

STATEMENT

My name is Joe E. Brown. I live at 627 East Converse Street in Pascagoula. I was born on February 14th, 1925.

I drove down to Magnolia Street at about 11:30 P.M., on July 6th, 1964. I stopped at the 711 Club on Magnolia Street, where I picked up Charles Jackson and Willie Reese and Clarence Reason. They asked me to take them home to the Ercels, so we started in that direction. We came down Elder St., and turned onto Main Street where we were stopped by the police. We pulled to the side when they blew their horn at us. They came over to our car, three of them, and told us to get out. We got out, they looked on the seat and saw a .38 pistol lying on the front seat, and a .22 rifle, automatic, lying on the floor in front. We weren't looking for any violence, for I had only been taking the other three home. The police said, "We are going to take you all down to the station", and took the other three down in the police car. I was told to drive my own car along behind and did so. When I got to the station I was placed under arrest and charged with carrying concealed weapons.

The reason that we had the pistol in the car was that I didn't feel safe driving home from Ercels to Pascagoula, along and late at night, without it. I had heard about the shooting at the mass meeting and felt the need to protect myself.