

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

THOMAS D. ARTHUR,	)	
Petitioner,	)	
vs.	)	
	)	
MICHAEL HALEY,	)	
Commissioner, Alabama	)	
Department of Corrections,	)	Case No. CV-01-N-983-S
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

**AFFIDAVIT OF RAY MELSON**

STATE OF ALABAMA            )  
  ) ss:  
COUNTY OF MORGAN         )

RAY MELSON, being first duly sworn to oath, deposes and says:

1. In 1982, I worked for Alphonso High, who at the time owned Copper Mobile Homes in Decatur. One morning in 1982, as we were preparing for a trip to Birmingham to set up a double-wide trailer, Tommy Arthur visited Copper Mobile Homes between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. We had just finished our breakfast of biscuits and coffee.

2. We talked with Tommy for about 20 to 30 minutes. He did not appear nervous and seemed like his usual self. Tommy asked us where we were going, and Alphonso told him that we were on our way to Birmingham to set up a trailer. Tommy volunteered to go with us but Alphonso said that he did not need additional help. On our way to Birmingham,

Alphonso joked about how Tommy tried to get himself hired. After we had set up the trailer, we returned to Decatur and played a game of Rook.

3. The day after Tommy visited Copper Mobile Homes, I heard on the television news that a man had been shot while sleeping and that the murder had occurred the previous day (on the day of Tommy's visit). I later learned that the man who had been shot was Troy Wicker.

4. When I heard that Tommy had been arrested for Troy Wicker's murder, I realized that I had seen Tommy on the morning of the murder. In fact, at the time, Alphonso and I discussed that we had seen Tommy on the morning of Troy Wicker's murder, and that we would have expected Tommy to be nervous or agitated, but he wasn't.

5. I have not spoken to anybody in the past 20 years about my conversation with Tommy Arthur on the morning of Troy Wicker's murder.

6. I did not tell Tommy's trial and appellate lawyers about my conversation with Tommy on the morning of Troy Wicker's murder because they never approached me.

7. I have reviewed this affidavit and its contents are true to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: August 2, 2002

s/ Ray Melson  
Ray Melson

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before  
me this 2nd day of August, 2002.

Notary Public s/ Kelly Dean  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_