

VII. RUMORS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/26/67

HENRY SLIM MC GRAW, 408 5th Street, phone 336-5548, who is employed by the Concordia River Return Company, was contacted at the railroad crossing on Louisiana Avenue, Vidalia, Louisiana, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

MC GRAW stated that he recently heard a rumor being discussed outside of Babe's Place, Louisiana Avenue, Vidalia, Louisiana, by a number of Negro persons whose names he could not recall. MC GRAW stated that according to the rumor, JOSEPH EDWARDS, the Negro porter who disappeared from the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, was arrested at a gas station in Vidalia, and taken to the Vidalia jail where EDWARDS was killed. EDWARDS' body was then disposed of by GEORGE WEST of West Funeral Home, Natchez, Mississippi. MC GRAW could furnish no other details concerning the rumor.

On 10/25/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs WILLIAM B. WOOD and
GEORGE F. BENZ /GFB:jls Date dictated 10/26/67

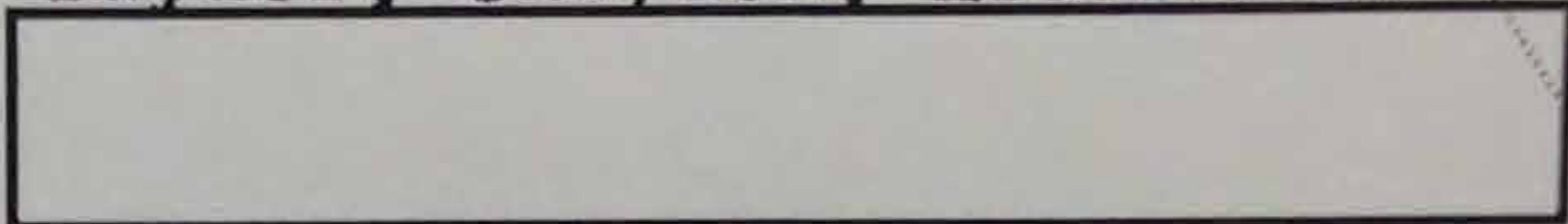
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

NO 44-2293

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

Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Build	Slender
Characteristics	Some upper teeth missing
Marital status	Single - common law wife OGREE TAYLOR, aka Agree Taylor, Clayton, Louisiana

Children



Social Security #

433-58-3219 (Correct number under name JOE EDWARDS; 433-58-3217 incorrect number used at Shamrock Motel, Vidalia.)

Occupation

Porter

Social Security, Alexandria, Louisiana, advised that an investigation conducted 8/10/66, for claim by EDWARDS' common law wife for benefits was denied because there was no proof of his death. His Social Security records apparently have been inactive since July, 1964.

The Identification Division and Baltimore are requested to search files of the Identification Division and BA CS-4 respectively for any information concerning EDWARDS, particularly subsequent to his disappearance.

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

-1- Interview RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER concerning his possible involvement in the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, noting that an informant advised that Chief BUD SPINKS, Vidalia, Louisiana, Police Department, contacted GLOVER to take care of EDWARDS. The same source advised that GLOVER, KENNETH NORMAN HEAD, and HOMER T. HORTON killed EDWARDS and disposed of his body.

-2- Continue contacts with logical informants.

NEW ORLEANS

AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Contact Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN, Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, concerning information previously reported that OGDEN attempted to apprehend EDWARDS in connection with a complaint of disturbing the peace and EDWARDS' alleged escape over the levee.

AT SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Will re-interview JAMES GOSS, Louisiana Probation Officer, who made statements to IONA PERRY SEWARD of his intention to kill EDWARDS because of his insult to her.

COVER PAGE

B

44-26064-23

AT VIDALIA, LOUISIANA

-1- Interview KENNETH NORMAN HEAD concerning his alleged involvement in the death of EDWARDS as stated in the above Natchez lead.

-2- Interview HOMER T. HORTON for the same reason.

All the above leads are being coordinated with the investigation of Bureau Special WHARBOM at Natchez, Mississippi.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

COVER PAGE

C

NO 44-2293

JN 44-65

HBB/blw

1

The following investigation was conducted at Natchez, Mississippi, on November 6, 1967, by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III, and SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN:

[REDACTED] advised that no records were available pertaining to JOSEPH EDWARDS and upon review of EDWARDS' Social Security Number, it was established that number was not issued in the State of Mississippi. [REDACTED] stated that any claims for Social Security benefits made by EDWARDS' wife, ORGREE TAYLOR, who resides in Clayton, Louisiana, would have been made through the Alexandria, Louisiana, Social Security Office.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

COVER PAGE

D

NO 44-2293

JN 44-65

MDD/blw

1

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

The following investigation was conducted on November 6, 1967, at Alexandria, Louisiana, by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III, and SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN:

[redacted] advised that the files of his office contained a record concerning JOE EDWARDS, Social Security Number 433-58-3219. [redacted] advised that a claim had been made for Social Security benefits on the account of JOE EDWARDS by AGREE TAYLOR of Clayton, Louisiana, EDWARDS' alleged common-law wife.

The file showed the following background information regarding EDWARDS:

Father	JOE EDWARDS (deceased)
Mother	BERNICE CONNERS New Orleans, Louisiana
Wife	AGREE TAYLOR - Alleged common-law wife
Children	[redacted]

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

[redacted] advised that his file is incomplete and it appears that an investigation was made concerning the claim for benefits by EDWARDS' alleged common-law wife. The file shows that on August 10, 1966, AGREE TAYLOR was advised that although the wage earner disappeared under mysterious circumstances, there was no evidence of his death and her claim was being denied.

COVER PAGE

E

He stated that although the file contained no actual statement that EDWARDS' account was inactive from July, 1964, the wording of the notations indicated that there was apparently no activity subsequent to that date.

[REDACTED] further pointed out that such inactivity in an account did not necessarily indicate that the individual was deceased inasmuch as he may have obtained another Social Security Number under a different name and it would be impossible to associate the new number and name with the old account.

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

COVER PAGE

F

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

Report of: SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
Date: November 10, 1967

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Field Office File #: 44-2293

Bureau File #: 44-26064

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Former co-workers of JOSEPH EDWARDS advised of his activities, including gambling and affairs. Chief J. T. ROBINSON, Natchez, Mississippi, Police Department, made available missing persons report on EDWARDS dated July 21, 1964; later he inspected victim's abandoned car but saw no evidence of violence. JOHNNIE LEE SPINKS, Marshal, Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, advised that a white crippled girl told him of EDWARDS' attempt to kiss her but declined to prosecute him. SPINKS denies any involvement or knowledge of EDWARDS' disappearance. Other law officials interviewed. IONA PERRY SEWARD furnished information concerning conversation with EDWARDS which may have made him believe that she would be receptive to his advances. She added that JAMES GOSS showed her a .45 caliber gun he bought to shoot EDWARDS.

- 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. JOSEPH EDWARDS' BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES	2
A. Employment at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana	3
B. Employment at Albert Pick Motel, Natchez, Mississippi	7
C. Employment at Swift and Company, Natchez, Mississippi	14
D. Friends and Associates of JOSEPH EDWARDS	19
II. INTERVIEWS OF PRESENT AND FORMER LAW OFFICIALS	23
III. INVESTIGATION OF JAMES GOSS	43
IV. RUMORS	47

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 25, 1967

KATIE HOLMES, 803 Magnolia Street, advised that she had been employed as a maid at the Shamrock Motel during 1964.

She recalled JOSEPH EDWARDS as a porter at the motel for a very short time during that year. Her contact with EDWARDS was very limited as he would usually arrive just before or after she ended her work. She could furnish no information concerning his activities, his friends, nor any difficulties which he may have encountered.

She stated she recalled when a small child drowned in the pool at the Shamrock Motel during 1964 but she was of the opinion that a young Negro kitchen helper was the one who removed the body from the pool. She had no information concerning any association between the drowned infant's mother and JOSEPH EDWARDS inasmuch as Mrs. HOLMES cleaned the rooms on the other side of the motel.

After rumors reached her that EDWARDS had disappeared, she never saw him again nor did she know why he had disappeared. She stated that she heard from unrecalled sources that EDWARDS vehicle was found along the road somewhere between Vidalia and Ferriday, Louisiana. She advised that she had no additional information concerning EDWARDS or his disappearance.

On 10/24/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/25/67
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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 25, 1967

LUCY MAE CLAIBON, 709 Magnolia Street, was contacted and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. She provided the following information:

CLAIBON stated that in 1964, she was a maid at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. CLAIBON stated that she did not recall a Negro porter who worked there at the time named JOSEPH EDWARDS, slender build, brownish skin, in his 20's. CLAIBON stated that as a maid, she left the Shamrock at 2:00 p.m. just as the porters were coming on duty and, thus, she had no reason to know the identities of the porters.

CLAIBON stated that she did not hear of any incident wherein a Shamrock porter came into the kitchen and alleged that a guest had pulled a gun on him. CLAIBON stated that she had never heard of an incident at the Shamrock wherein a Negro porter had insulted a white female Shamrock employee. CLAIBON stated that she had never heard that a Negro porter at the Shamrock had dated a white girl.

On 10/24/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
SA GEORGE E. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 10/25/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 28, 1967

BEATRICE LAMBERT, a waitress at the Albert Pick Motel, was advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

She stated that she recalls JOSEPH EDWARDS as a former dishwasher at the Albert Pick. She formed the opinion that EDWARDS was "sort of a fresh boy" but she has never known him to have insulted anyone nor to have been involved with white girls.

She advised that EDWARDS' position at the Albert Pick Motel would have provided him with little, if any, opportunity to have met or associated with any white female employees or guests.

She advised that she had no information having any bearing on EDWARDS' disappearance.

On 10/25/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA BRENT W. WARBERG
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/26/67

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 11/1/67

ADDIE BINGHAM, Route 4, Box 366, Natchez, was contacted at her place of employment, the Rendezvous Restaurant, 114 Main Street, Natchez, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. She provided the following information:

BINGHAM stated that a few years ago she was employed as a supervisor in the kitchen at the Albert Pick Motel, Natchez, Mississippi. She stated that she recalled a Negro named JOSEPH EDWARDS who worked in the kitchen and who she sometimes brought to work in her Volkswagen along with some other Negro kitchen help.

BINGHAM stated that EDWARDS had worked for Mr. SMITH at Swift and Company, Canal Street, Natchez, and that SMITH asked BINGHAM to give EDWARDS a job. She stated that EDWARDS never gave her any trouble at all.

She stated that to the best of her recollection, EDWARDS never got caught in a room at the Albert Pick with a white female guest. She stated that she did not recall why EDWARDS quit working at the Albert Pick.

BINGHAM stated that EDWARDS left the Albert Pick and went to work at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. Shortly thereafter, EDWARDS disappeared. After EDWARDS disappeared, BINGHAM talked to SMITH about EDWARDS. SMITH told BINGHAM that EDWARDS had gotten smart with a white girl at the Shamrock and that EDWARDS had not been seen since that time.

BINGHAM stated that some of EDWARDS' fellow kitchen employees at the Albert Pick were DOROTHY BRIGGS, LOUISE CARTER, ALMA HARRIS, ADA TERRELL and DOROTHY GRIFFIN.

On 10/30/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA's GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/GFB/clm Date dictated 10/31/67

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.

NO 44-2293

BINGHAM also stated that she recalled that EDWARDS wore a watch with a gold wristband. The watch was round, it had round blue stones for 12, 3, 6, and 9 p.m., and rectangular red stones in between the blue stones.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/1/67

CLINTON AUSTIN, 1111 Peach Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted at his place of employment, Swift and Company, 413 South Canal, Natchez, Mississippi, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing agents. He provided the following information:

AUSTIN stated that he was a co-worker a few years ago at Swift and Company of a Negro named JOSEPH EDWARDS.

AUSTIN stated that a Vidalia, Louisiana, mailman named JACK MILLIGAN, 421 Myrtle Street, told AUSTIN a year or so after EDWARDS disappeared that a body had been found in the Mississippi River by unidentified persons, that it was taken to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, by unidentified persons in an unidentified manner, who brought the body back to an unidentified "Sheriff's place" where the still unidentified body was buried. A marker was put on the grave which read "Headless Joe".

On 10/30/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/GFB/clm Date dictated 10/31/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/1/67

CLINTON AUSTIN, 1111 Peach Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted at his place of employment, Swift and Company, 413 South Canal, Natchez, Mississippi, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

AUSTIN stated that he was a co-worker a few years ago at Swift and Company of a Negro named JOSEPH EDWARDS.

AUSTIN stated that EDWARDS also worked at the Albert Pick Motel, Natchez, at the same time. AUSTIN stated that he was told by EDWARDS on one occasion that EDWARDS had been participating in sexual activities in a back room at the Albert Pick for 25 cents with a Negro female employee of the Albert Pick who needed the money to make payments on her 1956 Chevrolet and who lived on Broadway Street, Natchez. EDWARDS also told AUSTIN that other Negro kitchen help at the Albert Pick acted as lookouts while EDWARDS and the Negro female conducted their activities in the back room.

On 10/30/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/GFB/clm Date dictated 10/31/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 2, 1967

VERNON E. SMITH, Superintendent, Swift and Company, Natchez, Mississippi, who is a resident of 104 McGreggor Way, Natchez, was apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

SMITH stated that JOSEPH EDWARDS had been employed as a stock worker by Swift and Company during late 1963 or early 1964. SMITH related that EDWARDS was a good worker but was not dependable in that he failed to report for work on many occasions. On the last occasion, he related that his son had broken his leg and had to be taken to a specialist at a hospital in Monroe, Louisiana. SMITH sought proof of this claim and found that EDWARDS had lied about the incident. EDWARDS was, therefore, dismissed from his job. SMITH stated that he recommended EDWARDS, however, to Mrs. ADDIE BINGHAM, supervisor of the kitchen, Albert Pick Motel, Natchez.

EDWARDS was known to be employed at the motel for at least several months but during that time, SMITH employed him occasionally for odd jobs at SMITH's residence, then located at 419 Lynn Street, Vidalia, Louisiana.

Subsequently, SMITH received an inquiry from JOSEPH EDWARDS' mother as to whether he had seen her son recently. He, thereafter, heard rumors to the effect that EDWARDS' vehicle was found and that he apparently met with foul play. As to the source of these rumors, SMITH identified WILLIE KEYS, a Negro stock worker at Swift and Company, and CLIFTON AUSTIN, a white worker in the cooler at Swift and Company.

On 10/30/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 11/2/67

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 November 3, 1967

WILLIE H. KEYS, 623 Stiers Lane, Natchez, Mississippi, who is a receiving clerk at Swift and Company, Natchez, was apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

KEYS advised that he was acquainted with JOSEPH EDWARDS as a co-worker at Swift and Company. During that time, he found EDWARDS to be somewhat stupid and inclined to be promiscuous with girls of the Negro race.

KEYS stated that he is also a Negro although many people believe him to be a person of the white race but EDWARDS had never indicated to him that he was having affairs with girls of the white race. One of EDWARDS' girl friends was ANNA FLEMING, who resided on Oak Street, Natchez, and was employed in the kitchen at the Albert Pick Motel.

On one occasion, EDWARDS told the laborers at Swift and Company that he had relations with a Negress employee of the Albert Pick Motel in the wash room of the motel while one of his co-workers acted as a lookout. EDWARDS related that he paid this girl twenty-five cents and she was engaging in this activity in order to make payments on her 1956 Chevrolet. KEYS was unable to identify this girl other than describing her as a heavy-set girl with several gold teeth.

According to KEYS, EDWARDS was not known to have gotten into any difficulties over his affairs with Negro girls and he heard of no involvement on EDWARDS part with girls of the white race. Neither did he have any information indicating that EDWARDS was arranging prostitution dates through NELLIE JACKSON or anyone else.

On 10/30/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 11/2/67

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.

NO 44-2293

After EDWARDS terminated his employment at the Albert Pick Motel, he was employed for a short time at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana. KEYS has no recollection that EDWARDS visited his former co-workers at Swift and Company during his employment at the Shamrock Motel.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 3, 1967

Mr. ROBERT MARTIN, General Delivery, Clayton, Louisiana, after being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents, furnished the following information:

MARTIN advised that he was a cousin of JOSEPH EDWARDS and has known him since boyhood, however, has not seen him for approximately three years. MARTIN stated that he knew EDWARDS, prior to his disappearance, was working in Vidalia, Louisiana, at the Shamrock Motel as a porter.

MARTIN stated that EDWARDS, at the time of his disappearance, was married to ORGREE TAYLOR and that TAYLOR had given birth to two children by EDWARDS while living in a common law relationship.

MARTIN, when queried as to when first apprised of EDWARDS' evanescence, stated he had learned that EDWARDS was missing through neighborhood sources, however, was unable to recall precisely from whom.

MARTIN advised that SCRUGGS, who is the local "law," never made any mention as to the whereabouts of EDWARDS to him at any time.

MARTIN advised that EDWARDS was a "lady's man" and whenever he had the opportunity to date a woman, he would do so with little reservation. MARTIN stated that EDWARDS frequently made mention of having several girl friends, however, never mentioned any names of girls whom he was dating, where they worked, or whether they were white or Negro. MARTIN advised that he was not knowledgeable of any white females EDWARDS might have had relations with or made advances toward anywhere in the Vidalia - Ferriday, Louisiana, area.

On 11/2/67 at Clayton, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III HBB/blw Date dictated 11/3/67

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.

NO 44-2293

MARTIN advised that the only individual who may know of EDWARDS' personal activities outside of his immediate family was DAVE CARTER, who used to run a gambling shack in back of SMITH's store.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/24/67

Chief J. T. ROBINSON, Natchez Police Department, made available a Missing Persons Report Number 2827-C. This report shows that JOE EDWARDS then resided at 52 Oak Street, Natchez; was reported missing by his mother (no name stated) to Patrolman W. MARTIN at 10:30 a.m. July 21, 1964. JOE EDWARDS was described as a Negro male, age 24, 5'6" tall, weighing 165 pounds. The report stated that he had been missing since July 12 and was last seen on that date.

Chief ROBINSON stated that the case was handled as a routine Missing Persons case. A short time later, he learned from either the FBI or another law enforcement agency that EDWARDS' car was found near the Plaza Club, Ferriday, Louisiana. ROBINSON stated that he examined EDWARDS' vehicle, an old Buick, but saw no blood, broken glass, bullet holes, or other evidence of violence. The only thing out of the ordinary was that a man's belt had been looped through the steering wheel and the driver's door handle. ROBINSON stated that he is not sure of the site where he inspected the car. It may have been at a service station in Ferriday or near the Plaza Club. ROBINSON stated that he is of the opinion that it was the latter place. No further investigation was made in that EDWARDS' car was found well outside the jurisdiction of the Natchez Police Department and there was no evidence to indicate that any crime occurred in Natchez.

Chief ROBINSON stated that he heard a rumor sometime around that period from unrecalled sources. According to this rumor, HUBERT RUSHING (a cab driver) and his wife resided at the Shamrock Motel. EDWARDS was making prostitution dates for Mrs. RUSHING. EDWARDS was rumored to have been having relations with Mrs. RUSHING in a motel room at the time her infant child fell and drowned in the motel swimming pool. Chief ROBINSON stated that he did not believe the

On 10/19/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /jls Date dictated 10/23/67

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.

NO 44-2293

rumor in that racial strife was prevalent at that time and he was of the opinion that members of the Klan type organization circulated the rumor to create additional hatred and violence.

Chief ROBINSON stated that HUBERT RUSHING was known to him as a person of questionable character. He reviewed the records of his office and advised that the records showed that HUBERT RUSHING, 77 Parker Street, Natchez, Mississippi, made application for a cab driver permit on September 11, 1957. RUSHING stated that he was in the U. S. Army for four years and furnished the following references:

W. H. HUDSON,
MACK THOMAS,
WEBB WHITEHEAD, and
FRED BURGER (all of Natchez, Mississippi)

RUSHING was described as 5'6", weighing 140 pounds, black hair and brown eyes. He was born May 18, 1929, in Eddiston, Mississippi. The records also showed that on April 7, 1959, RUSHING was charged for Driving While Intoxicated.

Chief ROBINSON advised that he has not seen RUSHING for several years, but believes that he may be reached through JAMES EDWARD RUSHING, Jr. who resided on Liberty Road, Natchez, Route 5, Box 331.

ROBINSON stated that he heard a rumor from unrecalled sources shortly after the disappearance of EDWARDS that an unknown girl working at the Bonanza Club claimed that ED FULLER had skinned a Negro alive and threw him in the river. ROBINSON stated that he had no additional details concerning this rumor.

ROBINSON advised that he had no information that any men from his department had interviewed a female employee of the Shamrock Motel with Chief SPINKS of Vidalia,

Louisiana. ROBINSON stated that if two men of his department cooperated with SPINKS, they were most likely Captain J. G. WISNER and Sergeant W. E. STROUD. He explained that until recently SPINKS neither sought nor gave any cooperation to anyone on the Natchez Police Department except WISNER and STROUD.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 28, 1967

MARIO HERNANDEZ, 708 North Pearl Street, was contacted at the H & R Block Company, Two Caddo Street, which he stated he operates under a franchise arrangement.

He was advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

HERNANDEZ stated that he was born in Cuba and came to Natchez, Mississippi, to attend school. He met and married a local girl and has remained here since that time. He returned to Cuba in 1959 for a short visit with his father who died three years ago in Cuba.

HERNANDEZ was the former Chief Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff BILLY FERRELL. Upon the expiration of FERRELL's term in early 1964, HERNANDEZ continued with Sheriff JAMES O. ANDERS until April 1, 1964, when he resigned following an accident with his patrol car. With the re-election of BILLY FERRELL as Sheriff, HERNANDEZ will return to the Sheriff's Office as Chief Deputy beginning January, 1968.

HERNANDEZ stated that he was acquainted with MAMIE MARTIN, nee THAMES, who had been employed at the Shamrock Motel as a registration Clerk. Her husband, MARSHALL MARTIN, during late 1963 and early 1964, was serving a burglary sentence in jail at Parchman, Mississippi. Mrs. MARTIN has moved to Pineville, Louisiana, and her exact address can be obtained through Mrs. BOBBIE MULVIHILL, 615 South Camelia Street, Vidalia, Louisiana.

During his association with MAMIE MARTIN, he observed ROBERTA WALKER, another registration clerk at the Shamrock Motel. He was of the opinion that he knew

On 10/25/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
Jackson 157-613
 by SA BRENT W. WARBERG
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/26/67

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.

NO 44-2293

her and brought HAROLD BOLLS, then Deputy Sheriff of Adams County, to view WALKER. BOLLS confirmed his suspicions that WALKER was a Negress who was "passing for white" and was a prostitute.

HERNANDEZ stated he did not know JOSEPH EDWARDS and had no information concerning him. He had no information that EDWARDS nor anyone else was arranging prostitution dates for WALKER but he suspected that she carried on her illicit relations through her employment at the motel.

He heard from TOMMIE JONES, who is known to him as a member of a Klan-type group, that the Klan was aware of WALKER's employment, her race, and her activities and that the Klan was going to take "appropriate action." HERNANDEZ stated that in order to prevent a beating or murder, he told MIKE MC DONOUGH, the owner of the motel, that WALKER's employment represented a potentially explosive situation. WALKER's employment was terminated and no violence occurred.

HERNANDEZ stated that Sheriff ANDERS, after taking office in January, 1964, leased three white Oldsmobiles from McPhail Oldsmobile in Natchez, Mississippi. HERNANDEZ stated that he was furnished a white Oldsmobile, four-door Jet Star, that had a police two-way radio with a whip antenna on the left rear and an AM radio, a standard radio receiver, which had the usual AM radio antenna on the right front.

In addition to the bullet-shaped combination red light and siren on the top of the vehicle, he was of the opinion that it had a gold star on each side of the car.

The other similarly equipped Oldsmobiles were used by Deputy Sheriff DAVID BLOUGH and Sheriff JAMES O. ANDERS. After HERNANDEZ quit on April 1, 1964, his car was repaired and used by Deputy Sheriff BOBBY ANDERS and Deputy Sheriff PETE HALEY.

NO 44-2293

HERNANDEZ advised that the only law enforcement vehicle in use in this area at that time having two radio antenna on the rear was the Oldsmobile used by the Vidalia Police Department. HERNANDEZ further advised that there is a mutual dislike between him and Vidalia Police Chief BUD SPINKS.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 31, 1967

ANN CURLEE, Louisiana Department of Revenue, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the investigation. She furnished the following information:

Mrs. CURLEE stated that she was employed by the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office from August, 1959, to June, 1966. She stated that she recalls that several years ago, the exact time she does not recall, an automobile was found abandoned near the bowling alley between Vidalia and Ferriday, Louisiana. She stated she remembers getting a license tag check on the car but does not recall to whom the car was registered.

She went on to say that she does remember that the car had been in the possession of JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro male, employed at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. Mrs. CURLEE stated she heard that EDWARDS had made a pass at a white woman who was employed at the Shamrock Motel but continued that she never heard anything else about this matter.

She stated that she remembers a Louisiana Probation Officer by the name of GOSS who used to come into the Sheriff's Office frequently. She stated she never heard GOSS mention anything about the matter of JOSEPH EDWARDS and the white woman. She went on to say that GOSS was married and she was under the impression that he would never step out on his wife.

Mrs. CURLEE continued that after the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, EDWARDS' parents frequently came into the Sheriff's Office to inquire if the Sheriff had any information concerning the location of EDWARDS. She stated she

On 10/27/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD
SA BRENT W. WARBERG BWW/blw Date dictated 10/30/67

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.

NO 44-2293

never heard any of the Sheriff's deputies or anyone else make any mention of what happened to EDWARDS. She stated the only rumor she heard was that EDWARDS "flew the coop."

Mrs. CURLEE stated that during that time, the Vidalia Police Department drove Oldsmobiles, the color she does not recall. She stated she believed that the Vidalia Police Department vehicles had one antenna on each rear fender and had a red light mounted on the roof of the car.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 2, 1967

JOHNNIE LEE SPINKS, better known as BUD SPINKS, Marshal, Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted at his residence for information from the files of his department pertaining to JOSEPH EDWARDS.

SPINKS advised that JOSEPH EDWARDS was unknown to him and he had no records concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS. He stated that he believes a telephone complaint from an irate unknown woman may have referred to EDWARDS in that this woman stated that everyone knew of an insult to a white female employee of the Shamrock Motel by a Negro male employee and she demanded to know why SPINKS did not do something about it. SPINKS explained that he made no record of this call but did check into the matter and when the girl who was the victim of this assault declined to press charges, he made no report of the matter.

SPINKS stated that sometime after that incident, Patrolman JOHNNIE CROSS reported that a Negro couple came to the Vidalia Police Station to report the disappearance of their son. This unknown couple stated that they would obtain a photograph of their son and return to the police station with the photograph and additional information. They did not return and no report was made of the missing person. SPINKS expressed the opinion that this incident may have related to EDWARDS.

SPINKS was advised that a possible violation of Federal law exists in connection with the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS and, therefore, before interviewing him concerning his personal knowledge of the matter as an individual, he must understand his Constitutional rights. SA DIVEN exhibited a form to SPINKS which set forth his Constitutional rights. SPINKS stated he was ~~aware of his rights and declined to sign a waiver of~~ these rights but agreed to orally discuss the matter.

On 11/1/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 11/2/67

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.

SPINKS volunteered that he did not know JOSEPH EDWARDS but that he assumed that EDWARDS was the Negro employee about whom he received the telephonic complaint from an unknown woman who severely criticized him for not taking some action in connection with the insult by this individual on a white female employee of the Shamrock Motel.

SPINKS stated that he made no official record of this complaint inasmuch as he has frequent anonymous, telephone calls of this type and unless the caller furnishes his identity, he makes no record of the call. SPINKS stated, however, that he went to the Shamrock Motel and found that the female employee was off duty. He obtained her residence address from a male employee who operates the wholesale division of the MC DONOUGH businesses.

SPINKS said that he was probably in uniform when he went to Natchez, Mississippi, to interview the female employee. It is his opinion that he was accompanied by Captain WISNER of the Natchez Police Department when he interviewed this girl. He cannot recall whether any other officers from either the Vidalia or Natchez Police Departments were present.

The female employee, an attractive, young, white girl, name unrecalled, who was crippled from the waist down from polio, told him that a Negro employee of the motel attempted to kiss her. SPINKS wanted to charge him with assault or attempted rape but the girl refused to file a complaint. SPINKS stated that he was unable to make an arrest and, therefore, made no record of the interview. He did nothing further concerning the allegation.

SPINKS stated that he was not involved in EDWARDS' disappearance and, in fact, did not know that EDWARDS had disappeared until several weeks ago when he heard that the

FBI was making an investigation into the matter. He also heard from a source he declined to identify that the FBI had checked on the vehicle purchased by him from McPhail Oldsmobile, Natchez, Mississippi. He described his personally owned vehicle as a beige Oldsmobile with a short antenna on the right rear, which vehicle currently bears 1966-67 Louisiana License 42E046.

With regard to the Vidalia patrol cars, one is annually leased by the Town of Vidalia from McPhail Oldsmobile. The police department is furnished with a new Oldsmobile each year. They have been equipped with two antennae, one on each side of the rear trunk. One of these radio antennae is for the Natchez police radio frequency and for the Louisiana police frequency, 39.5 megacycles. The car currently leased from McPhail Oldsmobile has two blue lights mounted on a bar on the top. Prior patrol cars had a red light mounted on top. He has had considerable mechanical trouble with these cars and found it necessary to return them for repairs. In that event, McPhail Oldsmobile loans them other cars of varying colors but without any two-way radio equipment.

SPINKS stated that he did not stop EDWARDS' vehicle at any time. None of his men have indicated that they had done so. He further stated that the patrol car is in use twenty-four hours a day and it has never been stolen or loaned.

SPINKS stated that he was casually acquainted with JAMES GOSS, a Louisiana Probation Officer, who worked in that area a few years ago. SPINKS advised he knew of no association between GOSS and the above mentioned crippled girl. SPINKS emphatically denied that GOSS ever reported information to him concerning the assault on the crippled girl.

He stated that he has numerous political enemies, whom he declined to identify, who would do anything to discredit him. He said that they have apparently been spreading false information about him.

He also stated that he knows of individuals capable of illegal violent acts but he declined to identify them.

SPINKS stated that he is recovering from an infection in one of his ears. He could not use his hearing-aid glasses because of this infection and had to rely on his single ear hearing aid in his left ear. He explained that he was having back trouble and was also deeply concerned over the serious illness and expected death of his brother, NORMAN SPINKS. He stated that he did not desire to be re-contacted concerning this matter because of his personal problems.

The following background information and physical description was furnished by SPINKS:

Name	JOHNNIE LEE SPINKS	<u>BUD SPINKS</u>
Sex	Male	
Race	White	
Date of Birth	June 7, 1919	
Height	6 feet 2 inches	
Weight	216 pounds	<u>1204 Plum St.</u>
Build	Heavy	<u>VIDALIA, LA.</u>
Hair	Black and grey, short	
Eyes	Grey	
Complexion	Fair	
Education	11th grade	
Military Service	U. S. Army April 8, 1941, to October 8, 1943; Honorable discharge	
Military Service #	<u>34071907</u>	
Employment	Marshal, Town of Vidalia, Louisiana; elected April 4, 1964; appointed during 1964, with Vidalia Police Department since 1952.	

NO 44-2293

Marital Status	Married
Wife	ETHEL SPINKS
Children	Three
Father	JOHN HARRISON SPINKS (Deceased 46 years ago)
Organizations	Does not belong to any Klan-type organization
Automobile	1964 cream colored Oldsmobile, 1966-67 Louisiana License 42E046
Residence	1204 Plum Street Vidalia, Louisiana
Arrests	None

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 3, 1967

Captain J. G. WISNER, Natchez, Mississippi, Police Department, was contacted at the Natchez City Jail and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. WISNER stated that he did recall interviewing a crippled girl named IONA PERRY, who wore braces, in 1964 on Jefferson, Street, Natchez, Mississippi. The interview took place during daylight hours while he was acting in an official capacity. He stated that he drove his Natchez Police Department car to the interview and that he was wearing his Natchez Police uniform at the time of the interview. He could not recall whether he was alone or with someone when he interviewed PERRY.

WISNER stated that someone had asked him to interview PERRY. He stated that he could not recall the identity of the person(s) who asked him to interview PERRY. WISNER stated he could not recall the subject matter that was discussed during the interview. He stated that he could recall no other details concerning the interview.

On 11/1/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 11/2/67

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 November 6, 1967

Captain J. G. WISNER, Natchez, Mississippi, Police Department, was re-contacted. WISNER was advised that BUD SPINKS, Chief of Police, Vidalia, Louisiana, Police Department, had told the Agents that he had gone with Captain WISNER to see IONA PERRY in Natchez, Mississippi, a few years ago. WISNER advised that he could not dispute the word of SPINKS nor could he dispute the word of IONA PERRY if these individuals had stated that he and SPINKS contacted PERRY together. He stated, however, that he could not recall anyone being with him when he contacted PERRY.

WISNER stated he probably would not have recalled contacting PERRY had it not been for the fact that she was crippled and he recalled something about the braces that she wore on her legs. WISNER also stated that about seventeen years ago, he worked for a member of the Board of Supervisors in Jefferson County and he knew PERRY's parents quite well. He pointed out that when he worked for this supervisor, he did not know IONA and he did not know her until he had contacted her on this particular occasion a few years ago.

WISNER was asked if he had recalled any information about going to see PERRY and if he had recalled who had requested him to contact PERRY. He stated he could not recall the reason he had contacted PERRY, what conversation he had with PERRY, or who had requested that he contact her.

WISNER pointed out that he was not trying to hide anything but that he could not recall anything about his contact with PERRY. He stated he had thought of contacting BUD SPINKS since he was first contacted by the Agents of the FBI but he thought better of it because if the Agents

On 11/3/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES BFG/blw Date dictated 11/6/67

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.

NO 44-2293

saw him talking to SPINKS, they would think he and SPINKS might be trying to conceal something. Consequently, he did not contact SPINKS and has no plans to do so regarding this matter.

WISNER stated he did not think he would recall any information about his contact with PERRY; however, the Agents were welcome to contact him at any time they so desired regarding this matter.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 7, 1967

Patrolman JOHNNIE CROSS, 1212 Plum Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, after being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents, voluntarily furnished the following information:

CROSS stated he became employed with the Vidalia Police Department in August of 1963 as a radio dispatcher working the 12:00 Midnight to 8:00 a.m. shift which was continued through September of 1964 at which time Officer GEORGE TRENTEL died. CROSS was then assigned as a patrolman working the patrol car.

CROSS advised that in 1964, the only car used by the police department was a 1964 white Oldsmobile with two whip antennae mounted on the rear fenders and a red beacon light mounted on the roof of the car.

CROSS stated, when queried regarding the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, he knew nothing about the incident until he heard through the grapevine that the FBI was investigating the case. CROSS advised that during July of 1964, when EDWARDS was allegedly killed, he was probably dispatcher, however, was unable to recall any radio transmissions which indicated any cars being stopped by the police department which may have been driven by EDWARDS.

CROSS advised that the only information which may be of assistance was that sometime along July or August of 1964, a Negro couple, description unrecalled, came into the station making inquiry about placing a missing persons notice. CROSS stated that because no identifying data was given by the couple which he could furnish to Alexandria, Louisiana, for a missing persons bulletin, they shortly

On 11/6/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293,
Jackson 44-65
by SA HENRY B. BRITTON, III
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN HBB/blw Date dictated 11/7/67

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.

thereafter departed and did not return. CROSS advised that he did not record their names and was unable to provide any additional information as to whom they were or whether they were even making inquiry directed specifically toward JOSEPH EDWARDS.

CROSS advised that to the best of his recollection, the only men who may have been on duty at the time of EDWARDS' disappearance were GEORGE TRENTEL (deceased), ALLAN CROSS, TATE POOLE, HERMAN GREEN, ALFRED HOLLAND, JOHN HENRY, or Chief of Police J. L. "BUD" SPINKS.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 6, 1967

On the evening of November 2, 1967, IONA PERRY SEWARD telephonically contacted SA GEORGE F. BENZ of the FBI at his residence and made inquiry as to the status of the investigation in the case of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

She was personally contacted by Special Agents on November 3, 1967, at which time she advised that she recalled a conversation between EDWARDS and herself that, no doubt, led EDWARDS to believe that she would be receptive to his advances. In this regard, she related a verbal exchange concerning a gift which EDWARDS said was from a girl and he indicated that he had dated white girls. When she registered some surprise over his remark, he inquired as to whether she would ever go out with a Negro. She told the Special Agents that she would never go out with a Negro but she did not want to tell EDWARDS this so she remarked that she did not know.

With regard to her contact and interview by police officers following the incident when EDWARDS tried to kiss her, she recalled only two officers present but stated there may have been three. She is reasonably certain that one of them was Chief BUD SPINKS of the Vidalia Police Department and the other was believed to be Captain WISNER of the Natchez, Mississippi, Police Department. SEWARD was shown a photograph of Sergeant WILLIE STROUD of the Natchez Police Department. She said he did not look familiar to her and she expressed doubts as to the existence of a third officer present at the interview.

She reiterated that she was awakened from her sleep by their contact at her residence in Natchez. Chief SPINKS advised her that a law official, no name stated, had advised them of an incident at the Shamrock Motel and they wanted to know what happened. She related to them the

On 11/2-3/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 11/6/67

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.

attempt by EDWARDS to kiss her. She told them she did not want to start a lot of trouble over the incident and would not press charges. SPINKS told her, "It's always good to report these things." She has no recollection at this time that anything was said indicating that they would take care of EDWARDS.

SEWARD stated that the police arrived at her apartment on a Tuesday or a Thursday. She stated that she knows this because GOSS came back to Vidalia the same day that she was contacted by the police. GOSS denied that he had told the police of EDWARDS' assault. He stated that the police found out about it because of EDWARDS' bragging.

Sometime after GOSS had told her that she would not see EDWARDS around any more, he purchased a .45 caliber pistol and upon showing it to her, stated that he bought the gun for EDWARDS. She interpreted this to mean that he would shoot EDWARDS with the gun.

She was with GOSS when they stopped at a shoe repair shop on the right side of the street upon entering Ferriday from Vidalia. This is the same shoe shop where the man was burned when his shop was destroyed by fire. GOSS obtained a leather shoulder holster for this gun at this shop.

LA
SEWARD exhibited a .45 caliber cartridge given to her by ~~JAMES~~ GOSS. She refused to furnish this cartridge but it was noted that the base of the bullet had the marking "WCC63."

Frequently, GOSS would say something about killing EDWARDS, then when she would caution him about his remarks, he would state that she should know him better than that. Later, however, he would make a statement which seemed to contradict his prior remark by stating, "I told you what I was going to do."

Once, while discussing his remarks concerning EDWARDS, SEWARD mentioned the possibility of his getting into a great deal of trouble and GOSS remarked that they would have to find the body first.

GOSS once spoke about marrying SEWARD but added that he was in such a "mess" he did not want to get her involved. She inquired as to the nature of his difficulties. After he declined to state his troubles, she asked him whether he was in the Ku Klux Klan. He told her that he was not in the Klan. She told him to get out of the "mess" but all he would state was that he could not.

Mrs. SEWARD stated that she has not been contacted by anyone concerning the EDWARDS investigation by the FBI since she was last interviewed.

NO 44-2293

Interviewed WILL KRAFT, 4401 1/2th Street, S.W., Lakeland,
Fla. on 11/15/44. He stated that he had been advised by the
Special Agents and the nature of the investigation.

Interviewed KRAFT advised he heard a rumor from an
anonymous source about five years ago that "they"
had found some bodies in a refrigerator at least 1000
miles. According to the source, this refrigerator was
situated in the old store and the bodies were believed
to be people's information. KRAFT emphatically stated that
he could not recall the source who told him this rumor and
did not have the slightest idea where reported to have
found the bodies. He stated that he had never heard the
rumor.

IV. RUMORS

He stated that he was last at Richard's location,
1001 1/2th Street, Lakeland, Fla. on 11/15/44. He
stated that he had never heard of any bodies and did not get
out of the store. He stated that he had never heard of
Richard's establishment and that he had never heard of any
rumors concerning any bodies in a refrigerator. He stated
that he had never heard of any bodies in a refrigerator.

Interviewed KRAFT advised that neither KRAFT KRAFT
and any other Negro persons at the Sheriff's office in Lakeland,
Fla.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 25, 1967

Reverend MACK KNAPP, Star Route, Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted in the town of Vidalia and advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the investigation.

Reverend KNAPP stated he heard a rumor from an unrecalled source about four or five years ago that "they" had found some bodies in a refrigerator at Deer Park, Louisiana. According to the rumor, this refrigerator was submerged in the old river and the victims were believed to be female informants. KNAPP emphatically stated that he could not recall the person who told him this rumor nor did he know the identities of the persons reported to have found the bodies. He presumed that the FBI had found the bodies.

He stated that he was last at Jughead's Landing, Deer Park, Louisiana, about four or five years ago. He drove down there for an unrecalled purpose, did not get out of the car, and left after turning around in front of Jughead's establishment. At no time, past or present, has he ever witnessed any bodies in a refrigerator cabinet being removed from the river.

Reverend KNAPP stated that neither JOSEPH EDWARDS nor any other Negro porters at the Shamrock Motel is known to him.

On 10/24/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/25/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 27, 1967

GEORGE F. WEST was contacted at his funeral home at 409 North Pine Street and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

WEST stated he had never heard a rumor that JOSEPH EDWARDS, the Negro porter who disappeared from the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, was arrested at a gas station in Vidalia and taken to the Vidalia Jail where EDWARDS was killed and that EDWARDS' body was then disposed of by GEORGE WEST of West's Funeral Home, Natchez, Mississippi.

WEST stated that the rumor has no basis in fact and that he nor his employees ever helped dispose of the body of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

WEST stated that when EDWARDS disappeared a few years ago, EDWARDS' mother, BERNICE CONNERS, called WEST and asked WEST for assistance. WEST stated that he gave CONNERS the number of the FBI in Jackson, Mississippi, and told CONNERS to call the FBI.

WEST stated that the rumor may have been started by a rival funeral parlor.

On 10/25/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/dlw Date dictated 10/26/67

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.

F B I

Date: 10/30/67

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-26064)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-65) (P)
UNSUBS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, AKA -
VICTIM
CR
(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

Re Jackson airtels to Bureau, 9/15 and 10/18/67, Bureau airtel to Jackson, 10/25/67, and report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN, 10/27/67, at New Orleans.

Referenced Bureau airtel requested clarification of an expenditure of \$33.60 plus incidental costs for purchase of a magnet to be used to locate a metal container in the river at Deer Park, Louisiana. The term "incidental costs" was used to cover possible packaging charges and an unknown amount of shipping charges for the magnet from Edmund Scientific Company, Barrington, New Jersey, to Natchez, Mississippi. It is assumed that these charges will be nominal.

EX 104 REC-59 44-26064-22

Referenced Bureau airtel also inquired as to the rumor that GEORGE W. FENTON put 50 to 75 refrigerator cabinets in the river where the decaying flesh surfaced. Efforts to contact FENTON at his vacation camp have been made so that in the event the rumor is true, he could point out the places where he disposed of the cabinets. He has been unavailable for contact to date. However, as pointed out in re Jackson airtel dated 9/15/67, the

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

Jackson office telephonically instructed to furnish additional information 11/2/67

NOV 1 1967

54 NOV 21 1967
F10

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

JN 44-65

river was expected to be at a season low around 9/28/67. At the present time, the river has increased in depth and with increases in rainfall along the entire Mississippi River, the depth will no doubt continue to increase. Therefore, it is imperative that diving operations take place as soon as possible. The possibility of additional refrigerator cabinets, if true, will no doubt add to the amount of work, but the search is one that must necessarily be done to locate the corpus delicti.

Jackson will await the advice of the Bureau before taking any steps to purchase the magnet.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 10/27/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 10/3/67 - 10/24/67
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOSEPH EDWARDS, Aka Joe Edwards - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN	TYPED BY blw
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES:

Report of SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN dated 10/13/67 at New Orleans;
 Report of SA JACK C. POLLOCK dated 10/16/67 at Phoenix;
 Bureau airtel to New Orleans dated 10/17/67;
 Jackson airtel to the Bureau dated 10/18/67;
 New Orleans airtel to the Bureau dated 10/19/67.

- P -

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

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

APPROVED *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

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

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-26064-21 REC-10

16 NOV 1 1967

[Signature]

McDonough

STAP. SECT.

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD		
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.	NOV 2 1967		
How Fwd.	694(B)		
By	EJM/eam	2/6	

79 NOV 14 1967

3
 EXP. PROC.
 20

NO 44-2293

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

-1- Contact the references which appear on the driver's license application of HUBERT RUSHING to determine his present whereabouts for interview. Upon interview, determine information concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS' hustling activities and possible relations with RUSHING's wife.

-2- Interview MARIO S. HERNANDEZ, 708 North Pearl Street, former Adams County Deputy Sheriff who dated MAMIE THAMES, a part-time registration clerk at the Shamrock Motel, for knowledge of victim's reported assault on IONA PERRY SEWARD and any conspiracy resulting.

NEW ORLEANS

AT DEER PARK, LOUISIANA

-1- Await results of Jackson airtel concerning Bureau approval to purchase a large magnet for use in diving operations in area where victim's skeletal remains are believed located in submerged refrigerator cabinet.

-2- If equipment purchase is approved, arrange for divers to probe suspect area.

AT VIDALIA, LOUISIANA

-1- Interview KATIE HOLMES, 803 North Magnolia Street, concerning her knowledge of the victim as a co-worker.

COVER PAGE

B

NO 44-2293

-2- Continue efforts to locate MAMIE THAMES, formerly of 310 South Spruce Street, and a former part-time registration clerk of reported questionable character, to determine her knowledge of a conspiracy and her possible involvement as a decoy in compromising the victim.

-3- Interview MACK KNAPP, Vidalia Junior High School bus driver, concerning the claim that he had seen one or more bodies in an icebox removed from the vicinity of Deer Park, Louisiana.

All the above leads will be coordinated with the investigation of Bureau Special WHARBOM which is in progress at Natchez, Mississippi.

INFORMANTS:

COVER PAGE

C

NO 44-2293

JN 44-65

JAW/blw

1

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

[REDACTED] furnished the following information to SA JAMES A. WOOTEN on October 22, 1967:

[REDACTED] was told the following story some two or three weeks ago by DOYLE SPELL, a farmer, who resides just below Deer Park, Louisiana:

SPELL stated he was told this story by MACK KNAPP and SPELL could not vouch for the accuracy of the information except that KNAPP is a minister of the Pentecostal Church and is considered to be truthful.

KNAPP told SPELL that he was an eye witness to an icebox being raised from the water near Jughead's Place south of Vidalia, Louisiana, sometime ago. According to KNAPP, there was one or more bodies in the icebox. KNAPP did not state what authorities were involved in raising the icebox.

[REDACTED] does not want his identity revealed in the event DOYLE SPELL or KANPP is contacted.

MACK KNAPP can be reached through the Vidalia Junior High School where he drives a school bus each day.

COVER PAGE

D

ADMINISTRATIVE:

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

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

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

COVER PAGE

E*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

Report of: SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
Date: October 27, 1967

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Field Office File #: 44-2293

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: LILLIAN LEE advised that two weeks prior to EDWARDS' disappearance, he stated he was having an affair with a white girl. Reverend JULIAN T. MASSEY stated Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN related an unsuccessful attempt to arrest EDWARDS. MILTON BOOTH advised Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN indicated concern over scuba diving operations at Deer Park, Louisiana. Deputy Sheriff FRANK DE LAUGHTER denied statement indicating he had knowledge of EDWARDS' disappearance. Chief J. T. ROBINSON, Natchez, Mississippi, Police Department, related rumor that victim was intimate with Mrs. HUBERT RUSHING. IONA PERRY SEWARD advised that she believed GOSS may have lied when he stated his intentions to kill JOSEPH EDWARDS.

- P -

DETAILS:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Activities of JOSEPH EDWARDS	2
II. Interview of and Possible Involvement of Law Enforcement Officers	14
III. Investigation of JAMES B. GOSS	31

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 10/13/67

LILLIAN LEE, 727 Manson Place, Kenner, Louisiana, advised that she knew JOSEPH EDWARDS since they attended school together as children. Miss LEE advised that she was aware of the fact that EDWARDS had disappeared in the summer of 1964 and had not been seen since.

LEE stated that she does not recall EDWARDS ever having been present anywhere about the time of his disappearance at the home of her father, JAMES LEE, Clayton, Louisiana, for supper.

LEE stated that at the time of EDWARDS' disappearance, she was back in Kenner, Louisiana.

LEE stated that she knew that EDWARDS worked at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, but she stated that she has never been there nor does she know any of the employees.

She stated that about two weeks prior to EDWARDS' disappearance, EDWARDS mentioned to her that he was having an affair with a white girl. She recalled him laughing about the fact that the girl was supposedly so fine a person. At this time, EDWARDS also told her that someone had caught him with this white girl in a motel room in Natchez, Mississippi. She stated that he was laughing about the matter and did not seem worried; however, she advised her reaction to his statements were anything but humor.

She stated that she thought that at the time he had been caught in the motel room in Natchez, which she thought might be the Holiday Inn, and that EDWARDS was working at this Natchez motel. She stated that it is her impression that one of the owners or members of the management at this motel had caught him.

On 10/12/67 at Kenner, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293
JN 44-65
 by SA WILLIAM F. KUSCH and
SA CHRISTOPHER MAZZELLA:cmp /blw Date dictated 10/13/67

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.

3

NO 44-2293

JN 44-65

2

She stated that when EDWARDS came up missing about two weeks later, this incident that EDWARDS had related to her pertaining to the white girl was the first thing that came to her mind.

She stated she did not know nor did EDWARDS explain exactly what the relationship was with the white girl when EDWARDS referred to "having an affair." She did say that she got the impression that when someone had "caught" him in a motel room that he meant by this that merely EDWARDS and the girl were both present in the same room.

She also advised that she felt that having been caught with EDWARDS, the white girl might have explained EDWARDS' presence by implying that he has pushed his intentions on her.

She stated that she has heard of Vidalia, Louisiana, Police Chief SPINKS, but that the names KENNETH NORMAN HEAD, RED GLOVER, BUCK HORTON or IONA PERRY meant nothing to her.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/11/67

CORDELLIA JACKSON was contacted at her place of employment in the kitchen of the Eola Hotel and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent. She provided the following information:

JACKSON stated that although she was not certain, she believed that in July of 1964, she was employed as a maid at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana. Her hours of employment were from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She stated that one day she heard a group of her fellow employees discussing that a Negro porter from the Shamrock had disappeared and that his car had been found abandoned on the highway.

JACKSON stated that she could not recall the identities of persons participating in the discussion. She stated that she did not recall ever seeing EDWARDS and she could not recall ever seeing the Negro porter who was missing and she could not describe him. JACKSON stated that she could not recall any other information concerning the missing Negro.

On 10/9/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA GEORGE F. BENZ /blw Date dictated 10/9/67

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 10/20/67

THOMAS HAINES, General Manager, Albert Pick Motel, Natchez, Mississippi, was advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

HAINES stated that he did not recall JOSEPH EDWARDS as an employee of that motel. He had not heard of JOSEPH EDWARDS, nor has he received any reports concerning any involvement of Negroes with any white guest or employees of the motel.

HAINES stated that his bookkeeper, DARRELL STRATTON, located employment records concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS and he directed STRATTON to make available all employee records of interest to the FBI.

On 10/16/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:jls Date dictated 10/18/67

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 October 18, 1967

ALMA HARRIS, 621 Stiers Lane, Natchez, Mississippi, was contacted at her place of employment, the Albert Pick Motel, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. She provided the following information:

HARRIS stated she was employed as a cook at the Albert Pick in 1964. She stated she recalled that at that time, a Negro named JOSEPH EDWARDS worked from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the kitchen and that EDWARDS also took food orders to the rooms.

HARRIS described EDWARDS as in his 20's, wide mouth, medium brown skin, with his teeth wide apart. HARRIS stated that EDWARDS walked with a swagger.

HARRIS stated that when EDWARDS worked at the Albert Pick, EDWARDS also had a job at Harold Miller's Wholesale Grocers. HARRIS stated that EDWARDS had indicated that he was going to leave the Albert Pick and get a job at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, in order to make more money.

HARRIS stated that shortly after EDWARDS left the Albert Pick to work at the Shamrock, she heard rumors that EDWARDS' car had been found in Louisiana with a tire shot out but that EDWARDS had disappeared. HARRIS stated she had heard that EDWARDS' disappearance was related to an incident which occurred at the Shamrock Motel when a waitress dropped something and EDWARDS picked it up. HARRIS stated that EDWARDS allegedly brushed against the white waitress' leg as he assisted the waitress and that the incident was in some way related to EDWARDS' disappearance. HARRIS could not identify the source of this information and could not identify the waitress involved in this incident.

On 10/16/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 10/16/67

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.

NO 44-2293

HARRIS stated that she had no information that EDWARDS had been dating a white girl or that EDWARDS had been found in a room at the Albert Pick with a white girl by any of the motel staff.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 23, 1967

WALTER GOODMAN, Star Route, Ferriday, Louisiana, advised that he is employed as a handyman at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana.

He stated that during 1964, he was employed by the MC DONOUGHs of Vidalia and that during July of that year, he was painting houses for them under an arrangement that he was paid at the rate of \$100 per house.

The day after JOSEPH EDWARDS, a porter at the Shamrock Motel, had failed to appear for work at the motel, MIKE MC DONOUGH came to him and asked whether he would be interested in working by the hour at the motel doing various repair jobs. GOODMAN stated that this arrangement was satisfactory to him in that he had guaranteed income at the motel and then worked on his contract jobs for the MC DONOUGHs.

He stated that JOSEPH EDWARDS was unknown to him except through rumors that he had heard from unrecalled sources that EDWARDS had been a porter at the motel and had disappeared without apparent notice. GOODMAN advised that he did not assume any of EDWARDS' responsibilities at the Shamrock Motel but a Negro youth was hired to take EDWARDS' job. This youth is unknown to GOODMAN except that he is the fat brother of SANDY, who is currently employed at MC DONOUGH's Liquor Store.

GOODMAN advised that he did not observe a crippled registration clerk at the motel at any time. He advised that he was not acquainted with LORA RUSHING, a guest of the motel, and he had no knowledge of any prostitution activities being carried on at the motel. However, while repairing television sets and doing other work in the motel rooms,

On 10/18/67 at Star Route, Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /blw Date dictated 10/20/67

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.

numerous male guests have asked him to make such arrangements. GOODMAN stated that when he advised them that he had no knowledge concerning such activities, they indicated that he was not keeping up with the activities around the motel.

GOODMAN stated that he had never heard any discussion concerning EDWARDS' abandoned car and has no other knowledge concerning EDWARDS or related activities at the motel.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/11/67

IKE MILLIGAN, Vidalia, Louisiana, Fire Chief, was contacted at his residence, 1223 Peach Street, and was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents. He provided the following information:

MILLIGAN stated that he knew the FBI would contact him about the Negro porter from the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, Louisiana, who disappeared a few years ago because MILLIGAN had heard a rumor that the FBI had found the Negro's body in the river and that Vidalia Chief of Police BUD SPINKS was a suspect in the killing. He stated that the source of the rumor was LLOYD PERKINS, Louisiana Deputy Fire Marshal.

MILLIGAN stated that after hearing the rumor, he checked with EDITH RICHARDSON VANCE, the Vidalia Town Clerk, and VANCE informed MILLIGAN that SPINKS worked the 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift in 1964. The other shifts were from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

MILLIGAN stated that he did not know the name of the Negro who disappeared and he did not know the Negro's description.

MILLIGAN stated he believed that in 1964, the Vidalia police car was a white Oldsmobile with two radio antennae in the rear. He stated that it had a red beacon light on the roof. He also stated that the Vidalia Police Department had a portable magnetic base red light in 1964 which could be placed on the dashboard of a car.

On 10/6/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN
SA GEORGE F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 10/9/67

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.

MILLIGAN stated that the only person who had asked him about the disappearance of the Negro was CLINTON AUSTIN, 1111 Peach Street, Vidalia (336-7228), at AUSTIN's place of employment, Swift and Company, Natchez, Mississippi.

MILLIGAN stated that the close associates of SPINKS in 1964 were HERBERT CROUCH, a farmer from Monterey, Louisiana; R. P. CARTER, who runs a grocery store on Pine Street outside of Natchez; and ROY BARLOW, 407 Walnut Street (336-5151).

MILLIGAN stated he did not know JAMES GOSS or HOMER T. "BUCK" HORTON. He stated he knew that KENNETH NORMAN HEAD was a friend of SPINKS. MILLIGAN stated that he had never observed SPINKS and RED GLOVER together and he did not know the nature of their association. He stated, however, he had heard that RED GLOVER was a member of a Klan-type organization.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/11/67

HENRY TATE POOLE, 408 Dogwood Road, Vidalia, Louisiana, telephone No. 336-5019, was contacted at his place of business, the Sandwich Shop, Ferriday, Louisiana, and was advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

POOLE advised that he had been a member of the Vidalia Police Department but was not a member of the department during July, 1964. At that time, he was employed by the Lewis Supermarket in Vidalia and heard nothing concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS, who was unknown to POOLE.

POOLE advised that he mostly drove an old blue Chevrolet, a former Sheriff's Office vehicle, while he was on duty with the Vidalia Police Department. The department also leased a white Oldsmobile sedan from McPhail Motors, Natchez, Mississippi, each year.

On one occasion, while making the change-over to the newer Oldsmobile, he noticed an emergency light at McPhail's which had been removed from a tow truck. MC PHAIL agreed to sell this light at a low price and obtain a red plastic dome to replace the yellow dome. This revolving red light was purchased and used for several years before obtaining the present blue emergency light mounted on a bar.

All the Oldsmobiles have been equipped with two rear mounted antennae and a wire mesh divider installed behind the front seat.

POOLE advised that the department has a red revolving emergency light unit which is used on the dash of any vehicle but he has no recollection that the Oldsmobiles

On 10/9/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/11/67

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.

NO 44-2293

used this small light for any period instead of the top mounted emergency light.

On several occasions, McPhail Motors would furnish the department with a white Oldsmobile sedan while the regular patrol car was in the repair shop. This temporary vehicle, however, never had any radio equipment or antennae installed for the use of the police.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 23, 1967

HENRY TATE POOLE, 408 Dogwood Road, Vidalia, Louisiana, was recontacted at the Sandwich Shop, Ferriday, Louisiana. He stated that he had not recalled any information concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS since he was last contacted nor had he developed any information concerning the circumstances of EDWARDS' disappearance.

POOLE stated that several days ago, he had contacted officials at the City Hall, Vidalia, in an effort to ascertain the exact period of his employment as a Vidalia Police Officer. He determined that his employment began during December, 1962, and ended during April, 1964, when he was dismissed by Chief BUD SPINKS. He explained that inasmuch as EDWARDS was reportedly missing during July, 1964, he would have had no official connection with the Vidalia Police Department, and, therefore, would have had no opportunity to have any knowledge of the incident.

On 10/19/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /blw Date dictated 10/20/67

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 10/12/67

HERMAN GREEN, Law Enforcement Officer, Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, State of Louisiana, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and of the official nature of the contact.

He stated that he had been employed as a Vidalia, Louisiana Police Officer from approximately May, 1962, until May, 1964. He left the Police Department about two months before starting his present job on July 13, 1964.

GREEN stated that he did not know JOE EDWARDS and had heard nothing about his insult to a white female employee of the Shamrock Motel, nor his disappearance, until the subject was brought up recently in connection with the FBI investigation of the matter.

He recalls that the Vidalia Police Department leased a new Oldsmobile Sedan from McPhail Motors, Natchez, Mississippi, each year. He advised that the patrol car was always white in color, unmarked by letters or police decals, and had two antennae on the trunk, one for the Natchez Police Department and the other for the Louisiana Police. When he first started with the Department, the Oldsmobile had an emergency light mounted on top of the vehicle that was torpedo in shape with a red light to the front and rear and a siren in the middle. The last Oldsmobile patrol car that he used had a large red revolving light mounted in the center on the top of the vehicle. He has no recollection that the patrol car was used at any time before the installation of the emergency light. However, Chief BUD SPINKS had a small revolving red light which he transferred from one car to another. No one usually knew where this light was as sometime it was in his personal car and at other times in his jeep.

On 10/10/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs BRENT W. WARBERG and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /MDD:jls Date dictated 10/11/67

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.

NO 44-2293

Until this year the patrol cars had never displayed any license plates. They currently have a Louisiana license with the word Public in addition to a group of numbers.

GREEN volunteered that he was not a member of any Klan type organization, but based on the statements made by some individuals and their general reputation, he did believe that the following close friends or associates of Chief BUD SPINKS are members of such an organization:

Dr. WILLIAM T. POLK, a practicing medical doctor and the current coroner for the Town of Vidalia;

R. L. "BOB" PIPER, operator of the Texaco Service Station in Vidalia and currently Justice of the Peace for the Town of Vidalia. PIPER's wife is employed by Dr. POLK.

"BUCK" HORTON, Lynn Street, Vidalia, Louisiana;

CALVIN WEEKS, 301 Hickory Street, Vidalia, Louisiana; and

JOEL FREEMAN who resides in the second house on the left on Lee Avenue, Vidalia.

GREEN stated that JOEL FREEMAN is possibly no longer friendly with SPINKS in that FREEMAN is running for a position of Justice of the Peace against BOB PIPER.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/12/67

J. P. SCRUGGS, Town Marshal, Clayton, Louisiana, was advised of the personal and official identities of the interviewing Agents.

SCRUGGS stated that he did not remember the name JOSEPH EDWARDS. When JOSEPH EDWARDS was identified as the Negro male whose common-law wife was ORGREE TAYLOR, the deaf-mute who resided in Clayton, SCRUGGS advised that he recalled JOE EDWARDS as an individual he had once arrested for carrying a concealed weapon, a four barrel .22 caliber pistol. SCRUGGS stated that EDWARDS and another Negro had gotten into an argument over this deaf girl. He advised that he did not recall the date of this incident. He stated that EDWARDS was generally "a pretty good boy" and that was the only trouble he had had with him.

SCRUGGS stated that he had no knowledge of EDWARDS' activities at the Shamrock Motel nor any knowledge of his disappearance.

SCRUGGS stated that his police car during July, 1964, was a white and blue Ford which had been made available to the Town of Clayton, Louisiana, after the unit had been used several years by the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office.

SCRUGGS stated that he has no recollection of any conversation concerning EDWARDS about the time of his disappearance, and he had no idea as to the identity of any white preacher who would have any knowledge of EDWARDS' disappearance.

On 10/10/67 at Clayton, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs BRENT W. WARBERG and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /MDD:jls Date dictated 10/11/67

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 October 17, 1967

Reverend JULIAN T. MASSEY, Levins Subdivision, Route One, Box 64-C, Ferriday, Louisiana, telephone number 757-3846, was contacted at his part-time employment, Howard's Barber Shop, Vidalia, Louisiana. He was apprised of the personal and official identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

Reverend MASSEY stated that he is and has been a close friend of BILL OGDEN, Deputy Sheriff, Concordia Parish, Louisiana. OGDEN has made a habit of telling him of interesting cases and events happening during the course of his duties.

MASSEY recalled that three or four days after the incident occurred, BILL OGDEN told him that he was working the 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 Midnight shift when he received a complaint about 11:00 p.m. that JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro male, was creating a disturbance at Haney's Big House, Ferriday, Louisiana. OGDEN related to MASSEY that EDWARDS left the establishment before he arrived and travelled toward Ferriday. OGDEN over-took EDWARDS on the Vidalia - Ferriday Highway and stopped EDWARDS' car. Before he could apprehend EDWARDS, however, EDWARDS jumped out of his car and ran over the levee.

Reverend MASSEY stated that it is his recollection that Deputy Sheriff FRANK DE LAUGHTER was with OGDEN and DE LAUGHTER almost caught EDWARDS. Reverend MASSEY stated that he knows of no other details concerning the incident except that OGDEN told him EDWARDS' car was still in the same place where they had stopped it. MASSEY passed the area about one week later but did not observe EDWARDS' car.

On 10/13/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/16/67

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.

He added that he is under the impression that OGDEN either considered or actually obtained bloodhounds from the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office at Rayville, Louisiana. To the best of his knowledge, however, OGDEN never succeeded in locating EDWARDS.

MASSEY stated that OGDEN currently drives a Chrysler patrol car but at the time of the incident, he was believed to have had a gray Plymouth.

MASSEY stated that he later heard from HEZZIE RYLES, a barber at Ferriday, Louisiana, and a resident of Cowan Subdivision, Ferriday, that EDWARDS had insulted a female employee of the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana. MASSEY advised that he could not recall the details of the rumor.

Reverend MASSEY stated that he is not now and never has been a member of any Klan-type organization. He identified a photograph of RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER as a person with the reputation of being a member of a Klan-type organization and who has a propensity toward violence. He stated that he had never heard GLOVER's name linked with the name of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 17, 1967

BILL HANEY, operator of Haney's Big House, Ferriday, Louisiana, was advised of the personal and official identities of the Special Agents. HANEY stated that JOSEPH EDWARDS is unknown to him except that he has heard rumors in the Negro community concerning EDWARDS' disappearance and apparent murder, but he had no personal knowledge of the matter nor could he recall the sources of the rumors.

HANEY stated that he definitely did not call the police to stop a disturbance at his club involving EDWARDS who reportedly left before the police arrived. He stated that if such an event had occurred in his absence, his employees would have advised him of the fact.

On 10/13/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/16/67

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.

Serials 21-25

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/24/67

MILTON ODIE BOOTH, a commercial fisherman, stated that about three days after he assisted the FBI in a scuba diving operation at Deer Park, Louisiana, on August 24, 1967, he stopped at the Bonanza Club, Ferriday, Louisiana. He was hailed by Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN, Concordia Parish, who inquired as to what BOOTH was doing at Deer Park several days prior thereto.

BOOTH stated that he advised OGDEN that a government agency had rented his boats for what they said was a diving operation to obtain mud samples.

OGDEN inquired as to the location of the diving operation at Deer Park. BOOTH told him that it was just off Stoney Point, which was a considerable distance from the actual diving site.

OGDEN told BOOTH, "That far north is all right. You had me worried for a while."

BOOTH stated no other comments were made, but OGDEN seemed generally concerned about the diving operation which indicated to BOOTH that OGDEN was personally involved in some act and the evidence of that act is located on the bottom of the river.

On 10/20/67 at Harrisonburg, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /MDD:jls Date dictated 10/23/67

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 10/12/67

Deputy Sheriff FRANK DE LAUGHTER, Concordia Parish, Louisiana, was contacted as he was having his outboard motor repaired in Ferriday, Louisiana. It is to be noted that DE LAUGHTER can be reached over the 39.5 megacycle radio by using the call letters C07. He was apprised of the person and official identities of the interviewing Agents. He was informed of his constitutional rights as stated on a form captioned, "Your Rights". He declined to sign a waiver of his rights, but indicated a willingness to be interviewed. At the outset he was advised that the inquiry would be limited to a matter about which he had been contacted about before.

DE LAUGHTER advised that he did not know JOSEPH EDWARDS, had no information about EDWARDS' activities, nor no knowledge of EDWARDS' disappearance. He stated that he recalled checking on an old white and green Buick parked in the vicinity of Dixie Lanes, Ferriday, Louisiana. At that time the car was parked on the side road next to the bowling alley. He advised that he had no recollection that the car had previously been parked opposite the bowling alley heading west.

DE LAUGHTER stated that in response to 10-28 (radio inquiry as to the registered owner of a vehicle), he found that the vehicle was registered to a GRAVENBURG of New Orleans who was in some way affiliated with a law enforcement agency, possibly the Louisiana State Police.

DE LAUGHTER denied any recollection of a statement made by him that he had stated the car belonged to that "nigger" who insulted the girl at the Shamrock Motel and he would not be bothering anybody any more. DE LAUGHTER

On 10/10/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs BRENT W. WARBERG and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /MDD:jls Date dictated 10/11/67

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.

NO 44-2293

inquired as to the identity of the person who told the FBI of this statement in that if he knew the identity of this person it might help him to recall the incident. When advised that the identity of this person would not be disclosed, DE LAUGHTER stated he definitely could not recall the statement nor any information regarding the content of this statement.

He advised that during July, 1964, he operated a cream colored Pontiac Sheriff's patrol car which had only one antenna on the rear. He stated that he had no personal car.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 10, 1967

Chief of Police J. T. ROBINSON, Natchez, Mississippi, on October 3, 1967, advised that to the best of his recollection, at some time in Late 1963 or early 1964, an officer of the Vidalia, Louisiana, Police Department was called to the Maple Courts Motel in Vidalia by occupants of a cabin at the motel who told him that they saw a Negro breaking into the adjacent cabin.

Officer GREEN of the Vidalia Police Department entered the next door cabin, found a Negro man, (first name unknown) CARTER, sitting on the side of a bed occupied by a married white woman who operated an ice cream stand on one corner of a street in Vidalia and the Negro CARTER worked at a gas station across the street.

ROBINSON advised that to the best of his recollection, the white woman was from Sicily Island, Louisiana; her husband was employed as a guard at Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, quit his job, and took his wife back to Sicily Island, Louisiana.

ROBINSON advised that both the white woman and the Negro man were arrested and placed in the Vidalia City Jail by Officer GREEN. He stated the woman's husband got her out of jail that night but the Negro remained in jail for a few days and then mysteriously disappeared therefrom.

ROBINSON advised that it is his understanding there are no records available at the Vidalia City Jail that would show the incarceration or release of the Negro CARTER.

ROBINSON emphasized that he does not know what happened to the Negro CARTER but has heard rumors to the effect that he was killed.

On 10/3/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-2044
 by SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB
SA REESIE L. TIMMONS RLT/blw Date dictated 10/6/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/23/67

JOEL FREEMAN, 103 Lee Avenue, Vidalia, Louisiana, was contacted at his residence and advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the contact.

FREEMAN stated that he is on the Auxiliary Police Force in the town of Vidalia and is currently a candidate for Justice of the Peace of that town.

FREEMAN advised that JOE EDWARDS is unknown to him and he has no information concerning EDWARDS' disappearance.

On 10/19/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /MDD:jls Date dictated 10/23/67

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

1

Date 10/13/67

VICTOR D. CANTERBURY is a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is presently assigned to the Kansas City Division. Mr. CANTERBURY advised he was formerly employed as a state probation officer for the State of Louisiana from August, 1959, to September, 1965. During this period of time, he was the manager of the Tallulah District Probation Office in the State of Louisiana. He advised this office is composed of eight parishes. Along with being in charge of this office, he was also assigned cases in Madison, Tensas, and East Carroll Parishes. Mr. CANTERBURY recalled that while he held the managerial position of this office, JAMES B. GOSS was assigned as a probation officer and was assigned the parishes of Concordia and Catahoula.

Mr. CANTERBURY was not familiar with all the cases assigned to the Tallulah District Office, but from time to time, different probation officers assigned to this office would mention certain instances that took place in their area to him. He does recall an instance relating to IONA PERRY, although he did not actually recall the name. Mr. CANTERBURY also remembered the name of the probation case regarding CHARLES H. BROWN but did not remember the wife of a probationer working at the Shamrock Restaurant in Vidalia, Louisiana. The only relationship he knew that existed between Mr. GOSS and Mrs. BROWN was in connection with Mr. GOSS' work as Mrs. BROWN's husband was on probation for nonsupport. In nonsupport cases, there is a tremendous amount of contacts with each party in trying to work out a satisfactory solution.

Mr. CANTERBURY knew of no specific instances of Mr. GOSS' extra-marital activities. CANTERBURY was of the opinion though that Mr. GOSS did date other women while

On 10/12/67 at Kansas City, Missouri File # Kansas City 44-728
New Orleans 44-2293
 by SA JAMES R. GRAHAM, JR. - ak /blw Date dictated 10/12/67

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.

KC 44-728
NO 44-2293

2

married, since GOSS implied to him that he did date other women, but no names were ever specifically mentioned nor specific instances. CANTERBURY was also aware that GOSS and his wife were having marital difficulties since GOSS, on many occasions, mentioned his wife was forever nagging him. GOSS did, on two occasions, show him pictures of women he was dating but again, CANTERBURY could not recall any specific names.

According to CANTERBURY, while GOSS was working in the probation office at Tallulah, Louisiana, he traded for several different automobiles. He did not remember exactly how many but was of the opinion that while he was employed in the probation office, GOSS owned approximately four or five different cars. He recalled specifically that he owned at one time a Mercedes which he traded for in Monroe, Louisiana. He recalled that the other cars were either traded or purchased at a car lot in Jonesville, Louisiana. This car lot was located on a Jena Road, within the city limits of Jonesville, but other than the fact it was on the west side of town, he did not recall the name of the car agency. He also recalled that GOSS also owned a 1960 yellow Ford and also recalled his owning a two-tone early 1950 Pontiac. He never though recalled his owning or driving an Oldsmobile.

CANTERBURY continued by saying he actually never recalled GOSS making any specific statements regarding any connection or association with IONA PERRY nor any statements regarding KENNETH NORMAN HEAD. He did recall GOSS had a probationer by the name of RICHARD VAN MATRE, whose wife lived in Winnsboro, Louisiana. He continued by saying GOSS always seemed to get himself enmeshed in the problems of the wife of Probationer MATRE but CANTERBURY concluded by saying he never recalled any report which indicated GOSS was trying to do anything other than actually help the party.

NO 44-2293

Unlike the first time she saw him, he was poorly dressed and looked very agitated and nervous.

Mrs. PERRY did not notice the color or make of vehicle used by GOSS on either of the above occasions. At no time did GOSS or IONA mention the name JOSEPH EDWARDS, a Negro porter, or any difficulties she may have had at the Shamrock Motel, or any murder plot.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/19/67

Mrs. IONA PERRY SEWARD was contacted at her residence, 417 Walnut Street, in response to a telephone call from her requesting that the Special Agents re-contact her concerning information previously furnished by her.

Upon personal contact with Mrs. SEWARD, she advised that she had given much thought to her last contact by these Special Agents, and while all the statements made by her were true, she has re-evaluated her conclusion that JAMES GOSS had either killed or been involved in the murder of JOSEPH EDWARDS. She stated that at the time of the interview she was of the opinion that GOSS was so involved in the incident, but subsequently she has questioned her conclusion mainly because he has lied to her so much that he may have lied about his intention to kill EDWARDS.

Mrs. SEWARD stated that she has had no contact with GOSS since she telephoned him the Sunday following her first contact with Special Agents of the FBI, nor had anyone influenced her conclusion. She reiterated that her recollections of the statements made by GOSS that he would kill EDWARDS were true and no change of this information is desired; merely that her conclusion based on these statements had changed.

She stated that in regard to her telephone call to GOSS, she advised that she merely called to tell him that she did not make a date to compromise EDWARDS and if GOSS had made such arrangements with some girl, he had better get it straightened out and leave her out of his statement. He denied any involvement and told her that he had already been contacted by the FBI and stated his innocence.

In addition, Mrs. SEWARD advised that she recalled that following EDWARDS' one and only attempt to kiss her,

On 10/16/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293 Jackson 44-65
by SAs GEORGE F. BENZ and MERRIMAN D. DIVEN /MDD:jls Date dictated 10/17/67

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.

NO 44-2293

she threatened to tell of his assault. EDWARDS stated that he would have to leave town if she did. He explained that he was living with a deaf and dumb Negro girl and she had a child by him with the result that he was almost sent to jail. He further explained that he had to leave his job at the Albert Pick Motel because things got too hot for him there. Mrs. SEWARD asked him if his Albert Pick Motel difficulty was the result of a shortage of money. EDWARDS told her it did not involve money and inferred that it had something to do with a white girl at the motel. She told him that just because he was familiar with another white girl, he should not have gotten smart with her. She stated that she had never given EDWARDS any encouragement, but had treated him civilly during her work contacts with him.

Mrs. SEWARD advised that she never knew EDWARDS to own a car and she recalls that he had stated a number of times something about hitchhiking. She emphatically denied having dated EDWARDS or making a date with him for the purpose of compromising him.

With regard to GOSS, she stated that GOSS told her many stories which she suspected were untrue. For example, he stated that he operated a car lot. He told her he sold real estate. He assisted the FBI in breaking a case involving the sale of drugs called "goof balls". These "goof balls" had no effect on him he ascerted.

He worked under cover in New Orleans using an alias BILL JOHNSON, and was assisted by a girl named YVONNE Last Name Unknown. According to GOSS, the people in New Orleans think that he is dead inasmuch as he made it look that way by abandoning his car. He claimed he switched cars frequently so he could not be readily identified by his vehicle.

She suspected GOSS was married. She attempted to find out about him through RICHARD VAN MATRE whom GOSS contacted officially as a result of non-support charges against VAN MATRE. She advised that she went out with VAN MATRE on one occasion to visit VAN MATRE's mother in Winnsboro, Louisiana, and while they were there, they observed VAN MATRE's wife with another man.

She exhibited a post card from GOSS post marked July 21, 1966, in Abilene, Texas, requesting her to write to him and telling her that he was a "D. J." for Station KCIJ, Shreveport, on weekends. Mrs. SEWARD stated that she has heard him on the radio. She advised that she is still very fond of GOSS despite his lies about his marital status and the fact that she is now married herself.

She stated that her mother informed her of a contact by Special Agents of the FBI and her mother had told Agents of her visit with GOSS to her parents' residence. Mrs. SEWARD stated that she recalls that the date of this visit was October 22, 1964. She advised that she recalled this date because it was her father's birthday and she recalled the year 1964 inasmuch as she had been employed at the Shamrock Motel during that year.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date October 16, 1967

RICHARD VAN MATRE, 7145 Airline Highway, Metairie, Louisiana, was interviewed at 3301 North Causeway Boulevard, Metairie, and furnished the following information:

VAN MATRE identified the girl who was with him on the occasion when he drove by his former residence in Winnsboro, Louisiana, as IONA PERRY, a crippled girl who worked at the Shamrock Motel in Vidalia, Louisiana, at that time. VAN MATRE stated that he only went out with the girl about three times and this was because he felt sorry for her. VAN MATRE denied having any interests in PERRY for reasons of sex.

He stated that the last he knew, IONA PERRY worked at the Jefferson Davis Hospital in Natchez, Mississippi. This, he stated, would be around the end of 1964.

VAN MATRE volunteered the information that one JAMES GOSS, a Louisiana Probation Officer, also dated the crippled girl, IONA PERRY.

VAN MATRE stated there was no special reason why he drove by his wife's house with the PERRY girl, but stated he just happened to pass there with her when he saw his wife with another man, whereupon he parked to observe and just got seen.

VAN MATRE stated that he has heard of BUD SPINKS, Vidalia, Louisiana, Chief of Police, but denied ever having heard of KENNETH HEAD, RALEIGH JACKSON "RED" GLOVER, or HOMER THOMAS "BUCK" HORTON. In addition, VAN MATRE advised he had never heard of a Negro male named JOSEPH EDWARDS.

On 10/13/67 at Metairie, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
 by SA ALBERT B. MILLER and
SA WILLIAM F. KUSCH/WFK:mrh /blw Date dictated 10/16/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/19/67

Mrs. ROY DALE, Highway 1162, Rural Tallulah, Louisiana, was contacted at her residence and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, and she furnished the following information:

She advised that she recognized the photograph of JAMES B. GOSS as he was previously one of her tenants at 409 North Mulberry Street in Tallulah, Louisiana. She advised that GOSS was first living in the little cottage to the rear of the apartment house and then moved into an apartment in the apartment house. Mrs. DALE advised that her records show that GOSS began his occupancy in April of 1964, and she can find receipts for rent up to September of 1964.

Mrs. DALE further advised that she recalls that GOSS at one time had his wife and family living with him in the apartment house, but this was for a short period of time and just prior to his transfer.

She stated that GOSS never gave her any trouble and was an ideal tenant, and she had not received any complaints about his personal activities while in the apartment. She stated that there are no tenants living in the area at the present time who were there when GOSS was a tenant as the turnover in the apartments are very rapid.

Mrs. DALE further advised that GOSS was employed in an office at the Department of Welfare in Tallulah, Louisiana, and was transferred in his job; however, he and his family were from around Shreveport, Louisiana.

On 10/13/67 at Tallulah, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
by SA JOHN D. BRADY /jls Date dictated 10/16/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/9/67

BEN GOSS, Owner, Operator of the Big G Western Shop, Highway 61, North, was advised of the identities of the Special Agents, and the nature of the contact. GOSS stated that he had been the owner of the night club called the Plaza Club which was located left to the Dixie Lanes, a bowling alley on the Vidalia--Ferriday Highway.

GOSS advised that he leased the premises to numerous unidentified persons, and he had no recollection as to who operated the club during July, 1964. He advised that he was seldom there. He did not observe any vehicles parked for an extended period in the vicinity of the club nor did he observe or hear of any unusual activities in the area. He further advised that JOSEPH EDWARDS is unknown to him.

GOSS stated that JAMES GOSS, a Louisiana Probation Officer, is not related to him and is unknown to him.

On 10/5/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
GEORGE F. BENZ /MDD:js Date dictated 10/6/67

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.