

08-86-3049

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Garrett Clower Creppon, Sr. Police Chaplain, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to The Hewitt Police Department.

Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

I am 49 years of age, and I live at 300 Patricia Avenue, Hewitt, McLennan County, Texas 76643.

On Tuesday, August 26th, 1968 and at approximately 5:05 PM I received a telephone call at my residence from the Hewitt PD Dispatcher who stated that Chief Jack Caswell was requesting my assistance as the Police Chaplain at 505 Angel Fire, Hewitt, McLennan County, Texas where a fire was in progress or had taken place.

Upon arrival at the residence at approximately 5:20 PM (my arrival coincided with that of the Daniel Ambulance I went to Chief Caswell who briefly explained that at least two (2) children had apparently lost their lives in the fire which occurred in an outbuilding near the rear of the residence of 505 Angel Fire, and that the father was inside the house.

Upon entering the house I met Mr. Ed Graf, Jr., the father of the boys (Jason and Joby) and learned that his wife, Mrs. Clare Graf, Jr., was enroute from the elementary school where she teaches (her principal was to be bringing her) and that she was unaware that the boys were dead. After receiving sketchy information concerning the fact that Mr. Graf, Jr. was taking care of the children including the baby - who was now "at a friend's house" - I began taking names of parents, friends, pastors I might call to be of help to the Graf's. During this time, Mrs. Clare Graf arrived, and was told that the "boys are 'gone'" by Mr. Ed. Graf, Jr.

When I learned that the Graf's pastor was The Reverend Gottberg (817)776-7848, and as by now several family members and friends had arrived, I telephoned Rev. Gottberg who agreed to come to the home to continue the pastoral care which had been started.

As part of my regular function with the family I noticed that the home was in normal order one would expect a home to be in with both parents working and under the hectic life of a teacher working to begin the school year and that the baby, a seven month old child was indeed not in the house and was apparently being cared for by "a friend". I also noted that Mr. and Mrs. Ed Graf, Jr. did not seem to be able to comfort one another as one might expect and while this seemed unusual I dismissed this observation as the reaction may have been related to the fact that individuals react somewhat differently to great stress/grief and show that emotion in varying ways and degrees. However I feel due to the feeling I have that they were somewhat estranged (but in no way hostile) I make this note to my report. However, I must also note that I have had no past dealings with any member of this family upon which to base my feelings of my observation.

During my caring of the Ed. Graf, Jr. family on part of the Department, The Reverend Mr. Gottberg arrived at approximately 6:30 PM and after speaking to me I introduced him to several and noted that the Graf Family knew him and he knew them. As his caring for the family increased I began to disinvolve my self from the home as is proper, I think, reported to Chief Caswell and left the residence at about 6:15 PM.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of one page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 600 First Street, Hewitt, McLennan Co., Texas this Fourth day of September 19 86

WITNESS: _____
WITNESS: _____

Garrett Clower Creppon, Sr.
Signature of person giving voluntary statement.