

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ENCLOSURE COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Miburn

FILE: 44-25706

SECTION 50 OF 78

THIS SECTION IS COMPRISED OF 280 PAGES
WHICH WERE REVIEWED FOR THIS RELEASE.

180 PAGES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS SECTION
FOR RELEASE.

THIS IS ENCLOSURE 2 OF 5 ENCLOSURE(S)

NO DUPLICATION FEE
FOR THIS PAGE

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pages 225-554

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Title: BERNARD L. AKIN, ET AL;
JAMES EARL CHANEY;
MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER, aka
Mickey; ANDREW GOODMAN - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS;
MISPRISION OF FELONY; JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY ACT

Bureau File: 44-25706

Jackson File: 44-1

Prosecutive Summary report of SA [REDACTED] at
Jackson dated December 19, 1964. b7c

VOLUME

II

*
* This report consists of four *
* volumes, including a Digest of the *
* Table of Contents and complete Index *
* in each volume. Included in each *
* volume is a detailed Table of Contents *
* pertaining to that volume. *
* This is Volume II. *
*

44-25706

1613 Only

pt. 2

pgs. 275 - 554

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VI. RECOVERY OF THE VICTIMS' BODIES AT
OLEN BURRAGE'S DAM ON AUGUST 4, 1964

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PORTION OF NESHOBA COUNTY

SCALE IN MILES

BURNED CAR

MT. ZION CHURCH

BODIES

INDIAN RESERVATION

INDIAN RESERVATION

INDIAN RESERVATION

INDIAN RESERVATION

INDIAN RESERVATION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 10, 19641

On August 4, 1964, at 8:12 a.m. CST, SA [REDACTED] accompanied by SA [REDACTED] served a search warrant upon Mr. OLEN BURRAGE, Route 9, Philadelphia, Mississippi. Specifically, this search warrant was served upon him at his place of business, the "Olen Burrage Truck Company" located on Mississippi State Highway 21 approximately 1½ miles east of the Williamsville community. Mr. BURRAGE identified himself through miscellaneous personal identification cards in fraternal organizations issued in his name. He advised that he was the owner and was in control of the area known locally as the "Old Jolly Farm". *all b7c*

A copy of the search warrant was presented to him at that time.

The search warrant so served is described as being in the U. S. District Court for the Southern Judicial District of Mississippi, Biloxi Division, Commissioner's Docket #1, Case #70, styled United States of America versus Unknown Occupants of the "Old Jolly Farm". This search warrant was dated August 3, 1964, and signed by VERTA LEE SWETMAN, U. S. Commissioner.

On 8/4/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1

by SA's [REDACTED] and *b7c* / ldo. [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/8/64 *483*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/10/641

On the morning of August 8, 1964, at approximately 11:00 a.m. an "inventory of property seized under search warrant issued August 3, 1964, by the U. S. District Court, Southern Judicial District of Mississippi, Biloxi Division, Commissioner's Docket #1, Case #70, styled United States of America versus Unknown Occupants, Old Jolly Farm", was delivered to Mr. OLEN BURRAGE at his place of business. The place of business is described as the OLEN BURRAGE Truck Company located approximately 1½ miles west of the Williamsville community on Mississippi State Highway 21.

The inventory of items removed under this search warrant are listed as follows:

Three human bodies

Accompanying clothing

Soil samples

One expended cartridge case

This inventory signed by SA [REDACTED] in the presence of SA [REDACTED] and the signed instrument was so delivered to Mr. BURRAGE. *b7c*

At the same time, Mr. BURRAGE executed a receipt on a carbon copy of this inventory acknowledging receipt of the inventory.

On 8/8/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1

by SA' [REDACTED] and *b7c Vido* [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/8/64 484

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ON

Date August 13, 19641

At approximately 11:59 a.m. on August 10, 1964, the search warrant previously issued by the United States Commissioner, Biloxi, Mississippi, was executed and returned to that Commissioner.

On 8/10/64 at Biloxi, Miss. File # JN 44-1
by SA [REDACTED] ^{b7c} /ldo Date dictated 8/11/64

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 12, 1964

The following information represents a joint investigation conducted by the following Special Agents under the supervision of SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], of the FBI Laboratory: b7c

SA [REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]	SA [REDACTED] b7c

I. ENTRY OF DAM SITE

At 8:15 a.m., August 4, 1964, upon notification of service of a search warrant to property owner OLEN BURRAGE, Route 9, Box 202, Highway 21, south of Philadelphia, Mississippi, the heavy earth-moving equipment brought from Jackson, Mississippi, began moving into the dam site located on Mr. BURRAGE's property. A small dirt access road winding west from Highway 21 approximately six miles southwest of Philadelphia was utilized to move this equipment into place. It was ascertained to be the most suitable access based upon a helicopter overflight and the study of previously obtained U. S. Navy aerial photographs of Neshoba County.

The earthen dam of concern in this investigation is situated on the property known as the "Old Jolly Farm" and is under the control of OLEN BURRAGE. This property is further described as being located within Section 6 of Block R 11E as set out on the Edgar Tobin Aerial Survey Map #Q8177 of the north half of Neshoba County, Mississippi. This section is fixed by the map coordinates of 89° 11.75" to 89° 12.75" west and 32° 44.25" to 32° 45.25" north.

The heavy construction equipment to be utilized in the excavation of this earthen dam consisted of a Link-Belt Dragline.

On 8/4/64 at Old Jolly Farm, Neshoba County, Miss. File # JN 44-1
 by SA [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] b7c
 SA [REDACTED] mjh [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/11/64

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Model LS68, with a 36-foot boom and a Caterpillar Bulldozer, Model D6B, with a 10-foot blade. The supervising contractor at the site representing the Hyde Construction Company of Jackson, Mississippi, was [REDACTED] Mississippi. The dragline operator was [REDACTED] Mississippi. The bulldozer operator was [REDACTED] Mississippi. A second bulldozer operator was [REDACTED] Mississippi, and a second dragline operator was also brought to the scene late on the evening of August 4, 1964, [REDACTED] Mississippi. [REDACTED] was hired by the Hyde Construction Company for this particular operation. [REDACTED] was likewise hired for this specific job by Hyde. all b7C

II. DETERMINATION OF EXCAVATION POINT

Upon evaluation based on the physical characteristics of the dam, a point approximately 150 feet from the west end of the dam was selected as the initial point of digging. The bulldozer operator, [REDACTED] was then instructed at 9 a.m. to begin to "blade off" the top of the dam to increase the width to approximately 12 feet and thereby permit the dragline to be placed on top of the dam for future operations. Upon positioning of the dragline, digging was begun at the point in the dam described above. b7C

III. OBSERVATIONS PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF EXCAVATION

The dam in which the bodies of the three missing civil rights workers were believed to be buried was an earthen structure stretching from one hill to a second parallel hill in a circular manner running in a generally east-west direction. The dam had been constructed of earth removed from

the sides of these hills. It measured approximately 547 feet in length, that is, from the points of intersection of the dam and hills. At its highest point from the valley lying between the hills it measured approximately 20 feet. At this point, the widest point of the base of the dam, the base measured approximately 83 feet in width.

Prior to beginning excavation, SA [REDACTED] was assigned the responsibility of photographing the site to record the condition of the dam and surrounding areas at the time of entry into the area. b7C

SA [REDACTED] was assigned to record the various observations of the personnel engaged in the digging operation and to maintain a log of the activities of these personnel. b7C

SA [REDACTED] was assigned to the mapping and charting of the dam and surrounding areas and SA [REDACTED] was assigned to the responsibility of collecting and preserving whatever items of evidence might be uncovered during the excavation process. b7C

IV. OBSERVATIONS DURING EXCAVATION AT DAM SITE

The excavation at the point selected began initially with the use of the bulldozer opening a small pit to permit the dragline bucket to begin to remove earth from the dam. After approximately two hours of excavating, faint traces of the odor of decaying organic material were noticeable. At this time the dragline operator was instructed to proceed with the excavating operation exercising extreme caution. The Agents assigned to the excavation project maintained close supervision and constant surveillance of the excavation pit. The earth being moved was closely observed as it was loaded and unloaded from the dragline bucket.

At approximately 2:50 p.m. the pungent odor of decaying flesh was clearly discernible. At that time the dragline operator was instructed to cease his operation. Agents then

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entered the pit and a careful scrutiny was made of the bottom of the pit which had thus far been opened up. It was noted a number of blow-flies had accumulated in the pit. The bulldozer operator was instructed to make several light passes over the area. Following each of these passes the ground cleared was reinspected and on the third such pass it was noted that the activity of the blow-flies had measurably increased. At this time, 3 p.m., the heels and back portions of a pair of man's boots were observed. As the stench permeated the area it was also noted that approximately one-quarter mile from the excavation site numerous vultures or buzzards were observed reconnoitering.

A meticulous removal of the earth surrounding the boots revealed, at 3:18 p.m., the outline of a human body. The removal of the impacted clay-like earth was continued and approximately two hours later Body #1, that of an individual clad in trousers and boots and naked from the waist up, was uncovered.

The body was lying face down with the head pointing in an easterly direction, arms extending over its head. On the ring finger of the left hand a ring consisting of two irregular bands joined together at intervals by cross bars was observed. The appearance of this ring and the general physical description of this body were consistent with available descriptive data concerning MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER.

The hands of this body were encased in plastic bags for purposes of preservation. The boots were observed to be the pull-on type (Wellington style). The bluejeans on the body bore a "Wrangler" label above the right hip pocket. These items of clothing were likewise consistent with previously obtained descriptive data of clothing worn by SCHWERNER.

In the left hip pocket of the bluejeans was found a black leather wallet. This wallet contained among other

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items a Selective Service card bearing the following data:

Name:	MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER
Address:	34 Fifth Street, Pelham, New York
Date of Birth:	November 6, 1939
Date of Registration:	November 8, 1957
Selective Service Number:	30-10-39-1172

The body was not moved or disturbed in any way in order to preserve the scene. It was noted during the observation of Body #1 that there appeared to be a small wound under the left armpit area. This wound was suggestive of a possible bullet wound.

Exhuming operations continued and at 5:07 p.m. the body of a second individual lying in a face-down position south of and adjacent to Body #1 was located. This body, Body #2, was partially under Body #1. The head of Body #2 was likewise pointed in an easterly direction with arms generally extended over its head. The left hand of this body was clenched in a tight fist. Opening of this fist disclosed a rock-like object. Body #2 was clad in trousers and shoes and naked from the waist up.

No jewelry was noted on the hands of Body #2. These hands were likewise encased in plastic bags for preservation. In the right hip pocket of the trousers of Body #2 was a black leather wallet which contained among other items a Selective Service card bearing the following descriptive data:

Name:	ANDREW GOODMAN
Address:	161 West 86th Street New York 24, New York
Date of Birth:	November 23, 1943
Date of Registration:	November 24, 1961
Selective Service Number:	50-13-43-458 (possibly 488)

What appeared to be a shirt was observed to be wadded beneath the hips of Body #2. Body #2 was not moved or

disturbed in any way in order to preserve the scene.

At 5:14 p.m. the remains of a third body were unearthed. Body #3 was lying on its back immediately south of and parallel to Body #2. The head was toward the west with the face turned south. The left arm and shoulder were drawn up and across the body. The right arm was lying along the side of the body. Body #3 was barefoot and clad in trousers and a "T" shirt. No jewelry was observed on the hands of Body #3. Since this body was lying on its back, no attempts were made at this time to move it to determine any contents of the trousers' hip pockets. The hands and feet of this body were encased in plastic bags for preservation.

Exhuming operations were continued in order to expose as much of the bodies as possible without disturbing them in order to facilitate the coroner's examination.

During the course of exhumation, photographs were made at various stages by SA [REDACTED] *mc*

It is estimated that approximately 27,000 cubic feet of earth were removed in the exhumation of these three bodies.

V. ARRIVAL OF CORONER AND OTHER NESHOPA COUNTY OFFICIALS

Shortly after 8 p.m., FULTON JACKSON, Neshoba County Coroner, appeared at the scene accompanied by Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE, Neshoba County Sheriff's Office, and Neshoba County Attorney RAYFORD JONES. Upon completion of the coroner's examination at 8:36 p.m. these officials departed from the scene.

Subsequently the bodies were placed in large plastic body bags and sealed by Coroner JACKSON for transportation to Jackson, Mississippi, where they were to undergo autopsy examinations at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

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The hearse carrying the bodies and driven by Coroner JACKSON departed from the grave site at 11:14 p.m. Riding in the hearse with Coroner JACKSON was SA [REDACTED]. The hearse was led by a Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol vehicle driven by Officer [REDACTED] and carrying Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE and County Attorney RAYFORD JONES. The car following the hearse contained SAs [REDACTED].

Miss

b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 12, 19641

The following information is the result of a joint investigation conducted by the following Special Agents:

SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]

b7c

On August 5, 1964, the search of the earthen dam located on the Old Jolly Farm, that portion of which is now the property of OLEN BURRAGE, was continued. The soil in the area directly beneath the grave site within this dam, from which the three victims' bodies had been removed on August 4, 1964, was minutely sifted through a wire screen to a depth of approximately three feet. No significant items of an evidentiary nature were located as a result of this effort.

In addition, the area completely surrounding the grave site pit up to a radius of approximately 15 feet from the grave center and to a depth ~~extending~~ the level of the original burial pit was sifted and closely examined. Similarly no items of an evidentiary nature were located as a result of this search.

A detailed terrain search of the clearing in which the earthen dam is located was conducted without recovering any significant items of evidence.

On 8/5/64 at Old Jolly Farm
Neshoba County, Miss. File # JN 44-1
by SA [REDACTED] ^{b7c} _{mjh} : [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/11/64 ⁴²⁷

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 12, 1964

On August 5, 1964, certain pertinent measurements were recorded of the area in which the earthen dam on the "Old Jolly Farm" is located. This dam is the one in which the bodies of the victims were located on August 4, 1964. They were obtained by SAs [REDACTED]

b7C

Overall length from end of dam construction on west to similar position on east - 547 feet

Approximate width of dam at base - 83 feet, 6 inches

Approximate width of dam at top - 11 feet

Approximate height of dam - 20 feet

Distance across entire excavation area from east to west - 58 feet, 6 inches

Distance from east edge of excavation to west edge of vertical cut - 39 feet

Distance from center of grave site pit to end of dam construction on east - 356 feet

Distance from center of grave site pit to end of dam construction on west - 191 feet

Distance from center of grave site pit to south edge of dam - 42 feet

Distance from center of grave site pit to north edge of dam - 41 feet, 6 inches

On 8/5/64 at Old Jolly Farm
Neshoba County, Miss. File # JN 44-1
by SAs [REDACTED] mjh bx 288 Date dictated 8/11/64 494

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Grave site pit located 14 feet, 11 inches below top of dam.

Length of grave site pit east to west - 7 feet, 6 inches

Width of grave site pit north to south - 6 feet, 9 inches

Distance from eastern edge of grave site pit to top eastern edge of excavation - 27 feet

Distance from western edge of grave site pit to top western edge of excavation - 38 feet

Distance from western edge of grave site pit to top vertical cut western edge - 15 feet

Distance from grave site location to north end of drainage pipe - 98 feet, 3 inches (Bearing 44° northwest)

Distance from grave site location to south end of drainage pipe - 116 feet, 10 inches

There are attached three sketches, based upon the above measurements, depicting the general area of this dam.

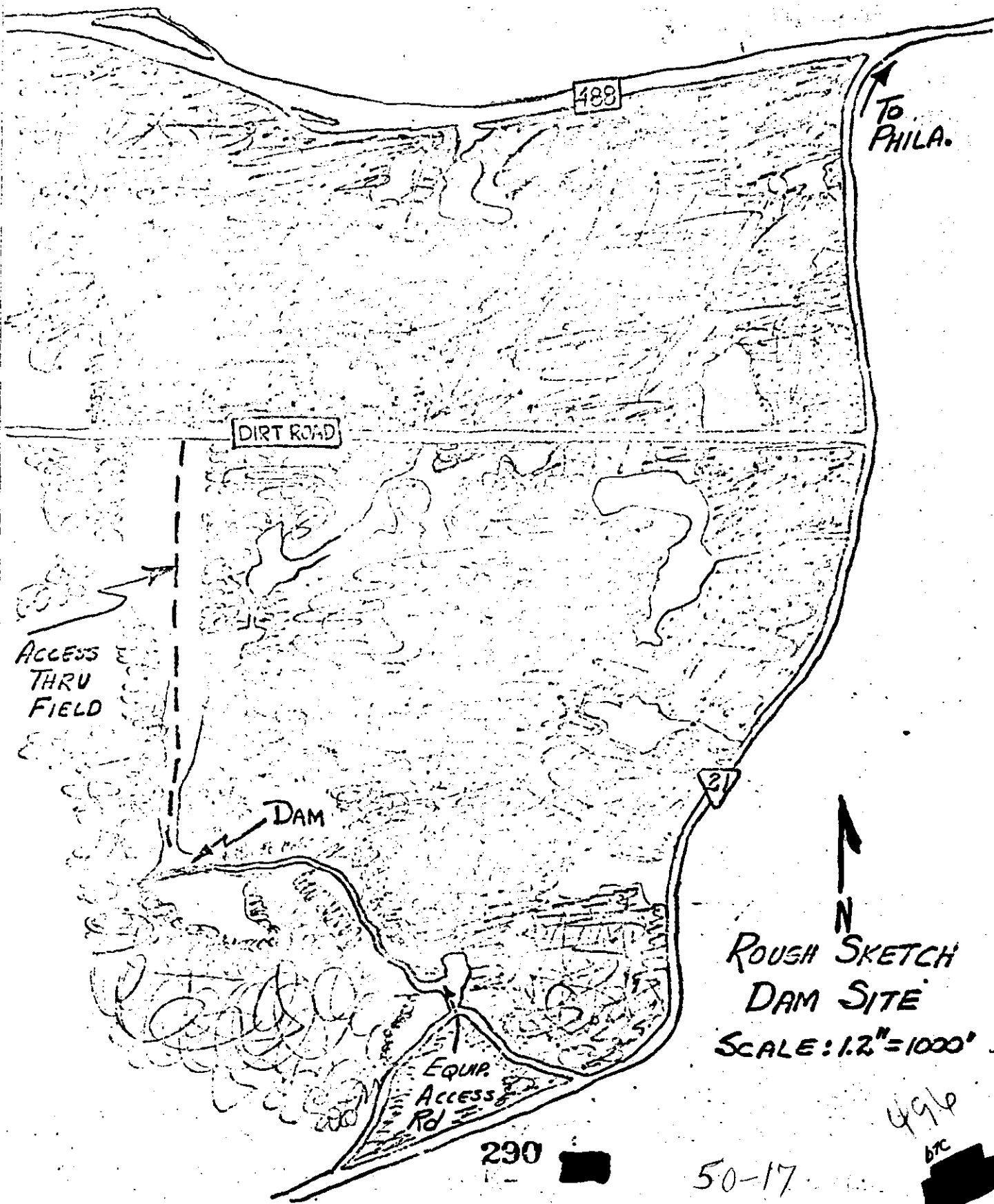
283

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495

XERO
COPY

XERO
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ROUGH SKETCH
DAM SITE
SCALE: 1.2"=1000'

290

50-17

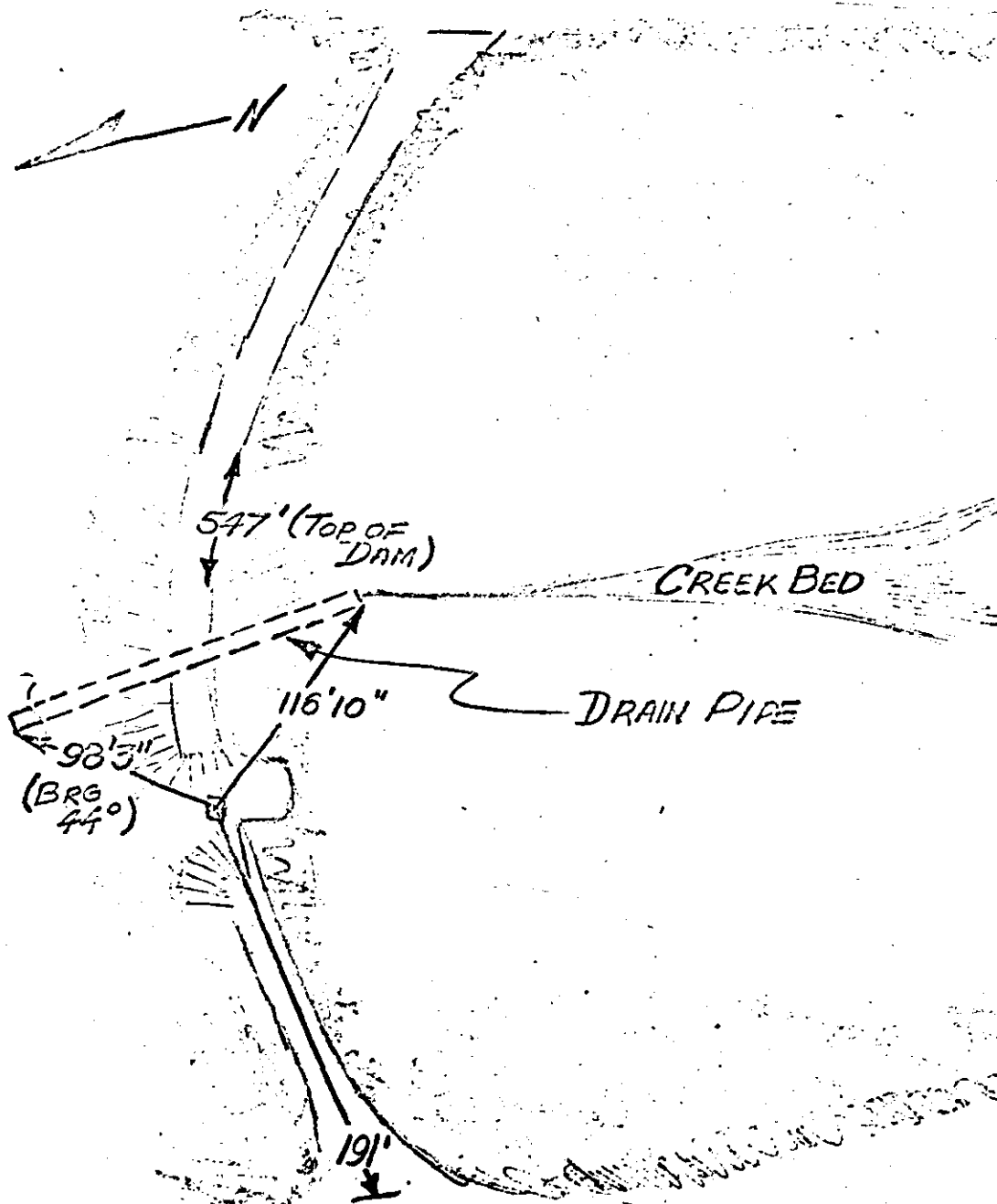
496

b7c

XERO
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COPY

XERO
COPY



ROUGH SKETCH OF
DAM (NO SCALE)

497

8-13-64

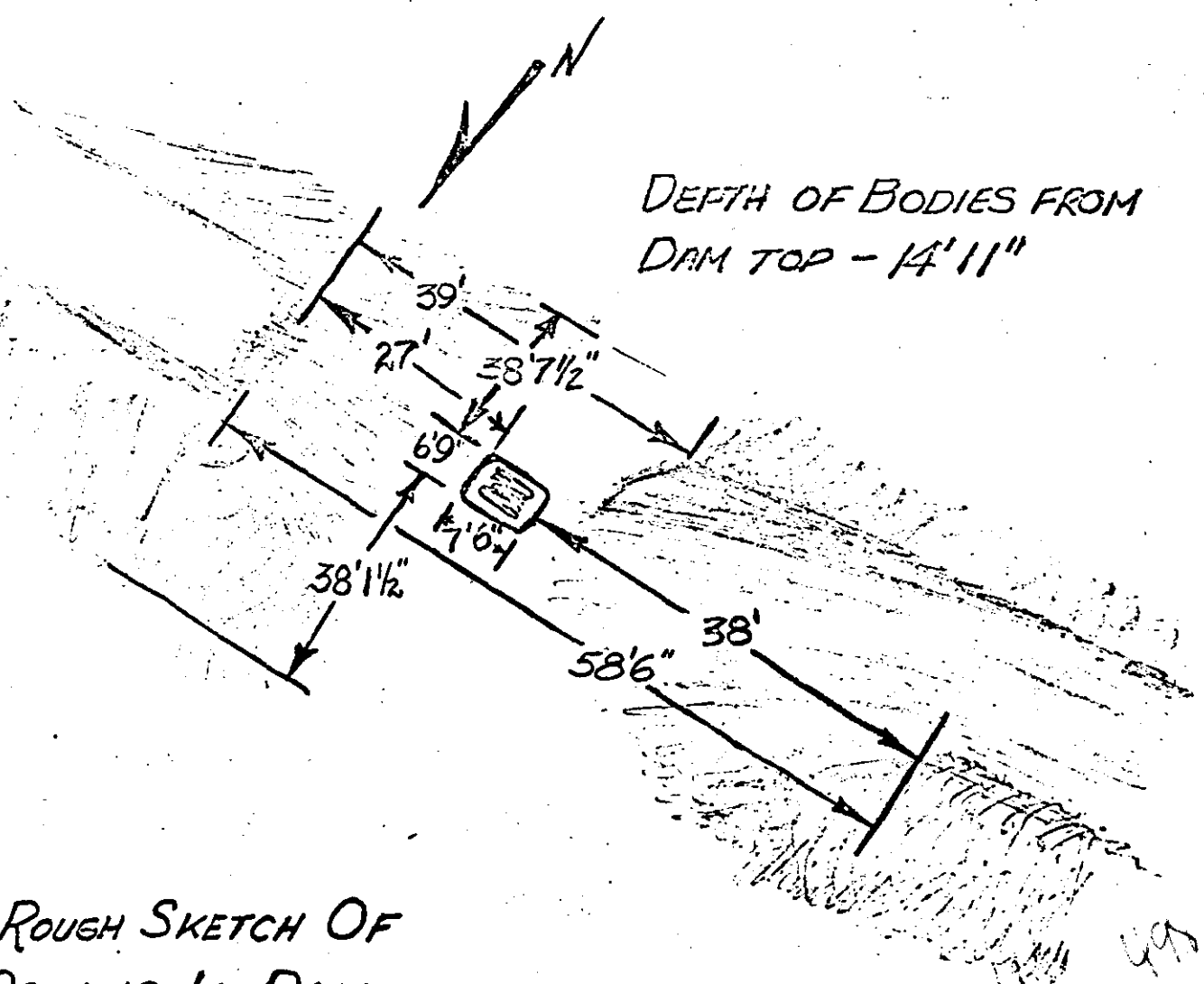
291

50-18

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ROUGH SKETCH OF
OPENING IN DAM
(NO SCALE)

67c

292

50-19

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 14, 19641

The following photographs were taken of the dam site located on the property of OLEN BURRAGE, Neshoba County, Mississippi, also known as the Old Jolly Farm. These photographs were taken on August 4, 1964, between 8:15 A.M. and 9 A.M., at various angles, for the purpose of recording conditions of this dam prior to excavation:

- (1) Photo of dam taken from east edge of dam facing west
- (2) Photo of dam from east side showing full picture of dam
- (3) Photo of dam taken from east side showing bottom of dam
- (4) Photo of dam from east side showing top of dam
- (5) Photo of dam from west side showing front of dam
- (6) Photo of dam taken from west side facing east showing top of dam
- (7) Photo of front of dam
- (8) Photo of front of dam taken from west side
- (9) Photo of rear of dam taken from east side of dam
- (10) Photo of rear of dam taken from position north of dam
- (11) Photo of dam taken from west side showing west apron and spillway

On 8/4/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1

by SA [REDACTED] ^{b7c} 293 /esp Date dictated 8/10/64

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(1) Photo of dam taken from east edge of dam
facing west



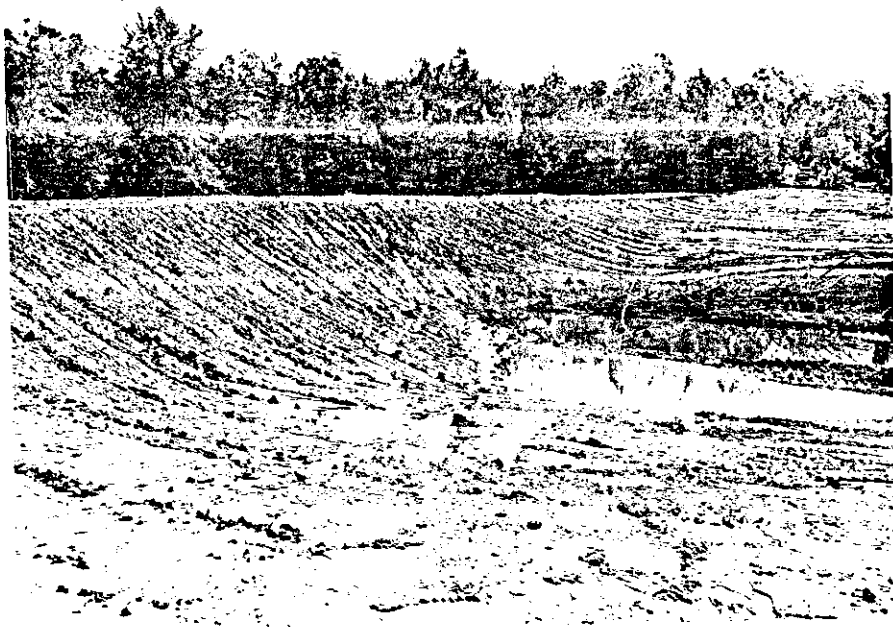
(2) Photo of dam from east side showing full picture of dam



(3) Photo of dam taken from east side showing
bottom of dam



(4) Photo of dam from east side showing top of dam



(5) Photo of dam from west side showing front of dam



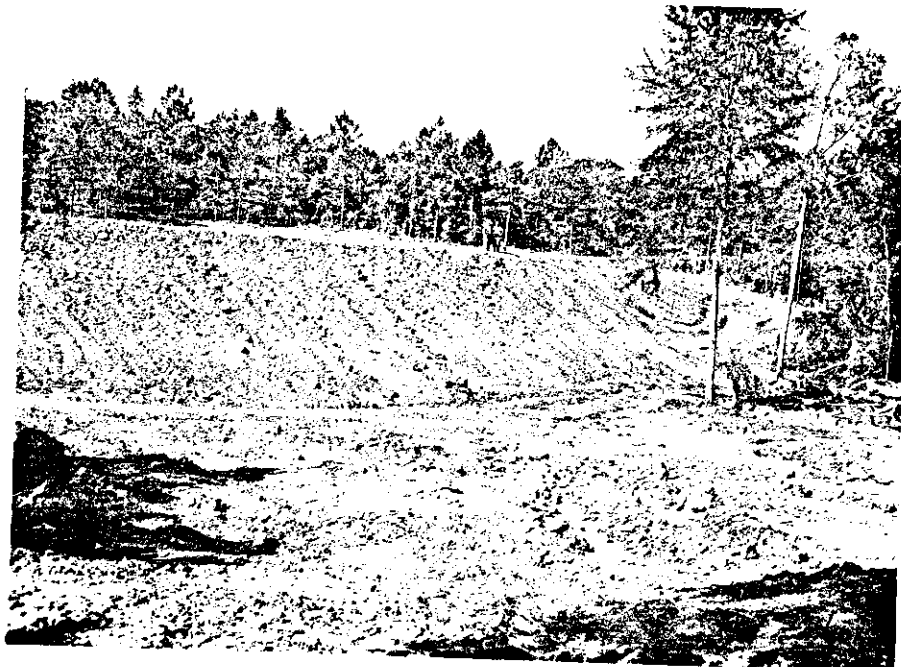
(6) Photo of dam taken from west side facing east showing top of dam



(7) Photo of front of dam



(8) Photo of front of dam taken from west side



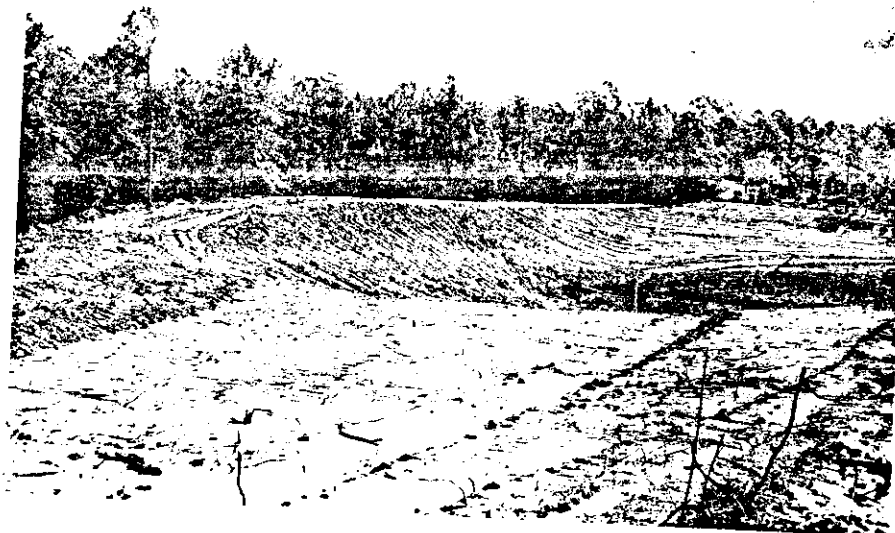
(9) Photo of rear of dam taken from east side
of dam

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(10) Photo of rear of dam taken from position
north of dam



(11) Photo of dam taken from west side showing west apron and spillway

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 14, 19641

On August 5, 1964, SA [REDACTED] was given a 4 X 5 Tri-X film pack by SA [REDACTED]. He advised the film pack contained photographs of a dam site near Philadelphia, Mississippi. b7C

On the same date the photographs contained in this film pack were developed at Tucker Photo Shop, Meridian, Mississippi, and during the entire process of developing SA [REDACTED] was present. b7C

The finished photographs and negatives were turned over to SA [REDACTED] on August 5, 1964. b7C

50-32

305 [REDACTED]

On 8/5/64 at Meridian, Miss. File # JN 44-1 511

by SA [REDACTED] b7C /ldo Date dictated 8/11/64

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approximately 260 acres and that the levee under construction since about June 1, 1964, was planned so as to flood an area of about 20 acres for a pond.

approximately 260 acres and that the levee under construction since about June 1, 1964, was planned so as to flood an area of about 20 acres for a pond.

completed on July 4, 1964, the levee was about half

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all
b7c
b7D

512

b7c JACKSON 44-1
3 [redacted] ldo

[redacted]

[redacted] has no clear re-
collection of what he did on June 21, 1964. He suggested
that his wife might be able to furnish an account of
their activities on that date.

[redacted]

all
b7c
b7D
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44-25706 Serial 1613 pgs 309-311

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b7c [REDACTED] ldo
7

all
b7C
b7D

50-37

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 7, 1964

1

[redacted] was advised that he was being interviewed by SA's [redacted] who identified themselves to him as Special Agents of the FBI. He was advised by SA [redacted] that he did not have to make any statement, that any statement he made could be used against him in a court of law and that he had the right to an attorney before making a statement. No threats or promises were made [redacted] to induce him to furnish any information.

[redacted]
[redacted] had no personal involvement or any knowledge concerning the parties responsible for the murder of the victims.

all
b7C
b7D

50-38

On 8/5/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1
by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] /ldo [redacted] Date dictated 8/6/64

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 7, 1964

1

[redacted] was advised that he was being interviewed by SA's [redacted] who identified themselves to him as Special Agents of the FBI. He was advised by SA [redacted] that he did not have to make any statement, that any statement he made could be used against him in a court of law and that he had the right to an attorney before making a statement. No threats or promises were made [redacted] to induce him to furnish any information.

[redacted]

[redacted] continued to state categorically his lack of involvement in the murder of the victims.

all
b7C
b7D

On 8/6/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1
by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] /ldo [redacted] Date dictated 8/6/64

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FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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50-40

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 10, 1964

1

[redacted] Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, County Building, Philadelphia, Mississippi, stated he gave Mr. OLEN BURRAGE informal advice and some service in the construction of a private dam for a lake situated about six miles southwest of Philadelphia on some of BURRAGE's property. [redacted] referred to some pencil notes and advised he first visited the area of the dam on May 25, 1964, at which time no construction or land clearing had begun. On this occasion [redacted] at the request of Mr. BURRAGE set up an instrument and ran a water line on the east side of the proposed lake for 15 feet of water. Mr. HERMAN TUCKER, who later constructed the dam, carried the rod for [redacted] [redacted] was then clearing the lake area of trees and underbrush. At this time [redacted] understood Mr. BURRAGE wanted an agreement with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, whereby the U. S. Government would share the cost of the dam in exchange for certain soil conservation practices.

[redacted] was next at the site on July 15, 1964, when he was asked by Mr. TUCKER to visit the area to give advice. On this occasion [redacted] found that the dam was almost completed and was perhaps a hundred yards further north down the creek than where it had been planned while he was previously in the area. On this visit, he found that the dam was about 12 feet high and [redacted] walked along the top of the dam and saw the drain pipe in the old creek bed which was too short and was almost even with the dam surface. At this time a Mr. PETTIS was operating a bulldozer pushing dirt up the sides of the dam.

On July 17, 1964, [redacted] again drove by the dam, looked again at the drain pipe, and then drove to the BURRAGE Garage, where he advised BURRAGE to extend the pipe several feet inside the lake. When [redacted] was at the dam on July 17, 1964, a [redacted] was there operating a bulldozer and the surface of the dam appeared very rough.

On July 22, 1964, [redacted] drove by the BURRAGE Garage where [redacted] stopped him and asked him to go out and set up

On 8/6/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. 317 File # JN 44-1 1613

by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] /esp b7c Date dictated 8/10/64

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50-41

520

JN 44-1

2

his instruments to see if the "free board" was high enough. By this he meant whether the portion of the dam other than the spillway was the prescribed height of 15 per cent of the dam. He explained that in this case the free board should be about 2 feet, which is something like 15 per cent of the total height of the dam of 17 feet. The free board is that portion of the dam that is higher than the spillway. [REDACTED] spent about 30 minutes there this time and found that the free board was not high enough. [REDACTED] was working at the site at this time. [REDACTED] also found that the 5 inch iron pipe had been extended inside the lake as he had previously advised. b7c

He said he heard nothing in conversations with the above-named persons and saw nothing in his visits to the area, which causes him to suspect those persons had knowledge there were bodies buried in the dam.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 10, 1964

1

Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, County Building, Philadelphia, Mississippi, who works in Neshoba County, advised the U.S. Department of Agriculture has a program whereby an agreement is entered into with farmers, under which agreement the U. S. Government shares in the costs of the construction of - lakes and ponds on the property of the various farms as a conservation project. To qualify for this assistance, the construction of the dam and the clearing and treatment of the water area, must meet certain standards. About one year ago OLEN BURRAGE contacted [redacted] to initiate such an agreement in the construction of the dam. At that time [redacted] visited the area of the proposed dam and found that no construction had begun and it was merely a wooded area. Mr. BURRAGE made no further effort to have the agreement formulated although [redacted] understands the dam was constructed with completely private funds by Mr. BURRAGE. [redacted] did not visit the dam area a second time and stated he had no further information, but [redacted] of his office gave informal advice to Mr. BURRAGE in the construction of the dam. b7c

On 8/6/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1

by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] /esp. b7c Date dictated 8/10/64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

August 8, 1964

Date _____

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was advised that he did not have to make a statement and any information he gave could be used against him in a court of law. Special Agent [REDACTED] advised him that he was entitled to consult an attorney before he made any statements and the identities of the interviewing Agents were made known to him.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

actual construction of the levee did not get under way until [REDACTED] either on June 18 or 19, 1964. [REDACTED] best recollection the pipe was installed under the levee and the core under the levee was put in approximately two weeks before this. [REDACTED] the core of the dam was made with the use of dynamite [REDACTED] the main portion of it extended approximately 6 feet on the west side of the drain pipe and approximately 10 feet on the east side of the drain pipe where it was 3 feet or 4 feet deep and several feet wide. It then tapered off to the ends of the dam where it was only a few inches deep. He estimated that the pipe was set about 3 feet below the regular ground level.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

all
b7C
b7D

1013

On 8/5/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 44-1

by SA [REDACTED] and b7C [REDACTED] : mem 8/8/64

320 Date dictated

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2

JN 44-1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was difficult for him to remember how much dirt was in the center of the dam site [REDACTED] on Sunday night about 4:30 or 5:00 p.m., June 21, 1964. To his best recollection, he thought there was approximately 6 feet of dirt on the dam at that time.

[REDACTED]

321

all
b7c
b7D
50-45

524

3

JN 44-1

[REDACTED] The specifications for the dam indicated that it would have a water level of 15 feet and they built a 2½ to 3 foot freeboard above the anticipated water level.

[REDACTED] did not notice anything unusual on the morning of June 22, 1964, when he arrived at the dam site.

[REDACTED] emphatically denied that he had any knowledge that the bodies of the victims were buried in the dam.

[REDACTED] does not recall any person talking to him about the location of the dam or the extent of dirt on the dam prior to June 21, 1964.

322

50-46

all
b7c
b7D

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570

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date August 13, 1964

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was advised of the identity of the Agents conducting the interview. He was advised he was not required to make a statement, that any statement must be voluntary, and that any statement he provided could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised by Special Agent [REDACTED] of his right to obtain an attorney before making a statement.

[REDACTED] could account for all of his time during the night the civil rights workers disappeared and
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] statements to the effect which indicated that he felt the civil rights workers may have been killed by a communist group or by Council of Federated Organizations.

He denied knowledge or participation in this matter.

*all
b7c
b7D*

On 8/13/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 44-1
by SA [REDACTED] and *b7c* [REDACTED]
S [REDACTED] mem 325 Date dictated 8/13/64

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50-48

527

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 11, 1964

1

[REDACTED], advised as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] went to Philadelphia
on June 19, 1964, and located the site [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the dam had been completed lengthwise, that is from bank to bank, and was between eight and twelve feet high at mid-point and perhaps six to eight feet broad across the top. [REDACTED] observed nothing unusual in the operation of the two tractors which were working on the dam approximately at mid-point and on the south side.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He advised that as he recalled, the area

all
b7C
b7D

On 8/8/64 at Meridian, Mississippi File # JN 44-1

by SA [REDACTED] ^{b7C}
SA [REDACTED] ^{mjh} Date dictated 8/10/64

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50-49 528

JN 44-1

2

North of the dam was in its natural state and had not been
worked with the tractors. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He stated he has observed pictures of a dam site in
the local newspapers where the three missing civil rights workers
were found and he believes this to be the dam site he visited

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He described [REDACTED] as follows:

Race
Sex
Age
Height
Weight
Hair

[REDACTED]

all
b7C
b7D

327

50-50

529

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 11, 1964

1

[REDACTED] advised as follows:

[REDACTED] to a dam site several miles south of Philadelphia, Mississippi, off Route 21 on June 19, 1964, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this dam was about one-quarter mile west of Highway 21 down a winding dirt road. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] return to the site on Saturday morning, June 20, 1964.

[REDACTED] on both these occasions he observed the dam to have been completed lengthwise and he would approximate the height at 8 to 10 feet at midpoint and approximately 6 feet across at the top. [REDACTED] on both occasions two tractors were being used near the middle of the dam on the south side and he noted nothing unusual about their operations. He said the area north of the dam had not been worked by any machinery and appeared to be in its natural state.

He described [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] as follows:

Race
Sex
Age
Height
Weight
Hair
Complexion
Scars and marks

[REDACTED]

b7C

all
b7C
b7D

On 8/8/64 at Meridian, Mississippi File # JN 44-1

by SA [REDACTED] mjh b7C Date dictated 8/10/64

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50-52

JN 44-1

2

Race
Sex
Age
Height
Weight
Hair
Complexion

[REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED]

b7C, b7D

[REDACTED] had seen photographs in the local newspapers of the dam site in which the bodies of the three civil rights workers were found, and he believes the area he visited [REDACTED] is identical to that which he saw in the paper.

b7C, b7D

50-53

[REDACTED]

52

537

2

JN 157-342

JN 44-1

PETTIS advised that he did not work on Sunday. On Monday he arrived at the dam site about day break, [REDACTED]

50-55

all
b7c
b7D

534

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 13, 1964

W. H. PETTIS, Philadelphia, Mississippi, was interviewed near the Cumberland Grocery Store, Highway 16, South, Philadelphia, at which time he was advised of the identities of the Agents conducting the interview. He was advised he was not required to make a statement, that any statement must be voluntary, and that any statement he provided could be used against him in a court of law. PETTIS was advised by Special Agent [REDACTED] of his right to have an attorney before making a statement.

On 8/13/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 44-1

SA [redacted] and ^{b7c}
SA [redacted] mem [redacted]
by [redacted] Date dictated 8/13/64

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2

JN 44-1

[REDACTED]
b7c, b7D

1 [REDACTED]

50-58

337

537

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 10, 1964

1

the BURRAGE dam under construction

on July 16, 17, and 21, 1964, in leveling up the structure and again on July 30, 1964, on which date he considers he completed the dam.

On 8/7/68 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1

by SA [redacted] and [redacted] /esp Date dictated 8/10/64

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539

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 11, 1964

1

[REDACTED] was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and was told by SA [REDACTED] that he might talk to an attorney or any other person he might so desire prior to making any statements and that if he was unable to obtain the services of an attorney, the appropriate U. S. District Judge would appoint an attorney to represent him. Additionally, he was informed that any statement which he did make could be used against him in a court of law and that he was under no obligation to make this statement, that no threats or promises were made to him and that any statement which he might make should be freely and voluntarily made. [REDACTED] advised as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 8/5/64 at [REDACTED] File # JN 44-1
by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] /ido [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/11/64

56-61

all
b7C
b7D

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340

547

bx JN 44-1
2 [redacted] ldo

[redacted]

He specifically recalled the dam or levee being constructed during the late spring or early summer of 1964 on the property of OLEN BURRAGE known as the "Old Jolly Farm".

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

50-62
all
b7C
b7D

b7c JN 44-1
3 do

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was unable to provide any information concerning the appearance of the dam or levee on the OLEN BURRAGE farm on the dates of June 20, 21 and 22, 1964.

[REDACTED] He was positive he did not work on June 21, 1964, on the OLEN BURRAGE property or anywhere else.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

all
b7C
b7D
50-63

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543

b7c JN 44-1
2 [redacted] ldo/bjm

[redacted]

Referring to the construction of the levee on the Old Jolly Farm owned by OLEN BURRAGE, [redacted] from time to time he observed two caterpillar tractors working on that site. One was described as an old caterpillar tractor and the other was described as a new caterpillar tractor. He was unable to fix the period when these pieces of equipment together or separately had been used at the construction site.

[redacted] was under the impression that in the construction of the dike dynamite had been used to construct the core of the dike and the piece of equipment he referred to as an "earth hauler" had also been used. He could recall no hand tools in the form of shovels at the site but expressed the opinion that they undoubtedly were present at the levee construction site.

He could recall no equipment being used at the construction in that vicinity that was capable of boring holes in the ground of any diameter. [redacted]

[redacted]

50-65

all
b7c
b7D

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 12, 1964

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] worked on the dam [REDACTED]
June 21, 1964, [REDACTED] on Sunday.
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 8/6/64 at [REDACTED] File # JN 44-1 *ad b7c b7d*
by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] *b7c*
SA [REDACTED] *mem* 350 Date dictated 8/11/64 *546*

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547

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 11, 1964

1

[REDACTED] was informed by SA [REDACTED] of the identities of SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that he might consult an attorney or any other person prior to making a statement, that if he was unable to obtain the services of an attorney an appropriate Federal judge would appoint one to assist him, that he was under no obligation to make a statement and that any statement which he might make could be used against him in a court of law. In addition, he was informed that no threats or promises were made to him and that any statement which he might make should be made freely and voluntarily. Thereafter, he advised as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on June 21, 1964, [REDACTED] worked until from shortly after daylight until shortly before dark at the levee on OLEN BURRAGE's property near Philadelphia, Mississippi. At that time, there were only two pieces of heavy equipment on the site. These were two caterpillar tractors. One was an old caterpillar tractor

On 8/8/64 at [REDACTED] File # JN 44-1
by SAs [REDACTED] /ldo/bjm b7C [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/11/64

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354

50-69

548

the other a new caterpillar tractor

He could not recall any hand tools in the form of shovels being at the construction site at the levee on the BURRAGE property but expressed an opinion that they were undoubtedly there since they would be regular equipment used. [REDACTED] had never seen any type of equipment [REDACTED] which was capable of drilling large diameter holes in the ground [REDACTED]

355

50-70 349

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56-71

550

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 12, 1964

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had no knowledge concerning the disappearance of or burial of victims at the dam site. [REDACTED] had no knowledge of any Klan-type activities in the area. [REDACTED] had no knowledge concerning any of the men who worked at the dam site [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] if any information should come his way that he thought the Federal Bureau of Investigation should know about he would immediately get in contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in Meridian, Mississippi.

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained by observation and interview:

Race
Sex
Nationality
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Complexion
Scar
Education

[REDACTED]

all
b7c
b7D

On 8/10/64 at [REDACTED] File # JN 44-1
by SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] mem b7c Date dictated 8/11/64

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552

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[REDACTED]

Date August

Philanthropy

1

[REDACTED]

structed on BURRAGE's property by HERMAN TUCKER.

He said he went to the dam site in July 1964

the east end of the dam and it did not look right to him, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

all
b7C
b7D

SAS [redacted], and b7c
by [redacted] /esp Date dictated 8/11/64

359

50-74 553

knows nothing about the disappearance of the three civil rights workers, nor does he have any information or knowledge regarding the circumstances under which they were buried at the dam site.

██████████ does not believe it was common knowledge in Neshoba County that the dam was being constructed and it only became widely known after the dam was completed in early July 1964.

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Date August 11, 1964

1

informed by SA [redacted] that he was entitled to talk to an attorney or any other person prior to making a statement, that if he was unable to obtain the services of an attorney the Federal court would appoint one to assist him, that any statement which he might make could be used against him in a court of law, that he was under no obligation to make a statement and that any statement which he might make should be freely and voluntarily made. No threats or promises were made to him and he was advised of the identities of SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Thereafter, he advised as follows:

no information concerning the progress of the construction of this levee at any particular moment and specifically

On 8/7/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1
by SA's [REDACTED] /ldo 362 Date dictated 8/11/64

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did not recall the status of the construction or the height of the levee on June 21, 1964, or June 22, 1964.

Name
Age
Height
Hair
Eyes
Complexion
Weight
Build

50-78

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 8, 1964

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] provided the following
information:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on June
19, 1964, the dam had been barely started and the highest
places were dirt piles of 4 feet to 5 feet.

[REDACTED]

ad
b7c
b7D

On 8/7/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 44-1
by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] : b7c
SA [REDACTED] : mem Date dictated 8/8/64

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555

2

JN 44-1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had no knowledge of the possible involvement of [REDACTED] or any other individual in connection with the deaths of MICHAEL SCHWERNER, JAMES CHANEY, and ANDREW GOODMAN.

[REDACTED]

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained through observation and interview:

Race
Sex
Age
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Education
Wife
Military Service

Army Serial
Number

[REDACTED]

50-80 all b7c b7D 559

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 10, 1964

could not recall any specific dates during June 1964, such as June 16 and 21, 1964, and could not recall whether there was activity [redacted] in the vicinity of the dam on those dates, as he recalled hearing nothing unusual on or about those dates such as additional traffic, additional persons in the area, dogs barking, or the report of gunshots. [redacted]

On 8/5/68 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # JN 44-1

by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] *b7c* /esp Date dictated 8/10/64

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 6, 1964

1

does not recall his activity for Sunday, June 21, 1964;

the dam project began about four to six weeks ago. It was his recollection that they began building the dam on the west end of the property.

neither he nor [redacted] could recall any unusual activity during the night of June 21-22, 1964. [redacted]

██████ denied that he had any knowledge concerning suspects responsible for killing or burying the victims' bodies at the dam site.

50-83

cel
b7C
b7D

On 8/4/64 at Neshoba County, Miss. File # JN 44-1

SA [redacted] and [redacted] b7c
by [redacted] /esp [redacted] Date dictated 8/6/64 502

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/18/64

1

the following additional information: [REDACTED] furnished

the bulldozer operators working on the dam site usually started work around 4:30 to 5:00 AM. [REDACTED]

████████████████████ was not uncommon for any one man to come to work and that this individual would operate the bulldozer during the morning hours and be relieved by someone else during the afternoon.

all
b7C
b7D

On 8/17/64 at Neshoba County, Miss. File # JN 44-1
by SAs [REDACTED] bjm b7c [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/18/64

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26

1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

the night. [REDACTED]

did not see anything of an unusu

50-87

374

all
b7C
b7D
564

JN 44-1

b7c [redacted] 1do

2

nature in the area on or about June 21 or 22, 1964, and she did not hear any shots fired or any machinery operating in the night.

[redacted] did not recall seeing anything of an unusual nature during the building of the levee on the BURRAGE farm.

[redacted] did not hear any of the construction machinery operating in the night and she heard no shots fired in the night.

[redacted] at no time was he awakened by any shots being fired in the vicinity.

[redacted] never heard any shots fired in the night and he noted nothing of an unusual nature on or about June 21 or 22, 1964, in the area.

[redacted] neither he nor anyone in his family heard any shots fired on the night of June 21 or 22, 1964, [redacted]

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[redacted] ldo
2

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] never heard any of the machinery in operation in the night nor did they hear any pistol shots fired in the night on or about June 21, 22, 1964. [redacted]

[redacted] feels certain that she would have heard the bulldozer operating or shots fired had this occurred in that vicinity in the middle of the night.

all
b7C
b7D

50-89

568

VII. AUTOPSIES OF CHANEY, GOODMAN AND
SCHWERNER AT UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 12, 1964

The autopsies of the three bodies removed from the earthen dam on the property of OLEN BURRAGE near Philadelphia, Mississippi, by Agents of the FBI on August 4, 1964, were conducted at the University of Mississippi Medical Center at Jackson, Mississippi, on the morning of August 5, 1964, by Dr. WILLIAM PRESTON FEATHERSTON, a private practicing pathologist of Jackson, Mississippi. Present as witnesses at the autopsies were the following individuals:

b7C

- SA JAY COCHRAN, JR., FBI Laboratory
- SA [REDACTED] FBI Laboratory
- SA [REDACTED] FBI, Jackson, Mississippi
- SA [REDACTED] FBI, Charlotte, North Carolina
- SA LAWRENCE M. SHEARER, JR., FBI, New Orleans, Louisiana
- FULTON JACKSON, Neshoba County Coroner
- Sheriff LAWRENCE RAINEY, Neshoba County
- Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE, Neshoba County
- Dr. JOEL G. BRUNSON, Professor of Pathology,
University of Mississippi Medical School
- Dr. [REDACTED] Assistant Professor of Pathology,
University of Mississippi Medical School
- Dr. [REDACTED] Assistant Professor of Pathology,
University of Mississippi Medical School
- [REDACTED] Photographer, Mississippi Highway
Safety Patrol

I. AUTOPSY OF BODY NUMBER ONE

The autopsy of the first body commenced at 1:35 a.m., at which time the primary procedure was total body X-ray. Upon breaking the seal and opening the bag in which the remains had been placed, photographs were taken of the remains by SA [REDACTED]. Additional photographs were taken at various stages during this autopsy. b7C

On 8/5/64 at Jackson, Miss. File # JN 44-1
by SA [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] mjh b7C Date dictated 8/11/64

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Body #1 was determined to be that of a white male clad in blue denim trousers and Wellington-style boots. A ring set consisting of two irregular bands joined together at intervals by bars was removed from the left ring finger of the body by Dr. FEATHERSTON. The appearance of this ring was consistent with the descriptive data available concerning the wedding ring belonging to MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER. This ring was placed in a container for subsequent transmittal to the FBI Laboratory for development of any inscriptions thereon. Present in the right front pocket of the trousers on this body was a cigarette lighter which was similar to the lighter described in descriptive data of the belongings of SCHWERNER. The clothing, head hair samples, and personal effects of SCHWERNER were obtained and preserved for subsequent transmittal to FBI Laboratory.

Dr. REUEL MAY, JR., D.D.S., Jackson, Mississippi, performed a dental examination of Body #1. This examination consisted of recording of the existing dentition in the skull and lower jaw of Body #1.

Upon completion of this dental examination, Dr. FEATHERSTON removed the terminal phalanges of each hand and turned them over in order to SA SHEARER for preservation and subsequent examination for any ridge detail present which might make possible fingerprint identification of Body #1 by the Latent Fingerprint Section of the Identification Division of the FBI. Because of the advanced stage of decomposition of all three bodies, it was not possible to obtain during the autopsies inked impressions of the fingers of these bodies. Upon removal of the shoes and socks of Body #1 the skin comprising the bottoms of the feet sloughed off. This skin was retained for possible identification purposes.

Dr. FEATHERSTON advised that Body #1 was that of a white male in an advanced stage of decomposition measuring 70½" in length. He stated death was not from natural causes and that death was the result of a bullet wound. A section

of tissue was removed from the left chest area and was preserved for subsequent powder residue examinations. A bullet was removed from the left lung cavity and directly placed in a suitable container for preservation after having first been marked for identification on its base by Dr. FEATHERSTON. The removal of this bullet required a median incision on the ventral surface of the body and removal of the rib cage. A detailed examination of the body and body X-rays did not reveal the presence of any other bullets. The examination of Body #1 was terminated at approximately 2:30 a.m.

II. AUTOPSY OF BODY NUMBER TWO

During the autopsy of Body #1, Body #2 was afforded detailed X-ray examination by hospital personnel. It was likewise photographed by SA [REDACTED] prior to and during autopsy. The autopsy of Body #2 commenced at approximately 2:40 a.m. A similar procedure was then followed by Dr. REUEL MAY, JR. in making his dental examinations of Body #2 as that procedure employed by him with Body #1. Dr. MAY's examination commenced immediately following the breaking of the seal on Body Bag #2 and opening of the bag by Dr. FEATHERSTON. b7c

The terminal phalanges of each hand of Body #2 were removed and preserved as in the case of Body #1. Similarly the skin tissue from the bottoms of the feet, which had come off during removal of the shoes and socks of Body #2, was preserved for possible identification purposes.

Dr. FEATHERSTON advised that Body #2 was that of a white male in an advanced stage of decomposition and that this body measured 69½" in length. Body #2 was clothed in a pair of dark trousers, blue socks and Oxford-type shoes. A dark-colored shirt was removed from the body bag which contained Body #2. This shirt had previously been located at the grave site lying under the hips of Body #2. The clothing,

head hair samples and personal effects of Body #2 were preserved for transmittal to FBI Laboratory.

Dr. FEATHERSTON advised that death was not from natural causes and that a bullet wound was present in the right chest area of this body. A section of skin tissue was removed from this area and preserved for examination of any gun powder residue. A bullet was removed from the thoracic area near the vertebral column of Body #2. This bullet was placed directly in a container and preserved for subsequent FBI Laboratory examination after having been first marked on its base by Dr. FEATHERSTON. An examination of Body #2 and a careful review of body X-rays did not reveal the presence of any other bullets. The examination of Body #2 was terminated at approximately 3:26 a.m.

III. AUTOPSY OF BODY NUMBER THREE

During the autopsy of Body #2, Body #3 was afforded detailed X-rays by hospital personnel. Body #3 was also photographed by SA [REDACTED] prior to and during autopsy. The autopsy of Body #3 commenced approximately 3:27 a.m. A procedure similar to that employed in the dental examinations of Bodies #1 and #2 was utilized in the examination of Body #3 by Dr. REUEL MAY, JR. Dr. MAY's examination commenced immediately following the breaking of the seal on Body Bag #3 and the opening of the bag by Dr. FEATHERSTON. *b7c*

The terminal phalanges of each hand were removed and preserved for possible fingerprint identification. In addition, the skin tissue from the bottoms of the feet of Body #3 were also preserved for possible identification purposes.

Dr. FEATHERSTON advised that Body #3 was that of a Negro male in an advanced stage of decomposition and that this body measured 69" in length. Body #3 was clad in a pair of dark green trousers, "T" shirt and undershorts. No type of footwear was present on Body #3. No items of personal identification were located in the clothing of Body #3. This clothing was removed and preserved for examination by the FBI Laboratory. Head hair samples were removed for subsequent FBI Laboratory

examination. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He said that death was not from natural causes and that three bullets were present in this body. Dr. FEATHERSTON advised that death most likely occurred as a result of the bullet wound of the head. A bullet was removed from the anterior abdominal wall of Body #3. A second bullet was removed from the center of the back of Body #3 and a third bullet was removed from the brain substance in the cranium of Body #3. Each of these three bullets was placed directly in a container by Dr. FEATHERSTON after having first marked their bases for identification purposes. Skin tissue from the upper left epigastrium was removed and preserved for gun powder residue examination. Autopsy of Body #3 was terminated at approximately 4:15 a.m. b7D

IV. DENTAL IDENTIFICATIONS OF BODIES

Dr. MAY, after completing his dental charting of Bodies #1 and #2, compared these charts with dental records previously obtained for victims SCHWERNER and GOODMAN. These charts were made available to him by SA COCHRAN.

As a result of Dr. MAY's comparisons, he advised that in his professional opinion the existing dentition in the skull and lower jaw of Body #1 conforms to that of the dental record of victim SCHWERNER and that the existing dentition in the skull and lower jaw of Body #2 conforms to that of the dental record furnished for victim GOODMAN. Based upon these comparisons, Dr. MAY was of the professional opinion that Body #1 was that of MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER and Body #2 was that of ANDREW GOODMAN.

No facts were developed during the autopsy of Body #3 which would permit identification of this body. No dental record has been located for victim CHANEY; however, it was noted that the general physical description and the clothing on Body #3 conformed closely to the previously obtained descriptive data for victim CHANEY.

JN 44-1

6

Dr. MAY's original dental charts of Bodies #1, #2 and #3 are being retained by the FBI for possible future use as evidence in this case. At the request of Dr. FEATHERSTON copies of these charts have been provided to him for completion of his records on these autopsies.

50-96

575

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 12, 1964

1

Dr. WILLIAM PRESTON ^VFEATHERSTON, Pathologist, advised following his autopsies of the bodies removed from the earthen dam near Philadelphia, Mississippi, on August 4, 1964, that in his professional opinion death to each of the bodies was due to gunshot wound. In the case of Bodies #1 and #2, gunshot wounds to the chest were the causes of death. In the case of Body #3, which suffered three gunshot wounds, it was Dr. FEATHERSTON's professional opinion that death was due to the gunshot wound to the head of this body. Dr. FEATHERSTON could not establish the sequence of the three gunshot wounds of Body #3 and, in addition, could not establish the positions of any of the three bodies at the time of the gunshot wounds. Dr. FEATHERSTON stated that these determinations were precluded by the condition of the bodies.

[REDACTED]

b7c, b7D

Dr. FEATHERSTON stated that under Mississippi law he is required and permitted to file only two official copies of these autopsy reports. One copy is to go to the court of jurisdiction and the second copy to the County Attorney of jurisdiction. He stated, however, that he knew of no rule or regulation which would preclude his providing the FBI with an unsigned copy of his autopsy report recognizing that should an official copy be necessary in subsequent court action, the

On 8/5/64 at Jackson, Mississippi File # JN 44-1
by SA [REDACTED] mjh b7c Date dictated 8/11/64

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JN 44-1

2

Department of Justice would be able to legally obtain the official report. Dr. FEATHERSTON stated that as soon as the report was completed, he would furnish a copy to the Meridian office of the FBI.

JN 44-1

b7C [redacted] mjh
I

On August 14, 1964, an unsigned copy of the autopsy report prepared by Dr. WILLIAM P. FEATHERSTON, M.D., was received. This report covers the autopsy of each of the victims' bodies. It is set out as follows:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

all
b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

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b7c JN 44-1

mjh
I

On August 7, 1964, [REDACTED] for the National Council of Churches, advised SAC ROY K. MOORE, Jackson, Mississippi, that he is the attorney for Mrs. CHANEY, mother of victim JAMES EARL CHANEY. At this time he furnished SAC MOORE with a copy of a report entitled, "Post Mortem Examination Report of the Body of James Chaney." b7c, b7D

According to [REDACTED] the examination was conducted by Dr. DAVID M. SPAIN on August 7, 1964, at the University Medical School Hospital, Jackson, Mississippi, and witnessed by University of Mississippi Medical School Pathologists. b7c, b7D

[REDACTED] described Dr. SPAIN as the Chief of the Department of Pathology of the Brookdale Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York, Clinical Professor of Pathology, State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, and formerly a Medical Examiner, Westchester, New York. b7c, b7D

[REDACTED] advised one copy of this report was mailed to the "District Attorney," Neshoba County, Mississippi, and that the second copy of the report was being hand-carried by him to Mrs. CHANEY at Meridian, Mississippi, on the morning of August 8, 1964. b7c, b7D

The report furnished by [REDACTED] is set out as follows: b7c, b7D

[REDACTED]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 12, 1964

1

On August 5, 1964, the following items were prepared for shipment to the FBI Laboratory by SAs JAY COCHRAN, JR. and [REDACTED] b7C

Items Relating to Body Number One:

- Item 1 - First and second joints of each of fingers on this body.
- Item 2 - Skin removed from bottoms of feet.
- Item 3 - Clothing removed from body including wallet and cigarette lighter and 9 keys.
- Item 4 - Wedding ring removed from left ring finger Body Number One.
- Item 5 - Bullet removed from chest of Body Number One.
- Item 6 - Known hair samples taken from head of Body Number One.
- Item 7 - Portion of skin surrounding hole in chest of Body Number One.

Items Relating to Body Number Two:

- Item 8 - First and second joints of each of fingers of Body Number Two.
- Item 9 - Skin removed from bottoms of feet.
- Item 10- Clothing removed from body including wallet.
- Item 11- Bullet from chest area of Body Number Two.
- Item 12- Hair sample from head of Body Number Two.
- Item 13- Skin from area around hole in chest of Body Number Two.

Items Relating to Body Number Three:

- Item 14- First and second joints of each of fingers of Body Number Three.

On 8/5/64 at Jackson, Mississippi File # JN 44-1
by SAs JAY COCHRAN, JR. b7C
& [REDACTED] mjh 405 Date dictated 8/11/64

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(Items Relating to Body Number Three continued)

- Item 15 - Skin removed from bottoms of feet.
- Item 16 - Clothing removed from body including wallet.
- Item 17 - Skin section from area surrounding hole in chest area, Body Number Three.
- Item 18 - Bullet removed from center back of Body Number Three.
- Item 19 - Bullet removed from anterior abdominal wall.
- Item 20 - Bullet removed from head.

The packages containing these items were turned over to SA FREDERICK A. COOK for hand carrying to the FBI Laboratory at 7 a.m. on August 5, 1964.

In addition, contained in these packages were three 4 x 5 Tri-X exposed film packs, two rolls of Kodacolor-X 35 millimeter exposed film and one roll of Kodak Plus-X 35 millimeter exposed film for development by the Photographic Laboratory of the FBI in Washington, D. C.