

II
INVESTIGATION OF JAMES BUFORD GOSS,
LOUISIANA PROBATION OFFICER

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 28, 1967

IONA PERRY SEWARD was recontacted and made aware of the official nature of the inquiry.

She stated that she has thought about the incidents involving JOSEPH EDWARDS and JAMES GOSS since she was last contacted by Special Agents of the FBI. She advised that no additional information has come to her mind nor has she had any contact with GOSS during the interim from the last contact by Agents.

On 11/24/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 11/25/67
New Orleans 44-65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/1/671

JACK KAPLAN, Attorney, Shreveport, Louisiana, who is representing JAMES BUFORD GOSS, was telephonically contacted at his office. He was reminded of the personal and official identities of the Special Agent.

The Agent indicated a desire to reinterview his client. KAPLAN stated that he had no objections to such a reinterview of GOSS and should GOSS have any questions concerning this reinterview, he should contact him at any time.

On 11/28/67 at Shreveport, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/clm Date dictated 11/30/67

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December 5, 1967

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JAMES BUFORD GOSS was contacted at his residence. Before conducting any inquiry, he was furnished a statement of his constitutional rights and he executed a waiver of his rights. He advised that he did not desire to contact his attorney, JACK KAPLAN, in connection with this interview. GOSS furnished the following signed statement:

JAMES GOSS

"Bossier, City, La.

"November 28, 1967

JAMES B. GOSS

LOUISIANA PROBATION OFFICER

"I, James Buford Goss, make the following free and voluntary statement to Henry B. Britton 3rd and Merriman D. Diven who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I was presented with a form setting forth my constitutional rights. I know what my rights are and voluntarily waived these rights by signing a waiver. I do not wish to consult my attorney, Jack Kaplan, at this time.

"I reside at 3236 Sarah Street, Bossier City, La. and was born on June 24, 1920.

"During the middle of 1964, I was told by Iona Perry, the registration clerk at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, that her co-worker, a Negro porter by the name of Joseph Edwards, had insulted her by grabbing her arm and kissing her.

"After hearing of this, I returned to the motel to locate Edwards and beat him up with my hands, but I was not able to locate him that night.

11/28/67 Bossier City, Louisiana

SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN

MDD/blw

New Orleans 44-2293

12/1/67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

"The next day at the Concordia Parish Court House, I saw Chief Bud Spinks and told him of the incident, although Miss Perry had requested me not to report the matter to the police.

LA "Bill ~~X~~ Ogden, a Concordia Parish Deputy Sheriff, was near when I told Chief Spinks about the incident. Later that day, he came to me and asked what the incident was all about. I told him about Edwards' kiss of the crippled girl. Ogden stated that "they" would take care of it. He did not indicate who "they" were nor what "they" would do. I assumed he meant the Sheriff's Office would take some legal action.

"I was told by Iona the next time I contacted her that the police had contacted her, but she declined to press charges against Edwards.

"I did not see Edwards at any time after Iona told me of the insult. However, an unrecalled number of days later, I saw a lt. blue and white Buick, about a 1957 model, which someone unrecalled pointed out to me as Joseph Edwards' vehicle. It was parked near the motel office at the time. I did not see Edwards. I believe he was avoiding me because he knew that I had taken Iona out several times.

"After noting the car and being told by Iona that she was not pressing charges against Edwards, I was passing Beatty's Gulf Station in Ferriday when I saw Ogden's patrol car there. I stopped in there and inquired of Ogden as to what action he was taking against Edwards. I believed that the Sheriff's Office would take some legal action against Edwards. If they could not get him on the charge of

"The next day at the Concordia Parish Court House, I saw Chief Bud Spinks and told him of the incident, although Miss Perry had requested me not to report the matter to the police.

LA "Bill Ogden, a Concordia Parish Deputy Sheriff, was near when I told Chief Spinks about the incident. Later that day, he came to me and asked what the incident was all about. I told him about Edwards' kiss of the crippled girl. Ogden stated that "they" would take care of it. He did not indicate who "they" were nor what "they" would do. I assumed he meant the Sheriff's Office would take some legal action.

"I was told by Iona the next time I contacted her that the police had contacted her, but she declined to press charges against Edwards.

"I did not see Edwards at any time after Iona told me of the insult. However, an unrecalled number of days later, I saw a lt. blue and white Buick, about a 1957 model, which someone unrecalled pointed out to me as Joseph Edwards' vehicle. It was parked near the motel office at the time. I did not see Edwards. I believe he was avoiding me because he knew that I had taken Iona out several times.

"After noting the car and being told by Iona that she was not pressing charges against Edwards, I was passing Beatty's Gulf Station in Ferriday when I saw Ogden's patrol car there. I stopped in there and inquired of Ogden as to what action he was taking against Edwards. I believed that the Sheriff's Office would take some legal action against Edwards. If they could not get him on the charge of

assault, they could probably get him on something else. I did not intend that Edwards be beaten or killed.

"I heard nothing further about Edwards until sometime later when I was in Blackie Drane's bar and some unknown person stated that they had found Edwards' car. I understood that the car was found near the sandbar on the levee. I do not know whether Blackie was present when this statement was made.

"Sometime later, while I was in the King Hotel in the company of Richard Van Matre at a table when some unknown person at the bar stated that Edwards had gone to New Orleans via the river.

"A long time after speaking to Ogden about the matter of Edwards, I bumped into Ogden entering the Concordia Court House. Ogden said to me that I should sink my 'niggers' far enough out where fishermen could not hook onto them. I asked him what he meant. He said something like, 'You ought to know; you put him there.' Later, I heard from some unrecalled source that a fisherman had hooked into some flesh in the river.

"When I heard that Edwards' car had been found, I believed that maybe he had left town. After hearing that Edwards had gone to New Orleans via the river and the fisherman hooking onto some flesh I knew that someone had killed Edwards. I asked no questions as I did not want to get involved.

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"On one occasion, the exact period unrecalled, Ogden stated that 'the fresh water shrimp were sure getting fat now.' He did not elaborate on this statement.

"I've read the above five (5) page statement and that it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

"/s/ James B. Goss

"Witness:

"/s/ Merriman D. Diven, Special Agent, FBI,
New Orleans, La., 11/28/67.

"/s/ Henry B. Britton, III, Special Agent,
FBI, New Orleans, La., 11/28/67."

GOSS volunteered the following additional information:

At the time of his complaint to Deputy Sheriff OGDEN, he had only been assigned to that area for approximately three months and had not learned of the generally poor reputation of the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office personnel.

Subsequently, he learned that the Sheriff's Deputies had apparently been involved in numerous beatings and other illegal activities. He attempted to keep good relations with them in connection with his work and on several occasions, drank no more than one beer with Deputy Sheriff FRANK DE LAUGHTER.

NO 44-2293

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A long time after the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, at a time when there was much racial trouble in Natchez, Mississippi, he accompanied Chief BUD SPINKS, Deputy Sheriff JUNIOR HARP, and Deputy Sheriff FRANK DE LAUGHTER in the Vidalia police car on patrol in Natchez, Mississippi.

GOSS stated that JUNIOR HARP had been a former jailer in the Ferriday, Louisiana, Jail. On one occasion, he observed a length of fire hose attached to a stick which was reportedly used to beat prisoners. He was unable to furnish any specific incidents of such beatings. He further advised that JUNIOR HARP had a 1964 or 1965 white Oldsmobile which he used as a patrol car, after he became Concordia Parish Deputy Sheriff. Although he has no tangible reason for his suspicions, he is of the opinion that JUNIOR HARP may have been involved in the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

III
POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS .

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/7/67

1
Mrs. ANN CURLEE, 2032 Eleanor Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, was recontacted by interviewing Agents at which time she furnished the following information:

CURLEE advised that since last contacted by Special Agents she had thought over carefully any conversations she may have overheard at the Sheriff's Office relative to the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS. CURLEE stated that the only direct information she could recall was a remark made by Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN which stated "if they looked in the right place, they would find him." CURLEE was unable to recall the time when she had heard this or exactly under what circumstances. CURLEE added that the only other indication of OGDEN'S possible involvement was his frequent reference to his friends in the Ku Klux Klan and how "they could handle various situations." CURLEE could not add any specific instance to OGDEN'S passing comments.

On 11/30/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana

by SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III, and WAYNE E. MILLWARD:ccs

NO 44-2293
JN 44-65

File #

Date dictated

12/4/67

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

IV
INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A
WHITE OLDSMOBILE SEEN AT
SITE WHERE EDWARDS'S CAR
WAS ABANDONED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/15/671

Reverend A. G. TAYLOR, Methodist Church, advised that he does not recall the number of the Louisiana license plate he had on his 1963 Plymouth in 1963. Reverend TAYLOR stated that he feels certain that when he changed license plates, he threw the old one in the trash barrel at his home in Haynesville. Reverend TAYLOR believes the trash barrel was probably then hauled to the city dump.

Reverend TAYLOR said he has no personal recollection of the above, but added that this is his normal procedure in disposing of his expired license plates.

On 11/13/67 at Haynesville, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
by SA PATRICK R. COONEY - jah

Date dictated 11/15/67

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

V
INVESTIGATION OF FLESH FOUND IN
RIVER AT DEER PARK, LOUISIANA

December 4, 1967

1

Mr. GEORGE FENTON, Rel Air Lodge, Deer Park, Louisiana, was contacted at his residence and apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the investigation being conducted, at which time he furnished the following information:

FENTON stated that he is in the air conditioning and heating business and his office is located at 449 Dory Street, residence address 325 Huron Street, in Jackson, Mississippi. FENTON stated that in 1964 and 1965, he had occasion to submerge a total of forty to fifty iceboxes in the vicinity of his railroad track and float them for the purpose of harboring fish. FENTON advised that prior to sinking the refrigerators, he would transport them from Jackson and leave them on the embankment in front of the house.

Specifically, upon review of a guest log maintained at the lodge, FENTON advised that the track is 200 feet long and that 25 feet from the end of the track center line and 25 feet south, 28 refrigerators were placed four abreast and seven deep parallel with the shore. A total of 28 were placed in this manner with an additional ten to twelve on the north side of the track.

FENTON advised that the water level in May of 1964 was 45 feet on the Natchez water gauge and during July 10 to 12, the water was sixteen to seventeen feet in the flats. FENTON advised that during the weekend of July 10-11-12, 1964, he and a Mr. and Mrs. G. H. HARRIS were at the lodge. He advised that the HARRISES stayed at night over at Jughead's in Deer Park and not at the lodge and added that he does not recall any unusual activity in the area during the weekend.

11/25/67 Deer Park, Louisiana

SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III - HBB/blw

New Orleans 44-2293

11/29/67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293

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FENTON stated that he was not knowledgeable of the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS. He stated, however, that sometime during the Fall of 1964, he recalled hearing about the Sheriff's Department's boat being used at the lake and sinking during a storm while moored at Jughead's Landing.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 7, 1967

THOR LEE TORGERSEN, 1405 Westwood Street, immediately acknowledged the identity of the interviewing Agent and advised that he had no objections whatsoever to talking to the Agent.

TORGERSEN advised that during 1964, he knew JOE EDWARDS to be a Negro bellhop and "general flunky" at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana. TORGERSEN stated that he also knew that EDWARDS, while employed at the Shamrock Motel, was actively "hustling" girls for NELLIE JACKSON, a Negro Natchez, Mississippi, madam.

He stated further that NELLIE JACKSON had placed a "white" Negro in the Shamrock Motel employed as a desk clerk and that this person was also actively engaged in prostitution while at the Shamrock Motel. He stated that this "white" Negro resides close to the entrance of International Paper Company in Natchez.

TORGERSEN denied any knowledge whatsoever of the JOE EDWARDS disappearance and stated that he had only heard from an unrecalled source that EDWARDS had moved to Chicago, Illinois, sometime during the Summer of 1964.

In response to questions concerning a crippled waitress at the Shamrock Motel during early 1964, TORGERSEN advised that there was a Mrs. CROWE who lived between Vidalia and Ferriday, Louisiana, employed as a waitress during that time at the Shamrock Motel. He stated that Mrs. CROWE had slipped and hurt her back and was compelled to wear a brace while working as a waitress at the Shamrock Motel during early 1964. TORGERSEN advised, however, that he knew of no relationship between EDWARDS and Mrs. CROWE.

On 9/6/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65 Jackson 157-405
by SA FRANK B. WATTS /blw

Date dictated 9/7/67

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NW 39061

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RG 65: 44-HQ-26064

Section 1 (2 of 2)

Serial

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Jackson 44-65
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by SA FRANK B. WATTS /blw Date dictated 9/7/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

NELLIE JACKSON, 416 North Rankin Street, Natchez, Mississippi, was advised of the official and personal identities of the Special Agents and of the nature of the contact. She was furnished a copy of a statement of her constitutional rights which was also read aloud to her by SA DIVEN. She advised that she did not desire to sign a warning of rights form, but agreed to furnish any information concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS:

JACKSON stated that she is currently under an injunction from the City of Natchez, Mississippi, for operating a house of prostitution. She advised that she was not personally acquainted with JOSEPH EDWARDS and had never received any telephone calls from him, nor had he ever contacted her to arrange for prostitution dates for himself or anyone else.

She advised that she learned from EDDIE (Last Name Unknown), a resident of Natchez, and an elderly employee or former employee of the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, that EDWARDS had been a porter in the motel who disappeared without apparent reason. She advised that the Negro community was interested in EDWARDS' disappearance because of the numerous floggings that had taken place during 1964.

JACKSON stated that she knew of no reason for EDWARDS' disappearance. He is not known to have insulted anyone, nor engaged in any activities which might have created ill will or given vent to violence. No information has come to her attention that EDWARDS was arranging prostitution dates for girls of either the white or Negro race. He was not known to have dated any white girls himself.

On 9/6/66 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Jackson 44-65

Date dictated 9/7/67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168578

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

NELLIE JACKSON, 416 North Rankin Street, Natchez, Mississippi, was advised of the official and personal identities of the Special Agents and of the nature of the contact. She was furnished a copy of a statement of her constitutional rights which was also read aloud to her by SA DIVEN. She advised that she did not desire to sign a warning of rights form, but agreed to furnish any information concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS:

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On 9/6/66 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 9/7/67

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JACKSON stated that she was acquainted with Mr. (First Name Unknown) RUSHING, a white man who had once been a former neighbor. She visited Mrs. RUSHING when they resided in the River Oaks Apartments. Mrs. RUSHING told her that she had stayed at the Shamrock Motel a short time before. Mrs. RUSHING stated that her child drowned at the Shamrock Motel swimming pool and JOSEPH EDWARDS attempted to save him, but slipped and EDWARDS would have drowned if Mrs. RUSHING had not helped him. Mrs. RUSHING further advised JACKSON that she went to school with Negroes and did not believe Negroes were inferior or discriminated against. Mrs. RUSHING is believed to have held EDWARDS in high regard for his life saving attempt.

Mrs. RUSHING further advised JACKSON that the incident occurred while they were on the patio of the motel and either she or her husband went to get some soft drinks. Each one thought the other was watching the baby. The unattended child was not noticed in the pool in time to save him. JACKSON stated that Mr. RUSHING worked in the oil fields. His wife is not known to have had any dates with other men, nor was EDWARDS known to have been intimate with her or arranged dates for her.

The RUSHINGS returned to their original home, which according to JACKSON's recollection was Arizona or possibly Oklahoma.

JACKSON stated that she will make inquiries in the Negro community in an effort to determine whether any persons have knowledge of EDWARDS activities and associates which may have some bearing on his disappearance.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

WILLIE FORD, 18 October Street, was interviewed at the Natchez Resident Agency and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. FORD provided the following information:

FORD stated that he worked for five years at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. His job was to do odd jobs such as transport linen and maids from Natchez, Mississippi, to the Shamrock.

FORD stated that he recalled a Negro porter named JOSEPH EDWARDS who worked at the Shamrock in June and July of 1964. FORD stated that he recalled that EDWARDS was continually late for work.

FORD advised that one day a Shamrock maid named CORDELLIA JACKSON (presently living in Vidalia, Louisiana) tried to go into a room that was supposedly unoccupied. Since it was locked from the inside, JACKSON went to the main office to get a key. JACKSON returned and found EDWARDS sleeping in the room. FORD stated that he had never heard of any rumor that EDWARDS had been sent to clean a room and that EDWARDS found two persons in this supposedly unoccupied room.

FORD advised that EDWARDS had told FORD that EDWARDS had often gotten \$5 from white men staying at the Shamrock by phoning NELLIE JACKSON, a procurer on Rankin Street, Natchez, Mississippi, who would send over Negro prostitutes in a cab to the Shamrock. FORD advised that these girls would not accept less than \$10. FORD stated that there was a side street next to the Shamrock that could be used by these girls to enter and leave unnoticed. FORD advised

On 9/5/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jls Date dictated 9/6/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

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NO 44-2293
JN 44-65

that this activity apparently was carried on without the knowledge and consent of the motel management.

FORD advised that the last time he saw EDWARDS was a few days before EDWARDS' disappearance. EDWARDS informed FORD at that time that EDWARDS was going to leave his job at the Shamrock and get a job at the Plaza Club on the Vidalia--Ferriday Highway (presently it is the Apostolic Life Tabernacle next to the Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley).

FORD advised that MIKE MC DONOUGH, one of the Shamrock owners, loaned EDWARDS \$50 in order for EDWARDS to purchase a car for EDWARDS to use to drive to work. FORD was told by LILLIAN WINN, another employee of the Shamrock (presently living on October Street in Natchez, and working at the Smoke Shop on Main Street, Natchez), that after EDWARDS' car was found abandoned near the vicinity of the Plaza Club, MIKE MC DONOUGH and BILLY FLETCHER went up to the Plaza Club to see if they could collect the money.

FORD advised that he does not know if EDWARDS ever insulted any of the Shamrock waitresses, if EDWARDS ever made any advances toward any of the waitresses at the Shamrock or any other white girls, or if any of the waitresses at the Shamrock ever dated a Natchez police officer.

FORD advised that he does know Detective FRANK RICKARD of the Natchez Police Department, and that he saw RICKARD in one of the Shamrock room, about a week before EDWARDS disappeared, at 4:00 p.m.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

SHED SMITH advised that he had pondered the events and conversations concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS since he was last contacted by Special Agents of the FBI. SMITH stated that he could recall no pertinent nor significant information of value to the FBI.

However, with regard to his former recollection of a rumor that EDWARDS had mistakenly entered a room of the Shamrock Motel which was occupied by two persons, he could recall only the following:

This rumor came to his attention at Robert's Bar in Ferriday about two years ago. Someone in this crowded bar brought the subject of EDWARDS' disappearance into the conversation. Someone unrecalled stated the rumor as mentioned above. He could not recall who stated this rumor nor who was there. However, the group in the immediate area no doubt included SHEP KENNEY and First Name Unknown BAKER, a blind man.

On 9/2/67 at Clayton, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /MDD:jls Date dictated 9/6/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/6/67

DELANE THORNHILL, barber at the Shamrock Barber Shop, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. THORNHILL provided the following information:

THORNHILL stated that he was working at the Shamrock Barber Shop in 1964. He stated that he had no information concerning prostitution activities at the Shamrock at that time. He stated that he does not recall a Negro porter by the name of JOSEPH EDWARDS who worked at the Shamrock. He stated that he did not know if any of the waitresses had been insulted by a Negro employee of the Shamrock in 1964. He stated that he did not know if any of the waitresses had been dating a Natchez police officer in 1964. THORNHILL stated that the only knowledge he had of a Negro dating a white girl occurred a few years ago at the Maple Courts Motel just off the highway from the Shamrock.

On 8/31/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana

New Orleans 44-2293

File # Jackson 44-65

SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and

by MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jls

Date dictated 9/1/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 5, 1967

ROBERT COCHRAN, JR., Twelve North Oak Street, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. COCHRAN provided the following information.

COCHRAN stated that a few years ago, he owned a Mobile gas station in Vidalia, Louisiana. He employed at the gas station a Negro male named ROBERT CARTER, five feet seven inches, stocky build, Social Security Number 437-24-1897, residence somewhere in Ferriday, Louisiana.

COCHRAN stated that one night CARTER was arrested at the Maple Courts Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, in the room of a white girl named BARBARA CUPIT. COCHRAN stated that CARTER never worked at the gas station after this incident. COCHRAN stated that he had heard rumors that CARTER moved away to California.

On 9/1/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/5/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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On 9/1/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/5/67
Jackson 44-65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

LILLIAN WINN was contacted at 105 Love Street and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. WINN provided the following information:

WINN advised that she was working as a cook at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, July, 1964. She stated that she could not recall if a Negro porter by the name of JOSEPH EDWARDS was working there during that time. She stated that her hours were from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and that she would have been leaving work just as EDWARDS was arriving at work.

WINN advised that she did not know if MIKE MC DONOUGH loaned \$50 to EDWARDS so that EDWARDS could purchase a car. WINN stated that she could not recall ever telling WILLIE FORD that after EDWARDS' car was found near the Plaza Club, that MIKE MC DONOUGH and BILLY FLETCHER went up to the Plaza Club in order to find EDWARDS and collect on the loan.

WINN stated that she does not know if any of the Shamrock waitresses were ever insulted by a Negro employee at the Shamrock or if any of the Negro employees at the Shamrock ever made advances toward any of the Shamrock waitresses or any other white girls.

On 9/6/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
 by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jls Date dictated 9/7/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

Miss CLARA DUNLAP, Registration Clerk, Shamrock Motel, residence 8 Cadet Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, was apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and of the nature of the contact. She stated that she was one of the registration clerks at the motel during June and July, 1964, when JOSEPH EDWARDS was employed at the motel as a porter. Miss DUNLAP stated that she works from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. During June and July, 1964, VERNA POWELL, now of Bude, Mississippi, was the morning registration clerk at the motel. The night registration clerk was RAY WILSON, now employed by Holsum Bakery, and residing in the Morgantown Sub-Division, Natchez, Mississippi, with telephone number 445-9779.

Miss DUNLAP stated that she recalls JOSEPH EDWARDS as a quiet and polite Negro porter who did what he was told. He was never disrespectful to her, nor has she ever heard of any incident where he insulted any other employees or other persons in the motel. She stated that she doubted that he would have insulted anyone because of his quiet manner.

Miss DUNLAP stated that she had some recollection of an incident where EDWARDS was found asleep in one of the motel guest rooms. However, she stated that this was not unusual for porters to slip away and take a nap. She stated that they are paid a very minimum salary and the bulk of their income is obtained through tips from the guest of the motel. She further stated that EDWARDS, as was the practice at that time, had a pass key to all of the rooms and as the porters frequently did at that time, would place the guest in a room different to which they were originally registered because the original room may have been uncleaned or for other reasons. They would fail to advise the registration clerk of this change. As a result, as had happened frequently with other porters, she received a

On 9/5/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
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 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 9/6/67

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telephone call from an unrecalled person advising her that EDWARDS had entered a room apparently thinking the room to be unoccupied. The complainant was not particularly angry over the incident, but had called her to make sure that he was properly registered to that room.

She stated that the motel has a total of 58 rooms for rental and it was her understanding that the registration records are retained by JOANN CROSS, the Shamrock's Bookkeeper for a period of three years. Miss DUNLAP stated that she would have Miss CROSS search the records for all the registered guests of the motel for July 11 and 12, 1964.

Miss DUNLAP stated that she knows of no Vidalia Police Officers who were dating any of the waitresses or other female employees at the Shamrock Motel and Restaurant.

With regard to CAROL POWELL, a former waitress, Miss DUNLAP stated that CAROL was obtaining a divorce during 1964 and may have dated some unknown person. She advised that FRANCES CUPIT was CAROL POWELL's best friend and was also in the process of obtaining a divorce. The only person CUPIT was known to be dating was NORMAN LONG, a service repairman at the motel.

She further advised that she had no knowledge that EDWARDS owned a vehicle, nor did she know of his possible indebtedness to the owner of the Shamrock Motel for the purchase of a vehicle.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/31/67

CHARLES RICHARD POWELL was contacted at the Concord Trailer Park and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent. POWELL provided the following information:

POWELL stated that he married CAROL MURPHY on November 29, 1947, in Natchez, and divorced her on June 15, 1965. He stated they had two children by this marriage, CHARLOTTE and SUSAN. POWELL stated that after he divorced MURPHY, she re-married a man who worked for the Pepsi Cola Company in Jackson, Mississippi. Then MURPHY married RICHARD WESTBROOK. MURPHY's present address is Mrs. RICHARD WESTBROOK, 16 Francis Manor, 508 West LaGrange Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, phone 477-1262.

POWELL advised that he did not know if any Negro employee at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, had ever insulted FRANCES CUPIT, CAROL MURPHY POWELL, or any other waitress at the Shamrock in 1964. POWELL advised that he did not know if CAROL MURPHY POWELL or FRANCES CUPIT had been dating a Natchez police officer in 1964. POWELL could not identify any of CAROL MURPHY POWELL's boyfriends in 1963 - 64. POWELL stated that he did not know JOHN HENRY or RALEIGH JACKSON "RED" GLOVER. POWELL stated that he knew NORMAN HEAD because HEAD had formerly run a DX Service Station in Vidalia. POWELL advised that HEAD knew CAROL MURPHY POWELL inasmuch as HEAD "always hung around the Shamrock".

POWELL stated that Attorney FRANK WALDEN of Natchez could identify two of CAROL MURPHY POWELL's boyfriends. These two boyfriends brought assault charges against POWELL prior to POWELL's divorce from CAROL MURPHY POWELL. POWELL had gone to visit his children, CHARLOTTE and SUSAN, who were staying with their mother, CAROL MURPHY POWELL, at a house that

On 8/28/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ /jls Date dictated 8/29/67

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POWELL had rented from Mrs. MC JUNKIN on the levee outside of Vidalia. As POWELL entered the house, an unidentified male told POWELL to stay away from the house. POWELL ignored him. When POWELL later left the house, there were two unidentified males sitting in a Chevrolet Ranchero parked a block from the house. One of them fired a shot at POWELL. POWELL then began firing at the two persons with a .410 shotgun. The two persons in the Ranchero then drove away and later brought assault charges against POWELL. POWELL obtained Attorney WALDEN to represent him, but the two persons who had been in the Ranchero later dropped their charges.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/5/67

WALTER VERNON NEWMAN was contacted at 402 Myrtle Street and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. NEWMAN provided the following information:

NEWMAN stated that he filed a complaint on November 9, 1964, in Louisiana against CHARLES POWELL for Disturbing the Peace, Assault and Battery, and Property Damage because of the following circumstances:

NEWMAN had gone to see one of his trucks that was hauling mud on Highway 15 below the Harris Plantation. He noticed CAROL POWELL on the side of the road. He stopped and discovered that she was having car trouble. He offered to give POWELL a ride to the Lewis Grocery Store in Vidalia where she was going to buy groceries. He drove CAROL POWELL back to where CAROL POWELL was living on Highway 15.

When they arrived at the CAROL POWELL residence, CAROL POWELL's husband saw them in the car together and CHARLES POWELL came after NEWMAN with a chain and broke the windshield of NEWMAN's car.

NEWMAN stated that he drove away. In order to get back to his truck, NEWMAN had to drive by where the chain incident had taken place. NEWMAN took an employee named BILL WARD with him. On the way back to NEWMAN's truck, CHARLES POWELL passed by in his red truck and began shooting. WARD returned the shot with his revolver.

As a result of these circumstances, NEWMAN stated that he filed a complaint against the husband. The husband was never extradited from Mississippi. The husband later asked NEWMAN to drop the charges. NEWMAN refused to do so. However, the husband never bothered NEWMAN again, and NEWMAN dropped the matter.

On 8/31/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana

New Orleans 44-2293

File # Jackson 44-65by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jlsDate dictated 9/1/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/5/67

MIKE SCHUCKS was contacted outside the barber shop at the Shamrock Motel and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

SCHUCKS stated that he is 86 years old. He advised that he spends much of his time hanging around the Shamrock. SCHUCKS advised that he had no knowledge of any prostitution activities around the Shamrock. He stated that he did not know if any waitress at the Shamrock had been insulted by a Negro employee in 1964. He stated that he did not know if any of the waitresses at the Shamrock had been dating a Natchez police officer.

SCHUCKS advised that a cripple did work as a waitress at the Shamrock at one time, but he could not recall her name. He also stated that at one time a waitress named CAROL POWELL had a bad toe nail and was limping around for a short time.

SCHUCKS advised that he knew CAROL POWELL very well. SCHUCKS advised that several years ago (he could not recall the date) he was walking into the Shamrock Coffee Shop and saw CAROL POWELL. POWELL was crying. SCHUCKS was informed that POWELL's husband had just beaten her up and had taken her car away. SCHUCKS felt compassion for the girl and bought a car for her for \$200. A platonic relationship blossomed and eventually cost SCHUCKS \$7,000. Some of the money went for the purchase of another car (a Corvair), a down-payment on a trailer, payment of \$300 medical bill, \$100 Easter outfit, \$1,000 bank deposit in an account for POWELL to have money on hand should SCHUCKS pass away, a \$600 loan, and numerous other expenditures which SCHUCKS could not recall.

On 8/31/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65

by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jls Date dictated 9/1/67

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NO 44-2293

III. JOSEPH EDWARDS' ATTEMPT
TO KISS A WHITE FEMALE CO-WORKER
AT THE SHAMROCK MOTEL.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/67

IONA SEWARD, 417 Walnut Street, was advised of the personal and official identities of the Special Agents and of the nature of the contact.

Mrs. SEWARD advised that she is the former IONA PERRY. She is now married to MARION SEWARD.

She stated that prior to her present employment, she was employed as the PBX operator at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. She served in that capacity for approximately two months or more, ending her employment around the second week of July, 1964. She stated that her employment at the Shamrock was terminated at the request of MIKE MC DONOUGH, Owner and Manager of the motel, because it was his opinion that the job was too strenuous for her impaired physical condition. Mrs. SEWARD advised that she has been wearing leg braces and using crutches since she was eleven years old. She stated that she had intentions of quitting her job at the Shamrock Motel prior to being terminated. This desire of hers to leave the Shamrock was in part due to an incident that occurred about two weeks before being terminated. On that occasion she had left the switchboard and was proceeding towards the restroom, when she encountered JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro porter at the motel. SEWARD stated that, "EDWARDS kinda got fresh. He grabbed me and tried to kiss me and I let him know I didn't go for this." EDWARDS pleaded with SEWARD not to mention this incident to anyone and he attempted to assure her that it would not happen again.

She advised that no one witnessed the incident and she had no recollection of mentioning the incident to anyone except to JUDY FORD, whom she described as her roommate at the time of the incident. SEWARD advised that Miss FORD is

On 9/8/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
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JN 44-65

now married to (First Name Unknown) PIGGOTT (phonetic) and is currently residing in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Although she did not report the incident to the motel management or any law enforcement agency, she was contacted about the incident several days later by two or three police officers. SEWARD stated that one of the officers was wearing the uniform of the Natchez Police Department and may have resided in Woodville or Wilkinson County at one time. She stated that the other officer or officers were from the Vidalia Police Department.

SEWARD was shown a photograph of the Vidalia Police Department in 1964 which included left to right: JOHN HENRY, ALFRED HOLLAND, GEORGE TUNDLE, J. L. SPINKS, JOHNNY CROSS, ALLEN CROSS, and Mr. WILSON. After looking at the photograph, she pointed to the person in the center of the photograph and said, "I sorta say it was SPINKS".

The officers inquired as to EDWARDS' improper advances and advised her that EDWARDS would be taken care of. She does not know if any charges were lodged against EDWARDS and she has never been called to testify against EDWARDS concerning the incident. She further stated that she had heard of no information indicating that EDWARDS had disappeared.

SEWARD further advised that she knew of no illegal activities that EDWARDS may have been involved in, and except for the incident that she related above, EDWARDS performed his duties in a satisfactory manner. She stated that she had treated him courteously and had never given him any reason to approach her in an improper manner.

SEWARD stated that she was unmarried at the time, and that she does not recall whom she was dating at the time. She advised that at no time did she ever date any police officers.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/12/67

IONA SEWARD was contacted at 417 Walnut Street and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. She provided the following signed statement and additional information:

"Natchez, Miss.
"9/9/67

"I, Iona Seward, make the following free and voluntary statement to Merriman D. Diven and George F. Benz who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI.

"I am married to Marion Seward and reside at 417 Walnut Street, Natchez, Miss. I was born Nov. 13, 1941, Wilkinson County, Miss. I am currently employed as a PBX operator at the Jefferson Davis Hospital, Natchez, Miss. I am a high school graduate and I have completed one year of business school.

"In May or June, 1964, I started employment as a PBX operator and desk clerk at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, La. A short time later, a Negro named Joseph Edwards started his employment at the motel as a porter. As part of my duties, I gave Edwards instructions in a business-like manner.

"One afternoon I left my switchboard and was proceeding to the restroom. I encountered Joseph Edwards. As I passed by him, he put his arm around

On 9/9/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
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me with his hand on my shoulder. He attempted to kiss me on the lips, but I turned my head and his lips touched my cheek. I pulled away and let him know that I did not go for that. He said he was sorry. He asked me not to tell anyone about it. He said he would not do it again.

"I told my roommate, Judy Ford Pigott. I may have told my landlady also. Also I told James Goss who was a La. Probation Officer who stayed at the Shamrock almost every Thursday. James is 6'6", 250 lbs., blond-grey hair, and often wore glasses. James denied ever being a member of any klan type organization. James usually carried a gun with him.

"A day or two after I told James about the incident, two or three men came one morning to my apartment at 300 Jefferson St., Natchez, Miss. One of the men was a Natchez Police Officer in his uniform. He was young and I later learned he was from Wilkinson County. A second man was a La. police officer. I don't remember if he was in his police uniform. I think his name is Spinks. There may have been another person with them. If there was another person with them, I do not know if he was a police officer. I did not see what kind of car they were driving.

"Someone (I don't know who) had told them what Edwards had done. They wanted to know what happened. I told them and they left.

"Perhaps a week later I was still working at the Shamrock. One day as I had just begun working at 2:00 p.m., the desk clerk named Diane, who I was

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relieving at the switchboard, asked Edwards to come with her so that Edwards could do a chore for her. I wondered why she did this because she could have told him instead of going out there to show him what to do.

"A week or so later, Mike McDonough told me that Clara Dunlop wanted to come back and that the work may have been too hard for me.

"A short time after the police had questioned me at my apt., James Goss told me that the FBI would probably question me. I asked him why. He never explained to me why the FBI would do this.

"I have never given Edwards the idea that I was going to date him. No one has ever asked me to give Edwards the impression that I wanted to date him. I do not know Red Glover, Buck Horton, or Norman Head.

"I have read the above statement and I have initialed each correction. I now voluntarily sign the above statement because it is true and correct.

"/s/ Iona Seward

"Witnessed:

"SA George F. Benz, Natchez, 9/9/67

"SA Merriman D. Diven, New Orleans, La. 9/9/67"

NO 44-2293
JN 44-65

In addition, SEWARD provided the following information which was not put into the signed statement inasmuch as SEWARD had to go to work and there was insufficient time to incorporate this information into the signed statement.

SEWARD advised that she had withheld the information that she had told JAMES GOSS that EDWARDS had tried to kiss her because GOSS was married when SEWARD was dating him. SEWARD advised that she did not know that GOSS was married when she began dating him. SEWARD advised that GOSS was working out of Tallulah, Louisiana, at the time GOSS was dating SEWARD in 1964.

SEWARD advised that she did not know if the name of the Natchez Police Officer who came to her apartment after the EDWARDS' incident was (First Name Unknown) GLENIS.

SEWARD advised that a short time after SEWARD had informed GOSS of what EDWARDS had done, SEWARD asked GOSS if GOSS had reported it to the police. GOSS replied that he had not done so, but that SEWARD's failure to report it had caused EDWARDS to brag about it and that is how the police found out about it. SEWARD stated that SEWARD told GOSS that SEWARD did not want GOSS to make any trouble. GOSS replied that the line will be so long that GOSS would not be able to get a shot at EDWARDS. SEWARD continued to date GOSS after that. At no time did GOSS ever indicate that he had done anything to EDWARDS nor had anyone else done anything to EDWARDS.

She advised that she stopped going with GOSS when she found out that he was not single as he claimed.

SEWARD advised that she did not know that EDWARDS was still missing. SEWARD stated that EDWARDS had once indicated to her that he could do better financially in New Orleans and that EDWARDS was thinking about leaving the Shamrock.

9/15/67

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, New Orleans (44-2293)

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS, AKA - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

EMW 3
(Signature)

Rerep of SA Merriman D. Diven dated 9/1/67,
at New Orleans.

Surep investigation subsequent to referenced
report. Handle all outstanding leads in a most expeditious
manner.

REL:cs
(4) *W*

EX-102

44-26064-7

REC-4 ~~44-37106-3~~

19 SEP 18 1967

MAILED 8
SEP 15 1967
COMM - FBI

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

62 SEP 22 1967
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