

REQUESTED NARA FILES FOR APRIL 11, 12, 13, 2012

157-JN-512 -- Ernest Buchanan Parker

157-JN-3307 -- Joe Daniel Hawkins

157-JN-5151 -- Jewel Lee Burt, KKK

157-JN-7479 -- James Lee Scarborough

157-JN-2179 -- L.C. Murray, KKK

NO 157-1617 -- Elden Glenn Hester

NO 157-4168 -- James F. Lee, KKK

NO 157-4662 -- Buck Horton, KKK

NO 157-6266 -- Kenneth Norman Head

NO 157-7519 -- Donald Holland

NO 157-7545 -- Woodrow Holloway, KKK

NO 157-7589 -- James H. Taylor

NO 157-7639 -- Raymond Scott Wright

NO 157-7640 -- James E. Blaney, KKK

NO 157-7737 -- Earcel Boyd

157-HQ-2311 -- Death of Frank Morris



Concordia Sentinel

Covering Louisiana's Delta Since 1876

*R/E
Earl Hodge*

Seales, Avants linked to 1965 murder of Earl Hodges in Franklin County

by Stanley Nelson - posted Thursday, June 10th, 2010 @ 8:14 am

Little noticed outside Franklin County, Miss., on August 15, 1965, was the savage murder of 47-year-old Earl Hodges of Eddiceton, a white man, who was attacked by about a half dozen Klansmen for allegedly informing on the Ku Klux Klan.

A McComb newspaper reported a few days after the fatal beating that Hodges had been inside his father's shotgun house minutes after the attack when he arose from his blood-soaked bed sometime around midnight. Leaving a bloody trail throughout the small house, he stumbled to the backyard where he attempted to draw water from a well to wash his multiple bleeding wounds, then collapsed and died.

The murder sent a clear message throughout the Klan community in both Mississippi and Louisiana -- inform on the KKK and you will suffer consequences. But the attack also hurt the Klan in Franklin County's white community, where a year earlier in 1964 two black Meadville teens -- Henry Hezekiah Dee and Charles Moore -- were kidnapped, beaten and murdered by Klansmen.

One Klansman implicated in both attacks -- James Ford Seale -- is now in federal prison following his conviction in 2007 for the 1964 murder of Dee and Moore. But Seale reportedly remains silent on his KKK past, while the Earl Hodges family still wonders why Hodges was killed and by whom.

"They never got any answers," said Anne Hodges, the widow of Frank Hodges, one of Earl Hodges' two sons. She said Frank, who died in 2004 at the age of 51, "suffered a lot of emotional trauma over this. He and his brother (Roy Earl) saw their Dad's body. Frank had no doubt his father was killed by the Klan."

But like so many families whose loved ones were murdered during the Civil Rights' era -- homicides that remain unsolved -- Anne said her husband was not once contacted by any law enforcement authority on any level -- local, state or federal -- with information on his father's murder.

The late Jim Ingram, a longtime FBI agent in Mississippi, told The Sentinel before his death in 2009 that the bureau looked at the Hodges' murder in 2007, but said he could not comment on the matter.

A grand jury convened in Franklin County on August 23, 1965, eight days after the Hodges' murder, but took no action. "The evidence apparently did not justify even an arrest," reported Charles B. Gordon in the McComb Enterprise-Journal in a late August 1965 article entitled, "Savage Killing of Franklin Countian Remains a Puzzle."

"Years after his Dad's death, Frank worked as a pressman at McComb Printing," Anne Hodges told The Sentinel. "He carried a clipping of the Enterprise-Journal story with him for years. That's all he ever knew."

The paper reported that 11 investigators initially looked at the case, including Sheriff Wayne Hutto, District Attorney Lenox Forman and FBI agents. After investigating the crime himself for two days, reporter Gordon wrote that many rumors were circulating.

Klansman Ernest Avants, a suspect in the Hodges' homicide who was convicted years later in federal court for the 1966 murder of Ben Chester White in Adams County, "displayed some interest in the murder" of Hodges during an interview by agents in 1967, according to FBI records. In that interview, Avants indicated that a woman was "involved." But the Enterprise-Journal reported after a two-day probe in Franklin County that the murder involved the Ku Klux Klan.

Born Jan. 13, 1918, in Lincoln County, Hodges married Neva Short in the Loyd Star community on Christmas Eve 1936. Hodges was a well-respected mechanic in Brookhaven when just a young man, and considered handsome and a good dancer admired on the dance floor at the Eola Hotel in Natchez.

After World War II, where he served in the Air Force in occupied Italy, he opened a service station in the Eddiceton community of Franklin County -- Hodges' Garage. He reportedly built a thriving business based on his skills as a mechanic, while wife Neva helped pump gas, kept the books and tended to their two sons, Roy Earl and Frank.

Neva told the Enterprise-Journal in 1965 that Hodges "had a splendid head for business." Also popular, he became a post commander of the American Legion in Meadville, a Shriner and an officer in the Masonic Lodge.

At some point during the 1950s, however, Hodges began drinking heavily, and ignored his business and the needs of his family. Gordon reported in the McComb paper that Hodges had also developed a pattern of carousing and philandering.

After a few years of turmoil, Neva, now dead, took the boys and moved to McComb. The couple divorced in 1961, and Hodges later closed the station.

At some point in his past, as the Civil Rights Movement pushed against the stonewall of Mississippi resistance, Hodges joined a White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan unit in Franklin County led by Clyde Seale, a farmer. Two of Clyde Seale's sons were in the Klan, too -- Jack Seale, who lived in Natchez -- and James Ford Seale, who lived in the Bunkley community of Franklin County and was a member of Clyde Seale's klavern.

In September 1965, one month after the Hodges' murder, Congressional investigator John D. Sullivan concluded that Clyde Seale and James Ford Seale were two "excellent suspects." Sullivan was working for the House UnAmerican Activities Committee that was investigating the Klan and would hold hearings in early 1966 in Washington, D.C., during which the Seales would be questioned about Hodges.

Sullivan reported to the committee that Hodges wanted out of Clyde Seale's Klan unit and that there was bad blood -- when Seale "tried to line up a Meadville businessman (white) for a beating because of alleged fraternization with his Negro cook...Hodges opposed him (Seale)."

Clyde Seale, who was 64 in 1965 and has since died, refused to answer a House committee investigator in 1966 who asked "did you ever have an argument with Earl Hodges?" He also refused to answer whether Hodges was a member of Seale's White Knights unit.

Another motive for the murder emerged in the 1970s when then-District Attorney Edward Benoist obtained a statement from Franklin County resident Warren Newman, a friend of Hodges, who provided an account of the fatal beating. In the statement, Newman said the Klan feared that Hodges was providing information on the Dee-Moore murders to his brother-in-law, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol officer Dan Vernon, who was on a task force assigned to break up the Klan.

According to the statement, Newman, who said he was not at the scene the night of the beating, claimed that he and other friends of Hodges set up a meeting between Hodges and the Klan to clear the air. Of the nine or 10 men present that night, Newman said some were friends of Hodges and others were Klansmen, including, according to the statement, Clyde Seale and Ernest Avants. Newman told Benoist that an argument ensued and the meeting turned violent although it is unclear if Hodges' friends assisted him during the brawl.

Newman did not place James Ford Seale at the beating, according to the statement, but other informants did. Of the men linked to the beating, James Ford Seale is the only one still alive.

Benoist faced one major obstacle moving the case toward prosecution: Newman's account was hearsay. Additionally, the chances of convicting Klansmen in local courts was unlikely. In 1967 Benoist had brought Avants to trial in Adams County for the murder of Ben Chester White, but the local jury found him and others not guilty.

The Enterprise-Journal reported in 1965 that at 10 p.m., Saturday, August 14, 1965, Hodges visited friends Warren Newman and J.C. Emfinger near Bude. The paper reported that Hodges had been drinking and told the two men that his pickup was stuck in a ditch nearby and asked for help.

The men agreed to take Hodges home and to pull the truck out of the ditch the next day, but first asked him to join them for a late supper. An autopsy revealed Hodges had eaten steak, okra and peas about an hour before he was beaten and two hours before he died shortly after midnight on August 15, 1965.

The men reportedly drove Hodges to the home of his father, Zebb, in the Eddiceton community around 10:30 p.m. Zebb was away that night sitting with a sick friend, according to the Enterprise-Journal.

The next day, according to the newspaper, two neighbors, Bernie Watson and Bill Campbell, "discovered a pair of bloody torn trousers" along the tracks a hundred yards behind Zebb Hodges' house. They saw a spot or two of blood nearby, but as they walked to the house they saw no blood along the way. In the back yard, they discovered Hodges' "trouser-less" body.

The paper reported that it was uncertain where the beating took place -- along the railroad tracks, at Zebb Hodges' place or at an abandoned house nearby.

"There were apparently at least two instruments used in this beating," wrote investigator Sullivan for the House committee in September 1965 -- a three-to-four inch strap and a similar belt with tacks "that stuck out about 1/8 inch and this one tore the flesh every time he (Hodges) was struck with it." Sullivan wrote that straps were used in many of the previous nine Klan-administered beatings in Franklin County in 1965.

The Enterprise-Journal reported that testimony presented to the grand jury showed that Hodges' pants "were probably cut at the waist and ripped from his body," that his body was moved after death, and that "his skull was not fractured..."

Hodges' body was taken to a Natchez pathologist for an autopsy. Sullivan reported in 1965 that an "examination of his body showed welts from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head. There was a hole in the top of his head. There was a split from the left side of his nose to his left eye which was deep enough so you could see the roof of his mouth."

According to Hodges' death certificate, signed by Coroner J.W. Hollingsworth, Hodges died of a heart attack apparently triggered by the beating.

Sullivan learned from an informant that when FBI agents and Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol investigators left the courthouse a day after the murder, Sheriff Wayne Hutto exclaimed: "To hell with the FBI and the Highway Patrol investigation - the Klan will be here a long time after they are gone."

FBI records show that in 1968 two members of the Franklin County Board of Supervisors -- Frank Allen of Smithdale and Hilton M. Zumbro of Bude -- told agents that public outrage following Hodges' murder brought on the demise of the Klan. "It broke the backbone of the Klan," Allen said.

Yet unsolved murders hold the victims' families in a limbo of anguish few on the outside can understand.

"Two young boys' lives were changed" when their father was murdered, Anne Hodges said. "This haunted my husband all his life. I hope we can bury some ghosts and get the closure he always needed."

<http://www.concordiasentinel.com/news.php?id=5221>

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157-180; 157-167; 157-125

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See 62-561

PENDING LITIGATION

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of

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157-888

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-8880) (C)

DATE: 5/16/68

FROM : SA GEORGE P. GAMBLIN

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

SUBJECT: FRANK ALLEN
RM (KLAN)

Investigation of FRANK ALLEN based on information provided by [redacted], who advised SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES [redacted] that FRANK ALLEN was a member of Unit #2, WKKKKOM, State of Mississippi in Franklin Co. Credit and arrest negative. ALLEN interviewed on 2/5/68, admitted joining the WKKKKOM sometime during 1963, but never attended any meetings. He stated it was politically expediant to belong to the Klan in Franklin Co. at the time.

Mr. ALLEN has no propensity for violence and no potential as an informant. It is suggested that this case be closed.

Comp 6-7-68

5-16-68

1-Jackson
GPG/jrs
(1) *jrs*

Close

157-8880-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>JH</i>	FILED <i>JH</i>
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/9/68

FRANK ALLEN, Smithdale, Mississippi, Route 1, the president of the Board of Supervisors for Franklin County, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the inquiry at the outset of the interview.

Mr. ALLEN advised that he joined Unit Number Two of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM), Franklin County, sometime during 1963 but never attended a meeting. He pointed out that during this time the Klan was strong in Franklin County, and it was politically expedient to belong to the Klan at this time.

Mr. ALLEN stated that he had no personal knowledge of any violence committed by Klansmen in Franklin County. He stated that he is opposed to violence in any form and said that the WKKKKOM is inactive at the present time.

Mr. ALLEN said that he had never heard anything about the murder of EARL HODGE, on or about August 14, or August 15, 1965, except that he was allegedly murdered by Klansmen. He stated that he is opposed to violence in every form, and in the event he learns of any Klan activity in Franklin County he will immediately notify the FBI.

Mr. ALLEN pointed out that the Klan had been inactive for at least three years and believed that the killing of EARL HODGE more or less broke the backbone of the Klan. He pointed out that HODGE was a former Klansman and sentiment was aroused in the county when he was murdered.

On 2/5/68 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-8880 - 4
157-950, 157-951, 157-955,
157-3830, 157-63, 157-569,
174-135, 44-2044
 by SA GEORGE P. GAMBLIN:mif Date dictated 2/6/68

JN 157-8880

Mr. ALLEN stated that CLYDE WENTWORTH was the Exalted Cyclops of one of the units of the WKKKKOM and CLYDE SEALE was the Exalted Cyclops of another unit in Franklin County.

Mr. ALLEN knows of no recent Klan meetings, has no knowledge of any explosives or gun caches in Franklin County, and to his knowledge the Klan is dead.

Mr. ALLEN stated he was unable to furnish any information regarding the WHARLEST JACKSON case or the GEORGE METCALFE bombings.

Mr. ALLEN was shown the photographs of the principal suspects in the Jackson, Mississippi, bombings and stated that he was not aware of the identity of anyone appearing in the photographs.

The following is a description of ALLEN as obtained from interview and observation:

Name	FRANK ALLEN
Residence	Route 1, Smithdale, Mississippi
Occupation	President, Board of Supervisors, Franklin County, Mississippi
Age	Sixty
Date of Birth	February 24, 1907
Place of Birth	Call, Texas
Race	Caucasian
Sex	Male
Height	66 inches
Weight	140 pounds

JN 157-8880

Hair	Bald, gray
Complexion	Fair
Eyes	Brown
Education	High school and one year in college
Marital Status	Married
Automobile	1966 blue Dodge Coronet, four-door sedan, bearing 1968 Mississippi license 19-533

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-8880) (P)

DATE: 1/29/68

FROM : SA EARL E. BOYD

SUBJECT: FRANK ALLEN
RM - KLAN

On 1/24/68, J. P. ROBINSON, Chief, Natchez PD, Natchez, Miss., advised SA EARL E. BOYD that he was unable to locate a record identifiable with subject.

On 1/24/68, BILLY FERRELL, Sheriff, Adams County, Natchez, Miss., advised SA EARL E. BOYD he was unable to locate a record identifiable with subject.

On 1/23/68, ELLA ATKINS, Manager, Credit Bureau of Natchez, Miss., advised SA EARL E. BOYD she was unable to locate a record identifiable with subject.

RECOMMENDATION:

Inasmuch as subject is a member of the Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Miss., and a former member of Unit No. 2, of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, and since presumably subject resides in Franklin County, Miss., it is recommended that this case be reassigned to the Agent covering that territory.

*1-30-68
reassign*

② - Jackson
EEB:bal
(2) bal

157-8880-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 29 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

Jambly

(Boyd has other series)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-8880)

DATE: 12/7/67

FROM : SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE

SUBJECT: FRANK ALLEN
KLAN

This case was assigned on 11/15/67. No investigation has been conducted in this case.

In view of the retirement of SA PROSPERE, it is suggested that this case be reassigned.

*12-8-67
see re-assign
m.*

157-8880-2

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <u>67</u>	FILED <u>74</u>
DEC 7 1967	
FBI - JACKSON	

Boyd

+ Serial 1



① Jackson
CGP/wgj
(1) *wgj*

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If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent: Date Dictated <u>10/20/67</u> to <u>Betty Lou Watkins</u> Transcribed <u>10/24/67</u> Authenticated by Informant _____		Date of Report <u>10/19/67</u> Date(s) of activity <u>1963 - 1964</u>
Brief description of activity or material <u>Source furnished information about the WKKKKOM in Franklin County, Miss.</u>		FOIA(b)7 - (D) File where original is located if not attached []

Remarks:

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ENCLOSED REPORT, IF USED IN A REPORT BEING PREPARED FOR DISSEMINATION, SHOULD BE SUITABLY PARAPHRASED IN ORDER TO ADEQUATELY PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THIS INFORMANT.

- 1 - []
- 1 - 157-63 (WKKKKOM)
- 1 - 157-569 (WKKKKOM, Franklin County)
- 1 - 157- (CLYDE SEALE)
- 1 - 157- (CLYDE WENWORTH)
- 1 - 157- (LEE HESTER)
- 1 - 157- (HILTON ZUMBRO)
- 1 - 157- (FRANK ALLEN)
- 1 - 157- (CARL RAY LAYMAN) (phonetic)
- 1 - 157- WAYNE HUTTO)
- 1 - 157-950 (JAMES FORD SEALE)
- 1 - 157- (GENE SEALE)
- 1 - 157- (DON SEALE)
- 1 - 157- (BUFORD ASHLEY)
- 1 - 157- (ARCHIE PRATHER)
- 1 - 157- (CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS)
- 1 - 157- (MARCUS SHELTON PRATHER)
- 1 - 157-3830 (EARL HODGE)

Block Stamp

157-8880-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 21 1967	
FBI - JACKSON	

Prosper...

by 170

Natchez, Mississippi
October 19, 1967

WKKKKOM, FRANKLIN COUNTY

Source advised that the WKKKKOM was organized in Franklin County in about 1962. At one time, there were two units of this organization in Franklin County and each unit had about 70 to 80 members. CLYDE SEALE was the Exalted Cyclops of Unit No. One in this county and CLYDE WENTWORTH was the Exalted Cyclops of Unit No. Two in this county.

Unit No. One broke up very shortly after JAMES SEALE was arrested in November, 1964. Unit No. Two broke up shortly thereafter.

Source identified the following individuals as being former members of these units:

LEE HESTER - Member of the Board of Supervisors in Franklin County. Member of Unit No. One.

HILTON ZUMBRO - Member of the Board of Supervisors in Franklin County. Member of Unit No. Two.

FRANK ALLEN - Member of the Board of Supervisors in Franklin County. Member of Unit No. Two.

CARL RAY LAYMAN (Phonetic) - Member of the Board of Supervisors. Member of Unit No. One.

WAYNE HUTTO - Sheriff, Franklin County. (Source advised that HUTTO became a member of the WKKKKOM shortly before he was elected Sheriff of Franklin County and he got out of the organization shortly after he was elected.)

CLYDE SEALE - Member of Unit No. One.

JAMES SEALE - Member of Unit No. One.

GENE SEALE - Member of Unit No. One. (Source advised that GENE SEALE was only in this organization for a short period of time.)

DON SEALE

BUFORD ASHLEY - (ASHLEY was in Unit No. One for a short period of time and he transferred over to Unit No. Two.)

ARCHIE PRATHER - Member of Unit No. One.

CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS - Member of Unit No. One.

MARCUS SHELTON PRATHER

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

EARL HODGE MURDER, AUGUST 14 - 15, 1965

Source advised he had never heard anything about the murder of EARL HODGE in Eddiceton, Mississippi, on August 14 - 15, 1965. He stated he had heard that HODGE was bad about drinking and running around with different women. Source stated he had heard that HODGE belonged to one Klan unit in the Franklin County area but he denied knowing to which group he belonged.

888-651:157-888

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/9/68

HILTON M. ZUMBRO, Box 125, Bude, Mississippi, supervisor of District 3 in Franklin County, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the inquiry.

Mr. ZUMBRO stated he had never been a member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM) or any other Klan organization but had been invited to join the Klan on two occasions during the past. He stated insofar as the WKKKKOM is concerned in Franklin County, they are "dead." He said that he had heard that CLYDE WENTWORTH was the Exalted Cyclops of one unit and CLYDE SEALE had been in the past the Exalted Cyclops of another unit which formerly operated in Franklin County.

Mr. ZUMBRO pointed out that he has not heard of any Klan activity in Franklin County since about 1965. At one time the Klan was strong in Franklin County, but after the death of EARL HODGE the Klan "fell apart."

JN 157-8882

The following is a description of ZUMBRO as obtained from observation and interview:

Name	HILTON M. ZUMBRO
Residence	Box 125, Bude, Mississippi
Occupation	Supervisor, District 3, Franklin County, Missis- sippi
Race	Caucasian
Sex	Male
Age	49
Date of Birth	January 25, 1919
Place of Birth	Route 1, Meadville, Mississippi
Height	67½ inches
	178 pounds

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-8882) (C)

DATE: 2/9/68

FROM : SA GEORGE P. GAMBLIN

SUBJECT: HILTON M. ZUMBRO
RM (KLAN)

ZUMBRO's residence and employment have been verified. His description of the vehicles he owns has been obtained. At present ZUMBRO denies having ever been a member of the WKKKKOM in Franklin County or any other Klan group.

On 2/5/68 KIRBY SHELL, sheriff of Franklin County, Meadville, Miss., stated he had no knowledge that ZUMBRO is or has ever been affiliated with the KKK in Franklin County.

In view of the foregoing it is suggested that
this case be closed

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-8882)

DATE: 1/29/68

FROM : SA EARL E. BOYD

SUBJECT: HILTON ZUMBRO
RM (KLAN)

On 1/24/68 J. T. ROBINSON, Chief, Natchez, Miss. PD, advised SA EARL E. BOYD that he could locate no record identifiable with subject.

On 1/24/68 BILLY FERRELL, Sheriff, Adams County, Natchez, Miss., advised SA EARL E. BOYD that he could locate no record identifiable with the subject.

On 1/23/68 ELLA ATKINS, Manager, Credit Bureau of Natchez, Miss., advised SA EARL E. BOYD that HILTON M. ZUMBRO had been known to their files since 12/14/56. At that time he listed his spouse as BOBBIE, his residence as Bute, Miss., and his occupation as grocery.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-8882)

DATE: 12/7/67

FROM : SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE

SUBJECT:
HILTON ZUMBRO
RM - KLAN

This case was assigned on 11/15/67. No investigation has been conducted in connection with this case.

In view of the retirement of SA PROSPERE, it is suggested that this case be reassigned.

NW# P35 (P05)

DocId: 31540866

Date received []	Received from (name or symbol number) []	Received by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES
--------------------------	--	--

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person
 by telephone
 by mail
 orally
 recording device
 written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date
Dictated 10/20/67 to Betty Lou Watkins
Transcribed 10/24/67
Authenticated by Informant _____

Date of Report 10/19/67

Date(s) of activity 1963 - 1964

Brief description of activity or material

Source furnished information about the
WKKKKOM in Franklin County, Miss.

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

File where original is located if not attached
[]

Remarks:

Natchez, Mississippi
October 19, 1967

WKKKKOM, FRANKLIN COUNTY

Source advised that the WKKKKOM was organized in Franklin County in about 1962. At one time, there were two units of this organization in Franklin County and each unit had about 70 to 80 members. CLYDE SEALE was the Exalted Cyclops of Unit No. One in this county and CLYDE WENTWORTH was the Exalted Cyclops of Unit No. Two in this county.

Unit No. One broke up very shortly after JAMES SEALE was arrested in November, 1964. Unit No. Two broke up shortly thereafter.

Source identified the following individuals as being former members of these units:

LEE HESTER - Member of the Board of Supervisors
in Franklin County. Member of Unit No. One

CLYDE SEALE - Member of Unit No. One.

JAMES SEALE - Member of Unit No. One.

GENE SEALE - Member of Unit No. One. (Source advised that GENE SEALE was only in this organization for a short period of time.)

DON SEALE

BUFORD ASHLEY - (ASHLEY was in Unit No. One for a short period of time and he transferred over to Unit No. Two.)

ARCHIE PRATHER - Member of Unit No. One.

CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS - Member of Unit No. One.

MARCUS SHELTON PRATHER

REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP					DATE Nov 29 2011	NO. 1
NAME OF REQUESTOR Q41-1079700 51 Shellody				AGENCY OR ADDRESS		
UNITS OF SERVICE					SOURCE OF REQUEST (Check)	
INFORMATION SERVICE (Number of replies)		RECORDS FURNISHED (Number of items)	TEXTUAL, STILL PICTURES, ETC. (Number of pages)	MOTION PICTURES (Number of feet)	SOUND RECORDINGS (Number of feet)	NA Administrative Use
						Agency of Origin
WRITTEN	ORAL					Other Government
						Nongovernment
						REQUEST HANDLED BY
RG NO. 65	STACK AREA 230	ROW 77	COMPARTMENT 47	SHELF 3	OUTCARD NO.	
RECORD IDENTIFICATION Box 110						
RECEIVED BY			DATE	RETURNED TO	DATE	

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

DO NOT REMOVE FROM RECORDS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (157-) DATE: 6/22/64

FROM: SA JOSEPH H. KEARNEY, JR.

SUBJECT: BRADLEE M. BACKMAN,
31 Exchange Street
Lynn, Massachusetts
August 14 - August 29

(SAVANNAH)

RACIAL MATTERS

Re Memphis teletype to Bureau 6/17/64, Memphis airtel to Bureau 6/17/64, captioned as above (Me file 157-403) and Memphis airtel to Bureau dated 6/18/64, enclosing LHM captioned "Mississippi Summer Project; Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee" (157-386).

Referenced communications reported that on June 17, 1964, MELVIN L. WULF, Legal Director, American Civil Liberties Union; CARL BACHIN, General Counsel, Congress of Racial

INVESTIGATION

of

FEDERAL BUREAU

10/1/44

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM THIS FILE

U. S. Department of Justice

157-3830

CLASSIFICATION NO

Date

10/28/65

 Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
		JN	157-3830
		Office of Origin	File #
		JN	157-3830

Title and Character of Case
EARL HODGES
RM

Date

Explain in brief the nature and efforts made to dispose of same

Date Property Acquired

Source From Which Property Acquired

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

BULKY CABINET

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

- 1- ELEVEN 8x10 PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE WITH NEG.
- 2- FOUR COLOR PHOTOS, 8x10, OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE .
- 3- THREE ENLARGED PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE.

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 10/28/65

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
		JN	157-3830
		Office of Origin	File #
		JN	157-3830

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- 3- THREE ENLARGED PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE.

NW#: 3510 DocId: 31457487

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION

GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Jackson (157-3430) C

DATE: 6/14/68

FROM : ~~SA~~ Clark, Greta MorganSUBJECT: Earl Hodges - Victim
Riots (Klan)

In connection with the destruction of channelizing memoranda, the information contained on the serials listed below was incorporated in a report dated 6/14/68. The review for this report was made from serial 1 through serial 171.

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

In accordance with the above, the following serials are to be destroyed:

Volume	Serials (List by serial or serial scope.)
1	5 original in
	6
	10
	11
	12
	20

NW#: 35107 DocId: 31457487

FD-308 (Rev. 5-22-63)

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE:

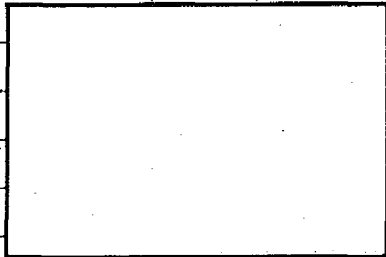
FROM : SA

SUBJECT:

In connection with the destruction of channelizing memoranda, the information contained on the serials listed below was incorporated in a report dated _____ . The review for this report was made from serial _____ through serial _____ .

In accordance with the above, the following serials are to be destroyed:

Volume	Serials (List by serial or serial scope.)
1	160 original in
	161
	164
	170
	171



FOIA(b)7 - (D)

NW#: 35105

DocId: 31457485

SAC, JACKSON [REDACTED]

2/19/68

SA. BENJAMIN F. GRAVES

FORMER [REDACTED]

Jackson letter to the Bureau dated 9/28/66 (serial 78) reflects that this case was being placed in a pending inactive status because [REDACTED]

FOIA (b) 7 - (D)

Bureau letter to Jackson dated 10/6/66 (serial 76) reflects that this source was being discontinued in view of the fact the Jackson Office was not operating him.

This letter also reflected that if at some time [REDACTED] source again became active in [REDACTED] with this Bureau,

JN



ROBERT WILSON
H. H. HEREDEEN
BILLY D. BUCKLES
BILL WATKINS
HARRY KELLEY
Two unknown individuals

Source identified the following individuals
in this group as members of the WKKKKOM:

R

ROBERT WILSON
H. H. HEREDEEN
BILLY D. BUCKLES
BURRIS DUNN
BILL WATKINS


FOIA(b)7 - (D)

Source did not recall HARRY KELLEY by name
but stated he formerly worked in the office of Secretary
of State LADNER.

EARL HODGE MURDER
8/14-15/65

Source claims to have the complete story regarding this murder. He stated the Klan was not responsible for the murder. He stated three individuals were responsible for this crime and one of the individuals is dead, one other is drinking himself to death, and the third individual is a businessman in Bude, Miss.

Source commented that he knew some Klansmen from the Vicksburg, Miss., area and then named HOWARD MILLER, DAVE ELLISON and JASPER BUFORD as former White Knights in that area.


however, he did not go into the topic of their conversation. He stated he is in frequent contact with a number of former White Knight associates.

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

furnish

W#: 35105

DocId: 31457486

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830) C

DATE: 6/14/68

FROM : CLERK, GRETA JEAN MORGAN

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
EARL HODGES - VICTIMS
RM (KLAN)

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

The following is a correlation of information
in this file concerning the victim:


157-3830-5 On 8/27/65, BILL SCARBROUGH advised that CARL
SCHULTZ felt EARL HODGES was beaten by the Klan for his
association with married women.

157-3830-6 On 9/3/65, [redacted] advised in connection
with the murder of EARL HODGES at Eddiceton, Miss., [redacted]
[redacted] he had received information
that HODGES had just paid all of his Klan dues and was considered
in good standing in Unit #1 of Franklin County.
[redacted] Co. Unit #1 was generally
Klavern

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

157-3830

157-3830-11 On 9/3/65, [redacted] advised he knew the victim by sight but not personally. Source stated he had heard that HODGES was a member of the Klan and was supposedly killed because he was going to talk to unknown individuals about the Klan.



157-3830-12 Same as serial 10.

157-3830-20 On 9/5/65, [redacted] advised that ROSIA DAVIS and his son JACK DAVIS, Constable in Roxie, will not discuss anything about EARL HODGES's death. Source stated that he had heard that if anyone attempts to discuss this case in their presence, they immediately change the subject or walk away from the individuals who are discussing the case. DAVIS hated EARL HODGES, although

157-3830

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

157-3830-85 Same as serial 20.

157-3830-88 On 9/6/65, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] GRIFFIN declined to take part in the beating since he did not regard it as an official Klan beating. GRIFFIN stated the HODGES beating apparently stemmed from HODGES' association with other men's wives and there was no actual intent to kill him.

157-3830-95 On 9/24/65, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

157-3830

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

157-3830-138 On 10/11/65, [REDACTED]

157-3830-139 On 10/25/65, BILL SCARBROUGH advised he has been unable to develop any information concerning the killing of HODGES, [REDACTED]

157-3830-140 On 10/13/65, [REDACTED] advised that many Klansmen and others outside the Klan in Franklin County believe the Klan is responsible for the killing of EARL HODGES. Source believes this is going to kill the Klan in Franklin Co.

Source advised that Unit #2, Franklin County, [REDACTED] have not had any meetings

157-3830

157-3830-141 On 10/19/65, [REDACTED] advised that since the victim's death, BOB STOREY of Bude, Miss., has attempted to commit suicide, passed worthless checks, and drank heavily. Franklin County Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO is of the opinion that STOREY may have some information about HODGES' beating and death and his acts may be a result of a guilt complex. Source advised that STOREY has been interviewed on a couple occasions since HODGES' death because of a rumor that STOREY's mother or sister made the statement that STOREY had come home on the morning of August 15, 1965, with his clothes bloody.

157-3830-148 On 2/7/66, [REDACTED] advised he is convinced that CLYDE SEALE does not know anything about the HODGES killing.

[REDACTED]

157-3830-149 On 2/1/66, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

157-3830

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

157-3830-153 On 9/14/68, [REDACTED] advised that HOWARD MC LEMORE has stated that no Klan members from Crystal Springs went on the job, meaning the killing of HODGES. However, MC LEMORE became upset and excited when the job was discussed.

157-3830-160 On 9/13/67, [REDACTED] advised that VIRGIE GIBBS, owner of Virgie's Beauty Salon, 113 N. Pearl Street, Natchez, dated EARL HODGES sometime prior to the date he was killed. Source stated he had heard that Mrs. GIBBS got quite a bit of money from HODGES during the time that she was dating him.

157-3830-161 On 9/20/67, [REDACTED] advised he had no information regarding the murder of EARL HODGES.

157-3830-164 On 10/19/67, [REDACTED] advised he had never heard anything about the murder of EARL HODGES. He stated he did hear that HODGES was bad about drinking and [REDACTED] different women. Source stated he had

157-3830

Source stated that ZUMBRO, since the HODGES incident, has always hung around the courthouse when the Grand Jury was in session. This also leads the source to believe EDWARD EMFINGER is connected with the HODGES murder and NEWMAN knows the details of the murder. EMFINGER is a changed man since the murder as he has begun to drink most of the time.

Source stated he believed CURTIS RAY STOKES could have been connected with the HODGES murder as he was a drunk and associated with NEWMAN and EMFINGER. Source has heard that STOKES killed a man in a fist fight while he was in military service in England during the war.

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

The only motive source ever heard of for this murder was over girls or a crap game.

Source stated he did not believe MAXIE PRATHER or ROSIA DAVIS has any knowledge of the murder.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/9/68

FRANK ALLEN, Smithdale, Mississippi, Route 1, the president of the Board of Supervisors for Franklin County, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the inquiry at the outset of the interview.

Mr. ALLEN advised that he joined Unit Number Two of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM), Franklin County, sometime during 1963 but never attended a meeting. He pointed out that during this time the Klan was strong in Franklin County, and it was politically expedient to belong to the Klan at this time.

Mr. ALLEN stated that he had no personal knowledge of any violence committed by Klansmen in Franklin County. He stated that he is opposed to violence in any form and said that the WKKKKOM is inactive at the present time.

ALLEN said that he had never heard anything
about August 14, or

JN 157-8880

2

Mr. ALLEN stated that CLYDE WENTWORTH was the Exalted Cyclops of one of the units of the WKKKKOM and CLYDE SEALE was the Exalted Cyclops of another unit in Franklin County.

Mr. ALLEN knows of no recent Klan meetings, has no knowledge of any explosives or gun caches in Franklin County, and to his knowledge the Klan is dead.

Mr. ALLEN stated he was unable to furnish any information regarding the WHARLEST JACKSON case or the GEORGE METCALFE bombings.

Mr. ALLEN was shown the photographs of the principal suspects in the Jackson, Mississippi, bombings and stated that he was not aware of the identity of anyone appearing in the photographs.

JN 157-8880

3

Hair
Complexion
Eyes
Education

Marital Status
Automobile

Bald, gray

Fair

Brown

High school and one
year in college

Married

1966 blue Dodge Coronet,
four-door sedan, bearing
1968 Mississippi license
19-533

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/9/68

HILTON M. ZUMBRO, Box 125, Bude, Mississippi, supervisor of District 3 in Franklin County, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the inquiry.

Mr. ZUMBRO stated he had never been a member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM) or any other Klan organization but had been invited to join the Klan on two occasions during the past. He stated insofar as the WKKKKOM is concerned in Franklin County, they are "dead." He said that he had heard that CLYDE WENTWORTH was the Exalted Cyclops of one unit and CLYDE SEALE had been in the past the Exalted Cyclops of another unit which formerly operated in Franklin County.

Mr. ZUMBRO pointed out that he has not heard of any Klan activity in Franklin County since about 1965. At one time the Klan was strong in Franklin County, but after the death of EARL HODGE the Klan "fell apart."

JN 157-8882

2

The following is a description of ZUMBRO as obtained from observation and interview:

Name	HILTON M. ZUMBRO
Residence	Box 125, Bude, Mississippi
Occupation	Supervisor, District 3, Franklin County, Missis- sippi
Race	Caucasian
Sex	Male
Age	49
Date of Birth	January 25, 1919
Place of Birth	Route 1, Meadville, Mississippi
Height	67½ inches
	178 pounds
	Brown

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830)

DATE: 1/23/68

FROM : SA REESIE L. TIMMONS (C)

SUBJECT: EARL HODGES
RM - KLAN

Extensive investigation during the past three to four months in the Meadville, Miss., area in an effort to locate ETHEL RAE SMITH have proved negative.

Sheriff KIRBY SHELL, MHSP BERNICE BEASLEY and Deputy Sheriff JACK MEYERS have been contacted on numerous occasions, have advised they have conversed with the mother and brother of ETHEL RAE SMITH on many occasions but have been able to learn only that she is someplace in the state of Louisiana with a girl friend. It is known that she did not return to the Meadville area over the Christmas-NewYears holidays, or write her mother during that period.

C.A. WALLACE has been contacted on numerous occasions but remains in such poor mental and physical condition that he has not been successfully interviewed. He has been contacted in County Jail without success. He has advised that he would advise SMITH and

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/7/67

EUGENE ROBERT STOREY, contacted at Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield, Mississippi, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents by SA TIMMONS, who also advised him that he would not have to furnish any information, that any information he did furnish could be used in a court of law, and that he could contact an attorney or anyone else at any time.

STOREY advised that he was contacted by one of his doctors and advised that the FBI desired to converse with him. He advised that he knew the reason for the interview would be the death of EARL HODGES in August, 1965, and advised he readily told the doctor he would talk with the FBI.

STOREY advised that during the past two years, he has heard several rumors in the Bude, Mississippi, area to the effect that he in some manner was responsible for the death of EARL HODGES in August, 1965.

He stated that JOHNNY DUNN, who operates the ice house in Bude, told almost everyone in town that his 34-year old mentally retarded sister told him that she cleaned the blood from his boots and clothes the morning following the death of EARL HODGES.

STOREY stated the most recent rumor came from JOHN PAUL JONES of Bude, Mississippi, an electrician, who during mid-October, 1967, told him that he heard the STOREY brothers killed EARL HODGES after he attempted to rape their mentally retarded sister.

He advised that he had been drunk for two or three days prior to the night EARL HODGES was killed and was at his mother's home in Bude sleeping off a drunk the entire night that HODGES was killed.

On 11/6/67 at Whitfield, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-166
Jackson 157-207-
 by SAs REESIE L. TIMMONS, DAVID H. PHILLIPS and WILLIAM C. MEARNS/RLT/clm Date dictated 11/7/67

STOREY advised that the rumor indicating he killed HODGES with a meat cleaver undoubtedly came from a statement he made the morning HODGES was found dead when, after viewing the body, he stated "it looks like someone hit him in the face with the blade of a hatchet". STOREY advised that he spent some three to five weeks in Las Vegas, Nevada, with JAMES MIERS of Franklin County, Mississippi, returning approximately October 20 or 21, 1967. He advised that he was drinking heavily for several days thereafter and has no recollection of physically cutting himself on the inside of both wrists, stating that he came to and realized the blood was streaming from both arms, and called his mother and sister, who undoubtedly saved his life.

STOREY advised that he expects to be released from the hospital within the next two or three weeks and hopes to return to Bude and continue his employment at the Acme Body Shop in Bude.

He furnished the following descriptive information:

Name	EUGENE ROBERT STOREY
Date of Birth	August 4, 1937
Place of Birth	Woodville, Mississippi
Mother	LILLY WHITE STOREY, Bude
Father	Deceased
Brothers	AL STOREY; PAUL STOREY, Bude, Mississippi
Sister	GERTRUDE (mentally retarded)
Employment	Mechanic, Bude, Mississippi
Military service	None
Height	6 feet one inch
Weight	210
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown (crew cut)
Scars and marks	Large birthmark left hip; two inch scar inside both wrists

JN 157-3830

He advised that LYNN SULLIVAN, an employee of the Mississippi Highway Department, who resides in Bude, Mississippi, was present when JONES related the above story and stated he, too, had heard that story.

STOREY advised that he was recruited into the Wentworth Unit of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM) some five to six months prior to the death of EARL HODGES or perhaps during the early Spring of 1965. He advised that to the best of his recollection, he attended meetings some four to five months in an old four-room house on the "old WARD farm", that was leased by WARREN NEWMAN of Bude.

He advised that he got tired of the klan meetings when, after some five months, all he could hear was individual members talk about where they could find some Negro they could whip.

STOREY declined to answer when asked if anyone in the unit discussed beating any white people.

He advised that he has known of ETHEL RAY SMITH of Meadville, Mississippi, some five to six years, has never dated her, has never been out with her, and would not go out with her no matter how drunk he might get because he knows of her reputation and is afraid she would kill him or try to as she has two or three other part-time boyfriends.

He advised that he knows her brother, CHARLES RAY SMITH, knows MAXIE PRATHER, and knew CURTIS RAY STOKES prior to his death, but was not with them on the night EARL HODGES was killed, did not go to Leesdale with them and was not with them when they were involved in an automobile accident with EARL HODGES.

STOREY again emphasized that he is positive that he was at his mother's place sleeping from before dark until 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. the next day.

JN 157-3830

SCHULTZ made the remark that the people did not intend to kill EARL, that EARL fought back and pulled the hood from the face of two of the men, recognized them, thereby forcing the men to kill him. Mr. HODGES stated that he believes from this statement that SCHULTZ knew far more than he has told about the killing.

Mr. HODGES also advised that he has consulted a fortune teller in Natchez, Miss., who told him how to get to the place where his son was beaten. He stated he went back to Eddiceton, crossed the river behind his house, and following the fortune teller's directions found the place where he believes his son was beaten. Mr. HODGES was unable to explain why, but feels from information furnished him by the fortune teller, that the COTREN brothers, the EMPINGER brothers, and WARREN NEWMAN were responsible for the death of his son.

LEADS:

It is noted that CARL SCHULTZ has moved to Gulfport, Miss., but still owns his home at Meadville and returns there every third or fourth weekend. Efforts will be made to contact and interview CARL SCHULTZ at Meadville re above statements attributed to him by Mr. HODGES.

AT MEADVILLE, MISS.

Will remain in contact with Deputy Sheriff CURBY SHELL, WARREN NEWMAN, and Mr. ZEB HODGES for information regarding the return of ETHEL RAE SMITH and BOB STORY, who is currently in Sacramento, California, according to above individuals. Will upon the return of ETHEL RAE SMITH or when an address for her is determined, interview her regarding statements attributed to her by C. A. WALLACE.

Date 9/9/67

ERNEST AVANTS was interviewed at his residence, 114 Hammett Street, Natchez, Mississippi, by SAs BENJAMIN F. GRAVES and JOHN DENNIS MILLER who identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI. AVANTS advised he was aware of his constitutional rights, but would be more than willing to talk with the Agents.

He was interviewed for approximately three hours during which time various topics of conversation were discussed. Throughout the interview, AVANTS continually shifted from one topic to another in such a manner that it was often difficult or impossible to comprehend the subject matter of his remarks.

Several times he indicated a willingness to trade information in his possession. He was unwilling and unable, however, to specify what he wanted in return or about what subjects he would be willing to furnish information.

In this regard, he advised that he could furnish no information about the bombing of WHARLEST JACKSON. He did state that he could be of assistance to the FBI in the investigation of the GEORGE METCALFE bombing because "we" (evidently referring to the White Knights) have had some fairly strong opinions concerning that bombing.

Three times AVANTS was asked about a trip to Brookhaven, Mississippi, with TOMMIE LEE JONES to secure medical assistance for JONES following a shooting on the property of a Negro pheasant breeder in Louisiana. SA GRAVES explained to AVANTS that he was not suspected of participating in the trip to Louisiana as Silver Dollar Group members were involved and he was not a Silver Dollar Group member. AVANTS volunteered that some of those involved were subsequently in

On 9/6/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-2044
Jackson 157-958
Jackson 157-3830-161
Jackson 157-5206
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs JOHN DENNIS MILLER and BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /JDM:jl Date dictated 9/7/67

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 22 1967	
FBI - JACKSON	

Tommons

the Silver Dollar Group, but that the Silver Dollar Group was not in existence at the time of this incident. AVANTS did not comment on his trip with JONES to Brookhaven.

AVANTS displayed acute interest in the murder of EARL HODGES in Eddiceton, Mississippi, on August 14--15, 1965. He advised that the White Knights would eventually ascertain the identities of the parties responsible as they were conducting an investigation themselves in that matter. He stated that investigation has disclosed that a woman is involved. SA GRAVES inquired if that woman was ETHEL RAY SMITH. AVANTS smiled and said, "You said that, I didn't". He would not elaborate further on the HODGES case except to express, later in the conversation, interest in it.

Reference was also made to the beating of MARVIN WESLEY WILLIS and ELAINE FREEMAN EMFINGER in the Fall of 1964 near Bude, Mississippi. AVANTS stated that, "We gave them a good tanning" (evidently referring to the White Knights); that "the big man in overalls" had done a good job; and that ELAINE would not have been beaten if she had kept her mouth shut.

As the conversation concerning beatings continued, AVANTS mentioned the beating of WILLIE JOE BUTLER who worked on the DRAIN property. He also mentioned an assault on a Negro who was beaten and given castor oil. In the same series of remarks, AVANTS mentioned that "he", while speaking of the Negro, was forced to run in a dark field and ran into a tree. According to AVANTS, the Negro deserved the beating because he looked up women's skirts when they ascended stairs. The victim appeared on television and stated he was not involved in civil rights activity, which statement AVANTS advised was absolutely correct. It was unclear if all of these remarks were intended to refer to BUTLER or whether they referred to two or more separate parties. He would not

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830) (P)

DATE: 10/25/67

FROM : SA REESIE L. TIMMONS

SUBJECT: EARL HODGES
RM (KLAN)

Re memo of SA TIMMONS dated 8/15/67.

CLEVELAND A. WALLACE, Bude, Miss., has been re-contacted on numerous occasions during the past few weeks. He has been unable to furnish any additional information regarding his conversation with ETHEL RAE SMITH. He has been interviewed when supposedly sober and when sober is incapable of talking at all. He cannot control himself in any manner and has to have a drink in order to become somewhat lucid.

WALLACE, Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO, Deputy Sheriff CURBY SHELL and WARREN NEWMAN of Bude, Miss., have continually advised that ETHEL RAE SMITH has not returned from her Louisiana trip. CURBY SHELL has contacted her mother on a weekly basis and has been advised that she has not heard from ETHEL RAE and has no idea what city in Louisiana she is visiting.

SHELL advises that the above action of SMITH is not unusual, that she is an alcoholic, and has stayed away from the Meadville area for as long as six months at a time without anyone knowing of her whereabouts.

Mr. ZEB HODGES, father of EARL HODGES, has been interviewed and has advised that he has no pertinent information regarding the death of his son, but desired to relate a conversation with CARL SCHULTZ in February, 1967, wherein SCHULTZ criticized him for telling people that he believed he (SCHULTZ) knew about the murder. Mr. HODGES advised that



2 - Jackson
RLT/jls
(2)

157-3830-164

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furnish any additional information about these matters nor would he clarify which beating or beatings to which he was referring. AVANTS continued that he was not aware of the beating of a Negro from Natchez who had insulted the wife of JACK MOORE.

He advised that there were several "jobs" done in Adams County by "outlaw groups" which did not involve the White Nights.

AVANTS displayed a .44 magnum pistol with a 7½ inch barrel which his wife keeps around the house for protection.

AVANTS advised that he was firmly convinced that the White Knights comprised the most desirable group of southern men in Mississippi. He would never consider joining the United Klans of America, Inc., the old Originals, the Knights of the Green Forest, the Universal Klans of America, the White Camellians, the Silver Dollar Group, or any other group. He did state that the Silver Dollar Group supposedly consisted of the elite or chosen men of the area. He expressed a profound admiration for SAM BOWERS whom he described as the leader of the White Knights. He explained that BOWERS was a highly intelligent man who was self taught. Furthermore, while there is a Jesus in heaven, there is a Jesus here on earth and that man is SAM BOWERS.

Date 10/28/65

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
		JN	157-3830
		Office of Origin	File #
		JN	157-3830

Title and Character of Case
 EARL HODGES
 RM

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BULKY CABINET	

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

- 1- ELEVEN 8x10 PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE WITH NEG.
- 2- FOUR COLOR PHOTOS, 8x10, OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE .
- 3- THREE ENLARGED PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE.

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
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 FBI-JACKSON

157-3830-159

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8-8-66 _____ 157-3830-181
3-2-67 _____
8-9-67 _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830) (P)

DATE: 8/15/67

FROM : SA REESIE L. TIMMONS

SUBJECT: EARL HODGES
RM

The following information is being set forth in memorandum form rather than on FD-302's in view of the fact that CLEVELAND A. WALLACE of Bude, Miss., has been exceedingly drunk on both occasions when interviewed. When and if he is located in a sober condition, he will be interviewed and the results recorded on an FD-302.

WALLACE is the owner and operator of a small auto repair shop in Bude just off Highway 84 and furnished the following information on 8/7 and 10/67.

August 7, 1967:

WALLACE advised that approximately two months ago, ETHEL RAE SMITH of Roxie, Miss., came by his place on a Saturday afternoon with her sister, JUNE (LNU), of Roxie looking for a free bottle. He advised that he gave ETHEL RAE SMITH a bottle of liquor and after she had several drinks, she told her sister, JUNE, to go back to Roxie, that she was going to spend the night with WALLACE.

Shortly thereafter, WALLACE closed his shop, drove ETHEL RAE SMITH to the local bootleggers where he purchased a fifth of whiskey. They drove back to his shop, where they drank most of the whiskey, both got very drunk, and ETHEL RAE SMITH did, in fact, spend the night there.

According to WALLACE, the following Sunday morning, ETHEL RAE SMITH awoke screaming and cursing because he had no more whiskey for her. She threatened him with her knife and reminded him of one man in Vidalia, La., whom she cut,

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157-3830-158

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Timmons



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2 JN 157-

RLT/blw

(2)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

requiring some 50-odd stitches in his head and his right arm. She mentioned another man whose leg she had shot off with a shotgun.

According to WALLACE, after the above stories, ETHEL RAE stated, "If you think that is something, wait until you hear what happened to EARL HODGES." She then asked if he knew HODGES, he replied that he did, and she related that on the night HODGES was killed, she had been to "the line" with MARCUS PRATHER and CURTIS STOKES and on the way back, they had an automobile accident with EMFINGER and HODGES. According to WALLACE, ETHEL RAE stated "later that night, they got HODGES out of his house and while two others held him, MARCUS PRATHER and BOB STORY beat him, BOB STORY actually beat him with a meat cleaver."

WALLACE advised that SMITH did not give any reason for the beating, where it took place, who the other two men were, if she were actually present, and did not explain the switch from CURTIS STOKES to BOB STORY.

August 10, 1967:

On this date, WALLACE advised that an unknown male brought ETHEL RAE SMITH to his place the Saturday approximately two months ago, that on that Sunday morning, ETHEL RAE SMITH told him that she and JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN went to the residence of HODGES late that night and got him to come out of his house so the four individuals could get him into their automobile. She also stated that she was present when they beat HODGES. She stated that her brother, CHARLES RAY SMITH, was one of the two individuals who held HODGES while PRATHER and STORY beat him. She did not explain what happened to the COTHREN woman after the two of them got HODGES out of the house.

JN 157-

WALLACE was contacted on both 8/11 and 12/67 and on both dates, he was so drunk that he could not get off his bed in a room in his small repair shop.

WALLACE will be recontacted in the immediate future and if not reasonably sober, arrangements will be made in Meadville, Miss., to have him locked up until he sobers up.

SAC, JACKSON [REDACTED]

8/3/67

SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES

FORMER [REDACTED]

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

Source was contacted on 7/26/67, by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS and the writer and he advised that he had heard that WARREN NEWMAN who runs the Bude Furniture Store in Bude, Miss., had in the past dated Mrs. FRANK CORBAN, the widow of FRANK CORBAN, the former Sheriff of Franklin County who committed suicide a couple of years ago. He stated EARL HODGE who was murdered in Eddiceton, Miss., on 8/14-15/65, supposedly had dated Mrs. CORBAN also and had taken her away from WARREN NEWMAN. Supposedly this is the reason that HODGE was murdered. He stated he heard that NEWMAN did not have anything to do with the beating of HODGE but supposedly he had arranged for someone to do the beating.

1 - [REDACTED]
1 - 157-3830
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(2)

157-3839-157
[Handwritten signature and initials]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830)

DATE: 8/3/67

FROM : SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; MURDER OF
EARL HODGE on 8/14-15/65
AT EDDICETON, MISS.
RM (KLAN)

Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO was contacted on 7/27/67 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS and the writer and he advised he had never heard that WARREN NEWMAN of Bude, Miss., and EARL HODGE had ever dated Mrs. FRANK CORBAN, the widow of the deceased Sheriff of Franklin County.

KIRBY SHELL, Deputy Sheriff, Franklin County, was contacted by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS and the writer on 7/27/67, and he advised he had heard in the past that WARREN NEWMAN of Bude, Miss., had dated Mrs. FRANK CORBAN after her husband died. He stated, however, he had never seen them together. He stated he did not know for certain that NEWMAN had dated Mrs. CORBAN and he was inclined to think that he would not date her because she is a large woman, weighing approximately 200 pounds, and is about 50 years of age. He stated NEWMAN preferred to date women in their 20's who were very attractive.

SHELL advised that he had never heard that EARL HODGE had dated Mrs. CORBAN.

WARREN NEWMAN, owner of the Bude Furniture Store, Bude, Miss., was interviewed by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS and the writer on 7/27/67 and he denied having ever dated Mrs. FRANK CORBAN. He also stated he had never heard that EARL HODGE had dated Mrs. CORBAN.

1 - Jackson
BFG/jls
(1)



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NEWMAN pointed out that he had never received any information as to the identity of the individuals who murdered HODGE. He pointed out that sometime after the murder of HODGE, he went to Jackson, Miss., and took a polygraph examination so that he might clear himself of any suspicion in connection with the HODGE murder. He reminded the Agents that he was one of the last individuals who saw HODGE alive and he certainly wanted to clear himself of any suspicion. He pointed out that he and HODGE were friends and he hopes some day that HODGE's murders will be apprehended.

Date 10/28/65

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
		JN	157-3830
		Office of Origin	File #
		JN	157-3830

Title and Character of Case
 EARL HODGES
 RM

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BULKY CABINET	

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1- ELEVEN 8x10 PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE WITH NEG.
 2- FOUR COLOR PHOTOS, 8x10, OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE .
 3- THREE ENLARGED PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE.

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 9 1967	
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SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8-8-66 _____ 157-3830-1181

3-2-67 _____

SAC [redacted]

2-18-67

157-3830-154

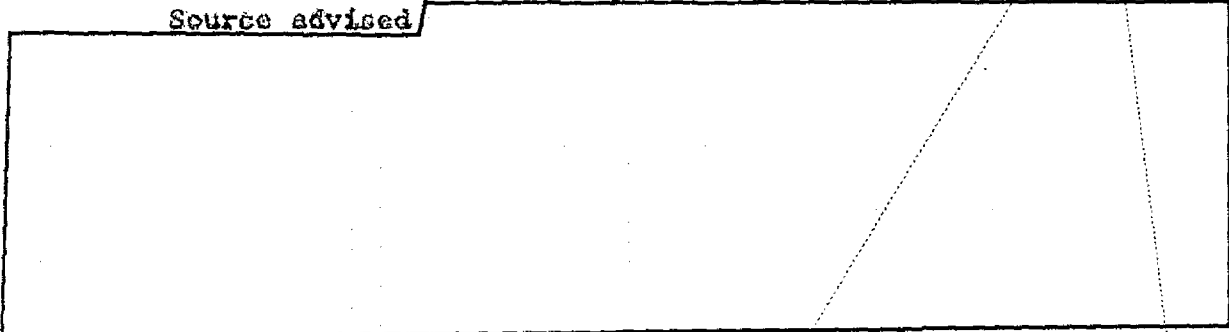
SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB

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FOIA(b)7 - (D)

[redacted]
CRS

Source advised [redacted]



On 2-14-67 SULLIVAN was visited by a WMA in a blue truck, 1967 Miss. P/6-114120 (JAMES CLARK, aka Cody, gun repairman from Bud Street, Plain) and the two went off together for awhile.

On the same date SULLIVAN was visited by a WMA in a light blue car that may have had some white on it - source only was able to observe that it was a Hinds county licensed car.

On 2-15-67 SULLIVAN was visited by the driver of TB-432, a white Falcon (Registered to E. WAYNE BEAVERS, Rt. #2, Box 192, Pelahatchie for a 1964 Falcon)

On the 15th SULLIVAN was visited by T-6120 - they sat in the car in front of SULLIVAN's home for some three hours by the clock, Registered to BENNIE E. SELF, a very frequent visitor.

Source called attention to the fact that the OGA will have a state meet 2-19-67 at Brookhaven to elect officers - this had been obtained from local press. (This was to have been a Province #3 meet.)

RE: UNSUBS; EARL HODGES - VICTIM, RM

Source advised [redacted]



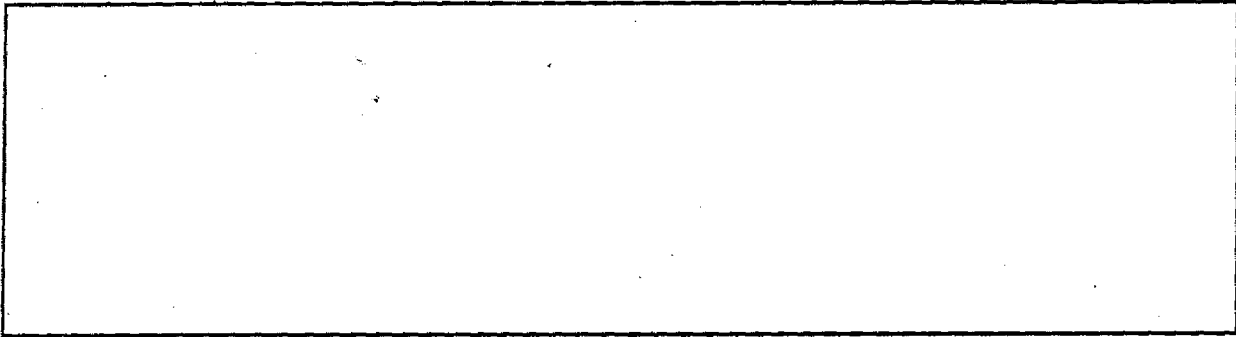
- 1- [redacted]
- 1-157-6839 (SULLIVAN)
- 1-157-6385 (SELF)

- 1-157- (JAMES CLARK, aka Cody)
- 1-157-3830 (EARL HODGES Murder)

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

JN

- 2 -



A review of JN 157-3830 concerning HODGES gives no indication that SCARBROUGH was interviewed, and indices are negative.



SAC, JACKSON

(157-)

8/16/66

SA REESIE L. TIMMONS

KKK ACTIVITY
FRANKLIN COUNTY
RM-KLAN

[redacted] furnished the following information to the writer ~~xxx~~ regarding matters set forth below:

BURNING OF THE TASTYE FREEZE, MEADVILLE, MISS.,
8/11 or 12/66

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

GROVER NETTLES, a carpenter who resides on Mile Branch Road, and who is currently building a new house where the BASS house burned behind the courthouse in Meadville, on Sunday 8/14/66 told him that the day before the above burning JAMES SEALE contacted two relatives of his, Uncle JACK KE WACTOR, and AUNT MARY, who live across the highway from the Tasty Freeze and asked each if they had observed the people at the Tasty Freeze serving whites and negroes from the same window.

[redacted] advised that NETTLES is mad at the Klan in that area due to a recent incident wherein some several hundred dollars worth of tools were stolen from him. He advised that NETTLES was recently building a home for the BASS couple who have been burned out on two occasions during the last year. After NETTLES had all the windows and doors on the BASS home he left all his tools in the house over a week-end. Only NETTLES, and the two BASS's had keys to the house and MR. BASS was away on a drilling rig. When NETTLES came back to work on Monday morning all his tools were gone. He knew (as does most of Meadville) that MRS. Bass has been having affairs with numerous men while her husband is out in the Gulf, went to several Klan members and told them he was carrying a gun and if he found any of his tools he intended to use it.

[redacted] advised that he feels certain NETTLES would furnish the same information to the FBI, but requested that his identity be concealed.

- 1- 157- (KKK FRANKLIN CO.)
- 1-157- (JAMES SEAL)
- ①-157-3830 (EARL HODGES) ✓
- 1- 157- BURNING OF TASTY FREEZE, MEADVILLE, 8/11 or 12/66

SEARCHED <i>hrt</i>	INDEXED <i>hrt</i>
SERIALIZED <i>hrt</i>	FILED <i>hrt</i>
AUG 18 1966	
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157-3830-151

**CROSS BURNING, Residence of ALFORD MORTON and EUGINA BREAZEALE
EDDICETON, MISS.**

[redacted] advised that on the night on May 9, 1966, when numerous crosses were burned across the state, one was burned in the driveway of the ~~rural~~ rural home on ALFORD MORTON, age 75, who resides four or five miles east of Eddiceton on Highway 84. He advised that some few weeks after the Burning he heard that that cross was burned due to the fact that the 50 year old step-daughter of MORTON, EUGINA BREAZEALE, who is the Supervisor of Nurses at the Brookhaven, Hospital, had recently hired three or four negro girls as nurses aids and was actually allowing one or two of them to ride to work with her. The Klan had heard of this and burned the cross in front of the house in an effort to scare her. He advised that MISS BREAZEALE followed the men in the car from her home to Mc Call's Creek, however he does not know if she was able to get a description of the car or the plate number.

[redacted] It was observed by the writer on 8/16/66, is some 8 or 9 feet tall, made of green poplar poles, with a 14 inch by 24 inch base, it did not burn, and was very poorly constructed. FOIA(b)7 - (D)

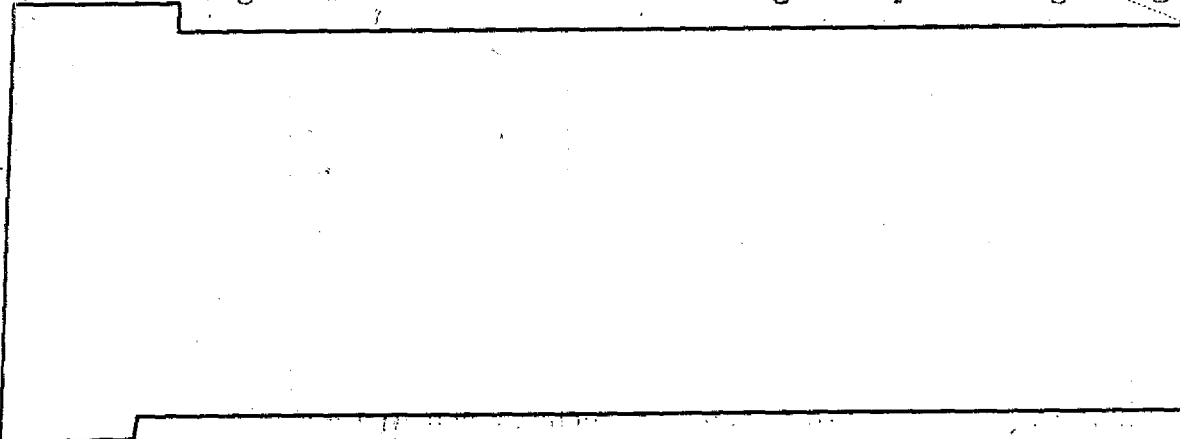
EARL HODGES MURDER

[redacted] advised that during the course of the FBI investigation of the above murder, one BOB STOREY, of Bude, Miss., left the Franklin County area, went up north where he stayed for some 8 or 9 months. He returned to the Natchez, Miss., area about two months ago, is now a ~~Franklin~~ heavy drinker, comes to the Bude-Meadville area on week-ends, and has been heard during his drunken stupor ~~is~~ stating that he is going to be killed because of the EARL HODGES murder, that he may have to leave the area again, and many other comments about the HODGES murder, all while he is drunk. Before he left some 8 months ago he was a regular worker, who was not known to drink at all.

JOHN ISHEE, Miss. State Forrester, Roxie, Miss.

[redacted] the boys from the Bunkley Klan had been to see him at the Roxie Fire tower, told him that when they needed that tower they were prepared to take it for their own use, that they wanted to let him know ahead of time. ISHEE could not explain what they wanted with the tower and has not heard from them since, however he has started carrying a gun and advised [redacted] that no one from the Klan would get in the tower.

For general information the following is reported regarding



RECOMMENDATION

NATCHEZ RA, at Meadville contact GROVER NETTLES, obtain names of his relatives contacted by JAMES SEAL re the Tasty Freeze, interview for all details if so contacted. Consider neighborhood in vicinity of Tasty Freeze if not already conducted.

NATCHEZ RA, at Natchez contact BOB STOREY at garage where he is employed (Known to SA PROSPERE)

NATCHEZ RA, at Roxie contact JOHN ISHEE re his statements about the Klan taking over the Roxie Fire Tower if needed.

MC COMB RA, at Brookhaven, Miss., contact MISS EUGINA BREAZEALE at Brookhaven Hospital re cross burning night of May 9, 1966, and obtain any information she may have re identity of individuals of automobile.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (157-3830)

DATE: 5/12/66

FROM : SAC ROY K. MOORE

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; EARL HODGES - VICTIM
RM

At 9:25 a.m., 5/11/66, EARL HODGES' father, ZEB HODGES, called by phone from Brookhaven (833-7900) where he advised he is staying with an elderly retired cotton planter, NICK EDWARD SMITH. Mr. HODGES advised the SMITH plantation is some 14 miles west of Brookhaven near Caseyville, Miss. Mr. HODGES, who is a male nurse, expects to be living at the SMITH plantation for the next three weeks.

Mr. HODGES asked if I would relay to the MHSP a message for SAM NEWMAN. I explained that I would be glad to do so. He asked that Investigator NEWMAN call him at the aforementioned number or come see him at the SMITH plantation. If neither was possible, then Mr. HODGES stated he could possibly come to Jackson to see Investigator NEWMAN.

The foregoing was relayed to CHARLES E. SNODGRASS (NA), MHSP, who stated he would have Investigator NEWMAN get in touch with Mr. HODGES. I asked Mr. SNODGRASS to advise us of the outcome of the case as we had an interest. He stated they would.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
5-12-66
[Signature]

157-3830-150

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 12 1966	
FBI - JACKSON	

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② - Jackson

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(2)



SAC, JACKSON (157-2746)

2/24/66

SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE

EUGENE ROBERT STOREY
RM (KLAN)

On 1/20/66 EUGENE ROBERT STOREY was located at Storey's Garage, Bude, Miss. STOREY denied that he had ever belonged to a Klan-type organization and stated that he was not a close associate of EARL HODGE. STOREY explained that EARL HODGE was several years older than he was, and for this reason, they had not run together in the same crowd in Franklin Co. STOREY stated that he had, however, on 2 or 3 occasions double-dated with EARL HODGE and that on these occasions, HODGE had made no statement indicating that he was afraid that he was going to be whipped or that he was having any trouble whatsoever with any Klansman. STOREY further stated that in his conversations with individuals in the Franklin Co. area, he has been unable to develop any information which would possibly identify the individuals responsible for the murder of EARL HODGE.

STOREY stated that he had left the Bude-Meadville area shortly after the murder of EARL HODGE, but that his departure had nothing to do with the murder of HODGE or the fact that he had information regarding this murder. He stated that the reason he left the Bude-Meadville area was that he began drinking which was bad for the business, which is a garage operated by him and his brother, and that he felt the best thing he could do was to leave. STOREY stated that he went to Yazoo City, Miss., where he worked as steel worker; that he then went to Memphis, Tenn., and to Smyrna, Tenn., where he worked for a construction company. STOREY stated that he had returned to his home in Bude several weeks before, and that since returning home, he has developed no information whatsoever regarding the murder of EARL HODGE.

2-Jackson
(1 - 157-2746) (1 - 157-3830)
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157-3830-147

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 24 1966	
FBI - JACKSON	

Limmond

JN 157-2746

The following is a description of EUGENE ROBERT STOREY as obtained from observation and interrogation on 1/20/66:

Name	EUGENE ROBERT STOREY
Aliases	None
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	28
DOB	8/4/37
POB	Woodville, Miss.
Residence	Bude, Miss.
Height	6' 1½"
Weight	205
Build	Medium
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Fair
Scars and marks	Brown birthmark size of nickel on left leg near hip

Peculiarities	None
Occupation	Mechanic and iron worker
Marital Status	Single
Previous record	None
Immediate relatives	Father - WILLIAM RUFUS STOREY (deceased) Mother - LILLIE WHITE STOREY, Bude, Miss. Brothers - ALTON RAY STOREY, Bude, Miss. PAUL LEE STOREY, Bude, Miss. WILLIAM CHARLES STOREY, Natchez Sister - GERTRUDE ELIZABETH STOREY, Bude, Miss.

STOREY then advised that a night or two earlier the home of CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS had caught on fire, and it was first believed by the people in Franklin Co., that it was possibly Klan retaliation action. STOREY stated that it was later determined that one of the TYSON brothers, who operates a hardware and building supply business in Bude, Miss., had been to the EDWARDS' home a day or two before the fire in connection with an electrical repair, and TYSON had stated that the wires in the EDWARDS' home were extremely hot. STOREY stated that the general consensus is that it was an electrical fire since the fire started inside the house and not from the outside.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830)

DATE 2/10/66

FROM : SA REESIE L. TIMMONS

SUBJECT EARL HODGES
RM (KLAN)

WARREN NEWMAN, Bude Furniture Co., Bude, Miss., telephonically contacted SA TIMMONS on 2/9/66, and requested that SA TIMMONS contact him in Bude as he had something he had learned from ELAINE EMFINGER re the identity of one of the individuals who beat her during the Summer of 1965.

NEWMAN was contacted and advised that in a recent conversation with EMFINGER she had told him that on a recent trip from Baton Rouge, La., to Bude she had stopped at a service station in Crosby, Miss., and recognized the man at the station as being the big fat man who was one of the four men who beat she and WILLIS. He stated that he has heard that this man is the son of the current City Night Marshal and has been photographed in the Baton Rouge area at recent Klan affairs. He advised this man has a reputation of beating people in the Crosby area and being able to get by with it since his father is the City Night Marshal.

NEWMAN advised that ELAINE EMFINGER has moved back to her home in the Bude area and can generally be found around town.

The writer was unable to locate ELAINE EMFINGER on 2/9/66.

On 2/10/66, SA TIMMONS and SA JOE BREWI attempted to identify the man who operates the only service station in Crosby, without any success. EMFINGER was located late

2-Jackson
(1- 157-569)
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(2)



5010-108-01

2/10/66
Re [unclear]
[unclear]
157-3830-146
SEARCHED [initials] INDEXED [initials]
SERIALIZED [initials] FILED [initials]
FEB 10 1966
FBI - JACKSON
TIMMONS

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JN 157-3830

on 2/10/66, at which time she was very upset about someone telling this man in Crosby about her interest in him. She was able to state that she believes the man who operates the only station in Crosby is the larger of the four men who beat her. She described him as 40-45 years of age and very heavy. She stated she has seen him several times since her beating and while at the station the last time, some three to four weeks ago, the man asked if the car she was driving did not belong to Mr. EMFINGER from Bude. She remarked that it did, then stated, "wasn't that terrible what happened to EARL HODGE in Bude"; the man replied "he got what he deserved, if you had known what he did the night before, you would not be surprised at what he got."

ELAINE EMFINGER advised that from the way the man looked at her she has no doubt that he knows her and that he is one of the men who beat her. She advised relative to the beating that when the small man brought her out of the bedroom, this big man was standing behind the chair, WILLIS was sitting, and that WILLIS did not get to see him at all. She advised that this man did not speak at all while they were in her house and that the man who was trying to get WILLIS to estimate some timber for them did all the talking.

EMFINGER advised that she has heard this man's name, but was unable to recall it at that time. She advised that she has never seen him in the Bude - Meadville area. She advised that she has heard from unrecalled sources that the four men who beat she and WILLIS came from the Amite County - Wilkinson County area.

EMFINGER further advised that one of the photographs shown her by the writer and SA GRAVES in Baton Rouge during September 1965, is in her opinion the same man she has seen in the service station.

JN 157-3830

LEAD

It is recommended that the man who operates the only service station in Crosby be identified, photographed, leads sent to the New Orleans Office for any information in that office re this individual, informants contacted re Klan membership, and the subject be interviewed if deemed advisable after above investigation completed.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 28, 1965

RALPH EDDY ROSE, of Plank Road, Nolan Trailer Court, Brownfield near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, employed by R. D. COOPER, was at the Franklin County Courthouse, advised of the identity of interviewing agents, and the nature of the investigation.

ROSE stated he has been living with ETHEL RAY SMITH of Meadville for sometime and that several weeks ago he loaned SMITH his 1956 Blue Ford Station Wagon which subsequently had broken down in the Meadville area. On Thursday night, September 16, 1965 he came to Meadville to her mother's home to pick up her and the car about 9 or 10 p.m. She showed up after his arrival with BILL FORD who works with him in Louisiana. They did not have time to tow the car back and ROSE report to work early the next morning, so the three of them returned to Baton Rouge without his car.

In the early morning hours of September 18, 1965, he got ROBERT MORRIS of 1569 Monticenne Avenue, Baton Rouge, to drive them to Meadville to again pick up his car, and the sheriff's office had observed them picking up the car and had brought the three to the sheriff's office.

With reference to the HODGES murder, he said ETHEL RAY SMITH had told him that she had seen HODGES the night of the murder at a wreck, had asked her brother RUFUS SMITH who was driving the car she was in to back up to the wreck but he could not recall if she said they had actually stopped. She did not tell him where she had spent the night.

ROSE could not recall ETHEL RAY SMITH saying anything about her brother RUFUS putting her out of the car.

9/21/65

On 9/18/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
157-3830
by SAs THOMPSON BERRY WEBB and
DARYL HARRELL/jls Date dictated 9/21/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 28, 1965

Mrs. PURNELL EMFINGER, operator of Reeces Florist & Gift Shop, Main Street, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the investigation. Mrs. EMFINGER stated her first name is MAURICE and that on the early morning of August 15, 1965 she delivered flowers to CHRISTINE SMITH above Eddiceton, Mississippi. Returning toward Meadville, she stopped at Mrs. WILLIE LYONS to have coffee and visit her. The telephone rang around 8:00 a.m. and BERNICE WATSON advised that EARL HODGES had been found beaten to death.

Mrs. EMFINGER said she realized that BOBBY SMITH, operator of the funeral home in Meadville, was out of town on a short vacation and that his brother SAM EARL SMITH, a student at Mississippi College, was keeping the home for the weekend and thus called him. She stated she knew SAM EARL to be inexperienced, and might need some advance warning to get ready to go pick up the body. She suggested he check to see if EARL HODGES was covered with an insurance policy with the funeral home, found out he was, and cautioned SAM EARL to wait for a call from someone in an official capacity. She said she took this action as she works very closely with Mr. and Mrs. BOBBY SMITH at the funeral home, and vice versa.

On 9/18/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
157-3830
by SAs THOMPSON BERRY WEBB and
DARYL HARRELL/jls Date dictated 9/21/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/16/65

Mr. LUCIUS A. DE LAUGHTER was interviewed at his home in Bude, Mississippi. He has no street address but anyone in town knows where he lives.

After being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the inquiry he was advised by SA JAMES A. ABBOTT that he did not have to make any statement but that any statement made could possibly be used in a court of law. He was advised that he had a right to consult an attorney.

Mr. DE LAUGHTER stated he had nothing to conceal and was perfectly willing to relate his recollection of the evening of August 14, 1965.

He recalled that he had dinner at EDWARD EMFINGER'S house in Bude, Mississippi along with WARREN NEWMAN, EDWARD EMFINGER and Mrs. EDWARD EMFINGER.

They had just about finished their dinner at about nine P.M., when EARL HODGE came to the door. Mr. EMFINGER greeted HODGE and invited him inside and asked HODGE if he wanted something to eat. HODGE sat down and ate dinner.

HODGE then asked WARREN NEWMAN and EDWARD EMFINGER if they could pull HODGE'S truck out of the ditch. NEWMAN and EMFINGER went down the road and found that they could not pull HODGE'S truck out of the ditch without a chain. They returned to EMFINGER'S house and told HODGE that they would get a chain in the morning and pull the truck out.

HODGE asked for a ride home to Eddiceton, Mississippi, (about three miles away) which NEWMAN agreed to.

On 9/13/65 at BUDE, MISSISSIPPI File # JN 174-27
JN 157-3328
by SA JAMES A ABBOTT and J. L. MARTIN/jds Date dictated 9/14/65

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157-3830-143

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 16 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

Then NEWMAN, EDWARD EMFINGER, EARL HODGE and DE LAUGHTER drove in NEWMAN'S pickup truck to Eddiceton, Mississippi. They dropped EARL HODGE in front of his house about 10:00 P.M. Before he got out of the truck, WARREN NEWMAN gave EARL HODGE a half pint of whiskey.

HODGE had been drinking but in DE LAUGHTER'S opinion, HODGE was not drunk. As they started to drive away DE LAUGHTER saw HODGE walk steady and straight into his house.

NEWMAN then drove past HODGE'S house down the road, and on around back to the main road. They then took ED EMFINGER back home and then NEWMAN took DE LAUGHTER home. This was between 10:00 P.M. and 10:30 P.M., August 14, 1965.

According to Mr. DE LAUGHTER he went right to bed and did not get up until about 5:00 A.M. August 15, 1965. He did not see or hear anything unusual during the night and could furnish no information concerning the COTHREN family and their time of return home that night.

DE LAUGHTER was asked why EMFINGER left his house to ride over to HODGE'S house. DE LAUGHTER did not know why. DE LAUGHTER also said that the only drinking that was done was before dinner on the night of August 14, 1965. They did not drink en route to HODGE'S house. Furthermore, they had no trouble with HODGE, as he was well behaved.

Mr. DE LAUGHTER could suggest no enemies or suspects in this murder and knew of no one who might have had trouble with HODGE.

The following description of DE LAUGHTER was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	LUCIUS A. DE LAUGHTER
Address	Bude, Mississippi (47 years)
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	73

JN 174-27

Birthdate	August 24, 1892
Birthplace	Magnolia, Pike County, Mississippi
Height	5'10"
Weight	150 pounds
Build	Slender
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown - greying
Characteristics	Wears glasses. Very Hard of Hearing - uses a hearing aid.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830)

DATE: 11-30-65

FROM : SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES

SUBJECT: EARL HODGES
RM (Klan)

It view of the fact that extensive investigation has been conducted regarding ~~xxxxxx~~ regarding the death of the subject on 8/15/65, in Eddiceton, Mississippi, as a result of an apparant klan type beating, and all of the information has been reported in the case captioned, "UNSUBS: BOMBING OF AUTOMOBILE AT NATCHEZ, MISS., on 8/28/65; GEORGE METCALFE-VICTIM", CR-EL; BM, JN 174-27, it is ~~xxxxxx~~ suggested this case be placed in a closed status.

*RM
a copy
close
case
5/15*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	<i>RM</i>
NOV 30 1965	
<i>SW</i>	

157-3830-142

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/16/65

Mr. LUCIUS A. DE LAUGHTER was interviewed at his home in Bude, Mississippi. He has no street address but anyone in town knows where he lives.

After being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the inquiry he was advised by SA JAMES A. ABBOTT that he did not have to make any statement but that any statement made could possibly be used in a court of law. He was advised that he had a right to consult an attorney.

Mr. DE LAUGHTER stated he had nothing to conceal and was perfectly willing to relate his recollection of the evening of August 14, 1965.

He recalled that he had dinner at EDWARD EMFINGER'S house in Bude, Mississippi along with WARREN NEWMAN, EDWARD EMFINGER and Mrs. EDWARD EMFINGER.

They had just about finished their dinner at about nine P.M., when EARL HODGE came to the door. Mr. EMFINGER greeted HODGE and invited him inside and asked HODGE if he wanted something to eat. HODGE sat down and ate dinner.

HODGE then asked WARREN NEWMAN and EDWARD EMFINGER if they could pull HODGE'S truck out of the ditch. NEWMAN and EMFINGER went down the road and found that they could not pull HODGE'S truck out of the ditch without a chain. They returned to EMFINGER'S house and told HODGE that they would get a chain in the morning and pull the truck out.

HODGE asked for a ride home to Eddiceton, Mississippi, (about three miles away) which NEWMAN agreed to.

On 9/13/65 at BUDE, MISSISSIPPI File # JN 174-27
JN 157-3830
by SA JAMES A ABBOTT and J. L. MARTIN 9/14/65

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157-3830-136
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
SEP 14 1965
FBI - JACKSON

Then NEWMAN, EDWARD EMFINGER, EARL HODGE and DE LAUGHTER drove in NEWMAN'S pickup truck to Eddiceton, Mississippi. They dropped EARL HODGE in front of his house about 10:00 P.M. Before he got out of the truck, WARREN NEWMAN gave EARL HODGE a half pint of whiskey.

HODGE had been drinking but in DE LAUGHTER'S opinion, HODGE was not drunk. As they started to drive away DE LAUGHTER saw HODGE walk steady and straight into his house.

NEWMAN then drove past HODGE'S house down the road, and on around back to the main road. They then took ED EMFINGER back home and then NEWMAN took DE LAUGHTER home. This was between 10:00 P.M. and 10:30 P.M., August 14, 1965.

According to Mr. DE LAUGHTER he went right to bed and did not get up until about 5:00 A.M. August 15, 1965. He did not see or hear anything unusual during the night and could furnish no information concerning the COTHREN family and their time of return home that night.

DE LAUGHTER was asked why EMFINGER left his house to ride over to HODGE'S house. DE LAUGHTER did not know why. DE LAUGHTER also said that the only drinking that was done was before dinner on the night of August 14, 1965. They did not drink en route to HODGE'S house. Furthermore, they had no trouble with HODGE, as he was well behaved.

Mr. DE LAUGHTER could suggest no enemies or suspects in this murder and knew of no one who might have had trouble with HODGE.

The following description of DE LAUGHTER was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	LUCIUS A. DE LAUGHTER
Address	Bude, Mississippi (47 years)
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	73

JN 174-27

Birthdate	August 24, 1892
Birthplace	Magnolia, Pike County, Mississippi
Height	5'10"
Weight	150 pounds
Build	Slender
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown - greying
Characteristics	Wears glasses. Very Hard of Hearing - uses a hearing aid.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 29, 1965

AUBREY BASS was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the fact that he did not have to make a statement, that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law. BASS was advised by SA MARTIN that he was entitled to consult with an attorney prior to making any statement or anyone else of his choice.

BASS was advised that the FBI was conducting an investigation into the death of EARL HODGE, and that certain information had come to their attention which involved BASS and that they desired him to clarify this information for them.

It was pointed out to BASS that information had been developed indicating that he had rented an abandoned house from one JEWEL WESTBROOK. BASS stated that he had made the arrangements to rent this house from WESTBROOK with the intention of it being used by his hunting club. He stated however, that they never held any meetings there and after paying the rent for about two months, he had nothing further to do with it. BASS was asked if he did not attend meetings which were held at this abandoned house on Thursday nights during the time that it was rented by him. He stated that he did not attend any meetings at this house and that to his knowledge no meetings were held there. BASS was asked if he was a member of the Klan. He stated that he did not belong to the Klan or any other organization other than the church. It was pointed out to BASS that his cousin JOEL WESTBROOK had stated that he, BASS, had rented the above house and that during the time it was rented to BASS, that meetings were held there on Thursday nights which BASS attended and that according to his cousin WESTBROOK, BASS had advised WESTBROOK that he was a member of the Klan. At this point,

On 9/16/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File# Jackson 157-3830-121
Jackson 174-27
Jackson (AUBREY BASS)
by SA J. J. MARTIN
SA DAVID R. HARRELL /bdb Date dictated 9/22/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 28, 1965

ALMA BUIE and her husband, COLUMBUS BUIE, were advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and that they did not have to make a statement and that any statement they did make could be used in a court of law. They were advised that they were entitled to consult with an attorney or anyone else of their choice prior to making a statement.

ALMA BUIE stated that she is commonly known as DOLL GREEN and that she is a bootlegger in Bude, Mississippi. ALMA BUIE stated that she knows EARL HODGE, but that he had not been to her place to buy any whiskey this year. She said that Mr. HODGE was a funny person and that inasmuch as he owed her \$6.00, he was embarrassed to come to her place to buy any whiskey from her until he was able to pay the money owed to her. BUIE stated that she knows CURTIS RAY STOKES but that she did not recall him coming to her place to buy whiskey on the night of August 14, 1965. BUIE related that she has known ETHEL RAE SMITH for a number of years, but that she did not recall having sold SMITH any whiskey on the night of August 14, 1965. BUIE related that her nephew, DOUGLAS SHAW, was working for her on the night of August 14, and that he made deliveries to some of the cars that came to her place to buy whiskey, and that possibly he may have sold whiskey on that night to either ETHEL RAE SMITH, CURTIS RAY STOKES or EARL HODGE.

BUIE stated that she had received no information concerning the beating of EARL HODGE, and that she could furnish no information that might possibly lead to the identity of the persons responsible for this act.

On 9/16/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
Jackson 174-27
 by SA's J. L. MARTIN AND
DARYL R. HARRELL/mrk Date dictated 9/22/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 28, 1965

CLEATUS WILSON, Mc Call's Creek, was interviewed at his place of employment, Johns - Manville Company, Natchez, Mississippi. WILSON was advised of the nature of the investigation and the fact that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he did make might be used in a court of law.

WILSON advised that OLIE NEWELL, the wife of DOLLAR BILL NEWELL, had advised his, WILSON's, wife that on the morning following the death of EARL HODGE, CURTIS RAY STOKES had gone to the NEWELL home before daylight and advised them that someone had beaten HODGE to death the night before. WILSON stated that he did not know if this information was true, but was only relating what he had heard from his wife.

WILSON stated that he had no definite information concerning the death of EARL HODGE, but advised that ED HUTTO, the brother of WAYNE HUTTO, Sheriff, Franklin County, Mississippi, was also dating JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN, who was the girl friend of EARL HODGE at the time he was killed. WILSON stated that he could furnish no other information concerning the identities of the persons who beat EARL HODGE to death, but that if any information came to his attention, he would gladly furnish it to the FBI as he felt the person responsible for the beating of EARL HODGE should be brought to justice.

On 9/17/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
Jackson 174-27
 by SA's J. L. MARTIN AND
DARYL R. HARRELL/mrk Date dictated 9/23/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 28, 1965

JUNE SMITH WEBB, Roxie, Mississippi, was advised that she did not have to make a statement, that any statement she did make could be used in a court of law. WEBB was advised that she was entitled to consult with an attorney or anyone else of her choice prior to making any statement.

WEBB advised that her husband is FRANK WEBB, Roxie, Mississippi, and that he is employed by the Fortenberry Drilling Company in Natchez, Mississippi. She stated that on the night of August 14, 1965, her husband loaned his car to her younger brother, RUFUS SMITH. WEBB related that late in the afternoon of August 14 at approximately early dark, her younger brother, RUFUS, her sister, ETHEL RAE SMITH, and CURTIS RAY STOKES left her home in her husband's car and stated that they were going to the county line. She stated that they later returned to her home, at which time MAXIE PRATHER was with them. WEBB stated that she was advised that MAXIE PRATHER had been involved in an accident with J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGE and that his car had been damaged, and that they, her brother RUFUS and her sister ETHEL RAE had brought MAXIE to her home. WEBB stated that MAXIE PRATHER and her husband worked together and that oftentimes PRATHER will spend the night at her home. She stated that while at her home MAXIE PRATHER and CURTIS RAY STOKES got into an argument over her sister, ETHEL RAE SMITH, and that her husband, FRANK WEBB, had to request CURTIS RAY STOKES to leave his home. WEBB stated

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 by SA's J. B. MARTIN AND
DARYL R. HARRELL/mrk Date dictated 9/22/65

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that her sister, ETHEL RAE SMITH, her brother, RUFUS SMITH, and CURTIS RAY STOKES then left her home stating that they were going to Bude, Mississippi, to take CURTIS RAY STOKES home. WEBB related that her sister, ETHEL RAE, returned to her home somewhere around 9:30 or 10:00 p.m., at which time she had some Vodka with her. WEBB stated that ETHEL RAE SMITH had a few drinks of Vodka and then went to bed in the same room with MAXIE PRATHER, but in separate beds. WEBB stated that both her sister, ETHEL RAE, and MAXIE PRATHER spent the entire night at her home and did not leave at any time during the night.

WEBB related that her younger brother, RUFUS SMITH, returned to her home at approximately 4:00 a.m., at which time he parked her husband's car in the yard and brought the keys into the house and placed them on the dresser in her room. She stated that RUFUS SMITH then left and that she did not see him again until late the following afternoon.

JUNE WEBB stated that she had no information concerning the identity of the person who beat EARL HODGE to death on the night of August 14.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 29, 1965

RUFUS MINUARD SMITH, Box 163, Meadville, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the fact that he was entitled to consult with an attorney or anyone else prior to making any statement, that any statement he did make might be used against him in a court of law.

SMITH advised that on August 14, 1965, he borrowed a car from his brother-in-law FRANK WEBB, Roxie, Mississippi, which he described as being a gray Ford Falcon.

SMITH stated that he drove his sister ETHEL RAY SMITH and CURTIS RAY STOKES from the home of his brother-in-law FRANK WEBB toward the county line in order to buy some beer. SMITH stated that on the way to the county line about three miles from Roxie, Mississippi, they noticed an accident and recognized one of the car as belonging to MAXIE PRATHER.

SMITH stated that he made a U-turn in the highway and came back to where the accident had occurred and that his sister, ETHEL RAY SMITH, and CURTIS RAY STOKES got out of the car with him and went up to a red car which had been involved in the accident with MAXIE PRATHER. SMITH related that he also got out of the car and that he saw MAXIE PRATHER standing at the rear of the red car in conversation with J. C. EMFINGER, CURTIS RAY STOKES and his sister, ETHEL RAY SMITH. SMITH related that after they talked for a few minutes, J. C. EMFINGER got back into his car and left and SMITH heard someone mention that EARL HODGE was in the car with J. C. EMFINGER. SMITH stated that after EMFINGER left, MAXIE PRATHER wanted to drive his car onto Roxie and that they tried to talk him out of it but were unsuccessful. He stated that MAXIE began driving toward Roxie, Mississippi, in his car, but that the front fender was rubbing on the tire and caused the tire to blow out. He stated that MAXIE PRATHER then pulled

On 9/16/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
Jackson 174-27
 by SA J. P. MARTIN
SA DARYL R. HARRELI /bdb Date dictated 9/22/65

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his car off the road near the butane tanks beside the highway and got into the car with him. SMITH related that shortly after MAXIE PRATHER got into his car and before they started to move, Highway Patrolman BEASLEY came up and wanted to know who was driving the car which had been pulled off the road. SMITH stated that MAXIE PRATHER then got out of his car and talked with BEASLEY for a few minutes, following which he drove MAXIE PRATHER, his sister, ETHEL RAY SMITH and CURTIS RAY STOKES to the home of his brother-in-law, FRANK WEBB in Roxie, Mississippi. SMITH stated that when they arrived at the home of his brother-in-law FRANK WEBB, all four of them went into the home of FRANK WEBB and that while there, MAXIE PRATHER and CURTIS RAY STOKES got into an argument concerning his sister, ETHEL RAY SMITH. SMITH related that his brother-in-law advised him that they were not going to fight in his house and asked CURTIS RAY STOKES to leave. He stated that he then drove his sister, ETHEL RAY SMITH, and CURTIS RAY STOKES to Bude, Mississippi. SMITH related that while en route to Bude, Mississippi, he again came up behind the red car of J. C. EMFINGER and followed it for a short distance on the highway.

SMITH stated that after he let CURTIS RAY STOKES out of his car at the laundrette in Bude, Mississippi, that he then drove his sister to the home of his brother-in-law, FRANK WEBB, in Roxie, Mississippi, where she got out. SMITH stated that he then picked up a boyfriend of his and that they drove to Ferriday, Louisiana, where they went to the Magnolia Motel and stayed until approximately 2:00 A.M. when they departed for Roxie, Mississippi. SMITH stated that he arrived at the home of his brother-in-law, FRANK WEBB, in Roxie, Mississippi, at approximately 4:00 A.M., parked the car in the yard and carried the keys into the house and placed them on the dresser. SMITH stated that he looked into the room where his sister ETHEL RAY SMITH and MAXIE PRATHER would have been sleeping, but that he did not recall seeing them in the room and does not believe they were at the home of his brother-in-law FRANK WEBB at 4:00 A.M. SMITH stated that he then went out to the highway and hitchhiked a ride back to Meadville, Mississippi, and returned to the home of his mother and went to bed.

JN 157-3830

JN 174-27

SMITH stated that he did not see anything unusual during the night and that with the exception of seeing J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGE at the time of their accident with MAXIE PRATHER, he did not see them again that night and could furnish no information as to the identity of the person or persons who beat EARL HODGE to death on that night.

Subsequently, on September 16, 1965, RUFUS SMITH contacted the interviewing Agents and advised them that he had not been completely truthful with them at the interview and would like to furnish the following additional information:

SMITH stated that he had earlier indicated that his sister, ETHEL RAY STOKES, had remained at the home of his brother-in-law FRANK WEBB in Roxie, Mississippi, and did not go with him when he went to Bude, Mississippi, to take CURTIS RAY STOKES home. SMITH stated that this was not true and that his sister ETHEL RAY SMITH had gone with him to Bude, Mississippi, and that they had let CURTIS RAY STOKES out at the laundrette in Bude, Mississippi, following which he drove to Meadville, Mississippi, where he told his sister she would have to get out of the car because she was drinking. SMITH stated that he put his sister out of the car near the Tasty-Freeze stand in Meadville, Mississippi. SMITH indicated that the remainder of the information furnished by him earlier in the day was true. SMITH was asked if he was sure that the information he was furnishing at this time was true and that if it was all of the information in his possession concerning his movements and observations during the night of August 14, 1965. SMITH stated that at this time he wanted to add the following additional information. He stated that when he and his sister ETHEL RAY SMITH carried CURTIS RAY STOKES to Bude, Mississippi, that before letting CURTIS RAY STOKES out of the car, they drove to the home of a bootlegger in Bude, Mississippi, and that his sister purchased a half of pint of whiskey for CURTIS RAY STOKES, after which CURTIS RAY got out of the car at the laundrette in Bude, Mississippi, as previously stated. SMITH stated that following this, he and his sister ETHEL RAY SMITH

JN 157-3830
JN 174-27

returned to the bootlegger's house in order to buy some whiskey for his sister and that upon their arrival at the bootlegger house, he saw J. C. EMFINGER's car parked there with two individuals in it. SMITH stated that this would have been at approximately 8:45 P.M. SMITH advised that this was the complete truth and all the information he could furnish concerning his activities and that of his sister and CURTIS RAY STOKES on the night of August 14, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 28, 1965

CURTIS RAY STOKES was interviewed at the cabin of HAROLD SEBILLE at the Minorca Boat Camp in Vidalia, Louisiana. STOKES was advised that he did not have to make a statement, that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law, and that he was entitled to consult with an attorney or anyone else of his choice prior to making a statement.

STOKES related that he returned to Meadville, Mississippi, on Friday, August 13, 1965, after having been away for a week at work. He related that he went to the home of ETHEL RAE SMITH where he spent the night, Friday night, and that on Saturday he and ETHEL RAE drove around in the area of Meadville and Bude, Mississippi drinking until about dark, when they decided to go to the county line to get some more beer. STOKES related that they got ETHEL RAE's little brother, RUFUS SMITH, who had borrowed FRANK WEBB's car, to agree to drive them to the county line. STOKES related that en route to the county line between Roxie, Mississippi and the county line, they observed an automobile accident involving MAXIE PRATHER and J. C. EMFINGER, and that they turned around and came back to where the accident had occurred. STOKES stated that this accident occurred on Route 84 approximately five miles west of Roxie, Mississippi, and that when they came up to where the accident had occurred, MAXIE PRATHER and J. C. EMFINGER were standing at the rear of J. C. EMFINGER's car discussing the accident and that EARL HODGE was seated in the front passenger seat of J. C. EMFINGER's car which he described as a red Dodge.

On 9/17/65 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # Jackson 157-3830
Jackson 174-27
 by SA's J. L. MARTIN AND
DARYL R. HARRELL/mrk Date dictated 9/23/65

JN 157-3830

STOKES stated that he and ETHEL RAE SMITH engaged in a conversation with J. C. EMFINGER and MAXIE PRATHER concerning the accident for a few minutes, and then J. C. EMFINGER got into his car and left.

STOKES stated that he and ETHEL RAE SMITH then tried to persuade MAXIE PRATHER to go with them and leave his car where it was, but that he, MAXIE PRATHER, wanted to drive his car to Roxie, Mississippi. STOKES stated that MAXIE PRATHER started off driving his car and that they followed him until the fender rubbing on the tire caused it to blow out and MAXIE pulled his car off the road in the vicinity of a butane gas tank on Route 84 just west of Roxie, Mississippi. STOKES stated that after parking his car, MAXIE PRATHER got into the car with him, RUFUS SMITH, and ETHEL RAE SMITH. He stated that just before they started to pull away, Highway Patrolman BEASLEY came up and inquired as to who was driving the car which had been pulled off the road. STOKES stated that MAXIE PRATHER told BEASLEY he was driving the car and then got out of their car and went back and talked to BEASLEY a few minutes before returning to their car. STOKES stated that they then drove to the home of FRANK WEBB in Roxie, Mississippi, where all four of them got out of the car and went into WEBB's house. STOKES related that he and MAXIE PRATHER got into a slight argument over ETHEL RAE SMITH and that he told ETHEL RAE that he wanted to go home and that she and her younger brother, RUFUS, then drove him to Bude, Mississippi, where he got out of the car at the washeteria.

STOKES stated that he did not see ETHEL RAE SMITH, MAXIE PRATHER, J. C. EMFINGER or EARL HODGE again that night. STOKES stated that after ETHEL RAE SMITH and her brother, RUFUS, let him out of the car at the washeteria in Bude, Mississippi, he went into the quarters and bought whiskey from DOLL GREEN, a female Negro bootlegger in Bude, Mississippi. He stated that he returned to the washeteria in Bude, Mississippi, where he drank a half-pint of whiskey, then he went to an abandoned car, which was parked near the welding shop of BILL MYERS in Bude, Mississippi, and got into this old car and spent the night. STOKES stated that he woke up about daylight the following morning and went back to DOLL GREEN's in an effort to buy more whiskey but that they refused to give him any credit and he was unable to obtain additional whiskey. He stated that he then walked up to the highway and hitchhiked a ride from Bude to Meadville, Mississippi, however, he was unable to identify the person with whom he rode or to state whether or not it was a man or a woman. STOKES related that he got out of the car at the Tastee-Freeze place in Meadville, Mississippi, and walked to the home of the mother of ETHEL RAE SMITH where he obtained a package of cigarettes and a can of Prince Albert Tobacco from a suitcase which he had left at the SMITH residence. He stated that he then walked back to Highway 84 in Meadville, and up to the red light near the hospital where he stopped to hitchhike a ride. STOKES stated that he was picked up at this point by CARL SCHUTZ, who gave him a ride to Bude, Mississippi, SCHUTZ told him that EARL HODGE had been beaten to death the night before and that he, SCHUTZ, was on the way to HODGE's house at that time. STOKES related that SCHUTZ let him out of his car on the old highway out of Bude where the gravel road turns off to go to the home of STOKES' father. STOKES stated that he stopped there under the trees at this point for awhile until JOHNNY WALLACE

JN 157-3830

came by and picked him up and carried him to the home of DOLLAR BILL NEWELL. STOKES stated that he would estimate that he arrived at the home of NEWELL at approximately 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. and that NEWELL's wife put him to bed and that he remained there until some time late in the afternoon, when he left and went to Brookhaven, Mississippi.

STOKES stated that he had no information concerning the identities of the individuals who beat EARL HODGE to death, but that if any such information came into his possession, he would gladly furnish same to the FBI.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date September 24, 1965

Mr. HILTON ZUMBRO, Route 1, Meadville, Mississippi, was contacted at his residence and he furnished the following information:

He is Supervisor of Beat 1, Meadville, Mississippi.

He advised that on the morning of August 14, 1965, he left his residence at approximately 6:30 A.M. and drove through Eddiceton, Mississippi, on Highway 84, toward Lucien, Mississippi. He stated that he was going to Lucien to return a bulldog that a friend had given him.

He stated that as he went through Eddiceton, he saw RAZ MARSHALL turn off of Highway 84 onto the road which goes by the residence of EARL HODGES. He stated he proceeded on through Eddiceton and he did not see a light colored automobile come out of the road which leads past the residence of HODGES and turn west on Highway 84 as had been reported by RAZ MARSHALL. He stated he did not see any other vehicles in the area, nor did he see any individuals on the street.

On 9/13/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3880-174-27
by SA DARYL R. HARRELL ¹⁴ SA BENJAMIN H. CRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/17/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 28, 1965

MORELL EMFINGER, waitress at Seale's Truck Stop, located at the junction of Highways 98 and 84, between Bude and Meadville, Mississippi, advised that she recalls VONNIE and HUBERT COTHREN stopping at this truck stop between 8:00 and 9:00 P.M. on August 14, 1965, and purchasing cigarettes. She stated that she knew this was on August 14, because VONNIE COTHREN had earlier in the afternoon stopped at the truck stop and talked to her employer, JASON SEALE, and later in the afternoon he had telephoned the truck stop in an effort to contact SEALE. She stated that it was later in the day that he and his brother HUBERT stopped by the truck stop to purchase the cigarettes. She stated that she did not know their mode of transportation and she did not see Mrs. JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN with them.

On 9/14/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27 157-3830-129
by SA DARYL R. HARRELL
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES *BJ/bdb* Date dictated 9/21/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/28/65

ETHEL RAY SMITH was contacted at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Meadville, Mississippi. She was advised as to the identity of the Agents, that she did not have to furnish any information and any information she did furnish could be used against her in a court of law. She was advised by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that she could contact an attorney prior to furnishing any information.

SMITH advised that the only information that she had not furnished to the Agents who interviewed her earlier in the day, was that her brother, RUFUS SMITH, did not drive her to the home of her sister, Mrs. GEORGIA JUNE WEBB, who lives in Roxie, Mississippi, on the night of August 14, 1965. She stated that sometime between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. on that night, she wanted her brother to drive her from Meadville to Roxie, Mississippi to the home of her sister but her little brother had other plans and refused to drive her there. He put her out of the automobile on Highway 84 just west of Meadville, Mississippi.

She was picked up by a man and a woman with two small sons who drove her to her sister's home in Roxie. She did not know the identity of the individuals who picked her up and she stated that she had never seen them before that time. She estimated that they arrived at the home of her sister between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. When she arrived at the residence of her sister, those present there were FRANK and GEORGIA JUNE WEBB and MAXIE PRATHER. She talked to her sister and to MAXIE PRATHER and thereafter went to bed in the bedroom of MAXIE PRATHER. She stated that she and MAXIE slept in separate beds. She stated that she was positive that

On 9/16/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
SA DARYL R. HARRELL
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/sjw 85 Date dictated 9/22/65
174-27

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JN 157-3830

none of the four who were in the WEBB home left there that night.

SMITH advised that she arose about 9:30 a.m. on the morning of August 15, 1965. She stated they stayed around the house until about 11:00 a.m. at which time FRANK and GEORGIA JUNE WEBB, MAXIE PRATHER and herself went to the location on Highway 84 where MAXIE had left his automobile the night before and pulled it into the Ford place in Meadville, Mississippi. From there, they went to the Negro quarters in Bude, Mississippi where MAXIE bought two half-pints of whiskey. They then drove to MAXIE's mother's home, which is about twelve to fifteen miles north of Meadville. She stated that upon arriving there, she remained in the automobile and MAXIE went into his house and got some clothes and other items and returned to the car. They then returned to her mother's home in Meadville. On arriving at her mother's place, her mother began fussing at her for drinking and she asked her sister, Mrs. GEORGE INGLES if she could return to Baton Rouge with her when she left that afternoon.

She stated her sister acknowledged in the affirmative and they left for Baton Rouge about 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. She remained in Baton Rouge until the night of September 6, 1965, when she returned to Meadville, Mississippi, because she learned that her sister JUNE's daughter was in the Meadville hospital.

SMITH advised that she had talked to CURTIS RAY STOKES on the night of September 11, 1965, when he came to her residence in Meadville and STOKES told her that on the night of August 14, 1965, after she had let him out in Bude, Mississippi, he returned to the Negro quarters and purchased another half-pint of whiskey

JN 157-3830

and thereafter slept in an automobile about 100 yards from Bootlegger DOLL GREEN's place of business.

SMITH advised that on the night of August 14, 1965, when she, her brother RUFUS, CURTIS RAY STOKES and MAXIE PRATHER drove to the home of her sister, Mrs. WEBB, in Roxie, after picking up MAXIE PRATHER, they went into her sister's house for a few moments. She stated that while in the house, CURTIS RAY STOKES tried to start a fight with MAXIE PRATHER because ETHEL RAY had been going with MAXIE and CURTIS RAY had found out about it. She stated her brother-in-law, FRANK WEBB, told CURTIS RAY that he would have no fighting in his house and that if he wanted to fight with MAXIE PRATHER he would have to do it away from his house. She stated that she, her brother, and CURTIS RAY got into the automobile of her brother-in-law and they told CURTIS RAY they would take him wherever he wanted to go.

CURTIS RAY asked RUFUS to take him to a bootlegger in the Negro quarters in Bude. They went to the residence of a Negro bootlegger named DOLL GREEN and CURTIS RAY bought a half-pint of Vodka from a Negro woman who had come out of DOLL GREEN's place to take his order. They then drove CURTIS RAY to the washeteria in Bude, where they let him out. She stated that she and RUFUS then drove back to DOLL GREEN's place and she purchased a half-pint of Vodka from a Negro man who had come out to take her order. She stated on this trip to DOLL GREEN's house they approached it from the south and parked across the street from GREEN's place. She stated that at this time, she saw a red automobile which she believed to be J. C. EMFINGER's parked behind three or four cars waiting to get service at DOLL GREEN's place. After she got her half-pint of Vodka, they then drove north to Highway 84 and when they left, she stated the red automobile was still waiting near DOLL GREEN's place. She stated that it was at this time that RUFUS let her out just west of Meadville where she caught a ride to her sister's house in Roxie.

JN 157-3830

The following description of ETHEL RAY SMITH was obtained from observation and interrogation:

Race:	White
Sex:	Female
Age:	30
Date of birth:	December 15, 1934
Place of birth:	Meadville, Mississippi
Height:	5 feet 5½ inches
Weight:	153
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Hazel
Residence:	4956 Jackson Avenue Baton Rouge, Louisiana (with sister, Mrs. GEORGE INGLES)
Immediate relatives:	
Mother:	MAGGIE SMITH Meadville, Mississippi
Father:	Deceased, 1959
Marital status:	Married to QUINTON HALE in 1962 at Meadville, Mississippi Separated since December, 1964 (husband operates Hale's Gulf Service Station in Natchez Mississippi)
Arrests:	Admits being arrested in Meadville, Mississippi on numerous occasions for drinking and fighting and admits being arrested in Natchez, Mississippi, 1964 for drinking.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/28/65

MAXIE PRATHER was contacted at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Meadville, Mississippi. He was advised as to the identity of the Agents, that he did not have to furnish any information and any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that he could contact an attorney prior to furnishing any information.

On the night of August 14, 1965, when he left Ruby's Place, a cafe and beer joint located near the Adams -Franklin County Line on Highway 84, he began traveling in an easterly direction at approximately 60-70 miles an hour and near Leesdale, Mississippi, he went over a hill and ran into the back of a red automobile which had been traveling very slowly in the same direction or which had been stopped. He stated he got out of his automobile and walked toward the red automobile and as he did, the red automobile moved up the road a short distance. He again walked toward the automobile and the automobile again drove up the road a short distance.

He stated at this point, he stopped following the automobile and returned to his automobile. About this time, **ETHEL RAY SMITH**, her brother, **RUFUS SMITH**, and **CURTIS RAY STOKES** appeared at the scene. He got into his automobile and drove it a short distance and one of the tires blew out. He had just gotten in the automobile with **ETHEL RAY SMITH** and Mississippi Highway State patrolman **BURNICE BEASLEY** drove up. He stated **BEASLEY** asked him to get out of the car and he did as **BEASLEY** had requested and talked to him a few moments. He told **BEASLEY** what he knew of the accident and then got back into the automobile with **ETHEL RAY SMITH** and she and the others then drove him to the home of **ETHEL RAY**'s sister, Mrs. **GEORGIA JUNE WEBB** in Roxie, Mississippi.

On 9/16/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830

SA **DARYL R. HARRELL**
SA **BENJAMIN F. GRAVES** /sjw

174-27
9/22/65

by _____ Date dictated _____

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PRATHER was confronted by the fact that ETHEL RAY SMITH and RUFUS SMITH had stated that when they arrived at the scene of the accident that he, MAXIE PRATHER, was sitting in the automobile of J. C. EMFINGER and talking to him and EARL HODGES. PRATHER stated that he could not recall talking with J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES at the scene of the accident. He reiterated that as he recalled the facts of the accident the automobile that he ran into did not stop and at that time he did not know whom he had run into.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 30, 1965

DUNK ZUMBRO, who resides on Route 1, Meadville, Mississippi, was contacted at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Meadville. He advised that he was at the residence of A. O. "DOLLAR BILL" NEWELL, who resides north of Bude, at approximately 4:00 P.M. on August 15, 1965.

He advised that he was sitting on the porch with Mr. NEWELL and his wife and CURTIS RAY STOKES and he heard Mr. NEWELL ask STOKES if he thought EARL HODGES would put up much of a fight when he was intoxicated. He stated that STOKES replied, "There wasn't much fight in him last night". He stated that STOKES was half drunk when he made this statement, and he made no additional statement regarding HODGES.

He stated that he remained at NEWELL's home for thirty to forty minutes and a (FNU) LAIRD and (FNU) SMITH came to the residence of NEWELL and when STOKES learned that they were going back toward Lincoln County, he asked if he could ride with them because he was going to Brookhaven. He stated that STOKES left shortly thereafter with the LAIRD and SMITH boys.

ZUMBRO advised that Mr. NEWELL and the mother of CURTIS RAY STOKES, Mrs. LONE STOKES, are first cousins.

On 9/20/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27 157-3830-123
by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB^{36w}
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES_{g/s} /bdb Date dictated 9/27/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 5, 1965

Mrs. CLETUS WILSON was contacted at her residence in McCall's Creek, Mississippi, and she advised that Mrs. W. P. STOKES, the mother of CURTIS RAY STOKES, had never made the statement to her that CURTIS RAY came to her home about 3:00 A.M. on the morning of August 15, 1965, and made the statement to her that EARL HODGES had been beaten or killed. She stated that she did not see Mrs. STOKES until a couple of weeks after HODGES' death and the subject of HODGES' death was not mentioned on that occasion. She stated that a couple of weeks after HODGES' death, she met Mrs. OLLIE NEWELL, the wife of A.O. "DOLLAR BILL" NEWELL, who resides north of Bude, Mississippi, at a church revival in Lucien, Mississippi, and Mrs. NEWELL mentioned to her that CURTIS RAY STOKES had been at her house on August 15, 1965. She stated that she furnished her with no additional details regarding CURTIS RAY being at her residence. She advised that she had no additional information to furnish regarding the activities of CURTIS RAY STOKES.

On 9/21/65 at McCall's Creek, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27 157-3830 -122
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/28/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 5, 1965

Mr. CARL SCHULTZ, who is employed by the Soil Conservation Service and resides in Meadville, Mississippi, advised that at approximately 8:00 A.M. on the morning of August 15, 1965, he was advised by telephone that EARL HODGES was dead and that he immediately got into his car and was going to Eddiceton to see about HODGES. He stated he saw CURTIS RAY STOKES hitchhiking on Highway 84 near the Meadville Memorial Hospital and he stopped and picked him up. He stated he told STOKES that he was en route to the home of EARL HODGES because he had received information that he was dead. He stated that STOKES told him that the previous night he had been at the scene of an accident where MAXIE PRATHER had run into the back of the automobile of J. C. EMFINGER. He stated that EARL HODGES had been in the automobile with EMFINGER. He stated that STOKES told him that if he was going all the way to Brookhaven he would ride that far with him but since he was only going to Eddiceton he would get out in Bude and go see his daughter, who lived in Monroe, Mississippi. He stated that he let STOKES out at the railroad tracks in Bude, Mississippi.

He stated that STOKES reeked with the smell of whiskey when he picked him up.

On 9/21/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27 157-3830 - 21
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB^{AW}
SA BENJAMIN F. CRAVES^{AW} /bdb Date dictated 9/28/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 5, 1965

Mrs. OLLIE NEWELL, wife of A. O. "DOLLAR BILL" NEWELL, was contacted at her residence Route 1, Box 98, Meadville, Mississippi. She advised that between 10:00 and 11:00 A.M. on August 15, 1965, GEORGE LEE and another white male brought CURTIS RAY STOKES to her residence. She stated Mr. LEE came to her house and stated that he had CURTIS RAY STOKES with him and that he had picked CURTIS RAY up on the road. He stated to her that CURTIS RAY wanted to go to Aunt Ollie's (Mrs. NEWELL) and that he did not want to go home because his parents would fuss at him for drinking. She stated that she told Mr. LEE that she had planned on going to church but she could not turn CURTIS RAY away and stated that he could stay there. She stated CURTIS RAY came into her house and she prepared something for him to eat and after he ate he went to sleep on her couch. She stated that she left home about 1:30 P.M. and went to a 2:00 P.M. church service at her church which is approximately two miles south of her residence. She stated after the church service they had their Sunday School service and she did not leave the church to return home until approximately 4:00 P.M. She stated she returned home sometime after 4:00 P.M. and STOKES was still there.

She stated sometime after returning home, DUNK ZUMBRO, a neighbor, came to her residence and PAUL SMITH, who lives near the Friendship Church in Lincoln County and GUS LAIRD also came to her residence. She stated that Mr. SMITH wanted to talk to her husband about buying timber from him.

She stated that STOKES wanted her husband to take him to Eddiceton, Mississippi, but Mr. NEWELL told him that he would not take him and that he could ride there with LAIRD and SMITH when they left his residence. She stated that SMITH and LAIRD left their residence about 5:00 P.M. and

On 9/21/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File# Jackson 174-27 157-3830-20
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/28/65

JN 157-3830
JN 174-27

STOKES went away with them.

She stated that she recalled that she, her husband and DUNK ZUMBRO discussed the death of EARL HODGES but she denied hearing a statement made by her husband to STOKES about did STOKES think that HODGES could put up much of a fight when he was intoxicated.

She stated that her husband had told her that JOHN T. WALLACE, a neighbor, had picked STOKES up on the morning of August 15, 1965, at the grocery store of EDWARD EMFINGER in Bude and let him out at the Old Highway 84 and the Harmon-Mullins Road located northwest of Bude.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 5, 1965

JOHN T. WALLACE was contacted at his residence on Route 1, Meadville, Mississippi, and he advised that about 9:00 A.M. on August 15, 1965, he was in EDWARD EMFINGER's grocery store in Bude, Mississippi, and CURTIS RAY STOKES came into the store. He stated that CURTIS RAY was drinking at the time and he asked WALLACE where he was going. WALLACE told him that he was going home and CURTIS RAY stated that he would go with him. WALLACE told STOKES that he could not go home with him because he was drinking but he would give him a ride someplace. WALLACE stated that he let STOKES out at the intersection of Old Highway 84 and the Harmon-Mullins Road which intersection is just northeast of Bude. He stated when he got to this intersection, STOKES opened the door and rather than getting out of the truck he fell out of the truck into the ditch. WALLACE advised that he got out of the truck and set STOKES up on the side of the ditch and left him there.

WALLACE advised that he did not want to leave STOKES there at that intersection because he had been drinking so he went to the residence of W. P. STOKES, the father of CURTIS RAY STOKES, who resides a few miles north of Bude, and told him where he had let CURTIS RAY out of his truck, and he also told him that he was drinking and that he should not be left there by himself. He stated that Mr. STOKES told him that he could not do anything with CURTIS RAY when he was drinking but that his mother would go get him. He stated he did not know any other activities of STOKES on that day and he did not know if STOKES' mother went down to check on him.

On 9/21/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File# Jackson 174-27 157-3830-119
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/28/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 4, 1965

Mr. GEORGE LEE was interviewed at his residence in Bude, Mississippi, and he advised that between 10:30 and 11:00 A.M. on the morning of August 15, 1965, he and his nephew LOVIE JONES, who resides in Vidalia, Louisiana, had just turned off of Old Highway 84 onto the Harmon-Mullins Road, which is approximately one-half mile from his residence, and they saw CURTIS RAY STOKES lying in the ditch to the right of the road. He stated he stopped and helped CURTIS RAY get out of the ditch and he and his nephew asked CURTIS RAY if he wanted them to take him to his parents' home, which is located approximately four miles from there. He stated that CURTIS RAY told them that he wanted to go to the home of his residence but when they got near his parents' home, he told them that he would like to go to the home of A. O. "DOLLAR BILL" NEWELL, who resides two miles north of his parents. Mr. LEE advised that they took CURTIS RAY to the NEWELL residence and he, LEE, asked Mrs. NEWELL if CURTIS RAY STOKES could stay at her house, because CURTIS RAY did not want to go home, because his parents would fuss at him for drinking. He stated that Mrs. NEWELL told him that she was planning on going to church but then she stated that she did not want to turn CURTIS RAY away and that he could stay there. He stated that when Mrs. NEWELL told him that CURTIS RAY could stay there he and LOVIE JONES left the NEWELL residence, as CURTIS RAY was going into Mrs. NEWELL's house.

On 9/20/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # 157-3830-114
Jackson 174-27
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/27/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date ~~October 5, 1965~~

Mr. W. P. STOKES was contacted at his residence on Route 1, Meadville, Mississippi, and he advised that his son CURTIS RAY STOKES did not come home on the day of August 15, 1965. He was advised that the Agents had received information that he came home about 3:00 A.M., and Mr. STOKES stated that this was not true; that his son had not come home at all that date.

Mr. STOKES advised that on the morning of August 15, 1965, Mr. JOHN T. WALLACE, a neighbor of his, stopped at his house and told him that he had let CURTIS RAY STOKES out of his truck at the intersection of Old Highway 84 and the Harmon-Mullins Road, which is located a few miles northeast of Bude. He stated Mr. WALLACE told him that CURTIS RAY was drunk and that he should not be left there by himself. He stated that he told WALLACE that he could do nothing with CURTIS RAY when he was drinking but that his mother would go see about him. He stated that he advised his wife that their son was drinking and he could be located at the abovementioned location and she, her daughter, and a granddaughter went down to see if they could locate CURTIS RAY. He stated that as they were going down to the location where CURTIS RAY supposedly was, they met GEORGE LEE and LOVIE JONES and they told his wife that they had taken CURTIS RAY to the residence of Mrs. OLLIE NEWELL, who resides about two miles north of him.

157-3830-117

On 9/21/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27

by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB¹⁰⁰
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/28/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 30, 1965

Mrs. GEORGIA JUNE WEBB, who resides at Route 2, Roxie, Mississippi, was contacted at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Meadville, Mississippi. She was advised as to the identity of the Agents, that she did not have to furnish any information and any information she did furnish could be used against her in a court of law. She was advised by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that she could contact her attorney prior to furnishing any information. She thereafter furnished the following information:

Her brother, RUFUS SMITH, who resides with her mother in Meadville, Mississippi, came to her residence at approximately 7:30 P.M. on August 14, 1965, to borrow her automobile, which was a brown Falcon, which she and her husband were trying out for a few days. Her sister, ETHEL RAY SMITH, and her friend, CURTIS RAY STOKES, were at her residence also and left with her brother. She stated that her brother was going to take CURTIS RAY STOKES to Natchez, Mississippi, to see about a job.

Between 8:00 and 9:00 PM on that night RUFUS, ETHEL RAY, CURTIS RAY STOKES and MAXIE PRATHER appeared at her residence and ETHEL RAY told her about a wreck which PRATHER had been involved in. ETHEL RAY told her that MAXIE PRATHER had run into the rear of an automobile that had been driven by J. C. EMFINGER. ETHEL RAY told her that she had talked to J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES and had gotten them to leave the scene of the accident before one of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrolman came by and saw that they had been drinking and put the whole group in jail.

Mrs. WEBB stated that while STOKES and ETHEL RAY were at her residence, STOKES attempted to start a fight with MAXIE PRATHER because ETHEL RAY had formerly dated PRATHER. She stated her husband FRANK WEBB told STOKES he was not going to start a fight in his house and if he wanted to fight, he

On 9/18/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File# Jackson 174-27 157-3830-116
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES ^{WJ}
SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB ^{HW} /bdb Date dictated 9/24/65

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174-27

would have to go someplace else to do it. She stated ETHEL RAY then took CURTIS RAY STOKES to the automobile and they left with her brother RUFUS.

She stated that ETHEL RAY returned to her residence about 10:00 P.M. that night in a well intoxicated condition. She stated ETHEL RAY told her that her brother RUFUS had put her out of the automobile in Meadville and that she had to hitchhike to Mrs. WEBB's residence in Roxie. She stated ETHEL RAY tried to get her to drink some vodka when she came home and then she went to bed. She stated that ETHEL RAY and MAXIE PRATHER slept in the same bedroom and ETHEL RAY had slept on the top bunk bed and MAXIE had slept on the lower bunk bed. She stated that ETHEL RAY had commented to her the next morning after she got up about what a hard time she had trying to get in the top bunk bed the night before in her intoxicated condition.

She stated that MAXIE PRATHER did not leave her home after arriving there on the night of August 14, 1965.

She stated that her brother RUFUS returned the car to her residence during the early morning hours of August 15, 1965, and left the car keys on a chest in her room. She stated that she assumed that he thereafter hitchhiked from her residence to his home in Meadville.

Mrs. WEBB advised that she was born on June 12, 1940, in Franklin County, Mississippi, and that she is living in common law with FRANK P. WEBB.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/1/65

FRANK P. WEBB was contacted at his residence on Route 2, in Roxie, Mississippi.

He advised that his wife is GLORIA JUNE WEBB, ETHEL RAY SMITH is his sister-in-law and MAXIE PRATHER, is an individual who works with him and who resides at his residence.

He stated that about 8:00 p.m. on about August 14, 1965, he loaned a 1962 tan Falcon, which he contemplated purchasing to his brother-in-law, RUFUS SMITH. He told RUFUS to return to his residence about 9:00 p.m. because the possibility existed that he might have to go to work. Thereafter RUFUS, ETHEL RAY SMITH, and CURTIS RAY STOKES left his residence in the automobile.

At about 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. RUFUS, ETHEL RAY, and CURTIS RAY returned to his residence with MAXIE PRATHER. They told him about MAXIE running into the rear end of another automobile on Highway 84 near Leesville, Mississippi. While they were at his residence, CURTIS RAY STOKES attempted to pick a fight with MAXIE PRATHER and he told STOKES that there would be no fighting in his home. Thereafter RUFUS, ETHEL RAY and CURTIS RAY again left his residence. He stated that RUFUS returned to his residence in the amount of time that it would have taken him to drive to Meadville, Mississippi, and return to Roxie. He stated that RUFUS told him that he had put CURTIS RAY STOKES and his sister out of the automobile because they had been drinking. RUFUS told him that he put CURTIS RAY out of the automobile about a block from his daughter's home in Bude and that he had put ETHEL RAY out of the automobile near the Tastee Freeze which is located just west of Meadville on Highway 84. WEBB then stated that he was not certain if RUFUS had returned to his residence and furnished him this information on the night of August 14, 1965 or on the morning of August 15, 1965.

On 9/23/65 at Roxie, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-115
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs THOMPSON BERRY WEBB and
BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/bmm Date dictated 9/27/65

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WEBB stated that ETHEL RAY returned to his home again that night but he did not know the exact time. He stated that he was still up watching television when she returned. He stated he asked her how she had gotten back to Roxie and she told him that RUFUS had put her out of the automobile in Meadville and that she had hitchhiked a ride with a man and woman back to Roxie. He stated that MAXIE PRATHER was in bed asleep when ETHEL RAY returned to his home, and later she went into the same bedroom that PRATHER was sleeping in and she slept on the top portion of a bunk bed.

He stated that he did not know the time that RUFUS returned his automobile to his residence but the next morning when he got up the keys to the automobile were on a dresser in his bedroom and the automobile was parked at his residence.

He stated that he talked to Mrs. MAGGIE SMITH, the mother of his wife, on August 15, 1965, and she told him that CURTIS RAY STOKES had come to her home that morning and had gotten some items out of his suitcase. He stated she told him that she did not know the items that he taken from his suitcase and that he had only remained at her residence long enough to have a cup of coffee.

WEBB advised the automobile of MAXIE PRATHER, which had been involved in the accident on the night of August 14, 1965, was a 1964 light blue Ford.

WEBB advised that the 1962 Falcon which he had in his possession on August 14, 1965, was the only automobile he had at that time. He stated that he did not purchase the 1964 Corvair Chevrolet which he now owns until approximately August 17, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 4, 1965

CURLEE GIBBS, a female bootlegger, who resides in Bude, Mississippi, was contacted at her residence and she advised that she did not know CURTIS RAY STOKES by name, but that she is certain that no white man purchased whiskey at her place of business on the morning of August 15, 1965. She stated that she does not usually open her cafe, which is immediately behind her residence, until 8:00 or 9:00 P.M. in the evenings.

On 9/20/65 at Bude, Mississippi File# 157-3830-114
Jackson 174-27
by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/27/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 30, 1965

Mrs. MAGGIE SMITH, who resides in Meadville, Mississippi, was contacted at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Meadville and she furnished the following information:

On August 14, 1965, after dark, RUFUS SMITH, her sixteen year old son, went to Roxie, Mississippi, to borrow the automobile of FRANK WEBB, her son-in-law. He returned to their home between 8:00 and 8:30 P.M. with his friend, KENNETH MITCHELL. She stated her son changed clothes and then he and KENNETH left, stating that they were going to Ferriday, Louisiana, to see Mrs. MILDRED ARCHER, her daughter, who operates a motel there.

Mrs. SMITH stated that while RUFUS was changing clothes, he told her that he had let ETHEL RAY SMITH, her daughter, out of the automobile, near the Tasty Freeze which is located on Highway 84, just west of Meadville. She stated that RUFUS had put ETHEL RAY out of the automobile because she had been drinking. She stated he also told her that he had let CURTIS RAY STOKES out of the automobile at the washeteria in Bude, just before he had let ETHEL RAY out of the automobile. RUFUS told her that earlier in the night when he had been taking ETHEL RAY and CURTIS RAY STOKES toward the Adams-Franklin County Line on Highway 84, they observed MAXIE PRATHER on the side of the highway and learned that he had had an automobile accident. RUFUS told her that he and ETHEL RAY had taken MAXIE PRATHER to the home of JUNE WEBB in Roxie, Mississippi. She stated that JUNE WEBB is another daughter of hers. She stated she did not know what time her son returned to their residence on the morning of August 15, 1965.

Mrs. SMITH advised that CURTIS RAY STOKES came to her home early one morning after August 14, 1965, but she

On 9/18/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27 157-3830-113
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES Date dictated 9/24/65

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does not recall the exact date that he came there. She stated it could have been on the morning of August 15, 1965, or it could have been a couple of days after that. She stated that he remained there for only a few minutes and then left. She stated that she recalled that he had gotten something out of his suitcase but she was positive that he had not changed clothes when he came to her residence on that particular morning.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/1/65

CURTIS RAY STOKES of Vidalia, Louisiana, was taken to the residence of ROY COBB, who resides in Bude, Mississippi, on September 22, 1965. STOKES and COBB were advised that there was discrepancy in their story as to where STOKES was at approximately 6:00 a.m. on the morning of August 15, 1965. STOKES was advised that COBB had advised the agents that he picked STOKES up at 6:00 a.m. on that morning coming out of a field on Harmon-Mullins Road, which is about one-half mile from the residence of COBB. COBB was advised that STOKES advised the agents that he had slept all night in an automobile in Bude and that he had gotten up about sunrise the morning of August 15, 1965. COBB advised that he knows that it was on August 15, 1965 when he picked up STOKES on the Harmon-Mullins Road for the following reasons:

STOKES told him on that morning about MAXIE PRATHER running into the rear of the automobile occupied by J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES the night before.

On that morning he saw the truck of EARL HODGES in a ditch at the residence of J. C. EMFINGER shortly after he had picked up STOKES.

Later that morning Mississippi Highway State Patrolman BURNICE BEASLEY stopped at his residence and told him about EARL HODGES death.

STOKES then stated that he recalled COBB giving him a ride a few weeks ago from a point on the Harmon-Mullins Road and taking him to the Negro quarters in Bude to purchase whiskey. After he purchased the whiskey on that occasion, COBB took him to his residence. COBB then told STOKES that he too recalled that occasion but the incidents that STOKES had just mentioned occurred on the Sunday a week after HODGES had been found dead.

On 9/22/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # JACKSON 157-3830
JACKSON 174-27
 by SAs THOMPSON BERRY WEBB and
BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/bmn Date dictated 9/27/65

JN 157-3830

COBB stated that he did take STOKES to the Negro quarters to purchase whiskey on the morning of August 15, 1965 but from there he did not take him to the residence of his parents but he took him to the Wallace Garage located on Highway 84 between Eddiceton and Bude and let him out there.

STOKES finally stated that COBB must be correct and that he must have picked him up on the Harmon-Mullins Road at 6:00 a.m. on August 15, 1965, but he could not recall being there, he could not recall how he got there and he could not recall leaving the automobile in Bude, Mississippi, where he had slept the night of August 14, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 5, 1965

CURTIS RAY STOKES, whose mailing address is General Delivery, Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted at his residence at the Minorca Fishing Camp near Vidalia, Louisiana. He was advised as to the identity of the Agents, that he did not have to furnish any information and any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that he could contact an attorney prior to furnishing any information.

STOKES was confronted with the fact that Mr. ROY COBB, who resides in Bude, Mississippi, had told the Agents that he had picked STOKES up at 6:00 A.M. on the morning of August 15, 1965, as he was coming out of a field on the Harmon-Mullins Road which is just north of Bude, Mississippi, and the fact that he had earlier advised Agents that he had slept all night in an automobile in Bude, Mississippi, and had gotten out of the automobile about daylight on the morning of August 15, 1965, and had gone to the residence of Mrs. MAGGIE SMITH in Meadville. He stated that he was certain that he had slept all night in the automobile in Bude and that the occasion that Mr. COBB had told the Agents about was not on the morning of August 15, 1965, but on another date. He stated that if he could confront Mr. COBB, he was certain that he could convince him that it was not on August 15, 1965, that he had picked him up in that field. STOKES was confronted with the fact that he had told a man that HODGES had been hit in the head three times with a chain. He was asked where he had received this information and he stated that he had heard this statement made by some unknown men in a barbecue house in Brookhaven, Mississippi. He stated he had heard many rumors that HODGES had been hit with a chain or with a cable or with some other object.

9/29/

On 9/22/65 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # Jackson 174-27 175-3830-110
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB /bdb Date dictated 9/29/65
 SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES

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STOKES was asked where he went after he was picked up at the residence of A. O. NEWELL, who resides north of Bude, by PAUL SMITH and GUS LAIRD. He stated that they gave him a ride to the LAIRD store in Lincoln County and from there he caught a ride into Brookhaven, Mississippi, and went to the residence of his daughter. STOKES stated that he stayed with his daughter three days in an effort to sober up.

STOKES was asked when was the last time that he saw EARL HODGES and he advised that after J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES had left the scene of the accident that they had had with MAXIE PRATHER on Highway 84 a few miles east of Leesdale, Mississippi, that he and ETHEL RAY SMITH and RUFUS SMITH went to the residence of FRANK WEBB in Roxie, Mississippi, and let MAXIE PRATHER out there. Afterwards they drove east on Highway 84 toward Meadville and they caught up with the automobile of J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES at the bridge just a short distance west of Meadville. He stated that this bridge is referred to as the Middle Fork Creek Bridge. He stated he did not see EMFINGER or HODGES after that.

STOKES voluntarily accompanied the Agents to Bude, Mississippi, where he confronted Mr. ROY COBB regarding the comments made by COBB mentioned above.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 4, 1965

Mr. ROY COBB, whose mailing address is Box 81, Bude, Mississippi, was contacted at his residence and he furnished the following information:

About 6:00 A.M. on the morning of August 15, 1965, he was on the Harmon-Mullins Road, which is approximately one-half mile from his residence and he observed CURTIS RAY STOKES coming out of a field toward this road. He stated STOKES asked him where he was going and he told him that he had been fox hunting the night before and had left a couple of his dogs out all night and he was going to look for them. He stated that STOKES asked him if he would drive him to Bude so that he could get a drink. COBB advised that STOKES was not drunk at the time he picked him up but that had been drinking. He asked STOKES where he had been and he stated that he had "laid out". He took STOKES to the Negro quarters in Bude and he parked his truck in front of the grocery store of EDWARD EMFINGER and STOKES got out of the truck and walked up to one house and then he saw STOKES walk to another house and within five to seven minutes he returned to the truck. He saw that STOKES had a bottle of whiskey in his pocket when he returned to the truck. COBB stated that when STOKES got out of his truck he walked in the direction of the residence of CURLEE GIBBS, a local female bootlegger.

He stated that STOKES told him that he wanted to go home but then when he got back to the Harmon-Mullins Road which leads towards the residence of STOKES' parents, STOKES told him that he did not want to go to his parents' home but that he would like to get out at Wallace's Garage, which is located between Eddiceton and Bude, because he was going to catch a bus and go to the home of his sister, who resides in Brookhaven. He stated he was going down there because he wanted to go to work. COBB advised that it was

On 9/20/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # 157-3830-109
Jackson 174-27
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/27/65

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no later than 6:30 A.M. when he let STOKES out at Wallace's Garage.

COBB advised that he knew that it was the morning of August 15th, 1965, when he had picked up STOKES in the field off of the Harmon-Mullins Road because that morning when he passed the residence of J. C. EMFINGER, he saw the truck of EARL HODGES in the ditch there. He stated he knew that this truck belonged to EARL HODGES because he, COBB, had formerly owned that vehicle. He stated also that it was that morning between 11:00 A.M. and 12 Noon that Highway Patrolman BURNICE BEASLEY had stopped by his residence and told him about HODGES' death.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/1/65

WAYNE HUTTO, Sheriff of Franklin County, Mississippi, was contacted at his office in Meadville, and he advised that he had received information that a Mr. and Mrs. HENRY WHITTINGTON who reside on Route 1, Meadville, Mississippi, had been traveling from Natchez to Meadville on the night of August 14, 1965, and had seen J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES standing along side the road talking to some other individuals. He stated that this was probably at the time where MAXIE PRATHER had run into the rear of the automobile of J. C. EMFINGER.

On 9/22/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830 -109
Jackson 174-27
by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/bmn Date dictated 9/27/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/1/65

Mr. HENRY WHITTINGTON, whose mailing address is Route 1, Box 54, Meadville, Mississippi, was contacted at his residence by Franklin County Deputy Sheriff KIRBY SHELL and Special Agent BENJAMIN F. GRAVES.

He advised that on the night of August 14, 1965, he and his wife were returning to their home in Meadville, from Natchez and at approximately 8:30 p.m. and one and one-half mile east of Leedale, Mississippi, on Highway 84, he observed three automobiles parked on the right side of the highway with their lights on. He stated that he slowed down and observed that the first of the three automobiles was a red Dodge, the second, he thought, might have been a black 1959 Ford and the third automobile, he thought, possibly was a 1956-1957 blue and white Chevrolet. He stated that he saw J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES and a female standing to the right rear of the red Dodge. He stated that the female was standing with her back toward the road and she seemed to be wiping EARL HODGES' face. He stated that he has known EARL HODGES and J. C. EMFINGER for a number of years and he was positive that these were the two individuals whom he saw there. He stated that he did not know the identity of the female but described her as follows: white female, hair black, weight 115 - 125 pounds, a very thin looking girl, who had on light brown or red pants.

He stated that at this same location he saw two men walking near the rear of the second automobile and that in his opinion these two men were drunk because of the weaving way they were walking. He stated that he does not think that these two individuals were CURTIS RAY STOKES or MAXIE PRATHER because he knows these two individuals. He stated that these two individuals were white males and both appeared to weight approximately 140 pounds and were approximately 5'5" to 5'8" in the height. He stated that

On 9/22/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-169
Jackson 174-27

by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/bmn Date dictated 9/27/65

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he could not furnish any other description of these two individuals, except to say that they were wearing light colored clothes.

WHITTINGTON stated that he did not see any other individuals and either of the three automobiles.

He stated that after passing these automobiles, he drove on to Roxie, Mississippi, and turned off of Highway 84 and went to the residence of ROBERT DOSSETT, principal of the Roxie Grammar School. He stated that DOSSETT was not home and he immediately drove back to Highway 84. As he approached Highway 84, he saw the automobile of J. C. EMFINGER traveling east on Highway 84 and he waited for it to pass him so he could turn out on Highway 84. He thereafter followed this automobile for approximately a mile and then he passed it. He stated that as he was following the automobile, it was weaving all over the highway. He stated that he did not see the automobile anymore after he had passed it.

WHITTINGTON ~~also~~ stated that at approximately 10:00 a.m. on the morning of August 14, 1965 EARL HODGES had passed his residence in his green truck and had waved to him as he was working in his garden. He stated that he could furnish no additional information.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 4, 1965

KENNETH MITCHELL was contacted at his residence, which is approximately two miles north of Meadville, Mississippi. He advised that on the night of August 14, 1965, his friend, RUFUS SMITH, who resides in Meadville, picked him up about 8:00 P.M. at the Tasty Freeze, which is located on the west side of Meadville, in the automobile of his brother-in-law FRANK WEBB. He stated they drove to the Magnolia Motel which is located in Ferriday, Louisiana, and played the pinball machine located in the restaurant there until approximately Midnight. They then drove to Natchez, Fayette, and then returned to Meadville, where he got out of the automobile and RUFUS drove west on Highway 84 toward Roxie, Mississippi.

MITCHELL advised that when he got into the automobile that night, RUFUS told him that he had put his sister ETHEL RAY SMITH out of the automobile earlier in the night because she had been drinking.

On 9/20/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File# Jackson 174-27 157-3830-119
by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB *tb*
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES *BF* /bdb Date dictated 9/27/65

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JN 157-3830
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he could not furnish any other description of these two individuals, except to say that they were wearing light colored clothes.

WHITTINGTON stated that he did not see any other individuals and either of the three automobiles.

He stated that after passing these automobiles, he drove on to Roxie, Mississippi, and turned off of Highway 84 and went to the residence of ROBERT DOSSETT, principal of the Roxie Grammar School. He stated that DOSSETT was not home and he immediately drove back to Highway 84. As he approached Highway 84, he saw the automobile of J. C. EMFINGER traveling east on Highway 84 and he waited for it to pass him so he could turn out on Highway 84. He thereafter followed this automobile for approximately a mile and then he passed it. He stated that as he was following the automobile, it was weaving all over the highway. He stated that he did not see the automobile anymore after he had passed it.

WHITTINGTON advised that at approximately 10:00 a.m. on the morning of August 14, 1965 EARL HODGES had passed his residence in his green truck and had waved to him as he was working in his garden. He stated that he could furnish no additional information.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/1/65

Mrs. HENRY WHITTINGTON, who resides at Route 1, Box 54, Meadville, Mississippi, was contacted by KIRBY SHELL, Franklin County Deputy Sheriff, and Special Agent BENJAMIN F. GRAVES.

She furnished substantially the same information as her husband, HENRY WHITTINGTON, about seeing J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES on the side of Highway 84 near Leesdale, Mississippi, at about 8:30 p.m. on August 14, 1965.

She stated that she knows J. C. EMFINGER and she went to school with EARL HODGES and there is no doubt in her mind that these were the two individuals that she saw on the road that night. She stated that she thought she saw a white female wiping HODGES' face but the female could have been lighting a cigarette or doing something else around his face. She furnished the following description of the female: white, height 5'4" to 5'6" and weighting 115 to 125 pounds. She stated that this female was very thin looking and she wore a light brown or red pants and shirt. She stated that the pants were darker than the shirt.

On 9/22/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-106
Jackson 174-27
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/bmn Date dictated 9/27/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 30, 1965

COLUMBUS BUIE, a bootlegger in Bude, advised that CURTIS RAY STOKES did not come to his residence in Bude in an effort to purchase whiskey from him during the early morning hours of August 15, 1965. He stated that he arose that morning about 7:00 A.M. and remained around his home until about 10:00. At that time he went to the ice house in Bude and while in Bude, he saw CURTIS RAY STOKES near the hotel there. He stated the hotel is near EDWARD EMFINGER's grocery store and he was in the grocery store when he observed STOKES near the hotel.

JOE PRICE, Investigator, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, was present during the above interview.

On 9/18/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27 ¹⁵⁷⁻³⁸³⁰⁻¹⁶⁵
by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES ^{BA} /bdb Date dictated 9/24/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 29, 1965

ZEB HODGES was contacted at his residence in Eddiceton, Mississippi, and he advised that A. O. "DOLLAR BILL" NEWELL, who lives a few miles north of Eddiceton, came to his residence on the morning of September 10, 1965, and discussed with him the death of his son EARL HODGES. He stated it was his opinion that NEWELL had been sent to his residence by J. C. and EDWARD EMFINGER to learn what he could about the investigation being conducted regarding the death of his son. However, he stated he had no facts to substantiate his opinion.

On 9/15/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # 157-3830-164 Jackson 174-27
by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/22/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/28/65

Mississippi Highway Safety Patrolman BURNICE BEASLEY was contacted at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Meadville, Mississippi, and he furnished the following information:

He stated on the night of August 14, 1965, he talked to MAXIE PRATHER on the side of the Highway 84 a few miles east of Leesville, Mississippi. He stated that PRATHER told him about running into the rear of another automobile a few moments before he arrived. He stated that ETHEL RAY SMITH, CURTIS RAY STOKES, and one other or two individuals were parked near PRATHER's automobile at the time he was there and that the automobile that ETHEL RAY SMITH was in was a ten Falcon bearing 1965 Mississippi license #19B339.

On 9/18/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-103
Jackson 174-27
by ^{B/A} SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/bmn Date dictated 9/23/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 30, 1965

RUFUS MINUARD SMITH, who resides in Meadville, Mississippi, was contacted in the office of the Franklin County Sheriff in Meadville. He was advised as to the identity of the Agent, that he did not have to furnish any information and any information that he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised that he could contact an attorney prior to furnishing any information.

SMITH advised that on the night of August 14, 1965, he borrowed a 1962 Ford Falcon from his brother-in-law, FRANK WEBB, who resides in Roxie, Mississippi. He stated that after borrowing the automobile he went to his home in Meadville about 8:00 P.M. and changed clothes. Thereafter, he went to the Tasty Freeze which is located just west of Meadville on Highway 84 and picked up his friend KENNETH MITCHELL. They thereafter drove to the Magnolia Motel located in Ferriday, Louisiana, and which is owned by his brother-in-law, BOB ARCHER. He said they remained there in the restaurant part of the motel until about Midnight playing the pinball machine. He stated he did not see his aister or his brother-in-law while there and the only people that he recalled seeing there were two waitresses who worked in the restaurant. They left the motel about Midnight and drove through Natchez and then to Fayette, Mississippi, and then returned to Roxie, Mississippi. He stated he took the automobile to the home of his brother-in-law FRANK WEBB in Roxie and took the keys into his house and put them on the dresser of his sister JUNE. He stated that while he was there he glanced into the bedroom where MAXIE PRATHER and his sister ETHEL RAY SMITH would have been sleeping. He stated that it was quite dark in there and he recalls seeing the bunk beds but he did not recall seeing PRATHER and his sister ETHEL RAY. He reiterated that it was very dark in their bedroom and they could have been there and him not see them.

On 9/18/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # 157-3830-102
Jackson 174-27
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb Date dictated 9/24/65

JN 157-3830
174-27

SMITH stated that he and his friend KENNETH MITCHELL walked from the residence of his brother-in-law to Highway 84 and there caught a ride to Meadville in a 1955 Chevrolet station wagon, blue and white, driven by a white male. He stated that he and MITCHELL got out at the Tasty Freeze in Meadville and he walked to his home, arriving there about 4:00 A.M. He stated that he assumed that KENNETH MITCHELL walked to his home from the Tasty Freeze.

He stated that he arose about 12:00 Noon or 1:00 P.M. on August 15, 1965, and his mother told him that CURTIS RAY STOKES had been to their house that morning and had gotten some cigarettes or something out of his suitcase.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/27/65

Date

MAXIE PRATHER was contacted at the residence of Mr. FRANK WEBB who resides in Roxie, Mississippi. PRATHER was advised as to the identity of the Agents, that he did not have to furnish any information and any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that he could contact an attorney prior to furnishing any information. He thereafter furnished the following information:

He is, at the present time, residing with Mr. FRANK WEBB and he also works with WEBB. He and WEBB work for the Fortenberry Drilling Company of Natchez, Mississippi.

PRATHER advised that on August 14, 1965, he got off work about 2:30 p.m. at Glasscock Island, Mississippi and drove to Ruby's Truck Stop located on Highway 84 near the Adams-Franklin County line. He estimated that he arrived there between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Upon arriving there, he began drinking whiskey and he does not know the exact time, but later in the afternoon or early evening, J. C. EMFINGER, from Bude, Mississippi, came in and began drinking. He stated EMFINGER sat around in this cafe for thirty to forty minutes and finally told him that EARL HODGES was sitting out in his car in front of the cafe and would not come in. PRATHER stated that he and FLO ANN JACKSON, a waitress, went out to EMFINGER's car and coaxed HODGES into coming into the cafe.

Before HODGES came into the cafe, he told PRATHER that he did not have a penny. PRATHER stated that when HODGES came into the cafe and saw that he, PRATHER, had a half pint on the table, HODGES asked him

On 9/15/65 at Roxie, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-10/
 by SA J. A. MARTIN 174-27
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/sjw 9/21/65
 Date dictated

JN 157-3830

for a drink and he told him that he could have one. He stated that HODGES and EMFINGER stayed in the cafe for some period of time and then they left together.

PRATHER stated that he left this cafe a short time after EMFINGER and HODGES had left and he was traveling in his 1954 Fairlane Ford in an easterly direction on Highway 84. He stated about three or four hundred yards east of Leesdale he ran into the back of a red car which had been moving very slowly on Highway 84 in an easterly direction or the automobile had been stopped. He hit this red automobile in the right rear with the left front fender of his automobile.

He stated he did not know who he had run into and that the red automobile did not stop after he ran into it. Very shortly after the accident, ETHEL RAY SMITH, CURTIS RAY STOKES, and RUFUS SMITH, the sixteen-year-old brother of ETHEL RAY appeared at the scene and drove him to the home of FRANK WEBB in Roxie, Mississippi. He thought that they probably arrived at WEBB's residence about 8:00 p.m. PRATHER stated that shortly after arriving at the WEBB residence, ETHEL RAY SMITH, her little brother, and CURTIS RAY STOKES left the residence in the automobile of FRANK WEBB. He stated that later that night ETHEL RAY returned to the home of the WEBBs and spent the night there.

He stated that once he had arrived at the WEBB home he did not leave there again that night or the early morning hours of August 15, 1965. He did not know the exact time that ETHEL RAY SMITH had returned to the WEBB home but he thought it was probably before midnight.

PRATHER stated that he did not hear about EARL HODGES's death until August 16, 1965, and he did not recall who told him about HODGES's death. PRATHER stated that the last time that he saw EARL HODGES he was very much alive and he left Ruby's Truck Stop with J. C. EMFINGER.

JN 157-3830

He stated he had no idea who might have beaten HODGES.

It is to be noted that PRATHER is a white male, 30 years of age, having been born on February 4, 1935 in Oldenburg, Mississippi, and weighing 150 pounds.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 27, 1965

On September 16, 1965, Mrs. ELLIS CORBIN, wife of ex-sheriff of Franklin County, FRANK CORBIN, advised that on August 14, 1965, JOHNNY LEE COTHREN, VONNIE COTHREN, and HUBERT COTHREN brought their children to her house about 8:00 p.m. She stated JOHNNY LEE did not tell her where they were going, but stated they would probably be out all night. Mrs. CORBIN stated she saw no cars leave the residence of BETTY REEVES, who lives next door and across Highway 98. Mrs. CORBIN further advised that on August 15, 1965, at about 8:00 a.m. JOHNNY LEE COTHREN telephoned her and stated she would pick up her children in an hour or so and during the course of the conversation she stated that SKEET HOLLINGSWORTH and his family spent the night with them in Bude, Mississippi. JOHNNY LEE also told Mrs. CORBIN that the CHARLES JORDANS spent the night with BETTY LOU REEVES, who lives in the vicinity of Mrs. CORBIN on Highway 98. Mrs. CORBIN stated that on the morning EARL HODGES' body was found JOHNNY LEE COTHREN told Mrs. CORBIN on the phone that some one had called her (JOHNNY LEE COTHREN) and told her that EARL was dead and hung up the phone. Mrs. CORBIN further stated that she is an aunt of JOHNNY LEE COTHREN. She stated that Sunday afternoon, about 5:00 some one called JOHNNY LEE COTHREN at her home in Bude and said "how did you like what you saw, you will be next" referring to JOHNNY LEE COTHREN's observation of EARL HODGES' body at the Meadville mortuary. Mrs. CORBIN stated the voice, according to JOHNNY LEE, was the same voice that had called her earlier and advised her of HODGES' death.

On 9/16/65 at Franklin County, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-100
Jackson 174-27
 by SA DARYL R. HARRELL ^{ish} Date dictated 9/21/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 27, 1965

ALMER HALFORD, Sergeant, Natchez Police Department, Natchez, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

His brother is ALTON HALFORD and his brother was severely beaten approximately one year prior to the interview by unknown assailants in Franklin County, Mississippi.

HALFORD stated that his brother ALTON had once had a "shooting scrape" with JAMES SEALE. He added that ALTON often drinks alcoholic beverages in excess.

ALMER HALFORD stated that he very seldom goes to Franklin County, Mississippi, and that he has not been to Franklin County, Mississippi, in approximately one year. He stated he had no direct knowledge of any events taking place in that area, but knew from conversation with acquaintances that CLYDE SEALE and his son JAMES are apparently terrorizing the community. He stated that he was unable to furnish any information which might be of value in investigations of the activities of CLYDE and JAMES SEALE. He added that in the event he could obtain any of this information, he would very willingly give this information to the Bureau and he would also make a point of attempting to obtain additional information and in the event he was successful, he would furnish it to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On 9/14/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-99
174-27
by SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS/jls Date dictated 9/21/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 11, 1965

JAMES KELLEY NETTLES, Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, was advised of the identities of SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES and SA JOHN T. KELLY, and was advised by SA KELLY that he did not have to furnish any information and any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law and that he had the right to consult an attorney prior to furnishing any information.

NETTLES advised that he has never belonged to the Ku Klux Klan nor has he ever been approached to join this organization. He denied having any knowledge of Klan activity in Franklin County, Mississippi, and stated he had no information regarding the murder of EARL HODGES or the bombing of GEORGE METCALFE's automobile in Natchez, Mississippi, August 27, 1965.

The following description was obtained by observation and interview:

Name:	JAMES KELLEY NETTLES
DOB:	4/7/23
POB:	Terina, Texas
Height:	5'5"
Weight:	160
Hair:	Gray
Eyes:	Blue
Scars:	2" scar left forearm
Marital Status:	Single
Employment:	Dairy Farmer, Route 2, Meadville Mississippi
Social Security Number:	427-38-4971
Military Service:	None
Vehicle:	1960 blue four door Chevrolet, 1965 Miss. license 19-879
Weapons:	.410 guage shotgun

On 10/6/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157- (NETTLES)
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /bdb
SA JOHN T. KELLY 1085 dictated 10/7/65
 174-27
 157-3830

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157-3830-98

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 11, 1965

JAMES KELLEY NETTLES, Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, was advised of the identities of SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES and SA JOHN T. KELLY, and was advised by SA KELLY that he did not have to furnish any information and any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law and that he had the right to consult an attorney prior to furnishing any information.

NETTLES advised that he has never belonged to the Ku Klux Klan nor has he ever been approached to join this organization. He denied having any knowledge of Klan activity in Franklin County, Mississippi, and stated he had no information regarding the murder of EARL HODGES or the bombing of GEORGE METCALFE's automobile in Natchez, Mississippi, August 27, 1965.

The following description was obtained by observation and interview:

Name:	JAMES KELLEY NETTLES
DOB:	4/7/23
POB:	Terina, Texas
Height:	5'5"
Weight:	160
Hair:	Gray
Eyes:	Blue
Scars:	2" scar left forearm
Marital Status:	Single
Employment:	Dairy Farmer, Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi
Social Security Number:	427-38-4971
Military Service:	None
Vehicle:	1960 blue four door Chevrolet, 1965 Miss. license 19-879
Weapons:	.410 guage shotgun

On 10/6/65 at Meadville, Mississippi 157-3830-99 174-27
Jackson 157- (NETTLES)

by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES
SA JOHN T. KELLY /bdb

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157-3830

10/7/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 29, 1965

AUBREY BASS was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the fact that he did not have to make a statement, that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law. BASS was advised by SA MARTIN that he was entitled to consult with an attorney prior to making any statement or anyone else of his choice.

BASS was advised that the FBI was conducting an investigation into the death of EARL HODGE, and that certain information had come to their attention which involved BASS and that they desired him to clarify this information for them.

It was pointed out to BASS that information had been developed indicating that he had rented an abandoned house from one JEWEL WESTBROOK. BASS stated that he had made the arrangements to rent this house from WESTBROOK with the intention of it being used by his hunting club. He stated however, that they never held any meetings there and after paying the rent for about two months, he had nothing further to do with it. BASS was asked if he did not attend meetings which were held at this abandoned house on Thursday nights during the time that it was rented by him. He stated that he did not attend any meetings at this house and that to his knowledge no meetings were held there. BASS was asked if he was a member of the Klan. He stated that he did not belong to the Klan or any other organization other than the church. It was pointed out to BASS that his cousin JOEL WESTBROOK had stated that he, BASS, had rented the above house and that during the time it was rented to BASS, that meetings were held there on Thursday nights which BASS attended and that according to his cousin WESTBROOK, BASS had advised WESTBROOK that he was a member of the Klan. At this point,

On 9/16/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
Jackson 174-27
by SA J. L. MARTIN /bdb Jackson (AUBREY BASS)
SA DARYL R. HARRELL dictated 9/22/65

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JN 157-3830
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JN AUBREY BASS

BASS became upset and stated that he did not desire to answer any further questions and immediately returned to his home.

The following description of BASS was obtained from observation and interview:

Age:	Approximately 25 - 26
Height:	5'10" - 5'11"
Weight:	180-185
Build:	Medium
Hair:	Black
Complexion:	Dark

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830)

DATE: 10/7/65

FROM : SA JAMES A. ABBOTT

SUBJECT: EARL HODGE
RM

On 9/15/65 Mrs. BETTY REEVES, Route 2, Meadville, Miss., was recontacted by SAs JAMES A. ABBOTT and J. L. MARTIN. She was asked if she had heard any additional rumors in the area concerning the possible identities of the assailants of EARL HODGE. She stated she knew nothing further concerning the HODGE murder. She stated she had told the FBI and the MHSP Investigators everything she knew concerning EARL HODGE.

She did say that any information that might come to her attention which could possibly have a bearing on this situation, would immediately be relayed to either the FBI or the MHSP.

② Jackson
JAA/css
(2) *css*



157-3830-94

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FBI JACKSON	

GRAVES

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON 157-3830

DATE: 10/5/65

FROM : SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES

SUBJECT: EARL HODGES
RM (KLAN)

Franklin County Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO, Meadville, Mississippi, advised the writer on September 24, 1965, that MARCUS SHELTON PRATHER did not have a vehicle registered to him.

He stated that ARCHIE PRATHER, the father of MARCUS PRATHER, who lives on Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, has the following vehicle registered to him: FOIA(b)7 - (D)

1962 Chevrolet
6 cylinder
Cap. $\frac{1}{2}$ ton-
Body type - pickup
Serial Number 2C144S115874

Sheriff HUTTO advised that the above vehicle carries 1965 Miss. License F/5 25930. Sheriff HUTTO advised that it is his opinion that this is the vehicle that MARCUS PRATHER drives and he believes this vehicle's color is green. He stated that this vehicle was purchased by ARCHIE PRATHER from the Prichard Chevrolet Company in Meadville, in 1962.

1 -
② - 157-3830
1 - 157-569
1 - 62-5
BFG/lsk
(5) *lsk*

157-3830-93

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OCT 5 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

STW

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/26/65

1

JAMES W. GAMMILL, 133 Melrose Drive, Natchez, Mississippi, advised Mrs. MARGARET GIBBS, 131 Melrose Drive is his neighbor. He furnished the following information:

Mrs. GIBBS left her residence on September 18, 1965 to reside with her sister a Mrs. NEWSOME, Lafayette, Louisiana, Mrs. GIBBS was released from the Whitfield State Mental Hospital, Whitfield, Mississippi. She had been confined to the hospital since August 1, 1965. She has been a patient at the hospital off and on through the years. She has had problems for several years.

She last worked for the Jefferson Davis Memorial Hospital Natchez before going to Whitfield. Prior to that she was a nurse for Dr. METCALFE, a white physician in Natchez. She is a divorcee but up to about 1961 was married to CHARLES GIBBS, Natchez.

He advised Mrs. GIBBS has had marital problems for several years and he personally believes VIRGIE MAE MILLER GIBBS, CHARLES' wife has been harassing Mrs. GIBBS. VIRGIE MAE owns and operates "Virgie's Beauty Salon," Natchez and is reportedly a "trouble-maker". VIRGIE MAE was formerly married to "BUTTON-HOLE" MILLER in Meadville and she ran around with EARL HODGES for several years. She dated HODGES for several years prior to marrying GIBBS. He said EARL HODGES was killed a few weeks ago in Meadville and he believes VIRGIE MAE probably has not had any contact with HODGES for several years since HODGES has been a known drunkard.

GAMMILL said he knew HODGES and he has no idea who could have killed him. He had no information that HODGES was associated with the Ku Klux Klan or Klansmen. He believes VIRGIE MAE GIBBS could furnish information regarding HODGES.

On 9/20/65 at NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI File # JN 174-27
JN 157-3830

by SA JAMES O. INGRAM and

SA JAMES W. AWE /JDS

Date dictated

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157-3830-92

SEARCHED

9/21/65

FBI - JAMES O. INGRAM

JN 174-27

2

He could furnish no information as to who could have sent a letter to the FBI furnishing Mrs. GIBBS' name and he was not acquainted with THOMAS YOUNG.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/29/65

On September 21, 1965, MRS. VIRGIE MAE GIBBS was interviewed at her beauty shop, 113 Pearl Street in Natchez, Mississippi. She advised the following:

She has known EARL HODGES most of her life and had gone with him up to 1958. Since then she has had very little contact with HODGES. She did not know anyone who was his enemy and he got along with everyone extremely well. He usually went out of his way to help people. He was a Mason and a Shriner and held all the high offices in the Masonic Order. She understood that a MRS. COTHERINE has been recently going around with EARL HODGES and heard that they were trying to get married. She could not furnish any pertinent information as to who might have beat HODGES to death.

She was told that an anonymous letter was received by the FBI stating that MARGARET GIBBS could provide information of interest to the FBI. She explained that MARGARET GIBBS was previously married to her husband, and had been for about 13 years. She stated that MARGARET GIBBS has previously been in a mental hospital in New Orleans and also in Whitfield, and did not consider her to be competent because of problems she has had in this regard. She did not know who could have sent an anonymous letter to the FBI regarding MARGARET GIBBS but explained that MARGARET GIBBS' mother, MRS. ALLAIN, has always been a trouble maker and could have possibly sent the letter. She further explained that she did not know a THOMAS YOUNG.

MRS. MILLER could not furnish any further information, of value but stated that if she heard anything regarding HODGES' murder she would probably contact SAM NEWMAN of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, whom she knows quite well.

On 9/21/65 at NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI File # JN 157-3830 -91
 by SA JAMES W. AWE and SA JAMES O. INGRAM /jds Date dictated 9/24/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 27, 1965

On September 16, 1965, Mrs. ELLIS CORBIN, wife of ex-sheriff of Franklin County, FRANK CORBIN, advised on August 14, 1965, JOHNNY LEE COTHRAN, VONNIE COTHRAN, and HUBERT COTHRAN brought their children to her house about 8:00 p.m. She stated JOHNNY LEE did not tell her where they were going, but stated they would probably be out all night. Mrs. CORBIN stated she saw no cars leave the residence of BETTY REEVES, who lives next door and across Highway 98. Mrs. CORBIN further advised that on August 15, 1965, at about 8:00 a.m. JOHNNY LEE COTHRAN telephoned her and stated she would pick up her children in an hour or so and during the course of the conversation she stated that SKEET HOLLINGSWORTH and his family spent the night with them in Bude, Mississippi. JOHNNY LEE also told Mrs. CORBIN that the CHARLES JORDANS spent the night with BETTY LOU REEVES, who lives in the vicinity of Mrs. CORBIN on Highway 98. Mrs. CORBIN stated that on the morning EARL HODGES' body was found JOHNNY LEE COTHRAN told Mrs. CORBIN on the phone that some one had called her (JOHNNY LEE COTHRAN) and told her that EARL was dead and hung up the phone. Mrs. CORBIN further stated that she is an aunt of JOHNNY LEE COTHRAN. She stated that Sunday afternoon, about 5:00 some one called JOHNNY LEE COTHRAN at her home in Bude and said "how did you like what you saw, you will be next" referring to JOHNNY LEE COTHRAN's observation of EARL HODGES' body at the Meadville mortuary. Mrs. CORBIN stated the voice, according to JOHNNY LEE, was the same voice that had called her earlier and advised her of HODGES' death.

On 9/16/65 at Franklin County, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-90
Jackson 174-27
by SA DARYL R. HARREL-ish Date dictated 9/21/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 27, 1965

Mrs. E.O. EMFINGER, Route 4, Natchez, Mississippi, was contacted and advised by SA DARYL R. HARRELL that she did not have to furnish any information without first consulting an attorney, that she did not have to make a statement, and that any statement she did make could be used against her in a court of law.

Mrs. EMFINGER advised that on August 16, 1965, she was in the Meadville Hospital visiting Mr. LEE MC CORY. She stated she did not make any statement to the effect that "two women are involved in the death of EARL HODGES". She stated she does not have any information regarding HODGES' death and does not know how the rumor was started that she did have information. Mrs. EMFINGER refused to make any more statements without her husband being present. Interview was terminated.

On 9/14/65 at Fenwick, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-89
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES Jackson 174-27
SA DARYL R. HARRELL ish 9/21/65
by _____ Date dictated _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 9/17/65

Mr. LINK CAMERON, Rural Free Delivery, Meadville (Bunkley Road) was contacted in an isolated wooded area previously selected by him in the course of a contact on September 8, 1965.

Mr. CAMERON advised he had thought of no additional information concerning the EARL HODGE killing.

CAMERON was questioned about any knowledge he had concerning the abduction and killing of CHARLEY MOORE and HENRY DEE in May, 1964. He stated that on either a Friday or Saturday night in early May, 1964, exact date not recalled, he was parked with a Negro woman in his car in a briar patch east of the north section of Bunkley Road. This was north of Highway 98 and was about 7:30 p.m. or so. He and the woman were in the back seat of the car when he heard some commotion back down the road toward Highway 98, and heard sounds as if someone were being struck with sticks. He heard someone cry out, then heard either two or three shots. After that, for a short period of time, there was silence except for the sound of cars starting, after which two or three, or perhaps four, cars passed right in front of him going north. He said he could not identify any of these cars or their occupants, as he did not look closely at them being terrified that he might be seen. As one of the cars passed, he thought he heard someone cry out or moan loudly from one of the cars, then there was silence. He stated that he then took the woman home and went home himself, and has said nothing to anybody about this matter until he told Mr. PRITCHARD at Meadville, Mississippi, in the last day or so.

CAMERON advised that a day or so after he heard the above described circumstance, he heard in the community that CHARLEY MOORE and HENRY DEE were missing. He immediately thought about what he had seen and heard, and assumed the possibility

On 9/9/65 at Meadville, Mississippi

File #

157-3830-186
JN 157-3830

JN 62-5

by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES andJ. L. MARTIN/hmn

Date dictated

9/13/65

that he had actually witnessed the beating and possibly killing of MOORE and DEE.

CAMERON advised he had heard a rumor in the Negro community that MOORE and DEE may have been killed because one of them allegedly had "peeped" at CHARLES EDWARDS' wife.

CAMERON accompanied the interviewing agents to the location where he said he and the Negro woman had been hiding, and pointed out the spot where he estimated the cars had parked and the noises of a beating had been located. This was determined to be four-tenths of a mile north of the U. S. Highway 98 at the intersection of Highway 98 and Bunkley Road, at a spot in the road where a cattle gap crossed the road. The location where CAMERON said he was hiding in his car was another one-fourth mile north of this spot.

CAMERON insisted that he could not identify any of the cars or individuals involved in this incident. He further declined to identify the woman with him, explaining that she was a married woman and could get in serious trouble with her husband, as well as with the Klan, if it should be known that she was in the area under the circumstances.

CAMERON promised to make discreet inquiries and to immediately notify the interviewing agents if he should develop any additional information of value as to the identity of the person or persons who killed MOORE and DEE.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

1

Date: September 20, 1965

Mr. LINK CAMERON was contacted by SA DUKES and

[redacted] in an isolated pasture area southwest of Meadville, Mississippi.

CAMERON, who predicated his remarks with the comment that he is a Negro and his life would be forfeit if the Klan knew he was talking to the FBI, stated he would furnish the following information but would not testify.

CAMERON stated he has resided many years on the east side of Bunkley Road, a road running south from U. S. Highway 98, west of Meadville, Mississippi. This is the same road extending to the Bunkley Community where CLYDE SEALE, JAMES SEALE, ARCHIE PRATHER, CHARLES EDWARDS and many others known to CAMERON as Ku Klux Klansmen reside.

CAMERON advised that his brother, "SONNY" CAMERON, a known whiskey bootlegger, also lives on the west side of the Bunkley Road, about three miles north of LINK CAMERON toward Highway 98.

CAMERON advised that about dusk on Saturday, August 14, 1965, he was at "SONNY" CAMERON's house on Bunkley Road when he observed at least four or five automobiles proceeding north on Bunkley Road toward Highway 98. He automatically presumed it was the SEALE - PRATHER Klan group going to a meeting and recalled having thought to himself that the group must be going to have their regular Saturday night Klan meeting at a different place, inasmuch as they usually meet on or near CLYDE SEALE's place at Bunkley, sometimes in SEALE's barn.

CAMERON recalled that in this group of cars was a white Chevrolet pickup, which he presumes was JAMES SEALE's

On 9/8/65 at Meadville, Mississippi

Jackson 62-5
File # Jackson 157-3830

by SA WILLIAM F. DUKES bgj

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 13 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	
GRAVES	

Date dictated SEP 13 1965

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truck, although it was too dark for him to identify the occupant or occupants. He also saw a light colored car which he believes was CHARLES EDWARDS' Chevrolet Corvair. The only other car he saw was a green-looking car which he thought might belong to (first name unknown) LADNER, an associate of the SEALES whom he believed to live in the Bunkley Community. CAMERON said he saw the headlights of one or two other cars but could not identify these cars and could not say whether he saw CLYDE SEALE or his car in the group.

CAMERON advised that at about 11:00 p.m. the same night, he saw what he believes were the same cars returning south on the Bunkley Road. He left his brother's house and drove north on Bunkley Road to Highway 98 and, just as he reached Highway 98, he saw MARK SHELTON PRATHER turn south on Bunkley Road in PRATHER's 1960 to 1962 dark blue pickup truck. PRATHER was coming from the direction of Meadville and he had two men in the truck with him although CAMERON could not see enough of these men to identify them. He last saw PRATHER driving south on Bunkley Road at a high rate of speed.

CAMERON advised that he heard the next day or so that Mr. EARL HODGE had been found dead after a brutal beating. He stated he automatically assumed that the Klan had been after HODGE for some reason, but added that he had no definite information to prove this.

CAMERON, who appeared to be very frightened in the course of this contact, was questioned closely about any other persons he may have recognized in this group of cars. He stated he could not say for sure but believes

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that he saw CLYDE SEALE in his gray "small car" in the group returning south on Bunkley Road at about 11:00 p.m. However, he reiterated that he could not be certain of this.

Arrangements were made to recontact CAMERON on September 9, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/13/65

Mrs. TEMPE ARNOLD was re-contacted at her residence in Bude, Mississippi, and she advised that JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN came to her residence about noon, August 15, 1965. She stated JOHNNIE LEE knocked on her door and inquired what she was doing and she told her that she was eating. JOHNNIE LEE inquired if she had enough food for her and Mrs. ARNOLD told her that she did and asked her to come in. She stated after she heard JOHNNIE LEE come into the house and she did not come into the kitchen right away, she went to her bedroom, found JOHNNIE LEE sitting in a chair with her hands cupped around her face crying. She asked JOHNNIE LEE why she was crying and JOHNNIE LEE stated, "EARL HODGES is dead." She stated JOHNNIE LEE told her about HODGES being found dead that morning and after a few moments returned to her home. JOHNNIE LEE did not indicate to her how she had received the information that HODGES had been found dead.

On 9/6/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-²
174-27
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS &
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES ^{pkb} Date dictated 9/10/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

Mrs. TEMPE ARNOLD, Bude, Mississippi, who resides directly across the street from the residence of VONNIE COTHREN and next door to HUBERT and JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN, advised that she was awake in the bedroom of her home at 2 A.M., August 15, 1965, when she saw an automobile stop on the edge of the street just north of her house and half-way between the two COTHREN homes. She advised the car stopped almost directly underneath a street light, that two men, the COTHREN brothers, got out of the automobile and walked to their respective homes. She advised that VONNIE COTHREN, who lives across the street from her, was dressed in dark colored pants and a white shirt. She stated she observed an individual get out of the left rear of the automobile, walk around to the passenger side on the right front, get in the automobile, then observed it proceed south before VONNIE COTHREN entered his home. She stated she could not actually see HUBERT COTHREN enter his home but is certain he was not one of the individuals who departed in the automobile.

Mrs. ARNOLD advised that she is certain that it was exactly 2 A.M., when the above activity occurred.

She could furnish no descriptive information regarding the above-described automobile.

On 9/3/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65
174-27

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

Mrs. AUBREY BASS, Box 343, Meadville, Mississippi, was contacted at the home of her parents on September 8, 1965, at which time she was advised by Special Agent DUKES that she did not have to make any statement, any statement she did make could be used in a court of law and that she was entitled to consult with her attorney or anyone else prior to making a statement.

Mrs. BASS advised that her husband had left early on the morning of September 8, 1965, to return to his employment on an off-shore oil rig and would not return home until the evening of September 15, 1965.

Mrs. BASS was asked if she had any reason to believe that anyone had set fire to her house which burned on Friday, September 3, 1965. She stated that she knew of no reason why anyone would burn her house and had seen no evidence that the fire was set by anyone. She stated that when the fire started she and her husband were at the football game in Meadville, Mississippi, and were notified of the fire during the half-time ceremonies when an announcement was made over the loud speaker system for all the firemen to report for duty. She stated that when she and her husband got to the house it was completely engulfed in flames and that she could furnish no further information concerning the fire. She stated that her husband had been questioned concerning the fire by a Mr. BARRY who is a fire marshal.

Mrs. BASS was advised that information had been developed that she was running around on her husband during his absence. She stated that she had also heard this rumor about herself as well as practically everyone else in Meadville but that the rumor was completely untrue.

On 9/8 & 9/65 ② Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and Jackson 174-27
J. L. MARTIN/JLM:elw Date dictated 9/9/65

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On September 9, 1965, Mrs. BASS was contacted at the Post Office in Meadville and advised that the agents would like to talk with her in private and an appointment was made to see her at her home at 2:00 p.m. Agents contacted Mrs. BASS at her home at 2:00 p.m. and advised her that additional information had been developed indicating that she definitely was running around while her husband was off-shore at his employment and that her partner in her extramarital activity was JACK DAVIS. Mrs. BASS advised that JACK DAVIS is a personal friend of both she and her husband and the two families frequently visit one another, however, there was no truth in the rumor that she and JACK DAVIS were having extra-marital relations.

She stated that in view of the hurricane she had heard that they were evacuating employees from the off-shore oil rig and that her husband would probably be home on September 10, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

CHRISTINE BUCKLES, Meadville, Mississippi, switchboard operator and business office employee of the Meadville Hospital, on September 6, 1965, advised that she resides in Bude, Mississippi, and has been employed at the hospital for approximately two years.

Miss BUCKLES advised that on Sunday morning, August 15, 1965, she reported for work "right at 8 A.M." She stated that she is certain that the switchboard was in operation within a few minutes after 8 A.M., that date. When questioned concerning "a few minutes", she stated she was certain it was operative by 8:05 A.M., that morning.

Miss BUCKLES stated that she is certain no inquiry was made of her regarding EARL HODGES on Sunday morning, August 15, 1965.

She stated that if any inquiry was made regarding EARL HODGES at the hospital, it was prior to the time she "opened" the switchboard and the calls went directly to the nurses station.

On 9/6/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES & SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

ALMA BUIE, also known as DOLL GREEN, Negro female of Bude, Mississippi (The Quarters), restaurant operator and alleged bootlegger, advised she was in her restaurant on the morning some two or three days before the death of EARL HODGES, when the woman (whose name she does not know, but knows as a fairly regular customer who drove a 1957 or 1958 tan Buick until recently) drove up in her light colored Rambler. She could not recall if she or another woman went out to the car to take her order but does recall that she got a half-pint of whiskey and is certain there was a white or light colored automobile parked just up the street with one or two white men therein. She explained that she keeps a sharp lookout for cars that stop close to her place to see if they are known to her and if they want anything.

She could not determine if the occupants wanted anything or were held up in traffic but noticed they pulled on down the street after "the lady in the Rambler" departed and did not stop at her place.

She could furnish no information regarding the individuals in the above-described automobile.

On 9/4/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES & 174-27
by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

Mrs. BEVERLY CALCOTE, P. O. Box 306, Meadville, Mississippi, a registered nurse at the Meadville Hospital, on September 7, 1965, advised that she "came on duty at the Meadville Hospital at 7 A.M., August 15, 1965." She advised that at some time after 7 A.M., that morning, she received a telephone call from a woman who asked, "Is Mr. EARL HODGES a patient in the hospital?" She advised she told the woman, "No Ma'm, he is not."

Mrs. CALCOTE advised that when she came on duty at 7 A.M., that morning, as is her custom, she checked the list and knew that EARL HODGES was not in the hospital and had not been treated at the hospital during the night of August 14, 1965.

Mrs. CALCOTE advised that the switchboard is closed during the night and that all calls made to the hospital come directly to the nurses station. She advised that Sunday mornings, the employees in the business office generally arrive by 8 A.M., and thereafter handle incoming calls to the hospital. She advised that she assumes the telephone call was made between 7 and 8 A.M., since the call came directly to her and not the business office. She stated, however, that she did not know what time the girl in the business office arrived for work that Sunday morning.

On 9/6/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
SA REESE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

MARTHA CAMPBELL was contacted at her residence which is approximately five miles south of Eddiceton, Mississippi, and she advised that last Tuesday, which was August 31, 1965, at approximately 1:30 to 2 P.M., a white male came to her residence and asked her if BILL, her husband, was home. She stated that she told him that he was not at home and the man asked her if she was BILL's wife and she acknowledged in the affirmative. She stated this man then stated, "You tell BILL I said to stay home day and night for a week." She stated she asked him why and he said, "I can't tell you but you tell him to stay home." She stated the man then walked to his automobile and departed.

She stated the man was driving a solid red automobile and she thought it was a 1960 to 1965 model. She stated it had two headlights together and it had a radio aerial on one of the rear fenders. She stated she thought this automobile had Mississippi plates, was a two-door automobile and the rear of the automobile seemed to slope down. She described this man as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	6'3"
Weight	190 Pounds
Face	Round
Hair	Sandy.
Age	Mid-thirties.

She stated that this man wore a tannish sport shirt and dark pants in a solid color. She stated that he was bareheaded.

She stated that this man did not appear angry when he talked with her and he did not talk to her in a gruff voice. She stated she had no additional information to furnish regarding this man but if he returns, she will make every effort to obtain the license number of his automobile.

On 9/6/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-174-27
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS & SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, who resides approximately five miles south of Eddiceton, Mississippi, advised that on August 15, 1965, he left home at approximately 6 A.M., and went to a friend's house to pay for some peanuts that he had purchased from him. He then drove to a service station in the Lucien Community which is a few miles east of Eddiceton, Mississippi. He then proceeded towards his residence and in doing so he passed the residence of EARL HODGES. As he passed HODGES's residence, he saw what he thought was HODGES lying in the back yard and after passing the house he backed his automobile up in front of HODGES's house to where he could take a good look at the rear of the house so he might detect if HODGES was moving and if so he would help him get into his house. He stated that in the past, HODGES had been drunk and on occasions he had come by HODGES's house and helped him into his house. He stated that he stood up on the running board of his automobile but he could not get a good look at HODGES so he walked toward HODGES and when he saw blood on his face and had not seen him move, he felt HODGES was dead. He then went to the residence of WILLIAM B. WATSON, who lives two doors from HODGES and told him what he had found. He and WATSON then returned to where HODGES was lying and WATSON saw that HODGES was dead and told him that he was going to telephone the Sheriff. Mr. WATSON told him to go get HODGES's father if he knew where he could locate him.

He stated he though he knew where HODGES's father could be located and he started towards his home so he could take his son who was in the truck with him home before he went to look for HODGES's father.

He stated when he was about sixty feet south of the railroad track which is immediately behind HODGES's house, he saw a pair of pants in the road. He stopped and picked up the pants and saw two small circles of blood on the road near the pants, so he put the pants down where he had found them. He then took his son home and

On 9/6/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS &
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:abkb Date dictated 9/7/65

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then went to a home south of Brookhaven, Mississippi, where he located HODGES's father and returned him to Eddiceton.

CAMPBELL advised that when he returned home from work, which was after dark on August 31, 1965, his wife told him that a white man had been at his residence that day and told her to tell him that he should stay in his residence for about a week. He stated this frightened him so badly that he left that night and drove to Picayune, Mississippi, where he remained with relatives until after dark on the night of September 3, 1965, when he returned home. He stated he thought that his wife would be willing to talk to the Agents and she possibly could furnish them a description of this man who had been to his residence and possibly a description of the automobile he was driving.

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By SN SCREENED 35105
NARA, Date 10/31/11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

HOLLIS CLOY, Route 2, Box 58, Meadville, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

Approximately eighteen months prior to the interview, in his capacity as school bus driver, Mr. CLOY picked up MARILYN and GLENN POSEY at their home and continued on to the JAMES SEALE home. This was during a morning pick-up run.

Mr. CLOY observed JAMES SEALE, his wife and two children waiting for the school bus and after stopping, Mrs. SEALE got on the bus and told him she was going to see to her children on the bus that morning. She was told by Mr. CLOY that this would be satisfactory. JAMES SEALE also boarded the bus with the SEALE children.

Mr. CLOY recalled that the POSEY girl said something about JAMES SEALE's girl having mashed her finger at which time JAMES SEALE told her to shut her mouth.

GLENN POSEY told JAMES SEALE not to touch his sister and JAMES SEALE started toward the back of the bus. CLOY took hold of JAMES SEALE's arm and told him to get off the bus, which he did.

Mr. CLOY stated he could not recall the exact exchange of words between SEALE and the POSEY children.

On 9/7/65 at Franklin County, Mississippi # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
by SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS *W*
SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS *bb* Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

ELOYCE COTHREN, wife of VONNIE COTHREN, advised that she is employed as a bookkeeper by O. V. CLEMENTS Lumber Company, Bude, Mississippi. Mrs. COTHREN advised that she resides with her husband and two teenage children in Bude, Mississippi. She advised that she was away from home from 11:45 A.M., August 14, 1965, until approximately 12:30 P.M., August 15, 1965. She advised that she heard of the death of EARL HODGES during the middle of the afternoon on August 15, 1965, but did not know any of the details until much later.

She advised that during the afternoon of August 15, 1965, her husband advised her he attended a small party at the home of his sister, Mrs. BETTY REEVES on Highway 98, east of Bude with Mr. and Mrs. HUBERT COTHREN, Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES JORDAN and Mr. and Mrs. SKEET HOLLINGSWORTH of Amite County, Mississippi, on the night of August 14, 1965. Mrs. COTHREN advised that she could furnish no additional information regarding the activity of the above-described individuals on the night of August 14 - 15, 1965.

On 9/4/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-77
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65
174-27

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

EDWARD HUBERT COTHREN, Meadville, Mississippi, was interviewed at his home.

He was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents and informed by Special Agent COOPER that he did not have to furnish any information and that any information furnished must be voluntary and could be used against him in a court of law. He was also informed that he could have the services of an attorney before making any statement. He was advised that no threats or promises would be made him in order that he furnish information.

COTHREN stated that he desired to furnish any information that he might have regarding the incident concerning the death of EARL HODGES. He related that actually he had no information regarding this but stated that he could well see due to the circumstances that he would be suspected of possibly being involved in the matter. COTHREN stated that he has for the past four years been employed as a truck driver by the Miller Oil Purchasing Company with headquarters at Jackson, Mississippi. He works out of the Natchez Office of this company. He worked Friday night, August 13, 1965, on through Saturday morning the following day and got off at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, August 14, 1965. He was at his home in Bude, Mississippi, by 7:00 a.m. COTHREN said he wished to explain that his present address is Meadville, Mississippi, and his home is located directly behind the Franklin County Court House there. He said this address has no street number and he does not know of any name for the street. He said that until August 31, 1965, as best he can recall, he had lived at Bude, Mississippi, in a prefabricated house. He

On 9/8/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-93
Jackson 174-27
157-569
 by SAs ROBERT F. COOPER, JR., and
JAMES A. ABBOTT/RFC:elw Date dictated 9/8/65

said that he had lived in Bude for a period of approximately one year and prior to that he had lived in Meadville, Mississippi, in approximately the same location as his present home, only about one-half block down a side street from where he now lives.

COTHREN stated he returned to his home at Bude as related above where his wife, JOHNNIE LEE WILKINSON COTHREN, served him breakfast and he was there with her all Saturday morning and until about 1:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon. At that time his wife and his sister, Mrs. R. D. REEVES, also known as BETTY REEVES, who resides at Route 3, Meadville, Mississippi, went shopping at McComb, Mississippi. COTHREN says that they went in his wife's car because he did some work that afternoon while they were gone on the car belonging to his sister. They returned from their shopping trip at about 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. and Mrs. REEVES invited COTHREN and his family to visit at her home that evening for a small family get-together. COTHREN drove with his wife to the REEVES home which is located about seven miles from Meadville on U.S. Highway 98 towards McComb and arrived there at about 7:30 or 8:00 p.m. He said that he and his wife have only two children, adopted daughters, SHARON, age 9, and MARY JEAN, age 8. He said that the children did not ride with them to REEVES home because they were already visiting Mrs. ELOISE CORBAN who resides in the home close to Mrs. REEVES.

COTHREN stated that he and his wife, his sister, Mrs. R. D. REEVES, SKEETS HOLLINGSWORTH and his wife, JOSEPHINE, niece and nephew of COTHREN, his brother, VONNIE COTHREN, who resides at Bude, Mississippi, and Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES JORDON of Alban, Mississippi, attended the get-together.

They all stayed at the REEVES home until about 1:00 or 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning, August 15, 1965, at which time they all returned to their respective homes. COTHREN stated that his daughters remained with Mrs. CORBAN and that he and his wife drove on back to Bude arriving home at about 2:00 a.m. He said that he recalled his niece and nephew,

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SKEETS and JOSEPHINE HOLLINGSWORTH, also drove back to his house in their car and stayed overnight there.

In the morning COTHREN and his wife and the HOLLINGSWORTHS had breakfast at about 8:30 a.m., Sunday. None of them went to church. The HOLLINGSWORTHS left the COTHREN home at about 10:00 a.m. Sunday and the COTHRENS remained there until about 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. when they drove out to BETTY REEVES' home to pick up the COTHREN children at ELOISE CORBAN's house. COTHREN stated that when he arrived at his sister's home he was told by her that EARL HODGES had been found dead. She told him that Mrs. CORBAN had received this information and Mrs. CORBAN confirmed this when he talked to her. COTHREN stated that this is the first time that he had heard that HODGES was dead. He said he would have no idea as to who may have killed HODGES. He related that he has known EARL HODGES for 10 or 12 years but only to speak to him and has never known him as a personal friend. He said he would say that his wife, JOHNNIE LEE, has known HODGES about the same length of time. He advised that as he recalled it HODGES was buried on Monday, August 16, 1965, and that as soon as COTHREN got home from work Tuesday morning his wife, JOHNNIE LEE, told him she wanted to tell him about a matter.

At this time she related to COTHREN that she had been contacted by Investigators of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol regarding the murder of HODGES and that she understood they were going to contact COTHREN. She said that she wanted to tell COTHREN she had been going with HODGES for the past year and had been going to his house on numerous occasions to visit with him there. COTHREN said that to him this meant that she had been living with HODGES as his wife and JOHNNIE LEE admitted this was true when COTHREN asked her about this.

JOHNNIE LEE told COTHREN that she would be willing to leave home if he wanted her to do so because of her activity with HODGES but COTHREN said he had no one else to

take care of the adopted girls and he told her to stay on at home. He said actually about six months prior to this time he himself had had an affair with BEATRICE BARRY, who works at Bob's Eats in Natchez. He said that she lived in a trailer back of this place and he had been staying out there with her. He said some individual whom he does not know called his wife and told her about this and that she did not seem to be too upset and said she would overlook the matter. He said that he now realizes that all the time he was having an affair with BEATRICE BARRY, which he discontinued, that his wife was having an affair with HODGES. COTHREN stated that he could readily see why everyone would think that he may have wanted to kill HODGES but that this was not the case. He said his anger was against his wife but that he had decided to try to make the best of it because he realized it was his wife's fault and not HODGES'. He said he cannot conceive of why his wife would want to go with HODGES when he was an alcoholic and a degenerate in every way and especially because he had no money.

COTHREN stated that he wished to emphatically point out that up until the time his wife informed him of her affair with HODGES that he, COTHREN, never suspected that she was having this affair. He stated, however, that after he had found this out from his wife that numerous people in Bude told him it was common knowledge there that she was having an affair with HODGES.

COTHREN stated that in the event he could think of any individual who may have possibly had reason to kill HODGES he would immediately advise this Bureau. He said that he feels that possibly the Klan may have something to do with HODGES' death but this is merely his belief and that he cannot substantiate this with facts. COTHREN stated that in this connection he has heard that LEROY MULKEY, a neighbor in Meadville who works for the International Paper Company, is a member of the Klan. He said, however, that

JN 157-3830

the only reason he first suspected MULKEY was because he was always away from home. He said, however, that he did not believe MULKEY would be involved in the murder of HODGES.

COTHREN stated that he had also heard that HODGES belonged to the Klan, however, he could not give any source for this information.

COTHREN emphatically stated that he had nothing to do with the murder of HODGES and that he would be willing to assist in any way in developing information of value.

He said that the above information is true but that he did not desire to include it in a signed statement.

He furnished the following description and background information:

Name:	EDWARD HUBERT COTHREN
Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Date of Birth:	January 18, 1922
Place of Birth:	Amite County
Height:	5' 11"
Weight:	155
Build:	Slender
Hair:	Reddish brown
Teeth:	Broken lower portion, front right
Scars and Marks:	None
Education:	Completed 11th grade
Military Service:	U. S. Army - 1944 - 1946, drafted
Military Service No.:	34981031
Present Employment:	Miller Oil Purchasing Co. - truck driver, Jackson, Miss. Employed four years.

Social Security No.: 426-32-3149
Driver's License: Commercial - 125929, Miss.
Checking Account: The Bank of Franklin,
Meadville, Miss.
Marital Status: Married (22 years),
Married JOHNNIE LEE
WILKINSON in 1943

Relatives: Wife - JOHNNIE LEE
Daughter - SHARON, age 9
Daughter - MARY JEAN, age 8
Parents -
Father - TOM COTHREN,
resides with son
(now in Franklin Co.
Hospital)
Mother - deceased

Organizations: Primitive Baptist Church,
Meadville, rural route

Automobile: 1963 Rambler, white, 1965
Miss. license 19B430,
Franklin County

Weapons: .32 revolver, serial number
652219
Llama (carries on truck)
Bought one week ago at
Gibson's Discount House,
Natchez

Residence: Back of Franklin County
Court House, Meadville,
Mississippi

Residence
Telephone No.: 384-2772, Meadville
Business
Telephone No.: 445-9521, Natchez, Miss.
Arrests: Never been arrested

JN 157-3830

Associates:

JERALD LANE, River Oaks
Apartments, Natchez

CECIL WHITEHEAD,
Route 1, Natchez

RAYMOND TORREY,
Route 3, Meadville

Brothers:

VONNIE COTHREN (48),
Bude, Mississippi

RUSSELL COTHREN (46),
#2 Maple Wood Drive,
on police force, Natchez,
Miss.

ALTUS COTHREN (41),
304 Ferriday Drive,
Ferriday, Louisiana

Sisters:

Mrs. JIM THOMPSON (56),
Centerville, Miss.

Mrs. ROY STERLING (54),
New Orleans, La.
(street not known)

Mrs. A. B. CARAWAY (39),
Chalmette, Louisiana

Mrs. R. D. REEVES (37),
Route 3, Meadville,
Mississippi

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/12/65

Mrs. JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN was recontacted at her residence at which time she advised that she had nothing new to report concerning the identities of the murderers of EARL HODGES.

She did recall one item which she had not reported when interviewed previously. According to her, on the Sunday (August 8, 1965) preceding EARL HODGES' death, she met HODGES at one of their trysting places. She mentioned to HODGES that CLYDE SEALE had been watching the dry cleaning store in Meadville for one whole day. HODGES said to her something to the effect that she should, "Stay away from CLYDE SEALE because he's a no good s-- o- a b----." HODGES did not enlarge on this statement and gave no further explanation to her.

On 9/9/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs JAMES A. ABBOTT and
ROBERT F. COOPER, JR. /JAA:elw Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN was contacted at her residence in Meadville, Mississippi. She was advised as to the identities of the Agents, that she did not have to furnish any information, and that any information she did furnish could be used against her in a court of law. She was advised by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that she could contact an attorney prior to furnishing any information. She thereafter furnished the following information:

She advised that she formerly lived in Bude, Mississippi until August 31, 1965, when she moved to her present address. She advised that between 7 and 7:30 P.M., on August 14, 1965, she, her husband, HUBERT and her brother-in-law, VONNIE COTHREN, who resides in Bude, went to the residence of Mrs. BETTY REEVES, her sister-in-law, who resides on Rural Route #3, Meadville, Mississippi, which is eight miles east of Bude on Highway 98. She stated they went in her 1963 white Rambler. She stated that Mrs. REEVES had a shrimp supper that night and in addition to the individuals she had already named, the following people were at Mrs. REEVES' residence:

"SKEET" and JOSEPHINE HOLLINGSWORTH

Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES JORDAN.

She stated that they remained there until approximately 1:30 A.M., on the morning of August 15, 1965, and returned to their residence. She stated the HOLLINGSWORTHS came home with them that morning and slept in her home. She stated when they arrived at her home, she parked her automobile in the driveway and "SKEET" HOLLINGSWORTH parked his automobile in front of her residence. On arriving home, VONNIE COTHREN walked across the street to his residence and the rest of them went into her home. She stated that they arrived home around 2 A.M., because sometime after they had arrived home, someone mentioned that it was about 2:15 A.M.

On 9/3/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830 //
174-27
157-569
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS &
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65

She advised that on August 11, 1965, she and Mrs. REEVES picked up HODGES in Mrs. REEVES's automobile and drove down to McComb, Mississippi. She stated to her knowledge, HODGES only had \$3 at this time.

She advised that on the morning of August 12, 1965, she went to the residence of HODGES and he asked her to get him a half-pint of whiskey and gave her \$2 of the \$3 that he had the night before. She drove down to the Negro Quarters in Bude and went to DOLL GREEN's cafe where she purchased the half-pint of whiskey. She stated that on the way to DOLL GREEN's, she was followed by two white men in a white automobile, and the individual sitting on the passenger side wore a large straw hat. She stated when she stopped in the front of DOLL GREEN's place, this automobile stopped behind her and when she left GREEN's place this automobile followed her back toward HODGES's home but she does not know at what point the automobile stopped following her.

She stated on August 13, 1965, after dark, she and Mrs. REEVES went to HODGES's home. At that time HODGES told her that he had been to see Reverend (FNU) DAVIS who resides north of Eddiceton. When she asked him the reason that he had been to see Reverend DAVIS, he laughed and commented that he tried to borrow money from him to purchase whiskey. She stated that HODGES asked her to telephone his brother, BILL, in Lufkin, Texas, and ask him to send HODGES some money because he wanted to go back to the hospital. She and Mrs. REEVES returned to her home and she made a telephone call to HODGES's brother and gave him HODGES's message. She stated HODGES's brother said that he would see what he could do. She then prepared some food for HODGES and she and Mrs. REEVES returned to HODGES's home to take it to him. She stated when they arrived at HODGES's house, she took the food into HODGES's house and Mrs. REEVES remained in the car. She stated that she estimated this was approximately 8:30 to 9 P.M. While she was in the house, she stated she saw a white car pass HODGES's residence about three times. She stated the car would go by HODGES's house, make a U-turn

at the bottom of the hill beside HODGES's home and then come back up the hill. When this automobile passed the third time, she stated she told HODGES that the car had passed three times and that she was frightened and that she was going home. She stated she did not know who was in the automobile and the only thing that she could recall besides it being white was that the taillights were long and thin and ran in a vertical direction. She stated when she and Mrs. REEVES drove out to Highway 84, she thought this automobile was sitting under the canopy of HODGES's old service station which was located approximately 200 yards from HODGES's residence and diagonally across Highway 84 from the residence of ROSIE DAVIS. She stated on the night of August 13, she spent the night with Mrs. REEVES.

She advised that on August 14, 1965, she did not see HODGES.

She advised that she began going with HODGES on June 11, 1964. HODGES told her soon after they began going together that he had been in the Klan but had gotten out. She stated on one occasion shortly after they had started going together that he commented that he had been to one Klan meeting "down there" but did not specify where "down there" was.

She stated that MARION KING, who operates the cleaners in Meadville, told her about two or three weeks before HODGES was killed that CLYDE SEALE had been sitting out in front of her cleaners watching her all day. She mentioned this later to HODGES and HODGES's only comment was that CLYDE SEALE was "no good." She stated that she and HODGES always met on the second road to the right, northeast of J. C. EMPINGER's residence on Old Highway 84.

JN 157-3830

She stated that she had heard that HODGES had spent most of the day of August 14, 1965, drinking with J. C. EMFINGER but she did not understand this because HODGES had made the statement in the past that when J. C. EMFINGER is drinking he did not have any sense. She advised that she had no suspects as to who might have killed HODGES and that he had never mentioned to her about having any problem or being concerned about his safety.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

VONNIE COTHREN, Bude, Mississippi, employed as a truck driver for Miller Transportation, hauling gasoline, advised that on the afternoon of August 14, 1965, when he got home from work, he contacted his brother, HUBERT COTHREN, to determine if he would go with him to a Grand Ole Opry performance in Natchez that night. He explained that his wife was visiting in New Orleans over the week end.

He stated that his brother advised him that he did not believe it would be a good show in Natchez that night, advised their sister, Mrs. BETTY REEVES, was having a shrimp dinner party at her home that night and suggested he go there with him and his wife.

He advised that he left home at approximately 7:30 to 8 P.M., the night of August 14, 1965, with HUBERT and JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN in their automobile for the residence of his sister, BETTY REEVES, on Highway 98 east of Meadville. He advised that CHARLES JORDAN and his wife, who is a niece of his, and "SKEET" HOLLINGSWORTH and his wife, who is also a niece of his, were also at the dinner. He stated that he and all the others at the dinner party left the residence of Mrs. BETTY REEVES at approximately 1:30 A.M., the morning of August 15, 1965. He stated that he, HUBERT and "SKEET" HOLLINGSWORTH departed in HOLLINGSWORTH's automobile just behind the two women, JOHNNIE LEE and JOSEPHINE HOLLINGSWORTH in JOHNNIE LEE's car.

He stated that when they arrived at the residence of HUBERT COTHREN, JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN pulled her car into the driveway at their house and "SKEET" HOLLINGSWORTH pulled his automobile just off the street directly in front of the house of HUBERT COTHREN. He stated he got out of the car of HOLLINGSWORTH, walked across the street and went directly into his own house. He stated he could not recall another automobile in that area from the

On 9/5/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/9/65

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JN 157-3830

time he arrived with HOLLINGSWORTH until he entered his own house. He stated that "SKEET" HOLLINGSWORTH and his wife were to spend the night with the HUBERT COTHRENS and he is certain the automobile of "SKEET" HOLLINGSWORTH did not depart after it arrived.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

Mrs. FRANCES DAVIS, the wife of ROSIA DAVIS, was contacted at her residence in Eddiceton, Mississippi. She advised that at approximately 3 P.M., on August 14, 1965, she and her husband went to the residence of EMMETT WILSON, who resides approximately one mile north of her residence. She stated that Mr. WILSON's daughter, Mrs. CHRISTINE SMITH, had been killed in an automobile accident on August 13, 1965, and they had gone to the WILSONS' residence to give them whatever assistance they could. She and her husband returned home before dark on August 14, 1965. She knew that they had returned home before dark because she has an invalid sister living with her and she always has to return home before dark so that she can take care of her sister. She stated that she did not leave her home again that night.

After they returned home, there were several people who inquired at her house regarding the directions to the EMMETT WILSON residence. She stated on two occasions, her husband told people who had inquired about the location of the WILSON residence that it was rather difficult to tell them how to get to the WILSON residence so her husband escorted these people there. She stated that her husband made his second trip escorting people to the WILSON residence at approximately 10 P.M. She stated he returned home a few minutes after 10 and to her knowledge, he did not leave their home again that night. She did not recall her husband receiving any phone calls on the night of August 14 and she did not recall him making any telephone calls.

Mrs. DAVIS advised that on August 13, 1965, she had gone to the WILSON residence about dark and remained there until 9:30 or 10 P.M.

Mrs. DAVIS advised that she did not know of any trouble between her husband and EARL HODGES. She stated that three or four years ago, EARL HODGES and his father came to her residence, while

On 9/9/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830 67
174-27
by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS &
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/10/65

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she was in the hospital, and EARL tried to get her husband to take him to a place where he could purchase whiskey. She stated that he was quite persistent in getting her husband to drive him to a whiskey joint and her husband finally told EARL that if he did not leave their premises he would get a window stick and beat him half to death.. She stated that HODGES finally left their premises and her husband told him never to return there while he was under the influence of alcohol. She stated that her husband had related this story to her after she came home from the hospital. She advised that she had learned of HODGES's death about 8 to 8:30 A.M., on the morning of August 15, when she received a call from Mrs. GEORGIA BALLARD, a neighbor of hers, who resides in Eddiceton. Mrs. DAVIS advised that she and EARL HODGES's wife, NEVA HODGES, are good friends and Mrs. HODGES visits her each time she comes to Eddiceton. She stated Mrs. HODGES was in her home on the morning of August 14, 1965, and while she was there, she telephoned Attorney CHARLES HERRING. She stated that HERRING was trying to get some money out of HODGES for Mrs. HODGES.

Mrs. DAVIS advised that she had no idea why EARL HODGES had been beaten and she had no suspects in mind as to who might have beaten him.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

ROSIA ROWLAND DAVIS, JR., also known as JACK DAVIS, was contacted at his barber shop in Roxie, Mississippi. DAVIS was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents, the fact that he did not have to make a statement, any statement he did make could be used in a court of law and that he could consult an attorney or anyone else of his choice prior to making a statement.

DAVIS advised that he is a Constable in Franklin County, Mississippi. DAVIS stated that he has known EARL HODGES since childhood and that they were close friends, having run around together. DAVIS stated that he has worked for HODGES and they have gone out drinking together and that he considered HODGES to be a personal friend. DAVIS stated that he could furnish no information concerning the murder of HODGES. He stated that he could not imagine why anyone would have killed HODGES as he did not know of anyone who did not like HODGES.

DAVIS stated that on the night HODGES was murdered he patrolled down to the Bunkley Community but did not stop or speak to anyone in the community. He stated that he drove past a Negro juke joint in the area where there had been a shooting between two Negroes about a week earlier but noticed no disturbance and did not stop. He stated that he then drove east-west on Highway 84 arriving at the Leesdale Cafe approximately 10:30 p.m. and that he had a conversation there with MARIE FORREST, a waitress, and remained there until approximately 11:00 p.m. DAVIS stated that after leaving Leesdale Cafe he drove across the Adams County line to a place known as "The Truck Stop" and spent approximately a half hour there drinking beer with various acquaintances. He stated that he returned home approximately 12:30 a.m., August 15, 1965.

On 9/9/65 J. L. MARTIN at Roxie, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-4
J. L. MARTIN/WFD:elw Date dictated 9/9/65
 by J. L. MARTIN/WFD:elw File # Jackson 174-27

JN 157-3830

DAVIS stated that he has discussed the HODGES murder with his father, and that neither he nor his father have any idea as to the identity of the persons who murdered HODGES nor the reason for the murder. DAVIS advised that he had previously been interviewed by Investigators from the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and he had promised his cooperation to them and would be willing to do anything possible in order to solve the HODGES murder.

The following description of Davis was obtained during the interview:

Name:	ROSIA ROWLAND DAVIS, JR., also known as JACK DAVIS
Date of Birth:	February 15, 1927
Place of Birth:	Lincoln County, Mississippi
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5' 3 1/2"
Weight:	140 pounds
Eyes:	Brown, one glass eye

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

Mr. ROSIA ROLAND DAVIS was contacted at his place of employment just prior to his getting off work. He was advised by Special Agent GRAVES of the identity of interviewing agents, that he did not have to furnish any information and that any information he did furnish could be used in a court of law.

Mr. DAVIS voluntarily accompanied agents to the office of a Justice of the Peace in Natchez, Mississippi, where the interview was conducted.

When advised of the nature of the interview, Mr. DAVIS advised that the last time he saw EARL HODGES was the day of the LONNIE MILES funeral in the Eddiceton Community approximately August 5 or 6, 1965. He stated that just prior to that, approximately one week, the day EARL HODGES returned from the hospital in Vicksburg, Mississippi, HODGES came to his home and requested him to assist him in starting his "old truck" that had been parked in the tin shed behind the garage formerly operated by HODGES in Eddiceton.

He stated that he pulled the HODGES truck with his tractor, not realizing that EARL HODGES was drinking heavily and as the truck started it ran up on the "bush hog" behind his tractor. He stated there was no argument as a result of the above incident, that he realized he could not blame HODGES as HODGES was much "drunker than he realized."

ROZIA DAVIS advised that he worked his regular shift, 4:00 p.m. to midnight, August 13, 1965. He stated that on the morning of August 14, 1965, (Saturday), at approximately 9:00 a.m. he drove to a camp under construction on his farm on the Homochitto River just east and north of Eddiceton.

On 9/9 & 10/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-67
Jackson 174-27
157-569
 by SAs REESIE L. TIMMONS and
BENJAMIN F. GRAVES/RLT:elw Date dictated 9/10/65

JN 157-3830

He stated that WILLIE HARRIGAIL and LAMAR FELTUS, both of Franklin County, were at the lodge working when he arrived. He stated that Mr. CLYDE SEALE arrived at approximately 10:00 a.m. to assist them in the construction of this camp.

Mr. DAVIS advised that he left the camp at approximately noon that date, drove his two grandchildren to Roxie, Mississippi, accompanied by Mr. GROOM, a neighbor of his in Eddiceton. He stated that while returning to Eddiceton from Roxie he noticed the automobile, a gray English Ford, of Mr. CLYDE SEALE parked at his cornfield just west of Middle Fork Creek on the north of the highway. Parked directly behind the English Ford of Mr. SEALE was a solid white, late model automobile unknown to him. He advised he could not furnish any descriptive data regarding this white automobile. He stated he pulled up directly behind the white car, blew his horn, and after waiting a few minutes without seeing Mr. SEALE continued on to Eddiceton. He stated that to the best of his recollection he returned to Eddiceton at approximately 3:00 p.m. He stated that shortly thereafter he drove his wife to the WILSON home mentioned above and both he and his wife stayed there until approximately dark. He stated he is not sure of the time but knows it was not "good" dark as his wife's "feeble minded sister" resides with them and one of them must be home by dark.

He stated he next left his home at an unknown hour prior to 11:00 p.m. to escort a lady to the WILSON home. He stated the woman was a stranger to the area and he decided the only way he could assure that she would find the WILSON house would be to get her to follow him there. He stated he immediately returned to his residence, went to bed, and at approximately 11:00 p.m. a second party knocked at his door needing directions to the WILSON house. He stated he asked the people to wait a few minutes until his wife dresses and he would show them how to get there. He stated his wife was slow in getting dressed so he drove to the WILSON residence without her, arriving shortly after 11:00 p.m.


JN 157-3830

He stated there were so many people at the home that he could not get in the house and "stood around" outside for a couple of hours conversing with ERNEST MULKEY and RAYFORD CHAPMAN. He stated that when he returned to his home MELVIN MAC MILLAN, age 20, who works for ED EMFINGER in the afternoons, rode back as far as his home with him.

He stated he next left his home at approximately 5:00 to 5:30 a.m., August 15, 1965, drove up to the WILSON house to see if there was anything he could do there. He stated that at approximately 8:00 a.m. he drove to a drug store in Bude, Mississippi, to purchase film for a woman at the WILSON home.

He stated he was at the WILSON home when Mrs. GEORGIA BALLARD telephoned and advised him of the death of EARL HODGES. Mr. DAVIS advised that he is not now and has never been a member of any Klan type organization. He stated that the only Klan function he has ever attended was a speech by ROBERT SHELTON in McComb, Mississippi, in September or October, 1964.

He stated that he has no knowledge whatsoever or information concerning the beating and subsequent death of EARL HODGES. He stated that he considered EARL HODGES a personal friend of his for many years when he was a businessman in Eddiceton, Mississippi, and during the past five to six years has personally purchased him a considerable amount of liquor when he was broke and desperately in need of same. He stated he has also driven EARL HODGES to a Doctor SMITH in Bude on numerous occasions in the past few years and paid for the necessary injection in an effort to straighten him out.



JN 157-3830

Mr. DAVIS furnished the following descriptive information:

Name:	ROSIA ROLAND DAVIS
Date of Birth:	February 22, 1906
Place of Birth:	County Lake, Franklin County, Mississippi
Height:	5' 8"
Weight:	270 pounds
Eyes:	Blue
Complexion:	Ruddy
Hair:	Gray
Scars and Marks:	None visible
Wife:	MARY FRANCES DAVIS
Son:	ROSIA ROLAND DAVIS, JR., aka JACK DAVIS, residence Ruth, Mississippi, Constable
Employment:	Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi, approximately 21 years
Arrest record:	None admitted
Military Service:	None

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/13/65

Reverend W. H. DAVIS, who resides approximately one mile north of Eddiceton, Mississippi, advised that EARL HODGES came to his residence late in the afternoon on August 13, 1965. He stated that one of the MC MILLAN boys who lives across the street from him came to his home and advised him that EARL HODGES was parked in Reverend DAVIS's driveway and wanted to speak with him. Reverend DAVIS stated that the MC MILLAN boy told him that HODGES had a problem he wanted to discuss with him. Reverend DAVIS advised that he went out to speak to HODGES and HODGES was very apologetic for coming to his residence in an intoxicated condition. He stated that HODGES talked to him a few moments about his drinking problem and stated that he would do almost anything if he could break his drinking habit. He stated that HODGES discussed his drinking habit but never discussed any other problem with him. He stated that he thought from HODGES's conversation that he had some type of problem that he wanted to discuss with him but for some unknown reason he never brought the problem up for discussion.

Reverend DAVIS stated that he was acquainted with CLYDE SEALE and the other individuals who live in the Bunkley Community, which community is located approximately eight miles southwest of Meadville. He stated that approximately a year ago there was a Reverend ROBERT MIDDLETON pastoring a church in the Bunkley Community and he had been run out of the community by CLYDE and JAMES SEALE and others in the community. He stated he had read a letter that was supposedly signed by JAMES SEALE and directed to Reverend MIDDLETON. He did not recall the contents of the letter but stated he did recall that there was rather strong language used in the letter. He was of the opinion that after Reverend DAVIS left the Bunkley Community, he went to work for the United States Post Office in Natchez, Mississippi.

On 9/4/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-66
174-27
by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/10/65

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Date 9/12/65

FRED W. DELANEY, address Route #1, Meadville, Mississippi, was interviewed at his home.

Mr. DELANEY advised that he has home Telephone No. 384-2780, Meadville, Mississippi. He explained that although he has a Meadville address, he actually lives about seven miles from Meadville and his home can be reached by following the blacktop road which turns off by the Meadville Hospital.

He stated that he has lived in that area for twenty years and owns a 40-acre place there. He has worked as a driller most of his life and at the present time is employed by R. E. WILLIAMS Drilling Company with headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee.

He has known EARL HODGES for approximately fifteen years and stated that EARL HODGES was a successful man in Eddiceton until about ten years ago when a woman named VIRGIE MAY MILLER "took him for everything he had." DELANEY said that he has heard by rumor that HODGES was a member of the Klan but DELANEY cannot recall where he heard this rumor and who told him this. He said, however, he did not hear this until after HODGES had been found dead. DELANEY stated that he has no use for the Klan and that he certainly has no use for violence. He said that he had heard that about a year ago a man named ALFORD in the Rankley Community was beaten by the Klan because he had bought some bootleg whiskey and refused to tell the Klan members where he bought it.

DELANEY said that he had also heard that about the first of the year, 1965, an individual named JAMES WILLIS, who lived between Eude and Eddiceton, had been taken out of town because he was living with a woman to whom he was not married. DELANEY pointed out that the above is rumor and he cannot state who furnished him this information.

On 9/9/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
 SA JAMES A. ARPIT
 SA ROBERT F. GIBSON: 157-569
 by _____ Date dictated 9/11/65

JN 157-3830

DELANEY advised that he drives a 1964 red Galaxie Ford, four-door sedan with 1965 Mississippi license 19-784, Franklin County.

He knows of no other such car in the area; however, about three or four months ago a man named BILLY ARNOLD, who formerly worked with DELANEY, had stated that a 1964 red Galaxie from Roxie, Mississippi, had been seen parked on the road between DELANEY's home and Meadville, Mississippi.

DELANEY said that he also understands that BILLY MYERS has a red car that looks something like DELANEY's and that MYERS lives at Bude, Mississippi.

DELANEY stated that he will furnish this Bureau any information that he receives regarding those who may have been involved in the murder of HODGES.

DELANEY furnished his description as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	48
Born	Franklin County, Mississippi, February 25, 1918
Height	5'10"
Weight	176 Pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Military Service	None
Arrest Record	None
Marital Status	Married, 2 children.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

EDWARD EMFINGER, mailing address Box 11, Bude, Mississippi, and who resides at Route #1, Meadville, Mississippi, was interviewed at his place of employment, The Bude Supermarket. He was advised that he did not have to furnish any information and any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that he could contact an attorney prior to furnishing any information. He thereafter furnished the following information:

On August 14, 1965, he closed his supermarket about 8:30 P.M., and he, WARREN NEWMAN, who operates a furniture store in the same building as EMFINGER's supermarket, and L. A. DE LAUGHTER, who is employed by NEWMAN, got into NEWMAN's 1963 or 1964 green Dodge truck and drove to his home for supper. They had just about finished supper and EARL HODGES knocked at his door. He said HODGES appeared at his residence about 9 to 9:15 P.M., and wanted him to help him get his truck out of the ditch. He stated that HODGES had driven his truck into the ditch at his brother, J. C. EMFINGER's residence which is a short distance from his home. He stated that he asked HODGES to come in and have supper with them and then they would check on his truck.

He advised that HODGES did have supper with them. He stated that HODGES was drinking but he was not drunk when he came to his home. It took HODGES about ten to twenty minutes to eat and then he, NEWMAN, DE LAUGHTER and HODGES got into NEWMAN's truck, and drove HODGES to his residence in Eddiceton. He stated that they told HODGES they would help him get his truck out of the ditch the following morning.

EMFINGER stated HODGES wanted to get a drink while they were en route to his residence so when they arrived at his residence, they gave him a half-pint of Old Taylor Whiskey. When HODGES got out of the truck, he saw HODGES enter his residence and then they departed. NEWMAN then took him back to his residence

On 9/1/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-64
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS & 174-27
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES: bkb 157-569
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES: bkb Date dictated 9/7/65

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and he did not leave home again that night or during the early morning hours of August 15, 1965. He stated on the morning of August 15, 1965, MARSH RAY SULLIVAN, who resides on Highway 84 between Bude and Meadville, came to his residence about 6 to 6:30 A.M., and asked him to open his supermarket so that he might purchase coffee. He stated he gave SULLIVAN some coffee that he had at his residence.

He opened his store at approximately 8 AM on August 15, 1965, and he did not know anything about the HODGES incident until BOB STOREY, a local resident, came into the store sometime that morning and told him about it.

He stated he had heard the rumor that he had been in a crap game with HODGES and supposedly had won \$900 from HODGES. He stated he did not gamble and he had never known HODGES to gamble. He stated he knew nothing about a crap game being held in the vicinity of Eddiceton or Bude on August 14, 1965.

EMFINGER advised that HODGES had made the comment to him about two weeks before he died that he wished his wife, who lives in McComb, Mississippi, would stay away from the residence of ROSIA DAVIS when she comes to Eddiceton. He stated that to his knowledge, HODGES and his wife were separated but not divorced. EMFINGER advised he had heard that HODGES had gone to talk with Reverend (FNU) DAVIS, who resides north of Eddiceton, the day before he died. He stated he heard HODGES had a problem he wanted to discuss with Reverend DAVIS. He stated that MELVIN MC MILLAN, a teenager who works for him, drove HODGES home from Reverend DAVIS's house because HODGES had backed his truck into a ditch.

The following description was obtained from observation and interrogation:

Name	EDWARD EMFINGER
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	38
Date of Birth	October 10, 1926
Place of Birth	Franklin County, Mississippi
Height	6'2"
Weight	210 Pounds
Hair	Brown
Residence	Route #1, Meadville, Mississippi
Mailing Address	Box 11, Bude, Mississippi
Employment	Owns Bude Supermarket, Bude, Mississippi
Military Service	United States Navy 1943 - 1945, SN 7224778
Arrests	Denies any.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

J. C. EMFINGER, Rural Route, Meadville, Mississippi, was contacted at his residence. He was advised as to the identity of the agents, that he did not have to furnish any information and any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised by Special Agent GRAVES that he could contact his attorney prior to furnishing any information. He thereafter furnished the following information:

He advised that he had been drinking that morning, prior to the beginning of the interview, and it was quite evident that he had been drinking because he staggered from the living room to the kitchen on a couple of occasions.

EMFINGER advised that between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. on the morning of August 14, 1965, EARL HODGES came to his house and asked him to buy him a drink. He stated that he drove in his car into the Negro quarters in Bude and he purchased a half a pint of whiskey from DOLL GREEN. He stated from there they drove back to his house and he and EARL went inside. He stated that EARL told him he had not eaten in two or three days so he went to the grocery store and purchased two cans of chicken noodle soup and returned to his residence. When he returned home he had his young daughter prepare the soup for HODGES. After HODGES had eaten he made the comment that he was sleepy and EMFINGER stated he pointed out a bedroom where HODGES could lie down if he so desired. He stated he then went back to town, leaving HODGES at his residence. He stated he did not know the time that he went to town this last time but while he was there he met CLIFTON PARTHRIDGE (phonetic). He stated when he and PARTHRIDGE returned to his residence HODGES was sitting in the living room. He stated shortly after returning home he made the comment "Who wants to go to the line," and HODGES ~~made the comment that he could not go there because he had~~

On 9/4/65 at Route 1, Meadville, Mississippi Jackson 157-3830-63
 File # Jackson 174-27
 by SAs REESIE B. TIMMONS and BENJAMIN F. GRAVES
T BFG:elw AG Date dictated 9/9/65

no money. He explained what he meant when he made this comment was that who wanted to go with him to the Adams-Franklin County line and get drunk. PARTHRIDGE did not want to go to the line so he and HODGES drove him home and then they went to the line. He stated they went in his automobile which is a red Rambler. He stated he thought it was probably somewhere around 3:30 p.m. or very shortly thereafter when they went to the line. He stated that they stayed around the line drinking at places called Marie's and Ruby's. He stated he recalled seeing MAXIE PRATHER at one of the joints at the line but he did not recall seeing anyone with him. He stated sometime after dark when he was about two miles east of Roxie on Highway 84 he was hit in the rear of his vehicle by an unknown individual. He stated that he knew that he had been drinking too much and if he had stopped his automobile to determine who had run into him that one of the Patrolmen from the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol would have come along and put him in jail for driving while drinking. He stated that he did not stop after this automobile ran into him and he did not know until the following morning that it was MAXIE PRATHER who had run into him. He stated that Patrolman BERNICE BEASLEY with the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol had told him that MAXIE PRATHER was the individual who had run into him.

EMFINGER advised that he did not know what time he and HODGES returned to his home on the night of August 14, 1965, but his wife had told him they had returned about 8:30 p.m. He stated he recalled asking HODGES to come into his house but HODGES refused to do so. His wife told him that HODGES remained in his automobile sleeping until about 9:30 p.m. when he got into his truck. As HODGES was backing out of his driveway, he backed into the ditch and from there he had gone to the home of his, EMFINGER's, brother, EDWARD EMFINGER, to get assistance in getting his truck out of the ditch. EMFINGER advised that while HODGES had been with him on August 14, 1965, they had not participated in any crap game or any card game. He had no knowledge of either of these type games being played at any of the joints they frequented at the Adams-Franklin County line.

JN 174-27

EMFINGER advised that on August 15, 1965, JACK MYERS, Constable at Eddiceton, Mississippi, told him that HUBERT COTHREN, the husband of JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN, who had been dating EARL HODGES, had gone to the residence of HODGES about three weeks prior to his death and invited HODGES to come out of his house. He stated that MYERS had not given him any more information regarding this incident and he did not know if it actually occurred.

EMFINGER advised that he knows JACK DAVIS, Constable in Roxie, Mississippi, and he has heard that he is a member of the Klan. He stated he had heard that DAVIS formerly worked for Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company in Natchez, Mississippi, and had been fired for stealing tires.

EMFINGER advised that he believes that ROSIA DAVIS, who lives up the street from EARL HODGES, had observed HODGES being taken home on the night of August 14, 1965, and had made a telephone call to some unknown individuals who subsequently went to HODGES' house and beat him. He stated this is his own opinion and he does not have any information to back up this statement.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

Mrs. J. C. EMFINGER, nee LANETTE EZELL, RFD, Bude, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of interviewing agents, that she did not have to make any statement either oral or written and that any statement she did make could be used against her in a court of law. She was advised of her right to an attorney or person of her choosing prior to being interviewed.

She stated she has been married to her present husband for two years and has lived at this address for about one year. She stated her husband presently is working at the Union Hall in Jackson as an iron worker and possibly is employed by Coastal Engineers at Yazoo City, Mississippi.

She stated her husband and EARL HODGES were close personal friends and that on Saturday morning, August 14, 1965, EARL HODGES drove to their home in a very intoxicated condition and wanted her husband to obtain some whiskey for him. He indicated he had no money and J.C. (her husband) agreed to get him a pint of whiskey only if he would go to bed. She advised J.C. put him, the victim, in her bed, pulled off his shoes and they went to the EDWARD EMFINGER Store in "The Quarters" where she gave J.C. about \$3 for some soup and crackers in an effort to sober victim as he had appeared at their residence very intoxicated, shaky and sick. She stated J.C. went in "The Quarters" to a local bootlegger and obtained a pint of whiskey and returned to their residence.

Mrs. EMFINGER stated that she talked to her husband after lunch and gave him some more money which she believed he was going to use to bet on a ball game that J.C. and the victim were going to observe on television at the furniture store in Bude. She stated that J.C. came back to their

On 9/8/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-62
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs WILLIAM D. HOSKINS and THOMPSON BERRY WEBB/TBW:elw Date dictated 9/8/65

residence about 3 or 4:00 p.m. and stated they were going to the county line and obtain some whiskey. She stated that at the Adams County line are two joints where white people can obtain whiskey.

She stated that she came home from the ED EMFINGER Store where she is employed at possibly around 8:10 p.m., fixed her children some sandwiches for dinner and that at about 8:30 p.m. J.C. Drove up in their red Dodge automobile, got out and asked the victim three or four times to get out and that they would get something to eat. She stated J. C. came on in the house and she told him to go to bed after he spent a few minutes in the kitchen attempting to drink some milk but was spilling most of it. She stated she then instructed the children to go to bed and after waiting just a little bit observed that the victim still had not gotten out of their car and she was afraid that he was going to spend the night in the car, which she did not desire. She stated she went in the bedroom and attempted to awake her husband by pinching and hollering at him to get up and take HODGES home but she could not get him aroused. She stated that she then took a bath and while in the tub heard the car door slam and victim's truck start up. She heard a commotion outside and after getting out of her bed realized that victim had backed his truck into a ditch in front of their home. She observed him get out of the truck and walk toward the EDWARD EMFINGER home. She stated she did not see anything further of him.

Mrs. EMFINGER stated that MARGIE (Mrs. EDWARD) EMFINGER walked to her home early the next morning to borrow a stick of Oleo and they discussed what happened to HODGES and MARGIE said that EDWARD and others had taken him home. She stated later on Sunday morning, approximately 10:00 or 10:30 a.m., MARGIE EMFINGER called very excitedly about HODGES having been found. She stated that she believed Patrolman BEASLEY was the first to hear victim had backed his truck into the ditch, talked to her husband, J. C. EMFINGER,

a few minutes and instructed him that Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO would want to talk to him about what had happened the night before. She stated that J. C. accompanied BEASLEY and HUTTO to the victim's home but did not believe victim's body was still there as he made no mention of having seen him.

Mrs. EMFINGER stated that she has observed EARL HODGES pass the EDWARD EMFINGER grocery in "The Quarters" on several occasions and it was obvious by the short time that he was gone that he had gone around the corner from the grocery and obtained whiskey from a Negro bootlegger whom she called CURLEE. She stated that she had never seen him spend any time in the "Negro Quarters" other than long enough to obtain a bottle of whiskey.

Mrs. EMFINGER stated there is a rumor out that HODGES had been fooling around with a Negro woman but that she refuses to believe it. She stated that there is also a rumor that he was fooling around with some married woman which she found hard to believe. She stated she had never seen him with any woman and in view of the fact that Bude is such a small town believed that she would have heard of it prior to his death.

Mrs. EMFINGER stated that they have a red Dodge automobile and showed it to interviewing agents, particularly the right rear fender which had been crushed on the evening of August 14, 1965. She stated that her husband has said that someone ran into him but inasmuch as he was intoxicated he did not dare stick around as he knew the Highway Patrol would arrest him for his intoxicated condition. This car was observed to have its 1965 license plate, number 19-2080, in the floor of the rear seat and to have white sidewall tires. It was a model #170. Mrs. EMFINGER stated that later when she was talking with Patrolman BEASLEY he stated he knew who had hit the car in the rear, that it had happened at 8:10 p.m. and questioned her as to what time that the two had returned home which she stated was 8:30 p.m. BEASLEY stated that that was correct and that the accident had been at 8:10 p.m.

Mrs. EMFINGER furnished the following physical description of her husband:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Nationality:	American
Age:	33
Height:	Slightly less than 6'
Weight:	210
Hair:	Blond
Build:	Heavy and stocky
Eyes:	Gray

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

Mr. LAMAR O. FELTER was contacted at his home, RFD 2, Roxie, Mississippi, located approximately five miles north of Highway 84 on Route 2, Roxie. He lives approximately 500 yards from Hall's Store.

Mr. FELTER was advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the inquiry. He exhibited an extremely hostile attitude and declined to discuss either the Ku Klux Klan or other Klan type organization, the bombing of GEORGE METCALFE's car or the beating and death of EARL HODGES. He stated that he does not approve of violence of any fashion, however, he feels that law and order has broken down and he does not approve of the way the Federal government is handling law enforcement and feels that personal action is necessary. He did not enlarge on this but stated he had nothing more to discuss with the interviewing agents and walked back into his house.

On 9/4/65 at RFD 2, Roxie, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830 61
Jackson 157-1040
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs ROBERT F. COOPER, JR. and
JAMES A. ABBOTT/RFC:elw Date dictated 9/9/65

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He was questioned concerning his knowledge of the death of EARL HODGES and the bombing of GEORGE METCALFE's car in Natchez and he stated that he had no information concerning these incidents. He was also questioned concerning the SEALE family from the Bunkley Community, Franklin County, and he said he had heard of this family but did not know them, even by sight. He was questioned as to his knowledge of Klan activity in Franklin County and he said he was not aware that there was any Klan activity there. [REDACTED]

LANDERS stated that he was born July 29, 1913, in Franklin County, Mississippi, and has lived in this area all of his life. He is married to BERTIE LANDERS, nee BUTLER, has two grown children, is a white male, approximately 6'1" in height and presently weighs 130 pounds. He explained his normal weight is usually 180 to 190 pounds but he just got out of the hospital after suffering with a ruptured appendix. He has brown hair, thinning, and green eyes.

LANDERS stated that he did not desire to furnish any of the above information in a signed statement.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

Mr. D. C. GRIFFIN, Route #1, McCall's Creek, Mississippi, advised that he is employed at the International Paper Company in Natchez, Mississippi, and has been a resident of McCall's Creek since 1948.

Mr. GRIFFIN advised that he last saw ROSIA DAVIS approximately three months ago at the Bar-B-Que Pit in Natchez, Mississippi. He stated that he spoke to ROSIA DAVIS but did not have any conversation with him to the best of his recollection.

He stated that he last saw EARL HODGES at the Bar-B-Que Pit in Natchez, Mississippi, some two to three weeks before his death. He stated HODGES was with a man who he did not know.

Mr. GRIFFIN advised that he does not and has never been a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He stated he was approached by a individual from Lincoln County, Mississippi, approximately one to 1½ years ago about joining the Klan but stated he declined.

Mr. GRIFFIN advised that he attended two Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (AFWR) meetings, some time last year, in Meadville, Mississippi, that he met Mr. CLYDE SEALE at one of these meetings and has never met JAMES SEALE.

Mr. GRIFFIN advised that he was born and raised at McCall's Creek, Mississippi and has lived there all his life, was away some four to six years prior to 1948, has known ROSIA DAVIS all his life and has never heard anything derogatory about him.

He stated that he has also known EARL HODGES all his life and for approximately two years ending two years ago, he rented EARL HODGES's garage in Eddiceton and had his brother-in-law, FELIX CUPIT and one C. L. DUNN from Brookhaven, Mississippi, operating same. He advised the venture failed financially and was closed approximately two years ago.

On 9/8/65 at McCall's Creek, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-271
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bbb Date dictated 9/9/65

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JN 157-3830

GRIFFIN advised that he knows JACK DAVIS, the son of ROSIA DAVIS, when he sees him and last saw him approximately one year ago at a football game in Meadville, Mississippi.

JN 157-3830

GRIFFIN advised that he knows JACK DAVIS, the son of ROSIA DAVIS, when he sees him and last saw him approximately one year ago at a football game in Meadville, Mississippi.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

CARL GRIFFIN, who resides two doors from the residence of EARL HODGES in Eddiceton, Mississippi, advised that the house in which he now lives he purchased on December 3, 1964, from EARL HODGES and his wife.

GRIFFIN advised that he has no information to furnish regarding the death of EARL HODGES and he heard no unusual noises on the night of August 14 or the early morning hours of August 15, 1965. GRIFFIN advised that a few days before EARL HODGES died, he had a conversation with Mr. JOHN SCOTT in the yard of his home. He stated the conversation had something to do with an automobile jack which SCOTT was trying to purchase from HODGES. He advised that SCOTT operates a grocery store, service station and automobile garage on Highway 84 in McCall's Creek, Mississippi.

GRIFFIN advised that he thinks he recalls seeing EARL HODGES at his residence sometime in the early afternoon on August 14, 1965. He stated he could not fix the time but it was very shortly after lunch time and he usually has his lunch about 11:30 A.M.

GRIFFIN advised that he thought it was WILLIAM B. WATSON, a neighbor, who told him about HODGES's death on the morning of August 15, 1965.

On 9/6/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-174-27
by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS & SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/10/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

CHARLES HERRING, Attorney at Law, Bude, Mississippi, on September 8, 1965, advised that during April, 1965, Mrs. ROSIA DAVIS drove the wife of EARL HODGES, Mrs. NEVA HODGES, to his farm south of Eddiceton and requested that he represent Mrs. HODGES in whatever legal actions might be necessary to obtain from HODGES financial assistance for his wife and two sons.

He stated that he told Mrs. DAVIS and Mrs. HODGES that he would not represent Mrs. HODGES until he received some clearance from the attorney hired by Mrs. HODGES some three or four years ago during her divorce proceedings. He stated that he subsequently received such from Mr. B. D. STATHAM, attorney, Magnolia, Mississippi, and that some time during April, 1965, contacted ROSIA DAVIS and NEVA HODGES and advised that he would represent her. He stated that he has received telephone calls almost weekly from NEVA HODGES since that time inquiring as to what progress has been made on her behalf. He stated that he has been contacted from four to six times by ROSIA DAVIS since April, 1965, wherein DAVIS also inquired as to what action he has taken to obtain money for NEVA HODGES and her two sons.

Mr. HERRING advised that on Saturday morning, August 14, 1965, at approximately 10 A.M., he received a telephone call from Mrs. HODGES who was calling from the residence of ROSIA DAVIS wherein she instructed him to start whatever legal action was necessary to sell the service station and property owned by her former husband in Eddiceton, Mississippi. He advised her that he would look into the matter and let her know what could be done in the near future.

Mr. HERRING advised that to his knowledge, ROSIA DAVIS has never liked EARL HODGES since EARL HODGES opened the service station in Eddiceton and for a few years was extremely successful. He stated that several years ago, possibly around 1960, EARL HODGES went to the home of ROSIA DAVIS while intoxicated, was in the house

On 9/8/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-5
174-27
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/9/65

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JN 157-3830

When RESTA DAVIS returned from work and quite an argument followed. He stated he has forgotten the details but knows there was a very heated argument.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

Mrs. NEVA HODGES, 1026 LaBranch Street, McComb, Mississippi, advised that she married EARL HODGES of Eddiceton, Mississippi, in 1936. She stated she had been separated from him for approximately six years and she received a divorce from him in 1961 in Pike County, Mississippi. She stated from this marriage she has two sons, ages 12 and 14. She stated she had left her husband because of his running around with other women and because of his serious drinking problem. She stated she had been extremely frightened of her husband for many years. He had never struck her but had threatened her on numerous occasions. She stated her first thought after being advised on the morning of August 15, 1965, that her ex-husband was dead was that she would no longer have to be afraid of him.

She stated that the last time she saw her ex-husband was about a month ago when he came to McComb with his brother, BILL HODGES, and his wife to see their children.

She stated it was her understanding that HODGES had been in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi, in the recent past. She stated he had been in the hospital on various occasions during the past few years because of back injuries. He was an automobile mechanic and he had injured his back in lifting heavy objects in connection with his work.

She stated that she and her ex-husband moved to Eddiceton, Mississippi, in March of 1946 or 1947 when HODGES came out of the military service. At that time he went to work at the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company in Natchez and he worked there until the spring of the following year. They then purchased land on Highway 84 in Eddiceton and built a building where they operated an automobile

On 9/7/56 at McComb, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-57
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs BENJAMIN F. GRAVES and
REESIE L. TIMMONS/BFG:elw Date dictated 9/9/65

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JN 157-3830

garage and service station. She stated her husband had been a very successful man up until about 1956 or 1957 when he began drinking quite heavily and running around with other women.

She stated that she knows ROSIA and FRANCES DAVIS, who reside in Eddiceton, and she considers them to be her best friends in Eddiceton. She stated she did not know of any problem that HODGES might have had with DAVIS in the recent past. She stated that several years ago HODGES had been drinking and went to DAVIS' home and talked with his wife while DAVIS was away. She stated that DAVIS told her later that he had told HODGES never to return to his home while he was intoxicated. She stated last fall she and one of her sons were visiting the DAVISes and HODGES came there to see his son while intoxicated and the DAVISes were very cordial toward him. She stated she did not believe that ROSIA DAVIS would have caused any harm to come to HODGES.

She advised that Mrs. DAVIS telephoned her about 10:00 a.m. on the morning of August 15, 1965, and told her about her former husband's death. She stated Mrs. DAVIS asked her if she were able to drive to Eddiceton that morning and when she told her that she was not able to drive there Mrs. DAVIS told her that she and her husband would come to McComb for her. She stated they appeared at her house about 10:30 a.m. and drove her to Eddiceton.

She advised that she was in the DAVIS home about 10:00 a.m. on the morning of August 14, 1965, and from there she telephoned CHARLES HERRING, an attorney who lives on Highway 84, about trying to take some legal action against her former husband in an effort to get some money from him. She stated she discussed with HERRING the possibility of selling the service station owned by her former husband which is located across the street from the residence of ROSIA DAVIS. She stated she made one other telephone call while she was at the DAVIS residence and that was to a

JN 157-3830

Mr. (first name unknown) RADCLIFF who lives in Bude, Mississippi, and is connected with the Veterans Administration. She stated she had heard that HODGES was drawing a disability check from the government and she inquired from RADCLIFF if this was true. She stated that RADCLIFF told her to his knowledge HODGES had not been receiving a disability check.

Mrs. HODGES advised that she did not know that her former husband had been going with JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN until after his death. She stated she had heard several years ago that HODGES supposedly had been dating ANN BELL FORD, who resides in Bude. She had received this information from Mr. and Mrs. ROSIA DAVIS. She advised about ten years ago HODGES had been running around with a Mrs. (first name unknown) MILLER from the Bude area. She stated at that time she accepted the fact that her husband was running around with other women and she used to talk on various occasions with Mrs. MILLER. Mrs. HODGES stated she had not heard that HODGES had been running around with any other woman just prior to his death.

Mrs. HODGES advised that she knew WARREN NEWMAN, who operates a furniture store in Bude, and to her knowledge he was a friend of her ex-husband. She did not know the name of CLYDE SEALE or his sons.

Mrs. HODGES advised that ROSIA DAVIS owns a farm south of Eddiceton. One could get to this farm by driving south on the road that passes EARL HODGES' house, cross the river bridge and turn right on the first gravel road past this bridge. She stated to her knowledge this farm had a barn on it but did not have any houses.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

ZEB HODGES, Eddiceton, Mississippi, was interviewed at his home at which time he advised that he had previously been interviewed by Agents of the FBI in Meadville, Mississippi on September 1, 1965.

Mr. HODGES stated that he had no reason to doubt that his son was brought home at approximately 9:45 or 10 P.M., on August 14, 1965, by a Mr. NEWMAN and the EMFINGER boys. He stated that he had been present when the pathological report was given by the doctor to the coroner's jury and that from this report he feels it has been definitely established that his son, EARL HODGES, was attacked and died probably within an hour after he was brought home by Mr. NEWMAN and the EMFINGER boys. Mr. HODGES pointed out that after the funeral, he was in conversation with the EMFINGER boys at the home of ROSIA DAVIS and when he brought out the fact that his son had been attacked shortly after his arrival at home, the two EMFINGER boys made the statement that, "They must have been waiting for him when we brought him home." He stated that after the EMFINGER boys had made this statement they then excused themselves and left the house immediately.

Mr. HODGES stated that he had had no knowledge until his son's death that the woman that he was dating was married. He stated he had frequently seen this woman at his home when she came to see his son and that she often brought food and whiskey to his son and that he had told her that she would have to stop bringing whiskey as he was attempting to get his son off of alcoholic beverages. He stated his son carried a picture of this woman and her two children in his pocketbook and that after his son's death, she came to him and asked for the picture and four dishes which she had left in the HODGES home. HODGES stated that in the company of two FBI Agents, he went to the home of this woman, whom he identified as a niece of the ex-sheriff of Franklin

On 9/8/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-56
174-27
by SAC ROY K. MOORE & SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE:bkb Date dictated 9/9/65

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County who had recently killed himself, and that his intentions had been to confront the husband and wife with the fact that the wife had been dating his son. Mr. HODGES stated that upon arrival at this woman's house, he determined from the husband that she was not at home and would not be expected back for some little time. An appointment was then made for 4 P.M., that same day and HODGES pointed out that by the time he arrived at the house at 4 P.M., the wife had had an opportunity to tell her husband of her association with EARL HODGES and thereby remove the element of surprise which he had hoped for when he initially went to the house to see the husband and wife. He stated at 4 P.M., he interviewed the two and advised them of what had happened but that the husband did not appear to be irate and he could not, therefore, draw a definite conclusion as to whether the husband was possibly responsible for his son's death.

Mr. HODGES brought out the fact that his son had been in a Klan organization which met in the Bunkley Community but that his son had told him that 50 percent of this group had had a disagreement with the remaining 50 percent and that his son's group withdrew from the Bunkley Group and began meeting in the Eddiceton area. Mr. HODGES stated that he, at one time, had been of the opinion that his son was no longer active in the Klan organization in view of the fact that people who had been coming for him to take him to meetings had stopped picking up his son. When told that information had recently been received that his son was a paid-up member in good standing with the Klan, he stated he could not be sure whether or not his son had withdrawn from the Klan and he did not know whether he was paid up and in good standing.

Mr. HODGES stated that he had recently learned from a source whom he would not identify at this time that his son had been asked to go on a "job" with other Klansmen and that his son had refused to go on this "job" and gave as his reason for not joining in with the other Klansmen the fact that he, EARL HODGES, knew that the man who was being accused by the Klan was not guilty of the crime of which the Klan was accusing him and for

JN. 157-3830

this reason, EARL HODGES would not be a party to this "job." Mr. HODGES indicated that he felt that this was a possible motive for his son's death. Mr. HODGES concluded by making the statement that, "to make the road short" he would suspect either the husband of the woman his son was dating or members of the Klan who were retaliating for his son not accompanying them on a "job."

Mr. HODGES, when asked how long he had resided in the Eddiceton Community, pointed out that he had lived in his present home for eight years and had been in the vicinity of Eddiceton practically all of his life and was very well acquainted with each family in Eddiceton. When asked whom he would consider to be the likely individual who would act as a "look out" for a group intending to harm his son, he made the comment that "sometimes your friends are your enemies." He then said, "I'll mention no names but we usually call him 'Big Boy.'"

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

WAYNE HUTTO, Sheriff, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Meadville, Mississippi, advised that on the morning of August 15, 1965, he received a telephone call shortly after 8 A.M., exact time not known, from BERNICE WATSON of Eddiceton, Mississippi. According to Sheriff HUTTO, Mr. WATSON told him that something happened to EARL HODGES and he did not know whether or not HODGES was dead. Sheriff HUTTO stated that Mr. WATSON told him HODGES was lying on the ground at the rear of his residence in Eddiceton and requested that Sheriff HUTTO immediately check to determine what had happened to HODGES.

Sheriff HUTTO stated that he immediately dressed and drove from his home to EARL HODGES's residence in Eddiceton. He stated that approximately 50 yards from the home of EARL HODGES and prior to reaching the home of EARL HODGES, he saw a pair of khaki trousers lying on the edge of the blacktop road which runs alongside of HODGES's house in a north and south general direction.

Sheriff HUTTO stated that he stopped his automobile and picked up these trousers which were later determined to be those of EARL HODGES after which time he went to the home of HODGES. Upon arriving at the HODGES's home, he found EARL HODGES lying between the corner of his house and a water well, and determined that HODGES was dead.

Sheriff HUTTO stated that when he arrived at the home of HODGES, there were approximately 40 to 50 people milling around the house. He did not make any attempt to keep these people away from the scene of the crime inasmuch as they had already been all over the yard and apparently inside the house.

Sheriff HUTTO stated that HODGES was wearing undershorts and socks with no other clothing when he arrived.

On 9/8/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-55
174-27
by [Signature] SA EDGAR C. FORTENBERRY:bkb Date dictated 9/8/65

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Sheriff HUTTO stated examination of the scene where the trousers were found determined that there was a small blood spot in the road near the trousers and a few drops of blood on the grass at the edge of the road. He stated that several footprints of bare feet wearing socks believed to be the footprints of HODGES were located along the edge of the road near where these trousers were found. He stated that no other footprints were located in this vicinity and he was unable to find any footprints or blood spots between where these trousers were found and the home of HODGES. Sheriff HUTTO stated that the first signs of blood discovered in his search of the road between where the trousers were found and the HODGES house, were small spots of blood on the grass in the front yard of the HODGES house.

Sheriff HUTTO stated that inside the house, HODGES's shirt was found hanging on a chair, the electric fan was running, and blood spots were located on the bed and on a half-pint of liquor which was discovered between the bed mattresses. Sheriff HUTTO stated that there were blood spots on the refrigerator and walls inside the house which made it appear that HODGES had gone to the refrigerator for a drink of water before going out the back of the house to the water well where he was found. Sheriff HUTTO further stated that there were blood spots on the water well bucket, well rope, and on the well curbing of the water well where HODGES was located.

Sheriff HUTTO stated that HODGES's nose appeared to have been broken and one of his eyes was severely injured; however, he did not know whether or not his eye was completely out. He further stated that HODGES's mouth was bloody and his body was severely bruised all over including several bruised places across the chest and upper stomach.

Sheriff HUTTO further stated that the trousers of HODGES, which were located in the road near his home, had been torn along the left side and leg and the waistband of these trousers at the top appeared to have been cut. He stated that these trousers were bloody both inside and out, making it appear that HODGES had been beaten with his trousers on or either partly on his body.

Sheriff HUTTO stated that unconfirmed rumors regarding a gambling game in which HODGES was alleged to have participated on the date of August 14, 1965, had been investigated by him and he had been unable to confirm these rumors. Sheriff HUTTO stated that in his opinion there was no gambling game as above alleged.

Sheriff HUTTO further stated that investigation by his office has failed to develop the identity of any possible suspects in connection with this investigation other than the fact that he cannot eliminate the possibility of ROSIE DAVIS having possible knowledge of this crime; however, he has no information which might be of assistance in confirming his belief.

Investigation by his office determined that EDWARD EMPINGER, L. A. DE LAUGHTER and WARREN NEWMAN took HODGES home at approximately 9:30 or 10 P.M., August 14, 1965, at which time Mr. DE LAUGHTER gave HODGES a half-pint bottle of whiskey in order to get him to get out of the truck and go into the house. He stated that to his knowledge, apparently these were the last persons to have seen HODGES alive.

Sheriff HUTTO stated that it has been determined by him that HODGES was in the company of J. C. EMPINGER on August 14, 1965, during which time they did considerable drinking at two beer and liquor joints near the Adams and Franklin County Lines. Sheriff HUTTO stated that one of these beer and liquor joints is believed to have been Margie's Place and the other is believed to have been a beer and liquor joint formerly known as Leo's Place which is located at Leesdale, Mississippi.

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Sheriff HUTTO stated that his investigation is continuing and that any information of assistance in identifying suspects will be furnished the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Investigators.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/12/65

Reverend HARRY STANLEY MC GUFFEE, General Delivery, Telephone No. 686-2368, was interviewed in his home.

Reverend MC GUFFEE advised that he had received no additional information regarding any Klan activities in Franklin County, Mississippi, since he had previously furnished information to Agents of this Bureau.

Reverend MC GUFFEE stated that over two years ago he was pastor of the Ramah Baptist Church in Franklin County, Mississippi.

He said that he would be glade to testify at any time regarding the manner in which he was treated by those believed to be members of the Klan as he had previously reported to this Bureau. He said that he realizes that testifying might place his own life in danger but that he is more than willing to do this in order to clean up the Klan in Franklin County.

He advised that GERALD MARTIN, who was formerly a Baptist minister in Franklin County now has a Baptist Church at Oak Hill Baptist Church at Many, Louisiana. He said that MARTIN had also furnished information to the FBI when he, MARTIN, lived in Franklin County. MC GUFFEE said that he believed that MARTIN would be glad to testify to any such information he had furnished. MC GUFFEE said that he has received no information regarding the murder of EARL HODGES recently in Franklin County except the information he has heard through various news media. He said that in the event he receives any such information he will immediately advise this Bureau. He said that he would assume this was possibly the work of the Klan but he would have no information to substantiate this belief.

On 9/7/65 at Livonia, Louisiana File # Jackson 157-3830-54
SA JAMES S. ADAMS 174-27
SA ROBERT L. ... 157-569
 Date dictated 9/11/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

RAZ MARSHALL was contacted at his residence, Rural Route, Union Church, Mississippi. He advised that he arose at approximately 6:10 to 6:15 A.M., on August 15, 1965, and he thought that he probably arrived at Eddiceton at approximately 6:30 A.M. He stated went east on Highway 84 approximately 2½ miles out of Eddiceton to pick up a Negro who went with him to look at some timber. He stated he returned to Eddiceton at approximately 6:40 or 6:45 and turned south off of Highway 84 and drove past the residence of EARL HODGES. He stated before turning left off 84 onto the road that leads past HODGES's house, he had to wait for a light colored car which had been traveling north on the road that leads from HODGES's house. He stated this automobile turned west in front of him on Highway 84. He did not know the identity of the white man who was driving the automobile and he had no description of this man except to state that the man was not a large, but rather a medium-sized individual.

He stated that also at this intersection was HILTON ZUMBRO who was traveling east on Highway 84. He stated ZUMBRO resides in the vicinity of the intersection of Highways 98 and 84.

MARSHALL stated that when he went past HODGES's house and across the railroad track behind HODGES's residence, he did not see any clothes in the road. He stated he had learned later that HODGES's pants had been located in the road behind his house but he reiterated that he did not see anything in the road at the time he went by there.

MARSHALL advised that he and the Negro proceeded down the road behind HODGES's to the residence of NORMAN SEALE to look over some of his timber. He stated he could not recall seeing any individuals or vehicles in the vicinity of HODGES's residence on that morning with the exception of what he had already indicated.

MARSHALL advised that about ten days before the death of EARL HODGES he was coming out of the woods with a load of logs in

On 9/4/65 at Union Church, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS & bjb
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/10/65

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the vicinity of the Old Bude Sawmill. He advised that it was about 9 A.M., in the morning and he noticed EARL HODGES's truck parked on the side of the road. He stated as he stopped his truck, HODGES sat up in his truck and then came and got into the cab with MARSHALL. He stated HODGES began to tell him about having tried to visit his sons and had been unable to see them and he began crying. He stated HODGES had been drinking and he told him that he should forget his past problems and try to start a new life. He stated that HODGES asked him if he thought that ROSIA DAVIS, who lives in Eddiceton, would lie to a man. He stated he had no idea why HODGES had asked him this question but he told HODGES that he thought DAVIS would lie to a man. He stated HODGES was quite upset that morning and he told HODGES that he was a very busy man and he would not have much time to spend with him. He stated he talked to him only a few minutes and then departed.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

The following information concerning ALVIE ELMO MC GEHEE was obtained from personnel records at the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi, made available by Mr. RAY HUST, Assistant Industrial Relations Manager:

Name	ALVIE ELMO MC GEHEE
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'11"
Weight	185 Pounds
Birth	June 9, 1918, Franklin County, Mississippi
Wife	LOURINE
Father	PERRY MC GEHEE
Mother	LUNA MC GEHEE
Education	Ninth Grade
Social Security No.	427-20-7104
Job	Cure Operator, Department No. 26
Clock No.	0058
Military	United States Army March, 1944 to December, 1945
Former Employment	General Geological Company, Houston, Texas, December, 1943, to January, 1944, handling explosives and shooting test wells.

Records reflected that MC GEHEE was originally hired December 30, 1940. His employment was interrupted and he was re-hired January 22, 1946. He engaged in an illegal work stoppage January 22 - 25, 1965. The file also reflected a doctor's order from the Natchez Polyclinic indicating MC GEHEE able to return to work dated August 30, 1963.

On 9/7/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
Jackson 174-27
157-491
 by SA FRANK B. WATTS & SA HAROLD LEO FABRIZ:bkb Date dictated 9/8/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

JACK MEYERS, Constable, who resides in Eddiceton, Mississippi, on September 4, 1965, advised that he had learned from a waitress in Meadville, Mississippi, that a neighbor of the two COTHREN families in Bude, Mississippi, a Mrs. ARNOLD, stated the COTHREN brothers returned home at 2 A.M., August 15, 1965.

JACK MEYERS advised that he heard a rumor to the effect that HUBERT COTHREN, the husband of JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN, appeared at the home of EARL HODGES in Eddiceton while his wife was there, got her out of the house into his automobile and then "called HODGES out of the house." He stated he heard COTHREN had a gun, but HODGES did not come out of the house. He could furnish no additional information.

On 9/4/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-51
174-27
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES & SA REESIE L. TIMMONS :bkb Date dictated 9/7/65

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Date 9/13/65

Reverend ROBERT WINCY MIDDLETON, McClelland Street (Post Office Box 595), Poncharcoul, Louisiana (telephone 504-386-6083), was interviewed in his office at the Milville Baptist Church located at the foregoing address.

He also insisted that his Associate Pastor, NATHAN LUCE, be present during the interview. Reverend MIDDLETON and LUCE were appraised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the inquiry.

Reverend MIDDLETON was somewhat hostile and was reluctant to be interviewed. He stated that he has been interviewed by the FBI at great length in the past and felt that he could add nothing further at this time.

He briefly related the information previously furnished on November 3, 1964, to Special Agents PETER R. DURLAND and LENARD A. WOLF at Clinton, Louisiana.

He again stated that the letter given to him by ARCHIE PRATHER and JAMES SEALE had been destroyed.

He further advised that he did not desire to testify in Franklin County, Mississippi, under any circumstances and would go to jail for contempt rather than testify. His reason for this was that he felt his parishioners needed him and he should not leave the parish. Furthermore, he feels that the political situation in Franklin County is not conducive to the well-being of the citizens of the county and anything he might be able to testify to would be immaterial to the prosecution of any of the violent crimes which have occurred in Franklin County.

Reverend MIDDLETON did suggest that Reverend HARRY MC. QUINN, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Livingston, Louisiana, might be of some assistance. With this he concluded the interview.

On 9/7/65 at Poncharcoul, Louisiana File # Jackson 157-3830-50
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs JAMES A. ARBOLD and ROBERT F. COOPER, JR. /JAA:rlw Date dictated 9/8/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

MONROE MITCHELL, Negro male, who lives on a gravel road approximately 100 yards west of the residence of EARL HODGES, advised that on the morning of August 15, 1965, he arose at approximately 4:15 A.M., made a pot of coffee and between that time and 5 A.M., he and his wife, HATTIE MAY MITCHELL, were sitting on the back porch drinking coffee when he heard a "truck" start up at the residence of Mr. HODGES. He stated that he told his wife, "Mr. EARL is getting out early this morning." He advised that he assumed it was the truck of Mr. EARL HODGES inasmuch as it sounded exactly like his truck with its defective exhaust system.

When questioned regarding other vehicles that sound similar to Mr. EARL HODGES's truck, he advised that on two occasions during the week prior to the death of Mr. EARL HODGES, he heard what he assumed to be Mr. HODGES's truck pass his home but on each occasion when he saw the truck, it was a black pickup truck that sounded exactly like Mr. HODGES's truck. He stated he could not recall seeing this black truck on any occasions other than the two mentioned above.

He advised that he did not hear any other noises from the residence of Mr. EARL HODGES during the night of August 14 - 15, 1965.

He advised that he rode his horse past the HODGES residence at approximately 6 A.M., the morning of August 15, 1965, but did not notice anything of an unusual nature.

On 9/2/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

ERNEST MULKEY, white male, age 54, Bude, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

He denied that he has ever been beaten by the Ku Klux Klan. He stated that during late 1964 or early 1965, he went to Natchez, Mississippi, where he attended the wedding of CHARLES MULKEY. On the way home from the wedding, he suffered chest pains and went to the hospital for eight or nine days. He stated that his car was not involved in any sort of an accident and did not incur any damage. He stated that OLLIE ALDRICH called Dr. SMITH, who has been treating him at Meadville, Mississippi, for his heart ailment. He stated that he is not and has never been a member of the Ku Klux Klan, he does not know the identity of any Klan members and has never been invited to affiliate with the Klan.

He stated that EARL HODGES was one of his best friends and that he did not know of any enemies he may have had. He also stated that he has not heard any reports, rumors or gossip concerning the identity of HODGES's assailant.

He also stated that he understood that MARVIN WILLIS had been allegedly beaten but he declined to comment on any motive or supposed suspects of the beating. He also stated that he understood that ALTON HALFORD had been beaten possibly by Klansmen. He stated that he had heard that HALFORD had been beaten on two occasions and that the rumor was that the second beating was by JAMES SEALE. He stated that HALFORD has a brother on the Natchez Police Department. He asserted he could furnish no pertinent information concerning any alleged beatings or Klan activity in the Bude area.

The following description was obtained by observation and interview:

On 9/7/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
157-491
174-27
 by SA FRANK B. WATTS
SA HAROLD LEO FABRIZ:blb Date dictated 9/8/65

Name	ERNEST MULKEY
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	54
Born	August 9, 1912, Natchez, Mississippi
Height	6'1"
Weight	165 Pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown, graying
Teeth	Upper teeth missing
Occupation	Franklin County Highway Maintenance employee
Vehicle	1953 Ford sedan, green.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

LARRY MURRAY advised that he resides directly across the street from the residence of EARL HODGES. He advised that on Saturday, August 14, 1965, he and his family spent the entire day fishing and returned home just prior to dark. He stated that he did not see or hear any unusual activity in the vicinity of the HODGES residence during the course of the night of August 14 - 15, 1965. He stated he did not learn of the death of EARL HODGES until about 8:30 A.M., August 15, 1965.

He advised that on the night of August 13, 1965, he and his family attended church from approximately 7 P.M., until 9:30 P.M., and did not observe any unusual activity or traffic on that night.

He advised that at sometime in the recent past, he has heard from his neighbor, Mr. W. B. WATSON, that at one time the husband of Mrs. COTHREN appeared at the home of EARL HODGES, found his wife there, got her out of the house and tried to get EARL HODGES to come out of the house but he did not. He stated he could furnish no additional information regarding this incident and has heard of it from no one other than Mr. WATSON.

On 9/4/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-41
174-27
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES & SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb File # _____ Date dictated 9/7/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

Mr. J. O. NEWELL (DOLLAR BILL) on September 8, 1965, advised that on Sunday morning, August 15, 1965, he arose early, was out checking his cattle and returned home at approximately 11 A.M., and found one CURTIS RAY STOKES, a neighbor, at his home near the New Hope Church approximately four miles north of Eddiceton. He stated that STOKES had been drinking the night of August 14, 1965, wanted to stay at his house until he sobered up because he was afraid to go home in his condition. He stated that his wife told him that STOKES had mentioned the death of EARL HODGES upon his arrival but was not in any condition to discuss it with him when he got there at 11 A.M. He stated that later STOKES told him that he had been to the Adams County Line the afternoon of August 14 with his girl friend, (FNU) SMITH, and followed J. C. EMFINGER and EARL HODGES from the Adams County Line in his girl friend's automobile and observed the automobile accident involving the automobile of MAXIE PRATHER and J. C. EMFINGER.

Mr. NEWELL advised that STOKES made no statement during his presence on the morning of August 15 to the effect that "EARL HODGES did not put up any fight last night."

On 9/8/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830 //
174-27
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bab Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

Mr. WARREN R. NEWMAN was contacted concerning the whereabouts of L. A. DE LAUGHTER. During this conversation he furnished a summary of the information previously furnished the Sheriff of Franklin County, the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Investigators and FBI Agents.

Following this summary account of the events of August 14 - 15, 1965, he advised that on the afternoon of September 7, 1965, JASON SEALE had come to him and told him that the weapon used in the beating of EARL HODGES had been found. SEALE did not elucidate on this and furnished no further information concerning this alleged "weapon."

On 9/8/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830 1/5
174-27
 by SA ROBERT F. COOPER & SA JAMES A. ABBOTT: bkb Date dictated 9/8/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

WARREN H. NEWMAN, whose mailing address is Box 8, Bude, Mississippi, was contacted at his furniture store located in Bude. He was advised that he did not have to furnish any information and any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that he could contact his attorney prior to furnishing any information. He thereafter furnished the following information:

He closed his furniture store on August 14, 1965, at approximately 8 P.M. He stated that his wife had gone out of town for the week end and he and L. A. DE LAUGHTER were going to the residence of EDWARD EMFINGER, who operates a supermarket in the same building where his furniture store is located, and eat steaks that night. He stated that he had told EMFINGER earlier in the day that if he would have his butcher cut some steaks, they would take them down to the restaurant and have them cooked after they closed their businesses. He stated EMFINGER told him he would have the steaks cut and they would take them to his residence and his wife would cook them. He stated they closed their businesses, he, EMFINGER, DE LAUGHTER and PINKEY EZELL, got into NEWMAN's 1964 gray Dodge and drove to the Negro quarters in Bude. There DE LAUGHTER purchased two half-pints of Old Taylor Whiskey, EMFINGER purchased one-half pint of Old Taylor Whiskey and EZELL purchased a half-pint of Old Charter Whiskey. Thereafter, they drove EZELL to his home which is located approximately six miles north of Bude. They then drove to the residence of EDWARD EMFINGER, who resides just north of Highway 84 between Bude and Eddiceton, arriving there about 8:45 P.M. About ten to fifteen minutes after arriving at EMFINGER's residence, Mrs. EMFINGER had supper prepared and they sat down to eat. When they were approximately two-thirds through with their meal, EARL HODGES came to the residence and asked EDWARD EMFINGER to help him get his truck out of a ditch at J. C. EMFINGER's residence. He stated J. C. EMFINGER is EDWARD's brother and he

On 9/2/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS &
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65
157-941

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resides about 75 yards north of EDWARD's residence. He stated it was approximately 9:15 to 9:30 P.M., when HODGES arrived at EMFINGER's address and EMFINGER invited him to have supper with them.

EMFINGER and NEWMAN finished eating a few minutes before HODGES and DE LAUGHTER and they got into NEWMAN's truck and drove up to J. C. EMFINGER's residence and checked on HODGES's truck. He stated that they returned to EDWARD EMFINGER's residence and told HODGES that they would help him get his truck out of the ditch the next morning.

He stated that approximately five minutes after HODGES had finished eating, he, HODGES, DE LAUGHTER and EDWARD EMFINGER got into the cab of NEWMAN's truck and they drove HODGES to his residence. He stated that en route to HODGES's residence, HODGES wanted to go get a drink of whiskey and on arriving at HODGES's residence, NEWMAN gave him a half-pint of Old Taylor Whiskey which had not been opened. He stated when HODGES got out of the truck, he went into his residence and they drove away. He stated that he did not recall seeing any automobiles or any individuals in the vicinity of HODGES's house and he did not recall seeing any cars following him when he took HODGES home.

He then drove EDWARD EMFINGER back home and he thought it was probably about 10 P.M., when they arrived there. He then drove DE LAUGHTER home, who resides in Bude, and then he went to his residence, arriving there at approximately 10:20 to 10:25 P.M. He did not leave his residence any more that night or during the early morning hours of August 15, 1965.

He stated that he arose at approximately 8:30 A.M., on August 15, 1965, and went to his store in Bude, arriving there at approximately 9 to 9:30 A.M. On arriving at the store, EDWARD EMFINGER, who had opened his store on that Sunday morning, told

him that HODGES was dead and he thought that HODGES had died from a heart attack. He stated that he did not know HODGES had been beaten until approximately 3:30 P.M., that afternoon when EDWARD EMFINGER had obtained additional information about HODGES's death and told him about it.

NEWMAN advised that on August 15 or 16, 1965, CARL SCHULTZ, who worked for the Soil Conservation Department in Meadville, Mississippi, told him that on the morning of August 15, 1965, he had picked up CURTIS RAY STOKES, who had been hitchhiking on Highway 84 at the Franklin County Memorial Hospital and let him out at the railroad tracks in Bude. SCHULTZ told him that STOKES reeked with the smell of whiskey. He stated STOKES supposedly asked SCHULTZ where he was going and SCHULTZ told him about HODGES being dead and that he was going to Eddiceton to check on him. NEWMAN stated that SCHULTZ told him that STOKES had made the statement that if he, SCHULTZ, was going to Brookhaven, he would ride that far with him but since he was not he would get out in Bude and visit his daughter. NEWMAN advised STOKES's daughter resides in Monroe, Mississippi, and she is married to GLENN HALFORD.

NEWMAN stated that he had heard on August 20, 1965, that supposedly J. O. "DOLLAR BILL" NEWELL who resides northwest of Eddiceton had on the morning of August 15 asked CURTIS RAY STOKES if he thought EARL HODGES could have put up a good fight when he was drinking, and STOKES supposedly told him, "There wasn't much fight in him last night." He stated that supposedly this was the only comment made regarding HODGES by STOKES.

NEWMAN advised that CLYDE WENTWORTH, a retired painter who resides in Meadville had approached him in the spring of 1964 to rent a four-room house commonly referred to as the MOSES JONES house, which is a few miles southeast of Bude. He stated WENTWORTH wanted to use this house for a hunting club. About three months

after the first contact by WENTWORTH, WENTWORTH gave him \$30 and stated that he would give him \$10 per month as rent on this house. He stated that in the fall of 1964 on separate occasions, a Negro told him and a white man told him that they had been in the vicinity of this MOSES JONES place at night and two hooded men had stopped them and told them that they could not go near the MOSES JONES place because a meeting was being held there. He stated he was given rent on this place for a period of eight or nine months but he did not know the identity of the individuals who gave him the \$10 per month after WENTWORTH had given him the original \$30. NEWMAN advised when EARL HODGES's wife, who was separated from HODGES and resides in McComb, visited Eddiceton, she made ROSIE DAVIS's residence her headquarters. He stated that DAVIS resides on Highway 84 and he can see HODGES's residence from his home. He stated DAVIS and HODGES reside about 200 yards from each other.

NEWMAN advised that since the death of HODGES, ROSIA DAVIS has appeared to be very frightened. He stated on Tuesday afternoon after HODGES's funeral, some of the people were at ROSIA DAVIS's house. DAN VERNON, who is a Patrolman with the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP) and who is also a brother-in-law of HODGES, was at DAVIS's house on that afternoon asking people there if they thought that HODGES had been connected with the Klan. He stated when VERNON would ask this question, ROSIA DAVIS would appear to be listening quite attentively to the conversation. NEWMAN advised that on August 23, 1965, DAVID SEALE, a 14-year old son of JASON SEALE, who operates a service station at the intersections of Highways 98 and 84, had gone to the sale barn, which is located near these two highways, and saw CLYDE SEALE and JACK DAVIS, a Constable from Roxie and the son of ROSIA DAVIS, sitting in the barn talking. He stated that SEALE's small foreign car had been parked out of sight behind the sale barn. He stated that CLYDE SEALE owns the field of corn which surrounds this sale barn. NEWMAN advised that he had obtained this information from JASON SEALE. He advised he has no suspects in the murder of EARL HODGES but if he obtains any information in this matter he will promptly furnish it to the FBI.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

GLENN POSEY, Route 2, Box 55A, Meadville, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

He is 18 years of age and intends to depart from his home on September 8, 1965, to return to Mississippi State University at Starkville, Mississippi.

GLENN POSEY furnished essentially the same information as that furnished by MARILYN POSEY in interview by Bureau Agents on September 7, 1965.

On 9/7/65 at Bunkley Community, Franklin County, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-43
174-27
by SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS
SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS:bkb Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

MARILYN POSEY, Route 2, Box 55A, Meadville, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

She is 16 years of age.

Approximately 1½ years prior to the interview, she and BEVERLY SEALE, the 12-year old daughter of JAMES SEALE, had a confrontation on a school bus as it left the school grounds on Friday evening. BEVERLY SEALE had closed a window on MARILYN POSEY's finger and out of anger MARILYN POSEY had struck BEVERLY SEALE with her hand. This incident was immediately settled between the two girls and by the time the school bus had reached home they were again friends and the incident apparently forgotten.

The following Monday morning, Mr. and Mrs. JAMES SEALE were waiting for the school bus when their children were picked up. MARILYN POSEY and her brother, GLENN POSEY, were already on the school bus. Mr. and Mrs. JAMES SEALE boarded the school bus with their children. GLENN POSEY was sitting near the rear of the bus and MARILYN POSEY was sitting approximately half way between the front and the back of the bus.

After entering the school bus, JAMES SEALE made an unrecalled statement and pointed his finger at MARILYN POSEY. He then said, "I'll take care of you." GLENN POSEY said from the rear of the bus that he would not let SEALE lay a hand on his sister at which time JAMES SEALE said, "I'll take care of you too," and started toward the rear of the bus. JAMES SEALE was stopped from going toward the back of the bus by the bus driver, Mr. HOLLIS CLOY. SEALE continued to make remarks and said once more, "I'll take care of you." He addressed this remark toward MARILYN POSEY. SEALE then assigned his two daughters to a seat on the bus and left the bus.

On 9/7/65 at Bunkley Community, Franklin County, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-12
174-27
 by SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS
SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS:dkb Date dictated 9/9/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

Mrs. R. D. REEVES (BETTY), Rural Route #3, Meadville, Mississippi (Telephone No. 384-2377), was interviewed at her home. She related her recollections of Saturday, August 14, and Sunday, August 15, 1965, as follows:

At approximately 10 to 10:30 A.M., August 14, 1965, she picked up her sister-in-law, JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN, at Bude, Mississippi. They then proceeded to Natchez, Mississippi, to do some grocery shopping. She returned home at approximately 2:30 or 3 P.M., the same date after having first dropped her sister-in-law off at Bude. They traveled in Mrs. REEVES's 1960 Ford sedan throughout the entire trip.

When Mrs. REEVES got home she cleaned and put the shrimp she had purchased on to cook, then straightened and cleaned her house. Thereafter, she prepared dinner for her son and got ready for the evenings gathering. At approximately 7 to 7:30 P.M., August 14, 1965, people began arriving at her home. She could not recall who arrived first; however, by approximately 7:30 P.M., all persons concerned with the party were present. These individuals consisted of her brother, HUBERT COTHREN, and wife JOHNNIE LEE, her other brother, VONNIE COTHREN, CHARLES JORDAN and his wife RUTH, along with their three children, and "SKEET" and JOSEPHINE HOLLINGSWORTH.

Mrs. REEVES was questioned concerning the whereabouts of VONNIE COTHREN's wife, ELOIS COTHREN. Mrs. REEVES stated that ELOIS was out of town "with another man."

The party lasted until approximately 1:30 A.M., August 15, 1965, when all parties except the JORDAN family left for home. JOSEPHINE HOLLINGSWORTH and JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN drove in HUBERT COTHREN's car. HUBERT COTHREN, VONNIE COTHREN and "SKEET" HOLLINGSWORTH drove in the HOLLINGSWORTH car. All drove back to Bude, Mississippi. The JORDAN family stayed overnight at Mrs. REEVES's home.

On 9/8/65 at Rural Route #3, Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
SA ROBERT F. COOPER & 174-27
SA JAMES A. ABBOTT:bkb 157-569
 by SA JAMES A. ABBOTT:bkb Date dictated 9/8/65

When JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN got home she called Mrs. REEVES by telephone to tell her they had arrived home safely. This was about 1:45 A.M., to 1:50 A.M., August 15, 1965. According to Mrs. REEVES, she could hear "SKEET" and JOSEPHINE HOLLINGSWORTH talking to HUBERT COTHREN in the background. She heard later that VONNIE COTHREN went straight home (across the street) and did not join the COTHRENS and HOLLINGSWORTHS for coffee.

At approximately 9 A.M., August 15, 1965, she received a telephone call from a neighbor, ELOISE CORBAN, who told her that EARL HODGES had been found dead that morning. (The HUBERT COTHREN children had stayed overnight with ELOISE CORBAN.)

Mrs. REEVES stated she got dressed and immediately went over to the CORBANS and was there at the time HUBERT and JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN came to pick up their children. They all sat around the kitchen table drinking coffee but neither she nor Mrs. CORBAN mentioned HODGES's death to JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN. By the way JOHNNIE LEE acted, Mrs. REEVES was positive that she did not know of HODGES's death at that time. Mrs. REEVES stated that later that day, JOHNNIE LEE called her and told her that an unidentified man had called her on the telephone and said, "I guess you know that EARL HODGES is dead." According to Mrs. REEVES, JOHNNIE LEE did not know the identity of the caller.

Mrs. REEVES was then questioned concerning her knowledge of JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN's relationship with EARL HODGES. She stated that JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN "had been going with" EARL HODGES for approximately 14 months. She admitted that on several occasions she had dropped JOHNNIE LEE off at EARL's house and after two or three hours, returned and had taken her home. This was during the time that the HUBERT COTHRENS were living in Meadville, Mississippi. They subsequently moved to Bude, Mississippi; however, have moved back to Meadville within the past three weeks.

She was asked if she had ever mentioned this to her brother, HUBERT COTHREN, to which she replied she had not, stating that she felt this was JOHNNIE LEE's business and none of hers. She was asked if she knew for a fact that JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN had been intimate with EARL HODGES to which she replied that JOHNNIE LEE had never admitted as much to her but it was taken for granted that, "When a person goes with someone this is natural." She added that many times when she and JOHNNIE LEE would leave the house together it was under the pretext of going shopping.

Mrs. REEVES was asked if she had heard any rumors concerning the identities of persons possibly responsible for EARL HODGES's death. She stated she had heard none. She further added that she knew of no other girl friends associated with EARL HODGES after he "began going with JOHNNIE."

She was asked if she knew ROSIE DAVIS or anything about him. Mrs. REEVES said that since HODGES's death, JOHNNIE LEE has pointed DAVIS out to her on one or two occasions but that she does not know him to even speak to him, only by sight. She was asked what significance this had for her and she replied "nothing."

She was questioned concerning any knowledge she might have of Ku Klux Klan members or activities. She stated she knew none and had no knowledge concerning any Klan activities.

Mrs. REEVES stated that she had heard a rumor that EARL HODGES had recently been going with a Negro woman. When asked specifically who had told her this, she stated she believed she heard it from VONNIE COTHREN's wife, ELOYCE. She could furnish no other source for this information and considered it to be rumor and gossip.

Mrs. REEVES stated that she is willing to cooperate in any way possible and is willing to be re-interviewed by the FBI or the State Highway Patrol at any time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/13/65

Mrs. R. D. REEVES (BETTY) was interviewed at the home of JOHNNIE LEE COTHREN, Meadville, Mississippi, where she was visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. COTHREN.

Mrs. REEVES was specifically questioned concerning the guests at her party on the night of August 14, 1965, as to whether or not any guest left the party during the evening for any reason whatsoever. Mrs. REEVES stated that no one left the party until about 1:30 a.m., August 15, 1965.

She was also asked if she had recalled anything additional which might assist in this investigation since last interviewed. She could add nothing further.

On 9/9/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-110
Jackson 174-27
by SAs JAMES A. ABBOTT and
ROBERT F. COOPER, JR. JAA:elw Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

Mrs. MARIE SCHWARTZ was contacted at her residence at which time she was advised of the nature of the inquiry by SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS. She was advised that she did not have to make a statement, that any statement she made could be used against her in a court of law and that she had the right to consult an attorney before making any statement.

She advised that she resides with her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. ALBERT WALLACE, who own and operate a saw mill in the McCall Creek area.

When questioned concerning the reported incident wherein she was stopped one night by a group of Klansmen on the road near this address at which time they told her to stay off the roads at night. She said she had no knowledge of this incident and denied repeatedly that this incident had occurred. She denied that she had reported this incident to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office or any other law enforcement agency.

She denied any knowledge of Klan activity in Franklin County and denied that her father, ALBERT WALLACE, was known by her to be a Klansman.

It is to be noted that Mrs. SCHWARTZ refused to be interviewed in the presence of her mother.

out of town

Mrs. SCHWARTZ stated that her father is out of town on business and she does not know where he is or when he is to return.

Mrs. SCHWARTZ stated that she would tell the same story before a Grand Jury or the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) in the event she was subpoenaed before either group.

On 9/9/65 at McCall's Creek, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-37
174-27
 by SA THOMPSON HERRY WEBB ^{TBW}
SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS:hah Date dictated 9/9/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

JOHN SCOTT, who operates a grocery and service station in McCalls Creek, Mississippi, advised that on August 9, 1965, at approximately 4 P.M., he talked to EARL HODGES who was cutting grass at the residence of CLARK GRIFFIN, who resides a few doors from HODGES in Eddiceton. He stated he talked to HODGES about buying an automobile jack from him. He stated that HODGES agreed to sell him the jack and he gave him \$50 at that time for it. He stated he gave HODGES two \$20 bills and one \$10 bill. He stated Mr. GRIFFIN was sitting on his front porch when he was talking to HODGES on that date. SCOTT advised that BILL CAMPBELL, who found EARL HODGES's body on the morning of August 15, 1965, told him on September 4, 1965, that a white male had come to his residence the past few days and made some statement to his wife that CAMPBELL had better clear out or he might be charged with the murder of HODGES. He stated that CAMPBELL is a big, strong Negro and he was so frightened that he had tears in his eyes.

On 9/6/65 at McCalls Creek, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830
174-27
by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS &
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

THOMAS L. SCOTT, age 18, Route 2, McCall's Creek, Mississippi, on September 4, 1965, advised that he passed the residence of EARL HODGES at approximately 6:30 P.M., August 14, 1965, en route to Meadville, Mississippi, and saw nothing of an unusual nature as he passed.

He stated that his father had told him before he departed home that he had to be back at home by 12 midnight. He stated he stopped at JASON SEALE's Service Station to help a boy repair his automobile shortly after 11 P.M., and was "running late" when he departed there en route to his home. He stated that he passed the home of EARL HODGES between 11:50 and 11:55 P.M., August 14, 1965, in his father's Volkswagen, was driving rather fast, as he rounded the curve by the HODGES's house and crossed the railroad tracks behind the HODGES house. He stated that approximately sixty to eighty feet after he crossed the railroad track, he noticed what he believed then to be a small white-faced calf lying in the shallow ditch to the right of the road. He stated he thought nothing more of this until the morning of August 15, 1965, when he heard of the death of EARL HODGES and learned that his pants were found in the road behind the HODGES house. He stated he then drove to the gravel road behind the HODGES house and pointed out to the Sheriff the spot where he saw what he believed to be the small white-faced calf in the ditch. He stated he then noticed the two small circles of blood in the roadway and realized they were directly opposite the spot where he saw what he believed to be the white-faced calf. He stated that he did not notice the pants or anything else lying in the road when he passed just prior to midnight, August 14, 1965.

THOMAS SCOTT advised that he is certain of the above-mentioned times because it was exactly 12 midnight when he arrived at his home some three to four miles south of the HODGES home.

On 9/4/65 at McCall's Creek, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-37
 SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES & ^{BB} File # 174-27
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

JASON SEALE, owner and operator of Seale's Truck Stop, junction of Highways 98 and 84 between Bude and Meadville, Mississippi, on September 5, 1965, advised that just after lunch on August 23, 1965, his 14-year old son, DAVID SEALE, rode his horse to the "sale barn" approximately one-half mile from his home and as he rode the horse behind the sale barn, Mr. CLYDE SEALE startled him by asking if that was his horse. He stated that CLYDE SEALE and JACK DAVIS, the Constable at Roxie, Mississippi, were in a very secluded spot and had hidden CLYDE SEALE's automobile behind the sale barn. He stated that this date, August 23, 1965, was the day the Franklin County Grand Jury was scheduled to hear evidence in the death of EARL HODGES. Regarding EARL HODGES, SEALE recalled that approximately one year ago, HODGES in discussing "the Klan" made the statement that he was either getting in or out of the Klan. He could not recall which at this time.

Mr. SEALE advised that shortly after the death of EARL HODGES, JACK DAVIS was dining in his cafe when the two undertakers who handled the HODGES funeral in discussing his death remarked that he received the most brutal beating they had ever seen. He stated DAVIS became very angry, paid his bill before eating his lunch, and inquired as to the identity of "that fellow doing all the talking."

On 9/5/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-86
174-27
by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES &
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/9/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/12/65

BOBBY R. SMITH, funeral director, Franklin Funeral Home, Meadville, Mississippi, advised that he was the director for the funeral of EARL HODGES on August 16, 1965. He said that there was a large number of individuals at the funeral and that he, SMITH, was a native of that area and had known HODGES for some period.

Mr. SMITH stated that he had sent the register of those who signed upon attending the funeral to EARL HODGES's former wife, Mrs. HODGES, who lives at 1026 LaBranch Street, McComb, Mississippi.

Mr. SMITH said that he would have no information as to who may have possibly been responsible for HODGES's death but that he would immediately furnish any information to this Bureau in the event he received same. He said that he had heard the rumor that members of the Klan had been responsible for HODGES's death but he could not furnish the names of the individuals from whom he had received this information.

Mr. SMITH said that he has never been a member of the Klan, has no use for its activities and feels that it is an organization which is very detrimental to the area.

He said that approximately four years ago he was asked by GENE SEALE and JAMES HONT to go to a meeting which SMITH assumed was a Klan meeting. SMITH refused and has not been contacted since that time to attend a meeting.

Mr. SMITH stated that he talked with numerous individuals at the time of the funeral but that he had picked up no information as to who may have possibly been responsible for HODGES's death.

On 9/9/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-25
174-27
by SA JAMES A. ABBOTT & SA ROBERT E. COOPER Date dictated 9/11/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/12/65

Mrs. BOBBY R. SMITH, address - Franklin Funeral Home, Meadville, Mississippi, was interviewed at her home. She stated that she is secretary to the funeral director, her husband, Mr. BOBBY R. SMITH. She advised that she has known EARL HODGES for many years and attended his funeral at the funeral home August 16, 1965. She said that the people in the community are very upset because of the fact that HODGES was apparently beaten to death and that she, Mrs. SMITH, will do everything possible to obtain information as to who might have been responsible. She said the only thing she can recall is that on the day of the funeral, MARGIE EMFINGER, wife of EDWARD EMFINGER of Eddiceton, Mississippi, was in the funeral home and ordered a \$10 floral wreath for HODGES. Mrs. SMITH was standing by Mrs. EMFINGER when the call was completed for the flowers and Mrs. EMFINGER commented to Mrs. SMITH, "That is pretty good for one whose husband is supposed to have killed HODGES." Mrs. SMITH said that Mrs. EMFINGER said no more but Mrs. SMITH assumed that due to the fact EDWARD EMFINGER was reported as having been with HODGES on the night before he was found dead, is what prompted Mrs. EMFINGER's statement.

On 9/9/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-34
174-27
by SA JAMES A. ABBOTT &
SA ROBERT F. COOPER:bkb Date dictated 9/11/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

CHARLES E. SNODGRASS (NA), Administrative Assistant and Chief Investigator, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP), advised that on Saturday night, August 14, 1965, at approximately 7:40 P.M., BERNICE BEASLEY, Patrolman, MHSP, while issuing a traffic violation ticket approximately three-fourths of a mile west of Highways 84 and 33, on Highway 84, an unidentified motorist stopped and advised BEASLEY that there was an accident approximately one mile west of this location on Highway 84. Mr. SNODGRASS stated that according to BEASLEY, he immediately went to the location where the alleged wreck had been reported, found no one at the scene however noted that apparently there had been a slight automobile accident at this location which is in Franklin County. He stated that BEASLEY claims he then went east on Highway 84 and when he reached a point at a butane gas bulk storage plant located near the intersection of 84 and 33, he noticed two automobiles parked near the butane gas storage plant.

He stated that according to BEASLEY, one of these cars was a 1963 Falcon bearing 1965 Mississippi license 19B-339, which automobile was parked on the shoulder of Highway 84. SNODGRASS stated that according to BEASLEY, ETHEL RAY SMITH was occupying the driver's seat in this Falcon automobile with CURTIS RAY STOKES in the front passenger seat and MAXIE PRATHER with two other men who he did not recognize seated in the rear of this automobile.

SNODGRASS stated that according to BEASLEY, the second automobile at this location was a Ford automobile, not further described, owned by MAXIE PRATHER and it was noted that the left front fender of PRATHER's automobile had been slightly damaged. BEASLEY asked PRATHER what had happened to his automobile. PRATHER stated that he had hit the rear of J. C. EMFINGER's car shortly before this contact was made on Highway 84 west of the intersection of Highways 84 and 33. SNODGRASS stated according to BEASLEY, J. C. EMFINGER was contacted on Sunday, August 15, 1965, at which time

On 9/9/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-33
174-27
 by SA EDGAR C. FORCENBERG:emf *EF* Date dictated 9/10/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

Mr. JAMES DOBBS WATSON advised that he is the closest neighbor of Mr. EARL HODGES. He advised that on the night of August 14, 1965, he went to bed at approximately 8:30 P.M., heard what he described as "heavy lumberings" in the HODGES house on two or three different occasions during the night. He described this "lumbering" as sounding like chairs or heavy furniture being moved about the house. He stated that he could furnish no information regarding the time he heard above. He stated that Mr. EARL HODGES is a heavy drinker and he has heard these noises on many occasions at the HODGES house.

He advised that he arose at 6 A.M., as usual, on August 15, 1965, did not notice any automobiles in the vicinity of the HODGES house or any unusual activity.

He advised that he walked from his home to that of a cousin at the end of the block at approximately 8 A.M., and was at that house when he learned of the death of EARL HODGES.

On 9/1/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-32
174-27
by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS:bkb Date dictated 9/7/65

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JN 157-3830

BEASLEY questioned EMFINGER regarding the above-mentioned accident and at which time it was noted that the rear right fender of a red Dodge Dart which EMFINGER was driving had been damaged. EMFINGER first claimed that this damage had occurred at Jackson, Mississippi; however, he later admitted to BEASLEY that PRATHER had run into the rear of his automobile the night before on Highway 84 west of Meadville, Mississippi.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

Mrs. SIDNEY JOEL WESTBROOK, Route 2, McCall Creek, was contacted by the interviewing agents concerning the ownership of an abandoned house place located near the WESTBROOK residence, which house place had previously been identified by Deputy Sheriff KIRBY SHELL as a Klan meeting house.

Mrs. WESTBROOK, after the agents identified themselves, appeared to be highly nervous and declined to allow the agents to come inside and talk with her. She stated that she and her husband own the property where the old house place is located which is used as pasture land. She advised she had no objection whatever to the agents going onto the property and observing the house but when asked by Special Agent DUKES as to the occupancy of the house she stated she would answer no further questions and that the agents should talk with her husband, whom she stated was at work.

On 9/7/65 at Route 2, McCall Creek, Miss. File # Jackson 157-3830-27
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and J. L. MARTIN/WFD:elw Date dictated 9/8/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

An examination was made of a white frame abandoned house located off the McCall Creek Road near the residence of SIDNEY JOEL WESTBROOK, six miles southeast of Eddiceton, Mississippi. This abandoned house was observed to have one large room in which were a number of seats, apparently obtained from a bus or similar type vehicle and placed there for a meeting room. Old cardboard had been nailed to the windows shutting off a view from the outside. Numerous Viceroy and Lucky Strike cigarette butts were observed on the floor as was a cardboard box containing what appeared to be sugar and coffee. At the front of the room was a small table and chair. Immediately adjacent to this room was a similar room in which was located a 2" by 10" or 2" by 12" board with each end placed on a block of wood about three feet high. In the center of this board, which was approximately 12 feet long, was nailed on each side a strip of 1" by 4" board. It appeared that this device may have been used to secure someone to whom a beating was to be administered. Located in the same room adjacent to this device were several wooden sticks resembling bean sticks which were three to four feet in length. There was nothing in this room or on these sticks which resembled blood.

The electric lights were operable in the house and it was noted that on the side of the building was an electric light meter in operation which had serial number 10596466, and reflected 0060 hours on the meter.

Black and white and color photographs were made of both the exterior and interior of this building.

On 9/7/65 at Route 2, McCall Creek, Miss Jackson 157-3830-27
 by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and Jackson 174-27
L. MARTIN/WFD:elw Date dictated 9/8/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

SIDNEY JOEL WESTBROOK was interviewed at his place of employment, Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi. WESTBROOK was advised by Special Agent MARTIN that he did not have to make any statement and that any statement he did make could be used against him.

WESTBROOK stated that when he returned home on September 7, 1965, his wife advised him that Franklin County Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO had been down under the hill to the abandoned house near the WESTBROOK residence. WESTBROOK stated that his wife had seen the car go down and drove down to the house to see who was there and discovered Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO and other individuals who HUTTO stated were FBI Agents.

WESTBROOK stated that he went to the home of Sheriff HUTTO on the night of September 7, 1965, to discuss the matter of the house on his place with HUTTO and that HUTTO advised him that the FBI had been to this house and had found bloodstains somewhere in the house. WESTBROOK stated that he related to HUTTO that he, WESTBROOK, and his wife had gone to the store in Eddiceton around 6 or 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 14, 1965. En route to the store they passed the home of EARL HODGES and WESTBROOK's wife saw HODGES in his back yard and commented, "EARL is back." WESTBROOK recalled that he had seen HODGES' pickup truck in front of the house but he did not actually see HODGES. He said that after the interview with Special Agents MARTIN and DUKES earlier on September 7, 1965, he had discussed this matter with his wife and was certain that the time she saw HODGES was between 6 and 6:30 p.m. He pointed this out to Sheriff HUTTO whom he stated told him that this information would just complicate matters because the FBI had talked to people who would testify that they were with HODGES the whole afternoon and early part of the night of August 14, 1965.

On 9/8/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-17
Jackson 174-27
 by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and
J. L. MARTIN/elw Date dictated 9/8/65

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JN 157-3830

WESTBROOK admitted at this time that he was suspicious that the persons using his old house were actually Klansmen rather than a legitimate hunting club. He was questioned as to the identity of the persons he knew or suspected as having gone to meetings at this house and of being Klansmen. He would furnish the name of only one suspect, a Jackson boy who lives the second house past him, but stated that if he were going to name people he suspected of being in the Klan he would have to name every man in that area.

WESTBROOK acknowledged he had heard rumors that EARL HODGES had been going with a married woman whose husband drove some kind of truck, possibly a transfer truck. He denied knowing the identity of this woman.

WESTBROOK was specifically questioned about whether he knew ROSIE DAVIS to be a Klansman or to have attended meetings at the old house. He denied such knowledge but admitted knowing that HODGES and ROSIE DAVIS were close friends. In this connection he stated he was also aware that HODGES frequently came to DAVIS' home while drunk and annoyed DAVIS and talked to him and prevented him from getting any sleep. WESTBROOK denied any knowledge of any disagreement between HODGES and DAVIS or anyone else.

WESTBROOK again denied being a Klansman but admitted that he had been asked to join the Klan on several occasions. When questioned about who asked him to join he commented that ROSIE DAVIS had "picked at him" about joining several times, pointing out that for a number of years he and ROSIE DAVIS rode in the same carpool to work.

WESTBROOK advised he is personally acquainted with DALE MC LEMORE, a member of the National Guard at Meadville. He denied any knowledge that MC LEMORE was a Klansman or sympathetic with the Klan.

JN 157-3830

The following description of WESTBROOK was obtained from interview and observation and records of the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company:

Name:	SIDNEY JOEL WESTBROOK
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Birthdate:	10/24/27
Birthplace:	Magnolia, Mississippi
Residence:	Route 2, McCall Creek, Mississippi
Height:	5' 6"
Weight:	175 pounds
Eyes:	Hazel
Hair:	Dark
Build:	Stocky
Complexion:	Tanned
Occupation:	Tire Builder, Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi
Social Security No.:	427-42-3854
Education:	10th grade
Relatives:	Wife, ELEANOR WESTBROOK, same address

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

Mr. SIDNEY JOEL WESTBROOK, Route 2, McCall Creek, was interviewed at the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company after being informed of the identity of the interviewing agents and after being advised by Special Agent MARTIN that he did not have to make a statement, that any statement he made might be used against him in a court of law and that he had a right to talk to an attorney or anyone else prior to making a statement.

WESTBROOK stated that the abandoned house located off the McCall Creek Road was on his property which he had purchased from his mother and that this house had been abandoned since 1958. WESTBROOK stated that he needed a pump in the well at this abandoned house to provide water for his stock and therefore had the lights hooked up to operate the pump.

WESTBROOK stated that he had rented this abandoned house to some fellows for a hunting club approximately one and a half to two years ago. He stated that they agreed to pay him \$10 per month rent, however, they only paid him two or three different occasions. In reply to a question as to who he rented the house to, WESTBROOK initially stated he would rather not say then stated that he did not recall to whom he rented the house. In regard to meetings at this house, WESTBROOK stated that he had seen four or five cars go to this house and that they normally went there on Thursdays. He stated that they would go sometimes before dark and at other times after dark.

After further questioning concerning his having the electricity turned on, WESTBROOK stated that he did not personally order the electricity turned on and did not know who did order it turned on, however it is in his name and

On 9/7/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-3830-26
SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and
by J. L. MARTIN/WFD:elw Date dictated 9/8/65
Jackson 174-27

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he receives the bills at his home. WESTBROOK stated that he had last been to this house about three months ago and that he observed seats in the house but that he thought these were used by the hunting club and had no idea that the house was used for any purpose other than a hunting club. He subsequently stated that he suspected the house was being used for some purpose other than a hunting club but declined to elaborate.

In regard to EARL HODGES, WESTBROOK stated that HODGES is his uncle's son-in-law and a good friend of his. He stated that on Saturday afternoon, August 14, 1965, he and his wife had gone to the store in Eddiceton and on the way home drove by HODGES' house and that his wife remarked, "There is EARL in the back." He stated that he did not see EARL at this time as he was driving the car. He stated that this was at approximately 2:30 p.m. and that he did not see EARL HODGES subsequent to this time. He stated that he had never observed EARL HODGES going to the abandoned house on his property.

WESTBROOK, obviously in a highly nervous condition, admitted that he is personally acquainted with CLYDE SEALE, JAMES SEALE, JACK SEALE and ARCHIE PRATHER. He denied having any knowledge that any of these persons had ever gone to the abandoned house and he specifically denied that he had ever attended any meetings at this house. He additionally denied that he is or has ever been a member of the Ku Klux Klan or that he was in favor of any acts of violence. He insisted initially that he had no knowledge concerning the identity of any of the persons who attended meetings at the old house but ultimately admitted that he did know three or four of these persons. He admitted that he actually rented the house to AUBREY BASS, a first cousin, whom he said is the same BASS whose home was burned at Meadville, Mississippi, on the night of September 3, 1965.

JN 157-3830

In connection to the initial renting of the house, WESTBROOK stated that BASS came to his house about a year and a half or two years ago accompanied by an old man whom he said may have been ARCHIE PRATHER. He denied that any discussion was had about renting the house for Klan meetings and insisted that he thought it was to be used for a hunting club initially. He admitted that AUBREY BASS was in the Klan at one time, probably during the time he rented the house, but stated he knows that BASS quit the Klan and is presently employed on an off-shore drilling rig.

WESTBROOK stated he was reluctant to help the FBI or to identify any other persons whom he knows attended meetings at this house, explaining that it might involve some of his own relatives. He advised in this regard that he would discuss the matter with his wife and requested that he be recontacted by the agents at a later date, suggesting that this contact be at the Armstrong Plant rather than at his home.

WESTBROOK related he attended the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race rally which was held at the horse show barn in Roxie, Mississippi, on September 6, 1965, and that he saw JACK SEALE at this rally.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

Mr. FRANK PRIEST, SR., was contacted at his home located next door to Hall's Store, Route 2, Roxie, Mississippi. Mr. PRIEST was very cordial and stated that he would cooperate with the FBI in any way possible. He was advised of the agents' identities and the nature of the inquiry. He was advised that he did not have to make any statement but that any statement he did make could be used in a court of law and he also had the right to consult with an attorney.

Mr. PRIEST stated he had nothing to hide and was willing to discuss anything at all. Mr. PRIEST was asked if he is now or was ever a member of the Ku Klux Klan or any other Klan type organization. He stated that he has never been a member of or affiliated with any Klan type organization.

He was asked if he knew the victim, GEORGE METCALFE, whose car was blown up while parked near the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company at Natchez, Mississippi. Mr. PRIEST stated that he knew who METCALFE was but did not associate with him nor did he work with him while on the job. METCALFE did walk by his machine at the beginning and ending of each shift and they would always exchange greetings but never indulged in any conversation.

Mr. PRIEST was questioned concerning his lunch period to which he replied he generally eats his lunch in the upstairs washroom area and has never eaten in the plant cafeteria as he feels it is too expensive. His particular job at the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company is that of "a slitter" which means that he operates a tire slitting machine. He has been so employed for the past 17 years at Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company.

Mr. PRIEST could furnish no information concerning possible suspects and could suggest no one who might have

On 9/4/65 at Route 2, Roxie, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
Jackson 157-3830
Jackson 157-1610
by SAs ROBERT F. COOPER, JR. and
JAMES A. ABBOTT/JAA:elw

157-3830-25
9/9/65
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FBI - JACKSON

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JN 174-27

knowledge of the bombing of the METCALFE car. Mr. PRIEST felt that it is entirely possible that this could also have been done by a Negro.

Mr. PRIEST was also questioned concerning any knowledge he might have of the beating and murder of Mr. EARL HODGES. Mr. PRIEST stated that he knew who Mr. HODGES was but could furnish no information concerning him inasmuch as he was not intimately acquainted or associated with HODGES. He has heard no rumors or other gossip in the area concerning this murder.

By way of background information, Mr. PRIEST stated he was formerly employed by the New Orleans Public Service as a Lineman for 18 years. After leaving New Orleans Public Service he has worked for the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company for the past 11 years. He has three children consisting of one son and two daughters. Mr. PRIEST stated that he has succeeded in putting all of his three children through college. Mr. PRIEST was born on May 27, 1914, at Nashville, Tennessee. He is a white male, weighs 175 pounds, and is 5'10" tall. He has blue eyes and brown hair. He is married to Mrs. [Name] and they have three children.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

Mr. ARTHUR PICKENS CRIMM, also known as "DICK," was interviewed at his place of business, Pure Oil Station, Meadville, Mississippi. Mr. CRIMM was advised of the identity of the agents and the nature of the inquiry. He was also advised that he did not have to talk to the interviewing agents, that he had the right to consult with an attorney but that anything he did say could possibly be used in a court of law.

Mr. CRIMM was asked if he was now or ever had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan, the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi or any other Klan type organization. He replied that he has never been a member of such an organization and is not now a member of such an organization.

He was asked if he knew anything about a Klan meeting being held at his service station on Friday, August 13, 1965, the Friday night before the murder of EARL HODGES. Mr. CRIMM stated he was positive no such meeting ever took place in his service station.

Mr. CRIMM was questioned concerning his knowledge of EARL HODGES. Mr. CRIMM stated he formerly worked for Mr. HODGES for seven years and feels that he knew HODGES very well. He stated Mr. HODGES was a well liked individual who never harmed anyone but who through marital difficulties subsequently turned to heavy drinking which resulted in the loss of his business. He feels that VIRGIE MAE MILLER, HODGES' old girl friend, was the primary cause of EARL HODGES' marital and drinking problems. After she had apparently obtained all the money she could from HODGES, she left him. It should be noted that at the time of this interview CRIMM appeared extremely reluctant to talk and volunteered nothing. In fact, at the beginning of the

On 9/4 & 9/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
Jackson 157-3830 ✓
Jackson 157-1044
 by SAs ROBERT F. COOPER, JR. and
JAMES A. ABBOTT/JAA:elw

157-3830-24
 Date dictated 9/9/65
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[Signature]

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interview he was visibly upset in that his hands and arms shook and quivered. All information obtained from him had to be extracted by specific questions, with him volunteering nothing.

On September 8, 1965, Mr. CRIMM was again interviewed after having first been warned as set forth above. He was specifically questioned concerning the alleged Klan meeting which reportedly happened on Friday night, August 13, 1965, in the rear of his Pure Oil Service Station in Meadville, Mississippi.

According to Mr. CRIMM there was a Masonic Lodge meeting directly across the street from his place of business on the night of August 13, 1965. He attended this lodge meeting as did several other individuals. As is customary, many individuals park their cars in the service area of his service station while attending lodge meetings. He stated that the lodge meeting started at approximately 7:30 p.m. and broke up at approximately 10:30 p.m. His car was also parked in front of his service station. He entered the service station and got a drink of water and feels that it is possible that one or two others may have entered the station to get a pack of cigarettes. He does not recall but it is possible that several of the men could have stood around the Coke machine outside the service station and possibly drank a Coke before going home. However, he did not open his service station to allow a meeting to take place inside.

He was specifically questioned as to who had keys to his service station and to the best of his knowledge only he, his wife, and his brother-in-law, DOUG MC INTOSH, have keys to the service station. He feels certain that neither of these individuals have loaned their keys or given their keys to anyone else.

Mr. CRIMM was asked if he could recall any of the individuals who were at the lodge meeting on the night of

August 13, 1965. He stated that to the best of his recollection the following persons were at this lodge meeting:

1. Mr. CLIFF HERRING - owner of rooming house across the road from Ford Garage, Meadville
2. JAMES T. HEMING, Agriculture Teacher, Meadville High School
3. ALTON PATE - works for California Oil Company - Recycling Plant, Route 84 west of Roxie, Mississippi
4. PAUL HARDIN - operator Mosely Dairy, Meadville
5. PERCY PEELER - band director at Meadville High School
6. HOMER HANIS - works at Franklin Bank, Meadville
7. GENE SEALES - works for International Paper Company, Natchez, lives in Meadville on the road running north past the hospital
8. LEROY CAMPBELL - lives third house on left south of Highway 84, west edge of Meadville, Mississippi - employed Ranger, U. S. Forestry Service
9. GARRICE DILLON - manager, Jitney Jungle Store, Meadville, Mississippi

CRIMM stated that after he left the lodge meeting and his service station he returned home at approximately 11:00 p.m. He was back at the service station at 6:15 a.m. the following morning, August 14, 1965. He was joined by his wife at approximately 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. at which time they departed Meadville, Mississippi, for Warren, Arkansas, where they visited his wife's people. They remained at Warren, Arkansas, until Sunday afternoon, August 15, 1965, and returned to Eddiceton, Mississippi (his home), at approximately 5:30 p.m., August 15, 1965.

He was again questioned concerning his relationship with Mr. EARL HODGES. He stated he worked for Mr. HODGES for approximately seven years in 1949 or 1950 to 1957 at the Gulf Service Station in Eddiceton, Mississippi. He considered Mr. HODGES a fine man who was well liked by practically everyone in Franklin County. He feels that HODGES got wound up with the wrong woman and after his wife divorced him he started drinking heavily and has gradually gone down hill ever since. Mr. CRIMM was still reluctant to discuss the matter and did not volunteer any information. All information had to be extracted with specific questions.

On September 9, 1965, Mr. CRIMM was recontacted and after having been warned again concerning his rights as set forth above he was specifically asked why he had failed to mention that he had been a pallbearer at Mr. HODGES funeral. He stated that he did not think it was important and did not enlarge on this any further.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/12/65

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RAPHAEL LEONARD SCHUCHS was interviewed at the Holiday Inn Motel, Natchez, Mississippi, and advised as follows:

SCHUCHS stated that he could furnish no additional information other than that furnished when interviewed by Agents of this Bureau on September 4, 1965. He stated that he definitely did not see JAMES SEALE on the afternoon of August 27, 1965, and ride with him in his car to downtown Natchez. He said that this was definitely on Thursday, September 2, 1965. He said that he did not recall seeing JAMES SEALE on the date of the explosion, August 27, 1965.

He said that when he did see JAMES SEALE on the Thursday referred to above that as far as he can recall JAMES SEALE did not say anything to him about the explosion of METCALFE's car having taken place and did not refer to the matter in any way. SCHUCHS stated that he realized this is unusual because everyone was talking about the explosion; however, he, SCHUCHS, definitely recalls that SEALE did not mention the matter.

SCHUCHS stated that he had received no information regarding who may have been responsible for the bombing since last contacted by Agents of this Bureau.

SCHUCHS advised that he has received no information as to who may have been responsible for the beating of EARL HODGES at Eddiceton, Mississippi, on August 14 - 15, 1965. He said that he did not condone this action in any way and that he would immediately advise this Bureau in the event he received any information which would assist in determining who the individuals responsible for HODGES's death were.

157-3830-23

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On 9/6/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS,
SA JAMES A. ABBOTT &
 by SA ROBERT E. COOPER:bkb Date dictated 9/10/65
 157-3830 ✓

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SCHUCHS said that he understood his uncle, Mr. FOSTER, was standing in front of the service station as well as FOSTER's Negro service station attendant, at the time the explosion occurred. SCHUCHS said that the Negro, whose name he does not know, quit his job at the service station the day after the explosion and has not returned to work there since. Mr. FOSTER will be able to furnish the address and present employment for this Negro man as well as his name.

SCHUCHS advised that he had heard numerous rumors as to who may have been responsible for bombing the car including the rumor that the Klan may have been responsible. He said he was unable to furnish specifics as to where he heard this rumor but that it was general talk in Natchez.

SCHUCHS stated that he has never been a member of the Klan and is presently not a member of the Klan. He said about a year ago, however, he was approached by individuals who SCHUCHS declined to name and requested to become a member of the Klan but SCHUCHS told these individuals that he was not interested. SCHUCHS said that his wife has told him that if he ever becomes a member of the Ku Klux Klan she will leave him immediately and that she has no use whatsoever for the Klan.

SCHUCHS stated that he has known JAMES SEALE for the past five years and considers him a good friend. He said he did not know whether SEALE was a member of the Klan but that it was apparently assumed that he is a member. SCHUCHS could give no additional information to substantiate this assumption. SCHUCHS stated that he has also known JACK SEALE, JAMES's brother, about five years and considers him to be a good friend. He is also a friend of JAMES LEE and SCHUCHS attends the same church with THOMAS YOUNG, the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church. SCHUCHS stated that he is the Scout Master for the troop in this church and has gotten to know YOUNG well because YOUNG's sons are in SCHUCHS's troop.

SCHUCHS stated that all of these above individuals are very rabid segregationists but that he would not say that any of them are members of the Klan. SCHUCHS stated that he well realized that inasmuch as he is closely associated and often seen with the above individuals, some persons may think that he, SCHUCHS, would be a member of the Klan.

SCHUCHS stated that he felt it his right to associate with anyone that he wanted to and that he should not be considered as being a member of the Klan in view of this association.

SCHUCHS said that he had no information whatsoever that any of the above individuals were involved in the bombing of METCALFE's car. He said, however, that in the event he received information that anyone was involved in this bombing, he would furnish the information to the FBI.

SCHUCHS related that he does recall as best he can remember, that on Thursday afternoon after the bombing, September 2, 1965, he, SCHUCHS, was at his uncle's Texaco Service Station at which time JAMES SEALE drove by and SCHUCHS rode with SEALE in SEALE's car to downtown Natchez where SEALE went into a laundry, name not recalled, for a few minutes and left some soiled laundry there. SCHUCHS said that the laundry was in cellophane containers and appeared to be shirts, sheets and other such items. SCHUCHS said that he could not actually be sure on thinking of it whether SEALE left the laundry or went into some store near the laundry for a few minutes but that SCHUCHS thinks that this was the case. SCHUCHS stated that this ride took about twenty minutes and that JAMES SEALE dropped him back at the service station. SCHUCHS stated that he realizes this, of course, had no connection with the bombing but that obviously FBI Agents saw SCHUCHS get in the car with SEALE and this would indicate that SEALE and SCHUCHS were close associates.

SCHUCHS stated that he himself is a rabid segregationist but that he does not subscribe to any acts of violence. He stated that the above information is true but that he did not desire to include the information in a signed statement. He stated he desired to assist this Bureau in determining information as to the identities of the individuals responsible for the bombing of METCALFE's car.

He furnished his description as follows:

Name	RAPHAEL LEONARD SCHUCHS
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date and Place of Birth	Natchez, Mississippi, January 6, 1932
Height	5'9½"
Weight	208
Build	Medium
Hair	Brown
Teeth	Even
Scars and Marks	1" scar below knee left leg
Education	High School
Military Service	United States Marine Corps, SN 1220988, Enlisted November 2, 1951, honorably discharged November 2, 1954, given good conduct medal.
Present Employment	Field Salesman, Scarborough Pump Supply (oil field equipment), Natchez, Mississippi.
Checking Account	State Bank and Trust Company, Natchez, Mississippi.
Marital Status	Married - Wife, NAN FOSTER SCHUCHS.
Children	1 daughter, 9 months, NAN; 2 sons, JAMES - 10; MICHAEL - 8½.
Parents - Father	JAMES LEONARD - Deceased
Mother	RUTH.

JN 174-27

5

Organizations	Boy Scout Master, Troop 166, Presbyterians
Automobile	Polara Dodge, company car, 1951 Station Wagon.
Weapons	Shotgun, Browning
Residence	Box 566, Route 5, Natchez, Mississippi
FOSTER	Mound Road, Pine Ridge Community.
Residence Telephone No.	445-9851
Business Telephone No.	442-3608
Arrest Record	Claims never arrested.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

ALBIE ELMO MC GEHEE, Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

He has been employed at the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi, for 20 years. He is currently employed there as a cure man in Department 26 on the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. shift. He rides to work in a car pool and on August 27, 1965, he rode to work with F. N. OGLESBY in a 1964 Ford, gray in color.

He stated that he was not acquainted with GEORGE METCALFE and he had never heard of any threats against METCALFE. He stated that he has not heard any reports, rumors or gossip concerning the motives or the person responsible for the explosion which injured METCALFE on August 27, 1965.

He stated that in May, 1964, his pickup truck was shot on a rural road about six or eight miles northwest of Meadville, Mississippi, at about 10:00 p.m. The truck was parked off the road and he was hunting a distance from the truck but he heard several shots. He stated he also heard a car in the area at the time of the shooting but he did not see the car or any other persons in the vicinity. He reported the incident to the Sheriff and Mississippi Highway Safety Patrolman BEASLEY who arrived at the scene and examined the truck and the area. He stated that he gave Patrolman BEASLEY some spent bullets removed from the truck and also some shotgun pellets. Several days later BEASLEY informed him that examination of the pellets, shotgun wadding and bullets indicated that a .12 gauge shotgun, a .10 gauge shotgun and an Army .45 caliber pistol had been used. BEASLEY also informed him that he, BEASLEY, had received an anonymous telephone call indicating that

Jackson 174-27

Jackson 157-3830

Jackson 157-569

On 9/8/65 at Natchez, Mississippi

File #

SAs FRANK B. WATTS and

HAROLD LEO FABRIZ/FBW:elw

9/9/65

157-3830-22

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the shooting was meant to scare MC GEHEE for keeping company with a Negro woman but there was no intention to injure him.

MC GEHEE stated that he has never been beaten by anyone and has never been threatened by anyone. He stated that a mimeographed sheet was distributed in the area of his home and at the Armstrong Plant alleging that he had been keeping company with a Negro woman employed at a Meadville dry cleaning establishment. He denied any such involvement with anyone. He stated that similar allegations were set out in the mimeographed sheet against BILL SCARBOROUGH, a Ford dealer at Meadville, Mississippi, and FRED DULANY, who resides about seven miles north of Meadville. He stated that he had not discussed the allegations with either of the other men.

He added that he was acquainted with EARL HODGES who was allegedly beaten to death but he asserted that he is not aware of any information relative to the cause of the beating or the persons responsible. He stated that he had heard that a man named WILLIS had been beaten and that another man named HALFORD had been beaten. He related that he knew none of the details concerning the alleged beatings and had only heard a rumor from an unknown source that HALFORD had been beaten by JAMES SEALE.

He related that his wife is related to the SEALE family and he described JAMES SEALE as an idiot. He also opined that the whole SEALE family would have to go to college for four years to be as smart as an idiot.

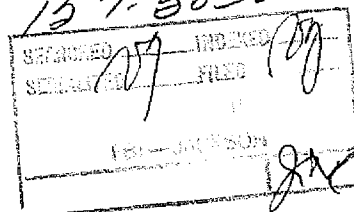
MC GEHEE asserted that he did not know any details concerning Ku Klux Klan activity, members or leadership, in the Meadville area and he has never been approached to join the Klan.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 9/5/65

Mrs. GENEVIEVE BARFIELD, Bude, Mississippi, advised that she is the dealer for the "Jackson Daily" and "The Clarion-Ledger" two Jackson, Mississippi, newspapers. He stated that on the morning of August 14, 1965, at approximately 5:10 P.M., she left Bude to deliver papers in Eddiceton, Mississippi. She stated about 5:45, she picked up JOHNNY WILSON, a thirteen-year old boy who resides between Bude and Eddiceton, to help her deliver the papers. She stated that they delivered papers to a mail box a couple of houses from the residence of EARL HODGES between 5:45 and 6 A.M. She stated these papers were for HARRY MULLINS and BAR BALLARD, who reside in the rural area of Eddiceton. She stated she did not observe anything unusual at the home of HODGES that morning and she did not recall seeing any vehicles around his residence that morning. She stated that she did not recall seeing any vehicles on the streets in Eddiceton that morning.

She stated that she recalled seeing a green truck in the ditch at the residence of J. C. EMFINGER's house, who lives north of Route #84, northeast of Eddiceton. She stated it appeared that the truck had been backed out of EMFINGER's driveway and had gotten too far on one side of the driveway and went into the ditch.



On 9/2/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS & SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/4/65
 157-3830 ✓

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

1

Mr. GRAHAM HERRING, Herring Gas Company, advised he was familiar with the location of an old abandoned house place off the McCall Creek Road in the edge of Franklin and Amite Counties. He stated his property line runs right up to a fence adjacent to the house but that the house and property where the house is located is actually the property of one JOEL WESTBROOK. He stated that WESTBROOK lives in a brick house close to the access road going down to the old house place, adding that he believes WESTBROOK is employed at the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company in Natchez, Mississippi.

On 9/7/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
Jackson 157-3830
by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and
J. L. MARTIN/WFD:elw 9/8/65

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257-3830-11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

1

Mr. RAY HUST, Assistant Industrial Relations Manager, Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, advised his records reflect that SIDNEY JOEL WESTBROOK, Route 2, McCall Creek, has been employed as a tire builder for the company at Natchez since 1945. WESTBROOK, who has Social Security Number 427-42-3854, has been a generally satisfactory employee although his personnel file reflected that he has been warned in the past for inefficiency. He stated that according to his records WESTBROOK is presently employed on the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. shift at the plant and was so employed on August 27, 1965, the date of the METCALFE bombing. In this connection Mr. HUST advised that in order to be absolutely certain of the shift hours it would be necessary to check time cards.

On 9/7/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
Jackson 157-3830
by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and J. L. MARTIN/WFD:elw Date dictated 9/8/65

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157-3830-18

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

1

Mr. PERCY KENT, Route 3, Meadville, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

His wife, Mrs. PEARL THORNTON KENT, is presently attending her father who is quite ill in a hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. KENT stated he had not obtained any additional information to that previously furnished Bureau Agents and to his knowledge his wife has never engaged in any extramarital relations.

On 9/7/65 at Route 3, Meadville, Miss. File # Jackson 174-27
Jackson 157-3830
by SAs BILLY BOB WILLIAMS and
WILLIAM D. HOSKINS/BBW:elw

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157-3830-17

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

Mr. KIRBY SHELL, Franklin County Deputy Sheriff, advised that he is acquainted with DALE MC LEMORE, a resident of the Meadville, Mississippi, area who is in the Mississippi National Guard. He stated he saw MC LEMORE at about 8:30 or 9:00 p.m., August 14, 1965, at Meadville. MC LEMORE said he was going coon hunting above CHARLEY JONES' house in the McCall Creek area. SHELL stated he thereafter saw MC LEMORE when he came back through Meadville about 11:00 p.m. the same night, alone, in his old olive drab pickup truck. He thought this was peculiar at the time inasmuch as in his opinion MC LEMORE could not possibly have done any coon hunting between 9:00 and 11:00 p.m.

SHELL said he saw CLYDE SEALE about dark on August 14, 1965, going east through Meadville toward Bude, Mississippi. SEALE was alone in his gray Volkswagen.

SHELL advised he got a tip from a confidential source Saturday morning, September 4, 1965, as to the existence of a Klan meeting house located off the McCall Creek Road about six miles southeast of Eddiceton, Mississippi. He stated that according to his source this was definitely a Klan meeting house and may possibly be the house where EARL HODGES was beaten.

Deputy SHELL thereafter accompanied the interviewing agents to the above-described house which was determined to be an abandoned frame house with asbestos siding located six miles southeast of Eddiceton on the McCall Creek Road. SHELL advised that to the best of his knowledge this house was the property of Mr. GRAHAM HERRING, owner of the Herring Gas Company, Meadville, Mississippi, whom he stated has a good reputation in the community.

On 9/6/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
Jackson 157-3830
 by SAs J. L. MARTIN and
WILLIAM F. DUKES/WFD:elw

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157-3830-16

JN 174-27

2

SHELL advised he had developed information that one BILL CAMPBELL, a Negro male, who found EARL HODGES' body, was terrified for some reason. SHELL stated CAMPBELL's wife told MURRELL SCOTT, maintenance man at the Meadville High School, and A. J. SCOTT that an unknown white man had come to CAMPBELL's residence to see him on August 31, 1965. CAMPBELL was not home and this man told his wife that she and CAMPBELL should not leave their place day or night until September 7, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 9/7/65

W. H. MC INTOSH was interviewed at Meadville Pure Oil Station. He was advised that he did not have to make a statement, that any statement he made could be used against him in court, that he had the right to an attorney and that no force, threats or promises of reward would be made to him to induce him to make a statement. He advised as follows:

He is not a member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan or the United Klans of America. He has never been asked to join either of these organizations and does not know any persons who are members. He advised that he does know JAMES and GLYDE SEALE of the Bunkley Community. They used to trade at the Meadville Pure Oil Service Station but do not trade there any longer.

He advised that he does not know GEORGE METCALFE and had no information to furnish which might be helpful in solving this case.

He knew EARL HODGES. There was no meeting of any kind at the Meadville Pure Oil Service Station on Friday night, August 13, 1965. There was a meeting at the Lodge Hall across the highway and people who attended that meeting parked their cars in the Pure Oil Service Station.

He had no information to furnish regarding the killing of EARL HODGES. He denied having anything to do with this killing. He advised that he would furnish any positive information he ascertained about this incident to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He advised that he had heard that the Klan and the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race were

Jackson 174-27
Jackson 157-952
Jackson 157-3830

On 9/6/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File #

SA's THOMAS E. O'CONNOR AND
by CHARLES P. AHART/mrk

Date dictated 9/6/65

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strong in Franklin County.

The following background information and description was obtained from MC INTOSH:

Name:	W. H. (initials only) MC INTOSH
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	July 2, 1927
Place of birth:	Gravelly, Arkansas
Height:	6' 0"
Weight:	180 pounds
Build:	Medium
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue
Complexion:	Ruddy
Education:	Completed two years at Arkansas A & M College.
Military Service:	U. S. Navy 1945 - 1946 January, 1951 - October, 1954. USN #6316542
Employment:	Meadville Pure Oil Service Station, operated by ARTHUR B. CRIMM, brother-in-law.
Occupation:	Pipe Fitter by trade
Drivers License:	Mississippi Operator's License
Marital status:	Single
Parents:	Mr. and Mrs. JOHN W. MC INTOSH, Warren, Arkansas.
Automobile:	1964 light green Chevrolet El Camino, 1965 Mississippi License Number F/5 25619
Weapons:	.12 gauge Winchester Shotgun; .22 Caliber Remington Automatic Rife.
Residence:	Eddiston, Mississippi (no phone).
Arrest Record:	None admitted.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 9/5/65

WILLIAM B. WATSON, who lives two houses from the residence of EARL HODGES in Eddiceton, Mississippi, advised that about 7 - 8 A.M., on the morning of August 15, 1965, BILL CAMERON, a Negro who lives across the railroad track behind HODGES's residence, knocked on his front porch. WATSON stated that CAMERON told him when he went to the door, "Mr. EARL is lying in his back yard with no clothes on. Will you help me put him in the house?" He stated he and CAMERON walked to the HODGES house and EARL was lying on his back with his right forearm in the air. He stated that he thought EARL was drunk but when he looked closer at him he told CAMERON, "This man is dead." He told CAMERON that they had to do something and that he was going to telephone the Sheriff and CAMERON should go after EARL HODGES's father who was nursing a sick person in the vicinity of Brookhaven, Mississippi.

WATSON stated that he then went home and telephoned the Franklin County Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO and told HUTTO about HODGES. He stated he told the Sheriff that he would telephone Dr. JACK HOLLINGSWORTH, the coroner, but the Sheriff told him that he would telephone the coroner.

WATSON stated that he walked down the street a short distance to the residence of Mr. A. GROOM who is about 75 years of age and whose wife is a bed patient. He stated that he told him about HODGES and he knew that Mr. GROOM would be unable to help him, consequently, he used Mr. GROOM's telephone and called WILLIE LYONS who lives in Eddiceton and told him, "I need you," and that LYONS immediately came to HODGES's house.

He stated when LYONS arrived at HODGES's house, he went into the house and got a bed spread and placed over HODGE's body.

On 9/1/65 at Eddiceton, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS &
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb 157-569
 157-3830 EARL HODGES
 9/4/65
 FBI JACKSON

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JN 174-27

2

He stated that people began to come to the HODGES's house and he told them not to go into the house or near the crime scene. He stated the Sheriff and the Coroner arrived after a few minutes and he returned home.

He stated the Sheriff told him that it had been 7:50 A.M., when he, WATSON, had telephoned him.

WATSON stated that he had heard no unusual noises during the night of August 14 or the early morning hours of August 15, 1965, in the vicinity of EARL HODGES's home. He stated he had no suspects as to who might have beaten and murdered HODGES.

Date 8/28/65

Mr. PERCY KENT, Route #3, Meadville, Mississippi, advised that he has been married the past twenty years to Mrs. PEARL THORNTON KENT. Mr. KENT advised that he knew nothing whatever as to any marital infidelity on the part of his wife and had no information to the effect that she had ever been beaten by anyone. In Mr. KENT's words, "She don't ever tell me nothing about nothing."

Mr. KENT advised his wife is employed at the garment factory at McComb, Mississippi, commuting daily. He stated, however, that she left Meadville on the morning of August 28, 1965, and drove to Jackson, Mississippi, to be with her father, SIDNEY THORNTON, whom he stated is gravely ill in a Jackson hospital following surgery on his hip. Mr. KENT was unable to advise the identity or location of this hospital.

Mr. KENT denied having any knowledge whatever of the identity of the person or persons responsible for acts of violence in the area and specifically denied any information concerning the death of EARL HODGES or the bombing of a Negro's car at the Armstrong Factory in Natchez on August 27, 1965.

On 8/28/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27

by SA J. L. MARTIN & SA WILLIAM F. DUKES:bkb

Date dictated 8/28/65
157-3830
62-5

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157-3839-13

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO SAC, JACKSON [redacted]

DATE: 9/13/65

FROM SA WILLIAM F. DUKES

SUBJECT: [redacted]

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

AT MEADVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

[redacted] contacted SAS WILLIAM F. DUKES and J. L. MARTIN on a confidential basis on 9/8/65, and furnished the following information with the request that his identity be kept confidential, and that the information not be disseminated outside the Bureau or MESP Investigators:

[redacted] in contact with LINK CAMERON, a Negro male who lives in the Bunkley Community, and who apparently has some information of possible value both as to the EARL HODGE killing, and also re the MOORE-DEE murders in the Meadville area. [redacted] advised he had talked with CAMERON very briefly, that CAMERON is literally terrified, but that he had agreed to meet with SA DUKES and [redacted] that date in a swamp southwest of Meadville at a point known to both [redacted] and CAMERON.

CAMERON

LINK XXXXX was thereafter contacted by [redacted] and SA DUKES on 9/8/65, and the results being submitted separately on FD-302, as are results of contact 9/9/65.

[redacted] that she had been an eyewitness to the picking up of HENRY DEE and CHARLIE MOORE near Meadville in May, 1964. [redacted] advised he had not developed the name of this woman yet, but he would immediately advise when successful in doing so.

[redacted] he did not trust either Franklin County Sheriff WAYNE HUTTO or LENOX FORMAN with the above information. He stated that after several days had lapsed following the killing of EARL HODGE, when it became evident that Sheriff HUTTO intended to take no action, [redacted]

2: [redacted]
1: 62-5
1: 157-3830
(4)
WFD:

157-3830-7
SEP 14 1965
FBI - JACKSON

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HUFFO was sworn out of the Klan some time ago, so far as he knows, but stated that HUFFO is still in sympathy to some extent with the Klan, and in addition is personally afraid of the Klan. He added, however, that since the EARL HODGE killing, public opinion in the Meadville area has swung against the Klan, and HUFFO is getting considerable pressure from the citizens in the area to solve the HODGE killing.

RECOMMENDATION:

[REDACTED]

SAC, JACKSON (174-27)

8/28/65

SA WILLIAM F. DUKES

UNSUB; BOMBING OF GEORGE
METCALFE's AUTOMOBILE,
8/27/65, Natchez, Mississippi
BM

The following investigation was conducted 8/28/65
at Meadville, Miss., by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and J. L. MARTIN
accompanied by MHSF Investigator DONALD BUTLER:

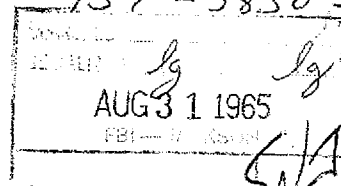
Mr. CARL SCHULTZ, U. S. Soil Conservation Service,
contacted the above-named officers at the Franklin County
Court House. Mr. SCHULTZ advised that since his conversation
with SAC ROY K. MOORE at Jackson concerning the murder of
EARL HODGES, he has developed some additional information of
possible value.

SCHULTZ advised he had been informed by a source
whom he believed to be reliable but whom he declined to
identify, that a "Top Echelon Meeting" was held by some
Klansmen on the night of 8/13/65 at the Pure Oil Service
Station in Meadville, operated by ARTHUR P. GRIMM. Allegedly
GRIMM left Meadville with his family on a vacation trip to
Arkansas on the morning of 8/14/65 in order to avoid being
in the area when EARL HODGES was to be beaten.

SCHULTZ stated that according to his source, on
the night of 8/14/65, another Klan meeting was held at
Meadville at which approximately 75 men attended. SCHULTZ
said his source told him he had received this information
from a crippled man who lives in the McCall Creek area in
Franklin County. According to SCHULTZ's source, this crippled
man warned the source that if he should be contacted and told
to go to a meeting, that he should go or risk getting killed.

2 - 174-27
① - 157-3830
1 - 62-5
WFD:bkb

(4) *bkb*



GRAVES & KELLY

①, 2

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 MNSP 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."

ECF:bkb
(2)

bkb

9/13
[Handwritten initials/signature]

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FBI - JACKSON
FBI - JACKSON
[Handwritten signature]

157-3830-7

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-3830) DATE: 9/6/65

FROM : SA WILLIAM F. DUKES

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; EARL HODGES - VICTIM
RM

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 NEWMAN, 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

② - 157-3830
1 - 174-27
WFD:bkb

(5)
WFD

157-3830-4

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Timmons
Graves

JN 157-3830

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. ~~SCOTT~~

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
Bravo
Kelly
Webb
Am...

157-3830-3

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4

- ✓ 1. WILLIAM HALFORD
- ✓ 2. ALTON HALFORD
- Baton Rouge* { 3. MARVIN WILLIS
- 4. ELAINE FREMAN EMFINGER } *Baton Rouge - Delmar Apt*
- ✓ 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 EMFINGER 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 MHSF 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 AKNOLD, 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
MHSF for possible prosecution of the various members of the
WKKKKOM.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (62-5)

DATE: 8/20/65

FROM : SA WILLIAM F. DUKES

SUBJECT: JAMES SEALE, etal;
MOORE & DEE - VICTIMS
CR - KIDNAPING

Remymemo 8/20/65.

The following investigation was conducted by SAS WILLIAM F. DUKES and EDGAR C. FORTENBERRY on 8/20/65 at McComb, Mississippi:

Investigator DONALD BUTLER, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, advised that at about 9:00PM Sunday, 8/15/65, he was telephonically contacted by MHPSP Patrolman MASON SEALE of Natchez, Mississippi, who advised that the body of EARL HODGES had been found near his home at Eddiston, Mississippi, BUTLER later determined that HODGES' body had been found about ten or twelve feet from his residence at Eddiston, about one block south of Highway 84. The body was found by a Negro Male neighbor, name believed to be BILL CAMERON, HODGES' had been brutally beaten, but a pathologist report as a result of an autopsy revealed that HODGES, known to be a heavy drinker, had actually died of heart failure, and would probably have survived the beating. Also, the autopsy revealed that HODGES had severe sclerosis of the liver, directly attributable to drinking.

BUTLER advised his investigation to date, developed primarily through confidential sources, determined that HODGES is a heavy drinker and prone to chase married women. Further, that HODGES was a member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKKKON) in the Meadville, Mississippi area. HODGES reportedly was one of two or three men responsible for a recent split of this Klan group, due to HODGES' dislike of CLYDE SEALE and ARCHIE PRATHER. BUTLER advised one source told him that the SEALE-PRATHER group had a meeting Saturday night, 8/14/65, in a corn field at CLYDE SEALE's place, the meeting consisting of about seven carloads of Klansmen. Afterward, CLYDE SEALE was observed to leave in his Volkswagen, Franklin County, Mississippi License 19A101.

BUTLER stated he had determined that EARL HODGES' has been

4 - (2:62-5)(2:157-EARL HODGES, RM)

WFD:

Jerry SWS
Graves
Kelly
Webb
Arwe

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recently dating one JOHNNIE LEE COTHERN, a married woman who lives at Bude, Mississippi. BUTLER stated he interviewed this woman 8/19/65, and she told him she was out with HODGES on Friday night, 8/13/65. HODGES was drinking, and in the course of the evening, HODGES stated several times that regardless of what she might hear, he had positively not been going out with a Negro woman. BUTLER stated Mrs. COTHERN had nothing to indicate that HODGES had been dating a Negro woman, and she was at a loss to understand his statement. BUTLER surmised the possibility that HODGES may have been anticipating a beating by the Klan, and that this is the usual pretext used by the Klan in administering a beating.

BUTLER advised he has no definite evidence as to suspects, although he feels strongly that the beating was by the PRATHER-SEALE group, probably because they were afraid that HODGES was an informer. BUTLER stated HODGES was definitely not an Informant of the MHSP, to his knowledge.

BUTLER advised he had been contacted by Patrolman D. E. VERNON, MHSP, brother-in-law of the deceased EARL HODGES. He advised VERNON related to him substantially the same information furnished by VERNON to SA DUKES at Wiggins on 8/19/65. BUTLER exhibited at this time the following tags or labels, given him by VERNON, as coming from the wooded scene where VERNON claimed he went with CARL SCHUTES (PH):

- (1). Garment label with the following printing thereon:
"Wash-N-Wear, 100% Cotton, RN 14951".
- (2). Garment label from a shirt with printing as follows:
"It's tapered, contoured and proportioned for
a slimmer, trimmer figure; RN 14951";
- (3). Garment label, apparently from trousers:
"Lee Leens, 85% Cotton - 15% nylon, H. D. Lee Co., Lot 7080, Size 30-32, \$4.99;"
- (4). Garment label, apparently for slacks:
"Lee-Prest, Permanent Crease Slacks,
Lee Leens, H. D. Lee Co., Inc."

BUTLER advised he and MHSP Investigator J. Y. THOMAS (NA), intended to interview CARL SCHUTES 8/20/65.

[redacted] that District Attorney FORMAN, Meadville, Mississippi, expressed indignation on 8/19/65 over MHSP investigations recently, and requested that MHSP Investigators GWIN COLE, REX ARMISTEAD, and FORDONEAL not be sent back into his territory to conduct investigations. FORMAN further stated that he did not want any MHSP Investigators to sign any affidavits in his district without first consulting him, FORMAN.

BUTLER was advised that the facilities of the FBI Laboratory and Identification Division were at disposal of the MHSP, and it was suggested that the four labels above be sent in for processing.

SAS REESIE TIMMONS and DARYL R. HARRELL, McComb RA, were contacted concerning this matter at McComb 8/20/65, and furnished with available information as set forth in referenced memo, and re the discussion with Investigator BUTLER. SA HARRELL advised he was maintaining contact with Investigator BUTLER in the event that the MHSP elects to send in the garment labels, or in the event additional information re suspects is developed.

RECOMMENDATION: For info and file.

WFD:

HODGES admitted that EARL HODGES had been in the Klan, and that he had observed EARL leave on numerous occasions from his home, to attend Klan meetings. VERNON advised he did not question ZEB HODGES in details, adding that he considers ZEB HODGES to be a fine old Christian man who has vehemently denied any Klan affiliation.

VERNON continued that while at Meadville, Mississippi on 8/15/65, he was contacted at about 10:00PM by CARL SCHUTES (Ph), an employee of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and resident of Meadville, Mississippi. He advised that SCHUTES, a very close friend of EARL HODGES, appeared to be literally "scared to death", and told VERNON he could take him to the spot where EARL was beaten. VERNON advised that same night, he rode with SCHUTES to an isolated wooded area between Bude and Eddiston, near the old Barlow Settlement, where SCHUTES pointed out a place in the woods where he claimed the beating had taken place. VERNON advised that at this spot, he and SCHUTES located three price tags, apparently removed from new trousers, possibly size 32 or larger. He surmised that the person or persons who beat HODGES had probably changed clothes after the beating, adding that he had give the above information and tags on 8/16/65 to Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Investigator DONALD BUTIER at the MHSP Sub-Station in Brookhaven, Mississippi.

VERNON advised he had no idea how SCHUTES knew about this place, and stated he had not interrogated SCHUTES in this regard.

VERNON advised that he attended the HODGES funeral at Meadville on 8/16/65. In the course of the service, "Brother" DAVIS, an elderly minister well known in the Eddiston community, got up and stated that he was a close friend of EARL HODGES. He said EARL had come to him Friday night, 8/13/65, and told him he had a number of matters troubling him, and that he wanted to confide in DAVIS. VERNON stated DAVIS did not elaborate and that he, VERNON, had not questioned DAVIS to determine whether EARL HODGES had told him anything.

VERNON advised that in the course of "ea/sing around" the Meadville, Mississippi area for a day or so following HODGES' death, a number of people in town told him that the SEALE group has gone crazy, and that there have been four or five brutal beatings within the past several months in the area, concerning which Sheriff HUTTO and District Attorney LENOX FORMAN have taken no action whatever. VERNON could not advise the names of any beating victims, or circumstances thereof. He expressed the opinion that HUTTO and FORMAN are either in the Klan, or sympathetic with it, or are afraid for their own well being to take any action against it.

VERNON was questioned closely in an effort to pinpoint the locale where he stated he went with SCHUTES, but he stated that he doubted if he could find it again. He stated there was no doubt in his mind but that SCHUTES could find it, he felt sure.

AT GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

JOE PRICE (NA), MHSP, advised on 8/19/65 that he had received a telephone call earlier that date from CHARLES SNODGRASS, Administrative Assistant to Chief A. D. MORGAN, MHSP, Jackson, Mississippi. PRICE advised that SNODGRASS instructed him to report to Meadville, Mississippi on the morning of 8/20/65, along with MHSP Investigators J. Y. THOMAS (NA), and DONALD BUTLER, to institute an intensive investigation in an effort to solve the murder of EARL HODGES. SNODGRASS said that Chief MORGAN and Governor PAUL JOHNSON were very much concerned over the fact that this murder had not been solved. [REDACTED]

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

that SNODGRASS said Governor JOHN SON wanted somebody in jail right away in connection not only with this murder, but with the numerous burnings and other acts of violence throughout Mississippi. PRICE stated he understood that Investigator BUTLER may have received some information of possible value in the case through MHSP Patrolman DAN VERNON, Wiggins, Mississippi, brother-in-law of the deceased EARL HODGES, and that he, PRICE, intended to stop off in Wiggins and talk with VERNON on the morning of 8/20/65, while enroute to Meadville.

The foregoing information was discussed telephonically on 8/19/65 with SAC ROY K. MOORE, who instructed that SAS DARYL R. HARRELL and CLARENCE G. PROSPERE be contacted for any info they may have in the HODGES matter, particularly from the standpoint that it may represent a possible entree into the Klan group in the Meadville area.

SA DARYL R. HARRELL, telephonically contacted at McComb, Mississippi 8/19/65, advised he had been contacted 8/18/65 by Investigator DONALD BUTLER, MHSP, re the HODGES killing. BUTLER said that HODGES had been moderately well off financially several years ago, and was a friend of Lieutenant Governor CARROLL GARTIN of Mississippi, which he said may account for the personal interest exhibited by Governor JOHNSON in an immediate solution to the case. SA HARRELL advised he knew nothing about any CARL SCHUTES (PH), and that BUTLER had failed to mention, apparently inadvertently, about any price tags or beating location. BUTLER did say that he was getting no cooperation whatever from local authorities in the Meadville area in the killing, and that he had determined that HODGES had been in ARCHIE PRATHER's Klan group, but allegedly had broken off from this group recently. BUTLER felt that HODGES, an alcoholic and chaser of women, had been killed by the Klan after he broke off, to keep him from talking.

Handwritten initials

SA HARRELL advised that Investigator BUTLER, a completely reliable officer, expressed concern over a recent revival of acts of violence by the Klan in the Amite and Franklin county areas, and expressed the opinion that the brutal beating administered to HODGES had all the earmarks of a JAMES SEAE - ARCHIE PRATHER job.

As indicative of the above violence, SA HARRELL advised he had just received information approximately thirty minutes prior to this conversation from a reliable source to the effect that on the night of 8/18/65, a woman whose father was a Klansman had been stopped in her automobile by a group of twelve robed Klansmen, on the McCall Creek Road at the edge of Amite and Franklin counties. These Klansmen told her to get off the road, and that she should not drive on the roads in the area after dark. HARRELL advised that this woman allegedly had received information, or rumors, concerning the HODGES murder. SA HARRELL advised he had also received information that the Klan in the Meadville area is "going wild", and that recently a white woman was painted black all over one night by a group of Klansmen, as a result of which she was thereafter committed to the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield. HARRELL advised that Sheriff HUTTO and District Attorney FORMAN reportedly were taking no action concerning these acts.

SA CLARENCE PROSPERE, Natchez, Mississippi, telephonically advised on 8/19/65 that he was at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office at Meadville on the morning of 8/16/65, and had discussion with officials there concerning the HODGES killing. He said he was introduced at that time to MSP Patrolman VERNON, but had no opportunity to talk with VERNON concerning the matter. He stated it was his understanding that HODGES' clothing had been virtually ripped off him incidental to this brutal beating, adding that reportedly HODGES had been out with MAXIE PRATHER, relative of ARCHIE PRATHER, on the night of 8/14/65, the night he was killed.

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

SA PROSPERE had no information concerning the alleged location of the beating, or of any price tags being located. He did recall some previous references to CARL SCHUTES (PH), possibly a soil conservation service employee at Meadville, and seemed to recall that SCHUTES was believed to be a reliable person. SA PROSPERE advised that recent contact with [redacted] developed that this Informant had no knowledge of HODGES or his killing. It was apparently initially surmised that HODGES may have been killed by an irate husband, in view of HODGES' reputation for being a woman chaser; however, the extent of the beating would tend to indicate it may have been done by a sadistic person or persons, possibly by the Klan. SA PROSPERE advised he was maintaining contact with Sheriff HUTTO and District Attorney FORMAN.

RECOMMENDATION: For info SAC per instructions. It is suggested that if active investigation is being conducted still in this matter, the following possibilities be considered:

- (1). Interview ZEB HODGES, father of the deceased;
- (2). Interview CARL SCHUTES (PH), allegedly employee of U. S. Soil Conservation Service, re circumstances his knowledge of location of the alleged beating of HODGES, and conduct crime scene search, bearing in mind this may be the same location where Victims MOORE and DEE were allegedly tied and beaten with bean sticks;
- (3). Interview "Brother" DAVIS, Eddiston Community, for any info he may have re Klan, and for any info furnished him by Victim HODGES on 8/13/65.

Date 10/28/65

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
		JN	157-3830
		Office of Origin	File #
		JN	157-3830

Title and Character of Case
 EARL HODGES
 RM

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BULKY CABINET	

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

- 1- ELEVEN 8x10 PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE WITH NEG.
- 2- FOUR COLOR PHOTOS, 8x10, OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE .
- 3- THREE ENLARGED PHOTOS OF KLAN MEETING HOUSE.

*Destroyed 4/9/70
 Re #4, kpk*

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF

157-3830-1A1

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