

INTERVIEW WITH VINCE CARRAHER (VC) AND THERYL DUGAS (TD)
Ralph Duke Appeal
File No.: 9345/35393

VC: Okay, this is Vince Carraher. Today is July 22, 1998 and I am in Woodbury, Minnesota with Mr. Theryl Dugas. Would you spell your first and last name, sir.

TD: t-h-e-r-y-l, dugas, d-u-g-a-s.

VC: And your age, sir?

TD: 28 years old.

VC: And home address?

TD: [REDACTED].

VC: That's [REDACTED]?

TD: [REDACTED].

VC: [REDACTED]?

TD: [REDACTED], Woodbury.

VC: And home phone, please?

TD: [REDACTED]-[REDACTED].

VC: Okay, now sir. Reflecting back to 1989, were you indicted on a federal matter?

TD: Yes, I was.

VC: Can you tell me what that was?

TD: They charged me with aiding and abetting, maintaining a place or stash house, as they called it, for money and drugs.

VC: Okay. Was this on the same indictment with Ralph Chevas Duke?

TD: Yes it was.

VC: Okay. Now, can you give me a little history of how you were indicted and what your position was back then?

TD: Well, I was born already related to Ralph, through a previous marriage of his -- actually it was his brother, Claude.

VC: Claude? You were related to Claude Duke, Ralph Duke's brother?

TD: Exactly. She - he married my aunt, so.

VC: All right.

TD: It was that that made us relatives and (inaudible) family. Uh, I pretty much met him in may be about '87. - the first time I ever met him and, didn't know what he did. I heard stories, but I was too young at the time. The summer of '89, I was in the streets, selling dope here and there. I got introduced to him by Scott Tredwell.

VC: Scott Tredwell was a friend of yours?

TD: Yeah.

VC: Okay. And he introduced you to who?

TD: Uh, just being out there on Selby Avenue, St. Paul, in back him and Marcel Duke were - they were close friends.

VC: Okay, were you introduced to Ralph Duke?

TD: Not at that time.

VC: Not at that time?

TD: No. I didn't get to meet him - yeah, I think it was about '88 -- '87 or '88.

VC: And he was a shirt-tail of Ralph.

TD: Yeah, he was just, always out of town, you never seen him.

VC: But you met Loren Duke?

TD: Loren, yeah. Marcel, you know, the closer I got, you know we got, we were just hanging out as cousins every day.

VC: Yeah. Monte was uh,?

TD: I went to high school with Monte.

VC: You already know Monte?

TD: Exactly, yeah.

VC: Did you know the Hutchinson brothers?

TD: Oh, I, Loren -- actually I went to high school with Larry Hutchinson. I met Ramone Hutchinson - I think it was the year of 1989.

VC: Okay. So at any rate, you are admitting to me, you are all hanging out and you're doing some business in the dope area.

TD: Yeah.

VC: Okay, so go ahead, -- did you find out that Monte and Loren and the Hutchinson and some other people, were putting together some money to make a purchase of cocaine?

TD: I heard about it through an individual - I would just explain to you as a glass and who was - kind of like - well because I was at a lake and I met this man and, never knew him from Adam - never met him a day in my life, and he said to me, Theryl -- I was taken back because he knew my name - he said you know what's going down Wednesday?

VC: Who was this guy?

TD: He was a - undercover witness that set the deal up and arranged the thing with Ralph Nunn in the parking lot.

VC: Okay, do you remember the man's name?

TD: I do - I do not remember, I just remember what he looked like and I remember what (inaudible) looked like - a couple days later after I - cause I didn't know who he was, I brought him to Ralph Nunn and Ralph told me that - that he just had explained it's okay. It's all good, he's okay. Cause I was kind of curious about somebody bringing -- cause - bad situation to me, I didn't know how this person would know that I was even related, because we was just all spread out. He never really hung out at all. Me and Ralph Nunn never hung out.

VC: Okay, this person, this stranger, does the name Randy come to mind?

TD: Yeah.

VC: Okay.

TD: I met him at Lake Calhoun - first day I ever seen him and he said yeah, you know that thing with your cousins is going down Wednesday. I was like, whatever, - but later on that evening, I inquired a few relatives and I said, you know this guy driving around in the mustang, you know, what's he talking about? And, at that point they said, well, Monte and a few other of the gang -- not gang but family and a couple of young people around the neighborhood, were anteing up money to buy uh, a purchase and I even got questioned what I'd ante up, but I was so broke back then, I couldn't sneeze.

VC: Okay, so you did not make any monetary contribution to the.

TD: None whatsoever.

VC: Were you involved in the planning or transportation of people over to make the purchase?

TD: None whatsoever.

VC: Okay. So you were totally removed from this?

TD: You got it.

VC: But you knew something was coming down?

TD: I knew something was coming down.

VC: Did the name Plukey Duke ever come up?

TD: No.

VC: And, did you know who was putting up the money?

TD: Um, there was the name - there was a few glasses named. There was Burger Kirkwood - there was Ralph Nunn, Loren Duke, Ramone Hutchinson, and let me see here, what was his name ...?

VC: Monte?

TD: Yeah, Monte uh, Duke - and there was maybe just a few outsiders that I really don't know, but I've seen, because we - everybody pretty much hung around each other back then.

VC: So a lot of people put in money.

TD: Marcel Duke, Scott Tredwell ...

VC: Scott Tredwell put up money?

TD: Yeah. Pretty much, there was a lot of - you know, everybody just put a little money together - from what I heard and I heard word of it on the news.

VC: You heard word about the arrest?

TD: The arrest on the news. First time I heard about it.

VC: Okay. (I'm going to pause to review a document) -- Okay, before we get into that arrest, I was looking at a document that involved Scott Tredwell. Can you give me some history regarding Tredwell and Tredwell's arrest, if you know?

TD: Um, all I remember - I think it was - I don't even remember exactly the day -- but I remember Marcel Duke, Scott Tredwell and I, we pretty much all hung out and Marcel Duke went to Vegas to a Mike Tyson fight and he left - you know - he get some money that we all knew about and Scott Tredwell took the money. Took it - he stole a large sum of money.

VC: Okay, that was Marcel's money?

TD: Yeah.

VC: Did you know he took it?

TD: Yeah, I - I watched him take it.

VC: Did you talk to him about it?

TD: I told him - I said I wouldn't do that if I was him. I said that would be the worse thing. We're too much good friends, but he said that he could go out of town, get a certain amount of drugs - bring it back to Minnesota, make the money back before Marcel even came back in town and noticed it.

VC: How much money?

TD: Uh, to my knowledge, it was \$13,000.00.

VC: Okay, so he took Marcel's money. Went off on his own, thought he could double the money?

TD: Yep. He - actually, he boarded a flight - I had his car and that was the last time I seen Scott Tredwell until he was on the witness stand -- no, actually, I take that back. He came back in town -- he said that -- he called us and he said that he was sorry about taking the money and he has the money. We didn't believe him. We thought something was sneaky because he was gone for almost a year.

VC: Gone a year?

TD: Close to it - I'd say a good seven to eight months.

VC: Okay, so that would have been 88 when he took that money?

TD: Yeah. And uh, let's see. He came in town with knowing we knew, because we thought - we just knew he was the police. But he came back in town.

VC: Did you know where he had been arrested?

TD: Nope, he never said he got arrested. He came back in town - said he was out of town - he got a large settlement from his

father who was deceased and he wanted to repay his debt and he wanted to get back in with us and just make by-gones be by-gones, but we no longer trusted Scott. He came - put a paper bag in front of the house and drove off. And it contained the money.

VC: He left that amount of money in a -- on the steps.

TD: On the sidewalk.

VC: Was someone home?

TD: We watched out the window.

VC: But no one wanted to speak with him?

TD: He wanted to talk a lot. We all figured he was wire-tapped. An issue came up ...

VC: How did you become -- were you suspicious because he stole the money?

TD: He was gone too long and when he came back, it wasn't the way he come back -- you're family moves away -- his mother disappeared, his sister disappeared, you know, it's kind of like he was getting his family ready for the inevitable.

VC: Okay.

TD: And, he always wanted to talk about certain situations that concerned drugs, money, what was I doing now, what was Marcel doing now - let's see. He had a rent-a-car -- a pager, that was kind of hard for you to have a rent-a-car and a pager and you just came back in town, all right? -- and so, we all figured, yeah, he's probably working for the police. He disappeared again and that was the next time I seen him was when he was on the stand.

VC: Okay. Well in between those times, did he keep calling you people, trying to make amends?

TD: Yes, yes.

VC: But you guys would not have anything

TD: We would talk general conversation. We threatened him -- one particular moment, he kept saying that he needed to make a phone call. He was in the car. In the back seat of a car that we were driving and he kept saying he needed to make a phone call. He had to make a phone call, but we just kept driving and driving and driving -- not really doing nothing, just driving. Uh, the situation that we gathered was that he

was trying to check in with maybe the federal agents that had him maybe wired -- he actually broke down and started crying. He thought that we were going to hurt him or harm him in some kind of way - which we didn't. When we seen the beads of sweat and the tears coming out of his face, we - we probably, we pretty much got the answer that we needed. Something wasn't right and that was the last time we seen Scott Tredwell.

VC: Okay and then the next time you see him, he's a witness in your case and Ralph Duke's case?

TD: Yes.

VC: Okay. Now, prior to him becoming a witness against you and Ralph Plukey Duke, had he associated with Plukey Duke?

TD: Uh, no. It was pretty much when Plukey would come in town, he would have a nice car and we would just all -- being young, we were just goo goo and ooh and ahh, but me personally, never been in one of Plukey's cars. Scott Tredwell has never been in Plukey's car. I never knew where the man lived.

VC: So, Scott Tredwell is associating with you, Marcel and Loren, but he's not a (inaudible), as they say...

TD: He wasn't even family.

VC: Wasn't family. Do you know if he ever bought a car from ?

TD: No, he never bought a car. He even testified on the stand, which I know to not be correct. He testified that he went to a house that Plukey Duke owned and picked up a kilo of cocaine. Plukey Duke -- he said Plukey Duke was in that house -- Plukey, from what I know and what I've heard, would never put his self in a position like that if he did.

VC: Did he have any witnesses.

TD: and this house - this house, the only witness at the time that could say that it was was Plukey Duke's brother, who is now deceased, before the trial even took place.

VC: The older brother?

TD: Older brother, yeah.

VC: Okay - I forget his name.

TD: And this transaction that Scott Tredwell mentioned, had to do with his house, was not Plukey's house.

VC: And he would never do business with Plukey Duke.

TD: Exactly.

VC: Who did he do business with?

TD: Scott Tredwell?

VC: Yeah.

TD: Scott Tredwell dealt with Marcel Duke - he dealt with let me make sure - Uh, Terri Glass, and Loren.

VC: And Loren.

TD: Loren Duke.

VC: And, did they operate independently?

TD: Yes.

VC: Terri and Loren. Were they in any way doing any kind of business with Ralph Plukey Duke?

TD: No.

VC: Okay. And you didn't know what Plukey Duke did?

TD: I knew he sold cars.

VC: Sold cars. Okay. Did anybody ever say that Plukey Duke was the head of some kind of a gang?

TD: No.

VC: No.

TD: There was never a gang. Everybody was independent. I did my own thing. Marcel did his own thing, Scott did his own thing, Loren -- I mean, on and on and on. Everybody - it wasn't no - oh we sit at a round table - never that. I could actually say, if we were all together and Plukey was around, it might be at Lake Calhoun, looking at girls, maybe at a - a club, you know ..

VC: Okay, a social ...?

TD: A social, yeah. Nothing, never, you know, hush, hush, to the point of being in a house, or you know, try to be super discrete, no , never.

VC: Okay. So, you're telling me, Scott Tredwell lied on the witness stand?

TD: Yes he did.

VC: Okay. Did he also testify against you?

TD: Yes.

VC: What did he say about you?

TD: I wasn't even on trial yet, but - Hopman ...

VC: Hopman being the prosecutor?

TD: The prosecutor. Seen me in the back of the courtroom and asked Scott, while he was on the stand, which was wrong, cause I wasn't even on trial yet ... tell me about Mr. Dugas and your involvement. Scott told him that he knew me and he was sorry for what he was about to do, but he introduced me to drugs and you know, how to sell it and uh, just told him that I was very minor - you know, like - I mean I was just out making \$20 bills and maybe - if I got lucky with \$100 a day, I was a happy camper, so he explained to Hopman - Hopman didn't really like that.

VC: Hopman didn't like that?

TD: He didn't really like that because he wanted Scott to elaborate on something bigger. There was nothing ever bigger, you know.

VC: Okay, it was minor league?

TD: Yes, it was petty.

VC: Okay. Do you know what else he testified about concerning Plukey Duke?

TD: Uh, actually, my mind is totally right now, I remember is - actually they put me out of the courtroom.

VC: They put you out?

TD: Cause I started calling him a liar.

VC: Now, when were you first arrested - interviewed by government agents? Remember when that came about?

TD: Well, when I first got indicted?

VC: Yeah.

TD: I got indicted -- ooh -- I want to say, May 19th. Yeah, May 19th or June 12th -- or June 13th - -it was real close to

that, we got indicted. I was at the Ramsey County Workhouse for like 10 days. They came in - said I was indicted - put me in a room and the room was - Plukey Ralph Duke, Monte, Ralph Nunn, let see, Marcel was never there -- he never was in on our indictment sheet -- which is kind of weird - it was everybody that got arrested at the hotel -- Rene Nunn, Tina Nunn, and so on and so on. That was when I first got in there. They told me that I was indicted for sales of purchasing, trying to purchase -- uh, 100 kilos.

VC: A hundred Kilos?

TD: Or, something like that.

VC: And you're all in the same room?

TD: Same room, and I didn't know nothing about what took place.

VC: Did anybody have a chance to speak with other people?

TD: Yeah, we were all in the room and we - they separated those from the hotel that got busted, from the ones that they just picked up either at home or - like me, incarcerated, you know, so they had them put off to one side and us put off to the other. At that point, me and Plukey had a chance to talk. And, he asked me, did I know what was going on? I said no, because the dope deal went down, 30 days prior.

VC: Okay.

TD: Yeah, so he said they woke him up and snatched him out of his house and a couple of other things and I didn't know what was really going on, and they separated us all up, took us to court, arraigned us and sent us to - I went to Stillwater Federal holding - few others, Ralph Nunn, Ramone Hutchinson, we all went to the federal holding and then they gave a couple people bond.

VC: Some went to Wisconsin, is that true?

TD: Some went to Wisconsin. And, Loren, I remember, as soon as I got arrested, got indicted, he got bailed out and they said he had a heart condition - which was a lie. Uh, they kept Plukey Duke in the underground place, Oak Park, and the highest facility place at that. Pretty much, that was how it went.

VC: Now, when were you first interviewed by the prosecutor, Hopman?

TD: Right before I got my deal.

VC: Before you negotiated a plea?

TD: Up to.

VC: Up to that point, had you spoken to any of his agents?

TD: Uh, they would say things to my attorney.

VC: Who was your attorney?

TD: His name was Bill Orth.

VC: Mr.Orth.

TD: And, he would say things to him and he would bring it back to me, saying that I might as well testify and get myself off and he'd go - Orth kept coming back at me and saying, take a deal, take a deal. I said no.

VC: What were they offering?

TD: They offered me - they said I'm looking at 15 years. They'd give me 10. And this is in the beginning.

VC: They say you were involved in this sting.

TD: They said I was involved with a sting. They said that my name was Turell all through court, I kept having Bill Orth stop the court and say no, his name Theryl Dugas, not Turell.

VC: They had you mixed up with someone else?

TD: They handed me a stack of phone taps and they said this is you, this is why you're going to jail for so long. I've never seen none of them numbers. I've never talked to nobody on those phones, I've never even knew who that person was, then they came and said those conversations had to do with Lamont Nunn. I never called Lamont Nunn a day in my life, ever.

VC: Okay, so they had you mistaken for someone else.

TD: And they gave me a phone tap and swore to me that that was me, making deals over the phone and Turell Jones, the guy that they finally found out wasn't me, he got busted in his own case.

VC: He did?

TD: Yeah. Then, they went from 10 years to 5 years - from 5 years to 18 months and in no less than a month, cause the truth was starting to come out.

VC: The truth started to seep out.

TD: That I didn't know nothing about the ultimate - the real deal. I had no participation in it, but they wanted to play the domino effect. They wanted to see how much I knew. I told them what I knew.

VC: Did you tell them that Mr. Ralph Plukey Duke had nothing to do with that sting operation?

TD; Yeah.

VC: What was -- now you told that to Mr. Hopman?

TD: Hopman and Kiery, Michael Kiery, I think his name was.

VC: What was their reaction to that?

TD: Yeah, they laughed.

VC: They laughed?

TD: They laughed.

VC: Did they tell you they didn't want to hear that?

TD: Oh, on lines that -- was he there, who - who called him, when was it gonna meet, as far as when was he going to be around, if it was through - I said, as far as I knew, he didn't have nothing to do with it. They laughed at me some more and they said, well, what do you know? I told them I heard something. They said well, we're giving you one more opportunity to tell us where your participation came in the set and where did you get your drugs for, to maintain this house that they were trying to tie me in with - the house was actually Scott Tredwell's house and he was renting it and I took the fall on that cause other than that, I knew if I took it to trial, they had a whole proof and a clan to testify against little ole me.

VC: Okay, now --

TD: But, I specifically told them that Plukey had nothing to do with this whole thing. You know and that - you know and I was just 19 years old at the time, I'm not no federal uh, prosecutor, I'm not no DEA agent. My bare eyes could see that.

VC: Okay, Did they at any time, draw up a chart for you or show you who the players were and how much time they were going to get, etc.?

TD: Yeah, they drew on a piece of white paper, a triangle. On the bottom were names like me, let see -- couple other guys, there was another guy - not Smith - uh, they had a line for every -

five years would be the first line. The next line would be ten years, the next line would be 15, the next line would be 25 -- anything above 25 was life and they put Plukey's name on top of the diamond - the triangle that they had and they said it was a domino effect. They were going to knock on everybody hard until anybody - they were going that much time at, everybody, so everybody would turn. They said eventually, they're going to turn us into you too, they showed me a piece of paper that had a signature of Loren Duke's name on it and a signature of Marcel Duke's name on it and I was kind of took back because Marcel was never on the original indictment paper. I never knew he was involved.

VC: This paper, was that a statement that they took or was it an affidavit?

TD: Uh, it was like a plea - plea agreement.

VC: Plea Agreement? Did they tell you that ... Loren and others...

TD: They told me that Loren would testify against me.

VC: Did they say that he was testifying against his uncle.

TD: Yes. They said ...

VC: Now, all of this was right before the trial?

TD: Right before the trial

VC: So they told you that Loren was going to testify against his uncle and that all these other guys were going to testify.

TD: And they wanted me to testify - they said if you're the last one out, here's what is - you're gonna be on trial and this is the only way you can save your butt from being on trial, so you won't get testified against. No, I didn't want to get testified against, so -- I said, well yeah, I'll tell you who I got my drugs from - Scott Tredwell.

VC: You told them that?

TD: And they didn't like that.

VC: They didn't like that.

TD: But I told them it was the truth. I didn't get my drugs from Marcel. I told them I didn't get my - I said I dealt with him here and there, you know, just - I said Scott Tredwell was my man. They didn't like that. I got a call from my - lawyer came to visit me and he said well, guess what. They are

offering you 18 months. I went from 10 years to 18 months so quick, because they finally figured out I didn't have nothing to do with it and I was actually useless to them.

VC: Why would you even get 18 months if you weren't involved in the sting?

TD: They told me and I quote: because you're family and we know you know something.

VC: Okay.

VC: Okay, we are starting a second tape, side A -- we have been talking about that triangle. So, exactly what did that represent to you? What did you make of that?

TD: Well, what they tried to point to me was, they wanted everybody to testify against the next shelve. They wanted the next shelve to testify against the next shelve, because they were all, supposedly, as they claimed, higher rank. There wasn't no higher rank, you know, but in the long run, their goal was to bring down Plukey, which they just came up out of the air with, you know, and uh ...

VC: Are you convinced that they knew all along that Ralph Plukey Duke did not put up the money, did not mastermind anything that involved this sting?

TD: Yes, 100%. He had nothing to do with it. They - they knew that he didn't put up the money. They have other statements made, while giving the deals away, that people came back into the pod - the holding tank and said this is what they finally come up with and there were actually - coercing a conversation.

VC: Coercing?

TD: Yeah - just - just - they would throw a bait out that would say his name and then they would probably you know, use it - try to use it - they would try and use anything against him. And I know as far as me, it did work, cause I didn't know nothing. I knew about the sting, but I didn't know about any involvement with him.

VC: Now, did some of these other people that were actually involved in this sting -- did some of those people admit to you that Ralph Plukey Duke had nothing to do with it?

TD: Every last one.

VC: And where and how did they admit that to you? Were you in a position to talk to each other before the trial or during the trial?

TD: Uh, me, Lamont Nunn, we talked about it on several occasions. That made us be closer, cause we were never really tight as family.

VC: Where did you talk.

TD: Uh, we were in Stillwater holding.

VC: Were you in separate cells?

TD: Separate cells, but we were always together, you know. We were always talk and stuff. he wold come down to me and I would come down to him and we would talk, so -- also, Ramone Hutchinson - there was a couple other people, I don't remember exactly their names, cause it's been so long, but yeah, we all sat back and talked about it and - made phone calls to the people that were out and they would say yeah, this is what's going on and 30 people said that you know, we need to speak together because they're trying to separate us, which was true. They separated a big family - they really did. They made a lot of enemies and a lot of lies got turned around and the story was never the same. The truth is the truth and the lies are the lies that the prosecutor and what was his name, Friedman - and Michael Kiery, pretty much established on their own.

VC: Okay, so, the object was to get a conviction against Mr. Duke?

TD: Right.

VC: Now, there is a person named David Yoman. And, my understanding - he testified in a case. Do you know anything about that?

TD: Yeah. I know David - you know he was a good friend of mine also, but I knew - and uh, he did his own thing, among us also, and he told me that they were making him - cause he was a three time felon all ready, back in 89, or yeah, 89 and they were telling him that he was going to do life period, if he didn't say something that was going to be good enough to the jurors and the judge.

VC: Uh, say something against Ralph Duke?

TD: Ralph Duke. And on one occasion, when I spoke to him before he got up - and testified, it was through a mutual friend that he called home and I called home and we just kind of like - clicking over other lines, you know hey, tell me what's going

on - I told him what's going on and we talked. he said They're gonna - I gotta do it - they're making me do it and this was right before trial.

VC: You were still in the holding tank then?

TD: Yeah. Actually, no, I just got out on bond. I got out on bond on November 13, of 89 and the trial started a week later.

VC: Okay.

TD: So, he got up on the stand before - while they were reading him his oath - after he got done, they told him to sit down, please take a seat, he said no. I want to apologize to this family and he said right there in front of the judge, Hopman, and everyone in the courtroom, they are making me do this - you know my history, you know my past and you know that this is not me, this is something I would never do and this is something that I have no control over.

VC: Was the jury present?

TD: Uh, I think so. I really do think so. I - I - I don't even - I'm quite sure, yeah, cause he was testifying - so they had to be there.

VC: Were you there?

TD: Yeah, I was in the courtroom and he stood up and he said they're making me do this - they're making me. He almost broke down and cried because he knew he was about to get a lot of time for something that they were making him do and say.

VC: What did he testify about concerning Mr. Duke?

TD: He said that he made a purchase from Plukey Ralph Duke and as far as I know, that was it.

VC: A purchase of drugs?

TD: Purchase of drugs and to my knowledge, you know, it was quick, simple and they took him down off the stand and they made him point him out and they asked a few questions about a couple other people in the group and he just really just knew that it wasn't all there. He knew he was either to tell something or get convicted for life for something that he was never involved in either.

VC: Are you telling me he never made a purchase from Ralph Duke?

TD: As far as I know - no.

VC: Did he ever tell you that?

TD: No, he never told me that he did. He never said he made a purchase - he just said Theryl, they're making me do this and you know, we really couldn't get into it cause we knew that the phones were all tapped - regardless if we were in jail or not, you know, anything is tapped you would like know. So from what I gathered, no, he never did.

VC: He never did. So if he testified that way, otherwise he would have gotten life in prison.

TD: Yeah, they threatened the whole bunch of us with outrageous time. I mean, for me to be 19 years old - one day I'm free and I just had my first kid, my first kid was born two weeks before I got indicted - 15 years is a lot of time. It makes you think and a lot of people go hey - I don't really even know this man - I'm not going to jail - few people said that. I'm not going to jail for him - yeah, I'm gonna - what do I have to say and they - pretty much followed the prosecutors and let the prosecutors do whatever they want to do.

VC: So the prosecutors wrote the script.

TD: Wrote the script and the dialog.

VC: Okay and did Yoman know Ralph Duke?

TD: Uh, probably by association by just hanging out - being here being there.

VC: Maybe know who he was through Loren and some of the younger people?

TD: Some of the - yes, cause he was pretty much their same age also.

VC: Okay, but he didn't hang around with Ralph?

TD: Never.

VC: Okay. Did you know Montey Duke - Lamont Duke quite well?

TD: Well, we weren't really close friends as teenagers. You know, we knew each other, but we really got close during our case.

VC: Okay. Now, he never actually went to trial or testified?

TD: No.

VC: How did his situation develop?

TD: He pretty much got convicted on the same ground as his father. He had people testify against him also and me and him talked briefly one evening and he told me that they wanted to strike a deal with him. If he told them something about some murder and ...

VC: Did he have information about this murder?

TD: He had pretty much curiosity and he told him the curiosities and you know, he was like, he really didn't know the truth, but from what the thought he knew, you know, he shot it at them.

VC: Hearsay, second hand.

TD: Hearsay, that type of thing. And they gave him a deal and he was happy with the deal.

VC: Do you know what kind of a deal that was?

TD: Uh, it was maybe 8 years - all I know is he was like I'll be home - he says hey, if I gotta do it, I will be home. And he came back to the cell crying, and I says what's wrong? He said - they won't give me the deal.

VC: Now, you were being held where?

TD: At this time, we were overnight at the adult detention center in Ramsey County.

VC: Is this while the trial's going on?

TD: Yeah. And he told me that he has to do something because they reneged on his deal and he felt that they - the prosecutor stabbed him in the back because - you know, he really didn't know - he was young also, 19 years old. And, uh, he felt that they used him to say something for nothing. So actually they got some - they got him to tell about something that really didn't have to do with Plukey, but it was hearsay for a deal, that if he did this, that you know, they would probably kick him loose or no time or little minimum time. He did this and they came back and said no, no deal. You're still on trial - no bail and that was weird. They held a lot of people without bail. They held a lot of people just - they wouldn't give no breaks. You know the judge wouldn't give no breaks and he felt real bad, so he said Theryl I gotta do something, I gotta buy some time to talk to my lawyer, get my lawyer to talk to my father. He faked - faked suicide, you know, so he could go to the hospital and then buy some time before the trial, which he did and -- nothing never happened with that deal.

VC: Nothing?

TD: Nothing. But, they gave him high expectations that this was what was going to happen and it never did.

VC: And he never testified?

TD: He never testified about anything.

VC: He accepted a different sentence?

TD: He, he, they shot him back as the main conspiracy. They shot that right back at him and said well, I give you no kind of deals and everybody is going to testify against you and thanks for your information and bye.

VC: And that was the end of it?

TD: That was the end of it.

VC: Now, did you ever hear the name Kevin Walker?

TD: Yeah.

VC: Was he involved somehow in this?

TD: To be totally honest with you, I - Kevin Walker was, along with a whole different family. A family who also did their own thing and - he was a hard dude - big dude - to my knowledge, he was already in jail in Florida. They wanted him to testify to get time off, so, they shot a deal down to him, if he testified against Plukey Chevez, they would knock some time off - I don't know if he testified, I have no knowledge if he did it or not because I wasn't present in court if he did. But, the things that I've gathered through my family and everything else, he did and they relocated him out of town somewhere. He might even be released. I have no idea.

VC: Yeah, well, was he in any way involved in that sting?

TD: No, he was already incarcerated.

VC: He was incarcerated. Was he involved with Ralph Duke in the past in any way?

TD: No.

VC: okay. A young guy?

TD: Oh, back then, I would say he might have been close to 20-- or I'll say 30 something.

VC: Then there is a guy by the name of Kim Willis, was he involved in this....

TD: He ah...he was another close friend of mines. We all went to school together. Kim Willis and Monte were friends, good friends. But as far as I know, I can't say that he put money up, but he had no involvement with Pluky whatsoever either.

VC: Did he testify?

TD: No.

VC: Okay. Then there's a person named Andre Billips, does that ring a bell?

TD: I....maybe...I..., there was a couple of names that I remember, but no. If I'm not mistaken, he might be Rene's cousin or something like that. He's a Ballard or

VC: Well there's a Joe Ballard, who was actually living at Ralph Duke's house out in Orono or whatever. You know anything about Joe Ballard?

TD: No. Never met him.

VC: Okay. Then there's a person named Danny Givens.

TD: Danny Givens. He was a snake in the grass from point A, point B, as far as the street was concerned, you know, it wasn't the first time that he's turned on somebody to save his own skin.

VC: He ah....would you know whether or not he put up some money in this sting?

TD: I have a good feeling he did.

VC: Okay. There were some people, I understand from Iowa, that testified.

TD: And I can give you a good point on that. When the had us all confined to Stillwater holding, there was a girl name Sandra Jefferson...

VC: Yes, her name is familiar.

TD: Okay. And her cousin....Monte didn't even know this guy. LaMonte did not even know this guy.

VC: Okay.

TD: I've never met him.

VC: Okay.

TD: I've never met Sandra Jefferson, until she got indicted and we were all together.

VC: Was she from Iowa?

TD: She came here and I guess they got caught in Iowa.

VC: Got caught in Iowa.

TD: Something...a deal went bad and somebody was in a car or something. They got caught in Iowa and for strange reason, I don't know if the government asked them did they know of LaMont Nunn, Monte Duke and I think someone said yeah. You know I heard of them. They got tied in on our case, just like that because they were on their way up to Minnesota with a package of dope.

VC: Okay. But they had nothing to do.....

TD: We didn't even know them.

VC: Did they know Ralph Duke?

TD: I think the Sandra Jefferson knew him, as of just being around, this, that and the other. She never testified either, she took a deal because she had to.

VC: Okay.

TD: The other guy, her cousin, he, no one every even know who he was, we sat, we didn't even know why he was even sitting with us, why are you here, that was the question we all asked. He said I don't know.

VC: But he testified against Ralph Duke?

TD: No, he took a deal.

VC: He took a deal, okay. Anybody, anything else you can....

TD: Um..as far as I know, the main players in that whole hotel sting operation was LaMont, he had pretty much to do with it, um...I know of a Virgil Kirkwood, who never got indicted on our case.

VC: Never did?

TD: Never got indicted on our case.

VC: Did he put up some money?

TD: Yeah. There was money coming from, at least, thirty people.

VC: That many.

TD: Now, for a person, and this is common sense, if you use it, for a person who they say had so much money and so much houses and fancy cars and this, this and they tried to say he was a millionaire, making over a million dollars a month, or some... you know, that's the scenario that they pictured him.

VC: Yes.

TD: Why would he need thirty people or more to put up a hundred something thousand dollars?

VC: That's a good question. I asked you this before, was there any kind of a Duke organization with Ralph Duke at the head?

TD: No. I can actually said, the only organization that anybody could say, would might have been Lauren and Marcel Duke, they said they use to call their selves the Duke boys.

VC: Okay.

TD: And the Delta crew because they had these cars, these matching cars and they went and bought these jackets that said Duke boys on the back. Just like (inaudible) Duke. Like Bo and Luke Duke from the Duke's of hazards.

VC: Kid stuff.

TD: Kid stuff.

VC: Did anyone ever say that Ralph Duke was kind of the godfather, giving orders, giving direction, that type of thing.

TD: He never gave no one actual directions. He was, actually, a true uncle. He would come around and say "hey, I heard about you, I heard that, I don't want to hear about this no more" but you never see him, he would be gone.

VC: He didn't want to...

TD: He pretty much didn't even want to deal with us. He was on a whole different level, you know, it was kind of like, he loved to be out of town, loved his cars and he would come in town, we would just gookie on him, and...

VC: He was transporting, he was buying and selling and transporting cars...

TD: Collectors from....

VC: West Coast to Minnesota.

TD: West Coast to Minnesota, just all the exotic cars.

VC: Yeah, okay.

TD: There was never a, there was always a family, we always considered each other uncle, cousin, brother or sister, but it was never a organization, no recteering or no big giant conspiracy, it was none of that.

VC: Okay, I'm going to pause.

VC: I would like to go back and talk about the government informant that set up the sting. He was known as Randy and his real name is Chambers. What do you remember about him?

TD: Okay. This was the guy, that I found out was the guy who met at a lake, but two years previous to this, I never forget a face, but I was at a club on day and he popped out of no where with all this jewelry on. And this is the second time he popped up on me. The first time he popped up on me, he said he could get me 10 ounces for \$5000. Back then, I was like wow. He said who could I talk to? Me, being young and stupid, I consulted in a friend and my friend said we don't know him, leave him alone. He disappeared.

VC: He disappeared.

TD: He just disappeared.

VC: Was that to good of a buy?

TD: Yeah for somebody that you don't know, that's not from Minnesota.

VC: Yeah.

TD: Yeah, it was too good. So um..two years later I'm at Lake Calhoun, I say this again, and a guy approached me and said it's going down Wednesday. That was Randy Chambers, the informant,....

VC: He just said that out of the blue?

TD: He just came out of the blue. This is the second time I ever met him. I said what are you talking about? He said, well you know your cousins. Don't too many people, everybody knows I'm a Dugas, don't nobody call me a Duke. (inaudible) related as a Duke, I'm related as, okay, cousin or something like that, but too many people know it. Because we were only through marriage. You know, we hung out together, but didn't nobody know that we were actually cousins like that, especially this guy.

VC: Yes.

TD: And ah... I asked a couple of questions like what are you talking about? And he's the person who told me about the deal. And he said, yeah, you know, with your cousin Monte and so on, and so on, he named a couple of names. So I was like, took him back, I didn't want to talk to him no more because he was talking too much, to be a stranger. And I seen Monte, maybe a day in a half later, at a car wash. And I said Monte, do you know some guy in a mustang, with alot of jewelry on and he said yeah, he's okay. He's okay, just like this. Yeah, because he said that he knew that I was your cousin, he knew all this information about me and you and a few other people. And I said he just gave me a real funny vibe. Monte said don't worry about it, it's okay. When Wednesday came, they got busted and I felt bad because I actually let him know that this Randy guy was no good. I went like that.

VC: Okay, it went like that. Anything else you can think of?

TD: Um...as far as the Randy guy, I knew something was wrong with him because he wanted to be to friendly. And he wanted to know where everybody lived at, alright, but he would never tell nobody where he lived at.

VC: Okay.

TD: So, to me, I'm always thinking like that. Why would I tell you where I live at, if you can't tell me where you live at.

VC: Did he ever mention Ralph Duke's name, Pluky Duke?

TD: No.

VC: Okay.

TD: He only mentioned LaMont and a few other youngsters.

VC: So, he was dealing with those young guys?

TD: Yeah.

VC: That was the whole thing.

TD: Uh, huh.

VC: Okay. Well then, just to some up, your telling me that Ralph (Pluky Duke) was not involved in this purchase of narcotics that turned out to be a sting?

TD: Never, didn't have nothing to do with it. You know, and until this day, I've always said that the truth got to come out and

you know, I went to jail, I did my time. I did my time, not for what they convicted me of, but I went to jail because either I would never get out of jail, or it would just be, it was something that I was doing regardless, either I didn't get caught then and there, I was going to get caught regardless, eventually. So, you know I take it as good faith. This is the way it was planned, but I went to jail also for a dope house.

VC: Okay.

TD: On Fourth Avenue in Minneapolis. No one ever stashed no money there, no one ever stashed no drugs there.

VC: But you took a fall on that?

TD: That's what they wrote on a piece of paper and I signed it.

VC: Okay.

TD: And it dropped me from out the conspiracy range to aiding and abiding, which is very, very, very low.

VC: Okay. Was it also common knowledge on the street that Pluky Duke was not involved in this sting operation?

TD: It's always been told. Everybody knows it.

VC: Everybody knows it.

TD: Even the people who were involved in the sting, they know, the prosecutors, they know, the people on the streets know. And there's even people that died because of this case. You know. Alot of truth never came out. Alot of truth. I was in court a few times and just sat back and I listened. They even threw me out the courtroom because I said, "you know your lying."

VC: You told that to who?

TD: I stood up and I said it to Scott Tredwell and somebody else, I don't ever remember who it was, but I stood up and I told them, you know your lying up there.

VC: So, these people that testified against Ralph Duke, have you talk to some of them since?

TD: I talked to Scott Tredwell.

VC: Yeah, he admitted to you that he lied.

TD: He called me up and he told me, he ask me to forgive him for doing what I did because I brought him, actually, into my own family, like Dugas family, you know, my family, he slept in my

bed. I introduced him to my friends and family and my family go hurt because he was moreless like a brother to me. He said "I'm sorry Theryl." But Marcel, Lauren, Pluky, everybody there above us, they have no money, they got access to better lawyers, then me. I was a peddler, he was a peddler, but he was a better peddler. You know.

VC: Yeah.

TD: And, he said Theryl family, your related, also you pretty much ain't got to much to worry about, but they were going to fry me, if Marcel and Lauren and everybody had their opportunity, they would throw me out to the wolves first. So I had to do what I had to do.

VC: Okay.

TD: He said I'm sorry but... I said don't tell me that your sorry, tell it to that kid. And I told him never to call me again. He promised he wouldn't. He asked me a couple of questions about, do you think he would get harmed if he came back to Minnesota. I told him probably.

VC: Do he say he was working still for the government?

TD: He said he wasn't working for the government, he said he drove trucks.

VC: Do you know where he's living?

TD: He said he moved down south somewhere, but I told him (inaudible). I wish I had caller I.D. back then.

VC: Okay.

TD: But, I think that he was still in the state of Minnesota as far out. I know he got a new name. I'm sure they set him up, he said they set him up...

*****END OF TAPE*****

VC: This is a continuation on side B. And we were talking about Mr. Tredwell. You said they, meaning the government?

TD: The government. He told me, I asked him, I said well you know, you took alot of lives away, you know, some of the people are going to be so old when they get out, their not going to be able to have kids, you know. Meaning LaMonte and a few others. And um..I said what did you get out of all this, besides the time, because you stole the money that started the time bomb.

VC: Yes.

TD: He told me all they gave him was some I.D., some money, a house or a place to live and a car. And that was it for almost 30 ruined lives.

VC: Thirty lives.

TD: That's what I said, because it was almost 30 people in the case. So, he ruined 30 lives.

VC: Alright, is there anything else you fell is important?

TD: Could you pause one more time?

VC: Yeah.

VC: Alright, that concludes the interview. Now, have I made any promises, threats or inducements for you to give me this statement?

TD: No, you have not.

VC: Alright. Of course you realize I'm recording it?

TD: Yes, I do.

VC: I would like to have this transcribed in affidavit format and then ask you to sign it and I'll swear you in and notarize it. Is that comfortable for you?

TD: Yes.

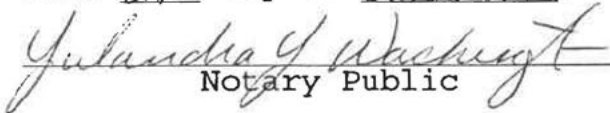
VC: Okay. So as soon as that's done, I'll call you and we will get together again. Would you repeat your name again?

TD: Theryl Marcel Dugas.

VC: Thank you very much.


Theryl Dugas

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 29th day of October, 1998.


Notary Public

