

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 10/13/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/15/67 - 10/7/67
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, Aka Joe Edwards - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN	TYPED BY blw
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES:

Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 9/29/67 at New Orleans.

- P -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED NONE						ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

EXP. PROC.

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

APPROVED *Jas*
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-26064-15

OCT 17 1967

REC 3
EX-113

Dissemination Record of Attached Report			
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.
CRD		10/17/67	684-B
			KE/CO

Notations
ditel SAC 10-17-67 REC/CO
 STAT SEGR

79 OCT 26 1967

LEADS:

JACKSON

* AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

-1- Interview Captain J. G. WISNER, Natchez Police Department, concerning his interview of IONA PERRY SEWARD relative to her assault by JOSEPH EDWARDS.

-2- Continue contacts with logical informants.

NEW ORLEANS

AT BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Review records of the Vehicle Registration Section, Department of Public Safety, to determine the present owner of the 1964 white Oldsmobile, Model Eighty-Eight, four-door town sedan, VIN 844M139590, removed from service as a Vidalia, Louisiana, police car and sold either to Capitol Auto Auctions, Baton Rouge, or A. B. Post, Inc., Shreveport, Louisiana. This vehicle had been titled in the name of the Town of Vidalia although owned by McPhail Car Rentals, Natchez, Mississippi.

*AT DEER PARK, LOUISIANA

Interview GEORGE W. FENTON, refrigerator dealer, currently residing near Jughead's Fish Camp, regarding his putting 50 to 75 refrigerator cabinets in the river where decaying flesh surfaced during the Fall of 1964.

COVER PAGE

B

*AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Interview Reverend J. T. MASSEY, Jonesville Highway, to determine if he was the white preacher referred to in conversation overheard by [redacted] which indicated the preacher knew something had happened to JOSEPH EDWARDS.

AT MONROE, LOUISIANA

Contact logical sources to determine whether ROBERT FULLER had given his approval for the killing or beating of JOSEPH EDWARDS as the State Klan Bureau of Investigation (KBI) man during July, 1964, or has any knowledge of the act, as indicated in the informant section of these cover pages relative to information furnished by [redacted]

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

With reference to the interview of J. H. "GUS" WILLET in this report, review the indices of the New Orleans office for any racial subject case files or racial references to the persons identified as having purchased a 1963 or 1964 white Oldsmobile.

*AT VIDALIA, LOUISIANA

Interview Chief J. L. "BUD" SPINKS, Vidalia Police Department, concerning his interview of IONA SEWARD and his knowledge of the disappearance of the victim.

*All leads indicated by an asterisk will be coordinated with the investigation of Bureau special WHARBOM at Natchez, Mississippi.

COVER PAGE

C

INFORMANTS:

On September 28, 1967, [redacted] advised SA JOHN D. BRADY that he was not familiar with the incident described in this matter and that JAMES B. GOSS and JOSEPH EDWARDS were names entirely unfamiliar to him. He advised that in 1964, it was not uncommon for various units of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK) to exchange jobs; that is, the Vidalia Unit of the OKKKK might well have requested the Tallulah Unit of the OKKKK to do jobs in Concordia Parish; however, a job such as a killing or beating would have to go through the State KBI man. Source advised that the KBI man for the OKKKK in July of 1964 was ROBERT FULLER of Monroe, Louisiana. Source stated GOSS is not familiar as a member of the Tallulah Unit of the OKKKK during 1964.

On September 14, 1967, [redacted] advised SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that he had no information concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

COVER PAGE

D

NO 44-2293

On September 21, 1967, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised SA

JOSEPH M. AVIGNONE that she did not want to make a statement regarding things she could not prove. She stated that she would only furnish the following information if it were treated confidentially and if she would not be disclosed as the source.

She stated that she was in Clayton, Louisiana, shortly after JOE EDWARDS was missing. At this time, she heard two white men talking, one of whom someone later said was a preacher. [REDACTED] heard one white man say to the alleged white preacher, "J. P. don't know nothing about it. All he heard, he heard from RAYMOND." [REDACTED] advised that "J. P." is a policeman in Clayton, Louisiana, and RAYMOND is a Vidalia, Louisiana, policeman or city officer who lives in Clayton.

[REDACTED] further advised that in the same week "JOE was missing," "J. P." asked BOBBY MARTIN if JOE was missing. BOBBY said "No" and [REDACTED] added at this time "none of us knew JOE was missing." [REDACTED] said BOBBY MARTIN is a Negro male who lives in Clayton on "the left side of that back road next to the railroad track." After it became known that JOE EDWARDS was missing, "J. P." came back to MARTIN and said, "I told you JOE was missing."

COVER PAGE

E

NO 44-2293

ADMINISTRATIVE:

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

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

Only one Agent conducted some of the interviews set forth inasmuch as another Agent was not immediately available and this investigation required expeditious handling.

The indices of the New Orleans Office contained no reference to JAMES B. GOSS, except a subject case file entitled "JAMES B. GOSS, Aka James Buford Goss, WA, 58127AB, AEA - E," Bureau File 116-346063, New Orleans File 116-14323. A review of that investigation shows no unfavorable information concerning GOSS.

The following investigation was conducted at Shreveport, Louisiana:

On September 21, 1967, Chief CLINTON L. WINGFIELD, Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station, 702 Texas Avenue, advised SA THURMAN P. KELLEY that records of their examinations are destroyed after one year. (It is noted that victim would have been examined prior to July 12, 1964.) He suggested that all records should be in the possession of the Selective Service Board.

COVER PAGE

F*

NO 44-2293

II. Investigation Concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS'
Abandoned Automobile and Reported White
Oldsmobile Observed at Scene of Abandonment

NW 34

Reference Copy

RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064

Section 1 (1/4)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/29/67

EDITH SNYDER, a school teacher who resides across the railroad tracks from Dixie Lanes, a bowling alley located on the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway, Star Route, Ferriday, Louisiana, advised as follows:

She did not observe a 1958 green and white Buick pulled over one night during July, 1964, by a vehicle with a flashing red light; however, she recalled seeing a Buick fitting that general description parked at the north side of the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway opposite the bowling alley about that period.

This car remained there for about two weeks. Later, she observed that the car had been moved to the side street next to the bowling alley where it remained a few days. She did not see anyone move the vehicle and did not know the reason for its presence in the area.

She advised that she did not pay much attention to this car as it was not unusual for disabled vehicles to remain along the highway for extended periods of time.

She advised that she had heard a rumor circulating around the Negro community that a Negro porter had disappeared but JOSEPH EDWARDS and any information relating to his disappearance was unknown to her.

On 9/26/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana

New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
File#

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN

/blw

Date dictated 9/29/67

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

NW 398

Reference Copy

RG 65: 44-HQ-26064

Section 1 (1/10/67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/6/67

WADDELL TURNER, Route 1, Box 166B, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

TURNER stated that he has been employed at the Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley on the Vidalia--Ferriday Highway from 1963 to the present working as a mechanic on the pin spoters. His hours of work are from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

TURNER stated that he did not recall a Negro male named JOSEPH EDWARDS who worked at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, in July, 1964. TURNER stated that EDWARDS never worked at the Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley because TURNER and PETE MORALES were the only Negroes that TURNER could recall as having worked there.

TURNER stated that he did recall seeing a few years ago a white over green four-door Buick parked on the side street near the bowling alley. TURNER stated that he never examined the car and that he never saw anyone around it. TURNER stated that he had heard that the owner of the car had disappeared. TURNER could not recall the source of the rumor and could not remember any other details about the rumor.

NW 34
Reference Copy
RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (10/67)

10/3/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jls Date dictated 10/4/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 3, 1967

RAYMOND KEATHLEY, Clayton, Louisiana, advised that when he was Deputy Sheriff in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, he reported to other Deputies IKE CALLON, BILL OGDEN, and FRANK DE LAUGHTER that he had observed a vehicle parked on the south side of the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway in the vicinity of the bowling alley for a number of days and believed that some inquiry should be made.

DE LAUGHTER stated that the car belonged "to the nigger who had smarted off to the girls at the Shamrock Motel. We won't be bothered with that black smart SOB any more."

One of the deputies also commented at that time that a white Oldsmobile or white Dodge had been reportedly seen in the vicinity of the abandoned car and it was indicated that the white car was involved in the incident.

KEATHLEY stated that he drove a Sheriff's vehicle which was a white 1964 Dodge and he felt concerned that they mentioned a white Dodge in this connection as he had had a car similar to BILL OGDEN's Sheriff's vehicle and was frequently accused of things in which OGDEN was apparently involved.

KEATHLEY added that the Vidalia Police Department had a white 1964 Oldsmobile which had two antennae on the trunk. He stated that the Vidalia patrol car used a red emergency dashboard light for some period.

KEATHLEY advised that he had no information concerning a conversation between a preacher and another unknown individual relative to JOSEPH EDWARDS' disappearance. KEATHLEY advised, however, that the preacher may have been

9/29/67 at Clayton, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65

SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/2/67

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NW 344
Reference Copy
R565: 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1/10/67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 3, 1967

RAYMOND KEATHLEY, Clayton, Louisiana, advised that when he was Deputy Sheriff in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, he reported to other Deputies IKE CALLON, BILL OGDEN, and FRANK DE LAUGHTER that he had observed a vehicle parked on the south side of the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway in the vicinity of the bowling alley for a number of days and believed that some inquiry should be made.

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KEATHLEY added that the Vidalia Police Department had a white 1964 Oldsmobile which had two antennae on the trunk. He stated that the Vidalia patrol car used a red emergency dashboard light for some period.

KEATHLEY advised that he had no information concerning a conversation between a preacher and another unknown individual relative to JOSEPH EDWARDS' disappearance. KEATHLEY advised, however, that the preacher may have been

On 9/29/67 at Clayton, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/2/67

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JERRY A. MEANS, 601 Virginia Street, Ferriday, Louisiana, who has been very sympathetic with the Negro causes in the area. With regard to the person whose initials J. P. were mentioned during the conversation as a law enforcement officer, KEATHLEY was of the opinion that J. P. referred to J. P. SCRUGGS, Town Marshal, Clayton, Louisiana.

KEATHLEY advised that he was acquainted with JAMES GOSS, Louisiana Probation Officer, through their respective interests in law enforcement. KEATHLEY advised that GOSS was known to drive a late model Rambler and stayed at the Shamrock Motel on Thursday of each week.

On one occasion, he had a woman with him, whom GOSS introduced as his wife. She was attractive, had dark hair--but not a brunette, and was about five feet six inches tall with a heavy build.

KEATHLEY did not know GOSS to be dating the crippled registration clerk at the Shamrock Motel nor PAULINE BROWN, a cleaning woman at the motel. GOSS was known to be friendly with Deputy Sheriff FRANK DE LAUGHTER and they used to go around to the various "joints" together.

With regard to Chief of Police BUD SPINKS, Vidalia, Louisiana, Police Department, KEATHLEY did not know of any close associates of SPINKS who did not have a good reputation. SPINKS was known to have used a camp owned by several men from Shreveport, Louisiana, at NOWLAND SIMPSON's Red River Camp.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/6/67

CHARLES JORDAN, Business Manager, McPhail Oldsmobile, Inc., Highway 61 North, advised that the records of his office show that his 1964, model 88, white, four-door, Town Sedan, Vehicle Identification Number 844M139590 was transferred to McPhail Car Rentals, a subsidiary company of McPhail Oldsmobile, Inc.

This vehicle was leased to the town of Vidalia, Louisiana, for use as a police car. Delivery was effected about October 15, 1963, and this vehicle was traded during October, 1964, for a 1965 model Oldsmobile. The repair records for that vehicle are no longer available, but if a red emergency light was installed on top of that vehicle, the Town of Vidalia purchased the extra equipment and in all probability obtained the item from Penka Parts, Inc., Natchez.

The records do not show what disposition was made of the vehicle after its return from the Vidalia Police Department, but the vehicle was known to have been sold "wholesale" to either Captial Auto Auctions, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or to A. B. POST, Shreveport, Louisiana, during October or November, 1965.

Mr. JORDAN stated that the most unusual detail of this leasing arrangement is that the Town of Vidalia obtains a Louisiana title for these vehicles in order to avoid Mississippi taxes.

On 10/4/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 10/5/67

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NW 398
 Reference Copy
 RO 65 : 47-HQ-26064
 Section 1 C/10/67

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/6/67

J. M. "GUS" WILLETT, Salesman, Loe Chevrolet Company, Tallulah, Louisiana, was interviewed at the Loe Chevrolet offices. WILLETT is acquainted with the identity of SA BRADY. He was advised of the nature of the investigation and furnished the following information:

After he was shown a photograph of JAMES B. GOSS, WILLETT stated that the photograph appeared very similar to the GOSS who was formerly employed by the Department of Probation and Parole in Tallulah, Louisiana. He stated that the office is almost directly across from the Loe Chevrolet Company and he has seen GOSS entering the office on several occasions in the past, about two years ago.

He advised that to the best of his knowledge, Loe Chevrolet Company never sold GOSS a 1963 or 1964 white Oldsmobile.

WILLETT provided the factory invoices for the Loe Chevrolet Company for the years 1963 and 1964 which invoices reflect all the vehicles purchased by the company during those years. He stated that in the folder would be several Oldsmobile invoices and if the vehicle has a color code of CCA, it would be a white Oldsmobile.

A review of these invoices provided the following persons who purchased white Oldsmobiles from 1963 to 1964 and the addresses of these persons were subsequently furnished by Mr. WILLETT:

DALE P. HOOVER
St. Joseph, Louisiana
1964 Oldsmobile Eighty-Eight sedan

On 10/5/67 at Tallulah, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
by SA JOHN D. BRADY /blw Date dictated 10/6/67

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N/W 39
 Reference Copy
 R665: 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (1/4)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/6/67

J. M. "GUS" WILLETT, Salesman, Loe Chevrolet Company, Tallulah, Louisiana, was interviewed at the Loe Chevrolet offices. WILLETT is acquainted with the identity of SA BRADY. He was advised of the nature of the investigation and furnished the following information:

After he was shown a photograph of JAMES B. GOSS, WILLETT stated that the photograph appeared very similar to the GOSS who was formerly employed by the Department of Probation and Parole in Tallulah, Louisiana. He stated that the office is almost directly across from the Loe Chevrolet Company and he has seen GOSS entering the office on several occasions in the past, about two years ago.

He advised that to the best of his knowledge, Loe Chevrolet Company never sold GOSS a 1963 or 1964 white Oldsmobile.

WILLETT provided the factory invoices for the Loe Chevrolet Company for the years 1963 and 1964 which invoices reflect all the vehicles purchased by the company during those years. He stated that in the folder would be several Oldsmobile invoices and if the vehicle has a color code of CCA, it would be a white Oldsmobile.

A review of these invoices provided the following persons who purchased white Oldsmobiles from 1963 to 1964 and the addresses of these persons were subsequently furnished by Mr. WILLETT:

DALE P. HOOVER
St. Joseph, Louisiana
1964 Oldsmobile Eighty-Eight sedan

On 10/5/67 at Tallulah, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
by SA JOHN D. BRADY /blw Date dictated 10/6/67

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NW 294

Reference Copy

RG 65: 44-HQ-26064

Section 1 C/101

V. Interviews of Persons Reportedly
Members of a Klan-type Organization

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/29/67

TOMMIE LEE JONES, 75 Cloverdale Road, immediately acknowledged the identity of the interviewing Agent, advised that he knows his rights, and had no objections to conversing with the interviewing Agent. This interview was conducted in the presence of CONNIE JONES, wife of TOMMIE LEE JONES, per his request.

Concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro bellhop at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, in 1964, JONES advised that he knew nothing concerning this person's disappearance.

He advised that he did know that there was a Negro bellhop by the name of EDWARDS working at the Shamrock in 1964 who was also hustling girls for NELLIE JACKSON, a prominent Natchez, Mississippi madam. He stated, however, he knew no details concerning EDWARDS' participation in any prostitution activity.

JONES reiterated that he had no information whatsoever concerning EDWARDS' disappearance.

On 9/22/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2263
Jackson 44-65
 by SA FRANK B. WATTS /jls Date dictated 9/27/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 29, 1967

THOR LEE TORGERSEN, 1405 Westwood Street, immediately acknowledged the identity of the interviewing Agent, reported that he understood completely his rights, and further stated that he had no objection whatsoever to conversing with the interviewing Agent.

Concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro bellhop at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, who disappeared in 1964, TORGERSEN advised that he knew EDWARDS as a bellhop at this motel. He advised, however, that he had no knowledge whatsoever of EDWARDS' disappearance. He stated further that he had never heard that any foul play had come to EDWARDS and knew nothing concerning his disappearance.

TORGERSEN volunteered that EDWARDS was "hustling" girls for NELLIE JACKSON, a prominent Natchez, Mississippi, madam, during early 1964. TORGERSEN stated further that JACKSON also had a "white" Negro working at the Shamrock Motel as a desk clerk in 1964 who was also engaged in prostitution at this motel and was possibly working with EDWARDS in this prostitution activity.

On 9/26/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
 by SA FRANK B. WATTS /blw Date dictated 9/28/67

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NW 394
Reference Copy
K565 : 44-100-26069

NO 44-2293

VI. Miscellaneous

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/4/67

LESTER LEE WELLS was contacted at his residence on the J. M. Jones Lumber Company, Government Fleet Road, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

WELLS stated that he is not and never has been a member of any Klan organization. WELLS stated that he has no knowledge of the identity or activities of any Klan members.

WELLS stated that he did not know the Negro porter at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, named JOSEPH EDWARDS who disappeared in July, 1964. WELLS stated that he has no knowledge and he has heard no rumors concerning the facts of EDWARDS' disappearance.

On 9/29/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jls Date dictated 9/30/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/6/67

Reverend JERRY A. MEANS, Pastor of the Sevier Memorial Methodist Church, was contacted at his residence at 601 Virginia Avenue, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

MEANS stated that he had no information concerning the disappearance of a Negro male named JOSEPH EDWARDS who worked at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, in July, 1964. MEANS suggested that the FBI contact Reverend J. T. MASSEY, Jonesville Highway outside of Ferriday, Louisiana, inasmuch as MASSEY has shown an interest in the racial situation.

On 10/3/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /GFB:jls Date dictated 10/4/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/6/67

EDWARD RAY WILSON, 804 Morgan Avenue, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

WILSON stated that he has been employed as the night clerk at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, from October, 1957, to the present. His working hours are from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. seven days a week.

WILSON stated that he did not recall a Negro porter named JOSEPH EDWARDS who was employed at the Shamrock in July, 1964. WILSON stated that he recalled that IONA PERRY worked at the Shamrock for a short time in 1964. WILSON stated he did not know if EDWARDS had ever insulted PERRY. WILSON could not recall any other information concerning PERRY.

WILSON stated that he had no knowledge concerning any prostitution activities at the Shamrock. WILSON stated that he did not know RED GLOVER, HOMER BUCK HORTON, KENNETH NORMAN HEAD, or JAMES GOSS. WILSON stated that he did not know about any date that EDWARDS thought he was going to have with a white girl.

On 10/4/67 at Morgantown, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
GEORGE F. BENZ /GFB:jls Date dictated 10/5/67

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10/17/67

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, New Orleans (44-2293)

From: Director, FBI (44-37106)

SUBS:
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM
RIGHTS

Rereps of SA Merriman D. Diven dated 9/29/67
/67, at New Orleans.

You should expedite the leads set forth in
reports particularly the lead concerning
Chief Bud Spinks regarding his records of
assault of Iona Perry Seward. You should also
lead concerning the locating and interviewing
Jackson, former maid at Shamrock Motel.

AB

You should also give consideration to again
the Phoenix Office to locate and interview
Rushing. It is to be noted that Mrs. Rushing
at the Shamrock Motel and was quite friendly
ords. You should also give consideration to
and interviewing one Mario Hernandez, former
sheriff of Adams County, who allegedly drove an
white Oldsmobile.

You should continue to afford this matter
ous handling and take the necessary steps to
ly complete all facets of investigative leads.

EX-113

44-26064-14

REC-14

OCT 19 1967

MAILED 19
OCT 17 1967
COMM - FBI

6 OCT 24 1967

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

NW 39
Reference Copy
RG 65: 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1967)

10/17/67

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, New Orleans (44-2293)

From: Director, FBI (44-37106)

UNSUBS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Rereps of SA Merriman D. Diven dated 9/29/67 and 10/13/67, at New Orleans.

You should expedite the leads set forth in referenced reports particularly the lead concerning interview of Chief Bud Spinks regarding his records of Edwards' assault of Iona Perry Seward. You should also expedite the lead concerning the locating and interviewing of Cordellia Jackson, former maid at Shamrock Motel.

AB

You should also give consideration to again requesting the Phoenix Office to locate and interview one Mrs. Rushing. It is to be noted that Mrs. Rushing was a guest at the Shamrock Motel and was quite friendly with Edwards. You should also give consideration to locating and interviewing one Mario Hernandez, former deputy sheriff of Adams County, who allegedly drove an unmarked white Oldsmobile.

You should continue to afford this matter expeditious handling and take the necessary steps to thoroughly complete all facets of investigative leads.

REL: cs
(4) *CA*

MAILED 19
OCT 17 1967
COMM - FBI

EX-113

44-26064-14

REC-14

OCT 19 1967

J

66 OCT 24 1967

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

NW 34
Reference Copy
11/11/67

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 9/29/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/8 - 25/67
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, Aka Joe Edwards - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN	TYPED BY blw
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES:

Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN at New Orleans dated 9/15/67;
Jackson airtel to the Bureau dated 9/15/67.

- P -

LEADS:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					NONE	ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

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

APPROVED *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:
 ② - Bureau
 1 - USA, Shreveport, Louisiana
 3 - Jackson (2 - 44-65)
 (1 - 44-2044)
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DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
 44-26064-13
 44-37106-9
 REC-47
 9
 1 OCT 8 1967

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	<i>CRS</i>	NO. 3 3 1
Request Recd.		
Date Fwd.	<i>OCT 6 1967</i>	
How Fwd.	<i>44 B</i>	
By	<i>[Signature]</i>	

Notations
[Handwritten notes and signatures]
 STAFF SUBJECT

66 OCT 19 1967
OCT 19 1967

NW 394
Reference Copy

NO 44-2293

JACKSON

*AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

-1- Interview L. L. WELLS of J. M. Jones Lumber Company concerning his statement that a dozen men killed EDWARDS.

-2- Interview Captain J. G. WISNER, Natchez Police Department, concerning his interview of IONA PERRY SEWARD relative to her assault by JOE EDWARDS.

-3- Continue contacts with logical informants.

NEW ORLEANS

*AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Interview WARDELL TURNER, former porter of Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley, residing Dody Road, Ferriday, relative to possible observation of stopping of EDWARDS' vehicle near bowling alley.

AT HAYNESVILLE, LOUISIANA

Will interview Rev. A. G. TAYLOR, Methodist Church, Haynesville, Louisiana, to determine what disposition he made of his expired 1963 Louisiana License 892-428 for a 1963 Plymouth Valiant, this being one variation of a license number believed to be on a 1964 Oldsmobile stopping EDWARDS' vehicle during July, 1964.

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B

NO 44-2293

*AT VIDALIA, LOUISIANA

-1- Interview Chief BUD SPINKS regarding his records of EDWARDS' assault of IONA PERRY SEWARD and his knowledge and possible involvement in EDWARDS' disappearance.

-2- Locate and interview CORDELLIA JACKSON, former maid at Shamrock Motel, concerning finding EDWARDS in a motel room.

*All leads indicated by an asterisk will be coordinated with the investigation of Bureau special "WHARBOM" at Natchez, Mississippi.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

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

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

COVER PAGE

C

NW 34
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K665
44-118-26009
RETURN TO CLERK

NO 44-2293

EAS/blw

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ERNEST A. SERENA in Natchez, Mississippi, on September 7, 1967:

Reverend HENRY RUSSELL, 907 North Pine Street advised that he was unfamiliar with either the names JOSEPH EDWARDS or (first name unknown) BLANTON. He said that he did not recall whether or not he had seen (FNU) BLANTON on the televised civil rights hearings from Jackson, Mississippi, in February of 1965 but that Mr. WEST, who operates West Funeral Home, Natchez, had testified at those hearings and he might be able to further identify (FNU) BLANTON.

GEORGE F. WEST, 411 North Pine Street, advised that he knew no one by the names of JOSEPH EDWARDS or (FNU) BLANTON. He said that he had testified at the civil rights hearings in Jackson in 1964 but he did not recall anyone who had been beaten and given castor oil, who had also testified. The only man who testified whose name resembled BLANTON was WILEY A. BRANTON, an attorney from Pine Bluff, Arkansas. WEST advised that he was certain that BRANTON had not been involved in any beatings that took place in Natchez.

WEST advised that a review of the proceedings of the 1965 Civil Rights hearings indicated that the following people from Adams County, Mississippi, had testified:

BRUCE LLOYD PAYNE
LEONARD RUSSELL
ARCHIE C. CURTIS
ALFRED WHITLEY
EDWIN D. WOLF.
JOHN G. NASSER

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D

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RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064

Section 1 (1/4)

NO 44-2293

2

GEORGE F. WEST
Referend WILLY SCOTT
JAMES ODELL ANDERS
JAMES THEODORE ROBINSON

ARCHIE CURTIS, 106 East Franklin Avenue, advised that he did not know anyone by the name of JOSEPH EDWARDS or (FNU) BLANTON who had been victims of Klan violence in 1964. He said that he vaguely recalls having been informed of the incident involving a boy from the Shamrock Motel but is not familiar with any of the details.

CURTIS advised that DAVID FLEMING, 17 Bishop Street, was a commercial painter who might be able to identify (FNU) BLANTON.

DAVID FLEMING, North Pine and Purnell Streets, advised that he was a painter by trade, specializing in remodeling antebellum homes in the Natchez area. He said that for this reason, he works with a small, steady crew and is not acquainted with many of the transient painters who come into the area. He said that he did not know a painter by the name of BLANTON.

He said that he did not have any specific knowledge concerning any painters who had been in trouble with the Klan but that about three months ago, he had heard some of the men he works with discussing the fact that a painter had gotten into trouble with the Klan and had to leave town. He said that he could not recall who had been discussing this incident but advised that he would "ask around" and notify the FBI if he discovered anything.

FLEMING advised that a former partner of his, FRANCIS RAWLINS, Nine' Railroad Alley, was also a painter. He said that RAWLINS ran a large crew of painters and specialized in production work. He said that any itinerant

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Section 1 (104)

NO 44-2293

3

painters who came into this area would almost certainly contact RAWLINS. FLEMING advised that he would contact RAWLINS and find out if he had ever employed a painter who had been a victim of Klan violence or if he was familiar with anyone named (FNU) BLANTON.

FLEMING advised that he had heard of the incident concerning a Negro man who worked at the Shamrock Motel but could add nothing specific. He said that he had never heard the name of the man mentioned and that the name JOSEPH EDWARDS was totally unfamiliar to him.

FLEMING advised that he knew of several families named BLANTON living on Old Woodville Road near the Cloverdale housing development. He said that to his knowledge, none of them were painters nor had they been involved with the Klan.

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Section 1 (late)

PX 44-356
NO 44-2293
JCC/rfd/blw

1

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JOSEPH C. CWIK at Yuma, Arizona:

On September 14, 1967, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] caused a search of his files to
be made and furnished the following information:

A Mrs. LAURA RUSHING, 3622 Fourth Street, had
a change of address on March 2, 1965, to Route One, Box
593. Mrs. RUSHING was the only person to receive mail
at this 3622 Fourth Street address. Route One, Box 593
is handled by the Kofa Post Office Sub-Station.

On September 14, 1967, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] caused a search of his records to be
made and furnished the following information:

Route One, Box 593 belongs to CLYDE, LAURA,
HUBERT RUSHING. The RUSHINGS have abandoned this mail
box and mail has been unclaimed since August 11, 1967.
All mail being addressed to this box 593 is being
returned to the senders.

[REDACTED] further advised that the property
at this address was owned by MC LAREN Produce, but he
believes in June of 1967 this property had changed hands
and now belongs to Valley Packing Company.

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Section 1 (1/1/67)

NO 44-2293

EEB/blw

1

SA DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN and SA EARL E. BOYD contacted the following individuals on September 19, 1967. These individuals stated their files failed to reflect JOSEPH EDWARDS ever being registered with their respective boards:

GEORGE A. EYRICH, JR.
Local Board No. One
Natchez, Mississippi

Mrs. MYRTLE FINLEY, Clerk
Local Board No. 14
Catahoula Parish
Harrisonburg, Louisiana

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Section 1 (1 of 2)

NO 44-2293

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

INFORMANTS:

On August 29, 1967, [redacted] advised SA JAMES A. WOOTEN and SA JOSEPH G. PEGGS as follows concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS:

BILL OGDEN, Concordia Parish Deputy Sheriff, talked to E. D. MORACE at the Bonanza Night Club on the night of August 25, 1967. OGDEN stated either that he was going to tell the FBI or had already told the FBI that the odor which arose from Deer Park Lake came from wild animal carcass which had been sunk in the lake to attract catfish.

COVER PAGE

I*

NW 396
Reference Copy
RG 65: 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1/10/67)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 - United States Attorney, Shreveport, Louisiana

of: SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
September 29, 1967

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Office File #: 44-2293

Bureau File #:

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS

Owner, Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, advised
JOSEPH EDWARDS hired as porter at motel during 1964.
Former employees advised of prostitution at motel.
BERTA WALKER reported that L. L. WELLS stated that
EDWARDS had been killed by a dozen men. JAMES BUFORD
GOSS, Louisiana Probation Officer, furnished signed
statement that EDWARDS kissed IONA PERRY, a white crippled
girl, whom GOSS dated. GOSS admitted searching for
EDWARDS to beat him but unable to find him, reported
EDWARDS' assault on PERRY to Chief BUD SPINKS, Vidalia
Police Department. IONA SEWARD, nee PERRY, furnished
signed statement that GOSS stated he would kill EDWARDS
in her opinion GOSS was implicated in EDWARDS' murder.

- P -

DETAILS:

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Section 1 (1/10/68)

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NO 44-2293

I. Investigation Concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS' Activities at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana

NW 39

Reference Copy

RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064

Section 1 (10/12)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 11, 1967

Mrs. CAROL WESTBROOK, Apartment 15, St. Francis Manor, 508 West LaGrange Street, was interviewed in the presence of her husband RICHARD WESTBROOK at their mutual request. She orally related the following information:

She worked at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, in about 1961, and again in the late Fall of 1963, and early Winter of 1964. She did not work after the early Winter months of 1964 in Vidalia. When she worked at that location, Mrs. (FNU) PRICE was the manager of the motel and FRANCES CUPIT was a waitress. The latter is crippled.

She does not recall ever hearing the name JOSEPH EDWARDS or Joe Edwards as being associated with the Shamrock Motel and does not recall the names of any Negro male employees of the Shamrock. She specifically does not recall any employee fitting the description of EDWARDS. She was never approached by a Negro male employee, of the Shamrock or elsewhere, in an offensive or insulting manner. She never heard anything that indicated FRANCES CUPIT or any other female employee of the Shamrock was contacted by a Negro in this manner. She recalls FRANCES CUPIT was married at the time she was there and never heard anything that indicated FRANCES CUPIT was dating a Natchez, Mississippi, police officer or any other officer. She, WESTBROOK, did not date a policeman while in that area and she knows of no other female employee at the Shamrock dating a police officer.

During the time she was employed at the Shamrock, she heard nothing that indicated any Negro had been lured anywhere in the belief he was going to have a date with a white girl. She heard of no plans to lure any Negro, including EDWARDS, at a future date or any such person having been lured to any designated area prior to that time.

2A

9/8/67 at Lake Charles, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

SAs GEORGE M. CAMPBELL and MCINNIS L. WARD MLW:nmb Date dictated 9/8/67

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RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1/10)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 11, 1967

Mrs. CAROL WESTBROOK, Apartment 15, St. Francis Manor, 508 West LaGrange Street, was interviewed in the presence of her husband RICHARD WESTBROOK at their mutual request. She orally related the following information:

She worked at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, in about 1961, and again in the late Fall of 1963, and early Winter of 1964. She did not work after the early Winter months of 1964 in Vidalia. When she worked at that location, Mrs. (FNU) PRICE was the manager of the motel and FRANCES CUPIT was a waitress. The latter is crippled.

She does not recall ever hearing the name JOSEPH EDWARDS or Joe Edwards as being associated with the Shamrock Motel and does not recall the names of any Negro male employees of the Shamrock. She specifically does not recall any employee fitting the description of EDWARDS. She was never approached by a Negro male employee, of the Shamrock or elsewhere, in an offensive or insulting manner. She never heard anything that indicated FRANCES CUPIT or any other female employee of the Shamrock was contacted by a Negro in this manner. She recalls FRANCES CUPIT was married at the time she was there and never heard anything that indicated FRANCES CUPIT was dating a Natchez, Mississippi, police officer or any other officer. She, WESTBROOK, did not date a policeman while in that area and she knows of no other female employee at the Shamrock dating a police officer.

During the time she was employed at the Shamrock, she heard nothing that indicated any Negro had been lured anyplace in the belief he was going to have a date with a white girl. She heard of no plans to lure any Negro, including EDWARDS, at a future date or any such person having been lured to any designated area prior to that time.

2A

9/8/67 at Lake Charles, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

SAs GEORGE M. CAMPBELL and
MCINNIS L. WARD

MLW:nmb Date dictated 9/8/67

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Section 1 (1/10/67)

2
NO 44-2293

No Negro made any advances whatsoever toward her at any time while she was in the Vidalia area and she has no information that such advances were made to any other female at the Shamrock, including CUPIT.

She recalls that sometime unrecalled, but believed to be after she moved from the Vidalia area, she dropped a butane gas tank on her foot which injured her toe. This caused her to hop around for a fairly long while; however, to her recollection, this was after she left Vidalia and she can recall no other time she had an injury to her foot, toe, or otherwise which caused her to limp.

She is presently married to RICHARD WESTBROOK and she works as an evening bartender at the Bamboo Club, Highway 14, Lake Charles, Louisiana. She worked at the Shamrock as CAROL POWELL, as this was prior to her marriage to WESTBROOK.

Mrs. WESTBROOK concluded by stating she has no knowledge of an incident involving EDWARDS and in fact she has not heard anything concerning a possible violent incident involving a Negro male employee of the Shamrock.

NO 44-2293

No Negro made any advances whatsoever toward her at any time while she was in the Vidalia area and she has no information that such advances were made to any other female at the Shamrock, including CUPIT.

She recalls that sometime unrecalled, but believed to be after she moved from the Vidalia area, she dropped a butane gas tank on her foot which injured her toe. This caused her to hop around for a fairly long while; however, to her recollection, this was after she left Vidalia and she can recall no other time she had an injury to her foot, toe, or otherwise which caused her to limp.

She is presently married to RICHARD WESTBROOK and she works as an evening bartender at the Bamboo Club, Highway 14, Lake Charles, Louisiana. She worked at the Shamrock as CAROL POWELL, as this was prior to her marriage to WESTBROOK.

Mrs. WESTBROOK concluded by stating she has no knowledge of an incident involving EDWARDS and in fact she has not heard anything concerning a possible violent incident involving a Negro male employee of the Shamrock.

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K665 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 C/104

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/15/67

MIKE MC DONOUGH, Co-Owner of the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted at Tops Cafeteria, Main Street, Natchez, and was aware of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information.

MC DONOUGH stated that he does not know JAMES LEE at all. He stated that he knows only by sight the following persons:

RED GLOVER
JACK SEALE
TOMMIE LEE JONES
THOR LEE TORGERSEN

MC DONOUGH stated that he recalled firing EDDIE KIMBLE's son in 1964 and hiring JOSEPH EDWARDS as a replacement. He stated that the FBI had been the first to inform him that EDWARDS was missing. MC DONOUGH denied knowledge of any scheme to entice EDWARDS into believing that EDWARDS was going to have a date with a white girl.

MC DONOUGH stated that he may have loaned EDWARDS \$50 in order that EDWARDS could purchase a car but he does not recall the incident. He denied that he went to look for EDWARDS with BILLY FLETCHER at the Plaza Club after EDWARDS' car was found near the Plaza Club. He stated that he did not hear any rumors as to what happened to EDWARDS. He stated he did not know EDWARDS' friends at the motel.

MC DONOUGH stated that he did not know the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. RUSHING and EDWARDS.

On 9/12/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
by SA GEORGE P. GAMBLIN
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/13/67

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NO 44-2293

He stated that the RUSHINGS left the area after they got a \$5,000 settlement from the insurance company because their child drowned in the Shamrock pool. MC DONOUGH had heard rumors from a source he could not identify that the RUSHINGS were not really married and that Mr. RUSHING had been getting prostitution dates for Mrs. RUSHING.

MC DONOUGH stated that he is presently at odds with BUD SPINKS. He stated that their bad feeling began when SPINKS called MC DONOUGH one day and requested him to support SPINKS' campaign to run for Sheriff of Concordia Parish, Louisiana. MC DONOUGH stated that he told SPINKS he had nothing against him but that he was going to support NOAH CROSS for Sheriff. The following Saturday, SPINKS came to the Shamrock Lounge and made a spectacle of himself by chasing everyone out at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.

MC DONOUGH stated that he knew JOHN HENRY. He stated that HENRY has been working on the Vidalia Police Department for three years.

MC DONOUGH stated that he will make a few inquiries in order to get additional information about EDWARDS' disappearance.

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RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 Cl

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/67

JOANN CROSS, Assistant Bookkeeper, Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted and advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent. She provided the following information:

CROSS stated that HELEN HALL was employed as a waitress at the Shamrock from August, 1963, until May 15, 1964. CROSS stated that HALL is presently living on Morgantown Road outside of Natchez, phone 442-4917.

CROSS stated that MAMIE THAMES was employed at the Shamrock Switchboard from January 9, 1964, until April 15, 1964. The only address that CROSS had of THAMES was 310 South Spruce, Vidalia, Louisiana.

CROSS stated that ESTER BRINKLE, presently living at 11 Furman Drive, Vidalia, Louisiana, took care of the Shamrock Bar in 1964.

On 9/18/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ /jls Date dictated 9/18/67

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 RB 65 : 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (10/17)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/67

ROSA DEMBY, 606 Maple Street, was contacted and advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent. She provided the following information:

DEMBY stated that she was employed as a cook at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, from March, 1965, until April, 1967.

DEMBY stated that one day she dropped a spoon behind one of the stoves and was attempting to retrieve it. BILL MC DONOUGH, co-owner of the Shamrock, had been watching her and MC DONOUGH said to DEMBY, "If you keep digging back there, you might find that missing boy back there."

DEMBY stated that she had to idea as to what MC DONOUGH was taking about. DEMBY stated that two other persons had heard MC DONOUGH make this remark. One was KATIE MITCHELL who lives in Natchez and still works at the Shamrock. The other was a dishwasher named DOROTHY DIXON who still works at the Shamrock, and lives across the railroad from Ridgecrest below Ferriday, Louisiana.

DEMBY stated that she asked MITCHELL and DIXON to explain what MC DONOUGH meant by his remark. They told DEMBY that MC DONOUGH was referring to a Negro employee at the Shamrock who left from work at the Shamrock one night and never returned. They told DEMBY that this missing person's car was later found on the side of the road between Vidalia and Ferriday with blood in the car. DEMBY could not recall the date when MC DONOUGH made his remark.

On 9/18/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ /jls Date dictated 9/19/67

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 RG 65: 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (1/11)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/67

ROSA DEMBY, 606 Maple Street, was contacted and advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent. She provided the following information:

DEMBY stated that she was employed as a cook at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, from March, 1965, until April, 1967.

DEMBY stated that one day she dropped a spoon behind one of the stoves and was attempting to retrieve it. BILL MC DONOUGH, co-owner of the Shamrock, had been watching her and MC DONOUGH said to DEMBY, "If you keep digging back there, you might find that missing boy back there."

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DEMBY stated that she asked MITCHELL and DIXON to explain what MC DONOUGH meant by his remark. They told DEMBY that MC DONOUGH was referring to a Negro employee at the Shamrock who left from work at the Shamrock one night and never returned. They told DEMBY that this missing person's car was later found on the side of the road between Vidalia and Ferriday with blood in the car. DEMBY could not recall the date when MC DONOUGH made his remark.

On 9/18/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ /jls Date dictated 9/19/67

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 Reference Copy
 RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (1/1/67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/20/67

EDDIE B. KIMBLE, 715 Smith Lane, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information.

KIMBLE stated that he worked off and on as a porter at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, for eleven years. He stated that he was working at the Shamrock in the Spring of 1964 when KIMBLE's son took over KIMBLE's job. Then JOSEPH EDWARDS replaced KIMBLE's son because EDWARDS had more experience. KIMBLE stated that he did not know EDWARDS personally.

KIMBLE stated that he knew NELLIE JACKSON but at first denied being involved in any prostitution activities concerning JACKSON's girls. KIMBLE then admitted that at times, in order to please a motel guest, KIMBLE would call JACKSON and tell JACKSON to call a certain room at the Shamrock in order to set up a prostitution date. For this, JACKSON would give KIMBLE a dollar or two as a tip when she saw KIMBLE.

KIMBLE stated that one time, JACKSON drove to the motel in her car with two white prostitution dates and KIMBLE told JACKSON to take the girls away because the guys were drunk.

KIMBLE stated that he was not working at the Shamrock when Mrs. RUSHING's child drowned in the Shamrock pool. KIMBLE stated he had heard of the drowning over the radio. He stated that on one occasion, Mr. RUSHING asked KIMBLE to ask a motel guest if the guest wanted a prostitution date. KIMBLE did this and the motel guest said no. KIMBLE stated that he did not know who the woman was whom Mr. RUSHING was going to get to fill the prostitution date had it materialized.

On 9/19/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/20/67

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Section 1 (1/04)

NO 44-2293

KIMBLE stated that on one occasion, he heard MAMIE THAMES talking to "Papa" on the telephone and THAMES asked "Papa" to make coffee. KIMBLE stated that he thought THAMES had moved away to Texas.

KIMBLE stated that he did not know who IONA PERRY was dating. KIMBLE stated that he did not recognize the names DIANNE ELKINS or JOYCE WINDHAM. KIMBLE stated that there were many people at the Shamrock whom he recognized by face only.

KIMBLE stated that he had no knowledge concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS. KIMBLE stated that he had no knowledge that EDWARDS had insulted any white girl at the Shamrock or had asked any white girl for a date.

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RB 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1/10/44)

PX 44-356
NO 44-2293
JCC/rfd/blw

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JOSEPH C. CWIK at Yuma, Arizona:

On September 14, 1967, Mr. ROBERT STEVENS, Book-keeper, Valley Packing Company, Two West Sixth Street, stated that he has been employed with Valley Packing since April of 1967. Prior to that time, he was employed by the McLaren Produce Company.

Mr. MC LAREN, Owner of the McLaren Produce Company, passed away and his property located at Route One, Box 593, was then sold to Valley Packing Company. STEVENS states that he was employed by McLaren Produce Company and by the Valley Packing Company and has never seen the name of RUSHING on the payroll for either McLaren Produce Company or Valley Packing Company.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/67

NELLIE JACKSON, 416 North Rankin Street, was made aware of the identities of the Special Agents and the official nature of the contact. She admitted that she operates a call-girl service at that address.

She stated that she is acquainted with a light-skinned Negress who was employed at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. According to JACKSON, the girl sought employment as a dishwasher but was given the position of a registration clerk. JACKSON identified the girl as ROBERTA WALKER who resides near Cloverdale.

JACKSON said that WALKER is not a prostitute and was never employed by her, although she did sign a note for WALKER in the amount of \$500.

JACKSON stated that unknown individuals learned that WALKER was part Negro and forced the management to fire her.

JACKSON stated that no additional information concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS has come to her attention since she was last contacted by Special Agents of the FBI.

With regard to the origin of officers of the Natchez Police Department, she stated that Captain WISNER was from Wilkinson County and LEROY MC CRAINIE was either from Wilkinson County or had relatives residing there.

On 9/15/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/18/67

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NW 390
Reference Copy
RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/67

ROBERTA CARLOS WALKER, Eleven Oak Lane, Post Office Box 42, Natchez, Mississippi, was contacted at her residence which is located near the Cloverdale Sub-division. After being apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and the official nature of the contact, she advised as follows.

She resides at the above address but because of the attitude of the white Mississippians, she stated she was going to visit her son, ANTHONY J. WALKER, 5731 West 64th Place, Chicago, Illinois, 60638, beginning September 17, 1967. She would return soon after but may return permanently to Chicago.

Mrs. WALKER claims to be a native born New Orleanean of Spanish heritage. She advised that she is not of the Negro race although she has chosen to send her children to a Negro school.

WALKER advised that she had been given a position as registration clerk at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, during February, 1964. She was trained about two weeks by Mrs. BOBBY POWELL, whose first name was VERNA. POWELL resided in a brick house behind the Shamrock Motel and her husband was employed by the City Bank of Natchez. WALKER worked the 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. shift. On her days off, MAMIE THAMES, the mother of three children, who lived a short distance west of the motel, took over her duties.

THAMES worked only a few days a week, acting as an extra girl, filling in only when the regular registration clerks were off. THAMES indicated that she wanted to work full-time and that her "Papa," MARIO HERNANDEZ, then Chief

On 9/15/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
New Orleans 157-3255
Jackson 44-2044
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/18/67

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NW 34
Reference Copy
RB 65: 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1/1)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/67

ROBERTA CARLOS WALKER, Eleven Oak Lane, Post Office Box 42, Natchez, Mississippi, was contacted at her residence which is located near the Cloverdale Sub-division. After being apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and the official nature of the contact, she advised as follows.

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On 9/15/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
New Orleans 157-3255
Jackson 44-2044
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/18/67

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 RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (1/67)

NO 44-2293

Deputy Sheriff, Adams County, would get her anything she wanted. She claimed that HERNANDEZ had bought for her a used car and gave her \$100 on several occasions.

WALKER stated that HERNANDEZ apparently set out to get WALKER's job for THAMES and he, accompanied by some unknown white males, would follow her after work. Other unknown white males in old cars would follow her from the Shamrock and call her vile names. She frequently attempted to lose them by going to the post office and other places before going home.

Deputy Sheriff HERNANDEZ drove an unmarked white Oldsmobile patrol car with the usual police-type radio antenna but without a red light on the top. He frequently visited THAMES at the motel and also dropped off other men who spent considerable time with THAMES.

EDDIE, whose last name is unknown, an elderly Negro, was employed at the Shamrock Motel as a porter. EDDIE advised her to keep the room next to the motel office until all the other rooms were filled. He explained that the room had a bad spot on the rug and was unsightly. She noticed that EDDIE was very solicitous of unescorted men and handled his duties with couples very quickly.

About two days before she quit her position at the motel, she noted that the storage room adjacent to the registration office had removable shelves which permitted entrance into the first motel room which EDDIE had advised had the soiled rug.

WALKER advised that she was personally acquainted with NELLIE JACKSON, who operates a house of prostitution in Natchez, Mississippi. On a number of occasions, JACKSON and EDDIE were in telephonic contact. On one occasion while EDDIE was working, JACKSON was observed to drive through the service entrance of the motel and drop off two white girls. WALKER did not know either of these girls.

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RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1/10)

NO 44-2293

Other suspicious activities at the motel included an unknown Negro male kitchen employee at the Shamrock Restaurant. She observed this youth wearing a long apron leave the restaurant and cut the grass of a cottage across the street. There were several similar cottages but the one in point had shapely cedar trees in front. Later, Mrs. (first name unknown) HALL, a white female, about 39 or 40 years of age, who was in charge of the restaurant, would leave the restaurant and enter the cottage. The Negro would enter the house and stay a long time.

Just before WALKER quit her job at the motel, she recalled seeing a young, medium brown-skinned porter. He was apparently new. She recalled seeing him looking at her through the window of the motel office. She noticed that some of his upper teeth were missing as he looked at her with a rather queer expression. She was rather frightened of him and had no contact with him. She stated she does not know anyone by the name of JOSEPH EDWARDS and did not know the name of this new Negro porter.

After quitting her job at the restaurant, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrolman REX ARMISTEAD stopped by her residence to ask her if she were related to some WALKER who was involved in civil rights activities. ARMISTEAD mentioned during the discussion that the Negro from the Shamrock Motel had been killed and thrown in the river. ARMISTEAD did not indicate which Negro boy had been killed nor were any details stated.

When shown a photograph of RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER, she stated that she first saw GLOVER in the Shamrock Motel registration office with another man who was identical with the photograph of KENNETH NORMAN HEAD. GLOVER seemed to be the boss and HEAD his assistant. She further recalled that this happened on a Sunday and they were talking with MAMIE THAMES and a white man with no teeth who was employed by a trucking firm. They left the office and went into the Shamrock Lounge.

NW 39
Reference Copy
RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 C/10/4

NO 44-2293

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NW 39

Reference Copy

RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064

Section 1 Cl 101

Sometime later, she observed GLOVER at the Crossroads Store located at 275 Lower Woodville Road, Natchez, Mississippi. This was about two months after FRANK MORRIS, a Negro shoemaker, was burned to death in a fire at Ferriday, Louisiana. GLOVER, drunk at the time, stated, "I hated to burn the son of a b---- up, but I had to do it."

She had entered the store to make a purchase and observed in the company of GLOVER the following:

-1- SAM BLANKER (phonetic) - Then proprietor of the store and now the operator of the Standard Service Station at Canal Street and the Bridge Bypass.

-2- A white male with sandy hair who drives a 1957 or 1958 green and ivory Ford with the antenna in the center of the roof and who is employed at an electric shop next to the A & P Food Store in Natchez.

-3- A white male who drives a cream and green 1956 Oldsmobile. He is tall and slender with blond hair and blue eyes.

The above-mentioned white male with the green and ivory Ford once came to the Shamrock Motel and demanded to know who had hired her. He was generally abusive and added that he knew where she lived. He followed her from the motel on at least two occasions.

When shown a photograph of JAMES B. GOSS, she stated that he looked like the big man from Shreveport, Louisiana, who registered at the Shamrock Motel while she worked there. He became angry when she casually attempted to observe and record his license number. He then tore up his registration card. He was driving a dark car of unrecalled make and model.

NO 44-2293

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/67

ROBERTA C. WALKER, Eleven Oak Lane, Post Office Box 42, Natchez, Mississippi, viewed a group of photographs exhibited to her. She stated as follows concerning the respective photographs.

JAMES FORD SEALE - EDWARD J. FOLEY, Realtor, with an office in the Fry Building, told her that JAMES SEALE is a friend of RAY HUDNALL. She said that SEALE was observed in the vicinity of her residence on several occasions.

THOR LEE TORGERSEN - She used to see him come into the Shamrock Motel. She does not know his associates. According to JOHN C. SMITH, a guard at International Paper Company, Natchez, currently residing with his mother at Smith's Convalescent Home, Pine Street, Natchez, TORGERSEN is "a no-good son of a b---- who is killing people."

WALKER advised that SMITH invited himself to her house for coffee on one occasion. She became alarmed when he knocked on her front door and telephoned Sheriff ANDERS. ANDERS told her that SMITH was harmless. Later, SMITH received anonymous threats to stay away from WALKER.

MYRON WAYNE "JACK" SEALE - Mississippi Highway Safety Patrolman REX ARMISTEAD advised her that SEALE was no good. JOHN SMITH also talked in a derogatory fashion about SEALE.

JOE DANIEL HAWKINS - WALKER stated HAWKINS used to park in front of her home in an attempt to intimidate her. WALKER advised that her son, TONY, heard from his Negro playmates that HAWKINS is supposed to have fathered a child by a Negro woman.

On 9/15/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
Jackson 44-2044
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/18/67

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DONALD HOLLAND - WALKER stated that she knows DONALD HOLLAND to be a friend of JOHN MC PHAIL, the owner of McPhail Oldsmobile Company in Natchez.

WARREN G. WILSON - WALKER stated that WILSON is a realtor who at one time, at her request, put a "For Sale" sign on her property. WILSON later came back and took the sign down without explanation.

WALTER REED - REED frequently came into the Shamrock Motel alone. Several months ago, he tried to sell insurance to her at her residence. He was then driving a white Chevrolet and later passed her residence driving a Chevrolet stationwagon.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/67

ROBERTA CARLOS WALKER, 11 Oak Lane, Cloverdale, telephonically contacted SA BENZ at 442-4706 and provided the following information:

WALKER stated that L. L. WELLS who lives and works at the J. M. Jones Lumber Company, Inc., Government Fleet Road, told WALKER that the Negro porter named JOSEPH EDWARDS who worked at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, and had disappeared a few years ago was killed by a dozen men. WALKER stated that WELLS would not elaborate any further on his statement.

On 9/16/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA GEORGE F. BENZ /jls Date dictated 9/18/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/25/67

LAURA CROW, 1662 Azalea Drive, was contacted and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. She provided the following information:

She stated that she has been employed as a waitress at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, for many years. CROW stated that sometime in the past, she had her tires slashed on her car while she was working at the Shamrock.

CROW stated that her husband reported this incident to the police and the police picked up a subject who said that he slashed her tires by mistake thinking that her car belonged to someone else. CROW could not recall to which police department this matter was reported.

CROW stated that she had no knowledge or information concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

On 9/22/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-2044
Jackson 44-65
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/25/67

LAURA CROW, 1662 Azalea Drive, was contacted and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. She provided the following information:

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CROW stated that her husband reported this incident to the police and the police picked up a subject who said that he slashed her tires by mistake thinking that her car belonged to someone else. CROW could not recall to which police department this matter was reported.

CROW stated that she had no knowledge or information concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

NW 31
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44-100-26004
Submittal 11/1/67

9/22/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-2044
Jackson 44-65

SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/25/67

CLABE EDWARDS, Box 53, the brother of JOSEPH EDWARDS, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information.

EDWARDS stated that when his brother worked at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, his brother borrowed \$100 from his boss at the Shamrock in order to purchase a car. One day EDWARDS was waiting for his brother at the Shamrock and his brother pointed to a man and said, "That's my bossman," and his brother indicated that his boss had given him the money with which to buy a car.

EDWARDS described the man to whom his brother pointed as being sort of bald-headed.

EDWARDS stated that his brother had told him that it was his practice to drive some girls that worked at the Shamrock back to Natchez, Mississippi, every evening after they finished working.

EDWARDS stated that his brother had told him that the following incident occurred at the Shamrock Motel in early June, 1964:

His brother was at his duty station at the Shamrock desk. A lady registered at the motel called the desk and asked for "something" to be brought to her room. His brother took that "something" to the woman's room and upon reaching the door, was told to enter. When his brother entered the room, the woman was naked and on the bed. His brother turned around and left and took that "something" with him.

On 9/21/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-2044 65
 by SA ROBERT O. DAVIS
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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On 9/21/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-2044-65
 by SA ROBERT O. DAVIS
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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His brother then passed a white man who was going to the same room who did not notice his brother. After his brother was proceeding back to the desk with that "something," the white man came out of the woman's room and stared at his brother. His brother proceeded to the desk and never returned with that "something" that the woman had requested and shortly thereafter, went off duty.

EDWARDS stated that at the time his brother disappeared, his brother was dating a Negro woman named LILLIAN LEE and that LEE supposedly saw his brother on or about the night his brother disappeared. EDWARDS stated that LEE presently lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, and that LEE's father is JIM LEE, who drives a school bus in Ferriday, Louisiana.

EDWARDS stated that a WILLIE (last name unknown), who presently lives across the railroad tracks from the Handy Stop on the road to Ferriday, Louisiana, inquired about his brother's whereabouts after his brother had disappeared. EDWARDS told WILLIE that his brother was still missing. During the course of their conversation, WILLIE (last name unknown) indicated that he and EDWARDS' brother had worked together at the bowling alley just before EDWARDS' brother disappeared.