

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>NEW ORLEANS</b>   | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>NEW ORLEANS</b> | DATE<br><b>9/1/67</b>                         | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>8/10 - 30/67</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;<br/>JOSEPH EDWARDS, Aka<br/>Joe Edwards - VICTIM</b> |  | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN</b> | TYPED BY<br><b>blw</b>                      |
|  |  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>      |   |

REFERENCE:

New Orleans teletype to the Bureau, 7/23/64;  
Airtel to the Bureau from Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN  
dated 8/19/67;  
Jackson airtel dated 8/22/67.

- P -

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS

AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

-1- Locate and interview ROBERT TAYLOR in care of Taylor's Bar, Fourth Street, Ferriday, who had been reported to have been with EDWARDS on the night of his disappearance.

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

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- ② - Bureau
- 1 - USA, Shreveport, Louisiana
- 3 - Jackson (2 - 44-65)  
(1 - 44-2044)
- 2 - New Orleans (44-2293)  
L.S.P.

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

~~44-26064-6~~  
~~44-37106-2~~

REC-62

16 SEP 5 1967

EX-105

*McDonough*

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

|               |            |     |  |
|---------------|------------|-----|--|
| Agency        | CRD        | D/S |  |
| Request Recd. |            |     |  |
| Date Fwd.     | SEP 6 1967 |     |  |
| How Fwd.      | 694-B      |     |  |
| By            | 239 EJM/am |     |  |

Notations

*STAT SECT*

54 SEPT 3 1967

EXP. PROC.

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*gjk 3*  
*Blw*

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NO 44-2293

-2- Review Selective Service records for any information concerning EDWARDS' dental record or X-rays.

-3- Will contact logical informants concerning EDWARDS' disappearance and possible Klan involvement.

AT JENA, LOUISIANA

Interview KENNETH STEPHENSON in care of the Jena State Bank, former manager of the Dixie Lanes, for any information concerning employment of EDWARDS at the bowling alley and observations regarding his abandoned automobile in the vicinity of the bowling alley.

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Will re-interview victim's mother, Mrs. BERNICE CONNERS, a resident at 7101 Forche (phonetic), New Orleans, with New Orleans Telephone No. 488-7096, for any information she may have obtained since her interview regarding a white preacher from Clayton, Louisiana, who apparently has some knowledge of the victim's fate.

AT SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

-1- With reference to the interview of CLABE EDWARDS, review records of the Selective Service System Physical Examination Facilities for information concerning the victim's teeth, history of any broken bones, and copies of any X-rays.

AT VIDALIA, LOUISIANA

Interview CLARA DUNLAP, Clerk, Shamrock Motel.

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With reference to the leads at Ferriday, Jena, and Vidalia, Louisiana, these leads will be handled in connection with the current WHARBOM special in that area.

JACKSON

AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

- 1- Will contact logical racial informants concerning EDWARDS' disappearance and possible Klan involvement.
- 2- Discreetly attempt to ascertain identities of any Natchez Police Officers who may have been dating a crippled waitress or any other waitress at the Shamrock Motel.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The instant investigation was instituted as a result of information developed during the investigation of Bureau special "WHARBOM" indicating that JOSEPH EDWARDS may have been the victim of Klan-type violence.

New Orleans is the office of origin but since the principal suspects in this case are Silver Dollar Group members currently under investigation in the WHARBOM matter, this investigation is being coordinated with WHARBOM.

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

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JN 44-2044

JGP/blw

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FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

INFORMANTS:

On August 8, 1967, [REDACTED] furnished the following information to SA JAMES A. WOOTEN and SA JOSEPH G. PEGGS.

E. D. MORACE spent the entire day of August 6, 1967, with Silver Dollar Group (SDG) member KENNETH NORMAN HEAD and others. HEAD remarked to a group that he surely hoped that the FBI did not start investigating the missing Negro from the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana.

About one and one-half years ago, HEAD was drinking with a group of individuals and after he became intoxicated, he said that a Negro at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, had insulted a crippled waitress who worked there. This waitress then told her boyfriend, a Natchez, Mississippi, policeman, about the insult. The policeman then went to Vidalia, Louisiana, Chief of Police BUD SPINKS and asked SPINKS to have something done about the Negro.

SPINKS then went to SDG Leader RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER and asked GLOVER to take care of the Negro. GLOVER, HEAD and another SDG member by the name of HOMER THOMAS "BUCK" HORTON killed this Negro. HEAD did not go into detail concerning the murder but did state that the "nigger wouldn't be popping up" so the group took this to mean that the Negro was not buried in the river.

About two years ago, Concordia Parish Deputy Sheriff BILL CADDEN told several people in the Vidalia - Ferriday, Louisiana, area that a commercial fisherman was netting fish in the old river near Deer Park, Louisiana,

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JN 44-2044

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and had hooked something in the water with his nets. As the story goes, the fisherman thought he had hooked and opened the door of a submerged refrigerator and some flesh, believed to be human, had popped to the surface of the river.

As OGDEN's story goes, the fisherman placed some of this flesh in a glass jar and took it to the Sheriff in Harrisonburg, Louisiana. This Sheriff then tried to turn it over to Concordia Parish Sheriff NOAH CROSS, who refused to take the specimen and told the Harrisonburg Sheriff not to dump any of that stuff on him. OGDEN relates that they then took the Concordia Parish power boat and stirred up the water where the flesh had been located.

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On August 15, 1967, [redacted] advised SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES and SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB that he feels confident that some of the Louisiana Klansmen had talked to him about the JOSEPH EDWARDS case. As best he could recall, "they" took the boy to the levee possibly to whip him and overdid it. It is his recollection that they had rolled him down the levee thinking he was dead or had buried him on the levee. The source had never heard any information about anyone being buried in a refrigerator. He felt that this incident had occurred before the Silver Dollar Group had been formed.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, Shreveport, Louisiana

Report of: SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
Date: September 1, 1967

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Field Office File #: 44-2293

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: JOSEPH EDWARDS, a male Negro, was last seen around July 12, 1964. EDWARDS had no plans to leave the area nor reason known to relatives for leaving. His abandoned car was found near Ferriday, Louisiana. Victim had no subsequent contact with relatives. Victim was discharged from T. E. Mercer Trucking Company on April 24, 1962, for dishonesty. Inquiries at last employment, Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, failed to show any indication of foul play or reason for victim's disappearance. Contacts with dentists, doctors, and hospitals in vicinity of Natchez failed to show record of EDWARDS' dental chart or X-ray. EDWARDS' credit records show poor credit experience and record of jewelry purchased by victim included wrist watch. EDWARDS purchased 1958 Buick sedan on July 6, 1964; vehicle found along Vidalia - Ferriday Highway. During September or October, 1964, MILTON BOOTH found flesh-like matter in water near Deer Park, Louisiana. Scuba dive search of area made without locating skeletal remains.

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NO 44-2293

DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon information furnished by MILTON "ODIE" BOOTH, Harrisonburg, Louisiana, that he found some flesh-like matter in the water at Deer Park, Louisiana, during September or October, 1964. This finding coincides with the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, then a porter at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, who was reported missing by his mother during July, 1964.

NO 44-2293

I. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE  
OF JOSEPH EDWARDS

NO 44-2293

Teletype dated July 23, 1964, from the Director, FBI, Washington, D. C., to the FBI, New Orleans, Louisiana, stated that the Department of Justice advised that JOSEPH EDWARDS, a male Negro, and resident of Natchez, Mississippi, had been missing for approximately ten days. When last seen, he was driving his 1958 Buick, which he regarded very highly. This car was found abandoned in a white neighborhood in Natchez. In the car was a belt apparently not the property of EDWARDS.

This teletype further stated that EDWARDS reportedly was employed at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, and his aunt resided at 110 North Pine Street, Natchez, Mississippi, and his mother resided on Oak Street in Natchez. EDWARDS' aunt, according to information furnished by the Department of Justice, called EDWARDS' mother on July 22, 1964, saying that she heard that EDWARDS was presently incarcerated in the local jail at Ferriday, Louisiana. When relatives inquired as to his presence in the jail, authorities would furnish them no information.

New Orleans teletype to the Bureau dated July 23, 1967, set out the following investigation conducted on that date. This teletype stated generally as follows:

6-1/3  
Natchez, Mississippi, Police Department item number 2827-C dated July 21, 1964, shows JOE EDWARDS, Negro Male, 52 East Oak Street, Natchez, Mississippi, reported missing. Complainant is shown as "mother of above." Complaint received by Officer W. MARTIN, 10:30 a.m. Details of complaint show "The above reported that her son, JOE EDWARDS, Negro male, age 21, height 5 feet 6 inches, weight 160 - 165 pounds, has been missing since July 12. No one has seen or heard of him since."

On July 23, 1964, Desk Sergeant ERNEST BROWN of the Natchez Police Department advised Bureau Agents that the car of EDWARDS was recovered at the Shamrock Motel and the matter referred to Concordia Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff's Office.

On July 23, 1964, BERNICE CONNER, 52 East Oak Street, Natchez, advised Bureau Agents that JOSEPH EDWARDS is her son; that he had worked at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, for the past six weeks prior to his disappearance on July 12, 1964; that he was last seen by a female employee at the Shamrock Motel on the night of July 12, 1964, after 11:00 p.m. at Canal and Franklin Streets, Natchez, when EDWARDS was in his car. EDWARDS' mother stated she reported the matter to the Vidalia, Louisiana, Police Department on July 19, 1964; that the car of EDWARDS was located at the Gulf station, Ferriday, Louisiana, where the attendant advised the car had been pulled in upon orders of the police; that the car had been found abandoned near the bowling alley between Vidalia and Ferriday, Louisiana.

Mother of EDWARDS stated she contacted her sister, DORA DE FRANCE, 1223 South Gayoso Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 18, 1964, and was advised EDWARDS was not at DE FRANCE's home and had not been seen. Mother states she has no other relatives known to EDWARDS other than his grandparents, JONAS and MARY KING, Clayton, Louisiana.

Mother of EDWARDS stated EDWARDS was not registered voter, has made no attempt to register to vote, is not a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), or similar organizations, and has never engaged in any voter demonstration.

On July 23, 1964, Bureau Agents contacted the following agencies and determined EDWARDS was not incarcerated:

Natchez Police Department;  
Adams County Sheriff's Office, Natchez;  
Vidalia, Louisiana, Police Department;  
Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, Vidalia;  
Ferriday, Louisiana, Police Department.

The car of EDWARDS was examined at Beatty Gulf Station, Ferriday, Louisiana, and determined to be 1958 Buick, four-door hardtop, white over light green, bearing 1964 Louisiana License 33X881. The car had a flat tire on the left rear which the attendant stated was on the car when recovered. There were no keys in the car.

The grandparents of EDWARDS, JONAS and MARY KING, Clayton, Louisiana, advise they have not seen EDWARDS since two weeks prior to July 12, 1964.

AUGRITA (phonetic) TAYLOR, Clayton, Louisiana, who is deaf and dumb, advised through her mother, BERNICE SMITH, Clayton, Louisiana, that she has two children by EDWARDS and in answer to a letter from EDWARDS postmarked July 2, 1964, Vidalia, Louisiana, she was returning home from Jackson, Mississippi, to marry EDWARDS. Upon arriving home, she determined EDWARDS was missing. TAYLOR stated she has no idea as to the whereabouts of EDWARDS.

WALLY BROWN, Bookkeeper, Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, advised EDWARDS' last day of work was the night of July 11, 1964; that he received no money as he had already overdrawn his wages. BROWN stated it appeared EDWARDS had skipped to avoid his debtors as several people had been to the motel attempting to collect from EDWARDS.

Agencies contacted advise that no active investigation is being conducted in an attempt to locate EDWARDS as he is merely considered to be a missing person.

NO 44-2293

A. INTERVIEWS OF EDWARDS' RELATIVES  
AND FRIENDS

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 22, 1967

JONAS KING, who resides approximately four miles out of Clayton, Louisiana, on State Highway 100, was interviewed at his residence. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, Mr. KING furnished the following information.

JOSEPH EDWARDS is Mr. KING's grandson and during his early childhood, he was raised by the KINGS. Mr. KING stated he has not seen nor heard from EDWARDS since he disappeared during the Summer of 1964 and feels certain that he is dead.

EDWARDS has never been active, to his knowledge, in any type of civil rights group and knows of no trouble he might have been in which would cause him to disappear. KING described EDWARDS as a steady worker and a good boy. He knew of no significant trouble he had ever been in with the law.

To the best of his knowledge, EDWARDS has never had any dental work but did state that he recalled EDWARDS had some missing teeth. EDWARDS had no broken bones and does not recall his having been treated by any doctor except at the Jefferson Davis Memorial Hospital where he was treated for burns.

Mr. KING felt that EDWARDS, if alive, would have contacted his common-law wife, ORGREE TAYLOR; his mother; or himself.

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On 8/16/67 at Clayton, Louisiana

New Orleans 44-2293  
File # Jackson 44-65

by SA JOSEPH G. PEGGS

/blw

Date dictated 8/19/67

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 22, 1967

Mrs. BERNICE CONNERS resides at 7101 Forche (phonetic), New Orleans, Louisiana, and has New Orleans telephone 488-7096. She was interviewed at 715 Smith Alley, Natchez, Mississippi. After being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents, she furnished the following information.

Mrs. CONNERS is the mother of JOSEPH EDWARDS who disappeared from Vidalia, Louisiana, on July 12, 1964, and has not been seen since that time. EDWARDS was born February 12, 1939 or 1940, at Charity Hospital in Natchez, Mississippi. She said he spent his entire life in the Vidalia - Ferriday, Louisiana, and Natchez, Mississippi, area. He has never left the area for any extended period of time and he has never been in any serious trouble. She last saw EDWARDS at her former residence, 52 East Oak Street, Natchez, Mississippi, on July 7, 1964. She has neither seen nor heard from him since that time.

At the time of EDWARDS' disappearance, he was living in common law with ORGREE TAYLOR of Clayton, Louisiana. None of his relatives nor his common-law wife have heard anything concerning the whereabouts of EDWARDS since his disappearance. In addition to his common-law wife, EDWARDS has an uncle, GEORGE THOMPSON, and a brother, CLAY EDWARDS, residing in Clayton, Louisiana. EDWARDS' grandfather, JONAS KING, also resides in the vicinity of Clayton, Louisiana.

EDWARDS has never been active to her knowledge in civil rights groups and he has had no trouble which would cause him to disappear. She said that her son was a steady worker and had been in no significant trouble with the law. To the best of her knowledge, EDWARDS had never

On 8/15/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293  
Jackson 44-65  
 by SA JAMES A. WOOTEN  
SA JOSEPH G. PEGGS JGP/blw Date dictated 8/18/67

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had any dental work; however, he did have two missing upper teeth which were visible when he smiled. He had no broken bones. In 1963, he spent several days in the Jefferson Davis Memorial Hospital in Natchez, Mississippi, where he was treated for burns.

Mrs. CONNERS feels certain that her son is dead. If not, she feels that she would surely have been contacted by her son as they had been close during his entire life. 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, Louisiana, indicating that something terrible had happened to JOE EDWARDS. Mrs. CONNERS did not know the original source of this information but stated she had received it from a [REDACTED], who presently resides in [REDACTED]. Mrs. CONNERS did not have an address for [REDACTED].

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Mrs. CONNERS stated that in addition to EDWARDS' employment at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, he had previously worked for the Albert Pick Motel in Natchez, Mississippi, and for the T. E. Murphy Company in Vidalia, Louisiana, and he had also worked previously for the Natchez Lumber Company in Natchez, Mississippi.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 16, 1967FOIA(b) (6)  
FOIA(b) (7) - (C)

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, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], on July 3 and 4, 1964. She explained that this child, born [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], born [REDACTED], 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

On 8/15/67 at Clayton, Louisiana File # Jackson 44-2044  
Jackson 44-65  
New Orleans 44-2293  
by SA GEORGE F. BENZ  
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 8/16/67

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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, 1964, 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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/23/67

CLABE (no middle name) EDWARDS, after being advised of the identities of the Special Agents, stated that he resides at Box 53, Clayton, Louisiana, with telephone number 757-4609. He stated that he is employed as a laborer by the T. E. Mercer Trucking Company, 1526 Murray Drive, Vidalia, Louisiana, and may be reached on his company's direct Natchez telephone line, 442-3211.

EDWARDS stated that he is the brother of JOSEPH (no middle name) EDWARDS who was commonly known as JOE EDWARDS. He stated that JOE was born February 12, 1941, at Natchez, Mississippi. He was single although he lived in Clayton, Louisiana, with AGREE TAYLOR, mother of two children by JOE EDWARDS.

CLABE EDWARDS stated that his father, also named JOE EDWARDS, died about 26 years ago. They have another brother, ARCHIE LEE EDWARDS, age 29 years, who resides in New Orleans, exact address unknown. Their mother, now BERNICE CONNERS, of New Orleans, has numerous other children, including JOHN CONNERS, age 13 years.

CLABE EDWARDS stated that his brother, JOE, had several upper teeth missing. It was his recollection that these teeth were missing from the left side. JOE was not believed to have had these teeth extracted, but most likely the teeth broke off by reason of decay. He was not known to have any broken bones at any time.

JOE EDWARDS was not known to have been involved in any Civil Rights activity, nor a member of any organization sponsoring integration. He was a loner and moved from place to place in Clayton and Natchez, not having any regular buddies.

On 8/22/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293  
Jackson 44-65  
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and  
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 8/23/67

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NO 44-2293  
JN 44-65

He wore a yellow gold wristwatch that had red "diamonds" set in the watch case at each corner of the metal band. He is believed to have bought the watch from Busch's Jewelry Store in Natchez since he bought a lot of jewelry there. CLABE EDWARDS had no recollection of any ring that JOE may have worn. JOE owed money on a number of accounts as was evidenced by the receipt of many past due notices mailed to him.

CLABE EDWARDS last saw his brother on a Sunday about a week before JOE disappeared. At that time JOE told him that he was going to work, and gave no impression that he was either in trouble or going away. At that time JOE worked at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, and the bowling alley near Ferriday, Louisiana.

After JOE's disappearance, CLABE inspected JOE's 1958 white over green Buick Sedan and noted a lot of mud on the back floor, and JOE's belt was fastened around the upper part of the steering column. No broken glass nor blood stains were observed. This car was later repossessed by the Pontiac dealer in Ferriday.

CLABE EDWARDS had no information indicating that JOE had any difficulty with persons of the white race. He had been in a few fights in the past with Negroes. JOE was not known to have arranged dates for any prostitutes while employed at the motel.

According to CLABE EDWARDS, JOE EDWARDS did not serve in the U. S. Armed Forces, but he had registered with the Selective Service System Local Board in Ferriday, Louisiana. On one occasion he was directed by the Selective Service System to take a physical examination at Shreveport, Louisiana.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 16, 1967

GEORGE THOMPSON, General Delivery, Clayton, Louisiana, was contacted and informed of the identities of the interviewing Agents. THOMPSON furnished the following information.

THOMPSON advised he had known JOSEPH EDWARDS who had disappeared a few years ago. THOMPSON stated that EDWARDS had been living with him in July of 1964 at the time that ORGREE "AGREE" TAYLOR, the common-law wife of EDWARDS, was staying in Jackson, Mississippi.

THOMPSON stated that EDWARDS left for work (which was either the Shamrock Motel or the bowling alley between Vidalia and Ferriday, Louisiana) at 7:00 p.m. on a Monday evening in July, 1964, in EDWARDS' white over light green Buick and EDWARDS has not been heard from since.

THOMPSON advised that when EDWARDS left for work on that Monday evening, EDWARDS was wearing dress shoes, pants, and a shirt. THOMPSON stated that EDWARDS always wore a gold ring with a large blue stone on the wedding ring finger of the left hand. EDWARDS also wore on his left hand a watch which had a yellow metal band. The watch had red and blue "diamonds" on the watch case and the watch band. THOMPSON advised that he could identify the watch and the ring if he saw them again.

THOMPSON stated that EDWARDS gave no indication that he was going to leave for an extended period and EDWARDS left his clothing and personal property as usual.

He advised that EDWARDS was outspoken and occasionally argumentative. EDWARDS' associates and enemies, if any, are unknown to THOMPSON. THOMPSON stated

Jackson 44-2044

Jackson 44-65

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

SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN

by SA GEORGE F. BENZ

GFB/blw

Date dictated 8/16/67

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that he had never heard any rumors that EDWARDS had participated in any "pimping" activities. THOMPSON stated that he had heard rumors (sources unknown) that EDWARDS had the habit of borrowing money and not paying the money back and also that EDWARDS had cashed some bad checks and some forged notes.

THOMPSON furnished the following description of EDWARDS:

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Height         | 5 feet 6 inches     |
| Weight         | 143 pounds          |
| Hair           | Black               |
| Eyes           | Black               |
| Build          | Slender             |
| Date of Birth  | Unknown             |
| Place of Birth | Sibley, Mississippi |

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/25/67

SHED SMITH, Box 35, Clayton, Louisiana, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. SMITH provided the following information:

SMITH advised that his son-in-law, ROBERT TAYLOR, (who is also the father of ORGREE "AGREE" TAYLOR, the former common-law wife of JOSEPH EDWARDS) had told SMITH that on the last day that EDWARDS was seen in the Vidalia--Ferriday--Clayton area, TAYLOR and EDWARDS were working together at a night club in Vidalia, Louisiana.

SMITH advised that TAYLOR may presently be working for Rogers Brothers, Kiln and Milling Corporation, Ferriday, Louisiana. SMITH stated that TAYLOR's family runs a cafe on Fourth Street in Ferriday, Louisiana.

SMITH advised that the last time he saw EDWARDS was in July, 1964. He recalled that "AGREE" TAYLOR had come from Jackson, Mississippi, to visit her children in Clayton on July 4, 1964, and that she returned to Jackson to "break away from her job" in Jackson in order to return to Clayton to marry EDWARDS. When TAYLOR later returned from Jackson, EDWARDS had disappeared.

SMITH stated that after EDWARDS disappeared, he heard a rumor from an unidentified source that on the night that EDWARDS was last seen, EDWARDS had been working at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. EDWARDS was told to clean a room. EDWARDS went to the supposedly unoccupied room and discovered two unidentified persons there. SMITH could not relate the source of the rumor or any other details concerning the rumor.

On 8/23/67 at Clayton, Louisiana

New Orleans 44-2293

File # Jackson 44-65

by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and

MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jls

Date dictated 8/25/67

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With reference to information furnished by Mrs. BERNICE CONNERS, the mother of JOSEPH EDWARDS, that a white preacher had some knowledge of EDWARDS' fate, the following investigation was conducted at Clayton, Louisiana:

On August 15, 1967, SA GEORGE F. BENZ and SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN contacted WILLIAM O. BUSBY, JR., the pastor of the Clayton Baptist Church, Post Office Box 186, Clayton, Louisiana. BUSBY advised that he had been pastor since March 1, 1967. BUSBY advised that during the four preceding years until January 1, 1967, the pastor of the Clayton Baptist Church had been ELLIS O. SMITH, who is now pastor of the Brownsville Baptist Church in West Monroe, Louisiana.

WILLIAM CRISTOPHER GUICE, Pastor of the Dunbarton Baptist Church between Clayton and Frogmore, Louisiana, was contacted at his home in Clayton, Louisiana, and GUICE advised that he does not know the identity or activities of a Negro male named JOSEPH EDWARDS who lived in Clayton in July, 1964.

With reference to information furnished by Mrs. BERNICE CONNERS, the mother of JOSEPH EDWARDS, that a white preacher had some knowledge of EDWARDS' fate, the following investigation was conducted at Clayton, Louisiana:

On August 15, 1967, SA GEORGE F. BENZ and SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN contacted WILLIAM O. BUSBY, JR., the pastor of the Clayton Baptist Church, Post Office Box 186, Clayton, Louisiana. BUSBY advised that he had been pastor since March 1, 1967. BUSBY advised that during the four preceding years until January 1, 1967, the pastor of the Clayton Baptist Church had been ELLIS O. SMITH, who is now pastor of the Brownsville Baptist Church in West Monroe, Louisiana.

WILLIAM CRISTOPHER GUICE, Pastor of the Dunbarton Baptist Church between Clayton and Frogmore, Louisiana, was contacted at his home in Clayton, Louisiana, and GUICE advised that he does not know the identity or activities of a Negro male named JOSEPH EDWARDS who lived in Clayton in July, 1964.

B. INTERVIEWS CONCERNING EDWARDS'  
FORMER EMPLOYMENT

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/23/67

Mr. W. T. BENSON, Terminal Manager, T. E. Mercer Trucking Company, 1526 Murray Drive, Vidalia, Louisiana, advised that JOE EDWARDS had been employed by them as a yard laborer. BENSON stated that he was unable to find any employment records except a discharge form which showed that EDWARDS, Social Security Number 433-58-3219, was discharged April 24, 1962, for dishonesty. BENSON explained that EDWARDS asked for an advance on his salary and falsely told the Office Manager that the Terminal Manager had approved the advance.

BENSON advised that the record contained no report of injury to EDWARDS, but JOHN DUNLAP, EDWARDS' foreman, stated that EDWARDS spent about two days in the Jefferson Davis Hospital in Natchez, Mississippi, as a result of burns sustained when he attempted to start a fire with gasoline. No one had any recollection that EDWARDS suffered an injury to one of his ankles.

BENSON stated that information concerning EDWARDS' injury may have been obtained through the workmen's compensation insurance carriers, Aetna Casualty and Surety Company at Alexandria, Louisiana. This policy was written at Ft. Worth, Texas, through Mercer Hill Insurance Company. He also advised that additional employment information may be obtained through Mr. JESS BOWEN or BOBBY MOON, Safety and Personnel Departments, T. E. Mercer Trucking Company, 920 North Main Street, Ft. Worth, Texas.

BENSON advised that JOE EDWARDS' brother, CLABE EDWARDS, is currently an employee at his terminal. He made CLABE EDWARDS available for interview.

On 8/22/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293  
Jackson 44-65  
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and  
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 8/23/67

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/23/67

JOHN DUNLAP, Foreman, T. E. Mercer Trucking Company, 1526 Murray Drive, Vidalia, advised that he recalled JOE EDWARDS as a laborer on his crew until April, 1962, when EDWARDS was discharged for his misrepresentation.

The only injury he recalls that EDWARDS received while on the job resulted when he started a fire with gasoline in an old steel barrel. The gasoline vaporized and upon ignition, the flash that resulted burned EDWARDS' face. He spent several days in the Jefferson Davis Hospital recovering from these burns.

After EDWARDS' discharge, DUNLAP observed him at the Shamrock Motel where EDWARDS was employed as a porter. DUNLAP stated that he had no information concerning EDWARDS' activities and conduct at the motel. He advised that his daughter, CLARA DUNLAP, who was a clerk at the motel at that time, continues her employment in that capacity and may have some knowledge concerning EDWARDS. DUNLAP advised that his daughter attends a beauty school every morning and works at the motel from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

On 8/22/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293  
Jackson 44-65  
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and  
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 8/23/67

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 21, 1967

WILEY BROWNE was contacted at his home, 503 North Pearl Street, Natchez, Mississippi, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. BROWNE provided the following information.

BROWNE advised that he has been employed as the bookkeeper for the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, from 1962 to the present. BROWNE advised that he recalled a Negro male named JOSEPH EDWARDS who was employed at the Shamrock in 1964.

Shortly after EDWARDS disappeared in 1964, a bill collector came to the Shamrock to collect money for bills that EDWARDS had not paid. BROWNE advised that the bill collector came from either Busch's Kredit Jeweler's, 526 Franklin Street, Natchez, Mississippi, or the Diamond Shop on Commerce Street, Natchez, near Cole's Department Store.

BROWNE advised that EDWARDS could have been the person who attempted to revive a child who had drowned in the Shamrock pool in 1964. BROWNE advised that the General Adjustment Bureau of Ferriday, Louisiana, and Murray, Nichols, and Schiele Agents, Inc., 309 Texas Avenue, Ferriday, Louisiana, handled the insurance claim for the drowned child.

BROWNE advised that he had no information that EDWARDS had insulted a waitress at the Shamrock before he disappeared or that EDWARDS had been assisting prostitutes in getting dates or that any of the waitresses had been dating a Natchez police officer.

BROWNE stated that the Agents should meet him at the Shamrock Motel in an hour and BROWNE would provide information from the Shamrock files.

On 8/19/67 at Natchez, Mississippi, and Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65  
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 8/21/67

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NO 44-2293

BROWNE was contacted an hour later at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana.

BROWNE advised that he now recalled that a former waitress of the Shamrock named FRANCES CUPIT had been running around with NORMAN LONG and a second unidentified person while CUPIT's husband was running around with another woman a few years ago.

BROWNE provided the following names of persons listed on the coffee shop payroll summary for July 1 - 15, 1964. He also provided information as to the addresses of these persons from his records and his memory.

NO 44-2293

| <u>Name</u>         | <u>Days Worked<br/>Between 7/1-15/64</u> | <u>Address<br/>Information</u>   |
|---------------------|--|--|
| MARY E. STEPHENS    | 1 - 15                                   | Boarding House off<br>Homochitto Street,<br>Natchez, Mississippi;<br>or 524 South Canal,<br>Natchez, Mississippi   |
| LAURA LEE CROWE     | 1 - 15                                   | Vidalia, Louisiana;<br>Husband - J. B. CROWE<br>who lives in Ridge-<br>crest, Ferriday, La.  |
| CAROL L. POWELL     | 1 - 15                                   | Jackson, Mississippi;<br>now remarried; former<br>husband - CHARLES<br>POWELL, who works at<br>Holsum Bread Company,<br>Natchez, Mississippi.<br>Husband lives in trailer. |
| BOBBIE J. HENDRICKS | 1 - 15                                   | 206 Fifth Street,<br>Vidalia, Louisiana;<br>or a house that is<br>rented from the<br>MC DONOUGHs who run<br>the Shamrock. Husband's<br>name is CHARLES.                    |
| FRANCES B. BURT     | 1 - 10;<br>12 - 15                       | 123 Perkins Street,<br>Ferriday, Louisiana   |
| MAZIE NETTERVILLE   | 7/1/64                                   | Route One, Box 160,<br>Woodville, Mississippi  |
| ZELMA M. CASSELS    | 4 - 15                                   | 230 Cowan Addition,<br>Vidalia, Louisiana  |



NO 44-2293

| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Days Worked<br/>Between 7/1-15/64</u> | <u>Address<br/>Information</u>  |
|-------------------|--|---|
| CORA JEAN GOODWIN | 3 - 12                                   | General Delivery<br>Vidalia, Louisiana  |
| DELMA DUNIGAN     | 4 - 15                                   | 605 North Union Street,<br>Natchez, Mississippi,<br>26½ East Franklin St.,<br>Natchez, Mississippi;<br>Husband's name - ROY |
| JESSIE M. AUSTIN  | 6 - 9                                    | Post Office Box 159<br>Washington, Mississippi  |
| JESSIE LEE SMITH  | 1 - 8<br>10 - 15                         | 10½ Prince Street<br>Natchez, Mississippi   |
| ROSIE LEE HERRON  | 1 - 15                                   | 417 North Rankin St.<br>Natchez, Mississippi  |
| ELLA PICKETT      | 1 - 15                                   | 145 Marblestone Street<br>Natchez, Mississippi  |
| BENNIE WEST, JR.  | 1 - 15                                   | Vidalia, Louisiana  |
| LILLIAN WINN      | 1 - 15                                   | October Street<br>Natchez, Mississippi  |
| SYLVESTER HAWKINS | 1 - 10                                   | 685 South Canal Street<br>Natchez, Mississippi  |
| ALVIN LEE JACKSON | 1 - 9                                    | Vidalia, Louisiana  |
| MARY SMITH        | 1 - 6                                    | 506 North Rankin<br>Natchez, Mississippi  |
| TOM E. SMITH      | 1 - 4                                    | -----   |

NO 44-2293

| <u>Name</u>                                     | <u>Days Worked<br/>Between 7/1-15/64</u> | <u>Address<br/>Information</u>                |
|---|--|---|
| CHARLES A. MILLER                               | 14 - 15                                  | 25 Brenham Avenue<br>Natchez, Mississippi     |
| ROBERTA TAYLOR                                  | 5 - 15                                   | Route 1, Box 32<br>Ferriday, Louisiana        |
| OLLIE MAE LEWIS                                 | 11 - 15                                  | 203 South Broadway<br>Natchez, Mississippi    |
| JAMES MC MURTY, JR.<br>Aka James Alexander Polk | 7/9/67                                   | 504 South Wall Street<br>Natchez, Mississippi |

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 24, 1967

JO ANN CROSS, Assistant Bookkeeper, Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted at the motel and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. CROSS provided the following information.

CROSS advised that she was employed at the Shamrock in 1964; however, she could not recall a Negro porter named JOSEPH EDWARDS who worked at the Shamrock in June and July of 1964. She stated that the porters came and went so quickly that it was difficult to remember them. She stated that she could not recall EDWARDS' description.

CROSS advised that she recalled that FRANCES CUPIT was a waitress at the Shamrock in 1964. CROSS stated that as far as she knew, CUPIT only dated NORMAN LONG during the period between CUPIT's separation and later remarriage to Mr. PURVIS. CROSS stated that she had heard rumors from unidentified sources that while CAROL POWELL was a waitress at the Shamrock in 1964, POWELL was dating an unidentified married man who lived in Vidalia.

CROSS advised that she heard no rumor that any Negro employee had insulted any of the waitresses in 1964 or that any of the waitresses had been dating a police officer in 1964.

CROSS advised that she did not know the identity of any person who belonged to the Klan.

On 8/22/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65  
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 8/23/67

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## 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, LouisianaFile # Jackson 44-65by SA GEORGE F. BENZSA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN

MDD/blw

Date dictated 8/18/67

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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.

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 23, 1967

NORMAN H. LONG was contacted at his trailer at Hillcrest Trailer Park and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. LONG provided the following information.

LONG advised that he has been the electrical maintenance repairman for the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, since 1961. LONG stated that he usually stops at the Shamrock once a day to see if there is any maintenance work to be done.

LONG stated that he began dating FRANCES CUPIT, who is now Mrs. PURVIS, in November, 1964, about a month after CUPIT's separation from TIM CUPIT. He continued to date her until November, 1965.

LONG advised that to the best of his knowledge, FRANCES CUPIT dated him exclusively during that time period. LONG stated that he does not know if anyone dated FRANCES CUPIT prior to November, 1964. LONG stated that the only other person who visited FRANCES CUPIT on a number of occasions after FRANCES CUPIT separated from TIM CUPIT was TIM's brother, HAROLD CUPIT.

LONG stated that he had no information that FRANCES CUPIT or any other waitress had been insulted by any Negro employee of the Shamrock. LONG stated that he had no idea if FRANCES CUPIT or any other waitress had been dating a Natchez, Mississippi, police officer.

LONG stated that there was one waitress at the Shamrock named CAROL POWELL at that time in 1964 who dated many boyfriends. LONG did not have a high regard for these

On 8/21/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293  
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 8/21/67  
Jackson 44-65

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NO 44-2293

unidentified boyfriends. LONG stated that he liked POWELL as a person but that he did not like to be seen with her alone because of her reputation.

LONG advised that the name JOSEPH EDWARDS is familiar but he could recall no other information concerning EDWARDS.

LONG advised that he did not have any information concerning prostitution activities at the Shamrock Motel.

LONG advised that he is not a member of the Klan and does not know the identity of any members of the Klan.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 21, 1967

Mrs. LOUISE JAMES was contacted at 207 Oakland Drive, Oakland Subdivision, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. Mrs. JAMES furnished the following information.

Mrs. JAMES stated that she was hired as the manager in the dining hall at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, on October 15, 1963, and she remained there for a time in 1964. She could not recall the exact date on which she terminated her employment at the Shamrock.

She could not recall if a Negro male by the name of JOSEPH EDWARDS was employed as a porter at that time. She advised that she was never aware of any prostitution activity or pimping activity taking place at the Shamrock during the time she worked there. She could not recall if any of the waitresses had been insulted by any of the Negro employees during that time. She stated that if a Negro did insult a waitress, she had not heard about it.

She advised that she did not know if any of her waitresses at the Shamrock had been dating a police officer at the time.

She provided the following information concerning people who were also employed at the Shamrock when she was there.

FRANCES CUPIT - She was separated from her husband at the time and almost had a nervous breakdown.

CAROL POWELL - She had bad teeth and marital problems. She tried to commit suicide on two occasions. She left the Shamrock and went to work at the Embers in

On 8/18/67 at Morgantown, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293  
Jackson 44-65  
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 8/21/67

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(12)  
Serials  
13-30

11/2/67

Airtel

1 - Mr. McDonough

To: SACs, Jackson (44-65)  
New Orleans (44-2293)

From: Director, FBI (44-26064)

UNSUBS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, AKA - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
OO: NO

It is suggested that complete known description data and if available any fingerprint record on Joseph Edwards be forwarded to the Identification Division to ascertain if there is any record on this individual particularly subsequent to his disappearance.

Handle immediately.

EJM:cs  
(6)

EX-102

REC-5744-26064-20

NOV 2 1967

MAILED 27  
NOV 2 1967  
COMM - FBI

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

251  
66 NOV 9 1967  
Cluzza

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

9

F B I

Date: October 18, 1967

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-65) (P)

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, Aka - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

OO: NEW ORLEANS

Re Jackson airtel to the Bureau dated 9/26/67;  
Bureau airtel to Jackson dated 10/3/67;  
Newark airtel to Jackson dated 10/13/67  
(no copy to Bureau).

Newark airtel furnished the results of an inquiry at Edmund Scientific Company, Barrington, New Jersey, showing that the company offers a 15 3/4 pound magnet as mentioned in the referenced Bureau airtel and a five-pound magnet capable of lifting 150 pounds, their catalogue No. 705-71, at a price of \$12.50.

The scuba diving team, which assisted in prior explorations, stated that they swam several feet below the top of the silt which was about waist deep. Visibility was impossible and they had to rely solely on their sense of touch. They employed an anchor which rested on the bottom straight down from the boat above. A ring slipped around the anchor line with a marked line attached allowed the divers to make ever widening circles from the center point. Because of non-metallic snags, mostly tree branches and stumps, this type of operation was hampered.

C. - Bishop Bureau

- 1 - Newark (44-813) (Info)
- 1 - New Orleans (44-2293) (Info)
- 2 - Jackson (44-65)

MDD/blw

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

EX-115

REC-19

OCT 20 1967

44-26064-78

3

JN 44-65

After consultation with the divers and a study of the factors involved, it is recommended that the 15 3/4 foot magnet be suspended on a line from a boat. This heavy magnet will, by its weight, be able to penetrate the silt to get sufficiently close to a metal object for the magnetic field to be attracted to the metal and because of the heavier weight, will be able to move horizontally through the silt by movement of the boat. When any attraction to a metallic object is felt or a snag is encountered, divers will descend to investigate and attach lifting lines and inflatable lifting devices.

The heavier magnet may be employed in possible future operations of a similar nature and may also be used for lifting submerged objects when divers are not available and the metallic objects are smaller and lighter.

It is recommended that the Bureau approve the expenditure of \$33.60 plus any incidental costs for the purchase of this equipment. If approved, this item will be maintained on the non-expendable inventory of the Jackson Office.

October 25, 1967

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, Jackson (44-65)

From: Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, AKA - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
(OO: NO)

*RAT* 3

*2*

Re Jackson airtel to Bureau dated 10/18/67 and report of SA Merriman D. Diven dated 10/13/67, at New Orleans.

Referenced airtel recommends that the Bureau approve expenditures of \$33.60 plus any incidental costs for the purchase of a magnet to retrieve metal objects. You should fully explain what is involved in your terminology of "incidental costs."

*ms*

Referenced report in a lead at Deer Park, Louisiana, states George W. Fenton, who is a refrigerator dealer, will be interviewed regarding his putting 50 to 75 refrigerator cabinets in the river where decaying flesh surfaced during the Fall of 1964. In view of this, you should furnish your evaluation as to the possibilities of obtaining relevant results from explorations with the magnet as described in urairtel 10/18/67.

1 - New Orleans (44-2293)

EX-113

REL:mcs *mcs*  
(5)

REC-75

44-26064-19

MAILED 8  
OCT 25 1967  
COMM - FBI

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_

*Epm*

19 OCT 26 1967

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

*197*  
*cent*

NOV 1 1967

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

NOTE:

In response to prior request, Jackson Division was authorized to spend up to \$200 to hire scuba divers to search for skeletal remains of Joseph Edwards, a Negro missing since 7/12/64, who was reportedly murdered by Klansmen at the instigation of police officer. Efforts by scuba divers were not productive and Jackson advised on 8/24/67 that no further efforts were being made in that regard. Jackson made inquiry concerning a magnet in the price range of \$38 for retrieval of metal objects in this connection. Jackson corresponded with Newark, and they advised that a magnet for their purposes would be available at the cost of \$33.60 plus any incidental costs. Jackson is being requested to explain what incidental costs are involved, and also to furnish evaluation as to productiveness of future efforts along these lines in view of the lead to interview Fenton.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>PHOENIX</b>   | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>NEW ORLEANS</b> | DATE<br><b>10/16/67</b>                      | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>9/26/67 - 10/6/67</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;<br/>JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka -<br/>VICTIM</b> |  | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>SA JACK C. POLLOCK</b>  | TYPED BY<br><b>lkt</b>                           |
|  |  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> |  |

**REFERENCE:**

New Orleans airtel to Phoenix, 9/20/67.

- RUC -

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

On 9/26/67, [redacted] was contacted and requested to secure information concerning the present whereabouts of Mrs. HUBERT RUSHING, Route 1 Box 59, Yuma, Arizona.

On 10/5/67, [redacted] related that the former Mrs. HUBERT RUSHING (LAURA) was presently married to ROBERT ADAMS, 1001 Avenue C, Yuma, Arizona.

A\* - COVER PAGE

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

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

COPIES MADE:

- ② - Bureau (RM)
- 3 - New Orleans (44-2293) (RM)
- (1 - USA, Shreveport)
- 1 - Phoenix (44-356)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-26064-17

24

11 OCT 18 1967

REC-66

EX-109

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

|             |               |           |          |                |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------------|
| Agency      | Request Recd. | Date Fwd. | How Fwd. | By             |
| 3/11 C.B.D. |               | 10/18/67  | 694-83   | 70 OCT 18 1967 |

Notations

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JACKSON

L. B. I.

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SEARCHED

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A/S

EXP. PROC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Shreveport

Report of: SA JACK C. POLLOCK  
Date: October 16, 1967

Office: Phoenix, Arizona

Field Office File #: PX 44-356

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: LAURA ADAMS, formerly LAURA RUSHING, mother of DAVID DODD, who drowned in Shamrock Motel pool, Vidalia, Louisiana, 6/27/64, denies knowing anyone by the name JOSEPH EDWARDS, but states former husband, HUBERT RUSHING, whereabouts unknown, arranged prostitution dates for her through Negro male bellhop at Shamrock Motel. Denies additional information concerning this bellhop and advises DAVID DODD removed from motel pool by Caucasian male after young Negro male from Shamrock Coffee Shop entered pool to rescue child.

- RUC -

Details:

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 12, 1967

Mrs. LAURA ADAMS was interviewed at her residence, 1001 Avenue C, Yuma, Arizona, by SA JACK C. POLLOCK and SA CLAIR I. PETERKIN, JR., who identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At this time, Mrs. ADAMS was informed information was desired concerning one JOSEPH EDWARDS, a former employee of the Shamrock Motel, who had presumably been present at the Shamrock Motel at the time Mrs. ADAMS, then known as Mrs. HUBERT RUSHING, had been residing there. At this time she was furnished a warning and waiver form, which she read and she declined to sign the form because she stated JOSEPH EDWARDS was unknown to her and there would be no reason for her to sign said form; however, she was willing to discuss her activities at the Shamrock Motel in the Vidalia, Louisiana.

Mrs. ADAMS related she had gone to Vidalia, Louisiana with her then husband, HUBERT RUSHING, about June 22 or 23, 1964 with her son, DAVID DODD, aged 4 years. She related that while there her husband had contacted a Negro bell captain and had arranged for three prostitution dates for her at the Shamrock Motel. She stated she did not know the name nor the description of this Negro male and was not acquainted with any Negro by the name of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

With respect to the drowning of her son, DAVID DODD, on June 27, 1964, she stated she and her husband, HUBERT, had been at the swimming pool with the boy and her husband had gone to the Coca Cola machine while she stayed on a chair beside the pool. Missing her son, she stated she looked into the pool and saw him on the bottom, at which time she screamed with the result a Caucasian male jumped into the pool and brought the boy up from the bottom. She further related a young Negro male who worked as a busboy in the Coffee Shop of the motel also jumped in but had not been able to swim and it had been necessary for her to assist him to get out.

She related she stayed at the motel with her husband for about one week after the child had drowned, and

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On 10/6/67 at Yuma, Arizona File # PX 44-356  
 by SA CLAIR I. PETERKIN, JR. & SA JACK C. POLLOCK JCP/lkt Date dictated 10/6/67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168577

2  
PX 44-356  
JCP/lkt

had gone with him for one prostitution date at the Holiday Inn in Natchez, Mississippi with a cab driver for the purpose of securing money to buy shoes for the dead baby.

She related the youth who jumped into the motel pool was aged between 15 and 16 years of age.

She further related she has no idea concerning the present whereabouts of her former husband, HUBERT, but believes his sister, MONETT LOFTON, of McCalls Creek, Brookhaven, Mississippi, would probably know of his whereabouts, although she might be reluctant to furnish said information.

MRS. L. B. DODD, JR.

LAURA ADAMS steadfastly denied she knew JOSEPH EDWARDS and stated she did not know of any information or news concerning his disappearance.

MRS. HUBERT RUSHING

The following description of LAURA ADAMS was secured from observation and interview:

LAURA RUSHING

Race  
Sex  
Age  
Born

Caucasian  
Female  
33

MRS. ROBERT ADAMS

Height  
Weight  
Hair  
Eyes  
Relatives

5 feet 7  
135 1001 AVE. C, YUMA, ARIZ.

Red  
Blue  
DON CRENSHAW, address unknown, in California, former husband;  
DON CRENSHAW, aged 12, son with father;  
JERI CRENSHAW, aged 11, daughter with father

FOIA (b) (6)

L. B. DODD, JR., Terrell, Texas, Route 5 Box 74, second husband;  
MICHAEL DODD, aged 10, son with father;

MR. HUBERT RUSHING, third husband, whereabouts unknown

LA.

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PX 44-356  
JCP/lkt

ROBIN RUSHING, aged 4,  
with sister-in-law MONETT  
LOFTON, McCalls Creek,  
Brookhaven, Mississippi;  
RUSSELL RUSHING, aged 5,  
same address

At the conclusion of the interview, Mrs. ADAMS related she would immediately notify the FBI in the event the whereabouts of HUBERT RUSHING should become known to her.

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168577

FBI

Date: 10/19/67

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

31

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-37106)  
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (44-2293) (P)

UNSUBS,  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka -  
VICTIM  
CR  
(OO: NO)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Re Bureau airtel to New Orleans dated 10/17/67  
(no copy to Phoenix).

With reference to expediting of the lead to interview Chief BUD SPINKS of the Vidalia Police Department regarding his records of EDWARDS' assault on IONA PERRY SEWARD, it is to be noted that Chief SPINKS through information supplied by [redacted] and his use of an Oldsmobile patrol car almost fitting the description of a vehicle seen stopping the victim's vehicle, he is a prime suspect in this case and another case developed as a result of this investigation. Additional data is being obtained concerning SPINKS, in order to conduct a thorough and exhausted interview of him and at the same time interview Captain J. G. WISNER, Natchez Police Department, who accompanied SPINKS on his interview of

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
  - 2 - Phoenix (44-356) (RM)
  - 2 - New Orleans
- MDD/jls  
(7)

REC 6 44-26064-16

25 OCT 21 1967

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

55 OCT 30 1967 Special Agent in Charge

NO 44-2293

IONA PERRY SEWARD in Natchez. A third officer may have been present, and discreet inquiry is being made to identify him so that he may be interviewed separately but simultaneously with SPINKS and WISNER.

CORDELLIA JACKSON, former maid at the Shamrock Motel, has been located and interviewed on 10/9/67. This basically negative interview will be included in the next report.

With reference to the Bureau's comments with regard to efforts to locate and interview Mrs. HUBERT RUSHING, the original lead was covered on 9/14/67, and by communication to Phoenix dated 9/20/67, a lead requested Credit Bureau, public service companies, utility companies, route salesmen, moving companies, schools, and informants to be contacted to locate RUSHING.

MARIO HERNANDEZ, former Deputy Sheriff, Adams County, has not been interviewed inasmuch as inquiries at McPhail Oldsmobile, Natchez, established that the Adams County Sheriff's Office did not have any Oldsmobile patrol units until October, 1964, several months after EDWARDS' disappearance. However, consideration is being afforded to interviewing HERNANDEZ for background information concerning various activities and individuals at the Shamrock Motel.

The instant investigation is being coordinated with Bureau Special "WHARBOM" and will continue to be handled expeditiously.