

#13 Rob DeBree

ANDY PARIS. The other thing we keep hearing is that this was a robbery gone bad. That Henderson and McKinney only wanted money. As if that's the only factor involved.

ROB DEBREE. That's the beginning, and granted, robbery was a part of it, but it went way beyond that. I mean, his wallet would have most likely been given to McKinney a few blocks from the bar, that's right up here on the corner, and that would have been the end of the robbery.

DAVE O'MALLEY. So beyond that, something has a profound twist to it.

ROB DEBREE. Robbery would have taken seconds. They went beyond that, dragging him out, they're beating him in the truck, dragging him over to a fence, tying him, and then they beat him viciously. I mean this goes way beyond the wallet.

DAVE O'MALLEY. And McKinney's own statement is "I only had to hit him one time to get his wallet." But then *why* drive this young man out of the city limits and tie him to a fence and hit him in the head and face nineteen to twenty-one times with the butt end of a great big gun.

ANDY PARIS. How else would you answer these rumors?

ROB DEBREE. A lot of people never got to see the crime scene except for law enforcement. The attack point — it was a true battle. They tie him, they beat him viciously. In fact his watch is located almost thirty feet away from him. You could see the marks of blood splatterings in a wide variety of different areas.

The crime scene probably went from this wall to about there. *(Points.)* So about twenty yards. We found blood splatter all over. And at one time, Henderson made the statement that Matthew tried to run. And broke free, and was trying to run, but of course didn't get very far.

ANDY PARIS. Several people have said that McKinney and Henderson were involved with drugs that night.

ROB DEBREE. We've proven that there was no drugs on board with McKinney and Henderson ... just NONE. We had blood samples from both of them that night because they both ended up in the hospital. Even through their own statements the last time they did the meth was ... two to three weeks prior. *(Frustrated.)* I was under the assumption that was a pretty well proved thing at the trial. Look, I wish people had seen ... When McKinney was in a detention facility he had no problem telling everybody he had

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Rob DeBree (cont.)

killed the faggot ... he was his own little hero. In the detention facility. In fact, the day of his sentencing, when he went back over there, he was smiling. He had just said, supposedly, that he felt so bad for the family, for what he had done, but he goes over in the detention facility and he's smiling to the other prisoners. So ... I don't care what McKinney tries to come up with now, or Henderson. I really don't care. I have been in law enforcement going on my 27th year ... I don't know how many times I've addressed it and whether people want to accept it or not, I don't know what we need to do to get people to understand.

CATHERINE CONNOLLY. We in Laramie need to understand our history and our place in history.

NARRATOR. Catherine Connolly.

CATHERINE CONNOLLY. It's important for us to do that, and we will do that. We MUST do that.

NARRATOR. Company member Stephen Belber

STEPHEN BELBER. After meeting with Russell's grandmother, I took her advice and wrote to him asking if I could visit and interview him. I heard nothing for three weeks. But today I received the following letter:

RUSSELL HENDERSON. Dear Mr. Belber, I got your letter and I've considered your proposal to talk with me and I've decided that I will do it. As you know, I've been reluctant to talk to anyone. But I think if there is something I might say that will help someone else to understand or to maybe help them not make the same mistakes I did, then it will be worth it. I must admit that I'm not the best with words so I don't know how much I will be able to help but I will tell you that I will be honest with you. I haven't read or seen the play but maybe once you finish this new part of it you could send me a copy of it. Respectfully, Russell.

End of Act One