

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Parramatta Police Station.

WALTER JOHN BEDSER.

Date: 5th December, 1980.

Name: PURNELL. Marjorie Joyce.

(Surname in capitals)

Address: [Redacted] Tel. No. [Redacted]

Occupation: Domestic. STATES:—

1. I am a married woman and I reside with my husband Lawrence Stanley PURNELL, at the above address. I have resided at these premises for the past thirty years.

2. I have known the deceased person Walter John BEDSER, for approximately five years. About five years ago I was working on a casual basis with a Mr. Chris UNDERWOOD, a Jeweller of Phillip Street, Parramatta. I had been working with Mr. UNDERWOOD for a short period approximately two weeks, but I had known the UNDERWOOD family for about twenty years. John BEDSER, over a period of time had jewellery valued by Mr. Chris UNDERWOOD and John BEDSER, asked Chris UNDERWOOD if he knew any person that was interested in working for him in his shop at No.4 Darcey Street Parramatta, of a Thursday evening. I stopped working for Mr. UNDERWOOD, after the Christmas period about five years ago. I received a telephone call from Mr. BEDSER, about January, 1976 or thereabouts. Mr. John BEDSER, asked me if I was interested in working for him of a Thursday evening, he told me that the UNDERWOOD'S had recommended me to him. I agreed to work for him and I started the following Thursday and I have been so employed by Mr. John BEDSER, of a Thursday evening since. There was a short period of time that I also worked for Mr. John BEDSER, of a Sunday afternoon for a period of three hours, this was a couple of years ago.

3. During the period of time that I worked for Mr. John BEDSER, I never mixed with him socially, but I was introduced to his Mother and Sister a Mrs. Shirley DRISCOLL. I met them when they came into the shop at Darcey Street, Parramatta. I have also met Mrs DRISCOLL'S husband Ron, but this was only about six weeks ago.

4. Mr. BEDSER, employed me as a shop Assistant and during the time that he was away from the shop of a Thursday night, I was in charge. At the beginning he showed me how to operate the alarm system and I would secure the premises and set the alarm in motion and then place the key to the shop in an envelope and then place the envelope through a hole in the front door. Later he had a set of keys made for me and I have these keys in my possession now.

Witness: [Redacted]

Signature: [Redacted]

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5. Whilst I was employed by Mr. BEDSER, part of my duties consisted of taking 'Lay-Byes', selling items, locking up the jewellery, securing the safe and about August or October of this year I commenced keeping his 'Receipt and Expenses' Ledger. I have also paid a few accounts and I also check the daily takings and entered them into the Ledger. On a Thursday evening I would check the receipts that being the 'Lay-By' receipts that Mr. BEDSER, had made out and see that they were correctly entered in the 'Lay-By' books. I never at any stage did any of Mr. BEDSER'S Banking.

6. I am familiar with the lay out of the premises at No. 4 Darcey Street, Parramatta and although I knew that Mr. BEDSER, had a small room above the office which he used for storing 'Lay-By' items or stock and there was an old mattress on the floor, I have never had an occasion to enter this room. During the period of time that I was employed by Mr. BEDSER, I have never seen him enter the room above his office.

7. During the past eighteen months I have been starting work at 4p.m. and terminating 9p.m. of a Thursday evening and I would be picked up by my husband.

8. About a couple of years ago Mr. BEDSER, advertised for a young boy to help him move furniture, make deliveries and clean the windows of the shop. A young Greek or Lebanese boy by the name of **NP58**, was employed by Mr. BEDSER, in this capacity and he remained in such employment for about 12 months or probably more. He was only employed on a casual basis, there were no set hours, except that he would clean the windows each Thursday evening. During the period of time that **NP58** was employed by John BEDSER, he and Mr. BDESER, were on a friendly basis with each other. There was one occasion that **NP58** went away with Mr. BEDSER, of a week-end it would have been a long time ago, I just can not recall the exact date, I can not recall where they went to, but it was up the country somewhere and they were looking at some furniture. At no time whilst I was in the shop did I see **NP58** and Mr. BEDSER, enter the room above his office. About twelve months ago Mrs. **NP59** came to the shop and she and Mr. BEDSER, went into the office and I think that there may have been another woman, it could have been Mrs. **NP59**'S sister or it could have been **NP58**'S sister. I could hear them talking, but I could not understand what they were saying, they were talking quietly. They later left the shop and Mr. BEDSER, told me that **NP58** was in a bit of trouble, he said that he was trying to help and that **NP58**'s mother was upset, thats all that was said. I can't say for sure, but I don't think was employed by John BEDSER after that evening, but he did call into the shop on a couple

Witness: _____

Signature: *M. Purnell*

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of nights, that would have been early on a Thursday evening, but John had gone home. Since the incident concerning NP58's mother and John BEDSER, I would say that I can only recall seeing NP58 in the shop on a couple of occasions and when John was not there. Since this incident John BEDSER, never spoke much about NP58 to me, but there were occasions that NP58 would ring up and ask for John, but I just do not remember the dates. I have only seen NP58 a couple of times after the visit by his mother and I have not seen him since.

9. About six months ago on arriving at work I met a young Greek or Lebanese boy, John BEDSER introduced him to me as 147. He may have mentioned his surname, but I can not recall it. I would describe this boy as being well built, solid, taller than NP58, NP58 was short about nineteen old, 5'8", olive skin and he spoke good English, but not particularly well dressed, jeans and a 'T' shirt usually. At the time that I met this person he was standing on the outside of the counter and John was standing on the other side. I saw this person in the shop on a number of occasions after this, sometimes in the office, but I never seen him or John BEDSER, coming or going from the room above the office. John BEDSER and this young boy 147 always appeared to me to be on a friendly basis, but to the best of my knowledge they never went away together of a week-end. The last time that I saw 147 in the shop was about three or four weeks ago and John BEDSER, was talking to him.

10. During the time that I was employed by Mr. BEDSER, I formed an opinion that he may have been an homosexual, but don't ask me why, I just formed that opinion. He always said that he would never marry.

11. There was a period about four months ago when three or four senior school girls would come into the shop of a Thursday evening and ask for John and when I mentioned it to John, he told me not to let them stand around the shop and he said that they only come into to talk and they drive him mad. I would say that these girls were about fourteen or fifteen years of age, Greek or Lebanese appearance, I think that they were wearing a green and white check summer dress uniform. They would call into the shop about 4.30p.m. to 5p.m. each Thursday evening, that being on the few occasions that they called to the shop to see John.

12. During the period of time that I was employed by Mr. BEDSER, I can not recall any arguments between himself and any customer whilst I was present in the shop of a Thursday evening. John BEDSER never mentioned to me that he had any trouble with any of his customers.

13. To the best of my knowledge Mr. BEDSER, never donated to any Charity, but he did have a 'LOINS' club peppermint box on the counter

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which you paid twenty cents for a packet of peppermints, but it would have been a couple of months since that has been there.

14. ABOUT June of this year, Mr. John BEDSER employed a man to clean his windows, I do not know his name, only that he issued Mr. BEDSER, with a receipt for the sum of Five Dollars and signed the receipt 'J.Russell'. There may be more particulars of this man in one of the books in the safe. I have never seen this man.

Witness: _____

Signature: _____