

ADDENDUM #1

**Follow-up Memo to Interview
Dated November 15, 2005**

**Notes include Civil Rights matters
And Bureau Automation**

Enclosure #1

E-mail sent to Avery Rollins regarding additional information.

Avery,

Thanks for coming for the Oral History interview. It was a pleasure to meet you and I enjoyed the interesting discussions we had about the Bureau days and friends we have both known.

I am glad that I had some information and photos that will be helpful to the Society for historical purposes. Civil Rights Matters in the 1960's became an important part of the history for this country and the Bureau played a significant roll.

I hope the DVD works on your computer and playback equipment. But there you enter the murky world of compatibility. Sometimes you need the same software that created the original or the latest version of Microsoft's Operating System of Windows.

You mentioned if there was other information that I later thought of to let you know. I remember there were occasions after reviewing a 302, of a question I had forgotten to ask. In this case, it is adding information that may be of interest. I am listing briefly some thoughts that have since come to mind.

1. **Susan Rosenfield previously asked about civil rights cases prior to MIBURN.**
I am sure there were many civil rights cases, however, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1965 were passed after MIBURN and the Klan boasted that no white man would be convicted for killing a black, and at that time they were right.
2. **Map used in first MIBURN case.** The map I made was traced from aerial photographs made by the Naval Air Station at Meridian (used in the search for the bodies and the car). This was about 5 by 7 feet or perhaps larger. The Exhibits Section made a large aluminum stand for the map so it could be displayed in court. But after seeing it assembled and the time it would take to assemble it in court, I told John Doar, (AAG), that this process might have an adverse impact on the jury, i.e., bringing something into court from Washington that was too big and elaborate. I suggested building something very simple out of wood that could be easily carried into the courtroom. He agreed. This was done, and it worked very well.
3. **Re: Klansman L. C. Murray and Jack Seal.** There were occasions we would see these two Klansman on the street in Natchez. When we engaged them in conversation they would look at their watch and then place both fingers in their ears to protect them from the sound of a bomb blast. Then they would laugh. No doubt they were involved in some of the bombings that took place.
4. **Re: Agents that had been in the area for a number of years like Edgar Fortenberry, Bob Lee, Tommy Webb, etc.** With their experience, contacts and knowledge of the area, they could make a couple of calls to obtain certain

information in a short time that other agents coming to the area could not obtain without expending considerable effort and time.

5. **Re: New Building Space, Automation of Records, FBI Files and File Destruction.** These related topics involve many subtleties and complexities and during our interview I felt my answers were not as responsive as they should have been. The information regarding Mississippi is something I had recently reviewed and the photos helped reinforce my memory of that period. If desired, I could provide some written documentation similar to what was given in affidavits, etc. regarding the details of the system, how it worked, and the impact of automation up to 1979 when I retired. Even though the system was labor intensive and contained some redundant features it was very responsive, efficient, and it worked! Automation, however, would allow the use of data in a way that was not possible in a manual environment.

Jim Awe'
11-17-05

(see encl # 3)



Assistant Director of the Files and Communications Division, Frank Waikart, Deputy Assistant Director, John Marshall, and Section Chief Bill McCoy watch the on-line PARS System. This was a file charge out system for Personnel Records and the first automated system for the Division.

ADDENDUM #2

Mississippi: A Witness to the Turbulent 1960's
By James W. Awe



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

April 19, 2002

Mr. Jim McGuire
Secretary
Society of Former Special Agents,
FBI, Inc
4912 North 26th Street
Arlington, VA 22207

- from
Dear Mr. McGuire:

The FBI has received and completed its prepublication review of Jim Awe's article entitled *Mississippi...A Witness to the Turbulent 1960s*. Based upon our review, it was determined that the article contains no information of a sensitive or classified nature. Therefore, the FBI has no objection to the publication of the article as written.

Thank you for your participation in the FBI's prepublication review process.

Sincerely,

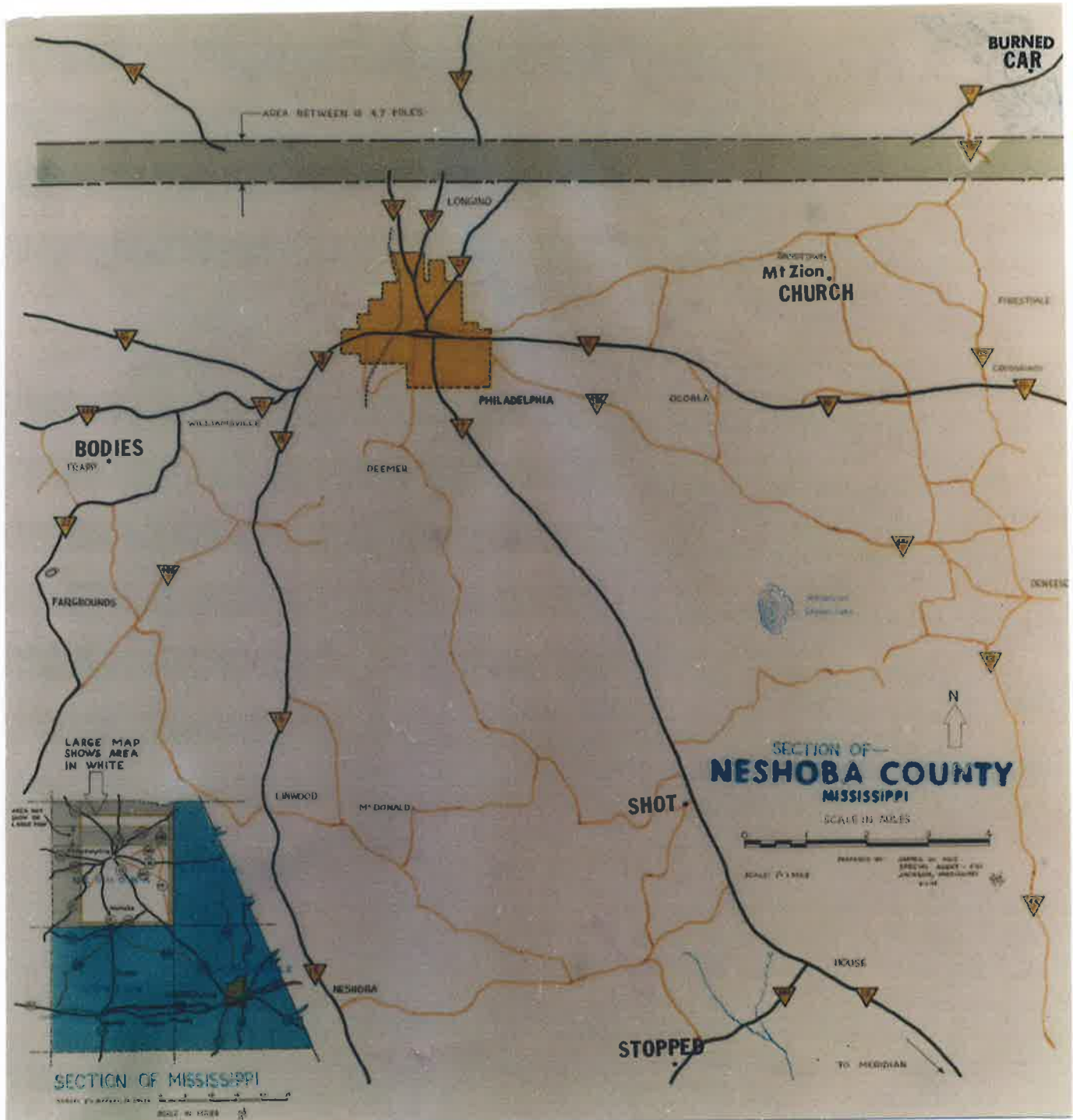
Patricia G. Solley
Unit Chief
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

Mississippi

A Witness To The Turbulent 1960's

Photos and Comments

Prepared by Jim Awe



I prepared this to better organize some photos I had and it provided a means to make copies available to several friends who also worked on these matters. The narrative required some research but helped make it all more meaningful and reinforces our memories of this important part of history. Unfortunately, some of the photos after 30 years are losing their archival quality - but that can be corrected.

Mississippi

A Witness To The Turbulent 1960's

Photos and Comments

Prepared by Jim Awe'

September 1999

With the growing problems of civil rights in Mississippi in 1964, and the threat of unbridled terror by the Klan, Hoover told President Johnson, when he called for progress in the investigation of the three civil rights workers, of plans to reopen the Jackson Office. The President suggested that Hoover go there personally for the opening of the office and to meet with Governor Johnson to promote a joint Federal-state effort to end the violence in Mississippi and avoid conflict between the governments. He said to Hoover, "Edgar, I want you to put people after the Klan and study it from one county to the next. I want the FBI to have the best intelligence system possible to check on the activities of these people". Hoover issued the order to transfer more agents to Mississippi, and to identify and interview every Klansman in the state.

Inspector Joe Sullivan was sent to Mississippi to head up the case of the slaying of the three civil rights workers, and Roy K. Moore would be in charge of the new Jackson Office. The anti-Klan campaign agreed upon by President Johnson and Director Hoover, quickly developed into a strange sort of guerrilla warfare unlike anything FBI agents had encountered before. Some Klansmen openly boasted that they would kill any agent who stepped onto their property. Word got back to the Klan that the agents would have a face-to-face showdown with anyone who made such a threat. This could be bare-knuckle stuff that had to be done in self defense.

Don Whitehead in his book observed.... *"Had the FBI not challenged the Klan successfully, Mississippi might well have been pushed to the brink of chaos, and President Johnson would have had no choice other than to send troops in to prevent a total breakdown in law enforcement."* He further noted *"In retrospect, perhaps the most frightening aspects of the Klan's resurgence in the early 1960's were the elements of religious fanaticism and superpatriotism that were involved in the movement. Sam Bowers and other leaders justified the terrorism with the appalling argument that klansmen were merely carrying out "God's will" and that no guilt attached to attacks on Negroes and Jews and those they chose to call communists." Writings of this nature, by Bowers, were mentioned in his trial by his attorney.*

Background data from: *"Attack on Terror: The FBI Against the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi"* by Don Whitehead - Author of *'The FBI Story'*. Related data in *"Terror in the Night"* by Jack Nelson; and *"Hoover's FBI"* by Deak DeLoach. Actual tapped conversations between Hoover and President Johnson can be found in *"Taking Charge"* by Michael Beschloss. Data on Civil Rights legislation and related information from various public sources. All photographs by Jim Awe (except car, dam, bodies and Hoover). Some information is from notes I used for testimony and as a Police School Instructor, and from what I recall from being assigned to the Jackson Office from 1964 to 1969. The cover map is a photograph of the large map I made that was used in the trial to show relative location of pertinent evidence. - Jim Awe'

The following is a brief summary of Johnson White House Tapes as presented in the book "Taking Charge" by Michael R. Beschloss, relating to the missing three civil rights workers in Mississippi. This case received attention from the highest levels of government.

Schwerner and Goodman, of New York, and Chaney, a young local black man had been missing, along with their car, since Sunday night (June 21, 1964) in Neshoba County, Mississippi, where white segregationists were seething over the certain final passage of LBJ's civil rights bill. Schwerner and Goodman had come to the state under the aegis of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a civil rights coalition aiming to register four hundred thousand black voters in "Freedom Summer" 1964.

With the civil rights bill almost ready for his signature, President Johnson knew that his immediate priority was keeping segregationists and civil rights forces across the nation calm. The Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney incident could touch off a wave of national violence.

Tuesday June 23, 1964

3:1 3pm Robert Kennedy called to urge the President to talk to the parents of the three Civil Rights workers and express his concern. LBJ said that if he housemothered each kid that's gone down there that the White House would be full of people every day.

3: 59 pm LBJ called the Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman, James Eastland at his home in Ruleville, Mississippi, for advice from the segregationist side. Eastland said "...I believe it's a publicity stunt ...and there's no organized white men in that area."

4:05 pm Hoover called LBJ to report that the 1963 Ford station wagon belonging to the three civil rights workers had been found and suggested these men have been killed...

LBJ: Looks like those fellows jumped out of the car and burned it.

HOOVER: ...The car is so burned and charred with heat that you can't get close to it.

4:21 pm Hoover called LBJ to report everything has been consumed inside the car.

LBJ: Much obliged ...keep me informed.

4:25 pm Eastland calls LBJ to say he expects them to turn up with bruises claiming that somebody's whipped 'em.

4:49 pm LBJ is irritated to learn that his friend Roy Wilkins's NAACP voted to picket the White House tomorrow because they want protection for their people in Mississippi.

Wednesday, June 24, 1964

5:30 pm LBJ: Edgar, any other news on Mississippi?

HOOVER: No, there's no additional news on that...

LBJ: That sheriff is a pretty bad fellow down there, isn't he?

HOOVER: Yes he is, and we have been going over him pretty thoroughly...

5:32 pm call from John Stennis Democratic Senator from Mississippi

LBJ: I've got Edgar Hoover on the other line.... No bodies were in the car

STENNIS: Yeah, I'm awfully worried about it, Lyndon. Local colored man has been making himself obnoxious - smart aleck trouble maker - and I'm afraid somebody is after him ...

5:40 pm LBJ: Edgar, I'm sorry that got interrupted.

HOOVER: That's all right

LBJ: Walter told me that Deke was upset some because somebody indicated that Dulles was supposed to go down there and be an investigator. (LBJ has agreed to send former CIA Director Allen Dulles to Mississippi)

as his representative to meet with Governor Johnson and provide an independent assessment of law enforcement in the state. LBJ assured Hoover that was not going to happen.)

Friday, June 26, 1964

1:17 pm Hoover: I've got about 110 additional men in there now...

LBJ: How're you expanding your search?

HOOVER: Away from the lake and we've dragged the river...

Monday, June 29, 1964

6:47 pm LBJ explains he saw the wife of Schwerner and she wants thousands of extra people.. McNamara said we had plenty of Military in the area... Figure out what we can do, 'cause if we don't they're gonna want us to go in with big troops...

HOOVER: We can call on the Governor to put in the National Guard...

Thursday, July 2, 1964

5:02 pm LBJ: How many people can you bring in there?... I think you ought to put fifty, a hundred people after this Klan... Their very presence may save us a division of soldiers... You ought to have the best intelligence system - better than you've got on the Communists. I read a dozen of your reports here last night, here till one o'clock, on Communists, and they can't open their mouth without your knowing what they're saying.

HOOVER: Very true.

LBJ: Now I don't want these Klansmen to open their mouth without your knowing what they're saying... We ought to have intelligence on that state because that's gonna be the most dangerous thing we have this year. If I have to send in troops, or somebody gets rash and we have to go like what we did in Little Rock, it'd be awfully dangerous... I'm having these demands for five thousand soldiers. And all these groups are meeting all over the United States and sending wires. Farmer's got a group out in Kansas City today... Martin Luther King's getting ready. *(At 6:45pm, Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964)*

Tuesday, July 21, 1964

12:35 pm Robert Kennedy: He advised the President that King is going to Greenwood, Mississippi to conduct a mass rally and the State will not escort him - if he gets killed it creates all kinds of problems...

LBJ: Can we have FBI people there...

KENNEDY: It's difficult... I have no dealings with the FBI anymore but I think maybe if you ask them, perhaps.

Tuesday, August 4, 1964

8:01 pm DeLoach: Mr. Hoover wanted me to call you, sir, immediately... The FBI has found three bodies... Southwest of Philadelphia, Mississippi - six miles west of where the civil rights workers were last seen on the night of June 21st. Our search party of agents turned up the bodies just about fifteen minutes ago... We're going to get a coroner there right away, sir... We have not identified them as yet as the three missing men but we have every reason to believe that they are... *(Motivated by a \$30,000 enticement approved by Hoover, two Klan informants had told the FBI they had been shot and buried in a dam)*

Background on Civil Rights legislation:

In 1957, Congress passed their first federal civil rights law since Reconstruction which created the Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice. The Civil Rights Act of 1960 provided for the appointment of referees to help blacks register to vote. The 24th Amendment *(proposed by Congress Aug 27, 1962; ratified Jan 23, 1964)*, barred poll taxes in federal elections. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the strongest civil rights bill in US history. It ordered restaurants, hotels, and other businesses that serve the general public to serve all people without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. It also barred discrimination by employers and unions, and established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to enforce fair employment practices. In addition, the act provided for a cut off of federal funds from any programs or activity that allowed racial discrimination. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed literacy tests in many Southern states. A 1970 law made literacy tests illegal in all the states. In 1966, the Supreme Court prohibited poll taxes in state and local elections. The Civil Rights Act of 1968 aimed chiefly at ending discrimination in the sale or rental of housing. Also in 1968, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government had the power to enforce housing-discrimination laws even in cases involving only private individuals. Before the court's ruling, such laws had been applied only to cases that involved government agencies.




The Three Civil Rights Workers

Andrew Goodman
James Earl Chaney
Michael Henry Schwerner


Missing since Sunday night
June 21, 1964

MISSING CALL FBI

THE FBI IS SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE AT PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI OF THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS ON JUNE 21, 1964. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE GOODMAN, CHANEY, AND SCHWERNER, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

	ANDREW GOODMAN	JAMES EARL CHANEY	MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER
			
RACE:	White	Brown	White
SEX:	Male	Male	Male
DOB:	November 23, 1943	May 30, 1943	November 6, 1938
POB:	New York City	Memphis, Mississippi	New York City
AGE:	21 years	21 years	26 years
HEIGHT:	5'10"	5'7"	5'9" to 5'10"
WEIGHT:	150 pounds	135 to 140 pounds	170 to 180 pounds
HAIR:	Dark brown, wavy	Black	Brown
EYES:	Brown	Brown	Light blue
TEETH:		Gold front missing	
SCARS AND MARKS:		1 inch x 1/2 inch 2 inches above left eye	Five dark spots of freckles, slight scar on bridge of nose, approximately scar below left eye

SHOULD YOU HAVE OR IN THE FUTURE RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY ME OR THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE FBI. TELEPHONE NUMBER IS LISTED BELOW.


 DIRECTOR
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
 TELEPHONE NATIONAL 5-5000

June 29, 1964

Below:

Their 1963 Ford station wagon located in a swampy area in a burned condition on June 23, 1964. Hoover advised President Johnson at 4:05 pm.





Bodies Found

The three Civil Rights workers were buried in this earthen dam being built on the property of Olen Burrage southwest of Philadelphia, Mississippi. They were located under fourteen feet of earth on Tuesday, August 4, 1964. DeLoach advised the President at 8:01 pm.



After the search warrant had been served, Inspector Sullivan went to the command post and left Jay Cochran, Jr (from the FBI Laboratory), in charge of operations at the dam. The heavy equipment operator pointed out the logical spot to dig, but Cochran, on an impulse he could never explain, moved the pointer stick fifteen steps toward the center of the dam and said "start here". If necessary all 547 feet of the entire dam, (11 ft thick, 20 ft high), was to be ripped apart.

Hoover Arrives In Jackson

On the morning of July 9, 1964 at 6:45 am SA Bill Gunn and Washington Star reporter Jerry O'Leary met DeLoach at Andrews AFB where they boarded an eight passenger White House Jetstar for a flight to Jackson. They were met by SAC Roy K. Moore who briefed them on the progress of "MIBURN" (the bureau's shorthand for the case which was named 'Mississippi Burning').

The next day Hoover and Tolson stepped off the second Jetstar at 10 am and proceeded to the Governor's Mansion where they were greeted by Governor Paul Johnson.

Governor", Hoover said "the president asked me to tell you that there will be no Interference in your state by federal troops or authorities as long as you can prevent any wholesale disruption or breakdown of law and order."

"We will stay within the law - but the next time a klansman challenges an agent to fight, the challenge will be accepted."

Governor Johnson expressed grief over the violence and pledged to hold the line on law and order.

The group then went to the new FBI office for a press conference.





On July 10, 1964 Director Hoover officially opened the Jackson Office with Roy K. Moore as the SAC and Neil Welch as the ASAC. The ceremonies were attended by Mississippi Governor Paul B. Johnson and other State, local, law enforcement and business officials. The new office is actually the re-establishment of a Field Division that functioned during World War II. The Office is supported by 13 Resident Agencies. Previously, investigations in Mississippi were handled by the New Orleans and Memphis Offices.

Hoover, in his prepared opening remarks challenged the state's law enforcement bodies... ***"There will be attempted resistance, some possibly very violent but this must be met by the united will, the united strength of the Congress, the courts, the president, and the law of the land. The key to law and order in Mississippi remains the extent to which state and local authorities recognize their responsibilities and discharge them."***

Above from left: SA Robert Cooper, SAC Roy K. Moore, Assistant Director Cartha D. DeLoach, and Director Hoover.

Below: Director Hoover and Associate Director Clyde Tolson discussing the opening of the Jackson Office with (from left) Mr. James Ward, Editor of the "Jackson Daily News" and Mr. T. M. Hederman, editor of the "Clarion-Ledger".



The Story Unfolds - The Ambush And the Murder!

Civil Rights Workers Arrive - The Klan is Formed

During early April and May, 1964, the newspapers of Mississippi carried in banner headlines on a daily basis the threat of a "long, hot summer". They painted a gruesome picture of hordes of undesirable bearded COFO workers descending upon the State of Mississippi for the purpose of ridding the state of segregation. As a result, an organization known as the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi was organized, and membership rapidly expanded throughout the entire state. This organization was highly secretive, militant in nature, and headed by Sam Holloway Bowers, Jr., Imperial Wizard, of Laurel, Mississippi. In Meridian, Mississippi, a 200-man Klavern was formed, as was a large Klan organization in the adjoining County of Neshoba.

On the night of June 16, 1964, a joint meeting of the Lauderdale and Neshoba County Klaverns was held at an abandoned gymnasium of the Bloom School in the Longdale community in Neshoba County for the purpose of Neshoba County receiving a Klan Charter. At this meeting it was reported that white members of COFO were holding a meeting at nearby Negro Mt. Zion Methodist Church. A delegation from the Klan meeting was sent to investigate this matter, resulting in the beating of a number of elderly Negroes, who were attending prayer meeting. This church was later burned that night, as were 31 other Negro churches throughout the State of Mississippi in 1964.

Schwerner, Goodman, Chaney Investigate Church Burning

On Sunday, June 21, 1964, Michael Henry Schwerner, a New York Jew who had been in Meridian, Mississippi, since January, 1964, and who was well known and dubbed by Klansmen as "Goatee", along with Andrew Goodman, a recent recruit from the Oxford, Ohio, Civil Rights School, also a New Yorker, and James Earl Chaney, a Negro male, COFO volunteer, and local Meridianite, traveled to the area of the Mt. Zion Church for the purpose of investigating the burning of the church building. These three individuals were traveling in a recently acquired 1963 Ford station wagon and had visited a number of Negro families in the Longdale community.

The Arrest

As they approached the City of Philadelphia on their trip to Meridian, they were arrested by Neshoba County Deputy Sheriff Cecil Ray Price and placed in the Neshoba County Jail, charged with speeding and investigation. They remained in jail until approximately 10 pm, at which time they paid a fine for speeding and were released.

The Ambush

They departed Philadelphia via Highway 19 South en route to Meridian. In the interim, word had spread through Klan circles that "Goatee" was in custody, and an action group of Klansmen from Meridian and Philadelphia had formed and were awaiting their release. Approximately halfway between Philadelphia and Meridian, Mississippi, the three civil rights workers were overtaken by Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price, who was accompanied by eight Klansmen. They were arrested and placed in his Sheriff's car.

The Murder

They proceeded a short distance up Highway 19 in the direction of Philadelphia, turned off the main Highway onto a dirt road, and stopped. At this location the three civil rights workers were jerked from Price's automobile and murdered. Their bodies were loaded into their station wagon and driven by a circuitous route to an earthen dam being built on the property of Olen Burrage. Here they were buried and their station wagon driven to the Northeast section Neshoba County, where it was deliberately burned.

Reported Missing

On June 22, 1964, a missing report of the civil rights workers was received, and on June 23, 1964, their station wagon was located in a swampy area in a burned condition. This crime ignited protests from throughout the United States and set off one of the largest investigations of this type in the annals of Bureau history. Investigation was directed by Assistant Director Al Rosen, Inspector Joseph A. Sullivan, and SACs Harry Maynor and Roy K. Moore.

The Search

An all out search for the bodies of the three civil rights workers was conducted, utilizing on a daily basis 400 Naval personnel from the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Meridian, officers from the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Game and Fish Commission, and the local Neshoba County authorities. Neshoba County, as well as surrounding counties, was searched systematically for 44 days until the bodies of the three civil rights workers were located under fourteen feet of earth in a dam on the property of Olen Burrage.

The Investigation

Intensive FBI investigation of the Neshoba County Sheriff's Office, operated by Lawrence A. Rainey, was conducted and 21 civil rights cases were investigated having prosecutable merit. During November, 1964, FBI investigation obtained pertinent information upon which 17 defendants were arrested for conspiracy to violate the rights of the three civil rights workers. Arrests included Sheriff Rainey, Deputy Sheriff Price, Richard Andrew Willis, and Otho Neal Burkes, both Patrolmen, Philadelphia Police Department.

Legal complications occurring in this investigation included the dismissal of complaints by the US Commissioner because original witnesses were not there to testify; overruling of Judge Harold Cox Southern District of Mississippi, claiming the US Government did not have jurisdiction, which was subsequently overruled by the US Supreme Court; and dismissal of Grand Jury indictments due to the Rabinowitz Decision; and the postponement of the scheduled trial on May 29, 1967, by Judge Harold Cox.

Aerial photo showing the dirt road where the three Civil Rights Workers were Shot.

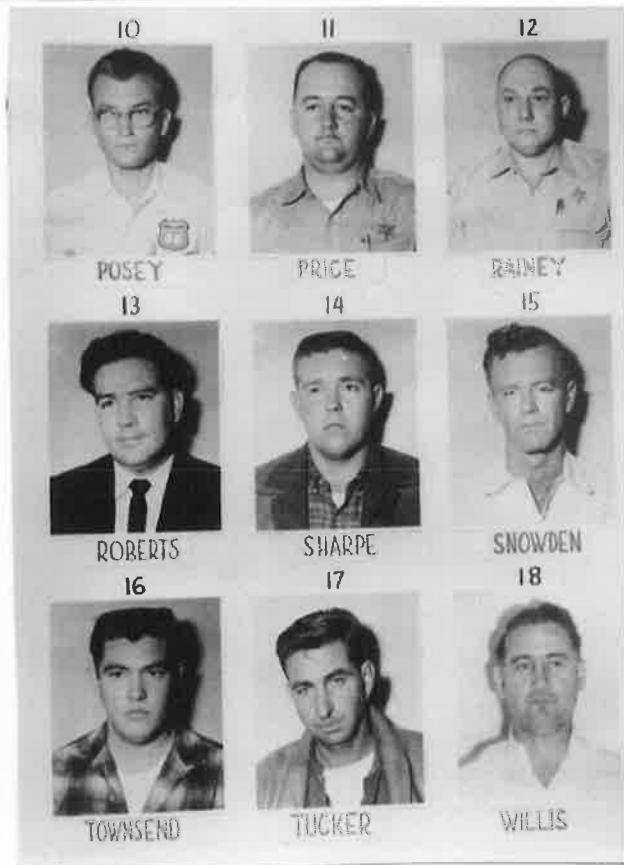
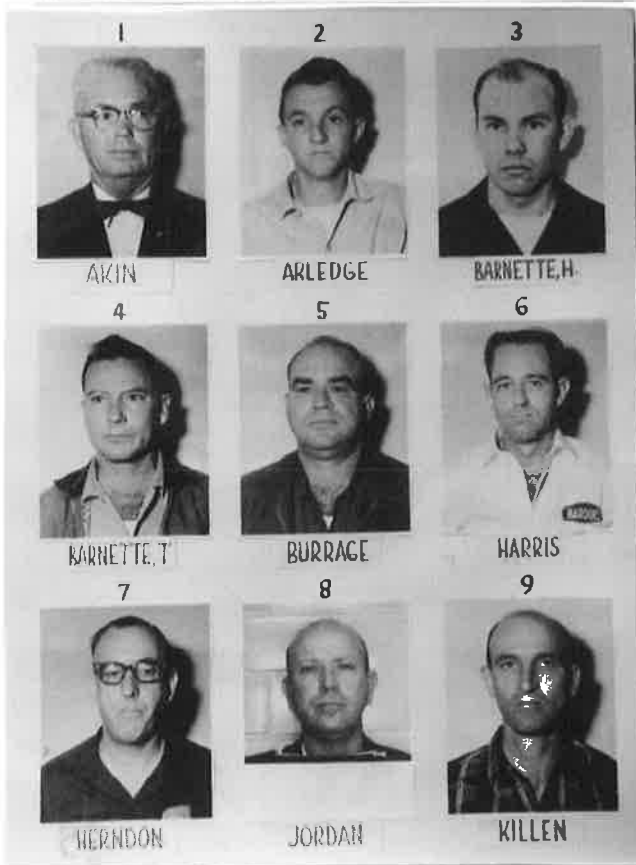


Embankment where they were shot after being pulled from the Sheriff's car.

The Defendants charged in the killing of the three Civil Rights Workers

The Justice Department could not charge them with murder - that's a state crime. On December 3, 1964, a complaint was filed charging nineteen men with conspiracy. On December 4 all the suspects were arrested, slightly less than six months from the time the investigation started. However, it was over three years since the bodies were found before the trial began. The original indictments were dismissed but reinstated in 1967, except Townsend was dropped; Hop Barnett and Sam Bowers were added. Bowers who approved the project thought he was home free. The evidence was overwhelming. However, the sentences the judge handed down was shocking. Two klansmen received ten years. Two received six years. Three got off with only three years. All were eligible for parole long before their sentences expired. **The ten men listed in bold type were charged as members of the lynch mob. The others were charged as parties to the conspiracy.** The case was tried in Federal court in Meridian on October 9, 1967 by Assistant Attorney General John Doar, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division; his assistant Robert Owen; and US Attorney Robert E. Hauberg of Mississippi.

1	AKIN, Bernard Lee		not guilty	Owner of a trailer agency in Meridian, he is a member of the KKK/age 50
2	ARLEDGE, Jimmy K.	3 yrs	guilty	Truck driver in Meridian, left high school after his sophomore year/age 27
3	BARNETTE, Horace D.	3 yrs	guilty	Former auto parts salesman, confessed to a part in the crime/age 25
4	BARNETTE, Travis M.		not guilty	Lives in Meridian where he operates a small garage/age 36
5	BURRAGE, Olan L.		not guilty	Owens a trucking company and the farm where victims were buried/age 34
6	HARRIS, James T.		not guilty	An Army veteran; Meridian bread salesman and a Klan investigator/age 30
7	HERNDON, Frank J.		not guilty	Operator of a drive-in restaurant; Exalted Cyclops of Meridian's Klan/age 46
8	JORDAN, James E.		pleaded guilty	A Klansman who lived in Meridian; works in construction in Gulfport/age 40
9	KILLEN, Edgar Ray		hung jury	A "free will" Baptist preacher; ran for county sheriff; defeated by Rainey/age 39
10	POSEY, Billy Wayne	6 yrs	guilty	Operates gas station near Philadelphia; nephew of county jaller/age 28
11	PRICE, Cecil	6 yrs	guilty	Deputy Sheriff Neshoba County
12	RAINEY, Lawrence		not guilty	Neshoba County Sheriff
13	ROBERTS, Alton Wayne	10 yrs	guilty	Meridian tavern bouncer; Marine bad conduct discharge for drunkenness/age 26
14	SHARPE, Jerry M.		hung jury	Dropout from Philadelphia's high school; runs a pulpwood supply house/age 21
15	SNOWDEN, Jimmy	3 yrs	guilty	Attended a Mississippi college; Army; Meridian laundry driver/age 31
16	TOWNSEND, Jimmy Lee		not indicted	Youngest; left high school to work in a gas station/age 17
17	TUCKER, Harman		not guilty	Philadelphia contractor; built the dam that covered the victims' bodies/age 36
18	WILLIS, Richard		not guilty	Philadelphia Police Officer
19	BOWERS, Sam	10 yrs	guilty	Imperial Wizard
20	BARNETTE, "Hop"		hung jury	Ex-Sheriff
	Others.....			Otha Neal Burkes; Oliver Warner; Earl B. Akin; and Tommy Horne



December 1998

Four Retired Agents Called To Testify In Case After 32 Years

by Jim Awe (1940-79)

On August 21, 1998, the former Ku Klux Klan leader, Samuel H. Bowers, 73, was convicted in Hattiesburg, Mississippi District Court for ordering the firebombing death of Vernon Dahmer in January 10, 1996. The verdict carried an automatic life term and he was immediately sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Richard McKenzie. The conviction marked an apparently decisive turn in a legal battle that has included four earlier trials in the 1960's, all of which ended in deadlocked juries. A generation ago, blacks were prevented from registering to vote in Mississippi and thereby kept from serving on juries. Bowers had boasted that "No jury in the state of Mississippi is going to convict a white man for killing someone black."

Bowers said "Something's got to be done about this damned nigger down south." He wanted action because he has to appear in Washington before the House Un-American Activities Committee and wanted "to show that people in the South meant business." Bowers ordered the firebombing and death of Dahmer for his efforts to help blacks to register to vote, by dispatching two carloads of his White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan to Dahmer's home. Dahmer remained in his burning home, holding off the Klansmen while his family escaped out a back window.



▲ The retired agents with the Dahmer family in front of Forreast County Court House, Hattiesburg MS.

Bowers previously served six years in prison for one of the most notorious crimes of the civil rights era: the 1964 "Mississippi Burning" slayings of civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner and James Chaney.

The NAACP has taken an active interest in the case and adopted a resolution five years ago calling for the Dahmer case to be reopened. Citing new evidence, District Attorney Lindsay Carter, backed by state Attorney General Mike Moore, believed it was time to reopen the case. It was skillfully presented by Bob Helfrich of the DA's office and Lee Martin of the Attorney General's office.

The Dahmer family thanked the retired Agents for returning to testify in this case which gave them a sense that justice in the end was not denied. †

◀ You never know when you may be called back to testify...(thanks to the Bureau's use of 302's) — Pictured from left are the four Agents called back to testify after 32 years: Loren Brooks, former RA in Hattiesburg in 1966, now retired in Bountiful UT; Jim Awe, assigned to Jackson 1964-69, now retired in McLean VA; Charles Killion, assigned FBI Laboratory, now retired in Vienna VA; and Jim Ingram, assigned to Jackson in the 1960's, now the Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

The Dahmer Case

Upon learning of the firebombing and death of Dahmer, SAC Roy K. Moore ordered most of the Senior Resident Agents and a large group of Agents, (including necessary clerical staff), from Jackson to Hattiesburg. A commend center was established at the Holiday Inn and the Agents assigned stayed at the Holiday Inn until the case was completed. About the same time the Jackson Office was under inspection. Roy Moore called Al Rosen, Assistant Director at the Bureau and made it clear that inspectors were not to come anywhere near Hattiesburg.

Over 3,000 Negroes were on hand for Dahmers funeral including Roy Wilkins, National President of the NAACP. Charles Evers, Field Secretary for the NAACP, from Jackson, tried to discourage outside influence and together with local negro leaders were able to control the crowds and avoided many explosive situations.

Below: (1) Photo of the remains of the burned Dahmer house and store.
(2) Charles Evers, at the Forrest County Court House where many gathered for a protest march in response to Dahmers death.



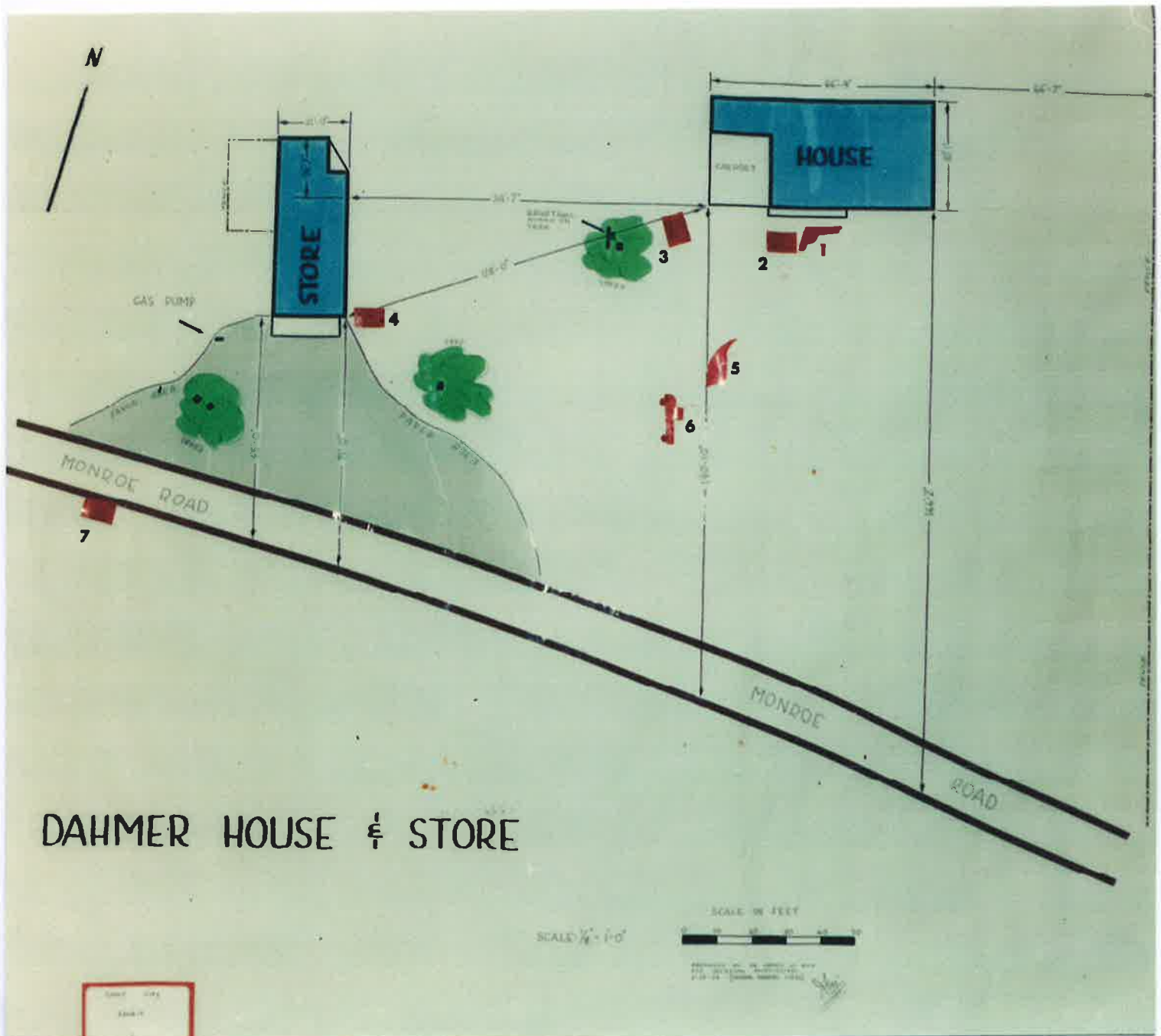
Dahmer House and Store - Location of Items Found At Crime Scene

SA Loren Brooks was the first law enforcement officer to arrive at the scene and found the pistol dropped by a klansman, later identified as Billy Roy Pitts, one of the participants who killed Dahmer and firebombed his house and store. SA Brooks later interviewed Mr. Dahmer at the Forrest County Hospital just before his death.

Later, other agents arrived to assist in a full crime scene search of the area. SA Jim Awe prepared a diagram of the area noting where pertinent evidence was found. Below is a photo copy of a large diagram prepared for court. Witnesses as they testified would place the proper icon symbol on the diagram showing where evidence was found.

Items shown on chart:

(1) 22 cal. Revolver; (2) four shotgun shell casings; (3) three tire casts; (4) three shotgun shell casings; (5) yellow plastic hood and mask; (6) 57' Ford pickup truck with plastic jug of gas, and a bullet in gas tank; (7) two tire casts. SA Charles Killion of the FBI Laboratory testified in court on the results of his examination of the gun.



Items Seized At Bowers' Laurel Residence

A cache of firearms and other weapons was seized including pistols and rifles, a machete with a blade more than a foot long, a bayonet, more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition. Also taken were several masks, one moulded in the image of the late President John F. Kennedy.

Bowers and Sessums, (the exalted cyclops of Jones County Klavern), discussed what project to initiate against Dahmer. The projects were identified by numbers - #1 means cross burning, #2 a whipping, #3 an arson, #4 means annihilation. Bowers was the only klan official in Mississippi with the authority to order a #3 or #4. For Dahmer he ordered both.



Defendants Charged In The Firebombing Death Of Vernon Dahmer

The eleven men charged in the Federal Governments conspiracy case was tried in Meridian, Mississippi on April 29, 1969 and resulted in a hung jury. It was left to the State to try the defendants and each one had to be tried separately on the murder/arson charge. In his 1998 trial, Sam Bowers used Travis Buckley. (a Klan member), as his attorney. During the trial Pitts named those present at a Klan planning meeting in Dec '65. (where they discussed the plans against Dahmer), and those named included Travis Buckley. Buckley was very disturbed and this almost caused a mistrial.

(Ordered Firebombing Death of Dahmer)

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Samuel H. Bowers Jr
<i>(In Pontiac - at firebombing)</i> | convicted state court, sentenced to life (8-21-98); 5th trial for Bowers |
| (2) Charles Clifford Wilson | convicted state court; sentenced to life; (a rising young business leader, Jaycees, PTA, etc..) |
| (3) William Thomas Smith | convicted state court; sentenced to life |
| (4) Cecil Victor Sessum | convicted state court, sentenced to life; (tossed jugs of gas into home) |
| (5) Billy Roy Pitts
<i>(In Ford - at firebombing)</i> | pleaded guilty to murder and arson; dropped gun at scene; became key witness |
| (6) Lester Thornton | never tried - died |
| (7) Henry DeBoxtel | tried but ended in a mistrial - died |
| (8) Charles Noble | tried but ended in a mistrial (6/7/99) |
| (9) Frank Lyons
<i>(Others..)</i> | tried but ended in a mistrial; - died |
| (10) Deavours Nix | never tried - <i>(was to be scheduled for trial after Bowers, but died 9-12-98)</i> |
| (11) Travis Giles | never tried - died; (his Ford was abandoned near scene, tires shot out) |
| (12) Lawrence Byrd
<i>Others:</i> | <i>convicted of arson; sentenced to 10 years; (roll in planning attack); died
Billy Moss; Pete Martin; C.L. Lowe; Pat Lowe; Mordaunt Hamilton ..</i> |

Below from left 1st row: Sam Bowers, Deavours Nix, Lawrence Byrd, Cecil Sessum, Pet Martin, Frank Lyons
2nd row: Unk, Billy Moss, Henry DeBoxtel, Travis Giles, Charles Wilson, Charles Noble
3rd row: Billy Roy Pitts, C.L. Lowe, Lester Thornton, C.E. Lowe, Mordaunt Hamilton, William Smith



The Selma March

On 3-21-65 Martin Luther King led marchers, guarded by federal troops, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge from Selma to the State Capitol in Montgomery to demand federal protection for black voting rights. It is estimated the marchers grew to about 30,000. In the South, many elected officials and police officers refused to enforce court rulings and federal laws that gave blacks equality and this extended to the right to vote. Several months prior to this three people were killed and hundreds were beaten as opposition to voting rights increased. This drew media attention and resulted in protection for the marchers. Charlie Evers, (brother of Medgar Evers - a civil rights worker who was murdered in Jackson, Mississippi), said that if the authorities had not beat them back each day and just let them walk, little attention would have been paid to the event. Largely as a result of the activities in Selma, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which gave the vote to thousands of Southern blacks who had never voted and led to a huge increase in the number of black elected officials. SA's Conrad Hassel and Jim Awe of the Jackson office were assigned to the Selma March to observe and photograph any incidents.



The Klan Marches and Rallies

The United Klans of America (UKA) paraded through the streets of Meridian and Natchez advertising a Klan rally for that evening which usually attracted several thousand spectators. Klansmen, while wearing robes, resisted trouble that would damage their image since they proclaimed to be only a fraternal group not responsible for any violence. The Natchez rally (10-30-65) was the most colorful display by the Klan in Mississippi in recent years. Even children, wives, dogs and horses appeared in Klan robes. Eddy McDaniels, the Grand Dragon for Mississippi; Jack Helm the Grand Dragon for Louisiana; and Robert Shelton, the Imperial Wizard for the UKA were on hand as speakers. Robed Klansmen lit torches, lights turned out, and a giant cross was ignited. Photos: (1) L.C. Murray and Charles Davidson 7-10-65 Meridian; (2) R.P. Carter and Joe Daniel Hawking 7-10-65 Meridian; (3) Joe Danny Hawkins - center 7-10-65 Meridian; (4) UKA at Natchez 6-12-65; (5) UKA at Natchez 10-30-65; (6) UKA at Meridian 6-12-65.



Items Recovered Incident To The Arrest Of Danny Joe Hawkins

Items seized included a small arsenal, a Klansman's robe and hood, a hangman's noose, a Confederate flag and a pile of anti-Semitic literature. The Hawkins family was considered one of the meanest and most violent families encountered in Mississippi. Danny Joe (baptized Joe Daniel) was 24 years old in 1967 and was ranked among Bower's most trusted night riders and a key man in the hit squad.

This photo, (and a related photo that contained a campaign poster for David L. Perkins), was given to the press. Attorneys representing the *Jackson Daily News* and the *Clarion Ledger* appeared in the FBI office and said that Perkins is suing the papers for \$250,000 because of the photo published. They wanted to know the Agent who took the pictures so a subpoena could be issued for his testimony. They were told that SA James W. Awe made the photos, but they would have to have the US Attorney's approval, Mr. Hauberg, who in turn would have to obtain approval from the Department of Justice. It has always been a policy not to have Bureau Agents testify in civil matters.



The Meredith March (1966)

The march was several thousand strong as it moves toward the Capitol in Jackson but gained to over 10,000 as they arrived at the Capitol. The symbol of the Black Panther Party was displayed on the march. The Black Panther Party was founded in 1966. Its two main founders, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, had been inspired by Malcolm X. At first, the party favored violent revolution as the only way to end police actions that many blacks considered brutal, but later became less militant. Racial violence made Stokely Carmichael, H. Rap Brown, and other members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) doubt the sincerity of white support for black rights. They urged blacks to gain political and economic control of their own communities. They stressed that "black is beautiful", and suggested that black Americans no longer refer to themselves as *Negroes* or *colored* people but as *blacks*, *African Americans*, or *Afro-Americans*. (Pictured below is James Meredith and Dick Gregory)



Martin Luther King Joins the Meredith March

Pictured below: Ralph Abernathy (SCLC Leader), Rev. Martin Luther King and his wife, James Meredith, and Stokley Carmichael. *These events were covered by the major networks and many foreign news agencies. In contrast to today's live action reporting, the media used 16 mm equipment and had couriers take their film to Memphis or New Orleans for processing and transmittal to New York for the evening news*



At The Capitol In Jackson, Mississippi

Among the speakers are Lawrence Guyot, MFDP; Stokley Carmichael, SNCC (pictured below as a speaker); Floyd McKissit, CORE; and Rev. Martin Luther King, SCLC (pictured below as a speaker). James Meredith is shown to the left of the speaker. It is interesting to note that Charles Evers, Local Mississippi Negro leader, was excluded from the speakers platform on this occasion.







These brief summaries are from "Attack on Terror: The FBI Against the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi" by Don Whitehead; "Terror in the Night" by Jack Nelson and "Hoover's FBI" by Deak DeLoach.

Threat to "shoot any FBI agent that steps across my property line"

The next day two agents showed up at the man's house outside Laurel, and he confronted them with a double-barreled shotgun and a threat: "I'm gonna shoot both of you men if you don't turn and run." One agent moved to his left toward the shelter of a tree, and motioned for the other agent to move to the right; then shouted: We won't turn our back on you and all we want is to talk with you about your whereabouts on the night Vernon Dahmer was killed." "I'm gonna tell you one more time to get off my property or I'm gonna open fire." "If you raise the barrel of that shotgun, we're armed and you can't kill us both. One of us will have to kill you."

The Klansman began to shake and then to cry. "I don't want any problems, but I have my orders not to be interviewed." His wife and three little boys were standing silently, watching as the Klansman sobbed and begged the agents to leave him alone.

Just then the suspect's brother drove up in a pickup truck. "Let me talk with him just a minute," The brother came out - "I'm surprised my brother didn't shoot you because he's probably the meanest of the Jones County bunch." The agents later interviewed the Klansman at his brother's house and concluded he was not involved in Dahmer's murder. The way this confrontation was resolved let the Klan know that agents could not be intimidated. *(The Agents were Jim Ingram and Jim Awe - they worked together on the Dahmer case and covered many marches and klan rallies.)*

Anonymous calls were being made to the homes of some agents in Laurel. An agent sought out the leader of the local White Knights klavern. "I just want you to know that if my wife receives a single anonymous call from one of your kluckers, I'm holding you responsible." An informant later advised that word had been passed through the Klan ranks exempting local agents from harassment "because when the others have gone, we've got to live with them." *(This must have been Bob Lee the Senior Resident Agent in Laurel)*

Klan frustration spilled out in a few short sentences when two agents went to question the operator of a trailer court who was a leading klansman. "I'm a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant. I am not a Catholic, nigger, Jew, or Turk. Why don't you leave me alone? We have local law to handle things here. If you amounted to anything, you'd quit the FBI and get a decent job. All you listen to is Jews, niggers, and communists. Why don't you go to New York, where all the niggers are raping white women?" The agents did not leave until they had talked to him.

"I'm going to beat hell out of any FBI agent that comes into my store." The next day an agent walked into his place of business and called the owner to the front of the store. Clerks and customers paused to watch. The agent said, "you stated last night that if an FBI agent came in here, you were going to beat hell out of him. Well, sir, I'm an FBI agent. I'm not armed. And I'm waiting for you to try to beat hell out of me." The man mumbled about it being a misunderstanding. Finally, the agent said, "I think in the future it would be better if you didn't make threats." And he turned and walked out. *(This was John Proctor, the Senior Resident Agent of Meridian)*

Arrest warrant for two agents When Bowers and Nix returned from Washington, two agents went to question Nix at his home. He flew into a rage and asked why the FBI agents were "spending so much time on that nigger when you should be out investigating communism." He shouted for his wife to call the police and told the agents he intended to file a formal complaint against them. When the police arrived, Nix demanded they arrest the agents "for threatening my family, using profane language, and disturbing my peace." The police refused. Nix went to the police station and filed a formal complaint for the arrest of the two agents. The agents told Roy Moore that since there was an arrest warrant for them in Jones county, perhaps they should work elsewhere. Moore was not amused and told them they will work in Jones County and they will not let themselves become arrested. *(The two Agents were Jim Ingram and Jim Awe)*

Other incidents include a series of protest demonstrations in Jackson (1965). The Justice Department requested the FBI to observe and photograph these situations which helped dismiss many complaints of police brutality. Wharlest Jackson a negro employee at the Armstrong Rubber Company in Natchez accepted a position never before held by a Negro. On 2-27-67 while driving home in his pickup truck it exploded and killed him. On 3-13-67 the Blackwell Insurance Company was blown up because of alleged selling of houses to Negroes in a previously all-white area. The central office of the Head Start Program in Liberty, Mississippi was bombed because this program was initiated primarily to educate young negroes. There were many other similar incidents. The Klan rallies inspired violence and in turn more demonstrations and marches by the Negro community.

Agents would hear people snarl and mutter "nigger lover!... He's with the Federal Bureau of Integration.... They're for the niggers and Jews - not the white people". Hoover told Governor Johnson that agents had been spat upon, received harassing calls at home, and found a rattlesnake inside a car. Had the FBI not challenged the Ku Klux Klan successfully, troops may have been necessary to prevent a total breakdown in law enforcement.

ADDENDUM #3

**Washington Post article, June 23, 2005,
title "The FBI's Mississippi Myopia"**

And a response by Mr. Awe on June 23, 2005

Enclosure #3

Re: Washington Post Article June 23, 2005 "The FBI's Mississippi Myopia

I noticed this article on the internet and thought it was unfair to the FBI and it's employees. I prepared a response but some commitments intervened and I did not get a chance to send it in on a timely basis. I wanted to include it as an example of complaints by civil rights workers wanting protection and my response. (see page 17)

on the transcript

washingtonpost.com

The FBI's Mississippi Myopia

By Ron Carver

Post

Thursday, June 23, 2005; A27

The nation watched this month as the trial of Klansman Edgar Ray Killen forced the white citizens of Philadelphia, Miss., to come to terms with their history. But Killen's manslaughter conviction in the 1964 killing of three young civil rights workers should be a time for all Americans to confront our complicity in Southern-style segregation.

For generations too young to remember the actual events, the film "Mississippi Burning" recounted a version of the lynchings. Produced in 1988, the film is still widely shown on cable. But the filmmakers got the story only half right: The movie whitewashed the FBI. I know, because I dealt with the FBI during the hours leading up to the murders, when a simple intervention might have saved three lives.

As an 18-year-old volunteer at the Atlanta headquarters of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, I had been assigned to staff the telephone lines from Mississippi during the evening shift on June 21, 1964.

The movie accurately shows that Mississippi cops seized James Chaney, Mickey Schwerner and Andrew Goodman that afternoon, after they came to Neshoba County to investigate the burning of a black church. As the movie also recounts, Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price held them incommunicado at the county jail, then released them at 10 p.m. -- only to follow them to the county line, stop them again and hold them until his fellow Klansmen arrived to carry out their murderous scheme.

But the movie's portrayal of an FBI agent as a hero distorts the truth of this story. When the three activists failed to return to their Meridian, Miss., headquarters on schedule, we launched a well-established procedure. We had enough experience with both vigilante and police repression to know that their missed deadline was not a simple oversight and that the young men were probably in grave danger. I began calling area jails, hospitals and the Mississippi State Highway Patrol. When I spoke to the wife of the jailer in Philadelphia, she told me -- falsely, we later learned -- that Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner were not there.

My calls to FBI agents in their Meridian and Jackson offices brought a practiced mantra from that era: "The Bureau is not a law enforcement agency." If we could supply proof that a federal law had been broken, they told us, they would investigate.

Twice that evening I spoke with John Doar, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, at his Washington home. He assured me he would instruct the FBI to intervene. But J. Edgar Hoover's agents dashed those assurances and continued to stonewall as precious hours passed.

The FBI refused to participate until the following afternoon, when the station wagon of the three missing

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young men was found burned to a shell along a country road. The fears we had felt for their safety during the previous 24 frantic hours were all but confirmed.

Months later, when paid informants turned on their fellow Klansmen, the true story emerged. Had the FBI stopped by the jail on the afternoon of their arrest, the three civil rights workers would have been found alive. There was no place in that small lockup to hide the prisoners.

The FBI's stance in this sensational case was no aberration. Those of us working for civil rights organizations found the same lack of responsiveness each time we visited FBI offices to report Klan harassment, shootings or beatings -- even acts in progress.

But don't put all the blame on Hoover and his men. Remember that white America was largely indifferent while millions of African Americans lived under an apartheid-like system that condoned their disenfranchisement and oppression. Tens of thousands of restaurants, restrooms and entertainment facilities remained segregated, from Mississippi to Maryland. Few cried out against policies that denied black farmers federal cotton-growing allotments -- and sent their children to classes held in abandoned buses. Few paid attention when black people in the South who opposed these policies were routinely found dead, floating in rivers or lying along railroad tracks.

Today the worst publicly sanctioned forms of racism are behind us. A new generation of public officials has emerged to prosecute the most infamous bombings and lynchings, before all the murderers die at a peaceable old age that was denied their victims. But we do a disservice to those who stood up for justice when we distort facts to portray the FBI of the 1960s as part of the solution. If an FBI agent had rushed to the scene of the real crime, Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman could have been with us last summer to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Sadly, it seems likely that without their sacrifice -- particularly without the deaths of young whites -- Americans might have chosen to wait even longer before outlawing segregation.

The writer is assistant director of the Teamsters union's port division in Washington.

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NOT SENT! Some commitments intervened and I did not get a chance to send it in on a timely basis.

Response to Washington Post article by Ron Carver (June 23, 2005)

I must take exception to remarks by Ron Carver in the Washington Post, June 23, 2005, entitled "The FBI's Mississippi Myopia". Mr. Carver complains that the 1988 film "Mississippi Burning" whitewashed the FBI, and the Movie's portrayal of an FBI agent as a hero, distorts the truth of this story. He also complains that, "we do a disservice to those who stood up for justice when we distort facts to portray the FBI of the 1960's as part of the solution." He also implies that the FBI could have saved the three Civil Rights Workers had they rushed to the scene of the real crime.

First, the 1988 film "Mississippi Burning", was a fictionalized version of the events that took place in Mississippi during the 1960's and was not intended to be a documentary. The story and content of the film was by the filmmaker and not the FBI. The FBI does not single out Hero's in cases investigated. There were over a hundred FBI Agents in Mississippi that worked on Civil Rights matters in the 1960's, and they all worked together as a team to bring about a successful investigative solution to the case of the "Three Civil Rights Workers", and many other Civil Rights cases at that time.

The FBI is charged with the duty of investigating violations of the laws of the United States, providing protection is not within its' jurisdiction. The implication that the "Three Civil Rights Workers" could have been saved if the FBI had acted sooner is without foundation.

The case of the Three Civil Right Workers received attention from the highest levels of government. Hoover reported directly to President Johnson to keep him up to date on the case. The President suggested that Hoover go to Jackson personally for the opening of the Jackson Office and to meet with Governor Johnson to promote a joint Federal-state effort to end the violence in Mississippi and avoid conflict between the governments. Hoover arrived in Jackson on July 10, 1964 where he met with local and state officials. He was accompanied by Associate Director Clyde Tolson and Assistant Director Cartha DeLoach. Hoover, in his remarks said..."The key to law and order in Mississippi remains to the extent which state and local authorities recognize their responsibilities and discharge them."

On July 2, 1964 President Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This was the strongest civil rights bill in US history. It ordered restaurants, hotels, and other businesses that serve the general public to serve all people without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. It also barred discrimination by employers and unions. Largely as a result of activities in Selma, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Three Civil Rights Workers were reported missing on Sunday night June 21, 1964. On June 23, 1964 their burned station wagon had been found. On August 4, 1964 their bodies had been found buried under fourteen feet of earth in a dam. On December 4, 1964 all 18 suspects were arrested, slightly less than six months from the time the investigation started.

However, it was over three years since the bodies were found before the trial began because of legal complications. The conspiracy case was tried in Federal court in Meridian on October 9, 1967 by Assistant Attorney General John Doar, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division; his assistant Robert Owen; and US Attorney Robert E. Hauberg of Mississippi.

The FBI did encounter certain obstacles. One Klansmen openly boasted that he would kill any agent who stepped onto his property. That threat was challenged to let the Klan know that FBI Agents could not be intimidated. Another incident included a threat to beat-up any FBI Agent that came into his store but the Klansman backed off when confronted.

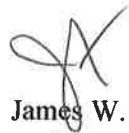
Agents would hear people snarl and mutter “nigger lover... He’s with the Federal Bureau of Integration... They’re for the niggers and Jews – not the white people”. Agents had been spat upon, received harassing calls at home and found a rattlesnake inside a car. Two Agents had arrest warrants filed against them by a Klansman. This quickly developed into a strange sort of guerrilla warfare unlike anything FBI Agents had encountered before.

Don Whitehead in his book “Attack on Terror: The FBI Against the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi”, observed... “Had the FBI not challenged the Klan successfully, Mississippi might well have been pushed to the brink of chaos, and President Johnson would have had no choice other than to send troops in to prevent a total breakdown in law enforcement.” He further noted... “In retrospect, perhaps the most frightening aspects of the Klan’s resurgence in the early 1960’s were the elements of religious fanaticism and super-patriotism that were involved in the movement. Sam Bowers and other Klan leaders justified the terrorism with the appalling argument that Klansmen were merely carrying out “God’s will” and that no guilt attached to attacks on Negroes and Jews and those they chose to call communists”.

This documentation can be found in Don Whitehead’s book mentioned above. Related data will be found in “Terror in the Night” by Jack Nelson; and “Hoover’s FBI” by Deak DeLoach. Actual tapped conversations between Hoover and President Johnson can be found in “Taking Charge” by Michael Beschloss a noted historian.

After presenting these facts to set the record straight, I would argue that the FBI played an important part in Mississippi during the turbulent 1960’s. In my view, Mr. Carver’s article is misleading and unfairly maligned the FBI and the dedicated employees who worked on these matters.

I can speak with some experience since I was assigned to the Jackson Office of the FBI as a Special Agent from mid 1964 to mid 1969. In addition to general investigative work my duties included attending Klan rallies, demonstrations, the Selma March, the Meredith March, the Vernon Dahmer Firebombing Case, and the case involving the Three Civil Rights Workers. I was just one of many agents who worked on these matters. Unfortunately, many of them have since died.



James W. Awe
Retired Special Agent FBI
Bluffton, SC

ADDENDUM #4

**Data re: FBI Records Systems
As presented to a hearing before
a Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations,
House of Representatives, 94th Congress, December 1, 1975
The Honorable Bella S. Abzug, Chairwoman**

Enclosure #4

Data regarding the FBI Records System

Much of this information is contained in a document prepared by the US Government Printing Office regarding the inquiry into the destruction of former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's Files and FBI record keeping. This was a Hearing before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operation House of Representatives Ninety-Fourth Congress December 1, 1975. Bella S. Abzug was the chairwoman presiding over this committee. I had prepared some of the data that was used by Asst. Director John McDermott for his statement before this committee.

The data regarding the FBI Records System is also published according to the requirements of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

In 1969 I was transferred to FBIHQ where I served as Supervisor and Section Chief in the Bureau's Records Management Division until retirement in 1979. In this position I had wide management responsibilities for the FBI's vast records systems including over 500 employees who handled record processing, maintenance, service, and disposition matters for FBI files. I was also responsible for automation matters as it applied to record functions and the files; and served as the Bureau's representative on the intelligence Information Handling Committee (IIHC) of the Intelligence Community (at CIA) for the effective interchange of record information and record automation. In the late 1970's I was the Bureau Official that responded to news media and congressional inquiries regarding FBI records; provided depositions in litigation matters, and testified in Federal Court on matters relating to FBI records.

The following is a description of the FBI's *Central Records System* to help better understand how the system works. It includes processing functions, and file disposition matters as it relates to the *Central Records System*. It shows a structured and disciplined system that facilitates the processing of mail and other relevant functions. This procedural information is valid up to the time I retired from the FBI in June 1979, and is according to my best recollection.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 41, Chapter 101-11, sets forth policies, standards and procedures for the economical and efficient management of Federal records and provides for effective control over: (a) the creation; (b) the organization, maintenance and use; and (c) the disposition of all agency records. The FBI has established a Records Management Program to be in compliance with these regulations.

Creation of Records

All agencies are required to retain any material made or received during the course of public business, which has been preserved or is appropriate for preservation as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities. The FBI, by the very nature and requirements to investigate violations of law within its investigative jurisdiction and its responsibility for the internal security of the United States, collects information from a wide variety of sources. Basically, it is the result of investigative efforts and information furnished by other Government agencies, law enforcement agencies, the general public, informants, witnesses, and public source material. Accordingly, records are created and files are established to support the Bureau's investigative and administrative needs.

The FBI's Central Records System - (a brief description)

The FBI utilizes a *Central Records System* of maintaining its investigative, personnel, applicant, administrative, and general files. The system consists of one numerical sequence of subject matter files, an alphabetical index to the files, and a supporting abstract system to facilitate processing and accountability of all important mail placed in file. Files in FBI field offices are also structured in generally the same manner. For example, all information on a given subject matter or case is channeled into one file. In order to facilitate control of the file and accommodate multiple subject(s) matters, a numbering system is used to indicate: (a) general classification and nature of violation, (b) the individual case file in this category, and (c) serialization of individual pieces of mail in the file. For instance, the number 7-100-10 on a piece of mail indicates it is the 10th piece of mail in the 100th file assigned to the kidnapping (7) classification. There are over 200 classifications in the basic filing system. They pertain primarily to the federal violations over which the FBI has investigative jurisdiction. However, included in the classifications are personnel, applicant and administrative matters to facilitate the overall filing scheme.

The Index. The key to these numerically maintained files is the general indices, consisting of index cards on all manner of subject matters but primarily a name index of individuals. This index must be searched to determine what information, if any, the FBI may have in its files. It should be noted the FBI does not

index all individuals who furnish information or names developed in an investigation. Only that information that is considered pertinent, relevant and essential for future retrieval is indexed.

Indexing. The main subject(s) of any investigation will be included in the title of the case and automatically indexed. These are referred to as *Main Cards* and the index card will contain a two part number. Other data or names that are considered significant, but not the main subject of the investigation, are indexed to permit future retrieval. These are individuals who figure significantly in the investigation but not sufficiently enough to become the subject of the case. These are called *See Cards*, which is a reference to a case, and these index cards contain a three part number that refers to a specific serial or piece of mail in the file. The same name could be indexed on multiple serials. While this is a function for support personnel, the case agent, field supervisor, or headquarters supervisor may always indicate additional indexing.

Criminal Files. An individual may have more than one file. A separate file is established for each prosecutable offense. If the individual is the subject of two bank robberies, and also the subject of a stolen car case, three separate files will be opened, assuming the events happened at different time intervals. This is the basis of the Case Filing System and each case is handled as a separate item. These cases are not consolidated to create a dossier-type file.

Security Files. When an individual is the subject of a security investigation, the same file is generally used for all such activities, if investigated as a member of the Communist Party a 100 classification case file would have been opened; if later the same individual is investigated for Extremist Matters (a 157 classification), a separate file would not be created; it would be placed in the first file established for security matters. In this case the 100 classification.

General Files. Each classification maintains a 0 (Zero) and a 00 (Double Zero) file and precede the first case file in each classification. The 0 file is used for complaints and miscellaneous nonspecific data relating to the classification, which is of such a nature that it does not warrant establishing a separate case file, but is indexed to be retrievable. The 00 file is for the purpose of collecting in one place all policies and procedures that refer to that particular classification or violation category.

Field Office Records

Any document received by a Field Office would be: (1) stamped to indicate date received; (2) searched in the office index to determine if it should be placed in an existing file; (3) if so, the file number is written on the mail; (4) it is forwarded to a supervisor for review; (5) routed to the case agent; (6) initialed by the case agent after necessary action has been taken; and (7) the document is forwarded to file. The information, if appropriate, is included in a report sent to FBIHQ. Alternatively, if it was deemed significant it could be attached to a letter sent to FBIHQ, but a copy would be made for the field office file. This is only a basic mail processing summary.

Disposition of Field Office Records

The National Archives and Records Services (NARS) has provided authority for FBI Field Offices to destroy all investigative matters when a case is closed since the field is required to forward to FBIHQ the originals, duplicates, or summaries of substance of all significant aspects of pertinent investigative matters. Certain records not sent to FBIHQ included: (1) closed cases not prosecuted; (2) closed unknown subject cases; (3) closed investigations that determined allegations were unsubstantiated or not within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau; and, (4) transitory documents (such as letters, memos, airtels), from which, information is incorporated in reports.

However, this file destruction authority was not completely delegated to the field since they have a need

to maintain certain files for investigative reference. Prior to 1974 field office files were retained for 25 years and subsequently reduced to: (a) 6 months in auxiliary (or lead) offices; (b) 5 years in office of origin (controlling office) for criminal categories; and, (c) 10 years for files in applicant and security-related categories. Files could be retained beyond those time periods if determined to have a continuing value for investigative reference, were historical or part of a major case.

FBI Headquarters Records

Mail received at FBI Headquarters is sent to various units for processing. For example: (1) all mail is received in the Routing Unit where it is stamped to indicate date received and marked for the proper Division or person who should see the mail; (2) next, the Classifying Unit marks names or subject matter that should be indexed and provides the classification number; (3) the mail is searched in the General Index for a file number; (4) in the Numbering Unit the mail receives a serial number; (5) in the Recording Unit index cards and abstracts are prepared; and (6) the mail is sent to the proper supervisor for necessary action; (7) the mail is initialed by the Supervisor to show necessary action has been taken before it is sent to file. This procedure is much like that used in the field office except that it is on a much larger scale because of the volume of mail received. This description is only a basic summary for processing mail.

The disposition of FBI files

The Federal Records Act of 1950 and the code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 41 sets forth policies, standards and procedures for all Federal records including their creation, organization, maintenance, use and disposition. The standards are administered by the National Archives and Records Service (NARS), which require that records of a continuing value are preserved, and that records no longer needed are disposed of. This is accomplished by a *Records Control Schedule* to insure historical records are identified and given to NARS after a specified time. In other words records cannot be destroyed unless they have been included in a *Records Control Schedule* approved by NARS. The FBI's system is in compliance with these regulations.

Because of the unique aspect of FBI records, NARS has placed a permanent retention value on most of the files because of (1) the Bureau's continuing need to access the records for investigative purposes; (2) under Executive Order 10450 the FBI acts as a clearinghouse for the security and suitability of Government employees by processing national agency check requests through the system; and (3) many of the records will be held for historical value.

Consequently, file destruction for investigative matters at FBIHQ have been limited to certain categories of insignificant old records dating back to the 1920's that did not have a continuing value. For other old records microfilm copies were made before the hard copy records were destroyed. Also, various moratoriums were placed on file destruction because of Congressional interest in security and intelligence matters, and broad discovery motions in certain cases.

In cooperation with NARS, new guidelines were established in 1977 to identify and retain historical files and for the destruction of obsolete files. It was determined from surveys, research, and contacts with other agencies that relied on FBI files for the name check program, that the following would serve Bureau needs: (a) 10 years for criminal files, and (b) 30 years for applicant and security related files. Certain older files that served a continuing need in either the criminal or security field would also be retained, including those that may be of interest to the Intelligence Community.

The Archivist agreed this was a reasonable request, but consulted various committees in both the House and the Senate. They expressed concern that FBI file destruction would bring unfavorable criticism and it was a controversial issue. Various news articles regarding the FBI's file destruction were critical. Much of it was directed toward the process in the field offices. As a result the Archivist directed members of his staff to review the procedure and traveled to various field offices. NARS concluded the program was

sound and being conducted according to their approved guidelines for field offices.

The proposed guidelines for the destruction of FBIHQ files were not approved by the time I retired. NARS was reluctant to give approval because of congressional concerns; protests by historians; and other groups who claimed there would be many who may, at a later time, want to access information through FOIPA. Others claimed, for privacy reasons, the files contained information that should be destroyed. As a result, there was no tangible effect on file destruction. Certain files, however, were destroyed through court orders.

Even though the old files were not destroyed, search criteria was changed to agree with the new guidelines and special requests were required to search the old records. New records, together with certain old records, were being captured or converted to a digital format with the idea that within a 10 to 20 year period, the automated index would be useful without requiring a dual search.

Because of the magnitude of the Bureau's records system, there are many complexities and subtleties involved, particularly as it relates to file destruction, which is often misunderstood. *(There were over 6 million files supported by a 60 million card index in over 200,000 sq ft of space. Daily activity included 10,000 name check forms, 4,000 file requests, and processing over 5,000 pieces of mail for file).* Space requirements were a continuing problem for both Headquarters and the Field. Automation was being applied to the system, but the state of technology at the time would not provide significant improvements for at least another decade or longer.

Current status of FBI Records

I do not know if the Bureau was allowed to go forward with the proposed file destruction program. Old records probably have been removed to a records storage center including the index to the older records. I do not know how all of this is being handled today or how FOIPA requests must be structured.

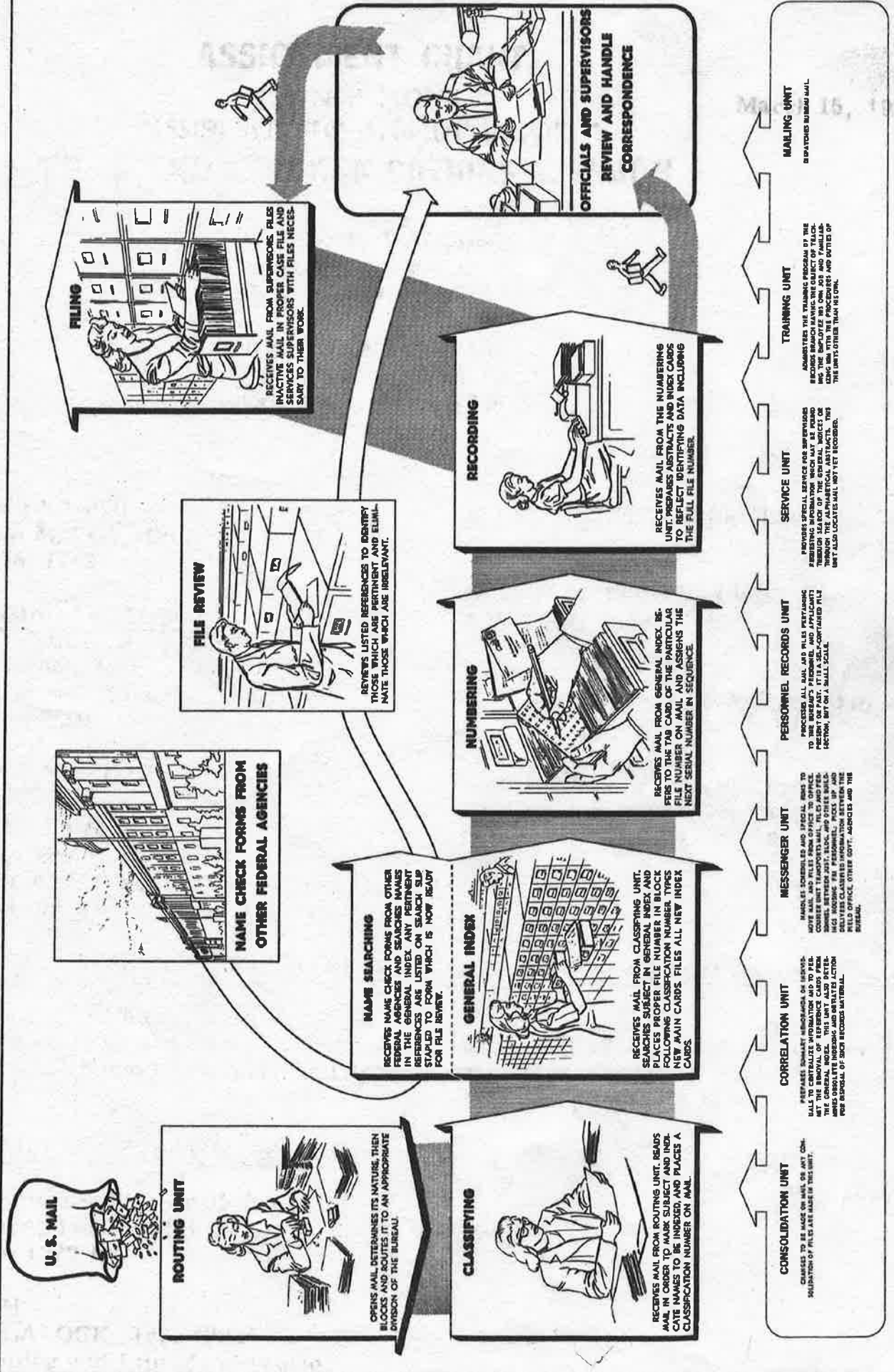
A description of the FBI's Central Records System is included in the Federal Register Vol. 41 #181 (Sep 1976) in accordance with requirements of FOIPA. Subsequent changes would also be published.

Additional Comments

I have referred to index cards and, previously, to manual mail processing functions, but automation was going forward with a pilot program for the index about 1974. By 1977-78 new index information was being captured as digital data and the plan called for, eventually, source entry with all processing functions to be done at a computer terminal; a common file numbering system between Field Office Records and FBIHQ; and converting a certain amount of existing index cards. This system may be in place today, but old files, most likely, would have to be searched manually unless they continued to receive new information and reports.

There is a realistic limit as to the amount of data that is maintained "on-line". It depends on current needs and search criteria. Probably the bulk of Name *Check Requests* today are handled by an exchange of data tapes between agencies. Automated procedures should not change the results of what would be achieved in the manual system, or preclude searching all information for a FOIPA request, or for other purposes. But, the automated system allows the use of the information in a way that is not possible in the manual system.

RECORDS BRANCH --- FLOW CHART



ADDENDUM #5

The Telelift System in the FBI Headquarters

Enclosure #5

The Telelift System in FBI Headquarters

In planning for the new JEH building we realized that electronic mail, and practical aspects of automation would not be a reality for another decade or so. To make the mail and file distribution system more efficient, we introduced the Telelift System. Up to the time I retired we found it was very effective. I thought it would be appropriate to include this as part of the Administrative history at FBIHQ.

Telelift System in FBI Headquarters Saves Taxpayers' Money

From a Mosler Publication June 1979



An aerial view of the J. Edgar Hoover Building on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. The Telelift distribution system serves all areas of the building from the basement to the top floors.



Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, and in Government service, too. It's the Telelift system installed in the new J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building, the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. James Awe, FBI Special Agent and Section Chief, Records Systems Section, Records Management Division, says that "the system is expected to pay for itself through reduced personnel expenses in six or seven years." After that the savings will add to the already high cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the FBI.

indicators on the cars' lids to the destination station number. As the cars pass under sensor panels located over the tracks, switches operate automatically and direct the car to the designated station. For want of a better descriptive term, Telelift was called initially the "Thing Bringer" because it would bring all sorts of things—drugs in a hospital, records in an insurance company, mail in an office building, stocks and bonds in a bank, small parts and packages in a factory or warehouse.

FBI has almost 2 miles of track

At FBI Headquarters the Telelift system is used to transport mail and records throughout the building. They have installed more than 8000 feet of track and employ more than 200 cars to move 6000 to 8000 pieces of mail and files that must be distributed around the building each working day.

The FBI conducted a long and intensive study before selecting its present delivery system. The evaluation was started in 1971 by Jim Awe when the FBI was housed in the Justice Department Building. The amount of mail and paperwork that had to be distributed daily was growing rapidly. It seemed logical to assume that modern technology should

Telelift, the "Thing Bringer"

Telelift is the transport distribution system introduced into this country a decade ago by Mosler. Briefly, it consists of a number of self-powered cars the size of a bread box that ride on aluminum rails usually installed close to the ceiling or in the ceiling of office buildings, hospitals, factories, warehouses, etc. The cars can carry up to 20 lbs. of anything horizontally around a building and vertically up shafts that are many stories high. But the unique thing about Telelift is that the cars can be programmed to travel from any one station to any other station in the entire system. This is done by moving



Above: James Awe, Special Agent and Records Systems Section Chief, Records Management Division, says that the Telelift system is expected to pay for itself in 6 or 7 years by reducing messenger personnel requirements.

Top: Because Telelift cars run quietly and the aluminum structure is functionally attractive, the system could be installed, exposed, near the ceiling without disrupting the mail sorting and record filing operations going on below. Easy maintenance is another advantage of this type of installation.

...ve the answer. After an exhaustive survey it was decided that a pilot 5-station Telelift system should be installed in the Justice Department Building to determine if this system would be effective on a larger scale in the J. Edgar Hoover Building that was under construction.

Telelift included in new building design

This system worked so well that an expanded, 72-station Telelift system was included in the plans for the new J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building, completed in 1975. At the time, it was the largest system ever supplied by Mosler and several Mosler executives, engineers and technicians, Axel Witt, National Contracts Manager, Joe Stefanowski, Contracts Manager, Felix Hernandez, Project Coordinator and Joe Oppelt, then Project Engineer for the job spent thousands of manhours at the FBI building in Washington, D.C. making sure that all went as smoothly as possible.

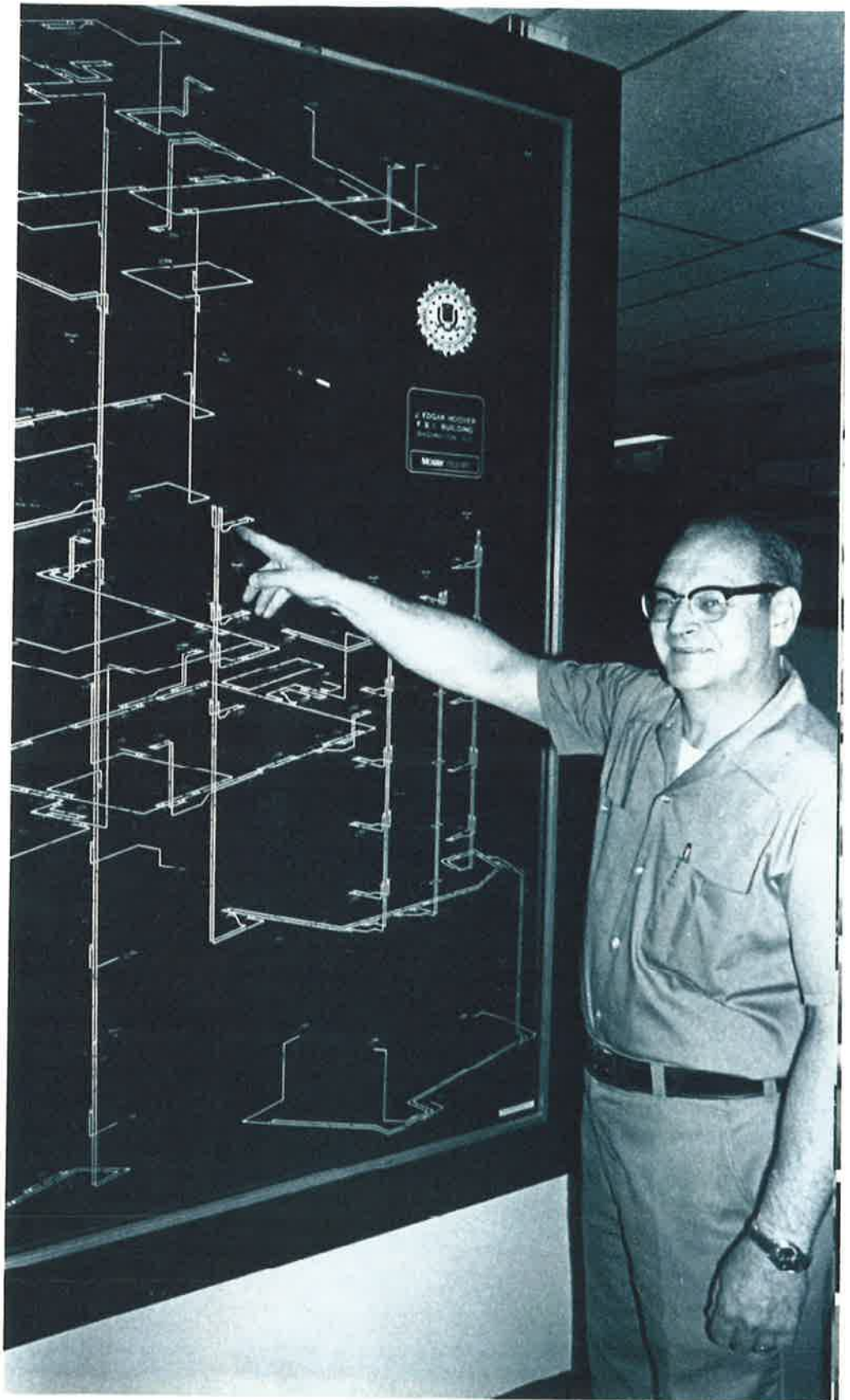
System serves building zones

In 1976 the system became fully operative. To achieve maximum flexibility and meet the needs and desires of a constantly changing management structure, Jim Awe and Daniel Kuhn, Supervisor of Facility Management, divided the building into a number of zones. Mail is sorted according to these zones and sent by Telelift to the appropriate zone station. There it is sorted again and distributed by messenger to the designated offices. Special Agent Awe says that the system reduced the number of messengers that would be needed to service the new building by at least 40. The savings of their salaries and benefits is expected to pay for the system in 6 or 7 years.

Like having 200 messengers waiting for instructions

The Bureau also enjoys other advantages that are difficult to assess in dollars and cents such as increased efficiency and effectiveness of Bureau operations fostered by the quickness and availability of the system. An executive who may have had to wait hours for important documents to be delivered from Central Records while sufficient material was accumulated to make a messenger's trip worthwhile, may now get those papers in a

...es Isner, Maintenance Foreman, points out a station indicator on the Graphic Display Panel showing their entire Telelift system. Multi-colored lights indicate system operational status and pinpoint any malfunctions so that they can be corrected quickly.





matter of minutes via a Telilift car. It is having 200 messengers available and waiting for instructions. One file or a dozen files, the cars don't mind making the trip.

Maintenance handled by Bureau

Electrical equipment repairmen, supervised by Foreman James Isner, maintain the system in peak operating condition. A preventive maintenance program short-stops trouble before it starts. Several of the repairmen took the Telilift maintenance course at our Wayne, New Jersey plant and are now able to tear down a car or a switch to the bare bones with their eyes closed.

Perhaps the best testimony to the satisfactory operation of the FBI's Telilift system came inadvertently from one of our own Mosler people. When told of our intention to write this article, Joe Oppelt, who was Project Engineer on the FBI job, remarked, "You know, we haven't heard from the Bureau in years!" When you're in the sophisticated electro-mechanical systems business, "No news is good news" after you've turned the system over to the customer.



Top left: Cheryl McElveen receives mail at a zone station. It will be resorted here and delivered by hand to various offices in the zone.

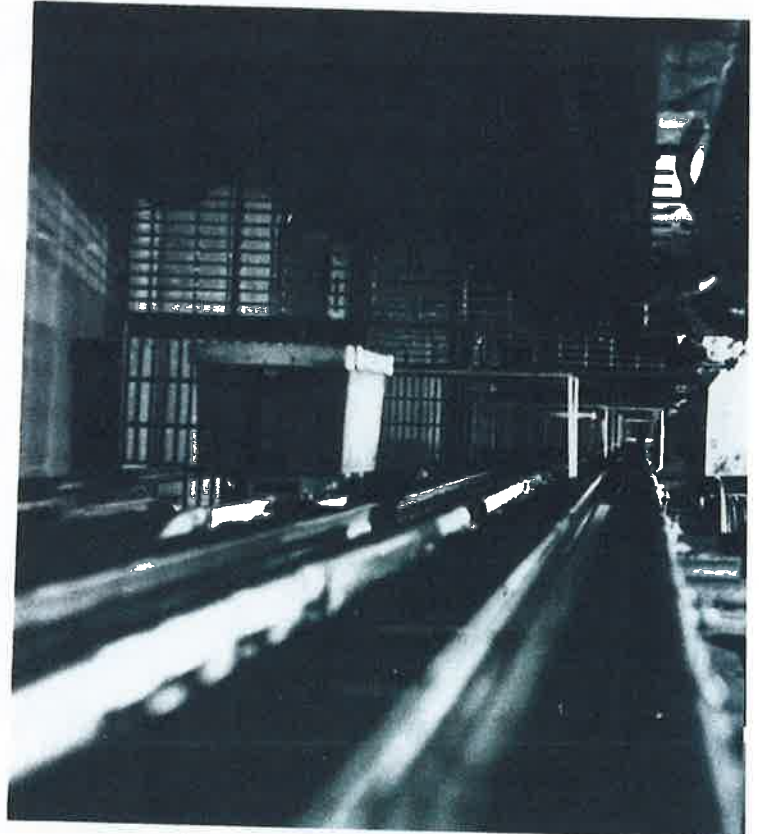
Bottom left: Gail Holland slides indicators on a car's lid to the number of the destination station. She'll push a button to send the car off and in a few minutes the mail will be delivered in a far corner of the building.

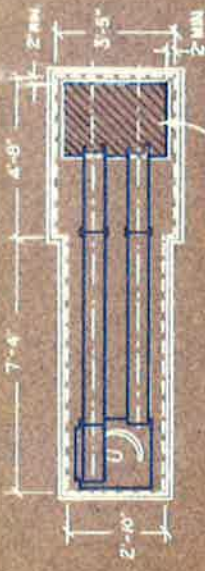
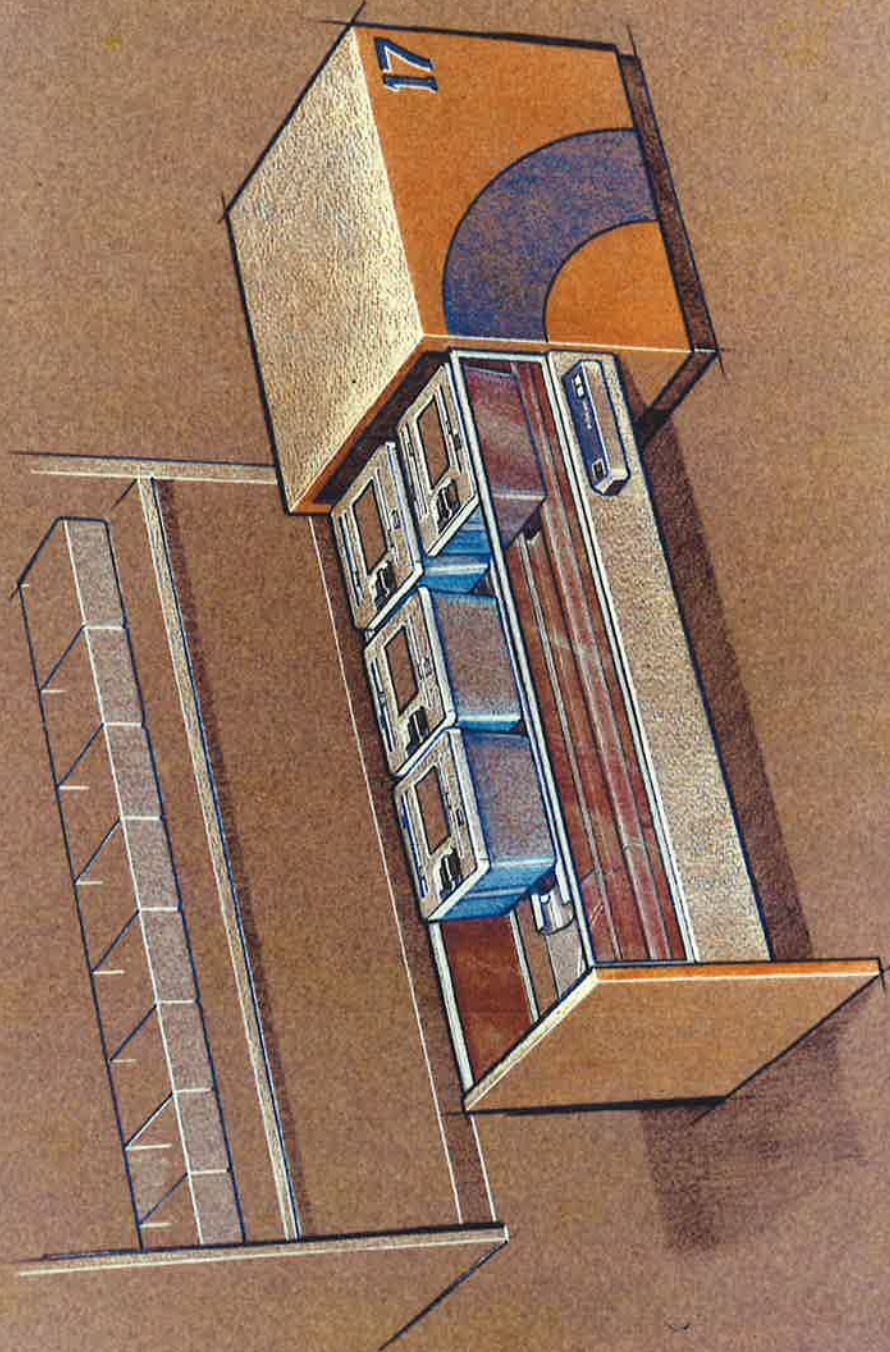
Opposite page

Top: The fourth floor is a records and mail sorting center and a heavy user of Telilift cars. Therefore, a large storage track was installed in this area. This line of cars is on call to send mail and records to any other station in the building.

Bottom left: Jim Martin, Electrical Equipment Repairman, checks the height of a Telilift car in the building's repair shop. He and several other repairmen have attended Mosler's week-long Telilift maintenance school in Wayne, New Jersey and are capable of keeping the system in top shape without outside help.

Bottom right: Telilift cars travel vertically up and down shaftways like this that are several stories high to reach other floors. Positive traction is achieved by a gear on the car's motor that engages a rack mounted in the center of the vertical track.





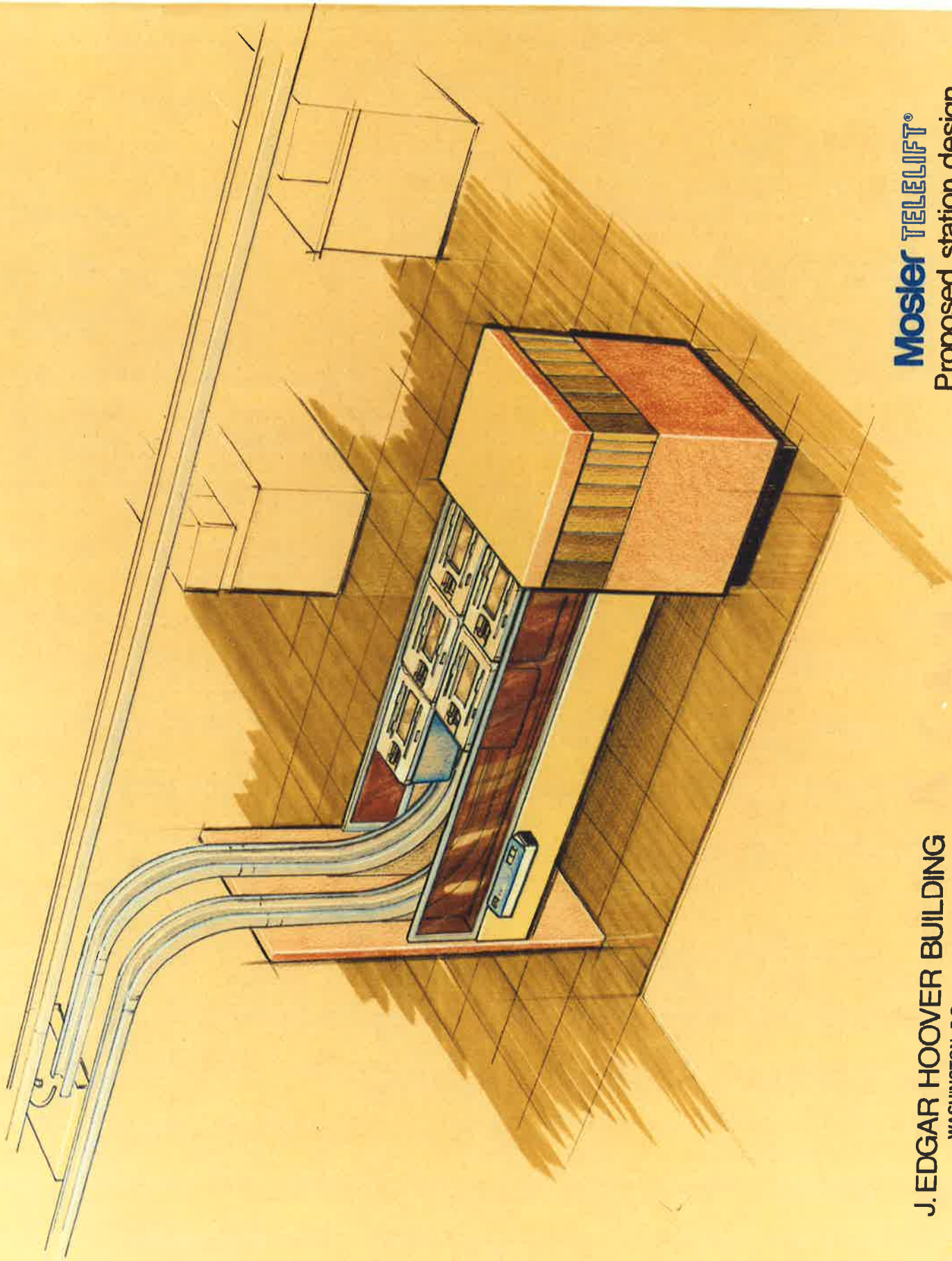
PLAN VIEW
(minimum inside dimensions)
3'-1" X 2'-11" M.I.D.
FOR FIT/DOR

J. EDGAR HOOVER BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mosler TELELIFT®
Proposed station design

Mosler TELELIFT®
Proposed station design

J. EDGAR HOOVER BUILDING
WASHINGTON D.C.



ADDENDUM #6

Comments on the Headquarters Buildings of the FBI and Photos

The Justice Building

The J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building

Enclosure #6

Background on FBI Space

The FBI moved into the Justice Building in 1934. At that time, all record functions were located on the sixth floor and all Identification Division functions were located on the seventh floor with the Laboratory. I have been told that the Justice Building was one of the first government buildings in DC to have central air-conditioning.

Discussions for a separate FBI building were made as early as 1939, but it was not until 1962 that GSA approved basic plans for 1.4 million square feet of usable space for a new building. President Nixon signed a law that provided the name – “J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building”. Over 7,000 employees would occupy the new building.



ADDENDUM #7

**Memo of June 7, 1994 from Society President establishing
The Oral History Project**

October 2, 1994, Historical Survey of Mr. Awe's Career

Enclosure #7

Data regarding a previous Oral History Project that I had responded to dated June 7, 1994.



SOCIETY OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS
OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 1027 • QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-1027 • (800) 527-7372 • (703) 640-6469 • FAX (703) 640-6537

TO: Society Members
FROM: Don Hartnett
SUBJECT: Oral History Project
DATE: June 7, 1994

On February 4, 1994 the Executive Committee of the Society unanimously approved a proposal to initiate an Oral History Project (OHP) among its members to record and archive their recollections of historical significance. These histories would be available to future scholars, researchers and others as aids to writing, interpreting primary source materials and evaluating published works.

Background

Over the past fifteen years the FBI, as personified and led by former Director Hoover, has been subjected to a series of increasingly malicious attacks by revisionist historians, former Soviet fellow-travelers and sensation-seeking journalists. Ostensibly the purpose of these attacks has been to correct the historical record for the current and future generations. To a more perceptive and critical interpreter it is apparent that besides money and notoriety, their goals are not only destruction of the reputation of Director Hoover, but also the credibility of the Bureau and its employees during his tenure. Unfortunately, due to the stridency and sheer quantity of their products, future generations may be offered no alternative to their interpretations of the Bureau of that period as an American Gestapo.

The primary source of materials for the works of these detractors has been massive Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) releases which are manipulated and interpreted according to each author's agenda. Seldom, if ever, in any of these works are the readers offered insights from actual participants, particularly FBI personnel. The purpose of the OHP is to correct this deficiency by creating an alternate legitimate primary source: our recollections.

The OHP is a joint-venture between the Society and the Research/Intelligence Analyst Program at Mercyhurst College which is coordinated by Robert J. Heibel, a retired SA. The initial phase of the project is the enclosed survey which will serve to identify areas of historical knowledge and expertise and aid in the selection of interviewees.

This project is one which may be instituted at a minimum of cost and yet, have significant long-term historical impact and be a matter of pride to you and the Society. If we as FBI veterans don't make our story known and attempt to defend ourselves or at least provide others with the tools to do so, then we are deserving and assured of future historical distortion and possible condemnation. **Take a moment, complete the enclosed survey and return it to Robert J. Heibel, Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA 16546.** It will be worth the investment of your time.

*see
copy pages
DH*

Office of the President, Donald E. Hartnett

221 Belvoir Road • Buffalo, New York 14221 • (716) 631-5166 • FAX (716) 631-5166

SOCIETY OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS
OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, INC

HISTORICAL SURVEY

AWE', James W. 8340 Greensboro Drive, Apt #1001, McLean, VA 22102
703-917-9610 Born: 3/4/29 Grand Island, NE

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Work Specialty</u>
Nov 1948/Jul 1958	SOG	Records Section while attending night school at Georgetown University (Military Service 1952/1954)
Sep 1958/Aug 1959	Louisville	Criminal Investigative work
Sep 1959/Aug 1960	Covington RA	Criminal Investigative work
Sep 1960/Aug 1964	Cincinnati	Criminal Investigative work Relief Supervisor Police School Instructor
Sep 1964/Jun 1969	Jackson	Criminal Investigative work Civil Rights Investigations Relief Supervisor Police School Instructor Special Photo School/FBIHQ Photography Selma March, etc Cinematography Marches/KKK, etc Prepared crime scene map/MIBURN Prepared crime scene map/DABURN Testified both major cases
Jul 1969/Jul 1979 (retired Jul 1979)	FBIHQ	Supervisor Records Section Section Chief Records Systems Records Automation and Planning Records space layout/JEH Bldg Testify File retention/destruction Liaison IIHC at CIA - Intellig Infor Handling Committee

Major Case work and extent of involvement:

MIBURN Case: The three civil rights workers /Jackson, Miss Office

DABURN Case: The KKK killing of Vernon Dahmer/Jackson, Miss Office

In the MIBURN Case I prepared the crime scene map showing specific locations relevant to witness testimony and made photographs of these areas which I introduced into court as the first FBI witness.

In the DABURN Case I prepared the crime scene map showing specific locations relevant to witness testimony and made photographs of these areas which I introduced into both Federal and State court. Also, part of the team for the general investigative work for this case.

Cincinnati - Aubry Lewis:

About 1963, Aubry Lewis, the first black Agent, was transferred to Cincinnati from training school. Aubry was an All-American football player from Notre Dame. It was my pleasure to take him around for the first several weeks. I understand he later resigned and became a Vice-President for Woolworth.

Civil Rights Investigations and Use of Photography:

During the middle '60's (1965) the Bureau approved the use of color photography for Civil Rights Victims and then for most other work. 35mm equipment generally replaced the 4 x 5 Speed Graphic. Cinematography was used for Marches, Demonstrations, KKK rallies, etc. During this period of unrest in Mississippi each church burning and other acts of violence gave rise to more marches and demonstrations, and in turn, escalated the violence by the KKK.

This caused major networks and foreign news media to be on the scene. This was before satellite TV and the major networks used 16mm movie film which had to be developed, and then taken to a major city where it could be feed to NY and then edited for the nightly news. We had much of the same footage they did, that told the whole story, not just part of it. This, not only, helped eliminate some allegations of police brutality, but may have helped defuse some of the open violence since both sides knew the events would be recorded. I did the cinematography. Our films were used at various police schools throughout the state.

At FBIHQ - Bureau Records and Automation:

In the late 1960's plans were developed for the new JEH building. Efforts were made to use new procedures, not just the same that was used before.. often space limitations dictated procedures. Before the move to the JEH building, files were maintained in the Ident Building and delivered to the Justice Building on scheduled runs every 10 minutes. The advent of automation and the continuing problems of file growth required new approaches.

An automated messenger delivery system (Mosler Telelift) was used in the JEH Building. A pilot system was first used in the Justice Building. Our pilot system was personally viewed by George White, the Architect of the Capital. I understand that the Telelift system was recently discontinued. Automation and electronic mail became a reality.

(see encl # 4)

An Interesting Note on the JEH Building:

In regard to the new JEH Building, it is interesting to note that Hoover did not like any part of the design, but this was something he had no control over. Various commissions became interested in the effect the design would have on Pennsylvania Avenue. These included the Fine Arts Commission, the National Capitol Planning Commission, the Pennsylvania Avenue Advisory Commission, and the President's Council on Pennsylvania Avenue. Extended studies resulted in substantial delays. C.F. Murphy

(see encl # 6)

Associates of Chicago was the architectural engineering firm responsible for the design.

In the early 1970's, the supervision of field office records procedures and Chief Clerks Offices, moved to Div 4 from Div 2, to make procedures more compatible. This was required for automation and thus, the concepts for source entry of data was established.

This was assigned to my section including the chief clerk from WFO.

In the late 1960's, a pilot study was established to determine if an automated search would produce the same results as the manual search in the General Index that contained over 60 million cards. The National Agency Check Program required over 10,000 searches per day. This volume exceeded the practical capability of current technology (1970's). Surveys showed a large percentage of searches could be made with references only 20 years old and therefore a separation index was established. All index cards that were more than 20 years old were removed to a separate index. A criteria was established for dual searches.

By mid-1975 all new incoming information was captured in machine format to establish a database, which at some point, would be large enough to be searchable without requiring a dual search or a large conversion project. It was envisioned that agencies could submit their tapes (rather than forms), and the response would also be by tape. Today, I understand, this is now being done.

Before the move to the new JEH Building, PARS, (Personnel Automated Records System), was established as the first automated project to go on-line. This was an automated file charge-out system that functioned much the same as the airline reservation system, i.e., only those files charged out were listed in the data base. Later, the same concepts were extended to all the investigative files known as FACS (File Automated Control System). The serialization of mail was linked to this system, called AIMS (Automation of Incoming Mail Serialization). This ultimately led to the elimination of abstracts.

Space was a continuing problem even with the new JEH building. Microfilming was ruled out, except for old inactive files, because of the cumbersome nature of microfilm and the high active use of the files. In the mid-70's, the use of optical memories were explored, (a high density storage system that would provide remote random access to files - today, known as CD ROM'S). This technology, originally presented by Ampex, N.V. Philips and Digital Recording was only in proto-type and cost prohibitive, but gave storage densities of 3×10 to the eighth bits per square inch. Dr. Cregg Fields, Director of ARPA (Advance Research Projects Agency - for DOD) selected Philips for funding. I believe the bureau is using aspects of this system today.

NARS (National Archives and Records Service) set the standards for all federal government records including file retention and file destruction. When FOIPA (Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts) came into being, (mid-1970's), many questions were raised about Bureau records. If we destroyed files.. what were we trying to cover-up, and if we didn't, what right did we have to maintain certain information in our files, that should be destroyed.

A complete description of the FBI's system of records was published in the Federal Register to comply with FOIPA.... (see encl # 3)

There was the Abzug hearings (Hearing before a subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operation - House of Representatives, December 1975 - "Inquiry into the Destruction of Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's Files and FBI Recordkeeping"). Jack McDermott, Asst Director, Division 4 testified accompanied by myself and Hunter Helgeson, Deputy Asst Director of Div 5. Others testified about Hoover's Personal Files. The transcript of the Hearings was published by the Government Printing Office.

I was interviewed by Johathan Kwitny of the Wall Street Journal regarding the Bureau's records. This appeared in the September 27, 1978 issue of the Wall Street Journal (page 1).

I was a defendant in a law suit together with the Attorney General, The FBI Director, The Archivist of the United States, et al, regarding Bureau records and subsequently gave affidavits and testified in Federal Court (United States District Court for the District of Columbia - civil No 79-1655 - before Judge Harold H. Green - June 1979. The Plaintiffs were American Friends Service Committee, Robert Meeropol, et al.

All FBI files have been maintained to enable the Bureau to be responsive to Executive Order 10450, the National Agency Check Program, etc, and for reference purposes for investigative needs. None were destroyed except duplicate records and certain old inactive criminal files after they were microfilmed .

Space limitations and our desire to manage file growth resulted in identifying many old investigative files that were no longer useful and could be destroyed. NARS provided criteria for the retention of historical files that would be transferred to them for permanent retention, (but only after they were 75 years old - after that time they would no longer contain relevant security or informant data). A Records Control Schedule, approved by NARS (including a personal review by James Rhodes, the Archivist of the United States).

Law suits prevented the destruction of approved files as of 1979.

Just an interesting sidebar:

One of my responsibilities included Bureau Couriers and it was suggested on the day before Christmas that the courier service to other agencies be discontinued that afternoon because there would be little or no activity in the other agencies. I thought it was a good idea and said OK, do it! It was suggested that I put it on record with a brief memo. I did. Less than two hours later, the memo was back with a comment by Tolson and an "OK/H." by Hoover. It must have been a slow memo day. But this just illustrates the tight control he had. Memos and mail were time stamped as they processed through the system. It was not wise to sit on any mail. I think the system was a marvel of efficiency... and decisions were quickly made.

James W. Rowe'
Oct 2, 1994