
Agency Information

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JAMES, DONALD LESTER, INVEST, TOLL CALLS, SUSP, UNK

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 2/19/70	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 12/23/69 - 2/12/70
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED JOSEPH ROBERT PROVENZANO, aka - ET AL; DR. SALVATORE CARUSO, aka - ET AL - VICTIMS		REPORT MADE BY SA THOMAS L. COLARELLI	TYPED BY nmb
		CHARACTER OF CASE POSSIBLE ITSP	

Title is marked "CHANGED" to delete subject DONALD LESTER JAMES, who was killed 1/11/70 at Biloxi, Miss., by unknown assailants, as developed through investigation. Title previously carried as "DONALD LESTER JAMES, aka - ET AL; DR. SALVATORE CARUSO, aka - ET AL - VICTIMS."

REFERENCE: New Orleans report of SA THOMAS L. COLARELLI, 12/11/69.
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INFORMANTS:

On 12/5/69 NO 1734-C-TE advised SA JOHN C. MC CURNIN II that CARLOS MARCELLO received a telephone call from

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: ② - Bureau (92-11305) (RM) 1 - Departmental Atty., N.O., La. 2 - Jackson (92-248) (RM) 2 - New Orleans (92-1029)		92-11305-22	REC 12
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Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations SIX STAT. SECT.
Agency	DEPT			
Request Recd.	icc			
Date Fwd.	3/2/70			
How Fwd.	0-6			
By	F-51 AFW:m			

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CLYDE BOURGEOIS on 12/4/69, stating that he has physically assaulted JUNIOR PROVENZANO by hitting him over the head with a chair. BOURGEOIS explained that the reason he attacked PROVENZANO in a bar in Marrero, La., was that he suspected PROVENZANO had burglarized his home, stealing some \$4,000 worth of guns.

On 1/8/70 NO 1283-PC advised SA THOMAS L. COLARELLI and SA HAROLD V. HUGHES that he had not seen ELDON LEGAN recently, but would attempt to ascertain his whereabouts.

On 1/27/70 this source advised the above Agents that he had still not determined LEGAN's current whereabouts, but would contact NELLO PACINI, close associate of both LEGAN and PROVENZANO, in an attempt to do so. Re the JAMES killing, he offered the opinion that a good suspect would be HENRY COOK HENRY COOK SALISBURY, who has had a grudge against JAMES for several years and is quite capable of killing him.

On 12/31/69 JK 358-C advised he observed DONALD LESTER JAMES at CHUCK CLARY's Bay View Supper Club in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., and heard a conversation in which JAMES remarked that he was staying at the Howard Johnson Motel.

On 1/29/70 NO 1793-PC advised SA THOMAS L. COLARELLI that JOE ODDO is back in the 4th St. area of Marrero, La., and is frequenting Dano's Drive-In, and has been seen in the company of JUNIOR PROVENZANO. Source advised that he was talking to TINY BARNES, who is running the Royal Motel in Marrero, and BARNES seemed to know all about the JAMES killing, and could probably offer some suspects if he chose to talk, because he knows the whole crowd.

Source advised that PROVENZANO is dividing his time between the horse stable during the day and Dano's at night.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

PCI [REDACTED] furnished the following information to SA JERRY R. PARKER on January 13, 1970:

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Informant advised he had been in telephonic contact with CAROLYN NORRIS JAMES, and she wanted him to come to the funeral of her husband but informant was afraid REX ARMISTEAD, Chief Investigator, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Jackson, Mississippi, would have him arrested before he reached Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Informant advised that without knowing the details of the killing of JAMES, it is hard to determine who killed him, but the following were his immediate thoughts:

1. If the shooting was done by one individual, probably it was done by CLIFFORD FULLER, who is very patient and who would wait forever for a chance to even the score with DONALD LESTER JAMES over JUDY KAY;
2. If the shooting was done by two individuals, it could have been over the split of the money in the Covington, Louisiana, gipsy camp "job", which according to the informant was fingered by JAMES. Informant advised that BOBBY GALE GWIN and "TOE HEAD" WHITE have already been killed, and JAMES may have been the next on the list;
3. Informant advised that R. D. MATHEWS of Dallas, Texas, who had GARY MC DANIELS killed, always uses two or three men to finish people where bad splits are involved. Informants advised that JAMES and MATHEWS have been in together on several confidence schemes, and

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as such, one may have turned sour and resulted in MATHEWS ordering JAMES' death.

Informant advised that JAMES has been thought of as being a "snitch" for some time, but informant advised he has heard of no one who believed this story strong enough to kill JAMES.

Informant stated that his information is that the money from the doctor confidence job in New Orleans, Louisiana, was all returned following JAMES getting some pressure from the New Orleans La Cosa Nostra.

On January 14, 1970, informant telephonically advised SA PARKER he had just returned from JAMES' funeral in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Informant stated that the "job" does not now appear to have been perpetrated by CLIFFORD FULLER. Informant advised that the men from the lounge where JAMES was killed have aroused the informant's suspicion. He stated that the two bartenders were at JAMES's residence too often bringing food and offering sympathies. He stated that since none of the group knew these individuals, it seemed very strange.

Informant advised he went to the club where JAMES was killed and while questioning these men, they continued to contradict their own stories as to the times and sequence of the events on the night of the shooting.

Informant stated that CAROLYN NORRIS JAMES took him into the bedroom and swore to the informant

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that every penny of the money in the New Orleans swindle of the doctors had been returned by JAMES.

Informant advised that after looking over the situation and talking to JAMES' wife, he feels that the best "guess estimate" is that a man named BLACKWELL and JAMES were having bad feelings over who was going to operate the gambling which was beginning to open up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Source advised that he is of the opinion BLACKWELL is a good suspect.

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Informant advised that he is of the opinion that the bartenders at the club where JAMES was killed have much more information regarding the killing than they have provided so far.

The BLACKWELL mentioned above is JAMES RUFÉ BLACKWELL, a hoodlum who has been on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for a number of years. On June 15, 1968, there was a shooting at the JAMES residence but there were no injuries. BLACKWELL was thought to be involved in that shooting.

The Atlanta Office furnished the following information on January 20, 1970, in Jackson case captioned "DONALD LESTER JAMES, aka; AR":

On the evening of January 12, 1970, PCI [redacted] [redacted] advised SA DONALD P. BURGESS that JIMMIE JAMES had been killed early that morning in Biloxi, Mississippi. Informant advised that JAMES had been shot as he emerged from a nightclub.

Informant advised that it would be difficult to speculate as to who might have shot JAMES because he had a great number of enemies. Informant stated,

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