

Date 12/19/67

CLYDE HUBERT RUSHING was contacted at his residence, 2619 Royal Street, at which time he furnished the following signed statement:

"New Orleans, Louisiana  
December 11, 1967

"I, Clyde Hubert Rushing, make the following free and voluntary statement to Henry B. Britton, III, and Merriman D. Diven who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Special Agent Diven furnished me with a copy of my constitutional rights and read this form to me aloud. I have signed a waiver of these rights.

"I was born May 18, 1929, in Eddiston, Mississippi. I currently reside at 2619 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

"During April 13, 1952, I was married to Laura Phillips in Yuma, Arizona. We separated and I returned to Natchez, Mississippi, during September, 1953. I returned to Yuma and lived with her there. We moved to Natchez in 1954, and resided at the River Oaks Apartments. I drove a taxi for the Yellow Cab Co. in Natchez and my wife began working for Nellie Jackson as a prostitute in Natchez. Nellie sent her on some of the prostitution dates to

On 12/11/67 at NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA File # New Orleans 44-2293  
Jackson 44-65  
by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III and  
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/jdh Date dictated 12/15/67

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JN 44-65

to the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana. My wife told me this and also that she met Marie, last name unknown, of Vidalia, who was also making prostitution dates. I never hauled any girls from Nellie Jackson's placeto Vidalia. My wife and I worked this arrangement for about a month.

"I quit my job and we went to Alexandria, Louisiana, to try to get a better job. We stayed there about a week. We then went to the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia. We took a room there, and I contacted a Negro male who was about 25 years old, 5'7" - 5'8" tall, slender build and a porter at the motel. He arranged for about three prostitution dates for my wife with some unknown white men. I do not know how much was charged nor how much the porter was paid. My wife collected the money and paid the porter. I do not believe my wife had any sexual relations with the porter.

"About three days after staying at the Shamrock Motel, one of our six children fell in the motel swimming pool and drowned. We had been waiting that day for my wife's mother to stop by the motel and take us all back to Yuma. A white man jumped in the pool and recovered David Dodd's body, my wife's son. I think that a 'colored' boy also jumped into the pool and was unable to swim. My wife pulled him out. I do not know whether this was the same Negro male who was getting dates for my wife.

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"We stayed at the Shamrock for about 3 or 4 days after the drowning. I believe that the Foster Funeral Home of Natchez buried the boy. Clyde Rafe of Yuma, Arizona, came down and stayed a few days at the motel. He is my wife's brother-in-law. We were paid a thousand dollars for the drowning by the insurance company representing the motel. Before getting that money, a Yellow Cab driver, Bob Gastrell came to Vidalia and asked my wife if she wanted a prostitution date. She accepted and was taken to Natchez, Mississippi, where she had a prostitution date at the Holiday Inn.

"We left Vidalia and moved to Lawton, Oklahoma. My wife and I split-up about two months later. She said she divorced me in Yuma, Arizona. She is now married and I am married to Fay Wilson for the past year.

"The name Joseph Edwards is unknown to me. He could have been the Negro porter who arranged dates for my wife, Laura. I do not know James Goss, Kenneth Norman Head, Raleigh Jackson "Red" Glover, Homer "Buck" Horton, Bill Ogden and Junior Harp. The name Bud Spinks sounds familiar, but I do not know why. I believe that there was a De Laughter on the Natchez Police Department, but I am not sure if his first name was Frank.

"I do not recall anyone who had a white 1964 Oldsmobile. I had a 1957 two tone green Rambler station wagon at that time. I never arranged to set-up the Negro porter for a date so that any man or men could get to Edwards', the Negro

porter, for insulting a white girl.

"I am not a member of a klan-type organization and never have been a member of any klan type organization. I do not know anyone to be a member of any such organization.

"I have read the above 5 page statement and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

"/s/ Clyde H. Rushing

Witness:

"/s/ Henry B. Britton, III, Special Agent,  
FBI, New Orleans, La.

"/s/ Merriman D. Diven, Special Agent, FBI,  
New Orleans, La."

He also furnished the following information and description:

Name	CLYDE HUBERT RUSHING
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date and Place of Birth	5/18/29, Eddiston, Miss.
Height	5'7"
Weight	160
Build	Heavy
Hair	Black, mixed with grey
Eyes	Brown
Scars & Marks	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 3/4" laceration scar left forearm
Education	7th grade
Military Service	4 years - U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge, PVC 9/22/48-5/19/52
Military Service #	RA 14300474
Present Employment	Service attendant; American Oil Co., 1057 Veterans Highway, Metairie, La.; Joe's Gulf, 447 N. Rampart St., New Orleans, La.

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Social Security #	426-46-2209
Driver's License	Miss. Number 900064270
	Issued April, 1967,
	Expires 3/31/69
Checking Account	State Bank, Brookhaven, Miss.
Marital Status	Married, Brookhaven, Miss.
	1 year ago
Relatives:	FAY RUSHING, nee WILSON
Wife	None by FAY
Children	RUSSELL RUSHING (5 years)
Son	ROBIN RUSHING (4 years)
Daughter	(Both by LAURA PHILLIPS)
Father	DOTT RUSHING - deceased
Mother	LULA RUSHING - deceased
Organizations	None
Automobile	1966 Dodge pickup - red
	Mississippi tag
Weapons	.410 shotgun pump
	.22 caliber pistol
Residence	2619 Royal Street
	New Orleans, La.
Residence Telephone	
Number	None
Previous arrests	Lawton, Oklahoma - vagrancy - 3 years ago.
	Brookhaven, Mississippi - Drunk - 2 years ago.
	Natchez, Mississippi - Investigation - \$52.20 - 20 years ago

Date 12/20/67

FRANK DAVIS, doing business as Davis and Son, Clayton - Ferriday Highway, was contacted at his upholstery shop. He was advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

DAVIS advised that he had been acquainted with JOSEPH EDWARDS about 5 or 6 years before his disappearance. When they first met, EDWARDS was working for the T. E. Mercer Trucking Company.

He described EDWARDS as light brown skinned Negro male, slender build, at least 5'7" tall and approximately 21 years old. He had one or more upper teeth missing from one side of his mouth. He is not known to have had any broken bones. His dentist or doctor, if any, are unknown. EDWARDS had a gold wrist watch with a gold block band. EDWARDS was a carefree individual who was primarily interested in girls. He was frequently very extravagant and once paid a part-white girl who lives in Clayton \$35.00 for a date.

About a month or two before his disappearance, he engaged DAVIS in conversation, telling him that he had met some five white girls who were very nice to him. DAVIS warned him about making advances to white girls, telling him that he could get his throat cut and that if he wanted to go with white girls he had better go to California where such activity is not frowned on.

EDWARDS told him that he did not make the advances, that the girls were the ones who did the talking. EDWARDS did not indicate that he had been intimate with them, but he believed that the conduct of the girls indicated that possibility existed. EDWARDS

On 12/13/67 at CLAYTON, LOUISIANA File # New Orleans 44-2293  
SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III and  
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/jdh Jackson 44-65  
 Date dictated 12/15/67

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did not identify these girls nor describe them. DAVIS concluded that these girls were apparently employed at the Shamrock and were not guests of the motel as EDWARDS indicated that his contact with these girls had been over a period of time rather than one occasion.

DAVIS suggested that one of his younger relatives, JESSE ANDERSON, could possibly add to the above information as well as furnish the name of EDWARDS' buddy.

A relative of EDWARDS, either his father or grandfather made inquiry concerning the whereabouts of EDWARDS, about a month or two after his conversation with EDWARDS about white girls. DAVIS thought that either EDWARDS had met with foul play or was in jail.

A short time later he was delivering a couch between Ferriday and Vidalia when he recognized JOE EDWARDS' car. At this time the old Buick was parked on the side of the road which intersected with the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway and curved in an "S" fashion behind the bowling alley. He stopped for only a moment, fearing that some white man may object to his intrusion into the incident. He looked through a window of the car. He saw a necktie hanging over the interior mirror. An old shirt and belt were also in the car, to the best of his recollection, on the back seat. He could not describe the articles nor identify them as EDWARDS'. DAVIS said EDWARDS frequently wore a tie. DAVIS noted nothing further about the car and never saw it again.

DAVIS advised that he did not recall any individual or agency that owned a 1964 white Oldsmobile at that time.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/9/671

DOROTHY WILLIAMS, Innkeeper, Holiday Inn, Natchez, Mississippi, after being apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agents, furnished the following information:

WILLIAMS advised that she had been the manager of the Holiday Inn at Natchez, Mississippi since 1961. She stated that during her tenure, she has never been directly knowledgeable of, nor had brought to her attention, any incident involving a Negro and white person. She stated that she has never heard of a Negro boy named JOSEPH EDWARDS who may have been engaging in sexual relations with a white woman at the Holiday Inn.

On 12/5/67 at NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI File# New Orleans 44-2293  
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III MDD/jdh Jackson 44-65

Date dictated 12/8/67

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II. POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 12, 1967

JUANITA COCHRANE, Clerk, Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, effected a review of all automobiles purchased by the department from September, 1963, through July, 1964, which reflected the following information:

<u>Date Bought</u>	<u>From Whom</u>	<u>Deputy Assigned Car</u>
December, 1963	Farmar Brothers Dodge (Dodge)	RAYMOND KEATHLY
January, 1964	General Motors Acceptance Corporation (Pontiac)	FRANK DE LAUGHTER
January, 1964	Troyce Guice Chevrolet (Chevrolet)	BILL ODGEN
July, 1964	Purvis (1963 Buick)	IKE COWEN

COCHRANE advised that the only Oldsmobiles utilized by the department were (A) a 1967 model presently being used, and (B) the 1962 Oldsmobile which was sold to the sheriff's office by JUNIOR HARP in March, 1965, when he first entered on duty with the department.

COCHRANE advised that there were no records available reflecting which individuals may have been on duty and respective hours assigned during July of 1964.

On 12/6/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana

File # Jackson 44-65

by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III:mah

Date dictated 12/7/67

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/13/67

EDITH RICHARDSON VANCE, Clerk, City Hall, Vidalia, Louisiana, furnished the following information pertaining to the Vidalia Police Department's staff and personnel during July, 1964:

Individuals Employed	Address	Social Security Number	Date of Employment
HERMAN H. GREEN	2034 Eleanor Avenue	437-24-0924	July, 1962
HENRY TATE POOLE	408 Dogwood Drive	452-01-7512	December, 1962
MILTON G. WISNER	1902 Murray	214-26-8383	October, 1963
JOHNNIE CROSS	118 Cross Street	428-80-1436	October, 1963
ALFRED HOLLAND	407 Lynn Street	438-26-5516	May, 1964
JOHN HUGH HENRY, JR.	2037 Eleanor Street	436-44-1131	August, 1964
ALLEN CROSS	118 Cross Street	438-10-6101	September, 1964
J. L. SPINKS	1204 Plum Street	437-18-6660	October, 1964

VANCE advised that there was no record available at the City Hall reflecting the hours spent on duty by individual officers of the force during 1964.

VANCE advised that the automobile utilized by the department during 1964 was a 1964 Oldsmobile purchased in May of 1964 from Purvis Motors, Natchez, Mississippi, on a lease agreement. The Vehicle Identification Number was listed as 844M139500. Prior to this car was a 1963 Oldsmobile and on March 11, 1965, a 1965 model Oldsmobile was leased. Upon

On 12/5/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # Jackson 44-65

by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III:ccs

Date dictated 12/7/67

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review of the lease agreement, VANCE stated the only equipment listed as accessories to the car for police work were: two spotlights (right and left), siren, blinker light, and radio.

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JN 44-65

III. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING FLESH  
FOUND AT DEER PARK, LOUISIANA

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 5, 19671

ODIE BOOTH, when recontacted at his commercial fishing camp, Harrisonburg, Louisiana, furnished the following information:

BOOTH advised that up until the time in October, 1964, when his fishing nets snagged on what appeared to be a container which overturned and released an air bubble, followed by fleshy remains, he had never noticed any peculiarities in the Deer Park area. BOOTH stated further that on each subsequent trip to Deer Park he would pay close attention to its surroundings. BOOTH advised that for a period of time following the aforementioned incident he recalled several ice boxes in the vicinity of the railroad track leading to the water owned by GEORGE FENTON. BOOTH stated that eventually the ice boxes were removed from the embankment and their whereabouts are unknown to BOOTH.

BOOTH reiterated that there is, in his estimation, reason to believe the remains found floating were other than animal carcass. BOOTH advised that in all the years he has engaged in the fishing profession, he had never come in contact with any odor like that which emanated from under the water, nor like the fleshy substance found floating on the water's surface.

On 11/27/67 at Harrisonburg, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293  
Jackson 44-65

by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III  
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/HBB/csm Date dictated 11/30/67

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IV. INTERVIEWS OF SUSPECTS

Date 12/18/67

KENNETH NORMAN HEAD was contacted at his residence on the water front at Lake Concordia, Ferriday. He was apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact. At the outset an attempt was made to advise him of his constitutional rights by exhibiting a form setting forth these rights. He declined to read the form, stating that he had been contacted numerous times by Special Agents of the FBI and he knew what his rights were and he had told the Agents all he knew about everything.

Nevertheless, he did furnish the following information:

The name JOSEPH EDWARDS is unknown to him. He does not know anything about a missing Negro Shamrock Motel porter and he was not involved in any such incident. He stated that should the FBI have any information indicating his involvement in any violence or violation of Federal law, they should take him to court. He stated that he would not hesitate to go to court, as he had done nothing wrong.

HEAD stated that he is no longer working for a subsidiary company of the International Paper Company at Natchez. He is working as a mechanic on industrial engines for the Dallas-Bass Incorporated, Highway 61, North, Natchez. In his new job he will travel extensively with no definite schedule. His wife, BEVERLY HEAD, will continue to work as a sales clerk at Lane's Drug Store, 506 Carter Street, Vidalia.

On 12/6/67 at FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA File # New Orleans 44-2293  
SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III and Jackson 44-65  
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/jdh Jackson 44-2044  
12/12/167 New Orleans 157-K.N. HEA  
K.N. HEA

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HEAD advised that they will continue to reside at Lake Concorida. They are purchasing the house.

HEAD stated that "Buck" HORTON is a close friend and they used to ride to work together. HEAD stated that he does not know HORTON to be a member of any Klan-type organization nor involved in violence. He advised that HORTON frequently flies his airplane very low over HEAD'S house as a friendly greeting, but he has not seen him recently.

Date 12/20/67

WILLIAM HOWARD OGDEN, Concordia Parish Deputy Sheriff, was contacted at his residence, Doty Road, Ferriday, Louisiana, and after being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and being furnished a "Your Rights" waiver form, which he declined to sign, voluntarily furnished the following information:

OGDEN stated that the only additional information he was able to recall regarding the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS in 1964 is that he recalled seeing JAMES GOSS once outside of the Sheriff's Office, while he was purchasing gasoline at the Magnolia Motor Court. OGDEN added that he often stops at the Magnolia Court to buy gas and the time he saw GOSS, there was a middle aged woman believed to be his wife in the car with him.

OGDEN advised he was not aware of any females GOSS may have been dating when he was in Vidalia.

OGDEN, when questioned regarding any conversation taking place at the Sheriff's Office concerning the EDWARDS crippled girl incident at the Shamrock Motel, as related to BUD SPINKS, advised that he recalls discussing the matter; however, he could not recall anything specific other than there were several individuals all milling around making mention of the occurrence. OGDEN denied he made any statement to anyone indicating, "It would be taken care of", or "They will take care of it."

In connection with a prior inquiry by the Agents concerning a report that OGDEN had chased a Negro, believed to be EDWARDS, over the levee and failed to catch him, OGDEN

On 12/14/67 at FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA File # New Orleans 44-2293  
Jackson 44-65  
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and  
SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III HBB/jdh Date dictated 12/15/67

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stated that information was apparently relating to another incident. He said that a Negro burglar, known as "Tip Light" was apprehended and handcuffed by OGDEN. "Tip Light" escaped and reportedly removed the handcuffs by breaking into a tractor repair shop and using equipment there to cut off the cuffs. OGDEN suggested that this story alleged to involve EDWARDS, may also be confined with his arrest of SHORTY HAWKINS as this Negro attempted to flee over the railroad tracks after a cutting incident.

OGDEN stated that the first and only contact with a Negro male who may have been JOSEPH EDWARDS, was on an occasion he made inquiries at the Shamrock Motel concerning the drowning of a young white boy the day or day after the boy drowned in the Shamrock swimming pool. He was a slender Negro male employee of the motel standing near the pool at the time OGDEN was there.

OGDEN stated that the parents of the deceased child were unknown to him. It was his understanding that they were visiting someone at the motel when one of their children fell into the pool. To OGDEN'S knowledge, EDWARDS was not involved with the mother of the child.

He furnished the following personal data and physical description:

Name	WILLIAM HOWARD OGDEN
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date and Place of Birth	October 18, 1913, Franklin Parish, La.
Height	5'9"
Weight	160
Build	Medium
Hair	Blond
Eyes	Blue
Scars	Right index finger amputated
Education	High School graduate
Military Service	None

NO 44-2293

Present Employment	D/S Concordia Parish, La.
Driver's License	No. 166186, WILLIAM H. OGDEN Issued 10/18/66, examing office No. 15, picture No. 75
Marital Status	Married
Relatives	DORIS OGDEN, Route 1, Ferriday, LA.
Wife	One married daughter, husband in U.S. Air Force, England.
Children	Deceased
Father	LENA (remarried) (last name refused)
Mother	None
Organizations	Route 1, Ferriday, La. (Doty Road)
Residence	757-3520
Residence Telephone	1966 white Chrysler patrol car
Automobile	Fighting - age 13 years
Arrests	Franklin Parish, La.

Date 12/20/67

RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER, Route 61, Washington, Mississippi, after being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents, stated immediately that any questions to be answered by him would so be done in the presence of his attorney, BILL KELLY.

GLOVER stated that he had been contacted by Special Agents of the FBI at least 15 times concerning the blowing up of "Niggers" and consequently accused the FBI of telling lies about him. He denied knowing JOSEPH EDWARDS for having any part in his disappearance.

GLOVER refused to listen to repudiation of his allegation, refused to answer any questions, stating he had nothing to do with any "Nigger" killings and slammed the door of his residence.

New Orleans 44-2293

Jackson 44-65

Jackson 44-2044

New Orleans 44-(WHARBOM)

Jackson 157- (R.J. GLOVER)

New Orleans 157- (R.J. GLOVER)

GLOVER

On 12/14/67 at WASHINGTON, MISSISSIPPI File # New Orleans 44-2293  
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III HBB/jdh Date dictated 12/15/67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>12/7/67</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>11/1/67 - 12/5/67</b>	TYPED BY <b>CCS</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka Joe Edwards - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CR</b>	

REFERENCE:  
Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 11/24/67 at New Orleans.

- P -

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED							None
PROPERTY	SAVED	RECOVERED	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	OTHER	

Case has been: Pending over one year  Yes  No; Pending prosecution over six months  Yes  No

APPROVED *[Signature]*  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-26064-26 REC 46

16 DEC 11 1967

DEC 11 *[Signature]*

Notations: REC'D CIV RIGHTS

SIX

STAT. SECT.

DEC 11 1 51 PM '67

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD		
Request Recd.	RECEIVED		
Date Fwd.	12-67		
How Fwd.	BY B		
By	Redman		

57 DEC 19 1967

EXP. PROC.

*[Handwritten mark]*

NO 44-2293

1. Continue efforts to interview RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER, concerning his possible involvement in the disappearance of EDWARDS.
2. Continue contacts with logical informants.

NEW ORLEANS

AT DEER PARK, LOUISIANA,

Will make inquiries concerning prospective low water and give consideration to further underwater exploration for skeletal remains of victim.

AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

1. Upon return of KENNETH NORMAN HEAD from new off-shore employment, will interview him as a suspect.
2. Reinterview Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN concerning his possible involvement in victim's disappearance.

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

1. Interview CLYDE HUBERT RUSHING, 2619 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, concerning information that he arranged for prostitution dates for his wife through EDWARDS. Determine if RUSHING compromised EDWARDS.

2. Recontact RICHARD VAN MATRE, 7145 Airline Highway, Metairie, Louisiana, concerning information from JAMES GOSS that VAN MATRE was present at King Hotel, Ferriday, Louisiana, where a statement was made that EDWARDS went to New Orleans via the river. Attempt to ascertain identity of source of that statement.

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COVER PAGE

NO 44-2293

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COVER PAGE



NO 44-2293

On 11/1/67 [redacted] advised SA GEORGE P. GAMBLIN that he had no information concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS.

On 11/14/67. SAs JOHN A. PFEIFER and DAVID V. BUCKLEY interviewed [redacted], who

is willing to testify to the following information but under no other circumstances does she wish the information revealed because of possible physical injury from [redacted]

About two years ago her husband told her a Negro man who worked at the Shamrock Motel had disappeared and his disappearance was connected with an alleged attack on a white woman. At about the same time she was in the hallway one day at the Concordia Parish Courthouse and overheard Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN, the jailer, name unknown, and her husband discussing the matter. These men stated they "wouldn't be bothered with him" (meaning the above Negro) "anymore". BILL OGDEN then said "that'll serve him right, and they ought to bundle up all the Negroes and get rid of them". She could not tell specifically what was supposed to have happened to the Negro, nor who did it to him, from the conversation, but the implication was that law enforcement officers were somehow involved.

A few weeks later she went to the Concordia Parish Courthouse to pick up her husband. Some commotion was going on. Her husband told her "they found that nigger's body in the river", and she understood he was talking about the same Negro that disappeared from the Shamrock Motel.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All persons contacted during the course of this investigation were advised that the inquiry was being made at the specific request of JOHN DOAR, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

This investigation is being coordinated with Bureau Special WHARBOM at Natchez, Miss.

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COVER PAGE

NW#: 9008

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Date April 12, 1967

Chief of Police J. F. ROBINSON, Natchez, Mississippi, advised that on Sunday night, April 2, 1967, HORACE RAY JAMES, Deak Sargeant, Natchez Police Department, found a miniature gallow near the front entrance to the police station. Chief ROBINSON pointed out that the gallows were sitting on the walk behind the Chancery Court which was parked in front of the Police Station and as he turned from the truck to walk back into the Police Station JAMES observed the gallows into the sitting on the walk. JAMES brought the gallows to Chief ROBINSON, Police Station and gave the gallows to Chief ROBINSON.

Chief ROBINSON made the gallows available and it was determined that the gallows measured 20" x 84" x 17". There were positions for six bodies. The following names appeared across the top of the gallows:

- GEORGE NEST
- J. F. ROBINSON
- CHARLES EVERS
- RANDEL (RANDAL) FERGUSON
- W. JACKSON
- OLLIE (ARLIE) WARREN

There were five replicas of men cut from masonite hanging from the gallows under the names. There was no replica hanging for W. JACKSON.

These gallows had 13 steps cut from a solid piece of wood going up to the upper platform. The replicas of the bodies were cut from masonite. The two representing the Negroes were painted black with the outline of the face and arms painted white. The replicas representing the white individuals were painted white with the outlines of the face and arms in black. Down the backs of the three white replicas was a yellow streak. It was noted that the string wrapped around the crossarms and from which the replicas were hanging used a hangman's noose around each of the replicas.

4/4/67 of Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-2044-577-75

CLARENCE G. PROSPER *CCP* / *CCP/sep/rwj* Date dictated 4/10/67

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NO 44-2293

On 11/1/67 [redacted] advised SA GEORGE P. GAMBLIN that he had no information concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS.

On 11/14/67. SAs JOHN A. PFEIFER and DAVID V. BUCKLEY interviewed [redacted], who

is willing to testify to the following information but under no other circumstances does she wish the information revealed because of possible physical injury from [redacted]

About two years ago her husband told her a Negro man who worked at the Shamrock Motel had disappeared and his disappearance was connected with an alleged attack on a white woman. At about the same time she was in the hallway one day at the Concordia Parish Courthouse and overheard Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN, the jailer, name unknown, and her husband discussing the matter. These men stated they "wouldn't be bothered with him" (meaning the above Negro) "anymore". BILL OGDEN then said "that'll serve him right, and they ought to bundle up all the Negroes and get rid of them". She could not tell specifically what was supposed to have happened to the Negro, nor who did it to him, from the conversation, but the implication was that law enforcement officers were somehow involved.

A few weeks later she went to the Concordia Parish Courthouse to pick up her husband. Some commotion was going on. Her husband told her "they found that nigger's body in the river", and she understood he was talking about the same Negro that disappeared from the Shamrock Motel.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All persons contacted during the course of this investigation were advised that the inquiry was being made at the specific request of JOHN DOAR, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

This investigation is being coordinated with Bureau Special WHARBOM at Natchez, Miss.

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293

The investigative period of this report overlaps the period of referenced report in that some of the FD 302s were not available at the time of preparation of the referenced report.

Only one Agent conducted some of the interviews because another Agent was not immediately available.

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NO 44-2293-mah

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
MICHAEL BARON:

On November 9, 1967, Sheriff BELVIN BERGERON, West Baton Rouge Parish, Port Allen, Louisiana, advised that he is acquainted with TOMMY JORDAN. He stated that to the best of his knowledge JORDAN has not been in the West Baton Rouge, Port Allen, Louisiana, area for several months. He stated that he could furnish no information re the present whereabouts of JORDAN but that he would have his deputies make inquiries.

On November 17, 1967, GEORGE NATHAN, Manager, Club Carrousel, Highway 90, Port Allen, Louisiana, advised that he had not seen TOMMY JORDAN for several months. He stated that he could furnish no information regarding JORDAN's whereabouts. Mr. NATHAN stated that in the event JORDAN should come into the Club Carrousel he would tell him to notify the FBI.

On November 17, 1967, Chief Deputy LAURENCE LEFEAUX, West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, Port Allen, Louisiana, advised that to the best of his knowledge JORDAN has not been in the vicinity for some period of time. He stated that his office had several outstanding traffic violations regarding JORDAN and that his office would be on the alert for JORDAN. He advised that he would notify this office in the event he should receive any information regarding JORDAN.

On November 17, 1967, Deputy ROBERT TYCER, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, advised that he arrested JORDAN at one time on burglary charges. He stated that JORDAN to his knowledge is not in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, area, but is supposedly around Alexandria, Louisiana. He stated that he would notify this office in the event he should receive any information regarding JORDAN.

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293

HBB/clm

1

The following investigation was conducted by SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III and WAYNE A. MILLWARD on November 21, 1967:

The following individuals were contacted without positive results in an effort to develop additional information relative to the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS. All were former employees of the Shamrock Motel during July of 1964:

JAMES McMARTY - Community Mart, Liberty Road,  
Natchez, Mississippi

Mrs. ANNIE WORNER - 8 Scott Street, Natchez

Mrs. MARY SMITH - 506 North Rankin Street,  
Natchez

Mrs. ROSIE LEE HERRON - 417 North Rankin Street  
North, Natchez

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293  
MDD/clm  
1

The following investigation was conducted on November 22, 1967, at Brookhaven, Mississippi, and vicinity by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN:

[REDACTED] advised he had no record pertaining to HUBERT RUSHING.

SHELBY WHITE, Route 51 South, Brookhaven, advised he is distantly related to HUBERT RUSHING. He stated he has not seen RUSHING for at least nine months, at which time RUSHING was hospitalized at the King's Hospital. WHITE was unable to furnish any information of value in locating RUSHING.

LIONEL RUSHING, West Lincoln, Mississippi, advised that one HUBERT RUSHING had died approximately a year ago; however, after observing HUBERT RUSHING's photograph, stated the individual was not identical with the deceased. He was unable to furnish any information concerning HUBERT RUSHING, the brother of Mrs. WALTER LOFTON.

HUGH RICHARDSON, West Lincoln, Mississippi, advised that HUBERT RUSHING was unknown to him.

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293

On December 4, 1967,

[redacted] advised SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III, and MERRIMAN D. DIVEN that HUBERT RUSHING, who is generally known in that area as CLYDE RUSHING, moved from the vicinity of Sontag about nine months ago and is living with his wife, FAYE BAKER RUSHING, at 2619 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

I\*  
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NO 44-2293

On December 4, 1967, [redacted]

[redacted] advised SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III, and MERRIMAN D. DIVEN that HUBERT RUSHING, who is generally known in that area as CLYDE RUSHING, moved from the vicinity of Sontag about nine months ago and is living with his wife, FAYE BAKER RUSHING, at 2619 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

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: 12/7/67 Bureau File #: 44-26064

Field Office File #: NO 44-2293

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

## Synopsis:

Friend and co-worker of victim describe his activities, including threat by guest at Shamrock Motel. JAMES BUFORD GOSS furnished signed statement that Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN was told of EDWARD's kissing a white girl and OGDEN's statement that "they" would take care of it and other remarks.

- P -

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293

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DETAILS:

I  
INVESTIGATION CONCERNING JOSEPH EDWARDS'S  
ACTIVITIES AT THE SHAMROCK MOTEL, VIDALIA  
LOUISIANA.

Date 12/7/67

1 QUEEN ESTHER "BILLY" JONES nee LEE (Mrs. JAMES JONES), 727 Hanson Place, Kenner, Louisiana, advised that she has lived at Kenner, Louisiana, for two years, and that prior to moving to Kenner, she resided at Clayton, Louisiana. She stated that she had been acquainted with JOSEPH EDWARDS since childhood. She stated that she had attended school with EDWARDS for a short time until he quit school. She also stated that EDWARDS used to visit her home at Clayton, Louisiana, quite frequently when she lived there, inasmuch as he liked her sister, LILLIAN LEE.

Mrs. JONES stated that she knew that EDWARDS was working at the Shamrock Motel in Vadalia, Louisiana, but that she had never heard him make any statements as to his dating a white girl or that he was doing some hustling for prostitution while employed at the Shamrock. She stated that she never dated EDWARDS herself, nor did she ever go to the Shamrock Motel to meet him at any time.

Mrs. JONES advised that EDWARDS lived with a deaf and dumb girl by the name of MARGUERITE (Phonetic) but that she did not know her full name. She also stated that EDWARDS had a brother, JACK EDWARDS, who lived with a girl by the name of MARY LEE MURRY. She stated that all of these people lived in Clayton, Louisiana, the last she knew. She also stated that JOSEPH EDWARDS used to "chase around" quite a bit with a boy by the name of JESSIE ANDERSON, who also lives in Clayton, Louisiana. She stated that the two seemed to be together quite a bit when she remembers seeing EDWARDS about three years ago. She stated that EDWARDS came by the house so often, that she does not remember exactly when she saw him for the last time. She stated that she does not remember EDWARDS eating supper with the family on a Sunday evening just before he disappeared.

On 12/4/67 at Kenner, Louisiana

File# NO 44-2293

by SA WAYNE A. MILLWARD:ccs

Date dictated 12/5/67

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/7/67

BILL G. HAMMETT, JR., 3 Marine Avenue, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Special Agents.

HAMMETT stated that he did not want to get involved in a matter which was of no personal concern. He stated that as a Negro he did not feel obligated to get involved in every situation involving a Negro. He volunteered that if anyone tried to hurt his family, himself, and members of his organization, they were adequately prepared to handle the situation at all times. He declined to identify the organization with which he is affiliated.

However, HAMMETT furnished the following information:

He had been working part-time in the kitchen at Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, since 1959, when he was attending high school. He married on December 24, 1961, and worked in the kitchen regularly thereafter.

Prior to the employment of JOSEPH EDWARDS as a porter at the Shamrock Motel, HAMMETT knew EDWARDS very casually having observed him in the Negro community. HAMMETT'S contact with EDWARDS at the motel was infrequent and casual also.

He described EDWARDS as being about five feet eleven inches with light brown skin, but no other characteristics were noted. He knew EDWARDS to have an old car, make, model, and description unrecalled. He had seen EDWARDS in Babe's Cafe, Vidalia, Louisiana, but was not acquainted with EDWARDS'S associates. HAMMETT said he had no knowledge whether EDWARDS ever dated a white girl or tried to date a white girl.

On 12/2/67 at Natchez, Mississippi

NO 44-2293 -

File# Jackson 44-65

by SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III, and MERRIMAN D. DIVEN:MDD/ccs

Date dictated 12/5/67

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NW#: 9008

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Sometime before EDWARDS'S disappearance, EDWARDS came to the rear door of the kitchen and related that he had entered a motel room and something provoked a male guest of the motel who pointed a pistol at EDWARDS. HAMMETT stated he did not recall the reason for this threat, but he is of the opinion that EDWARDS went into a motel room where a girl was undressed. He could furnish no other details of the incident nor witnesses to EDWARDS'S report of the matter. He stated that possibly a former cook who lives on top of the hill on the Natchez Bypass Road may have heard EDWARDS relate the incident.

HAMMETT was of the opinion that the same night that EDWARDS related the incident, he also asked that one of the kitchen personnel go to the bar section of the establishment and purchase a pint of whiskey for him. EDWARDS was off duty at that time and needed a shave. HAMMETT has no recollection of seeing EDWARDS after that time.

About a week after that incident, MIKE MC DONOUGH, part owner of the Shamrock Motel, told HAMMETT to take off his apron and put on a white jacket as JOE EDWARDS had not shown up for work. MC DONOUGH indicated that the change would be temporary and HAMMETT would return to his kitchen job when EDWARDS came to work. EDWARDS did not return and HAMMETT kept the job until he quit several months later. During that time no information came to his attention concerning EDWARDS'S disappearance.

While he was a porter, he was requested by several guests to obtain a prostitute for them. When HAMMETT told them that he was not able to make such arrangements, these men advised that the former porter had made such dates for them.

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4-2293

HAMMETT was shown a photograph of JAMES GOSS.  
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motel, but he did look a little familiar.

NO 44-2293

3

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