

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3-5-76

BETTY H. NEELY, Personnel Records, Georgia National Guard, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

All of the records concerning individuals who had been in the National Guard during the 1950's have been reduced to microfilm. This microfilm data would only show background information such as date of birth, place of birth, employment, enlistment date, discharge date, military occupations and day of tour duty. The information contained on the microfilm would be very sketchy and would not contain any medical history.

After review of the records, the following information was obtained from the National Guard:

Records showed that ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, born on [redacted] at Copperhill, Tennessee, enlisted on January 9, 1951, in a medical company attached with the 122nd Infantry. This unit was then located in Atlanta, Georgia. GODFREY was discharged on January 8, 1954 after he completed his reserve obligation for three years. The reason for discharge was expiration of term of service. GODFREY was discharged honorably as a corporal. GODFREY served three tours of 15 days encampment. The days of these tours of duty are July 8-28, 1951, July 27 to August 10, 1952, and July 5-19, 1953. His occupation during service was a light truck operator. The addresses GODFREY listed as his residence were 73 Cleveland Street, and 74 Atlanta Avenue.

Interviewed on 2-24-76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386-2446  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON:dd <sup>91W</sup> Date dictated 3-3-76

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

FBI

Date: 3/8/76

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

17

Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) *706/P/ULN*  
 SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) *755P/rjt*  
 SAC, EL PASO (44-920) *1052P/HXG*  
 FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, MARCH 5, 1976.

ON MARCH 8, 1976, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. CONTACTED AND ADVISED HE WAS UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT PETE DAVIS PRESENT DURING INITIAL MEETING AT BAR. HE ADVISED INCIDENT HAPPENED QUITE A WHILE AGO AND UNABLE TO REMEMBER OR BE POSITIVE IF DAVIS PRESENT, HOWEVER, THINKS DAVIS WAS PRESENT AND ALSO THINKS THAT DAVIS OWNED BAR DURING MEETING. POWELL FURTHER ADVISED THAT HIS BROTHER, LEON, TOLD HIM ABOUT INITIAL CONTACT BETWEEN LEON POWELL AND RAY GODFREY IN REFERENCE TO ACTUAL CONTACT ABOUT ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE LEARNED OF THIS INITIAL CONTACT FROM LEON SHORTLY AFTER THE TIME THAT RALPH CAME AND APPROACHED BOTH HE AND LEON.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ALL INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE ATLANTA DIVISION, ATLANTA NOT SENDING DAILY NITELS. ATLANTA WILL SUBMIT REPORT.

44-2386-2447

END.

1-Atlanta TJW:hlf (1)

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent *see at*

M

Per

NR017 AT PLAIN

7:55 PM NITEL 3-8-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SAC, EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

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IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ALL INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE ATLANTA DIVISION, ATLANTA NOT SENDING DAILY NITELS. ATLANTA WILL SUBMIT REPORT.

END.

RJH

ME AKC FOR TWO

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED ☒

SERIALIZED ☒

INDEXED ☒

FILED ☒

*Wilson Tjw*  
*44-2386-2447*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

DIANE BRADY, 1140 Moreland Drive, SE, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She is the owner and operator of The Office Bar located at Moreland and Flat Shoals Road, Atlanta, Georgia. She has never employed any band at her place of business. Every once in a while RAY GODFREY does come into the bar and does play his guitar, however, she could not recall any other individuals ever playing with him. At that she telephonically contacted her day bartender and asked him if GODFREY had ever played at the bar during the day with anyone else. The day bartender advised he had never seen RAY GODFREY play at the bar with any other individuals. BRADY was unable to pick out the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown this photograph, she advised she had never seen this individual. She is positive that the person whose likeness is represented by the artist's conception is not the person whom she knows as "DUKE".

After PETE DAVIS sold the bar to "BUCK" BAILEY, she went to work for the Driftwood Lounge which is located one block south of Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue. She never worked at Bill Bailey's and was never employed by LEWIS CLARK.

It was her understanding that after PETE DAVIS sold the bar he went to work in Saudi Arabia for one year. She is unable to supply any of the names or addresses of any of the old-time customers of Pete's Bar. Every once in a while some of them drop in at her bar, but not on a regular basis.

She again stated that she does not know any friends of RAY GODFREY named RALPH. She does not know anyone named RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER. She also does not know anyone named LEE GODFREY.

Interviewed on 2/19/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 *2448*  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy *WJ* Date dictated 2/24/76

AT 44-2386

She stated that she thought she knew RAY GODFREY fairly well and that she finds it hard to believe that RAY GODFREY could be in any sort of trouble. She also knows the POWELL brothers and considers them to be harmless hard drinkers. She stated all of these individuals are very friendly and could not do anything wrong. RAY GODFREY is a very friendly, amiable individual and has no violent tendencies. Even though there has been periodic fights at both Pete's Bar and The Office Bar, she has never seen RAY GODFREY enter into any of these problems.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

CLINTON STANFORD, assistant to the Commissioner Environment and Street Service, City of Atlanta, advised that a review of his records shows that ARNOLD RAY GODFREY did not take leave during October and November, 1967. This would show that GODFREY was on duty every day during those two months. However, for the two-week pay period beginning April 3, 1968, through April 17, 1968, GODFREY was charged with three vacation days. For the two-week pay period beginning April 17, 1968 through May 1, 1968, GODFREY was charged with two vacation days. The records do not show the exact date of these vacation days. The records STANFORD checked are the combination of departmental records and merely shows totals. The departmental records which would show the background are purged every three years thus the records have been destroyed for 1967 and 1968.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 2449  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy <sup>PAW</sup> Date dictated 2/24/76

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3/11/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (44-920) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re AT nitel to Bureau, 3/9/76.

In view of the fact that CLAUDE POWELL, JR. has returned to Atlanta, and all investigation has been completed by the El Paso Division, this matter is being RUC'd.

2 - Bureau  
② - Atlanta (44-2386)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
1 - El Paso  
FVN:pmg  
(7)

44-2386 2450  
Wilson

3/11/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (44-920) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

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2 - Bureau  
2 - Atlanta (44-2386)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
1 - El Paso  
FWN:pmg  
(7)

44-2386-2450

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 15 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	
B	

F B I

Transmit in \_\_\_\_\_ Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code) (Precedence)

✓ To: SAC, Atlanta (44-2386)  
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

3/16/76  
(Date)

MURKIN

ReButelcal 3/12/76.

(This line for LEFT MARGIN.)

For your information, as you were advised in reButelcal, Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy, Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, advised that on 3/11/76, Arnold Ray Godfrey's Attorney, Jack V. Dorsey, informed Murphy that Godfrey feels he told the FBI everything, is innocent, and will not consent to any further interview and will not consent to a polygraph examination. Mr. Murphy told Godfrey's attorney that he would review this matter to determine whether it should be presented to a Federal Grand Jury (FGJ) and whether Godfrey will be called before the FGJ.

Mr. Murphy stated he would further review this matter to determine if there is any other logical investigation to be conducted and would advise if a decision is made to present this matter to an FGJ.

You will be advised of any pertinent developments including any decision by the CRD relative to an FGJ.

(Do not type below this line.)

44-2386-451

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
MAR 18 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	
Wilson	PAW

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Atlanta (44-2386)  
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

3/16/76

MURKIN

ReButelcal 3/12/76.

For your information, as you were advised in reButelcal, Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy, Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, advised that on 3/11/76, Arnold Ray Godfrey's Attorney, Jack V. Dorsey, informed Murphy that Godfrey feels he told the FBI everything, is innocent, and will not consent to any further interview and will not consent to a polygraph examination. Mr. Murphy told Godfrey's attorney that he would review this matter to determine whether it should be presented to a Federal Grand Jury (FGJ) and whether Godfrey will be called before the FGJ.

Mr. Murphy stated he would further review this matter to determine if there is any other logical investigation to be conducted and would advise if a decision is made to present this matter to an FGJ.

You will be advised of any pertinent developments including any decision by the CRD relative to an FGJ.

44-2386-2451

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
MAR 18 1976	
FBI — ATLANTA	

AT 44-2386  
HJP:pjg  
1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA HAROLD J. POE at Blue Ridge, Georgia:

On February 12, 1976, files of the Fannin County Sheriff's Department revealed LEE CARROLL GODFREY, also known as LEE RAY GODFREY, had been arrested on December 23, 1974, on the charge of theft by receiving stolen property. He was released on bond on December 27, 1974, and failed to appear for arraignment after which a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. The warrant is still outstanding. He gave his date of birth as [redacted] Social Security Number [redacted]. A photograph of GODFREY was obtained from the file.

On February 18, 1976, Mrs. R.L. (EDNA) EASLEY, Highway Number 5, sister of LEE CARROLL GODFREY, and MARIE GODFREY, mother of EDNA and LEE, advised they had no knowledge of LEE's whereabouts. They had no knowledge of LEON or CLAUDE POWELL, anyone named DUKE or any relationship or interest either LEE or RAY GODFREY in MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or JAMES EARL RAY. They knew no one named RALPH who associated with either LEE or RAY.

On February 18, 1976, Mrs. IRA (DENA) SMITH, Epworth Community, advised she is a sister to LEE CARROLL GODFREY and reiterated the information as furnished by her mother and sister.

On February 18, 1976, JAMES T. GODFREY, brother of LEE and RAY GODFREY, residing Sugar Creek Road, advised he had no idea of where LEE was residing at the present time. He did not know anyone named LEON or CLAUDE POWELL, anyone named DUKE or any interest LEE or RAY GODFREY had with MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or JAMES EARL RAY. JAMES said a man named RALPH (SETZER) (Phonetic) used to play a guitar with LEE and RAY at a bar in Atlanta. RALPH was not further described.

44-2386-2452

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

Poe

AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA THOMAS J. WILSON, at Atlanta, Georgia:

On February 6, 1976, CLINTON STANFORD, Administrative Assistant, Environment and Street Services, City of Atlanta, advised all records concerning the exact days worked by any city employees are currently stored in a vault at City Hall. He stated he would attempt to locate any records to see if ARNOLD RAY GODFREY was working for the city during the months of October, November, and December, 1967, and March and April, 1968.

44-2386-2453

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
MAR 26 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

*Wilson* PW

AT 44-2386

AT COPPERHILL, TENNESSEE:

LOIS WALDON GODFREY and ROBERT K. GODFREY, Route One, Grassy Creek Road, Copperhill, Tennessee, were contacted on February 7, 1976, and advised most of the GODFREY family moved to the Atlanta, Georgia area in the late 1940s. She and her husband are the only members of the family currently residing in Tennessee.

MARY GODFREY, ARNOLD RAY GODFREY's mother, resides with her daughter, SHIRLEY BULLOCH, address unknown, however, BULLOCH is employed directing traffic at school crossings in the Marietta, Georgia area. ARNOLD's sister, Mrs. R. L. (EDNA) ENSLEY and Mrs. IRA (DENA) SMITH, reside on Route One, Blue Ridge, Georgia. A brother, JAMES T. GODFREY, also resides at Route One, Blue Ridge, Georgia. Another brother, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, has in the past been involved in criminal activities and has used the name ARNOLD RAY GODFREY in the past.

During Christmas, 1974, LEE CARROLL GODFREY was incarcerated at the Blue Ridge County Jail, Blue Ridge, Georgia. LEE CARROLL GODFREY's whereabouts are not known, however, it is rumored that he is residing in Ellijay, Georgia.

Another brother, RAY S. GODFREY, died in November, 1975. Neither LOIS nor ROBERT GODFREY are acquainted with a RALPH (LNU) and stated ARNOLD RAY GODFREY has not resided in the Copperhill, Tennessee area in 27 years and has no associates in the area.

ARNOLD RAY GODFREY married a girl named MILLIE CAMERON after moving to Atlanta. References FRANK WALTON, WALTER STYMUS and CLAUDE CRANFORD were neighbors of the GODFREY family in Copperhill, prior to the family moving to Atlanta. LOIS GODFREY advised ARNOLD RAY GODFREY has not been in any contact with these individuals since moving to Atlanta.

44-2386-2457

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1976	
FBI - Atlanta	

*W. J. P. W.*

AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA THOMAS J. WILSON at Fannin County, Georgia, on February 11,  
1976.

PAUL HIGDON, Sheriff, Fannin County, Georgia  
Sheriff's Office, advised LEE CARROLL GODFREY is a white male,  
date of birth [REDACTED] GODFREY has served time in the  
Georgia State Prison for armed robbery and murder. LEE GODFREY  
was arrested on December 23, 1973, for theft by receiving by  
Fannin County. LEE GODFREY made bond, however, failed to show  
for trial and his whereabouts now are unknown.

44-2386-2453

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 16 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

*Wilson* RW

AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted at Atlanta, Georgia, by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, on February 12, 1976:

Captain LONG, Cobb County Police Department, Marietta, Georgia, advised a review of his records of the school division, showed that Cobb County does have employed a school crossing guard named SHIRLEY BULLOCH. BULLOCH, however, has recently moved and does not show a new address. BULLOCH can be located at Wheeler High School, Marietta, Georgia, any morning between 8:00 and 9:00 AM.

44-2386-2456

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

*Wilson* *TJW*

AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted at Atlanta, Georgia, by SA THOMAS J. WILSON on the dates indicated:

Captain WORTHY, Permit Section, Atlanta Police Department (PD), advised a review of Atlanta PD Records for a beer and wine license for the business located at 1455 Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, showed the following information:

HOWARD MALCOLM CABE, SR., 363 El Mira Place, held the liquor license from December, 1962, through September, 1964;

WILLIAM POPE DAVIS held the license from October, 1964, through November, 1965;

C. H. HARRISON held the license from November, 1965, through September, 1966;

ROY T. BAILEY held the license from September, 1966, through January, 1968;

LEWIS W. CLARK held the license from January, 1968, through December, 1974;

BARBARA and DEWEY GILBERT held the license from December, 1974, through September, 1975;

WILLIAM JORDAN MESIMER held the license from September, 1975, through the present time.

The records show in February and October, 1967, the business located at 1455 Moreland Avenue, was named "Bill Bailey's". In February and October, 1967, the Permit Section sent notices of violations to the lounge known as Bill Bailey's, at 1455 Moreland Avenue. Captain WORTHY advised PETE DAVIS, also known as WILLIAM POPE DAVIS, could have run and managed the bar in 1967 and 1968. The records of the Permit Section only reflect the official holder of the beer and wine license. Sometimes, some of the licenses are held by one person and another person is the actual manager of the lounge.

On February 10, 1976, the FBI Identification Division, Washington, D. C., provided the attached Identification Record for LEE CARROLL GODFREY, date of birth [redacted] place of birth Polk County, Georgia.

44-2386-2457

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 10 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

*Wilson* *TJW*

MASTER  
1-40 (Rev. 7-2-74)

MASTER

MASTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

FEB 10 1976

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER  
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

48 536 D

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 70"

Weight: 160

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth:  Polk Co GA.

Scars and Marks: None Listed

Address: Rt. #2 Smyrna, GA.

Occupation: Painter

Social Security Number: None Listed

Since neither fingerprints nor an  
identifying number which is indexed  
in our files accompanied your request,  
FBI cannot guarantee in any manner  
that this material concerns the  
individual in whom you are interested.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

PD Atlanta Ga	Lee Carol Godfrey #174514	6-13-56	O.A.I & speeding	\$150 & 12 mo on chg of speeding
PD Jacksonville Fla	Lee Dudley Godfrey #118-219 B	12-13-58	vag/ & inv.	12-16-58 dism on chg of vag
PD Atlanta Ga	Lee Carroll Godfrey #174514	3-10-59	DC worthless chks	12 mo prob on chg of Fed Chks
PD Atlanta Ga	Lee Carol Godfrey #174514	6-23-59	L of A	3-4 yrs conc p/sent now serving 7-9-59
St Bd of Corr Atlanta Ga	Lee Godfrey #A43582/36816	7-20-59	rape (3) armed rob (3) obt money on fictitious name fraud chk uttering fraudulent chks (5) malicious mischief	Total 10-20 yrs Re-arrested 10-18-60 on chg of Rape (3) Armed Rob (3) Obt Goods by Riot Means Fraud Chks Misd (6) L of Auto Misd (2) 9-26-65 conditional release
PD Asheville NC	Lee Carol Godfrey #3A 14 396 947	4-17-51 Atlanta Ga	inv escape from St of Ga	See Supplement

46-2286-2403

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - ATLANTA	

W. B. [Signature]

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FEB 10 1976

## IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

2

The following FBI record, NUMBER

48 576 D

is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FBI RECORDS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
FD Atlanta Ga	Lee Cody Godfrey #174514	1-4-67	and son (armed robbery larc of auto) In transit	
Diagnostic & Class Ctr Jackson Ga	Lee Godfrey #A-43562	1-11-71	Rape (3) Obt Gds Rict <del>5/11/71</del> <del>5/11/71</del> <del>Arrested</del> <del>Arrested</del> (2) <del>Arrested</del> <del>Arrested</del> <del>Arrested</del> <del>Arrested</del> <del>Arrested</del> <del>Arrested</del> speeding	10-20-yr (30) 2-7 yrs CC, 2- yrs CC, 4-20 y CC, 2-20-yr C 12 mos CC, 12 mos CC, 12 mos CC 8 mos CC
Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested				

3

48 528 D

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, BI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

MASTER  
1-6 (Rev. 1-18-60)

MASTER

MASTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER **48 936 D**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	<b>WANTED BY BUREAU: Lee Carroll Godfrey, aka., Lee Dudley Godfrey UPAC-PAGE; armed robbery Fug Index #85030 Bu file #80-23454 O.O. Atlanta inf rec 9-7-62. CAUTION: ARMED AND DANGEROUS NO LONGER WANTED: inf rec 2-5-63</b>			

Since neither fingerprints nor an  
identifying number which is indexed  
in our files accompanied your request,  
FBI cannot guarantee in any manner  
that this material concerns the  
individual in whom you are interested.

**THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI**

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint

AT 44-2386

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON on February 26, 1976, at Atlanta, Georgia.

A review of the Greater Atlanta Southern Bell Telephone Directory failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERN COOK or LAVENE COOK. A review of the Cobb County and City of Marietta Directory also failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERN COOK or LAVENE COOK.

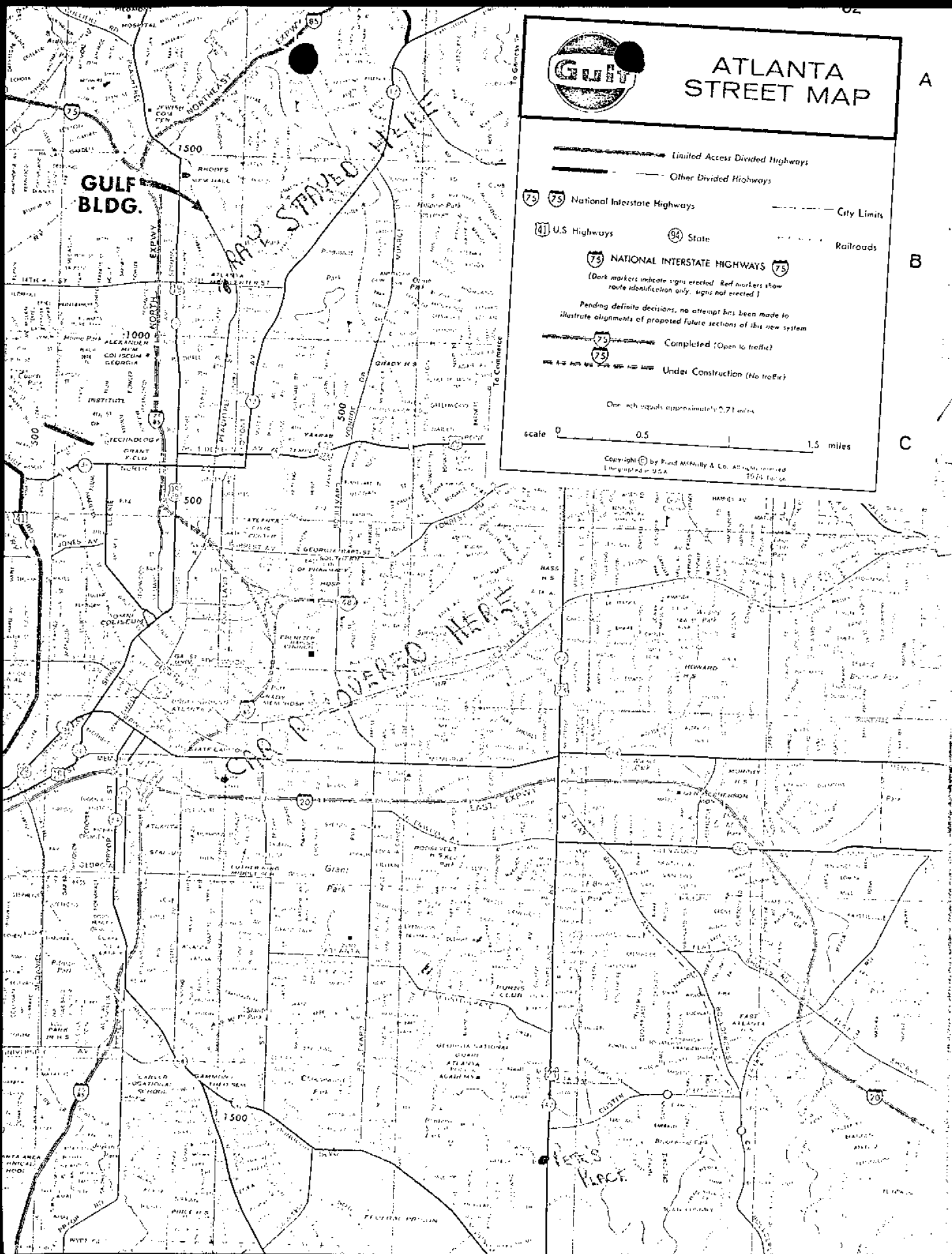
Attached hereto is a xerox copy of a portion of an Atlanta city map showing:

- (1) location of hotel RAY GODFREY stayed
- (2) where RAY GODFREY's car was recovered
- (3) location of Pete's Bar.

44-2386-2458

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
MAR 26 1976	
FBI — ATLANTA	

*[Signature]* RW



# ATLANTA STREET MAP

- Limited Access Divided Highways
- Other Divided Highways
- 75 75 National Interstate Highways
- 41 U.S. Highways
- 94 State
- City Limits
- Railroads
- 75 NATIONAL INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS 75  
(Dark markers indicate signs erected. Red markers show route identification only, signs not erected.)
- Pending definite decisions, no attempt has been made to illustrate alignments of proposed future sections of this new system
- 75 Completed (Open to traffic)
- 75 Under Construction (No traffic)

One inch equals approximately 0.71 miles

scale 0 0.5 1.5 miles

Copyright © by Ford McNelly & Co. Atlanta, Georgia  
Printed in U.S.A.

AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia, on the dates  
indicated:

CLARENCE FISHER, Owner, of Fisher Wall, 326  
Patterson Road, Scottdale, Georgia, advised he does have an  
employee named RAY COOLEY, however, COOLEY was out on a job  
at the time and he would have COOLEY call on his return.

RAY COOLEY advised he is familiar with CLAUDE  
and LEON POWELL. He was running his own business in 1967 or  
1968 and at the time he did have employed CLAUDE and LEON  
POWELL as dry wall installers. His records, however, are kept  
at home. He would attempt to review them and see if there  
would be some paperwork showing that CLAUDE and LEON POWELL  
were working for him in October or November, 1967.

On February 13, 1976, MARJORIE COOLEY, wife of  
RAY COOLEY advised she kept the records for her husband when  
he was in business for himself. She has been unable to find  
any records going back to 1967 or 1968, regarding any indi-  
viduals employed for her husband. Her husband at that time was  
self-employed and did have a couple of individuals working for  
him. She specifically remembers that she moved into her own  
house in November 1967. Her husband installed the dry wall  
in her home. The individuals actually installing the dry wall  
were CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. Therefore, she is positive that  
CLAUDE and LEON POWELL worked for her husband in late October,  
or early November, 1967.

She feels quite certain that CLAUDE and LEON  
POWELL worked for her husband from 1966 until 1969.

44-2386-9459  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
FEB 13 1976  
FBI - ATLANTA  
WILSON

AT 44-2386

TJW:dd

1

At Fannin County, Georgia, on February 23, 1976, a composite photograph of an individual known as RALPH (Last Name Unknown) was shown to TOMMY GODFREY residing on Sugar Creek Road, Fannin County, Georgia. TOMMY is a brother to both LEE CARROLL and ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. TOMMY advised that he did not know the individual depicted in the composite and furthermore did not know anyone named RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER. He mentioned the name RALPH SETZER during the prior interview only because LEE CARROLL GODFREY related to him about his contact with the FBI and their interest in a RALPH. TOMMY stated LEE told him the man's name was RALPH SETZER.

On February 23, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, Boardtown Road, Gilmer County, Georgia, was shown a composite photograph of RALPH (Last Name Unknown) and advised it was quite dissimilar to the man he recognized as RALPH SMITH, a former associate of his and his brother ARNOLD. When he last saw RALPH SMITH three and a half years ago, RALPH had a duck haircut full on the sides and flat on the top. He was also approximately 45 years old at that time. The only individual LEE CARROLL could remember who knew RALPH was a divorcee named LAVENE COOK (phonetic), who resided in Marietta, Georgia. COOK used to date RALPH and both of them frequented the lounge known as The Office.

A review of the Greater Atlanta Southern Bell Telephone Directory failed to reflect any listings for a LAVENE or a LAVERNE COOK. A review of the Cobb County and City of Marietta Directory also failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERNE or a LAVENE COOK.

44-2386-2460

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
MAR 26 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

*Widen* *TJW*

AT 44-2386

A review of the records at the Federal Records Center, Military Branch, St. Louis, Missouri, disclosed LEON POWELL had army serial service number [REDACTED] Social Security Account Number [REDACTED] date of birth [REDACTED] at Toccoa, Georgia and enlisted in the U. S. Army at Atlanta, Georgia. He served active duty from September, 1952, to December 21, 1955. He was honorably released from active duty as a private (high weapons infantry) at Fort Benning, Georgia, and transferred to U. S. Army Reserve. He was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army Reserve on December 23, 1960 by reason of expiration of service.

LEON's report of medical examination dated December 19, 1955, disclosed "multiple psychosomatic complaints". LEON did not keep his appointment and did not desire to remain in service for further treatment.

LEON was tried and convicted by summary court marshal January 23, 1953 for Absence Without Leave and sentenced to 45 days hard labor. He had a special court marshal on September 14, 1954 for breaking restriction and by a special court marshal on August 26, 1955 for Absence Without Leave. No other medical records were found for POWELL other than dental claim.

No military service record was located for CLAUDE POWELL.

44-2386-2461

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
MAR 26 1976	
FBI - ALBUQUERQUE	

*[Handwritten signature]* *[Handwritten initials]*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/27/76

In addition to information furnished by ARNOLD RAY GODFREY of 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, on interview transcribed January 14, 1976, that to the best of his recollection, he was in Nashville, Tennessee, "shacked up" on the day MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was killed. GODFREY thought he could verify this through some personal records.

Interviewed on 1/13/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386  
by SA BERNARD R. BERRY  
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/20/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/6/76

DOROTHY DAVIS, Locust Grove, Georgia, was telephonically contacted and advised she has no knowledge or possession of any records in reference to her husband's former place of business known as "Pete's Bar", on Moreland Avenue. She is sure all of these records have been destroyed.

She stated she does not know the name of any accounting firm or law firm which handled the tax or account matters of her husband's place of business. There is no one in the family who would have this information.

Interviewed on 2/5/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386-2163  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :CW Date dictated 2/5/76

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☆ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/6/76

Mrs. L. N. PENNINGTON, Director, of Personnel, City of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia, advised a review of her records for ARNOLD RAY GODFREY reflect that GODFREY applied for employment in the City in 1949, listing his address as 569 Gresham Road, Atlanta. GODFREY also listed that he was married to a woman named MILLIE. There were no other relatives listed. GODFREY listed the following references:

FRANK WALDON, Route One, Copperhill, Tennessee;

WALTER STYNUS, Route One, Copperhill, Tennessee;

CLAUDE CRANFORD, Route One, Copperhill, Tennessee.

Employment record also showed that GODFREY went through the fifth grade at the Copperhill Elementary School.

Interviewed on 2/6/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :CW Date dictated 2/6/76

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☆ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/17/76

DOROTHY DAVIS, Locust Grove, Georgia, was contacted at her residence and advised that she has searched and has been unable to locate any records regarding her husband's former place of business "Pete's Bar" in Atlanta, Georgia.

She advised her husband never told her about the operation of the bar or any incidents which happened at the bar. She has never heard her husband discuss anything about the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. She was not sure of the exact dates her husband owned the bar, but thought he sold it in 1966, however, that could have been 1965 or 1967. Her husband sold the bar and went to work for an oil company in Saudi Arabia. He worked there for about nine months and returned to the United States. She does not recall any of the names of any of the employees.

Interviewed on 2/9/76 at Locust Grove, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON and  
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/13/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/2/76

LEWIS W. CLARK, 2950 Catherine Valley Drive, Decatur, Georgia, was contacted and advised that he managed Bill Bailey's Lounge located at 1455 Moreland Avenue, from September, 1966, through 1973. He personally acted as the bartender ~~there~~ numerous times. He advised that JUNE HALL was the day bartender at Bill Bailey's and that she might be able to furnish information regarding individuals who frequented Bailey's. He could not recall any other employees who worked at the lounge on a fulltime or regular basis. DIANE BRADY was never employed at Bill Bailey's.

CLARK picked out from a spread of photographs the pictures of RAY GODFREY and CLAUDE POWELL, as being individuals who frequented the bar. He did not recognize the picture of LEON POWELL. He advised that CLAUDE POWELL was a very quiet individual and never knew him to be in any sort of trouble. GODFREY was an extremely extroverted individual and always wanted to play the guitar in the bar. GODFREY was a country and western singer who had had some records recorded by Columbia Records. GODFREY was always playing these records on the juke box.

Back in 1966 and 1967 and 1968, the mood in the bar was probably anti-Negro, however, as far as he knows, there was never any discussion about the harming of any blacks.

He was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (LNU). He advised that none of the individuals in the spread had ever been in the bar when he was there.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Decatur, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and  
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/17/76

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

JUNE HALL, Killian Road, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that in 1967 and 1968, she was employed as the day bartender at the lounge known as Bill Bailey's. She picked from a spread of photographs the photograph of CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY as individuals who frequented the lounge. HALL advised that CLAUDE was a very quiet individual when sober, however, would be very unruly when drinking.

RAY GODFREY was a very likable individual and she would be quite surprised if he were in any trouble. HALL was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artists' conception of RALPH (LNU). When specifically shown the composite of RALPH (LNU), she was positive she had never seen the individual. She advised that she would have remembered the individual if he had ever been in the bar because of his good looks.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and  
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/23/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE advised he and ROBERT McGARITY previously owned the property located at 1455 Moreland Avenue. He was sure that the bar located at that address had been in the past named both "Pete's Place", and "Bill Bailey's". Back in 1966, BUCK BAILEY took over the lounge and named it "Bill Bailey's". Sometime later, LEWIS CLARK obtained the liquor license and ownership of the bar. However, prior to that LEWIS CLARK had managed the bar for BUCK BAILEY.

VENABLE does not know anyone by the name of POWELL nor does he know anyone with the name of "DUKE". He was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the photograph of CLAUDE or LEON POWELL. VENABLE advised that he had been in the bar a couple of times possibly during the period of 1967 or 1968.

The name RAY GODFREY is familiar to him, however, he has never personally met GODFREY. The only reason he knows the name is that GODFREY was supposed to be a country and western singer and was "fairly well known", at Bill Bailey's. He does not know any of GODFREY's associates.

He does not know any individual named RALPH (LNU) who is connected with the bar known as "Pete's Place" or "Bill Bailey's".

VENABLE stated he is not related to JAMES VENABLE, the founder of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and  
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/17/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

SHIRLEY BULLOCH, Belle Meade Apartments, Kennesaw, Georgia, advised she is the sister of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. She stated she does not know any of RAY's friends. RAY does not contact his mother very often and thus, neither she nor her mother knows any of RAY's friends.

She has no knowledge of any lounge called "Pete's Place" or "Bill Bailey's". She does not know of any time when her brother was in any sort of trouble. She and her brother do not get along, however, she stated she thinks that her brother is a law abiding citizen.

Interviewed on 2/13/76 at Kennesaw, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and  
SA ALAN L. BROWN TJW: CW Date dictated 2/17/76

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

MARY GODFREY, Bell Meade Apartments, Kennesaw, Georgia, advised she is the mother of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. She does not know any of her son RAY's friends. RAY has never been in any trouble and she considers him to be a very outstanding individual.

She was unable to pick out from a spread of photographs the pictures of CLAUDE or LEON POWELL, or RALPH (LNU). She stated she did not know any of the individuals.

Interviewed on 2/13/76 at Kennesaw, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON<sup>TJW</sup> and SA ALAN L. BROWN<sup>AB</sup> TJW:cw Date dictated 2/17/76 5470

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/25/76

LEON OWEN POWELL was contacted at his residence and advised of the identity of the interviewing agent. POWELL was advised of his rights by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON, however, declined to sign anything. POWELL declined to furnish a signed statement, however, voluntarily furnished the following information:

He has thought about the incident when he was approached by RALPH (last name unknown) in the bar which he knew as Pete's Place on Moreland Avenue and requested to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He is quite sure the original contact with RAY GODFREY was approximately one week before RALPH (last name unknown) came into the bar. He is sure the meeting took place in November, 1967. He does not remember seeing RAY GODFREY in Pete's Bar the day RALPH (last name unknown) came into the bar and offered the money. He does not remember any specific denominations of the money in the brief case, however, the brief case was full of money. RALPH (last name unknown) upon offering the brief case told him "here's 25". RALPH (last name unknown) told him and his brother, CLAUDE, they would get "25 now and 50 when he's in the grave" or something to that effect. To the best of his memory, he never mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s name.

During the original conversation with RAY GODFREY, he (RAY GODFREY) never made mention of the exact amount of money he and his brother would be paid to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING. GODFREY merely stated "big money". GODFREY is a friend of both he and his brother, however, GODFREY is probably friendlier with CLAUDE than he is with himself. LEON POWELL has not had any contact with RAY GODFREY when the assassination of KING was discussed when CLAUDE was not present.

He could not specifically recall seeing PETE DAVIS in the bar when RALPH (last name unknown) approached

Interviewed on 2/11/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 *2471*  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON *WJ* :wy Date dictated 2/18/76

AT 44-2386

him and his brother. In fact, upon recollection, the name of the bar was not even Pete's Place. At the time of the incident the name of the bar was Bill Bailey's.

To the best of his memory, both he and his brother were working for RAY COOLEY, an individual dry wall contractor at the time of the incident. COOLEY is now employed by Fisher Dry Wall in Atlanta, Georgia.

LEON advised that the corrected artist's conception dated January 23, 1976, is a good likeness of the individual he knows as RALPH (last name unknown).

He has talked with his brother CLAUDE various times since the original offer.

LEON is familiar with W. VENABLE, also known as "Yank" and BILL McGARITY. These two individuals owned the property and the building in which Pete's bar was located. Neither VENABLE or McGARITY are RALPH (last name unknown).

LEON advised the only male close associate of RAY GODFREY was a relative named LEE GODFREY.

LEON advised he would be willing to testify to everything that he has told the FBI.

LEON advised upon reflection and having to draw a diagram of the bar he is quite sure that he, his brother, and RALPH (last name unknown) went to one of the tables located in the back part of the bar rather than one of the booths as he originally stated.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/25/76

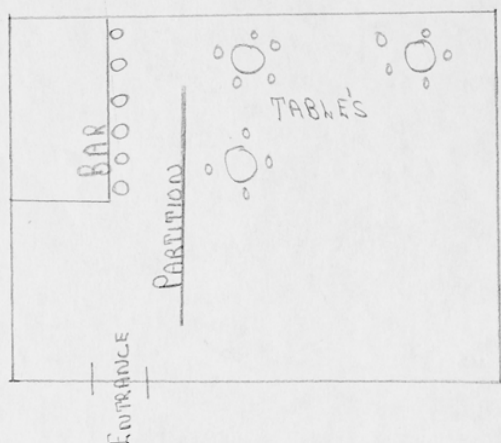
Attached hereto is a sketch of Pete's Place, the bar where RALPH (last name unknown) approached LEON POWELL and CLAUDE POWELL to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., as described by LEON POWELL.

Interviewed on 2/11/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 *2472*

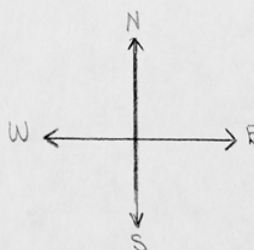
by <sup>rw</sup> SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/18/76

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☆ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294



SKETCH OF PETE'S PLACE AS DESCRIBED BY  
LEON POWELL



MORELAND AVE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

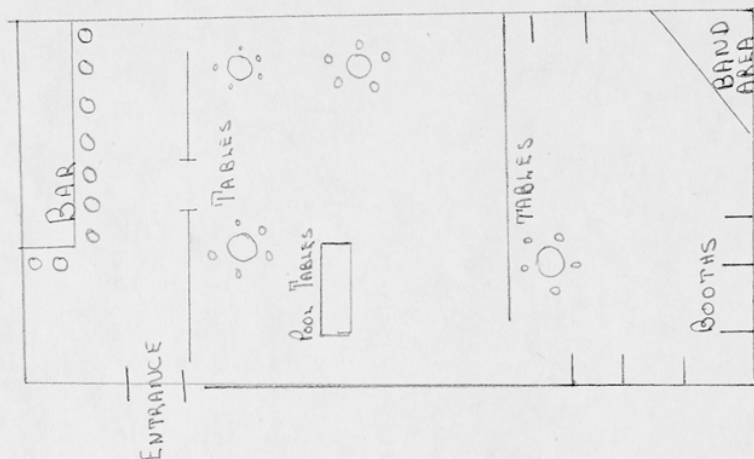
Date of transcription 2/25/76

Attached hereto is a sketch of Bill Bailey's  
Lounge as described by L. W. CLARK.

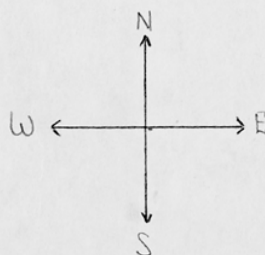
Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386-2473  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON <sup>RW</sup> :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294



SKETCH OF BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE AS DESCRIBE BY  
 L.W. CLARK. (NOTE - THIRD AREA OF BAR CONSTRUCTED BY L.W. CLARK  
 IN 1969 - AREA WITH BANDSTAND)



MORELAND AVE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/22/76

CLAUDE POWELL, Jr., was contacted at his residence 4163 Camby Lane, Decatur, Georgia, and advised that he was not sure whether or not PETE DAVIS was present during the initial meeting at the bar. The incident happened so long ago, some of the details are quite mixed up in his mind. He thinks that his brother, LEON, was the only one present during the initial contact with RAY GODFREY. He does not remember being present during the conversation between RAY GODFREY and his brother, LEON.

Interviewed on 3/8/76 at Atlanta , Georgia File # AT 44-23862 <sup>574</sup>  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy <sup>FW</sup> Date dictated 3/15/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>ATLANTA</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>3/23/76</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>2/6/76 - 3/8/76</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>MURKIN</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA THOMAS J. WILSON</b>	TYPED BY <b>wy</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	

REFERENCE: Bureau nitel to Atlanta, 2/3/76.

RUC

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

APPROVED

COPIES MADE:

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

2 - Bureau (44-38861)

2 - Memphis (44-1987)

2 - Atlanta (44-2386)

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations  <b>44-2386-5475</b>
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

A\*  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Atlanta, Georgia  
1-USA, Memphis

Report of: SA THOMAS J. WILSON  
Date: FEBRUARY 23, 1976

Office: ATLANTA

Field Office File #: 44-2386

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

## Synopsis:

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., reinterviewed 2/6/76 and advised that any discrepancies between his statement of the facts and his brother, LEON's, statement of the facts was a result of a long period of time since the incident. CLAUDE POWELL advised he would stand by his original statement. CLAUDE POWELL was unable to identify the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) dated 1/23/76. LEON POWELL JR., reinterviewed 2/11/76 and advised his original statement was essentially correct, however, does not recall seeing RAY GODFREY in Pete's Bar the day he was approached by RALPH (last name unknown). LEON POWELL also advised the name of the bar where the incident occurred was probably not Pete's Place since PETE had sold it and another owner taken over. He and his brother have talked about the incident at various times since 1968. LEON advised the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) dated 1/23/76 is a good likeness of an individual who approached he and his brother to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Wife of CLAUDE POWELL, advised she has been married to CLAUDE for 20 years and in her opinion the whole story is a fabrication made up by her husband and his brother, LEON. Relatives of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY advised they did not know any relationship or interest between RAY GODFREY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or JAMES EARL RAY. Relatives were unable to name an individual named RALPH who associated with RAY GODFREY. Employees

AT 44-2386

of the bar located at 1455 Moreland Avenue who were employed in 1967-1968 were interviewed and advised they were familiar with both CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY. Employees characterized CLAUDE POWELL as a quiet individual, however, quite a heavy drinker. Employees characterized RAY GODFREY as a very likeable individual whom they thought would never be in trouble. None of the employees could recognize the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) as any individual who had been in the bar.

RUC

DETAILS:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/10/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., Room 211 Scottish Inn, was interviewed in his motel room during the late evening of February 5, 1976.

Discrepancies in his version of an alleged meeting with an unknown white male at Pete's Bar Atlanta, Georgia, as compared with LEON POWELL's were discussed. CLAUDE stated that any discrepancies are a result of a long passage of time since the incident and his statement is accurate in his recollection. He clarified his relationship with RAY GODFREY stating that GODFREY was a friend whom he has known for many years but GODFREY was more closely associated and a better friend of LEON's. CLAUDE also commented that he later learned GODFREY made an initial contact with LEON approximately one week prior to the unknown white male's proposition to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING but he did not know anything about the meeting at Pete's Bar until the unknown white male seated himself and made the offer. nor did he have prior knowledge of what transpired between GODFREY and LEON.

Other than these changes, CLAUDE stands by his original statement, emphasizing that his statement may differ in some aspects with LEON's statement but the fact is, both he and LEON witnessed the offer of a substantial amount of money by an unknown white male to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he and LEON talked about the alleged meeting with the unknown white male frequently after its occurrence but as time passed, they talked about it less and less. He said that he and LEON worked together on the same job at the time of the alleged meeting and continued to do so until approximately three months ago. He knows of no one who could verify that they were in Atlanta, Georgia, at the time of the alleged meeting but stated that both, he and LEON, were residing in Decatur, Georgia, during this time. CLAUDE described

Interviewed on 2/6/76 at Midland, Texas File # FP 44-920  
ME 44-1987  
by SA FRANZ W. NENZEL /pm Date dictated 2/9/76

the interior of Pete's Bar, including the booth where each participant of the alleged meeting was seated and a sketch was made by Special Agent FRANZ W. NENZEL. CLAUDE was questioned specifically concerning his polygraph examination in response to the question "Do you know who asked you and LEON to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING?", and he denied having any prior knowledge of the unidentified person who offered he and LEON \$25,000 to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

CLAUDE stated that he telephonically contacted his brother, LEON POWELL, at telephone number 404-289-1545, Decatur, Georgia (telephone number is for DAVID POWELL, CLAUDE's nephew) after initial interview by FBI Agents at Midland, Texas. CLAUDE stated that he and LEON discussed the interview.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he had discussed the alleged meeting with the unknown person at Pete's Bar with WILLIAM DEAN WOODCOCK, his partner in business and roommate at the Scottish Inn. WOODCOCK is the only fellow employee whom he told of the alleged meeting.

CLAUDE stated that the unknown person who offered them the money to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING did not have any type of an accent. He repeated that all aspects of his statement including description, time reference and conversation between the unknown person who made the offer to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING were true and accurate to the best of his recollection.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

3/3/76

Date of transcription

The following photographs were displayed to CLAUDE POWELL, JR., who was located at his place of employment where he was working as a carpenter:

1. TRAVIS MERLE PHILLIPS, Odessa Police Department (OPD), Number 7174.
2. BILLY GENE SHAFFER, OPD Number 16969
3. OPD Number 19806
4. BOBBY JOE SMITH
5. Composite photograph bearing Bureau File Number 44-38861, Atlanta File 44-2386.

After viewing the above photographs, POWELL stated he would be unable to identify any one of these as being the individual who approached him and his brother, LEON POWELL, at Pete's Bar in Atlanta, Georgia, with the proposition of murdering MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., POWELL again stated that he would be unable to recognize the individual should he ever meet him again.

Interviewed on 2/26/76 at Midland, Texas EP 44-920  
ME 44-1987  
by SA FRANZ W. MENZEL:agf Date dictated 3/1/76

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/22/76

CLAUDE POWELL, Jr., was contacted at his residence 4163 Camby Lane, Decatur, Georgia, and advised that he was not sure whether or not PETE DAVIS was present during the initial meeting at the bar. The incident happened so long ago, some of the details are quite mixed up in his mind. He thinks that his brother, LEON, was the only one present during the initial contact with RAY GODFREY. He does not remember being present during the conversation between RAY GODFREY and his brother, LEON.

Interviewed on 3/8/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 3/15/76

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☆ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/25/76

LEON OWEN POWELL was contacted at his residence and advised of the identity of the interviewing agent. POWELL was advised of his rights by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON, however, declined to sign anything. POWELL declined to furnish a signed statement, however, voluntarily furnished the following information:

He has thought about the incident when he was approached by RALPH (last name unknown) in the bar which he knew as Pete's Place on Moreland Avenue and requested to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He is quite sure the original contact with RAY GODFREY was approximately one week before RALPH (last name unknown) came into the bar. He is sure the meeting took place in November, 1967. He does not remember seeing RAY GODFREY in Pete's Bar the day RALPH (last name unknown) came into the bar and offered the money. He does not remember any specific denominations of the money in the brief case, however, the brief case was full of money. RALPH (last name unknown) upon offering the brief case told him "here's 25". RALPH (last name unknown) told him and his brother, CLAUDE, they would get "25 now and 50 when he's in the grave" or something to that effect. To the best of his memory, he never mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s name.

During the original conversation with RAY GODFREY, he (RAY GODFREY) never made mention of the exact amount of money he and his brother would be paid to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING. GODFREY merely stated "big money". GODFREY is a friend of both he and his brother, however, GODFREY is probably friendlier with CLAUDE than he is with himself. LEON POWELL has not had any contact with RAY GODFREY when the assassination of KING was discussed when CLAUDE was not present.

He could not specifically recall seeing PETE DAVIS in the bar when RALPH (last name unknown) approached

Interviewed on 2/11/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/18/76

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