FD-365 (Rev. 8-9-71)

F B I

Date: 1/5/72

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

b6
b7C

To: Director, FBI ATTENTION:

From: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-New) (P)

[X] CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
GENERAL INVEST. DIV.
[ ] DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.

Subject: BUFORD PUSSER,
Constable, McNairy County,
Tennessee;
[redacted] - VICTIM

[X] CR [ ] EL [ ] DIH [ ] CRA-64
[ ] PA [ ] PE [ ] PF [ ] E
[ ] EID [ ] Bomb Threats [ ] Extremist Matters
[ ] White Hate [ ] Black

Summary of Complaint:

Enclosed for Jackson and Little Rock are 2 copies each of an FD-302 reflecting interview of [redacted] on 1/4/72 at Memphis, Tennessee.

Victim, [redacted] personally appeared at the Memphis Office of the FBI on 1/4/72, stating he desired to file a civil rights complaint against Constable BUFORD PUSSER of McNairy County, Tenn. Victim stated [redacted] and two of [redacted] companions were stopped on Highway 45 in McNairy County, Tenn., by Constable BUFORD PUSSER. Victim states PUSSER without provocation struck victim with

REC-60 44-56363-1

ACTION: UACB:

2-Bureau
2-Jackson(Encs.2)
2-Little Rock(Encs.2)
2-Memphis
EFP:jap/wp
(8)

[ ] No further action being taken and
[ ] LHM enclosed [ ] Copy furnished to USA _____
[ ] FD-376 (enclosure to LHM)
[ ] LHM being submitted
[ ] Report being submitted
[X] Preliminary investigation instituted
[ ] Limited investigation instituted

MCT-52

JAN 8 1972

Approved: JAN 17 1972 Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

his hand, knocking him to the ground, then again struck him in the mouth with a flashlight, knocking him to the ground, and hit him on the left side of his head with a shotgun, knocking him to the ground and causing a severe laceration of the left ear which required 7 stitches. In addition, victim alleges PUSSER beat him on the back with a whip antenna from victim's automobile and subject further beat in the top of victim's automobile with the shotgun. Victim advised further that PUSSER also slapped [redacted] on one occasion during this incident.

Victim advised he received treatment at Emergency Room of Hardin County General Hospital, Savannah, Tennessee, where he had his ear repaired and obtained X-rays for possible skull fracture. Photographs were taken of lacerated ear of victim and bruises on his back allegedly caused by the antenna.

LEADS:

JACKSON DIVISION

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AT CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI Locate, interview, and obtain statements from [redacted] (phonetic) and the other unknown companion who witnessed beating. Conduct other additional and necessary civil rights investigation.

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

AT BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS Locate, interview, and obtain statement from [redacted] concerning alleged incident. Conduct other additional and necessary civil rights investigation.

FD-263 (Rev. 12-19-67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
JACKSON	MEMPHIS	1/14/72	1/11/72

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
BUFORD PUSSER, CONSTABLE, MC NAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE; [redacted] VICTIM	SA [redacted]	mhc
	CHARACTER OF CASE: CR	

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REFERENCES:

Memphis airtel to Bureau dated 1/5/72.

-RUC-

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						[X] NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR [ ] YES [X] NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS [ ] YES [X] NO

APPROVED SA/KCB SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-5136 3-2

REC-22

20 JAN 18 1972

22 [redacted]

b6
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COPIES MADE:

2 - Bureau
3 - Memphis
(1 - USA, Memphis)
1 - Jackson (44-3277)

ICC CRU

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD			
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.	1/20/72			
How Fwd.	694(B)			A*
By	54 JRMB 1/20/72			

Notations

STANDARD

GPO : 1968 O - 299-885

COVER PAGE

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: JACKSON b6 b7C
Date: 1/14/72

Field Office File #: JN 44-3277 Bureau File #:

Title: BUFORD PUSSER,
CONSTABLE, MC NAIRY COUNTY,
TENNESSEE;
[redacted] VICTIM b6 b7C

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: [redacted] white male, DOB [redacted] [redacted] explained he accompanied the victim in victim's Volkswagen automobile on [redacted] and relates details concerning acts of police brutality by Constable PUSSER effecting victim [redacted] and him. [redacted] relates details concerning confrontation she had with [redacted] on [redacted] [redacted] parents of [redacted] [redacted] unable to provide any information concerning current location of their son. b6 b7C

-RUC-

DETAILS:

Investigation in this matter was instituted upon the receipt of a communication from the Memphis Division of the FBI, January 5, 1972, which communication related details concerning a civil rights complaint, the victim of which was [redacted] b6 b7C

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

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/14/72

[redacted] was contacted and advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent as SA [redacted] and the nature of the inquiry. He furnished the following information but stated he did not wish to furnish a signed statement:

[redacted] advised that at approximately 4:00 a.m., January 1, 1972, he was leaving from the Old Hickory Grill in Guys, Tennessee, where he had spent the evening. He related that he observed three men getting into a Volkswagen automobile and asked if they were going toward Corinth. He explained that the men agreed to give him a ride to Corinth, Mississippi, after which he got into the back seat of the automobile. [redacted] explained that at this point he noted that there was a shotgun propped up between the two front seats.

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[redacted] explained that upon leaving the Old Hickory Lounge, a dark-colored vehicle was parked in the parking lot near the road occupied by a lone white male. [redacted] explained that the driver of the Volkswagen, whom he now knows to be [redacted] drove slowly by the vehicle parked in the rear of the parking lot after which this vehicle began following them.

[redacted] recalled that this vehicle pulled [redacted] over near the Tennessee-Mississippi State Line, possibly in the State of Mississippi, at which time the driver, whom he then recognized to be BUFORD PUSSER, former Sheriff of McNairy County, Tennessee, approached the driver of the Volkswagen, opened the door and jerked him out and "beat him around a bit".

[redacted] explained that PUSSER thereafter jerked [redacted] from the front passenger seat of the Volkswagen

Interviewed on 1/11/72 at Corinth, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-3277

by SA [redacted] mhc 2 Date dictated 1/12/72

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

and "hit him a few times" after which he removed the shotgun from the Volkswagen and hit [redacted] with the butt of the gun, knocking him into a roadside trench. [redacted] explained that he was told to get out of the car at which time he was struck across the side of the head by PUSSER for no apparent reason. [redacted] explained that [redacted] with whom he was riding in the back seat of the Volkswagen, was never asked to get out of the vehicle and was not a victim of PUSSER's punishment.

[redacted] explained that the foregoing details, although they are very general, are all he recalls since all of the occupants of the Volkswagen admittedly had "a bunch to drink". [redacted] explained that he would prefer not to furnish a signed statement to the above information in view of his drunken state at the time these events occurred.

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

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Height	5' 11"
Weight	200 pounds
Address	[redacted]
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/14/72

[redacted] Guys, Tennessee, was located at her residence on [redacted] at which time she was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the inquiry. She thereafter furnished the following information:

On New Year's Eve, 1972, an individual whom she now knows as [redacted] accompanied by another unknown individual, possibly a relative, came to the Old Hickory Grill to celebrate New Year's Eve. [redacted] explained that sometime during the early morning hours of January 1, 1972, while getting ready to close, [redacted] purchased a six pack of beer after which a conflict occurred involving whether or not [redacted] inadvertently gave [redacted] a $5 bill and a $1 bill or two single bills. [redacted] explained that [redacted] who was at that time quite drunk, made several threatening remarks toward her and upon leaving the Old Hickory Grill [redacted] explained he then obtained a shotgun from a Volkswagen automobile and fired three shots into the air in an effort to scare her. b6 b7C

[redacted] explained that he then departed in the Volkswagen automobile driven by the unknown individual, possibly a relative, which vehicle was also occupied by [redacted] and [redacted] both of Corinth, Mississippi.

[redacted] explained that she would prefer not to provide a signed statement in this matter but would be willing to testify to any information she had furnished orally.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview: b6 b7C

Interviewed on 1/11/72 at Corinth, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-3277

by SA [redacted] mhc Date dictated 1/12/72

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

JN 44-3277

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

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	[redacted]
Age	35
Height	5' 2"
Weight	140 pounds
Hair	Grey
Eyes	Blue
Husband	[redacted]

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b7C

JN 44-3277

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on January 11, 1972, at Corinth, Mississippi:

[redacted] advised that [redacted] departed Corinth, Mississippi, for an unknown location in the State of Florida on or about [redacted] were unable to provide any information as to how [redacted] may be located in the near future.

[redacted] explained that [redacted] is [redacted] and she is aware that [redacted] was in [redacted] Volkswagen, [redacted] when it was stopped by Constable BUFORD PUSSER of McNairy County, Tennessee. [redacted] explained that it is her opinion that one of the reasons [redacted] has fled from Corinth, Mississippi, is because he is afraid he may have to testify during any court proceedings in the civil rights matter concerning [redacted] and BUFORD PUSSER.

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[redacted]

FD-263 (Rev. 12-19-67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS	1/17/72	1/4-13/72

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
BUFORD PUSSER, Constable, McNairy County, Tennessee; [redacted] - VICTIM	SA [redacted]	wp
	CHARACTER OF CASE CR	

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REFERENCE

Memphis FD-365 to Bureau dated 1/5/72.
Memphis letter to Bureau dated 1/6/72.

-p-

LEADS

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will, upon the receipt of photographs of victim from the Bureau, furnish same to U. S. Attorney, Memphis.

EXP. PROC.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

☒ NONE

APPROVED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:
2-Bureau (44-51363)
1-USA, Memphis
1-Memphis (44-2880)

44-51363-3

REC-50

15 JAN 20 1972

EX-102

ICC CRU

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency	CRD			
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.	1/24/72			
How Fwd.	694(A)	847		
By		JAN 27 1972		

Notations

STAT. SECT.

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☆ GPO : 1968 O - 299-885

ADMINISTRATIVE

All persons interviewed were advised that investigation in this matter is being conducted at the specific request of Mr. DAVID L. NORMAN, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

This investigation is being maintained in a pending status in the Memphis Division, awaiting return of photographs from the Bureau, at which time copies will be furnished U. S. Attorney, Memphis, and this case will be closed administratively.

For the information of the Bureau, it should be noted that BUFORD PUSSER, former Sheriff, McNairy County, Selmer, Tennessee, is the subject of a book entitled "The Twelfth of August - the Life Story of Sheriff Buford Pusser" by W. R. MORRIS, Aurora Publishers, Inc. This book has recently been released. This book depicts BUFORD PUSSER as a crusading Sheriff who waged a relentless war against moonshiners and the criminal element in the McNairy County area. This book also goes into great length describing the ambush of Sheriff PUSSER on 8/12/67 in which his wife was killed and he was seriously wounded. This crime has not been solved to date.

It should be noted that the subject matter of this investigation has received wide publicity in the papers in Memphis, Jackson, and Nashville, Tennessee.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: Memphis b6 b7C

Date: January 17, 1972

Field Office File #: ME 44-2630 Bureau File #: 44-51363

Title: BUFORD PUSSER, CONSTABLE,
McNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE;
[redacted] - VICTIM

b6 b7C

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Victim advised that he and cousin [redacted] and two of [redacted] friends were stopped on Highway 45 by subject. Subject struck victim several times with flashlight and shotgun, causing severe laceration of left ear. Victim alleged subject beat him with antenna and also beat in top of victim's car with shotgun. Subject advised that he was at [redacted] and noticed five men come out of grill. One individual, later identified as victim, urinated in front of door and then got a shotgun from a Volkswagen and shot it in the air. They drove beside subject's car and [redacted] said, "Do you want something?" Subject advised, "No." [redacted] cursed and said, "You can get something" and pulled out a shotgun and told him to leave. Subject advised that he left and victim in Volkswagen followed. Subject advised that when he later stopped on U. S. Highway 45, Volkswagen passed him and pulled up and stopped in front of him, and victim got out with shotgun in hand. Subject advised he struggled with victim and took shotgun away. He recalled he struck victim in the ear during struggle for shotgun. Subject denied hitting victim with flashlight or antenna, or pulling his gun, or beating car top in. Subject exhibited bruise and abrasion on left side of abdomen. Records, Hardin County General Hospital, reveal victim admitted 8:00 a.m., 1/1/72; diagnosis, superficial laceration, left ear; treatment, cleaned and sutured, skull series X-ray taken. [redacted] advised that he recalled stitching an individual's ear on 1/1/72 at Savannah, Tennessee, and he assumes this individual was [redacted] He also stated that this individual had contusions on the face but no other injuries described.

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Hospital employees interviewed. [redacted] and [redacted] observed four or five individuals leave [redacted] One individual urinated in front of building and one individual got a shotgun and shot it in the air. [redacted] observed PUSSER on highway struggling with individual over a long-barrel gun. [redacted] advised PUSSER told him individual pulled gun on him and he had to take it away. Two Deputy Sheriffs, Hardin County, Tennessee, observed victim at beer joint 10:00 p.m., 12/31/71, and both advised he was too drunk to drive and was sent home. Records, Hardin County General Sessions Court, reveal victim arrested five times for public drunkenness since 10/66. [redacted] Hardin County, advised victim has reputation for drinking to excess but has never given any trouble. Victim has sworn out warrants for subject, charging him with official oppression, larceny of a shotgun, destruction of property, and assault with deadly weapon. Subject has sworn out warrant against victim, charging him with felonious assault. AUSA KEMPER DURAND, Memphis, Tennessee, advised on 1/13/72 that sufficient investigation has been conducted for the Department to make a determination in this matter.

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DETAILS:

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This is a preliminary investigation.

This investigation is predicated upon receipt of information from [redacted] who advised on January 4, 1972, that he was beaten on [redacted] by Constable BUFORD PUSSER.

On January 10, 1972, BUFORD PUSSER was telephonically contacted at the Quality Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, and was advised of instant investigation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/5/72

[redacted] visited the Memphis Office of the FBI, advising he had been severely beaten by a Constable in McNairy County, Tennessee, in the early morning hours of [redacted] advised this Constable was one BUFORD PUSSER, a duly authorized law enforcement officer currently assigned to the McNairy County district, and further identified this Constable as a former Sheriff of McNairy County.

[redacted] furnished the following information relating to this incident:

He stated that he resides at [redacted] where he resides with his father, wife, [redacted] and one child. He stated that on the morning of December 31, 1971, at approximately 10:00 A.M., a cousin of his, one [redacted] uncle, the father of [redacted] both from [redacted] arrived at his house to visit over the holiday weekend. [redacted] advised [redacted] is employed at a metals plant in [redacted] and [redacted] is a driver for a North American Van Lines affiliate in Blytheville.

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[redacted] advised that he and [redacted] left Counce on the late afternoon of December 31, 1971, driving [redacted] 1968 blue Volkswagen with Hardin County license, and they drove around the general area, stopping at several beer joints throughout the evening. [redacted] stated he became pretty drunk as the evening wore on but that [redacted] probably had only had four or five beers the entire evening. [redacted] stated he became ill about 11:30 P.M. that evening and he threw up a couple of times. He said about midnight he felt better and he and [redacted] went to a restaurant and had something to eat. He said they met somebody at the restaurant who told them a good place to go to celebrate New Year's Eve was the Old Hickory Restaurant on Guys (phonetic) Road which was about five miles north of the Mississippi state line. He said he and [redacted] drove to that restaurant, arriving about 1:00 A.M. As they were sitting at a table an individual known to him as [redacted] of Corinth, Mississippi, and two of [redacted] friends came over to the table and sat down with [redacted] and him. He advised [redacted] is about twenty three or twenty four

Interviewed on 1/4/72 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-New

by SA [redacted] SA EFP:jap Date dictated 1/5/72

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years old and lives with his father, [redacted] in Corinth who is a house painter. He advised [redacted] two companions were also in their early twenties but he did not recall their names, although he later heard one of them was a [redacted] (phonetic), also of Corinth.

[redacted] advised the Old Hickory Restaurant began to close up about 4:00 A.M., and [redacted] and his two friends asked him and [redacted] if they would drive them home to Corinth. He said they all went out to the car and [redacted] and his two friends got in the back seat, and he got in the passenger side and asked [redacted] to drive. He advised as they were pulling out of the parking lot they saw a dark colored car parked at the rear of the parking lot by itself with a white man sitting behind the wheel. He said they thought maybe the driver was having car trouble or was sick and they pulled up alongside and [redacted] rolled down the window on the passenger side and asked the man if they could help him. He said the driver of the black car rolled down his window and said, "No, and I'll blow that thing up if you don't get it out of here." [redacted] stated they were startled by the response, and he rolled up the window and quickly drove away. He said as they were about five miles away, going south on Highway 45 toward Corinth, [redacted] turned and said that a police car was pulling them over with a blue light. They pulled over to the side of the road.

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He said when they pulled over [redacted] got out of the car and the driver of the police-type vehicle with the blue light got out and came up to [redacted] and asked for his drivers license. He said it was at about this time that he recognized the car and the driver as the same one they had seen in the parking lot at the restaurant, and one of the boys in the back seat said he recognized this man as BUFORD PUSSER, a former Sheriff of McNairy County, Tennessee, who had a reputation for violence. PUSSER said when he heard the name he recognized him although he had only seen PUSSER a couple of times before and at a short distance. He said [redacted] asked PUSSER what they had done wrong and PUSSER yelled at him in a loud voice, "You smart SOB's are trying to run over people and I won't stand for it." He said PUSSER then slapped

[redacted] across the side of the face with the back of his hand and knocked him against the side of the car. [redacted] said he then got out of the passenger side and told PUSSER that it was his car and not [redacted] and he asked PUSSER what they had done wrong. He said PUSSER came around to the passenger side of the car and asked him for his drivers license, and after looking at the drivers license, he slapped [redacted] across the face and knocked him to the ground. [redacted] said he got up off the ground and as he did, PUSSER struck him in the mouth with a flashlight, which blow again knocked him to the ground. He said about this time PUSSER turned and looked in the car and saw [redacted] 20-gauge shotgun lodged between the two front seats, and PUSSER reached in and grabbed the shotgun and asked [redacted] whose it was. [redacted] told PUSSER it was his shotgun but that it was not loaded. PUSSER then asked him if he had any shells. He said he did and he handed PUSSER three or four shells for the shotgun. PUSSER loaded all the shells into the shotgun and began waving it in his direction. [redacted] said he reached out to shove the shotgun aside, and PUSSER pulled the shotgun back and hit him across the left side of his face with the shotgun, splitting his ear and knocking him to the ground again.

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He said PUSSER then tossed the shotgun up on the top of the Volkswagen and pushed [redacted] up against the car and drew his revolver. He then told [redacted] "Go ahead and pick it up." [redacted] said he told PUSSER that he had no intention of picking it up as he was sure PUSSER would kill him if he did. He said PUSSER then pushed him to the side of the car and grabbed his 8-inch whip antenna which [redacted] had on his Volkswagen and beat [redacted] across the back with the antenna. [redacted] said at some time during this incident PUSSER began beating the top of [redacted] car with the shotgun and caved in the roof. He said PUSSER then told the other three men in the car to get out of the car, and he remembers that at least two of them got out of the car but he is not sure if all three men did.

He said in a few minutes PUSSER seemed to calm down and he returned the drivers licenses to [redacted] and himself and told them to get back in the car and get out of there.

[redacted] said PUSSER kept his shotgun but he was so afraid at that time he did not want to ask PUSSER for his shotgun back. [redacted] described his shotgun as a 20-gauge

Browning automatic with a 28-inch modified barrel. [redacted] stated he had recently gone through his papers and found the bill of sale for this shotgun, however, the bill of sale did not reflect the serial number.

[redacted] said as soon as they got back in the car they continued south on Highway 45, but after going about two blocks [redacted] two companions in the back seat asked to be let out at a service station because they said they thought PUSSER might chase them again. He said he and [redacted] then continued on to Corinth and took [redacted] home and then drove back to Counce, arriving there about 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning. [redacted] said he then drove to Hardin County General Hospital in Savannah, Tennessee, to the Emergency Room. He said one of the interns took several X-rays of his skull to see if he had a concussion and that they took seven stitches in his left ear.

[redacted] advised on Sunday evening [redacted] of the McNairy County Sheriff's Office came to see him, advising they had heard he had been beaten up and his property stolen, and [redacted] asked him if he desired to press charges against PUSSER, which he declined to do at that time.

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[redacted] furnished the following signed statement relating to this incident:

"January 4, 1972
Memphis, Tennessee

"I, [redacted] furnish the following voluntary statement to [redacted], who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[redacted]

"On December 31, 1971, New Years Eve, [redacted] and his [redacted] came to my home in Counce, Tennessee, to visit myself and my father.

"On the evening of [redacted] and I left in my car, a [redacted] license plates. We stopped at a few beer joints in Hardin County until about 12 midnight. Then we drove to a restaurant called [redacted] on Guys Road about five miles north of the Mississippi state line. We got there about 1:00 AM 1/1/72. When we sat down in the restaurant, a man I know as [redacted] of Corinth, Mississippi, came over and began talking to me. He had two friends with him whom I did not know and we all sat down together. About 4:00 AM, the place was closing up and [redacted] asked if [redacted] and I would take him and his two friends home to Corinth. We said we would and we all got into my car. [redacted] and his two friends got into back seat and I was in the passenger seat up front. [redacted] was driving. As we pulled out of the parking lot, we saw a car parked in the back of the parking lot with a man sitting in the driver's seat. We thought he might be stalled so as we pulled along side, I rolled down my window and asked him if he needed any help. The man in the car then said, 'No, and I'll blow ____ thing up if you don't get out of here.' I rolled the window back up and we drove away. We were driving south on Highway 45 toward Corinth and had gone about five miles when a car came up behind us with a blue light on his car. We pulled over to side of road and he pulled up behind us and stopped. The driver of the other car got out and came up to driver's side of car and [redacted] got out and gave the man his driver's license. [redacted] asked him what the trouble is and ___ said, 'You smart sons-of-bitches are trying to run over people and I won't stand for it.' This man then slapped [redacted] across the face. About this time one of the men in back seat said the man was Buford Pusser. I recognized the name as a former Sheriff in that area. Up to that time I didn't know who the man was.

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"I then got out of the car and Pusser came around to my side of the car. He hit me with the back of his hand and knocked me down. I then got up and when I did he hit me in the mouth with a flashlight and I fell down again. About this time he saw my shotgun lying between the front seats of my car and he reached in and grabbed it. I got up and told him the shotgun was not loaded. He asked me if I had any shells and I handed him three or four shells. He loaded the shotgun and began waving it at me. I pushed at barrel of shotgun and he pulled it back and hit me on my left ear with

the shotgun and I fell down again. He then threw the shotgun on top of the car and drew his revolver and told me to go ahead and reach for the shotgun. I told him I wouldn't reach for it. I felt if I had he would have shot me. Sometime either before or after this happened he beat me several times with a car antennae that is attached to my car. I have several long bruise marks on my back caused by this antennae. He also beat the top of my car with the shotgun.

"Pusser then told the other three men to get out of the car and at least two __ them did to my recollection. In a few minutes he told us we could go and he gave [redacted] and I our driver's licenses back. Pusser kept my shotgun and he didn't return it. It is a Browning Automatic 20 Ga. shotgun.

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"Shortly after we drove away, [redacted] two friends asked to be let out at a service station nearby and [redacted] and I drove [redacted] home to Corinth and then drove back to my home in Counce.

"I then drove to Savannah, Tennessee to the Hardin County General Hospital where I had X-rays taken of my head and had seven stitches taken in my left ear.

"I have read this & the preceeding four pages, initialed each page & each correction & find it true & correct to the best of my knowledge [redacted]

"Witness: [redacted] Spec. Agent, FBI, Memphis, Tenn.
[redacted], Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, Tenn."

[redacted] furnished the following background and descriptive information concerning himself:

Name: [redacted]
Residence:

Telephone:
Sex: Male
Race: White
Date of Birth: [redacted]
Place of Birth:

Height:	5'7"	
Weight:	215 pounds	b6
Eyes:	Blue	b7C
Hair:	Reddish brown	
Wife:	[redacted]	
Children:	One	
Education:	Completed 9th grade	
Employment:	Employed on river boat on Tennessee River.	
Arrests:	Claims arrested 4 or 5 times for public drunkenness only.	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/6/72

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It was observed that [redacted] had an approximately 1-inch to 1½-inch cut on his left ear lobe. It was also observed that four red vertical marks were present on [redacted] back. Color and black and white photographs were taken of these injuries by Special Clerk [redacted] Two color and two black and white photographs were taken of [redacted] ear and two color and two black and white photographs were taken of his back, with one additional black and white photograph taken of [redacted] front view.

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Interviewed on 1/4/72 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

SC [redacted]
SA
S

by KFH:jap Date dictated 1/6/72

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/14/72

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BUFORD PUSSER was interviewed at his place of residence, Room 110, Old Home Motel, Adamsville, Tennessee. PUSSER was advised of his rights as contained in the form entitled "Interrogation; Advice of Rights" by SA [redacted] advised that he understood his rights and voluntarily signed this form.

BUFORD PUSSER advised that he was the former Sheriff of McNairy County, Tennessee, for six years. He advised that by law he could not run again and he ended his term in August, 1970. He stated that he then ran for Constable at Adamsville, Tennessee, and was elected. PUSSER advised that the current [redacted] does not care for him and has made it very difficult for him to operate as Constable in the area. He stated that he has made one arrest, that being in 1970, as a Constable. He stated that [redacted] immediately released the subject after he arrested him. PUSSER advised that since that time he has not made any arrests or attempted to act as a Constable in the area. He advised that he spends a considerable amount of time outside of Tennessee inasmuch as he has business interests in Illinois. PUSSER advised that he is currently considering running against [redacted] He stated that he believes that the current allegations made against him are politically motivated and inspired and that [redacted] is directly responsible for the allegations.

BUFORD PUSSER advised that on the night of December 31, 1971, he went to a New Year's party at the Moose Lodge in Selmer, Tennessee. He stated he was alone, dressed in sports attire, and was driving his black 1971 Thunderbird automobile. He advised that this automobile does not have a blue or red light on it or in it. He advised that the party was over at approximately 2:00 a.m. on January 1, 1972, and he decided to drive to the Old Hickory Grill located off Highway 45 South near Guys, Tennessee. PUSSER advised that he drove to the grill and parked in front. He stated that he decided not to go in the grill and he was seated in his car at approximately 3:00 or 3:30 a.m.

Interviewed on 1/11/72 at Adamsville, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

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by SA [redacted] SA [redacted] WMP/wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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when he observed five men come out of the grill. He stated that he noticed all of them appeared to be very drunk. He stated that one of the men stopped in front of the door and urinated. He stated that he later learned that this individual was [redacted] then went to his automobile, a Volkswagen, and got a shotgun and shot it in the air. PUSSER advised that he was not concerned about the above actions of [redacted] He stated that he was not acting as a Constable and if he had been, he would have immediately placed the five individuals under arrest.

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PUSSER advised that [redacted] and the four other individuals got into the Volkswagen and drove up beside his automobile. He stated that [redacted] was on the passenger side of the Volkswagen and still had the shotgun in his hands. He stated [redacted] asked him, "Do you want something?" He replied, "No," and [redacted] said, "You can get some" and used several curse words. PUSSER stated that he could see the shotgun and this individual told him he had better leave. PUSSER stated that he was not looking for trouble and that he drove off toward Highway 45. He stated that he noticed the Volkswagen was following very close to him. He observed that it had a "54" Tennessee license plate, reflecting that it was from Hardin County, Tennessee. He stated he believed that it would turn north on Highway 45 and head toward Hardin County. He stated that when he came to U. S. Highway 45, he turned south and that the Volkswagen followed him. PUSSER advised that he became concerned about this and recalled that at approximately 4:00 a.m. on the early morning of August 12, 1967, while he was Sheriff of McNairy County, he was driving with his wife, PAULINE, in the same area when three men pulled up beside his automobile and started shooting. His wife was killed and he was seriously injured in this incident. PUSSER advised that when he came to a lighted area near the White Iris Store, he slowed down and pulled off to the side of the road, hoping the Volkswagen would pass him.

He advised that the Volkswagen did pass him and stopped right in front of him and that the individual on the passenger's side got out and had a shotgun in his hand. PUSSER stated that he jumped out of his car and struggled with this individual for custody of the shotgun. He stated that he was successful in taking itaway from him, and in the process of doing this, he hit him on the side of the head with the butt of the shotgun, causing a cut on his ear. He advised that this individual he later learned was [redacted] and that after he got the shotgun, [redacted] got back in his Volkswagen and he told the individuals in the car that he should call the law and have them all locked up.

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One of the individuals told PUSSER that the law would not do anything to them anyway. Another one of the individuals told PUSSER that these individuals were drunk and they did not know what they were doing. PUSSER advised that he did not have a blue light on his automobile and does not recall hitting the victim with a flashlight, antenna, or beating the top of their car in.

PUSSER advised that he returned to his car and left the area. He further advised that he did not give the shotgun back to [redacted] because it was loaded and he was afraid [redacted] would use it on him.

PUSSER exhibited a Browning automatic .20 gauge shotgun, Serial Number 68Z28209. He stated that this shotgun belongs to [redacted] and that no one has contacted him regarding this gun.

PUSSER advised that he does not know [redacted] personally. He stated that one of the individuals in the Volkswagen was [redacted] from Corinth, Mississippi, and he believed one of the other individuals was a [redacted] boy. He stated that he had sent this [redacted] boy to the penitentiary when he was Sheriff of McNairy County. He did not know where this boy was living or where he might be located.

PUSSER advised that at no time did he tell anyone he was a Constable or try to arrest anyone. He advised that he believed his life was threatened and he fought the victim, [redacted] for possession of the shotgun inasmuch as he believed [redacted] was going to use it on him.

PUSSER further advised that while he was at the grill talking to [redacted] one of the men in the back seat of the Volkswagen told [redacted] that he was talking to BUFORD PUSSER. He advised that [redacted] cursed several times and said he did not care who he was talking to. PUSSER advised that he was armed with a 9 millimeter pistol but never pulled it out during the altercation.

PUSSER advised that a McNairy County Deputy Sheriff has recently called him and advised that [redacted] has sworn out four arrest warrants for him, all on January 7, 1972. He advised that they charge him with several different crimes. PUSSER advised that he has sworn out one warrant charging [redacted] with felonious assault.

BUFORD PUSSER advised that he does not desire to give a signed statement.

The following is a description obtained from observation and interview:

Name	BUFORD PUSSER
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	December 12, 1937
Place of Birth	McNairy County, Tennessee
Height	6'6"
Weight	250 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Medium
Scars and Marks	Numerous gunshot and operation scars on lower jaw

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BUFORD PUSSER exhibited a bruise, approximately one-half inch by three-quarter inch, on the left side of his abdomen. Also noted was a small abrasion on the left side of his rib cage.

PUSSER advised that the above wounds were received in his scuffle with [redacted]

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Interviewed on 1/11/72 at Adamsville, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted] SA WMP/wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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[redacted] Hardin County General Hospital, Savannah, Tennessee, advised [redacted] was admitted at 8:00 a.m., January 1, 1972. [redacted] Under the heading, "Physician's Report" was the following notation:

[redacted]

Under the heading "Physical Exam," the doctor listed the following:

[redacted]

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The records indicated that X-ray skull series were made. [redacted] was released but no time was recorded.

[redacted]

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advised that [redacted] had been drinking but was reasonably sober. [redacted] advised him that he had been hunting and passed a car on the side of the road and stopped and offered help. The man in the car got out and worked him over and took his shotgun and hit him with it and told him to get on down the road. [redacted] advised that [redacted] did not mention any person by name but indicated it was either the Sheriff or a Deputy Sheriff in McNairy County.

Interviewed on 1/11/72 at Savannah, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted] wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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[redacted] was contacted at his place of employment at the Memphis Veterans Administration Hospital, at which time he furnished the following information:

[redacted] on January 1, 1972, at the Hardin County General Hospital, Savannah, Tennessee, and that he assumed that this was possibly [redacted] He stated that he could not be sure inasmuch as he does not have the records of that hospital currently available to him. [redacted] he stated that X-rays were taken of this individuals head but that they were negative. [redacted] volunteered that this individual, who he assumes to be [redacted] appeared to him at that time to be somewhat uncooperative because in his opinion he was acting as though he were hard of hearing. [redacted] stated that when asked a question, this individual would answer in such a way that it appeared that he was hard of hearing. He stated that he would answer questions asked him with a constant, "What, what, what?"

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[redacted] was asked concerning whether he had determined that this individual was drunk, and he stated he did not detect or notice any alcohol at the time. [redacted] advised again that his only recollection of his treatment of this individual [redacted] advised that he was unable to recall any other details concerning this treatment.

[redacted] advised that he would rather not give a signed statement inasmuch as he is currently on duty at the hospital and did not feel that he could spare the time.

The following information was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male

Interviewed on 1/14/72 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] :KFH:wp Date dictated 1/17/72

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[redacted]

[redacted] advised he did not desire to give a signed statement.

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Date of Birth	[redacted]
Place of Birth	
Height	5'10"
Weight	150
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown

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[redacted] in the emergency room at the Hardin County General Hospital. He stated that on January 1, 1972, at approximately 8:00 a.m. [redacted] came into the emergency room with another individual unknown to him. He stated that both individuals had been drinking. He stated that [redacted] was drunk at the time he saw him. [redacted] also had X-rays made of his head. [redacted] advised that [redacted] had difficulty in hearing inasmuch as he had to ask him two or three times what had happened.

[redacted] that he had been to a party near Corinth, Mississippi, the previous night and as he left the establishment, he passed by a car and stopped to offer his help to the driver. [redacted] the driver got smart with him and that when he left the area, the car followed him and pulled him over on the side of the road and beat him. He advised that the individual who beat him was a Deputy Sheriff of McNairy County. [redacted] further stated that he had a shotgun in the car and that this individual took it out and also beat in the top of his car with it. [redacted] also indicated that the shotgun was unloaded and that this individual made him load it and then pulled his own gun and dared him to say that it was not loaded. He advised that he did not know the individual but somebody had told him that it was PUSSER.

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[redacted] was crying and had been up all night and was drunk. He stated it was very difficult for him to understand him or to make any sense as to what he was saying.

[redacted] advised he does not desire to give a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1/11/72 at Savannah, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted] :wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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[redacted] advised that at approximately 3:00 a.m. on January 1, 1972, [redacted] they drove to the Old Hickory Grill at Guys, Tennessee. They pulled into the parking lot but never got out of their automobile. Shortly after they arrived at approximately 3:30 or 4:00 a.m., he noticed five individuals come out of the front door of the grill. He stated one individual in a white shirt, with a chubby build, urinated in front of the entrance to the grill. This same individual proceeded to a Volkswagen and took out a shotgun and shot it three times in the air. The five individuals then got in the Volkswagen and pulled up to another car parked in the parking lot. [redacted] stated that he recognized BUFORD PUSSER as the occupant of this car. He stated that the chubby individual was sitting on the front passenger side of the Volkswagen and had the shotgun hanging out of the window. He stated that this individual began arguing with PUSSER.

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[redacted] advised that PUSSER drove off shortly thereafter and that the Volkswagen followed him.

[redacted] advised that the individuals he saw were all drunk and were strangers to him. He advised that PUSSER was driving a black sports car and he did not notice any markings or blue lights on it.

[redacted] described the individual with the shotgun as being a white male, approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall, with a chubby build.

[redacted] advised he does not desire to give a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1/12/72 at Selmer, Tennessee File # ~~Memphis 44-2630~~

by SA [redacted] :wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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[redacted] was interviewed at her place of employment [redacted] Ramer, Tennessee.

[redacted] advised that she attended a New Year's party with her husband [redacted] at the Moose Club in Selmer, Tennessee. She advised that she saw BUFORD PUSSER at this party. She stated that he was alone, was not drinking, and was attired in sports clothing. She stated they talked to him awhile during the party. She stated that she left the party at approximately 2:00 a.m. with her husband and that they drove downtown and picked up a friend by the name of [redacted] She stated they decided to drive to a grill located south of Selmer, Tennessee. She stated that they pulled into a parking lot and were sitting in the car when she noticed four men come out of the grill and one of them urinated in front of the building. She recalled that one of the individuals also went to a Volkswagen parked nearby and got a shotgun and fired it in the air at least one time. She recalled that all of these individuals got into the Volkswagen and drove up to another car parked in the lot. She stated that they stopped and she could tell that the occupants were having some words with the occupant of the other car. She stated her husband indicated that it was BUFORD PUSSER in the other car.

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She stated that PUSSER immediately left the area and that the Volkswagen was following him.

[redacted] advised that she did not notice any blue lights or any markings on BUFORD PUSSER's car.

[redacted] advised she does not desire to give a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1/12/72 at Ramer, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted]:wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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[redacted] advised that he attended a party at the Moose Club with his wife on the night of December 31, 1971, and the early morning of January 1, 1972. He recalled seeing BUFORD PUSSER at the party and talked to him during the evening. He stated that PUSSER was not drinking and was alone. He recalled that he was dressed in civilian attire.

[redacted] stated that he and his wife left the club about 2:30 a.m., drove downtown and picked up one of his friends, [redacted] They then drove to the Old Hickory Grill and were sitting in the parking lot when he noticed four or five white males come out of the grill in a drunken condition. He stated one of these individuals urinated right in front of the door and that a heavyset individual went to a Volkswagen, picked up a shotgun and fired it once or twice in the air. He stated that all five of these individuals got into a Volkswagen and drove up to another car that was occupied by BUFORD PUSSER. He advised he could tell that they were having some type of argument and that he noticed that the heavyset guy still had his shotgun. He stated that PUSSER left shortly thereafter and the Volkswagen followed him.

[redacted] advised that he did not observe any blue lights or markings on BUFORD PUSSER's car. He further advised that all of the individuals were strangers to him.

[redacted] advised he did not desire to give a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1/12/72 at Selmer, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted] p Date dictated 1/13/72

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[redacted] advised he is the [redacted] located on Highway 45 South near Selmer, Tennessee. [redacted] advised that he has been plagued with several break-ins at his business establishment and he usually has an employee sleep in the business, or he would get up and check it sometime during the night. He stated that on the early morning of January 1, 1972, he arose about 2:00 or 2:30 a.m. and proceeded to his company to check it. He stated that he observed a car leave the area bearing Mississippi license on it. He stated he immediately checked the doors to his establishment and found them all secure. He stated that he drove south on Highway 45 toward Corinth, Mississippi, hoping to catch up with this car and get the license number.

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[redacted] advised that he lost this car near Corinth, Mississippi, and drove down into Corinth, hoping he could locate it but was unsuccessful. He stated that he turned around and drove back toward Selmer, Tennessee. He stated that as he drove near a drive-in movie located just north of the Tennessee-Mississippi line on Highway 45 South, he noticed two cars parked on the side of the road. [redacted] advised that he recognized one of the cars as a Thunderbird owned by BUFORD PUSSER and that he recognized BUFORD PUSSER standing beside the car and he appeared to be struggling with an individual over a long-barrel gun. He stated that the struggle took place only for a few seconds and that PUSSER took this gun away from the individual and the individual got back in the Volkswagen and PUSSER proceeded back toward his car. [redacted] advised that he did not think too much about this and did not stop and talk to any of the individuals. He further advised there were several other individuals in the Volkswagen but he did not know any of them. He stated that PUSSER is the owner of a Thunderbird and that he does not have any blue lights or markings on this car, to his knowledge.

He recalled that the Volkswagen was parked in front of BUFORD PUSSER's car. Mr. HIVELY advised that he does not desire to give a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1/12/72 at Selmer, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

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by SA [redacted] p Date dictated 1/13/72

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[redacted] advised he goes to work at midnight and gets off at 10:00 a.m. He stated that he was working on the night of [redacted] at [redacted] which is also known as the [redacted] He advised that he noticed no disturbance in the area during the night.

[redacted] remembers that sometime during the early morning hours BUFORD PUSSER appeared at the store and knocked on the door. He stated that he recognized him as a former Sheriff of McNairy County and that he opened the door and let him in. He stated PUSSER asked for a Coca Cola, which he gave him, and during the conversation PUSSER told him that someone had pulled a gun on him and that he had to take it away from him. He further advised that PUSSER was not drinking and was not drunk. He further stated that he has never seen BUFORD PUSSER drunk.

[redacted] advised he does not desire to give a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1/12/72 at Michie, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted] wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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Date of transcription 1/17/72

[redacted] Hardin County, Savannah, Tennessee, advised he is acquainted with [redacted] He stated [redacted] is the brother-in-law of a Deputy Sheriff. He stated that on the night of December 31, 1971, at approximately 10:00 p.m. he and his partner, [redacted] observed [redacted] pickup truck parked at Stick Glover beer joint located on Highway 57 near the McNairy and Hardin County line. He stated that this truck was parked in such a way that it was obstructing traffic. [redacted] advised that he went inside and told [redacted] that he had to move his truck. He advised that [redacted] came out and moved the truck and he noticed that he was very drunk and he did not think that he should drive. He stated that he told [redacted] he would have to go home and that [redacted] told him he would not go home and got smart with him. [redacted] stated that he told [redacted] either he would go home or he would go to jail. [redacted] advised that [redacted] then consented to go home and that a friend, name unknown, who was with him said he would drive him home.

[redacted] advised that later that night they found out that [redacted] did go home but later left. He advised that he did not see him again that night.

[redacted] advised he does not desire to give a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1/11/72 at Savannah, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted] wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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[redacted] Savannah, Tennessee, advised he observed [redacted] at approximately 10:00 p.m. on December 31, 1971, at Stick Glover's beer joint on Highway 57. He stated that [redacted] was too drunk to drive at that time. He stated that [redacted] was told that he would have to go home or go to jail and that he finally consented to go home. He stated that a friend, unknown to him, was with [redacted] and drove him home. [redacted] advised that he did not observe [redacted] again that night. He further stated that he does not desire to give a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1/11/72 of Savannah, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-2630

by SA [redacted] wp Date dictated 1/13/72

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Sheriff PHILIP LITTLE, Hardin County, Savannah, Tennessee, advised on January 11, 1972, that [redacted] has a good reputation in the area.

[redacted] Hardin County Circuit Court Clerk, Savannah, Tennessee, made available the records under his control. These records were checked from October, 1966, to the present time. [redacted]

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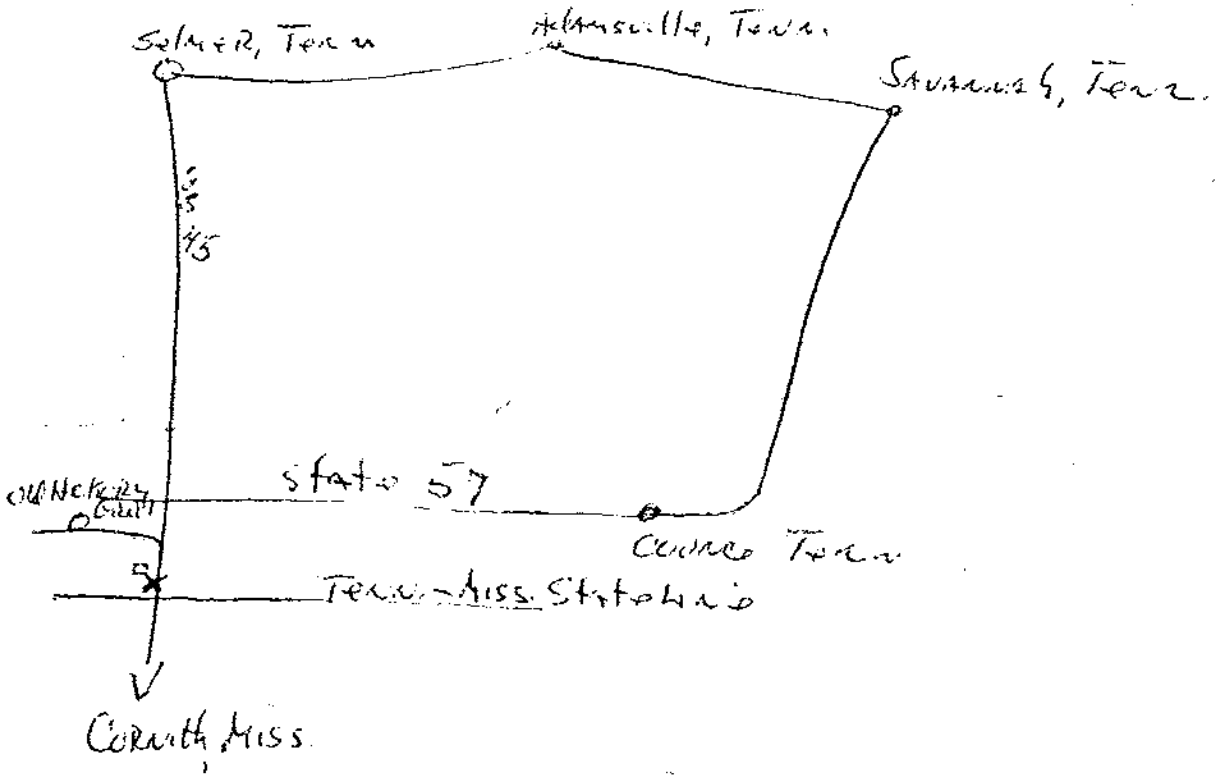
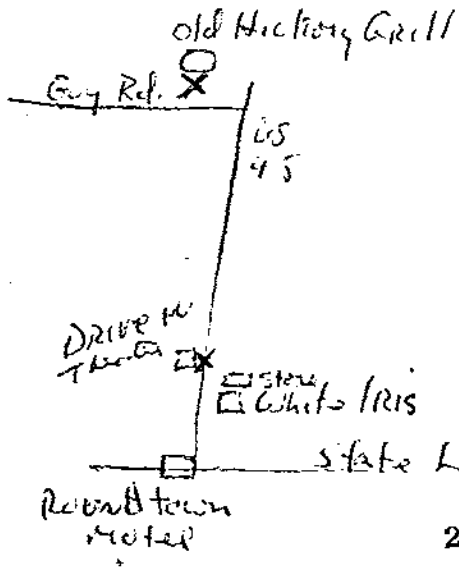
On January 11, 1971, [redacted] Clerk, McNairy County Circuit Court, Selmer, Tennessee, advised that four State warrants have been issued on January 7, 1972, at the request of [redacted] charging BUFORD PUSSER with the following offenses: official oppression in violation of Section 39-3203, Tennessee Code Annotated; larceny of one Browning automatic shotgun; destruction of property; and assault with a deadly weapon. [redacted] advised that BUFORD PUSSER has also sworn out a warrant for [redacted] for felonious assault. He stated that he does not have this in his possession at the present time.

The following is a sketch of the area prepared by SA [redacted]

Sketch of AREA.





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[redacted] 1/12/22

On January 13, 1971, the facts of this case were discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney KEMPER DURAND, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. DURAND advised that in his opinion sufficient investigation has been conducted for the Department of Justice to make a determination in this matter.

FD-263 (Rev. 3-8-67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
LITTLE ROCK	MEMPHIS	1/13/72	1/11/72

TITLE OF CASE

CHANGED
BUFORD PUSSER,
Constable, McNairy County,
Tennessee;
[redacted] - VICTIM;
VICTIM

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted]

TYPED BY: val

CHARACTER OF CASE

CIVIL RIGHTS

Title is marked changed to add [redacted] as a victim in view of the information received from him.

REFERENCE

Memphis airtel to Bureau, 1/5/72.

- RUC-

ADMINISTRATIVE

Victim [redacted] was advised that this investigation was being conducted at the specific request of Assistant Attorney General DAVID L. NORMAN in charge of Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED None						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-[illegible] 51[illegible]-4 MCT-39

12 JAN 17 1972

REC-59

COPIES MADE:

2 - Bureau
3 - Memphis
(1 - USA, Memphis)
1 - Little Rock (44-1559)

ICC CRU

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	CRD			
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.	1/20/72			
How Fwd.	694 (B)	DNT		
By	[illegible]			

JAN 27 1972

Notations: [redacted]

SIX STAT SECT.

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COVER PAGE

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1967 O—273-677

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: SA [redacted] **Office:** LITTLE ROCK b6 b7C
Date: 1/13/72

Field Office File #: LR 44-1559 **Bureau File #:**

Title: BUFORD PUSSER, Constable, McNairy County, Tennessee; [redacted] - VICTIM; VICTIM b6 b7C

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: [redacted] stated after leaving beer joint early morning of [redacted] he was stopped on a highway by an individual who was identified as PUSSER, a law officer. [redacted] stated this person hit him one time and he observed PUSSER hit and knock down [redacted] at least three times, once with a flashlight. He also observed law officer hit [redacted] with whip antenna, that law officer beat in top of [redacted] car with his fist, that law officer loaded [redacted] shotgun, put it on top of car, pulled and cocked his pistol and asked if any one of the individuals present wanted to pick up the shotgun. b6 b7C

- RUC -

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LR 44-1559

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DETAILS

This is a preliminary investigation.

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INTERVIEW WITH VICTIM [redacted]

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date 1/13/72

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[redacted] residence [redacted] was interviewed at Big Lake, Arkansas.

[redacted] stated that in the latter part of December, 1971, he and his father, [redacted] went to Iuka, Mississippi, to visit his grandmother, [redacted] While there he drove to Pickwick, Tennessee, to visit a friend of his, [redacted] on New Years Eve.

[redacted] stated that evening he went with [redacted] to celebrate the coming of the new year and eventually wound up at the Old Hickory beer joint somewhere near Pickwick, Tennessee. He stated that at approximately 4:00 AM he and [redacted] left this beer joint with one other man they met in the beer joint. He stated that when they got to [redacted] car, a Volkswagen, he got [redacted] 20-gauge shotgun that he had always wanted to shoot, put two shells in the gun and shot twice straight up in the air. He stated he then put the gun back in the car. He stated he had no reason for doing this other than he had always wanted to shoot this gun and he was not drunk. After this [redacted] stated that there were two men near Mustang who stated they had lost their keys and were wondering if they would give them a ride to Corinth, Mississippi, which they agreed to do. [redacted] stated at this time there were five in the Volkswagen.

On leaving the parking lot of the beer joint they noticed a car circling the parking lot and [redacted] told [redacted] he believed that to be the law. [redacted] replied back up and ask the law if they had done anything wrong, which he did. [redacted] stated the individual in the car replied if they did not get the Volkswagen out of here, he was going to blow it up. [redacted] stated that since he was driving he left, going toward the State of Mississippi and that approximately one-half mile short of the Mississippi state line they were stopped by the law officer

On 1/11/72 at Blytheville, Arkansas File # LR 44-1559

by SA [redacted] val Date dictated 1/12/72

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that they had talked to at the beer joint parking lot. He stated the law officer had on his light.

[redacted] stated after stopping he got out and started to get his wallet from his back pocket in order to show the officer his drivers license and while doing this the law officer walked up and slapped him, he believes with his open hand. He stated he could not be sure because it happened so fast that he really did not see the officer striking him. He stated he reacted by throwing up his left arm to keep from being hit again. He stated at this time the law officer reached into the car and got the shotgun, which was in the front seat of the Volkswagen between the two seats. He told the law officer the gun was empty, at which time the officer told [redacted] to give him a shell, which [redacted] did. After this [redacted] got out of the car, folded his arm on top of the Volkswagen, put his chin on top of his arms so that his head was resting on the arms. He stated the law officer then grabbed a whip antenna that was on the Volkswagen and swung it at him but missed as he jumped back and the officer then started hitting [redacted] on the head with this antenna. He stated he hit him several times but he does not recall the number.

[redacted] stated following this the law officer loaded the shotgun, placed it on top of the car, pulled his pistol, cocked it and said "Okay, one of you smart s.o.b.'s pick it up." [redacted] stated none did. He stated that during the time they were stopped the law officer kept calling them "punks". [redacted] also stated that before the law officer loaded the shotgun he had beat in the top of the Volkswagen with his fist.

[redacted] stated the shotgun fell from the top of the car on the right side by an open door that [redacted]

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had gotten out, that the law officer came around the car and picked up the shotgun. He stated at this time [redacted] was at the back fender of the Volkswagen on the drivers side. He stated the law officer had a six-volt flashlight in his hand that was square with a handle on top and that he hit [redacted] on the side of the head with this flashlight, knocking [redacted] down and making a big cut on his face and ear. He stated that [redacted] got up and told the law officer that they were telling him the truth. He stated the law officer then asked him who he worked for and he told him the North American Van Lines and started in his direction and that he turned around and walked to the front of the car, at which time the law officer went back to [redacted] and told him "You goddamn punks think you're smart," and slapped [redacted] hard enough to knock him to the ground. He stated that [redacted] got up and was knocked down again by the law officer. He stated he believed the law officer backhanded [redacted] knocking him down twice.

[redacted] stated that when the law officer hit [redacted] with the flashlight, it came apart, that [redacted] picked up the glass part, tried to give it to the officer and that the officer, in place of taking the glass, hit [redacted] hand knocking the glass away.

[redacted] stated the officer asked him if he thought the boys in the car knew what he was talking about. He replied that he did not know and told he and [redacted] to get them out of the car, at which time they told the men in the back seat to get out and that he saw the officer hit one of the men with the barrel end of the shotgun on the side of the head.

[redacted] stated that the officer started to leave, stopped, told them he was going to take them to jail, and

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that one of the men in the group said "Mr. PUSSER, don't take us to jail", at which time he replied "Get your home". [redacted] stated they got into the car, that he drove a short distance to a service station and stopped, at which time the two men wanting to go to Corinth, Mississippi, asked if they were still going to take them to Corinth, that [redacted] said no and they gout out of the car. [redacted] stated the rest of them went home.

[redacted] stated that the law officer took [redacted] shotgun, that he did not know the law officer but heard one of the men in the car mention his name as PUSSER.

[redacted] stated he had been drinking beer but that he was not drunk, that [redacted] had been drinking heavily and was pretty close to being drunk but did not give the officer any reason for the officer hitting [redacted]

[redacted] stated he did not desire to furnish a signed statement.

The following is a description of [redacted]

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'9"
Weight	190 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Date of Birth	[redacted]

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Place of Birth [redacted]

Marital Status Separated. [redacted]

Children [redacted] with mother

Mother [redacted]

Father [redacted]

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ARREST RECORD OF VICTIM [redacted]

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LR 44-1559

Records of the Blytheville, Arkansas Police Department, when checked on January 11, 1972, reflected

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: MECHANICAL SECTION

DATE: 1/6/72

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-2630) (P)

RECEIVED
DEVELOPED 1-12-72 DL
PRINTED
ENLARGEMENTS 12-4XE-1/18/72
CODED
INSPECTED

SUBJECT: BUFORD PUSSER,
Constable, McNairy County, Tennessee;
[redacted] - VICTIM;
CR

b6
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(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Memphis airtel (FD-365) to Bureau, 1/5/72.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one package containing exposed black and white film and color film which contains photographs of victim [redacted] These photographs were taken 1/4/72 with Speedgraphic camera with stop setting of F22, speed 1/100 of a second, from a distance of approximately three feet.

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HOLDERS RELOADED and RETURNED via ROUTING SLIP 1-12-72 DL

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

It is requested four prints each be made of enclosed photographs and that two of these prints be retained by Bureau, one of which should be furnished to the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice when a report is submitted in this case. Two prints of each exposure and negative should be returned to Memphis Office and one print of each will be furnished administratively to the USA, Memphis.

R/S to Memphis 1/24/72 RAB/mbd
Reurlet dtd 1/6/72. Encld are 2 sets each of 3 color + 3 b&w photos of the victim.

51363-

DET RECORDED
JAN 10 1972

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(3) - Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 - Memphis

EFP:jap
(5)

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

JAN 31 1972

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108

4291

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: MECHANICAL SECTION

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-2630)

SUBJECT: BUFORD PUSSER,
Constable, McNairy County, Tennessee;
[redacted] - VICTIM;
CR

b6
b7C

Black and white film and color film which contains photographs of victim [redacted]

b6
b7C

RE: Memphis letter to Bureau, 1/6/72.

(0) F-379

44-51363-

FILM PACK

TYP 523

Kodak TRI-X Pan Professional

16 EXPOSURES

4 x 5 in.
10 x 12.5 cm

16 EXPOSURES

Kodak TRI-X Pan Professional

FAST BLACK-AND-WHITE FILM

43

Kodak

TRI-X Pan
Professional Film Pack

For all Film Pack Adapters and Cameras Using 523 Film Packs

CAUTION: Handle the pack only by the edges. Pressure on the Safety Cover must be avoided to prevent light from entering the pack and fogging the edges of the film. When the Film Pack is securely in position for use in the camera, pull out tab marked "Safety Cover." The tab may be left attached or torn off.

The sensitivity of KODAK TRI-X Pan Professional Film to light of all colors makes it necessary to remove the exposed films from the pack and develop them in Total Darkness.

READ THIS NOTICE

This film will be replaced if defective in manufacture, labeling, or packaging, even though caused by our negligence or other fault. Except for such replacement, the sale or any subsequent handling of this film is without other warranty or liability.

Made in U.S.A. by **EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY**
Rochester, N.Y. 14650 • TM. Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

TXP 523

TRI-X PAN Professional FILM

10 EXPOSURES

4 X 5 IN.
10 X 12.5 CM

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b6
b7C

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

Q1 - Q3

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION

1206 ANDREW JACKSON STATE OFFICE BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Date August 28, 1974

PC-L1530 P2

TO: DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: DIRECTOR
TENNESSEE BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION
ROOM 1206, ANDREW JACKSON STATE OFFICE BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

COPY & SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB FOR LAB ACTION & REPORT

RE: SUBJECT Unknown
VICTIM Buford H. Pusser (Deceased)
OFFENSE Suspected Homicide or Accidental Death
LOCATION McNairy County, Tennessee
CASE NO. 5-1383

Dear Sir:

The evidence described below is ( ) enclosed (X) forwarded under separate cover for examination by the FBI Laboratory.

This evidence is being submitted in connection with an official investigation of a criminal matter. It was not, nor will it be, subjected to the same type of technical examination by other experts.

REC-52 MCT-15 95-195108

Sincerely yours,

SEP 9 1974

William L. Sheets, Director

EX 104

1 ENCLOSURE

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

Submitted by [redacted] Criminal Investigator

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b7C

Index Lab Files

DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:

Item 1 . . . Tie rod end from victim's car.

Item 2 . . . Tie rod end from victim's car.

Item 3 . . . Power steering cylinder from victim's car.

EXAMINATION REQUESTED:

Attempt to determine if the breaks on Items one, two, and three were caused by impact or if there is any evidence of tampering or foul play that may have contributed to a parts failure.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Enclosed newspaper clippings will help explain the nature of this case. Also enclosed are photographs of the accident scene and copies of the investigating officer's report. There was no evidence of drinking or foul play, however, due to alleged past attempts on victim's life and the many rumors being circulated, a full investigation is being made. Victim was known for his fast driving habits and the facts of the investigating officer's report (over 500 feet of skid marks, mostly speed scuff marks) seem to indicate that he was travelling at a high rate of speed when the accident occured. Testimony from several persons indicate that victim left the McNairy County Fair in a hurry. (See enclosed statements) Broken tie rod ends and power steering cylinder were removed from the victim's car by mechanic [redacted] at the request of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. b6 b7C

(Note: Please return the enclosed photographs at the conclusion of your examination.)

csb

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION

1206 ANDREW JACKSON STATE OFFICE BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

PHY.

Date August 28, 1974

ack 8/3
1-32a

PC-L 1530

1-92
LDW

TO: DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: DIRECTOR
TENNESSEE BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION
ROOM 1206, ANDREW JACKSON STATE OFFICE BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

RE: SUBJECT Un[illegible]
VICTIM [illegible] Pusser (Deceased)
OFFENSE S[illegible] Homicide or Accidental Death
LOCATION [illegible] County, Tennessee
CASE NO. [illegible]

Re { Buford H. Pusser (Deceased)
Investigation of Death

Dear Sir:

The evidence described below is ( ) enclosed (X) forwarded under separate cover for examination by the FBI Laboratory.

This evidence is being submitted in connection with an official investigation of a criminal matter. It was not, nor will it be, subjected to the same type of technical examination by other experts.

Sincerely yours

William L. Sheets, Director

Lab report
[illegible]
7/26/[illegible]

Submitted by: [redacted] Criminal Investigator

b6
b7C

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(Note: Please return the enclosed photographs at the conclusion of your examination.)

csb

CONFIDENTIAL

FATALITY

TENNESSEE OFFICER'S ACCIDENT REPORT

TOS-SR-1 (REV 6/73)

REPORTING AGENCY (Please Print): Tennessee Highway Patrol

LOCATION

Street, Highway No., or Name: Highway 64

At Intersection With: Lawton Road

or

1 ___ Ft. North 3 ___ Ft. East

2 ___ Ft. South 4 ___ Ft. West

Of: Intersection, House Number, Bridge, RR Crossing, or Other Identifying Landmark

0 Ft. (N S E W) of 55-15-19.19 Log Mile # McNairy County, ☐ In ☒ near Selmer City

1 ☐ Urban 2 ☒ Rural 3 ☐ Industrial 4 ☐ Shopping 5 ☐ School or Playground 6 ☒ Posted Speed Veh. 1 55 Veh. 2 ___

TIME

Date Aug. 20, 1974 (Month Day Year) Time 11:55 1 ☐ AM 2 ☒ PM Day of Week Tuesday

ACCIDENT INVOLVED: 1 ☐ Pedestrian 2 ☐ Animal 3 ☐ Other Motor Vehicle 4 ☐ Train 5 ☐ Pedal Cycle 6 ☒ Fixed Object Road Bank 32 Ft. from Roadway 7 ☐ Parked Vehicle 8 ☐ Other ___

VEHICLES INVOLVED TOTAL 2

VEHICLE	YEAR	MAKE	TYPE	COLOR	PLATE NO	YR. OF PLATE	STATE
1	1974	Chevrolet	Corvette	Red	20-10005	1974	Ala.

Driver: Pusser, Buford H (Last First Middle) Address: Box 304, Adamsville, Tenn. (# Street, Route City State)

Telephone No. 632-3156 D.O.B. Dec. 12, 1937 (Month Day Year) Age 36 DL# 2239651 State Tenn.

TYPE LICENSE: 1 ☐ Regular 2 ☒ Chauffeur 3 ☐ Other 4 ☐ None SEX: 1 ☒ Male 2 ☐ Female RACE: 1 ☒ White 2 ☐ Negro 3 ☐ Other

Owner: Same as Above D.O.B. ___ (Month Day Year) DL# ___

Address ___ Tele. No. ___

Vehicle Going ☒ East ☐ West ☐ North ☐ South On Highway 64 (Street Highway)

Vehicle Moved To Burkeen's Wrecker Bethel Springs (Name of Garage Address) By Same

1 ☐ Less than $200 2 ☐ $200 to $500 3 ☒ If Over $500 enter Amount $ 6,0

CIRCLE POINT OF INITIAL IMPACT-SHADE DAMAGED AREAS

0 UNDERCARRIAGE 9 UNKNOWN (USE FOR ROLL)

VEHICLE	YEAR	MAKE	TYPE	COLOR	PLATE NO.	YR. OF PLATE	STATE
2							

Driver ___ (Last First Middle) Address ___ (# Street, Route City State)

Telephone No. ___ D.O.B. ___ (Month Day Year) Age ___ DL# ___ State ___

TYPE LICENSE: 1 ☐ Regular 2 ☐ Chauffeur 3 ☐ Other 4 ☐ None SEX: 1 ☐ Male 2 ☐ Female RACE: 1 ☐ White 2 ☐ Negro 3 ☐ Other

Owner ___ D.O.B. ___ (Month Day Year) DL# ___

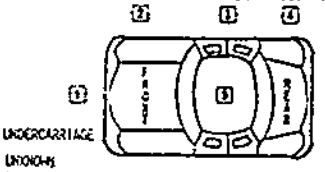
Address ___ Tele. No. ___

Vehicle Going ☐ East ☐ West ☐ North ☐ South On ___ (Street Highway)

Vehicle Moved To ___ (Name of Garage Address) By ___

1 ☐ Less than $200 2 ☐ $200 to $500 3 ☐ If Over $500 enter Amount $ ___

CIRCLE POINT OF INITIAL IMPACT-SHADE DAMAGED AREAS



0 UNDERCARRIAGE 9 UNKNOWN (USE FOR ROLL)

Damage to Property Other than Vehicles: Stop Sign State of Tennessee Knocked Down (Name object, show ownership, and state nature of damage.)

INJURED TOTAL 1

Veh. (1) 1 ☒ Dr. 2 ☐ Pass. 3 ☐ Ped. Sex Male Race White

Name Buford H Pusser Age 36

Address Box 304 Adamsville, Tenn.

Telephone No. 632-3156 Injury Code 4

Taken To McNairy Co. Gen By Ambulance

Veh. ( ) 1 ☐ Dr. 2 ☐ Pass. 3 ☐ Ped. Sex ___ Race ___

Name ___ Age ___

Address ___

Telephone No. ___ Injury Code ___

Taken To ___ By ___

(INJURY CODE)
1. Complaint of pain, no visible injury
2. Bruises, lacerations, swelling, limping, etc.
3. Bleeding wound, distorted member
4. Dead at time of report

WAS ACCIDENT HIT AND RUN: 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☒ No IF YES, IS ADDITIONAL REPORT BEING FILED? 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No SOLVED: 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

WITNESSES

(1) NONE (First Middle Last Sex Race Age Address) Phone Bus. ___ Res. ___

(2) ___ Phone Bus. ___ Res. ___

Name NONE

Charge(s) ___ Court Div. ___

Court Date ___ Time ___ 1 ☐ AM 2 ☐ PM

Ticket Number ___

Disposition ___ Continued to ___

Name ___

Charge(s) ___ Court Div. ___

Court Date ___ Time ___ 1 ☐ AM 2 ☐ PM

Ticket Number ___

Disposition ___ Continued to ___

Time Notified of Accident Aug 21, 1974 (Date) 12:00 (Hour) 1 ☒ AM 2 ☐ PM

Investigation Made at Scene of Accident Aug 21, 1974 (Date) 12:05 (Hour) 1 ☒ AM 2 ☐ PM

Where Else Was Investigation Made? Burkeen's Wrecker

Were Photographs Taken? 1 ☒ Yes 2 ☐ No

Is Investigation Completed? 1 ☒ Yes 2 ☐ No

WERE SEAT BELTS IN USE?

Vehicle	1 Yes	1 No	1 Don't Know	2 Yes	2 No	2 Don't Know
Driver	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Passenger	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Officer [redacted] THP 895(S1-C809) 8 Aug 21, 1974

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BACK of Page # 1

	DRIVER 1	DRIVER 2	TYPE OF ACTION
1	☒	☐	Going Straight
2	☐	☐	Turning Right to Street
3	☐	☐	Turning Right to Private Drive
4	☐	☐	Turning Left to Street
5	☐	☐	Turning Left to Private Drive
6	☐	☐	Slowing or Stopped for Signal or Sign
7	☐	☐	Slowing or Stopped for Turning Traffic
8	☐	☐	Slowing or Stopped for Entering Traffic
9	☐	☐	Slowing or Stopped Other
10	☐	☐	Starting In Traffic
11	☐	☐	Starting from Parked Position
12	☐	☐	Stopped In Traffic Lane
13	☐	☐	Parked
14	☐	☐	Backing from Drive
15	☐	☐	Backing from On-Street Parking Space
16	☐	☐	Other_____
17	☐	☐	Entering from Private Drive

CONDITION OF DRIVER OR PEDESTRIAN

	DRIVER 1	DRIVER 2	PED 3	
1	☒	☐	☐	Apparently Normal
2	☐	☐	☐	Had Not Been Drinking
3	☐	☐	☐	Had Been Drinking
4	☐	☐	☐	Ability Impaired
5	☐	☐	☐	Ability Not Impaired
6	☐	☐	☐	Physical Defect
7	☐	☐	☐	Ill
8	☐	☐	☐	Apparently Asleep
9	☐	☐	☐	Unknown (If Drinking)

CHEMICAL TESTS

1	☐	☐	☐	Blood Narcotics Results_____
2	☐	☐	☐	Blood Alcohol Results_____
3	☐	☐	☐	Urine Alcohol Results_____
4	☐	☐	☐	Breath Alcohol Results_____

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

1	☐	Right Angle
2	☐	Sideswipe (Same Direction, Opposite Direction)
3	☐	Headon
4	☐	Rearend
5	☐	Turning from Wrong Lane
6	☐	Left Turn (Opposing Traffic)
7	☐	Left Turn (Crossing Traffic)
8	☐	Right Turn (Crossing Traffic)
9	☒	Ran off Roadway
10	☐	Pedestrian
11	☐	Object In Roadway
12	☐	Other_____

EXPLANATION: _____

PEDESTRIAN
Was Going NONE ☐ On ☐ Across _____ From _____ To _____
Direction (N. S. E. W.) Street Name, Hwy. No. (S.E. Corner to N.E. Corner, or West Side to East Side)

(CHECK ONE)

1	☐	Crossing at Intersection With Signal
2	☐	Same-Against Signal
3	☐	Same-No Signal
4	☐	Same-Diagonally
5	☐	Crossing not at Intersection
6	☐	Coming from Behind Parked Cars
7		Walking In Roadway (Check Two)
	☐	A. With Traffic ☐ C. Sidewalks Available
	☐	B. Against Traffic ☐ D. Not Available.
8	☐	Standing In Safety Zone
9	☐	Getting on or off Other Vehicle
10	☐	Pushing or Working on Vehicle
11	☐	Other Working In Roadway
12	☐	Playing In Roadway
13	☐	Hitching on Vehicle
14	☐	Lying in Roadway
15	☐	Not In Roadway (Explain)

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No Were Crosswalks Marked?
1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No Was Pedestrian Inside Markings or Extensions of Sidewalk Lines?

[illegible] CONDITIONS
1 ☐ [illegible]
2 ☐ [illegible]
3 ☐ [illegible]
4 ☐ Raining
5 ☐ Snowing
6 ☐ Other_____

ROAD DEFECTS
1 ☐ Defective Shoulders
2 ☐ Holes, Deep Ruts
3 ☐ Loose Material on Surface
4 ☐ Other Defects
5 ☒ No Defects
6 ☐ Other_____

LIGHT CONDITIONS
1 ☐ Dawn
2 ☐ Daylight
3 ☐ Dusk
4 ☐ Dark (Street Lights Off)
5 ☒ Dark (No Street Lights)
6 ☐ Dark (Street Lights On)

ROAD SURFACE CONDITIONS
1 ☐ Ice ☒ Asphalt
2 ☐ Snow ☐ Brick
3 ☐ Wet ☐ Gravel
4 ☒ Dry ☐ Concrete
5 ☐ Mud ☐ Dirt

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

	DRIVER 1	DRIVER 2	
1	☐	☐	Failure to Yield
2	☐	☐	Following too Closely
3	☐	☐	Improper Passing
4	☐	☐	Improper Turn
5	☐	☐	Drinking
6	☐	☐	Speeding
7	☐	☐	Weather
8	☐	☐	Disregard Signal or Sign
9	☐	☐	Wrong Side of Road
10	☐	☐	Other
11	☐	☐	None
12	☒	☐	Unknown
13	☐	☐	Vision Obstructed

TRAFFIC CONTROLS

Veh.	1	2	
1	☒	☐	No Control
2	☐	☐	Signal
3	☐	☐	Stop
4	☐	☐	Yield
5	☐	☐	RR Crossbuck
6	☐	☐	Flasher RR
7	☐	☐	Gates RR
8	☐	☐	4 Way Stop
9	☐	☐	Other_____

ROAD CHARACTER (Check Two)

Veh.	1	2	
1	☒	☐	Curve
2	☐	☐	Straight
3	☒	☐	Upgrade
4	☐	☐	Downgrade
5	☐	☐	Level

ROAD TYPE

Veh.	1	2	
1	☒	☐	Two Lane
2	☐	☐	Four Lane
3	☐	☐	One Way
4	☐	☐	Divided Lanes
			By What_____
5	☐	☐	Other_____

VEHICLE CONDITION (Check one or more)

Veh.	1	2	
1	☐	☐	Defective Brakes
2	☐	☐	Improper Lights
3	☐	☐	Defective Steering Mechanism
4	☐	☐	Defective Tires
5	☐	☐	_____ Specify Other
6	☐	☐	No Defects
7	☒	☐	Defects not known

COLLISION DIAGRAM

INDICATE ON THIS DIAGRAM WHAT HAPPENED

INDICATE NORTH BY ARROW

See Supplemental Report

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED See Supplemental Report

REPORT APPROVA

b6
b7C

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT SUPPLEMENT

Date Aug. 20, 1974 (Month Day Year) Time 11:55 ~~A.M.~~ P.M. Report# _____

Location Highway 64 (Street or Highway) ☒ At ☐ Near Lawton (Intersection) In McNairy (County) ☐ In ☒ Near Selmer (City)

Drivers Involved Buford H. Pusser

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

Vehicle # 1 traveling East on Highway 64. Driver of Vehicle # 1 lost control. Vehicle went into a skid, skidded approximately 345 feet crossing the West bound lane, left the road, skidded 200 feet across loose gravel on front of Old Shell Station and across Lawton Road. Vehicle #1 then struck the road bank on the East side of Lawton Road. Vehicle # 1 then continued on approximately 40 feet in a South-East direction landing on the wheels. Driver was thrown from Vehicle and landed approximately 3 feet to the rear of Vehicle. Vehicle was headed to the North. Vehicle then caught fire and burned.

Trooper [redacted]

b6
b7C

INVESTIGATION OF A 10:46 INVOLVING BUFORD H. PUSSER

Approximately 12:00 A.M., Aug 21, 1974 I was dispatched to a 10;46, 7 miles East of Selmer.

Approximately 1 mile before I reached the scene flames and a set of blue lights were visible.

At approximately 12:05 A.M., I arrived at the scene and found a vehicle burning and a body laying approx. 100feet East of the burning vehicle. Also, [redacted] of the Adamsville Police, [redacted] b6 b7C

Talking to [redacted] who was the first to discover the wreck, said he heard the vehicle and the crash. His statement was that it sounded like a jet. [redacted] was watching T.V. and went out side to see if he could see anything and said that he could not see anything in any direction so he got in his vehicle and stated that it might be over the hill. starting to leave he saw the vehicle and a body laying behind the vehicle close to the road, and that there was a small fire under the hood. [redacted] said that he knew that he needed help went back to the house to call for help. After calling for help he returned to the scene to fine [redacted] which had moved the body approx. 100 feet East of the burning Vehicle. b6 b7C

[redacted] was saying to [redacted] was dead and she wanted to go home. She was upset. b6 b7C

[redacted] said that He and [redacted] had came from the McN airy County fair and that they were not close enough to see the accident. [redacted] said that night that Pusser had passed him coming from the fair and would not make any comment as to how fast the vechile might have been going, but later he said that a car passed him at a high rate of speed and that he was not sure that it was Pusser, but that [redacted] thought it was [redacted] said that he meet or was not passed by any other vehicle from that time till he came to the wreck.

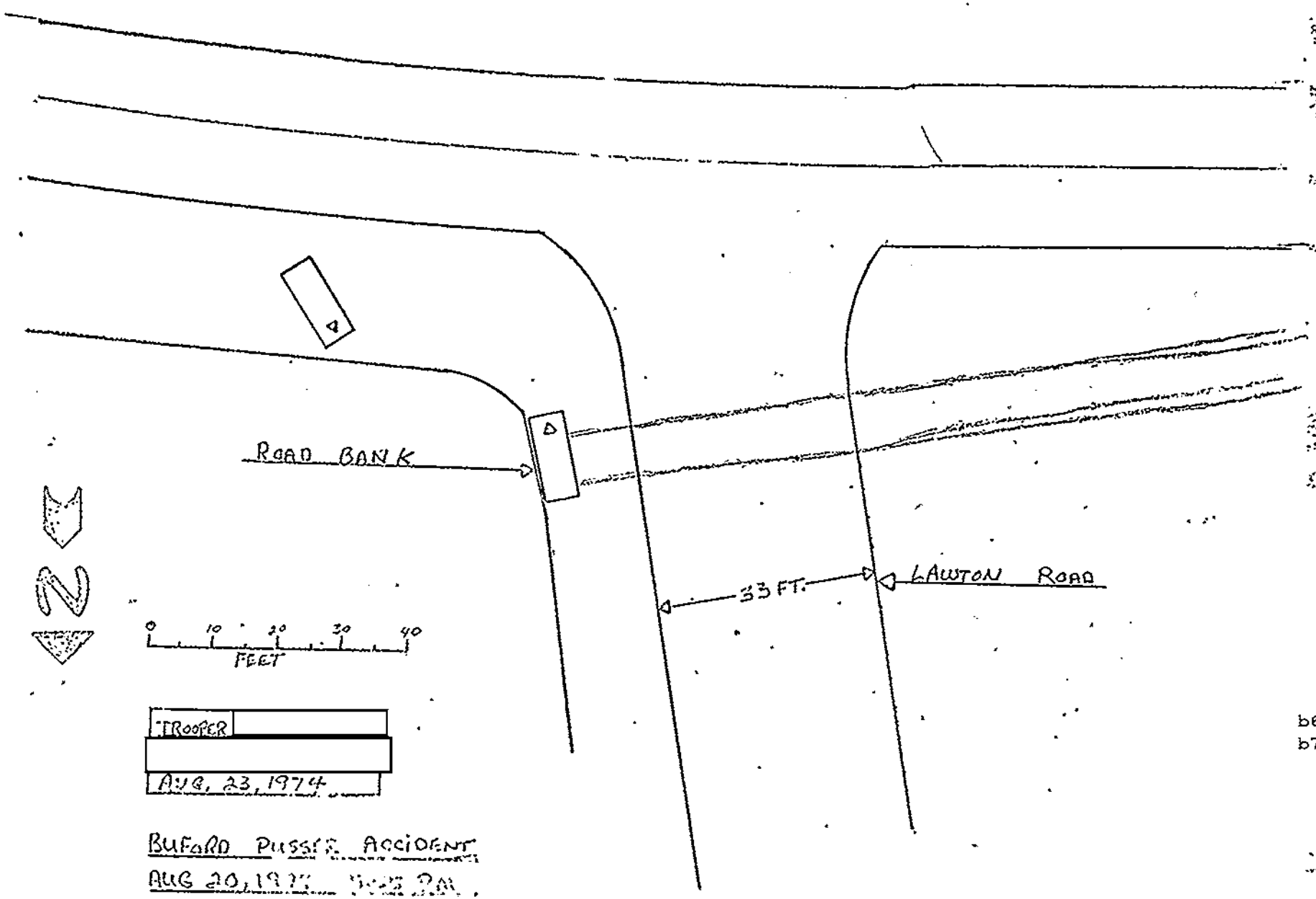
The ambulance called by Officer [redacted] arrived driven by [redacted] b6 b7C

The Medical Examiner, Dr. Harry L. Peeler was called to the scene to make his investigation. After Dr. Peeler made his examination the body was carried to the McNairy Co. General Hospital.

After the fire died down a wrecker was called at Trooper's request. Joe Burkeens Texaco of Bethel Springs was called by dispatcher to remove the vehicle and store it.

Trooper [redacted] b6 b7C

Aug 23, 1974



TROOPER

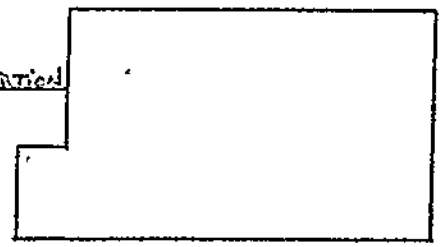
AUG. 23, 1974

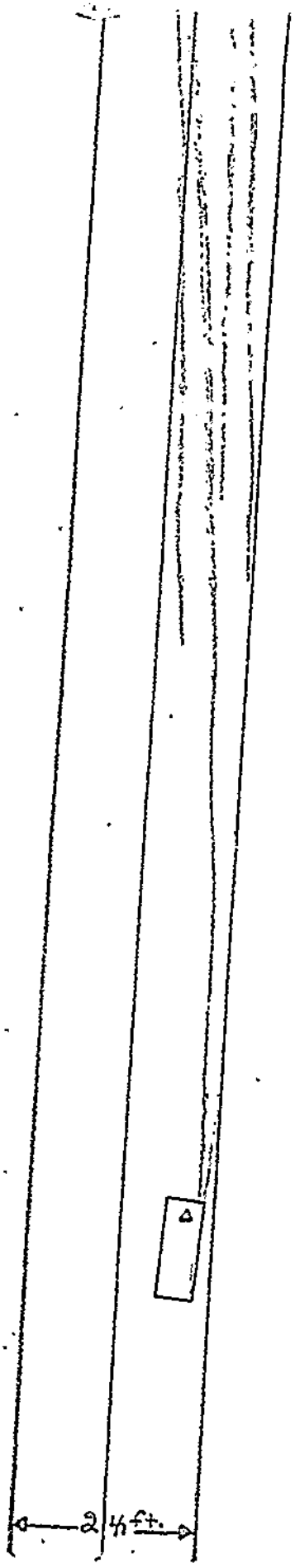
BUFORD BUSSES ACCIDENT

AUG 20, 1974 [illegible]

b6
b7C

OLD SHELL SERVICE STATION




24 ft.

Statement [redacted] Re: Buford Pusser Wreck b6
Selmer,Tennessee b7C
8-22-74 5:30 PM
To Trooper [redacted]

I told [redacted] that I understood that he had seen Mr Pusser at the McNairy County Fair and would he tell me anything that he knew about Mr. Pussers condition.

[redacted] stated that he saw Mr. Pusser at the Fair along with [redacted] It was about 10:45 PM on Aug 20,1974.While talking with him he seemed to be stuttering more than usual,and as we walked away, [redacted] said she thought that she smelled liquor,and he was drinking something out of a Colemans Bar-B-Que cup.

Statement [redacted] b6
Selmer,Tennessee b7C
8-23-74, 6:00 PM
To Trooper [redacted]

Tell me what you know about Buford Pussers condition on the night of his wreck.What did you smell about him?

I smelled something and thought it was alcohol.He was drinking something out of a cup,a Colemans Bar-B-Que cup.

Statement [redacted] b6
[redacted] b7C
Selmer,Tennessee
8-23-74 6:02 PM

[redacted] stated that on the night of Aug.20-74,Mr Pusser came in,and ordered Two large Bar-B-Ques and a large glass of water. He returned in a few minutes and ordered a Fish sandwiche and another large cup of water.

I Did not detect the odor of alcohol of see any effects of alcohol.

[redacted] b6
b7C
Trooper,T.H.P.
Selmer,Tennessee

Statement [redacted]
Selmer,Tennessee
8-22-74 7:00 PM
To [redacted]
Trooper [redacted] and

Re: Buford Pusser Wreck

b6
b7C

We told [redacted] that we understood that he was one of the last people to see Mr. Pusser before the accident and we would like for him to tell us anything that he could about it.

[redacted] stated that he talked to Mr. Pusser while he was shooting basketball, and that he didn't see anything wrong with him. He also said that he didn't smell any alcohol on him or any effect of it.

b6
b7C

[redacted] also said that they were parked next to Mr. Pussers car, and that he noticed that Mr. Pusser went to his car and sat in it and was talking to his daughter and eating two Bar-B-Que sandwiches. He said they sat there talking for 15 or 20 minutes, and that Buford started his car and pulled out fast, spinning the wheels on his car. Another Vehicle pulled up and [redacted] got in it and they left behind Buford, in about 60 sedonds or a minute or so.

[redacted]
[redacted] T.HP.
Savannah,Tennessee

[redacted]
Trooper,T.H.P.
Selmer,Tennessee

b6
b7C

Statement [redacted]
Selmer,Tennessee
8-22-74 5:45 PM
To [redacted] and
Trooper [redacted]

Re: Buford Pusser Wreck

b6
b7C

We told [redacted] that we understood that he was one of the last people to see Mr. Pusser before the accident,and we would like for him to tell us anything that he could about it.

b6
b7C

[redacted] stated that he saw Mr. Pusser at the McNairy County Fair,shooting basketball.When he spoke to Mr. Pusser he didn't have much to say.Something was definitely wrong,he was in a quiet,non-talkative mood.He wasn't right,don't know for sure whether he was drinking or not,but something was wrong.

When we started to leave we were parked close to him,but the closest I got to him was across the car.Buford did leave at apert speed,had that Corvette gurgling,going fast like a Teen-ager.

[redacted]
[redacted],T.H.P.
Savannah,Tennessee

b6
b7C

Trooper [redacted]

Statement [redacted] b6
[redacted] Re:Buford Pusser Wreck b7C
8-22-74 1:30 PM
To [redacted]

Called Pusser Residence to see if [redacted] was able to talk with me and give any information about the accident. [redacted] answered the phone and requested that we did not attempt to Talk to [redacted] as she had been very upset and did not feel up to talking to anyone.

I advised [redacted] that I did not want to bother her, that I just wanted to know if she had seen anything that might help our investigation, as she had stated on Television that she had seen the Vehicle leave the road and hit the bank. b6 b7C

[redacted] then told me that the News people had gotten everything mixed up about that, that [redacted] was behind Mr. Pusser in another Vehicle, but that she definitely did not see the accident. It had already happened when they drove up, and Mr. Pusser was out of the Vehicle lying on the ground, [redacted] said the Vehicle was not on fire at that time, and that Mr. Pusser tried to say his Daughters name twice and that was all. b6 b7C

[redacted] b6
b7C

[redacted] T.H.P.
Savannah, Tennessee

Statement [redacted] Re:Buford Pusser Wreck b6
Adamsville,Tennessee b7C
8-23-74 9:20 PM
To [redacted] and
Trooper [redacted]

Would you tell us what you know about the night of the wreck,that Mr. Pusser had?

[redacted] was in.We pulled up to the McNairy County fair and [redacted] got in the car.Buford was there.We left and I was driving towards Adamsville and a car came up behind us fast and passed us like Zing.All I could see was a long low car and the taillights.[redacted] said,there goes Buford.I said to all of them in the car,I hope he don't get killed before he gets home. b6 b7C

We went on and drove about four or five miles,at least,and I saw something in front of us lit up,and someone said,that's Buford.I pulled on the side of the road and we got outand [redacted] got to him first.I got down and put my hand on his chest to feel pulse and called his name and got nothing. I was trying to get [redacted] she was running in the street and everywhere. b6 b7C

There was a white truck there,a poultry truck I believe,and 2 men were there.And the Car was on fire.

I remember after we saw that he was dead,I got [redacted] quiet and I stood up and there stood [redacted] in the street and I don't know if his car was there of not.I walked across the road and [redacted] did too.I said to [redacted] is Buford dead and [redacted] said Yeah [redacted] went around to the other side of his car and I said,are you by yourself,and he said,no.I didn't look to see if there was anyone in the car with him. b6 b7C

We put [redacted] in the car and left.

The next day in Savannah,at the Fox's den,I saw [redacted] again,and overheard some boys ask [redacted] if someone could have pulled out in front of Buford,and [redacted] said,Could have.And that's all.

[redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] T.H.P.
Savannah,Tennessee

Statement [redacted]
River Heights Restaurant
8-21-74 6:50 PM
To [redacted]

Re: Buford Pusser Wreck
Statement on Television

b6
b7C

[redacted] was asked if he had any knowledge of the accident that we could use in our investigation,reference his statement on Television.

[redacted] stated that he was just a close personal friend of Mr. Pusser and that they had went to school together,and that he had rode in the car with Mr. Pusser many times.He believed that Mr. Pusser was just to good a driver for that to happen.
Also that Mr.Pusser had asked him in the past,that if anything like this ever happened to him,to try to check it out [redacted] said that he was not trying to do anyones job for them,but just didn't want any-one to do that to Mr. Pusser and get away with it.

b6
b7C

Asked what he was basing his opinion on that the tie-rod end was cut or filed?

[redacted] stated that it just looked that way to him,that he was not an expert on it,but it did look that way to him.He also stated that he was not a mechanic or had any experience in that line.

b6
b7C

The main point that he stressed to me was that he did not want any-one to get away with killing Mr. Pusser,if that's what happened.He then stated that if it was just an accident,then he would be satisfied with that.

[redacted]
[redacted],T.H.P.
Savannah,Tennessee

b6
b7C

Statement Dr. H.L. Peeler M.D.
Selmer,Tennessee
Medical Examiner
8-22-74 6:00PM

Re:Buford Pusser Wreck

To [redacted] and
Trooper [redacted]

b6
b7C

I examined Mr. Pusser at the scene of the accident and later at the McNairy Couhty Hospital.On Examining him at the Hospital,I found that he had a bad bruise under his chin and believe that hit the dash or the steering wheel,or something and brake his neck.He had a bruise under his left eye,compound fracture ofer his left eye.Left ear lobe partially torn off,multiple front rib fractures and two lacerations on both knees.

Mr. Pusser died of multiple trama,sustained inthe automobile accident, and primarily due to Fractured neck.

[redacted]
[redacted] T.H.P.
Savannah,Tennessee

b6
b7C

[redacted]
Trooper,T.H.P.
Selmer,Tennessee

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL
TOW-IN REPORT

4th
McNairy
74 Ala

MESSAGE # _____

TIME 1:00 AM DATE 8-21-74 REG # AD-10008

YEAR 1974 MAKE Chev MODEL Corvette

VIN 1Z37Z45405154

LOCATION 64 Hwy at Lawton

VEHICLE INVENTORY Burn (gone)

RUNNING CONDITION: ☐ YES ☒ NO REASON FOR TOWING 10-46

VEHICLE STRIPPED: ☐ YES ☒ NO

DAMAGE All

WRECKER COMPANY Joe Burkeen

TOWED TO Joe Burkeen Bethel Springs TN

REMARKS 10-48 [illegible]

RTI//AC 0001 21 0326 21 0326
AC 0009 21 0326 08/21 0328
9 AC 1 RI AA AW.
FATALITY REPORT

DATE----082074 TIME----11:55PM KILLED----1 INJURED----0

LOCATION----MCNAIRY COUNTY

HIGHWAY----64 EAST OF SELMER AT LANTON

INVESTIGATEDBY----THP SELMER----TROOPER [redacted] b6 b7C

KILLED
BUFORD H PUSSER DOA SELMER HOSPITAL
ADAMSVILLE, TENNESSEE
RACE/SEX--W/M AGE--36

REMARKS: ONE AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. CAR LEFT ROAD STRUCK EMBANKMENT AND BURNED. BODY THROWN CLEAR.

NEXT OF KIN HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED

1. DRINKING ----------NO EVIDENCE
2. SEAT BELTS ----------NO EVIDENCE
3. DRUGS ----------NO EVIDENCE
4. WAS BLOOD TEST REQUESTED ----------YES
5. NAME OF SUBJECT GIVEN TEST ----------BUFORD H PUSSER
6. WAS MEDICAL EXAMINER NOTIFIED ------YES

[illegible]

Best Copy Available

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1974

Press

ly cloudy today through Friday. High around 90, low around 70. (Details on Page

MEMPHIS, TENN., THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1974 TELEPHONES: NEWS AND SENSE CIRCULATION ADS

The Death of Buford Pusser

There is an abundance of fact to support what has come to be known as the legend of Buford Pusser.

During his career as sheriff of McNairy County, Pusser survived several violent encounters with the crimin[illegible] element of his region. In the last such te[illegible] strength between the law and crime [illegible] was killed as she rode in th[illegible] his auto. The same fusilad[illegible] from ambush, tore aw[illegible] sheriff's face.

Thus, it was a scen[illegible] contest of brutal str[illegible] 6-foot-6, 250-pound [illegible] lawman and the [illegible] who infested th[illegible] the Tennessee-Missis[illegible] the best traditi[illegible] Pusser usually go[illegible] with cleaning up [illegible]

Inevitably, [illegible] hero, and then the movie [illegible] across the nation [illegible] "Walking Tall," which is [illegible] grossed more than $[illegible] The film, based on Pusser's li[illegible] measure of wealth, [illegible] he spend on a new home a[illegible]

Even greater success lay a[illegible]. Only this week, the ex-sheriff ha[illegible] contract for a second movie to be c[illegible] "Buford," in which he was to [illegible] the leading role.

But fame never spoil[illegible] He re[illegible]ined th[illegible] same [illegible] [illegible]ndly [illegible] [illegible]ang [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] Memphis Sta[illegible] football [illegible], they n[illegible] made [illegible] coach.

Tragedy—[illegible] fate— has written a[illegible] end to Pusser's life scene[illegible] today, the sheriff who [illegible] killed when he was th[illegible] wreckage of his Corvette [illegible] miles from Adamsville [illegible] alone, and no one kn[illegible] caused his speeding car [illegible] trol. Another chapter [illegible] end.

* *

But in Nashville, stat[illegible] Tennessee Department of [illegible] impressed by legends. [illegible] Pusser's death as the [illegible] Tennessee highways for [illegible]

Last Rites Paid To P[illegible]

By DELORES BALLARD
Sun Reporter

ADAMSVILLE — The service started simply and without fanfare, a young girl singing a capella while uniformed guards held back the straining crowds at the door of the already-bursting Church of Christ.

There was the sound of bar[illegible] controlled weeping from the front [illegible] the church, where the family a[illegible] friends of Buford Hayes Pusser and gathered to say goodbye.

The former sheriff's body lay in a white-lined bronze coffin, surrounded by a bank of flowers as a solemn Rev. Russell Gallimore, Pusser's longtime neighbor and friend, drew parallels between the life of Buford Pusser and the life of Jesus Christ.

"He was young and manly," Gallimore intoned, "...he saw sins and vices...and he steadfastly went about righting the wrongs."

Gallimore compared Pusser's legendary "big stick" to the cross of Jesus, pointed out that both died in their 30s, that their enemies rejoiced at their deaths, but that their spirits continued to live afte[illegible]

[illegible] standing space in the church sanctuary was occupied by those who came to mourn and those who came to stare. Special attendants at the funeral were uniformed police officers from [illegible] Mis[illegible] ssou[illegible] of [illegible] made [illegible] folk he[illegible] was [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] cameras and pres photographers kept vigil at a discreet distance on the lawn of the church, in keeping with a family request that no pictures be taken inside the church. Reporters entering the sanctuary were asked to "put your notebooks away; the family doesn't want notes taken during the service."

The crush of people in the church soon used up the air conditioning; perspiration was wiped away as [illegible] as [illegible] in the stuffy warmt[illegible] [illegible] was provided.

[illegible] the sadne[illegible] [illegible] pressed [illegible] of an Ada[illegible] [illegible] under a s[illegible] [illegible] and listening. "H[illegible] pretty good [illegible]m," said Jimmy Littlefield in a hushed voice, [illegible] his wife nodded. They were fans a[illegible] not close friends of Pusser.

To others, it was merely a [illegible] ay afternoon [illegible]nival; a [illegible] short-shorts [illegible] onto [illegible] [illegible]wn drinking [illegible] ge sou[illegible] bottle and [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] red [illegible] the [illegible] to bring out the casket [illegible] the body of McNairy [illegible] ex-sheriff.

It [illegible] a brief journey to Adams[illegible] [illegible]metery, where Pusser was [illegible] wife, Pauline [illegible]

[illegible] r. Th[illegible] [illegible] the door, all [illegible] ing down the sloping [illegible] from the grave sit[illegible] som[illegible] cameras and binoculars, som[illegible] carrying flowers and bits of ribbon [illegible] atched from the decorations on the grave. The solemn silence was broken by human chatter. The legend had been buried. It was time for life to resume for those [illegible]

[illegible] lowed the fun[illegible] ser[illegible] [illegible] to the site [illegible] his life Tuesday [illegible] ident on [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] ound he [illegible] [illegible] ok [illegible] [illegible] ed to the ser[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] violence [illegible] edly [illegible] sh[illegible] hi[illegible] [illegible] f[illegible]ement [illegible] d [illegible] $50- [illegible] and [illegible] t of a [illegible] us would [illegible] d [illegible] unced [illegible] m it [illegible]

[illegible] ar[illegible]erage [illegible]

Carl Pusser (1), Buford Pusser's Father, And Actor Joe Don Baker (2) Le[illegible] Church

—Staff Photo by David Dorrell

1,000 Pay Respects At Pusser Service

By LAWRENCE BUSER
Staff Writer

ADAMSVILLE, Tenn., [illegible] More than 1,[illegible] persons gathered here Saturday to pay their last respects to legendary former sheriff Buford [illegible] but few of them wore bla[illegible] that kind of funeral.

The streets were lined [illegible] flags displayed in his honor [illegible] side the Church of Christ [illegible] for more than an hour b[illegible] ices with folded arms talkin[illegible] voice.

Cars drove slowly [illegible] with occupants hoping fo[illegible] the $6,000 casket which co[illegible] mous former sheriff wh[illegible] early Wednesday in a ca[illegible] miles from where he was [illegible]

Across the street [illegible] young boy sat on [illegible] station. An hour later, [illegible] joined by a ha[illegible] bers [illegible] a few [illegible] tape re[illegible] her fa[illegible] d[illegible] s [illegible] w[illegible] to the en[illegible] church to sign the [illegible] a card was [illegible] with [illegible] relatives of Pusser had [illegible] Rev. Russell G[illegible] y Pusser said [illegible] at the place of Christ.

[illegible] to make [illegible] there said. [illegible] and this much [illegible] word of [illegible] was [illegible] skeptically [illegible] wro[illegible]

[illegible] A[illegible] daughter, [illegible] other [illegible] friends.

Near the [illegible] hour service hundreds [illegible] ed down the aisle [illegible] final look [illegible] the man whose exploits [illegible] county sheriff from [illegible] became the subject of the [illegible] Talk.

Outside, law enforcement officers [illegible] Georgia, Alabama [illegible] parts of [illegible] in the [illegible] three [illegible] Pusser [illegible] church, [illegible] relatives fol- [illegible] de of the [illegible] of town [illegible] in an [illegible] took Pus- [illegible]

Film Star Among Pusser Mourners

ADAMSVILLE (AP) — Joe Don Baker, who portrayed Buford Pusser in the film "Walking Tall," will be among mourners at the former McNairy County sheriff's funeral Saturday.

Pusser, 36, who gained national fame fighting bootleggers and prostitutes in the west Tennessee county, was killed in a one-car crash on U.S. 64 near Adamsville early Wednesday. The Tennessee Highway Patrol has ruled Pusser's death an accident.

Hundreds of mourners filed past Pusser's open casket Thursday night and his family prepared for a round-the-clock vigil.

"We still have a custom here in the country to sit up with the body until the funeral," said David Dickey, a friend whom Pusser had visited three hours before the fatal crash.

Dickey will be a pallbearer, as will Democratic gubernatorial nominee Ray Blanton of Adamsville.

Also attending will be Charles Pratt, president of Bing Crosby Productions, which was to film a sequel to "Walking Tall" called "Butord," starring Pusser.

"Walking Tall" depicted Pusser's early years as sheriff and "Buford" was to center on later years of his life.

The future of the sequel has been in limbo since Pusser's death. John T. Gannon, Memphis, one of the film's promotors, said there is a "50-50 chance the movie will be made now."

Gannon said Baker probably will be asked to take the title role, "but no one knows for sure what will happen."

Services will be in the Adamsville Church of Christ with burial in Adamsville Cemetery.

Pusser will be buried beside his wife Pauline, who was killed when the couple was ambushed on a rural road in McNairy County in 1967.

During his six years as sheriff, 1964-70, there were seven attempts on Pusser's life.

AUGUST 23, 1974

COMMISSIONER CLAUDE A. ARMOUR
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
ANDREW JACKSON STATE OFFICE BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

RE: BUFORD PUSSER ACCIDENT

DEAR COMMISSIONER ARMOUR,

ON AUGUST 20, 1974, ABOUT MIDNIGHT OUR OFFICE RECEIVED INFORMATION OF AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT ON HWY. 64 EAST OF SELMER, TENNESSEE. TROOPER [redacted] RESPONDED TO THAT CALL. HE HAS SUBMITTED THE ENCLOSED REPORT BASED ON INFORMATION WHICH WAS AVAILABLE TO HIM. [redacted] WAS DISPATCHED TO ASSIST TROOPER [redacted] DURING THE INVESTIGATION. b6 b7C

ALL INFORMATION HAS BEEN COLLECTED ROUTINELY AND INVESTIGATED THOROUGHLY TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

MANY RUMORS PERSIST BUT NONE ARE SUBSTANTIATED BY FACTS. ONE STATEMENT GIVEN BY [redacted] REALLY SUMS UP THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATION. [redacted] STATED, "IT WAS GO[illegible] SO FAST I THOUGHT IT WAS A LOW FLYING JET AND RAN OUT TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED." MR. PUSSER HAD A REPUTATION OF DRIV[illegible] CAR VERY FAST. b6 b7C

SEVERAL OTHER POINTS ARE WORTH MENTIONING:

1. FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON THE RIGHT WHEELS OF THE VEHICLE LEFT THE PAVEMENT, AND TRAVELED ON THE RIGHT SHOULDER FOR SOME DISTANCE BUT THE EXACT DISTANCE IS UNKNOWN. THE DRIVER LOST CONTROL STEERING BACK ONTO THE ROAD.
2. TIRE MARKS INDICATE THE VEHICLE CAME BACK ONTO THE TRAVELED PORTION OF THE ROAD WITH THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE MOVING TO THE RIGHT. IN FAC[illegible] THE VEHICLE MADE A COMPLETE TURN IN A CO[illegible] CLOCKWISE MOTION FINALLY SLIDING SIDEWAY[illegible] THE EMBANKMENT ON THE DRIVER'S SIDE.
3. THE VEHICLE, APPARENTLY TRAVELING AT A HIGH [illegible] OF SPEED, LEFT OVER FIVE HUNDRED FEET OF T[illegible] (MOSTLY CRITICAL SPEED SCUFF MARKS) BEFORE IMPACT.
4. THE VEHICLE VAULTED IN MID AIR FOR OVER 30 FEET LANDING UPRIGHT ON ITS WHEELS AFTER IMPACT WITH THE EMBANKMENT.
5. THE DRIVER (PUSSER) WAS THROWN CLEAR OF THE VEHICLE LANDING TO THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE. (IT IS REPORTED PUSSER'S DAUGHTER AND HER FRIENDS ACTUALLY DRAGGED MR. PUSSER SOME DISTANCE FROM THE FLAMING VEHICLE BEFORE THE INVESTIGATING TROOPER ARRIVED.) DR. [illegible] PEELER, MCNAIRY COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER, STATES DEATH CAUSED BY A BROKEN NECK.
6. THE STEERING TIE RODS ON THE LEFT SIDE WERE BROKEN ON IMPACT. THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF THE HIGHWAY

PATROL FOR EXAMINATION. OPINIONS ARE OF [redacted] TROOPER [redacted] AND MYSELF. b6 b7C

7. ALL FLAMMABLE PARTS OF THE AUTO WERE CONSUMED AFTER THE CRASH, INCLUDING ALL ITEMS INSIDE THE AUTO. [redacted] FIRST PERSON ON THE ACCIDENT SCENE, STATES THE VEHICLE CAUGHT FIRE MOMENTS AFTER THE IMPACT. b6 b7C
8. THE WITNESSES WHO TALKED TO MR. PUSSER PRIOR TO HIS LEAVING THE FAIRGROUND AREA STATED HE WAS ACTING STRANGELY. ONE WITNESS STATES SHE THOUGHT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN DRINKING. THEY ALL STATED HE LEFT AT A FAST RATE OF SPEED

[redacted] AND TROOPER [redacted] CONTINUE TO CHECK OUT ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE MISHAP. AT HIS TIME THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF "FOUL PLAY". ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS ACCIDENT WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOUR OFFICE. b6 b7C

RESPECTFULLY,

[redacted] b6 b7C

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL
JACKSON DISTRICT

Film to Go on Without Pusser

By LEVIN HOWARD
Press-Scimitar Amusements Editor

Fate wrote its own tragic ending to the second Buford Pusser movie, to the legendary ex-sheriff's would-be career as an actor, and to his violence-wrenched life early this morning, less than 24 hours after the happy announcement that he would play himself in "Buford," sequel to the phenomenal box office hit, "Walking Tall."

The movie probably will go on without the [illegible] giant, who proved to be frightened at the prospect of acting for the movie camera. Bing Crosby Productions had been unable to come to terms for the sequel with Joe Don Baker, who played Pusser in "Walking Tall." They might re-open negotiations now. Another prospect is big, burly Clint Walker, who equals Pusser's size and gentleness, and was considered for the "Walking Tall" role before Baker was signed. The Sept. 20 starting date for filming in the Jackson, Tenn., vicinity will probably have to be postponed pending the signing of a new star.

A violent death for Pusser once would have seemed inevitable. In one two-and-a-half-year period of his tenure as McNairy County sheriff he had five close brushes with death.

During that time he was stabbed, rammed by a bootlegger's automobile (while he was on foot), had a shoot-out with a woman, whom he killed, was shot by a reckless driver when he stopped him to give him a ticket, and, finally, on Aug. 12, 1967, was ambushed and nearly killed by gunfire that did kill his wife. In all, he remembered being shot seven times and stabbed six.

But since "Walking Tall" came out a year and a half ago, Pusser had lived an active but non-violent life. In scores of public appearances since the movie made him a national celebrity, he said yesterday that he had not even been heckled, much less roughed-up or assaulted by would-be toughs.

There was perhaps a kind of inevitability in the way he died, though. He drove a car. Between January and September of 1973, he drove 50,000 miles to promote "Walking Tall." He was known to cruise at about 85. And he tried always to get back home to Adamsville if he could — no matter what time of night — just as he was doing when he was killed.

"Walking Tall" not only brought him fame, but at least the beginnings of a fortune. His seven per cent of the film's profits (after production, distribution and advertising costs) had probably amounted to about half a million dollars. (The film has grossed $50-million worldwide.)

The hospital and doctor's fast, and almost constantly, wounds and injuries — not bills for his many on-the-job insured or paid for by McNairy County — had cost him more than $15,000, and he had finally been able to pay them off and make a few investments. His deal with Bing Crosby Productions for "Buford" called for the same seven per cent of the profits, plus $75,000 for his acting job in the title role.

When Pusser and John T. Gannon, manager of the Park Theater, where "Buford" is to be world premiered next spring, parted yesterday at noon, the big fellow was happy with the way the press conference to announce his movie role had gone.

"I was nervous before we started," Gannon recalls today, "and asked Buford how he stayed so collected. He just grinned and got up and danced a little jig. It made me laugh and loosened me up."

Then early this morning when he was almost home, Buford Pusser apparently drifted off to sleep in his fast new Corvette, and sailed off the highway to his death.

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this," he said.

This community of
the hills of Tennessee
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needs me."

She went on to say tha
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her father."

Across town, Carl Pu
former sheriff's fa

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Ohio Press-Scimitar

ND SECTION, PAGE 23, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1974

Comics
Classified Ads

Pusser W[illegible] The End In Eyes [illegible]

By DOROTHY Y. WARD
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

"It ended the only way it could have," said a close friend of Buford Pusser after the legendary lawman died in a flaming auto crash on U. S. 64 as he was returning home from the McNairy County Fair at Selmer shortly before 1 a.m. yesterday.

"I think it had to end like that," said Billy Wagener, publisher of the Adamsville Community Shopper, a former schoolmate of Pusser, who became famous with the making of the movie "Walking Tall."

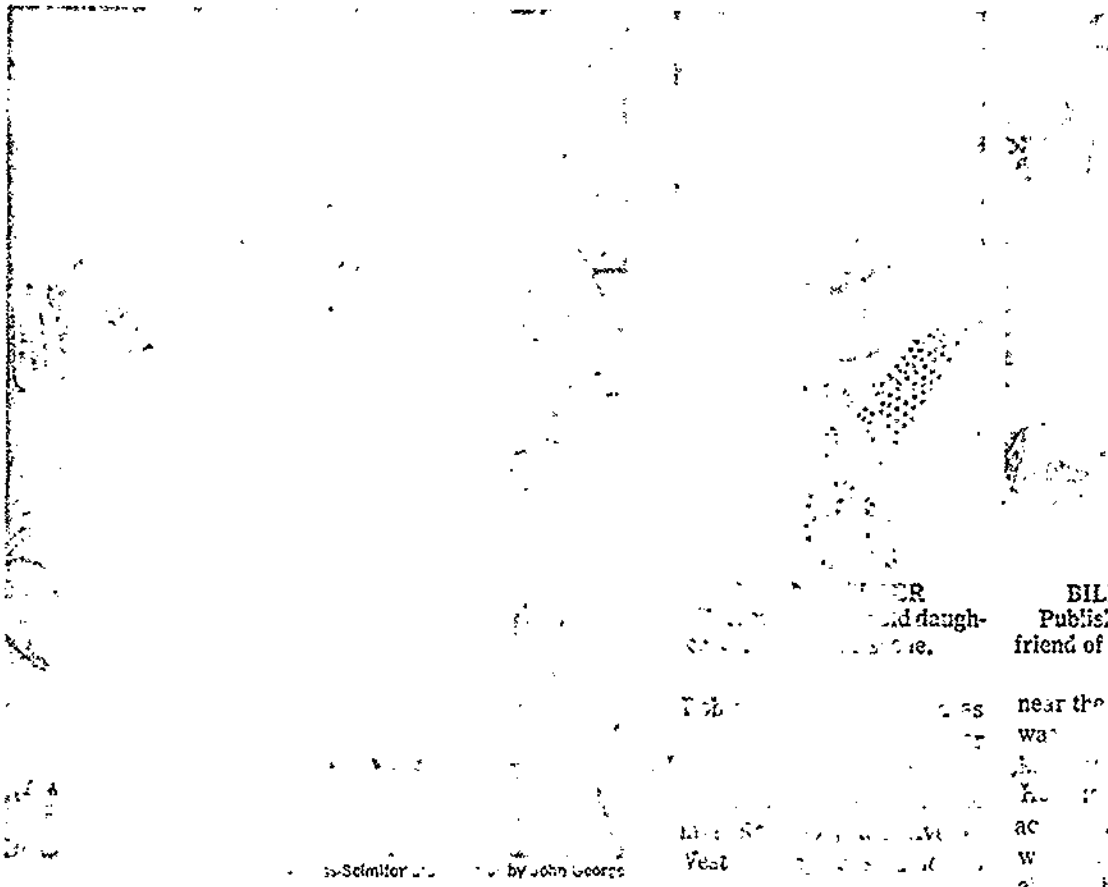
"Have you never noticed that the men you remember in history, the ones who really did things, like Wyatt Earp, John Kennedy, and many others, all died violently? I suffered through many an ordeal with Buford, but I wasn't prepared for this," he said.

This community of 1,400 in the hills of Tennessee is in a state of shock from the loss of Pusser.

At Pusser's attractive brick home, his mother, Mrs. Helen Pusser, worried that the house just wasn't ready for the hordes that were to be there yesterday.

"I was vacuuming this house at 11 last night," she said yesterday. "Because I thought the men from the movie studio were coming today to select locations for Buford's new movie."

A tall, very slender woman, Mrs. Pusser was gracious and "amazingly calm in the face of the tragedy she had endured in losing one of her children and [illegible] most famous son. She said he has lived with Pusser since his wife was killed in [illegible]



Scimitar [illegible] by John George

[illegible] AND UNCLE

[illegible], father of the late sheriff, and his uncle, Robert Harris of Selmer, Tenn., at the Pusser home in Adams[illegible]

[illegible] ER
[illegible] and daughter [illegible]

BILLY WAGENER
Publisher and longtime friend of Pusser.

[illegible] at [illegible] brother, [illegible] talked [illegible] came [illegible] car [illegible] there [illegible] He also [illegible] with a [illegible] receiving [illegible] ship was smashed [illegible] auto accident some years [illegible]

Pusser said he was jailer and night radio dispatcher during the years his son was sheriff.

"We always had a hard way to go," he said. "Worked hard, scratching out a living at farming or in the sawmill. Did whatever we could to get by. It's just in the last

know how much he meant to Adamsville.

Mrs. Jay Pettigrew, wife of the Ford dealer, said: "I loved him. I always knew he was someone special. I used to carry an autographed picture of him when we went to conventions and the like."

She said he generally drove Fords, when he was the sheriff. And in the garage yesterday were a white Thunderbird and a silver Lincoln Continental, although Mrs. Pettigrew said they hadn't sold either one to Pusser. She said the Corvette which claimed his life had been a promotion gift to Pusser from an Alabama

[illegible] Robinson said [illegible] regular officers [illegible] auxiliary policemen [illegible] he intended to [illegible] men to the Pusser [illegible] handle the crowd and [illegible] the curiosity seekers [illegible] from [illegible] family [illegible]

[illegible] downtown [illegible] Adamsville [illegible] Walker Supermarket, open [illegible] 40 years by O. [illegible] Walker, who said [illegible] folk in Adams[illegible] ers the [illegible] Pusser [illegible]

"He was [illegible] body," Walker said. [illegible] 100 bill [illegible] register that a woman brought in today to buy groceries and she said it was a present

[illegible] near the [illegible] of the wreck [illegible] was [illegible] quickly [illegible] his cousin [illegible] young girl [illegible] accident [illegible] her's home [illegible] was [illegible] on the scene [illegible] minutes after [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] have broken [illegible] you [illegible] to see that [illegible] only part [illegible] left," Harris said. "[illegible] and just [illegible] has [illegible] driving [illegible] in [illegible] ne distance [illegible] car with the [illegible] of the family [illegible]

[illegible] the deputy [illegible] went [illegible] in [illegible] old friend Maxey [illegible] and [illegible] that [illegible] alone, [illegible] but [illegible] some one [illegible]

[illegible] his wife died in the auto bush [illegible] he [illegible]

Press-Scimitar

ON, PAGE 23, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1

Comics
Classified Ads

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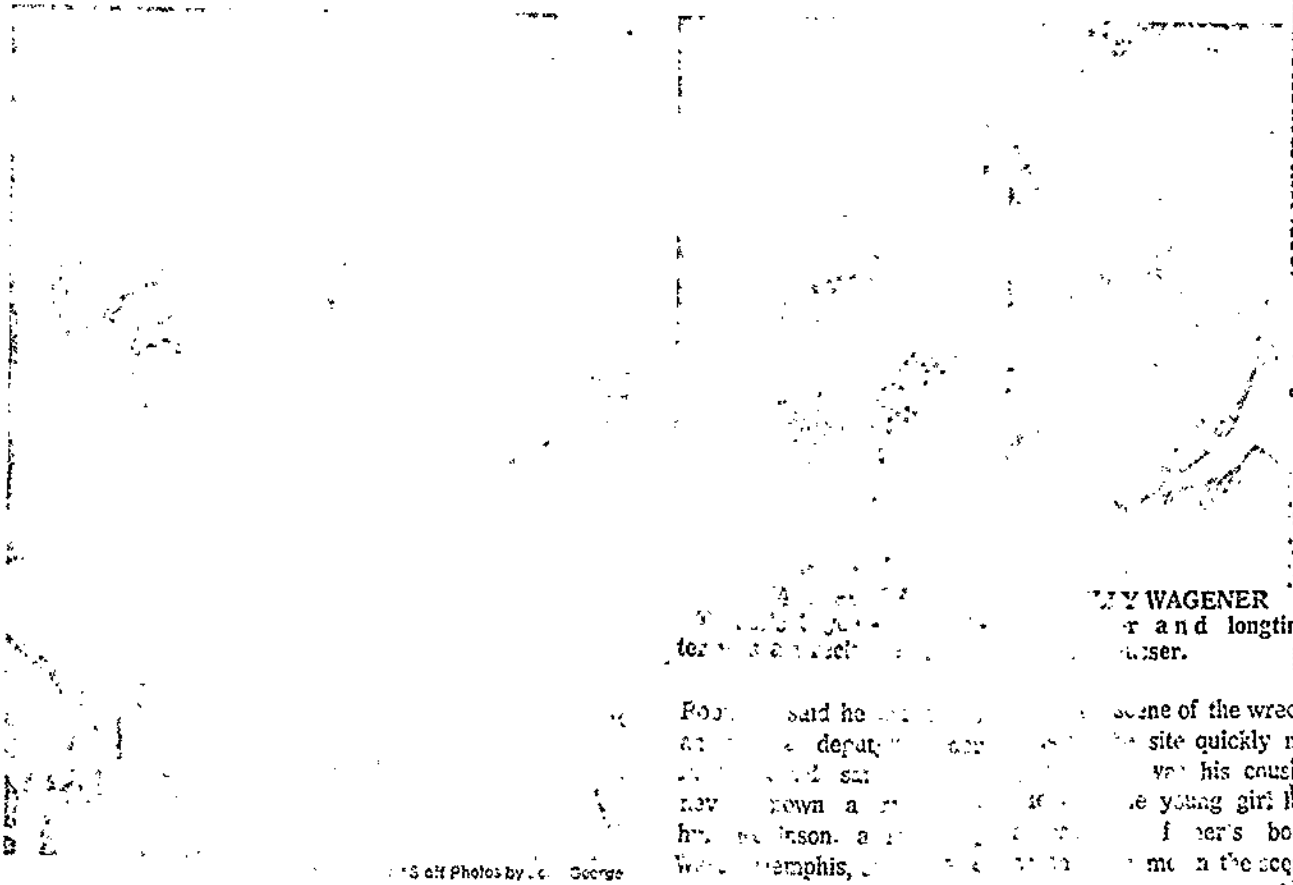

S off Photos by [illegible] George

FA[illegible] AND UNCLE
Carl Pusser, [illegible] of [illegible] late sheriff, and his uncle, Robert Harris of [illegible]nger, Tenn., at the Pusser home in Adamsville.

sat alone with his [illegible]
brother, Robert Harris, [illegible]
talked with friends who
came in and out. He is [illegible]
man, like his son, but not
ther as tall or as hea[illegible]
walks with a limp he [illegible]
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ed in an auto accident some
years ago.

Pusser said he was jailer
and night radio dispatcher
during the years his son was
sheriff.

"We always had a hard
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[illegible] farming or in the sawmill. Did whatever we could to [illegible]
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[illegible] much he meant to
[illegible].

[illegible]y Pettigrew, wife
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was someone special. I used
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s town, Carl Pusser,
rmer sheriff's father,
sat alone with his wife's brother, Robert Harris, and talked with friends who came in and out. He is a big man, like his son, but neither as tall or as heavy. He walks with a limp he received when his hip was smashed in an auto accident some years ago.

Pusser said he was jailer and night radio dispatcher during the years his son was sheriff.

"We always had a hard way to go," he said. "Worked hard, scratching out a living at farming or in the sawmill. Did whatever we could to get by. It's just in the last year that Buford had made it pretty good and things were easing up a bit."

Just then he took a phone call from a friend and without a trace of bitterness said: "Yes, it is too bad. But it's done and we have to live with it."

This seems to be the general attitude of the community. Having lost the hero, they [illegible]

know how much he meant to Adamsville.

Mrs. Jay Pettigrew, wife of the Ford dealer, said: "I loved him. I always knew he was someone special. I used to carry an autographed picture of him when we went to conventions and the like."

She said he generally drove Fords when he was the sheriff. And in the garage yesterday were a white Thunderbird and a silver Lincoln Continental, although Mrs. Pettigrew said they hadn't sold either one to Pusser. She said the Corvette which claimed his life had been a promotion gift to Pusser from an Alabama dealer.

A woman visiting with Mrs. Pettigrew at the dealership, Mrs. G. A. Mills, said Pusser was always an excellent driver.

"He and my boys were friends. Once they all wanted to come to Memphis to a ball game, and the only one I'd let drive my old Hudson was Buford. You could trust him."

Chief of Police James

auxiliary policemen and that he intended to rotate two men to the Pusser home to handle the crowd and "keep the curiosity seekers away from the family right now."

In the downtown area of Adamsville is Walker's Supermarket, operated for 40 years by O. L. (Ike) Walker, who said he, like most folks in Adamsville, considers themselves friends of Pusser and his family.

"He was a friend to everybody," Walker said. "I have a $100 bill in my cash register that a woman brought in today to buy groceries and she said it was a present from Buford who met her on the street and knew she needed it."

Pusser's only child, Dwana Atoyna [illegible] eighth grader was unable to talk to anyone. Her name was derived [illegible] character on the television show, Bonanza, the family said. "Just because her mother liked it."

[illegible]

[illegible] was dead.

John [illegible] who [illegible]

she had left," Harris said. "A body can stand just so much and this child has had more than her share."

Pusser was driving alone in the car some distance ahead of his daughter, who was in the car with three adults, friends of the family.

No reason could be determined why he went alone in his car, but an old friend, Maxey Maxedon, an insurance man in Selmer, said that Pusser always rode alone, "unless he was on business and needed someone with him."

Apparently the trauma of his wife's death in the ambush seven years before had made him reluctant to risk the lives of family or friends by riding with him in a car.

"It was a fear he was bound to have with him always," Maxedon said.

Pusser had been in Memphis Tuesday to announce that a second movie was to be made about his violent life as McNairy County sheriff.

Services will be held at the Adamsville Church of Christ 2 p.m. Saturday with Hackleford Funeral Home of Selmer in charge. Burial [illegible] be in the Adamsville [illegible]

—Press-Scimitar Staff Photo by William Leaptrott

THE BUFORD PUSSER DEATH CAR

[illegible]uled Out In Pu[illegible] Death

ADAMSVILLE, Tenn. — There is no evidence of any mechanical defect or sabotage in the high-powered car that carried former McNairy County sheriff Buford Pusser to his death near here, according to a spokesman for the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

Capt. Jerry Simmons of the THP said: "We took the tie rods and the power steering cylinder, but only to keep anyone from messing around with them and starting any wild rumors.

"It is our belief that the tie rods broke on impact. None of the parts are missing, and the jagged ends fit together perfectly. We consider this just another unfortunate highway accident."

No investigation is planned by the McNairy County Sheriff's Department either, a spokesman at the department said.

Dr. Henry Peeler, county medical examiner, reported Pusser died of a broken neck. No autopsy was performed.

7-1a (Rev. 7-[illegible]73)

REPORT of the

1-Office, 7133

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: Director
Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification
Room 1206, Andrew Jackson State Office Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

September 25, 1974

Attention: [redacted]
Criminal Investigator

b6
b7C

This examination has been made with the understanding that the evidence is connected with an official investigation of a criminal matter and that the Laboratory report will be used for official purposes only, related to the investigation or a subsequent criminal prosecution. Authorization cannot be granted for the use of the Laboratory report in connection with a civil proceeding.

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
BUFORD H. PUSSER, VICTIM;
SUSPECTED HOMICIDE

YOUR NO. 8-1333

FBI FILE NO. 95-195108

LAB. NO. PC-L1530 PZ LP

Examination requested by: Addressee

Reference: Letter 8/28/74

Examination requested: Microscopic Analyses - Toolmarks

Specimens:

Q1 Tie rod end from victim's car (1)
Q2 Tie rod end from victim's car (2)
Q3 Power steering cylinder from victim's car (3)

Also Submitted:

Seventeen (17) photographs of accident scene

MAILED 4
SEP 25 1974
FBI

Result of examination:

Fractured ends are present on the Q1 and Q2 tie rod ends and the shaft in the Q3 power steering cylinder. A microscopic examination failed to reveal any cut areas in connection with these fractures.

Additional examinations relative to the fractured areas are being conducted. You will be advised of the results

RNA:rh (4)

MAIL ROOM [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [ ]

(Over)

of these examinations and the disposition of the submitted specimens by separate report.

7-2 recorded
9/6/74
prc

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
BUFORD H. PUSSER, VICTIM;
SUSPECTED HOMICIDE

File # 95-195108-1
Lab.# PC-L1530 PZ LP

Examination requested by: Director let 8/28 Case 5-1383
Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification
Room 1206, Andrew Jackson State Office Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Examination requested: Date received: 8/31 rm

b6
b7C

Result of Examination: Toolmarks -
MICROSCOPIC ANALYSES (METAL)

Examination by: [redacted]

Attn: [redacted]
Criminal Investigator

Q1-3 to LP 9/27/74 R

Q1 Tie rod end from victim's car (1)
Q2 Tie ~~rm~~ rod end from victim's car (2)
Q3 Power steering cylinder from victim's car (3)

Also Submitted:

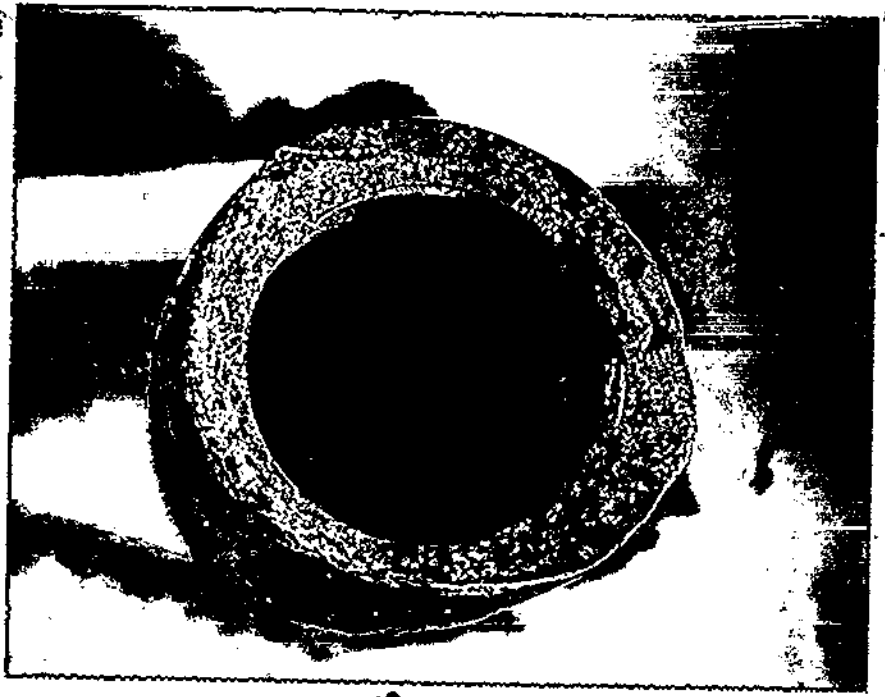
Seventeen (17) photographs of accident scene

Lab ipt
RNA:nh
9/25/74

FBI
LABORATORY

Q1

Q1



Q1

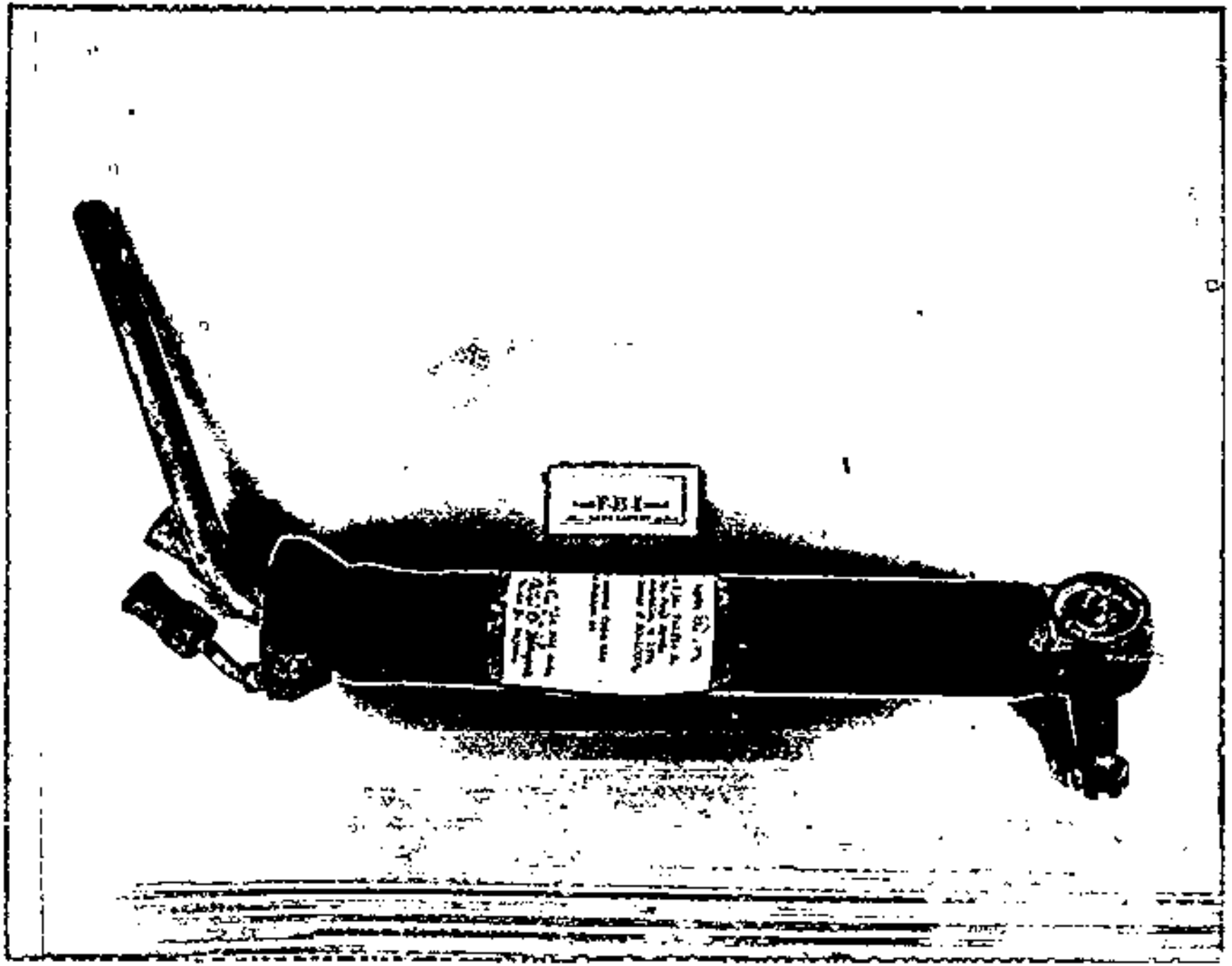
PC-L1530 PZ

Q1 TIE ROD END FROM VICTIM'S CAR (MKD. TO Q1)

BURNED CONDITION. SHAFT PORTION IS BENT.

Q1 HAS BEEN FRACTURED. BEARS SEVERAL SETS OF RECTANGULAR IMPRESSIONS IN LINE WITH EACH OTHER. UNKNOWN IF PRODUCED BY A HAND TOOL (NO OPPOSING MARKS).

THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE FRACTURED END WAS CAUSED BY ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE IMPACT OF THE AUTOMOBILE.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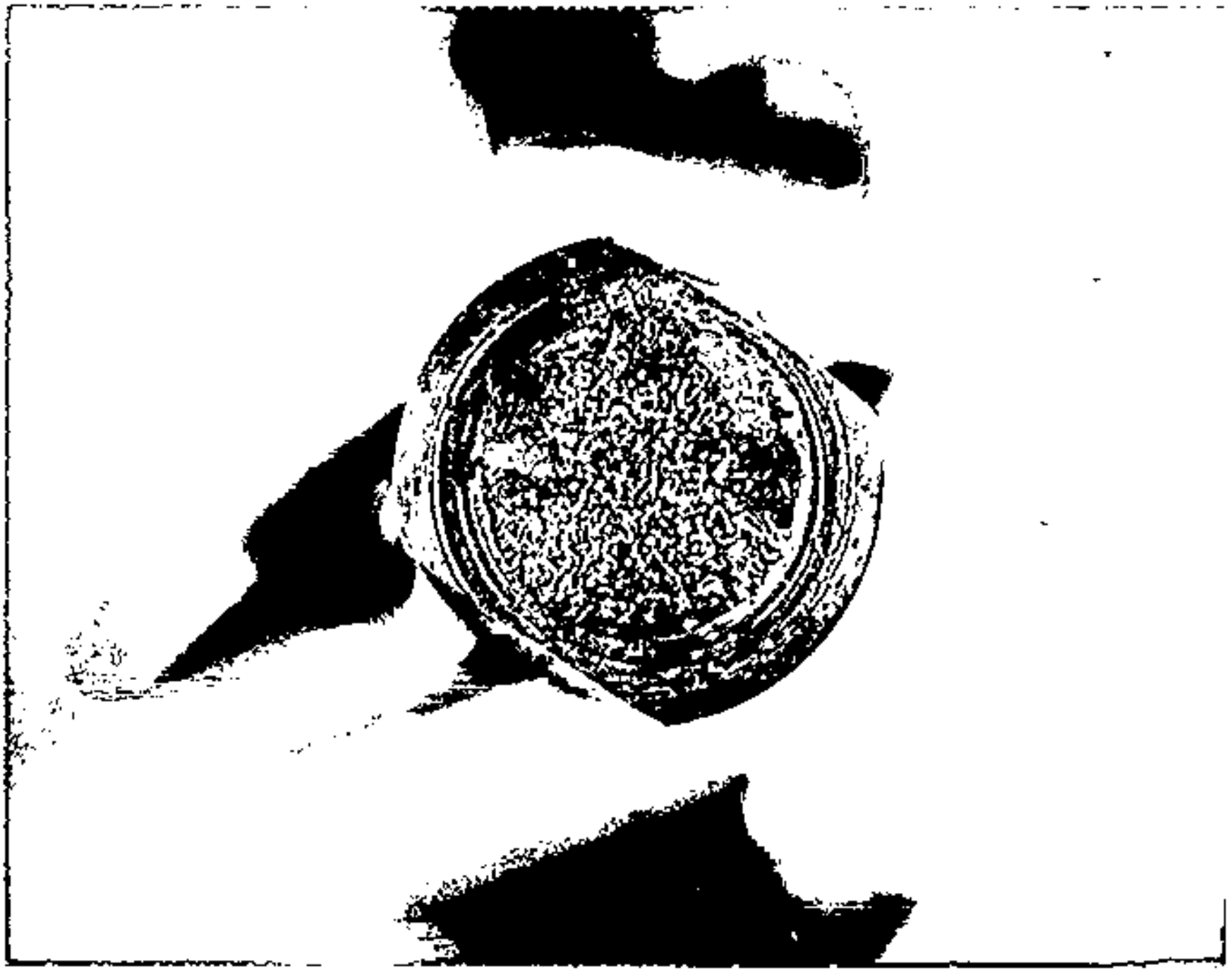
LABORATORY

[redacted]



PC-L1530 P7

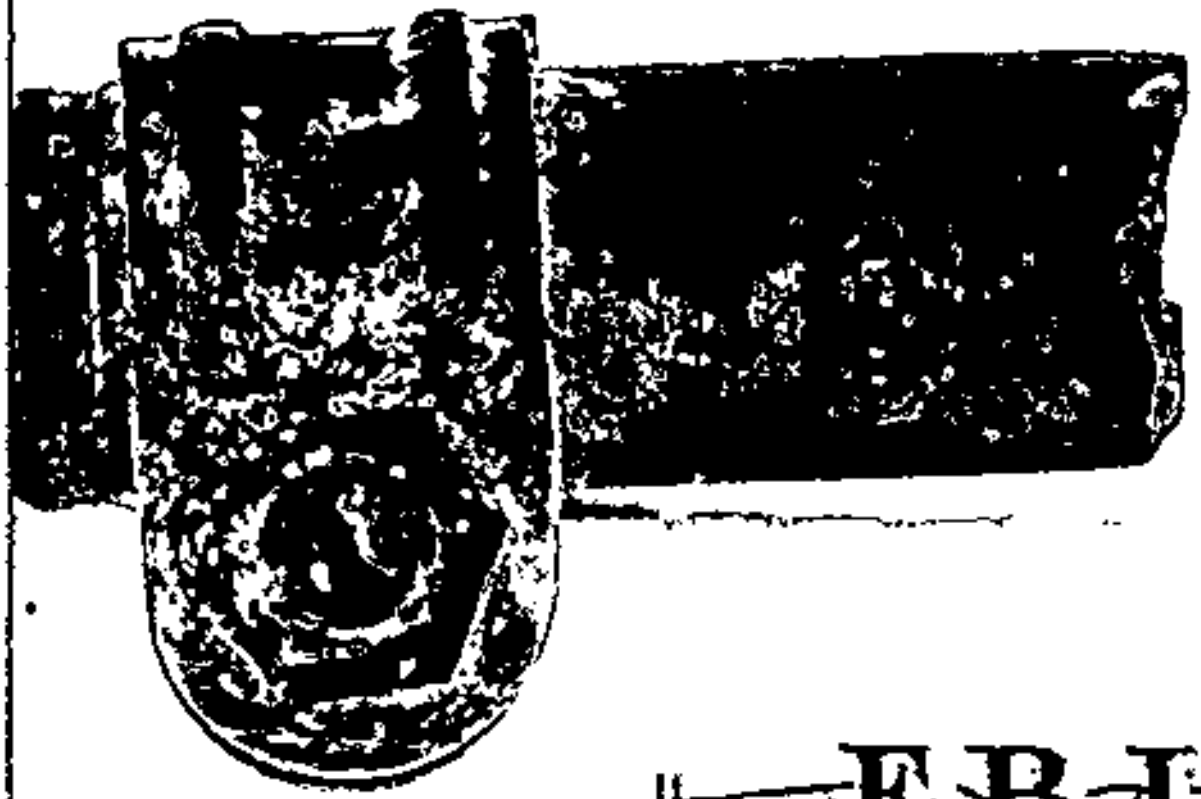
Q3 POWER STEERING CYLINDER FROM VICTIM'S CAR (MKD-TAS)

BURNED CONDITION - THE END OF THE SHAFT WHICH PROTRUDES FROM TH CYLINDER HAS BEEN FRACTURED.

THE SHAFT HAS BEEN BENT TO ≈ 65° FROM CENTERLINE OF THE SHAFT

NO TOOLMARKS PRESENT.

THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE FRACTURED + DAMAGED AREAS WERE CAUSED BY OTHER THAN THE IMPACT OF THE AUTOMOBILE.



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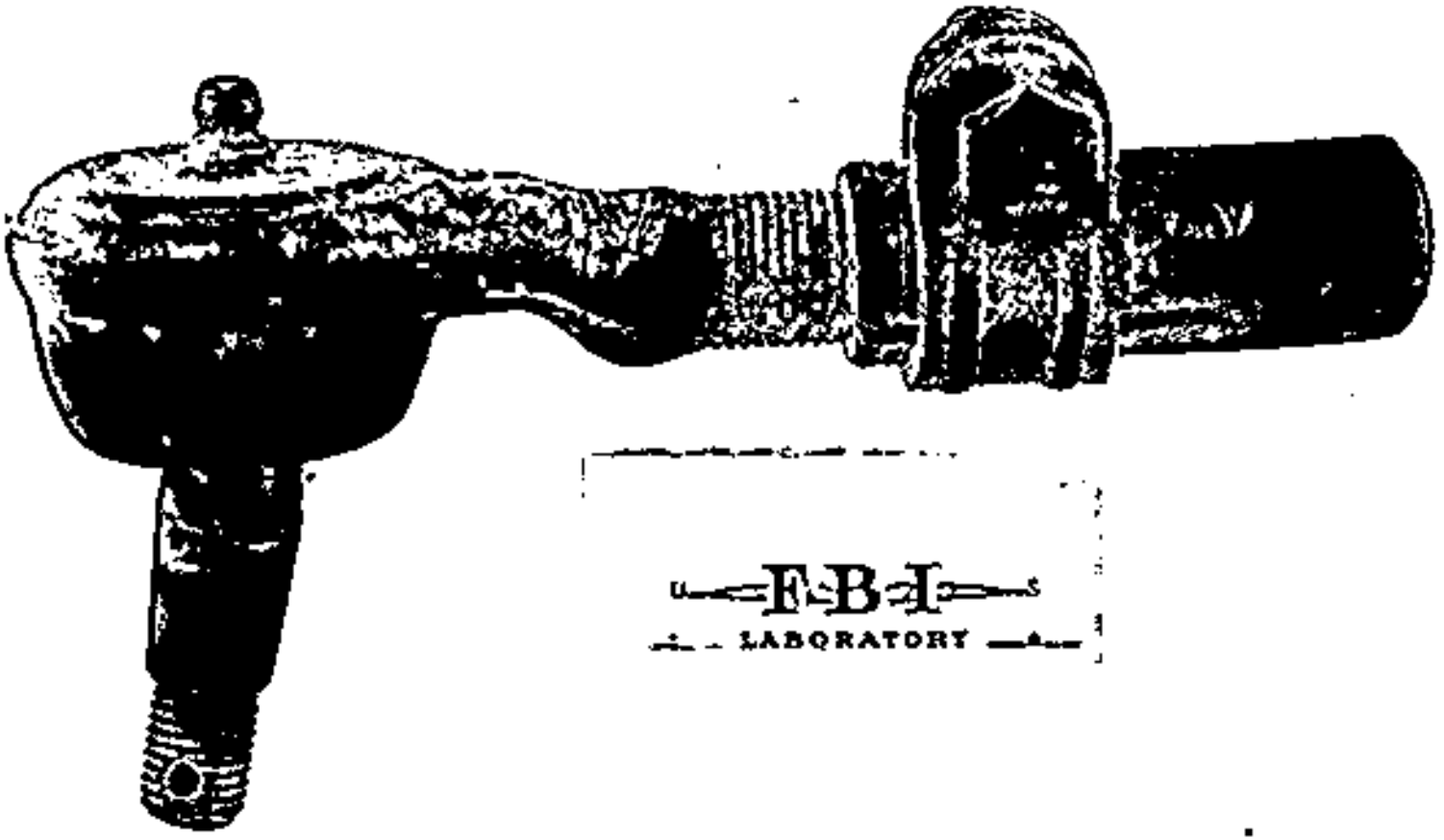
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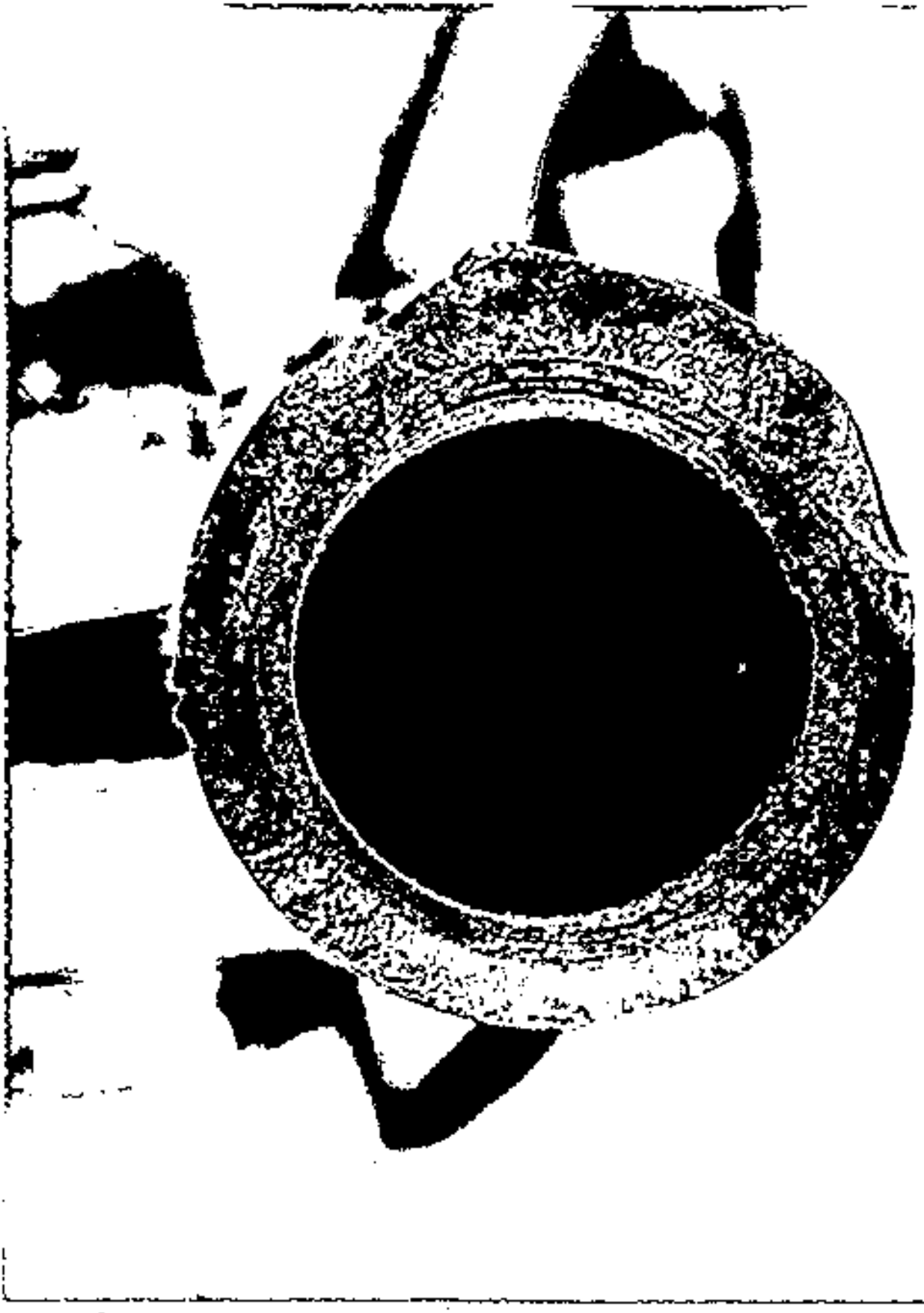


PC. L 1530 PZ

Q2 TIE ROD END FROM VICTIM'S CAR (MRD. TAPE)

BURNED CONDITION.

Q2 end HAS BEEN FRACTURED - NO TOOLMARKS PRESENT THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE FRACTURED END WAS CAUSED BY ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE IMPACT OF THE AUTOMOBILE.

7-1a (Rev. 7-9-73)

REPORT of the FBI LABORATORY

1-Office, 7133

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: Director
Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification
Room 1206, Andrew Jackson State Office Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

November 13, 1974

Attention: [redacted]
Criminal Investigator

b6
b7C

This examination has been made with the understanding that the evidence is connected with an official investigation of a criminal matter and that the Laboratory report will be used for official purposes only, related to the investigation or a subsequent criminal prosecution. Authorization cannot be granted for the use of the Laboratory report in connection with a civil proceeding.

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
BUFORD H. FUSSER, VICTIM;
SUSPECTED HOMICIDE

YOUR NO. 5-1383

FBI FILE NO. 95-195108

LAB. NO. PC-L1530 PZ LP

Examination requested by: Addressee

Reference: Letter 8/28/74

Examination requested: Microscopic Analyses - Toolmarks

[redacted]

b6
b7C

Result of examination:

This is a supplemental report to that dated September 25, 1974, which includes the results of the remaining Laboratory examinations. You should refer to the report of September 25, for a description of the specimens mentioned herein.

EX-112 95-195108-59

None of the broken ends of specimens Q1 through Q3 exhibit any indication that the fractures were a result of metal fatigue.

There are no apparent indications of any metal defects or damage at the fractured ends which could have been responsible for premature failure of the metal.

Based on the above results, it was concluded that specimens Q1 through Q3 broke most likely during the accident as a result of having been subjected to abnormally high stresses which exceeded the strength of the metal from which the specimens were made.

MAILED 6
NOV 13 1974
FBI

ENCLOSURE

70 NOV 21 1974

MAIL ROOM [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [ ]

(4)

(Over)

The submitted specimens are being returned to your office under separate cover by registered mail.

7e2 recorded
9/6/74
prc

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
BUFORD H. PUSSER, VICTIM;
SUSPECTED HOMICIDE

File # 75 PSIF 2
Lab.# PC-L1530 PZ LP

Examination requested by: Director let 8/28 Case 5-1383
Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification
Room 1206, Andrew Jackson State Office Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Examination requested: Date received: 8/31 rm

Result of Examination: Toolmarks — METALLURGY
~~[illegible]~~

Examination by: [redacted] b6 b7C

3 EXAMS

Attn: [redacted]
q Criminal Investigator

REC'D 9-24

Q1 Tie rod end from victim's car (1)
Q2 Tie ~~ex~~ rod end from victim's car (2)
Q3 Power steering cylinder from victim's car (3)

Also Submitted:

Seventeen (17) photographs of accident scene

Lab rpt
RNA:nh
11/13/74

PC-4530 MET. DICT. 11-11-74

None of the broken ends of specimens Q1 - Q3 exhibit any indication that the fractures were a result of metal fatigue.

There are no apparent indications of any metal defects or damage at the fractured ends which could have been responsible for premature failure of the metal.

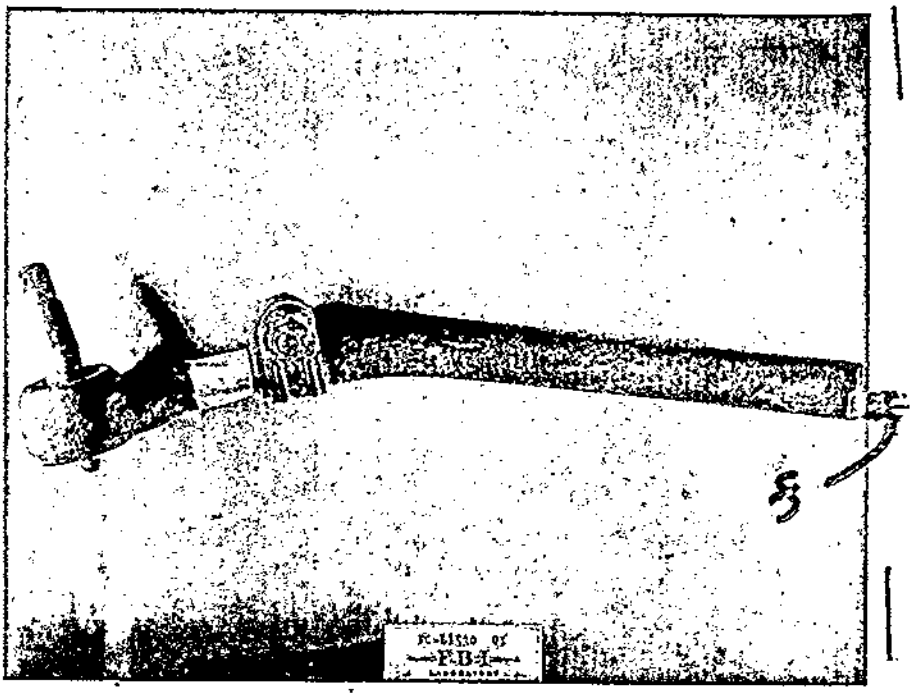
Based on the above results, it was concluded that specimen Q1 - Q3 broke most likely ~~was~~ during the accident as a result of having been subjected to abnormally high stresses which exceeded the strength of the metal from which the specimen were made.

PC-L1530 11-11-74

Q1:
General view of specimen, ARC

No evidence of fatigue failure

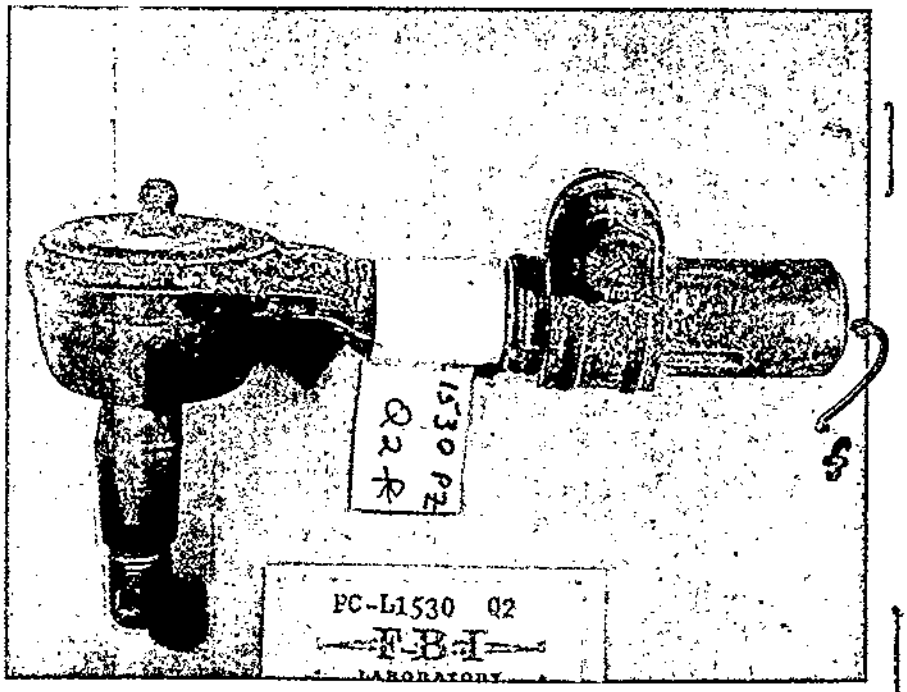
Fend bears some damage acquired subsequent to crack propagation



Q2:
General view of specimen, ARC

No evidence of fatigue failure

Q1 & fits Q2 &.
No defects visible; no damage which could have been responsible for premature failure.

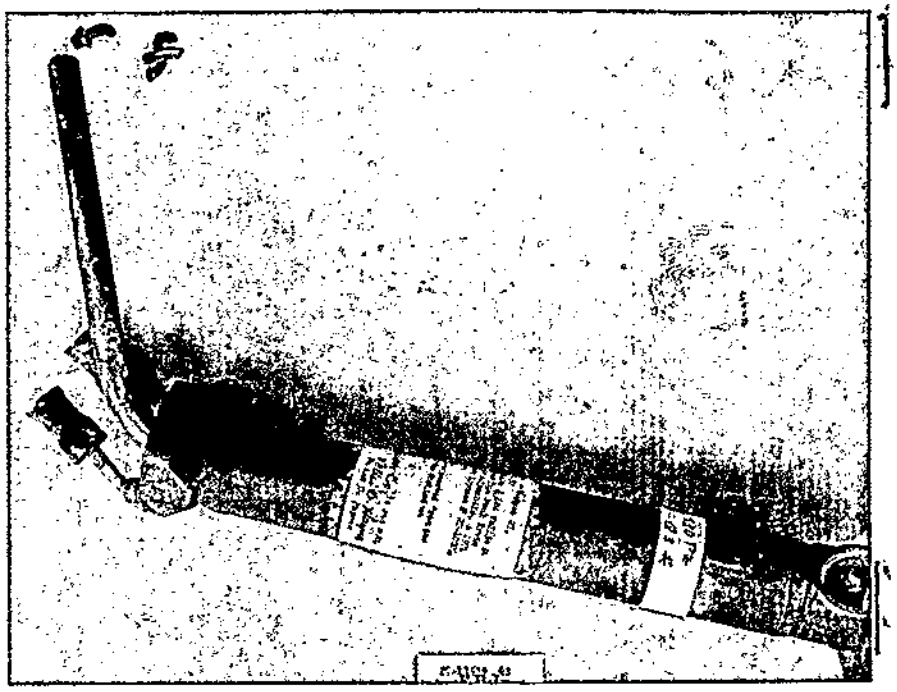


① Q1 broken from Q2 on handling.

PC-L1530 11-11-74

Q3 =
General view,
ARC.

No fatigue,
no defects apparent,
no damage to
cause premature
failure.



Conclusion:

Q1-Q3 broke most likely during the accident as a result of having been subjected to abnormally high stresses which exceeded the strength of the metal from which the specimens were made.

EM = ok TA

(2) ✓

95-115161 2

SEVEN —

ENCLOSURE

3 NEGATIVES

PC-L1530

0-4a (Rev. 1-19-67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

DATE: November 13, 1974

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
BUFORD H. PUSSER, VICTIM;
SUSPECTED HOMICIDE

TO:

Director
Tennessee Bureau of Criminal
Identification
Room 1206, Andrew Jackson State
Office Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Attention: [redacted]
Criminal Investigator

Rec'd. 11/13/74 12

Q1 - Q3

"Also Submitted" items

715339

REGISTERED MAIL

Special Instructions:
Mail Room: Show shipment date and registry number.
Shipping Room: Show shipment date; bill of lading number; initial invoice; return to Section checked in block; after initialing in block, invoice to be placed in administrative file.

FBI File No. 95-195108

11/13/74 · PC-L1530 PZ LP

56 NOV 15 1974 F/02

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b7C

- [ ] Crypt.-Trans.
- [ ] Document
- [x] P & C
- [ ] Radio Engineering
- [ ] LFPS

596 (5-21-56)

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

62

111758

FEDERAL BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY

of

FOIPA # 1053504

INVESTIGATION

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FOIPA
REQUESTED BY
SEP. 19 1980 COPIED BY 51

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call

b6
b7C

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/14/67

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (62-0)

SUBJECT: SHERIFF BUFORD PUSSER,
MC NAIRY COUNTY,
SELMER, TENNESSEE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

b6
b7C

On 8/14/67 at approximately 4:30 a.m., Sheriff BUFORD PUSSER, McNairy County, Tenn., received a telephone call at his residence in Adamsville, Tenn., to come to the New Hope Road near the Mississippi border. Sheriff PUSSER, accompanied by his wife PAULINE, was ambushed on the New Hope Road by three unknown assailants driving a 1964 or 1965 gray Cadillac. PAULINE PUSSER was killed and the sheriff was shot in the face. He is presently confined to a Memphis hospital in fair condition.

TBI Agents and local authorities are conducting investigation to identify unknown assailants. The services of the Bureau's Laboratory were offered to the TBI. Memphis is following local investigation and will keep the Bureau fully advised.

REC-63 62-111758-1

MCT-18

EX-102

AUG 15 1967

Airtel
Teletype
A. M.
A. M. P. M.
S.
R.
F.

(3) - Bureau
1 - Memphis
WMP/ngm
(4)

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

59 AUG 21 1967

[redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted] June 14, 1969.

[redacted]

M.A.L

Sheriff Beaufor Pusser,
Summer, McNarty County,
Tennessee.

MCNAIRY COUNTY

Dear Sheriff Pusser: BENTON TENN

I had the privilege and the pleasure of having watched you on CBS News tonight at 6.30 when you were interviewed by the CBS reporter whose name I did not catch.

You have got to be one of the all time great police officers of the State of Tennessee. Dealing with all types of everyday problems connected with police work is enough of a burden without having to suffer the heartbreak of having had your wife shot and being shot at yourself. I must say that those ruthless still operators in your state are a wild bunch.

I think you deserve national commendation which should be forthcoming also that somebody should compensate you for the loss of your late wife.

I am bringing your story to the attention of the powers to be in Washington. There is absolutely no reason that when your third term of two years duty is up that you should not be placed immediately. You are magnificent.

Hoping you will see fit to reply to this letter, I remain

Sincerely yours,

62-111758-2

REC-128

EX.-117

17 JUN 18 1969

51 JUN 27 1969

CORRESPONDENCE

DIRECTOR, FBI (87-107323) 12/18/69

SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (87-16608) (P)

[redacted], aka.;
ET AL
ITSP - MT; UFAP - ROBBERY

b6
b7C

OO: IP

Rerep SA [redacted] 10/14/69 at IP, and

Bureau letter to Indianapolis dated 12/3/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of an LHM setting out derogatory information regarding McNairy County, Tennessee SO at Selmer, Tennessee, suitable for dissemination to Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Enclosed for Memphis is one copy of above LHM.

ORIGINAL FILED IN

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4) (RM)
1 - Memphis (87-12330) (Info) (Enc. 1) (RM)
2 - Indianapolis

WMD/kmg
(5)

62-111758
NOT RECORDED
47 DEC 22 1969

1 ENCLOSURE

257
JAN 19 1970

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Indianapolis, Indiana

December 18, 1969

[redacted]

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - ROBBERY

On the night of September 4, 1969, [redacted] was the victim of a home robbery in which approximately $100,000 in furs, jewelry, coins, guns and cash was stolen. During the course of investigation, [redacted] was sought as a fugitive from September 19, 1969 until October 30, 1969, at which time [redacted] was apprehended by FBI Agents in Chicago, Illinois, through information furnished by a confidential source. During the course of this Bureau's investigation to locate and apprehend [redacted] certain derogatory information came to light and is being set out herein as follows:

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On September 24, 1969, Agent [redacted] (NA), Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that the following persons were arrested June 15, 1968 by Hardin County authorities and charged with third degree burglary, and confined at McNairy County Jail, Selmer, Tennessee, while appealing conviction:

[redacted]

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[redacted] advised that all have been released on bond and their whereabouts are unknown.

On October 8, 1969, [redacted] was contacted at Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, Indiana, by FBI Agents to determine if [redacted] could furnish any information as to the whereabouts

DISCLOSURE
62-111957

RE: [redacted] ET AL

of [redacted] advised that on three or four different occasions during the spring and summer of 1969, he observed a Tennessee Sheriff's Officer, name unknown, with [redacted] in Indianapolis. [redacted], [redacted]

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On October 7, 1969, [redacted], advised that she is the [redacted], who was arrested by Tennessee authorities in June of 1968. [redacted]

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b7C

During the course of this investigation, [redacted] advised that the sheriff at Selmer, Tennessee, brought [redacted], to Indianapolis

b6
b7C

RE; [redacted] ET AL

several times while they were in custody of McNairy County, Tennessee, [redacted] said that the sheriff, name unknown, [redacted]

[redacted] advised in his interview on October 8, 1969, that he would not be surprised if [redacted] was hiding out in the McNairy County Jail right now because the sheriff and [redacted] seemed close enough when observed in Indianapolis by [redacted] that the sheriff would probably assist [redacted] in eluding capture.

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b7C

Lieutenant [redacted] of Marion County Sheriff's Office, Indianapolis, Indiana, has been advised of subjects' "furloughs" to Indianapolis while they were supposed to be in custody at McNairy County, Tennessee, and is considering subjects as suspects in several unsolved burglaries perpetrated during the spring and summer of 1969.

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