

A F F I D A V I T

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Before me, the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, on this the 14 day of September A.D. 1962, personally appeared Hilton Lewis Crawford, who after being by me duly sworn, deposes and says:

My name is Hilton Lewis Crawford. I am a white male 23 years of age. I reside at 660 Zavalla drive. I am employed by the City of Beaumont as a patrolman on the 12:00 midnight to 8:00 A.M. shift.

About 12:40 AM September 14, 1962 my partner [redacted] and I while on routine patrol in unit 213 turned left off of Lucas onto Pine St. About 50 yards from where we turned we saw a 57 Ford turned sideways which was stuck in the ditch on Pine. As we walked up to the car we saw a negro man laying in the front seat. The doors were locked & the windows were rolled up on this car. We knocked on the windows and shined our lights in the windows. After about 5 minutes he woke up and we got him out of the car. Seeing that he was drunk we had him stand in front of us and touch his toes, and we pushed him into the ditch. We asked him to get out of the ditch and reached to get him. As he was getting out of the ditch he started to fall and we pushed him again. We yelled at him to get up several times. Seeing that this was not doing any good we punched him in the ribs several times just hard enough to wake him, because he had passed out. We did this because we did not want to stand in the water. After punching him and seeing that he was not coming to, one of us jokingly remarked that he looked like he was dead. I told Officer Corley that I would try to get him out of the ditch with out us gettin wet. I fired my pistol into the ditch several feet away from him. I did this in an effort to wake him up, but it didn't work. We then had to get into the ditch to get him out. As we were doing this he woke up. When we got him on the street we asked him if he had been drinking. He said he had not. We could smell the alcohol on his breath and his speech was very impaired. We asked him to run about 10 yards and turn around quick. He did turn around and as he ran back toward us he fell down. I asked if he had been in the service and he said he was an Air-borne engineer, and he knew how to stand at attention and march. I told him that I had been in the Marine Corps and I wanted to see him march a stright line. He marched about 15 yards, then turned around and came back. During this time he was in a very staggering condition. We asked if he knew the air-force song. He said yes and began to sing it. He then told us that he worked at the Holiday Inn and if we would bring our own girl out there he would try to get us a room. We then placed him under arrest for being drunk and asked which wrecker he wanted to come after his car. He would not answer. We then called for a no preference wrecker to come get his car because it was a traffic hazard. While we were waiting for the wrecker to get there, unit #9, Officers [redacted] came to see what we had. They and the wrecker driver observed this subject.

This subjects name is [redacted] At no time did we use force on him other than punching him with our night sticks to wake him up.

I have read the above statement and it is true and correct, so help me GOD.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 14th day of September, 1962

H. L. Crawford

D. A. Shnell

notary public in and for  
Jefferson County, Texas

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STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Before me, the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, on this the 14 day of September A.D. 1962, personally appeared Hilton Lewis Crawford, who after being by me duly sworn, deposes and says:

My name is Hilton Lewis Crawford. I am a whitel male 23 years of age. I reside at 660 Zavalla Dr. I am employed by the City of Beaumont as a patrolman on the 12;00 Midnight to 8;00 AM shift.

About 12;40 AM, September 14, 1962, my partner [redacted] and I while on routine patrol in Unit 213 we turned left off Lucas onto Pine st. About 50 yards from where we turned we saw a 57 Ford turned sideways which was stuck in the ditch on Pine. As we walked up to the car we saw a Negro man lying in the ditch by the side of the car. We yelled at him several times to get up and seeing that this wasn't doing any good we got out night sticks and punched him in the ribs just hard enough to wake him. We used our night sticks because we didn't want to stand in the water. After punching him he woke up and we asked him to step out of the ditch. He stayed there and looked at us and I told Officer Corley that if he didn't get out of the ditch I was going to fire into the ditch about 8 feet from him to scare him and see if he would step out of the ditch. He did start staggering out but he fell back into the water. We then had to go on down in the ditch and pull him out. We asked him if he had been drinking and he told us that he hadn't, but we could smell the alchhol on his breath and his speech was very impaired. We asked him to run about 10 yards and turn around quick. He ran for about 10 yards and then fell down on the pavement while turning around. Then we placed him under arrest for being drunk. We asked him which wrecker he wanted to move his car and he wouldn't answer. We then called for a no preference wrecker to come and get his car. The reason for doing this was that the car was a traffic hazard.

After the wrecker got the car out of the ditch we brought the Negro male to the Police station and booked him for drunk. His name is [redacted] At no time did we use force on him other than punching him with our night sticks to try to wake him up.

I have read the above statement and it is true and correct, so help me Go

H. L. Crawford

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this  
the 14th day of September, 1962

James C. Smith  
Notary Public in and for  
Jefferson County, Texas.