

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

DATE: 4/4/68

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-26064)  
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY  
SAC, NEW ORLEANS (44-2293) (P)

FROM

SUBJECT:

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka  
Joe Edwards - VICTIM  
CR

PC-A 5562

*307 LP*

*3a 4b-15*

*4-9-68*  
COPY & SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB  
FOR LAB ACTION & REPORT

Re report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 3/22/68, at  
New Orleans.

*ELTRH*

Enclosed herewith is the handle portion of a broken hunting knife, which was obtained from the bottom of an old portion of the Mississippi River at Deer Park, Louisiana. This knife was recovered during scuba diving operations in an area indicated by a commercial fisherman as the site where his net tangled in an object which released a quantity of air and decaying flesh during the Fall, 1964. Information obtained by investigation and informants indicate that victim was seized on July 11, or 12, 1964, and his body disposed of in a refrigerator which was submerged in the river at Deer Park, La.

**EX-116**

For the information of the Laboratory, the knife was found in fresh water at a depth of approximately 25 feet. It is not known whether the enclosed knife was involved in the incident nor is the manner in which the victim was killed known.

*L*

The Laboratory is requested to conduct microscopic examinations of the knife blade to determine if there is any evidence of blood stains or if any human material such as hair may be in any crevice.

The Laboratory's evaluation of the length of time the knife has been in the water is also desired.

*Lab report  
FSD: [initials]  
4/25/68*

In the event that the knife may have been involved in the crime, the Laboratory is requested to make such tests and examinations including possible scratching of initials which may serve to identify its owner.

INDEX-TAB FILES

2-Bureau (Enc. 1) (RM)  
2-New Orleans  
MDD-kbz  
(4)

RECEIVED

REC-59

EX-116

DIVISION  
RECEIVED

12 APR 9 1968

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED  
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

*SEVEN*

*Q1 HANDLE PORTION OF BROKEN HUNTING KNIFE*

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

RECORDED  
4/10/68  
jfk

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

File # 44-26064-36  
Lab. # PC-A5562 LP JV IS

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

Examination requested by: FBI, New Orleans (44-2293) Let. 4/4/68

Examination requested: Micro. (Metal) (Fibers) - Date received: 4/9/68 hw  
Misc. - Chem. Anal. (Biochem)

Result of Examination:

Examination by: DE RONJA  
STOMBAUGH  
MC WRIGHT  
(7)

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 Handle portion of broken hunting knife

Lab report  
FSD:UEJ  
4/25/68

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

4-15-68  
4-23-68

PC-A5562

Q1:

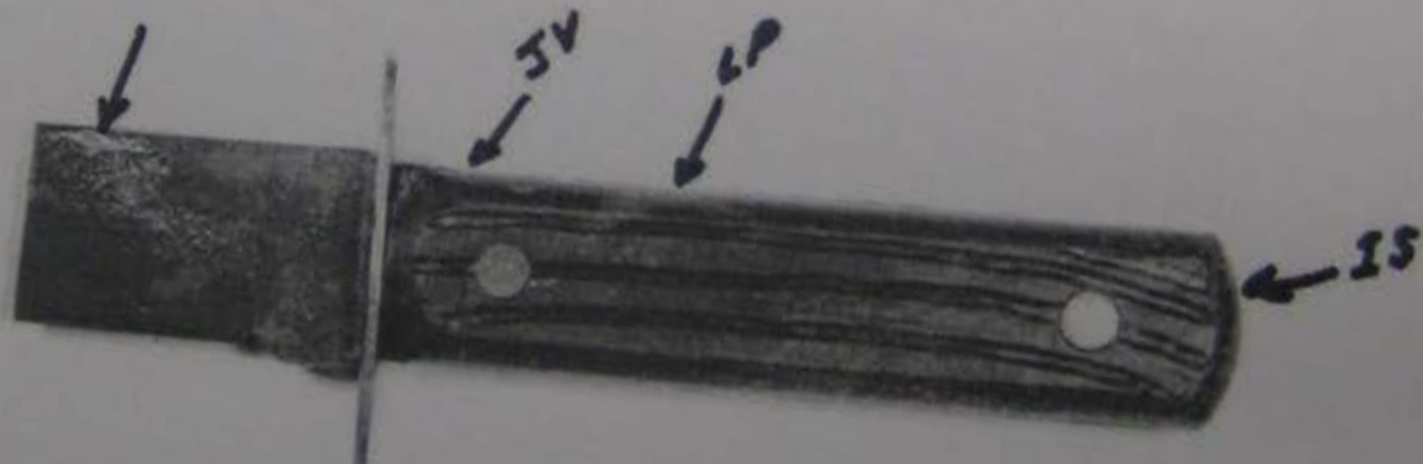
General view of specimen - as received condition. Knife handle appears to be black plastic; knife blade portion is rusted. No markings were noted which might identify the owner. Not possible to estimate the length of time the specimen was in H<sub>2</sub>O because of numerous unknown variables.



4-23-68

Q1:

After removal of rust from blade. Note part of stamped marking.



PC-A5562 Q1  
FBI  
LABORATORY

①

PC-A5562

Q1 (Cont.)

Close-up view  
of restored marking:

Restored:

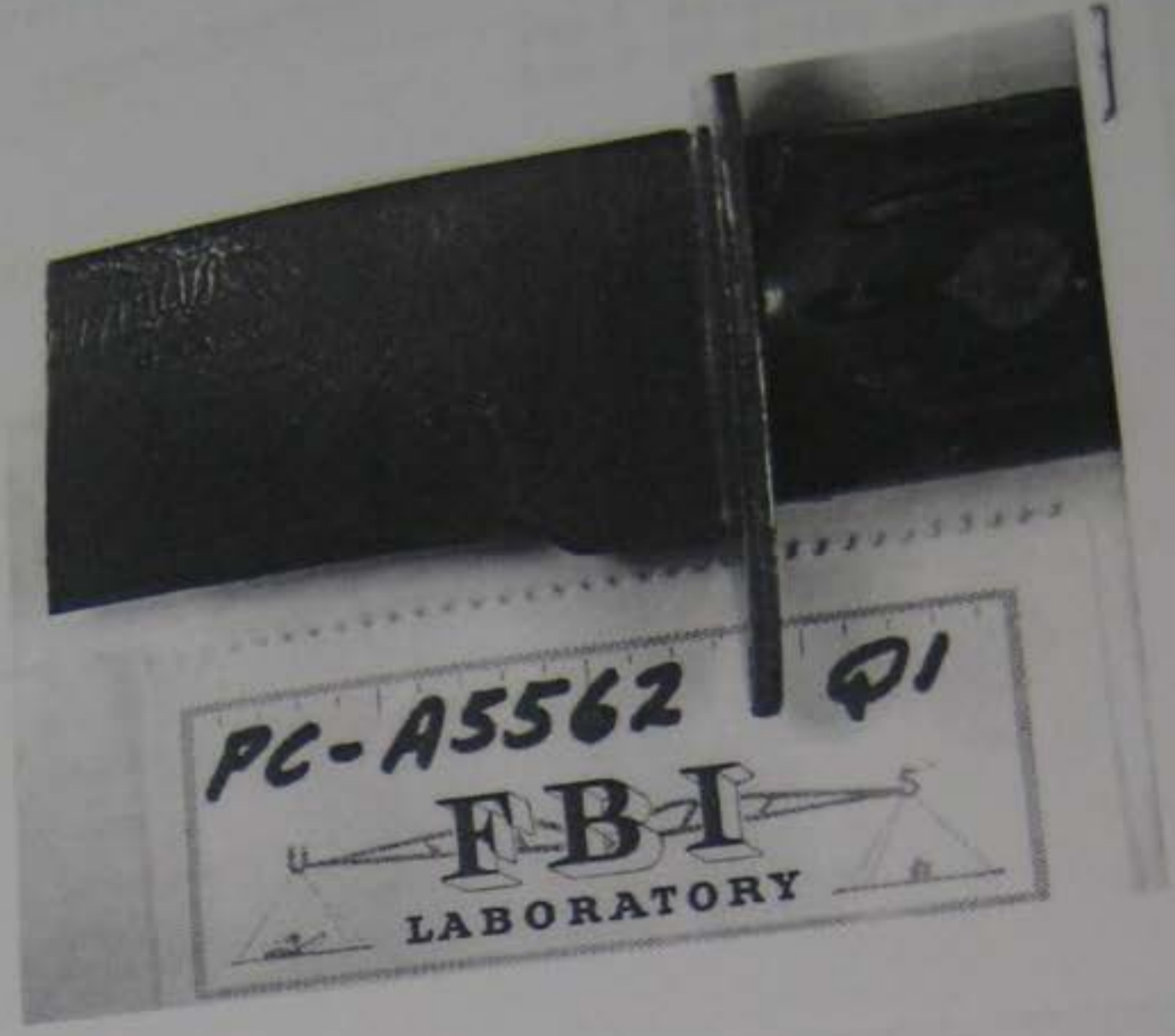
tsman  
U.S.A.

1/4 in  
1/2 in

Marking appears to  
be letter portion of  
trade name or Company,  
possibly "SPORTSMAN".

From Thomas' Register,  
page 394, Vol 6, Trademark  
and Brand Section:

Cutlery under "Sportman"  
name product of UTICA  
CUTLERY CO, Noyes and  
Wheeler Sts, Utica, N.Y.



② \*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

File # 44-26064-36  
Lab. # PC-A5562 LP JV IS

RECORDED  
4/10/68  
jfk

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

Examination requested by: FBI, New Orleans (44-2293) Let. 4/4/68

Date received: 4/9/68 hw

Examination requested: Micro. (Metal) (Fibers) -  
Misc. - Chem. Anal. (Biochem)

Examination by: DE RONJA  
STOMBAUGH  
MC WRIGHT

Result of Examination:

*Dust*  
*No blood was found on Q1*  
*or tissue*

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 Handle portion of broken hunting knife

*Q1 Benz neg.*

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>3/22/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>3/6 - 18/68</b>	TYPED BY <b>bab</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka., Joe Edwards - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN</b>		
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CR</b>		

**REFERENCE:**  
Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN, 3/6/68 at New Orleans.

- P -

**LEADS:**

**JACKSON**

**AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI.** Interview PETER NOSSER, Manager of Jitney Jungle store for information relating to a license check request on a car registered to him by a now deceased Vidalia police officer at time when the

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					None	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	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]*  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:  
 2 - Bureau (44-26064)  
 1 - USA, Shreveport  
 3 - Jackson 2(44-65)  
       1(44-2044), NICE  
 2 - New Orleans (44-2293)  
       E.O.!

MAR 22 4 25 PM '68

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-26064-35  
 MAR 23 1968  
 FBI  
 REC-43

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD	DATE	
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.	MAR 26 1968		
How Fwd.	694 B		
By	616 APR 1 1968		

Notations  
*[Handwritten signatures and stamps]*  
 STAR/EST

35  
 COPIES  
 4

NO 44-2293

victim may have been abducted.

NEW ORLEANS

AT JENA, LOUISIANA. Display photographs of 1964 Oldsmobile, former Vidalia police car, to KENNETH STEPHENSON, official, Bank of Jena, who observed white Oldsmobile stop victims car at site where it was abandoned.

AT TALLULAH, LOUISIANA AND VICINITY. Observe vehicles and/or interview persons who purchased white Oldsmobiles of the type described by STEPHENSON, noting that suspect car had Loe Motor, Tallulah, La., plate on left rear and was purchased prior to July 11, 1964.

AT VIDALIA, LOUISIANA. Interview Ptl. JOHN HENRY concerning possible involvement of law enforcement officers in instant case. HENRY is currently opposing BUD SPINKS in the pending election for Town Marshall.

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.

A letter of appreciation has been forwarded to GILBERT C. CALHOUN, Chief Ranger, Natchez Trace, Tupelo, Mississippi. This letter commended the professional skill and stamien displayed by the scuba diving team under very adverse diving and weather conditions.

The following information is being set out in the cover pages rather than details for the following reasons:

Although the cooperation of MILTON BOOTHE is common knowledge, he explains to the interested local officials and residents that his cooperation is strictly business, namely the rental of his boats.

It is feared that should the full extent of his cooperation be known he would be subject to reprisals of

NO 44-2293

various types including damages to his nets and boats. In addition, successful intimidation of BOOTHE would dry up a good source of information in that area and serve as an example for other persons to refuse to cooperate with the FBI in any racial or civil rights matter.

- C -  
(COVER PAGE)



Date 3/22/681

MILTON BOOTHE, Boothe's Fish Market, Harrisonburg, advised that approximately 45 minutes after diving operations began at Deer Park on March 11, 1968, Mrs. BOOTHE received a long distance telephone call from Deputy Sheriff FRANK DELAUGHTER, who inquired as to the whereabouts of her husband. BOOTHE stated that he rarely receives any telephone calls from DELAUGHTER.

On March 12, 1968, a collector from the Friendly Finance Company, Monroe, contacted BOOTHE to locate an individual who purchased an expensive boat which DELAUGHTER's sister MILDRED guaranteed payment as a co-signer. BOOTHE contacted DELAUGHTER to advise him of this fact, but DELAUGHTER seemed disinterested in the matter, but instead made immediate inquiry into BOOTHE's activities on March 11.

BOOTHE explained that he had been hired by divers, but he did not know the purpose of the search. DELAUGHTER seemed very concerned when he was told of the exact location of the search.

BOOTHE further advised that when DELAUGHTER questioned him about the results of the search, BOOTHE fabricated a story that the FBI found something which they concealed from him by wrapping the matter in a canvas bag. BOOTHE advised that he told DELAUGHTER this story to test his reactions and increase DELAUGHTER's apparent concern over the investigation. BOOTHE expressed his opinion that DELAUGHTER is either involved in the incident or has knowledge of the crime.

- D\* -

(COVER PAGE)

On 3/13/68 at Harrisonburg, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /bab Date dictated 3/18/68

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 - USA, Shreveport, Louisiana

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Copy to:

SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
3/22/68

Bureau File #: 44-26064

Report of:

Date:

Field Office File #:

44-2293

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

**CIVIL RIGHTS**

Character:

Synopsis:

Underwater search made at Deer Park, La. No  
refrigerator containing remains of victim located.  
Sketch made of area.

- P -

**DETAILS:**

Date 3/22/68

1

An underwater search was made in an area of an old section of the Mississippi River at Deer Park, Louisiana.

The following Special Agents participated in this operation:

MERRIMAN D. DIVEN,  
CHARLES K. JOHNSON,  
DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN,  
WAYNE A. MILLWARD, and  
WILLIAM B. WOOD

The following persons assisted the Special Agents as indicated:

MILTON BOOTHE, Harrisonburg, Louisiana, guide and boat owner-operator;

GUY TAYLOR, Supervisory Park Ranger, Natchez Trace Parkway, Washington, Mississippi - Liaison.

MARLO G. ACOCK, Supervisory Park Ranger, Natchez Trace Parkway, Cherokee, Alabama - Scuba Diver.

WILLIAM SCHENK, Park Ranger, Meriweather Station, Hohenwald, Tennessee - Scuba Diver.

All of the above Park Rangers are members of the U. S. National Park Service, made available to the FBI through Mr. GILBERT C. CALHOUN, Chief Ranger, Natchez, Trace, Tupelo, Mississippi.

MILTON BOOTHE, pointed out an area of water about 25 to 120 feet south of GEORGE FENTON's boat railway and from 90 to 170 feet east of the Louisiana shoreline as the location where his fishnet tangled with a submerged object which released a quantity of air and decaying flesh during 1964, about three months after the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

~~A preliminary search with four, one pound magnets~~

2

JN 44-65

File # NO 44-2293

On 3/11/68 at Deer Park, Louisianaby SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /babDate dictated 3/15/68

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NO 44-2293

2

attached to separate lines operated from two boats located a number of suspect metal objects on the bottom at depths varying from 25' to 35' deep. These spots were marked by brick anchors and floats made from plastic jugs.

Because the depth and muddy condition of the water, divers could not see anything. They descended a taut boat anchor line at each suspect area investigated by their sense of touch any object indicated by the adjacent float line. Upon their returns to the surface with a description of any large metal object below or any small object they could lift, the float of the examined area was ~~marked~~ to indicate the check. The boat was moved to next float and the process repeated.

Among the items located was the handle of a broken hunting knife and a door from a refrigerator. No refrigerator cabinet was found in the area indicated by BOOTHE.

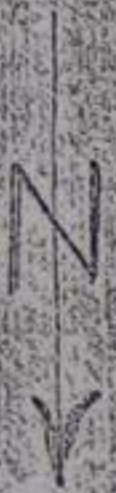
The search began at 8:30 AM. It was interrupted for lunch, hail, rain and rough water. The search was resumed and discontinued at 6:05 PM.

3

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
MDD



TO NATCHEZ MISSISSIPPI RIVER

DEER PARK

LA. 131  
VIDAIA  
15 MILES

GEO. FENTON'S  
RAILWAY  
AREA  
JUGHEADS LANDING

LA. 911  
(GENEY)

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

STATE OF LOUISIANA

TO SAVANNAH

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>3/6/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>2/23 - 3/5/68</b>	TYPED BY <b>clm</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka Joe Edwards - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN</b>		
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>		

REFERENCE:

Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN, 1/23/68, at New Orleans.

- P -

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

1) Will contact logical informants for any information concerning the instant investigation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED <b>None</b>						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 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
  - 3 - Jackson (2-44-65) (1-44-2044)
  - 2 - New Orleans (44-2293)

**44-26064-34**

REC-35

**MAR 11 1968**

EBI  
REC.D - CIA 610412

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	
<b>CRD</b>		<b>MAR 11 1968</b>	<b>694 b</b>	

*McKernough*  
**STAT SECT**

**EXP. PROC.**

NO 44-2293

2) Contact GUY TAYLOR, Chief Ranger, U. S. Park Commission, Natchez Trace, Washington, Miss., and complete arrangements for assistance in an underwater search at Deer Park, La., for remains of victim.

NEW ORLEANS

AT DEER PARK, LOUISIANA

Make underwater search of area where commercial fisherman, MILTON BOOTH, hooked net on submerged object which released air and flesh.

AT HARRISONBURG, LOUISIANA

Coordinate assistance of MILTON BOOTH with diving operations at Deer Park.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

INFORMANTS:

On 1/10/68, [redacted] advised SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN that there has been no recent discussions concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

[redacted] advised SAs WAYNE A. MILLWARD and MERRIMAN D. DIVEN on 1/11/68, that BUD SPINKS, Marshal of Town of Vidalia, will move to Colorado regardless of whether he wins or loses in the March election for this position.

On 1/16/68, [redacted] advised SA JAMES A. WOOTEN as follows:

RALEIGH J. GLOVER, a member of the Silver Dollar Group (SDG), said he had moved from his apartment at Washington, La., and had a room in a motel across from the Billups Service Station on U.S. Highway 61, North near the Holiday Inn, in Natchez. GLOVER stated that on his way back from Kentwood, La.,

COVER PAGE  
B

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

NO 44-2293

on about the night of 1/14/68, he was arrested for speeding by a highway patrolman and the FBI was behind the arrest. GLOVER said he was questioned by the FBI recently about a Negro who was murdered, but he ordered the Agents off his place.

GLOVER said JAMES SEALE was taking flying lessons at the Concordia Parish Airport near Vidalia, La., and that BUCK HORTON had a license to fly at the same airport. GLOVER feels the FBI will put pressure on HORTON and make him talk or take away his license.

KENNETH NORMAN HEAD, a member of the SDG, said that BUD SPINKS, Chief of Police at Vidalia, La., was talking to the FBI and cannot be trusted. The FBI had questioned HEAD about a missing Negro from the Shamrock Motel and had asked him about a white 1964 Oldsmobile with a whip antenna and red light on top. HEAD feels this information came from SPINKS. HEAD did not say who owned the Oldsmobile and MORACE did not comment on whom he thought owned it.

HEAD said that he has heard the FBI would be taking a bunch of men to court and that he will ask the judge for a copy of the 5th Amendment and stand on it. HEAD said he will be out of the area working near Venice, La., for about a month.

On 1/30-31/68, Former [redacted] advised SA REESIE L. TIMMONS that during the weekend of 1/27-28/68, during the course of an early morning conversation at the Bonanza Club near Ferriday, La., between ED FULLER, [redacted] and [redacted] the conversation turned to Vidalia COP BUD SPINKS, and the fact he recently displayed a photo of [redacted] in Vidalia and told individuals that [redacted] was an ex-con who had served time at Angola from where he got the photo he was displaying.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

COVER PAGE

C

FOIA(b) (6)

FOIA(b) (7) - (C)

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579



FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

NO 44-2293

According to Former [redacted] [redacted] was extremely intoxicated and made the statement that he had sent word to BUD SPINKS that if he did not cut out showing a photo, supposedly of him, and telling people that he had served a prison term, "I am going to send someone to Glascock Island (an island at Deer Park, La.) to where he buried those Negroes."

[redacted] also remarked that he has not heard of SPINKS displaying the photo since he sent the above message to him.

Informant advised that ED FULLER appeared surprised by the above statement but [redacted] apparently nodded in agreement.

The informant advised the topic was not pursued further, and [redacted] gave the impression he knew of what [redacted] was speaking. Informant advised that [redacted] works for J. D. RICHARDSON taking care of his cattle and property on Glascock Island.

Informant advised that he knows that until some three or four years ago, BUD SPINKS was a frequent visitor to Glascock Island and the property of J. D. RICHARDSON, but has not been allowed on the island or other property owned by J. D. RICHARDSON in the past two or three years.

Former [redacted] described [redacted] as being approximately 45 years of age, 6'2", 210 pounds, residence, Ferriday, employment, Old River Electric Company, Ferriday, and bartender at the Bonanza Club, Ferriday. *B. APPROX. 1923 L.A.*

On 1/16 and 18/68, [redacted] advised SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III that he had no information concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

COVER PAGE  
D

NO 44-2293

FOIA (b) (6)  
FOIA (b) (7) - (C)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

VI. DALIA, LA

On 2/20-21/68, Former [redacted] advised SA REESIE and Deputy Sheriff FRANK DeLAUGHTER discovered [redacted] and Deputy Sheriff L. TIMMONS that ED FULLER were spending time together each night, while [redacted] was working at the Bonanza. FULLER demanded to know what DeLAUGHTER wanted with [redacted] found out DeLAUGHTER planned to bomb or shoot up the Bonanza. FULLER scare the customers away. DeLAUGHTER then fired [redacted] and called IKE COWAN and told him of DeLAUGHTER's plans. COWAN and DeLAUGHTER then had an argument with COWAN convincing DeLAUGHTER that if anything happened to the Bonanza, he would hand him up.

All of the above informants have furnished reliable information in the past.

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.

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E

NO 44-2293

HBB/bnk

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III, and SA WILLIAM B. WOOD at Vidalia, Louisiana, on January 25, 1968:

The following individuals were contacted during a neighborhood investigation in an effort to develop witnesses to the stopping of victim EDWARD's automobile with negative results:

Mr. M. J. BARNWELL,  
Star Route B,  
Vidalia, Louisiana

Mrs. MYRTLE HARRIS,  
Star Route B,  
Vidalia, Louisiana

Mrs. C. J. HAYGOOD,  
Star Route B,  
Vidalia, Louisiana.

COVER PAGE

F\*

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: March 6, 1968  
Field Office File #: 44-2293  
Bureau File #: 44-26064  
Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: BUD SPINKS, Vidalia PD, made available radio dispatch sheets for his department for July 11 & 12, 1964. Radio logs showed inquiry concerning 1964 Olds. Mrs. CAROLYN WALLACE NOSSER advised her Olds. was blue, and she had no information concerning the victim. CARL REA THOMAS observed victim's car after it was towed to a service station. Information concerning water depth at Natchez, Miss., and Deer Park, La., set out.

- P -

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/16/68

ROBERT RYLAND GASTRELL was located in the vicinity of the Tenneco Service Station, St. Catherine Street, Natchez, Mississippi.

At the outset he was advised of his rights as stated on a form captioned, "Your Rights." This form was provided to him by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN. He signed a waiver of his rights as set out on this form.

He voluntarily stated that he was formerly employed as a taxi driver by the Checker Cab Company, Natchez, Mississippi. While employed in that capacity he became acquainted with HUBERT RUSHING, a fellow taxi driver and RUSHING's wife. He had heard that Mrs. RUSHING had been a prostitute several years ago, but he had no personal knowledge of such activities on her part nor did he know anyone with whom she had been intimate.

GASTRELL stated that he recalled the period when the RUSHINGS lived at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, and one of their children drowned in the swimming pool. However, at no time did he arrange a prostitution date for Mrs. RUSHING. He denied having taken her to the Holiday Inn, Natchez, Mississippi, or anywhere else, for immoral purposes.

GASTRELL stated that JOSEPH EDWARDS was unknown to him. He knew no Negro porters at the Shamrock Motel and had no arrangements with them for the procurement of women for immoral purposes. He added that he never heard of the disappearance of EDWARDS, any racial violence, nor any klan-type activity. GASTRELL stated that he had never joined a Klan-type organization and did not believe in the practices generally associated with the klan.

He stated that he was acquainted with a young white girl who was a cripple and a resident, several years ago, at 302 Jefferson Street, Natchez. He has no recollection of taking this girl, whose last name he recalled as PERRY, to the Shamrock Motel but recalls that she was employed at the Jefferson Davis Hospital, Natchez. The name of JAMES GOSS.

On 1/30/68 at Natchez, Mississippi File# JN 44-65 NO 44-2293  
by SA WAYNE A. MILLWARD and SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN:MDD:med Date dictated 2/3/68

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was unknown to him, but he was of the opinion that he had observed someone resembling a photograph of GOSS in Miss PERRY's company.

HEAD, HOMER "BUCK" HORTON, and RALEIGH J. "RED" GLOVER are unknown to him. He knows Chief "BUD" SPINKS, Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN, and Deputy Sheriff FRANK DELAUGHTER by general reputation as law enforcement officers, but he had no recollection of any unfavorable information concerning them.

GASTRELL volunteered the following personal history and description:

Name  
Sex  
Race  
Date of Birth  
Place of Birth  
Height  
Weight  
Build  
Hair  
Eyes  
Education

ROBERT RYLAND GASTRELL

Male  
White  
September 23, 1922  
Natchez, Mississippi  
6'2"  
195  
Medium  
Grey-black  
Grey  
11th grade, one semester  
N. E. State College, Monroe,  
Louisiana  
U. S. Army, 12th Air Force  
34624176

Military Service  
Military Service  
Number  
Dates of Service

February 26, 1943 to  
January 4, 1946, honorable  
discharge

Present Employment

Gas Station Attendant,  
Tenneco Service Station,  
St. Catherine Street,  
Natchez, Mississippi

Past Employment  
Marital Status

Taxi driver  
Single

NO 44-2293

3

Father	ROBERT RYLAND GASTRELL (deceased)
Mother	Mrs. BLANCHE SPENCE, 1530 DeSoto Street, Natchez, Mississippi
Half Brother	JACK EDWARD PARKER (born 1936) whereabouts unknown since 1950
Sister	Mrs. FRANCES VERZWYVELT, Alexandria, Louisiana
Residence	1530 DeSoto Street, Natchez, Mississippi
Arrests	Drunk, April 1967, Natchez, Mississippi, fined \$16.50

-4-

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

2/7/68

Date

1

Chief of Police, BUD SPINKS, Vidalia Police Department, Vidalia, Louisiana, furnished SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III, the Vidalia Police radio dispatch sheets for July 11 and 12, 1964.

2/2/68

Vidalia, La.

NO 44-2293

On \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ File # \_\_\_\_\_

by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III :mbc -5- Date dictated 2/6/68

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.



NO 44-2293

Among the numerous and routine entries contained in the radio logs made available by Chief SPINKS was an inquiry of the Late Duty Officer GEORGE TRINDLE for the identity of the registered owner of 1964 Mississippi license 1D-1046.

This request was made at 1:57 a.m., July 12, 1964, to radio operator M. G. WISNER. The reason for the inquiry was not shown.

The log shows that at 2:01 a.m. the same date, Natchez (Police Department) advised that 1D-1046 was listed for a 1964 Oldsmobile, registered to PETER J. MOSSER, 15 Brentwood Lane, Natchez, Mississippi.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/8/68

1

Mrs. CAROLYN WALLACE NOSSER, 15 Brentwood Drive, Natchez, Mississippi, after being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents, voluntarily furnished the following information:

NOSSER advised that she is the present owner of a 1964 blue Oldsmobile which was purchased new for her in October, 1963, by her husband, PETER J. NOSSER. She stated that she and her husband have been divorced for several years and that he has never driven the Oldsmobile except for one trip over to Texas with her children.

NOSSER advised she does not recall ever having been stopped by the Vidalia Police on July 12, 1964, nor at any time by any Louisiana law enforcement agency. She stated she did frequent several times the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, however, was always with her sister, Mrs. JO ANNE SMITH, who is married to JOHN SMITH. They formerly resided at 3620 Roman Street in Metairie, Louisiana; however, NOSSER does not know their present address.

NOSSER advised the only individual who may have been using her car the evening of July 11, 1964, without her being in the car is her sister, JO ANNE.

NOSSER advised that she has never overheard any conversations nor recalls having observed any activity relating to the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS. She stated she did not recognize a photograph displayed of the 1959 green Buick driven by EDWARDS.

NOSSER advised the only individual she can recall as having dated at the time during July of 1964 was BOBBY WINTERS, who resides on Ratcliff Street in Natchez, Mississippi, and is employed at the Harting-Packer Company.

On 2/2/68 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SAs HENRY B. BRITTON III and WILKINSON B. WIGD HBB:mar

-7-

Date dictated 2/3/68

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.

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date February 7, 19681

CARL REA THOMAS, Mechanic, Arnaud Ford Company, Ferriday, Louisiana, furnished the following information:

THOMAS, after viewing a photograph of the automobile formerly owned by JOSEPH EDWARDS, advised it was EDWARDS' car and recalled observing the car being towed into Beatty's Gulf Service Station in Ferriday during the summer of 1964.

THOMAS stated that he and CLARE EDWARDS, JOE's brother, shortly after the car was brought to the service station, went to pick up the car, however, were refused the car by the station owner, at which time they were told the car was to be repossessed. THOMAS added that, before leaving, he and CLARE looked at the car and observed a neck tie on the front seat and also noted the front seat to be mud stained.

THOMAS advised he was not knowledgeable of any circumstances dealing with the disappearance of EDWARDS nor was he familiar with anyone having knowledge of his disappearance.

On 1/30/68 at Ferriday, Louisiana

JN 44-65

File # NO 44-2293

by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III - smd

-8-

Date dictated 2/1/68

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

1

JN 44-65  
NO 44-2293

On January 31, 1968, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent HENRY B. BRITTON, III:

Water stage levels listed of the Mississippi River as reported in the following issues of the Natchez Democrat:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FLOOD STAGE</u>	<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>RISE OR FALL</u>
July 12, 1964	48'	17.8	-1.1
October 20, 1964	48'	7.3	- .7
October 25, 1964	48'	5.7	- .1
August 24, 1967	48'	14.3	-1.1

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/6/681

Mr. W. W. CHISHOLM, Construction Supervisor, U. S. Corps of Engineers, 411 Texas Street, advised that the Mississippi River is 18.0 feet deep at Natchez, Mississippi.

He advised that his reports show the decline in the depth of the river. The river will drop the 13.4 feet at Natchez by March 10, 1968. He added that this depth is unusually low for this time of the year.

CHISHOLM stated he had no information which would indicate the depth of the old portion of the river at Deer Park, Louisiana. He explained that the Mississippi River made a bend toward the west, south of Natchez, but the river was straightened and the north end of this bend was filled in so that the water in the old section in the vicinity of Deer Park is "back water", entering from the southern end of the old river.

On 3/5/68at Vidalia, Louisiana

Jackson 44-65

File # New Orleans 44-2293by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/clm

-10\*-

Date dictated 3/5/68

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

FBI

Date: 2/29/68

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

AIRMAIL

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-26064)  
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (44-2293) (P)

UNSUBS  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, Aka -  
VICTIM  
CR

*Handwritten mark*

Rerep of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 1/23/68, at New Orleans and Bureau airtel to New Orleans dated 2/26/68.

The instant case is being re-<sup>activated</sup>opened and a report setting forth information developed since referenced report will be submitted on 3/10/68.

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Jackson (info) (44-65)
- 2 - New Orleans

MDD:med  
(6)

*Handwritten mark*

EX-110

REC-14

44-26064-33

MAR 4 1968

C.C. Bishop

REC'D - CIA WASH DC

51 MAR 17 1968

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

February 12, 1968

SAC, Jackson

Director, FBI  
REC-68

44-26064-32

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

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
J. P. [unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]

Reurlet 1/31/68.

Your enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. Patrick A. McDonough, III, Attorney for the potential witness, Mrs. Iona Seward, states that you are notified that Mrs. Seward does not wish to see you (any FBI Agent), does not wish you to come upon her premises for any purpose whatsoever, that if you do so you will be a trespasser under Mississippi law, that you cannot interview Mrs. Seward without permission of her attorney, and that if such interview is held your office will be responsible for payment of attorney's fees. You state that United States Attorney Hauberg agrees with Mr. McDonough as to the trespass issue.

The Mississippi statute to which Mr. McDonough refers is found in Title 11, Mississippi Code, Section 2411 and reads as follows:

MAILED 7  
FEB 13 1968  
COMM-FBI

"If any person shall go upon the inclosed land of another without his consent, after having been notified by such person or his agent not to do so, either personally or by published or posted notice, or shall remain on such land after a request by such person or his agent to depart, he shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than fifty dollars for such offense. The provisions of this section shall apply to land not inclosed where the stock-law is in force."

FEB 15 2 15 PM '68  
RECEIVED DIVISION

There are two principles of Federal law which forbid effective application of the referenced Mississippi statute against any Federal officer having a legitimate purpose to go upon the property of

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

1 - New Orleans  
DJD/pal

63 MAR 20 1968

TELETYPE UNIT

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

Letter to SAC, Jackson  
Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Joseph Edwards, Aka - Victim  
Civil Rights  
OO: NO

Mrs. Seward or any other resident of Mississippi. The first principle is that "When the performance of his duty requires an officer of the law to enter upon private property his conduct, otherwise a trespass, is justifiable." Glacona v. U.S., 257 F2d 450 (1958), cert. den. 358 U.S. 873. See also 52 American Jurisprudence, Trespass, 41. Under this principle the officer has a legitimate Federal purpose when he enters upon private premises for the purpose of interviewing the occupant on a matter of official business or to make an arrest without a warrant upon probable cause or to execute any warrant. Ellison v. U.S., 206 F2d 476 (1953); Polk v. U.S., 314 F2d 837 (1963), cert. den. 375 U.S. 844; U.S. v. Horton, 382 F2d 132 (1964); U.S. v. Comb, 203 F. Supp. 202 (1962); U.S. ex. rel Stoner v. Myers, 219 F. Supp. 908 (1963), aff'd 329 F2d 280; U.S. v. Sterling, 369 F2d 803 (1966). The principle is perhaps best stated in Ellison, supra, where the court said:

"Appellant contends that the officers' entry on his premises was a trespass from the moment they stepped on his land . . . We cannot accept this contention. The officers were perfectly entitled to go to appellant's door, ring the bell, and inquire as to his whereabouts. They were not trespassers in so doing."

Particularly pertinent to your situation is a decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in which Mississippi is located. The case arose in Florida, which has a trespass statute similar to that of Mississippi. Florida Statutes Annotated 821.01. The defendant in a criminal trial had told FBI Agents late in 1958 that he did not care to be questioned further by them. In February, 1959, there was legitimate reason to question him again and two Agents went into the yard and up to the door of his home for that purpose. The defendant, justifying his conduct at that time, for which he was convicted of assaulting Federal officers, claimed trespass. The court rejected his claim, citing the principle as stated in Glacona, supra. Foster v. U.S., 296 F2d 65 (1962).



Letter to SAC, Jackson  
Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Joseph Edwards, Aka - Victim  
Civil Rights  
OO: NO

The second principle of Federal law, also bearing specifically on the situation created by the referenced Mississippi statute, is that found in the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution of the United States. Under this clause Federal law is superior to state law. The authority of state laws or their administration may not interfere with the carrying out of a national purpose, and where enforcement of a state law would handicap efforts to carry out the plans of the United States, the state enactment must give way. The leading case is *Mayo v. U.S.*, 319 U.S. 441 (1943). As the Department of Justice observed when previously confronted with a conflict between Federal and state law: "Moreover, under the uniform rulings of the Supreme Court, it is clear that New York cannot constitutionally prevent the F. B. I. from performing its lawful duties. It is well settled that a State is precluded by the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, Article VI, from preventing Federal officers and instrumentalities from engaging in their authorized governmental functions through application of State law, including, the criminal statutes and processes of the State." \* This position is supported not only by many decisions, cited by the Department, but by common sense. Were it otherwise, a Federal fugitive in Mississippi would be allowed to notify Federal officers that he does not want them to come upon his premises and then prosecute them under state law for trespass after those officers went upon his premises to execute an arrest warrant or perform any other lawful duty imposed upon them. Such a result would be absurd.

In summary, if you have legitimate reasons to speak with Mrs. Seward in the performance of your lawful duties, you may go upon her property, announce yourself at her door, and inquire whether she wishes to speak with you. This may be done without any reference to Mr. McDonough or any other lawyer. If Mrs. Seward at that time wishes to speak with you, she has a perfect constitutional right to do so. If she refuses to speak with you, you will, of course, end the contact and leave the premises.

We agree with United States Attorney Hauberg that there is no liability for attorney's fees should an interview be had with Mrs. Seward in the presence of her attorney.

\*(Bufile 62-12114-3061)

Letter to SAC, Jackson  
Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Joseph Edwards, Aka - Victim  
Civil Rights  
OO: NO

You may give this information to United States Attorney Hauberg. You should also follow closely with him to determine what answer he receives from the Department of Justice. If the conclusion contained in that answer differs in any degree from that stated here, advise the Bureau, Attention Training Division, immediately and enclose, if possible, a copy of the Department's reply to Mr. Hauberg.

You should also be aware that when a grand jury is in session, the entire problem may be avoided by calling the witness before the grand jury.

2/7/68

SAC, Jackson

44-20064-32  
~~44-34106-52~~

1 - Mr. McDonough

Director, FBI

EX-103

REC-68

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

Reurlet 1/31/68.

If not already done, you should insure that all appropriate personnel of your office are alerted to the position outlined by McDonough relative to Mrs. Seward.

ms

EJM:cs  
(4)

CS

MAILED 4  
FEB 7 1968  
COMM-FBI

3.00 PM '68

FBI RECEIVED  
FEB 1 2 11 PM '68  
COMM-FBI

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

*[Handwritten signature]*

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-37106)

0-175 JN (134)  
0-7270  
3-19-68  
Cora/E.M.

DATE: 1/31/68

*Handwritten initials and signatures*

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

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, Aka.,  
Joe Edwards - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
(OO: New Orleans)

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau and for New Orleans is a copy of a letter dated January 18, 1968, from PATRICK A. MC DONOUGH, III, Attorney, Vidalia, Louisiana, concerning further contacts with his client, Mrs. IONA SEWARD.

Mrs. IONA SEWARD has been previously interviewed by Special Agents in connection with captioned matter.

By letter dated January 23, 1968, a copy of Mr. MC DONOUGH's letter was furnished to Mr. ROBERT E. HAUBERG, U. S. Attorney, Jackson, Mississippi, for his comments as to the validity of Mr. MC DONOUGH's position in this matter.

This discussion with the U. S. Attorney was more academic than a problem in connection with the EDWARDS case, since there is no particular reason at this time for further interviews with Mrs. SEWARD. Our purpose in talking to the U. S. Attorney was to ascertain on general principles the effect of notification of this sort under Mississippi law.

Mr. HAUBERG advised that he felt the state trespass law was applicable in this situation. Counsel for Mrs. SEWARD would be able to secure process charging trespass if Agents entered the premises she occupied, even though they were fulfilling a legitimate investigative function in furtherance of a serious investigation in which the Government had an interest. With regard to any payment to MC DONOUGH for services

- 3-Bureau (Enc. 1) ENCLOSURE
- (1-Legal Research Unit, Training Division)
- 1-New Orleans (44-2293) (Enc. 1) (Info)
- 2-Jackson
- JLP/csm
- (6)

REC-68 44-26064-32

FEB 2 1968

*Handwritten signatures and initials*

EX-100-100-100-100-100-100  
R

*Letter SAC, JN 2-7-68 ESM/RS*

*del to JN 2/12/68 JLP*



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

JN 44-65

appearing with Mrs. SEWARD if an interview was desired, HAUBERG felt this was a matter between the attorney and his client and no financial obligation on the part of the Government would be incurred.

Mr. HAUBERG indicated he felt this situation would be of interest to the Department; therefore, he was forwarding a copy of the communication to the Criminal Division, soliciting their comments concerning this matter.

In view of HAUBERG's action, this matter is being called to the attention of the Criminal Section and in view of the basic investigative problem involved, it is likewise being called to the attention of the Legal Research Unit in the Training Division.

No further interview with Mrs. SEWARD is contemplated at this time. She was the subject of JOSEPH EDWARDS' amorous attentions. Subsequently EDWARDS, a Negro, disappeared and was probably a victim of Klan action. In the investigation Mrs. SEWARD was reluctantly cooperative and never fully convincing as to her sincerity.

PATRICK A. McDONOUGH, III

Attorney at Law

COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
OAK STREET  
P. O. BOX 7  
VIDALIA, LOUISIANA 71373

January 18, 1968

Mr. Joseph Sullivan  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
City Bank Building  
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

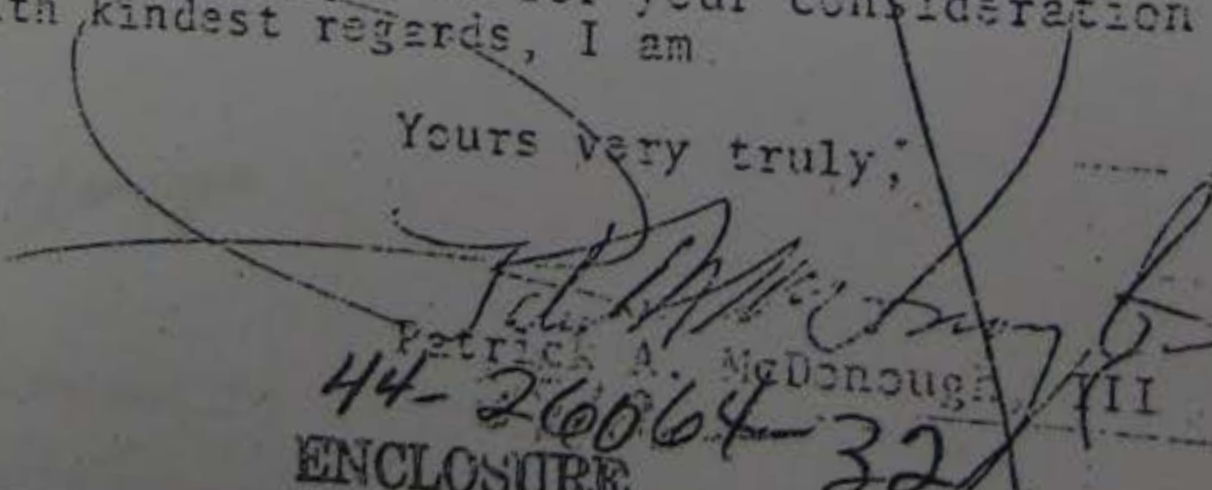
Re: Mrs. Iona Seward

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

This is to advise that I represent Mrs. Seward and that she has contacted me and asked that I give you the following information. First, I would ask that under no circumstances should your investigative staff or anyone connected with you enter upon the premises occupied by Mrs. Seward for any purpose whatever. In the event that you do so without her express permission in advance, you are advised that this matter will be looked upon very seriously and that you will be placed in the position of a trespasser upon her property or that in which she resides. Second, this is to advise that if you should want to discuss anything whatever with Mrs. Seward, you should contact me first and I will be glad to set up an appointment with you at my office to discuss whatever you wish to discuss with her. Further, anytime that this is necessary and I am forced to attend a conference between yourself and Mrs. Seward I will expect that my fee be paid by your office so that Mrs. Seward will not be made to bear the additional expense of my legal services in order to accommodate your office.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration in the premises, and with kindest regards, I am

Yours very truly,

  
Patrick A. McDonough, III  
44-26064-32

ENCLOSURE

PAMcB/nn

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

February 26, 1968

1 - Mr. Long

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, New Orleans (44-2293)  
FROM: Director, FBI (44-26064)

*M. Long*

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, AKA  
JOE EDWARDS - VICTIM  
CR

Rerep of SA Merriman D. Diven dated 1-23-68  
at New Orleans.

Advise status of case.

*Leg*

REL:wws wws  
(4)

SI 114

REC-73

44-26064-31

MAILED 19  
FEB 26 1968  
COMM - FBI

FEB 27 1968

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

56 MAR 4 1968

*Elmer*

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

30

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>1/23/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>1/2-19/68</b>	TYPED BY <b>bls</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, Aka. Joe Edwards - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN</b>		
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CR</b>		

REFERENCES:

Bureau airtel to New Orleans, 1/15/68.  
Report of SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III, dated  
1/10/68, at New Orleans.

-p\*-

LEAD:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT DEER PARK, LOUISIANA

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

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

APPROVED

*[Signature]*

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

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)

44-26064-30 REC-44

31  
5 JAN 26 1968

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD	LOT
Request Recd.		REC.D - 112 110112
Date Fwd.	JAN 26 1968	
How Fwd.	694 F	
By	54 FEB 7 1968	109

Notations

*[Handwritten notes and signatures]*

EXP. PROC.



NO 44-2293

The U.S. Attorney, Shreveport, Louisiana, has been furnished with copies of all reports. He has been requested to comment on the prosecutive merits of the case and whether he desires any additional investigation.

This case is being placed in a pending inactive status for 30 days. At that time consideration will be given to an underwater search, for the victim's remains.

C\*  
(COVER PAGE)

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: 1/23/68

Bureau File #: 44-26064

Field Office File #: NO 44-2293

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Photographs taken of 1964 white Oldsmobile, currently owned by JOHN MITCHELL, JR. JAMES GOSS recontacted and stated that if Deputy BILL OGDEN was implicated in this crime, he would deny it and his associates would back up any false testimony he gave.

-P\*-

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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II. INVESTIGATION IN AREA WHERE FLESH FOUND IN RIVER...5

III. INVESTIGATION OF JAMES BUFORD GOSS.....8

I. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING TYPE OF AUTOMOBILE  
SEEN WHERE VICTIM'S CAR WAS ABANDONED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/8/68

1 Photographs of a 1964 white Oldsmobile Dynamic 88 were taken at the home of JOHN MITCHELL, JR., Post Office Box 322, Weeks Island, Louisiana, using a Speed Graphic camera equipped with a 135 mm Graflex Optar lens. The film was Kodak Tri-X Pan Professional fast black and white with camera settings for all exterior shots of the car; shutter speed 100, lens setting f/11, and interior shots of the car; shutter speed 100, lens setting f/22.

The following photographs were taken:

- Photograph number 1 Rear of automobile at approximately ten feet.
- Photograph number 2 Left side of automobile at approximately 20 feet.
- Photograph number 3 Left rear view of automobile at approximately six feet.
- Photograph number 4 Left front view of automobile at approximately ten feet.
- Photograph number 5 Rear name plate at approximately six feet.
- Photograph number 6 Interior of trunk at approximately six feet.
- Photograph number 7 Interior left front fender well at approximately six feet.
- Photograph number 8 Front view of automobile at approximately ten feet.

On 12/28/67 at Weeks Island, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SA JOHN SATTERTHWAITE/cst Date dictated 1/5/68

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 1/23/68

1

EDWARD JONES, who is usually called JUGHEAD, was contacted at his residence next to his cafe, West of the Border, Deer Park, Louisiana, which he currently has leased to another individual.

JONES volunteered the following information:

He formerly owned and operated a cafe at Deer Park, Louisiana, called Jughead's Cafe. He sold the restaurant during November, 1965, but retained his boat landing business at the same location until last year.

He recalls no suspicious activity at Deer Park during July, 1964. Prior to that time his neighbor, GEORGE FENTON, had placed a number of old refrigerator cabinets in the river to serve as a fish harbors. To the best of his recollection, no refrigerator cases were on the bank of the river during July, 1964.

Later in 1964, JONES said he heard about a fisherman finding some material in the water, which the fisherman thought was human flesh. JONES expressed the opinion that the material was part of some spoiled fish and turtle meat, which he had had his employee throw in the river. This meat was not in a container when disposed of. ~~No one would have been~~ trapped with the meat if the meat had sunk.

JONES said that Police Chief BUD SPINKS of Vidalia maintained a houseboat several hundred feet south of JONES's former landing. He did not know JAMES GOSS by name or photograph. He said he did not know KENNETH NORMAN HEAD, R. J. GLOVER, or HOMER "BUCK" HORTON.

6

On 1/10/68 at Slocum, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA WAYNE A. MILLWARD/MED:bls

Date dictated 1/15/68

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 1/23/68

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On 1/10/68 at Slocum, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA WAYNE A. MILLWARD/MED:bls

Date dictated 1/15/68

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

Date 1/23/681

FRANK WINKLER, also known as Jack, 304 Willow Street, was advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact. He volunteered the following information:

He operates the Chef Restaurant in Vidalia, and recalls JAMES GOSS as a regular customer for a period of about two or three years ago. After GOSS ate at the restaurant a number of times, he learned that GOSS was a probation officer for the State of Louisiana. He recalls that one night GOSS told him he was looking for someone. To the best of WINKLER's recollection, no statement was made identifying the individual GOSS was attempting to find, nor the purpose. At no time did GOSS tell him of any insult to his girl friend. He had observed GOSS on a number of occasions escorting an attractive girl, who had braces on her legs and used crutches.

WINKLER stated that BUD SPINKS, Town Marshal, Vidalia, is a frequent visitor to the cafe, but he does not know of any association between SPINKS and GOSS. WINKLER stated that he has operated the restaurant for about four years. He is originally from Ohio; therefore, is not included in any confidential matters with the natives of the area. R. J. GLOVER, HOMER "BUCK" HORTON, and KENNETH NORMAN HEAD are unknown to him by name.

He advised that he had no information concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, a former porter at the Shamrock Motel.

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On 1/11/68 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293  
 by SA WAYNE A. MILLWARD  
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/MDD:bls Date dictated 1/15/68

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Date 1/23/681

Mrs. FRANK WINKLER, 304 Willow Street, advised the contacting agents that she and her husband operate the Chef Restaurant in Vidalia.

She recalled JAMES GOSS, a Louisiana Probation Officer, as a frequent customer several years ago. At that time he stopped at the restaurant at least twice a week. On many of these occasions he was accompanied by a young, attractive girl who had braces on her legs and used crutches.

Later GOSS was observed escorting another girl. This girl had blonde hair. Mrs. WINKLER stated GOSS also dated FLO TAYLOR, a former waitress at the restaurant. She does not know FLO TAYLOR's present whereabouts. While in Vidalia, TAYLOR resided with Mrs. T. T. TOWLES, 7 Hickory Street.

GOSS was frequently accompanied by a much shorter white male, with red hair, full face and stocky build. Mrs. WINKLER assumed that this man was GOSS's co-worker.

Mrs. WINKLER advised she had heard no discussion by GOSS which indicated he was involved in the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro porter of the Shamrock Motel.

She further advised that BUD SPINKS, Town Marshal, Vidalia, is a frequent visitor at the restaurant. She does not know whether there was any relationship between GOSS and SPINKS. She advised that KENNETH NORMAN HEAD, R. J. GLOVER, and HOMER "BUCK" HORTON are not known to her by name.

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On 1/11/68 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293

by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA WAYNE A. MILLWARD/MDD:bls

Date dictated 1/15/68

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/19/68

1

RICHARD VAN MATRE, 7145 Airline Highway, (a trailer park), advised that he had no information regarding JOE EDWARDS. Mr. VAN MATRE advised that in the fall of 1964 and spring of 1965 he resided at a boarding house run by Mrs. DALLAS on Pine Street in Natchez, Mississippi. He stated he could not recall the name of the boarding house, although it began with the name of Old, but it was located near the far section of Natchez, Mississippi.

Mr. VAN MATRE stated he was on probation which was imposed by the courts in Franklin Parish, Winnsboro, Louisiana, for child support and he used to contact his probation officer, whose name was GOSS who was from Bossier City, at the Shamrock Motel which was located at Tallulah. During his contact with GOSS he met a girl named IONA PERRY who was paralyzed and wore braces from the hips down. This girl worked for the Jefferson Davis Hospital and later for the Shamrock Motel.

VAN MATRE stated that he felt very sorry for this girl and on several occasions he took her to dinner and it was his understanding that probation officer GOSS also was friendly to this unfortunate girl.

Mr. VAN MATRE stated that he was not acquainted with JOE EDWARDS and had no information regarding his whereabouts or any incident in which he may have been involved at the Shamrock Motel. He advised that he has not been in contact with the people at the Shamrock Motel since he left the Natchez area in March, 1965.

He stated that he has been through Tallulah in route to his home in Winnsboro, Louisiana, and has contacted Miss PERRY briefly on several occasions but there never were any remarks made about EDWARDS.

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On 1/11/68 at METAIRIE, LOUISIANA File # NO 44-2293

by SA REGIS L. KENNEDY/ac

Date dictated 1/15/68

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

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NO 44-2293

VAN MATRE advised that he is employed as a  
engineer at the Imperial Office Building, Causeway Boulevard  
and resides in the next to the last trailer on the right  
at 7145 Airline Highway.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/23/681

MARION SEWARD, 417 Walnut Street, Natchez, was contacted at his residence and advised of the identities of the agents and the nature of the contact.

He advised that some time prior to 1964, he worked for about three days at the Shamrock Motel. He quit because he found he had a variety of duties, each of which paid a different hourly rate. He did not know JOSEPH EDWARDS. SEWARD said he dated IONA PERRY while she was employed at the motel during 1964.

SEWARD said he stopped going with PERRY while she was still working at the motel. He later learned from her that she then dated JAMES GOSS, who claimed to be unmarried.

SEWARD later married PERRY. At no time prior to her first interview by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation did she mention JOSEPH EDWARDS or his disappearance. After her interview by Special Agents, she related to him that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was trying to locate EDWARDS, a former co-worker at the Shamrock Motel. She furnished no details concerning EDWARDS' disappearance nor GOSS's possible involvement.

SEWARD stated that his wife is trustworthy and truthful. SEWARD advised that he would apprise the Federal Bureau of Investigation of any pertinent information which came to his attention.

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On 1/16/68 at Natchez, MississippiFile # Jackson 44-65by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA WAYNE A. MILLWARD/MDD:blsDate dictated 1/19/68

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

Date 1/23/681

JAMES GOSS, Louisiana Probation Officer, was located while towing an automobile owned and operated by Mrs. GLORIA CHERRY, 1329 Mark Street, Bossier City, Louisiana, in the vicinity of Bossier City. GOSS acknowledged the identities of contacting agents and submitted to reinterview after being furnished a current "Interrogation: Your Rights" form, which GOSS read, stated he understood and signed voluntarily.

JAMES BUSORD advised that since last contacted by agents, he had no additional information which he could furnish any implication of Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN of the Concordia Parish to Sheriff's Office would only be denied by OGDEN and falsely backed up by several of OGDEN's associates.

GOSS denied any close association with law enforcement officials in the Vidalia - Ferriday area outside of occasional business discussions with them.

GOSS stated that with regard to his dating FLO TAYLOR, who worked as a waitress at the Chef Cafe in Vidalia, Louisiana, the only time he had contact with her was once when he brought her up to her home in Tallulah, Louisiana, after she had been on a drinking spree. GOSS advised that the only other female who accompanied him to the cafe was IONA PERRY SEWARD, whom he brought to the cafe on several occasions.

GOSS stated that he had been in contact with his attorney, JACK KAPLAN, and he had been advised not to return to Concordia Parish during the course of the investigation.

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On 1/18/68 at Bossier City, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293  
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN  
SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III/MDD:bls Date dictated 1/19/68

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>1/10/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/8/67 - 1/2/68</b>	TYPED BY <b>jls</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, aka Joe Edwards - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III</b>		
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>		

REFERENCE: Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 12/21/67, at New Orleans.

- P -

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT NATCHEZ, MISS.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUITTED
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERED	
						NONE

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 (44-25064)
- 1 - USA, Shreveport, La.
- 3 - Jackson (44-55)
- 1 (1 - 44-2044)
- 2 - New Orleans (44-2293)

44-26064-29

JAN 17 1968

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD		
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.	1-16-68		
How Fwd.	694(B)		
By	RE:eam		

Notations  
*[Handwritten notes and signatures]*  
 SIX  
 STAFF

56 JAN 22 1968

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

EX-115

NO 44-2293

Will maintain contacts with sources who associate with suspects.

NEW ORLEANS

AT FERRIDAY, LA.

Will continue efforts to develop Negro sources possibly knowledgeable of victim's disappearance.

AT SHREVEPORT, LA.

Will recontact JAMES GOSS concerning the disappearance of victim.

AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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

INFORMANTS:

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

On 12/8/67, [redacted] advised SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES that he had talked with MARIO HERNANDEZ of Natchez, Mississippi, during the past week, and HERNANDEZ mentioned

B  
COVER PAGE

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that he had been interviewed by Agents of the FBI regarding an Oldsmobile which had two antennas which someone in that area supposedly owned about the time JOSEPH EDWARDS disappeared in Vidalia, Louisiana. Source stated that HERNANDEZ told him that about 1964, BUD SPINKS, Chief of Police, Vidalia, Louisiana, owned an Oldsmobile which carried two antennas.

Source stated that HERNANDEZ told him at this time that JOSEPH EDWARDS, who formerly worked at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, had been a pimp for NELLIE JACKSON, a Natchez, Mississippi, madam.

Source stated HERNANDEZ merely mentioned these above items and did not go into any detailed explanation regarding these comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

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

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

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

C\*  
COVER PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Office: NEW ORLEANSReport of: SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III  
Date: January 10, 1968

Bureau File #: 44-26064

Field Office File #: NO 44-2293

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: JESSIE ANDERSON advised he observed automobile owned by EDWARDS parked on Ferriday--Vidalia Highway at time of victim's disappearance. Interview of JOHN MITCHELL, owner of automobile formerly used by Vidalia PD, set forth. Observations made of 1964 Oldsmobile used by Vidalia, La. PD. Interview with IONA PERRY SEWARD on 12/28/67, set out.

- P -

DETAILS:

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

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IV. Information Received Relative to JAMES BUFORD GOSS, Louisiana Probation Officer . . . . .	14 - 16*

NO 44-2293

I. INVESTIGATION OF VICTIM EDWARDS' BACKGROUND.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/22/67

1

JESSE ANDERSON, laborer, T. E. Mercer Trucking Company, Vidalia, Louisiana, after being advised of the identity of the interviewing agents, voluntarily furnished the following information:

ANDERSON advised that he was a former associate of JOSEPH EDWARDS and also worked with him at T. E. Mercer prior to EDWARDS gaining employment at the Shamrock Motel.

ANDERSON stated that when EDWARDS worked at the motel, he would often mention some of the "five white girls" that worked there and implied that he was having relations with them; however, he never made mention of their names.

ANDERSON stated that he recalls seeing EDWARDS' car parked on the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway and once stopped to look at it. ANDERSON stated he thought CLABE EDWARDS, JOE's brother, was with him at the time. ANDERSON advised that he recalls observing a belt looped around the steering wheel and a necktie draped over the mirror. ANDERSON stated it was believed the car was left on the highway because it had run out of gasoline.

ANDERSON advised that it was believed by the Negro community that EDWARDS was in jail; however, after not being heard from for a number of days, it was generally thought EDWARDS had met with some foul play.

ANDERSON advised that EDWARDS once mentioned to him prior to his disappearance that he had accidentally walked into a motel room occupied by a white woman. Apparently, ANDERSON stated, the woman was clothed only in light bed clothing and expressed alarm at the sight of EDWARDS.

On 12/18/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # Jackson 44-65

by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III/bls Date dictated 12/18/67

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ANDERSON advised that he knew of no hostile reaction as a result of the above incident.

The following description of EDWARDS was furnished:

Height:	5 feet 7 inches
Weight:	Approximately 150
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Black
Complexion:	Medium
Scars and marks:	None known; several upper teeth missing which caused EDWARDS to put his hand to his mouth when laughing
Jewelry:	None recalled

JN 44-65

HBB/wgj

1

On December 28, 1967, the following investigation was conducted at Vidalia, Louisiana by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III.

Mrs. W. E. PRICE, 100 Hickory Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, advised that from May, 1964, through November, 1966, she did not work at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana. PRICE stated she did not know JOSEPH EDWARDS nor did she ever know him to be employed at the Shamrock. PRICE added that no information has been brought to her attention regarding the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

NO 44-2293

II. INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF  
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/29/67

RAYMOND KEATHLY, RFD, Clayton, Louisiana, was contacted at his residence and advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, at which time he furnished the following information:

KEATHLY advised he is a former Deputy of the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, and terminated his employment in March of 1967, when he entered the primary race for Sheriff. KEATHLY stated that during 1963-1964, there was a great deal of difficulty with the racial situation in the Ferriday-Vidalia area, and that during this time, he was assigned primarily as office deputy for the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office. KEATHLY stated that he recalled conversations concerned with JOSEPH EDWARDS; however, was unable to recollect anything specific, except for a comment made either by BILL OGDEN or FRANK DELAUGHTER, both Sheriff's Office Deputies, saying, "We won't be bothered by that nigger anymore."

When queried as to JAMES GOSS, a Louisiana Probation Officer, KEATHLY stated that GOSS used to come to Ferriday and Vidalia once a week, generally on Thursday, and stay at the Shamrock Motel. GOSS appeared to be quite friendly with BILL OGDEN and FRANK DELAUGHTER and KEATHLY advised he had observed GOSS several times riding with them during their evening patrols.

KEATHLY stated that in his estimation, BILL OGDEN, FRANK DELAUGHTER, or IKE COWAN, would each be knowledgeable regarding the disappearance of EDWARDS. KEATHLY added that the Chief of Police of Vidalia, Louisiana, BUD SPINKS, also had leanings toward violence if provoked, and that during 1964, SPINKS was in close with Deputies of the Sheriff's Office. KEATHLY advised the only 1964 white Oldsmobile he knew of that had two long whip antennas mounted on the trunk was the one operated by the Vidalia Police Department.

On 12/26/67 at Clayton, Louisiana

Jackson 44-65

File # New Orleans 44-2293

by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III/bjk

Date dictated 12/27/67

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NO 44-2293

III. INFORMATION CONCERNING 1964 OLDSMOBILE  
OBSERVED IN VICINITY OF VICTIM'S CAR  
NIGHT OF VICTIM'S DISAPPEARANCE.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/22/671

J. T. MATHEWS, Deputy, East Carroll Sheriff's Office, after being advised of the identity of the interviewing agents, furnished the following information:

MATHEWS advised that during 1964 the only Oldsmobile utilized by the Sheriff's Office was a four-door, white Oldsmobile sedan. MATHEWS stated the car was equipped with a roof mounted beacon light, one radio used by the department and the door had a Sheriff's star on its side.

MATHEWS stated he was not aware of any personally owned cars of J. O. THORNTON, who was formerly a deputy with the Sheriff's Office. MATHEWS advised that while THORNTON was employed by the Sheriff's Office, he was assigned to the Oldsmobile to drive. MATHEWS stated that all automobiles used by the department are purchased by the Sheriff's Office from either the local Ford or Chevrolet dealership in Lake Province.

On 12/19/67 at Lake Province, Louisiana File# Jackson 44-65

by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III  
SA WILLIAM B. WOOD/HBB:bls

Date dictated 12/20/67

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/20/671

HERBERT LANDRY, 1400 Iberia Street, New Iberia, Louisiana, advised that he did sell JOHN MITCHELL, JR., a 1964 Oldsmobile in January of 1966, when he was the owner of Tom's Auto Sales. He stated that he had purchased the above mentioned automobile from Holt and Son, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in September or October of 1965.

LANDRY said that at the time he purchased the automobile he felt that it must have belonged to some organization because the title had never shown ownership by an individual. He commented that he had driven the car for a while because it was in such good condition. LANDRY said that after MITCHELL bought the car he brought it in to have four holes plugged on the left floor of the trunk.

On 12/15/67 at New Iberia, Louisiana

by SA JOHN SATTEERTHWAITE-daf

File# NO 44-2293

Date dictated 12/19/67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/20/671

PRESLEY M. LANDRY, Associate Manager, Commercial Securities, Torrido Village, New Iberia, Louisiana, advised that his company held a loan for JOHN MITCHELL, JR., for the purchase of a 1964 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88. LANDRY presented the title of the above mentioned automobile which showed the purchase had been made on January 8, 1966, from Tom's Auto Sales, New Iberia, Louisiana, and gave the following description:

1964 Oldsmobile 8, Dynamic 88, four-door sedan, VIN 344M139590, Title number M3696300, bearing a 1966-1967 Louisiana license, 31X776, owner of the automobile, JOHN MITCHELL, JR., Post Office Box 322, Weeks Island, Louisiana.

On 12/15/67 at New Iberia, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293  
by SA JOHN SATTERTHWAYTE-daf

Date dictated 12/19/67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/22/671

JOHN MITCHELL, JR., Post Office Box 322, Weeks Island, Louisiana, advised he had purchased a 1964 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88, white, four door, sedan, on January 8, 1966. He stated that at the time of purchase, the car was very clean inside and out, with the exception of four holes on the lower left floor of the trunk, numerous small holes on the left front fender, well under the hood, and a tear in the material at the bottom of the left front door. MITCHELL stated that the only repair work that he has done to the car is to have the four holes in the trunk plugged and the entire bottom of the car repainted due to rust.

MITCHELL produced a bill of sale, number 1109, from Tom's Auto Sales, New Iberia, Louisiana, showing a 1964 Oldsmobile, Dynamic 88, VIN 844M139590, was purchased by him on January 8, 1966, from HERBERT M. LANDRY, Tom's Auto Sales, New Iberia, Louisiana. He stated that the title of the car was not in his possession since he had financed it with Commercial Securities, New Iberia, Louisiana.

On 12/15/67 at Weeks Island, Louisiana File# NO 44-2293  
by SA JOHN SATTERTHWAITE -daf

Date dictated 12/13/67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579

1

At the residence of JOHN MITCHELL, JR., Post Office Box 322, Weeks Island, Louisiana, an examination was made of a 1964 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88, white, four-door sedan, VIN 844M139590, bearing 1966-1967 Louisiana license 31X776, odometer 57, 424. The above mentioned automobile was equipped with power steering and brakes, radio, and heater.

The examination disclosed four holes, which have been plugged, on the left floor of the trunk, seven small holes on the left fender well, under the hood; a tear in the material along the bottom of the left front door, a rust spot above the bumper on the right rear, an Oldsmobile name plate running from each tail light across the back of the car with holes about two inches apart along the bottom, and ridges and paint cracks in the middle of the front top of the automobile. A thorough search was made of the contents of the trunk, glove compartment, under the seats, and in the creases of the seats revealing only articles belonging to the present owner. Observation of the trunk deck failed to locate any holes or any indication that the holes had been drilled in for antennae.

On 12/15/67 at Weeks Island, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SA JOHN SATTERTHWAITE -daf Date dictated 12/19/67

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NO 44-2293

IV. INFORMATION RECEIVED RELATIVE TO JAMES  
BUFORD GOSS, LOUISIANA PROBATION OFFICER.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 3, 1968

IONA PERRY SEWARD, 417 Walnut Street, Natchez, Mississippi was recontacted at her residence and advised of the identity of interviewing agent, at which time she voluntarily furnished the following information

SEWARD advised that since last contacted by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no new information regarding the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS had been brought to her attention. SEWARD stated however, some information had been recalled which she had not before mentioned.

SEWARD advised that during the time she had dated JAMES GOSS, a Louisiana Probation Officer, that upon occasion she and GOSS would take automobile rides together. SEWARD stated that on one occasion while riding, Chief of Police, BUD SPINKS of the Vidalia Police Department and GOSS stopped each of their cars while passing, got out and talked together. SEWARD advised that GOSS appeared considerably friendly with law enforcement officials in the Vidalia-Ferriday area and would often spend time with them while he was in town.

SEWARD stated that one time while riding with GOSS down Deer Park Road she asked him why that particular road. GOSS replied that he "wanted to check on EDWARDS." SEWARD added that GOSS also made reference to EDWARDS being in a refrigerator and that the fish would have plenty to feed on. SEWARD advised that GOSS also made mention about the remains of EDWARDS coming to the surface, however, he furnished no details.

On 12-28-67 at Natchez, Mississippi File# Jackson 44-65  
New Orleans 44-2293  
 by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III:yv Date dictated 12-28-67

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NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579



JN 44-65

2

SEWARD added that GOSS at one point even referred to EDWARDS as being in the trunk of his car. SEWARD advised that many times when such a remark would be made, she would ask a question to develop a more accurate account at which time GOSS would skip over the subject and discuss something else.

SEWARD advised that through various remarks made by GOSS inferring the "world being a mess" that she came to a conclusion there hinted to be law enforcement individuals involved in the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

SEWARD stated that when she would ask any questions requesting detail concerning EDWARDS from GOSS, his often standard reply would be something to the effect he wanted to keep her out of the situation, and not elaborate on statements which he may have made.

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January 15, 1968

1 - Mr. McDonough

Airtel

To: SAC, New Orleans (44-2293)

From: Director, FBI (44-26064)

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to the report of SA Merriman D. Diven dated 12/21/67, at New Orleans.

You should continue to afford this case close investigative attention in order to bring it to a logical conclusion at the earliest possible date. You should vigorously pursue any logical leads outstanding and if such leads are pending in an auxiliary office, insure that you follow with that office in order that this case can be completed promptly.

Surep promptly all developments since last report.

EJM:lrk  
(4)

REC-74

EX 109

44-26064-28

JAN 15 1968

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

MAILED 22  
JAN 15 1968  
COMM-FBI

66 JAN 19 1968

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

NW#: 9008

DocId: 59168579