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NAB PAIR IN \$47,000 SWINDLE FROM WIDOW
VICTOR EMANUEL PEREIRA

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

66559

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO

EP FILE NO. 87-1512

REPORT MADE AT EL PASO, TEXAS	DATE WHEN MADE 8/15/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/1, 2, 4-11/51	REPORT MADE BY HUGH J. PEASLES SAs, JB
TITLE VICTOR EDUARDO PEREIRA, wa. Victor Perry - FUGITIVE; EUGENE R. BRADING, wa. James Bradley Lee - FUGITIVE; NORMAN SLOAN, wa. Z. J. Wilson; UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa. "SLOAN"; Mrs. GERTRUDE J. JOYCE - VICTIM		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY; CONSPIRACY; MAIL FRAUD	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subjects PEREIRA, age 45, and BRADING, using name JAMES BRADLEY LEE, age 35, first met victim GERTRUDE J. JOYCE, wealthy Roswell, N. M., widow, age 55, and her sister, KATHRYN JOYNER, age 38, as these women were checking into fashionable Del Norte Hotel, El Paso, Texas, 4-19-51. PEREIRA and LEE, respectively posing as wealthy sportsman and big-time oil lease operator, and driving 1950 Cadillac, pursued acquaintance avidly. When women returned to Roswell three days later, invited PEREIRA and LEE as house guests. Whirlwind courtships resulted in marriage of PEREIRA and JOYCE in Kansas City, Mo., 5-25-51 and in engagement of JOYNER and LEE. PEREIRA posed as having just been divorced in Denver, Colo., and having \$48,000.00 coming in a short time from property settlement. On this basis LEE and PEREIRA subsequently swindled JOYCE out of \$48,243.33. \$5,000.00 given to LEE on 4-25-51 to purchase fictitious oil lease for PEREIRA pending PEREIRA's receipt of above money. This \$5,000.00 believed transported interstate from Roswell, N. M., to Lubbock, Texas, where LEE cashed cashier's check. JOYCE gave PEREIRA \$6956.55 in Kansas City, Mo., on 5-28-51 for purchase of 1951 two-tone convertible Cadillac which PEREIRA still had when he disappeared on 6-21-51. JOYCE gave PEREIRA check for \$35,286.78 in Roswell, N. M., on 6-14-51 to purchase fictitious option on Washington Hotel, Greenville, Texas. PEREIRA transported this check interstate from Roswell to El Paso, Texas, where it was deposited for collection with State National Bank El Paso. Check was cleared on 6-19-51 and cash in large bills taken by PEREIRA, who has not been seen since. Information received from Miami, Oklahoma City and Bureau indicates LEE and PEREIRA members of widespread gang of confidence men operating over entire U. S., which gang includes PAUL AUGUSTUS KING, FBI #2594295, JOE P. DOWLING, FBI #477053, and SIDNEY (DOC) SOLOWAY, FBI #76762. Facts in this case were presented to AUSA ROBERT WILLIAMS on July 30, 1951, and complaint

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *D.K. Brown* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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authorized and warrants issued charging the subjects, FERREIRA and LEE, with violation Section 371, Section 2384 and Section 1341, Title 18, U.S. Code. Fugitive Form Letters submitted. Victim interviewed El Paso 8-1-51. 1951 Cadillac purchased by FERREIRA recovered Columbus, Ohio, 8-11-51. Subjects LEE and FERREIRA apprehended New York 8-11-51. Arraigned same date before U.S. Commissioner ISAAC PLATT, Southern District of New York, and remanded to Federal House of Detention in lieu \$50,000.00 bond. Hearing set 8-20-51. USA El Paso recommends \$10,000.00 bond returnable instantly at El Paso. Certified papers forwarded New York. Associates KING and SLOVAK presently in Denver, Colo.

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DETAILS:

At El Paso, Texas

It is noted that this report was typed prior to the apprehension of subjects BRADINO and FERREIRA, and BRADINO is referred to in the body of this report as LEE, the name under which he operated in this swindle.

This investigation is based upon information received from Mr. O. L. MALONE, member of the law firm of Cunningham and Malone, Bassett Tower, El Paso, Texas, on June 22, 1951. On that date Mr. MALONE telephonically contacted ASAC F. T. MC INTYRE and furnished information concerning the swindling of Mrs. GERTRUDE J. JOYCE of Roswell, New Mexico, by subjects FERREIRA and LEE as will be set forth below.

The facts in this case were presented on that day to Assistant United States Attorney HOWEY WILLIAMS, El Paso, Texas. Prosecution was declined at that time by Mr. WILLIAMS on the grounds that the swindling of Mrs. JOYCE as related by Mr. MALONE on that date did not constitute a violation of a federal statute.

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On July 30, 1951, Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAMS contacted the El Paso Office and advised that he had received additional information from Mr. MALONE which in his opinion brought the activities of PEREIRA and LEE and their unknown associates within the purview of the federal statutes.

On that date Mr. O. L. MALONE was reinterviewed by the writer, and the following is the information furnished by Mr. MALONE concerning this matter:

MALONE stated that Mrs. GERTRUDE J. JOYCE, age 55, wealthy Roswell, New Mexico, widow, residing at 401 West 11th Street, Roswell, New Mexico, had contacted him on June 21, 1951, and related the following information:

Mrs. JOYCE stated that on April 19, 1951, she and her sister, Miss KATHRYN JOYNER, age 30, who resides with her in Roswell, New Mexico, had come to El Paso, Texas, to shop and receive medical treatment. Mrs. JOYCE and her sister drove to El Paso in Mrs. JOYCE's 1949 Chrysler automobile and arrived in front of the Del Norte Hotel, El Paso, at approximately 5:30 PM on that date. Mrs. JOYCE advised that she had been drinking a little bit on the road from Roswell to El Paso and that her sister, KATHRYN JOYNER, had driven the automobile.

As the doorman at the Del Norte was assisting Mrs. JOYCE and Miss JOYNER from their automobile, a tall, nice-looking, well-dressed man about 35 years of age with a "hail fellow well met" attitude had come from the Del Norte to the sidewalk where the women were alighting and greeted the women boisterously, asking them how they were and how their trip from New Mexico had been. Mrs. JOYCE stated that she had never seen this man before and presumed that he asked about New Mexico from the fact that their car bore New Mexico license. This man, later identified as JAMES BRADLEY LEE, was extremely agreeable and persisted in talking to Mrs. JOYCE, who stated that she was probably more sociable than she would have been had she not been drinking, and succeeded in striking up acquaintance with Mrs. JOYCE.

Mrs. JOYCE stated that LEE's manner was so familiar that she at first thought he was one of the hotel greeters and asked him if he were connected with the hotel. LEE stated that he was not and pulled some kind of card from his wallet and waved it in front of Mrs. JOYCE, stating that "I'm just an old Texas boy". Mrs. JOYCE introduced LEE to her sister, Miss JOYNER, and LEE assisted the women in checking into the hotel on that occasion.

Immediately after LEE and the women had entered the lobby, PEREIRA, who had been sitting in the lobby, came up and joined the three of them and was introduced to the women. Mrs. JOYCE stated that both PEREIRA and LEE were extremely well dressed, had pleasant, open faces, and appeared to be men of considerable means. The women related

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themselves to be taken to dinner that same night by LEE and FERREIRA. They remained in El Paso for three days and were escorted everywhere they went by LEE and FERREIRA, at which time LEE was driving a 1950 Cadillac Special. LEE and FERREIRA made themselves so acceptable to Mrs. JOYCE and her sister that upon their return to Roswell three days later, the women invited LEE and FERREIRA to return to Roswell with them as their house guests. Miss JURNER rode in the 1950 Cadillac with LEE and FERREIRA rode with Mrs. JOYCE to Roswell in Mrs. JOYCE's 1949 Chrysler.

Mr. MALONE stated that Mrs. JOYCE was 55 years of age and had been married but had been a widow for the last ten years and had no children. He stated that she was obviously a woman of means and culture and described her as a "sitting duck for a bunch of swindlers." MALONE stated that Mrs. JOYCE had told him that she had never met nor heard of LEE and FERREIRA before seeing them at the Del Norte on April 19, 1961. MALONE expressed the opinion that the meeting between the women and LEE and FERREIRA was not prearranged but that LEE and FERREIRA had simply come to El Paso and checked into a fashionable hotel for the purpose of meeting any available wealthy women for the purpose of swindling.

MALONE stated that he had checked the records of the Del Norte Hotel and found that LEE and FERREIRA had registered in at the Del Norte on April 19, 1961, also. At the time of registration FERREIRA gave the address of 4444 York Street, Denver, Colorado. Mrs. JOYCE advised MALONE that FERREIRA and LEE continued to be her house guests for the next two or three weeks. They "puttin'" themselves in being nice to Mrs. JOYCE and Miss JURNER. FERREIRA's manner was impeccable, his dress was the finest, and Mrs. JOYCE stated that she found herself falling in love with FERREIRA.

Shortly after LEE and FERREIRA arrived in Roswell as the guests of Mrs. JOYCE, FERREIRA told Mrs. JOYCE that he and LEE had been staying at the Westward Ho Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona, where they had been taking part in a big golf tournament. He told Mrs. JOYCE that he was in the process of obtaining a divorce in Denver, Colorado, and that the property settlement would be made in the very near future, at which time he, FERREIRA, would receive \$48,000.00.

A few days after LEE and FERREIRA had arrived in Roswell at the home of Mrs. JOYCE, FERREIRA received a telegram from Denver, Colorado, addressed to FERREIRA at Mrs. JOYCE's home, stating, as near as Mrs. JOYCE could remember, "You received \$48,000 net division of property and your divorce final May 28."

LEE in the meantime had been making trips out from Roswell from day to day, stating that he had a number of oil leases in New Mexico and

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West Texas and that it was necessary for him to make these trips in order to take care of his oil lease business. On April 25, 1951, LEE came back from one of his trips and told Mrs. JOYCE that he had a sure-fire lease in southwestern New Mexico that he would like very much to have FERREIRA "get in on," as it was a sure thing that FERREIRA could double his money within thirty to sixty days' time. LEE pointed out the fact, however, that FERREIRA could not get in on the deal inasmuch as FERREIRA's money was tied up in the property settlement in Denver, Colorado, and that FERREIRA would not receive his money for a few weeks and was thereby going to have to lose a chance to double his money.

LEE then suggested that in view of the fact that FERREIRA was going to get the \$48,000.00, that Mrs. JOYCE lend FERREIRA \$5,000.00 in order that he might take advantage of this opportunity. Mrs. JOYCE accordingly wrote a check for \$5,000.00 and gave the check to LEE for the purpose of purchasing the oil lease for FERREIRA.

Mr. MALONE turned over to the agent a photostatic copy of the above \$5,000.00 check. The check is drawn on the First National Bank of Roswell, Roswell, New Mexico, check No. 518, dated April 26, 1951, in the amount of \$5,000.00. The check is payable to JAMES B. LEE and is signed GERTRUDE J. JOYCE. On April 28, 1951, LEE cashed the above check at the First National Bank of Roswell and the endorsement shows "JAMES B. LEE, 302 Southland Life Building, Dallas, Texas." The photostatic copy of this check is being maintained in the files of the El Paso Field Division.

Mr. MALONE exhibited to and turned over to the writer a cashier's check in the amount of \$4,000.00, dated April 26, 1951, #9751, issued by the First National Bank of Roswell, Roswell, New Mexico, drawn on the Republic National Bank of Dallas, Dallas, Texas. MALONE was furnished a photostatic copy of this check by Mrs. JOYCE, who stated that when she later checked at the First National Bank of Roswell, she was informed that LEE had cashed the \$5,000.00 check given him by her on April 26, 1951, had taken \$4,000.00 in the sum of the above cashier's check and had taken \$1,000.00 in cash. An examination of this check reflects a stamp on the front of the First National Bank, Lubbock, Texas. The reverse side of the check reflects that it was cashed at the above bank on April 28, 1951, and cleared through the Dallas, Texas, Clearing House on April 30, 1951.

On the night of April 26, 1951, the same day that LEE drew the \$5,000.00 from the First National Bank of Roswell, he told KATHRYN JOINER that he had to go to Lubbock, Texas, to meet "SIDNEY."

Parentetically, it should be noted that "SIDNEY" may be identical with SIDNEY "DOC" SOLOWAY, FBI #76762, known associate of FERREIRA.

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Mrs. JOYCE related that on April 29, 1951, she and FERREIRA came back to El Paso in the 1950 Cadillac which LEE and FERREIRA had, inasmuch as she had business in El Paso at that time. JOYCE and FERREIRA again stayed at the Del Norte Hotel, the hotel record reflecting that they checked in on April 29, 1951, and checked out on May 2, 1951. Mrs. JOYCE stated that on April 30, 1951, the day after she and FERREIRA arrived in El Paso, that LEE flew into El Paso, stating that he had to get FERREIRA to sign the oil lease for which she had given him the money. Mrs. JOYCE stated that she now knows that LEE came to El Paso to divide the "loot" of \$5,000.00 with FERREIRA.

Mrs. JOYCE stated that it was her opinion that it was on this trip that FERREIRA opened an account at the State National Bank of El Paso. A check of the records of the State National Bank of El Paso by Mr. MALONE confirmed this opinion, the bank record reflecting that VICTOR FERREIRA, giving the address of 401 11th Street, Roswell, New Mexico, had opened an account with that bank on April 30, 1951, with a deposit of \$1,400.00.

After LEE, FERREIRA, and Mrs. JOYCE returned to Roswell on May 2, 1951, LEE and FERREIRA continued to be the house guests of Mrs. JOYCE. On about May 10, 1951, as near as Mrs. JOYCE could remember, she and FERREIRA, with whom she had fallen completely in love by this time, started on a "pre-honeymoon honeymoon."

Prior to the beginning of this trip, FERREIRA had told Mrs. JOYCE that though it embarrassed him considerably to admit it, that inasmuch as his property settlement had not come through, he was a little short on cash and asked her for an advance against his property settlement.

In order not to embarrass FERREIRA, Mrs. JOYCE got a neighbor, Mr. J. W. COX, to go down to the First National Bank in Roswell and cash a \$1,000 check for her; the \$1,000.00 she then gave to FERREIRA. Mr. MALONE turned over to the writer the original of check #564, drawn on the First National Bank of Roswell, Roswell, New Mexico, payable to J. W. COX in the amount of \$1,000.00, dated May 11, 1951, and signed by GERTRUDE J. JOYCE. This check is endorsed on the back by J. W. COX. The original of this check is being maintained in the files of the El Paso Field Office.

On the above mentioned "pre-honeymoon honeymoon," they were traveling by airplane and Mrs. JOYCE furnished her attorney, Mr. MALONE, with a letter which she had written to her sister, KATHRYN JOYNER, at Roswell, which she had mailed from the Kemp Hotel, Wichita Falls,

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Texas, on May 14, 1951. Mr. WALONS furnished this letter to the writer inasmuch as it contained some original handwriting of LEE. This letter is as follows:

"Hi little gal - thinking of you - having loads of fun but missing you. Have terrific hangover.

/s/ "Sis"

On the bottom of this letter, LEE, who had met JOYCE and FERREIRA in Wichita Falls, Texas, added:

"This is your true love speaking - Hope your Mom received the Poes C. K. and that my little orange is doing C. K. - We'll be getting home having the time of their lives - We will have ours' later--drop me a line c/o the Texas Hotel, Ft Worth Texas Miss you and will see you later.

love. Jim. ~~WALONS~~

This original letter is being maintained in the files of the El Paso Field Division.

From Wichita Falls, Texas, FERREIRA and JOYCE flew to Dallas, Texas, and then to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where they spent a few days at the Arlington Hotel.

Mrs. JOYCE stated that since meeting LEE and FERREIRA, they had asked her how she liked a Cadillac automobile and had pointed out the desirability of owning a Cadillac. Mrs. JOYCE stated that she had learned to like a Cadillac very much and she and FERREIRA decided to get one. While she and FERREIRA were staying at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, FERREIRA received a telephone call from someone in Kansas City, Missouri, the identity of whom Mrs. JOYCE does not know, stating that FERREIRA could get a Cadillac in Kansas City. They immediately flew to Kansas City, arriving there on May 21, 1951, where they checked in at the Muehlebach Hotel. After FERREIRA and JOYCE had been in Kansas City for a day or so, FERREIRA told her that she was "too nice a girl" to be running around all over the country with him and not married to him. Consequently, they decided to get married. Mr. WALONS exhibited to the writer a photostatic copy of an application for license to marry issued to JOYCE and FERREIRA, dated May 24, 1951, furnished to him by the Marriage License Bureau in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. JOYCE stated that after she and FERREIRA decided to get married, they notified LEE and her sister in Roswell and that LEE and KATHERYN JOYNER flew to Kansas City and were present at the time that JOYCE and FERREIRA were married in the Muehlebach Hotel on May 25, 1951.

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While JOYCE and PEREIRA were in the Meuhlebach, PEREIRA contacted MORRIS STUENA, a used car dealer in Kansas City, Missouri, concerning the Cadillac which he and JOYCE were going to purchase. Mrs. JOYCE contacted her brokers, Fewel and Company, Los Angeles, California, in order to have money sent to her at Kansas City for the purpose of paying for the Cadillac. Mr. MALONE turned over to the writer a photostatic copy of a check #G-5822, dated May 25, 1951, drawn on the Citizens National Bank, Los Angeles, California, by Fewel and Company, payable to GERTRUDE J. JOYCE, care Hotel Meuhlebach, 12th and Baltimore Streets, Kansas City, Missouri, in the amount of \$6,956.55.

An examination of the reverse side of this check reflects that it is endorsed by GERTRUDE J. JOYCE, MORRIS STUENA, R. L. JETT, and VICTOR PEREIRA, in that order. The check was cashed at the Baltimore Bank, Kansas City, Missouri, on May 28, 1951. The above photostatic copy of check #G-5822 is being maintained in the files of the El Paso Field Division.

PEREIRA had previously known STUENA, according to Mrs. JOYCE, but told Mrs. JOYCE that he did not want to invite STUENA to the wedding, as STUENA's wife was a drunkard and might "cause a scene."

After receiving the check from Fewel and Company, PEREIRA bought the Cadillac at a cost of \$4,750.00, the remainder of the money being kept by PEREIRA.

Mr. MALONE stated that he had subsequently ascertained that R. L. JETT was employed by STUENA in Kansas City and that STUENA's telephone number was Gladstone 3744, Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. MALONE subsequently contacted JETT concerning the Cadillac and was advised that the motor number of the Cadillac was 5 162-10296 and that it was a 1951 two-tone blue steel top club coupe. Mr. MALONE further stated that he had subsequently contacted the Motor Vehicle Registration Bureau in Topeka, Kansas, and Jefferson City, Missouri, and had been unable to find any registration in either Missouri or Kansas.

MALONE stated that Mrs. JOYCE had told him that there was a small amount of mileage on the Cadillac at the time they purchased it and that it bore a 1951 Kansas license at the time of purchase. MALONE, however, advised that he had not been able to find any record of this automobile and expressed the opinion that STUENA might be a member of the confidence gang with PEREIRA and LEE.

Shortly after the purchase of the above Cadillac by PEREIRA, he and his new wife started a leisurely ~~trip~~ ^{trip} back to ~~Aswell~~ ^{Aswell}, New Mexico. While in Kansas City, PEREIRA had told Mrs. JOYCE that he was an old time hotel operator and that he had an option to purchase the

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Washington Hotel in Greenville, Texas, and that if he could get this hotel, that the two of them would have an "insured income" the rest of their lives. FERREIRA exhibited to Mrs. JOYCE a paper purporting to be the option. Mrs. JOYCE stated, however, that she was so in love with FERREIRA by this time and had so much confidence in him that she did not examine the option but simply took his word for it. On the trip back toward Roswell, FERREIRA drove Mrs. JOYCE through Greenville and passed the Washington Hotel. He pointed out the Washington Hotel and said in effect, "There it is, honey. If we can get it, we're all set." He did not, however, stop at the Washington Hotel nor contact anybody connected with the hotel.

FERREIRA told Mrs. JOYCE that he was beginning to be a little worried about getting the hotel, however, inasmuch as his option only had a short time to run and he had not yet received the \$48,000.00 from the above mentioned property settlement in Denver. FERREIRA stated that the \$48,000.00 would be sufficient to take up the option and that it would be a shame for him to lose such a good business deal because of the slowness of the property settlement in Denver.

Mrs. JOYCE stated that they spent a few days at the Baker Hotel in Dallas on the way back from Kansas City and arrived back in Roswell in the new Cadillac about June 9 or 10, 1951.

On June 11, 1951, in the presence of Mrs. JOYCE at her home FERREIRA called E. J. WILSON, Fort Worth, Texas, telephone Fortune 2434, telling Mrs. JOYCE that E. J. WILSON was the attorney handling the option on the Greenville, Texas, hotel for him. FERREIRA told the individual whom he called WILSON that he had not yet gotten his property settlement from Denver and stated that he would have to have an extension on the option for a week, as he was sure the \$48,000.00 would be released to him within that time. Two days later, on June 13, 1951, FERREIRA got a telegram directed to Mrs. JOYCE's house from WILSON, confirming the fact that WILSON had obtained a one week's extension on the hotel option. Mrs. JOYCE stated that she personally read this telegram and knew that it came from Fort Worth.

Mr. MALONE advised the agent that Mrs. JOYCE had told him that after she had come to know that she had been swindled, that she had traced the telephone in Fort Worth, number Fortune 2434, and found that it was a telephone answering bureau located at 1414 Electric Building, Fort Worth, Texas, which Bureau was owned by CEDRIC and NORA LOU CHRISTIAN.

After JOYCE and FERREIRA returned to Roswell and FERREIRA supposedly got a one week's extension on the hotel option, he told Mrs. JOYCE that he was afraid that his property settlement would even then not be

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made in time for him to take up the option and that he would lose the deal. He persuaded Mrs. JOYCE to "lend" him \$35,000.00 with which to take up the option, stating that he would pay her back immediately upon receipt of his part of the property settlement. She agreed to do this. Mr. MALONE turned over to the writer a photostatic copy of a check #0-6216, drawn by Fewel and Company, Los Angeles, California, dated June 13, 1951, on the Citizens National Bank of Los Angeles, payable to Mrs. GERTRUDE J. JOYCE, 451 West 11th Street, Roswell, New Mexico, in the amount of \$35,286.73. The reverse side of this check reflects an endorsement by Mrs. GERTRUDE J. JOYCE and VICTOR PEREIRA.

Mrs. JOYCE advised MALONE that she gave the above check to PEREIRA in Roswell, New Mexico, on June 14, 1951, at which time she saw him put it in his wallet.

On June 15, 1951, PEREIRA and JOYCE came to El Paso again and stayed at the Del Norte Hotel. PEREIRA had told her that he wanted to deposit this money in the State National Bank of El Paso "along with the money which he already had there" and then they could carry on their business through the State National Bank. Mrs. JOYCE stated that she endorsed the check after they reached El Paso but that she did not go to the bank with him inasmuch as she trusted him so very much that she was willing for him to transact this business alone.

An examination of the reverse side of the above mentioned check, which is being maintained in the files of the El Paso Field Division, reflects that it was deposited with the State National Bank of El Paso on June 15, 1951, "for collection only."

Mr. MALONE stated that he had ascertained at the State National Bank that PEREIRA had specifically requested that this check be deposited for collection only and that it be sent to the Citizens National Bank in Los Angeles and returned airmail. Mr. MALONE stated that he had ascertained that PEREIRA talked with Mr. SIDNEY HOWARD, Assistant Cashier at the State National Bank, concerning this matter and had been assured by Mr. HOWARD that he would have a return on the check within two or three days.

The following day PEREIRA and JOYCE left El Paso and drove to Ruidoso, New Mexico, for a weekend party. While at the party, JOYCE became ill and she and PEREIRA went on to her home in Roswell. PEREIRA had expressed concern for her illness, telling her that they would have to go to Greenville, Texas, on June 20 for the purpose of exercising the option on the Washington Hotel there.

At about 5:30 A. M. on the morning of June 19, 1951, LEE and PEREIRA left the JOYCE home, LEE stating that he wanted to take PEREIRA to the vicinity of Hobbs, New Mexico, for the purpose of looking over

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an oil lease which he had there. LEE and FERREIRA promised JOYCE that they would be back by 2:30 P. M. on the afternoon of June 19, 1951, FERREIRA stating that he wanted to get a good night's sleep prior to the trip to Greenville the following date.

When LEE and FERREIRA left at 5:30 A. M. on the morning of June 19, 1951, that is the last time she ever saw either of them. JOYCE stated that when LEE and FERREIRA did not return on the night of June 19, she became worried and when they did not return all day the day of June 20, 1951, she decided that FERREIRA for some reason had decided to go on to Greenville by himself and attend to the option on the hotel and not bother her inasmuch as she had been ill.

Later on the day of June 20, however, she became very disturbed and called the Washington Hotel in Greenville, Texas. She was informed by the manager of the Washington Hotel that he had had the hotel leased for a number of years and, in fact, had just signed a new long term lease on the hotel and knew nothing whatever about any option on the hotel. The manager of this hotel further advised Mrs. JOYCE that VICTOR FERREIRA and JAMES B. LEE were both entirely unknown to him.

Mrs. JOYCE at that time became suspicious that she had been swindled and immediately called the State National Bank in El Paso. Here she ascertained that FERREIRA had checked out the \$35,000.00 which they had deposited for collection on June 15, 1951. It was at that time that she called the law firm of Cunningham and Malone for assistance.

Mrs. JOYCE stated that on June 21, 1951, she received a local call from some telephone in Roswell, and upon answering it, a man's voice asked in muffled tones, "Are you GERTRUDE JOYCE?" She answered, "Yes." The voice then stated, "Are you enjoying living?" Mrs. JOYCE stated that inasmuch as she had been a widow, there were several men in Roswell whom she knew well and were always "kidding" her, and she asked the man, "Is this COX?" The man said, "No." She then asked, "Is this BOB?" The man said, "No," and then said, "How are you? I hope you enjoy living the next week or two." With that, the man hung up the telephone.

On June 21, 1951, also Mrs. JOYCE received a letter postmarked El Paso, Texas, June 20, 1951. Mr. MALONE furnished the writer the original of the above letter, which is as follows:

"EL PASO
June 20, 1951

"Dearest Gertrude:

This letter is very difficult to write for I have done a very foolish thing. Jim and I had too much to drink and

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"ended up here. We somehow got to gambling and I completely lost my head and lost all my money. I don't have the courage to face you under these circumstances so Jim and I are going out to raise some money. Soon as I am able to do this, I will see you.

"Try not to think too harshly of me and I will work all this mess out. /s/ VICTOR"

The original of this letter is being maintained in the files of the El Paso Field Office.

Mrs. JOYCE remembered that LEE had told them that he was from Richland, Texas, and stated that LEE had a briefcase upon which was stamped "JAMES B. LEE, Richland, Texas."

Mr. MALONE stated that she also told MALONE that at the time LEE and PEREIRA left her home, that they had left quite a few articles of clothing behind. She told Mr. MALONE that she remembered that while LEE was away from her home during the pertinent period on one of his periodic trips, that he had told her sister, Miss JOHNER, to write him in Fort Worth, Texas, in care of the Texas Hotel, which she had done.

Mrs. JOYCE described PEREIRA as follows:

Name	VICTOR EMANUEL PEREIRA
Age	About 45
Place of birth	Northern California
Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	6' 1 1/2"
Weight	215 lbs.
Hair	Dark brown, receding
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Olive
Build	Well, medium
Features	Pleasant; wears black mustache
Dress	Wears fine clothes
Other	Said to be Captain in U. S. Navy during World War II; nice voice; gold wristwatch.

Mrs. JOYCE described LEE as follows:

Name	JAMES BRADLEY LEE
Age	35 to 40
Height	6' 1 1/2"

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Weight	185
Sex	Male
Race	White
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Blue
Characteristics	Pleasant face, "Hail fellow well met"
Dress	Dresses well; good manners; poses as oil lease operator.

She stated that the 1950 black Special Cadillac being driven by LEE bore a Texas license from Dallas County, which license number she was unable to remember.

Prior to the beginning of the Bureau's investigation in this matter, Mr. WALTON contacted the State National Bank of El Paso and found three monthly account sheets relative to the account of VICTOR FERREIRA, which account sheets were being held by the State National Bank inasmuch as they were marked "hold." These account sheets reflect that FERREIRA opened an account at the State National Bank of El Paso on April 30, 1951, with a deposit of \$1400.00, as set forth above. The statements which show FERREIRA's account through July 18, 1951, reflect no further deposits and that FERREIRA still has a balance in this bank of \$23.08. These account sheets contain the following canceled checks, all signed VICTOR FERREIRA and drawn on the State National Bank of El Paso:

- April 30, 1951 - Check in amount of \$23.00 payable to Denver Lodge #17, endorsed by JAMES J. FITT, Secretary, B.P.O.E. Lodge #17, Denver, Colorado.
- May 1, 1951 - Check in the amount of \$67.50, payable to the Union Clothing Company, El Paso, Texas, endorsed by the Union Clothing Company.
- May 2, 1951 - Check in the amount of \$51.00, payable to the American Furniture Company and endorsed and stamped for deposit by the American Furniture Company of El Paso, Texas.
- May 2, 1951 - Check payable to cash in the amount of \$150.00.
- May 9, 1951 - Check in the amount of \$21.00, payable to the American Furniture Company, endorsed for deposit by the American Furniture Company.
- May 9, 1951 - Check in the amount of \$1,00.00 payable to cash.
- May 25, 1951 - Check in the amount of \$1,00.00, payable to LOUIS J. MATUCH and endorsed by LOUIS J. MATUCH and cashed

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