

Chief
United States Secret Service
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D. C. 20220

July 14, 1965

Dear Sir:

The information furnished herewith concerns an individual who is believed to be covered by the agreement between the FBI and Secret Service concerning Presidential protection, and to fall within the category or categories checked.

1. ☐ Has attempted or threatened bodily harm to any government official or employee, including foreign government officials residing in or planning an imminent visit to the U. S., because of his official status.
2. ☐ Has attempted or threatened to redress a grievance against any public official by other than legal means.
3. ☐ Because of background is potentially dangerous; or has been identified as member or participant in communist movement; or has been under active investigation as member of other group or organization inimical to U. S.
4. ☐ U. S. citizens or residents who defect from the U. S. to countries in the Soviet or Chinese Communist blocs and return.
5. ☒ Subversives, ultrarightists, racists and fascists who meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - (a) ☐ Evidence of emotional instability (including unstable residence and employment record) or irrational or suicidal behavior;
 - (b) ☐ Expressions of strong or violent anti-U. S. sentiment;
 - (c) ☒ Prior acts (including arrests or convictions) or conduct or statements indicating a propensity for violence and antipathy toward good order and government.
6. ☐ Individuals involved in illegal bombing or illegal bomb-making.

Photograph ☐ has been furnished ☐ enclosed ☐ is not available
☐ may be available through _____

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

157-950-40
Searched _____
Serialized ☒
Indexed _____
Filed ☒

[Signature]
1 - Special Agent in Charge (Enclosure(s))
U. S. Secret Service

Jackson
① - Jackson (157-950)

Enclosure(s) **1**

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)

DIRECTOR, FBI

7/14/65

SAC, JACKSON (157-3372) (157-950)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
KLAN INVESTIGATIONS
RM (KLAN)
157-3372

JAMES SEALE
RM
157-950

Re Bureau airtel to all southern offices dated 7/8/65.

The available public source information on
JAMES SEALE is set forth on the following thirteen pages.

2- Bureau
2- Jackson
CCP/sjw
(4)

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

157-950-39

Investigation Pushed On Topless Torsos

MISSISSIPPI — Federal officials probed deeper Tuesday into the case of the topless torsos found in a muddy offshoot of the Mississippi River near here last July.

Sources said officials from the two states teamed with FBI agents in investigating the apparent slayings.

The lower remains of two Mississippi Negroes — Charles Moore, 20, and Henry Dees, also 20 — were found one day apart July 12 and 13.

Sources Tuesday hinted action in the deaths was possible as the investigation was stepped up.

The torsos were found floating in what once was the Mississippi River, both with a card known as hay rope on them.

An intensive search of the muddy stream, which flows rapidly during high water, failed to turn up the upper halves of the bodies.

Sources in Louisiana said a search for more clues was scheduled to resume this week.

There were these other items of racial news in Mississippi Tuesday:

13 GUILTY

At McComb, City Judge Harry Case found 13 civil rights workers guilty as a group Tuesday on charges they distributed food without a health department permit.

After Judge Case levied a \$100 group fine, attorneys for the 13 served notice of appeal to Pike County court.

Judge Case then set an appeal bond at \$200.

The Council of Federated Organizations' workers were charged last Friday with serving food in a "freedom house" without a permit.

The city argued Tuesday the COFO house was covered by a city ordinance pertaining to usage of a health department permit.

After the city presented its

case, the 13 changed a plea of innocent to no contest.

The 13 were identified as Miss Ursula Junk, a Cologne, Germany, student at the University of Minnesota; Bill Dowell of Cambridge, England; John Wilkin, Junction City, Ark.; Marshall Ganz, Bakersfield, Calif.; Dennis Sweeney, Portland, Ore.; J. D. Smith and Lori Smith, Aurora, Ill.; Candy Brown, Los Angeles; Nancy Jervis, Long Beach, N.Y.; the Rev. Terry Bowie, Lawnside, N.J.; Karen Pate, Prairie City, Ore.; Jas. Harris, McComb; and Ernestine Bishop, McComb.

DRAWS FINE

In Indianola, Jesse Milton of Indianola drew a \$50 fine Tuesday on charges stemming from an assault on a civil rights worker.

Milton entered a no contest plea to the charge he beat James Dan at his residence.

Milton had been free on a \$100 bond prior to the trial here, which was closed to the public.

At Magnolia, COFO said two more local Negroes and another white minister from out-of-state were arrested on trespassing charges when they went to the Pike County circuit clerk's office in an attempt to register to vote.

Monday, in a series of incidents, 27 persons were arrested when they refused to leave the clerk's office. The office is closed because of the current circuit court session, a normal procedure since the official is, in addition to voter registrar, clerk for the court. Told that the office was closed, the 27 refused to leave and were arrested.

COFO also reported that a white worker from New York, N. Y., was jailed at Columbus on charges of disorderly conduct and distributing leaflets without a permit.

CAN'T DETERMINE

At Vicksburg authorities said Tuesday the FBI laboratory in Washington was unable to determine what type of explosive was used in the bombing of a building used by civil rights workers on Oct. 4.

A lab report revealed only that "some type of explosive" was used, but no explosive device was found, officers said.

The pre-dawn blast heavily damaged the building owned by the Warren County Baptist Association, a Negro group. A library established by civil rights workers in the building was damaged.

Fourteen persons were inside the building at the time of the blast, but only minor injuries were reported.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 10

Clarion-Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 10/28/64
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: T.M. Hederman
Title: Charles Moore, Henry Dees
Character: 62-5
or
Classification: 62-5-2
Submitting Office: Jackson
☐ Being Investigated

PROBE RENEWED

Developments Seen In Torso Murders

TALLULAH, La. (AP) — Federal, Louisiana and Mississippi authorities confirmed today an investigation was stepping up in the case of topless torsos found in an arm of the Mississippi River near here.

Sources said the investigation has gained ground since the two lower halves of the bodies of two Mississippi Negroes were found July 12 and 13 in what was once a Mississippi River channel.

The remains were those of Charles Moore, 20, of Meadville, Miss., found on the Mississippi side of the offshoot, and Henry Dees, also 20, and of Meadville,

found on the Louisiana side the second day.

The FBI, Louisiana state police and Mississippi highway patrol identified the victims, whose conditions hinted of a double murder.

The same kind of cord, a woven material known as hay rope, was used on both bodies, prompting speculation — as yet unconfirmed — the youths were killed about the same time and possibly bound together.

An intensive search of the muddy stream, which flows rapidly during high water, failed to turn up the upper halves of the bodies.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Jackson Daily News

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 10/27/64
Edition: Daily

Author:

Editor: James M. Ward

Title: Charles Moore
Henry Dees

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5-28

Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Charge two in Negro deaths

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The FBI announced two Mississippi white men were arrested and charged today with the murder of two Negroes whose torsos were found in an arm of the Mississippi River.

The FBI identified the white men as James Ford Seale, 29, and Charles Marcus Edwards, 31-year-old Ku Klux Klansman, both of Meadville.

Roy Moore, head of the Jackson FBI office, said local and federal officers arrested the two at their homes during the morning. They were charged in the deaths of Charlie Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, whose bodies were found in Old River, an old arm of the Mississippi, in Madison Parish, La., in July.

Seale is married and has three children. He drives a truck for a lumber firm at Roxie.

Edwards is married with four children and is an employe of a paper company at Natchez.

Local sources said that neither of the two Negroes had been engaged in civil rights activities.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Hattiesburg
Americian

Hattiesburg, Miss.

Date: 11/6/64

Edition: Daily

Author:

Editor:

Title: Torso Killings

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5

Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-88

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 10 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

Pair Jailed In Killings

By WILLIAM L. CHAZE
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

A pair of Meadville men were brought to the Hinds County Jail at Jackson Friday after they were charged with the murder of two Negro youths last Spring.

Arrested were:

James Ford Seale, 29, a truck driver; and, Charles Marcus Edwards, 31, a factory worker.

BY FBI AGENTS

The arrests were made by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents working with local law enforcement officers.

Seale, the FBI said, is an admitted member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Edwards and Seale are charged in the death of Charlie E. Moore and Henry H. Dee whose bodies were found in a swampy offshoot of the Mississippi River near Tallulah, La. (Madison Parish) last July.

The FBI released only a short statement about the arrests:

"Investigation by local officers and FBI agents determined that Moore and Dee were

last seen on May 2, 1964, hitchhiking near Meadville. Investigation later determined that Moore was a college student, and Dee was a local laborer."

Neither Negro was believed to have been involved in civil rights activity.

LARGE-SCALE SEARCH

The discovery of their bodies came in the midst of a large-scale search for three civil rights workers who dropped from sight last June near Philadelphia. Investigators thought at first that the bodies of Dee and Moore were those of the trio.

The bodies of the rights workers were found later buried beneath a clay dam southwest of Philadelphia. No arrests have been made in connection with the triple slaying.

Both Meadville men were arrested at their homes early Friday and charged before a justice of the peace.

They were brought to the Hinds County Jail shortly after noon and placed in the custody of Sheriff Fred Pickell.

The Hinds Jail has been used frequently during the past few months by the FBI to jail prisoners.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Clarion-Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 11/7/64

Edition: Daily

Author: Wm. Chaze

Editor: T.M. Hederman

Title: Charles E. Moore
Henry H. Dee

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5

Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-66

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 9 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

Investigation Continues In Case Of Two Torsos

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — The FBI wrote the latest chapter in the topless torso mystery Friday with an announcement that two white men had been arrested and charged.

The FBI office in Jackson said earlier that authorities picked up James Ford Seale, 29, and Charles Marcus Edwards, 31, at their homes in Meadville during the day.

They were charged in the death of two Meadville Negroes, Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, whose lower portions were found floating in an offshoot of the Mississippi River this summer.

The torsos of Dee and Moore, both 19, were found one day apart about 14 miles south of Tallulah, La., the first being located July 12.

James Bowles, a Tallulah man who was fishing discovered the first torso, a section of Moore from the waist down and bound in a hay rope.

The discovery led to searchers finding a second torso the next day.

At the time, the three civil rights workers who disappeared in Mississippi were still not located and immediate speculation prompted thoughts the torsos were the workers.

The civil rights trio, however, was found beneath an earthen dam near Philadelphia, later.

The FBI announcement gave no reasons for the slayings and no hint of how officers connected Seale and Edwards with the cases. During the arrests, a sawed-

off shotgun was found in Seale's home.

When their bodies were found, relatives said they had been away from home for several days, presumably looking for work.

Justice of the Peace Willie Bedford in Meadville charged Seale and Edwards with murder.

Seale is married and has three children. He drives a truck for a lumber firm at Roxie. Edwards is married with four children and is an employe of a paper company at Natchez.

The FBI said investigation showed both victims were last seen May 2 hitchhiking near Meadville.

Special agent - in - charge Roy Moore of the Jackson FBI office said the investigation was continuing in the case.



MISSISSIPPIANS HELD — Arrested yesterday at Meadville and charged by the Justice Department with the slaying of two young Negroes whose bodies were found in the Mississippi River last July were Charles Marcus Edward, 31, shown at the left, and James Ford Seale, 29. The pair faces arraignment today. —UPI Telephotos

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Meridian Star

Meridian, Miss.

Date: 11/7/64
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: Jas H. Skew
Title: Torso Killing

Character:
or
Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-9
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 10 1964
FBI - JACKSON

Meadville Pair Free On Bond

MEADVILLE, Miss. (UPI) — Two white men arrested in the "headless torsoes" slaying of two young Negroes in south Mississippi were released on \$5,000 bond here Saturday pending a preliminary hearing Jan. 11.

The pair, one an admitted Ku Klux Klaner, walked away from the two-story Franklin County Courthouse less than 36 hours after their arrest early Friday by local officers and FBI agents.

They were arrested on a warrant issued by Justice of the Peace Willie Bedford charging them with "willfully, unlawfully, aforethought" killing two teenage Negroes whose decomposed bodies were found floating in the back waters of the Mississippi River in mid-July.

The white men, arrested at their homes, were Charles Marcus Edwards, identified by the FBI as a "self-admitted Klansman", and James Ford Seale, 29, both of Meadville. Edwards was employed by a Natchez paper mill and Seale worked as a truck driver for a mill at the little town of Roxie.

The headless bodies of the two Negroes — Charles Moore and Henry H. Dee, both 19 — were found in the river near Talullah,

La., during a widespread search for three civil rights workers who disappeared earlier near Philadelphia. The bodies of the three integrationists were discovered later under an earthen farm pond dam outside Philadelphia.

Authorities said there was no evidence Moore or Dee had been engaged in civil rights activities. Officials declined to speculate on the motive for their slayings.

The topless torsoes were identified by various items found on the bodies as Moore and Dee, last seen hitchhiking near Meadville May 2. Moore's legs were bound with hay-binder twine.

Moore was a student at Alcorn A&M (Negro) College and Dee worked as a yard hand at a lumber mill in Roxie.

Edwards and Seale were brought to Meadville from Jackson, about 90 miles north of here, early Saturday after undergoing lengthy interrogation. Their bond was set by Sheriff Wayne Hutto and a formal arraignment was postponed until shortly before the preliminary hearing in early January.

The men were met at the sheriff's office by members of their families and friends.

They chatted quietly, showing little outward sign of emotion, while the bond arrangements were made. Then they left by a side door to return to their homes.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Meridian Star

Meridian, Miss.

Date: 11/8/64
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: Jas H. Skewes
Title: Torso Killings

Character:
or
Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-89

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 11 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Two Accused Go On Trial

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — Two Franklin white men charged with the murder of two Negro youths whose bodies were found near Tallulah, La., appear today for a preliminary hearing.

James Seale, 29, and Charles Edwards, 31, are charged in the deaths of Charles Eddie Moore, 19, and Henry Hezekiah Dee, 19.

Parts of bodies identified as those of Moore, an Alcorn A&M College student, and Dee, formerly of Chicago who worked in a planning mill in Roxie, were found last summer.

At first, they were believed to have been the bodies of two of the three civil rights workers killed near Philadelphia, Miss., June 21.

Seale and Edwards, who will appear in justice of the peace court, have been free on bond shortly after their arrest.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8

Leader-Call

Laurel, Miss.

Date: 1/11/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: J.W. West
Title: Torso Killings

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-291
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 13 1965
FBI — JACKSON

Two Released From Charges In Torso Case

District Attorney Declares Others Are Implicated

MEADVILLE, Miss. (Special) — Murder charges against two Franklin County men were dismissed at a preliminary hearing this morning on a motion filed by the district attorney.

The defendants, Charles Edwards, 31, and James Seale, 29, were charged in connection with the deaths of two 19-year-old Negroes, Charlie Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee.

Parts of the two bodies were found in the Mississippi River near Tallulah, La., last summer.

Moore was a student at Alcorn A&M College at Lorman and Dee, formerly of Chicago, was an employee of a planing mill in Rome.

The motion for dismissal, filed by District Attorney L. L. Foreman of Meadville, said, "Your district attorney, working in connection with state and federal officers, is informed that other parties than the defendants re involved in the case and additional time will be required to complete the investigation in the interest of justice and to fully develop the facts of this case."

"The affidavits against James Seale and Charles Edwards should be dismissed by this court without prejudice toward the defendants of State of Mississippi at this time in order that the investigation may be continued and completed for presentation to the grand jury at some later date."

Defense attorney Bill Riley of Natchez, referring to the motion after the hearing, said, "These boys have been treated pretty badly. We don't care for the way they tried to imply these little insinuations that they have something on them which would warrant further harassment of James and Charles."

"We hope this will put an end to any further harassments," said Riley.

The preliminary hearing was before Peace Justice Willie Bedford in the hearing room in Franklin County Courthouse, Meadville.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Jackson Daily
News

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 1/11/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: James M. Ward
Title: Torso Killings

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5 -287
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 12 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dismiss Murder Charges Against Seale, Edwards

(Special to Democrat)

MEADVILLE, Miss., Jan. 11.—Charges of murder against two Franklin County men were dismissed yesterday in a preliminary hearing in justice of the peace court in Meadville.

James Seale, 29, and Charles Edwards, 31, were charged with the deaths of Charlie Eddie Moore a 19-year old Alcorn A&M student, and Henry Hazekiah Dee, also 19, who worked in a Roxie planning mill.

District Three Justice of the Peace Willie Bedford dismissed the charges against Seale and Edwards and ordered an appearance bonds returned after District Attorney L. L. Forman had read a motion asking that the charges be dismissed without prejudice.

In moving the dismissal of the charges, Forman said, "your district attorney, in conference with local, state and federal officials is informed that other parties than these defendants are involved and that additional time will be required to complete the investigation."

The district attorney continued "That in the interest of justice and in order to fully develop the facts of this case, the affidavits against James Seale and Charles Edwards should be dismissed by this court without prejudice to the defendants or

to the state of Mississippi at this time in order that the investigation may be continued and completed for presentation to a grand jury at some later date."

The justice of the peace granted Forman's motion and ordered that bonds posted by Seale and Edwards be returned to them.

Natchez attorney Bill Riley, representing Seale and Edwards as defense attorney, said "these boys have been treated pretty badly. We don't care for the way they tried to apply these little insinuations that they have something on them which would warrant further harassment of James and Charles," he continued. "We hope this will put an end to any further harassment."

Parts of bodies identified as those of Moore and Dee were found last summer near Tallahatche, Miss.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Natchez Democrat

Natchez, Miss.

Date: 1/12/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor:
Title: Torso Killings

Character:
or
Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-292

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 13 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

Law Releases Meadville Men on \$5,000 Bond Each

11/9/64

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — Two Meadville men were released Saturday under \$5,000 bond each posted with Sheriff Wayne Hutto of Franklin County.

The two, James Ford Seale, 29, and Charles Marcus Edwards, 31, a Ku Klux Klansman, were arrested Friday on charges of murder in the slaying this summer of two Meadville Negroes.

Torsos of the victims were discovered in a murky Mississippi River offshoot during massive efforts to locate three missing civil rights workers from the Philadelphia, Miss., area.

The victims were Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, 19.

The FBI announced the arrests of Seale and Edwards Friday. Details on how the arrests came were not revealed. Officers indicated Moore and Dee were beaten to death.

Seale and Moore were released on money raised by their families.

Seale, a truck driver, has three children. Edwards, father of four, works for a Natchez paper company. They were taken to Jackson and returned to the Franklin County jail.

The FBI said the investigation of the case was continuing.

At the time of his death, Moore was under suspension from Alcorn A&M for taking part in an April 21 campus civil rights protest. He was among 500 students who staged a walk-out. Highway police quelled the demonstration and school officials later expelled as many as 500 students for their part in the protest.

Neither Moore nor Dee was known to have been active in civil rights work in the Franklin County area.

11/9/64

Enterprise Journal
Mc Comb, Mississippi

State Drops Torso Death Charges Against 2 Men

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — The state dropped charges without prejudice here today against two white men accused of murdering two Negroes whose torsos were found in a Louisiana river offshoot.

James Seale, 29, and Charles Edwards, 31, were charged in the deaths of Charles Eddie Moore, 19, and Henry Hezekiah Dec, 19.

The lower torsos of the victims were found in an offshoot of the Mississippi River this summer near Tallulah, La.

At first, they were believed to have been the bodies of two of the three civil rights workers killed near Philadelphia, Miss., June 21.

Sources said the charges were

dropped because further investigation revealed more persons may have been involved.

The two Franklin men appeared before a peace justice preliminary hearing here today.

They had been freed on bond shortly after they were arrested.

Moore was an Alcorn A&M College student and Dec, formerly of Chicago, worked in a planing mill in Roxie.

Their bodies were found one day apart, both bearing remnants of rope used to tie up hay bales. One of the topless torsos' legs were bound with the rope.

The dropping of charges without prejudice leaves the case open for further action.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2

Leader-Call

Laurel, Miss.

Date: 1/11/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: J.W. West
Title: Torso Killings

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 13 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

62-5-289

State drops charges in deaths of Negroes

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — The state dropped charges without prejudice here today against two white men accused of murdering two Negroes whose torsoes were found in a Louisiana river offshoot.

James Seale, 29, and Charles Edwards, 31, were charged in the deaths of Charles Eddie Moore, 19, and Henry Hezekiah Dee, 19.

The lower torsoes of the victims were found in an offshoot of the Mississippi River this summer near Tallulah, La.

At first, they were believed to have been the bodies of two of the three civil rights workers killed near Philadelphia, Miss., June 21.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 1

Hattiesburg
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Hattiesburg

Date: 1/11/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor:
Title: Torso Kill

Character:
or
Classification: 62-
Submitting Office: J
☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 13 1965
FBI — JACKSON

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Murder Counts Dropped To Further Torsos Case

MEADVILLE (UPI) — Two white Mississippi men were freed of murder charges here Monday in the slaying of two young Negroes after the district attorney suggested the dismissal of the charge would be in the "interest of justice."

The charges were dropped against James Ford Seale, 29, and Charles Marcus Edwards, 31, both of Meadville.

Edwards, identified by the FBI as a "self-admitted Klansman," and Seale were charged in connection with the deaths of Charles Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, both 19.

FOUND IN RIVER

The torsos of the Negro youths were found in the Mississippi River near Tallulah, La., last July. It was first believed they might have been those of slain civil rights workers whose bodies later were found under a dam near Philadelphia.

Dist. Atty. L. L. Foreman asked that the charges against Seale and Edwards be dropped at a justice of the peace hear-

ing after conferring with local, state and federal officials.

Foreman said he had been informed by the officials that "other parties than those defendants are involved and that additional time will be required to complete the investigation."

The district attorney said it was in the "interest of justice and in order to develop the facts of this case" that the charges would be dropped.

BONDS DISSOLVED

Justice of the Peace Willie Bedford also dissolved the \$5,000 bond for each of the men. They had been released on bond soon after they were arrested last November in a crackdown by authorities on alleged racial violence in Southeast Mississippi.

Foreman told the justice of the peace court that the investigation was continuing in the case and further evidence would be submitted to a grand jury at "some later date."

William Riley of Natchez, attorney for the two men, told newsmen after the hearing that "These boys have been treated pretty badly."

"We don't care for the way they tried to imply these insinuations that they have something on them that would warrant further harassment of James (Seale) and Charles (Edwards)," Riley said. "We hope that this will put an end to any further harassment."

OFFICERS QUESTIONED

Riley did not elaborate but apparently referred to the questioning of Seale and Edwards by local, state and federal authorities.

Only the immediate families and local authorities were allowed in the small justice of the peace hearing room on the second floor of the Franklin County courthouse. No state nor

federal officials showed up for the hearing.

Seale, father of three, is a paper mill employe at nearby Natchez. Edwards, father of four, is a truck driver for a mill at the little community of Roxie.

Officers said their investigation determined that Moore and Dee were last seen May 2 hitchhiking near Meadville, the hub of this predominantly rural Southeast Mississippi county.

Moore was a student at Alcorn A&M (Negro) College and Dee was a local laborer. Neither was believed to have been active in civil rights efforts.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Clarion-Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 1/12/65

Edition: Daily

Author:

Editor: T.M. Hederman

Title: Torso Murders

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5-288

Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 12 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

DIRECTOR, FBI

7/14/65

SAC, JACKSON (157-3372) (157-950)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
KLAN INVESTIGATIONS
RM (KLAN)
157-3372

JAMES SEALE
RM
157-950

Re Bureau airtel to all southern offices dated 7/8/65.

The available public source information on
JAMES SEALE is set forth on the following thirteen pages.

2- Bureau
② Jackson
CGP/sjw
(4)

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

157-950-39

Ignition Pushed On Topless Torsos

VICKSBURG, La. — Federal, Mississippi, and Louisiana officials probed deeper Tuesday into the case of the topless torsos found in a muddy offshoot of the Mississippi River near here last July.

Sources said officials from the two states teamed with FBI agents in investigating the apparent slayings.

The lower remains of two Mississippi Negroes — Charles Moore, 20, and Henry Dees, also 20 — were found one day apart July 12 and 13.

Sources Tuesday hinted action in the deaths was possible as the investigation was stepped up.

The torsos were found floating in what once was the Mississippi River, both with a card known as hay rope on them.

An intensive search of the muddy stream, which flows rapidly during high water, failed to turn up the upper halves of the bodies.

Sources in Louisiana said a search for more clues was scheduled to resume this week.

There were these other items of racial news in Mississippi Tuesday:

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At McComb, City Judge Harry Case found 13 civil rights workers guilty as a group Tuesday on charges they distributed food without a health department permit.

After Judge Case levied a \$100 group fine, attorneys for the 13 served notice of appeal to Pike County court.

Judge Case then set an appeal bond at \$200.

The Council of Federated Organizations' workers were charged last Friday with serving food in a "freedom house" without a permit.

The city argued Tuesday the COFO house was covered by a city ordinance pertaining to usage of a health department permit.

After the city presented its

case, the 13 changed a plea of innocent to no contest.

The 13 were identified as Miss Ursula Junk, a Cologne, Germany, student at the University of Minnesota; Bill Dowell of Cambridge, England; John Wilkins, Junction City, Ark.; Marshall Ganz, Bakersfield, Calif.; Dennis Sweeney, Portland, Ore.; J. D. Smith and Lori Smith, Aurora, Ill.; Candy Brown, Los Angeles; Nancy Jervis, Long Beach, N.Y.; the Rev. Terry Bowie, Lawnside, N.J.; Karen Pate, Prairie City, Ore.; James Harris, McComb; and Ernestine Bishop, McComb.

DRAWS FINE

In Indianola, Jesse Milton of Indianola drew a \$50 fine Tuesday on charges stemming from an assault on a civil rights worker.

Milton entered a no contest plea to the charge he beat James Dan at his residence.

Milton had been free on a \$100 bond prior to the trial here, which was closed to the public.

At Magnolia, COFO said two more local Negroes and another white minister from out-of-state were arrested on trespassing charges when they went to the Pike County circuit clerk's office in an attempt to register to vote.

Monday, in a series of incidents, 27 persons were arrested when they refused to leave the clerk's office. The office is closed because of the current circuit court session, a normal procedure since the official is, in addition to voter registrar, clerk for the court. Told that the office was closed, the 27 refused to leave and were arrested.

COFO also reported that a white worker from New York, N. Y., was jailed at Columbus on charges of disorderly conduct and distributing leaflets without a permit.

CAN'T DETERMINE

At Vicksburg authorities said Tuesday the FBI laboratory in Washington was unable to determine what type of explosive was used in the bombing of a building used by civil rights workers on Oct. 4.

A lab report revealed only that "some type of explosive" was used, but no explosive device was found, officers said.

The pre-dawn blast heavily damaged the building owned by the Warren County Baptist Association, a Negro group. A library established by civil rights workers in the building was damaged.

Fourteen persons were inside the building at the time of the blast, but only minor injuries were reported.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 10

Clarion-Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 10/28/64
Edition: Daily

Author:
Editor: T.M. Hederman
Title: Charles Moore, Henry Dees

Character:
or
Classification: 62-5-20
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

PROBE RENEWED

Developments Seen In Torso Murders

TALLULAH, La. (AP) — Federal, Louisiana and Mississippi authorities confirmed today an investigation was stepping up in the case of topless torsos found in an arm of the Mississippi River near here.

Sources said the investigation has gained ground since the two lower halves of the bodies of two Mississippi Negroes were found July 12 and 13 in what was once a Mississippi River channel.

The remains were those of Charles Moore, 20, of Meadville, Miss., found on the Mississippi side of the offshoot, and Henry Dees, also 20, and of Meadville,

found on the Louisiana side the second day.

The FBI, Louisiana state police and Mississippi highway patrol identified the victims, whose conditions hinted of a double murder.

The same kind of cord, a woven material known as hay rope, was used on both bodies, prompting speculation — as yet unconfirmed — the youths were killed about the same time and possibly bound together.

An intensive search of the muddy stream, which flows rapidly during high water, failed to turn up the upper halves of the bodies.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Jackson Daily News

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 10/27/64

Edition: Daily

Author:

Editor: James M. Ward

Title: Charles Moore

Henry Dees

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Charge two in Negro deaths

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The FBI announced two Mississippi white men were arrested and charged today with the murder of two Negroes whose torsos were found in an arm of the Mississippi River.

The FBI identified the white men as James Ford Seale, 29, and Charles Marcus Edwards, 31-year-old Ku Klux Klansman, both of Meadville.

Roy Moore, head of the Jackson FBI office, said local and federal officers arrested the two at their homes during the morning. They were charged in the deaths of Charlie Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, whose bodies were found in Old River, an old arm of the Mississippi, in Madison Parish, La., in July.

Seale is married and has three children. He drives a truck for a lumber firm at Roxie.

Edwards is married with four children and is an employe of a paper company at Natchez.

Local sources said that neither of the two Negroes had been engaged in civil rights activities.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Hattiesburg
American

Hattiesburg, Miss.

Date: 11/6/64

Edition: Daily

Author:

Editor:

Title: Torso Killings

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5

Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-88

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 10 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

Pair Jailed— In Killings

By WILLIAM L. CHAZE
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

A pair of Meadville men were brought to the Hinds County Jail at Jackson Friday after they were charged with the murder of two Negro youths last Spring.

Arrested were:

James Ford Seale, 29, a truck driver; and, Charles Marcus Edwards, 31, a factory worker.

BY FBI AGENTS

The arrests were made by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents working with local law enforcement officers.

Seale, the FBI said, is an admitted member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Edwards and Seale are charged with the death of Charles E. Moore and Henry H. Dee whose bodies were found in a swampy offshoot of the Mississippi River near Tallulah, La. (Madison Parish) last July.

The FBI released only a short statement about the arrests:

"Investigation by local officers and FBI agents determined that Moore and Dee were

last seen on May 2, 1964, hitchhiking near Meadville. Investigation later determined that Moore was a college student, and Dee was a local laborer."

Neither Negro was believed to have been involved in civil rights activity.

LARGE-SCALE SEARCH

The discovery of their bodies came in the midst of a large-scale search for three civil rights workers who dropped from sight last June near Philadelphia. Investigators thought at first that the bodies of Dee and Moore were those of the trio.

The bodies of the rights workers were found later buried beneath a clay dam southwest of Philadelphia. No arrests have been made in connection with the triple-slaying.

Both Meadville men were arrested at their homes early Friday and charged before a justice of the peace.

They were brought to the Hinds County Jail shortly after noon and placed in the custody of Sheriff Fred Pickett.

The Hinds Jail has been used frequently during the past few months by the FBI to jail prisoners.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Clarion-Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 11/7/64

Edition: Daily

Author: Wm. Chaze

Editor: T.M. Hederman

Title: Charles E. Moore
Henry H. Dee

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5

Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-60

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 7 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

Investigation Continues In Case Of Two Torsos

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — The FBI wrote the latest chapter in the topless torso mystery Friday with an announcement that two white men had been arrested and charged.

The FBI office in Jackson said earlier that authorities picked up James Ford Seale, 29, and Charles Marcus Edwards, 31, at their homes in Meadville during the day.

They were charged in the death of two Meadville Negroes, Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, whose lower portions were found floating in an offshoot of the Mississippi River this summer.

The torsos of Dee and Moore, both 19, were found one day apart about 14 miles south of Tallulah, La., the first being located July 12.

James Bowles, a Tallulah man who was fishing discovered the first torso, a section of Moore from the waist down and bound in a hay rope.

The discovery led to searchers finding a second torso the next day.

At the time, the three civil rights workers who disappeared in Mississippi were still not located and immediate speculation prompted thoughts the torsos were the workers.

The civil rights trio, however, was found beneath an earthen dam near Philadelphia, later.

The FBI announcement gave no reasons for the slayings and no hint of how officers connected Seale and Edwards with the cases during the arrests. A sawed-

off shotgun was found in Seale's home.

When their bodies were found, relatives said they had been away from home for several days, presumably looking for work.

Justice of the Peace Willie Bedford in Meadville charged Seale and Edwards with murder.

Seale is married and has three children. He drives a truck for a lumber firm at Roxie. Edwards is married with four children and is an employee of a paper company at Natchez.

The FBI said investigation showed both victims were last seen May 2 hitchhiking near Meadville.

Special agent in charge Roy Moore of the Jackson FBI office said the investigation was continuing in the case.



MISSISSIPPIANS HELD — Arrested yesterday at Meadville and charged by the Justice Department with the slaying of two young Negroes whose bodies were found in the Mississippi River last July were Charles Marcus Edward, 31, shown at the left, and James Ford Seale, 29. The pair faces arraignment today. —UPI Telephotos

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Meridian Star

Meridian, Miss.

Date: 11/7/64
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: Jas H. Skew
Title: Torso Killing

Character:
or
Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson
☐ Being Investigated

62-5-9
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 10 1964
FBI - JACKSON

Meadville Pair Free On Bond

MEADVILLE, Miss. (UPI) — Two white men arrested in the "headless torsoes" slaying of two young Negroes in south Mississippi were released on \$5,000 bond here Saturday pending a preliminary hearing Jan. 11.

The pair, one an admitted Ku Klux Klaner, walked away from the two-story Franklin County Courthouse less than 36 hours after their arrest early Friday by local officers and FBI agents.

They were arrested on a warrant issued by Justice of the Peace Willie Bedford charging them with "willfully, unlawfully, aforethought" killing two teenage Negroes whose decomposed bodies were found floating in the back waters of the Mississippi River in mid-July.

The white men, arrested at their homes, were Charles Marcus Edwards, identified by the FBI as a "self-admitted Klansman", and James Ford Seale, 29, both of Meadville. Edwards was employed by a Natchez paper mill and Seale worked as a truck driver for a mill at the little town of Roxie.

The headless bodies of the two Negroes — Charles Moore and Henry H. Dee, both 19 — were found in the river near Talullah.

La., during a widespread search for three civil rights workers who disappeared earlier near Philadelphia. The bodies of the three integrationists were discovered later under an earthen farm pond dam outside Philadelphia.

Authorities said there was no evidence Moore or Dee had been engaged in civil rights activities. Officials declined to speculate on the motive for their slayings.

The topless torsoes were identified by various items found on the bodies as Moore and Dee, last seen hitchhiking near Meadville May 2. Moore's legs were bound with hay-binder twine.

Moore was a student at Alcorn A&M (Negro) College and Dee worked as a yard hand at a lumber mill in Roxie.

Edwards and Seale were brought to Meadville from Jackson, about 90 miles north of here, early Saturday after undergoing lengthy interrogation. Their bond was set by Sheriff Wayne Hutto and a formal arraignment was postponed until shortly before the preliminary hearing in early January.

The men were met at the sheriff's office by members of their families and friends.

They chatted quietly, showing little outward sign of emotion, while the bond arrangements were made. Then they left by a side door to return to their homes.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Meridian Star

Meridian, Miss.

Date: 11/8/64
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: Jas H. Skewes
Title: Torso Killings

Character:
or
Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-89

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - JACKSON	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Two Accused Go On Trial

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — Two Franklin white men charged with the murder of two Negro youths whose bodies were found near Tallulah, La., appear today for a preliminary hearing.

James Seale, 29, and Charles Edwards, 31, are charged in the deaths of Charles Eddie Moore, 19, and Henry Hezekiah Dee, 19.

Parts of bodies identified as those of Moore, an Alcorn A&M College student, and Dee, formerly of Chicago who worked in a planning mill in Roxie, were found last summer.

At first, they were believed to have been the bodies of two of the three civil rights workers killed near Philadelphia, Miss., June 21.

Seale and Edwards, who will appear in justice of the peace court, have been free on bond shortly after their arrest.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8

Leader-Call

Laurel, Miss.

Date: 1/11/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: J.W. West
Title: Torso Killings

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

62-5-291

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

Two Released From Charges In Torso Case

District Attorney Declares Others Are Implicated

MEADVILLE, Miss. (Special) — Murder charges against two Franklin County men were dismissed at a preliminary hearing this morning on a motion filed by the district attorney.

The defendants, Charles Edwards, 31, and James Seale, 29, were charged in connection with the deaths of two 19-year-old Negroes, Charlie Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee.

Parts of the two bodies were found in the Mississippi River near Tallulah, La., last summer.

Moore was a student at Alcorn A&M College at Lorman and Dee, formerly of Chicago, was an employee of a planing mill in Roxie.

The motion for dismissal, filed by District Attorney L. L. Foreman of Meadville, said, "Your district attorney, working in connection with state and federal officers, is informed that other parties than the defendants are involved in the case and additional time will be required to complete the investigation in the interest of justice and to fully develop the facts of this case."

"The affidavits against James Seale and Charles Edwards should be dismissed by this court without prejudice toward the defendants of State of Mississippi at this time in order that the investigation may be continued and completed for presentation to the grand jury at some later date."

Defense attorney Bill Riley of Natchez, referring to the motion after the hearing, said, "These boys have been treated pretty badly. We don't care for the way they tried to imply these little insinuations that they have something on them which would warrant further harassment of James and Charles."

"We hope this will put an end to any further harassments," said Riley.

The preliminary hearing was before Peace Justice Willie Bedford in the hearing room in Franklin County Courthouse, Meadville.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Jackson Daily
News

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 1/11/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: James M. Ward
Title: Torso Killings

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5 -287
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

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JAN 12 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

NO TYPING (25-2)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dismiss Murder Charges Against Seale, Edwards

(Special to Democrat)

MEADVILLE, Miss., Jan. 11. —Charges of murder against two Franklin County men were dismissed yesterday in a preliminary hearing in justice of the peace court in Meadville.

James Seale, 29, and Charles Edwards, 31, were charged with the deaths of Charlie Eddie Moore a 19-year old Alcorn A&M student, and Henry Hazekiah Dee, also 19, who worked in a Roxie planning mill.

District Three Justice of the Peace Willie Bedford dismissed the charges against Seale and Edwards and ordered an appearance bonds returned after District Attorney L. L. Forman had read a motion asking that the charges be dismissed without prejudice.

In moving the dismissal of the charges, Forman said, "your district attorney, in conference with local, state and federal officials is informed that other parties than these defendants are involved and that additional time will be required to complete the investigation."

The district attorney continued "That in the interest of justice and in order to fully develop the facts of this case, the affidavits against James Seale and Charles Edwards should be dismissed by this court without prejudice to the defendants or

to the state of Mississippi at this time in order that the investigation may be continued and completed for presentation to a grand jury at some later date."

The justice of the peace granted Forman's motion and ordered that bonds posted by Seale and Edwards be returned to them.

Natchez attorney Bill Riley, representing Seale and Edwards as defense attorney, said "these boys have been treated pretty badly. We don't care for the way they tried to apply these little insinuations that they have something on them which would warrant further harassment of James and Charles," he continued. "We hope this will put an end to any further harassment."

Parts of bodies identified as those of Moore and Dee were found last summer near Tallu-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Natchez Democrat

Natchez, Miss.

Date: 1/12/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor:
Title: Torso Killings

Character:
or
Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson
☐ Being Investigated

62-5-292
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 13 1965
FBI - JACKSON

Law Releases Meadville Men on \$5,000 Bond Each

11/9/64

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — Two Meadville men were released Saturday under \$5,000 bond each posted with Sheriff Wayne Hutto of Franklin County.

The two, James Ford Seale, 29, and Charles Marcus Edwards, 31, a Ku Klux Klansman, were arrested Friday on charges of murder in the slaying this summer of two Meadville Negroes.

Torsos of the victims were discovered in a murky Mississippi River offshoot during massive efforts to locate three missing civil rights workers from the Philadelphia, Miss., area.

The victims were Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hazzekiah Dee, 19.

The FBI announced the arrests of Seale and Edwards Friday. Details on how the arrests came were not revealed. Officers indicated Moore and Dee were beaten to death.

Seale and Moore were released on money raised by their families.

Seale, a truck driver, has three children. Edwards, father of four, works for a Natchez paper company. They were taken to Jackson and returned to the Franklin County jail.

The FBI said the investigation of the case was continuing.

At the time of his death, Moore was under suspension from Alcorn A&M for taking part in an April 21 campus civil rights protest. He was among 500 students who staged a walk-out. Highway police quelled the demonstration and school officials later expelled as many as 500 students for their part in the protest.

Neither Moore nor Dee was known to have been active in civil rights work in the Franklin County area.

11/9/64

Enterprise Journal
Mc Comb, Mississippi

State Drops Torso Death Charges Against 2 Men

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — The state dropped charges without prejudice here today against two white men accused of murdering two Negroes whose torsos were found in a Louisiana river offshoot.

James Seale, 29, and Charles Edwards, 31, were charged in the deaths of Charles Eddie Moore, 19, and Henry Hezekiah Dee, 19.

The lower torsos of the victims were found in an offshoot of the Mississippi River this summer near Tallulah, La.

At first, they were believed to have been the bodies of two of the three civil rights workers killed near Philadelphia, Miss., June 21.

Sources said the charges were

dropped because further investigation revealed more persons may have been involved.

The two Franklin men appeared before a peace justice preliminary hearing here today.

They had been freed on bond shortly after they were arrested.

Moore was an Alcorn A&M College student and Dee, formerly of Chicago, worked in a planing mill in Roxie.

Their bodies were found one day apart, both bearing remnants of rope used to tie up hay bales. One of the topless torsos' legs were bound with the rope.

The dropping of charges without prejudice leaves the case open for further action.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2

Leader-Call

Laurel, Miss.

Date: 1/11/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: J.W. West
Title: Torso Killings

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JAN 13 1965	
FBI — JACKSON	

62-5-289

State drops charges in deaths of Negroes

MEADVILLE, Miss. (AP) — The state dropped charges without prejudice here today against two white men accused of murdering two Negroes whose torsoes were found in a Louisiana river offshoot.

James Seale, 29, and Charles Edwards, 31, were charged in the deaths of Charles Eddie Moore, 19, and Henry Hezekiah Dee, 19.

The lower torsoes of the victims were found in an offshoot of the Mississippi River this summer near Tallulah, La.

At first, they were believed to have been the bodies of two of the three civil rights workers killed near Philadelphia, Miss., June 21.

Sources said the charges were dropped because further investigation revealed more persons may have been involved.

The two Franklin men appeared before a peace justice preliminary hearing here today.

Moore was an Alcorn A&M College student and Dee, formerly of Chicago, worked in a planing mill in Rorie.

Their bodies were found one day apart, both bearing remnants of rope used to tie up hay bales. One of the topless torsoes' legs were bound with the rope.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 1

Hattiesburg
American

Hattiesburg

Date: 1/11/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor:
Title: Torso Kill

Character:
or
Classification: 62-
Submitting Office: J
☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 13 1965
FBI — JACKS

02-5-29

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Murder Counts Dropped To Further Torsos Case

MEADVILLE (UP) — Two white Mississippi men were freed of murder charges here Monday in the slaying of two young Negroes after the district attorney suggested the dismissal of the charge would be in the "interest of justice."

The charges were dropped against James Ford Seale, 29, and Charles Marcus Edwards, 31, both of Meadville.

Edwards, identified by the FBI as a "self-admitted Klansman," and Seale were charged in connection with the deaths of Charles Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, both 19.

FOUND IN RIVER

The torsos of the Negro youths were found in the Mississippi River near Tallulah, La., last July. It was first believed they might have been those of slain civil rights workers whose bodies later were found under a dam near Philadelphia.

Dist. Atty. L. L. Foreman asked that the charges against Seale and Edwards be dropped at a justice of the peace hear-

ing after conferring with local, state and federal officials.

Foreman said he had been informed by the officials that "other parties than those defendants are involved and that additional time will be required to complete the investigation."

The district attorney said it was in the "interest of justice and in order to develop the facts of this case" that the charges would be dropped.

BONDS DISSOLVED

Justice of the Peace Willie Bedford also dissolved the \$5,000 bond for each of the men. They had been released on bond soon after they were arrested last November in a crackdown by authorities on alleged racial violence in Southeast Mississippi.

Foreman told the justice of the peace court that the investigation was continuing in the case and further evidence would be submitted to a grand jury at "some later date."

William Riley of Natchez, attorney for the two men, told newsmen after the hearing that "These boys have been treated pretty badly."

"We don't care for the way they tried to imply these insinuations that they have something on them that would warrant further harassment of James (Seale) and Charles (Edwards)," Riley said. "We hope that this will put an end to any further harassment."

OFFICERS QUESTIONED

Riley did not elaborate but apparently referred to the questioning of Seale and Edwards by local, state and federal authorities.

Only the immediate families and local authorities were allowed in the small justice of the peace hearing room on the second floor of the Franklin County courthouse. No state nor

federal officials showed up for the hearing.

Seale, father of three, is a paper mill employe at nearby Natchez. Edwards, father of four, is a truck driver for a mill at the little community of Roxie.

Officers said their investigation determined that Moore and Dee were last seen May 2 hitchhiking near Meadville, the hub of this predominantly rural Southeast Mississippi county.

Moore was a student at Alcorn A&M (Negro) College and Dee was a local laborer. Neither was believed to have been active in civil rights efforts.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Clarion-Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 1/12/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: T.M. Hederman
Title: Torso Murders

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5-288
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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- JACKSON	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Patrolman's Case Is Set For July 12

NATCHEZ — The case of the State of Mississippi vs. Charlie Snodgrass, special investigator for the Mississippi Highway Patrol has been set for call in Adams county court on the second Monday in July. It had originally been set for Tuesday.

Snodgrass and Rex Armistead, another special investigator for the MHP patrol were charged in affidavits filed by James F. Seale of near Meadville, Miss.

In the affidavit against Snodgrass, he was charged with assault, using vile and profane language and "unlawfully detaining and incarcerating the said James Seale" in an incident which allegedly occurred in District 5 of Adams county on June 12.

Armistead was charged with assault and battery and false arrest in an affidavit filed at the same time.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2

Clarion-Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 7/2/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: T.M. Hederman
Title: James Seale

Character:

or

Classification:

157-950

Submitting Office:

Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

157-950-38

#4

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 2 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

C. P. [Signature]

F B I

Date: 6/28/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-29287)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-1084) (P)

UNSUBS; Deputy Sheriff O'NEAL MOORE and
DAVID CREED ROGERS - VICTIMS
CR

ReBuairtel 6/18/65.

When JAMES FORD SEALE interviewed in case captioned, "JAMES FORD SEALE, ET AL; HENRY H. DEE, ET AL - VICTIMS. CR - KIDNAPING. OO: JN," no information obtained re background SEALE as he was hostile. Previous interviews show no relatives RICHARD SEALE in family of JAMES FORD SEALE. The following are known relatives of JAMES FORD SEALE:

Father, CLYDE SEALE, Bunkley Community, Franklin County, Miss.;
Brothers, DON SEALE, Bunkley Community, Franklin County, Miss.; GENE SEALE, Meadville, Miss.;
MYRON WAYNE "JACK" SEALE, Natchez, Miss.

Photograph of JAMES FORD SEALE enclosed for New Orleans Division for exhibition CLARENCE RAWLS.

- 3- Bureau
2- New Orleans (44-2594) (Enc 1)
2- Jackson

CGP:ecs
(7)

①-157-950

157-950-35
Searched _____Serialized Rem

Indexed _____

Filed Rem

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

JN 44-1084

It is pointed out JAMES FORD SEALE presently employed as driver, tractor-trailer hauling chips from Halton Lumber Co., Roxie, Miss., to Crown - Zellenbach, Bogalusa, La., and makes several trips daily.

It is also pointed out C. J. SEALE, no relative of JAMES FORD SEALE, resides Crossroads Community between Poplarville and Bogalusa, La., and was very active WKKKKOM. C. J. SEALE presently in process swinging over to UKA. C. J. SEALE is close associate [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to be contacted 7/1/65, at which time efforts will be made to identify RICHARD SEALE.

FOIA(b) 7 - (D)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

TO : SAC JACKSON 157-

DATE: 6/21/65

FROM : SA ROBERT F. COOPER JR.

James Ford Seal

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT aka SEALS
Klan Activity Meadville, Mississippi
RM

[redacted] office Phone # 353-2424 home phone 354-1477
telephonically advised ^{6/14/65} that about a week ago he
had learned the following which he wished to pass along
to this Bureau .

He said his source is [redacted]

This information must be handled so that the identity of the source or the fact that [redacted] furnished this information to Sadler will not be disclosed.

Several months ago [redacted] cook, name not known to [redacted] left Meadville because her son is now reportedly an NAACP Leader somewhere in Florida . After she left for Port Gibson where she now lives , an attempt was made to burn the empty house she had lived in. Webb said he believed this was the work of the Klan in order to in-still fear in the other Negroes.

Also [redacted] related that [redacted] had told [redacted] on the same occasion as related above , about a week ago that it was common knowledge in Meadville, Miss that the Klan member who had sworn out a warrant against Investigator Snodgrass of the MHSP in Nathez, after Snodgrass had arrested him recently , had told people in Meadville he was going to kill the Governor of Mississippi. [redacted] said he thought the man involved was "Seals" but he could not be sure.

[redacted] requested that the identity of [redacted] not be disclosed . He said he is sure the MHSP knows about the mans statements.

Route to Desk for required action:

*Don Butler notified 4/25/65
BFB*

157-950-324

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JUN 21 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

E. Broome

Ensure MHSP has advised the Gov.

6/19/65

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-950) (P)

JAMES FORD SEALE

RM

OO: JACKSON

Re Jackson airtel to Bureau with LHM dated 6/15/65 captioned UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC., KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, RM.

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and 7 copies of a LHM reflecting the results of investigation pertaining to the Subject at Natchez, Mississippi, on 6/12/65.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)

③ - Jackson (157-950) RM

(1 - 80-Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol)

Searched _____

Serialized _____

Indexed _____

Filed _____

BBW:grj

(6)

The following observations were made by SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS at Natchez, Mississippi, on 6/12/65.

During the late morning of 6/12/65 from a point inside the interrogation room which is in the Adams County Jail, Natchez, Mississippi, JAMES SEALE was observed passing the jail on the street outside. SEALE was seated in a white pickup truck on the passenger side. The pickup was moving in an easterly direction and SEALE was utilizing a movie camera of some type to photograph Mississippi Highway Safety Patrolmen REX ARMISTEAD and DON BUTLER. BUTLER and

ARMISTEAD were just beginning to move away from the curb where they had been parked in front of the Adams County Jail. They were driving ARMISTEAD's white Pontiac automobile. This is a late model Pontiac. ARMISTEAD was driving, BUTLER was sitting on the passenger side.

The pickup in which SEALE was observed to be riding drove out of the field of vision and within a matter of three or four seconds he was pursued by ARMISTEAD in the patrol car.

Within approximately three to four minutes SEALE was observed walking back to the Adams County Jail accompanied by ARMISTEAD and BUTLER. ARMISTEAD was carrying a brown colored movie camera. After entering the Adams County Jail SEALE was seated in the Radio Room and ARMISTEAD entered the interrogation room where he spoke briefly with Chief of Investigators CHARLES E. SNODGRASS, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. ARMISTEAD was heard to ask SNODGRASS "What can I charge him with?" SNODGRASS says reply was not heard.

While in the interrogation room ARMISTEAD removed the film from the camera he had carried back to the jail and exposed the film to the light. He was thereafter observed to close the camera and leave the interrogation room.

Jackson, Mississippi
June 19, 1965

JAMES FORD SEALE
RACIAL MATTERS

On June 12, 1965, Sheriff Odell Anders, Adams County Sheriff's Department, Natchez, Mississippi, advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that on that date he had arrested Rex Armistead and Charles E. Snodgrass, both of whom are investigators for the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. The arrests were made based on a warrant issued by the Adams County Judge after receiving a complaint from James Ford Seale that Seale had been the victim of assault and battery on the part of Armistead and Snodgrass.

Sheriff Anders stated the incident from which this charge resulted occurred during the morning hours of June 12, 1965, at Natchez, Mississippi, when Seale attempted to photograph Investigator Armistead and a second member of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol accompanying him. Armistead had then taken Seale to the Adams County Jail where the film in his camera had been destroyed.

Sheriff Anders further stated that on June 12, 1965, numerous members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKK) and the United Klans of America, Incorporated (UKA) were present in the City of Natchez, Mississippi, for a public rally which was held on the outskirts of Natchez, Mississippi. He stated that Seale is believed to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).

Sheriff Anders advised that a tentative trial date has been set for Armistead and Snodgrass at Natchez, Mississippi, on June 19, 1965. Sheriff Anders stated that he had released Armistead and Snodgrass on their own recognizance.

8 - Bureau
③ - Jackson (157-950)

BBW:grj
(11) gj

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

157-950-29

JE 137-450

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and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not
to be distributed outside your agency.

- 2 -



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Jackson, Mississippi
June 19, 1965

JAMES FORD SEALE
RACIAL MATTERS

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8 - Bureau
③ - Jackson (157-950)

BBW:grj
(11) gj

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Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

JN 137-438

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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.

- 2 -

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ON SATURDAY—

Charges Filed Against Patrol

Charges of assault and battery, false arrest and assault have been filed against two special investigators for the Mississippi Highway Patrol by James F. Seale, a resident of Franklin County.

Affidavits were filed by Seale Saturday before County Judge Robert A. Bonds charging Patrol Investigator Rex Armistead with assault and battery and false arrest and Investigator Charlie Snodgrass with assault.

The affidavits filed by Seale indicate the incidents occurred in District Five of Adams County on Saturday.

Armistead and Snodgrass have been released under \$500 bond and trials by jury set for June 19 at 9:30 a.m.

The affidavit filed against Armistead charges he "did willfully, unlawfully and feloniously commit an assault and battery upon the person and body of James Seale, an adult resident of Franklin County, Miss-

issippi, with the use of their hands by throwing the said James Seale against a car and

otherwise abusing him." The affidavit charges "the said Armistead did further unlawfully arrest, incarcerate and unlawfully detain the said James Seale."

The affidavit filed against Snodgrass charges that he committed an assault upon the person and body of James Seale, "by threatening to do great bodily harm to the said James Seale, indicating with threatening gestures that great bodily harm would be done." The affidavit also charges that Snodgrass "did use vile, profane and vulgar language in the presence of James Seale and furth-

er did unlawfully detain and incarcerate the said James Seale."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Natchez
Democrat

Natchez, Miss.

Date: 6/15/65
Edition: Daily
Author: J.W. Lambert
Editor:
Title: James Seale

Character:

or

Classification: 157-950-30
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

KLAN RALLY FUSS

2 Investigators Facing Charges

By United Press International
Two highway patrol investigators face a hearing this week on charges of unlawful arrest in connection with an incident at a weekend Ku Klux Klan rally in southwest Mississippi.

Adams County Judge William Bond confirmed Sunday that investigators Rex Armstead and Charles Snodgrass were named in a warrant obtained by James Seale, who charged they took him to the Natchez police station for questioning.

Bond said the officers were arrested by the sheriff and released under bonds of \$500. He said a hearing probably would be held Thursday or Friday.

Seale, who claimed he was picked up by the officers at a klan rally near Natchez Saturday, also charged Armstead and Snodgrass with assault and battery. The rally was staged in opposition to an antiklan campaign waged by the Miss-Lou Observer, a weekly newspaper.

In other incidents:

Three Freedom Democratic party workers were jailed in Jackson Sunday while distributing leaflets protesting the special session of the legislature. Arrested were Garland J. Strother, 27, a white volunteer from Reno, Nev., and Negroes James E. Phipps, 17, of Marks, Miss., and Jimmie Blaylock, 18, of Jackson.

Civil rights workers at Canton reported Negro George Raymond, a CORE field worker who led a recent voter registration

march in Brandon, was jailed early Sunday. The workers said Raymond was arrested on charges of cursing officers who were called to investigate the burning of a jeep used by civil rights workers.

Madison County authorities said they were conducting a "full investigation" in the beating of a Negro Army lieutenant Friday night near Canton.

Lt. Harry Bartee, 22, was attacked by a group of white men when Bartee and his wife went to a white nightspot north of Canton. The club formerly was operated for Negroes.

Police arrested three Negro youths at Greenville on trespass charges after they sat in front of the entrance and exit doors of a supermarket. The grocery had been the target of picketing by civil rights workers for several weeks.

The first out-of-state volunteers for a summerlong civil rights campaign were undergoing a five-day orientation program at a center a few miles west of Jackson.

Dr. T.R. Howard of Chicago, a Mississippi-born Negro physician, told about 300 Negroes in Jackson Saturday night that segregation is "on its deathbed" in Mississippi.

Howard addressed a memorial service for civil rights leader Medgar Evers, who was killed two years ago by a sniper's bullet as he stepped out of his car in the driveway of his Jackson home.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 7

Jackson Daily News

Jackson, Miss.

Date: 6/14/65
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: James M. Ward
Title: James Seale

Character:

or

Classification: 157-950-29
Submitting Office: Jackson

☐ Being Investigated

157-950-29

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-4)

DATE: 3/11/65

FROM : SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF KLANSMEN
RACIAL MATTERS

Bureau airtel dated 2/24/65 instructed the Jackson Office to submit supplemental nonprosecutive summary reports immediately regarding the following categories of Klansmen:

1. All national officers
2. All state officers
3. Top officials of each klavern or local unit, such as the Exalted Cyclops and Chief Investigator
4. Any individual Klansmen who exert effective influence and leadership within the Klan and/or have a propensity toward notoriety or involvement in racial violence.

102 - Jackson (2 - 157-4)

(2 - 157-914) (LOUIS ANTHONY DI SALVO)
(2 - 157-676) (TRAVIS F. AINSWORTH)
(2 - 157-582) (ASA F. WEATHERS)
(2 - 157-1181) (DAYTON HOUSTON GILLESPIE)
(2 - 157-1492) (TOM THRASHER)
(2 - 157-486) (EDDIE MC DANIEL)
(2 - 157-606) (EDWIN LEWIS)
(2 - 157-987) (BILLY WOODS)
(2 - 157-1435) (ROGER SMITH)
(2 - 157-2627) (JOHN NOSSER)
(2 - 157-2179) (L. C. MURRAY)
(2 - 157-14) (DOUGLAS A. BYRD)
(2 - 157-24) (PAUL LAFAYETTE FOSTER)

(continued on next page)

BFG:elw
(102)

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7-22-65
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157-950-26

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C. Prospero

JN 157-4

(2 - 157-404) (JAMES K. GREER)
(2 - 157-512) (ERNEST PARKER)
(2 - 157-613) (TOMMIE L. JONES)
(2 - 157-787) (ERNEST FINLEY)
(2 - 157-815) (JACK SEALE)
(2 - 157-950) (JAMES SEALE)
(2 - 157-951) (CLYDE SEALE)
(2 - 157-958) (ERNEST AVANTS)
(2 - 157-1038) (ARCHIE PRATHER)
(2 - 157-1043) (CHARLES EDWARDS)
(2 - 157-17) (BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HINTON)
(2 - 157-1037) (TILLMAN MYERS)
(2 - 157-1202) (LEONARD MC KEE)
(2 - 157-1707) (BILLY JOE LEE)
(2 - 157-1750) (WINSTON DUCKSWORTH)
(2 - 157-1581) (DENSON LOTT)
(2 - 157-1918) (MILTON JAMES)
(2 - 157-1987) (KEITH DYKES)
(2 - 157-2390) (PAUL WEST)
(2 - 157-2121) (RETUS G. BILBO)
(2 - 157-608) (A. C. HERRINGTON)
(2 - 157-450) (GEORGE H. BIRDSONG)
(2 - 157-1113) (PETE (JAMES) HARRIS)
(2 - 157-1226) (JAMES C. RUTHLEDGE)
(2 - 157-19) (JAMES NOLEN FORTENBERRY)
(2 - 157-216) (GORDON MIMS LACKEY)
(2 - 157-946) (JULIUS HARPER)
(2 - 157-571) (HOWARD MC LEMORE)
(2 - 157-1009) (CHARLES SOJOURNER)
(2 - 157-1703) (Q. B. RUTLAND)
(2 - 157-483) (W. R. MANGUM)
(2 - 157-1441) (JASPER BUFORD)
(2 - 157-1719) (J. LESTER PHILLIPS)
(2 - 157-1440) (RALPH EDWARDS)
(2 - 157-458) (EVERETT D. WIGGS)
(2 - 157-470) (WALTER ANDERSON BAILEY)
(2 - 157-1420) (S. T. SHOOK)

JN 157-4

The following format should be used in preparing these nonprosecutive summary reports:

1. Residence
2. Employment
3. Current position in organization
4. Automobile
5. Activity of subject
6. Miscellaneous information concerning subject

In those instances where a summary report has not yet been submitted to the Bureau regarding a Klansman in the above enumerated categories, an up-to-date nonprosecutive summary report should be submitted immediately using the following format:

1. Background
 - a. Birthdate
 - b. Citizenship status
 - c. Education
 - d. Marital Status
 - e. Residence
 - f. Employment
 - g. Military service
 - h. Credit and criminal record
 - i. Physical description
 - j. Make and model of automobile used by subject and description including body style, color and license number. Description of other vehicles to which subject has access.
 - k. Special abilities of subject, including knowledge of weapons, explosives, radio and electronics
 - l. Associates, both business and social
 - m. Up-to-date picture of subject

JN 157-4

In preparing both the initial and supplemental nonprosecutive reports under these instructions, emphasis should be placed on including pertinent information regarding the individual's present position, his current activities, and his propensity for violence.

This Bureau airtel instructed that by 3/5/65, the Bureau was to be advised of the identities of Klansmen on whom reports will be submitted under these instructions. These reports should be submitted as they are prepared (original and six copies). Bureau has set the deadline of 4/30/65 to complete the submission of these reports.

The names of the subjects of the various files receiving copies of this memorandum were furnished to the Bureau by airtel dated 3/8/65, as coming within one of the above-mentioned categories. Consequently, a summary report or a supplemental nonprosecutive summary report should be written in compliance with above-mentioned Bureau instructions.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-950)

DATE: 1/25/65

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (157-746) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES FORD SEALE
RM

(OO: Jackson)

Re Jackson letter to Washington Field, 12/10/64.

A review on 1/21/65 by IC NOEL L. BAKER of the military service records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, indicated JAMES FORD SEALE, Serial Number 277 73 70 enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserve on 7/14/52, and served in an inactive status until 7/13/60, at which time he was honorably discharged.

While serving in the above period of service, DEALE was inducted into the U. S. Army on 7/21/55, under Serial Number 53 235 040, and entered on active duty on the same date at Jackson, Mississippi. He was honorably released from active duty on 10/18/55, as a Private at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and transferred to the U. S. Army Reserve for completion of his military obligation. He served in the U. S. Army Reserve, in an inactive status, from 10/19/55 to 6/30/63, at which time he was honorably discharged.

The service records failed to show SEALE having any specific training or knowledge in the field of demolitions, explosives or firearms while in the military service.

The following descriptive and background information is contained in the records:

DOB:	6/25/35
POB:	Meapville, Mississippi
Height:	5' 7"
Weight:	145
Race:	White
Hair:	Light brown
Eyes:	Grey

1 - Jackson
1 - St. Louis
NLB:gah
(2)

157-950-22

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - JACKSON	

Prosper



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

SL 157-746

Complexion:	Ruddy
Build:	Medium
Blood Group:	"A"
Distinguishing Marks:	Tattoo of a hula girl inside right forearm; has worn glasses in the past.
Education:	8 years grade school
Civilian Occupation:	Ambulance Driver
Military Occupation:	Seaman; light truck driver
Addresses:	Route 2 Meadville, Mississippi (11/26/62); 502 North Canal Street Natchez, Mississippi (10/17/55); 19 South Circle Drive Natchez, Mississippi (8/23/61)
Relatives:	Father, CLYDE WAYNE SEALE Meadville, Mississippi (7/14/52); Mother, AUDRA SEALE Meadville, Mississippi (7/14/52); Wife, SHIRLEY SEALE 502 North Canal Street Natchez, Mississippi (10/17/55) Daughter, DEBORAH LYNN SEALE 502 North Canal Street Natchez, Mississippi (9/13/55) Daughter, BEVERLY ANN SEALE 502 North Canal Street Natchez, Mississippi (9/12/55).

SL 157-746

Employments:	Foster Funeral Home Natchez, Mississippi (1952 - 1955)
Photograph:	None available in the service records
Selective Service No.:	22-1-35-109
LDB No.:	1 at Natchez, Mississippi.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-950)

DATE: 1/5/65

FROM : SAC, WFO (157-491) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES FORD SEALE
RM
(OOJN)

ReJNlet to WFO, dated 12/10/64.

Personnel Records Branch, Department of the Navy advised IC MICHAEL V. DEVOL on 12/28/64, that subject's Navy service record is located at St. Louis, Mo.

Since St. Louis was requested in reference letter to conduct the same lead at MPRC, no lead is being sent to St. Louis, from this office.

② - Jackson
1 - WFO

JBA:abs
(3)



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

157-950-21

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
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JAN 8 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

Prosper...

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-958)

DATE: 12/16/64

FROM : SA PETER R. DURLAND

SUBJECT: ERNEST HENRY AVANTS
RM

SA DURLAND and SA LENARD WOLF on 11/25/64 reviewed Adams County 1965 Car Registration records at the Sheriff's Office, Natchez, Mississippi. The following registrations were located which appear to pertain to subjects in the area. All are 1965 registrations.

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS:

1956 Chevrolet 1965 Miss.
C3653 (registered to Mrs.
AVANTS, Route 1, Natchez)

JOHN W. BARBER:

Route 5, Box 279, Natchez,
1959 Ford Galaxie, 1965
Miss. C6901; 1955 Ford
Pick-up F/5 1330

RODNEY LEE BRITT:

None listed

DAVID RONALD CARNELL:

None listed

FRED DAVIS:

1955 Pontiac, 4-door, 1-6312

ERNEST ROBERT FINDLEY:

None listed

FRANK L. GASTON:

1962 Chevrolet S/W, 1965
Miss. B-1007

ALEXANDER GIBSON GOZA:

1962 Chevrolet Pick-up F/5918

1955 Chevrolet - C4676

1963 Chevrolet - C4675

ERNEST DANIEL GOZA:

1956 Ford C1330

JAMES KENNETH GREER:

1959 Vauxhall B1553

1964 Corvair 2-door club
coupe B1613

NELSON E. HANEY:

1958 Ford 1-1453

1953 Ford Pick-up F/5 31

1957 Chevrolet F/5 30. Pick-
up.

SIDNEY E. HANEY, SR.:

1958 Cadillac, 4-door, D1472

1960 Ford C3887

MARIO S. HERNANDEZ:

1962 Chevrolet Sedan C1871

MARION LEE HOUSE:

1962 Rambler American B-2261

DEC 18 1964
FBI - JACKSON

2 - Jackson (157-958)

See copies last page.

PRD/lcj

(45)

157-950-20

CHARLES EDWARD JAMES:	1954 Chevrolet 2-door C4967
	1957 Ford Sedan C4968
	1950 Studebaker pick-up F/5 969
	1959 Ford pick-up F/5 970
GOVIE TAYLOR LAMBERT:	None listed
EARL McGAUGHEY:	1959 Ford 1-4347
ERNEST PARKER:	1964 Ford Galaxie C2564
CECIL MAYO PEOPLES:	1960 Rambler S/W B1897
CECIL ROBERTS:	None listed
RAPHAEL LEONARD SCHUCHS:	1961 Dodge-Polara S/W 1D2038
FRANK HYMAN THURMAN:	1959 Triumph 10 Sedan, A1006
	1956 Desoto sedan 1-1273
EDWARD FULLER:	None listed
MYRON W. SEALE:	1964 Chevelle Chevrolet 1B1947
CURTIS WILLIAM WELCH:	1962 Ford Pick-up F/5725
	1958 Ford 1-3573
BILLY L. WOOD:	1963 Ford Galaxie 1-5299
THOMAS EDGAR YOUNG:	1957 Chevrolet 2-door 1-7135
CALVIN CLARK:	None listed

1965 Car registrations were checked at Sheriff's Office, Meadville, Mississippi, for Franklin County on 12/1/64 by SA DURLAND and SA LENARD WOLF regarding following subjects:

CALVIN CLARK:	None listed
R. LEWIS DANTZLER:	Route 1, Roxie - 1962 Ford Fairlane 4-door 19B-107
E. H. DUNN:	Route 2, Roxie - 1954 Ford Pickup F/525835
W. C. DUNN:	Route 2, Roxie, None listed
CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS:	Route 2, Meadville 1962 Chevrolet 19B-177 1959 Ford 19-1458 1955 Chevrolet pickup F/525754
WALTER GENE HALL:	Roxie, 1956 Buick Special 19D206
W. J. HARRIGILL:	Roxie, 1964 Chevrolet BelAir 4-door 19-882 1953 Chevrolet ½ ton pickup F/526276
WILLIAM WALLACE HAVARD:	Roxie, 1960 Chevrolet pick- up F/525756

KENNETH LEHMAN:

GERALD GRAY PHARES:

FRANK PRIEST:

CLYDE SEALE:

DON SEALE:

JAMES SEALE:

DENNIS M. SMITH:

HERMAN RAY WHEELER:

Roxie, 1961 Falcon Sedan
19B-139

Roxie, 1962 Ford, 19-1695
1953 Ford 3/4 ton F/526242
Meadville, 1962 Falcon 19B-
118

1951 Chevrolet 4-door 19-288
Meadville, 1961 pick-up
GMC F/5521

1964 Volks 19A-101
1958 Ford Anglis 2-door
19A-105

Meadville, 1957 Chevrolet
Sedan 19-1442

1960 GMC 1000 1/2 ton F/526187

Meadville, 1964 Pontiac
Tempest Sedan 19-516

1962 Volks 19A111
1952 Studebaker 2-door,
19B148

Meadville, 1951 Chevy pick-
up F/526195

Roxie, 1962 Chevrolet BelAir
4-door 19891

-
- 1 - ERNEST HENRY AVANTS (157-958)
 - 1 - JOHN W. BURBET (157-2208)
 - 1 - RODNEY LEE BRITT (157-354)
 - 1 - DAVID RONALD CARNELL (157-664)
 - 1 - FRED DAVIS (157-2193)
 - 1 - ERNEST FINDLEY (157-787)
 - 1 - FRANK GASTON (157-624)
 - 1 - ALEXANDER GOZA (157-2202)
 - 1 - ERNEST GOZA (157-2203)
 - 1 - JAMES K. GREER (157-404)
 - 1 - NELSON HANEY (157-694)
 - 1 - SIDNEY HANEY (157-694)
 - 1 - MARIO HERNANDEZ (157-2191)
 - 1 - M. L. HOUSE (157-2190)
 - 1 - CHARLES JAMES (157-879)
 - 1 - GOVIE LAMBERT (157-2189)
 - 1 - EARL McGAUGHEY (157-511)
 - 1 - ERNEST PARKER (157-512)
 - 1 - CECIL PEOPLES (157-633)
- (continued)

(copies continued)

- 1 - CECIL ROBERTS (157-513)
- 1 - RAPHAEL SCHUCHS (157-2173)
- 1 - MYRON SEALE (157-815)
- 1 - CURTIS WELCH (157-691)
- 1 - BILLY WOOD (157-987)
- 1 - THOMAS YOUNG (157-994)
- 1 - CALVIN CLARK (157-855)
- 1 - R. LEWIS DANTZLER (157-2197)
- 1 - E. H. DUNN (157-2194)
- 1 - W. C. DUNN (157-2195)
- 1 - CHARLES EDWARDS (157-1043)
- 1 - WALTER HALL (157-1042)
- 1 - W. J. HARRIGILL (157-1611)
- 1 - WILLIAM HAVARD (157-2205)
- 1 - KENNETH LEHMAN (157-2188)
- 1 - GERALD PHARES (157-1636)
- 1 - FRANK PRIEST (157-1610)
- 1 - CLYDE SEALE (157-951)
- 1 - DON SEALE (157-961)
- ① - JAMES SEALE (157-950)
- 1 - DENNIS SMITH (157-1039)
- 1 - W. M. TEMPLE (157-2175)
- 1 - HERMAN WHEELER (157-1635)
- 1 - FRANK THURMAN (157-2169)

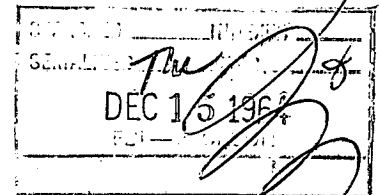
TO: SAC, Jackson (157-957)

FROM: SA PETER R. DURLAND

SUBJECT: BUFORD ASHLEY
RM

On 12/2/64 Mrs. ELLA ATKINS, Credit Bureau of Natchez, Natchez, Mississippi, advised that search of credit files on that date revealed no information identifiable with the following subjects:

BUFORD ASHLEY
FNU GRAHAM
LEE EDWARD JONES
C. L. JORDAN
LLOYD LOFTON
DALE McLEMORE
ARCHIE PRATHER
EUGENE SEALE
DENNIS SMITH
C. M. TERRY
CLYDE WENTWORTH



1 - 157-957 - BUFORD ASHLEY
1 - 157-958 - ERNEST HENRY AVANTS
1 - 157-945 - BILLY BUCKLES
1 - 157-293 - REGINALD P. CARTER
1 - 157-893 - WILFORD D. CUPSTID
1 - 157-1041- JACK DAVIS
1 - 157-1043- CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS
1 - 157-1040- LAMAR FELTERS
1 - 157-1439- THOMAS FELTERS
1 - 157-24 - PAUL L. FOSTER
1 - 157-796 - CLAUDE W. FULLER
1 - 157-1044- FNU GRAHAM
1 - 157-404 - JAMES KENNETH GREER
1 - 157-1042- WALTER GENE HALL
1 - 157-879 - CHARLES E. JAMES
1 - 157-1460- C. L. JORDAN
1 - 157-613 - EDWIN "TINY" LEWIS
1 - 157-1710- FLOYD LOFTON
1 - 157-606 - EDWARD LENOX McDANIEL, aka Eddie

1 - 157-986 MARVIN BILLY
McKINNEY
1 - 157-1812 VICTOR McLEAN
1 - 157-962 DALE McLEMORE
1 - 157-1662 JIMMY D. MITCHELL
1 - 157-1497 JOSEPH J. NOSSER
1 - 157-1522 GEORGE J. NOSSER
1 - 157-690 ROBERT LEE
PARKER, III
1 - 157-1038 ARCHIE PRATHER
1 - 157-892 L. P. RUSHING
1 - 157-951 CLYDE SEALE
1 - 157-961 CLYDE DONALD SEALE
1 - 157-949 EUGENE SEALE
① - 157-950 JAMES SEALE
1 - 157-1039 DENNIS SMITH
1 - 157-1435 ROGER SMITH
PRD:js (39) C. M. TERRY

(Copy count continued Page 2)

157-950-19

JN 157-957

1 - 157-84 C. M. TERRY
1 - 157-1445 ROLLAND THORNTON
1 - 157-955 CLYDE WENTWORTH
1 - 157-987 BILLY WOODS
1 - 157-994 THOMAS EDGAR YOUNG

On 12/3/64, records of Natchez Police Department, Natchez, Mississippi, were checked and no information identifiable with the following individuals was located:

BUFORD ASHLEY
FNU GRAHAM
LEE EDWARD JONES
C. L. JORDAN
DALE McLEMORE
ARCHIE PRATHER
EUGENE SEALE
C. M. TERRY
CLYDE WENTWORTH
THOMAS EDWARD YOUNG
BILLY L. WOOD
ROLAND THORNTON
ROGER SMITH
CLYDE SEALE
CLYDE DONALD SEALE
ROBERT LEE PARKER
L. P. RUSHING
GEORGE J. NOSSER
JOSEPH J. NOSSER

On 12/3/64, Mr. WHITEHEAD, Jailor, Adams County Sheriff's Office, Natchez, advised the Adams County Sheriff's Office does not keep arrest records with the exception of recent records of persons jailed. These records are kept alphabetically but by date.

On 12/3/64, Deputy SHELL, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Meadville, Mississippi, advised the Sheriff's Office does not keep arrest records.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form may be submitted in legible hand-printing.
2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
3. Make effort to furnish FBI Identification Number or Law Enforcement Identification Number.
4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI Number not available.
5. Indicate office for reply in lower-left corner only. Also list in lower-left corner all offices which should receive copies of available records. Include carbon of revised FD-9 for each office receiving copies and forward with original to Bureau.
6. Do not fill in block in lower-right corner.
7. Where available furnish Law Enforcement Identification Number and Military Service Number.

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

Attention: Identification Division

Date

12/2/44

Re JAMES FORD SEALE
RACIAL MATTER

Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following:

Name JAMES FORD SEALE ¹²⁻⁸ ₁₁₋₁ ✓ FBI No.
Other No. USNR # 277-73-70
USA # ER 53-235-040

Aliases

Sex <u>MALE</u>	Race <u>WHITE</u>	Birth Date <u>6/25/35</u>	Birthplace <u>FRANKLIN Co., MISS.</u>	Residence <u>MEADVILLE, MISS.</u>		
Height <u>5'9"</u>	Weight <u>150</u>	Build <u>MEDIUM</u>	Hair <u>BLOND</u>	Eyes <u>BLUE</u>	Complexion <u>RUDDY</u>	Age <u> </u>

Fingerprint Classification

Scars, marks and tattoos

Sc. - St. Key Pat. Jackson, Miss.

Also Furnish:

- ☒ Photo
☐ Fingerprints
☐ Handwriting Specimens

Return Reply to:

SAC, JACKSON 157-950

Send Copies To:

Identification Division's Reply 12/1/64

☐ On basis of information furnished, unable to identify:

☐ Criminal Files ☐ Civil Files ☐ All Files

☒ Record Attached

☐ Photo Attached

☒ Photo Not Available

☐ Fingerprints Attached

☐ Handwriting Specimen Attached

157-950-18
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

DEC 1944
FBI - JACKSON

Chapman BSA

12-11-64

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER **none assigned**

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
St Hwy Pat Jackson Miss	James Ford Seale	11-6-64	murder	
<p>157-950-17</p> <p>SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED DEC 13 1964 FBI - JACKSON</p> <p><i>C. Propper</i></p> <p>Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.</p>				

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-950)

DATE: 12/11/64

FROM : SA PETER R. DURLAND

SUBJECT: JAMES FORD SEALE
RM

On 12/2/64, Mrs. ELLA ATKINS, Credit Bureau of Natchez, Inc., made available the credit file on JAMES FORD SEALE which reflected the following:

→ Credit report dated 2/8/63, indicated SEALE, wife SHIRLEY, resided 2814 Itaska Drive, Natchez. He was listed as 28, white, married with wife, three children, self-employed in cattle business for one year, buying home, wife earning \$225 monthly for Tower Loan Company where employed for three years.

Credit report dated 6/1/57 indicates SEALE 24, married, residing 808 State Street, Natchez, employed as linotype operator for "Natchez Democrat" for one year, estimated net worth, \$4,000, earns \$85 per week. They have lived in Natchez a number of years.

File contains a credit statement made out by Mrs. SEALE with address of Route 2, Box 94, Meadville, Mississippi. Statement dated 10/23/64. She states is 29, married, works as secretary-bookkeeper for Tower Loan Company, her net worth estimated, \$6,000 to \$8,000, income \$80 per week. Owns real estate, "Mid State Homes, Tampa, Florida", has banking connections with City Bank (Natchez), and Bank of Franklin (Meadville). She states her husband was hurt in an oil field five years ago and he is just returning to work.

Report as of 10/23/64, JAMES SEALE employed one month as driver, at \$90 per month for sawmill. Formerly in U. S. Army. Credit generally slow to satisfactory. ← 157-950-16

Records of Natchez Police Department, Natchez, Mississippi, on 12/3/64, reflected no information identifiable with subject.

② - Jackson

PRD:js

(2)

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



SAC, JACKSON (157-950)

12/11/64

SA PETER R. DURLAND

JAMES FORD SEALE

RM

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Records of Natchez Police Department, Natchez, Mississippi, on 12/3/64, reflected no information identifiable with subject.

2 - Jackson

PRD:js

(2)

SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

December 10, 1964

SAC, JACKSON (157-950) (P)

JAMES FORD SEALE
RM

Subject reported to be active member of Franklin County Unit of White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKKK) of the State of Mississippi, Meadville, Mississippi. Investigation has disclosed that SEALE was a member of the U. S. Naval Reserve in 1952 under Serial Number 277-73-70, and also served in the U. S. Army from June, 1955 to June, 1963 under Serial Number ER 53-235-040.

Description of Subject SEALE is as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	June 25, 1935
Place of Birth:	Franklin County, Mississippi
Height:	5' 9"
Weight:	150 pounds
Eyes:	Blue
Hair:	Blond
Complexion:	Ruddy
Address:	Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi.
Selective Service No:	22-1-35-109

LEADS:

THE WASHINGTON DIVISION

At Washington, D. C.

Will review Subject's Navy record for background information and will attempt to ascertain from these records

2-WFO
2-St. Louis

2-Jackson (157-950) *MRK*

TMC/*mrk*
(6)

Searched _____
Serialized *Post 40*
Indexed _____
Filed _____

C. Prospero

157-950-14

JN 157-950

if SEALE afforded any training in use of explosives while in Naval Service.

THE ST. LOUIS DIVISION

At. St. Louis, Missouri

Will at Army Records Center conduct same lead set forth for Washington Field Office.

Date October 28, 1964

CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS was contacted by Special Agents PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR., and LENARD A. WOLF, at which time he was advised that he did not have to make any statement, that any statement he did make could be used in a court of law, and that he had the right to consult an attorney before making any statement.

CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS advised that he was born on July 17, 1933 at Meadville, Mississippi, and that he was married in June, 1957 at Meadville, Mississippi. He currently resides on Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, and he completed the eleventh grade at Meadville, Mississippi. He stated that his wife is the former PEGGY JEAN WORTLEY and that he has the following children:

KENNETH WAYNE EDWARDS
ALLEN LANE EDWARDS
DAVID BLAINE EDWARDS
SANDRA JEAN EDWARDS

EDWARDS stated that his father, CHARLES, resides in Meadville, Mississippi and his mother, OLA, is deceased. He stated that he has two half-brothers, JIMMIE BYRD who is a carpenter somewhere in Connecticut, and BILLY BYRD, present whereabouts unknown. He stated that he has resided on Route 2 for about one year and prior to that he resided in Roxie, Mississippi.

EDWARDS stated that he was in the U.S. Army from January, 1950 through October, 1952 and that he received an honorable discharge. He stated that his U.S. Army Serial Number is 24881320. EDWARDS has been employed as a laborer for the past 12 years at the International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi.

On 10/24/64 at Meadville, Mississippi

File # JN 157-1092
JN 157-1093

by SA LENARD A. WOLF and
SA PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR.:RLC

SEARCHED	INDEXED
Date dictated <u>10/28/64</u>	SERIALIZED
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FBI - JACKSON	

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JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

2

EDWARDS advised that he is not a member of any Klan-type organization and that he never has been a member of any such organization. EDWARDS stated that he is a close friend of JAMES SEALE, DON SEALE, and JACK SEALE and further stated that his father and CLYDE SEALE have farmed together for many years.

EDWARDS stated that he has had nothing to do with any violence occurring in Mississippi; however, he refused to discuss this subject any further than to state he has had nothing to do with it.

EDWARDS stated that he owns a 1955 blue Chevrolet pickup, 1965 Mississippi license F/5 25754. He further stated that he owns and operates a 1963 blue Chevrolet sedan, bearing 1965 Mississippi license 19B177.

The following description was obtained from interview and observation:

Name	CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	31
Born	7/17/33, Meadville, Miss.
Height	5'9"
Weight	195 lbs.
Hair	Dark brown
Build	Medium to heavy
Complexion	Medium - dark

1

Date October 27, 1964

Mr. JAMES SEALE was interviewed near his residence by Special Agents PETER R. DURLAND, PATRICK COLLINS AND LENARD A. WOLF who identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. SEALE was informed of the nature of this investigation and was advised that he was entitled to a lawyer, that he did not have to say anything and that anything he said might be used against him in a court of law.

Mr. SEALE stated that he had never been a member of the Ku Klux Klan or any related organization and stated he had no information regarding the Klan. He further stated that he had never participated in any violence including bombings or beatings and states he had no information regarding these matters.

He advised that he did not care to state his opinion as to whether or not he condoned bombings, beatings or other violence in regard to the issue of integration or to the racial situation. He stated in this connection that he and other people in Franklin County were "getting sick of being interviewed and bothered by FBI Agents", and stated he did not wish to say anything else to the Agents and at this point discontinued the interview.

During the above interview the following background information was obtained:

Name	JAMES SEALE
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Approximately 28
Height	5'8"-9"
Weight	140-150 lbs.
Complexion	Reddish

On 10/24/64 at Meadville, Mississippi

by SA PETER R. DURLAND,
SA LENARD A. WOLF, : RLC
SA PATRICK COLLINS

File # <u>JN 157-1092</u>	
SEARCHED <u>JN 157-1093</u>	INDEXED <u>JN 157-1093</u>
SERIALIZED <u>10/26/64</u>	FILED <u>10/26/64</u>
Date dictated <u>10/26/64</u>	
FBI - JACKSON	

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JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

2

Marital Status
Military Service

Married with several children
Stated had been in military
service for a short period and
was discharged because of his
dependents

Hair
Eyes
Residence
Employment

Brown
Blue
RFD #2, Meadville, Mississippi
Truck driver at stud-mill near
Roxie, Mississippi.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 26, 1964

MYRON WAYNE SEALE was interviewed in the office of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Jackson, Mississippi. At the outset of the interview SEALE was advised by SA COLLINS that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised that he had the right to consult an attorney before making any statement.

MYRON WAYNE SEALE advised that he is much better known as "JACK" SEALE. He stated that he was born on September 4, 1926, Brookhaven, Mississippi. He stated he completed the eleventh grade in high school at Meadville, Mississippi, and stated he married DELORES MAE DEINES in Portland, Oregon, on March 1, 1947. He stated that he has the following children:

PAMELA MAE SEALE, age 16
TERRY LOU SEALE, age 13
JACK HENRY SEALE, age 9

SEALE stated that since February, 1963 he and his family have resided at 172 Booker Street, Natchez, Mississippi, with telephone number 21429. SEALE stated that he bought this dwelling with \$800 downpayment, and that he makes a monthly payment of \$100 to the Building and Loan Company, Natchez, Mississippi.

SEALE stated that his father is CLYDE SEALE, age 62. His mother is AUDREY MC CALL SEALE, age 59. SEALE has three brothers; namely:

JOE EUGENE SEALE, better known as GENE, age 28,
high school graduate

JAMES FORD SEALE, age 26, did not finish high school

On 10/23/64 at Jackson, Mississippi

by SA PATRICK J. COLLINS and
SA LENARD A. WOLF : RLC

File #

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 27 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

Wef

Date dictated 10/24/64

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JN 157-1093

2

CLYDE DON SEALE, age 24, did not finish high school.

SEALE stated that he currently owns and operates the Sanitation Service Company, a garbage collection firm in Natchez, Mississippi. SEALE stated that he operates this business with one truck, a 1958 two ton Chevrolet, silver in color with a blue cab. SEALE employs one driver, a male Negro named FLOYD JOHNSON. SEALE has been in this business about six years in Natchez. He stated that his income is between \$8,000 and \$9,000 per year in this business. SEALE stated that he charges his customers \$1.50 per month for the garbage pickup service. The pickup is made once a week. SEALE advised that for two years before going into the sanitation business he worked in the oil fields in Louisiana starting as a "roustabout" and terminating this career as a "pumper". SEALE stated his employment prior to the oil business was in Portland, Oregon. He stated that for seven years he worked for his father-in-law, HENRY DIENES. He stated DIENES operates a sanitation service in Portland, Oregon. From 1948-50 SEALE was in the Merchant Marine as an oiler sailing out of Portland, Oregon. From October, 1944 to December, 1947 he was in the U.S. Navy, Navy Serial Number 722707, with the rank of Fireman First Class.

SEALE advised that before residing at his present dwelling he resided at 403 Brookley Street, Natchez, Miss., for four years. Prior to that he resided at Barataria, Louisiana for two years. While in Portland, Oregon, he resided at approximately five different street addresses. Prior to his entry into the U.S. Navy SEALE resided with his father in Meadville, Mississippi.

SEALE further advised that he has been arrested twice in his life. His first arrest was while he was in the U.S. Navy at Portland, Oregon. He stated he was arrested for Assault and Battery on a shore patrolman. SEALE was incarcerated in the brig for 48 days prior to being court martialed.

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JN 157-1093

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SEALE stated that at his court martial he was found not guilty. He advised when he was residing in Portland, Oregon, he was once arrested for speeding and reckless driving and was fined an unrecalled amount of money.

SEALE stated that his closest associate in Natchez is ERNEST PARKER. He stated that he considers ERNEST PARKER to be his best friend and that they hunt and fish together frequently. He further stated that he often goes with PARKER in PARKER's airplane. He stated PARKER has a four-seater plane which is white with red stripes. He stated PARKER is a very cautious pilot. PARKER and SEALE usually fly from Natchez up to "Palmyra" which SEALE described as an island on the Mississippi river. He stated that this is a 35,000 acre island and that PARKER owns 25,000 acres of the island. PARKER has at least 500 head of cattle on this island and SEALE and PARKER often fly up to the island to take care of these cattle. He stated that sometimes they drive up to the island or to Talulah, Mississippi, where they visit friends. He stated that ERNEST PARKER and his brother LEE PARKER own a large barge which they can take out to the island. He stated that last summer while bringing a truck with 26 head of cattle from the island to the mainland, the barge tilted, causing the cattle and the truck to go overboard. PARKER and SEALE dived in the river and attached a chain to the truck on the bottom; thereby later dragging the truck out of the river. SEALE stated that PARKER has several Jeep "Scouts" on the island which they drive around the island. He stated that he barely knows ERNEST PARKER's wife, MARY ODIE PARKER.

SEALE stated he is also a very close friend of Mr. DORIS SULLIVAN who operates the Culligan Water Softener business in Natchez.

JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

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SEALE advised that he is also very friendly with Sheriff ODELL ANDERS. He stated that ANDERS and he went to school together at a logging camp school many years ago. He stated that he knows CHARLES EDWARDS very well and that he has spent a lot of time with CHARLES EDWARDS. SEALE is very friendly with ERNEST FINLEY and stated that both he and FINLEY manage a Little League baseball team. SEALE is acquainted with a DOUGLAS BYRD whom he states he has known well for about six months. DOUGLAS BYRD rents his home from ERNEST PARKER. SEALE is well acquainted with JAMES L. McKINNEY.

SEALE made available the following items which were in his billfold:

1. City Bank & Trust Co. check dated 10/4/64, for \$3.00, made payable to JACK SEALE and signed Mrs. JAMES E. WRIGHT. This check was returned marked "insufficient funds".
2. Social Security Card for MYRON W. SEALE, Box 423, Barataria, Louisiana, #427-38-1418.
3. State of Mississippi Dept. of Public Safety, Driver License Division receipt #C123963, for one year renewal of commercial license.
Name - MYRON WAYNE SEALE
Address - 172 Booker Rd.
License No. - "Lost"
Total Fee - \$4.75
Date - 9/28/64
4. Business cards of M. W. "JACK" SEALE, Sanitary Service, Phone 2-1429, 403 Brooklyn Drive, Natchez, Miss.
5. State of Mississippi Dept. of Public Safety, Driver License Division receipt #E173192 for duplicate license
Name - MYRON WAYNE SEALE
Address - 172 Booker Rd.
License No. - "Lost"
Total Fee - \$1.25
Date - 9/28/64

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6. State of Mississippi commercial license #106679 for MYRON W. SEALE, 172 Booker Rd., Natchez.
Born -9/4/26
Race -White
Sex -Male
Eyes -Blue
Hair -Brown
Weight -190
Height -5'10"
Expires -9/30/65
7. Membership Card Northeast Louisiana Restaurant Club issued to M. W. (JACK) SEALE as a non-voting member of this club.
8. Membership Card National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Natchez Morgantown PTA, dated 10/6/64.

SEALE advised that he knew the following individuals since they were customers of his sanitation service:

ALTON ROBERTS
MARTIN GREER
ERNEST AVANTS

SEALE denied being involved in the shooting of the COFO workers' car near Fayette, Mississippi, on November 2, 1963. When asked where he was around 11:00 a.m. on that date he stated that he did not remember. He advised that he had previously told an FBI Agent where he was on that date. SA WOLF told him that he had previously told SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE that he was home on that morning until 12:00 noon. SEALE then stated that whatever he told SA PROSPERE was apparently where he was at that time.

SEALE said he was against the bombings that had been occurring in Mississippi and that he is against racial violence. He said that he has been active in the Americans

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JN 157-1093

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for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR) and that he has urged this organization to fight integration through politics and not through violence. He said that some people consider this group to be a front for the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) but that it is not.

SEALE denied being a Klan member and having any knowledge of Klan activities. He however stated that he had attended a public meeting of the Klan last summer, which was held at the park in Natchez and at which meeting ROBERT SHELTON and two preachers were the speakers.

SEALE stated that the local APWR organization covers all of Adams County and that the chairman was a Mr. TEMPLE. He stated that most of the members have now dropped out as they are afraid of being labeled as Klansmen. He said that APWR worked hard towards the election of Sheriff ANDERS and that he believes their work got the Sheriff elected.

SEALE was questioned about the bombing of Mayor JOHN NOSSER's home about a month ago and he said he thinks "niggers done it". He said that he had heard that the mayor had a falling out with the local Negroes. He stated that he believed the Mayor was in a bad position in that the whites called him a "nigger lover" and the Negroes called him a "nigger hater". He stated that the mayor had done a few things that got people mad at him. He said the mayor had changed the tax assessment method which resulted in increases for most people while he had an \$85,000 reduction on his own property. He stated the mayor also had the parking meters around his stores removed.

SEALE stated that the bombings and racial violence that had occurred around Natchez could have been stopped right at the start. He said that the Natchez Police Department and the Adams County Sheriff's Office did not do anything to stop the violence and apparently condoned it. He said that if they had taken action at the start of the violence it would not have continued.

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SEALE admitted that he had three guns at his home. He said one was a .30 caliber rifle he obtained through the National Rifle Association. He said he had built the stock up and mounted a scope on this rifle. He said one was a .30 caliber carbine he had obtained from a friend of his in the U.S. Navy. The third gun he stated was a pump shotgun he had purchased from Sears and Roebuck.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 24, 1964

JOHN WILLIAM BARBER, 20 Beachwood Lane, Natchez, Mississippi, was interviewed at the office of the Automobile Theft Bureau, Mississippi Highway Patrol station, Jackson, Mississippi, in the presence of Mississippi Highway Patrol Investigator, C. L. HUTCHINSON. He was advised that he did not have to make a statement; that any statement made by him could be used against him in a court of law, and that he was entitled to consult an attorney of his own choice before making any statement. He stated at the outset he did not plan on making any written statement.

BARBER advised that on or about October 31, 1963, he was at a point on East Franklin Street near Orange Avenue across the street from a Tenneco service station in Natchez. At this time, which was in the afternoon, he met a friend, FRANK THURMAN who was in the company of two other friends, ERNEST AVANTS and JAMES GREER. He advised that GREER and AVANTS got into a white and black 1956 Oldsmobile and that THURMAN got into his car. He described his car as a 1959 Ford, creme over pink.

BARBER further stated that while parked at the above described location, he observed a white boy come out of a house occupied by a Catholic priest. He observed this white boy get into a gray Corvair with a Connecticut license. He stated that he followed AVANTS and GREER who were following the Corvair for a few blocks when the white boy stopped at the home of a Negro. He was unable to state who lived at the house, but he states he observed the white boy look in his direction and make some kind of remark about "You SOB's following me".

Following this, they returned to a point across the street from the priest's house and parked for about 15 minutes.

On 10/22/64 at Jackson, Mississippi

by SA ROBIN O. COTTEN: RLC

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 4 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	
Date dictated <u>10/23/64</u>	

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157-950-10

He advised they observed the same Corvair return to the priest's house and the same white male enter the house. Shortly thereafter he observed this person come out of the house with some papers in his hands and got back into his Corvair. He again drove to the Negro's house and parked. BARBER stated that he and THURMAN along with GREER and AVANTS followed the Corvair but did not stop on this occasion. After circling the block and returning to the Negro's house, he saw the Corvair going in the direction of U.S. Highway 61 North.

According to BARBER, the two cars followed the Corvair to Port Gibson, Mississippi, where the Corvair stopped at a service station.

BARBER advised he parked his car on the opposite side of the street and observed a Negro male and a Negro female and the white boy they had followed all standing beside the Corvair talking. He then observed a scuffle but stated that from where he was standing he was unable to see exactly what happened. He saw either GREENE or AVANTS "swing" at some of this group but stated he does not know if any blows were actually struck. Following this, he stated he and his friends returned to Natchez.

With reference to his knowledge of Klansmen, he denied that he is a member of any Klan group and denied he knew any person in Natchez who is a member. He stated he has heard that about 1500 people in the Natchez area are Klansmen, but could furnish no information as to his source of information.

According to BARBER, he was approached several months ago to join the Klan but denied he knew the identity of the person who approached him. He stated he is a member of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR) and joined this organization a year ago. He also stated that this organization is very strong in the Natchez area and was organized in Natchez. He denied that he has attended any meetings in recent months. He also stated that

when he first joined this organization, his "boss" almost fired him and his "boss" later joined himself. He declined to identify his "boss".

He admitted that during the Summer of 1964, he attended a public meeting at the ball park in Natchez and heard ROBERT SHELTON make a talk concerning the Klan. At this meeting he obtained Klan literature and took it home with him. He admitted he was in agreement with all statements made by SHELTON.

With reference to his associates in Natchez, he mentioned the following persons: JACK and JAMES SEALE, ERNEST AVANTS, CALVIN CLARK and JIMMY WHITE. He stated he first knew JACK SEALE during the time SEALE picked up garbage at his home.

According to BARBER, he has known AVANTS four or five years and contacts him at the Bar-B-Que Grill on Highway 61 North. He stated he plays poker with CALVIN CLARK and has known him for several years.

He identified JIMMY WHITE, operator of White's Esso Station, Highway 61 South, Natchez, as his closest associate.

When questioned concerning his knowledge of the beating of ROY BEESON in February, 1964, he stated he heard about the beating and stated it was a common knowledge in Natchez that it had occurred. He denied any connection with the beating and claims he knows nothing about the identities of the persons involved. He stated that he is familiar with the reason that BEESON was whipped and added that just prior to the beating, he, BARBER, was riding in the Mississippi Highway Patrol car with Patrolman LAVON ROBERTSON when they observed ROY BEESON driving on Highway 84, about 12 miles from Fenwick, Mississippi. He was intoxicated at the time and when they stopped him, he observed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At the same time, he stated

FOIA(b) (6)

FOIA(b) (7) - (C)

4

they observed an unknown [REDACTED]

He

recalled that BEESON told the officer that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This occurred about
9:00 p.m.

He further advised concerning his associates, that MARVIN McKINNEY is a good friend and that he has known him for the past three or four years and often visits his home.

He stated he knows ERNEST PARKER, but is not a close friend.

With reference to the recent bombing of Mayor NOSSER's house, he is of the opinion that it was done by a Negro, but he could furnish no information in this regard. He explained that Mayor NOSSER allowed the open meeting to be held when SHELTON spoke at the Klan meeting, but he refused to allow the Negroes to use the same ball park for a civil rights meeting.

He claimed he knows of no other incidents involving violence in the Natchez area and volunteered that he was "certain" that the acts which have been committed, were not done with the authority of the Klan.

Date October 23, 1964

1

Sheriff ODELL ANLERS, Adams County, Mississippi, was interviewed at the County Jail at Natchez. He advised that he very recently obtained information from a member of the Klan and that he has promised this person "immunity". He stated that as far as he knows this Klansman was not actually involved in beatings and shootings in the Natchez area, but certain of those persons who are responsible for these acts have admitted to him that they were involved. He stated that there is no way of proving this since the only persons who have knowledge of the acts are the persons themselves. He also added that the victims of the assaults could not identify those involved since in some cases the persons wore hoods.

He stated that his source told him that a Negro, ARCHIE CURTIS, was severely whipped with a "bull whip" about May, 1964. He identified CURTIS as a Negro undertaker from Natchez. According to his source, this was committed by ERNEST FINLEY, ERNEST PARKER and JACK SEALE.

In addition to the above, he stated that the same persons were responsible for the bombing of the Mayor's house on September 25, 1964.

He explained that his source told him that ED McDANIEL, former head of the Natchez Klan was on the political side of the Chief of Police of Natchez in opposition to Mayor NOSSER. After Mayor NOSSER's two sons, JOE and GEORGE NOSSER were taken into the Klan it brought about a split in the Klan, in that many members were opposed to their being accepted.

This opposition group included McDANIEL, EARNEST SEALE, and others believed responsible for the violence in the area. He also stated that at the time of the bombing of

On 10/20/64 at Natchez, Mississippi

by SA ROBIN O. COTTEN and
SA PETER R. DURLAND/rlc

File # JN-157-1092
SEARCHED JN-157-1092
SERIALIZED JN-157-1092
Date dictated 10/20/64
FBI - JACKSON

157-950-9

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.

Mayor NOSSER's house, ED McDANIEL was in the police car about a block away with the Chief of Police.

He also stated that shortly prior to the bombing, NOSSER's two sons were reportedly responsible for passing out leaflets around Natchez accusing the Chief of Police of living with Negro women and other immoral acts. The Mayor and the Chief of Police have been strong political enemies since the last election. He explained that Mayor NOSSER was attempting to abolish Civil Service within the police department.

With respect to other acts of violence he stated that sometime last year, a car operated by "civil rights workers" was fired into at Fayette, Mississippi. He stated that according to his source, the shooting was done by JACK and JAMES SEALE with a .38 caliber pistol. He stated that JAMES SEALE has kept this pistol hidden until recent weeks and at the present time is carrying this pistol. He stated that the gun could also possibly be at his home. According to Sheriff ANDERS, JAMES SEALE presently lives in Franklin County, Mississippi.

With respect to the dynamiting of the "Blue Flame" at Bude, Mississippi, approximately three months ago, his source identified JAMES SEALE and others as being responsible.

He said that JACK SEALE sometime during 1963, attempted to burn a church and a lodge hall in Natchez. He has no details at this time concerning this act.

He stated he would obtain more details and make same available at a later date.

Sheriff ANDERS stated that he has no knowledge whatsoever that any of the above group or any others in the Natchez area have killed any Negroes, as a result of the racial situation.

JN 157-1092

[redacted] advised SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and THOMPSON BERRY WEBB on October 20, 1964 of the results of contact of a confidential informant of the MHSP:

[redacted] reported that on the night of October 13, 1964 the informant reported as follows:

Members of the United Klan of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan are ERNEST FINLEY, JACK SEALE, EDDIE MC DANIEL, L. C. MURRY, LENNIE SCHUCHS, THOMAS YOUNG, TOMMY JONES and PAUL FOSTER, Exalted Cyclops, this group having pulled away from another Klan group as a result of the NOSSER brothers joining the Klan.

Informant reported that MYRON WAYNE "JACK" SEALE, L. C. MURRY and JAMES SEALE bombed MAYOR JOHN NOSSER'S Home, as well the residence of WILLIE WASHINGTON. Further, it was reported that shortly before the NOSSER bombing, a brown 1963 or 1964 Chevrolet and a white Volkswagen were seen circling the block around the mayor's home. Informant reported that his source of this information came from a member of the Klan, who is a friend of the NOSSERS.

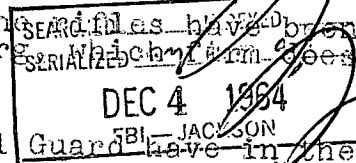
Informant reported that a civil rights worker's car was shot into near Fayette, Mississippi about six months ago; that JAMES SEALE did this with a .38 calibre pistol owned by "JACK" SEALE, his brother. JACK was the driver of the car at the time.

It was informant's information that JACK SEALE had set fire to the Negro Union Hall in Natchez, Miss, after members of SEALE's group learned that COFO workers were meeting in this hall.

Informant advised that ERNEST PARKER, a well fixed financially man in the area, has been flying dynamite or explosives into the area from some place in Texas, via his personal four-place plane. PARKER has a landing strip on an island he owns, and possibly has a place on his farm where he can land also. Machine guns, determined to have defective barrels, can be purchased for \$150 each from the same location as where the explosives are obtained in Texas. Informant was of the opinion he could obtain the location in Texas, and further that if the explosives are stored in Adams County, they would be hidden on the farm of PARKER.

Reportedly a large number of carbines and rifles have been purchased at a war surplus store in Vicksburg, Mississippi, which does not maintain record of serial numbers.

Members of the Mississippi National Guard have in the past furnished carbine ammunition as well as some hand grenades, however informant did not know the identity of the Guard unit.



COVER PAGE

157-950-8

Informant reported that there are approximately 50 members of the Fayette, Mississippi klan, each having a Burp gun (grease gun) which they bring to their meetings. Some member of the group allegedly went to Missouri and obtained these guns, returning them in his car.

Approximately 6 months ago a friend of the informants, who he would not identify found a case of 60% dynamite in a junked car and gave it to informant, who in turn gave it to JAMES SEALE. Fifteen of these sticks were used in the bombing of the Blue Flame Cafe in Bude, Mississippi in the Spring of 1964. While informant could not furnish the identity of others in on this bombing, JAMES SEALE was.

JAMES SEALE furnished the dynamite to be used in the bombing of a Negro meeting place in Louisiana, across the Miss. line. The place was guarded by Negroes resulting in a shooting scrape with both Klansmen and negroes being injured.

Investigator O'NEAL contacted the informant on the morning of October 17, 1964 at which time it was reported:

Informant did not know the identity of the owner of the 1963 or 1964 Brown Chevrolet observed circling the block the night of the bombing of the Mayor's home. He reported that JAMES SEALE owns the white Volkswagon.

With reference to the hand grenades previously mentioned, informant explained that several months ago DOUGLAS BYRD brought a suitcase into CHARLES JAMES' Service Station containing Klan robes, left the robes for klansmen to pickup. The suitcase contained two handgrenades which CHARLES JAMES placed in his safe for BYRD.

Informant reported that the night marshal in Fayette is a member of the KKK there, name unknown, meeting place unknown, and identified another member of the group not by name but as the operator of the Shell Service Station north of the Chevrolet company in Fayette.

In addition to the war surplus store in Vicksburg, he stated that there is a similar store across the street from the Heidelberg Hotel garage in Jackson, Miss. that will sell rifles, pistols and ammunition.

Informant reported that while he has never seen the explosives used by klansmen that he understands it is a liquid when poured on the floor of a building and lighted it will explode and leave no odor or other trace. It allegedly is obtained from the paper mill in Natchez.

Imperial Wizard SAM BOWERS, operator of SAMBO MUSIC CENTER

COVER PAGE

Laurel, Mississippi stated in a klan meeting about the time of the Philadelphia, Miss. incident "Let's get the heat off Philadelphia" and soon after the churches in Adams County were burned. This statement was made at a county meeting.

A man named DAVIS, full name unknown but who operates a barber shop in Roxie, Miss., has a bad eye, tried to get the informant to help him do away with a Negro around Roxie which he refused to do.

Informant reported that ARCHIE CURTIS, the Negro undertaker, was whipped by JACK SEALE, EARNEST PARKER, EARNEST FINLEY, and DOUGLAS BYRD.

On October 21, 1964, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP) Investigator FORD O'NEAL (NA), advised information had been received from a MHSP source that JACK and JAMES SEALE are close associates of ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, JAMES KENNETH GREER, JOHN WILLIAM BARBER, AND FRANK HYMAN THURMAN. O'NEAL advised that according to his source, AVANTS, GREER, BARBER and FRANK HYMAN THURMAN are allegedly involved in assault of victim PAYNE at Port Gibson, Mississippi, and that AVANTS, GREER and JACK SEALE allegedly are involved in the shooting into the automobile of PAYNE and GREENE near Fayette, Mississippi.

O'NEAL advised that his department was anxious to apprehend and prosecute the subjects involved in both the shooting into the car and the assault at Port Gibson in an effort to stop the bombings and attacks in the Natchez area and specifically to penetrate the hard core Klan group believed responsible for violence in the area. O'NEAL requested any information the Bureau might have which would facilitate their identification of these individuals and the issuance of local warrants. Accordingly, O'NEAL was furnished information as to the involvement of AVANTS, GREER, BARBER and THURMAN as reflected in Jackson file 44-406, including admissions by subjects and photograph identification by victim.

COVER PAGE

F B I

Date: 11/27/64

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, NEW ORLEANS

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-63)

SUBJECT: WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS

During the course of investigation at Natchez in regard to Klan activities membership, bombings, burnings, etc., the following named persons were developed who have or are believed to have affiliations with the Klan and its activities. 157 classification cases have been opened in the Jackson Division on these individuals.

New Orleans is requested to check indices on these persons and either summarize any information located, or, if circumstances so indicate, forward the file in which the individuals' name appears to the Jackson Division.

BUFORD ASHLEY, white male, residence Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-957.

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, white male, Date of birth 1/23/31, Lincoln County, Mississippi, JN 157-958.

BILLY BUCKLES, white male, residence Oldenberg Road, Meadville, Mississippi, Jn 157-945

DOUGLAS A. BYRD, white male, residence Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-14

2 - New Orleans (RM)

1 - Jackson (157-63)

CLP/ljs

See copies on page 4

Searched _____
Serialized DB
Indexed DB
Filed _____

Neg

157-950-7

Approved: _____

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

REGINOLD P. CARTER, white male, employed Sel-Rite Grocery, North Pine Street, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-293.

CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS, white male, date of birth 7/17/33, Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-1043.

LAMAR FELTERS, white male, approximately 30, residence Roxie, Mississippi, JN 157-1040.

ERNEST ROBERT FINLEY, white male, date of birth 3/9/25, Clayton, Louisiana, JN 157-787.

PAUL L. FOSTER, white male, late 30's, residence 3701 Ridgewood, Natchez, Mississippi, occupation, bookkeeper International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-24.

CLAUDE W. FULLER, white male, date of birth 9/6/22, Raymond, Mississippi, JN 157-796.

JAMES K. GREER, white male, date of birth 12/30/32, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-404.

CHARLES E. JAMES, white male, approximate age 42, wife DOROTHY, residence 3812 Edgewood Road, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-879.

EDWIN "TINY" LEWIS, white male, date of birth 12/15/15, Learned, Mississippi, JN 157-606.

EDWARD LENOX McDANIEL, white male, date of birth 9/12/34, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-486.

MARVIN BILLY McKINNEY, white male, date of birth 9/11/31, Hamburg, Mississippi, JN 157-986.

DALE McLEMORE, white male, residence Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-962.

GEORGE J. NOSSER, white male, residence 504 South Union, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-1522.

JOSEPH J. NOSSER, white male, residence 13 Brentwood Lane, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-1497.

ERNEST B. PARKER, white male, approximately 45, residence Palestine Road, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-512.

JN 157-0

ROBERT LEE PARKER, III, white male, approximately 45, residence Route 1, Tallulah, Louisiana, JN 157-690.

ARCHIE PRATHER, white male, approximately 68, residence Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-1038.

F. J. RATCLIFF, white male, employed Armstrong Tire Company, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-1451.

L. P. RUSHING, white male, residence Pine Ridge Road, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-892.

CLYDE SEALE, white male, approximate age 62, residence Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-951.

CLYDE DONALD SEALE, white male, approximate age 24, residence Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-961.

WILLARD EUGENE SEALE, white male, date of birth 9/12/32, Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-949.

MYRON WAYNE "JACK" SEALE, white male, date of birth 9/4/26, Brookhaven, Mississippi, JN 157-815.

JAMES FORD SEALE, white male, age 26, residence Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-950.

DENNIS (MNU) SMITH, white male, age 30 to 32, Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, JN 157-1039.

JOHN (MNU) SMITH, white male, approximately 50, wife LAVERY, employed International Paper Company, Natchez, residence Route 3, Box 9, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-1446.

ROLLAND THORNTON, white male, approximately 30, residence Route 5, Brookhaven, Mississippi, occupation, carpenter, JN 157-1445.

CLYDE WENTWORTH, white male, residence, Meadville, Mississippi, occupation, painter, JN 157-955.

BILLY L. WOOD, white male, age 27 or 28, Kingston Road, Kingston, Mississippi, employed Armstrong Corporation, Natchez, Mississippi, JN 157-987.

JN 157-0

THOMAS EDGAR YOUNG, white male, date of birth 6/28/24,
Natchez, Mississippi, employed Armstrong Corporation, Natchez,
Mississippi, JN 157-994.

1 - 157-293
1 - 157-1043
1 - 157-1040
1 - 157-787
1 - 157-24
1 - 157-796
1 - 157-404
1 - 157-879
1 - 157-606
1 - 157-486
1 - 157-986
1 - 157-962
1 - 157-1522
1 - 157-1497
1 - 157-512
1 - 157-690
1 - 157-1038
1 - 157-1451
1 - 157-892
1 - 157-951
1 - 157-961
1 - 157-949
1 - 157-815
1 - 157-950
1 - 157-1039
1 - 157-1446
1 - 157-1445
1 - 157-955
1 - 157-987
1 - 157-994

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
M E M O R A N D U M

FOIA(b)7 - (D)

TO: SAC, JACKSON (157-63)

DATE: 9/15/64

FROM: SA SAMUEL N. JENNINGS

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS

Informant:

Date of Report:

Date of Activity:

Date Received:

Location of Original
Information:

9/3/64

September, 1963 -

9/3/64

9/3/64

The informant advised by oral report to SAs CLARENCE G. PROSPERE and FRANK FORD that he had joined the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) at Brookhaven, Miss., about a year ago and had been sworn in by "SHORTY" BREELAND and EDDIE MC DANIEL, both of Natchez, Miss. He said BREELAND is now out of the Klan. Informant stated that he was sworn into the Klan when it was known as the Original Knights of the KKK which is a Louisiana organization headed by ROYAL V. YOUNG who was the Imperial Wizard. Informant

162 - Jackson

- (2 - New Orleans) (Information)
- (1 - 157-52) (KKK, Copiah County)
- (1 - 157-343) (KKK, Lauderdale County)
- (1 - 157-253) (KKK, LeFlore County)
- (1 - 157-572) (KKK, Wilkinson County)
- (1 - 157-353) (KKK, Pike County)
- (1 - 44-1) (MTBURN)

- (1 - 157-584) (KKK Activity, Lincoln County)
- (7 - 157-new) (KKK Klaverns, Lincoln County)
- (1 - 157-14) (Original Knights of KKK of La.)

(continued on next page)

SNJ:elw
(162)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEPT. 15, 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	
C. PROSPERE	

JN 157-63

(2 - 157-new) (ROYAL V. YOUNG)
(1 - 157-14) (DOUGLAS A. BYRD)
(1 - 157-569) (KKK, Franklin County)
(2 - 157-new) ("SHORTY" BREELAND)
(2 - 157-new) (EDDIE MC DANIEL)
(2 - 157-new) (PAUL FOSTER)
(2 - 157-new) (J. M. FOSTER)
(2 - 157-) (BERNARD JONES)
(2 - 157-) (HORACE JACKSON)
(2 - 157-new) (LOUIS COWART)
(2 - SHELBY BREWER) (157-)
(2 - 157-new) (HOUSTON JORDAN)
(2 - 157-new) (A. C. HARRINGTON) (State Recruiter, Ruth, Miss.)
(2 - 157-new) (SEDGY HARRINGTON)
(2 - 157-new) (Lomax Printing Co., Laurel, Miss.)
(2 - 157-new) (PAUL GRIFFIN, MHSP, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-new) (LLOYD CASE)
(2 - 157-new) (CHARLES SALVEY)
(2 - 157-new) (TINY LEWIS)
(2 - 157-) (BILLY BUCKLES)
(2 - 157-) (HOWARD MC LEMORE, Crystal Springs, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (JULIUS HARPER) (Ex-Sheriff, Copiah Co.)
(2 - 157-) (GORDON LACKEY, Greenwood, Miss.)
(1 - 170-62) (WAITES MC NEIL)
(2 - 157-new) (WOODY MATTHEWS, Utica, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (SAM BOWERS)
(2 - 157-new) (MAURICE FLOWERS, Laurel, Miss.)
(1 - 62-5)
(1 - 157-551)
(2 - 157-) (TOMMY BROCK, "a Judge," Utica, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) HENSHAW, Laurel, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) LAND, Bay Springs, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) JACKSON, Owner of Butane Co., Crystal Springs)
(2 - 157-) (CLYDE WENTWORTH, Unit #1, Franklin County)
(2 - 157-) (BERNICE BEASELY, MHSP, Meadville, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (CHARLES MARSHALL, Meadville, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) (LNU) "TALL MAN", Pure Oil Station,
Meadville, Miss.)
(2 - 170-) (BILL SCARBOROUGH, Ford Dealer, Meadville, Miss.)

(Continued on next page)

JN 157-63

(2 - 157-) (CLYDE SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (JAMES SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (EUGENE SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (DONALD SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (JACK SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (DALE MC LEMORE)
(2 - 157-) (ERNEST AZANTS)
(2 - 157-) (ERNEST PARKER)
(2 - 157-) (J. K. GREER, Fenwick, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (BUFORD ASHLEY, Meadville)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) PHELPS, Phelps Cafe, Raleigh, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (LUTHER HART, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) JAMES, Amoco Station on bypass,
Natchez, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (MARVIN MC KINNY)
(2 - 157-) (BILLY WOODS)
(2 - 157-) (CLAUDE FULLER)
(2 - 157-) (APWR, Lincoln County)
(2 - 157-) (ALTON ALLRED, Grocery Store, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (C. C. CLARK, former Postmaster, Ruth, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) SOMMERS, Brookhaven TV & Appliance Store)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) POSEY, employee of SOMMERS, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ("GOOSE" WICHMAN, employee, Telephone Co.,
Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (TOBE LEGGETT, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (CHARLIE BRANHAM, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (SAM BRAMLETT, Texaco Station, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (CLYDE SMITH)
(2 - 157-) (CURTIS SMITH)
(2 - 157-) (SHELBY BREWER)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) (LNU), Manager of either Shainberg Store
or Dollar Store, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (CECIL CROSS, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (LEE STAMP, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (Heights Retreat Unit, KKK, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) (LNU), Operator of Ford Tractor Place,
Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (BILLY MACK DONALD)

JN 157-63

stated that in 1963 DOUGLAS A. BYRD was the Grand Dragon of the Original Knights of the KKK in the State of Mississippi. Informant stated that after being sworn into the Klan he learned that the Klan was in need of some place to hold their meetings and finally located a place which was the old Standard Oil place, Brookhaven, Mississippi, which building was recently burned.

Informant stated that when he was sworn into the Klan the following persons were members at Brookhaven, Miss., and vicinity:

PAUL FOSTER, his brother, J. M. FOSTER
BERNARD JONES, who was forced out of the Klan
a little less than a year ago
HORACE JACKSON
LOUIS COWART
SHELBY BREWER
HOUSTON JORDAN
A. C. HARRINGTON, who is presently State Recruiter
for the Klan and resides at
Ruth, Mississippi
SEDGY HARRINGTON, who is the brother of
A. C. HARRINGTON

Informant advised that he wrote the first paper that was distributed by the Klan in Lincoln County, Miss. and this paper was printed by the Lomax Printing Company, Laurel, Miss. The purpose of this paper was to get people together and get them out to vote.

The informant advised that the Lincoln County Klan Organization grew larger and a man named ERNEST S. GILBERT was made the Exalted Cyclops of this group. The Klan Organization at Lincoln County rented the Moose Lodge for the charter meeting and the Lincoln County Unit and the Franklin County Unit of the Klan were chartered on the same day at the same ceremony at Brookhaven, Miss., on 2/2/64.

The informant said that as a result of the above paper being distributed by the Klan in Lincoln County there was a large recruitment and over 100 individuals came to join the Klan in Lincoln County. It took over four hours to swear these individuals in. Shortly after that the Lincoln County group had over 200 members. About this time it was realized by the Klan leadership that something was wrong with the \$10 initiation fee as it could not be determined what happened to all of this money. It was proposed after this mix-up on the money that the Klan group be broken down into smaller units but DOUGLAS A. BYRD advised that this could not be done since each recruiter got \$4 out of each \$10 initiation fee and the remaining \$6 went to the State Klan Headquarters. The informant said after the charter was obtained in Lincoln County the local group retained \$5 of the \$10 initiation fee and the other \$5 was sent to the State Headquarters. The informant said after the charter was obtained the recruiter of the unit received no money from initiation fees.

The informant recalled that DOUGLAS A. BYRD, each time he attended a meeting in Lincoln County, was always desperately in need of money. The informant learned that BYRD was supposed to turn in each \$6 he received to YOUNG. The informant said the initial forming of the units of the Klan in Lincoln County resulted in DOUGLAS A. BYRD having a woman make the robes for the members and she charged \$10 for each robe. The Klan members complained that the robes did not actually cost \$10 for material and workmanship.

The informant advised that one LOUIS COWART was elected investigator of the original Lincoln County group. COWART was later made a state investigator by DOUGLAS A. BYRD.

Informant advised that after the Lincoln County group was formed he heard through DOUGLAS A. BYRD that ROYAL V.

JN 157-63

YOUNG of Louisiana was coming to Natchez and BYRD wanted ERNEST GILBERT to meet him in Natchez. The informant learned that the purpose of this Natchez meeting was so that BYRD could pull away from the original Knights of the KKK of Louisiana which was headed by YOUNG and set up his own Klan group in Mississippi. The informant said he learned that one reason BYRD wanted to do this was because he could not get YOUNG to account for the money which BYRD had given him. The informant learned that the following people were at the meeting at Natchez:

PAUL GRIFFIN, Mississippi Highway Patrol,
Brookhaven, Mississippi
ERNEST GILBERT, Brookhaven, Miss.
LLOYD CASE, Brookhaven, Miss.
HOUSTON JORDAN, Brookhaven
CHARLES SALVEY, Brookhaven

The informant said that the above group of individuals met DOUGLAS BYRD at the Bar-B-Q Pit on Highway 61 North which is operated by TINY LEWIS, who is also a Klan member. After BYRD, YOUNG and the others arrived at the Bar-B-Q Pit they went to the old VFW Building located next to Sarah's Place which is on the Liberty Road and a meeting was held there.

The informant learned that at this meeting YOUNG and BYRD fussed back and forth at each other and then YOUNG finally stood up and began preaching. After YOUNG did this, ERNEST GILBERT got up and told YOUNG to sit down and that the entire group could go to hell as far as he was concerned if this was the way that the Klan operated. GILBERT also told those present that the Lincoln County group did not need the Klan. YOUNG advised those present that the Klan could not be operated this way according to the constitution. YOUNG insisted that the Lincoln County group should have a constitution. GILBERT then told YOUNG that if YOUNG could not speak in a logical manner that the meeting was adjourned. GILBERT told YOUNG as he was leaving that he, YOUNG, should not return to Mississippi and YOUNG left the meeting.

DOUGLAS A. BYRD did not enter into the above discussion at any time. The informant gathered that impression after this meeting was over that BYRD was attempting to cover up what he had been doing with the Klan money which had been given to him for membership fees and for robes. BYRD tried to explain to GILBERT and the others that this meeting at Natchez had been held to try and get YOUNG to account for the money which had been given to him.

The informant said that the above group who had attended the Natchez meeting returned to the Bar-B-Q Pit and there was a discussion about writing a new constitution for the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi. The informant learned that DOUGLAS A. BYRD, TINY LEWIS and ERNEST GILBERT had gathered at GILBERT's home and written a new constitution for the Klan organization. GILBERT allegedly told BYRD at this meeting where the constitution was written that he was getting out of the Klan.

The informant advised that at a later meeting BYRD came to Brookhaven, Miss., and invited GILBERT to attend this meeting although GILBERT had previously told BYRD he was getting out of the Klan. GILBERT did go to this meeting but nothing was accomplished there as there was no organization to the meeting. BYRD explained at this meeting about the idea of withdrawing from the Original Knights of the KKK of Louisiana and setting up the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi. The informant learned that representatives from Wilkinson County and Pike County were in attendance at this meeting in Brookhaven, Mississippi, and these two county groups wanted to stay in the Original Knights of the KKK of Louisiana.

The informant learned that a second meeting was held in Brookhaven, Miss., in less than a month and ERNEST GILBERT was elected head of the White Knights of the KKK, State of Mississippi. DOUGLAS A. BYRD was voted out of office. The following individuals were instrumental in electing GILBERT head of the Klan:

BILLY BUCKLES

HOWARD MC LEMORE, Crystal Springs, Miss.

DALE MC LEMORE, Franklin County, Miss.

JULIUS HARPER, ex-sheriff, Copiah County, Miss.,
presently operator of the J and F
Grill, Crystal Springs, Mississippi

GORDON LACKEY, Greenwood, Miss.

The informant pointed out that JULIUS HARPER, the ex-sheriff of Copiah County, and ERNEST GILBERT were instrumental in saving the life of WAITES MC NEIL of Smith County whom the Klan believes is an informant for the FBI.

Informant said that at a meeting of the White Knights of the KKK a committee was appointed to write a constitution and this committee was headed by ERNEST GILBERT and was comprised of JULIUS HARPER, HOWARD MC LEMORE, both of Crystal Springs, Miss., GORDON LACKEY of Greenwood, Miss., BILLY BUCKLES and WOODY MATTHEWS. The informant said that WOODY MATTHEWS is a cousin of Congressman JOHN BELL WILLIAMS of Mississippi and MATTHEWS resides at Utica, Miss. MATTHEWS acts as a moderator at all large Klan meetings. Informant said DOUGLAS A. BYRD was asked to serve on the committee to write the constitution but he refused to serve. The constitution was written by the above committee and was accepted at Brookhaven, Miss., on 2/2/64 at a state meeting.

The informant learned that prior to the above Brookhaven, Miss., meeting on 2/2/64, DOUGLAS A. BYRD had written a constitution on his own which he presented to the Natchez, Miss., group of the Klan with the idea of getting the entire state to go along with him (BYRD). The Klan group at Natchez was not named at that time and BYRD's meeting was held about two weeks before the Brookhaven meeting. SAM BOWERS from Laurel, Miss., went to the meeting at Natchez, Miss., and BYRD indicated to the Natchez group he wanted to throw GILBERT out of the Klan since his wife was allegedly a Catholic. The informant said he knows

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GILBERT's wife is not a Catholic and she is from Laurel, Miss., originally. Informant learned that one MAURICE FLOWERS, a Klan member from Laurel, Miss., had got up and refuted BYRD's statement about GILBERT's wife being a Catholic and after that the Natchez meeting broke up.

The informant said that two weeks after this Natchez meeting was held there was a big state meeting held at Brookhaven, Miss., in the old Sinclair Building and 'SHORTY' BREELAND of Natchez, Miss., was present and told those at the meeting that the Natchez group had informed DOUGLAS BYRD that he should get out of the Klan and that they wanted ERNEST GILBERT to head up the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi and pull the state together. Informant learned that the following persons were elected at this meeting at Brookhaven, Miss.:

SAM BOWERS, Imperial Wizard
JULIUS HARPER, Grand Dragon, a position which he
still holds
BILLY BUCKLES, Grand Giant and State Secretary
PAUL FOSTER, State Chaplin, who has since resigned
and was sworn out of the Klan by
ERNEST GILBERT.
ERNEST S. GILBERT, State Investigator

Four Bursars were elected. The head State Bursar for Mississippi is TOMMY BROCK, a "Judge" at Utica, Miss. The Second Bursar is a man named HENSHAW of Laurel, Miss., who lives on Highway 84 East. The Third Bursar is an individual by the name of LAND who resides at Bay Springs, Miss., but who subsequently resigned his position. The Fourth Bursar was from Greenwood, Miss., but informant did not recall his name. Informant said that during this transition period when the above meetings were held at Natchez and Brookhaven, Miss., DOUGLAS BYRD was not elected to any office, however, BYRD acted as a sort of assistant to ERNEST GILBERT for several months prior to 2/1/64.

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Informant stated that after the above meeting the next state meeting of the Klan was held at Natchez, Miss., and the above-mentioned officers were in charge and are still in charge of the Klan in Mississippi.

The informant said the next meeting following the one at Natchez was held at Raleigh, Miss., about June, 1964, and the next state-wide meeting after that, which was the last state-wide meeting, was held at Crystal Springs, Miss., at an individual named JACKSON's place just outside of Crystal Springs, Miss. The informant could not recall JACKSON's first name but stated JACKSON operates a Butane Gas Company in Crystal Springs. The informant said he does not recall seeing GILBERT at the last Klan meeting in Crystal Springs.

The informant stated that the election of any officers in the Klan is scheduled between 9/15/64 and 11/15/64 and that BILLY BUCKLES, who lives on the Oldenberg Road out of Meadville, Miss., is coordinating the election. Each unit will vote for the officers they want which will then be reported through the provinces to headquarters. The new officers of the Klan will be elected to serve for four years in Mississippi.

The informant said that all Klansmen in Mississippi were forbidden to carry guns, pencils, lighters or just about anything else into a state Klan meeting. He said the state meetings are set up so they have snipers stationed in trees surrounding the area of the meeting, as well as armed guards patrolling on foot, horseback and in automobiles. In addition to this, he said they had an airplane flying overhead when the meeting was held at Raleigh, Miss. The informant learned that the Klan is now attempting to train dogs to use as guards around the state meet and also the local headquarters of the various Klan units.

The informant said that during August, 1964, CLYDE WENTWORTH, who is a painter and also Exalted Cyclops of

Unit Number 1, Franklin County, Mississippi, had access to an entire list of this unit of the Klan and this list had been observed by Patrolman BERNICE BEASELY of the Mississippi Highway Patrol stationed at Meadville, Miss. BEASELY allegedly observed this list while he was at Jackson, Mississippi.

The informant pointed out that at one time about 80% of the Mississippi Highway Patrolmen were allegedly in the Klan. However, they have been sworn out. Informant said, however, that many highway patrolmen still pass on information to the Klan and act as lookouts for the Klan. The informant stated BEASELY, who is at Meadville, Miss., was definitely in the Klan at one time and still passes on information to the Klan members at Meadville. The informant learned that an individual referred to as "TALL MAN" at the Pure Oil Station, Meadville, Miss., has been talking about one CHARLES MARSHALL, who resides near Meadville, Miss., and who takes off from work to attend Klan meetings. MARSHALL allegedly owes everyone in the county and is driving a Thunderbird. According to the "TALL MAN", CHARLES MARSHALL is the individual who furnishes names of Klan members to BILL SCARBOROUGH, the Ford dealer at Meadville, Miss. Allegedly, SCARBOROUGH gives MARSHALL \$1,000 a month for information regarding the Klan. The informant was not able to elaborate on the above arrangement.

About the only thing the informant could learn relative to the above was something said by CLYDE SEALE, father of JAMES, EUGENE, DONALD and JACK SEALE, who lives on the Bunkley Road near Meadville, Miss., indicating that CHARLES MARSHALL had gone to Baton Rouge, La., and purchased a wedding ring for \$3,000 which he later had appraised at the bank in Meadville. Informant further learned that MARSHALL had lost his job at the International Paper Company, Natchez, Miss., and had been to Meridian, Miss., trying to get into the Klan Unit there. CLYDE SEALE made the remark that MARSHALL is supposed to be engaged to a girl who lives at Meridian and is using this as an excuse to visit Meridian, trying to obtain names of Klansmen which he allegedly passes

on to BILL SCARBOROUGH. According to the informant, the Klan group which CLYDE SEALE belongs to has voted to whip SCARBOROUGH. The informant emphasized that CLYDE SEALE and/or some of the members of the two Klan units at Meadville, Miss., may do away with CHARLES MARSHALL if the above information regarding MARSHALL is true.

Informant is of the opinion that a young highway patrolman or SAM BOWERS, both of Laurel, Miss., were the individuals who bombed the newspaper there several months ago. SAM BOWERS has refused to discuss this newspaper bombing with other members of the Klan.

The informant could not learn any information regarding the murder of the two Negroes, MOORE and DEE, whose bodies were found a few months ago in the Mississippi River north of Natchez, Miss. The informant was then advised that BILLY BUCKLES was known to have made the statement that DEE was a victim of circumstances and had to be done away with. Informant then stated that with this information he might be able to develop something on the MOORE-DEE killings. The informant was not acquainted with an explosion in a church at Brookhaven, Miss., and knew nothing of an attempted burning or explosion of any churches in that area.

The informant was not aware of the identity of the person described as an electrician from Franklin County, Miss., employed at the International Paper Company, Natchez, Miss., who allegedly burned the juke joint of JAKE FRISHMAN in Natchez, Mississippi.

The informant advised that he knew the identity of several individuals who fired a smoke bomb into the house of KID RUSSELL and they are DALE MC LEMORE, DOUGLAS A. BYRD and possibly ERNEST AZANTS and JACK SEALE. The informant knew that DOUGLAS BYRD was drunk after the first attempt to smoke bomb RUSSELL's house failed and, further, BYRD was the one who obtained the smoke grenade which was fired into the house.

Informant is acquainted with ERNEST PARKER of Natchez, Miss., who is the individual who distributed Klan papers by plane at Brookhaven the first time they were distributed by plane there and PARKER's plane has been used by the Klan even though it was not flown by PARKER on other occasions. Informant knows one J. K. GREER of Fenwick, Miss., who is a pilot licensed to fly both day and night and is the only known member of the Klan who is so licensed. Informant stated that usually GREER rents a plane at the Natchez Airport when distributing papers for the Klan by plane.

The informant said that BILLY BUCKLES and DOUGLAS A. BYRD put out the Klan papers from the plane at Greenwood, Miss., a few months ago. The informant stated that BUFORD ASHLEY of Meadville, Miss., also owns an airplane which the Klan can use but ASHLEY can only fly during the daylight hours.

Informant said that CLYDE SEALE was responsible for the distributing of papers in the Meadville area. Informant recalled that one of these papers merely stated that names would be called if things were not changed and the second paper distributed there actually called names of particular individuals.

Informant advised that the plane owned by ERNEST PARKER was the one used to drop Klan papers over Philadelphia, Miss., about the first part of August, 1964.

The informant said the only information he has regarding a church burning came from an individual named PHELPS who operates Phelps Cafe at Laurel, Miss. PHELPS advised about 6/1/64 that he knew how a church was burned but the informant was not aware of which church PHELPS was referring to but believed it was near Raleigh, Mississippi. Informant said PHELPS claimed the church was saturated with gasoline or kerosene and that a Butane gas line was the line which subsequently ignited the gasoline or kerosene.

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The informant said he had no information about any church burnings in Pike County, Miss., and that all the Pike County Klan Units are members of the United Klans of America with the exception of one unit. The informant was not acquainted with this one Pike County Unit and did not know the identity of the members.

Informant stated that ERNEST GILBERT had allegedly received about \$4,000 in expense money from the Klan between 1/1/64 and 6/1/64 but that the local investigators in the various provinces had claimed mileage expense and that the money to pay this was turned in to the state headquarters. GILBERT allegedly gets the money back from the state headquarters to pay to the local Klan investigators, leaving little money for GILBERT's personal use.

Informant advised that the unit of the Klan at Crystal Springs, Miss., had borrowed money at a local bank and had plans to build a building in which to hold their meetings. All members of the Klan unit supposedly signed the note with the bank. The informant learned that an official of the bank made the statement that he had the names of all the Klansmen in Crystal Springs as he had their names on a note at his bank.

Informant said there was no special account of the Klan at any bank but that the Klan money was handled by a man named HENSHAW who resides on Highway 84 east of Laurel, Mississippi. The money handled by HENSHAW is supposed to be put into the personal account of HENSHAW. The informant recalled that at the state Klan meeting at Raleigh, Miss., HENSHAW was instructed to turn all money of the Klan over to "Judge" BROCK of Utica, Miss., and to the other three Bursars of the State Klan Organization.

Informant learned that DOUGLAS A. BYRD had made a call to ERNEST GILBERT from Natchez, Miss., sometime in

the past few months asking GILBERT to come to Natchez to kill a Negro by the name of WILLIAM DENNIS WARE. The informant said that LOUIS COWART of Brookhaven, Miss., went to Natchez, Miss., shortly after this telephone call and that three others went to Natchez also, HORACE JACKSON and LUTHER HART, both of Brookhaven, Miss., and a fourth individual whose name was not recalled. Informant was not aware of what happened at Natchez on this occasion.

The informant advised that an individual named FULLER came to Brookhaven, Miss., from Monroe, La., and was there to help organize the Klan. FULLER was a very close associate of ROYAL V. YOUNG.

Informant learned that a man named JAMES (first name unknown) who operates the Amoco Service Station at the bypass at Natchez, Miss., a brother of HORACE "ZULU" JAMES, the radio dispatcher at the Natchez, Miss., Police Department, and PAUL FOSTER had called ERNEST GILBERT at Brookhaven to get him to investigate the shooting of RICHARD JOE BUTLER, a Negro male at Natchez, Miss. According to the informant, JAMES and PAUL FOSTER believe that this shooting of BUTLER was done by MARVIN MC KINNY and BILLY WOODS. Informant said that a Klan leader questioned MARVIN MC KINNY about this later and MC KINNY denied being involved in the shooting of BUTLER. The informant did not believe any of the Klan leaders had been able to determine which Klansman was responsible for shooting BUTLER.

Informant advised that during August, 1964, BILLY WOODS and CLAUDE FULLER contacted ERNEST GILBERT and tried to get permission to kill some Negro, which permission was denied them by GILBERT. They allegedly were going to kill LEONARD WOODLEY, a Negro preacher who had been stirring up trouble and talking about the Klan. WOODLEY was attempting to organize the Negroes.

The informant advised that SHELBY BREWER was formerly the head of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), Lincoln County, Miss., but has recently resigned. The informant was not acquainted with the officers of the APWR.

Informant advised that ALTON ALLRED, operator of a grocery store near the Amoco Station, just east of the Homco Offices in Brookhaven, Miss., has a contract to furnish all of the robes for Klansmen for the State of Mississippi. Informant stated ALLRED has certain women working for him to do the sewing on the robes but these women are not known.

The informant advised that he learned through a very confidential source that Mr. C. C. CLARK, a prosperous businessman at Ruth, Miss., who is the former Postmaster there, was secretly sworn into the Klan and this information is known by four people only.

Informant advised that A. C. HARRINGTON of Ruth, Miss., is the Exalted Cyclops of the Ruth Unit and that HARRINGTON is also the State Grand Kleagle (State Organizer). The informant offered the opinion that the recent bombing incidents at McComb, Miss., are being done by the Klan group at Ruth, Miss. The informant said the foreman of C. C. CLARK, Ruth, Miss., mentioned above, is a member of the Ruth Unit of the Klan, however, he cannot recall his name at the present time. SEDGY HARRINGTON, brother of A. C. HARRINGTON, is also a member of the Ruth Unit of the Klan.

The informant said there are seven Klaverns of the KKK at Lincoln County, Mississippi. The Exalted Cyclops of Unit #1 is an individual by the name of SOMMERS who is the owner of the Brookhaven TV and Appliance Store. The Assistant Exalted Cyclops is an individual by the name of POSEY who is employed by SOMMERS at the Brookhaven TV and Appliance Store. "GOOSE" WICHMAN is the investigator of Klan Unit #1. WICHMAN is employed by the telephone company

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at Brookhaven. Other members of this same unit are HOUSTON JORDAN, TOBE LEGGETT, CHARLY BRANHAM, SAM BRAMLETT, operator of a Texaco Service Station, CLYDE SMITH, CURTIS SMITH, who may be out of the Klan now, and SHELBY BREWER, who has Klegle Commission and can work anywhere in the state. The informant said another member of this unit is the manager of either the Dollar Store or Shainberg Department Store, Brookhaven. Two other members are CECIL CROSS and LEE STAMP.

The informant said the newest unit of the Lincoln County Klan is the Heights Retreat Unit which is in a community located out toward the Brookhaven airport. The Exaulted Cyclops of this new unit is a man who runs the Ford tractor place in Brookhaven but his name could not be recalled. Another member of this new unit is BILLY MACK DONALD who offered the ground on which a building could be built for Klan meetings but this offer was turned down by the Klan leaders since DONALD would not allow the Klan to purchase the property on which the building would be built.

The informant advised that there is an executive meeting of the Klan officers at JACKSON's place near Crystal Springs, Miss., each Sunday and informant will try to find out what happens at the next meeting.

Recommendation:

The above information sets forth pertinent information regarding numerous organizations and individuals connected with captioned organization and should be considered for inclusion in reports of captioned organization or individuals.

Due to the length of this memo, specific leads are not being set forth herein but agents receiving copies of this memo should review the material and conduct logical investigation.

THIS INFO IS NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE THE BUREAU AND EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE USED IN DISCUSSING THIS INFO AS THE INFORMANT'S LIFE COULD EASILY BE JEOPARDIZED.

(Title) JAMES FORD SEALE(File No.) 157-950-1A

1. 5-13-65 Photo of residence of JAMES SEALE in April, 1965.
2. 5-16-65 Photo of Subject James Ford Seale taken 4/13/64.
3. 8-10-65 photo negative of James Ford Seale 11/64
4. 6/14/66 signed statement from Robert King
5. 2/9/67 2 Photos of James F. Seale
6. 4-4-67 Photos neg. of James Ford Seale.
7. 6-16-67 Photo of James F. Seale.

Disposition:

157-950-1A

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

File No. 157-950-1A7

Date Received 6-19-67

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By Webb Jones
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes ☐
No ☒

Description:
Photo of James Seale



**JAMES F.
SEALE**

File No. 157-950-1A5

Date Received 2-1-67

From Telephone Pole
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Franklin County
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)
By [Signature]
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes ☐
No ☒

Description:
Photo of
James E. Seale.





File No. 157-950-1A4

Date Received 6/9/66

From Robert King
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Route 2, Box 111
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Meadville Miss
(CITY AND STATE)

By Richard A. Hamilton
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes ☐
 No ☒

Description:

signed statement

June 9, 1966
Meadville, Miss.

I, Robert King, Route 2, Box 111, Meadville, Mississippi, furnish the following information to Richard H. Hamilton and Benjamin F. Heaver, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been advised that this statement may be used in a court of law, and no threats or promises have been made to get me to make this statement.

I was returning from Red Weathersby, where I had had my tractor repaired, about 5 o'clock P.M. on Bunkley Road about 8 miles ^{South of Meadville} ~~South of Meadville~~ ^{RK} ~~South of Meadville~~ ^{RK} Mr. Bailey Odell, who was headed toward Bunkley, stopped on the right side of the road and crossed the road to my tractor to talk about his sister who he had just visited at the hospital.

Odell was standing at the left rear wheel of my tractor, which was still running, when I saw a pickup truck, headed away from Meadville toward Bunkley, just an instant before it struck Odell. After the truck hit Odell it swerved and hit the left side of Odell's truck. Odell was knocked about 15 feet back of my tractor.

The pickup truck stopped immediately
RK

and it was then that I recognized the driver as James Seales, who I have known for 20 years. Seales tried to call for an ambulance on ^{the} truck radio, but could get no answer and some individual in the area called for an ambulance on the telephone.

Bill was taken to the Franklin County Hospital where he died several hours later.

I cannot read and this statement was read to me by SA Hamilton. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge. Robert V. King

Witnessed:

Benjamin F. Graver, Special Agent, F.B.I., Jackson, Miss.
Richard A. Hamilton, Special Agent, F.B.I., Natchez, Miss.

File No. 157-950-1A1Date Received 4/21/65From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)_____
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)_____
(CITY AND STATE)By Samuel N. Jennings
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned

Yes ☐No ☒

Description:

Photo of
rendered of
James Stale
in April 1965



Residence of James Seale
in Benkey Community
Franklin Co.

157-950-1A1

SW

374

File No.

157-950-1A²

Date Received

4/13/64

From

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned

Yes ☐No ☒

Description:

Photo of
subject
James Earl Ray
taken 4/13/64
by SA Merriman
D. Diven



File No. 157-950-1A6

Date Received 4-4-67

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

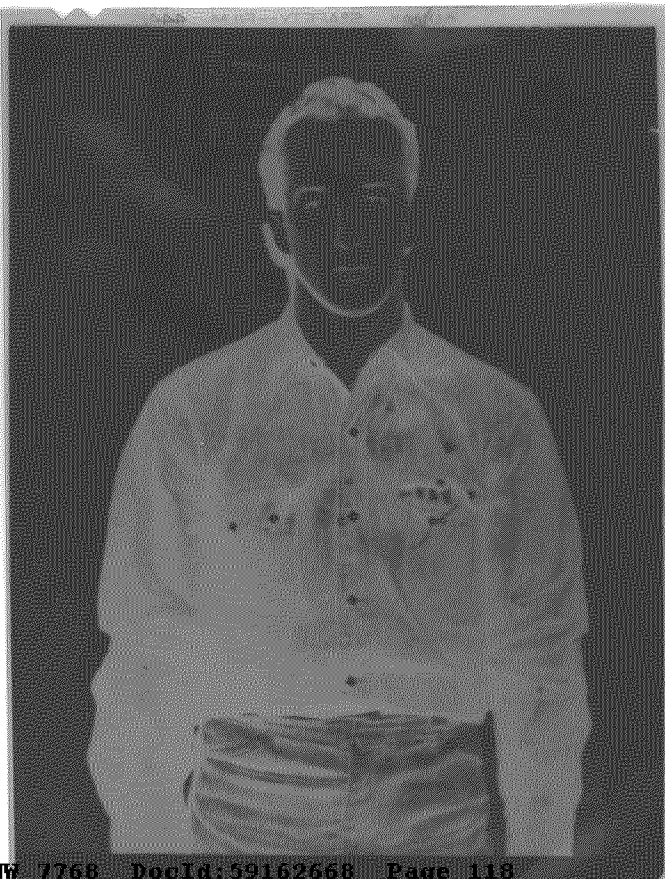
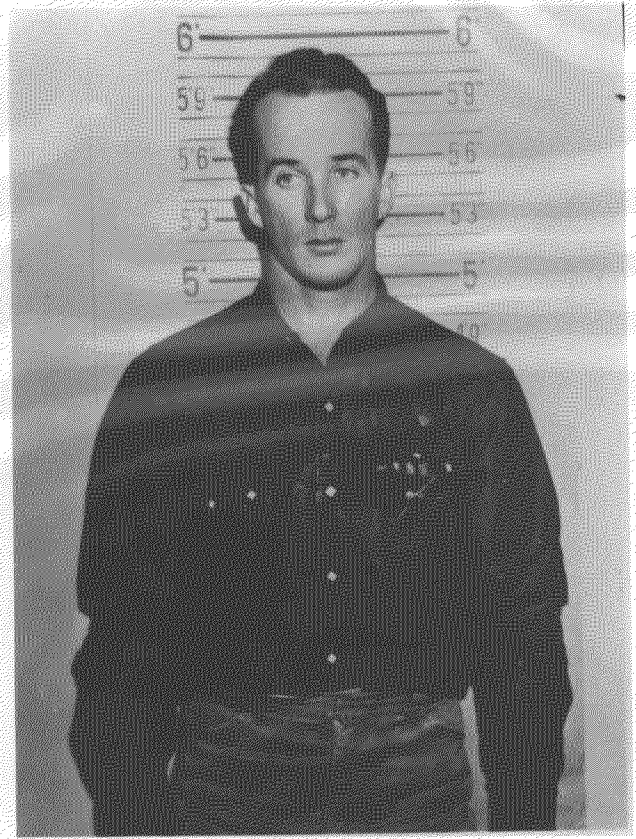
(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes
☐ No

Description: *photos + negs.*
of James Earl Ray.



File No. 157-950-AA3Date Received 11/64From M-115P
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

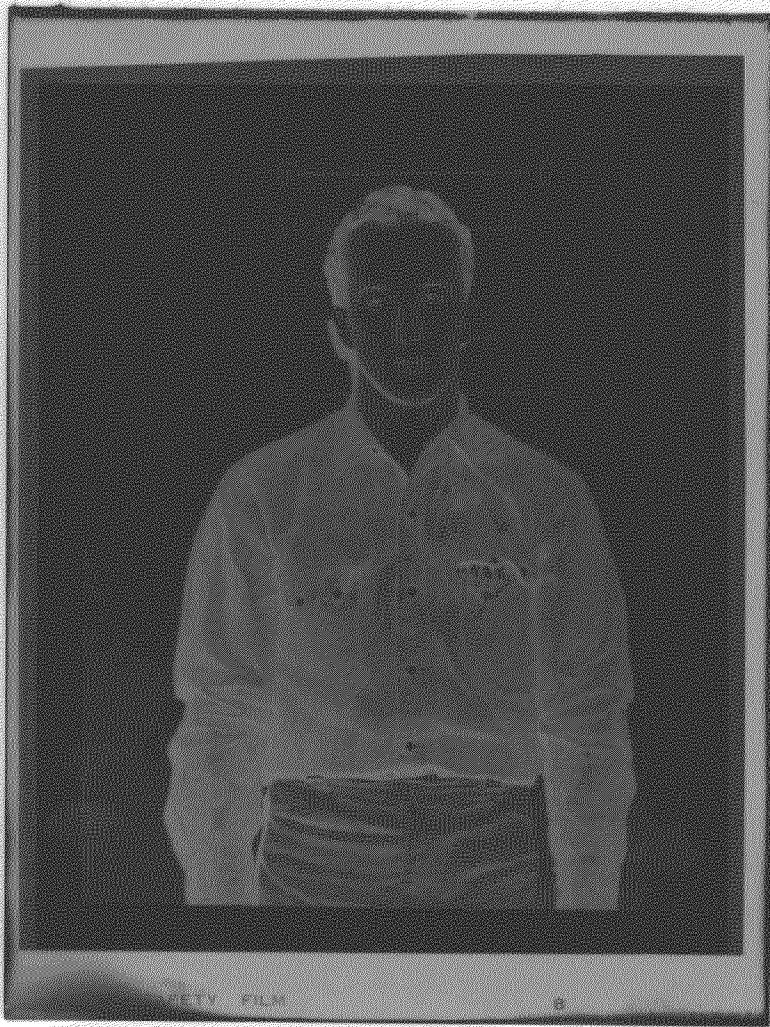
To Be Returned

Yes ☐No ☒

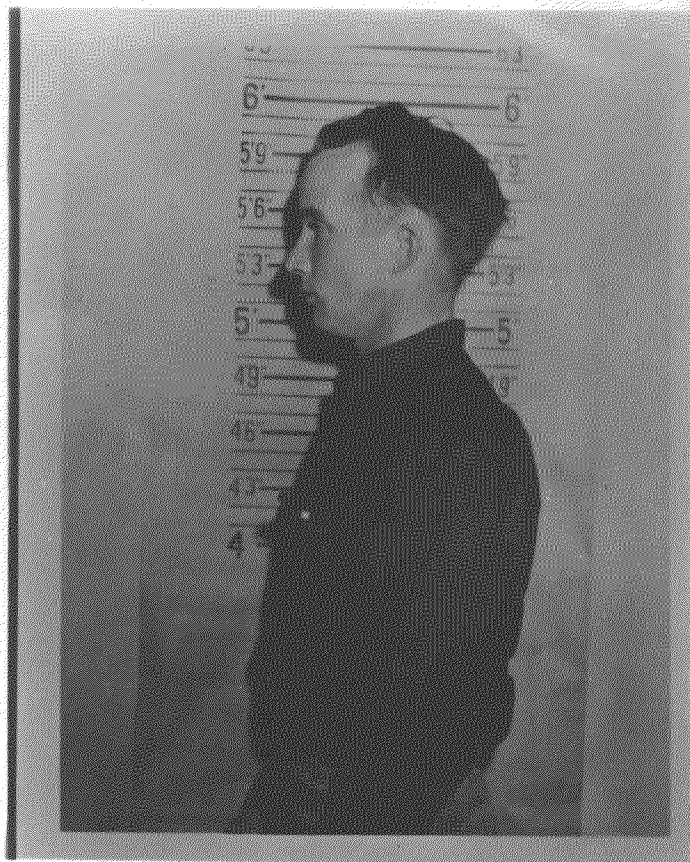
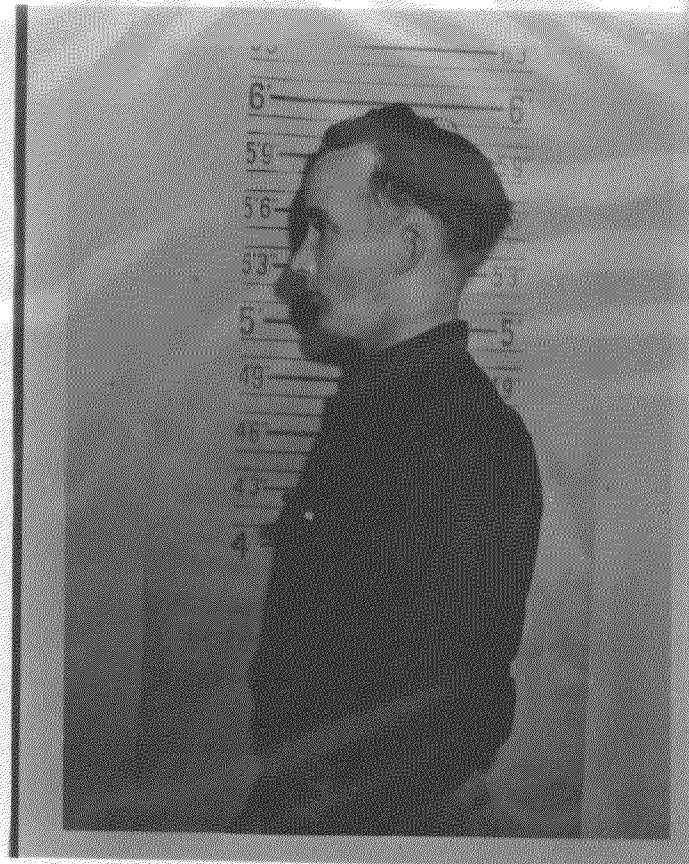
Description:

Photo & negative
of James Earl Ray

1 sent San Antonio
7-12-66 LEB









James Ford EmSeale
Meadville, Miss.
DOB: 6-25-35, ht: 5-9½, wt: 155
Hair: Brown, Eyes: Blue
Chg: Murder

Date of Picture: November 1964

by M.H.S.P.

JN 157-950