

AT 44-2386

Mr. POWELL was advised at the outset that any information he furnished could be used in a court of law. He declined to furnish a signed statement.

2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/14/76

LEON OWEN POWELL was recontacted at his residence 3841 Austin Drive and advised that he would "stick by his story". He stated he would be willing to take a polygraph test at any time to show that he was telling the truth.

POWELL was then shown the facial identification manual and picked out from this manual various characteristics that an artist would be able to draw a composite drawing of RALPH (last name unknown).

At the outset, POWELL was advised anything he furnished could be used in court.

Interviewed on 1/7/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-23862-387
by SA CHARLES T. CARROLL, Jr.
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/13/76

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/15/76

DOROTHY DAVIS, telephone number 957-2626, was contacted and advised that her husband, PETE DAVIS, did own and operate a bar on Moreland Avenue. This bar was at one time known as Pete's Place.

Her husband died from cancer in May, 1975.

She is not familiar with the name RALPH (last name unknown), LEON or CLAUDE POWELL. She remembers her husband talked about RAY GODFREY, however, she has no idea how he could be located.

She has no idea what became of the records concerning the operation of Pete's Place.

At the outset, Mrs. DAVIS was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent, the nature of the inquiry, and that any information she furnished could be used in a court of law. She voluntarily furnished the above information:

Interviewed on 1/7/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 2388
by ^{pw} SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/13/76

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.

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON in Atlanta, Georgia.

On January 7, 1976, numerous attempts were
made to locate ANNIE LOIS COMPOS at her residence 4120
Glenwood Road, Apartment A, with negative results.

44-2386-2389

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 14 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
Wilson	TJW

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON in Atlanta, Georgia.

On January 7, 1976, Mrs. L. S. PENNINGTON, Director of Personnel, City of Atlanta, was contacted and advised she had caused the city personnel records to be reviewed and could find no record of RAY GODFREY or RAYMOND GODFREY being employed or having ever been employed by the City of Atlanta.

C. L. SNEED, secretary, Musicians Union Number 148, Atlanta, Georgia, advised he reviewed the union's records and could find no reference to a RAY or RAYMOND GODFREY. SNEED suggested that BOBBY JOHNSON, radio station WPLO be contacted regarding the names of any old time country and western singers.

44-2386-2380

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 14 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
Wilson	RW

AT 44-2386

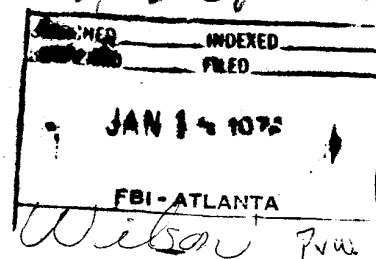
TJW:wy

1

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

On January 7, 1976, the Atlanta City Directory
Haines City Directory, and Greater Atlanta Southern Bell
Telephone Directory for the years 1967 and 1968 were
reviewed with negative results regarding and establish-
ment on Moreland Avenue named Pete's Place or any similar
name.

SHIRLEY LANE, bartender, Driftwood Lounge,
1575 Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that
approximately seven or eight years ago an individual
named PETE DAVIS did in fact own and operate a bar in the
last block of Moreland Avenue. She has heard that PETE
DAVIS has since passed away. Ms. LANE advised PETE's wife,
DOROTHY DAVIS, could possibly be located at telephone
number 957-2626. She stated she has been a frequent
visitor to the lounge known as Pete's Place and that is
the reason why she is so familiar with PETE and DOROTHY
DAVIS.



AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

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

On January 8, 1976, BOBBY JOHNSON, Country Music Section, radio station WPLO, Atlanta, Georgia, advised there had been a country and western singer by the name of RAY GODFREY in 1967 or 1968. This singer was handled locally by Lowery Music Company, Atlanta, Georgia. BILL LOWERY at Lowery Music would probably have more information about the whereabouts of RAY GODFREY.

On January 8, 1975, MARY TALLENT, secretary to the president, Lowery Music Company, advised that back in 1967, Lowery Music had handled a country and western singer by the name of RAY GODFREY. GODFREY would at this time be a white male approximately 45 to 50 years of age. In 1967 GODFREY worked for the Atlanta Water Company, telephone 422-1481.

She had numerous dealings with RAY GODFREY and described him as a "very country fellow" and refused to believe that he could be in any sort of trouble.

COTTON CARRIER, song writer, Lowery Music Company, Atlanta, Georgia, was also contacted and advised that the last time he had talked to RAY GODFREY that RAY GODFREY was employed with the Atlanta Water or either the Atlanta Sewer Department at telephone number 622-1481. He stated that GODFREY was a very likeable fellow and could not possibly be in any trouble.

The Haines City Directory revealed that telephone number 622-1481 is listed to the City of Atlanta Sewer Department.

44-2386-2392

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 4 1976	
FBI — ATLANTA	
WILSON	RW

AT 44-2386

2

Mrs. L. S. PENNINGTON, Director of Personnel, City of Atlanta, was recontacted and advised that PAT SOJKA, supervisor, administrative services, would be the person to contact regarding anyone employed at telephone number 622-1481.

PAT SOJKA was contacted and advised that he is familiar with the City of Atlanta employee named RAY GODFREY. Current records of the Sewer Department reflect a true name of A. R. GODFREY living at 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, telephone 477-5036.

On January 12, 1976, GROVE DAY, supervisor, City of Atlanta Sewer Division, was contacted and advised that RAY GODFREY was employed in his department and could be interviewed any morning before 8:30 A.M.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 1-14-76 807 MLH
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

None Assigned

The following FBI record, NUMBER , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
 Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors.
 WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS
 DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Forest Park GA	Arnold Ray Godfrey 13110	3-7-64	D/C drunk D/C cursing driving wrong side of road suspicion poss dangerous drugs	
<p>Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied this request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.</p> <p>44-2386-2393</p> <p>SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED JAN 19 1976 FBI — ATLANTA WILSON PW</p>				

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

1-14-76 807 MLH

2

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

None Assigned

Description and Related Data: ARNOLD RAY GODFREY

Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 74"
Weight: 184
Hair: Brn
Eyes: Brn

Date and Place of Birth: Cooperhill TN

Scars and Marks: Scar R/F arm 2"

Address: In 1964 569 Greham Ave Atlanta GA

Occupation: Construction

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.

Social Security Number: Unknown

Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 12-22-69)

Date 1/27/76

To: ☐ Director

Att: ☒ Supervisor

FILE

Bufile: 44-38861

EP file: 44-920

**SAI M. KULTERHOFF, Room 5131,
JEN Building**

Title

MURKIN

☐ SAC

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ IC

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

RE:

**Bureau FTS call to EP,
1/26/76; EP FTS call to
Bureau, 1/26/76; EP
airtel to Bureau,
1/15/76.**

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign Reassign

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Serial #

☐ Post

☐ Recharge

☐ Return

☐ Send to

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by

☐ Type

SEARCHED <u>8</u>	INDEXED <u>7</u>
SERIALIZED <u>8</u>	FILED <u>7</u>
JAN 27 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
DALSON <i>76</i>	

Attached hereto for Bureau and receiving offices are two copies each of amended pages 1,2,3 of FD 302 sent as enclosure to referenced El Paso airtel to Director, 1/15/76. El Paso copies have been corrected.

SAC

JOHN M. REED

1-Bureau (Encs.6)

1-Atlanta (44-2638) (Encs.6)

1-Memphis (Encs.6)

1-El Paso

(4)

EL PASO

☆ GPO : 1971 421-419

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/15/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was located at the Scottish Inn Motel, Interstate Highway 20 at Holiday Hill Road, Room 211. POWELL was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and at the outset of the interview, was asked if he had been in contact with any member of his family or in particular, his brother, LEON POWELL. POWELL denied being in contact with any member of his family, including LEON POWELL, since his departure from Atlanta, Georgia, on December 31, 1975. He was then interviewed as follows:

POWELL was asked if he had ever been offered a large sum of money to commit a murder, and he immediately volunteered that he had been offered \$25,000 shortly before the actual assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING. He recalled the circumstances of that offer as follows:

Approximately three to four weeks prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he and his brother, LEON POWELL, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. A friend of his brother, RAY GODFREY, a musician and Atlanta City employee, joined them at their booth and engaged in conversation with LEON. He paid no particular attention to what LEON and RAY were talking about. GODFREY left the booth, and, in approximately 10 to 15 minutes, an individual previously unknown to him, came to their booth and seated himself opposite from LEON and him.

As this unknown person sat down, he placed an expensive-looking black brief case on the table. He described the unknown person as being a white male, approximately 5'8" in height, medium build, approximately 150 pounds, approximately 30 years of age. POWELL explained that the unknown person appeared to him to be out of place in such an establishment as Pete's Bar, in view of his dress, which did not fit into the crowd that frequented Pete's Bar.

On 1/8/76 at Midland, Texas File # EP 44-920
by SA GERALD D. GALBREATH
SA FRANZ W. NENZEL FWN:pm Date dictated 1/14/76

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.

The unknown person impressed him as being a well educated person, who appeared to be a professional type such as a lawyer. He said the unknown person was clean cut, and very calm and cool in his manner. He stated the unknown person may have introduced himself, but he does not recall any names. The unknown person asked LEON and him if they wanted to pull a job. He does not know the exact wording, but he questioned the unknown person concerning the nature of the job, and how much money it paid. The unknown person told him and LEON that he wanted them to do away with someone and when POWELL questioned the unknown person further, he was told that it was someone important. The unknown person then told him and LEON that he wanted them to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, and would pay them \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unknown person then opened his brief case which was full of wrapped currency; some of the bills he noticed were in \$100 denominations. He stated that he was shocked by the statements of the unknown person, and initially assumed that it was some sort of prank or possibly a law enforcement officer trying to trick him. After the unknown person made the offer, he ignored any further conversation, whereupon the unknown person closed his brief case and departed.

He has never had any further contact, nor did he ever ascertain the identity of the unknown person, or means or reason for the offered payment to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He related that he had gained the bad reputation of being a hoodlum because of his past prison record, participation in several fights, and habit of carrying a shotgun in his vehicle, which he frequently loaned to the bartender at Pete's Bar whenever trouble occurred. He denied ever receiving such an offer prior to this incident, and further denied affiliation with any group which advocated racial hatred. He admitted that he had made statements while drunk to the effect that he had no aversion to killing blacks, although he had never seriously considered doing so.

POWELL stated he was shocked and dismayed to learn, approximately three to four weeks later, that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been murdered. He advised that he did not

EP 44-920

3

go to any law enforcement officers, and tell them of the above contact with the unknown person, because he felt he might become a suspect in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

POWELL was then requested to assist the FBI by providing an artist conception of the unknown person who contacted him at Pete's Bar by the use of a facial identification catalogue. It was explained to POWELL that a sketch would be made from a combination of features that he selected from photographs displayed in the catalogue. Each category in the catalogue was thoroughly explained and photographs in these categories were shown to POWELL. POWELL then stated that he would be unable to assist in this regard because he had only talked with the unknown person for approximately five minutes, and that he would not recognize him even if he was brought into his motel room at that moment.

The following descriptive data was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	CLAUDE POWELL, JR.
Alias	Junior Powell Shotgun Powell
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Stephens County, Georgia
Height	6'2
Weight	170
Hair	Gray-Black
Eyes	Blue
Education	Finished 4th grade
Employment	Self employed
Occupation	Carpenter and dry wall finisher
Parent	HEPSIE POWELL, Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia
Brothers	LEON POWELL, Atlanta, Georgia HUBERT POWELL Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia WENDELL POWELL, Belmont, North Carolina (address unknown) EDWARD POWELL, Shamdon, Georgia

NR014 AL PLAIN

7:24 PM URGENT 2-4-76 HLPW

TO: DIRECTOR (44-33861)

EL PASO (44-926)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE BUREAU NITEL TO ATLANTA, FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL THIS DATE NEGATIVE. MESSAGE LEFT AT PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN. EFFORTS ALSO NEGATIVE IN CONTACTING DOROTHY DAVIS REGARDING ANY RECORDS OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S BAR. MESSAGE ALSO LEFT AT DAVIS' RESIDENCE TO CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN.

OTHER LEADS BEING HELD IN ABRAYANCE UNTIL ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS SHOWN TO POWELL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL REGARDING DIFFERENCES IN ORIGINAL INTERVIEWS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER. DISPLAY ARTIST'S CONCEPTION TO POWELL AND ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (LNU).

END.

HOLD FOR ONE

TKR FBING 3 OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

WILSON AW
44-2386-2375