

JN 44-65

Natchez, Miss., policeman, about the insult. This unknown police officer reported the information to the Chief of Police, BUD SPINKS, and recommended that SPINKS take some action in connection with this Negro. The source further advised that SPINKS contacted SDG leader RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER and requested GLOVER to take care of the Negro. GLOVER, HEAD, and another SDG member by the name of HOMER THOMAS HORTON killed a Negro. HEAD subsequently made the statement that, "The nigger won't be popping up".

Investigation in the WHARBOM case has determined that the subject was employed at the Shamrock Motel, Vidalia, La., and resided in Clayton, La., at the time of the disappearance. His abandoned automobile was found in Ferriday, La.

Since the principal suspects in this case are SDG members under investigation in the WHARBOM matter already, this case will be coordinated with WHARBOM. New Orleans is origin. An initial report will be submitted promptly.

8/23/67

1 - Mr. McDonough

Airtel

REC-21

To: SAC, Jackson

44-26064-4

From: Director, FBI

EX 104

UNSUBS;
JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reurairtel 8/19/67.

MB

This is to confirm authorization telephonically given in response to your request that you be authorized to arrange for scuba divers to search lake bottom area in Deer Park Lake, Louisiana, for skeletal remains or other evidence in connection with captioned case, expenses not to exceed \$200. It is to be noted that if law enforcement officer involved, as previously alleged, a possible Civil Rights violation could exist and you should, therefore, afford this appropriate investigative attention.

Keep Bureau advised of developments.

EJM:sjk *sjk*
(4)

MAILED 12
AUG 23 1967
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Inspector Joseph Sullivan was telephonically authorized in line with the above in view of the time element involved. Sullivan has advised that scuba diving team would be available Thursday, 8/24/67, the first date they would be free from their normal business responsibilities and could assist us in this project.

By way of background, Jackson requested authority to spend approximately \$200 to hire scuba divers to search bottom of Deer Park Lake, La., in area where fishermen discovered what appeared to be particles of human flesh in Fall of 1964. Based on information furnished by informant, above flesh may have been from body of Joseph Edwards, Negro, missing since 7/12/64, reportedly murdered by Klansmen at the instigation of a police officer. Since CR violation could exist if police officer involved, Jackson authorized to proceed with project.

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

RECEIVED

JRM *Chu* *Epw*

56 SEP 13 1967
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

F B I

Date: 8/19/67

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

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

Via Airtel Airmail
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ALEX ROSEN

FROM: INSPECTOR JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN

~~UNSUBS~~ Unknown Subjects

JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM

~~CR~~

Civil Rights

Bob 3

WHARBOM summaries beginning on 8/11/67, called to your attention the JOSEPH EDWARDS case. The WHARBOM summary teletype on 8/14/67, reported the discovery of a catch of which appeared to be human flesh by MILTON BOOTH, a commercial fisherman, in Deer Park Lake, Concordia Parish, Louisiana.

The interview with BOOTH by Bureau Agents strongly indicated that BOOTH did encounter a sealed container of some type which apparently contained human remains. BOOTH is convinced that he can show us precisely the area where this incident occurred even though this was probably in October, 1964. We feel that there is considerable merit in examining the lake in the vicinity where the action occurred for the purpose of determining if there are any skeletal remains.

- 3 - Bureau
 - 2 - New Orleans (44-2293)
 - 2 - Jackson (44-65)
- JAS/jls
(7)

*1 Terrot CK Unit
Airtel = SAC, JR
8/23/67
EJM/ejk*

44-26064-4

18 AUG 21 1967

EX 104 REC-2T

*cc Bishop
cc Caser*

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

JN 44-65

Local authorities have never investigated this situation. Concordia Parish authorities only attempted to churn up the floating material so that it would not attract undue attention. This is about all that could be expected of the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office. Time wise, if JOSEPH EDWARDS' body had been placed in an old refrigerator or barrel as we suspect and submerged in Deer Park Lake, it would have attained a state of decay BOOTH described by the time the incident occurred in Deer Park Lake.

We have made a survey to determine what expenses would be entailed in arranging for scuba divers to work the lake bottom. We have located a diving team and have been assured of MILTON BOOTH's cooperation and assistance for relatively nominal expenses. We feel that the operation would probably require less than one day's diving and entail an expenditure of less than \$200, probably considerably less. If the Bureau agrees and will authorize this expenditure of up to \$200 to make a survey of the lake bottom in Deer Park Lake, Louisiana, it could be done on Thursday, August 24, 1967. This is the first date the divers will be free from their normal business responsibilities and able to assist us.

In view of the importance of establishing the corpus delicti in the EDWARDS case, we feel that this diving should be done. It could be handled very inconspicuously, but if we do effect a recovery, the activity could be a matter of considerable public interest.

It is recommended that the Bureau authorize us to proceed with the diving program outlined above and to incur up to \$200 expenses for this purpose.

Optional Form No. 10
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
M E M O R A N D U M

To: DIRECTOR, FBI
From: SAC, NEW ORLEANS

Date: 8/10/64

Subject: UNSUBS; JOSEPH EDWARDS -
VICTIM
CR.

3
7A

BUFILE NO.:
NEW ORLEANS FILE NO.: 44-2293
JACKSON FILE NO.: 44-65

Due to the opening of the Jackson Office, the following changes in the above case have been made:

A. LOCATION OF FILE

- 1. (X) Entire file sent to Jackson Office herewith.
- 2. () File sent to Jackson, except one copy of following serials retained New Orleans:

- 3. () File retained New Orleans, but one copy of following serials sent to Jackson:

44-26064

NOT RECORDED

16 AUG 17 1964

B. OFFICE OF ORIGIN

- () NEW ORLEANS
- (X) JACKSON
- ()

C. STATUS

- () PENDING
- (X) RUC
- () CLOSED

- ① - Bureau
- 1 - Jackson
- 1 - New Orleans

(3) bap

88 SEP 3 1964

1 cc of CR Unit

SIX

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

JUL 23 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI-NEW

ORLS

752 PM URGENT 7-23-64 OLP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM NEW ORLEANS (444-2293)

UNSUBS; JOSEPH EDWARDS DASH VICTIM, CR.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO NEW ORLEANS, JULY TWENTY THREE INSTANT.

NATCHEZ, MISS. POLICE DEPT. ITEM NUMBER TWO EIGHT TWO

SEVEN DASH C DATED JULY TWENTY ONE LAST SHOWS JOE EDWARDS,

C/M, FIFTY TWO EAST OAK ST., NATCHEZ, REPORTED MISSING.

COMPLAINANT IS SHOWN AS QUOTE MOTHER OF ABOVE UNQUOTE.

COMPLAINT RECEIVED BY OFFICER W. MARTIN, TEN THIRTY AM.

DETAILS OF COMPLAINT SHOW QUOTE THE ABOVE REPORTED THAT HER

SON JOE EDWARDS, C/M, AGE TWENTY ONE, HT. FIVE FEET SIX

INCHES, WEIGHT ONE HUNDRED SIXTY DASH SIXTY FIVE, HAS BEEN

MISSING SINCE JULY TWELVE. NO ONE HAS SEEN OR HEARD OF HIM

SINCE, UNQUOTE.

ON JULY TWENTY THREE INSTANT DESK SERGEANT ERNEST BROWN

OF THE NATCHEZ POLICE DEPT. ADVISED BUREAU AGENTS CAR OF

END PAGE ONE

*Door CRW advised
105 am 7/24/64
July*

44-26064-3

JUL 27 1964

60 AUG 4 1964

cc - M = Ravnugh

3-1

H

6-1000

PAGE TWO

EDWARDS RECOVERED SHAMROCK MOTEL AND MATTER REFERRED TO CONCORDIA PARISH, LOUISIANA SO.

ON JULY TWENTY THREE INSTANT, BERNICE CONNER, FIFTY TWO EAST OAK ST., NATCHEZ, ADVISED BUREAU AGENTS THAT JOSEPH EDWARDS IS HER SON; THAT HE HAD WORKED AT SHAMROCK MOTEL, VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, FOR PAST SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO DISAPPEARANCE JULY TWELVE LAST; THAT HE WAS LAST SEEN BY GIRL EMPLOYEE SHAMROCK MOTEL NIGHT JULY TWELVE LAST AFTER ELEVEN PM AT CANAL AND FRANKLIN ST., NATCHEZ WHEN EDWARDS WAS IN HIS CAR. MOTHER STATED SHE REPORTED MATTER TO VIDALIA, LOUISIANA POLICE DEPT., JULY NINETEEN LAST; THAT CAR OF EDWARDS LOCATED AT GULF STATION, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA, WHERE ATTENDANT ADVISED CAR HAD BEEN PULLED IN ON ORDERS OF POLICE; THAT CAR HAD BEEN FOUND ABANDONED NEAR BOWLING ALLEY BETWEEN VIDALIA AND FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA.

MOTHER OF EDWARDS STATED SHE CONTACTED HER SISTER, DORA DE FRANCE, ONE TWO TWO THREE SOUTH GAYOSO ST., NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, JULY EIGHTEEN LAST, AND WAS ADVISED EDWARDS NOT AT

END PAGE TWO

PPAGE THREE

DE FRANCE/S HOME AND HAD NOT BEEN SEEN. MOTHER STATES SHE HAS NO OTHER RELATIVES KNOWN TO EDWARDS OTHER THAN HIS GRANDPARENTS, JONAS AND MARY KING, CLAYTON, LOUISIANA.

MOTHER OF EDWARDS STATED EDWARDS NOT REGISTERED VOTER, HAS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO REGISTER TO VOTE, IS NOT MEMBER NAACP, CORE OR SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS, AND HAS NEVER ENGAGED IN ANY VOTER DEMONSTRATION.

ON JULY TWENTY THREE INSTANT, BUREAU AGENT CONTACTED FOLLOWING AGENCIES AND DETERMINED EDWARDS NOT INCARCERATED, NATCHEZ POLICE DEPT., ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF/S OFFICE, NATCHEZ, VIDALIA, LOUISIANA POLICE DEPT., CONCORDIA PARISH SHERIFF/S OFFICE, VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA POLICE DEPT.

CAR OF EDWARDS EXAMINED BEATTY GULF STATION, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA, AND DETERMINED TO BE FIFTY EIGHT BUICK, FOUR DOOR, HARDTOP, WHITE OVER LIGHT GREEN, BEARING SIXTYFOUR LOUISIANA LICENSE THREE THREE X EIGHT EIGHT ONE. CAR HAD FLAT TIRE LEFT REAR WHICH ATTENDANT STATED WAS ON CAR WHEN RECOVERED.

END OF PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

NO KEYS IN CAR.

GRANDPARENTS OF EDWARDS, JONAS AND MARY KING, CLAYTON, LOUISIANA, ADVISE HAVE NOT SEEN EDWARDS SINCE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO JULY TWELVE LAST.

AUGRITA PAREN PHONETIC PAREN TAYLOR, CLAYTON, LOUISIANA, WHO IS DEAF AND DUMB, ADVISED THROUGH HER MOTHER, BERNICE SMITH, CLAYTON, LOUISIANA, THAT SHE HAS TWO CHILDREN BY EDWARDS AND IN ANSWER TO A LETTER FROM EDWARDS POSTMARKED JULY TWO LAST, VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, SHE WAS RETURNING HOME FROM JACKSON, MISS. TO MARRY EDWARDS. UPON ARRIVING HOME SHE DETERMINED EDWARDS WAS MISSING. TAYLOR STATED SHE HAS NO IDEA AS TO WHEREABOUTS OF EDWARDS.

WALLY BROWN, BOOKKEEPER, SHAMROCK MOTEL, VIDALIA, LOUISIANA, ADVISED EDWARDS LAST DAY OF WORK WAS NIGHT JULY ELEVEN LAST; THAT HE RECEIVED NO MONEY AS HE HAD ALREADY OVERDRAWN HIS WAGES. BROWN STATED IT APPEARED EDWARDS HAD SKIPPED TO AVOID HIS DEBTORS AS SEVERAL PEOPLE HAD BEEN TO MOTEL ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT FROM EDWARDS.

END OF PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

AGENCIES CONTACTED ADVISE THAT NO ACTIVE INVESTIGATION
BEING CONDUCTED IN ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE EDWARDS AS HE IS MERELY
CONSIDERED TO BE MISSING PERSON.

END AND ACK PLS

WA FOR FOUR MESSGS

WA OMS

FBI WASH DC

TU CLR

PLAIN TEXT

7/23/64

TELETYPE

URGENT

1 - Mr. McDonough

TO SAC NEW ORLEANS

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

UNSUBS; JOSEPH EDWARDS DASH VICTIM. CR.

REBUTEL INSTANT.

BY RETURN TEL, ADVISE STATUS OF THIS MATTER AND WHAT FURTHER ACTION IS BEING TAKEN.

3-1

6

EJM/cac
(3)

REC-95

44-26064-2

19 JUL 24 1964

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

B31
JUL 31 1964

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

JUL 23 1964

TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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

JUL 23 1964

FBI NEW ORLS

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

737PM URGENT 7-23-64 LLD

TO NEW, ORLEANS

FROM DIRECTOR 1 P

UNSUBS; JOSEPH EDWARDS DASH VICTIM. CR.

REBUTEL INSTANT.

BY RETURN TEL, ADVISE STATUS OF THIS MATTER AND WHAT
FURTHER ACTION IS BEING TAKEN.

END

~~NO~~

HOLD FOR FIVE TELS

Z

HOLD FOR THREE MORE

TELETYPE TO SAC, NEW ORLEANS
RE: UNSUBS; JOSEPH EDWARDS - VICTIM. CR.

DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED IMMEDIATE
INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF EDWARDS IS IN FACT
INCARCERATED IN FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA, JAIL AND IF SO,
NATURE OF CHARGES. IF HE IS NOT IN JAIL, ATTEMPT TO
DETERMINE IF HE IS MISSING, IF REPORT MADE TO LOCAL
POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND WHETHER INVESTIGATION BEING
CONDUCTED BY POLICE DEPARTMENT. EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION
AND S U T E L RESULTS JULY TWENTYTHREE, INSTANT.

- 2 -

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

JUL 23 1964

TELETYPE

Serials

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 11/24/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 10/18/67 - 11/21/67
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 11/10/67.

- P -

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

EX-101

30

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

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-26064-25
REC 30
EX 101
NOV 30 1967
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD		
Request Recd.	DEC 7 1967		
Date Fwd.	NOV 30 1967		
How Fwd.	694 B		
By	RCJ/eam		

NOTATIONS
[Handwritten notes and signatures]

NO 44-2293

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

-1- Will 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.

-3- Continue efforts to locate HUBERT RUSHING through former friends and associates at Natchez, Mississippi.

NEW ORLEANS

AT DEER PARK, LOUISIANA

Continue efforts to contact GEORGE FENTON of Jackson, Mississippi, at his Deer Park camp relative to alleged disposal of refrigerators and exact location of same.

AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Upon return of KENNETH NORMAN HEAD from new off-shore employment, will interview him with regard to victim's disappearance.

COVER PAGE

B

AT SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

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

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

INFORMANTS:

[redacted] advised on October 20, 1967, that ROBERT FULLER was head of the Klan Bureau of Investigation (KBI) of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK) in Louisiana during the period around July, 1964. FULLER had previously been head of the KBI of the OKKKK when ROYAL YOUNG of the Shreveport, Louisiana, area was the head of the OKKKK in the Fall of 1963, and when ROYAL YOUNG was deposed from his position of leadership around January, 1964, FULLER continued on as head of the KBI of the OKKKK through 1964, during which period MURRAY MARTIN, Winnsboro, Louisiana; GRADY WILDER, Jena, Louisiana; HENRY IRVING BAYLES, West Monroe, Louisiana; and ROBERT FULLER, were leaders of the OKKKK.

[redacted] stated that although ROBERT FULLER was head of the KBI, acts of violence by klansmen were frequently done without his having any knowledge of the details. According to this source, FULLER is known to have disclaimed any information regarding the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS; however, FULLER is quoted as saying that the men who would have had knowledge of the incident would have been "RED" GLOVER, who was head of the KBI of the Ferriday area at that time; FRANK DE LAUGHTER, another klansman whose name is unknown but who is a white male, age about 40, weight 260 pounds or more, who was employed some time back as a mechanic at the Ford place in Ferriday, Louisiana; and also LEVI MAHONEY, who held a position in 1964 of head of the KBI in the Winnsboro, Louisiana, area, including Concordia Parish, and who may have obtained information from RED GLOVER regarding it.

COVER PAGE

NO 44-2293

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All of the leads previously set forth will be coordinated with Bureau special WHARBOM which is currently in progress in Natchez, Mississippi.

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 this report overlaps the period of referenced report in that some of the FD-302's were not prepared at the time of referenced report.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ARNOLD C. MERROW at Monroeville, Alabama:

On November 2, 1967, Mr. JOHN LEE BETTS, Postmaster, Monroeville, Alabama, advised that his records show that PAULINE BROWN formerly resided at 206 Winston Avenue, Monroeville, Alabama, but had moved recently and was presently receiving her mail at 202 West Pine Street, Monroeville, Alabama. He advised that this was the address of ALBERT BROWN, who, he believed, is the brother-in-law of PAULINE BROWN, but stated he had not seen PAULINE BROWN nor ALBERT BROWN in the Monroeville area for several days.

The following investigation was conducted by SA GEORGE F. BENZ and SA WILLIAM B. WOOD on October 25, 1967:

Reverend J. N. SCANLON, 503 Texas Avenue, Vidalia, Louisiana, advised that the last address he had for PAULINE BROWN was 5B-Z Johngasee, 2613 Vienna, Austria.

COVER PAGE

D

NO 44-2293

Mrs. LANE L. NUNNERY, 1211 Peach Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, advised that PAULINE BROWN is married to her brother, CHARLES BROWN, and that PAULINE BROWN is back in the United States and living with CHARLES BROWN again. She provided the following address:

PAULINE BROWN
206 Winston Avenue
Monroeville, Alabama
Phone 205-743-7106

JULIUS KNOTTS, 723 Morgan Avenue, Morgantown, advised that he did not know the present whereabouts of HUBERT RUSHING. KNOTTS stated that the FBI should contact his first cousin, Mrs. SHELBY WHITE, Brookhaven, Mississippi. KNOTTS stated that WHITE knows the address of HUBERT's sister, MONET (LNU), and that MONET (LNU) should have the present address of HUBERT RUSHING.

COVER PAGE

E *

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	<u>Page</u>
I. JOSEPH EDWARDS' BACKGROUND AND RELATED INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISAPPEARANCE	2
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III. INVESTIGATION OF 1964 WHITE OLDSMOBILE OBSERVED AT SCENE OF VICTIM'S DISAPPEARANCE	14
IV. INTERVIEW OF PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF KLAN ACTIVITY	18
V. INTERVIEW OF PRESENT AND FORMER LAW OFFICERS	25
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VII. RUMORS	31

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/21/67

SIDNEY MURRAY, Mayor of Vidalia, Louisiana, was apprised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

Mayor MURRAY stated he had no knowledge concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS until he was recently contacted by TATE POOLE for information concerning POOLE's date of termination with the Police Department. POOLE told him that he needed the information in connection with an inquiry by the FBI into the disappearance of EDWARDS.

MURRAY stated he considered the incident of EDWARDS' disappearance very strange in that no information concerning the matter came to his attention until three years later. JOHNNIE "BUD" SPINKS, the Marshal of the Town of Vidalia, did not report on the matter at any time until one day last week when SPINKS told him of his recent interview by Special Agents of the FBI. MURRAY stated that SPINKS seemed very concerned over the inquiry. The Mayor stated that SPINKS was currently hospitalized and it was the Mayor's opinion that his illness, to a large degree, was a result of SPINKS' concern regarding the FBI's investigation in the EDWARDS case.

MURRAY was unable to give any specific basis for this belief except that SPINKS' attitude at that time was very different from his usual demeanor.

The Mayor was unable to furnish any information about the specific manner in which the Vidalia patrol cars were equipped with regard to the emergency lights. He advised that the town has been leasing vehicles from McPhail Motors, Natchez, since 1962 or 1963. He advised that he would order the City Clerk to make available to the FBI all records concerning the patrol cars and the personnel of the Police Department.

On 11/14/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and Jackson 44-65
 by HENRY B. BRITTON, III/MDD/clm Date dictated 11/17/67

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/15/67

JOHN LEWIS, 408 North Fifth Street, Ferriday, Louisiana, was contacted at that address and advised of the identities of the Special Agents and the nature of the contact.

He advised that he purchased a 1958 white over green Buick, four-door sedan, from Purvis Motors, Ferriday, about January or February, 1965.

He noticed nothing unusual about the car, nor had he heard anything about the prior owner of the vehicle. He noticed no bloodstains in or on the car at the time he purchased it.

All the windows were in good condition until a storm broke off a limb from a tree over his driveway which smashed the windshield of the car.

During December, 1966, he sold the Buick for \$100 to a young white man by the name of SMITH from Columbia, Louisiana. He was unable to furnish any additional information about the vehicle or the successive owner.

On 11/8/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
 by HENRY B. BRITTON, III/MDD/clm 11 Date dictated 11/13/67
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.

III. INVESTIGATION OF 1964 WHITE OLDSMOBILE
OBSERVED AT SCENE OF VICTIM'S DISAPPEARANCE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

EX 64-2293

Date October 27, 1967

E. H. ADAMS, Assistant Director, Motor Vehicles Division, Department of Revenue, State of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, made available certified copies of documents maintained in the files of the State of Louisiana Motor Vehicles Department, for a 1964 Oldsmobile, VIN 844M139590, which was titled under State of Louisiana Title Number M3696800.

Copies of the following documents regarding a 1964 Oldsmobile, VIN 844M139590, model Eighty-Eight, four-door sedan, were obtained:

The manufacturer's statement of origin showing that the vehicle was transferred to McPhail Oldsmobile, Incorporated, Natchez, Mississippi, on February 11, 1964.

The first assignment on the manufacturer's statement of origin shows that on September 17, 1965, this vehicle was transferred to the possession of Capitol Auto Auction, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, from McPhail Oldsmobile, Incorporated.

A bill of sale dated September 17, 1965, showing the sale of this vehicle from McPhail Oldsmobile, Incorporated, Natchez, Mississippi, to McPhail Oldsmobile, Incorporated, Vidalia, Louisiana, for the sum of \$10.

A car invoice dated September 17, 1965, showing that this vehicle was sold by Byars-McPhail Oldsmobile, Vidalia, Louisiana, to Capitol Auto Auction, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

A bill of sale showing the sale of this vehicle by Capitol Auto Auction, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Thurston Holt Used Cars, for the sum of \$1630.

A bill of sale dated November 8, 1965, showing the sale of this vehicle by THURSTON HOLT to Tom's Auto Sales, Incorporated, for the sum of \$1650.

A bill of sale from Tom's Auto Sales dated January 8, 1966, showing the sale of this vehicle to JOHN MITCHELL, JR. for the sum of \$1950.

On 10/18/67 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana File # NO 44-2293

by SA LONDON M. HOWARD-cmt 15 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;

A Louisiana sale and chattel mortgage dated January 8, 1966, showing a time balance to \$2206.20 owed by JOHN MITCHELL, JR. on this vehicle.

A letter from the Louisiana Department of Revenue to Commercial Securities Company, New Iberia, Louisiana, dated March 2, 1966.

An application for certificate of title and passenger car registration to the Louisiana Department of Revenue by JOHN MITCHELL, JR.

A tax statement from the Louisiana Department of Revenue showing \$39 paid in taxes for this vehicle by JOHN MITCHELL, JR. on February 7, 1966.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/8/67

Mrs. BARBARA WEST, barmaid, Holiday Inn, Natchez, Mississippi, after being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents, furnished the following information:

WEST advised that she was familiar with many of the klan members in the Roxie, Mississippi, area. When queried regarding any of these individuals having ownership of a white Oldsmobile with two whip antennae mounted on the rear fenders, WEST advised that the car previously owned by JAMES SEALE was a white Oldsmobile which had whip antennae mounted on the trunk deck. She stated that SEALE owned this Oldsmobile prior to his current car which she believes is a blue Ford. WEST advised that JAMES SEALE's wife currently drives a white Oldsmobile with a Citizens Band radio antennae mounted on the roof.

On 11/7/67 at Natchez, Mississippi File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/HBB/clm Date dictated 11/8/67

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NO 44-2293

IV. INTERVIEW OF PERSONS
KNOWLEDGEABLE OF
KLAN ACTIVITY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/14/67

Mr. HOMER THOMAS HORTON, also known as "Buck", 713 Lynn Street, Vidalia, Louisiana, after being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents, was furnished a "Your Rights" waiver form which was read and understood by HORTON. HORTON advised that he understood his rights but did not care to sign the waiver form; however, he would be willing to discuss matters of interest to interviewing Agents, at which time he volunteered the following information:

HORTON advised he considered joining the Ku Klux Klan in either December of 1964 or 1965, exact year unrecalled, because he thought it would be a money-making proposition. HORTON stated he attended only two or three meetings acting in the capacity as a guard, however, never actually attended any of the meetings. HORTON stated he never took the oath of the klan and shortly thereafter, realizing no money could be made, he discontinued attending any meetings and has not attended any type of klan activity since.

When queried as to more specifics with regard to membership and attendance of any individuals meeting, HORTON stated he did not desire to discuss this particular matter any further.

HORTON, after being asked if he was knowledgeable of any incident of violence or foul play directed toward JOSEPH EDWARDS, stated he had never heard of this nor was he acquainted with JAMES GOSS. HORTON stated that the only inter-racial incident of which he was knowledgeable involved a Negro male who was apparently caught in the room of a white female at the Maple Courts Motel in Vidalia, however, did not know anything about what happened to either of the individuals involved.

On 11/10/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293;
SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III and 157-4700; 157-6542;
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/HBB/clm Jackson 44-65;
Jackson 157-5206; 44-2044
 by _____ Date dictated 11/13/67

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When queried as to the bombing of WHARLEST JACKSON, HORTON stated he was aware of an intensive investigation being conducted by the FBI but was not cognizant as to who may have been responsible for the bombing. HORTON, when asked if he was acquainted with RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER, advised he had ridden to work at the Armstrong plant with GLOVER for two years in GLOVER's pickup truck and was a very close friend of GLOVER, as well as KENNETH HEAD. HORTON advised he knew both men well, and for a long time, however, was not able to furnish any information pertaining to their personal interests or activities. HORTON advised that in his estimation, both individuals were fine people and could not believe that they would act or engage in any form of violence. HORTON advised he was not aware of any clubs or organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan to which these individuals may belong.

When queried as to his knowledge of the Silver Dollar Group or its membership, HORTON stated he had never heard of the Silver Dollar Group or the Silver Dollar Club or any individuals who may be members. When asked if he carried a silver dollar, HORTON stated that the only silver dollar he knows of is one that his wife had several years ago.

When asked about attending a fish fry at the residence of FRED LEE in Wildsville, Louisiana, during June of 1965, HORTON advised he did attend this fish fry as well as many other fish fries. He advised that he and his family were at the LEE fish fry for a period of two to three hours, at which time they left, which, to the best of his recollection, was in the mid-afternoon.

HORTON denied any participation in an alleged attempt to manufacture and detonate any explosives.

HORTON, when asked if he had ever heard of an organization called the Minutemen, stated that the only time he had come across information regarding the Minutemen was through a newspaper

NO 44-2293

article he had read about a year ago in New Orleans. He advised he knows of no efforts to establish a Minutemen group in the Vidalia area.

The following description of HORTON was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	HOMER THOMAS HORTON
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date and place of birth	August 30, 1935, Brookhaven, Mississippi
Height	5 feet 9 - 5 feet 10 inches
Weight	202
Build	Heavy
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Blue
Scars and marks	None
Education	10th grade, Hikes Retreat Vocational, Brookhaven
Military service	U.S. Marines, November 19, 1953- November 19, 1955; honorable discharge
Military service number	1435018
Present employment	Armstrong Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi Also: part-time salesman, Clawson Air Service, Winnsboro, Louisiana
Driver's license	1599002, issued September 1, 1966, picture number 05 - Examining office 15
Marital status	Married - Wife, HELEN MARIE
Children	TIMMY HORTON, 8 years LORIE HORTON, 6 years CINDY HORTON, 3 months

NO 44-2293

Parents

CARL T. HORTON (deceased)
MARY S. HORTON

Organizations

Aircraft Owners and Pilot
Association; Local 303,
United Rubber Workers of
America

Automobiles

1963 green, four-door
Oldsmobile, Model 98,
license plate 1966-67
Louisiana 25X796;
1962 white, four-door
Chevy sedan, 1966-67 Louisiana
plate 71E775

Residence

413 Lynn Street, Vidalia,
Louisiana

Telephone number

336-4993

Arrests

About 1954, speeding

Saluta, South Carolina

Miscellaneous

Commercial Pilot Certificate
Number 1724852

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/20/67

Mr. HEZZIE RYLES, Barber, Ferriday Barber Shop, Louisiana Avenue, Ferriday, Louisiana, after being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the investigation being conducted, furnished the following information:

RYLES, when queried as to any knowledge he may have concerning JOSEPH EDWARDS, advised that he was unfamiliar with EDWARDS or anything about the person or the incident involving the disappearance of EDWARDS. RYLES stated he had never heard of EDWARDS nor does he recall ever seeing the Buick driven by EDWARDS at the time of his disappearance abandoned on the Vidalia - Ferriday highway.

RYLES advised that he is not presently a member of the Ku Klux Klan and when asked if he ever was, RYLES stated only that he is not a present member.

RYLES advised that any information he may have pertaining to the klan would be of the past and of no use to the FBI.

RYLES, when asked if he had ever heard of the Minute-men organization, stated he had only gained information regarding its activities through newspaper articles. He was not aware of any pistol and rifle club being recently chartered in the Ferriday - Vidalia area, adding that he has little cause for rifle and shotgun use because of a shoulder injury.

On 11/14/67 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III and
MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/HBB/clm Date dictated 11/17/67

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/21/67

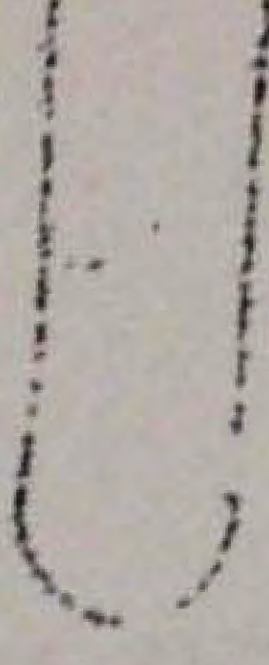
Special Agents, en route from Ferriday, Louisiana, to Natchez, Mississippi, recognized the 1959 blue and white Ford station wagon belonging to KENNETH NORMAN HEAD disabled along Highway 68, outside of Vidalia, Louisiana. After stopping to make inquiry as to whether the owner was HEAD, KENNY SCAROBOROUGH identified himself as the owner, advising that he had purchased the automobile approximately one week ago from HEAD for \$50.00.

SCAROBOROUGH advised he was the son of JAMES SCAROBOROUGH and stated that KENNETH NORMAN HEAD had been laid off from his job at International Paper Company and was presently working offshore. SCAROBOROUGH stated he did not know where HEAD is presently employed.

SCAROBOROUGH advised he was aware of the FBI's interest directed toward his father and HEAD, and expressed a vehement dislike for the FBI and its investigative purposes. He refused to furnish any information in addition to the above.

On 11/18/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293;
Jackson 44-65; 157-7479;
157-6266
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
HENRY B. BRITTON, III/MDD/clm Date dictated 11/20/67

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V. INTERVIEW OF PRESENT AND FORMER
LAW OFFICERS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/20/67

Mrs. ANN CURLEE, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Revenue, was recontacted at her place of employment, advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the investigation being conducted, at which time she furnished the following information:

CURLEE stated that she was formerly employed at the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office and terminated her employment to obtain a Civil Service job with the State Department of Revenue. CURLEE advised that while employed at the Sheriff's Department, she was the only female employed there and acted in the capacity of a radio dispatcher.

She stated that during her tenure, she recalls receiving a 10-28 (Request for Vehicle Owner Registration) for an abandoned vehicle located at the bowling alley between Vidalia and Ferriday, and was to have the car towed to Beatty's Gulf Service. CURLEE advised that she could not recall the car being registered to a JOSEPH EDWARDS but to the best of her recollection, believes the car was registered to (First Name Unknown) GRAVENBURG.

CURLEE advised that since last contacted, she had gone over to the Sheriff's Office and searched for her radio logs and further details which she believed were retained by the Sheriff's Department. However, she was unable to locate the records.

CURLEE advised that various Deputies, namely, BILL OGDEN, FRANK DeLAUGHTER and IKE COWEN were friendly with members of the Ku Klux Klan and they would often imply through conversations overheard by CURLEE that they were involved in racial matters. CURLEE stated that she was unable to recall anything specific in terms of particular incidents or individuals involved.

On 11/14/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
SAs HENRY B. BRITTON, III and Jackson 44-65
 by MERRIMAN D. DIVEN/HBB/clm 26 Date dictated 11/17/67

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CURLEE, when queried as to any conversations overheard pertaining to the JOSEPH EDWARDS case, was unable to recall anything in particular but vaguely remembers general talk regarding the disposition of EDWARDS. CURLEE reiterated that if anyone had something to say, it would probably include OGDEN, COWEN or DeLAUGHTER.

When asked about any white 1964 unmarked vehicles utilized by the Sheriff's Office, CURLEE advised that the only automobiles she could recall that were white and unmarked were a Dodge sedan driven by RAYMOND KEATHLEY and a personally owned automobile driven by JUNIOR HAYS, described as a late model white Oldsmobile. CURLEE stated that when HAYS commenced employment with the Sheriff's Office, he sold the car to the department and it was equipped with a police radio. CURLEE was unable to recall whether the car had one or two whip antennae, but it did not have a light mounted on the roof of the car. She stated that she believed the Sheriff's Office would furnish dashboard-mounted beacon lights for emergency use.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/21/67

Deputy Sheriff BILL OGDEN, Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, advised that he had not recalled any additional information since he was last interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI concerning the disappearance of JOSEPH EDWARDS.

He stated that he believes that his only contact with EDWARDS was at the side of the Shamrock Motel swimming pool when a Negro believed by him to be EDWARDS was involved in recovering the body of an infant who drowned in the pool.

OGDEN stated that to his knowledge, he has had no other contact with EDWARDS.

With regard to EDWARDS' vehicle, which was abandoned near the bowling alley on the Vidalia - Ferriday highway, OGDEN stated he radioed for a 10-28 (a radio request for a license records check for the identification of the owner) and was advised that the owner was listed as (First Name Unrecalled) GRAVENBURG. He stated he makes numerous requests for 10-28's but the only reason he recalls this particular one was because GRAVENBURG was a former Louisiana State police officer whom he disliked. OGDEN stated he did not inspect the car. He is of the opinion that the car had a flat tire at the time and was parked in a bend in the road between the Plaza Club and the bowling alley.

He directed that Beatty's Gulf Station tow the vehicle in. Subsequently, Purvis Motors, Ferriday, claimed the vehicle.

OGDEN denied any knowledge of an incident where he chased a Negro over the levee in the vicinity of the bowling alley or anywhere else.

On 11/15/67 at Vidalia, Louisiana File # New Orleans 44-2293
Jackson 44-65
 by SAs MERRIMAN D. DIVEN and
HENRY B. BRITTON, III/MDD/clm Date dictated 11/17/67

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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

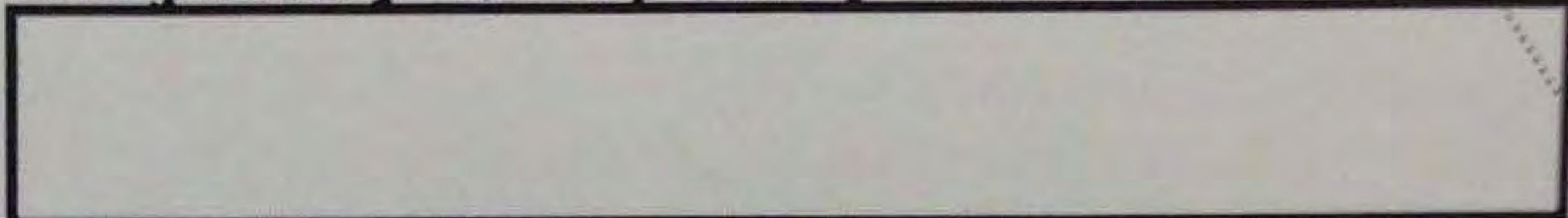
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NO 44-2293

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.

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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

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

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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:

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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
Jackson 44-65
 by SA GEORGE F. BENZ
SA MERRIMAN D. DIVEN MDD/blw Date dictated 10/25/67

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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 F. BENZ GFB/blw Date dictated 10/25/67

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

GEORGE TAYLOR
General Delivery
Clayton, Louisiana

JAMES LEE
General Delivery
Clayton, Louisiana

MICHAEL HARRIS
General Delivery
Clayton, Louisiana

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
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