



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MACK CHARLES PARKER

PART 1 OF 1

SUBJECT

MACK CHARLES PARKER

**FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE**

SUBJECT: MACK CHARLES PARKER

FILE: _____

SUB: _____

VOL: _____

PAGES REVIEWED: 370

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NOTES: _____

THE ABDUCTION OF MACK CHARLES PARLER
FROM THE PEARL RIVER COUNTY JAIL,
BOSTONVILLE, MISSISSIPPI,
APRIL 24 - 25, 1957

44-14401-475

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

	Page
NARRATIVE OF OFFENSE	1
I. DESCRIPTION OF CRIME SCENE	3
II. INDIVIDUALS AT COURTHOUSE FOLLOWING REDUCTION	21
A. W. OSBORNE MOODY, SHERIFF	21
B. HAROLD PIERRE CARVER, NIGHT MARSHAL	29
C. BOLIVAR F. ORR, CITY MARSHAL	35
D. ROBERT JAMES WHEAT	37
E. [REDACTED]	40
F. [REDACTED]	49
G. WILLIAM H. STEWART, COUNTY ATTORNEY	53
H. GEORGE VAUGHT MOODY, DEPUTY SHERIFF	59
I. JEWEL HAYSEL ALFORD, JAILER	64
J. HOUSTON AMACKER, JANITOR, COUNTY COURTHOUSE	66
K. HUBERT AMACKER, JANITOR, COUNTY COURTHOUSE	74
L. [REDACTED] MHSIP	77
III. WITNESSES	79
A. PRISONERS IN THE PEARL RIVER COUNTY JAIL	79
1. [REDACTED]	79
2. [REDACTED]	82
3. [REDACTED]	89
4. [REDACTED]	100
5. [REDACTED]	111
6. CHARLIE JAMES MONDY	115
7. [REDACTED]	124
8. [REDACTED]	131
9. [REDACTED]	135
B. OTHER WITNESSES	139
1. JOHN MEYER	
2. [REDACTED]	

C. INDIVIDUALS OVERHEARING CONVICTION
ATTENDANT TO ABDUCTION

146

1.	MRS. FORREST BURGE	146
2.	MISS ODELL LOWMEYER	149
3.	[REDACTED]	150
4.	[REDACTED]	151
5.	JOE REYER	153
6.	[REDACTED]	154
7.	[REDACTED]	155
8.	[REDACTED]	157
9.	[REDACTED]	161
10.	[REDACTED]	161
11.	[REDACTED]	162
12.	[REDACTED]	163
13.	[REDACTED]	163

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IV. LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF
MACK CHARLES PARKER

166

V. KNOWN AND SUSPECTED PARTICIPANTS IN
THE ABDUCTION OF MACK CHARLES PARKER

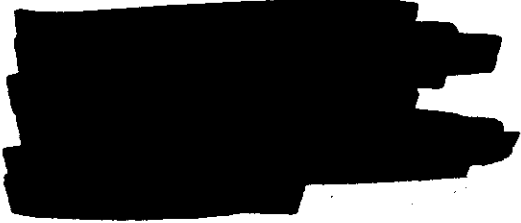
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A.	CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS REYER	178
B.	ARTHUR EUGENE SMITH	195
C.	JEWEL HAYSEL ALFORD	214
D.	FRANCIS M. BARKER	215
E.	JAMES FLOREN LEE, SR.	221
F.	JOHN P. WALKER	242
G.	[REDACTED]	257
H.	L. C. BRVIS	261
I.	JAMES FLOREN LEE, JR.	277
J.	GEORGE W. BEXTER, JR.	294
K.	[REDACTED]	303
L.	[REDACTED]	306
M.	[REDACTED]	308
N.	[REDACTED]	311
O.	[REDACTED]	317
P.	[REDACTED]	324
Q.	[REDACTED]	324

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R.
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Page

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

**SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION OF
THE ABDUCTION OF MACK CHARLES
PARKER FROM THE PEARL RIVER
COUNTY JAIL, POPLARVILLE, MISSISSIPPI,
APRIL 24-25, 1959**

On February 24, 1959, MACK CHARLES PARKER, a colored male, Lumberton, Mississippi, was arrested by City Marshal HAMOND H. SLADE, Lumberton, Mississippi, on charges of rape and kidnaping of Mrs. JUNE VIRGINIA MALTERS, a white female of Petal, Mississippi, early that morning south of Lumberton and in Pearl River County. PARKER was lodged in Hinds County Jail, Jackson, Mississippi, on February 24, 1959, for polygraph tests and was removed to the Pearl River County Jail, Poplarville, on April 13, 1959.

Between 11:30 PM, April 24, 1959, and about 12:15 AM, April 25, 1959, a band of hooded or masked men, eight to ten in number, entered the Pearl River County Jail, located in the Pearl River County Courthouse, this jail being unattended by a jailer during the night hours. These men forcibly removed PARKER from the jail and placed him in an automobile parked on the south side of the courthouse. PARKER's body was found in the Pearl River on the Mississippi side approximately two and one-half miles south of State Highway #26 on May 4, 1959. His identity was established through fingerprints. An autopsy disclosed that death occurred from a penetrating wound in the left auricle of the heart.

A "John Doe" warrant charging kidnaping of PARKER was issued by Justice of the Peace J. E. HOLCOMB, Poplarville, on April 25, 1959. A "John Doe" warrant charging murder of PARKER was issued on May 5, 1959, by Judge HOLCOMB. Both of these warrants were based on affidavits sworn to by Sheriff W. OSBORNE MOODY, Pearl River County.

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During the early morning hours following the abduction of PARKER, representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were informed of PARKER's abduction by Sheriff WOODY and members of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol.

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SUMMARY OF FBI INVESTIGATION

I. DESCRIPTION OF CRIME SCENE

The following ten charts were prepared by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] on April 28, 29, 30, and May 1, 1959, from observations and measurements, or from maps of the areas shown. b7c

Chart "A" was prepared from a current road map in the scale of the map. For comparison purposes, the distance between cities 1 and 7 is 23.5 miles. Names of the pertinent counties have been typed in. The charts on Poplarville, Mississippi, Charts "B" and "C", were taken from a local town map plus some detail from a map of the water mains. Chart "D" of the three block area from Main Street to Pine Street are approximate measurements with building details not shown. Chart "E" of the courthouse square and building is drawn closely to proportion as is Chart "F" showing Pearl River Hospital square. Charts "G" and "H" of the two floors of the courthouse are in proportion without unnecessary detail being shown. Charts "I" and "J" of the tiers of the jail are also in proportion with all pertinent detail shown.

North is shown as the top direction on A, B, and C making up the Mississippi area and town of Poplarville. Other charts have directions shown but, because of size or shape, they do not show north at the top.

Poplarville has a population of about 1900 and has not changed materially since the 1950 census. North Street generally divides the town from east to west, while Main Street, running north and south, is the division in the other direction.

The courthouse square is the center point of the town and faces on Main Street. Behind the courthouse, across South Julia Street, is the square containing the Pearl River Hospital and the County Health Building. Main Street runs down the south side of the courthouse, the hospital squares and West Willie Street and then the north side of the same squares. Pearl and Willie Streets continue west past South Strahan and South Pine Street and come to a dead end. Julia, Strahan, and Pine Streets come to North Street.

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12 going north after crossing Willie Street. North Street is,
13 Mississippi Highway 26 to Bogalusa, Louisiana, which is
14 twenty miles west of Poplarville. North Street crosses
15 United States Highway 11 about one-half mile west of Main
16 Street. This highway runs north to Hattiesburg, Mississippi
17 thirty-six miles away and south to Picayune, Mississippi
18 twenty-four miles away.

19
20 Julia, Strahan and Pine Streets go south
21 across Cumberland, also a dead end street, to Beers Street.
22 Highway 11 can be reached by going west on Beers Street.

23
24 In Chart "C", it will be noted that Main
25 Street continues south to Gulfport, Mississippi as State
26 Highway 53. At Michigan Avenue, State Highway 26 turns off
27 Main Street to go east to Wiggins, Mississippi. Going west
28 on Michigan Avenue would bring a car back to United States
29 Highway 11. These are all improved roads.

30
31 Chart "D" showing the three block area
32 bounded by Main, Pearl, Pine and Willie Streets shows the
33 relationship between the hospital and the courthouse and
34 shows two of the dead end streets which would limit get-
35 away routes.

36
37 Chart "E", showing the courthouse square, is
38 in proportion and all exterior detail is shown. This block
39 is approximately 175 feet square. The front entrance to the
40 courthouse is not used and is blocked on the inside by desks
41 and chairs. The south entrance is actually used as the main
42 entrance, although the north entrance is also used. The
43 building is three stories high with the entrance to the jail
44 portion being on the second floor. The jail portion of the
45 building is also three stories high with the two top floors
46 being used for a jail. The chink shown at the southeast
47 corner of the courthouse is so large that it extends almost
48 to the parking area and is about two stories in height.

49
50 The Pearl River Hospital building is one
51 story in height. The main entrance is on Julia Street
52 directly across the street from the jail, but the entrance
53 on the Pearl Street side is used by many doctors as it gives
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12 direct access to rooms on that side.

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14 Chart "G", showing the first floor of the
15 courthouse, shows the office of the Sheriff on the Main
16 Street side of the building. The larger part of his space
17 is a public room where records are kept. The small room to
18 the south of the public room is the Sheriff's private office
19 and contains the file cabinet in which the keys were
20 kept. The last small room has one window that is normally
21 open for ventilation of that room. This window cannot be
22 easily reached from the ground. The other open window shown
23 at the north end of the public room opens into the raised
24 section, forming the front entrance to the courthouse. To
25 enter through this window would only require stepping over
26 the sill.

27
28 There is a stairway at the south end of the
29 first floor just as shown at the north end, but this comes
30 up back of the courtroom and is not readily accessible to
31 the jail door. It therefore was not shown as taken above.

32
33 The second floor, Chart "H", shows the only
34 entrance to the jail. This entrance is in the courtroom
35 space and there are seats in the courtroom near the railing
36 back to the north end of the room. It is necessary to walk
37 around these seats to get from the jail door to the court-
38 room exit.

39
40 The jail is on two floors with the entrance
41 door being about half-way between the floors. The Negro
42 section is on the third floor, while the white section is
43 on the second floor. Both of these floors are shown on
44 Chart "I" and "J", with PARKER's cell being noted. The
45 windows at the south end of each jail floor are those
46 looking out over the street at the south side of the court-
47 house. There are similar windows on the north side.

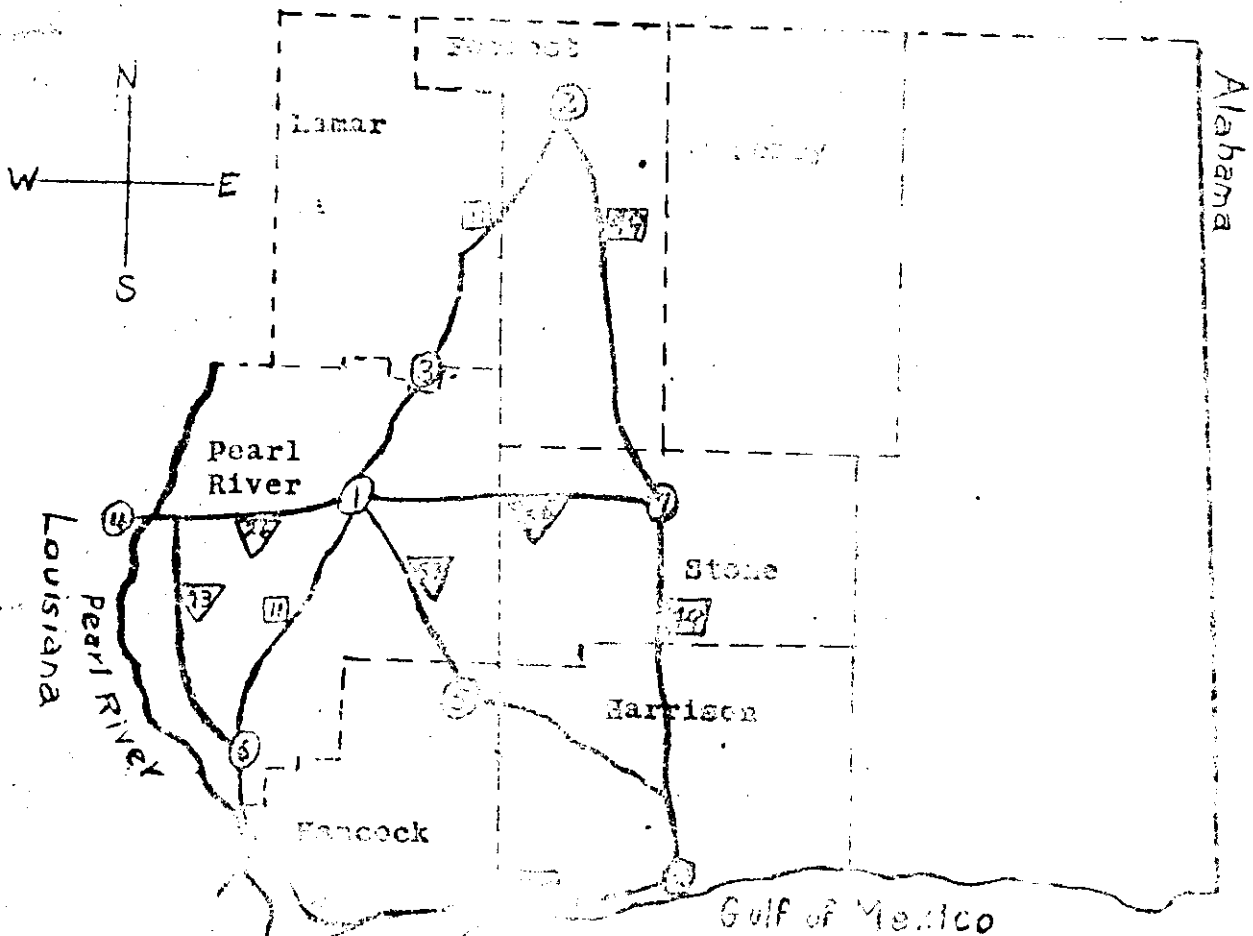
48
49 The route by which PARKER was taken from the
50 jail to Pearl Street at the south end of the city has been
51 marked by arrows on Charts "G", "H", "I", and "J", showing
52 the Negro section of the jail, seen from the north side of
53 the house, the first floor of the courthouse, and the courtroom
54 square.

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NO 44-1018

CHART "A"

PERTINENT MISSISSIPPI AREA



- 1. Poplarville
- 2. Nettie and Vestal
- 3. Rockledge
- 4. Bogalusa
- 5. Freedom
- 6. Bienville
- 7. Wiggins
- 8. Gulfport

 U. S. Roads
 Miss. Roads

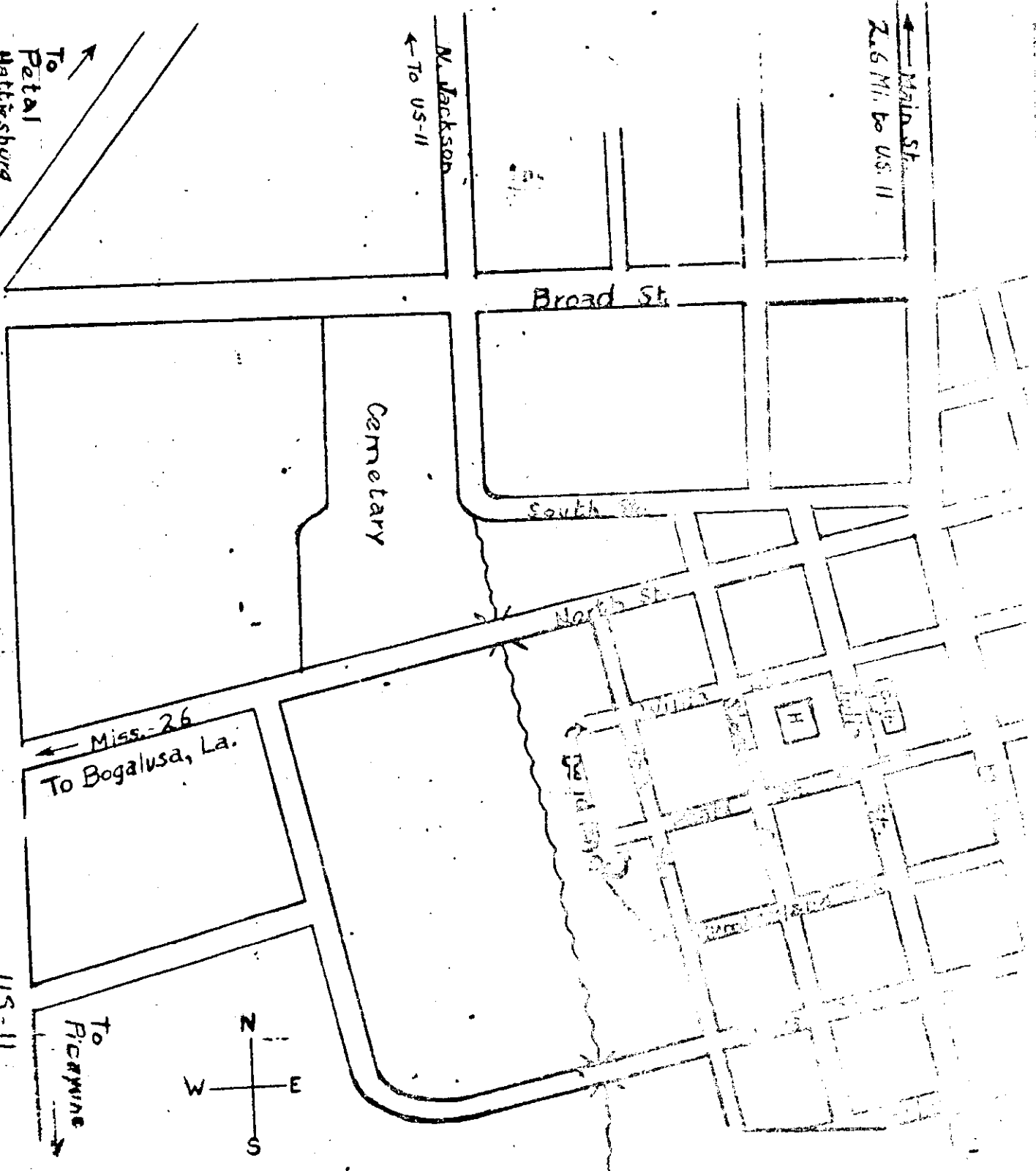
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CHART "B"

POPLARVILLE, MISS.

Business Area

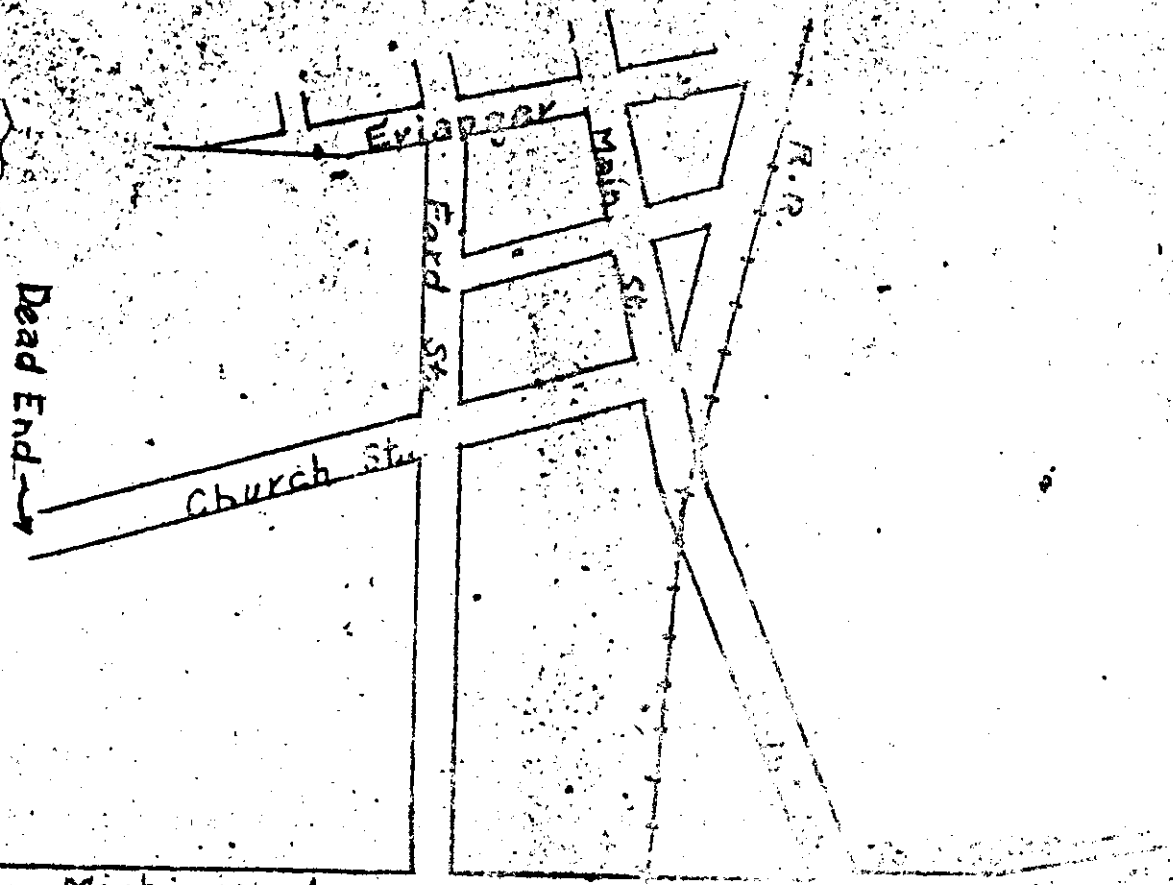
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CRAY NC

Michigan Ave



Michigan Ave
← To US-11



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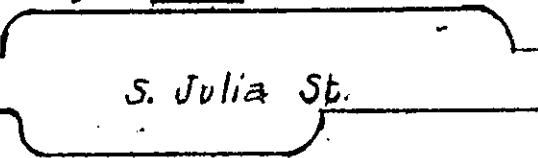
100 Main St.

100 W. Willie St.

100 W. Pizarri St.



Jail



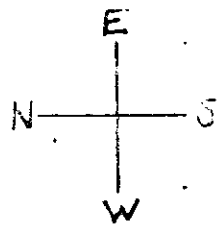
S. Julia St.

Health Bldg.



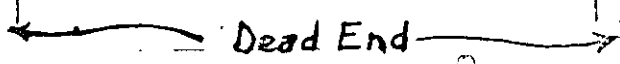
200

S. Strahan St.



300

S. Pine St.



Dead End

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NO 44-1018
CHART "E"

Main St.

Walk

Monument

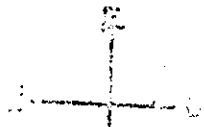
Paved

Court House

Jail

Parking

John St.



W.

100 W. Willie St.

100 W. F. St.

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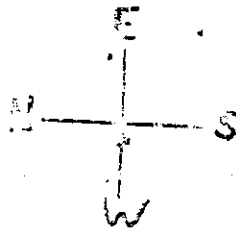
CHART "B"

S. Julia St.

Parking

County
Health
Dept.

Pearl River
Hospital



S. Strahan St.

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W. Willis St.

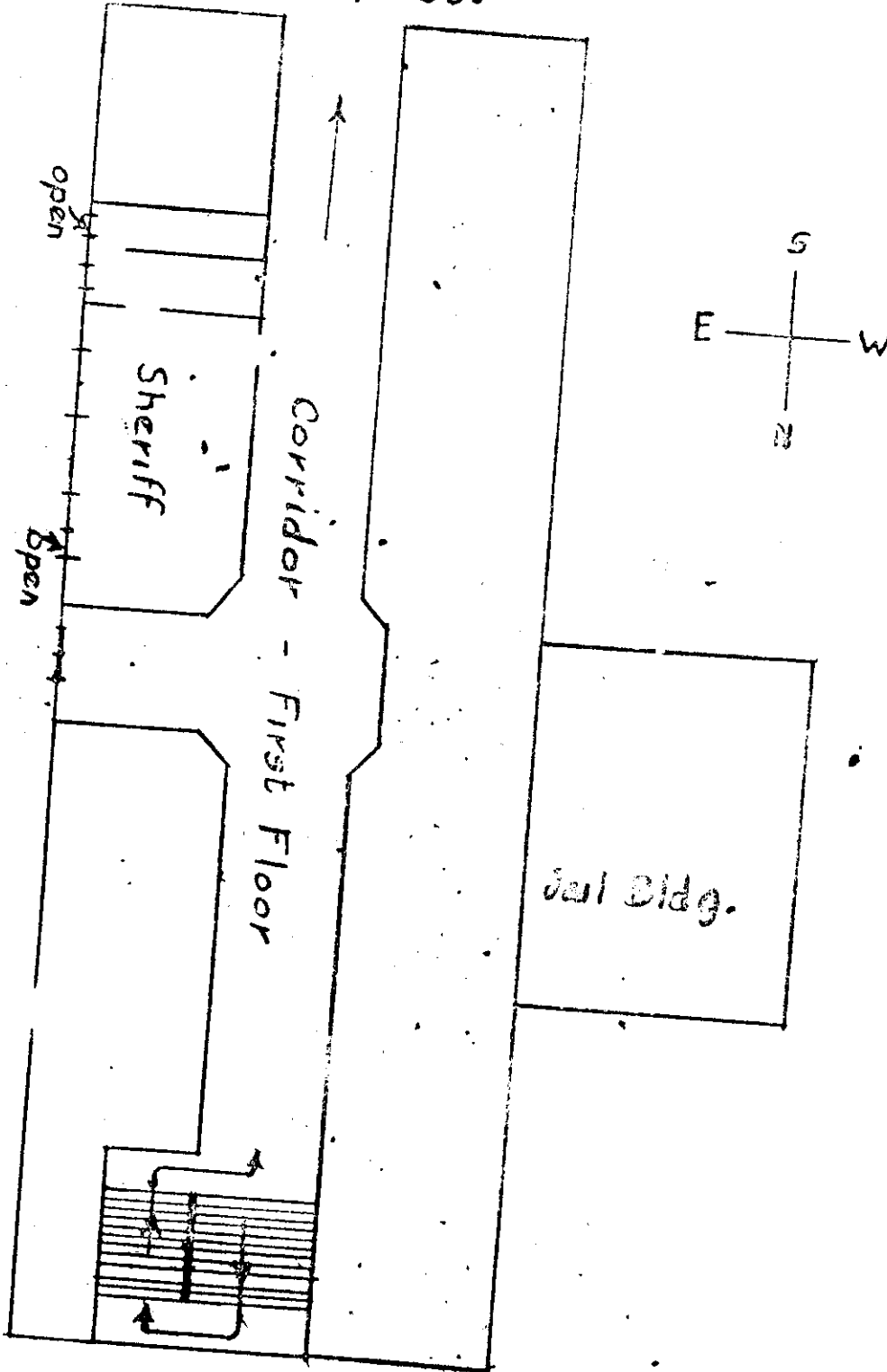
W. Pearl St.

NO 44-1018

CHART "G"

W. Pearl St.

Main St.



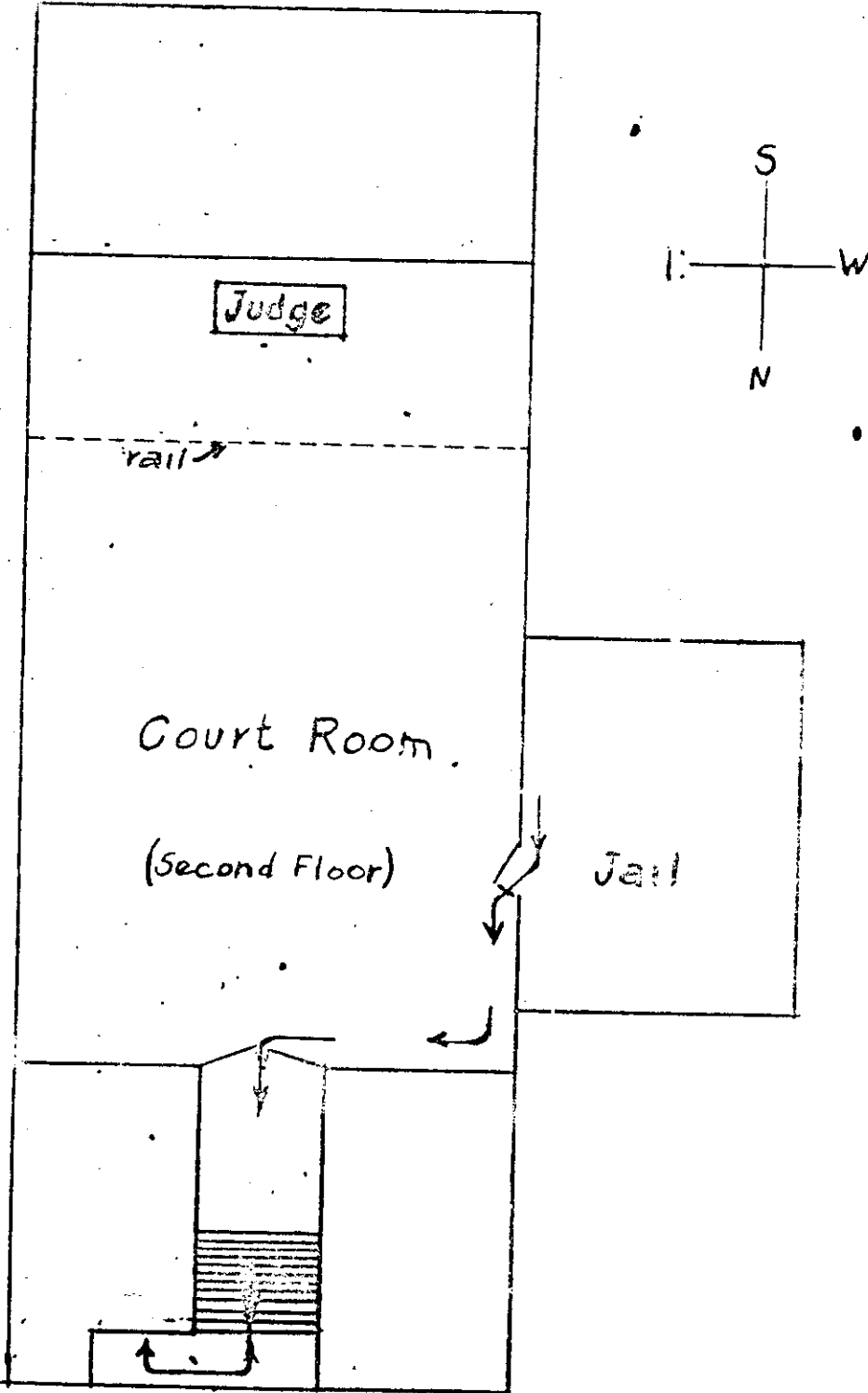
W. Willie St.

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CHART "H"

W. Pearl St



W. Willie St

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Upper Floor - Memo Room

Bell Room



Cell

Court Room

DOWN

Platform

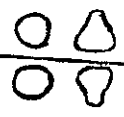
Down To W.

Cell (Parker)

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Windows

Bull Pen



Up - Negro

Platform

Down - White

Lower Tier - White Jail

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13 WILLIAM H. STEWART, County Attorney, Pearl
14 River County, Poplarville, advised Special Agents (SA's)
15 [redacted] and [redacted] on May 1, 1959, b7c
16 that, between 1:30 AM and 2:00 AM, on the morning of
17 April 25, 1959, he had taken photographs of the Pearl River
18 County Courthouse and the immediate area outside with a
19 Polaroid Camera. He stated that these photographs had been
20 fifteen in number and that he had turned the photographs
21 over to Deputy Sheriff GEORGE MOODY.

22
23 The photographs taken by Mr. STEWART were
24 obtained from Deputy Sheriff MOODY on May 1, 1959, by SA's
25 [redacted] and [redacted]. On this same date, Mr. STEWART identified
26 these photographs as follows:

- 27
28 #1. Taken from the north door of the
29 courtroom facing west into the
30 entrance to the jail showing a
31 trail where dust was disturbed
32 on the courtroom floor.
- 33
34 #2. Indicates the top of the West
35 flight of stairs outside north
36 door of the courtroom in the north
37 end of the courthouse showing
38 spots of blood.
- 39
40 #3. At the foot of the stairway in
41 the north end of the courthouse
42 showing bloodstains and smears on
43 the floor, which, according to
44 STEWART, indicate PARKER was dragged
45 south from this point.
- 46
47 #4. Same as #3, except [redacted] a slightly
48 greater distance into block [redacted].
- 49
50 #5. Taken from center corridor of the
51 courthouse with camera facing north,
52 showing bloodstains on the wall and
53 on wall, indicating PARKER had been
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12 dragged on the floor and had rubbed
13 against the east wall of the hall.

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15 #6. Taken from center of courthouse
16 corridor toward the east showing
17 the door to the Sheriff's Office
18 reflecting blood smears on the
19 floor and on the wall just outside
20 Sheriff's Office.

21
22 #7. Close-up view of blood smears
23 described above in #6.

24
25 #8. Photograph taken from center of
26 corridor in front of Sheriff's Office
27 door facing toward south door of the
28 courthouse and, according to STEWART,
29 blood smears in the hall indicating victim
30 dragged toward south door.

31
32 #9. Taken just outside the south door of
33 the courthouse facing north, a close-up
34 view of blood smears in an entrance
35 to the courthouse apparently made by
36 PARKER and also showing a visible heel-
37 print in the doorway.

38
39 #10. Taken from the top of the steps at
40 the south door of the courthouse facing
41 south showing bloodstains on the steps
42 indicating PARKER was dragged down these
43 steps.

44
45 #11. Taken at bottom of stairs leading
46 to the south door showing blood
47 splatters, which, according to
48 STEWART, indicate PARKER was probably
49 carried from the bottom of the stairs
50 rather than dragged.

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52 #12. View of blood splatters on hallway
53 between bottom of stairs to the
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12 south door and street.

13
14 #13. View of sidewalk in front of south
15 door to the courthouse showing blood
16 splatters and blood smears on sidewalk.

17
18 #14. Indicates blood splatters which were
19 just north of the splatters and blood
20 smears shown in photograph #13. These
21 splatters were between the bottom of
22 the stairs leading to the south door
23 to the courthouse and the blood shown
24 on the sidewalk in photograph #13.

25
26 #15. Shows curb, part of sidewalk, blood
27 on the sidewalk and curb and the absence
28 of blood in the street which, according
29 to STEWART, would indicate PARKER was
30 placed in car which was immediately
31 adjacent to this curb.

32 The above-described photographs are attached.

33
34 On April 27, 1959, Patrolman T. Y. THOMAS,
35 Mississippi Highway Safety School (MSP), Pleasure, Miss-
36 sissippi, advised SA [REDACTED] that he made photo-
37 graphs inside and outside the Pearl River County Courthouse
38 about 2:30 AM on the morning of April 25, 1958. Patrolman
39 THOMAS described these photographs as follows:
40

41
42 #1. Northeast corner of the Pearl River
43 County Sheriff's Office, showing northeast
44 corner window partially open.

45
46 #2. Photograph taken from Pearl Street
47 looking north toward the north
48 entrance of the Pearl River County
49 Courthouse. Photograph shows stairs
50 leading from Pearl Street to the north
51 entrance of the courthouse.

52
53 #3. First floor corridor of Pearl River
54 County Courthouse; photograph taken

11
12 looking in a northeasterly direction.
13 Doorway in upper right hand corner of
14 photograph is entrance to Sheriff's
15 Office.

- 16
17 #4. First floor corridor and stairway in
18 northern section of Pearl River County
19 Courthouse.
20
21 #5. First floor corridor of Pearl River
22 County Courthouse, looking in a northerly
23 direction along corridor.
24
25 #6. First floor corridor of Pearl River
26 County Courthouse; photograph taken at
27 south entrance, looking in a northerly
28 direction.
29
30 #7. Photograph taken in courtroom, second
31 floor, Pearl River County Courthouse,
32 photograph being of outer door leading
33 from courtroom into cell block proper.
34

35 Patrolman THOMAS advised that the negatives
36 of these photographs would be filed in the MISSP at Jackson,
37 Mississippi, re MACK CHARLES PARKER case. The photographs
38 were taken with a Crown Graphic 4 X 5 on Tri-X Film.
39

40 Copies of the above-described photographs are
41 attached.

42
43 On April 27, 1959, SA's [redacted] and [redacted] b7c
44 [redacted] searched the jail area and the route by which
45 PARKER was taken to a car at the south side of the courthouse.
46

47 A garbage can in the Negro bull pen of the
48 jail contained a broken broom handle on which appeared to be
49 bloodstains. The garbage can also had what appeared to be a
50 smear of blood on the side. This smear was scraped off with
51 a penknife.
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12 A mattress cover from one of the jail bunks
13 had on it what appeared to be bloodstains and these stains
14 were scraped off with a knife.

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16 The interior of the bars at the exit to the
17 stairway going down to the platform also had some faint
18 stains, which were scraped off. No other stains were found
19 in the jail or any place else in the courthouse which
20 appeared to be bloodstains.

21
22 Outside the courthouse, where the concrete
23 walkway met the gutter at the street, there appeared to be
24 some bloodstains on some grass. This stained grass was
25 taken up with a knife. In a gutter immediately below this
26 stained grass, there was a brown stain, which was taken up
27 with the possibility that it might be a bloodstain.

28
29 The above evidence was submitted to the FBI
30 Laboratory, April 28, 1959.

31
32 No latent fingerprints were located at the
33 crime scene, and witnesses indicated that immediately follow-
34 ing the abduction and prior to the investigation by the FBI
35 numerous persons were milling around in the area. It is also
36 noted that the abductors, according to witnesses, were wearing
37 gloves.

38
39 The FBI Laboratory, in a report dated May 6,
40 1959, concerning the evidence referred to above, advised that
41 human blood from either a Group "O" or a Group "A" person
42 was found on the broomstick. Scrapings from the mattress
43 cover, from the garbage can and from the grass clippings
44 from the edge of the curb were also determined to be blood
45 from a Group "O" or Group "A" person.

46
47 It is to be noted that immediately after the dis-
48 closed that, on the early morning of April 28, 1959, a
49 trusty in the jail and janitors of the courthouse, using
50 soap and water, cleaned up the jail and the courthouse, and
51 courthouse, thereby removing most of the evidence at the
52 crime scene by the abductors.

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12 **II. INDIVIDUALS AT CONFERENCES**
13 **FOLLOWING ABDUCTION**

14
15 **A. W. OSBORNE MOODY,**
16 **Sheriff, Pearl River County**

17
18 Sheriff MOODY was interviewed on April 25,
19 26, and 28, 1959, by SA [redacted] and [redacted]
20 [redacted] and on April 27 and 29, 1959, by SA's [redacted] b7c
21 [redacted], and [redacted]. He furnished the
22 following information concerning his activities on the night
23 of April 24, 1959 and the morning of April 25, 1959:
24

25 On Friday evening, April 24, 1959, he and his
26 wife went to the home of his son, Deputy Sheriff GEORGE
27 MOODY, at Poplarville, where his wife was baby-sitting for
28 the son. He advised after leaving GEORGE MOODY's home he
29 arrived home at about 11:50 PM, and shortly thereafter, exact
30 time not noted, he received a telephone call from a nurse at
31 the Pearl River County Hospital in Poplarville, whose name
32 he could not recall. This individual advised that there was
33 considerable noise in the jail located directly across the
34 street from the hospital and that it appeared like one of the
35 prisoners might be fighting. During the course of this call,
36 the nurse stated that the noise had suddenly ceased and
37 the lights in the jail had gone out. He said he would go and
38 check it as it was probably a fight. He had no reason to
39 hurry, so he did not put his clothes on in a big hurry and
40 took his time driving to the jail from his home, about eight
41 miles west of Poplarville on the Bogalusa, Louisiana road.
42

43 Upon arriving in Poplarville, the time
44 estimated to be about 1:00 AM, April 25, 1959, the Sheriff
45 drove to the hospital and saw a small group of people stand-
46 ing there, consisting of WALTER GERRARD, Night Watchman, E. F.
47 GRIFF, Day Marshal, [redacted] b7c
48 [redacted] and a man known to him as [redacted]. He did not pay too
49 much attention to this group at this time, but the next day
50 did occur to him that something serious must be going on because
51 the Day Marshal, E. F. GRIFF, was rarely out of the jail.
52 He stopped and asked the group what had happened and [redacted]
53 in the group spoke up and said, "They got the nigger."
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12 He drove around and parked at the south side
13 of the courthouse and noted the door was open at the south
14 end of the courthouse. He saw some blood on the steps, in
15 the hall and all along the hall to the steps leading up-
16 stairs from the north end of the courthouse and it appeared
17 to him that some bloody object or person had been dragged
18 down the entire length of the hall. He later noted this
19 blood trail led upstairs through the courtroom and in the
20 jail cell.

21
22 He also noted that the lights were off in the
23 main hall leading from the north to the south portion of the
24 courthouse and the lights in his office were also off. It
25 is customary to leave at least one light on in the Sheriff's
26 Office and to leave one or more lights burning in the hall.

27
28 Sheriff MOODY had to use a flashlight in
29 order to see when he went into the hall and into his office.
30 The hall door of his office was locked. When he got into
31 his office, he noted the bathroom window was open and that
32 the northeast window in his office, which leads off the east
33 portion of the courthouse, was open. It is customary to
34 close these windows each night and they are secured by hook
35 and eye located on each side of the window at the bottom.
36 In order for someone to force these windows from the outside,
37 it would be necessary for them to break the glass, reach
38 inside and release these hooks. He was unable to state
39 whether or not these windows had been closed and secured the
40 night previous.

41
42 He noticed no sign which would indicate
43 entrance to his office had been gained through the northeast
44 window, but it was his opinion the persons had probably used
45 this window because the window in the bathroom, which was
46 open, is some distance from the ground. He also saw no
47 indication that the bathroom had been used. MOODY pointed
48 out that the jail keys are, as a rule, maintained in the top
49 drawer of a metal four-drawer file cabinet, located on the
50 west side of his office, across the office from his desk.
51 The key to this file cabinet is usually kept in the top
52 left-hand drawer of his desk, which is a padlock. There-
53 fore, the usual procedure in going to the jail is to take the
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12 file cabinet key from the desk drawer, open the file cabinet,
13 remove the jail keys from the top drawer of the file cabinet,
14 and then proceed to the jail.
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16 When Sheriff MOODY first came into his office
17 he reached for his personal key to the file cabinet, which
18 he carries on his key chain or person, and then noticed the
19 upper drawer of the file cabinet was open a few inches.
20 At first he did not notice whether the key to the file
21 cabinet, which is usually kept in the desk drawer, was in
22 the lock. However, the next time he noticed this file
23 cabinet, it was in an unlocked position and the key was in
24 the lock. He could not state whether the key was in this
25 lock when he first came into his office, but stated it could
26 very well have been there and probably was. He looked into the
27 drawer, noted the jail keys were missing and proceeded upstairs
28 to the jail.
29

30 On the way to the jail, he was met in the
31 hall by B. F. ORR, Day Marshal of Poplarville, who handed
32 him the jail keys, which he identified as the keys which had
33 been regularly maintained in his office. ORR stated he had
34 found these keys where members of the mob had apparently
35 dropped them. Upon arriving at the jail, Sheriff MOODY
36 noted the front door to the jail was locked and closed.
37 This door is equipped with a night latch which will lock
38 when drawn closed and members of the mob could have locked
39 the door by closing it.
40

41 Sheriff MOODY inquired of the prisoners
42 as to what had happened and they told him a group of masked
43 men had taken "M. C.", that they had keys with them and
44 they were wearing white gloves. He talked to the prisoners
45 hurriedly, but they said one of the men seemed to be fumbling
46 around with the lock on the outside door as though he did not
47 know which key to use.
48

49 One of the Negro prisoners named [redacted]
50 informed Sheriff MOODY that he said to [redacted] when the masked
51 men came in, "M. C., they must be after you." [redacted]
52 the stairs, tried several keys before they got the door open,
53 asked where M. C. was and wanted to know how do you get in
54 there."
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12 Negro prisoner [redacted] claimed he showed
13 members of the mob how to open the cell door by unlocking
14 a metal box containing levers which open the cell door
15 to PARKER's cell. The prisoners said members of the mob
16 changed keys while trying to open this box, that the first
17 key did not work, indicating they did not know which key
18 opened the box. b7c

19
20 The Negro prisoners said there were eight
21 or nine members of the mob. A white woman prisoner said
22 some of the men stayed in the courtroom and she could see
23 some of them wearing different colored handkerchiefs and
24 masks.

25
26 A small group of people accompanied the
27 Sheriff when he went to the jail. Among this group were
28 PETE CARVER, B. F. ORR, Day Marshal, one or two of the
29 WHEAT men and several others.

30
31 Sheriff MOODY noticed plenty of blood in
32 the halls and other places and remarked there would be
33 blood in the car used to carry PARKER away.

34
35 The first thing Sheriff MOODY did upon
36 returning to his office was to call [redacted] Patrolman,
37 MHSF, and ask him to get other stations and boys alerted to
38 stop all cars and be on the lookout for a car with
39 blood in any car. Next, he called SA [redacted] b7c
40 and thought perhaps he had called the wrong person, he
41 then called his home number and the line was busy. He
42 then telephoned VERNON BROOME, District Attorney; WHEAT DARR,
43 Circuit Judge; Governor J. P. COLEMAN and [redacted]
44 [redacted] told SA [redacted] a mob had taken PARKER.

45
46 Shortly after the Sheriff had made these
47 telephone calls, JOHN [redacted] came into the Sheriff's office
48 and sat down. A number of other people were there at the
49 time, including the individuals previously mentioned.
50 [redacted] J. WHEAT, PETE CARVER, B. F. ORR and [redacted] b7c
51 [redacted] The Sheriff inquired if anything had
52 happened. PETE CARVER said he had had [redacted]
53 at the time.

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12 JOHN REYER said he had driven up to the
13 hospital at about the time of the commotion in the jail
14 and had gone on around to the south entrance to the
15 courthouse and had gotten pretty close to the mob. He
16 could not tell who they were as they were all masked,
17 however, one or two of them who had been using handker-
18 chiefs to mask the lower portion of their faces had
19 apparently let their masks slip down before they got to
20 the car and he could see part of their faces. However,
21 REYER told Sheriff MOODY he had never seen them before.

22
23 REYER told Sheriff MOODY he did not have
24 an opportunity to tell whether or not the cars were using
25 license plates, but he did not see any license plates. In
26 answer to Sheriff MOODY's further questioning, REYER
27 stated the men had just flushed, one car went north, one
28 south and one west, and that all together he thought that
29 probably three or four cars left the scene immediately after
30 the mob came out of the courthouse.

31
32 REYER was unable to describe the men or the
33 cars, but did reiterate he did not know any of the men.

34
35 REYER could tell that at least two of the
36 men whose masks had slipped were white men. He did not
37 notice whether the men were wearing gloves.

38
39 All of the other individuals who had been in
40 and around the Sheriff's Office claim they did not see
41 members of the mob, REYER being the only one who claimed he
42 had seen them. Sheriff MOODY did not recall questioning
43 the [redacted] man. A little while later Sheriff MOODY got in
44 to see JIM ALFORD, the jailer, and a GUS V. MOODY,
45 who is a plain officer deputy and they proceeded to the
46 jail and helped search.

47
48 WILLIAM STEWART, County Jail warden, was also
49 present at the jail shortly after the shooting but he and
50 the Sheriff noted he, STEWART, made some photographs of
51 blood at various parts of the courthouse. When questioned
52 MOODY did not question any of the men at the hospital.

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13 Sheriff MOODY said that on April 25, 1959
14 HOUSTON AMACKER, janitor at the courthouse, told him the
15 doors of the courthouse at the north end of the hall could
16 not be opened from the inside with a key. This was the
17 first time any trouble had been experienced in opening
18 these doors from the inside with a key. They could still
19 be opened from the outside.

20
21 On May 1, 1959, these doors were examined by
22 Agents and no marks or scratches were found to indicate that
23 the doors had been forced.

24
25 Sheriff MOODY said it is customary for the
26 jail to be last checked as a rule at about 6:00 P. M. at
27 the latest. Thereafter, at night no one goes to the jail
28 unless summoned by the prisoners or unless it is necessary
29 to place a prisoner in the jail at night.

30
31 He said it has been customary for a long
32 time for the prisoners to call over to the hospital in any
33 emergency and arrangements have been made with the nurses
34 to call him when the prisoners call over to the hospital.

35
36 Sheriff MOODY advised he had no suspects;
37 that numerous people had inquired of him as to whether PARKER
38 was in the jail and he had told all of them PARKER was in the
39 jail and remarked that PARKER was brought back to the jail
40 on April 13, 1959, from the Hinds County Jail in Jackson,
41 Mississippi.

42
43 With reference to suspects having knowledge of
44 the location of various keys, MOODY informed any number of
45 people from all parts of the United States who had ever been
46 booked and placed in the jail and numerous people who had
47 appeared to make bonds for prisoners would have had an
48 opportunity to have witnessed the procedure in securing the
49 jail keys in his office, and he could see nothing signifi-
50 cant for this reason in view of the fact that the jail
51 keys were found outside.

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53 In further commenting on the jail keys,
54 Sheriff MOODY stated that, when PARKER was first brought to
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13 the jail, it was decided that for security purposes it
14 would be advisable for the jailer, JENSEN ALFORD, to retain
15 the jail keys in his personal possession and not leave them
16 in the file cabinet as customary. He said ALFORD had these
17 keys in his possession at all times for two or three days
18 after PARKER was lodged at the jail. ALFORD discussed the
19 matter with him, pointing out he was afraid that, if a mob
20 did come to get M. C. PARKER, they would force him to give
21 them the keys even though he buried them in the yard and
22 would endanger his personal safety. Sheriff MOODY said he
23 then discussed this matter with Circuit Judge SELL DALE and
24 that Judge DALE told him to go back to the regular routine
25 of leaving the keys in his office and, further, that in the
26 event someone did attempt to remove PARKER from the jail no
27 action should be taken which would endanger any law enforce-
28 ment officer. Judge DALE further remarked he did not expect
29 any violence in connection with this case.
30

31
32 Sheriff MOODY advised the Grand Jury was in
33 session in Pearl River County in April, 1959, and made their
34 usual routine inspection of the courthouse county jail and
35 other county property on or about April 10th or 15th. He
36 said that, while the Grand Jury consists of all men, it is
37 customary that, when an inspection such as this is made of
38 the jail, some of the female employees in the courthouse will
39 accompany them through the jail out of personal curiosity
40 and that such probably happened during the last inspection.
41

42 Sheriff MOODY advised there were no organized
43 search parties conducting searches in the area, although he
44 had personally driven through all the nearby country roads
45 as well as his deputies, officers of the USM, and other local
46 citizens immediately after learning of PARKER's abduction.
47 Sheriff MOODY advised that within a short time after learn-
48 ing of the abduction, he went personally to the scene where
49 PARKER had allegedly raped Mrs. BARKER and had located no
50 evidence indicating that PARKER's abductors may have taken
51 him to that area.

52 Sheriff MOODY advised that he had received
53 a telephone call on April 13 or April 14, 1959, which is
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12 thought was a local call, from an individual who declined
13 to identify himself. This person, whom he felt sure to
14 have been a man, said he had heard rumors that some people
15 in Hattiesburg were upset about the case since a trial of
16 PARKER would necessitate cross-examination of the rape
17 victim, JUNE WALTERS, by a Negro attorney.

18 As a result of this call, MOODY stated he
19 had a conversation with Circuit Judge SEBE DALE at Poplar-
20 ville on either April 13 or April 14, 1959, at which time
21 he informed Judge DALE of the context of the call and of
22 the fact that he was concerned for PARKER's safety. He
23 asked Judge DALE's advice about telephoning Governor J. P.
24 COLEMAN at Jackson, Mississippi, and requesting the
25 presence of National Guard troops at PARKER's arraignment.
26 He stated Judge DALE said he did not feel that such action
27 was warranted, as he felt that the people would not molest
28 PARKER. Accordingly, Sheriff MOODY stated he took no
29 further action toward notifying Governor COLEMAN.
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13 B. HAROLD PIERRE CARVER, JR.

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15 HAROLD PIERRE CARVER, JR., also known as PETE
16 CARVER, was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was interviewed on April
18 27, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
19 He was again interviewed on April 27, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. CARVER advised that he re- b7c
21 sides on South Julia Street in Poplarville, Mississippi, and
22 that he has been Night Marshal in this town for the past seven
23 years. He furnished the following information concerning his
24 activities on the night of April 24, 1959:

25
26 On Friday night, April 24, 1959, he came to
27 work at about 9:00 PM, at which time he stopped by the Star
28 Cafe in Poplarville to let them know that he would be on the
29 streets and around town. He went to the Pearl River Junior
30 College between 10:00 and 10:30 PM to fill the tank while at
31 the school talked to R. J. WHEAT and [REDACTED] and
32 told them he would pick them up when they were done work at
33 the college at 11:00 PM. He said [REDACTED]
34 [REDACTED] who is generally seen [REDACTED] in
35 and about Poplarville. His general procedure is to go to
36 the school three or four times a week and always on Friday
37 night where he picks up both [REDACTED] and WHEAT to ride
38 with him on his rounds. Neither [REDACTED] nor WHEAT have
39 any police powers but merely accompany [REDACTED] for assistance.

40
41 At approximately 11:00 PM, he picked up [REDACTED]
42 [REDACTED] and WHEAT at the college and went directly to the [REDACTED]
43 Service Station on Highway 11, north of the intersection of
44 Highways 11 and 26, for coffee. They returned to town at ap- b7c
45 proximately 11:10 PM, and saw two men walking on a back street
46 behind the Star Cafe. They did not pay much attention to the
47 identity of these two men and he is unable to describe either
48 of the men other than to say one of them was wearing khaki
49 pants. Since there is an agreement between CARVER and E. W.
50 ORR, the Day Marshal, that if anything unusual is seen by
51 CARVER he is to wake up ORR and bring him to town, he, CARVER,
52 went to ORR's home to wake him after seeing these two men. As
53 they went by the Mississippi Power Company, located on Main
54 Street at the corner of Cumberland, he also observed two men
55 standing on this corner. He recalled having seen three men
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13 talking to [REDACTED] at the door of the Star Cafe earlier
14 in the evening and recognized these two women as being two
15 of the women who had been talking to [REDACTED] earlier in
16 the evening. Because of their apparent acquaintanceship with
17 [REDACTED] he did not place any particular significance
18 on their presence on the street at approximately 11:30 PM. b2c

19
20 Before going to get ORR, CARVER rode around
21 several blocks and out Main Street under the underpass and
22 back to town and estimated it was approximately 11:30 PM when
23 he went to get B. F. ORR at his home. Upon arriving at ORR's
24 home, he left WHEAT and [REDACTED] in the car and he walked b2c
25 through the garage to a back window in ORR's bedroom and
26 awakened ORR. He then returned to the car and waited for ORR
27 to get dressed and join them. He estimated that this took
28 approximately five or ten minutes.

29
30 Upon arriving at the car, ORR suggested that
31 they have a cup of coffee. They proceeded to the Amoco Ser-
32 vice Station north of Poplarville on Route 11, arriving there
33 at approximately 11:45 PM. He does not recall the exact route
34 taken from ORR's to the Amoco Station but recalls definitely
35 that they did not pass the courthouse while en route.

36
37 They left the Amoco Service Station at approxi-
38 mately midnight and as they were leaving the station, the motor
39 of the car went dead. It took several minutes to get the car
40 started and they then proceeded to Poplarville, passing down
41 the main street in front of the courthouse. When passing the
42 courthouse, he noticed no unusual activity. Upon passing the
43 Star Cafe on the main street of Poplarville, he noticed that
44 [REDACTED] was motioning to him to stop. He stopped and b2c
45 [REDACTED] a woman had phoned requesting that CARVER be asked
46 to come to the jail. [REDACTED] did not say that it was urgent.
47 He proceeded to the jail by turning left by the Marine Yachtie.
48 After making the block, he proceeded up Main Street past the
49 courthouse and turned left on the north side of the courthouse
50 after which he made another left turn, coming in behind the
51 courthouse and in front of the hospital.

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53 Upon stopping, he saw several people on the
54 front walk of the hospital and to the best of his recollection,
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12 JOHN REYER, [REDACTED] boy, DEMPSE BERGE, ODELL
13 LOVELESS, and possibly [REDACTED] comprised the group stand- b7c
14 ing on the walk. He told W. J. WHEAT to get out and see
15 what they wanted. WHEAT, upon leaving the car, walked up
16 to the crowd and he, CARVER, heard someone say "They got
17 the nigger out of jail." CARVER asked "What nigger?" and
18 someone said "The nigger in jail." Someone in the crowd
19 said W. O. MOODY, the Sheriff, was on the way to the jail.
20 CARVER did not get out of the car until the Sheriff arrived.
21 Someone in CARVER's car asked if they were sure they had
22 gotten him. REYER said that they had because he walked down
23 the street where he could see them bring him out and put him
24 in the back seat of a car. CARVER asked what type car was
25 used and REYER said the car was blue and grey and someone
26 else in the crowd said it was blue and white. He thinks some-
27 one said the car was at the curb at the south entrance to the
28 courthouse. Later, he examined the spot where he had been
29 told the car was parked and he observed skid marks indicating
30 that the car had gone west on Pearl Street as it left the
31 courthouse. He also heard someone in the crowd make the state-
32 ment that four or five cars had been involved and that
33 these cars left the area traveling in all directions.

34
35 After the arrival of Sheriff MOODY, all of
36 the men in CARVER's car and those in the crowd on the side-
37 walk went with the Sheriff to the courthouse and entered it
38 through the south entrance. He noticed that the door at the
39 south entrance was partially open and he pointed out that
40 this door is normally locked. After entering the courthouse,
41 the Sheriff went to his office where he approached the cabinet
42 in his private office and upon looking in a drawer, said the
43 keys were gone. B. P. CRR then said that perhaps the keys
44 were upstairs.

45
46 CARVER saw blood on the steps outside of the
47 courthouse, a handprint in blood on the top step, and a blood
48 smear on the door at the south entrance to the courthouse. He
49 saw the window located on the north side of the Sheriff's
50 Office was open and pointed out that the lights in the Sheriff's
51 Office are normally left on and that this window which was open
52 could be seen from the street. He stated that at he had been
53 passing the courthouse earlier in the night, he had failed to
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11 notice whether or not this window was open in the Sheriff's
12 Office.

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14 After the Sheriff had determined that there
15 were no keys in the cabinet in his office, everyone in the
16 group went upstairs at which time the Sheriff unlocked the
17 wooden door from the courtroom into the jail. The Sheriff
18 proceeded halfway up the metal stairs leading to the upper
19 portion of the jail and asked the prisoners what had happened.
20 One of the prisoners replied that they had gotten PARKER.
21 The Sheriff asked what had been done with the keys and the
22 prisoners said they took the keys with them. CARVER did not
23 observe the Sheriff entering the door at the top of the stairs.
24 He did not notice any large quantity of blood in the jail it-
25 self.

26
27 After the Sheriff had obtained this informa-
28 tion, everyone returned to the first floor of the courthouse
29 at which time the Sheriff returned to his office. CARVER,
30 [REDACTED] WHEAT, and ORR went outside the south entrance
31 of the courthouse at which time B. F. ORR found the keys just
32 outside the door.

33
34 CARVER, ORR, R. J. WHEAT, and [REDACTED] then
35 went to the City Hall in Poplarville where ORR phoned the
36 Sheriff in Purvis, Mississippi, HAM STARR at Lubberton, Miss-
37 sissippi, and BILL STEWART, County Prosecuting Attorney in
38 Poplarville, to advise them of the abduction. CARVER then
39 phoned the Sheriff's Office and was advised that they were
40 preparing to ride the roads around Poplarville and he advised
41 them that he would assist in this riding of the roads.

42
43 CARVER, [REDACTED] and R. J. WHEAT then
44 rode out on Highway 53 south to the first gravel road where
45 they turned right and proceeded to the Wolf River bridge.
46 They drove around the back roads in this vicinity for approxi-
47 mately one hour and then returned to Poplarville. In their
48 coverage of the back roads, they noticed nothing pertinent
49 to the abduction.

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51 When asked whether he would furnish a signed
52 statement concerning his activities as outlined above, CARVER
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11 said that although the facts he furnished were true, he did
12 not desire to sign a statement until he had cleared with B.
13 F. ORR.

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15 When asked concerning his views on the abduction
16 of PARKER, CARVER said that he did not believe that it
17 was perpetrated by persons from Poplarville. He was unable
18 to furnish any definite opinion as to the locality in which
19 he believed the abductors might live. It was pointed out to
20 him that someone in the group apparently was familiar with
21 the location of the keys to the jail and he said that he had
22 also considered this fact and had concluded that there is a
23 good possibility that someone in Poplarville had either fur-
24 nished this information to a group or was involved in the mob
25 that took PARKER from the jail.

26
27 He said that in his opinion while the people
28 in Poplarville do not condone the activities of April 24, 1959,
29 he does not feel that they will cooperate in any investigation
30 since the identifying of the subjects might result in involving
31 someone from Poplarville. He said that he personally deplored
32 the abduction and felt very strongly that PARKER should have
33 been granted a fair trial. He added, however, that if PARKER
34 had been convicted and had subsequently been released as a
35 result of the reversal of such a conviction, he might feel that
36 some drastic action should be taken to punish PARKER.

37
38 He said that the information furnished by him
39 concerning his activities was complete and that nothing had
40 occurred that evening to the best of his recollection which
41 he had not reported. He said that the people of Poplarville
42 were not "worked up" over the alleged rape committed by PARKER
43 since neither PARKER nor the victim were local people. He
44 added that he had heard no discussion around town concerning
45 the possibility of a lynching and in his opinion if there
46 had been any such discussion or any plans made for a lynching,
47 he definitely would have received information concerning it.

48
49 CARVER stated that it is a common practice for [redacted] b7c
50 and R. J. WHEAT to ride with him on his rounds
51 and it is also common for him to notify B. F. ORR when he
52 observes any suspicious strangers in town. He emphatically
53 denied that he had any indication that there would be trouble
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13 at the courthouse and stated positively that the only reason
14 he got ORR was the fact that he had seen two strange men on
15 Julia Street.

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17 Near the completion of the interview of April
18 27, 1959, with SA's [redacted] and [redacted] CARVER said that
19 there were two items of information which he had failed to
20 furnish. One was the fact that immediately prior to going
21 to ORR's house at approximately 11:30 PM, on April 24, 1959,
22 he observed a 1953 or 1954 blue and gray Chevrolet on Main
23 Street near the courthouse. This car did not have a license
24 plate and was occupied by three or more males. He was unable
25 to state whether the car was blue on top or blue on the bottom,
26 whether it was a two-door or a four-door, or furnish any ad-
27 ditional descriptive data on the car. He also said that he
28 could not furnish any descriptive data concerning the occupants,
29 their physical characteristics, or their wearing apparel. He
30 denied that the seeing of this car was his reason for going
31 to ORR's house. CARVER was questioned in great detail concern-
32 ing this car and its occupants and the possibility that there
33 may have been additional cars seen by him in the vicinity of
34 the courthouse. He denied that there were any additional cars
35 and stated that he was unable to provide any data concerning
36 the description of the Chevrolet or its occupants.

37
38 The other item of information recalled by CAR-
39 VER was the fact that when he arrived at the courthouse at
40 approximately 12:15 AM, on April 25, 1959, someone in the crowd
41 standing on the walk in front of the hospital made the comment
42 that a red and white car was in the group of cars believed to
43 have been used by the mob which abducted PARKER. He was unable
44 to furnish any further information regarding this car.

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46 CARVER stated that he did not intentionally
47 withhold the two items of information mentioned above but they
48 had merely slipped his mind during the interviews.
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11 C. BOLIVAR F. ORR

12 BOLIVAR F. ORR advised that he has been the
13 Marshal in Poplarville, Mississippi, for approximately twenty-
14 five years. He was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's
15 [redacted] and [redacted] and on May 1, 1959, b7c
16 by SA's [redacted] and [redacted]

17
18 Mr. ORR furnished the following information:

19
20 At approximately 11:30 PM, April 24, 1959, the
21 Night Marshal, "PETE" CARVER, came to his home, awakened him,
22 and told him that he had observed two strangers in Poplarville
23 and thought they should be checked out. [redacted] and b7c
24 R. J. WHEAT were with CARVER when he came to his home. He
25 dressed and joined CARVER, WHEAT and [redacted] and suggested
26 they go get a cup of coffee. They drove down the back road
27 north of Poplarville to Route 11, where they stopped at the
28 Amoco Gas Station for coffee.
29

30
31 Upon arrival at the Amoco Station, he noticed
32 there were a number of teen-age boys and also some additional
33 males who were strangers to him. He paid no particular at-
34 tention to these people and could furnish no descriptive data.
35 Upon leaving the Amoco Station, he, CARVER [redacted] and b7c
36 WHEAT drove back to Poplarville and down [redacted] main street. As
37 they were passing the Star Cafe, [redacted] flagged them
38 down and told them there was a disturbance at the jail. They
39 turned around and proceeded toward the courthouse. He pointed
40 out they did not rush back to the courthouse, since he felt
41 that inasmuch as he had no prisoners in the jail the distur-
42 bance was no concern of his. When they arrived at the rear
43 of the courthouse, there were a number of people standing in
44 front of the hospital. The only person he recalls is Sheriff
45 RAY, who was "doing a lot of talking," and one nurse said
46 she thought they took someone out of the jail and "went every
47 which way." When asked the identity of this nurse, CARVER stated
48 he could not recall. He did recall that [redacted] mentioned they
49 had arrived only three or four minutes after the incident. CAR
50 told CARVER they would do nothing until the arrival of Sheriff
51 MOODY. They waited ten or fifteen minutes for the sheriff to
52 arrive.

53
54 Upon the arrival of the sheriff, the exact time

of which he does not recall, the group, consisting of five to ten people, proceeded to the courthouse. The outside door of the south entrance to the courthouse was open. They went to the Sheriff's Office and turned on the light in the office. The Sheriff looked for the keys, did not find them and then proceeded up the stairway to the jail. The Sheriff opened the wooden door leading to the jail. ORR stated he believed this door was not locked but secured by a bolt, which was opened by the Sheriff with a lever. The Sheriff asked the Negro prisoners what had happened and one of the prisoners told him; however, ORR does not remember either the questions or the admissions. They remained at the jail for just a few seconds and then returned to the Sheriff's Office. As ORR was leaving the courthouse, he found the keys to the jail on the outside steps leading to the south entrance. He gave the keys to the Sheriff and then proceeded to the City Hall where he made telephone calls to Sheriff HICKMAN, Purvis, Mississippi; Marshal SLADE at Lumberton, Mississippi; County Attorney WILLIAM STEWART to advise them of the abduction. Sometime later, after Sheriff HICKMAN had arrived in Poplarville, ORR went with him to check the roads. He recalls they searched the roads in the vicinity where the alleged rape occurred and checked numerous side roads north of Poplarville. This search continued for between three and four hours and during the search nothing of value was observed.

ORR said that from his observation at the courthouse and the amount of blood he observed, it was his opinion that either PARKER or someone in the mob was seriously injured and was bleeding profusely. He said that from the appearance of the trail of blood he believed that PARKER had been dragged all the way, since the trail of blood was approximately 2" wide and in some places was a steady trail for a distance of 7' to 8'.

ORR said that before going to the City Hall and after leaving the Sheriff's Office, he walked the street at the south entrance of the courthouse and on this track leading from the courthouse side of South Pearl Street to the entrance of the courthouse, east to Main Street, and then turning south. He said there were skid marks near the intersection of South Pearl Street and Main Street indicating the car made this turn at a high rate of speed. He pointed out

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12 that although in all probability he was on Main Street near
13 the time of the abduction he does not recall seeing any cars
14 proceeding south on Main Street. ORR said sometime during
15 the evening JOHN REYER had mentioned that four or five cars
16 were involved in the abduction and someone had said that a
17 pickup truck may have been involved. He stated he could fur-
18 nish no additional information concerning the cars or the
19 truck.
20

21 Mr. ORR stated he has given instructions to
22 PETE CARVER that whenever he observes any strangers in town
23 or thinks that a crime has or will be committed he should
24 immediately come to get him. He pointed out that CARVER is
25 his nephew and he does not desire that he become involved in
26 any investigation where there is a possibility he might be
27 injured. He said it is not unusual for CARVER to come get
28 him while he is on duty at night, although it has not hap-
29 pened very often because there have been very few occasions
30 which CARVER felt any investigation should be conducted at
31 night. He said the only reason given by CARVER for calling
32 him on the night of April 24, 1959, was the fact he had seen
33 two strangers in town and no mention was made by CARVER of
34 the possibility of anyone attempting to break into the court-
35 house. When asked whether any attempt was made to locate
36 the two strangers, ORR stated no such attempt was made and
37 they were forgotten in the light of the incident at the court-
38 house.
39

40 ORR said that the abduction came as a complete
41 surprise to him since he had heard no discussion around town
42 about such a possibility and he did not feel the people in
43 Poplarville were particularly concerned over the alleged rape
44 since neither PARKER nor the victim were local residents.
45

46 ORR pointed out that he did not make any effort
47 to check the courthouse since the arrival of PARKER from Jack-
48 son, Mississippi, since he had received no request from the
49 Sheriff to do so. He said that if he had known that an at-
50 tempt was being made to abduct PARKER, he would not have at-
51 tempted to prevent it since the incarceration of PARKER was
52 a matter for the Sheriff to handle and was no concern of his.
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54 He added that for this reason he made no ef-
55 fort to hurry to the courthouse when he heard there was a
56 disturbance and made no effort to look for the abductors until
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12 after the Sheriff had arrived.
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14 On May 8, 1959, when interviewed by SA's [redacted]
15 [redacted] and [redacted] ORR volunteered that he knew
16 nothing about the circumstances under which PARKER was abduc-
17 ted, but stated that had he been aware PARKER was being ab-
18 ducted on April 24, 1959, he would have not gone any where
19 near the vicinity of the jail or courthouse. He explained
20 that it is not his duty to protect the prisoners at the jail,
21 that this duty was the Sheriff's, and that he did not want
22 to get involved in anything having to do with an abduction.
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12 **D. ROBERT JAMES WHEAT**
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14 ROBERT JAMES WHEAT was interviewed on April 27,
15 1959, by SA's [redacted] and [redacted]. He was
16 interviewed on April 28, 1959, by SA's [redacted] and [redacted].

17 WHEAT advised that he is employed as b7c
18 an instructor at the Pearl River Junior College, Poplarville,
19 where he teaches automobile mechanics. He has been so em-
20 ployed for approximately eleven years. He is thirty-six years
21 of age, married, and has two children. WHEAT furnished the
22 following information concerning his activities on the night
23 of April 24, 1959, and the early morning of April 25, 1959:

24
25 He went to work at approximately 6:00 AM and
26 went to the Star Cafe on Main Street in Poplarville for a cof-
27 fee break at approximately 9:00 AM. [redacted] went
28 to the Star Cafe with him in his, [redacted] automobile, which
29 is a 1956 Dodge four-door sedan. He was gone from work for b7c
30 approximately twenty minutes and during this period he met
31 numerous individuals whom he knew but does not recall meeting
32 PETE CARVER. He returned to work and remained there until
33 approximately 11:00 PM. When PETE CARVER called for him, he
34 went with CARVER and [redacted] and drove to Poplarville.
35 He has ridden with PETE CARVER for one or seven years on an
36 average of two or three times a week. He does not have any
37 police powers, but merely rides with him for amusement.

38
39 When they arrived in Poplarville, they passed
40 two middleaged women standing on the corner of Main Street
41 near the Mississippi Power Company. CARVER mentioned that
42 he had seen two strange men on the streets and there was a
43 possibility that the two women might possibly be trying to
44 spot for a burglary. He assumed that CARVER was of the opinion
45 that the two women and the two men he had seen previously might
46 be connected in some way with some criminal activity.

47
48 At about 11:30 PM, CARVER drove to the home of
49 B. P. ORR. WHEAT does not recall CARVER mentioning any reason
50 for getting ORR. WHEAT said that there was considerable traf-
51 fic on Main Street prior to 11:30 PM and also on the street
52 leading to the college; however, he did not notice any unusual
53 cars. He explained this by stating that while he recognizes
54 the cars of most people in Poplarville, he does not recognize
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12 the cars of the students and he felt that the cars that he
13 did not recognize on the night of the 24th may have belonged
14 to students attending a dance at the college. He definitely
15 did not notice any cars with groups of men in them. Prior
16 to picking up ORR at his residence, CARVER drove down Main
17 Street past the courthouse and WHEAT did not notice any un-
18 usual activity.

19
20 Upon their arrival at the residence of E. P.
21 ORR, CARVER got out of the car, went through the screen to
22 the window of ORR's bedroom. WHEAT and [REDACTED] remained
23 in the car and did not hear any conversation between CARVER
24 and ORR. CARVER returned to the car and sat with WHEAT and
25 [REDACTED] for approximately five minutes waiting for ORR
26 to dress and join them. b7c

27
28 WHEAT, although he has ridden with CARVER on
29 an average of two or three times a week for approximately
30 seven years, cannot recall CARVER ever going to ORR's resi-
31 dence to secure his assistance or to confer with him. On a
32 number of occasions CARVER has picked up ORR on the streets
33 of Poplarville and ORR has ridden with them and on a few oc-
34 casions CARVER has made telephone calls to ORR to secure ad-
35 vice or assistance.

36
37 When ORR joined CARVER, [REDACTED] and WHEAT
38 in CARVER's car, ORR suggested that they go and get a cup of
39 coffee. They drove to the Amoco Station approximately a mile
40 north of Poplarville on Route 11 for coffee. He does not re-
41 call the route taken by CARVER in proceeding from ORR's resi-
42 dence to the Amoco Station. They remained at the Amoco Station
43 for between twenty and twenty-five minutes and during this
44 time they discussed politics and no mention was made as to the
45 reason for picking up E. P. ORR. They left the Amoco Station
46 at approximately 11:30 P. M. Shortly after leaving the station,
47 the car stalled and they were unable to start it again for ap-
48 proximately two or three minutes. They then drove to Poplar-
49 ville and down the Main Street past the courthouse. WHEAT
50 did not notice any commotion or any unusual activity or traf-
51 fic around the courthouse building.

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53 As they drove past the Blue Cafe on Main Street,
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13 WHEAT saw [redacted] standing in the doorway of the cafe
14 waving at them. He told CARVER that [redacted] was trying to get
15 their attention, whereupon CARVER stopped the car and backed
16 up to the cafe. [redacted] told CARVER that a woman had
17 called and told her that there was a commotion at the jail, or
18 words to that effect. She may possibly have stated that the
19 prisoners were fighting; however, WHEAT could not recall just
20 what she had said. WHEAT pointed out that BESSIE DAVIS quite
21 often takes calls for CARVER since she is employed as a clean-
22 up woman at the Star Cafe and remains there all night.

23
24 After receiving the message from [redacted]
25 CARVER went around the block to the left returning to Main
26 Street, went past the courthouse, turned left and proceeded
27 to the rear of the courthouse. When he drove up in back of
28 the courthouse, people were coming off the porch of the Grand
29 River County Hospital. WHEAT got out of the car and asked a
30 nurse what had happened. The nurse did not answer but JOHN
31 REYER, who was in the group, said that he thought they got
32 "that nigger" out of jail. One of the other occupants of the
33 car then got out of the car and at about that time Sheriff
34 MOODY arrived on the scene.

35
36 WHEAT identified the persons in the group coming
37 from the hospital as [redacted] who had been visiting
38 [redacted] a patient in the hospital; nurse BESSIE DAVIS;
39 LOVELESS; [redacted] who had been visiting [redacted]
40 father in the hospital; and [redacted]
41 [redacted] There was also a heavy-set man [redacted] who
42 had been visiting a patient in the hospital home. [redacted]
43 The identity of this individual was not known to WHEAT. There
44 were two or three cars parked in front of the hospital when
45 CARVER arrived.

46
47 Sheriff MOODY arrived at the scene between two
48 and five minutes after the arrival of CARVER, WHEAT, and
49 [redacted] and during this period there was a [redacted] conversation;
50 however, WHEAT could not recall the [redacted] statements.
51 Approximately five or ten minutes elapsed from the time
52 the Sheriff arrived until the group went to the Sheriff's office.
53 WHEAT recalls that the Sheriff [redacted] his car [redacted]
54 front of the hospital and that he asked WHEAT, REYER, what had
55 happened, whereupon WHEAT told him that they had arrived just
56 shortly before the Sheriff and he did not know what had happened.

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13 but he thought that "they got that nigger."

14 WHEAT, Sheriff MOODY, [REDACTED], CARVER, and
15 ORR entered the courthouse at the main entrance. It is pos-
16 sible that JOHN REYER and [REDACTED] accompanied them; how-
17 ever, WHEAT does not specifically recall their being with them.
18 The door at the south entrance of the courthouse was open and
19 WHEAT saw a considerable amount of blood on the outside steps
20 leading to the entrance and on the floor just inside the en-
21 trance. He also saw blood on the floor from the entrance to
22 the door of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff unlocked the
23 door to his office and WHEAT noticed that the light was on in
24 this office. The Sheriff commented that the window was open
25 in his office, this window being the window on the north side
26 of his office which opens on the front porch of the courthouse.
27 The Sheriff then went to the back room in his office and looked
28 in a file cabinet that was already open. He put his hand into
29 the drawer and said that the keys were gone.

30
31 Sheriff MOODY, B. F. ORR, PAUL CHAPMAN, [REDACTED]
32 [REDACTED] and WHEAT then went up to the jail and the Sheriff
33 and WHEAT went into the jail. Sheriff MOODY unlocked the front
34 door of the jail and turned on a light near the door. As near
35 as he can recall, there were no lights on in the jail when they
36 arrived.

37
38 Sheriff MOODY asked the prisoners what had hap-
39 pened and one of the Negro prisoners said that they had come
40 in and "got that boy." The Sheriff asked which one, and they
41 said "PARKER." Someone in the group asked if they got the
42 right one and one of the Negro prisoners said, "Yes, uh."
43 Sheriff MOODY asked if the prisoners recognized any of the
44 persons who broke into the jail and they said that they did
45 not because they wore masks. The Sheriff asked if they called
46 any names or if any of the prisoners could recognize their
47 voices and they said that they could not. He then asked how
48 many persons were involved and one of the prisoners said that
49 there were close to a dozen and they heard more out in the
50 courtroom.

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52 There was blood on the floor from the jail to
53 the Sheriff's Office; however, there did not appear to be a
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large amount of blood and it appeared to WHEAT from the direction of the blood that PARKER was dragged part of the way and walked part of the way since there was not a continuous trail of blood.

The group returned to the Sheriff's Office and Sheriff MOODY called his son and JIMMIE MULLINO, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, notifying them that PARKER had been taken from the jail. At this time WHEAT noticed that JOHN REYER and [REDACTED] were present. WHEAT stayed at the Sheriff's Office until 7:00 or 8:00 AM, April 25, 1959. During this period he tried to call JAMES WARD of the Jackson Daily News but could not reach him. He also called the Hattiesburg American and notified the person answering the phone of the fact that someone had taken PARKER from the jail. b7c

A number of people came to the Sheriff's Office during the night, but he could not recall who they were or when they arrived. At some time during that night, GEORGE MOODY, the son of the Sheriff, went to the scene of the alleged rape to see if PARKER was there and a number of patrolmen of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol searched the area in the vicinity of Poplarville. During the night, Sheriff MOODY asked REYER what kind of a car was used by the persons taking PARKER from the jail and REYER said that it was a four-door car, but he did not know the make or color.

WHEAT said that shortly after the indictment of PARKER he heard several people say that they thought that they should "kill that nigger" or that they should shoot him but he did not pay any attention to those remarks and he does not now recall who made these statements or the circumstances under which they were made. He pointed out the possibility that they might have been made by students at the Pearl River Junior College.

He said that since the time immediately following the indictment he had heard no discussion around Poplarville concerning the possibility of any violence and he does not believe that the persons who took PARKER from the jail were from Poplarville. He added, however, that in his opinion someone in Poplarville had furnished information to the group concerned

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13 the location of the keys to the jail and the layout of the
14 courthouse building. He said that one reason he believed
15 this to be true was the fact that when he and Sheriff MOODY
16 first arrived at the Sheriff's Office, no papers were strewn
17 about and it did not appear that any search had been made
18 for the keys. It was his opinion that whoever broke into
19 the Sheriff's Office knew exactly where the keys were and
20 how to get to them.

21
22 WHEAT said that he positively did not have any
23 information whatsoever indicating that anyone had any infor-
24 mation to the effect that PARKER was to be broken out of the
25 jail. He added that at no time did he hear anyone state that
26 they suspected any individual of being involved in the abduc-
27 tion of PARKER. He added that he had heard a number of theo-
28 ries advanced as to who was responsible for the abduction,
29 one of these theories being that it was planned by the National
30 Association for the Advancement of Colored People and another
31 being that the persons involved were from Detroit, Michigan.
32 He stated, however, that as far as he knew, these were merely
33 personal opinions expressed by various individuals and were
34 not based on any facts available to them. He said he could
35 not recall the identity of the persons advancing these theories.

36
37 He said that he is positive that there was no
38 discussion among PETE CARVER, B. F. CARVER and b7c
39 himself as to the possibility of a mob attempting to get PARKER
40 out of jail. He added that he knows of no one who might plan
41 such a jail break through a feeling of animosity toward the
42 Sheriff or in an attempt to embarrass the Sheriff or his de-
43 partment.
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down the Main Street at which time we saw two women standing on the corner where the Miss. Power Co. is located. This was at about 11:15 P.M. Carver stated he had seen these women downtown before and that he thought they might be connected in some way with a planned burglary. Carver did not give any indication he knew the identity of these two women. I did not know the two women that were on the corner and I have not been told their names. After we saw the two women, Carver said he was going to the home of B. F. Orr and wake him up. We then went to the home of Orr and Carver went in and waked Orr. I did not go in the Orr house but waited outside. When Orr came out we all four went to the Amoco Service Station just north of Poplarville on Highway 11. We left the Amoco Service Station at about 12 midnight and drove down the main street of Poplarville. When we passed the courthouse I did not notice any activity and I cannot recall that any cars were parked at the southside of the courthouse.

"As we passed the Star Cafe, [REDACTED] said a woman had called by phone and said there was a disturbance at the jail. We immediately went around the block and proceeded to the back of the courthouse and in front of the hospital. We arrived at the back of the courthouse at approximately 12:15 A.M. As we got out of the car we noticed John Royer, Frank Wheat and a man named [REDACTED] standing in the parking area in front of the hospital. Royer said I think they said that 'nigger' or words to that effect. In describing what had happened one of the three said 'they' were there only a few minutes. There was considerably more conversation, however, I do not recall what was said. I do not recall hearing how many or what type cars were used. I would estimate that we talked for 10 to 15 minutes during which time Sheriff Bondy arrived. b7c

"After the arrival of Sheriff Bondy, Mr. J. Wheat, B. F. Orr, Pete Carver and myself went to the Sheriff's Office in the courthouse. Others may possibly have gone with us but I cannot specifically

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13 recall this fact. The Sheriff unlocked his office
14 and as we entered the office the Sheriff looked
15 around and said 'I wonder how they got in.' He
16 then went to a file cabinet and opened the drawer.
17 We then all went upstairs to the jail. I believe
18 the door was locked and that the Sheriff opened
19 the wooden door to the jail. The Sheriff then
20 opened the jail door to the bull pen and went in
21 to talk to the prisoners. The rest of us did not
22 enter the bull pen. I heard the Sheriff ask the
23 prisoners how many men broke in. One of the pri-
24 soners said eight or nine. The Sheriff then asked
25 if the prisoners recognized any of the men and the
26 prisoners stated the men wore masks and they did
27 not recognize anyone. I do not recall the Sheriff
28 asking any further questions. The lights was off on
29 the landing just inside the entrance to the jail and
30 I did not observe any blood or evidence of a strag-
31 gle.
32

33 "We then all returned to the Sheriff's
34 Office on the first floor at which time the Sheriff
35 said we should get out and check the roads. He asked
36 if anyone there could identify anyone of the persons
37 who broke in and no one answered. To my knowledge
38 two cars left the courthouse to make a search. One
39 car was driven by George Moody, the Sheriff's son,
40 which I think went north on Route 11. I went with
41 Pete Carver and E. F. Orr toward Gildbert, Miss. on
42 Route 53. A short distance from town we turned off
43 on side roads. We searched the side roads until ap-
44 proximately 2:30 AM. on 4-25-59 when we returned to
45 the Sheriff's Office. The search did not produce any-
46 thing of value. I left the Sheriff's Office and went
47 to the hospital where I went home. b7c
48 He was asleep so I left the hospital. I did not
49 where I arrived about 2:45 A.M. 4-25-59.
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51 "I have read the above statement of this and
52 5 other pages. This statement is true and to the best
53 of my knowledge contains all the information that I
54 have concerning the breakin at the Pearl River County
55 Jail, Poplarville, Miss. on the night of 4-25-59. I
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12 have initialed the first five pages and all correc-
13 tions.
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15 /s/ [REDACTED]
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17 "Witnesses:
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19 [REDACTED] Sp. Agent, F.B.I., New Orleans, La.,
20

21 [REDACTED] F.B.I., New Orleans, La. 4-27-59
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23
24 On May 4, 1959, [REDACTED] was interviewed
25 by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which
26 time he admitted that he had misinformed agents when he gave
27 the signed statement as to the route that was taken from the
28 Star Cafe to the hospital. He declined to furnish further in-
29 formation at this time. However, on May 8, 1959, he advised
30 that from further recollection and discussion of the circum-
31 stances with R. J. WHEAT, he now recalled that after [REDACTED],
32 B. F. ORR, and PETE CARVER had been flagged down in [REDACTED]
33 in front of the Star Cafe, they actually turned [REDACTED]
34 made the block around Shrock's Western Auto Store instead of
35 right as he had previously mentioned.
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F. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Poplarville, Mississippi, was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was interviewed on April 26 and 29, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] furnished the following information concerning his activities on the night of April 24, 1959, and the morning of April 25, 1959:

He went to a show in Poplarville which ended at approximately 9:00 PM. He then went home for a few minutes and proceeded to the Pearl River County Hospital arriving there between 9:30 PM and 10:00 PM. His purpose in going to the hospital was to visit his [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with him until the arrival of his [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was working at the Pearl River Junior [REDACTED] and his wife were also staying with [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED] were visiting [REDACTED] father, who was a patient in the same room [REDACTED].

At about 11:45 PM or 11:50 PM, [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] room, which is located near the rear of the hospital, when [REDACTED] motioned for him to come to the front of the hospital. She told him that somebody was fighting over at the jail. He went to the front door of the hospital where he heard someone shouting for help. He said that the shout was not real loud. The front door of the hospital was open and he could tell the shouts were coming from the Pearl River County Courthouse Building. When he stepped at the front door of the hospital, he noticed that [REDACTED] a nurse at the hospital, DIMPLE BURGE, a nurse at the hospital, JOSEPH [REDACTED] and his wife, and JOHN REYER were in the lobby of the hospital. One of the nurses, believed by him to be a Mrs. [REDACTED], said she was going to call the police as someone might be putting a drunk in jail.

When [REDACTED] was standing at the front door of the hospital, he noticed that there was a car parked near the south entrance to the courthouse on South Pearl Street [REDACTED] west. He could see the front portion of [REDACTED] car only and was unable to state the make, color, size or model of the car. He also could not say whether there were any occupants in the

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13 car. [redacted] stood at the hospital door for approximately one
14 minute when he went back to the water fountain in the hospi-
15 tal corridor and then returned to his uncle's room. About
16 four or five minutes later, he walked [redacted] to the front door
17 and went out on the hospital porch with [redacted] and
18 JOHN REYER. When he arrived on the porch the shouting had
19 ceased, but he noticed that the above mentioned car was still
20 parked on South Pearl Street. He also saw another car drive
21 up in front of the south entrance to the courthouse and park
22 on the southside of South Pearl Street headed east. This car
23 parked slightly off the street in front of a vacant lot be-
24 tween the Poplarville Furniture Company and Poplarville Auto
25 Parts. He saw a man get out of this car and walk toward the
26 south entrance to the courthouse. He was unable to state
27 whether this man went into the courthouse because from his
28 position on the porch he could not observe this entrance.
29 He was unable to furnish any description concerning the car
30 with the exception of the fact that it was dark in color.
31 He was also unable to furnish any description whatsoever of
32 the male who alighted from this car.

33
34 [redacted] and JOHN REYER left the porch
35 of the hospital and walked across Julia Street to a point
36 near a bush located at the southwest corner of the courthouse.

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38 [redacted] stood on the porch for two or three minu-
39 tes and then went back into the hospital. As he was going into
40 the hospital, he noticed that [redacted] and [redacted] were starting
41 back toward the hospital. Before [redacted] re-entered the hospital
42 he saw the car which had been parked near the courthouse en-
43 trance start up and proceed west on South Pearl Street. At
44 approximately the same time, the car which was headed east on
45 South Pearl started out and proceeded east on South Pearl Street.
46 He does not recall seeing any car proceed north on Julia Street
47 between the hospital and the courthouse. [redacted] was stand-
48 ing on the porch, he did not hear any shouting or cry for help
49 and did not observe any men leaving the courthouse.

50
51 [redacted] remained in the [redacted] hospital for [redacted] and
52 minutes and during this time [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
53 entered the hospital and REYER [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
54 a "nigger" in the car. He stated that all of the men were
55 masked and that they dragged the "nigger" down the steps and
56 pushed him in a car. Others present when [redacted] made these

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12 statements were [redacted] and JOSEPH MEYER and his wife.
13 According to [redacted] one or more of the nurses in the hospital
14 may have been present, but he does not definitely recall.
15

16 During the above conversation, either JOHN
17 REYER or [redacted] said that the car in which the men
18 had placed the "nigger" went west on South Pearl Street.
19

20 [redacted] requested that the interview be terminated
21 because of personal commitments and it be continued on the
22 morning of April 29, 1959.
23

24 On April 29, 1959 [redacted] furnished the following
25 information:
26

27 About five minutes after he had re-entered the
28 hospital, he looked out the front door and saw B. F. ORR, PETE
29 CARVER, R. J. WHEAT, and [redacted] drive up in front
30 of the hospital. He walked out to the car along with several
31 others who had been in the hospital and he believes that either
32 JOHN REYER or [redacted] said to B. F. ORR "they got the
33 nigger." He does not recall any other conversation at this
34 time. After about five minutes, Sheriff [redacted] pulled up in
35 front of the hospital, parked his car in front of the courthouse
36 and went into the courthouse accompanied by [redacted]
37 B. F. ORR, PETE CARVER, JOHN REYER and possibly [redacted].
38 The outside door at the south entrance of the courthouse was
39 open and the group, after entering the courthouse, proceeded
40 to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff went to a back door in
41 his office and remarked that the keys were gone. [redacted] noticed
42 that there was blood on the steps leading to the courthouse
43 and in the hallway near the Sheriff's Office. The group went
44 up a stairway inside the courthouse and the Sheriff unlocked
45 the door leading into the jail. The lights were off in the
46 jail and the Sheriff was the only one who entered the jail,
47 the rest stopping at the door. The Sheriff asked the Negro
48 prisoners what had happened and one of the prisoners said
49 that a crowd had taken [redacted] out. The Sheriff asked how
50 many were in the crowd and one of the prisoners said eight
51 or nine. He asked if they knew what had happened to the Negro
52 and one prisoner said they must have taken him with them.
53 There were also some remarks made about the man wearing shoes. It
54 appeared to [redacted] that one of the Negro prisoners did practically
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12 all of the talking. The group then went back down to the
13 Sheriff's Office.
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15 [redacted] remained at the Sheriff's Office for
16 approximately ten minutes, during which time the Sheriff was
17 making phone calls notifying various individuals of the ab-
18 duction. [redacted] then returned to the hospital. He does not
19 recall how long he stayed at the hospital, but a short time
20 later he drove in his father's car, a 1959 Plymouth, four
21 door, faded light green in color, to his home. To the best
22 of his recollection he arrived home sometime between 1:30 a.m.
23 and 2:00 a.m. A short time later he returned to the courthouse
24 and upon arriving he noticed that various members of the
25 Mississippi Highway Patrol were there. He went to the hospital
26 and then walked over and joined the crowd outside the court-
27 house entrance. He remained there until approximately 3:00 a.m.
28 when he went home.
29

30
31 While standing with the group in front of [redacted]
32 courthouse entrance, County Attorney WILLIAM STEWART told [redacted]
33 that the FBI would probably be investigating this case and
34 should be sure to tell the truth about what he had seen. [redacted]
35 said this remark was not necessarily directed to him since
36 there were other persons standing around when the remark was
37 made.
38

39
40 [redacted] said that in his opinion the local people
41 from Poplarville were not involved in the abduction. He said
42 he felt this was true since the local people had not been dis-
43 cussing the case at any length and he had heard no comments
44 as to whether PARKER was guilty. He stated that the local
45 people were not acquainted with the rape victim and the inci-
46 dent was not making headlines in Poplarville. He said he has
47 obtained no information since the abduction which would in
48 any way indicate who was responsible for it. He said he did
49 not approve of the action taken by the mob, but preferred to
50 say whether he desired to see them identified and apprehended.
51 He also refused to furnish a signed statement.
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14 G. WILLIAM H. STEWART

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16 WILLIAM H. STEWART, Attorney at Law and County
17 Attorney for Pearl River County, Poplarville, Mississippi, who
18 resides in Poplarville, was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by
19 SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was inter-
20 viewed on April 29, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
21 He was again interviewed on May 1, 1959, by
22 SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. STEWART furnished
23 the following information:
24

25 STEWART first heard about this case when he re-
26 ceived a telephone call at about 1:00 A. M., April 25, 1959,
27 from PETE CARVER, Night Marshal at Poplarville, who stated he
28 was calling from the City Hall. STEWART lives about two blocks
29 from the City Hall and immediately put on some clothes over
30 his pajamas and proceeded to the City Hall.

31
32 Upon arrival at the City Hall, he noted that
33 B. F. ORR, Day Marshal, PETE CARVER, Night Marshal, and R. J.
34 WHEAT were at the City Hall.

35
36 Upon arrival, they told him someone had "broken
37 the nigger out", and there was some blood on the floor and
38 steps of the County Courthouse. He pointed out someone had seen
39 it, and they told him JOHN REYER and [REDACTED] had been there.

40
41 According to STEWART, CARVER said Mrs. DORIS
42 BURGE, a nurse at the Pearl River County Hospital, had notified
43 him of the incident by means of a telephone call to [REDACTED]
44 waitress at the Star Cafe on Main Street in Poplarville,
45 requesting that [REDACTED] notify CARVER when she saw him, as
46 it was common practice for PETE CARVER to stop by and pick up
47 messages at periodic intervals from [REDACTED].
48

49 STEWART said that shortly thereafter, the
50 group went to the courthouse a few blocks distant. Upon
51 arrival at the courthouse, STEWART noted that Sheriff W.
52 OSBORNE MOODY was there, as well as JOHN OSBORN, [REDACTED],
53 JOHN REYER, and a [REDACTED] Sgt. STEWART looked
54 over the scene, was advised that one or more cars of the
55 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol had reported to the scene
56 and were out searching for the mob.
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11 He first questioned JOHN REYER inasmuch as he was
12 known REYER for a long time and has represented REYER and other
13 members of REYER's family in a number of law suits.

14
15 REYER said he was in front of the hospital when
16 he heard a "ruckus" at the jail which is located directly across
17 the street from the hospital in the upper floors of the County
18 Courthouse. He walked over that way and actually got there in
19 time to see them put the "nigger" in the right rear door on the
20 back seat of a car which was parked by the curb at the south
21 side of the courthouse. REYER described this car as being a
22 four-door car and as being two tone in color. He was unable
23 to state whether the car was shiny and new or old and muddy or
24 to give any other description regarding the make or model of
25 the car nor could he furnish any information as to whether or
26 not the car bore a license plate. He could not say how many
27 people got into the car. REYER did state "the boy" was strugg-
28 gling while they put him in the car and was giving a good ac-
29 count of himself. STEWART wanted to know if REYER could identi-
30 fy any of the people involved in this incident and REYER told
31 him he was unable to identify any of the people. REYER told
32 there was no conversation among the members of the mob and none
33 of the mob said anything to REYER. When the car which had been
34 parked at the south entrance to the courthouse headed in a westerly
35 direction pulled away from the curb, REYER stated it was
36 toward Bogalusa.

37
38 STEWART pointed out that he understood by REYER's
39 remark that the car had headed in a westerly direction. REYER
40 told STEWART he estimated there were about four to six men in
41 the mob. He stated that he did not know how many cars had
42 pulled away from the courthouse at about that time. REYER
43 said the men had on masks and some were wearing handkerchiefs over
44 the lower portion of their faces as masks. He asked REYER if
45 anyone else might have seen the mob and REYER said no.

46
47 STEWART wanted to know how REYER was at the hospital
48 and REYER informed him he had just brought his sister-in-law,
49 JOE REYER, to the hospital, which fact was verified by STEWART.

50 [REDACTED] was present in the hall of the
51 house in front of the Sheriff's Office along with JOHN REYER
52 while STEWART questioned REYER. STEWART also questioned [REDACTED]
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11 at the same time he questioned REYER and then questioned [REDACTED]
12 some in addition to this. During the interrogation while the
13 two individuals were standing together, JOHN REYER did most of
14 the talking and [REDACTED] continued to verify the information
15 which had been furnished by JOHN REYER. [REDACTED] told STEWART
16 he was present in the area because he had been visiting his uncle
17 who was a patient in the hospital. b7c

18
19 [REDACTED] said he was near the mob when the mob
20 came out of the courthouse, but was not as close as JOHN REYER,
21 and STEWART got the impression that [REDACTED] was standing
22 about 25-30 feet behind JOHN REYER at a point at or near a large
23 tree or bush which is located at the southwest corner of the
24 courthouse when the incident happened and JOHN REYER had been
25 much closer or approximately 10-20 feet from the sidewalk lead-
26 ing out of the south entrance of the courthouse and that both of
27 these would have had a good opportunity to observe any person or
28 vehicle, active or moving, in the area at that time. b7c

29
30 STEWART volunteered the information that both
31 JOHN REYER and [REDACTED] were wise as to the ways of the
32 world; that they did not want to identify any of the mob;
33 however, he did not think that they could make an identification.
34 He thinks they would have been reluctant to make an identifica-
35 tion if they could have made one.

36
37 STEWART went to the hospital for a short time
38 and again questioned [REDACTED] and JOHN REYER and was con- b7c
39 vinced that they could not make an identification. At this
40 time, he impressed upon them the importance of telling the truth
41 to the FBI in this case when the FBI came into the case.

42
43 JOHN REYER did not tell STEWART how many cars
44 were seen or noted at the time the mob left the scene. Someone
45 told him there were about three cars leaving in three different
46 directions immediately after PARKER was placed in the car, south
47 of the courthouse, and he did not recall exactly who told him
48 this, but he is of the opinion that he got this information from
49 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told him he did not see or see any li-
50 cense plates and could, therefore, not give him any information
51 as to a description of the license plates or as to whether or
52 not there were license plates on the vehicles involved. b7c

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11 STEWART pointed out he had not questioned either
12 of these individuals extensively because he was making a quick
13 investigation in an effort to determine if he could find anyone
14 who could give him an immediate identification of any of the
15 members of the mob.

16
17 STEWART also talked with the [redacted] boy and as-
18 certained that he did not have anything that would help in iden-
19 tifying any of the mob. He did not talk to [redacted] and b7c
20 would not know whether or not she was in a position to have made
21 any pertinent observations.

22
23 STEWART then went up to the jail and talked to the
24 Negro prisoners. They told him generally that a masked mob had
25 gone into the jail and had taken PARKER.

26
27 A white woman prisoner, whose name was not re-
28 called at the time by STEWART, told him she saw and heard some
29 more men in the courtroom and from this rather vague information
30 that there were more men involved than the men that went into
31 jail cell. She pointed out that [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
32 [redacted] bulb located on [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
33 [redacted] [redacted] that part of the building.

34
35 STEWART talked to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] b7c
36 who told him he was a veteran of [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] b7D
37 in the bull pen section of the jail and was [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
38 wooden door. He saw the first masked man come into the jail
39 and knew what was taking place immediately and did not look at
40 them and went back to his bunk in order that he would not be a
41 witness. STEWART did not question [redacted] to any observation
42 [redacted] might have made while looking out of the south windows
43 of the jail during the departure of any of the vehicles or per-
44 sons connected with the mob.

45
46 While in the jail, STEWART made photographs with
47 his Polaroid camera of blood stains on the courthouse floor,
48 the steps, sidewalks, and curb at the back side of the cour-
49 house. He recalled these blood spots were not large pools of
50 blood, but were smears and drops of blood. He gave these pho-
51 tographs to GEORGE VAUGHT MOODY, son of SHEPARD MOODY. STEWART
52 does not object to these photographs being used by the FBI in
53 connection with this investigation.

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11 STEWART then went to the hospital and
12 talked to nurses DIMPLE BURGE, [REDACTED] and ODELL
13 LOVELESS, all at the nurse station at the left side of the
14 lobby of the hospital. While he was talking to them, a [REDACTED] b7c
15 [REDACTED] another nurse, came up.

16 STEWART asked the nurses if they had seen the
17 people and they told their story about hearing the boy hammer
18 ing over in the jail and thought perhaps someone wanted a doctor.
19 Then shortly thereafter they could hear them whacking the boy at
20 which time Miss DIMPLE BURGE ran to the telephone and called
21 Sheriff MOODY, JEWEL ALFORD, and then placed a call for [REDACTED]
22 CARVER at the Star Cafe.

23
24 The nurses stated they went out on the porch of
25 the hospital, but claimed they were unable to identify any of
26 the men or cars involved.

27
28 STEWART ascertained that [REDACTED] b7c
29 had looked out of the bathroom window after receiving a [REDACTED]
30 call from the jail.

31
32 STEWART then had coffee with the nurses at the
33 hospital kitchen, and he asked them again if they could make
34 an identification of the cars and persons in the mob and they
35 convinced him they were unable to make an identification of
36 the persons in the mob or any of the cars. He did not ques-
37 tion them closely as to the number of cars involved or the
38 directions in which these cars had proceeded. He did make it
39 a point to point out to the nurses that they would be questioned
40 and requestioned and told them how important it was to tell the
41 truth and they agreed to do this.

42
43 The only other person STEWART contacted who
44 might be able to furnish information of value to the case was
45 a young fellow named [REDACTED] who resides either at
46 [REDACTED] Poplarville, Mississippi, or at [REDACTED]
47 Mississippi. He saw this man in the hall at [REDACTED]
48 talked to him very briefly, determined that he could not help
49 make an identification of any of the [REDACTED] of the mob. He b7c
50 got the impression somewhere that [REDACTED] any [REDACTED] out
51 the south entrance of the hospital at [REDACTED] the cars
52 were pulling away from the courthouse and they were [REDACTED]

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13 opportunity to observe at least the car that reportedly pro-
14 ceeded in a westerly direction with PARKER.

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16 He could think of no other witnesses.

17
18 STEWART did not ask any of the persons he con-
19 tacted any specific questions as to whether or not any of the
20 cars leaving the scene had proceeded in a westerly direction
21 between the hospital and the jail and did not recall anyone
22 volunteering any information that any of the cars which may
23 have been driven by members of the mob had proceeded in that
24 direction.

25
26 STEWART received some information from some
27 sources about someone stating that some of the handkerchiefs
28 part of the mob used as masks had slipped down from their
29 faces before they got PARKER in the car; however, he could not
30 recall where he got that information, but believed it probably
31 came from JOHN REYER.

32 He also remarked that [REDACTED] BLEAR, and
33 PETS CARVER usually meet each night at about midnight for a
34 cup of coffee and that he did not consider it unusual for them
35 to be having a cup of coffee at about midnight on the night of
36 April 24, 1959. b7c

37
38 According to STEWART, Sheriff Koenig had gone to
39 the jail before he got there and had questioned the prisoners
40 and some of the people at the hospital before he arrived at the
41 scene.

42
43 On the night of April 24, 1959, [REDACTED] b7c
44 [REDACTED]
45 [REDACTED] was visiting [REDACTED] in Papillon
46 down to the courthouse about thirty minutes after [REDACTED] left
47 his home to bring him some telephone records. He did not think
48 [REDACTED] had received any information which would be pertinent
49 to this case.

50
51 It was the opinion of STEWART that [REDACTED] of the
52 local officers were in the dark and he was surprised that it was
53 apparent to STEWART that the local officers would not know any-
54 thing and did not expect any trouble.
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12 H. GEORGE VAUGHT MOSEY
13 Deputy Sheriff
14 Pearl River County
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17 GEORGE VAUGHT MOSEY was interviewed on
18 April 25 & 28, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
19 and on May 2, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. b7c
20 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] He furnished the fol-
21 lowing information concerning his activities on the
22 night of April 24, 1959, and morning of April 25, 1959:
23

24 He advised that he is employed on a
25 full-time basis as a Mathematics Instructor at the
26 Pearl River Junior College, Poplarville, Mississippi.
27 He said his hours at the school are from 8:00 AM to
28 2:00 PM. At the conclusion of his school work, he
29 generally goes to the Sheriff's Office, where he handles
30 office work for his father. He stated he resides in
31 Poplarville approximately three blocks from the Sheriff's
32 Office.

33 On April 24, 1959, he came to the Sheriff's
34 Office after school at approximately 2:00 PM and worked
35 for about one hour. He then left and went to the grove
36 which he owns, approximately one mile north of Poplarville,
37 and worked in the grove until about 5:30 PM, when he re-
38 turned to his home. He stayed at home from 5:30 PM to
39 approximately 8:30 PM, when he and his wife left to attend
40 a dance at the Pearl River Junior College. He said he had
41 no phone calls or visitors at his home between 8:30 AM
42 and 8:30 PM. He said he left the dance at the college at
43 approximately 11:05 PM, April 24, 1959, and drove directly
44 to his home, accompanied by his wife, arriving there at
45 approximately 11:10 PM. He said he did not go by the
46 courthouse en route to his home from the college. He
47 said that while at the dance he had contact with [REDACTED]
48 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were
49 home after the dance terminated.

50 [REDACTED] Attorney in Poplarville,
51 Masonic Temple Building, Poplarville, Mississippi.
52 Pearl River Junior College. He said they were at the college
53 approximately the same time he and his wife did. He said
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12 his father, who is Sheriff W. OSBORNE MOODY, and his mother
13 were at his home, baby sitting; that they stayed briefly
14 after they had arrived from the dance, and left at approxi-
15 mately 11:20 PM. He recalled that [redacted] as [redacted] b7c
16 visited with them until approximately midnight and then
17 left.

18
19 MOODY said he and his wife went to bed
20 sometime between 12:15 and 12:30 AM, April 25, 1959.
21 Shortly after retiring, he received a phone call and
22 while en route to answer the phone he looked at the clock
23 and noted it was 12:35 AM, April 25, 1959. He said that
24 the caller was his father, Sheriff MOODY, who told him
25 that a group of men had removed M. C. PALMER from the jail
26 and that he was to come to the Sheriff's Office to assist
27 his father. He said his father told him he was then calling
28 from the Sheriff's Office. MOODY said he dressed very
29 hurriedly and arrived at the Sheriff's Office no later
30 than 12:40 AM, April 29, 1959.

31
32 He said when he arrived at the Sheriff's
33 Office he noticed the following individuals present:
34 Sheriff W. OSBORNE MOODY, Night Marshal CHARLIE CANTOR, Day
35 Marshal B. F. ORR, R. J. WHEAT, JOHN SMITH, and a in-
36 dividual unknown to him at the time, but later identified
37 to him as [redacted]. He said all of these individuals
38 were standing around in the Sheriff's Office. He said he
39 could not specifically state, but feels that possibly [redacted] b7c
40 [redacted] and [redacted] may have been there at the time,
41 inasmuch as he does recall seeing them a short time thereafter.
42 after. He said when he arrived his father was busy on the
43 telephone and after speaking briefly with the men present
44 he took his flashlight and proceeded upstairs to the court-
45 room where he went as far as the jail door, but did not
46 enter the jail. He said when he arrived at the rear of
47 the courtroom he observed a trail on the floor of the
48 courtroom which led from the jail door to the north or
49 rear exit of the courtroom, such as might have been made
50 by smeared blood. He was of the opinion that this was not
51 merely disturbed dust, but did show evidence of the type
52 of moisture which might be considered as dried blood. He
53 observed blood spots on the landing at the rear entrance
54 and a larger smear and a small puddle of blood at the top
55 of these stairs. He noted numerous small amounts of blood
56 on the floor of the main corridor of the Sheriff's Office
57 indicating someone had been dragged down the stairs.

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12 corridor in a southerly direction. He said he observed
13 a smear of blood on the wall immediately adjacent to the
14 doorway leading into the Sheriff's Office, which would be
15 on the east side of the main corridor. He also observed
16 drops of blood in the center of the corridor immediately
17 opposite the door to the Sheriff's Office, and several
18 small drops of blood on the floor close to the west wall
19 of the corridor opposite the door to the Sheriff's Office.
20 He observed the same smears of blood leading from the
21 door to the Sheriff's Office out to the south door of
22 the courthouse. He said the smears indicated to him
23 that the victim had been dragged toward the middle of
24 the south door and then pulled off to the west of the
25 center of the south door, indicating to him that it had
26 been necessary for the individuals carrying the victim
27 to pull him to one side so that they could open the door.
28 He observed blood spots and smears leading down the steps
29 from the south door of the courthouse. Commencing at
30 the foot of the stairs and leading out onto the sidewalk
31 and to the curb, he observed drops or spots of blood, but
32 observed no smears, which indicated to him that the victim
33 may not have been dragged at that point and possibly
34 could have been walking.

35
36 He said that his examination of the scene
37 took no more than two or three minutes and, at the con-
38 clusion, he rejoined his father in the Sheriff's Office.
39 He was of the opinion that County Attorney WILLIAM A.
40 STEWART and Patrolman [redacted] came into the
41 Sheriff's Office at approximately the time he rejoined
42 his father. He said the group in the Sheriff's Office
43 had a general discussion and, at approximately 1:00 p.m.,
44 April 25, 1959, it was commonly decided that a search
45 should be conducted in the Poplarville vicinity in an
46 attempt to observe anything of value which might be of
47 assistance in locating H. C. PARKER.

48
49 He recalled specifically mentioning to H. C.
50 WHEAT during the time he had been in the Sheriff's Office
51 preliminary to the search because he, WHEAT, had answered
52 the phone and an individual who identified himself as being
53 affiliated with Radio-TV Station WREV, Poplarville, Louisiana,
54 had asked him about developments in the case and suggested
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11 to him that they had received information to the effect
12 that R. J. WHEAT had been an eye witness to the matter.
13 He said that while on the phone or immediately thereafter
14 he turned to R. J. WHEAT and asked him if he had been an
15 eye witness. It was his recollection that R. J. WHEAT
16 said, "No, I wasn't--it might have been [REDACTED] MOODY
17 said by that, WHEAT meant that it might have been [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] who was reportedly across the
19 street from the courthouse at approximately midnight. b7c
20 He said R. J. WHEAT told him that he had been with PETE
21 CARVER in PETE CARVER's car when he first heard of the
22 incident. MOODY could not recall specifically that he
23 spoke individually to JOHN REYER, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED] concerning the matter at this time.
25

26 He recalled hearing conversation to the
27 effect that the mob may have used "a couple of cars,"
28 that they were masked, including some mention of black
29 hoods, and that possibly eight to ten men had been involved.
30 He said no car descriptions nor descriptions of clothing
31 worn by the men were mentioned to him. He said he obtained
32 most of the details from his father in very brief conver-
33 sation with him.
34

35 After the decision to search the area, he
36 went from the Sheriff's Office to his car and proceeded
37 alone to conduct the search. He said at the time he had
38 on the search he noted PETE CARVER, B. F. ORR, R. J. WHEAT,
39 and possibly [REDACTED] in CARVER's car, presumably
40 to conduct a search on their own. He said he had not asked
41 anyone to accompany him on his search and no one volunteered.
42 He said it was not particularly unusual that he should
43 conduct the search alone, whereas possibly four other in- b7c
44 dividuals entered one car to search. He pointed out that
45 it is very rare for anyone from the Sheriff's Office to
46 work with either B. F. ORR or PETE CARVER and, further,
47 that CARVER, ORR, WHEAT and [REDACTED] were close friends
48 and often worked together on various projects. He said no
49 one suggested to him what area should be searched, although
50 he recalled mentioning to the group that he planned to go
51 north on Highway 11. He said no one attempted to dissuade
52 him from searching in that direction. He did not know in
53 which direction PETE CARVER and the others intended to search.
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MOODY approximated that he left the Sheriff's Office at 1:00 AM and headed north on Highway 11, searching all dirt roads for a distance of approximately one mile east and west of Highway 11 for a total distance of about seven miles north on Highway 11. He said he observed nothing of value during this search. At the conclusion of his search, he returned to the Albee Gas Station just north of Poplarville on Highway 11, where he parked his car and then returned to the Sheriff's Office. When he arrived at the Sheriff's Office at 3:00 AM, when he arrived there, he observed several MISS patrolmen and some reporters present. He stayed in the Sheriff's Office approximately five minutes, answering phone calls from newspapers, and then received a call from his mother, inquiring as to what had happened at the jail, and, because of her nervous condition, he decided he would leave the Sheriff's Office and check on her, which he did. He said he left the Sheriff's Office at about 3:05 AM, drove to his father's home, which is eight miles west of Poplarville, and stayed there with his mother until approximately 4:00 AM. He said that at that time he had "checked out" and he returned to the Sheriff's Office.

He said he had received no suspicious phone calls, had observed no strangers or other persons acting in a suspicious manner at the coastguard and had not been contacted by anyone in a suspicious manner relative to PARKER during the day of April 24, 1968.

MOODY was asked whether or not the name of any suspects had entered his mind in connection with hearing the news that PARKER had been removed from the jail. He said that he had thought of [REDACTED] in this connection, and said that [REDACTED] house while searching for [REDACTED] at 2:45 AM and observe [REDACTED] at the house at that time, [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] has only one vehicle, which is white, [REDACTED] unable to specifically explain [REDACTED] a suspect other than that [REDACTED] who is constantly seeking [REDACTED] of the Sheriff's Office and is [REDACTED] a great deal of time hanging around the Sheriff's Office. b7c

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10 said he is just generally suspicious of him and has thought
11 [redacted] in the past has possibly "pumped" him for informa-
12 tion which he might have later passed on to bootleggers.
13 He said [redacted] has contacted him almost daily since
14 the incident of PARKER's removal, seeking information in
15 a general way as to the progress of the investigation. b7c
16 He said [redacted] had also told him since that time that
17 he had been out with a woman, not identified, the night
18 that PARKER was taken from the jail.

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20 I. JEWEL HAYSEL ALFORD
21 Jailer
22 Pearl River County

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24 JEWEL ALFORD was interviewed on April 29,
25 1959, by SA's [redacted] and [redacted]
26 and on May 4, 1959, by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] b7c
27 He furnished the following information:

28
29 He advised his official title is Pearl River
30 County Patrolman, but that this title is merely for
31 pay purposes only, and that he functions as a Deputy
32 Sheriff and Jailer, and is deputized by the Sheriff of
33 Pearl River County. He stated that in addition to his em-
34 ployment as set out above he also owns a part interest in
35 the C. & A. Cafe in Poplarville with [redacted] b7c
36 is a part-time salesman for the Rebel Hardware Store,
37 518 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, operating
38 in the Poplarville area, and also has a part interest in
39 a small body shop in Poplarville. He said that his wife
40 is the former ORSE MOODY, who is the sister of Pearl River
41 County Sheriff W. OSBORNE MOODY. He said she is employed
42 on a part-time basis at the Magnolia Court, a motel in
43 Poplarville. He resides approximately three blocks north
44 of the Pearl River County Courthouse in Poplarville. He
45 has two sons, ages 7 and 10.

46
47 He said that on the morning of April 29,
48 1959, he went to the C. & A. Cafe at Poplarville, as is
49 his normal custom, at approximately 5:00 or 5:30 AM, at
50 which time he prepared breakfast for prisoners in Pearl
51 River County Jail and carried the breakfast to the jail,
52 arriving at about 6:00 AM. It was his recollection that
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13 MOODY, who said, "come on around to the Sheriff's Office,
14 they took the Negro." He said he had very brief conversa-
15 tion with the Sheriff at this time, learning only that a
16 group of masked men had removed W. C. PARKER from the jail.
17 He said he immediately dressed and was at the Sheriff's
18 Office no more than ten minutes after receiving the Sheriff's
19 phone call. He recalled the following persons as being
20 present when he entered the Sheriff's Office: Sheriff W.
21 OSBORNE MOODY; WILLIAM H. STEWART, County Attorney; E. F.
22 ORR, Town Marshal; PETER CARVER, Night Marshal; A. J. WHEAT;
23 (FNU) [redacted] and some Mississippi Highway Safety Patrolmen. b7c
24 He said there may have been others there, but he does not
25 specifically recall this. It was his recollection that
26 after arriving at the Sheriff's Office he heard general
27 conversation, specific sources unrecalled, that a group of
28 men masked and driving four or five cars presumably came
29 through the window of the Sheriff's Office and obtained
30 the jail keys from a filing cabinet and then removed W. C.
31 PARKER from the jail. He said he recalled making a phone
32 call at this time to Deputy Sheriff WILLIAM STEWART MOODY at
33 Picayune, Mississippi, which is also in Pearl River County,
34 and advising MOODY of PARKER's abduction. He made the ob-
35 servation that MOODY seemed thoroughly surprised and shocked
36 to hear of the abduction. He said he stayed in the Sheriff's
37 Office approximately thirty minutes after arriving on the
38 scene and then went to the jail to inspect the scene at
39 the jail for himself.

40
41 He could not remember whether the door leading
42 from the jail to the courtroom was locked or unlocked,
43 closed or standing open when he arrived. He said he
44 [redacted] what had happened and [redacted] b7c
45 [redacted] "get his legs" and no more. [redacted] could
46 not recall specifically speaking to any of the other prisoners
47 at this time concerning the incident. He said that he ob-
48 served smears which appeared to him to be blood on the
49 floor of PARKER's cell and some on the top of PARKER's cell
50 and on the jail floor leading from PARKER's cell to the jail
51 door opening into the courtroom. He said there was trash
52 consisting of paper and other debris scattered all over
53 PARKER's cell and the cell immediately south of PARKER's.
54 He said he assumed this had come from a garbage can which
55 is customarily filled with this debris and which was at
56 that time lying overturned in PARKER's cell. He also
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12 observed what appeared to him to be water on the floor in
13 PARKER's cell. He did not recall seeing any clubs or
14 weapons which might possibly have been used to beat PARKER,
15 but recalled later while cleaning the jail he saw one of
16 the prisoners pick up a portion of a broom handle which had
17 been split lengthwise and watched the prisoner break it in
18 half and throw it in the garbage can for disposal. He said
19 that this portion of the handle apparently came from a straw
20 broom which is customarily kept in the jail and which he
21 observed at that time to be split. He said he saw no masks
22 or gloves in the jail.

23
24 It was his recollection that he next went
25 down to the Sheriff's Office and asked the sheriff about
26 cleaning up the jail and the blood smears in the courthouse
27 proper. He said the Sheriff told him to postpone cleaning
28 up for awhile until all necessary photographs and investi-
29 gation at the scene had been completed.

30
31 In connection with the cleaning of the jail
32 and courthouse, he said that at about 7:00 AM, April 15,
33 1959, the blood in the area began to smell slightly and it
34 was decided that inasmuch as the women on buses at the
35 courthouse would be arriving shortly the area should be
36 cleaned up. He said that he and first [redacted] started to
37 clean the blood from the floors and get the worst of it
38 up; however, they were not able to do a thorough job and,
39 consequently, when the janitors arrived, they completed the
40 work. He said the prisoners themselves cleaned up in the
41 jail. He recalled that he saw one [redacted] and possibly another [redacted] carry [redacted]
42 the [redacted] of the hospital immediately across the street from
43 the [redacted] where they burned it in an incinerator. b7c
44 ALFORD said that after he finished cleaning the area he
45 stayed at the courthouse until 1:00 in the day of April 15,
46 1959, leaving late that night to the hospital in his recollection.

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48
49 ALFORD stated that unless someone else had
50 had occasion to use the jail keys he would have been the
51 last to place them in the filing cabinet after feeding the
52 prisoners in the approximate area of 9:00 AM, April 15, 1959.
53 He pointed out that sometimes the janitors will take the
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12 jail keys from the cabinet and let out one or two prisoners
13 to assist them in cleaning and later lock the prisoners
14 back in the jail. He distinctly remembered that on that
15 night the janitor, HOUSTON "FLAT" AMACHER, left the court-
16 house before he did, so he was of the opinion that some of
17 the prisoners would have been used by the janitor in
18 cleaning after he, ALFORD, left. He said he ordinarily
19 leaves the filing cabinet containing the jail keys open
20 when he leaves and probably left it open that night. He
21 said sometimes the latch to the filing cabinet is left
22 unsnapped and the key in the latch. He does not recall
23 whether or not the windows to the Sheriff's Office were
24 latched when he left, although he pointed out as a rule
25 they are locked. He specifically recalled locking the
26 south door to the courthouse with his key when he left.
27 He also specifically recalled that when he returned to
28 the Sheriff's Office early in the morning of April 25, 1955,
29 after receiving the Sheriff's call, he examined the south
30 door to the courthouse and noticed that the door was open
31 and the latch was standing out from the door which would
32 indicate the door had been opened without the use of a key
33 because, had a key been used, the latch would have been
34 recessed. He said the latch on the better or the west
35 double door was loose, which would make it possible for
36 someone to either pull the double doors open from the
37 inside or push them open from the outside, causing the
38 doors to part sufficiently so that the latch would slip
39 out of place.

40
41 ALFORD said that when M. C. SMITH was being
42 brought to Poplarville on the night of April 23, 1955, he
43 and Sheriff W. OSBORNE HOOBY discussed the possibility of
44 ALFORD maintaining the jail keys in his personal possession
45 at that time rather than leaving them in the filing cabinet
46 drawer as was customary. He said this would have been for
47 security reasons, inasmuch as when ALFORD was first arrested
48 in Lumberton, there had been talking and rumors from unre-
49 called sources about possible violence. He emphasized he
50 had heard nothing specifically at that time and had no
51 information whatsoever about individuals who may have been
52 responsible for this talk. He said after discussing the
53 matter with the Sheriff they decided that ALFORD should
54 maintain the keys in his personal possession which he did
55 for several days. ALFORD said he then "got to thinking about
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12 it" and decided that in the event a crowd came after the keys
13 in order to get PARKER out of jail he himself would be in
14 danger, and, not wanting to risk his personal safety, he told
15 Sheriff MOODY of his fears. He said Sheriff MOODY was in
16 agreement with him and that, after consulting with the Judge,
17 Sheriff MOODY told him to go back to the normal routine of
18 placing the jail keys in the filing cabinet at the Sheriff's
19 Office, which he did.
20

21 ALFORD stated he did not know if any persons
22 other than law enforcement officials knew that he was
23 personally carrying the jail keys for the several days
24 immediately after M. C. PARKER was lodged in the Poplarville
25 jail. He said that he had no suspicious contacts in any
26 manner from any persons concerning these keys. He explained
27 that replacing the keys in the filing cabinet was prompted
28 only by his own thinking and fears on the matter, and he had
29 no threats whatsoever from any source previous or subsequent
30 to so doing.
31

32 ALFORD was of the recollection that [redacted] b7c
33 [redacted] Pearl River County Tax Assessor, told him he worked
34 late in his office at the courthouse on the night of April 24,
35 1959. ALFORD said he had no suspects in this matter and
36 stated that he did not believe the perpetrators of this crime
37 were from the Poplarville vicinity. He said he was of the
38 opinion had they been from Poplarville they could have re-
39 moved PARKER from the jail when first brought into Poplarville.
40

41 He said no one contacted him prior to PARKER's
42 abduction with any information of any kind indicating that
43 such an abduction was being planned and said he has not been
44 contacted since by anyone with any information whatsoever as
45 to the whereabouts of the kidnapers. He said he has furnished
46 all pertinent information concerning this case to the FBI.
47

48 J. HOUSTON ANICKER
49 Janitor, Pearl River
50 County Courthouse
51

52 HOUSTON ANICKER was interviewed by SA [redacted] b7c
53 [redacted] on April 25, 1959,
54 and SA [redacted] on May 2,
55 1959. He stated that he resides at House # [redacted] Poplarville,
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12 and has been employed as a janitor at the courthouse since
13 1951.

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15 He advised that on Friday, April 24, 1959,
16 he worked his regular hours, leaving the courthouse at about
17 6:00 PM. He then ate his meal at Joe Orr's Cafe and talked
18 to him for awhile. At the Star Cafe, he also talked to
19 FRANCIS BARKER, another acquaintance, and also met J. P.
20 WALKER of Poplarville. At about 8:00 PM, the fire whistle
21 started blowing, and Mr. AMACKER went with WALKER in WALKER's
22 car to follow the fire engine. They traveled out the
23 Bogalusa Road to the White Sands Community and went to the
24 home of HORACE SMITH, where the house was on fire. He and
25 WALKER returned to Poplarville at about 9:00 PM, arriving
26 in Poplarville, R. J. WHEAT and [REDACTED]
27 drove up behind them and, after WALKER and [REDACTED]
28 into the Star Cafe to order coffee, WHEAT and [REDACTED]
29 followed them in and joined them. After talking [REDACTED]
30 for a short while, [REDACTED] a neighbor of AMACKER's,
31 came in. He eventually took AMACKER home at about 9:30 PM.
32

33 On Saturday morning, April 25, 1959, AMACKER
34 started towards town and was given a ride by Mrs. W. O.
35 AMACKER, Route 3, Poplarville, who was taking her son,
36 BUDDY, to work at Movie Star of Poplarville. Mr. AMACKER
37 stated that she left him off at the north side of the
38 courthouse square and he entered the north door of the
39 courthouse at about 6:45 AM. He stated that he was in-
40 tending to do extra work that day in connection with the
41 forthcoming meeting of the court scheduled for the next
42 week. When he entered the door, he found that it was un-
43 locked and he noted that JEREL ALFORD, the jailer, was there
44 with J. WHEAT, [REDACTED] and possibly E. F.
45 ORR, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. ALFORD
46 was the only representative of the Sheriff's Office seen.
47

48 ALFORD immediately told [REDACTED] that Sheriff
49 W. O. MOODY wanted him to clean the floor. [REDACTED] could
50 see for himself there were brown stains which [REDACTED]
51 were apparently caused by blood and [REDACTED] had been
52 mopping everywhere but was only using [REDACTED] and not
53 getting the stains up.
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AMACKER went to the janitor's room near the south door of the courthouse to get a bucket and then went outside the building on the west side to fill his bucket with water. He returned then to the janitor's room to get cleaning fluid and picked up a mop somewhere but could not recall exactly which one. ALFORD suggested he get some prisoners to help with this mopping and he believes ALFORD said that the Sheriff wanted the floors clean before the office people arrived for work at 8:00 AM. AMACKER told ALFORD he could handle this work himself and did not call for any prisoners.

He stated that he began mopping the south end of the building, which is at the landing of the stairs which come down from the courtroom proper and the adjoining jail. The first large spot of stain he found was near the foot of the stairs. He proceeded down the main corridor going towards the south door. The stain was marked in locations up to a width of about 10 inches. He observed that the stain was not continuous but was visible as far as the south door. Going outside on the stone steps, there were additional stains there and on the sidewalk leading from the courthouse grounds to the street and the regular sidewalk. He believed that the last spot he recalled cleaning was the largest one visible outside, and it was closer to the courthouse steps than it was to the street.

While proceeding with this work, he could recall no one approaching him for any purpose and, when he had finished outside, he returned to the north end of the corridor and started working up the stairs. By the time he got to the top of the stairs, he was feeling nauseated and, since it was about 8:00 AM by then, when he ordinarily went to the Post Office to get his mail by that time, he decided to handle his own affairs and to do any further work. His brother, [redacted] was present by this time and was told to continue the mopping in the courtroom and up to the jail door.

He went outside the building and he went half-way to the Post Office when he met [redacted] the

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12 is employed by the Sheriff in his office. He asked her
13 if she would take his keys and go to the Post Office for
14 the mail because he felt sick and wanted to visit a doctor. b7c
15 He saw [redacted] and received some medicine from him and
16 then returned to the courthouse. At that time he met
17 HUBERT downstairs and HUBERT said that the mopping was
18 finished.

19
20 During the day, HUBERT handled most of
21 the cleaning upstairs in the courtroom. Mr. AMACKER
22 stated that he worked in the offices on the main floor,
23 sweeping the halls at different times and generally pre-
24 paring the courthouse for the coming court session. He
25 stated that during this cleaning work he found no clothing
26 or any type of cloth. Further, he found no sticks or debris
27 of any kind and, in general, said he found only the usual
28 debris he collects whenever he cleans. He stated he
29 finished his work at about 4:00 PM and went to his home.
30

31 Mr. AMACKER stated further that he ordinarily
32 has access to the jail keys but makes a practice of
33 asking ALFORD if it is all right before he takes the keys.
34 He stated that the keys presently in use were changed after
35 a jail break in November, 1958, and that the keys are
36 usually kept in a safe cabinet in the Sheriff's Office.
37 He stated there were exceptions to the procedure in the
38 handling of the keys, mentioning that when his brother,
39 JEFFIE AMACKER, a constable, brings a prisoner in he might
40 take the keys and let them in without asking ALFORD for
41 permission.
42

43 Regarding his last use of the keys, Mr.
44 AMACKER stated, before the Sheriff's Office of [redacted]
45 [redacted] jail [redacted] he recalled [redacted] b7c
46 [redacted] sent him [redacted]
47 prisoner, some money and [redacted]
48 a relative. He said he took the keys [redacted]
49 and went to the jail door and unlocked it [redacted]
50 opening the door, he handed the money and [redacted]
51 [redacted] the [redacted] to deliver and [redacted]
52 immediately went back to the Sheriff's Office. He believed
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that he laid the keys on top of the cabinet at that time, inasmuch as [REDACTED] and WILFORD were still there in the office. WILFORD was waiting at this time to go to the C. & A. Care to pick up the evening meal for the prisoners. He stated that he remembered locking the north and east doors of the courthouse and then looking in the Sheriff's Office to tell WILFORD he was leaving for the day. He departed through the south door, which was left unlocked inasmuch as WILFORD was still on the premises. b7c

Mr. WACKER stated he was not aware at any time of any plans for abduction of M. C. FARMER and that, since the incident took place, he has heard from no source any information relating to the identity of the people involved.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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X. HUBERT AMACKER
Janitor, Pearl River
County Courthouse

HUBERT AMACKER was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 2, 1968. He advised he resides at Route 3, Poplarville, and assists his brother, HOUSTON AMACKER, as a janitor at the Pearl River County Courthouse.

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He stated that on Friday, April 24, 1969, he was at his usual work in the courthouse until about 6:00 PM. He left at that time and went downtown to eat and, after visiting with various acquaintances at the cafes, he departed at about 9:00 PM with his brother, JEPPIE AMACKER, to ride to Bogalusa, Louisiana. The principal purpose of going to Bogalusa was to buy some beer which they brought with them, returning to Poplarville about 11:00 PM. At that time, they [REDACTED] and drank a few beers together while parked in their cars on the east side of the railroad tracks. When ready to go home, Mr. AMACKER stated he would estimate it was about midnight. They drove past the ice house on a street which is several blocks east of the main street and crossed Main Street at the traffic signal near City Hall. From this point, they traveled on State Highway 63 to the intersection of U. S. Highway 11 and then proceeded home. He stated he could not recall they saw any cars at all until they reached Highway 11 on the east side of town and then possibly met a few there, but no notice was taken of them. [REDACTED] drove his own car ahead of them and they [REDACTED] crossed Highway 11 and traveled towards his home on the Bogalusa Road.

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As they crossed Main Street near the City Hall, AMACKER stated he caught a glimpse of light on the

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12 corridor of the Pearl River County Courthouse. He stated
13 that lights in the corridor are usually not on at night
14 but that he could see some reflections shining through
15 the east door. He thought at the time it might be someone
16 bringing in a prisoner, and JEPPIE commented that it might
17 be a State Highway Patrolman. They proceeded to their home
18 without further incident.

19
20 On the morning of Saturday, April 23, 1955,
21 he obtained a ride into town with a neighbor [redacted] b7c
22 [redacted] and [redacted] related some of the news concerning the
23 break-in at the jail, in which a [redacted] apparently
24 been in Poplarville sometime during the night.

25
26 On arrival at the courthouse, at about
27 7:30 AM, Mr. ANACKER went in the south door, which was
28 unlocked. He met his brother, HOUSTON, who said there was
29 some mopping to be done and that he was to work on the
30 on the courtroom floor. He stated he used mops and
31 could see signs that someone had previously been mopping,
32 apparently with clear water, inasmuch as there were white
33 stains remaining on the floor. He obtained his mopping equip-
34 ment, including cleaning solution, and started to work
35 near the jail door because there were heavier stains
36 visible at that point.

37
38 He worked from the jail door towards the
39 back of the courtroom and then towards the main center
40 doors at the rear of the courtroom. As this mopping he
41 found it was necessary to clean about 100 feet in the
42 center aisle going towards the bench. He stated that
43 the stains were brown in color and at first he noticed
44 most consisted of scattered spots. He continued mopping
45 as far as the head of the stains, which was the point
46 where HOUSTON left off.

47
48 After completing his mopping, he began
49 sweeping around the courtroom and found a number of
50 of cigarette butts at the jail door, which he placed in
51 in his trash. He found no other articles of interest
52 anywhere else and found no clubs or other items or pieces
53 of clothing of any kind. He did not attempt to clean
54 inside the jail door.

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12 He stated he remained on the second floor
13 until about 10:30 or 11:00 AM and then worked elsewhere
14 in the courthouse throughout the day and noted nothing
15 unusual in the trash collected.
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18 Concerning his access to the jail keys,
19 Mr. AMACKER stated he obtains them with permission from
20 the Sheriff's Office when told to enter the jail. He
21 stated that the keys were always kept in a cabinet drawer
22 in the Sheriff's Office. He stated that he has never used
23 the keys without permission.
24

25 Concerning his knowledge of the security
26 of the courthouse on the night of April 21, 1969, he
27 advised that he recalled that he checked the north and
28 east doors to be certain they were locked and was aware
29 that JEWEL ALFORD was still in the Sheriff's Office when
30 he departed. He left by way of the south door and left
31 it open because the jailer was still on the ground.
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L. ~~██████████~~

FRED MELLING, Unit 61, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Poplarville, Mississippi, was interviewed on May 8, 1959, by SA's ~~██████████~~ and ~~██████████~~. MELLING advised he received a telephone call at his residence in Poplarville between 1:00 and 1:10 a.m., Saturday, April 25, 1959, from Sheriff W. O. MOODY. ~~██████████~~ advised Sheriff MOODY informed "they got our boy out." ~~██████████~~ asked which boy MOODY had reference to and the Sheriff said "they got the nigger." MELLING advised he assumed MOODY was referring to the PARKER Negro and stated Sheriff MOODY requested that he come to the Sheriff's Office. b7c

MELLING advised he immediately thereafter dressed, got in his patrol car, and informed the Gulfport, Mississippi Substation of the Highway Patrol by radio of the information given him by Sheriff MOODY and of the fact that he would furnish more information later. He arrived at the Sheriff's Office at approximately 1:25 AM and met Sheriff MOODY at the south entrance of the courthouse. MOODY showed him some stains on the corridor inside the courthouse which appeared to be fresh blood and which the Sheriff said was apparently blood from PARKER, who had been taken from his cell by some masked men. At this time, Pearl River County Attorney H. L. STEWART arrived. MELLING, Sheriff MOODY, and STEWART then went upstairs to the jail where they talked briefly with the prisoners concerning descriptive data of the individuals who had taken PARKER. MELLING advised he was in the jail no longer than five or ten minutes at the most, after which he returned to his car and radioed Gulfport, furnishing them with the available descriptive information.

He then went back to the Sheriff's office where someone, believed to have been Sheriff MOODY, pointed to a window partially open through which he said the masked men had apparently gained entrance to the office. ~~██████████~~ also examined a cabinet in the Sheriff's office where he had a key that the jail keys were kept. He advised the top drawer of this cabinet, which ordinarily contains the keys, appeared to have been tampered with, explaining that the upper part of the drawer cabinet bent slightly inward and here what appeared to be tool marks.

MELLING was not certain but stated he believed

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12 that he re-traced his steps to his car and radioed the
13 Hattiesburg Substation to alert the Bogalusa, Louisiana Police
14 Department and the Louisiana State Police. Shortly thereafter,
15 he received a radio call from the Gulfport Substation giving
16 him a telephone number for Sheriff MOODY to call. He was in-
17 formed that this was the number at which Mississippi's Governor
18 JAMES P. COLEMAN could be reached.
19

20 He furnished this number to Sheriff MOODY and,
21 thereafter, accompanied by E. J. WHEAT and S. F. ORR, he pro-
22 ceeded east on Highway 26 searching for any evidence of the
23 unknown abductors, during the course of which he looked for
24 blood and other evidence on the Wolf Creek bridge on Highway
25 26, and drove over several dirt roads in the area, all with
26 negative results.
27

28 He then returned to the Sheriff's Office where
29 WHEAT and ORR got out of the car. He picked up Sheriff MOODY
30 and Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Inspector R. M. [redacted],
31 who had arrived, and the three drove to the area where PARKER
32 was alleged to have raped a housewife from Bogalusa, Louisiana.
33 They found no evidence indicating that any persons who abducted
34 PARKER had taken him to that area.
35

36 WELLS advised that he thereafter searched a
37 number of roads in the Bogalusa area until about daylight
38 when BILL HOOD, Chief of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol,
39 arrived at Bogalusa and took charge of the Sheriff's inves-
40 tigation.
41

42 WELLS stated he had no information whatever
43 as to possible suspects and stated that the looking in the
44 Bogalusa area prior to PARKER's abduction reported to
45 one [redacted] that [redacted] could be convicted of the rape,
46 and that he would get a just and fair trial.
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III. WITNESSES

A. PRISONERS IN THE PEARL RIVER COUNTY JAIL

1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was a prisoner in the white section of the Pearl River County Jail at the time of the abduction of MACK CHARLES PARKER. He is 34 years of age and had been confined to the jail since February 9, 1959, on a charge of taking mortgaged property out of the state without permission. He was a trusty and in that capacity slept on a cot in the hallway outside the cells in the white section of the jail.

[REDACTED] was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] on April 28, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] on May 11, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] ROCKHOLD; on May 13, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]; on May 14, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]; on May 15, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]; on May 16, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]; on May 20, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and on May 21, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] has been released from the Pearl River County Jail and subsequently from the [REDACTED] Jail. He can be reached through his [REDACTED] employed by [REDACTED] His address is in Pearl River County, [REDACTED] Picayune, Mississippi.

[REDACTED] advised upon interview on April 25, 1959, that he had seen asleep the night of April 24, 1959, on a cot in the hallway outside the cells in the white section of the Pearl River County Jail. He was awakened by someone rattling the door at the entrance of the jail.

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His first thought was that the Sheriff was bringing in a drunk so he got up and walked toward the platform on the jail side of the entrance door from which an open stairway leads up to the colored section and down to the white section. As he got even with this platform, the jail door opened and a man wearing a black hood which covered his entire head walked through the door. This hood had no eye holes and was thin enough so that the man could see through it. This man was also carrying a revolver, which appeared to [redacted] to be about the same size as a .38 caliber snub-nose revolver. This man wore an old hat but the color was not noted. He wore work clothing, which [redacted] could not otherwise describe.

[redacted] said that this man did not say anything but held his forefinger up in front of his mouth to indicate that [redacted] should be quiet. [redacted] said that he immediately thought that they had come [redacted] and he was so scared that he immediately turned around facing the door of the cell where the woman prisoner was sleeping and tried to keep her quiet so that she would not get hysterical. He said that he only saw the one man come through the door, although he realized there were others going up the stairs. He claimed that he kept his back turned to the stairway the entire time the men were there. He also said that he did not go to the window at the end of the hallway to look out toward the street after the man had taken PARKER out.

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He estimates that the men were in the jail about seven minutes and he heard PARKER yelling for help. He did not hear any of the men say anything and cannot estimate how many men there were.

About 4:30 or 6:45 AM the next morning, the jailer told him to start cleaning up the blood in the jail. Most of the blood was in the cell where [redacted] had been kept but there was also blood all the way down the stairs up though PARKER had been dragged. He did not see any clubs or sticks during the time he was cleaning up the blood.

On April 23, 1950, [redacted] furnished the following descriptive data of one of the persons who had entered the jail:

12 [redacted] stated that the only person he observed
13 was the first individual who entered the jail through the
14 jail door. He described this individual as 5' 9" or 5' 10",
15 160 pounds, dressed in blue denim trousers and blue denim
16 jumper. He stated this individual was wearing a light
17 colored felt hat either tan or gray. He stated this indi-
18 vidual was wearing white cotton work gloves with knit wrists
19 and a mask of black cloth, which covered the area between
20 the hat brim and the chest. He stated he noted no eye holes
21 in this mask and the cloth appeared to be plain.

22
23 He advised that this individual was carrying
24 a blue steel snub-nose revolver in his right hand. He ad-
25 vided that this individual was observed by him while this
26 individual was standing approximately 3 to 3 1/2 feet directly
27 in front of a burning light bulb.

28
29 On May 13, 1959, [redacted] advised that four
30 men came into the cell block of the Pearl River County Jail
31 to abduct JACK CHARLES FARMER and that he could identify all
32 four. He stated he would not make any statement so long as
33 he was confined in the jail, that he felt his life was in
34 jeopardy, particularly since the MSP had removed Patrolmen
35 who were guarding the jail.

36
37 On May 14, 1959, [redacted] furnished the follow-
38 ing signed statement to SA's [redacted]
39 BRETT:

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41
42 "Poplarville, Mississippi
43 May 14, 1959

44 "I, [redacted] do the
45 following free and voluntary signed statement to
46 [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom
47 have identified themselves to me as Special Agents
48 of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know I
49 do not have to make a statement, and that any
50 statement I make may be used against me in a Court
51 of Law. I know I have a right to stop answering any
52 threats, promises, or offers of reward which induced
53 me to make this statement.

"I am 34 years of age, and have been confined to the Pearl River County Jail at Poplarville, Mississippi, since February 9, 1959, on a charge of False Pretense. I was born and raised in Pearl River County, and am acquainted with a large number of the citizens of the county.

"On April 24, 1959, I was confined in the Pearl River County Jail, located on the second floor of the courthouse. I was a trusty in the jail and as such had the run of the corridor and bull pen in the cell block. At about 12:25 AM Saturday, April 25, 1959, while I was lying awake on my bunk, I heard keys rattling in the door leading from the cell block into the courtroom. Since I had been told several times by Jewel Alford, jailer, that if anybody came up there for Parker, a Negro held for raping a white woman, that I should point Parker out there to them, and to make sure they got the right Negro, I immediately assumed that the keys rattling at the door indicated that somebody had come for Parker. My bunk being in the south end of the bull pen, I got up and walked over by the steps leading up to the door. A light was burning over the landing in the bull pen, and another light was burning in the upper tier of cells, occupied by Negro prisoners.

"About the time I got to the steps, the door leading out into the courtroom opened, and a man came through the door and walked down the steps to the lower tier. This man curly-headed with black hair whose identity I did not know, but whom I am positive I have seen on a number of occasions standing around in front of the Poplarville Furniture Company, which store is located directly across Pearl Street from the courthouse. This man was followed by a second man who I immediately recognized as J. P. Walker, owner of Walker's Body Shop at Picayune, Mississippi, and who is a candidate for Sheriff of Pearl River County. Walker was closely followed through the door by a man whom I recognized

as Floren Lee, a Baptist preacher who resides east of Poplarville. Right behind Floren Lee was Jewel Alford, the jailer at the Pearl River County Jail. I'm certain that this was Jewel Alford, because I recognized a gun which he held in his right hand, a .38 caliber blue steel revolver with bone handles. Jewel has a gun like this, and I saw on this gun a sort of bolt which sticks through the grips on the gun, which is the same kind of bolt on Jewel's gun. Further, right after Jewel entered the jail, he leaned over to me and said 'Be quiet, boy', and I immediately recognized his voice. He was wearing a pair of light tan low quarter dress shoes which I recognized as shoes which I have frequently shined for him, using a dark Esquire stain. Jewel was wearing a blue chambray work shirt and blue dungarees. Over his head was what appeared to be a black silk scarf, which was completely draped over his head down over his shoulders, outside his shirt. There were small slits for eyeholes, and I could see what appeared to be his glasses protruding from inside the scarf. His shirt sleeves were rolled down, and he was wearing white cotton gloves with a blue elastic band at the wrist. He was wearing an old gray felt hat with the brim pulled down all the way around, and the crown was pushed out at the top.

"The fifth man to come to the door I immediately recognized as [redacted] who operates [redacted]. I am personally acquainted with [redacted] have been in [redacted] on a number of occasions, and he frequently accompanies [redacted] into the [redacted] [redacted] further, I know that he had [redacted] his [redacted] which was in a splint. When I saw [redacted] in the door of the cell block, where he stopped, he was wearing grey work pants and the same color cotton shirt, with the sleeves buttoned. He, too, was wearing white cotton gloves with a blue elastic wrist band, and I saw that his right index finger in the glove was [redacted]

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which immediately indicated that it was [REDACTED] to me. [REDACTED] had a blue bandana across the front of his face, from the bridge of his nose down to the neck. He was bareheaded, and I recognized him from his general appearance from his eyes and his partially bald head. b7c

"After the curly-headed man, whose identity I do not know, entered the door first, he walked down the steps to the first tier of cells, looked around for a second or two, then walked back up the steps, and screwed loose the light bulb which was burning over the landing in the bull pen, extinguishing this bulb.

"J. P. Walker, Floren Lee and Jewel Alford walked up the steps to the barred door at the head of the stairway. Walker had the jail keys, and he called out to one of the Negro prisoners whom I believe was [REDACTED] and said 'Which cell is M. C. Parker in?' I heard [REDACTED] say, 'He's over there', and at about the same time I saw Walker unlock the door at the head of the stairway. Walker, Lee and Alford then went onto the second tier and went to the control box in the center of the second tier, which operates the door to the maximum security cell on the north end of the tier, where M. C. Parker was lodged. At about the time they reached the control box, I heard Parker start hollering for help and for somebody to get the sheriff. b7c

"All this time, [REDACTED] was standing in the doorway leading to the courtroom, holding in his left hand a .38 nickel-plated snub nose revolver. I walked to the north end of the bull pen corridor, and from this point saw J. P. Walker operate the control box on the second tier, and open the door leading into Parker's cell. After the door was open, I saw Walker, Lee and Alford go toward Parker's cell and go out of sight. Then I heard a crash as if a bucket had been thrown, and the sounds of a scuffle. I heard somebody b7c

"Parker out, followed by Alford and the curly-headed men. Then the door leading to the courtroom closed, and I could hear the iron latch outside this door fall into place, locking it.

"While they were bringing Parker down the steps from the second tier, I was standing in front of the cell on the lower tier occupied by [redacted] I told her to put her head down on her bunk, so she wouldn't see anything. During the time the door to the courtroom was open, I could see into the courtroom, since the light on the upper tier was burning the whole time. I saw what appeared to be six or seven people standing around in the courtroom. Those that I saw wore some kind of masks which appeared to be bandanas over their lower faces, and some wore the same kind of white cotton gloves with blue wrist bands. I did not recognize any of these people, and did not hear them say anything. b2c

"The curly-haired man who I have previously mentioned is a white male about 27 or 28 years of age, five feet eight or nine inches tall, about 150 pounds, medium build, with black, kinky hair. He appeared to be excited and to be enjoying himself. He was wearing khaki work shirt and trousers, and he had the cuffs to the shirt turned up about twice, showing two or three inches of the hair on his lower arm, which hair was black. He was wearing white cotton gloves with blue elastic wrist band. He was bare-headed and wore brown low quarter dress shoes. He had a blue bandana over the lower part of his face, from the bridge of his nose to his neck.

"J. P. Walker, whom I have known all my life, is a white male about six feet, one or two inches tall, weighs about 200 pounds, has red hair and is very red-faced. On this occasion, he was wearing khaki work pants and shirt, and the sleeves were buttoned on his shirt. He was wearing white cotton gloves with a blue elastic wrist

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12 "band, and had on a red bandana across the lower
13 part of his face from his nose to his neck. He
14 was bareheaded and had on brown low quarter dress
15 shoes. Walker is about 45-50 years old.

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17 "Floren Lee, whom I have known practi-
18 cally all my life, is a white male in his late
19 50s, about five feet ten inches, and weighs about
20 155-160 pounds. On this occasion, he was wearing
21 an old pair of blue dungaree pants and blue
22 chambray work shirt. He was bareheaded, wearing
23 hightop work shoes, and he had a red and white
24 checked bandana across the lower part of his face
25 from the bridge of his nose to his neck. Floren
26 Lee's shirt sleeves were down and buttoned, and
27 he wore a pair of white cotton work gloves with
28 blue wrist bands.

29
30 "After the men left the jail with Parker,
31 I went to the south end of the cell block and looked
32 out. I heard Parker yell twice as if he had been
33 hit, and shortly afterward saw about four men, whom
34 I could not identify from that distance, in a 1950
35 Chevrolet Forder Sedan, white in color, which was
36 parked on the street at the south entrance of the
37 courthouse, which car was facing in a westerly
38 direction. I saw somebody open the back door of
39 this car next to the curb, and I saw two men throw
40 somebody into the back seat. The men then got into
41 the car and it started up and drove west out of
42 sight. As it drove under the streetlight on the
43 corner by the courthouse and the Poplarville Furni-
44 ture Company, I could see several persons in the
45 car, but I could not say how many were there, or
46 who they were.

47
48 "As soon as the Chevrolet started leaving,
49 I saw two men run from the south side of the court-
50 house diagonally across the street to the car, which
51 I determined to be a 1955 or 1956 white Pontiac Coupe, which
52 was parked on Julia Street in front of Everett
53 law office, heading in a northward direction. This
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12 "car" started up after these two men got in it,
13 took a left at the corner onto Pearl Street and
14 went out of sight following the Chevrolet. I
15 could not identify these two men.
16

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18 "At the same time I saw the two men
19 run to the Ford, I saw three unidentified men
20 run from the South side of the courthouse to about
21 a 1953 International pickup truck, dark green in
22 color with a cow body, parked on Pearl Street
23 facing East. These men got in the truck, which
24 sped to Julia Street and drove off out of sight
25 on Julia Street in a southerly direction.
26

27 "About this time, I saw two men who
28 had been standing by some bushes at the southwest
29 corner of the courthouse walk across Julia Street
30 and go up to the porch of the Pearl River County
31 Hospital. I could not identify these men, but
32 they stopped at the hospital porch and talked with
33 nurse in a white uniform. I heard the nurse call
34 out to these men that she had called the sheriff.
35 I don't know the identity of the nurse.
36

37 "The three vehicles described were the
38 only cars I saw, except for some cars parked at
39 the hospital, which cars remained parked after the
40 men left with Parker. However, at the time J. P.
41 Walker and Floren Lee were dragging Parker out
42 the jail door, I turned around and looked out the
43 north window of the jail and saw about five or
44 six men standing near a clump of bushes at the
45 north west corner of the courthouse, and about the
46 time I saw the white Chevrolet leave. I heard a
47 number of cars start and leave from north of the
48 courthouse. I cannot identify any of the five or
49 six men I saw at the north window, as they were in
50 a dark area.
51

52 "At about 6:00 AM Saturday, April 25,
53 1959, Jewel Alford instructed me to get a bucket,
54 pail and some water, and to wash up all the blood
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