

II. Investigation of JAMES BUFORD GOSS,
Louisiana Probation Officer who
Threatened JOSEPH EDWARDS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/14/67

JAMES BUFORD GOSS was contacted at his office located at 1403 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana. At the outset of the interview he was advised of the personal and official identities of the Special Agents. He was furnished a copy of a statement of his constitutional rights and this statement was read aloud to him by SA DIVEN. He signed the waiver of rights section of this form.

He stated that he knew that the contacting Agents were Special Agents of the FBI as soon as he saw them, and indicated that he observed SA DIVEN in that capacity in some prior unrecalled occasion. He stated that he was not particularly expecting a contact by Special Agents of the FBI, but in his line of work as a probation officer for the State of Louisiana, contact by the FBI is an always present possibility these days.

He voluntarily furnished information concerning what he stated was his entire knowledge of JOSEPH EDWARDS and related incidents.

At the conclusion of this interview, he agreed to sign a written statement incorporating this information. Before the statement was completed for his reading and signature, he appeared with JACK KAPLAN, an attorney affiliated with Abramson, Maroun, and Kaplan, 311 Sklar Building, Shreveport, Louisiana, with telephone number 422-3248. GOSS stated that he had engaged KAPLAN to represent him in view of the serious nature of the investigation.

The complete statement was read aloud by SA DIVEN as KAPLAN followed the written statement. GOSS indicated desired changes which were immediately made. He initialed

On 9/12/67 at Shreveport, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-2044
Jackson 44-65
by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
PATRICK R. COONEY /MDD:jls Date dictated 9/13/67

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.

the corrections, added a paragraph in his own handwriting stating that he had read the statement, and signed the statement with the approval of his attorney.

This statement reads as follows:

"Shreveport, La.

"September 12, 1967

"I, James Buford ~~Goss~~, make the following free and voluntary statement to Patrick R. Cooney and Merriman D. Diven, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the FBI. SA Diven furnished a copy of a statement of my constitutional rights and read this form aloud. I have executed a waiver of these rights.

"I was born on June 24, 1920, in Vienna, Louisiana. I reside with my wife, Kathryn Wolfe Goss at 3236 Sarah Street, Bossier City, Louisiana. I am employed as a Probation Officer # 1 at Shreveport, Louisiana, by the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare.

"While I was working in the same capacity beginning in March, 1964, in Tallulah, Louisiana, I worked every Monday and Wednesday in the office. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, I was out of the office. I was required to spend every Thursday over-night in either Catahoula Parish or Concordia Parish. I usually preferred to stay in one of the parishes at the following motels beginning with the most preferred:

- "1. Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, La.
- "2. Patricia Motor Hotel, Ferriday, La.
- "3. Catahoula Courts, Jonesville, La.

"I spent every Thursday in one of the above motels. I believe that the first time I stayed at the Shamrock, I met a Negro porter, Joseph Edwards, and I believe that it was his first night on the job too. This would have been around March, 1964. Edwards provided good service and was very friendly. I attempted to get information from him as to the location of persons I wanted to contact. He exhibited a cooperative attitude, but never actually gave me any information. I usually checked in anywhere from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

"I never heard that Joseph Edwards ever arranged any dates for prostitutes. He never solicited any dates for me.

"While I was assigned to Tallulah, my wife continued to live in Bossier City except for the months of June, July, and August, 1964, when she lived with me and our son, Steve, (age 16 yrs. at present) in an apartment at 409 N. Mulberry Street, Tallulah. My daughter, Virginia Kay Tarbutton and her husband reside at 1353 Mark Street, Bossier City. Virginia is 26 years of age.

"However, while spending Thursdays at the Shamrock Motel, I met a young girl, Iona Perry, the registration clerk and telephone operator at the motel. She was just about my daughter's age,

but had to wear braces on each leg and use crutches to get around. I was at first attracted by her courage and her determination to work and earn her own way. Later, this interest changed to love and during my association with her from the Spring of 1964 and thru May, 1965, I once considered divorcing my wife and marrying Iona. I gave her an engagement ring that she apparently still has. Since May, 1965, I saw her a few times before the last time, June 24, 1967, which according to my records pertaining to probationer Johnnie Goocher, I stopped by the Jefferson Davis Hospital where Iona is employed and visited her. I was transporting Goocher and went out of my way to see how she was. Her mother and father were also visiting her at the time.

"With regard to my association with Iona during July 1964, I recall that upon checking in at the motel, she started to cry. She refused to explain the reason for this. I picked her up after she got off from work, sometime between 9:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. I was driving my 1962 'bluish' Chevy II. After crossing the Mississippi River Bridge, she told me that she had left her switchboard and was passing through a back storage room when Joe Edwards grabbed her arms and kissed her on her lips. She said she screamed and he ran out of the motel office. I do not remember for sure, but I believe that the incident happened earlier that night or the night before.

"I believe that we stopped at the A & W for some refreshments. I took her to her apartment on Jefferson Street, Natchez, Mississippi, and left about 10:00 to 10:30 p.m. en route to the

Shamrock Motel. I inquired of the registration clerk, either a man or young boy, about Joe Edwards' whereabouts. I was told that Joe had already left the motel. I was very mad at Edwards for his insult to Iona and if I would have found him that night I would have beat him with my hands. I do not believe as a law enforcement officer that I would have killed him.

"I believe that I got a cup of coffee at Jack's Restaurant at the Mobile Service Station. I do not recall who, if anyone, was there; but I suppose Jack was there, working. I did not mention Edwards' insult to Iona, because Iona was too embarrassed about the incident and did not want it discussed.

"I returned to the motel room, most likely the room straight down from the motel office or room # 33. I awoke at 7:30 a.m. and probably had breakfast at the Shamrock. I was usually served by a waitress whose husband had had some difficulties with the law and who had resided in the jail house in back of the Shell Service Station in Ferriday.

"I went to the courthouse because of some cases coming up. While at the Concordia Parish Courthouse, I met Chief Bud Spinks, Vidalia Police Department. I reported the incident concerning Edwards and Iona to him. Spinks was in his uniform at the time. Spinks said he would look into it. Two Vidalia police officers in civilian clothing, because they were in a different jurisdiction, went to Iona's apartment that day or the next day. I do not know if Chief Spinks was one of these two officers or not.

NO 44-2293

SIMONTON stated that she was never contacted by any police officers who were looking for PERRY and she never heard that any police officers ever contacted PERRY for any reason.

Mrs. SIMONTON stated that she had no other recollections concerning PERRY during that period in that she herself had a serious health problem in 1963 and 1964 and could not maintain her equilibrium.

NW 39061
Reference Copy
R665: 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/25/67

KATIE CARTER, 416 South Union Street, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. She provided the following information:

CARTER stated that in 1964, she was working at an answering service for Mrs. SIMONTON, Jefferson Street, Natchez, Mississippi. CARTER stated that IONA PERRY also lived on Jefferson Street with a roommate in an apartment rented from Mrs. SIMONTON.

CARTER stated that she had heard from SIMONTON that some police officers had come one morning to visit PERRY. CARTER stated that she did not know how SIMONTON learned of this visit. CARTER stated that at the time police officers came, she was up town and she did not see the police officers.

CARTER stated that according to SIMONTON, Vidalia Chief of Police SPINKS and two Natchez police officers, one of whom may have been Captain WISNER, paid the visit to PERRY. SPINKS was the one who wanted to see PERRY and the Natchez police officers only went along because SPINKS had no jurisdiction in Natchez. The matter concerned something that happened in Vidalia, Louisiana.

CARTER stated that either the same day or the next day, PERRY was visited by JAMES GOSS, her boyfriend from Louisiana.

CARTER stated that shortly after the visit of the police officers, PERRY left her job at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana.

On 9/23/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA ROBERT O. DAVIS
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 9/25/67

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.

Reference Copy
 K665 : 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (1/2)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/14/67

1

Mr. CURVEY LANDRY, Director, Division of Probation and Parole, Welfare Division, State of Louisiana, advised as follows concerning JAMES B. GOSS:

GOSS has been employed with the Louisiana State Division of Probation and Parole since August 21, 1961. He was first employed as a welfare visitor out of the Shreveport, Louisiana, Office. He transferred to Tallulah, Louisiana, to position of Probation Officer 1, on March 9, 1964. He remained at that location until May 3, 1965, at which time he transferred to New Orleans, Louisiana, as Welfare Case Supervisor in the Public Assistance Division. He returned to Tallulah, on June 14, 1965, as Probation Officer 1. He transferred to Shreveport, on November 15, 1965, and has remained at that location since that date.

GOSS has always driven his own car while on duty as he was not assigned an automobile by the department where he was employed. He furthermore, was not issued a firearm, emergency light, or siren for his car. He is allowed to use his own sidearm while on duty. There is no record maintained of the type or description of the sidearm.

GOSS was formerly employed by the United States Atomic Energy Commission as an administrative assistant from October, 1954, until December, 1955, at Bossier City, Louisiana. He was assigned as Material Coordinator with the United States Atomic Energy Commission, Bossier City, in December, 1954, until September, 1955.

From October, 1958, until January, 1959, GOSS operated a service station at 2201 Benton Road, Bossier City, Louisiana.

He was employed with the United States Post Office in Bossier City, from February, 1959, until September, 1959, at which time he transferred to the Texarkana Terminal with the United States Post Office (not further identified). He remained

On 9/11/67 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana File# NO 44-2293

by SA EARL R. PETERSEN:sja Date dictated 9/12/67

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.

51

NW 39001
 Reference Copy
 RG 65: 44-HQ-26004
 Section 1 (1)
 Serial

NO 44-2293

2

there until October, 1959, at which time he moved back to Shreveport, Louisiana, as Sub-distribution Clerk with the United States Post Office. He left the Post Office in August, 1961, and became employed by the State of Louisiana, as previously stated.

The personnel file relative to GOSS does not show that any disciplinary action has been taken against GOSS while employed by the State of Louisiana.

Periodic rating forms indicate GOSS to be a conscientious employee, although supervisor's comment on last rating, 1966, stated that GOSS should not let his personal life affect his employment.

LANDRY advised that he does not know GOSS well. He recalled that GOSS talks with a low voice and seems to be very easy going. He did not know GOSS' feeling regarding the racial situation.

GOSS is described as follows:

Race	White
Born	June 24, 1920, Vienna, Louisiana
Height	6'6"
Weight	250 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Marital status	Married at time of application with State. Wife: KATHRYN EUGENIA WOLFE GOSS.
Education	Ouachita Parish High School, Monroe, Louisiana; graduate. Received BA' Degree from Louisiana Tech., Ruston, Louisiana

NW 39061
Reference Copy
RG 65: 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1)
5000

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/25/67

PETE MORALES, Star Route, Box 95, Ferriday, Louisiana, resides northwest of the Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley on the opposite side of the railroad tracks.

MORALES was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the contact. He stated that he is currently working as a laborer for the Joseph Freund Contractors, Vidalia, Louisiana.

During 1964, he was employed as a porter at the Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley, Vidalia - Ferriday Highway. He finished his work at the bowling alley at approximately 6:00 p.m. and usually retired early.

He stated that JOSEPH EDWARDS was unknown to him and EDWARDS was not known to be an employee of the Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley. MORALES advised that he has no recollection of seeing a car with a flashing red light halt another vehicle on the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway in the proximity of the bowling alley. Neither does he have any recollection of observing a white over green Buick which had been abandoned in the same area during July, 1964.

MORALES stated that he is acquainted with JAMES GOSS, Louisiana Probation Officer, as a result of being on probation for non-support charges.

MORALES stated that GOSS usually drove a 1958 blue car with a white top which was believed to be a Dodge and a 1962 Chevy II which was white in color. He advised that GOSS was never observed driving a 1963 or 1964 white Oldsmobile, nor did he ever contact MORALES with a female companion.

On 9/20/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/22/67

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.

44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (C)
 Serials

44-2293
44-65

MORALES advised that WARDELL TURNER was known to
worked at the bowling alley during 1964 and usually
worked from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. TURNER resides on Dody
ad, Ferriday, and currently drives a school bus.

NW 39001

Reference Copy

RS 65 : 44-HQ-26064

Section 1 (1)

Serials

NO 44-2293
JN 44-65

MORALES advised that WARDELL TURNER was known to have worked at the bowling alley during 1964 and usually worked from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. TURNER resides on Dody Road, Ferriday, and currently drives a school bus.

44-2293-26604 Section 1 (1)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/25/67

Deputy Sheriff THOMAS N. SMITH, Madison Parish Sheriff's Office, advised that he is personally acquainted with JAMES GOSS as a Louisiana Probation Officer but because of GOSS' personality, he had reservations concerning his opinion of GOSS. He could cite no specific basis for his evaluation of GOSS except that he observed GOSS in the Holiday Capri Motel Lounge on a number of occasions drinking; however, GOSS was never drunk.

SMITH stated that GOSS never gave him any reason to believe that he was affiliated with any Klan-type organization.

GOSS was known to drive a Volkswagen and a Chevy II but was not known to own or operate a 1963 or 1964 Oldsmobile.

SMITH stated that the only white 1964 Oldsmobile with whip antennae on the rear with no red dome light nor police decals in the area around July 4, 1964, was one owned by the Sheriff's Office and operated by the Sheriff. SMITH stated that no one except the Sheriff or SMITH ever drove that vehicle. GOSS never had access to that vehicle.

SMITH stated he had no knowledge of JOSEPH EDWARDS nor any violation involving EDWARDS at Vidalia, Louisiana.

SMITH advised that DURWOOD WYLHIDE, Route Two, Talullah, Louisiana, employed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, is a known member of a Klan-type organization. WYLHIDE had a white 1963 or 1964 Oldsmobile during 1964 but this vehicle did not have any short-wave radio equipment or antenna.

On 9/21/67 at Talullah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
 by SA JOHN D. BRADY
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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 9/25/67
 Reference Copy
 K605 : 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (1/67)
 Serials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/26/67

JACK HEAD, Supervisor, Juvenile Section, Probation Division, Department of Public Welfare, Talullah, Louisiana, advised that GOSS spent approximately three days of each week in Talullah, Louisiana, during the period that GOSS was employed as an Adult Probation Officer in the Talullah Office. He was known to have first lived in an efficiency apartment and later a larger apartment on North Mulberry Street, Talullah, both apartments believed to be owned by Mrs. ROY DALE.

The only unusual activities which GOSS was known to have attended were stag dinners sponsored occasionally by the personnel of the Department of Welfare. According to GOSS, he was reluctant to eat fish at these dinners because he had to exist solely on fish during World War II when he was separated from the rest of his unit on some Pacific Island.

HEAD stated that while GOSS owned a variety of automobiles, he was not known to have owned or operated a 1963 or 1964 Oldsmobile.

On 9/21/67 at Talullah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA JOHN D. BRADY
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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 39001
 Reference Copy
 RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (1)
 Serials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/26/67

VICTOR MATTHEWS, Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer, Talullah, Louisiana, advised that he was acquainted with JAMES GOSS as a co-worker for approximately one and one-half years. He had formed the impression that GOSS was easy going and not prone to violence. He had no unfavorable knowledge concerning GOSS and was much impressed with GOSS' activities with a scout troop in Bossier City, Louisiana.

MATTHEWS advised that GOSS had a number of cars but was not known to have owned or operated a 1963 or 1964 white Oldsmobile.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

NW 59061
Reference Copy
RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1)
Search

On 9/21/67 at Talullah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA JOHN D. BRADY
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/26/67

WILL STOTHART, Ten Caledonia Street, Tallulah, Louisiana, was interviewed at the office of the Probation and Parole, Tallulah, Louisiana, and he was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as well as the nature of the investigation. He voluntarily furnished the following information:

He stated that he was acquainted with JAMES GOSS, as he formerly worked with him at the Probation and Parole Office in Tallulah and further that they had both worked the same area, that is, Concordia and Catahoula Parishes, Louisiana.

He advised that almost immediately after he started to work at the Probation and Parole Office, he began to stay overnight with GOSS at Vidalia, Louisiana. He stated that as he can best recall, he started his employment in October of 1964.

He stated that he does not ever recall GOSS talking about his knowledge of a Negro man being killed in the area, although he does recall some person at an unrecalled place, either the Shamrock Motel or the King Hotel, saying something about a Negro man and a white woman going together, but he did not pay any attention to the exact nature of the remarks. He stated that he could not ever remember about what month or time of day these remarks were made, but he believed that he was with GOSS when he heard the remarks. He stated that he has stayed with GOSS on several occasions at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, and they stayed at the motel on Thursday nights as their work schedule called for them to be out overnight on Thursday nights.

On 9/22/67 at Tallulah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
 by SA JOHN D. BRADY /blw Date dictated 9/25/67

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 39001
 Reference Copy
 R665: 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (1)
 Serials

NO 44-2293

He advised that the name JOE EDWARDS means nothing to him and he does not recall GOSS ever mentioning the name to him. He stated that he did not know that GOSS was going with a girl who had been employed at the Shamrock Motel as GOSS usually kept his personal affairs to himself.

STOTHART further advised that he does not recall GOSS ever owning or having access to a 1963 or 1964 white Oldsmobile. He stated that GOSS had several automobiles but none such as a white Oldsmobile.

He stated that GOSS was the type of person who did not get close to any of his associates and none of the men at the office were very well acquainted with his activities after working hours. He advised that he certainly knew of no extra activities of GOSS while they stayed together on Thursday nights at Vidalia, Louisiana.

He further stated that he did not know GOSS to be friendly with any of the law enforcement officers of Concordia Parish and he never saw GOSS associate with them after working hours. He stated that he did not know GOSS to be friendly with Chief BUD SPINKS of the Vidalia Police Department.

NW 9008
Reference Copy
NO 65 : 44-HQ-26064
Section 1 (1)
Serial

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/26/67

HOWARD S. WILLIAMS, Supervisor, Adult Probation Office, Department of Public Welfare, Talullah, Division, advised that he was acquainted with JAMES GOSS while GOSS was employed at that office as Probation Officer No. One.

WILLIAMS stated that GOSS never discussed his personal life but it was generally known that he was having some marital difficulties.

The most unusual thing about GOSS, according to WILLIAMS, was his affinity for having numerous cars. During the time he was associated with the Talullah Probation Office, he had approximately six different vehicles but none of them was a 1963 or 1964 white Oldsmobile.

GOSS was not known to belong to any Klan-type organization; however, he was a member of an international fraternal organization.

WILLIAMS stated that the only unusual thing that GOSS ever told him was that an FBI Agent had followed him one night while working. He stated that he was making a night call on a probationer and noticed a car following him. After a while, he stopped and went back and talked to the FBI Agent who indicated that they were interested in cars operating in that area but the reason for their interest was not stated.

WILLIAMS advised that JAMES GOSS worked under his direction from early 1964 through early 1965 when GOSS was transferred to a better position in New Orleans. After a few months, GOSS, at his own request, was returned to the Talullah Office and a short time later was transferred to the Shreveport Office.

On 9/21/67 at Talullah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA JOHN D. BRADY
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/biw Date dictated 9/23/67

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 39001
 Reference Copy
 RG 65 : 44-HQ-26064
 Section 1 (C)
 Serials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/26/67

HOWARD S. WILLIAMS, Supervisor, Adult Probation Office, Department of Public Welfare, Talullah, Division, advised that he was acquainted with JAMES GOSS while GOSS was employed at that office as Probation Officer No. One.

WILLIAMS stated that GOSS never discussed his personal life but it was generally known that he was having some marital difficulties.

The most unusual thing about GOSS, according to WILLIAMS, was his affinity for having numerous cars. During the time he was associated with the Talullah Probation Office, he had approximately six different vehicles but none of them was a 1963 or 1964 white Oldsmobile.

GOSS was not known to belong to any Klan-type organization; however, he was a member of an international fraternal organization.

WILLIAMS stated that the only unusual thing that GOSS ever told him was that an FBI Agent had followed him one night while working. He stated that he was making a night call on a probationer and noticed a car following him. After a while, he stopped and went back and talked to the FBI Agent who indicated that they were interested in cars operating in that area but the reason for their interest was not stated.

WILLIAMS advised that JAMES GOSS worked under his direction from early 1964 through early 1965 when GOSS was transferred to a better position in New Orleans. After a few months, GOSS, at his own request, was returned to the Talullah Office and a short time later was transferred to the Shreveport Office.

On 9/21/67 at Talullah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA JOHN D. BRADY
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/biw Date dictated 9/23/67

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.

NEW ORLEANS
 MICHAEL COPY
 44-112-26064
 Section 1 (1)
 Serials
 13-30

WILLIAMS stated that neither his knowledge of GOSS' personal life nor his official duties gave him any reason to question GOSS' character.

WILLIAMS advised he recalls going to New Orleans with GOSS and picking up a probation violator by the name of CHARLES H. BROWN. Records show that the first trial for BROWN was held October 16, 1964. BROWN's wife, LEOPOLDINE, was employed at the Shamrock Cafe. Records showed that her mother was ULESTRA TRIBUS of Vienna, Austria. Her father, KARL HEJKOL, was deceased. Mrs. BROWN had two children and resided at 408 South Spruce Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, as of December 14, 1964.

WILLIAMS stated that CHARLES BROWN was found guilty of probation violation and non-support. He was returned to jail and GOSS made several efforts to have him removed to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Biloxi, Mississippi, for acute alcoholism.

WILLIAMS advised that Mrs. DONNA THOMPSON, Court Clerk, Vidalia, Louisiana, may be able to furnish information concerning LEOPOLDINE BROWN.

WILLIAMS stated that the file shows that GOSS corresponded with Mrs. CALTIE BROWN, Route One, Evergreen, Alabama, concerning the disposition of the case involving CHARLES BROWN. GOSS showed in the file that he offered to take BROWN to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Biloxi, Mississippi, at GOSS' own expense.

WILLIAMS also recalled that GOSS related an incident that he saw or was reported to him by Mrs. RICHARD VAN MATRE of Winnsboro, Louisiana. According to the information furnished by GOSS, a crippled employee of a motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, was picked up by probationer RICHARD VAN MATRE and transported to Winnsboro where the probationer

13-30

confronted his wife with this girl. The girl became hysterical over her involvement in this marital difficulty. WILLIAMS did not have any additional information concerning this incident.

WILLIAMS made available the following personnel and official records concerning JAMES GOSS:

Expense Account Vouchers - April 1, 1964, through
November 10, 1965

Daily Travel Log - July 2, 1964, through
July 31, 1964

Mr. WILLIAMS stated that the Daily Travel Logs are destroyed after three years. All travel logs for June, 1964, and prior thereto have been destroyed. He was advised that such records may be of interest at a later date and he was requested to preserve all GOSS' records. WILLIAMS stated that he would maintain these records for at least one more year and if additional time is required, he would keep them longer if so instructed by the FBI.

Serials
13-30

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/25/67

LAMAR LOE, Owner and Operator of Lamar T. Loe, Inc., Talullah, Louisiana, stated that his agency sells Chevrolets, Oldsmobiles, and Pontiacs in Talullah. His Vicksburg, Mississippi, auto company also sells Buicks and Cadillacs. LOE pointed out that the decals identifying the automobile agency selling the vehicles were red in color and glued to either the left side of the rear bumper or the lower left side of the trunk. The decals of his agencies show the name Lamar T. Loe, Inc., and either Talullah, Louisiana, or Vicksburg, Mississippi, depending on the location of the selling agency. LOE stated that his agencies stopped using chrome metal agency identification emblems around 1960.

He advised that his records concerning the sales of 1963 and 1964 Oldsmobiles could not be checked on that date in view of the fact that the instant date was the first public showing of all new General Motors models and his office and staff were extremely busy. He stated that making a search of his files on that date would impose an extreme hardship on his operation. LOE stated that he would have his personnel start to search his records for this information in a few days.

LOE stated from his recollection, he knew that LLOYD H. PERKINS, Waterproof, Louisiana, purchased a 1964 white Oldsmobile but this vehicle had been wrecked sometime since 1964.

On 9/21/67 at Talullah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA JOHN D. BRADY
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/26/67

LLOYD H. PERKINS, Box 415, Waterproof, Louisiana, telephone number 3982, was interviewed at the Sheriff's Office, Talullah, Louisiana.

PERKINS stated that during 1964, he owned a Dynamic Oldsmobile Eighty-Eight, white in color, with a single AM radio antenna on the right rear. He advised that the antenna was the usual type mounted on pleasure cars and he had no short-wave radio equipment.

PERKINS advised that JOSEPH EDWARDS was unknown to him and he had no knowledge concerning any missing Negro porter in the vicinity of Vidalia, Louisiana. PERKINS stated that if an Oldsmobile were involved and the incident occurred at Vidalia, Louisiana, it is his opinion Chief BUD SPINKS, Vidalia Police Department, would have been involved in the incident. PERKINS stated he believed SPINKS to be capable of any violence to a Negro.

PERKINS also suggested that H. T. "TATE" POOLE, a former Vidalia Police Department Officer, around 1964 had a white Oldsmobile and has the propensity for violence. In addition, POOLE is the arch enemy of Chief SPINKS and may furnish information in the event SPINKS is involved.

PERKINS further advised that he himself was acquainted with JAMES GOSS around the end of 1964 and early 1965. He recalled that GOSS and he had attempted to assist J. M. FORMAN, a former Deputy Sheriff, who currently resides in Jonesville, Louisiana. At that time, FORMAN was attempting to obtain the position that GOSS held at that time and was relinquishing to obtain a supervisory position in New Orleans. PERKINS advised that he did not know the degree of the association between GOSS and FORMAN but he knew that GOSS had expended

On 9/21/67 at Talullah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA JOHN D. BRADY
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 9/23/67

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.

a great deal of effort to assist FERMAN. FERKINS advised that he did not know GOSS' personal affairs and at no time did he loan GOSS his 1964 Oldsmobile.

10/3/67

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, Jackson EX-113

From: Director, FBI 44-37106-8

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; REC-25 44-26064-12
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

ReJNairtel to Bureau dated 9/26/67.

In response to your inquiry concerning a large magnet in the price range of \$38, the Laboratory has determined there is available a magnet which weighs 15 3/4 pounds and is capable of lifting 350 pounds. This magnet can be procured through Edmund Scientific Company, Barrington, New Jersey, 08807. Their catalogue number is 85-152 and the magnet is priced at \$33.60.

You should communicate with the Newark Division for specific details concerning this magnet, and you should thereafter submit your recommendations to the Bureau.

MAILED 3
OCT - 3 1967
COMM-FBI

REL:cs
(4)

NOTE: In response to prior request, JN 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 diving team were unproductive and JN advised 8/24/67 that no further efforts were being made in that regard. JN inquired of the Lab as to magnet in approximate price range of \$38 being sent directly to the Natchez Resident Agency. Lab furnished information concerning a magnet of this type.

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

66 OCT 9 1967

OCT 19 1967

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

OCT 11 1967
RECEIVED

10/3/67

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, Jackson EX-113

From: Director, FBI ~~44-37106-8~~

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; REC-25 44-26064-12

JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS

ReJNairtel to Bureau dated 9/26/67.

In response to your inquiry concerning a large magnet in the price range of \$38, the Laboratory has determined there is available a magnet which weighs 15 3/4 pounds and is capable of lifting 350 pounds. This magnet can be procured through Edmund Scientific Company, Barrington, New Jersey, 08807. Their catalogue number is 85-152 and the magnet is priced at \$33.60.

You should communicate with the Newark Division for specific details concerning this magnet, and you should thereafter submit your recommendations to the Bureau.

MAILED 3
OCT - 3 1967
COMM-FBI

REL:cs
(4)

NOTE: In response to prior request, JN 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 diving team were unproductive and JN advised 8/24/67 that no further efforts were being made in that regard. JN inquired of the Lab as to magnet in approximate price range of \$38 being sent directly to the Natchez Resident Agency. Lab furnished information concerning a magnet of this type.

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

66 OCT 9 1967

OCT 19 1967

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

OCT 17 1967

RECEIVED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY
FROM: SAC, JACKSON
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

WBS
~~*A J Pabud*~~
EMW 3

Re Jackson airtel, 9/15/67;
Bureau teletype, 9/25/67.

For the purpose of our investigation, a large magnet of a type advertised in the New York Times, Sunday edition, about six months ago, at a price of about \$38 would be more useful to us than a \$150 a day diver with "PINGER." We no longer have the publications available which advertised this type of magnet nor are we aware of the surplus houses that distribute this merchandise.

If the laboratory has such a magnet or knows where one can be secured for \$38, it would be most useful in our investigation at Deer Park Lake, Louisiana. Our interest in securing this magnet at this time lies in the fact that the lake has reached a low level probably for the year and our explorations would be easier at this time than at any other time of year.

an

If the laboratory is able to do so, we would appreciate having a magnet of this type being sent directly to the Natchez Resident Agency, Post Office Box 1126, 44-26064-12 Natchez, Mississippi, 39120 EX-113

G.C. Bishop

3 - Bureau
2 - Jackson
JAS/blw
(5)

Airtel
SAC, W
10-3-67
REC/10

REC-25 44-37106-8

10-4
SEP 27 1967

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per *WBS*
SEVEN

PLAINTEXT

9/25/67

TELETYPE

URGENT

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. McDonough

TO: SAC, JACKSON *REC-32 EX 109*
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI *44-26064-11*
UNSUBS; JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM, CR

McDonough

REURAIRTEL SEPTEMBER FIFTEEN LAST.

THE LABORATORY HAS DETERMINED THERE IS AVAILABLE A DEVICE CALLED THE "PINGER" WHICH IS A SMALL HAND-HELD SONAR UNIT DEVISED TO BE OPERATED BY A SCUBA DIVER WHILE UNDER WATER AND THAT THERE IS A COMPANY IN MORGAN CITY, LA., CALLED OCEAN SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A DIVER EQUIPPED WITH THIS AT ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS A DAY. THE LABORATORY ALSO DETERMINED THAT THE U. S. NAVY SALVAGE DIVISION IN WASHINGTON, D. C., IS EQUIPPED WITH THESE DEVICES.

mg

THIS IS FURNISHED IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY AND IN THE EVENT FURTHER EFFORTS ARE WARRANTED ALONG THESE LINES, YOU SHOULD FURNISH COMPLETE JUSTIFICATION AND INCLUDE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

BAKER

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

EJM:cs
(4)

SEP 25 1967

6:12 P.M.

TELETYPE

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

Be
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

53 OCT 9 1967

OCT 19 1967

TELETYPE UNIT

NOTE: In response to a prior request the JN 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. The efforts by the scuba diving team were unproductive and JN advised 8/24/67, that no further efforts were being made in that regard. JN inquired of the Lab whether other such searching devices were available. See Memo Baker to Conrad 9/22/67.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad *[Signature]*

DATE: September 22, 1967

FROM : A. J. Baker *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: ~~X~~ UNDERWATER DETECTING EQUIPMENT

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

In connection with the investigation currently being conducted by the Jackson Division in the case entitled "Unsub, Joseph Edwards, aka., Victim, C. R.," the Laboratory has been requested to determine the availability of a device to conduct further searches under water for a large metal container about the size of a refrigerator or steel barrel. Based on information furnished to the Jackson Office, skeletal remains are in a container of this description.

The Radio Engineering Section, through established contacts, has determined that there is available a device called the "Pinger," which is a small hand-held sonar unit designed to be operated by a scuba diver while under water. Further inquiry reveals that there is a company in Morgan City, Louisiana, Ocean Systems, Inc., which will provide a diver equipped with this at \$150 a day. It was also determined that the U. S. Navy Salvage Division is equipped with these devices. Captain W. F. Searle, Jr., is the officer in charge of this division and in his absence, Lt. Commander Howard S. Placchi can be contacted.

The above type of equipment appears to be the most feasible approach to this problem, and if the facts warrant further effort in this regard, assistance by the U. S. Navy could be explored by the Liaison Section of the Domestic Intelligence Division, or authority could be given the Jackson Office for an expenditure of funds to contract for this service.

ACTION:

EX 109 44-26064-11
 REC-32 ~~44-37106-7~~

For the information and action by the Civil Rights Section of the General Investigative Division.

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Baker
- 1 - Mr. Stevens

WGS:bwd (8)

WBS

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

SEP 29 1967

[Handwritten notes and stamps]
 SEVEN WISS
 6

[Handwritten notes]
 9/25/67 EJM:CS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

22

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 9/16/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/16/67
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka Joe Edwards - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOSEPH M. AVIGNONE	TYPED BY srl
		CHARACTER OF CASE	

ALS CR
[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten notes and stamps]
3
40

REFERENCE:

New Orleans report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 9/1/67.

15.

- P -

LEADS:

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will continue attempts to contact [redacted] through the persons at telephone number [redacted].

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED : None

CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	ACQUIT-TALS

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, La.
- 3 - Jackson (2 - 44-65)
- 1 - 44-2044
- 2 - New Orleans (44-2293)

2eb 13 15 11 11 11

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-26064-10

44-37106-5

25

15 SEP 18 1967

REC-63

EX 104

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	<i>CRD</i>		
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.	SEP 19 1967		
How Fwd.	694 (B)		
By	<i>[Signature]</i>		

Notations

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

SEP 29 1967
SEP 19 1967

NO 44-2293
JMA sr1

AT SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA. With reference to the interview of CLARE 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Miss [redacted], daughter of [redacted] was contacted through the persons at telephone [redacted] on 9/16/67. [redacted] advised that her mother was out shopping for the day and would not be back until later that afternoon. She further advised that the persons subscribing to above telephone number would be going out for the afternoon. [redacted] was requested that she have her mother contact the FBI Office Monday morning, 9/18/67.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

B*
(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Shreveport, Louisiana

Report of: SA JOSEPH M. AVIGNONE Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: SEPTEMBER 16, 1967

Field Office File #: NO 44-2293 Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Synopsis: BERNICE CONNER, mother of JOSEPH EDWARDS, has not received any further information from [redacted] [redacted], regarding a white preacher from Clayton, Louisiana, who allegedly had some information regarding the fate of JOE EDWARDS.

- P -

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/16/671

Mrs. BERNICE CONNER, 7101 Forshey, New Orleans, Louisiana, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and she then furnished the following information:

CONNER advised that she is the mother of JOSEPH EDWARDS. She stated that she was the person who had been contacted by the FBI in Natchez, Mississippi, about two weeks ago.

CONNER stated that she had recontacted [redacted] [redacted], who could be reached through the persons at telephone number [redacted], and she had not received any further information regarding a white preacher from Clayton, Louisiana, who allegedly had some information indicating that something terrible had happened to JOE EDWARDS.

CONNER stated that she had given [redacted] the telephone number of the FBI Office in New Orleans and had told her to contact this office if she obtained any additional information.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

2*

On 9/16/67 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SA JOSEPH M. AVIGNONE :srl

Date dictated 9/16/67

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.

FBI

Date: 9/15/67

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-65)

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

UNSUB;
JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka -
VICTIM
CR
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Baker
pl handle in

Re airtel to Bureau from Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN dated 8/19/67; Bureau airtel to Jackson dated 8/23/67; and report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 9/1/67 at New Orleans.

On 8/24/67, scuba divers encountered deep silt and non-metallic snags in the area of the probe which delayed the search and exhausted their air supply. They advised that the 30 - 35 foot depth of the water and muddy conditions cut the visibility at the bottom of the river to zero.

MILTON BOOTH, commercial fisherman operating in the area of the search, advised on 9/14/67, that the depth of the water at the time of the search was approximately 30 feet. He

memo
WBS/lyd
9/22/67

- ③ - Bureau
 - 1 - New Orleans (44-2293) (Info)
 - 2 - Jackson
- MDD/jls
(6)

44-26064-9

REC 32

EX 109

~~44-27106-6~~

9-29
9 SEP 18 1967

G.C. Bishop
21 11 67

SEVEN
7 WKS
STAN

Approved: FI 19
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

54 OCT 6
T 19 1967

FBI

Date: 9/15/67

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-65)

UNSUB;
JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka -
VICTIM
CR
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Baker
pl handle in

Re airtel to Bureau from Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN dated 8/19/67; Bureau airtel to Jackson dated 8/23/67; and report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 9/1/67 at New Orleans.

On 8/24/67, scuba divers encountered deep silt and non-metallic snags in the area of the probewhich delayed the search and exhausted their air supply. They advised that the 30 - 35 foot depth of the water and muddy conditions cut the visibility at the bottom of the river to zero.

MILTON BOOTH, commercial fisherman operating in the area of the search, advised on 9/14/67, that the depth of the water at the time of the search was approximately 30 feet. He

memo
WGS/layd
9/22/67

- 3 - Bureau
 - 1 - New Orleans (44-2293) (Info)
 - 2 - Jackson
- MDD/jls
(6)

REC 32
EX 109
44-26064-9
~~44-27106-6~~
9-29
9 SEP 18 1967

G. C. Bishop
4 23 11 29

SEVEN
7 W/S
[Signature]

Approved: F119
Special Agent in Charge
540CT6
T 19 1967

Sent _____ M Per _____

F B I

Date: 9/15/67

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-65)

UNSUB;
JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka -
VICTIM
CR
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Baker
pl handle in

Re airtel to Bureau from Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN dated 8/19/67; Bureau airtel to Jackson dated 8/23/67; and report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 9/1/67 at New Orleans.

On 8/24/67, scuba divers encountered deep silt and non-metallic snags in the area of the probewhich delayed the search and exhausted their air supply. They advised that the 30 - 35 foot depth of the water and muddy conditions cut the visibility at the bottom of the river to zero.

MILTON BOOTH, commercial fisherman operating in the area of the search, advised on 9/14/67, that the depth of the water at the time of the search was approximately 30 feet. He

memo
W65/layd
9/24/67

- 3 - Bureau
 - 1 - New Orleans (44-2293) (Info)
 - 2 - Jackson
- MDD/jls
(6)

44-26064-9
REC 32
EX 109
~~44-27106-p~~
9-29
9 SEP 18 1967

G.C. Bishop
4 23 bh 23
10/1/67

SEVEN
7 WKS
[Signature]

Approved: F119
Special Agent in Charge
54 OCT 6 1967
T 19 1967

Sent _____ M Per _____

JN 44-65

|| stated that the water level at the river has receded about five feet and will reach the annual low point of approximately a 17 foot depth around 9/28/67. Based on prior information furnished by BOOTH, suspected skeletal remainings are in a refrigerator cabinet or a steel barrel. ||

The scuba diving team that assisted in prior explorations on the river bottom suggested that the search for a metal container could be enormously accelerated by employing a large magnet which would affix itself to metal objects on the river bottom, and that diving would only be necessary in those spots where the magnet attached itself to objects on the bottom. Magnets of this type are advertised in surplus stores from time to time according to the divers.

It appears possible that the FBI Laboratory has had prior experience with searches requiring the use of magnet detectors which could be suspended from ropes to work a river bottom or similar water-filled areas. The Laboratory is requested to furnish such a device to the Natchez Resident Agency of the Jackson Division if one is available for use in further searching for the container we are seeking. Securing this device will permit a maximum study of the area we are interested in with a minimum expenditure of Agents' time.

JN 44-65

|| stated that the water level at the river has receded about five feet and will reach the annual low point of approximately a 17 foot depth around 9/28/67. Based on prior information furnished by BOOTH, suspected skeletal remainings are in a refrigerator cabinet or a steel barrel.

The scuba diving team that assisted in prior explorations on the river bottom suggested that the search for a metal container could be enormously accelerated by employing a large magnet which would affix itself to metal objects on the river bottom, and that diving would only be necessary in those spots where the magnet attached itself to objects on the bottom. Magnets of this type are advertised in surplus stores from time to time according to the divers.

It appears possible that the FBI Laboratory has had prior experience with searches requiring the use of magnet detectors which could be suspended from ropes to work a river bottom or similar water-filled areas. The Laboratory is requested to furnish such a device to the Natchez Resident Agency of the Jackson Division if one is available for use in further searching for the container we are seeking. Such a device will permit a maximum study of the area we are interested in with a minimum expenditure of Agents' time.

JN 44-65

stated that the water level at the river has receded about five feet and will reach the annual low point of approximately a 17 foot depth around 9/28/67. Based on prior information furnished by BOOTH, suspected skeletal remainings are in a refrigerator cabinet or a steel barrel.

The scuba diving team that assisted in prior explorations on the river bottom suggested that the search for a metal container could be enormously accelerated by employing a large magnet which would affix itself to metal objects on the river bottom, and that diving would only be necessary in those spots where the magnet attached itself to objects on the bottom. Magnets of this type are advertised in surplus stores from time to time according to the divers.

It appears possible that the FBI Laboratory has had prior experience with searches requiring the use of magnet detectors which could be suspended from ropes to work a river bottom or similar water-filled areas. The Laboratory is requested to furnish such a device to the Natchez Resident Agency of the Jackson Division if one is available for use in further searching for the container we are seeking. Securing this device will permit a maximum study of the area we are interested in with a minimum expenditure of Agents' time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 9/15/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/28/67 - 9/11/67
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka Joe Edwards - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN	TYPED BY jls
CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS			

AK
aw
3

REFERENCE: Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN, 9/1/67, at New Orleans

-P-

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT NATCHEZ, MISS.

1. Contact Chief of Police J. T. ROBINSON, Natchez Police Department, concerning the identity of the Natchez Police Officer who contacted IONA SEWARD nee PERRY.

Mo

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

APPROVED: *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

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

44-37106-4
44-26064-8
25
SEP 28 1967
REC 16
ST-108

Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations
Agency	<i>CRD</i>	<i>25 10 12 11 10 10</i>
Request Recd.		
Date Fwd.	<i>SEP 19 1967</i>	
How Fwd.	<i>694 (b)</i>	

McDonough
STAT SECD
STAT SECD

SEP 19 1967
SEP 29 1967 *File*

#: 9008

DocId: 59168578

NO 44-2293

2. Continue contacts with logical informants.

NEW ORLEANS

AT SHREVEPORT, LA.

1. Will interview JAMES B. GOSS of the Louisiana Department of Probation, Shreveport, as a suspect, concerning his association with IONA SEWARD nee PERRY, and possible involvement in EDWARDS' disappearance.

AT TALULLAH, LA.

1. Will contact Lowe Motors for identity of person having about a 1964 white Oldsmobile with two whip antennae and a Lowe Motors sticker on the rear of the vehicle.

AT VIDALIA, LA.

1. Will interview MIKE MC DONOUGH, owner of Shamrock Motel, re the employment and termination of IONA SEWARD nee PERRY and EDWARDS' association with her.
2. Interview Chief of Police J. L. "BUD" SPINKS concerning his interview of IONA SEWARD in reference to EDWARDS' attempt to kiss her.

COVER PAGE

B

3. Contact WILEY BROWNE, Bookkeeper, Shamrock Motel, for identity of DIANE (LNU), a former switchboard operator.

4. After identifying DIANE, interview her concerning her possible involvement in EDWARDS' disappearance as a decoy in a "badger game".

All the above leads, both those in the Jackson Division, will be handled and coordinated with the Bureau Special "WHARBOM" from Natchez, Miss.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All persons contacted during the course of the investigation were advised that the inquiry was being made at the specific request of JOHN DOAR, AAG, CRD, USDJ.

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 the instant report.

This case had not been formally presented to the USA at Shreveport, Louisiana, for his opinion as to the prosecutive merits since the investigation is being coordinated with the WHARBOM investigation and the instant investigation has not been developed to the extent desired before making such presentation to the USA.

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

Former [redacted] on September 7, 1967, advised that at sometime during 1964, a young girl, crippled in both legs, resided across the street from 307 Jefferson Street, Natchez, Mississippi, and was employed in some

COVER PAGE

C

capacity in the motel part of the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. He advised that the girl told many people in the above neighborhood that she had been propositioned by a young Negro boy who also worked at the Shamrock Motel. Source advised that he did not believe the girl's story at the time, thinking the girl, who was badly crippled, was telling this story to create sympathy for herself.

The former source advised that some two or three months after hearing the above story from the girl, he heard that the Negro boy who worked at the motel had disappeared and his auto was found abandoned. He assumed that someone in the Vidalia, Louisiana Sheriff's Office or Vidalia Police Department "got hold of the boy".

The former source advised that the crippled girl thereafter married the youngest son of GEORGE SEWELL (phonetic), former operator of George's Boat Camp on Deer Park Lake, Louisiana. He could not furnish the first name of the girl's husband nor any name for the girl, and does not know where they could be located.

COVER PAGE

D*

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Report of: SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
Date: September 15, 1967

Bureau File #:

Field Office File #: NO 44-2293

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS -
VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: KENNETH R. STEPHENSON advised that at approximately midnight, during July 1964, he observed a white car believed to be a 1964 Oldsmobile with a flashing red light on dash stop Buick later ascertained to be victim's car. Buick remained at scene near Ferriday, Louisiana, for several weeks. R. J. GLOVER purchased white 1964 Oldsmobile May 26, 1964. Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN received report of abandoned vehicle and had car towed in without conducting any search of the vehicle. OGDEN reported that sheriff and deputies searched surface of water where fisherman reported suspected flesh in water near Deer Park, Louisiana; nothing was found. ROBERT TAYLOR advised that victim told him on last occasion seen that he was then going to date a white girl from the Shamrock Motel. EDWARDS reportedly had been arranging prostitution dates at the Shamrock Motel. IONA SEWARD nee PERRY, a cripple and former employee of Shamrock Motel, advised that co-worker JOSEPH EDWARDS tried to kiss her. She told JAMES GOSS, Louisiana Probation Officer, whom she was then dating, about the incident; but no report to police or motel management was made. Police contacted her for details of kiss attempt and said that EDWARDS would be taken care of. SEWARD said no known charges were filed against EDWARDS, nor did she testify. Signed statement of IONA SEWARD set out.

-P-

DETAILS:

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.

#: 9008

DocId: 59168578

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
I. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING JOSEPH EDWARDS' ABANDONED AUTOMOBILE	2 - 16
II. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING JOSEPH EDWARDS' ACTIVITIES AT THE SHAMROCK MOTEL, VIDALIA, LOUISIANA	17 - 37
III. JOSEPH EDWARDS' ATTEMPT TO KISS A WHITE FEMALE CO-WORKER AT THE SHAMROCK MOTEL	38 - 44*

M 390
the copy no. 11
Section 1 (2 of 2)
Serials
1-11

NO 44-2293

I. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING
JOSEPH EDWARDS' ABANDONED
AUTOMOBILE.

N 390
nce copy
NO 65
44-118-26064
Section 1 (2 of 2)
Serials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 31, 1967

KENNETH R. STEPHENSON, Official, Bank of Jena, Box 50, Jena, Louisiana, business telephone No. 992-2020, residence telephone No. 992-5300, advised that he was formerly a partner in Dixie Lanes, a bowling alley near Ferriday, Louisiana. He was active in the management of the bowling alley and recalled that one night in July, 1964, he closed the bowling alley and went to BLACKIE DRANE's night club, now known as the Whiteway. This night club is located east of the bowling alley on the Vidalia - Ferriday highway.

On his way home around midnight, give or take an hour, he was headed west on the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway at a slow to moderate rate of speed in his Valiant automobile. He was passed by a late model white car, believed to be a 1964 Oldsmobile, which had two limber antennae on the trunk deck. An old model Buick, two-tone in color, believed to be beige over green but predominately green, was in front of him.

STEPHENSON said that this Buick may have passed him too, or perhaps it had been in front of him all the time. This white car overtook the Buick and with a flashing red light on the dashboard, forced the Buick to stop on the side of the road at a point east of the cross-over leading to the bowling alley.

STEPHENSON stated that as he passed the stopped vehicles, he noticed that the white car was in front with a large white male in the driver's seat. The right front door was open and one or two men were standing near the driver's door of the Buick. He noted only one occupant of the Buick but he did not notice whether or not he was a Negro. This male was wearing a green sport shirt, possibly

on 8/29/67 at Jena, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
SA GEORGE F. BENZ File # Jackson 44-65
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN - MDD/blw Date dictated 8/30/67

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.

V 310
 Section 1 (2 of 2)
 Serials

STEPHENSON then continued stating that the Buick remained along the side of the road for several days. Then he noticed that the vehicle had been moved to the road alongside the bowling alley parking lot. The car remained there for an even longer period of time and one or two of the tires became deflated. He believes he saw the car parked at the Gulf station in Ferriday after that. He stated that he later learned that this Buick was owned by JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro. EDWARDS was not an employee of the bowling alley and was otherwise unknown to STEPHENSON.

STEPHENSON stated that with regard to the white men in the white car, he did not get a good enough look at them to recognize any of them if seen again. He stated that he knows Deputy Sheriff FRANK DE LAUGHTER and Sheriff NOAH CROSS and he is certain that none of the men observed on that occasion were either DE LAUGHTER or CROSS. He advised that Chief BUD SPINKS and Officer JOHN HENRY are unknown to him.

At the conclusion of the interview, STEPHENSON remarked that he hoped that his furnishing this information does not get him involved in any retaliation by any Klan-type organization.

Serials

NO 44-3214

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
RICHARD K. BUTZ at Baton Rouge, Louisiana:

On August 30, 1967, RANDY LEJEUNE, Louisiana Motor
Vehicle Division, advised that no Louisiana license plates
for the year 1964 have been issued in the eight hundred thousand
series. He advised there would be no record under license
numbers 892-482 or 892-423.

He advised, due to the State holiday, 1963 Louisiana
license plates would not be able to be checked until August 31,
1967, as he did not have access to this information.

SEARCHED
SERIALS
1-19

NO 44-2293
RKB/jls

1

MARY BORWNING, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Revenue, State of Louisiana, furnished the following information regarding the below listed 1963 Louisiana license numbers on August 31, 1967, to SA RICHARD K. BUTZ:

Number 892-428 was issued for a 1963 Plymouth Valiant sedan, Vehicle Identification Number 1337168087, to Reverend A. G. TAYLOR, Jena, Louisiana. This vehicle is titled under title number 3268149.

Number 892-482 was issued for a 1954 Ford Mercury, four-door, Vehicle Identification Number 54SL80343M, to ESPY ENCALADE, General Delivery, Pointe Ala Hache, Louisiana. This vehicle is titled under title number 3268345.

Serials
1-19
Decision 1 (2 of 2)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/31/67

1

A review of the files of the Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Revenue, State of Louisiana, under the names of the below listed persons, found the following vehicles registered and titled:

R. J. GLOVER

R. J. GLOVER, Lee Avenue, Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1964 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88;
 Vehicle Identification Number 844T019050;
 Acquired new May 26, 1964, Lane Commercial Credit and
 McPhail Oldsmobile, Post Office Box 7, Natchez, Missis-
 sippi, dated May 26, 1964, in the amount of \$4,399.48.
 Title number M3218017;
 1964-65 Louisiana license 36E562.
 R. J. GLOVER, Post Office Box 555 Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1957
 Vehicle Identification Number 577E60161;
 Acquired August 22, 1963;
 1964-65 Louisiana license number 62E831;
 1963 Louisiana license 1000378.
 R. J. GLOVER, Box 555 Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1964 Ford Convertible;
 Vehicle Identification Number 692158295;
 Acquired August 20, 1962;
 1964-65 Louisiana license 62E830;
 1963 Louisiana license 491-529

NORMAN KENNETH HEAD

KENNETH HEAD, 302 Locust Street, Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1959 Ford, four-door;
 Motor number 69E5160365;
 Serial number 56645327;
 1964-65 Louisiana license 62M090;
 1963 Louisiana license 492-454.

On 8/31/67 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana File # NO 44-3214
 by SA RICHARD K. DUTZ:sja Date dictated 8/31/67

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.

Serials
1-12

K. N. HEAD, 120 Danny Street, Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1956 Cadillac, four-door,
 Vehicle Identification Number 5862137317;
 Acquired September 16, 1964, Lane Commercial Credit
 Corporation, 160 East Franklin, Natchez, Mississippi,
 dated September 16, 1964, in the amount of \$232.56.
 Title number M3353905.
 1964-65 Louisiana license 40E813.

HOMER THOMAS "BUCK" NORTON

HOMER T. NORTON, 1 Dandridge Street, Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1949 Chevrolet, one-half ton pickup truck;
 Motor number GRA213942;
 Serial number 30PC7303;
 Acquired used October 9, 1964, Lane City Bank and
 Trust Company, 490 Franklin Street, Natchez, dated
 October 10, 1964, in the amount of \$1,548.96;
 Title number M3369268;
 1955 Louisiana license 39-910;
 HOMER NORTON, 413 Lynn Street, Vidalia, Louisiana,
 1961 Oldsmobile, four-door;
 Vehicle Identification Number 61GM21739;
 Acquired used, January 10, 1963, from BOBBY L. THOMPSON,
 201 Pine Street, Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1964-65 Louisiana license 63E817;
 1963 Louisiana license 889013;
 HOMER T. NORTON, 413 Lynn Street, Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1952 Blue Ford, four-door;
 Vehicle Identification Number B2AT134473;
 Acquired August 11, 1959;
 1964-65 Louisiana license 63E818;
 1963 Louisiana license 491-406

J. L. "BUD" SPINKS

J. L. SPINKS, 1204 Pine, Vidalia, Louisiana;
 1964 Oldsmobile, four-door,
 Vehicle Identification Number 834T013827;
 Acquired new, September 3, 1964, Lane Commercial Credit
 and McPhail Oldsmobile, Inc., Post Office Box 9,
 Natchez, Mississippi, dated September 3, 1964, in the
 amount of \$4,313.35.
 Title number M3311760;
 1964-65 Louisiana license 39E650

Serials

NO 44-3214:JMP

3

The following vehicles are registered and titled to the town of Vidalia, 409 Texas Street, Vidalia, Louisiana. All of the below vehicles were issued public license numbers:

Make of Vehicle	VIN	Public License Numbers	Title Number
1959 Chevrolet, four-door, black and white	D59A146619	6249	2302637
1948 Chevrolet truck	NW - SE4171719 SN - 1RVC1234	6250	1900250
1959 Chevrolet 3/4 ton truck	3E59S124732	6251	2302721
1951 Ford 1/2 ton truck	F10JD180405	6252	3049918
1952 Ford	F25JE210078	6253	2887267
1952 Ford F 500	F50CK271567	6254	3049919
1956 International	591950	6256	3161717
1951 Chevrolet truck	AJCM181825	6255	9262256
1963 International	5B28104EE	6258	3294778
1959 International	B162SE4844	6257	2409134
1953 International dump truck	213030	6259	2757498
1964 Ford Falcon Ranchero	4R27U162068	None listed	None listed.

Section 1 (2 of 2)
Serials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

THOMAS JOURDAN, Business Manager, McPhail Motors, Inc., Post Office Box 1247, Natchez, Mississippi, was apprised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and of the nature of the contact. He furnished the following information from the files of his office:

A sales contract dated May 26, 1964, showed that R. J. GLOVER of Lee Avenue, Vidalia, purchased a 1964 Dynamic 88 Oldsmobile, four-door, Holiday Sedan, with Serial Number 844T019050. This car had a solid white exterior and a blue interior. JOURDAN further advised that the Vidalia Police Department is currently obtaining their patrol cars from McPhail Motors on a lease basis. After consulting with other personnel of this office, he ascertained that the Vidalia Police Department also obtained Oldsmobiles from them under a lease agreement during 1964. He advised that all of their vehicles were white in color and are currently displaying blue emergency lights mounted on a bar across the top of the vehicle. He stated that it was his recollection that the 1964 Oldsmobiles formerly used by the Vidalia Police Department had a red top mounted emergency light. He advised that he is reasonably certain of this feature in that there was an additional charge made for the installation and removal of this equipment.

On 9/1/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
 by MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /MDD:jls Jackson 44-65

Date dictated 9/6/67

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.

Serials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 6, 1967

KENNETH P. STEPHENSON, Box 50, Jena, Louisiana, advised that since he was last contacted by Special Agents of the FBI, he had pondered the incident of JOSEPH EDWARDS' vehicle being stopped on the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway. STEPHENSON stated that he had no additional information concerning this event.

He was advised that a check of the 1963 Louisiana vehicle registration records, the last year that Louisiana used all numbers in the license plates, showed 892-482 was issued for a 1954 Mercury registered to ESPY ENCALADE, General Delivery, Pönte a la Hache, Louisiana.

STEPHENSON advised that ESPY ENCALADE was unknown to him and the vehicle observed by him on the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway was definitely not a 1954 Mercury.

STEPHENSON was further advised that the 1963 Louisiana License Number 892-428 was issued for a 1963 Plymouth Valiant registered to Reverend A. G. TAYLOR of Jena, Louisiana.

STEPHENSON stated that he was acquainted with Reverend TAYLOR but he had no recollection as to why he would record Reverend TAYLOR's license number on a piece of paper in his wallet. He advised that apparently this number has no relationship to the incident involving EDWARDS' vehicle.

STEPHENSON stated that he is certain the vehicle which had the flashing red light and forced EDWARDS' vehicle to pull over was not a Valiant, in that he is almost certain that the vehicle, in fact, was a 1964 Oldsmobile, possibly a Model 98.

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

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.

Serials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 6, 1967

Mr. CECIL BATTY, Proprietor of Batty's Gulf Service Station located on Fourth Street and Louisiana Avenue, Ferriday, advised that he had no recollection of having towed JOSEPH EDWARDS' Buick from the vicinity of the Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley.

BATTY advised that wreckers of the Purvis Motor Company have never towed vehicles to his service station and he never tows any vehicles to the Purvis Motor Company.

BATTY stated he was sorry he could not furnish any information regarding the incident but he had no recollection whatsoever regarding JOSEPH EDWARDS or his vehicle. He further advised he would have no records which would pertain to any towing matters during the year 1964.

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

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.

Serials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/67

Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN, Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, was contacted at his residence on Dody Road, Ferriday, Louisiana. He was apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and of the official nature of the contact.

With regard to JOSEPH EDWARDS, the missing porter from the Shamrock Motel, OGDEN stated that he recalled having met EDWARDS near the swimming pool at the Shamrock Motel where a young child had drowned. He advised that his recollection of the incident was rather vague and he may have met EDWARDS the day of the drowning or two days after the drowning. He advised that his office did not investigate the incident since it happened in Vidalia, which city has a police department and personnel for such investigations, and furthermore he did not wish to get involved with Chief BUD SPINKS nor his personnel inasmuch as there is friction between their respective departments.

OGDEN stated that in regard to EDWARDS' abandoned vehicle, he recalls that some unknown person reported the continued presence of the vehicle in the vicinity of the bowling alley on the Vidalia--Ferriday Highway. OGDEN stated that he did not investigate the presence of the car, but merely dispatched CECIL BEATTY, operator of the Gulf Service Station in Ferriday, to tow the vehicle. However, BEATTY was unable to locate the abandoned car on his first trip and subsequently located the car on a side road near the bowling alley. No record was made of this complaint concerning the abandoned car and OGDEN made no search of the vehicle. He understands that Purvis Motor Company later claimed the vehicle.

On 9/5/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana

New Orleans 44-2293

File # Jackson 44-65

by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jl

Date dictated 9/6/67

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.

Serials

NO 44-2293
JN 44-65

OGDEN stated that he has only been in the Shamrock Restaurant on a few occasions, and he knows of no commercial prostitution being carried on either in the restaurant or motel at this time or during 1964.

With regard to a report from one of the BOOTH boys of Harrisonburg, Louisiana, concerning flesh obtained from the Old River near Deer Park, Louisiana, OGDEN stated that he recalls that one of the BOOTH boys found some substance in the water near Deer Park and reported the matter to the Harrisonburg Sheriff's Office. In some way this report was brought to the attention of the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office. OGDEN stated that he is not one of the big wheels in the sheriff's office and does not know how or to whom this report was made; and he had no knowledge of the incident until he was told to get the sheriff's boat and told to accompany the sheriff and Deputy IKE COMAN to investigate the incident. Even before arriving at the lake, he had concluded from his personal knowledge that the operator of an establishment known as Jugheads Restaurant was running a sausage business. It was further known to him that JUDGEHEAD was taking deer meat, which he was apparently poaching, and mixing this meat with pork which not only made the sausage better tasting, but also more profitable.

JUDGEHEAD was then faced with the disposal of the intestine, head, and unwanted deer parts which he apparently disposed of in the water of Old River. It was OGDEN's opinion that the flesh located by BOOTH was really parts of discarded deer meat taken illegally.

After arriving at Deer Park, he stated that they had only one drag line and in order to effectively probe for submerged objects, they needed two. Therefore, they made no attempt to locate any submerged objects. Furthermore, they did not see any floating material which appeared to be meat.

Serials
1-12

NO 44-2293
JN 44-65

OGDEN stated that he has only been in the Shamrock Restaurant on a few occasions, and he knows of no commercial prostitution being carried on either in the restaurant or motel at this time or during 1964.

With regard to a report from one of the BOOTH boys of Harrisonburg, Louisiana, concerning flesh obtained from the Old River near Deer Park, Louisiana, OGDEN stated that he recalls that one of the BOOTH boys found some substance in the water near Deer Park and reported the matter to the Harrisonburg Sheriff's Office. In some way this report was brought to the attention of the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office. OGDEN stated that he is not one of the big wheels in the sheriff's office and does not know how or to whom this report was made; and he had no knowledge of the incident until he was told to get the sheriff's boat and told to accompany the sheriff and Deputy IKE COWAN to investigate the incident. Even before arriving at the lake, he had concluded from his personal knowledge that the operator of an establishment known as Jugheads Restaurant was running a sausage business. It was further known to him that JUDHEAD was taking deer meat, which he was apparently poaching, and mixing this meat with pork which not only made the sausage better tasting, but also more profitable.

JUCHEAD was then faced with the disposal of the intestine, head, and unwanted deer parts which he apparently disposed of in the water of Old River. It was OGDEN's opinion that the flesh located by BOOTH was really parts of discarded deer meat taken illegally.

After arriving at Deer Park, he stated that they had only one drag line and in order to effectively probe for submerged objects, they needed two. Therefore, they made no attempt to locate any submerged objects. Furthermore, they did not see any floating material which appeared to be meat.

NO 44-2293
JN 44-65

He advised that after their search of the area, they left their 18 foot hydro jet propelled boat tied to the bank of the river. Later that night a severe storm went through the area and sank their boat. The next day they recovered their boat and left the area without making any further investigation into the matter.

NO 44-2293
JN 44-65
copy
11/18/2007
Section 1 (2 of 2)
Serials

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

Section 1 (201X) Serials

A day or two later, TAYLOR noticed EDWARDS' Buick parked across the road from the Dixie Lanes Bowling Alley. TAYLOR noted that there was nothing unusual about this and TAYLOR did not inspect the car. When the Buick continued to remain there for a number of days, TAYLOR stopped and inspected it. TAYLOR stated that he observed a necktie hanging from the mirror. TAYLOR stated that he saw a little spot of blood under the steering wheel. TAYLOR indicated the size of the spot by making a circle with his right thumb and right index finger. This circle made by TAYLOR appeared to be a little larger than a silver dollar.

TAYLOR stated that he did not observe any belt in the car. Subsequent to the inspection, TAYLOR learned that the car had been towed to a Gulf Station in Ferriday.

TAYLOR advised that he had no idea if EDWARDS had any missing teeth. TAYLOR could not recall the description of any jewelry that EDWARDS wore. TAYLOR did not know of any white preachers who had known EDWARDS or his family.

TAYLOR advised that the only thing he knew about the police cars in the Vidalia--Ferriday area in 1964 was that people use to wonder why the Vidalia Police Department had Oldsmobiles while the Ferriday Police Department had Fords when in fact Ferriday was much larger than Vidalia at that time.

310
The Copy No. 44-2293-77-782-20004
Section 1 (2 of 2)
Serials
1-19

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 7, 1967

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

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

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

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

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

On 9/6/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
Jackson 157-405

by SA FRANK B. WATTS /blw Date dictated 9/7/67

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.

Screened By:
Mary Kay Schmidt
Date: 04-11-2014
FOIA Case: NW 39061

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

44
26064

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

INVESTIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/26/01 BY SP1 CLK/klh

SECTION 2
SERIALS 21-----

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 5/3/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/1 - 30/68	TYPED BY cst
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka. Joe Edwards - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN		
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR		

Mc

REFERENCE:

Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN, 4/5/68.
Airtel to New Orleans and Bureau letter, 4/25/68.

- C--

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All logical investigation has been conducted. There are no outstanding leads. Investigation has not identified any subjects nor located the missing victim. Case being closed subject to re-open if any additional information received by this office.

Copies of this report are being furnished to the Jackson Office for the instant case file and WHARBOM for information purposes only.

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED
W
39

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED NONE						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: 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
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED *(Signature)* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

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

44-26064-38 REC-40

MAY 1968 EX-116

(Handwritten signatures and initials)

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	<i>CRD</i>	<i>h7</i>
Request	<i>55 MA 1968</i>	
Date Fwd.	<i>5/5/68</i>	<i>1968</i>
How Fwd.	<i>694-6</i>	
By	<i>JWA:MKX</i>	
	<i>ICC CRU (SYNOPSIS)</i>	

Notations: *(Handwritten notes)*

(COVER PAGE)

(Handwritten initials and stamps)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Shreveport, Louisiana

Report of: SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN

Date: May 3, 1968

Field Office File #: NO 44-2293

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Bureau File #: 44-26064

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Results of FBI Laboratory examination of broken
knife set out.

- C -

DETAILS:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Washington, D. C., conducted an examination of a broken knife which was recovered on March 11, 1968, by the Federal Bureau of Investigation from the river bottom at Deer Park, Louisiana. The area where this knife was found was pointed out by MILTON BOOTHE, a Harrisonburg, Louisiana, commercial fisherman, as the place where decaying flesh was found by him during 1965.

The results of the FBI Laboratory examination is as follows:

Examination of specimen Q1 disclosed a stamped marking "-tsman" on the left side of the knife blade at the fractured edge. The marking appears to be the latter portion of a trade name or a company name, possibly "Sportsman." A company which utilizes the "Sportsman" label is the Utica Cutlery Company, Noyes and Wheeler Streets, Utica, New York.

There were no markings present on the Q1 specimen which might identify the owner of the knife.

No blood, tissue, hair or fiber was found on specimen Q1.

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293

It is not possible to estimate the length of time
the knife had been in the water.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

Re: April 25, 1968
FBI, New Orleans (44-2293)

UNSUB
JOSEPH EDWARDS
Joe Edwards - VICTIM
CR
Reurlet 4/4/68, MDD-kbz

Cont. Trans.

NO 44-2293

It is not possible to estimate the length of time
the knife had been in the water.

R
0-40 (Rev. 1-15-64)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

DATE: April 25, 1968
TO: FBI, New Orleans (44-2293)

Re: UNSUBS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka
Joe Edwards - VICTIM;
CR

Reurlet 4/4/68, MDD-kbz

Invoice of Contents

Q1

Registered

715141
MAILED 7
APR 26 1968
COMM-FBI

RET 4-26-68
FD

- Crypt.-Trans.
- Document
- P & C
- Radio Engineering
- LFPS

Special Instructions:
Mail Room: Show shipment date and registry number.
Shipping Room: Show shipment date; bill of lading number;
initial invoice; return to Section checked in block; after
initialing in block, invoice to be placed in administrative file.

FBI File No. 44-26064

66 APR 30 1968

4/25/68

PC-A5562 LP JV IS

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE
NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
NEW ORLEANS

DATE
4/5/68

INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
3/19 - 30/68

TYPED BY
-kbz

REPORT MADE BY
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN

CHARACTER OF CASE
CR

TITLE OF CASE
**UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka
Joe Edwards - VICTIM**

REFERENCE: New Orleans report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN, 3/22/68.

-p-
FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

INFORMANTS:

On 3/13/68, [redacted] advised that Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDON stated on 3/11/68, that the FBI was diving down the river again and they had brought out two sacks of material from the river.

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS

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

APPROVED: *[Signature]*
COPIES MADE:

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

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-26064-37 REC-35

14 APR 10 1968

[Signature]
STAT. SECT.

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD			
Request Recd				
Date	4/16/68			
How Fwd.	694B			
By	JWA.MKC			

ICC CRU (SYNOPSIS)

NO 44-2293

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will await results of examination of broken hunting knife by FBI Laboratory.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

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

DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED

-B-
COVERED 10 1 28 BH CB
PAGE 28 BH CB
DIVISION
RECEIVED
RECEIVED

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293/cst

1

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The following investigation was conducted
by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD:

On March 28, 1968, Mr. H. J. MEYER, Assistant
Postmaster, Vicksburg, Mississippi, advised that he was
unable to locate an address for A. P. SPEARMAN.

-C*-
COVER PAGE

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 - U. S. Attorney, Shreveport, Louisiana

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Copy to:

SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
4/5/68

Bureau File #: 44-26064

Report of:
Date:

Field Office File #:

NO 44-2293

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

Patrolman JOHN HENRY, Vidalia, La., Police, advised that Town Marshal BUD SPINKS offered position as patrolman to NORMAN HEAD, but SPINKS never told HENRY any incriminating information. Results of investigation of white Oldsmobiles of type seen stopping victim's vehicle set out. KENNETH R. STEPHENS, who witnessed stopping incident recontacted.

-P-

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
I. POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.	4
II. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING WHITE OLDSMOBILE FITTING DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE STOPPING VICTIM'S VEHICLE.	7

NO 44-2201

RECEIVED

NO. 44-22813

RECEIVED

NO 44-2283

1978

Date 4/5/68

Madalia Police Department,
Special Agents and the

NO 44-2293

I. POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Date 4/5/68

1
JOHN HENRY, Patrolman, Vidalia Police Department, was advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

HENRY volunteered the following information:

He had been employed prior to August 22, 1964, when he started with the police department, at the Shamrock Lounge as a bartender. He worked at the lounge for approximately four weeks. He had worked the prior two weeks for the Corr-Williams Tobacco Company at Natchez, Mississippi. HENRY explained that these short employments resulted from the decision of his long-time employer to close his restaurant rather than serve Negroes. While employed at the restaurant he was offered a job as a patrolman by the Vidalia Town Marshal, BUD SPINKS. He declined the position because he made more money at the restaurant.

HENRY stated that while he was employed at the Shamrock Lounge, he sought to obtain the position as patrolman previously offered by SPINKS. However, SPINKS told him that he had offered the job to NORMAN HEAD, but if HEAD did not take the job, HENRY could have it. HENRY explained that HEAD was on the auxiliary police force, but decided not to take a full-time paid police position. At the same time, R. J. "RED" GLOVER was on the list as a Vidalia auxiliary policeman, although he formally declined to accept the title because SPINKS told the group that they must show restraint even when abused by a Negro.

During the summer of 1964, HENRY heard nothing concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro porter at the Shamrock Hotel, who allegedly insulted a crippled female employee of the motel. Following his employment with the Vidalia Police Department, SPINKS never mentioned the incident until after the FBI started to make inquiries about the disappearance of EDWARDS. SPINKS told him that the FBI

On 3/29/68 at Vidalia, Louisiana

by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD and

SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN

MDD-kbz

File # NO 44-2293

-5-

Date dictated 4/2/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

2
NO 44-2293

investigation was his first knowledge of the incident also.

HENRY stated that he doubted that SPINKS would have told him about any self-incriminating information because they had a fist fight prior to that time and SPINKS tried unsuccessfully to fire HENRY.

HENRY recalled that at the time he entered on duty with the police department the patrol car was a white 1964 Oldsmobile with a large red emergency light mounted on the top of the car.

NO 44-2293

II. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING
WHITE OLDSMOBILES
FITTING DESCRIPTION OF
VEHICLE STOPPING VICTIM'S VEHICLE

Date 3/28/68

Mrs. FRED BAKER, Tallulah, Louisiana, advised as follows:

Her husband purchased a 1963 white Oldsmobile Luxury Sedan from Loe Motors in Tallulah, Louisiana, as a new car in 1963. At no time did the car have whip antennas or a flashing red light. Her husband, a retired farmer, 72 years old, sold the car to GARLAND ROBINSON, Garland's Refrigeration Company, Tallulah, Louisiana, three or four years ago.

On 3/19/68 at Tallulah, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
by SA's CHARLES K. JOHNSON & DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN CKJ/lcmt Date dictated 3/21/68

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.

Date 4/1/68

WILFRED ROTSTEIN, Enterprise Plumbing Company,
709 China Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi advised as follows:

He presently owns a 1963 Oldsmobile 88. The car was purchased in 1963 from LAMAR T. LOE, JR., Vicksburg, Mississippi, as a new car. His 1963 Oldsmobile has never had "whip" antennas placed on it and he has never owned or used a police type red flashing light for the dashboard.

Examination of ROTSTEIN's 1963 White Oldsmobile 88, four-door sedan disclosed no apparent whip antennas or holes from mounting them. No red warning light was observed and the car did not have a Loe Motors sticker.

On 3/20/68 at Vicksburg, Mississippi File # NO 44-2293
by SA's CHARLES K. JOHNSON & DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN Date dictated 3/22/68
CKJ/kmt

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/28/68

ROBERT KING, 108 Churchill Drive, Vicksburg,
Mississippi advised as follows:

He formerly owned a 1963 Oldsmobile 98. He bought the car in 1963 from LAMAR T. LOE, JR., Vicksburg, Mississippi, as a new car. In the summer of 1967, he traded this car into LAMAR T. LOE, JR. for a new car. His 1963 Oldsmobile had never had "whip" antennas placed on it, nor did he ever own or use a police-type red flashing light for the dashboard.

On 3/20/68 at Vicksburg, Mississippi

by SA's DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN &
CHARLES K. JOHNSON

File # NO 44-2293

CKJ/kmt

Date dictated 3/21/68

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.

-10-

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

Date 4/4/68

1

ROBERT K. LAIRD, 1501 North Louisiana Street, Tallulah, Louisiana, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, at which time he voluntarily furnished the following information:

LAIRD advised that he bought his 1964 white Oldsmobile on June 25, 1964, from the Loe Motor Company in Tallulah, Louisiana. LAIRD advised that he and his wife are the only ones who have ever driven this car. He further advised that at no time has this car been equipped with a two-way radio. LAIRD stated that his license number for 1964-65 on this vehicle was 85X299.

LAIRD advised that he has never been affiliated with any klan unit. He stated that he has never taken a trip in this vehicle to Concordia Parish, Louisiana, and has never loaned his car to anyone.

On 3/25/68 at Tallulah, Louisiana File # JN 44-65
NO 44-2293
by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD/lrs -11- Date dictated 3/29/68

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/4/68

1 MARTIN A. HEBERT, RFD, Swampers, Louisiana, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and furnished the following information:

HEBERT advised that he is the owner of a 1964 white Oldsmobile, 88 sedan which he purchased from Loe Motor Company in Tallulah. HEBERT stated that this car has never been equipped with a two-way radio. HEBERT advised that he has never been affiliated with the Klan. He stated that the only persons who have driven this car are himself and his wife.

On 3/26/68 at Swampers, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
by SAs WILLIAM B. WOOD & MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/WBW est

Date dictated 3/29/68

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/4/681

Mrs. JOHN P. CORBIN, 1107 Tampa, Tallulah, Louisiana, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. CORBIN stated that she and her husband purchased a 1964 Oldsmobile 88 Sedan from Lee Motors in Tallulah, Louisiana, in the winter of 1964. She further advised that this car was never equipped with a two-way radio and that neither she nor her husband had ever taken this car on a trip to Concordia Parish. She further advised that this car has never been loaned to anyone.

On 3/25/68 at Tallulah, Louisiana

by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD/lrs

File # JN 44-65
NO 44-2293

Date dictated 3/29/68

-13-

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

Date 4/4/681

C. E. WALKER, insurance salesman, Madison Insurance Agency, 217 North Cedar, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, at which time he furnished the following information:

WALKER advised that he had purchased a 1964 Oldsmobile 88 Sedan from Lee Motor Company, Tallulah, Louisiana, on November 25, 1963. WALKER further advised that at no time had this car been equipped with a two-way radio and he had never placed any whip antennas on the rear of this car. WALKER advised that the 1964-65 Louisiana license for this vehicle was 2F569.

WALKER further advised that he has never been affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan in any way. He stated that the only person other than himself who had driven this car, would have been his wife and she has never left town without him driving this vehicle.

On 3/25/68 at Tallulah, Louisiana File # JN 44-65
NO 44-2293
 by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD/lrs -14- Date dictated 3/29/68

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

4/4/68

Date

1

D. D. WOOD, owner, Wood Agricultural Service, North Cedar Street, Tallulah, Louisiana, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, at which time he furnished the following information:

WOOD advised that in 1963 he purchased a 1963 Oldsmobile, white, 88 sedan, for his wife. WOOD advised that this car was never equipped with a two-way radio. He stated that the only persons who ever drove this car were he and his wife and that the only time they had ever been in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, was on a trip to Baton Rouge, when they passed through Concordia Parish. WOOD advised that he has no friends or relatives in Concordia Parish and is not acquainted with any of the law enforcement officials in the area.

On 3/25/68 at Tallulah, Louisiana

by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD/lrs

File #

JN 44-65
NO 44-2293

-15-

Date dictated

3/29/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

4/4/68

Date

1

CHARLES BROWN, Office Manager, Chicago Mill and Lumber Company, Tallulah, Louisiana, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, at which time he voluntarily furnished the following information:

BROWN stated that this company owns a 1963 Oldsmobile, white in color, Supper 88 Sedan. He advised that this car is used by the plant manager. BROWN stated that this vehicle has never been equipped with a two-way radio. He further advised that this car is only used in and around the Tallulah, Louisiana area and, therefore, would not have been in Concordia Parish in July, 1964.

On 3/25/68 at Tallulah, Louisiana

by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD/lrs

File #

JN 44-65
NO 44-2293

-16-

Date dictated

3/29/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/4/681

CLYDE B. LEE, Newellton, Louisiana, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and voluntarily furnished the following information:

LEE stated that he purchased a 1963, white, Oldsmobile 88 Sedan from Lee Motors in Tallulah, Louisiana, in 1963. LEE advised that he wrecked this car in Monroe, Louisiana, a couple of months after he purchased it. LEE stated that his insurance company replaced this vehicle with another just like it. He advised that neither of these vehicles was ever equipped with a two-way radio. LEE advised that he has never been associated with the Ku Klux Klan. He further advised that he has never made any trips to Concordia Parish, Louisiana.

On 3/26/68at Newellton, Louisiana

File #

JN 44-65NO 44-2293by SA's WILLIAM B. WOOD & HERRIMAN D. DIVEN/WBW:lrs

Date dictated

3/29/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/4/681

W. H. TOLBERT, Sales Manager, Bridger Chevrolet Company, formerly Summers Chevrolet Company, Belzoni, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and voluntarily furnished the following information:

TOLBERT advised that in 1963, he made a trade with Loe Motor Company of Tallulah, Louisiana, for a 1963 Oldsmobile, a VIN 632M25437. TOLBERT stated that this car was subsequently sold to W. G. BUSH, a local druggist in Belzoni. TOLBERT stated that this car was never equipped with a two-way radio, to the best of his knowledge. He further advised that the Loe Motor Company sticker on the rear bumper was replaced by a Summers Chevrolet Company sticker before the car was sold.

On 3/28/68 at Belzoni, Mississippi

by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD/lrs

File #

JN 44-65
NO 44-2293

-18-

Date dictated

3/29/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

4/4/68

Date _____

1

On March 28, 1968, the following observations were made at the residence of FLOYD HEIGLE, Mayersville, Mississippi:

A white, 1964, Oldsmobile 88 Sedan was noted sitting in the driveway of this residence. The taillights of this car were rectangular in shape. This car was not noted to have a two-way radio and no whip antennas were noted on the rear of this car. The Loe Motor Company sticker on the rear bumper was located in the middle above the license plate.

On 3/28/68

at

Mayersville, Mississippi

JN 44-65

NO 44-2293

by

SA WILLIAM B. WOOD/lrs

File #

-19-

Date dictated

3/29/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/681

DAN GRACE, Manager, Coit Chevrolet, advised that his records show the following disposition of two white Oldsmobiles sold to them by Loe Motors of Tallulah:

1963 Eighty-Eight Oldsmobile Sedan,
VIN 635T0396, to JAMES C. WILKINSON,
St. Joseph, Louisiana, on June 27, 1963.

1963 Eighty-Eight Oldsmobile Sedan,
VIN 632T10899, to CLYDE B. LEE,
St. Joseph, Louisiana, on May 31, 1963.

GRACE stated that he has serviced these vehicles since they were sold and neither vehicle had whip antennae. Furthermore, the Loe Motor stickers were removed from the vehicles and Coit stickers were attached.

On 3/27/68 at St. Joseph, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD and
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD-kbz

20 Date dictated 3/20/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

Date 4/5/68

1

LLOYD NEAL was advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

He stated that he purchased a 1963 white Oldsmobile, Ninety-Eight, from Loe Motors. This vehicle had no whip antennae nor short wave radio equipment. He traded the vehicle on May 20, 1967, to the Plymouth dealer in Tallulah, Louisiana.

NEAL stated that JOSEPH EDWARDS, law enforcement officers, and other persons in Concordia Parish are unknown to him.

On 3/27/68 at Epps, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD and SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD-kbz -21- Date dictated 4/1/68

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.

Date 3/28/681

Mrs. J. O. THORNTON, JR., Transylvania, Louisiana,
advised as follows:

While her husband was employed as a Deputy Sheriff for East Carroll Parish he had operated a white 1963 or 1964 Oldsmobile as his official car. This car had at least one large whip antenna mounted on the rear and her husband kept a red flashing light on the dashboard.

To her knowledge, the car was not his personal property, but belonged to the East Carroll Parish Sheriff's Office.

On 3/20/68 at Transylvania, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SA's CHARLES-K. JOHNSON CKJ/kmt Date dictated 3/22/68
DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/68

1
J. O. THORNTON, JR., was located at the residence of his father. After being advised of the identity of the Special Agent and the nature of the contact THORNTON stated as follows:

He has never owned an Oldsmobile and the only automobile he purchased from Loe Motors was a 1956 white and blue Buick.

He was formerly a deputy sheriff in East Carroll Parish and operated a 1964 white Oldsmobile which had only one whip antenna on the rear and a red emergency light mounted on top of the car.

THORNTON then stated that he still had a civil rights case pending against him. He stated that his Attorney, JACK WYLY, Lake Providence, Louisiana, had advised him not to discuss any details dealing with his former employment as a deputy sheriff.

At the same time, as he made this statement, he was joined by his father, J. O. THORNTON, SR.

On 3/28/68 at Transylvania, Louisiana

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN-kbz

File # NO 44-2293

-23-

Date dictated 4/1/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/68

1
J. O. THORNTON, SR., after being apprised of the identity of the Special Agent and the nature of the contact, stated that he purchased a 1964 white Dynamic 88, four-door sedan, from Loe Motors around December, 1963.

Mr. THORNTON stated that his son, JUNIOR, has never purchased an Oldsmobile from Loe Motors nor anyone else.

He pointed out his Oldsmobile and the fact that the vehicle, bearing current Louisiana License 85F484, had a regular AM radio antenna on the right rear. The vehicle had rectangular taillights and a red Loe Motor decal on the bumper.

On 3/28/68 at Transylvania, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN-kbz

-24-

Date dictated 4/1/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/68

1
Sheriff JOHN W. GILBERT, East Carroll Parish, advised that during 1964, he had several white Oldsmobiles as patrol cars. These cars had only one short wave radio in them and therefore had only one whip antenna.

These vehicles were purchased from a dealer in Monroe, Louisiana. He has never purchased any Oldsmobile from Loe Motors in Tallulah. All the vehicles had sheriff emblems on the front doors and red emergency lights on top of each unit.

GILBERT recalled J. O. THORNTON, JR., as a former deputy sheriff who left his department in 1965, after ten years service. THORNTON drove one of the Oldsmobiles during 1964, and was also believed to have personally owned a white Oldsmobile at that time. However, THORNTON's personally owned car did not have any short wave radio equipment nor whip antennae.

On 3/28/68 at Lake Providence, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN-kbz

-25-

Date dictated 4/1/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/681

Mrs. DALE P. HOOVER, a housewife, advised that her husband purchased the 1964 white Oldsmobile, Dynamic 88 Sedan, for her from Loe Motors, Tallulah. She advised that she drove the vehicle most of the time and the car has never been used by anyone other than her husband.

She exhibited the vehicle which by her description and by observation was a 1964 Oldsmobile Eighty-eight, white in color, with a red Loe Motor decal in the center of the rear bumper. The vehicle had only one short antenna near the trunk. The vehicle had rectangular tallights.

On 3/28/68at St. Joseph, LouisianaFile # NO 44-2293by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN-kbz

-26-

Date dictated 4/2/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

Date 4/5/681

WELBORN WILHIDE, son of DERWOOD WILHIDE, advised that his father no longer has the white Oldsmobile he purchased from Loe Motors.

He further advised that this Oldsmobile was a 1964 Dynamic 88 which had no whip antennae and only a conventional radio and antenna.

On 3/28/68 at Hunters Bend, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN-kbz -27- Date dictated 4/2/68

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/68

1
LLOYD PERKINS, Fire Marshal, State of Louisiana, was advised of the identity of the Special Agent and the nature of the contact.

PERKINS stated that he purchased a 1963 white, four-door, Eighty-Eight, Oldsmobile during October, 1963, and wrecked the vehicle during late July, 1966.

He stated that the vehicle had one short radio antenna on one side of the trunk. He had no short wave radio equipment or a whip antenna on the vehicle.

He stated that he never loaned the vehicle to anyone and never used the vehicle to halt the vehicle of JOSEPH EDWARDS. He stated that EDWARDS was unknown to him personally, but he is acquainted with all of the law enforcement officers in Concordia Parish. He stated that most of them are of poor character and reputation and in his opinion, had knowledge of the disappearance of EDWARDS or participated in the crime. PERKINS was unable to furnish any basis for his conclusion, except that the general reputations of the Concordia Parish law officers indicated them to be capable and inclined toward a crime against a Negro.

On 3/28/68 at Waterproof, Louisiana

File # NO 44-2293

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN-kbz

-28-

Date dictated 3/29/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/68

1
PETER JOHN NOSSER, Post Office Box 1085, Natchez, Mississippi, was apprised of the identity of the Special Agent and the nature of the contact.

He volunteered information that he purchased a 1964 Oldsmobile 98, two-door, sport coupe, medium blue in color, during October, 1963. This car was used only by his wife CAROLYN W. NOSSER. He explained that he divorced his wife at that time and the purchase of the automobile for her was part of the agreement.

NOSSER advised that he definitely was not using the Oldsmobile on July 12, 1964. He stated that he knew of no reason for the Vidalia Police Department to make an inquiry about the license registered to that vehicle.

He stated that he is not a member of any Klan type organization and has never been affiliated with any such group.

On 3/30/68 at Natchez, Mississippi

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN-kbz File # NO 44-2293

-29-

Date dictated 4/1/68

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#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/68

1
KENNETH R. STEPHENS, Official, Bank of Jena, was recontacted and reminded of the identity of the Special Agent and the nature of the contact.

STEPHENS, after viewing photographs of the former Vidalia Police car, stated that he did not believe the former police car to be identical with the white Oldsmobile he observed to stop the Buick owned by **JOSEPH EDWARDS**. **STEPHENS** stated that he recalled seeing the Vidalia Police car, a week or two following the incident when **EDWARDS'** car was stopped and abandoned. He said that it was his conclusion at that time that the white Oldsmobile involved in the incident was not identical to the Vidalia Police car.

At the present time, he said he cannot recall whether the Oldsmobile taillights were rectangular or square. He recalls with certainty that the vehicle had two whip antennae mounted in the vicinity of the rear trunk deck. He feels confident that the red revolving light was on the dashboard and not on the roof. He said he cannot be certain that his prior thoughts on the existence of a Loe Motor emblem on the rear were accurate.

STEPHENS concluded the interview by saying that he has not been contacted by anyone other than FBI Agents concerning his knowledge of the incident when **EDWARDS'** car was stopped. He added that he hoped he would not have to testify in court concerning the matter.

On 3/29/68 at Jena, Louisiana

File # NO 44-2293

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN-kbz

-30*-

Date dictated 4/3/68

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.

N
 NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579