

FD-263 (Rev. 3-8-67)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>3/22/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>3/6 - 18/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka., Joe Edwards - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN</b>	TYPED BY <b>bab</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CR</b>	

**REFERENCE:**

Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN, 3/6/68 at New Orleans.

- P -

**LEADS:**

**JACKSON**

**AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI.** Interview PETER NOSSER, Manager of Jitney Jungle store for information relating to a license check request on a car registered to him by a now deceased Vidalia police officer at time when the

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						None	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- 2 - Bureau (44-26064)
- 1 - USA, Shreveport
- 3 - Jackson 2(44-65)  
1(44-2044)
- 2 - New Orleans (44-2293)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-2044-3599  
SAC [Signature]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 25 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

[Signature]

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

[Signature]

DECLASSIFIED  
NW33954

NO 44-2293

victim may have been abducted.

NEW ORLEANS

AT JENA, LOUISIANA. Display photographs of 1964 Oldsmobile, former Vidalia police car, to KENNETH STEPHENSON, official, Bank of Jena, who observed white Oldsmobile stop victim's car at site where it was abandoned.

AT TALLULAH, LOUISIANA AND VICINITY. Observe vehicles and/or interview persons who purchased white Oldsmobiles of the type described by STEPHENSON, noting that suspect car had Lee Motor, Tallulah, La., plate on left rear and was purchased prior to July 11, 1964.

AT VIDALIA, LOUISIANA. Interview Ptl. JOHN HENRY concerning possible involvement of law enforcement officers in instant case. HENRY is currently opposing BUD SPINKS in the pending election for Town Marshall.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All persons contacted during the course of this investigation were advised that the inquiry was being made at the specific request of STEPHEN J. POLLAK, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

A letter of appreciation has been forwarded to GILBERT C. CALHOUN, Chief Ranger, Natchez Trace, Tupelo, Mississippi. This letter commended the professional skill and stamina displayed by the scuba diving team under very adverse diving and weather conditions.

The following information is being set out in the cover pages rather than details for the following reasons:

Although the cooperation of MILTON BOOTHE is common knowledge, he explains to the interested local officials and residents that his cooperation is strictly business, namely the rental of his boats.

It is feared that should the full extent of his cooperation be known he would be subject to reprisals of

only  
NW 33954

DECLASSIFIED

NO 44-2293

various types including damages to his nets and boats. In addition, successful intimidation of BOOTHE would dry up a good source of information in that area and serve as an example for other persons to refuse to cooperate with the FBI in any racial or civil rights matter.

ntiv

NW 33954

DECLASSIFIED

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 3/22/68

MILTON BOOTHE, Boothe's Fish Market, Harrisonburg, advised that approximately 45 minutes after diving operations began at Deer Park on March 11, 1968, Mrs. BOOTHE received a long distance telephone call from Deputy Sheriff FRANK DELAUGHTER, who inquired as to the whereabouts of her husband. BOOTHE stated that he rarely receives any telephone calls from DELAUGHTER.

On March 12, 1968, a collector from the Friendly Finance Company, Monroe, contacted BOOTHE to locate an individual who purchased an expensive boat which DELAUGHTER's sister MILDRED guaranteed payment as a co-signer. BOOTHE contacted DELAUGHTER to advise him of this fact, but DELAUGHTER seemed disinterested in the matter, but instead made immediate inquiry into BOOTHE's activities on March 11.

BOOTHE explained that he had been hired by divers, but he did not know the purpose of the search. DELAUGHTER seemed very concerned when he was told of the exact location of the search.

BOOTH further advised that when DELAUGHTER questioned him about the results of the search, BOOTH fabricated a story that the FBI found something which they concealed from him by wrapping the matter in a canvas bag. BOOTH advised that he told DELAUGHTER this story to test his reactions and increase DELAUGHTER's apparent concern over the investigation. BOOTH expressed his opinion that DELAUGHTER is either involved in the incident or has knowledge of the crime.

---

- D\* -  
(COVER PAGE)

On 3/13/68 at Harrisonburg, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SA HERRIMAN D. DIVEN /bab Date dictated 3/19/68

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Shreveport, Louisiana

Report of: SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN Office: NEW ORLEANS  
Date: 3/22/68

Field Office File #: 44-2293 Bureau File #: 44-26064

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Underwater search made at Deer Park, La. No refrigerator containing remains of victim located. Sketch made of area.

- P -

DETAILS :

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NW33954

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/22/68

An underwater search was made in an area of an old section of the Mississippi River at Deer Park, Louisiana.

The following Special Agents participated in this operation:

MERRIMAN D. DIVEN,  
CHARLES K. JOHNSON,  
DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN,  
WAYNE A. MILLWARD, and  
WILLIAM B. WOOD

The following persons assisted the Special Agents as indicated:

MILTON BOOTHE, Harrisonburg, Louisiana, guide and boat owner-operator;

GUY TAYLOR, Supervisory Park Ranger, Natchez Trace Parkway, Washington, Mississippi - Liaison.

MARLO G. ACOCK, Supervisory Park Ranger, Natchez Trace Parkway, Cherokee, Alabama - Scuba Diver.

WILLIAM SCHENK, Park Ranger, Moriwether Station, Hohenwald, Tennessee - Scuba Diver.

All of the above Park Rangers are members of the U. S. National Park Service, made available to the FBI through Mr. GILBERT C. CALHOUN, Chief Ranger, Natchez, Trace, Tupelo, Mississippi.

MILTON BOOTHE, pointed out an area of water about 25 to 120 feet south of GEORGE FINTON's boat railway and from 90 to 170 feet east of the Louisiana shoreline as the location where his fishnet tangled with a submerged object which released a quantity of air and decaying flesh during 1964, about three months after the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

A preliminary search with four, one pound magnets

2

On 3/11/68 at Deer Park, Louisiana File # JN 44-55  
NO 44-2293

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /bah Date dictated 3/15/68

Authority NW 33954

DECLASSIFIED

NO 44-2293

2

attached to separate lines operated from two boats located a number of suspect metal objects on the bottom at depths varying from 25' to 35' deep. These spots were marked by brick anchors and floats made from plastic jugs.

Because the depth and muddy condition of the water, divers could not see anything. They descended a taut boat anchor line at each suspect area investigated by their sense of touch any object indicated by the adjacent float line. Upon their returns to the surface with a description of any large metal object below or any small object they could lift, the float of the examined area was marked to indicate the check. The boat was moved to next float and the process repeated.

Among the items located was the handle of a broken hunting knife and a door from a refrigerator. No refrigerator cabinet was found in the area indicated by BOOTHE.

The search began at 8:30 AM. It was interrupted for lunch, hail, rain and rough water. The search was resumed and discontinued at 6:05 PM.



DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

JN 44-2044

JLP/blw

1

By communication dated July 23, 1964, addressed to FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C., the New Orleans FBI Office advised that the Natchez, Mississippi, Police Department Bulletin No. 2827-C dated July 21, 1964, indicates that JOSEPH EDWARDS, Negro male, 52 East Oak Street, Natchez, was reported missing. The complaint was received at 10:30 a.m. from the mother of EDWARDS.

Details of the complaint show that EDWARDS' mother reported her son, age 21, five feet six inches in height, 165 pounds, had been missing since July 12, 1964.

EDWARDS worked at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, for six weeks prior to his disappearance. He was last seen by a female employee of the Shamrock at 11:00 p.m., July 12, 1964, at Canal and Franklin Streets, Natchez, in his vehicle.

EDWARDS' mother, BERNICE CONNAR, stated she reported the matter to the Vidalia, Louisiana, Police Department on July 19, 1964, and that the vehicle of EDWARDS was found abandoned near a bowling alley between Vidalia and Ferriday, Louisiana.

Friends and relatives of EDWARDS were contacted in July, 1964, with negative results.

Inquiry at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, disclosed EDWARDS' last day of work was the night of July 11, 1964.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 16, 1967

ORGREE TAYLOR, who is totally deaf and unable to express herself orally, communicated through lip reading and hand-written notes. She advised that ORGREE is her true first name but she is generally known as "AGREE."

After being apprised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the contact, she advised that JOSEPH EDWARDS is her boyfriend. She stated that she has not seen him since July, 1964, when she came to Clayton, Louisiana, to visit her child, TERENCE LINDSEY TAYLOR, on July 3 and 4, 1964. She explained that this child, born October 16, 1963, and TERRY LYNN TAYLOR, born January 28, 1962, at the Conway Memorial Hospital, Monroe, Louisiana, were both fathered by EDWARDS out of wedlock.

Miss TAYLOR stated that EDWARDS was not known to be involved in any demonstrations, picketing, voting registration drives, or other civil rights activity. He did not belong to any civil rights organizations.

He once told her that his boss at a Vidalia, Louisiana, motel "fussed" with him because he was late for work.

He also told her that he had some fights with white men but he did not identify them or describe the nature of his difficulties. He did not have any white girl friends nor did he make prostitution dates for any girls to her knowledge.

She described JOSEPH EDWARDS as a Negro male, about five feet six inches tall, and weighing about 180 pounds. He had at least one upper tooth missing in the right front. She stated that he was not known to have had

Jackson 44-2044

Jackson 44-65

On 8/15/67 at Clayton, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293

SA GEORGE F. BENZ

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 8/16/67

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

JN 44-2044

any fillings in his teeth nor any gold teeth. She does not know his dentist, if any.

In response to a question as to whether or not EDWARDS had any broken bones, she advised that his right leg had been injured at the Shamrock Motel and he was treated by an unknown doctor in Natchez, Mississippi. She advised that he once had a scalp wound on top of his head which resulted from a blow but she did not know whether or not there was any fracture of the skull.

TAYLOR stated that EDWARDS wore a gold ring on his left ring finger which had a black and silver stone setting. She advised that he had a yellow gold wrist watch and band. Numerous diamonds decorated the case of the watch and the ends of the band. TAYLOR stated that she could readily identify the watch and the ring. She stated that she burned all of his papers, letters, and other effects. She gave EDWARDS' photograph to his mother, who reportedly furnished it to the police.

She advised she last saw EDWARDS when she visited her child in Clayton, Louisiana, on July 3 and 4, 1964. EDWARDS took her to the bus station in Natchez, Mississippi. He left her there with GEORGE THOMPSON indicating that he had to hurry back to work at the motel. About a week or two after her return to Jackson, Mississippi, she received a letter from EDWARDS stating that he had a ring for her and wanted to marry her legally. She received no other word from EDWARDS and when she returned to Clayton, Louisiana, in October, 1965, she learned that he had been missing for several months. She has not received any information from anyone indicating EDWARDS' whereabouts nor what happened to him.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 13526

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/11/67

MILTON BOOTH, generally known as "ODIE" BOOTH, was contacted at his place of business, a commercial fish store located under the bridge in Harrisonburg.

After being apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and the official nature of the contact, BOOTH advised as follows:

He, his brother (OTIS "TUCKER" BOOTH), JAMES WEEKS, and JESSIE WEEKS were dragging a fish seine across a body of water at Deer Park, Louisiana, which he refers to as Deer Park Lake, when the net became snagged on some large object. He was beginning to dive down and untangle the net when one of the other men gave the net a great tug. The object, believed by him to be a refrigerator or steel drum, apparently turned over and a large air bubble about four feet in diameter broke the surface. Large balls of material which appeared to be "dingy" or dark brown flesh surfaced with this bubble. Immediately a terrible sickening stench came from the area. He estimated that collectively this material would have weighed approximately eight pounds.

Since the net was free and the stench was so sickening, they moved from the area, but not before they took a sample of the "dingy" material. He later furnished this material to the sheriff's office located in his home town. BOOTH stated that he took this action because in his opinion the material was human flesh. He has not heard the results of the investigation, if any, of the material.

BOOTH stated that he would point out the spot where this incident took place as soon as he could deliver some fish to FRANK DE LAUGHTER's Chicken Shack Restaurant in Clayton, Louisiana.

On 8/10/67 at Harrisonburg and Deer Park, Louisiana File # Jackson 44-2044  
by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 8/11/67

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

JN 44-2044

En route to Deer Park, Louisiana, BOOTH stated that he recalled that he discovered the material about one month after he was arrested for cutting a fence which blocked his usual path to the body of water in Deer Park. He advised that he was arrested on the complaint of "JUGHEAD" JONES a few days before the squirrel season of 1964, which he believed started on October 2. After his arrest he called the district attorney of the parish, who talked with Sheriff NOAH CROSS. CROSS became angry and refused to let him call his wife. BOOTH obtained the services of WILLIAM L. CORBIN (phonetic) of Vidalia, Louisiana, and the charge was withdrawn.

At Deer Park, BOOTH pointed out a spot north of "JUGHEAD" JONES' boat landing. He estimated that the object on which his net became entangled was about 140 feet from the shore line at low water from a point on the shore presently located between a float mounted on drums and a tree leaning in the water. BOOTH explained that the incident occurred when the water was very low and at the present time, when the water was high, this object would be about 175 to 180 feet from the water's edge instead of 140 feet as it was at the time of the discovery. Furthermore, the water was about 14 feet deep at that time and now it would be approximately 26 feet deep at the point where the object is located.

BOOTH stated that he could go within two feet of the object if he had a boat as he had a reference point on the shore. He further advised that he has Johnson air pumps for diving and would assist the FBI in an attempt to investigate the object.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 10501

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/11/67

Sheriff RICHARD C. (J. Y.) MC GUFFEE, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, advised that he had a vague recollection that soon after he took office as the sheriff in May, 1964, that someone brought some substance to the sheriff's office that this person had found while fishing.

Sheriff MC GUFFEE advised that there was no reason to believe that this suspect substance was anything but an animal carcass.

Sheriff MC GUFFEE said he was unable to locate any records pertaining to the incident and he had no recollection of the final disposition of the matter although he believes he referred the material or information to the Sheriff of Concordia Parish, which agency had jurisdiction over the area where the material was found.

Sheriff MC GUFFEE made available Deputy Sheriff SHELBY BEASLEY whom the sheriff indicated had personally handled the matter.

On 8/10/67 at Harrisonburg, Louisiana File # Jackson 44-2044  
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and  
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 8/11/67

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/11/67

Deputy Sheriff SHELBY H. BEASLEY, Catahoula Parish, advised that he recalls "ODIE" BOOTH, whose true name is MILTON BOOTH, a commercial fisherman, bringing in something that looked like a six inch piece of intestines.

BOOTH told him that he was fishing in waters located in Concordia Parish and his net caught in branches of a submerged tree, and in freeing his net some material floated to the surface. BEASLEY stated that the portion brought in by BOOTH appeared to be dark brown or black in color and was in such a decayed state that the substance appeared to be dissolving into a liquid form. No attempt was made to analyze the material and he concluded that it may have been the intestines of a dog or cow discarded in the water and entangled in the tree branches.

BEASLEY stated he put the bottle containing the suspect material in the jailor's freezer. He made a oral report to the sheriff and attached a note explaining the nature of the material which he attached to the box containing the bottle. The material and note are no longer available and he does not know what happened to them. However, he is of the opinion that the former Chief Deputy, A. J. GUYOR, a resident of Enterprise, Louisiana, telephone number 744-5408, gave the material to the Sheriff of Concordia Parish, in whose jurisdiction the suspect material was found by BOOTH.

BEASLEY stated that to the best of his recollection, this incident occurred during the Summer of 1965.

On 8/10/67 at Harrisonburg, Louisiana File # Jackson 44-2044  
by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and  
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 8/11/67

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 13526

JN 44-2044

MDDjls

2

The following investigation was conducted by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN at Harrisonburg, Louisiana, on August 11, 1967:

Deputy Sheriff SHELBY H. BEASLEY, Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office, stated that he was unable to find any record of the incident when MILTON "ODIE" BOOTH brought to the Sheriff's Office a substance appearing to be an intestine. BEASLEY stated that the incident definitely could not have happened prior to the Summer of 1964 as he received the caller himself and he was not employed as a Deputy Sheriff until the Summer of 1964.



DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526

JN 44-2044

MDD/jls

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN on August 11, 1967, in Vidalia, Louisiana:

Deputy Sheriff WAYNETTA COCKRAN advised that the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office had no record pertaining to any report from the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office sending matter suspected of being fleshlike to the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office. Neither was she able to locate any record of this material being found by MILTON "ODIE" BOOTH nor an arrest of BOOTH on a charge of trespassing based on a complaint by "JUGHEAD" JONES.

Deputy Sheriff D. W. CLARK, Jailer of the Concordia Parish Jail, stated that he had no record pertaining to the arrest of MILTON "ODIE" BOOTH, but he recalled that about two or three years ago the sheriff and some deputies acted on a report of BOOTH's finding of this material, but apparently the investigation was concluded with negative results.

Deputy Clerk PATSY FUGLER, Clerk of Court, Concordia Parish, advised that she could find no record of the arrest of MILTON "ODIE" BOOTH either during 1962 or 1964. Miss FUGLER advised that while records were maintained by the former Clerk of the Court, no indexing of these records had been made prior to 1966.

WILLIAM L. KOERBER, Attorney, 309 Texas Street, advised that he has represented MILTON "ODIE" BOOTH in connection with numerous minor legal difficulties. KOERBER stated that there is a record showing a letter to "JUGHEAD" JONES making reference to an arrest of BOOTH on a charge of trespassing on October 5, 1962.

AUTHORITY E.O. 10501  
 DECLASSIFIED

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 19, 1967

Mrs. ALLEN DANIEL PURVIS, the former FRANCES CUPIT, was contacted at her residence 505 Myrtle Street, Vidalia, Louisiana. After being apprised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the contact, Mrs. PURVIS stated as follows.

She has been a waitress since her middle teens and has worked at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, on several occasions.

On the last occasion, she started her employment around December 1, 1963, and quit around the first week of June, 1964. She is certain about her termination date because she quit about the end of the public school semester.

At the outset, Mrs. PURVIS stated that she did not recall a Negro bus boy at the Shamrock Motel by the name of JOSEPH EDWARDS, stating that she has seen so many of them over the years she does not recall them individually.

When reference was made to EDWARDS as the bus boy who recovered a white child from the Shamrock Motel pool, she advised that she recalled that bus boy and had a rather good recollection of him. She stated that the life-saving incident occurred shortly after she resigned as a waitress at the Shamrock but she heard of the incident through her niece, BILLIE WOLMACK, whose husband, FRANK RIGHTZELL (phonetic), now of Monroe, Louisiana, helped pull the child from the pool.

Mrs. PURVIS stated that she recalled EDWARDS as a slender, medium-light skinned young Negro boy who was not a smart-alec type. She has no recollection that he

Jackson 44-2044  
New Orleans 44-2203

On 8/17/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # Jackson 44-65

by SA GEORGE F. BENZ  
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 8/18/67

**DECLASSIFIED**

JN 44--2044

insulted her or anyone else at the motel. He was not known to be involved in any civil rights activities nor a member of any organization active in that field. EDWARDS was not like most of the Negro kitchen employees who were very disagreeable during all the racial strife that prevailed in the area during that time.

She had no recollection of EDWARDS' car nor his associates. She heard a rumor from unrecalled sources that EDWARDS helped arrange dates for a white prostitute at the motel. EDWARDS was not known to have any difficulties with local law enforcement officers nor disputes with any white men in the area. Mrs. PURVIS advised that she could not recall the name of the prostitute.

She stated that CAROL POWELL, a waitress at the Shamrock who resided with her at that time, had the reputation for entertaining men. POWELL has remarried and is now living in Jackson, Mississippi. Her married name is unknown by Mrs. PURVIS but may be obtained from the owner of the C & G Grocery Store in Vidalia, Louisiana, who is married to CAROL POWELL's sister.

Mrs. PURVIS stated that POWELL used to live in Deer Park, Louisiana, and tried to commit suicide twice during 1963.

Another waitress employed at the Shamrock at that time was AUDREY (last name unknown), who is currently a waitress at the Belmont Motel, Natchez, Mississippi.

Mrs. ALLEN (LOUISE) JAMES, now employed as a nurse's aide at the Jefferson Davis Hospital, Natchez, was the manager of the Shamrock Motel during 1964 and may have additional information concerning the personnel and activities at the motel.

DECLASSIFIED

JN 44-2044

Mrs. PURVIS stated that her recollection of events at that time is rather hazy because of her marital difficulties with her husband which resulted in a near nervous breakdown and treatment at the Jefferson Davis Hospital in Natchez. She explained that her husband claimed that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and said he was attending meetings when actually he was having an affair with another woman.

After quitting work at the Shamrock Motel, she lived for a short time at Lake Charles, Louisiana. She dated NORMAN LONG from Shreveport, Louisiana, a part-time employee of the Shamrock.

She is acquainted with two Natchez police officers--Sergeant DONALD DEWITT and his wife, BETTY; and Officer REECE LINDSEY--but she did not date them. Another law enforcement officer by the name of WISNER frequently came to the Shamrock Motel wearing a light tan uniform.

Mrs. PURVIS stated that the only bus boy she had any difficulty with was one employed while she was working at the Shamrock in 1961. She stated that he would not put the supplies where they were easy to reach and things of that nature. She said at no time did that Negro nor EDWARDS nor any other Negro employee ever "get fresh" with her or otherwise insult her.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 11, 1967

JAMES WEEKS was contacted at the fish market of his brother-in-law, MILTON "ODIE" BOOTH, located near the bridge in Harrisonburg, Louisiana.

WEEKS stated that a few summers ago, he had been seining with his brother-in-law, ODIE BOOTH, and a few other men in the waters adjacent to Jughead's Place in Deer Park, Louisiana.

The seine had been placed near the west boundary of the channel. The seine became entangled and efforts to free the seine resulted in turning over a heavy object in the water. A water bubble then appeared on the surface. An odious putrifying stench was then detected. Bits and balls of matter which appeared to be black in color then appeared on the surface of the water.

A sample of this matter was taken out of the water by ODIE BOOTH who later turned it over to R. C. MC GUFFEE, Sheriff, Catahoula Parish, Harrisonburg, Louisiana.

On 8/10/67 at Harrisonburg, Louisiana File # Jackson 44-2044

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 8/11/67

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

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

F B I

Date: 8/15/67

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE DEFERRED  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-35496)  
FROM: JACKSON (44-2044) (P)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

WHARBOM

REJNTEL AUGUST FOURTEEN, LAST.

SILVER DOLLAR GROUP;

ON AUGUST NINE, LAST, [REDACTED]

FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SILVER DOLLAR GROUP.

SOURCE FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE SDG FROM RALEIGH J. GLOVER WHO INVITED HIM TO JOIN, SHORTLY AFTER THE HARRISONBURG-SICILY ISLAND, LA., UNIT OF THE OKKKK STARTED MEETING IN HARRISONBURG. HE PLACES THIS DATE APPROXIMATELY SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS PRIOR TO JUNE, NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE.

INFORMANT ACCEPTED GLOVER'S INVITATION TO JOIN THE SDG. HE ATTENDED FOUR OR FIVE MEETINGS OF THIS GROUP IN LA. PRIOR TO THE SDG MEETING HELD AT A FISHFRY IN WILDSVILLE, LA., ON JUNE TWENTY SIX, NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE. INFORMANT

44-2044-3207

1-Jackson  
JWI/css  
(1)

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 11:10 P M Per [Signature]

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

NEVER ATTENDED ANY SDG MEETINGS IN MISS. BUT STATES POSITIVELY THAT THERE WERE MISS. SDG MEN WHOSE NAMES HE COULD NOT FURNISH AT EACH OF THE LA. MEETINGS.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

[REDACTED] STATED HE KNOWS DEFINITELY THAT LA. SDG MEMBERS JAMES SCAROBOROUGH, E. D. MORACE, AND JAMES "RED" LEE WERE MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP AT THE TIME HE JOINED AND ATTENDED THE LA. MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE FISHFRY. SOURCE DOES NOT KNOW WHO ORIGINATED THIS GROUP BUT HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER THE LEADER AND ORGANIZER. HE HAS NEVER KNOWN OR HEARD OF ANY MEMBER BEING RECRUITED INTO THE SDG BY ANYONE OTHER THAN GLOVER.

[REDACTED] HAS REFUSED TO FURNISH ANY DETAILS CONCERNING THE FOUR OR FIVE MEETINGS OF THE SDG WHICH HE ATTENDED IN LA. BEFORE HE IS FURNISHED WRITTEN IMMUNITY. HE DOES STATE THAT AFTER EACH OF THESE MEETINGS, THE GROUP PERPETRATED SOME TYPE OF VIOLATION OF VIOLENCE

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE THREE

JOSEPH EDWARDS

MRS. BERNICE CONNERS, MOTHER OF JOSEPH EDWARDS, ADVISED THAT EDWARDS WAS BORN FEBRUARY TWELVE, NINETEEN THIRTY NINE OR NINETEEN FORTY AT CHARITY HOSPITAL IN NATCHEZ, MISS. HE HAS SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN THE FERRIDAY-VIDALIA, LA., - NATCHEZ, MISS., AREA. HE HAS NEVER LEFT THE AREA FOR ANY EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. HE HAS NEVER BEEN IN ANY SERIOUS TROUBLE. SHE LAST SAW EDWARDS AT HER FORMER RESIDENCE FIFTY TWO EAST OAK STREET, NATCHEZ, MISS., ON JULY SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY FOUR. SHE HAS NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD FROM HIM SINCE THAT TIME. EDWARDS HAS RELATIVES AND WAS LIVING IN COMMON LAW WITH ORGREE TAYLOR OF CLAYTON, LA., AT THE TIME OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE. NONE OF HIS RELATIVES NOR HIS COMMON LAW WIFE HAVE HEARD ANYTHING CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF EDWARDS.

EDWARDS HAS NEVER BEEN ACTIVE TO HER KNOWLEDGE IN CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS AND HAS HAD NO TROUBLE WHICH WOULD CAUSE HIM TO

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE FOUR

DISAPPEAR. SHE SAID THAT HE WAS A STEADY WORKER AND HAD BEEN IN NO SIGNIFICANT TROUBLE WITH THE LAW.

EDWARDS HAD NO DENTAL WORK; HOWEVER, HE DID HAVE TWO MISSING UPPER TEETH THAT WERE VISIBLE WHEN HE SMILED. HE HAD NO BROKEN BONES. IN NINETEEN SIXTY THREE HE SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN THE JEFFERSON DAVIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN NATCHEZ, MISS., WHERE HE WAS TREATED FOR BURNS.

MRS. CONNERS FEELS CERTAIN THAT HER SON IS DEAD. IF NOT, SHE FEELS THAT HE WOULD SURELY HAVE CONTACTED HER. MRS. CONNERS HAS NO DIRECT INFORMATION AS TO WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO HER SON, HOWEVER, SHE DID RECEIVE SOME THIRD HAND INFORMATION ALLEGEDLY ORIGINATING WITH A WHITE PREACHER FROM CLAYTON, LA., INDICATING THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAD HAPPENED TO JOE EDWARDS.

INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF THIS STATEMENT SO THAT THIS SOURCE MIGHT BE INTERVIEWED FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING EDWARDS.

MILTON ODIE BOOTH ADVISED THAT HE RECALLED THAT THE FLESH

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE FIVE

HE FOUND WHILE SEINING AT DEER PARK, LA., WAS BROUGHT TO THE CATAHOULA PARISH, LA., SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN A CAR PURCHASED ABOUT TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF THE FLESH. BOOTH'S RECORDS REFLECT THAT THE CAR WAS PURCHASED ON OCTOBER FOURTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY FOUR. BOOTH'S WIFE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE FLESH WAS FOUND BETEEN OCTOBER FOURTEEN AND TWENTY FIVE, NINETEEN SIXTY FOUR.

INVESTIGATION PLANNED FOR AUGUST SIXTEEN NEXT.

CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF SILVER DOLLAR GROUP. MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH INFORMANTS, POLICE AGENCIES, AND NEGRO SOURCES. CONTINUE INTERVIEWS OF KLANSMEN. END.

5-22-64)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

F B I

Date: 8/11/67

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE DEFERRED  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-35496)  
FROM: JACKSON (44-2044) (P)

WHARBOM.

RE JACKSON TEL DATED AUGUST TEN, LAST.

RE JOSEPH EDWARDS:

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

[Redacted]

ADVISED ON AUGUST

EIGHT, LAST, THAT HE HAD SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY OF AUGUST SIX, LAST, WITH ~~SILVER DOLLAR GROUP~~ X(SDG) MEMBER KENNETH NORMAN HEAD. HEAD AND INFORMANT, IN A GENERAL WAY, DISCUSSED THE FBI'S INVESTIGATIONS IN THE AREA. HEAD REMARKED TO INFORMANT THAT HE SURE HOPED THAT THE FBI DID NOT START INVESTIGATING THE MISSING NEGRO FROM THE SHAMROCK MOTEL IN VIDALIA, LA.

INFORMANT RECALLS THAT ABOUT <sup>one</sup>ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO, HE WAS DRINKING WITH HEAD AND AFTER HEAD BECAME INTOXICATED, HE TOLD INFORMANT THAT THE NEGRO AT THE SHAMROCK HAD

END PAGE ONE

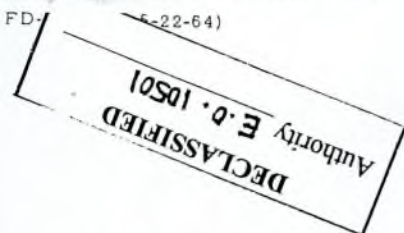
① - Jackson  
TBW/bjk (1) *elk*

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

Approved *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 11:38 P M Per RBC/peh

44-2044-3203



F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

INSULTED A CRIPPLED WAITRESS WHO WORKED THERE. THIS WAITRESS THEN TOLD HER BOYFRIEND, A NATCHEZ, MISS. POLICEMAN, ABOUT THE INSULT AND HE WENT TO VIDALIA, LA. COP BUD SPINKS AND ASKED SPINKS TO HAVE SOMETHING DONE ABOUT THE NEGRO. HEAD SAID THAT SPINKS THEN WENT TO SDG LEADER RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER AND ASKED GLOVER TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEGRO.

GLOVER, HEAD, AND ANOTHER SDG MEMBER , HOMER THOMAS "BUCK" HORTON, KILLED THE NEGRO. HEAD DID NOT FURNISH ANY DETAILS CONCERNING THE MURDER, BUT DID STATE THAT THE "NIGGER WOULDN 'T BE POPPING UP" SO INFORMANT TOOK THIS TO MEAN THAT THE NEGRO WAS NOT BURIED IN THE RIVER. THIS REMARK MADE BY HEAD COULD BE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT SINCE THE VICTIMS IN THE MOORE-DEE CASE POPPED UP OUT OF THE RIVER JUST PRIOR TO JULY TWELVE, NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR.

INFORMANT RECALLS THAT ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, CONCORDIA PARISH DEPUTY SHERIFF BILL OGDEN TOLD HIM THAT A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN WHO WAS NETTING FISH IN THE OLD RIVER NEAR DEERPARK, LA., HAD HOOKED SOMETHING IN THE WATER WITH

END PAGE TWO

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE THREE

HIS NETS, POSSIBLY A REFRIGERATOR, AND SOME FLESH, BELIEVED TO BE HUMAN, HAD POPPED TO THE SURFACE OF THE RIVER. ACCORDING TO OGDEN, THE FISHERMAN PLACED SOME OF THIS FLESH IN A GLASS JAR AND TOOK IT TO THE SHERIFF IN HARRISONBURG, LA., WHO TRIED TO TURN IT OVER TO NOAH CROSS, CONCORDIA PARISH SHERIFF. CROSS REFUSED TO TAKE THE BOTTLE. OGDEN SAID THEY THEN TOOK THE CONCORDIA PARISH POWER BOAT AND CHURNED UP THE WATER GOOD WHERE THE FLESH HAD BEEN LOCATED.

INFORMANT STATES THAT HE HAS NOT TOLD THIS STORY BEFORE BECAUSE HE LATER HEARD THAT THE MISSING NEGRO HAD TURNED UP SOMEWHERE. ALSO, HE FELT THAT HE IS PROBABLY THE ONLY PERSON TO WHOM HEAD HAS TALKED ABOUT THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, HE FEELS THAT ENOUGH TIME HAS ELAPSED SINCE HEAD TOLD THE STORY AND FEELS THAT HEAD IS MOST LIKELY DISCUSSING THE MISSING NEGRO WITH OTHER PERSONS AND THE STORY WILL NOT BE TRACED BACK TO HIM.

BY TEL DATED JULY TWENTYTHREE, NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR

END PAGE THREE

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501  
22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE FOUR

FROM NEW ORLEANS TO THE DIRECTOR, CAPTIONED "UNSUBS; JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM; CR", NEW ORLEANS REPORTED THAT JOE EDWARDS, N/M, AGE TWENTYONE, FIVE FEET SIX INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY POUNDS, HAD BEEN MISSING SINCE JULY TWELVE, NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR. THE AUTO BELONGING TO EDWARDS WAS FOUND ABANDONED NEAR FERRIDAY, LA. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A CHECK OF POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS, INTERVIEWING OF VICTIM'S RELATIVES, EXAMINATION OF CAR, AND CHECK OF THE SHAMROCK MOTEL RECORDS, NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED DUE TO THE LACK OF A FEDERAL VIOLATION.

WHEN BEING INTERVIEWED RELATIVE TO ANOTHER MATTER, THE SUBJECT OF THE MISSING NEGRO WAS INJECTED INTO THE CONVERSATION WITH MIKE MC DONOUGH, MANAGER-OWNER, SHAMROCK MOTEL, WHO STATED THAT JOSEPH EDWARDS HAD LEFT WORK ON JUY TWELVE, NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR AND TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, HAS NOT BEEN SEEN OR HEARD FROM SINCE. HE COULD FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL

END PAGE FOUR

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

**DECLASSIFIED**  
 Authority **E.O. 10501**

FD-36 (Rev. \_\_\_\_\_)

F B I

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Priority)

-----  
**PAGE FIVE**  
 -----

INFORMATION OTHER THAN A CRIPPLED GIRL BY THE NAME OF  
 FRANCES CUPIT HAD WORKED AT THE MOTEL AS A WAITRESS AT  
 THE SAME TIME EDWARDS WORKED THERE. MC DONOUGH STATES THAT  
 HE HAS ALWAYS FELT EDWARDS LEFT THE AREA TO AVOID CREDITORS.

JONAS KING, EDWARDS' GRANDFATHER, ADVISED ON AUGUST  
 NINE, LAST, THAT EDWARDS HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE HE  
 DISAPPEARED IN JULY OF NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR. KING BELIEVES THAT  
 EDWARDS IS DEAD.

INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE AND  
 INTERVIEW FISHERMAN WHO FOUND THE FLESH.

INVESTIGATION PLANNED FOR AUGUST TWELVE NEXT:

CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF SILVER DOLLAR GROUP.  
 MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH INFORMANTS, POLICE AGENCIES, AND NEGRO  
 SOURCES. CONTINUE INTERVIEW OF KLANSMEN.

END

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

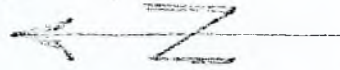
Special Agent in Charge

DECLASSIFIED

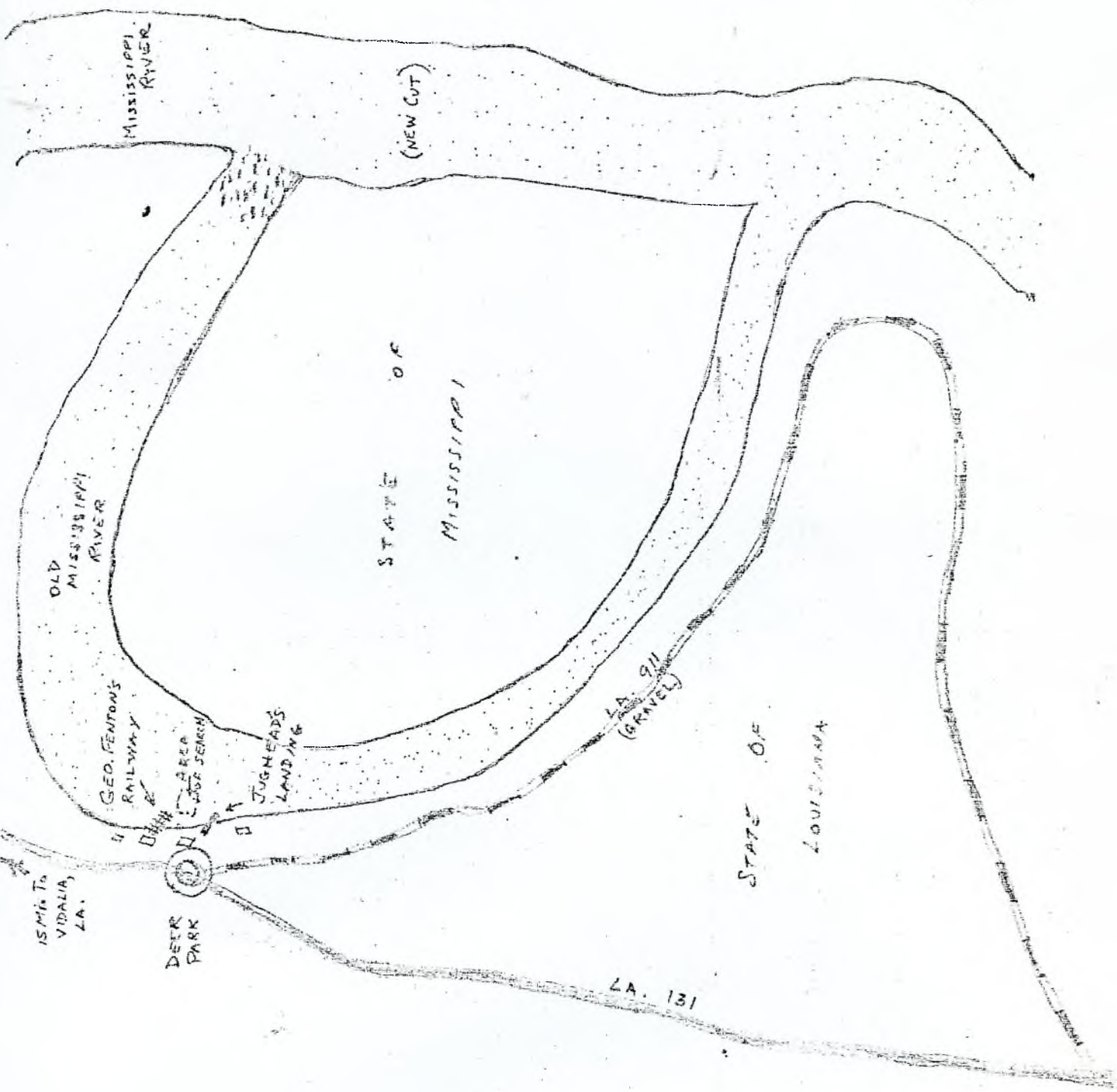
Authority NW33954



TO NATSHEZ, MISS.



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE MDD



IS MIN TO VIDALIA, LA.

DEER PARK

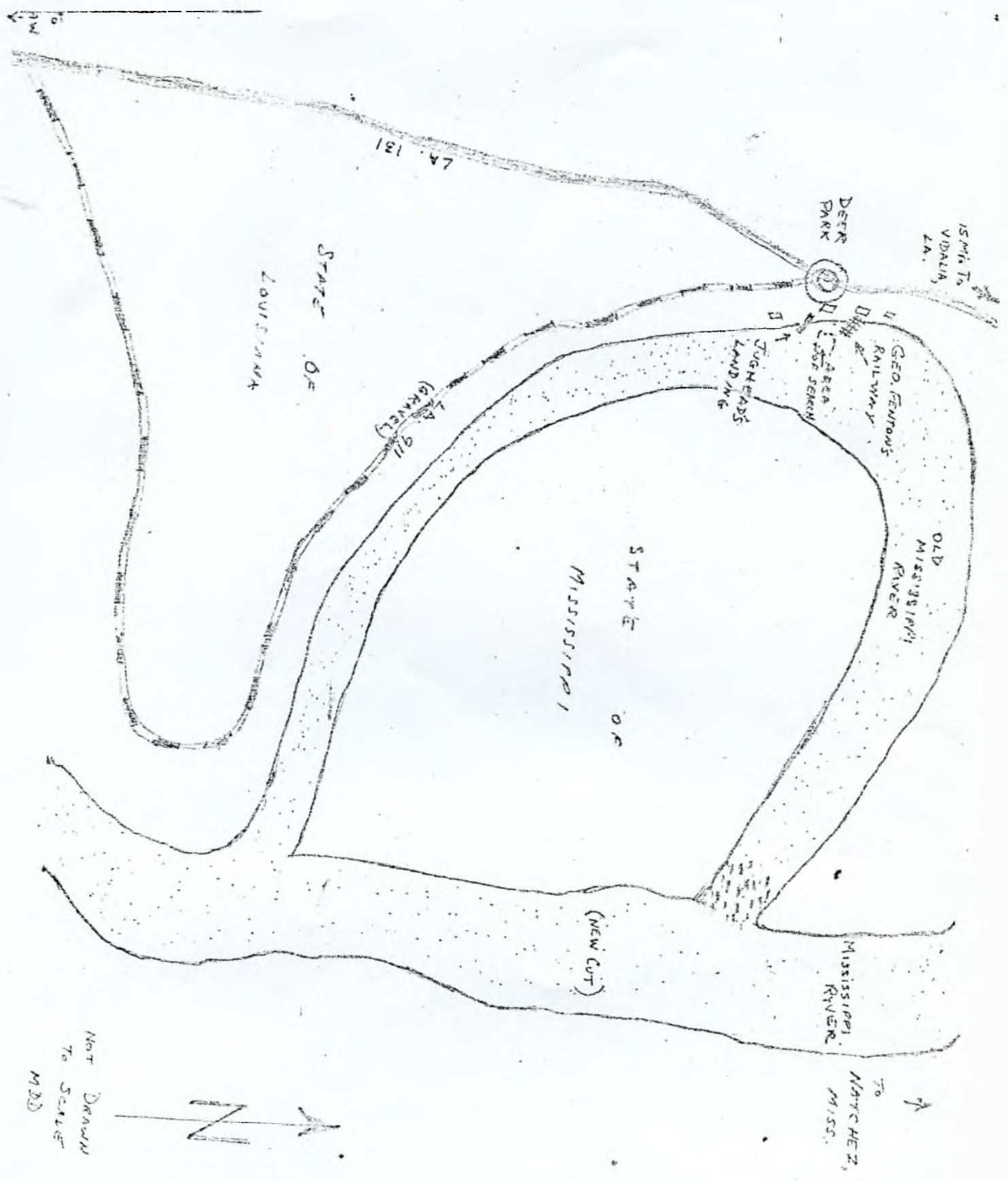
LA. 131

TO NEW ORLEANS



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NW33954

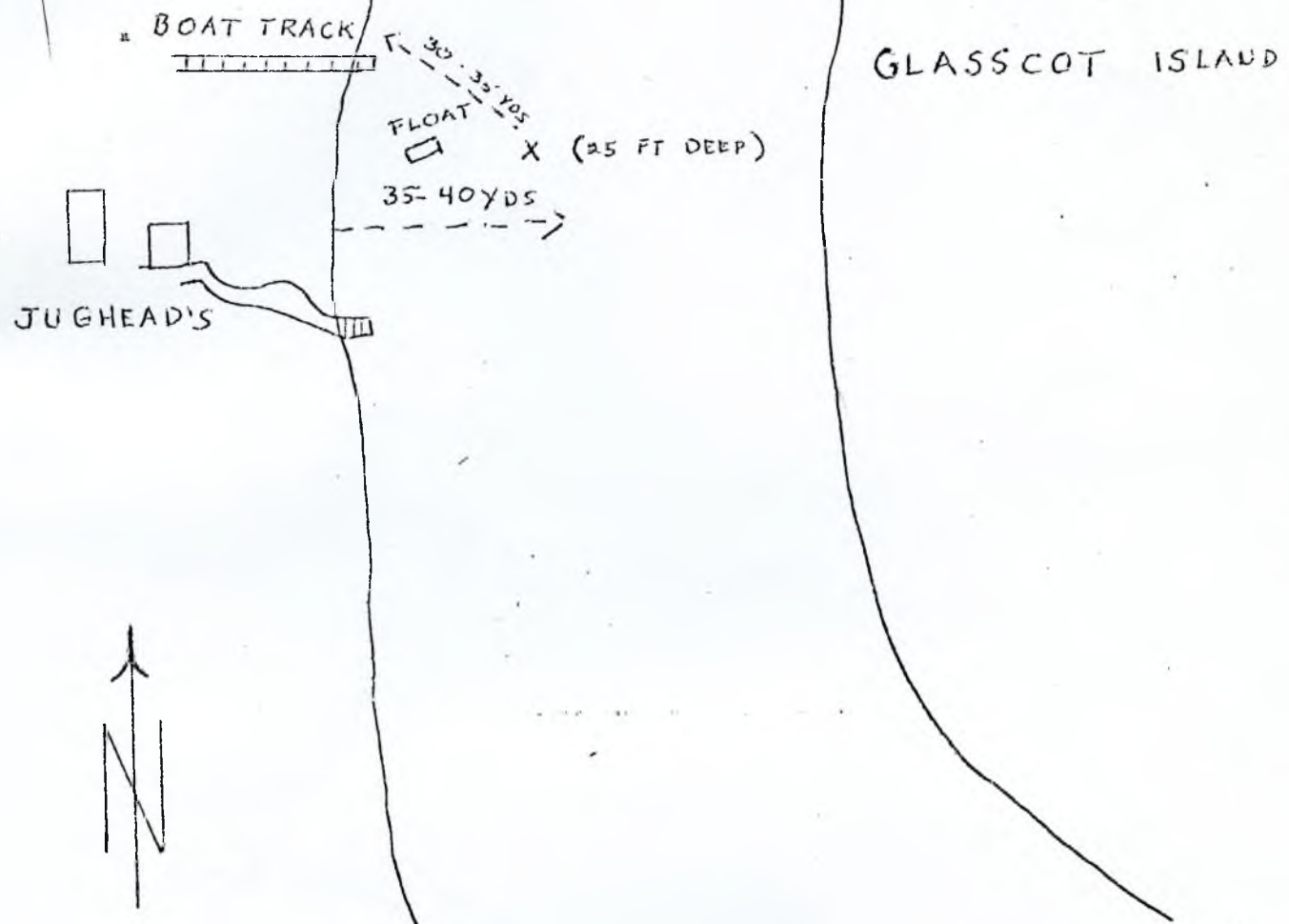


Authority E.O. 10501

DIVING TO F.N.E

DEER PARK, LA

AUGUST 24, 1967



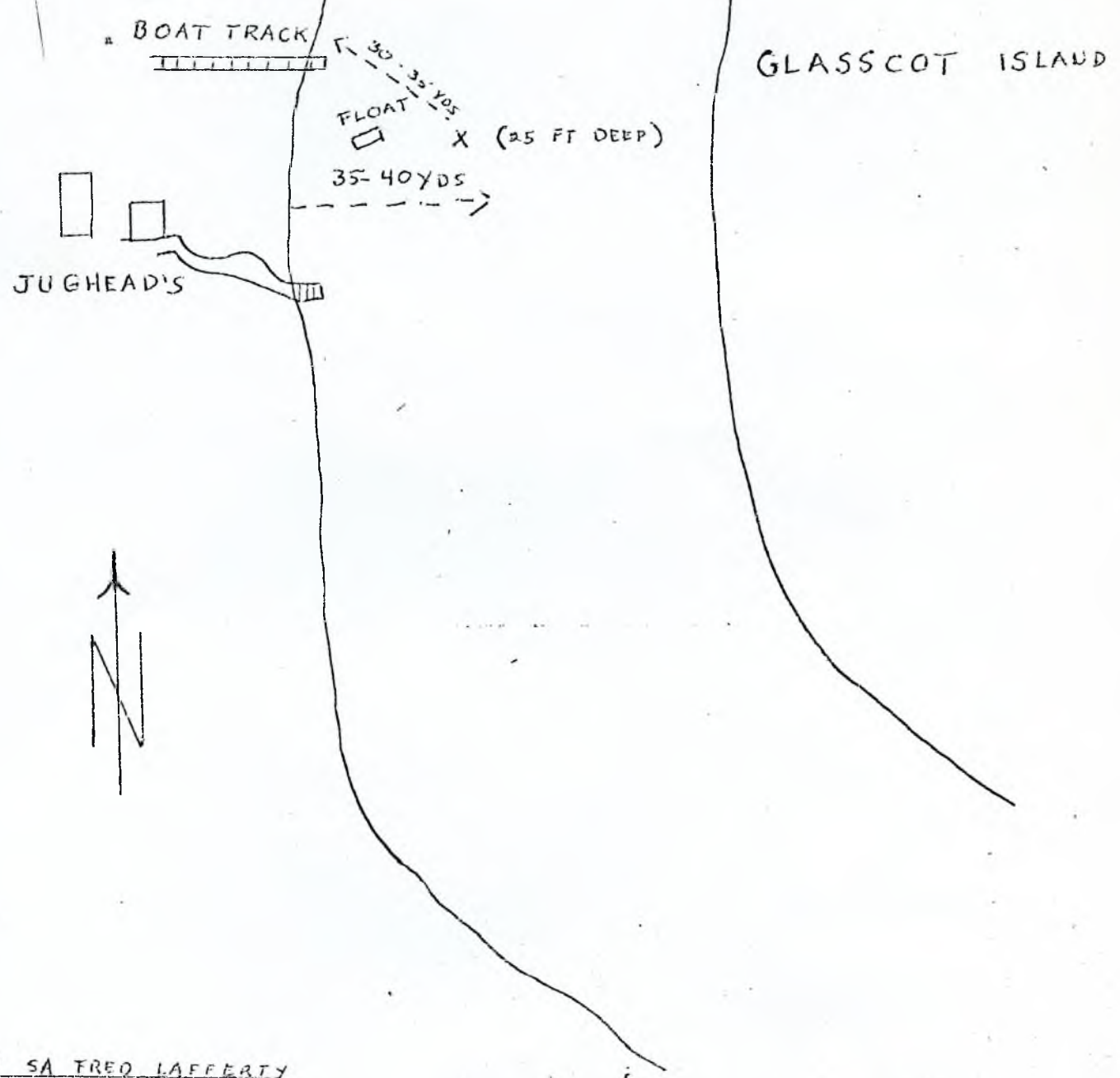
BY SA FRED LAFFERTY  
NOT TO SCALE  
NO 44-2293-JN 44-65

Authority E.O. 10501

DIVING SCENE

DEER PARK, LA

AUGUST 24, 1967



BY SA FRED LAFFERTY

NOT TO SCALE

NO 44-2293-JN 44-65