

Autobiography of
Cary Cartman
September 2, 2004

Thompson County Grand Jury Exhibit Number 1

Pursuant to the request of the Assistant State's Attorney, Carl Marsh, I have prepared this history of my career in law enforcement. I swear, under the penalties of perjury, that the statements contained herein are complete, true, and correct.

I have been employed by the Marshall City Police department for almost my entire adult life. When I was in high school, the Marshall Police Department started a police cadet program for high school students. My dad told me to apply for the program. He was a detective and he knew the significance of being a public servant. He was my role model.

Back in 1973, my father broke the case of the Marshall Strangler. The Marshall Strangler was a serial killer responsible for the deaths of six women in six weeks. He was trying for number seven, when my father put that dog down with a .38 right between the eyes. The intended seventh victim was the wife of the mayor, the original Mayor Richard J. Diem, the father of our present mayor. My father is well known and respected. I could not have had a better mentor.

I took the cadet-qualification test in my junior year of high school. I passed and became a police cadet. This was a program to expose high school students to the benefits of becoming a police officer and to keep them off the streets and out of trouble. I also received four credit hours for this work as well as a token salary. I started on September 8, 1992, and was assigned to the 9th District, the district where my father worked and the Mayor lived. My job was to go review written investigative and arrest reports. My supervisors impressed on me the importance of the education this was giving me. One of the main things I learned was that

investigative and arrest reports have to be accurate, especially because the reports are often relied on at trial. So, a police officer had to be sure to dot the i's and cross the t's. The success or failure of a criminal trial could depend on it.

I graduated from high school, June 16, 1993. I joined the Army. After serving for three years in the Military Police, I returned to Marshall City. I applied for and won a job with the Marshall City Police Department. My first day on the force as a police officer was January 6, 1997. Our present Mayor, Richard M. Diem, had just established a new people-to-people police program. The program involved taking officers off of desk jobs and out of squad cars and putting them on the street as foot patrol or "beat officers" (as they were commonly called). I was assigned to work a foot patrol in the Blue Hill neighborhood, in the 18th District, which is located in Marshall City's first ward. My assignment was to protect the people on my beat and to keep my eyes and ears open for intelligence that my superiors might use in various criminal investigations.

I am still walking the same beat and have never been promoted. I am stagnating in this job, in my opinion, because of my handling of the Ronnie King Case. The judge suppressed 47 pounds of cocaine that I recovered from Ronnie King and the State's Attorney's office had to drop the charges.

My fellow officers and even the people in the neighborhood have never let me live that case down. I wish I had a dollar for every time someone passes me in the station house or on the street and calls me "Officer Miranda." Those people show no respect for my authority. I ignore them and keep on doing my job. The newspapers and some citizen groups wanted me fired. The Chief protected me; the mayor protected me; and my father protected me. I was lucky. Any other officer would have been thrown to the media and political wolves. I know I could have been creative. I could have lied on my report, but to me, the truth is sacred and

police reports are like the Bible - you don't mess with the truth. You MUST be accurate, no matter what.

I have attached here a copy of my official Internal Affairs Report that I filed in the King Case. I stand by that report to this day.

Carey Cartman
Badge Number 072807