

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

TRIPLE HOMICIDE BYERS/MOORE/BRANCH

On 06/14/93, I Detective B. Ridge interviewed Joe Houston Bartoush at the residence of Hubert Bartoush at 1037 Park Street in West Memphis, Arkansas. Joe was present when I was interviewing Hubert about the whereabouts of Jason Baldwin on the date of 05/05/93. Joe stated that he had been with Damien on 11/27/92 when Damien had killed a dog in lakeshore trailer park.

Joe stated that he and Damien were walking on the road that goes west out of lakeshore into the fields when they came upon a sick black great dane dog. The dog was laying on the ground and Damien got a brick and struck the dog in the back of the head. The dog was dead at which time Damien started jumping on the dog and kicking it. Damien stated that he was trying to make the dog's eyes pop out and blood started coming out of the dog's mouth.

Joe stated that Damien had a camouflage survival knife that he cut the dog with and started pulling the dog's intestines out and stretching them out telling Joe to hold one end.

Damien told Joe that he was going to come back to the dog with some battery acid so that he could burn the skin and hair off of the dog's skull and take it home with him. Joe stated that Damien had two cat skulls, a dog skull, and a rat skull that he kept in his house when he lived in Jack Echol's house in lakeshore before he moved to West Memphis.

Joe stated that Damien had used a knife to scratch his name in his arm with on one occasion but that he didn't know of any other knives that Damien may have used.

Joe was sure of the date of the dog killing because he skipped school on that date and got caught.

Detective B. Ridge
West Memphis Police Department

Statement of: Joe Houston Bartoush, Jr.
Route 2 Box 767 Lakeshore

dob 5-13-80 ***_****