

Q Do you remember which talked to you about it first?

A I think later, but I don't remember.

Q Both of them talked to you; did they say how they were going to get it?

A First said they were going down there and one was going to jump out and grab him and the other was going to take it and then they decided to get sticks.

Q Was that to be done at any place of business or as he went along the street?

A As he went along the street.

Q You didn't hold him up before you went to the lake?

A No sir.

Q What happened that you didn't hold him up then.

Q I don't know sir. I left and went on Wednesday and they stayed, and they said they was going to rob this man and take the money and come later, Saturday or Sunday.

Q When they came Saturday or Sunday, did they say they got the money?

A No sir, they said "Boys, I got disappointed, didn't get the chance."

Q How long had you been back from the lake before you started up this thing again?

A I come back on Thursday and went with Mr. George Blount to cut bushes and count some stumps, and when I came back that

Friday evening Walter Woodard and Izell Chambers was sitting on the porch.

Q What was at Walter's house again?

A Yes sir. They was setting on the porch plotting again.

Q Plotting the same thing again?

A Yes sir.

Q When did you all get together and decide to do it that coming Saturday.

A No sir, not that time, they didn't. I went over there and get me an axe to cut some stove wood with and I had come back there at the house and was cutting stove wood, and there was a limb laying out there next to the piece of wood I was cutting and one of them spoke and said "Cut a stick off that limb."

Q Is that the big stick you had this afternoon?

A Yes sir.

Q Then what did you do when you cut it off?

A Cut it off and threw it down there by the porch.

Q When did you get it Saturday?

A I got it Saturday evening late.

Q Did you cut Izell's at that time, too?

A No sir.

Q Do you know where he got his?

A No sir.

Q You don't know anything about his, where he got it?

A No sir, I don't know where he got it.

Q You didn't see him with it until that Saturday night?

A No sir.

Q After you cut that stick, when did you meet with these two boys again and discuss it?

A It was Saturday; I went to town that Saturday evening and

I came back to the house and when I got back they were sitting plotting again and they persuaded me again to help them.

Q When were you three to meet again?

A They kept vanishing (prevailing) with me, -- we didn't set no certain time, -- we were all sitting at the house and I went to town and come back and as I come back Walter and Izell were going to town and they told me to come on back to town.

Q Where were you to meet them?

A I wasn't to meet them, I was to find them.

Q Where did you find them?

A There at the Orange Cafe.

Q Had they gotten with Charley Davis at that time?

A No sir, they were talking. He and Izell's brother went back to town together.

Q Was Izell's brother with you all when they were talking together with you?

A No sir, he went back down there on the street they call the rock road to the jook or somewhere. He parted from me and went on there.

Q When you met them at the Orange Cafe then you all began your plot?

A Yes sir. We started talking and turned round and went on to the filling station.

Q You brought your stick down with you?

A Yes sir.

Q Izell had his?

A Yes sir.

Q And Walter had his hammer in his pocket?

A I don't know where he had it. I don't know whether he had it at that time or not; I had seen the hammer before then.

Q You didn't see it that night?

A No sir.

Q Where did you strike up with Charley Davis?

A We went to the filling station and met Charley Davis.

Q Had they talked to you before that?

A They did most of the talking; I didn't have anything to say.

Q But you were standing there?

A Yes sir. And Izell was talking to Charley Davis and Charley Davis turned round and said "Yes, we will get it."

Q Did Charley have his stick then or did he get it later?

A He got it later. He said "My stick is up here, under an old automobile."

Q Then you gathered around that garage there?

A Yes sir, and Walter walked up the street ahead of me and he said, "The best place to get is behind the framing, or the wall, of the Ford garage," and I was kind of drug along behind him, and Walter and Charley Davis was kind of in the middle of us, Izell was ahead and Charley behind, walking along, and Charley Davis walked around behind the framing of the building, and we went around behind him, and I walked on up there. I was a pretty good little distance behind him, and I walked up there in front of the door, opposite the door.

Q Had Mr. Darcey already started up the street at that time?

A No sir, I never see him.

Q How long had you all been standing there when Mr. Darcey came along?

A Well, we had been standing there about ten minutes I guess or fifteen.

Q After the robbery Walter and Charley ran off through the woods?

A Yes sir.