

SCHULTZ advised that one CLYDE WENTWORTH, formerly Exalted Cyclops of one Klan group at Meadville, allegedly has a "snooper", a device he ordered through the mail by which he allegedly can overhear conversations from a considerable distance.

SCHULTZ stated that one NORMAN SEALE, a monument salesman at Meadville, Miss., reportedly was visiting at a neighbor's house near the residence of EARL HODGES on the night of 8/14/65 when he heard EARL HODGES yell, "Oh My God" or something to that effect.

SCHULTZ advised that he left Meadville Sunday morning, 8/15/65, en route to the EARL HODGES residence after hearing that EARL was dead. He advised that when he left Meadville, he stopped his car and picked up CURTIS RAY STOKES at about 8 A.M., and drove STOKES to Bude, Miss. He stated STOKES obviously had been heavily intoxicated and still bore the effects from his appearance. He described STOKES as a chronic alcoholic.

With respect to "RED" TERREL concerning whom he had originally furnished information to SAC MOORE, SCHULTZ advised he actually had no information to the effect that TERREL had been whipped, except a recollection that he thought MHSF Investigator BUTLER had informed him to this effect.

It appeared in the course of the interview with SCHULTZ that he was "going overboard" in an effort to cooperate and that consequently he was surmising a considerable amount of the information furnished by him. He stated initially, for example, that PEARL THORNTON, a white female, 55 years of age, from Meadville, Miss., had been taken out by some hooded Klansmen recently who intended to beat her, but gave her only two or three licks after she pleaded with them. SCHULTZ was unable, however, to document this information and it appeared that he may have obtained it as a result of gossip in the community.

JN 174-27

Mr. SCHULTZ advised he had no information as to the identity of the person or persons who bombed the car of GEORGE METCALFE at the Armstrong Plant in Natchez on the afternoon of 8/27/65. He stated that he would make inquiry in the Meadville, Miss., area and immediately advise should he receive any information concerning this bombing.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830)

DATE: 9/11/65

FROM : SA EDGAR C. FORTENBERRY

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; EARL HODGES - VICTIM
RM

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

OO: JACKSON

9/15

[redacted] advised that LEE HESTER, a member of the Franklin County Board of Supervisors, and his wife allegedly were in the room of LAVERNE MC CRORY at Jefferson Davis Hospital, Natchez, Miss., on Sunday, 8/15/65, at which time the wife of "HOBO" EMFINGER made the statement that two women, not further identified, knew the answer to the EARL HODGES murder.

[redacted] stated that "HOBO" EMFINGER is the brother of EDWARD and J. C. EMFINGER and the wife of "HOBO" EMFINGER is believed to have been an EZELL (maiden name) of Eddiceton, Mississippi.

LEAD

AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

Will locate and interview the wife of "HOBO" EMFINGER to identify the women she had in mind as "having the answer to the EARL HODGES murder."

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(2)

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157-3830-7

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830)

FROM : SA WILLIAM F. DUKES

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; EARL HODGES - VICTIM
RM

DATE: 9/6/65

SAM NEWMAN, undercover investigator for the MHSP, currently assigned to investigation in captioned matter by Governor PAUL B. JOHNSON, contacted SA WILLIAM F. DUKES at Natchez on 9/5/65 and advised as follows:

NEWMAN advised that he has been in contact with Mrs. TEMPE ARNOLD, a confidential source whom he considers reliable, and whom he stated lives at Bude, Miss., off old Highway 84 near the Wentworth property, and next door to Old Man LUKE DE LAUGHTER. LUKE DE LAUGHTER is employed by WARREN NEWMAN from Bude.

See women

SAM NEWMAN advised that according to Mrs. ARNOLD there was definitely a crap game in the Bude area on the night HODGES was beaten and HODGES allegedly won a considerable sum of money in this game which was likewise attended by WARREN ~~ARNOLD~~, LUKE DE LAUGHTER and EDWARD EMFINGER. According to Mrs. ARNOLD, at about 11 P.M., on the night HODGES was beaten (8/14-15/65), Mrs. ARNOLD observed a pickup truck stop in front of LUKE DE LAUGHTER's house. It was a bright, moon-lighted night and she observed two men in this pickup, one of whom was LUKE DE LAUGHTER, who got out and went into the house. She believed the driver was WARREN NEWMAN.

According to Mrs. ARNOLD, one MYRTICE FIFE, a Bude, Mississippi resident, on the day after the HODGES's killing, contacted EDWARD EMFINGER at EMFINGER's store at Bude and specifically asked EMFINGER if he took HODGES home on the night he was killed. EDWARD EMFINGER allegedly told MYRTICE FIFE that he and WARREN NEWMAN carried HODGES home at about 9 P.M., that night. SAM NEWMAN advised that Mrs. TEMPE ARNOLD

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Samman
Braves

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and MYRTICE FIFE contacted one ONIE RAY TEMPLE, a white female resident of Bude and asked her to go contact EDWARD EMFINGER. EMFINGER thereafter allegedly told ONIE RAY TEMPLE that he and LUKE DE LAUGHTER took HODGES home.

NEWMAN advised that from investigation he has conducted, he definitely believes that HODGES was in a crap game the night he was killed and, according to a source whom he declined to divulge, HODGES allegedly was beaten in a vacant house across the old river bridge from Eddiceton Community, the ALBERT NETTLES old home. NEWMAN suggested that if this were true, there would probably be some blood or other items of evidentiary value located in this old vacant house.

NEWMAN advised that ELOIS COTHERN, nee CASE, from Bude, a sister-in-law of HODGES's girl friend, allegedly has some information of possible value in this killing. He stated further that ONIE RAY TEMPLE could be contacted in care of her mother who is employed at the Lewis Grocery Store at Bude, Mississippi.

RECOMMENDATION:

Route to SAs BENJAMIN F. GRAVES and REESIE L. TIMMONS for possible assistance in investigative leads.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (62-5)

DATE: 8/26/65

FROM : SAC ROY K. MOORE

SUBJECT: JAMES SEALE, et al
CHARLIE EDDIE MOORE and
HENRY HEZEKIAH DEE - VICTIMS
CR - KIDNAPING

On the afternoon of 8/25/65, CARL WILLIAM SCHULTZ, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Meadville, Miss., called at the Jackson Office in the company of his superior, Mr. HURD, to report the information in his possession concerning the death of EARL HODGES at Meadville on the night of 8/14 - 15/65. ~~Scout~~

SCHULTZ has been assigned to the Meadville area, Franklin Co., for several years. Due to his soil conservation work he is well known to many residents throughout the county.

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

SCHULTZ advised he formerly was commander of the Franklin County American Legion Post in Meadville in 1952 and that the deceased had preceded him as commander in 1951, consequently, they were very friendly. According to SCHULTZ, HODGES began drinking heavily during 1955 - 1956 and since that time has been going down hill. Just before his death his wife had left him and he was residing with his father. When HODGES was found dead several people called SCHULTZ because they knew SCHULTZ and HODGES were friends in Legion work. He observed the deceased's body and stated he was brutally beaten. According to SCHULTZ, this is not the first beating that has taken place in the ~~Meadville~~ area but in the recent past the following persons have been whipped by the Klan:

(6) Jackson
(2 - [redacted])
(2 - 157-3830)

RKM:elw
(6)

Jennings
Graves
Belly
Webb
Am...

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[Handwritten initials and signatures]

- ✓ 1. WILLIAM HALFORD
- ✓ 2. ALTON HALFORD
- Baton Rouge* { 3. MARVIN WILLIS
4. ELAINE FREMAN EMPINGER } *Baton Rouge - Del. not Capt*
- ✓ 5. RED TERREL -
6. ERNEST MULKEY
7. PEARL THORNTON
8. ELMO MC GHEE

SCHULTZ stated it is the considered opinion of those in the community who talk about these things that CLYDE SEALE and ARCHIE PRATHER headed two ~~new~~ Klan units and that the members of these units have been responsible for the beatings. Furthermore, that neither Sheriff WAYNE D. HUTTO nor District Attorney LENOX L. FORMAN have done anything about the beatings as they either are friendly with the Klansmen or afraid of them. SCHULTZ is of the opinion that if the aforementioned people are interviewed they would furnish facts concerning their beating and the people responsible therefor. He stated he believed all the people were still around Meadville except MARVIN WILLIS and ELAINE FREMAN EMPINGER who apparently are in Monroe, La., but whose whereabouts could be ascertained.

SCHULTZ denies that he has any direct knowledge of who beat HODGES. Concerning the information furnished by MHPD Patrolman D. E. VERNON that he, SCHULTZ, knew where HODGES was beaten, he stated this was erroneous, that he had seen HODGES' car before the beating at a certain intersection and took the Patrolman there and that a later search revealed the tickets from the new clothing but he does not know that the beating took place in that vicinity.

SCHULTZ states you can hear anything that you want to hear in that community as gossip is running rampant. He doubts, however, that HODGES was associating with a Negro woman, had won big stakes at gambling and all the other rumors that are currently prevalent. He would rather believe that HODGES was beaten because the Klan was afraid he would talk as a result of his becoming an alcoholic.

SCHULTZ stated in effect that he is afraid of these individuals and wondered what he could do for protection as he trusts neither the Sheriff nor the District Attorney. He was referred to the MHSP if he feared for his life.

I discussed with SCHULTZ the names of certain people I thought were involved in the Klan. He stated he had no direct knowledge of persons involved but that if I mentioned some he would give me his best opinion:

CLYDE SEALE,
JAMES SEALE and other SEALE boys
WALLACE HAVARD, Roxie, Miss.
ROSIE DAVIS, Eddiceton, Miss., who he classified as
a liar
BILLY BUCKLES, Roxie, Miss. - radical
WILLIE WENTWORTH, or WILEY, of McCall's Creek -
a youngster of the drag-racer type
MURELL SCOTT, McCall's Creek - a "big mouth"
JACK DAVIS, Roxie, Constable
FRANK PRIEST, Roxie
HARVEY M. PRATHER, Roxie
PETE TERRELL, Eddiceton, whom he says is one
of the men who was whipped
FRANK CALCOTE, McCall's Creek, whose brother was
sheriff two terms ago
M. S. PRATHER
DALE MC LEMORE, Roxie
BILLY BEACH, Roxie
J. L. THORNTON
CHARLES M. EDWARDS
EVERETT JACKSON, Roxie
BUFORD ARNOLD, Roxie
JIMMY D. MITCHELL, Meadville, whom he describes as
a good football player and halfback in high
school and probably could be talked to
BOYD A. WILLIAMS, Smithdale, retired carpenter
who owns a farm
GEORGE LEWIS, McCall's Creek

JN 62-5

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

ELDEN HESTER, Route 3, Meadville
M. H. ZIMMERMAN
BEN FAIRCHILDS, Roxie, whom he describes as a
Methodist preacher

It is noted all the foregoing names are contained
in the FD-306 of [REDACTED] prepared by SA CLARENCE G.
PROSPERE on 10/14/64 [REDACTED]

LEAD

As a part of our overall investigation of the
White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Franklin County, it is
recommended that all the victims of the beatings set forth
by SCHULTZ be interviewed and signed statements taken where
possible as to the identities of those responsible with the
thought in mind of eventually making these available to the
MESP for possible prosecution of the various members of the
WKKKKOM.