



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

April 24, 2012

MR. JAMES E. SHELEDY
MAN SHIP SCHOOL OF MASS COMMUNICATION
JOURNALISM BUILDING
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, LA 70803

Subject: JOHNS, MARSHALL

FOIPA No. 1179159- 000

Dear Mr. Shelledy:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- ☐ (b)(1)
- ☐ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3) _____
- _____
- _____
- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☒ (b)(6)

- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
- ☐ (b)(7)(B)
- ☒ (b)(7)(C)
- ☐ (b)(7)(D)
- ☒ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(8)
- ☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
- ☐ (k)(2)
- ☐ (k)(3)
- ☐ (k)(4)
- ☐ (k)(5)
- ☐ (k)(6)
- ☐ (k)(7)

19 pages were reviewed and 19 pages are being released.

- ☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:
 - ☐ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
 - ☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.
- ☐ In accordance with standard FBI practice, this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☒ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

Because your FOIA requests share the same documents FOIPA Numbers 1179132-000, 1179132-000, and 1179323-000 are being closed administratively.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings. (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could be reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] in Monroe, Louisiana on October 06, 2008:

Attached hereto and made a part of this document are the following documents, sent to writer by [REDACTED] Chief Investigator for the Intelligence Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) on August 27, 2007:

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1. List of "The Forgotten" from the SPLC website, www.splcenter.org dated 08/21/2007 including the names JOHN WESLEY WILDER and ALBERT PITTS, DAVID PITTS, MARSHALL A. JOHNS, and ERNEST MCPHARLAND (5 pages).
2. Email chain between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] reporter with KTBS Three News in Shreveport, Louisiana, which discusses that ROBERT WILDER is actually JOHN WESLEY WILDER, according to WILDER's sister, [REDACTED] (3 pages).
3. Two excepted pages from a publication entitled "FREEDOM SUMMER" by DOUG MCADAM, which includes the names ROBERT WILDER, and ALBERT PITTS, DAVID PITTS, MARSHALL A. JOHNS, and ERNEST MCPHARLAND (2 pages).
4. Email chain between [REDACTED] and writer concerning the above attachments (2 pages).

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent (SA) [redacted] in Monroe, Louisiana on May 15, 2009:

As suggested by United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, [redacted] in a Civil Rights Era Cold Case Initiative status meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 3, 2009, writer attempted to locate the residence of WILLIE CHARLIE GIBSON. GIBSON was one of five black males employed by ZENNIE WILLIAM FULLER who was shot by FULLER on July 13, 1960 because he was behind on his payments to the men. According to FULLER's [redacted] GIBSON was able to get away on foot and survived. ZENNIE threatened to kill GIBSON if he did not go along with FULLER's account of the incident. No identifiers are available for GIBSON and it is unknown whether he is still alive.

According to newspaper articles faxed to SA [redacted] on February 20, 2008 from [redacted] GIBSON was reported to live on Calypso Street in Monroe, Louisiana. The article did not provide a numerical for GIBSON's Calypso Street address but did indicate that one of the other victims, ERNEST MCPHARLAND, resided at either 100 and one half Calypso Street or 1004 Calypso Street. The newspaper articles are not easily decipherable due to their age.

The writer determined by visiting the area, that there is no 100, 100 and one half, or 101 Calypso Street, Monroe, Louisiana. This was also confirmed by [redacted] Deputy Clerk within the Ouachita Parish Courthouse. [redacted] also indicated that no tax records are searchable online prior to 1994. The writer searched the Ouachita Parish Tax Assessor's office and was unable to locate any GIBSON's residing on Calypso Street.

The writer also attempted to locate a 1004 Calypso Street address, which also does not exist. Beyond downtown Monroe, Calypso Street numericals run from 2400-2000. Calypso Street is broken into two sections running east and west. No residential addresses were located on the downtown segment of Calypso Street, which dead ends at the Ouachita River in Monroe, Louisiana. It appears as though a section of Calypso Street may have continued beyond the 2000 block where now only remnants of an old road and overgrown lot exists.

Handwritten: JRM 5/18/09

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 08/27/2009

To: Criminal Investigative

Attn: PCCRS/Civil Rights Unit
Room 3973
SSA [redacted]
[redacted]

From: New Orleans

Monroe RA

Contact: SA [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

*AWD
TAC
Jm/zel*

Drafted By: [redacted]

hmk

Case ID #: 319W-HQ-A1487699-CID
282-NO-C69654

(Pending)-660
(Pending)-123

Title: PROCEDURAL AND OPERATIONAL ISSUANCES,
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION;
PUBLIC CORRUPTION/CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT;
CIVIL RIGHTS ERA COLD CASES
INVESTIGATIVE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSIONS

ALBERT PITTS,
DAVID PITTS,
ERNEST MCPHARLAND,
MARSHALL A. JOHNS,
WILLIE GIBSON- VICTIMS;
MONROE, LOUISIANA
JULY 13, 1960

Synopsis: To provide CID/PCCRS/Civil Rights Unit and DOJ/Civil Rights Unit with Letter Head Memorandum (LHM) documenting investigative process and results for captioned case and to cover lead 649.27.

Reference: 319W-HQ-A1487699-CID, Serial 649

Enclosures: One (1) LHM documenting the investigative process and results for the captioned case.

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To: Criminal Investigative From: New Orleans
Re: 319W-HQ-A1487699-CID, 08/27/2009

Details: On July 13, 1960, Albert Pitts, David Pitts, Ernest McPharland, Marshall A. Johns, and Willie Gibson, all black males, were shot by their employer, Zennie William Fuller, who was later arrested then released in the shooting of his employees, four of whom died. The victims were accused of making threats toward Fuller. A review of the records of the District Court, Ouachita Parish, Monroe, Louisiana, disclosed that no bill of indictment or information was filed.

The enclosed LHM documents the investigative process and results for the captioned Civil Rights Era Cold Case conducted by the FBI New Orleans Division, Monroe Resident Agency. Enclosed LHM also documents efforts to locate victims' next of kin.

FBI HQ CID/PCCRS/Civil Rights Unit is requested to provide a copy of the enclosed LHM documenting the investigative process and results for the captioned case as well as efforts to locate next of kin to DOJ/Civil Rights Unit for use in its final assessments for the captioned case.

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To: Criminal Investigative From: New Orleans
Re: 319W-HQ-A1487699-CID, 08/27/2009

LEAD(s) :

Set Lead 1: (Action)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

Provide a copy of enclosed LHM documenting the
investigative process and results for the captioned case as well
as efforts to locate next of kin to DOJ/Civil Rights Unit.

♦♦

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. 319W-HQ-A1487699-CID

Monroe, Louisiana 71201

August 27, 2009

ALBERT PITTS,
DAVID PITTS,
ERNEST MCPHARLAND,
MARSHALL A. JOHNS,
WILLIE GIBSON- VICTIMS;
MONROE, LOUISIANA
JULY 13, 1960

1, 2, 4, 5

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SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

SA [] received a brief report of the names of the victims, what was believed to be the date of the captioned incident, and a short synopsis. The following was received by SA [] Date of Incident: 07/23/1960; Victims: Albert Pitts, David Pitts, Ernest McPharland, and Marshall A. Johns, all black males; Synopsis: Subject, the employer of decedents was arrested, then released in the shooting of five of his employees, four of whom died. The victims were accused of making threats. A review of the records of the District Court, Ouachita Parish, Monroe, Louisiana, disclosed that no bill of indictment or information was filed.

On February 28, 2007, SA [] spoke with SSA [] [] FBI Dallas. SSA [] had been contacted by retired FBI agent [] had spoken to the [] he witnessed the shooting. [] now resides in Houston, Texas. According to [] Robert William Fuller, is now deceased. On June 25, 2007, SA [] spoke to [] who met [] at a Christian retreat about 10 years ago. [] witnessed captioned victims arrive so they could be paid. [] used a shotgun and killed them. According to [] believes that if the men were white they would not have been killed. [] was a head Ku Klux Klan member in the Monroe area. According to [] was part of the good 'ole boys network with the Sheriff's office and got away with it. The subject died more than 10 years ago.

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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.

319W-HQ-A1487699-CID-639

222-NO-06854-122

5: 229 hml 01 lhm

ALBERT PITTS, et. al.

Re: August 27, 2009 LHM

On June 28, 2007, SA [] contacted Sergeant [] [] Monroe, Louisiana Police Department (MPD), in an attempt to obtain any official reports of the incident. No reports were found and SA [] was referred to the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO). SA [] contacted Sergeant [] [] at OPSO. [] conducted a search of her department's records and subsequently advised SSRA [] that due to the fact that the incident had occurred over forty-seven years ago, the OPSO records were not automated and had to be searched for, located, and reviewed by hand, a time-consuming task. A preliminary search disclosed the subject's date of birth as November 11, 1920, with an alias of Zennie W. Fuller. Officials at both the MPD and OPSO also indicated the subject was now deceased.

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Indices checks conducted by SA [] on both captioned subjects and victims were negative. SA [] interviewed [] hereafter referred to as [] [] described in detail the incident, which he personally observed on the morning of July 13, 1960, [] [] Zennie William Fuller, referred to hereafter as Zennie, shot five of his black male employees with a shotgun. Zennie was severely behind on payments to these five employees and "snapped" when they arrived for work that morning. After the men were shot by Zennie, four of them were lying on the ground but were not yet dead. William Herbert Fuller, [] hereafter referred to as William, who was a teenager at the time, walked outside and shot each of the four men in the head with a pistol to "finish them off." [] clearly recalled [] walking into the house, taking a drink of coffee and picking up the telephone on the wall. Zennie dialed the telephone and stated, "Bailey, this is Robert, you better get down to my house. I just shot five niggers." Zennie and Sheriff Bailey Grant were known to be good friends. Zennie was taken into custody after the shootings, charged with Involuntary Manslaughter, but the charges were later dropped. Zennie began receiving threats after the shootings and sought support of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). He was very active in the KKK from 1960 to 1969 and eventually became the Grand Dragon.

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Willie Charlie Gibson, the fifth employee who was shot, was reported to have gotten away on foot and lived. Zennie apparently threatened to kill Gibson unless he agreed to go along with Zennie's story and testify that the victims were coming to

ALBERT PITTS, et. al.

Re: August 27, 2009 LHM

kill him. Although Gibson could not be fully identified, [] believes he is deceased.

SUMMARY OF ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE SURVIVING VICTIM AND "NEXT OF KIN"

On October 27, 2007, SA [] contacted [] Chief Investigator, Intelligence Project, Southern Poverty Law Center. [] did not provide any additional useful information regarding this matter. Death Certificates for subjects Zennie William Fuller and William Herbert Fuller were obtained and routed to the file. Furthermore, SA [] was unable to locate any records of an FBI case number associated with this investigation. Due to the lack of local law enforcement and FBI records, very little personal identifying information was determined for the victims.

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Newspaper articles faxed to SA [] on February 20, 2008 from [] indicated the following:

Albert Pitts, Jr., age 24, 12 Solomon's Alley, Monroe, Louisiana

David Lee Pitts, age 24, 100.5 or 1004 Calypso Street, Monroe, Louisiana

Marshall Alfred Johnson, age 19, 1014 Nick's Alley, Monroe, Louisiana

Earnest McPharland, Calypso Street, Monroe, Louisiana

Willie Charlie Gibson, Calypso Street, Monroe, Louisiana

A review of area hospital records on October 23, 2008 by SA [] disclosed that no one identifying himself as Willie or William Gibson received medical treatment for gunshot wounds on or about July 13, 1960. SA [] was further advised that of the two existing hospitals in the Monroe, Louisiana area, only St. Francis Hospital would have been in existence in the early 1960's.

ALBERT PITTS, et. al.

Re: August 27, 2009 LHM

Based upon this information, SA [] conducted multiple open source database searches for next of kin utilizing [] and local telephone books for individuals who may have been related to the captioned victims. Searches were conducted based upon the victims' last names and aforementioned addresses.

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The newspaper articles did not provide a numerical for Willie Gibson's Calypso Street address but did indicate that one of the other victims, Ernest McPharland, resided at either 100 and one half Calypso Street or 1004 Calypso Street. The newspaper articles are not easily decipherable due to their old age.

The writer determined by visiting the Calypso Street neighborhood on May 15, 2009, that there is no 100, 100 and one half, or 101 Calypso Street, Monroe, Louisiana. This was also confirmed by [] Deputy Clerk within the Ouachita Parish Courthouse. [] also indicated that no tax records are searchable online prior to 1994. The writer searched the Ouachita Parish Tax Assessor's office and was unable to locate any Gibson's residing on Calypso Street since 1994.

The writer also attempted to locate a 1004 Calypso Street address, which also does not exist. Beyond downtown Monroe, Calypso Street numerical run from 2400-2000. Calypso Street is broken into two sections running east and west. No residential addresses were located on the downtown segment of Calypso Street, which dead ends at the Ouachita River in Monroe, Louisiana. It appears as though a section of Calypso Street may have continued beyond the 2000 block where now only remnants of an old road and overgrown lot exists. SA [] was unable to determine whether any other Gibson's listed in open database searches were next of kin to Willie Charlie Gibson due to the fact that Gibson is a very common surname.

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Additional searches in [] and [] indicated possible Pitts next of kin, based upon their age and address, by the name of [] and Ivory [] to be currently residing at [] Monroe, Louisiana, telephone number []. SA [] attempted to call the telephone number on numerous occasions and different days to no avail. The number is not linked to an answering machine. SA [] personally visited the residence on August 14, 2009. No one appeared to be

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ALBERT PITTS, et. al.

Re: August 27, 2009 LHM

home although the power to the residence did appear to be on. A vehicle bearing Louisiana license plate number [redacted] was parked in the driveway but did not appear to have been driven recently because the tires were flat and the vehicle was covered in dust. SA [redacted] determined that the vehicle is currently registered to a [redacted] date of birth [redacted] searches indicated that Ivory Pitts, [redacted] to [redacted] died on March 21, 1991. The information also stated that an individual by the name of [redacted] was/is living at the same address. Searches for [redacted] provided no additional identifiers other than the same address and telephone number associated with [redacted] and Ivory. No other possible relatives were listed for [redacted] and Ivory Pitts, or for [redacted]

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SA [redacted] contacted Entergy, which is the power company that services the Monroe, Louisiana region, who stated that they could not provide account information based upon an address alone. The Entergy representative further stated that accounts could only be searched by the account holder's social security account number and/or telephone number. SA [redacted] provided social security account numbers derived from [redacted] and [redacted] for both Ivory and [redacted] as well as the previously stated telephone number. Entergy was unable to determine, based upon that information, who the account holder was/is for [redacted]

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[redacted] On the same date, SA [redacted] spoke to neighbor [redacted] [redacted] date of birth [redacted] who stated that he has resided there for over [redacted] years. [redacted] had no knowledge of the captioned incident and did not know who lived next door to him or their whereabouts. [redacted] was unable to provide SA [redacted] with any other names of individuals or neighbors who might be able to advise of possible next of kin to any of the victims.

On August 20, 2009 SA [redacted] spoke to Monroe, Louisiana Police Department Detective [redacted] who conducted historical searches in MPD's computer system to see if any records existed that may provide any additional information on possible next of kin for the Pitts victims. [redacted] confirmed that a [redacted] a.k.a. [redacted], a.k.a. [redacted], date of birth [redacted] did reside at the [redacted] address at one point. Detective [redacted] also informed SA [redacted] that [redacted] has a niece by the name of [redacted] telephone number [redacted] SA [redacted] contacted the provided telephone number on August 24, 2009. [redacted]

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ALBERT PITTS, et. al.

Re: August 27, 2009 LHM

answered the phone but said he had no way to contact his [redacted] also could not provide any information about the captioned incident or any of the victims. Open source database searches for [redacted] provided the same information previously provided by Detective [redacted]

Similar searches were conducted for the surnames Johnson and McPharland. No individuals with the last name of McPharland appear to currently reside in Monroe, Louisiana. Over 1,000 entries for the surname Johnson were located in the Monroe, Louisiana area but none that appeared to be currently residing on Nick's Alley in Monroe, Louisiana or on any of the other streets the victims were reported to have lived on at the time of their death. Again, because of the fact that Johnson is such a common surname and that this incident occurred nearly 50 years ago, SA [redacted] was unable to narrow down the voluminous number of similarly named individuals to determine possible next of kin status.

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In summary, the inability to locate original case files on captioned incident or to obtain personal identifiers for the victims has made the location of next of kin improbable. Locating next of kin has also been complicated by the fact that nearly 50 years have passed since this incident occurred. SA's, based upon what little information was available for review, have been unable to determine the whereabouts of any next of kin of the victims in the matter or of the alleged surviving victim, Willie Gibson.

Copy to: 1- Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal
Investigative Division, Public Corruption/Civil
Rights Section, Civil Rights Unit
1- United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights
Section

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] in Monroe, Louisiana on August 24, 2009:

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SA [REDACTED] spoke to Monroe, Louisiana Police Department (MPD) Detective [REDACTED] on August 20, 2009 who conducted historical searches in MPD's computer system to see if any records existed that may provide additional information on possible next of kin for ALBERT and/or DAVID PITTS. ALBERT and DAVID PITTS were murdered by their employer, ZENNIE WILLIAM FULLER, on July 13, 1960 in Monroe, Louisiana. [REDACTED] confirmed that a [REDACTED], date of birth [REDACTED] is associated with a residence located at [REDACTED] Louisiana. DAVID PITTS as well as victims ERNEST MCPHARLAND and WILLIE GIBSON were also reported to have lived on Calypso Street in Monroe, Louisiana at the time of the incident.

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Detective [REDACTED] also informed SA [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] has a niece named [REDACTED], telephone number [REDACTED]. SA [REDACTED] called this telephone number on August 24, 2009. [REDACTED] answered the telephone but said he had no way to contact his [REDACTED] denied having any knowledge of the captioned incident or of any of the victims.

AM/BZ
8/30/09

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] in Monroe, Louisiana on December 15, 2009:

SA [REDACTED] spoke to Staff Writer MATTHEW HAMILTON (hereafter referred to as HAMILTON) of THE NEWS STAR newspaper, 411 North Fourth Street, Monroe, Louisiana 71291, telephone number (318) 362-0232 on December 8, 2009 regarding an article he wrote that was featured on the front page of THE NEWS STAR on November 30, 2009. The article, entitled "Families sought in cold case: FBI to close probe from civil-rights era" requested the assistance of the public in identifying and locating surviving next-of-kin of the victims in the case of ALBERT PITTS, DAVID PITTS, ERNEST MCPHARLAND, MARSHALL A. JOHNS, and WILLIE GIBSON which occurred in Monroe, Louisiana on July 13, 1960. HAMILTON provided SA [REDACTED] with contact information, namely telephone numbers, he received from readers calling into THE NEWS STAR in response to the article. SA [REDACTED] was able to obtain addresses for the next-of-kin through the [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The following contact information was derived from HAMILTON and [REDACTED] and subsequently forwarded via electronic mail to FBI Headquarters Civil Rights Unit (CRU) Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) [REDACTED] on today's date:

WILLIE CHARLIE GIBSON:

[REDACTED]

Dallas, Texas 75204

[REDACTED]

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MARSHALL A. JOHNS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Louisiana [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ALBERT and DAVID PITTS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Louisiana [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

282-NO-C69654

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Louisiana [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Louisiana [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 04/29/2010

To: New Orleans

From: New Orleans
Monroe RA

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]:hmk

Case ID #: 282A-NO-C69654 (Pending) -132

Title: ALBERT PITTS,
DAVID PITTS,
ERNEST MCPHARLAND,
MARSHALL A. JOHNS,
WILLIE GIBSON VICTIMS;
MONROE, LOUISIANA
JULY 13, 1960

Synopsis: To report delivery of letters from the Department of Justice to victims' next of kin.

Reference: 319W-HQ-A1487699-CID, Serial 733

Enclosure(s): 1) Copy of letter addressed to [REDACTED] (1A)
[REDACTED] Monroe, LA [REDACTED]
dated 04/22/2010
2) Copy of letter addressed to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LA [REDACTED] dated
04/22/2010

Details: On 07/13/1960, Albert Pitts, David Pitts, Ernest McPharland, Marshall A. Johns, and Willie Gibson, all black males, were shot by their employer, Zennie William Fuller, who was later arrested then released in the shooting of his employees, four of whom died. The victims were accused of making threats toward Fuller. A review of the records of the District Court, Ouachita Parish, Monroe, Louisiana, disclosed that no bill of indictment or information was filed.

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To: New Orleans From: New Orleans
Re: 282A-NO-C69654, 04/29/2010

On 04/28/2010, SA [] received one original and one copy of a notification letter from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Rights Division (CRD), regarding the captioned Civil Rights Era Cold Case initiative matter which is being closed. Both letters were signed by [] Deputy Chief in Charge of the Cold Case Initiative. The purpose of the letters are to provide an overview of the Cold Case Initiative, summarize the investigation conducted, and provide the rationale for the closure of the captioned case.

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On 04/29/2010, SA [] personally delivered the original letters to a family member of [] Louisiana [] who advised that he would give the letter to [] when she returned from work later in the day. SA [] also personally delivered an original letter to [] Louisiana [] on the same date. SA [] provided her business card with contact information to both individuals in the event that they had any questions. SA [] was accompanied by SA [] and Task Force Officer (TFO) []

Copies of both referenced letters have been placed in a FD-340 (1A envelope) and forwarded for inclusion in the case file.

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Help sought in rights-era cases FBI seeks relatives of slaying victims

Thursday, November 19, 2009

By Laura Maggi

Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — While federal investigators work through old case files looking for answers to the killings of black men and women in the South during the civil rights era, FBI Civil Rights Chief Cynthia Deitle on Wednesday said the agency needs the public's help locating relatives of 33 people who were killed.

If family members can be contacted, the FBI can eventually fill them in on details of what happened to their loved ones, hopefully bringing some closure, she said.

"For a lot of these cases, I'm not putting handcuffs on anybody," Deitle told the crowd in a packed auditorium at Southern University, noting that many perpetrators have died or, in a few cases, were acquitted by juries years ago.

The FBI in February 2007 launched a "cold case" initiative targeted at unsolved racially-motivated killings from the 1950s and 1960s that have since moldered. In almost half of the 100 cold cases reopened by the FBI, the identified suspects have died. Another 19 percent of the killings were scratched off the list because investigators found that they weren't committed because of the victim's race.

In Louisiana, investigators are looking for family members in two cases: the 1954 beating of Izell Henry in 1954 the day after he voted in Greensburg and the 1960 killing of four men — David Pitts, Albert Pitts, Marshall Johns, and Ernest McPharland — in Monroe. The four men allegedly were killed by their white employer, who was arrested but never charged.

"Even if the bad guy was dead, we can finish the investigation and tell the family what happened," Deitle said.

Southern students, as well as people who lived through the civil rights movement, packed in the auditorium to watch a film by Keith Baumcham about the botched prosecution of four men identified by law enforcement as responsible for the killing of Johnnie Mae Chappell in 1964. Chappell, the mother of 10 children, was gunned down while searching for her wallet on the side of a road in Jacksonville, Fla.

While four men were identified months later as responsible for the killing — three of the men confessed to local law enforcement — only one man was convicted. He served three years in prison for manslaughter. Charges against the other men were dropped by prosecutors.

Shelton Chappell, the youngest child in his family, told the audience that his family still hopes that someone will eventually be held responsible for the killing of his mother.

"We've been on "Oprah," "Dateline," you have it. Why can't we get justice?," he asked.

Deitle's acknowledged that her answer was unsatisfactory, saying the case remains under federal investigation. In these old cases, federal prosecutions can only go forward if there is proper jurisdiction, which means the victim was killed on federal land, the killing involved explosives or the case involved a kidnapping, she said.

The federal prosecutions of Ernest Avery Avants in 2003 and James Ford Seale in 2007 -- both convicted of killing black men decades before -- were able to go forward because they occurred on federal land, Deitle said.

Beauchamp told the audience that if they know any tidbit of information, now is the time to come forward, as perpetrators and witnesses are dying. He has participated in several presentations with the FBI about these old cases, trying to unearth fresh leads.

In some cases, the FBI at the time of the killing did a good job investigating what happened, Deitle said. In other cases, federal agents did nothing or close to nothing. In some files, she said, there are notes from then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover telling agents they need to find out more information and do a better job, she said.

That anecdote rubbed some in the audience the wrong way, as history has shown that Hoover was not always supportive of federal investigations into civil rights-era killings for personal or political reasons.

"When you come into a room full of black people, don't tell them that J. Edgar Hoover was good," said Louis Allen, whose grandfather -- also named Louis Allen -- was killed in 1964 in Liberty, Miss., in an incident still under federal investigation.

Several of Allen's family members said they are still waiting for the people responsible to be held accountable. Allen's case is one of 15 cases that the FBI listed as still open and under investigation.

More information can be found at www.fbi.gov.

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Families sought in cold case

FBI to close probe from civil-rights era

By Matthew Hamilton
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Almost 50 years after the shooting deaths of four Monroe men, the FBI is searching for the group's next of kin to close a civil rights-era cold case.

The bureau is asking the public to help in locating surviving family members of David Pitts, Albert Pitts, Marshall Johnson and Ernest McFarland, black men who were shot during a confrontation with their white boss.

As reported in the July 14, 1960, edition of the Monroe Morning World, Robert Fuller, a 35-year-old owner and operator of a sewer servicing business, fired a shotgun at five of his employees and immediately killed the Pitts brothers and Johnson around 7 a.m. on July 13.

The article quoted Fuller as saying his employees came to his house with knives, one of them swinging at Fuller three times with a knife, before he grabbed a shotgun out of his truck and began firing. A picture showed knives lying on the scene in the shooting's aftermath.

The confrontation arose, Fuller said, from a previous incident in which one of the employees called him a "white s.o.b." and Fuller admitting to striking him. According to Fuller, one of the employees admitted to coming to his house to harm him. Ernest McFarland died later from injuries. Fuller was never charged, according to previous reports.

An FBI release lists Marshall Johnson as "Marshall Johns" and spells McFarland, "McPharland."

The case is one of more than 100 the FBI is investigating from the civil rights era. The bureau is offering a reward for information leading to the arrest of the killer of Frank Morris, a Ferriday cobbler who was burned alive in 1964.

The FBI is also seeking information in the death of Robert Wilder of Ruston.

In 1965, a white policeman was accused of Wilder's death, and a coroner's jury ruled the slaying was justifiable homicide.

Christopher Allen, an FBI public affairs specialist, said the cases were part of the civil rights era cold case initiative begun in 2007. Allen said all cases would be resolved one of two ways.

"One is some sort of prosecution," Allen said. "The other one is a letter, hand-delivered, on the results of the case and why prosecution is impossible and whether subjects are deceased."