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MI 44-270

AT MIMS, FLORIDA.

The following investigation was conducted by Assistant Special Agent in Charge W. W. BURKE and Special Agent FRANK F. HENCH on December 27, 1951.

Miss EVANGELINE MOORE, daughter of HARRY T. and HARRIETT MOORE, victims, advised that she has been employed by the U. S. Department of Interior in Washington, D. C. since July 11, 1951. Prior to that she was at the Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach for 4 years. EVANGELINE said that she had departed from Washington to spend the holidays with her parents at Mims, Florida. She arrived in Mims on December 26, 1951.

EVANGELINE stated that she corresponded with both her mother and father, however, this correspondence was infrequent. She stated that at no time did her mother or father ever mention having any trouble with any persons anywhere. She said as far as she knew her father was well respected and although the family was somewhat apprehensive about the work he was in, they never suspected that he would meet with any violence.

Mrs. ERNESTINE SIMS, wife of ARNOLD SIMS and Mrs. LABEL SIMS, wife of Sergeant GEORGE SIMS, were interviewed jointly at the home of ARNOLD SIMS which is, as previously mentioned, located in the close proximity of 400 to 500 yards of the MOORE residence and who were, at the time of the explosion at home in the SIMS residence.

LABEL stated she was awakened by the blast and the subsequent calling for GEORGE and ARNOLD by victim HARRY SIMS' daughter, ANNA ROSALIE MOORE. She stated she immediately awakened the boys, GEORGE and ARNOLD, who immediately proceeded to the scene of the incident. LABEL advised that she had just returned from Japan where she had been stationed with her husband, Sergeant SIMS, Friday, December 20, 1951. She was unable to furnish any information regarding recent activities and travels of victim MOORE.

ERNESTINE SIMS, who permanently resides at the SIMS home, likewise heard the explosion and upon being questioned concerning recent activities and travels of victim MOORE, stated HARRY was the type individual who very seldom discussed his work with the family. It was her belief that there was possible danger connected with the work he was doing and to her knowledge, HARRY kept such thoughts to himself in order to prevent worry on the part of his family. Neither ERNESTINE nor LABEL was able to offer any suspicions who might have perpetrated instant crime.

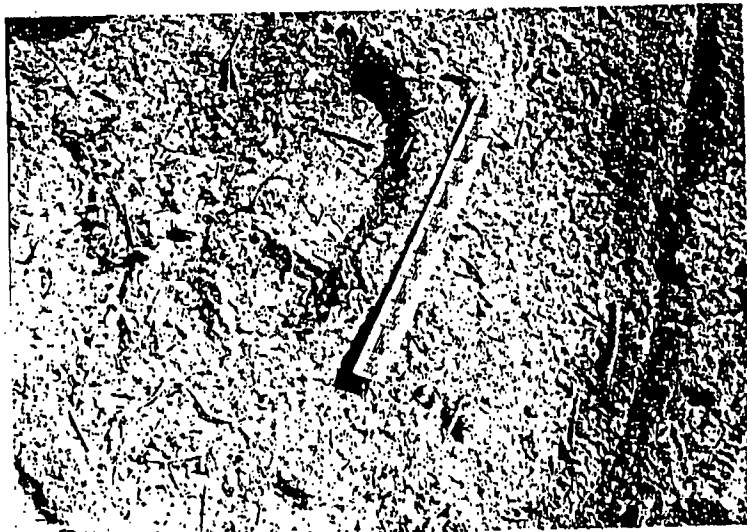
Although ARNOLD SIMS had been previously interviewed by Special Agent

Photograph of footprint in soft sand, located
in orange grove in front of victim's house
(Garry T. Moore, Miami, Fla.) footprint located
255 feet N.E. from the N.E. corner of the
front porch of victim's house. Photo taken
12/26/51.

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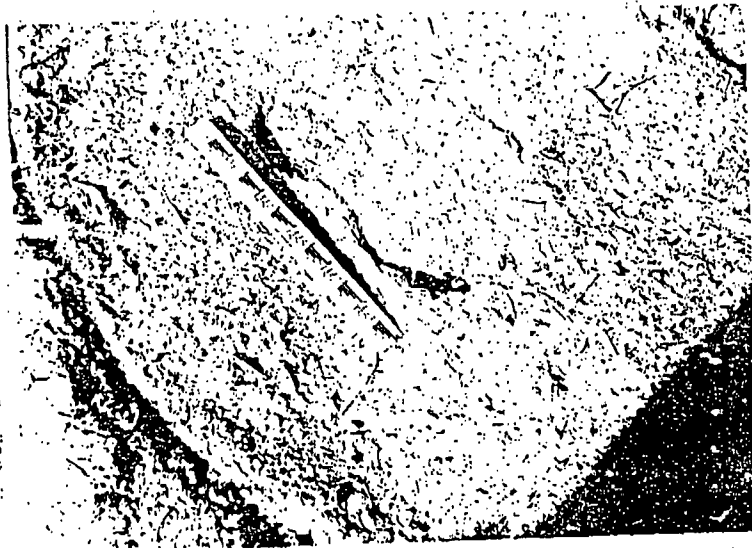
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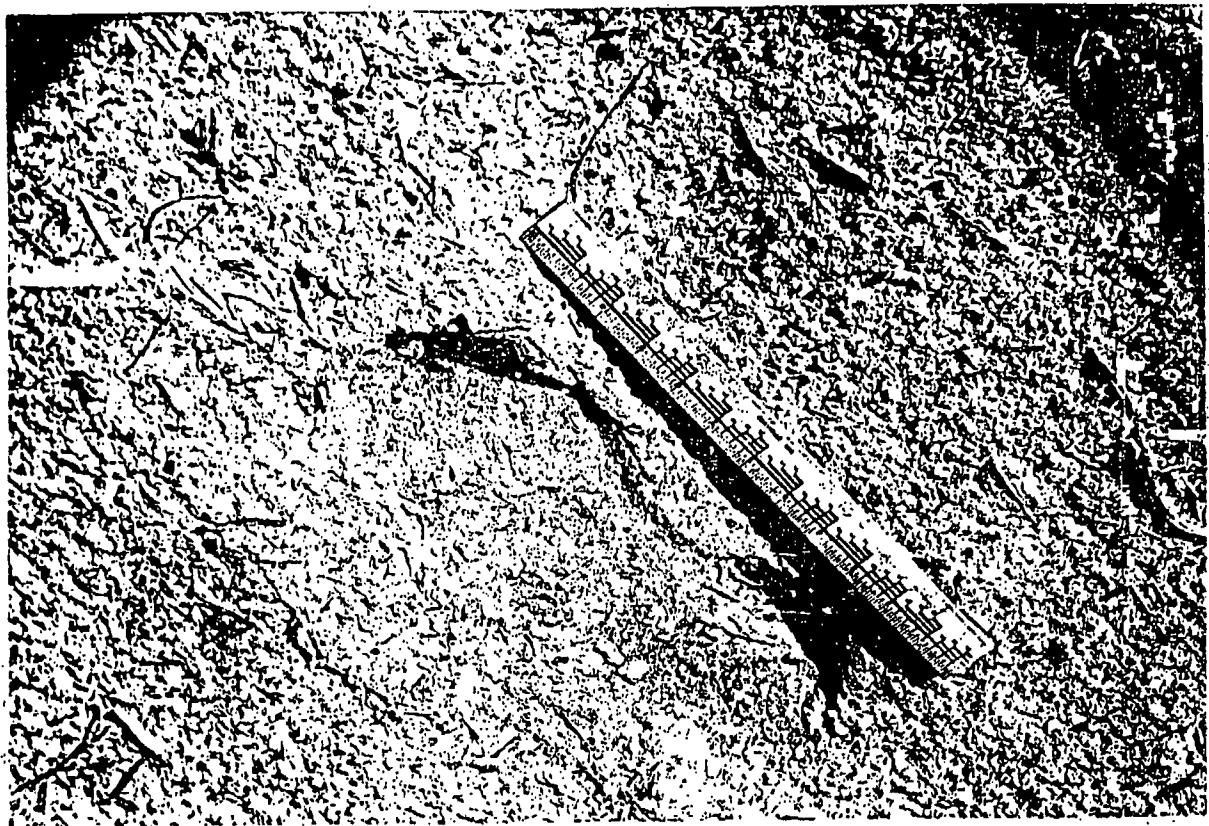
Photograph of footprint in soft sand, located
in orange grove in front of victim's house
(Harry T. Moore, Mims, Fla.) footprint located
258 feet N.E. from the N.E. corner of the
front porch of victim's house. Photo taken
12/26/51.



Photograph of footprint in soft sand
located in orange grove in front of
victim's home. (Harry E. Moore, Mpls,
Fla.) Footprint located 251 feet from
N.W. corner of front porch of home.
photo taken 12/26/51.



Photograph of footprint in soft sand located in orange grove in front
of victim's home (Harry T. Horn, Mrs., Fla.) Footprint located 155 feet
from N.E. corner of front porch of home. Photo taken 12/26/51.



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and ROBERT E. SUNKEL on January 4, 1952.

BASIS: ARNOLD SIMMS, brother of HARRIETT MOORE, victim, furnished information to the effect that after the 1950 elections he had heard from either JOE WARREN, BEN WARREN or PAUL CUYLER that a Mr. FORTENBERRY who had been defeated in the 1950 election for the office of County Commissioner or some of Mr. FORTENBERRY's friends were out to get HARRY T. MOORE, the victim. ARNOLD SIMMS said that he had heard that FORTENBERRY blamed HARRY T. MOORE for his defeat.

Sheriff H. T. WILLIAMS advised that FORTENBERRY had been Chairman of the County Commission and had been a County Commissioner for some 18 years. In addition to his County position as Chairman of the County Commissioners, he was also Chairman of the Port Canaveral Authority.

FORTENBERRY is a man in his 70s originally coming to Florida from Mississippi. While he was Chairman of the County Commission he was "almost a dictator in the county". In his position he could be referred to as County "boss".

The Sheriff said it was his recollection that in the Primary Election held in the Spring of 1950 FORTENBERRY, whom the sheriff knows only as Mr. FORTENBERRY, was elected to have his name placed on the ballot of the General Election in November of 1950. In between the Primary and the General Election there was a considerable move throughout the County to defeat FORTENBERRY for the position of County Commissioner and in the General Election by a write in vote DAVE NISBET was elected to the County Commission defeating FORTENBERRY. DAVE NISBET is the owner of the Merritt Island Garage located just east of Cocoa on the Merritt Island Road.

Sheriff WILLIAMS said "FORTENBERRY still hasn't gotten over his defeat".

The Sheriff advised that DOYLE CARLTON, brother of the present County Judge and owner of the Hamblin Grove and Fruit Stand, located on

U. S. Route 1, approximately 3½ miles South of Cocoa did considerable campaigning between the Primary and General Elections against FORTENBERRY. Much of CARLTON's campaigning was done among the colored people throughout the county and particularly in FORTENBERRY's district. The Sheriff recalled that there was considerable talk about the county concerning CARLTON's soliciting the aid of the Negro voting population to defeat FORTENBERRY. The Sheriff indicated that both DOYLE CARLTON and DAVE NISBET were men of excellent reputation and he believed "there was no love lost between them and FORTENBERRY."

When FORTENBERRY was defeated as County Commissioner he also was dropped out as Chairman of the Port Canaveral Authority. The Sheriff indicated that the Port Authority and the development of Port Canaveral was one of the pet projects of FORTENBERRY and his removal as Chairman of the Port Authority probably hurt him as much as losing out as County Commissioner.

Sheriff WILLIAMS said that he did not have any direct knowledge but he believed FORTENBERRY to be the "behind the scene owner" of the Brevard County weekly newspaper entitled "East Coast Trade Winds". In this connection it is to be noted that a copy of the Trade Winds Newspaper for Thursday January 3, 1952, has been published and while it is a small weekly paper it contains no information concerning the bombing of the residence of HARRY T. MOORE.

Sheriff WILLIAMS advised that FORTENBERRY is the owner of a sawmill located on MERRITT Island Road. He suggested that in the course of any investigation conducted by the Bureau with regard to FORTENBERRY that we ascertain the identity of those employees who were working for the County under FORTENBERRY and who were not rehired when DAVE NISBET took over on the County Commission. In addition the Sheriff suggested to particularly attempt to identify those persons who worked for FORTENBERRY such as on the county road crew who were experienced in the use of explosives and who in turn were not rehired by NISBET.

With regard to the election rally held on Merritt Island and referred to previously by ARNOLD SIMS, Sheriff WILLIAMS stated that he had heard that the County Road Patrolman, GRIGGS, who was hired by FORTENBERRY, was at this meeting recording the license numbers of all automobiles. He said he can add the fact that this disrupted the meeting and considerably upset the Negroes who were there at the meeting. The

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Sheriff said he had no way to prove it but said he was confident that he had ordered County Road Patrolman GRIFFIN to appear at the meeting and take down the license number of all automobiles.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH, ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ, JAMES P. SHANNON, and ROBERT E. SUNKEL with the assistance of States Investigator J. J. ELLIOT and Deputy Sheriff CLYDE BATES of Brevard County, Florida on December 30, 1951, through January 1, 1952.

BASIS: To determine what physical evidence if any existed at the crime scene.

A minute search of the area immediately to the north of the victim's home extending for approximately 90 yards was made in an effort to locate any physical evidence in the form of fragments which may have been connected with instant bombing. Nothing of value to this investigation was found.

Thereafter all of the debris under the victim's home was raked and shoveled out and sifted with a one-fourth inch mesh screen. That which remained was gone through handful by handful again for any evidence connected with instant bombing. In addition the bombing crater was dug out for a depth of approximately two and one-half feet and a width of approximately three and one-half feet in diameter. This digging was sifted and gone through for the same purpose. The victims entire house was gone through minutely for any further evidence connected with instant case.

As a result of this search several fragmentary pieces of what appeared to be a test tube and a solid rubber washer which appeared to be the holder for that test tube were found. There was also found a small quantity of dust which was taken from the site immediately above the bomb blast. There was also found a small metal clip, a small steel spring, a three foot length of cotton rope with yellow and purple discoloration and several fragments of what appeared to be a medicine bottle and its cork. All of this material in addition to a small diameter glass tube approximately two and one-half inches in length and a small rubber washer which appears to fit the tube were sent to the FBI Laboratory.

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VII. FBI LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS

Following the blast at the MOORE home the complete area within a radius of ten yards surrounding the blast crater was minutely examined and specimens of debris, dirt and articles of clothing were obtained. These items are described as 1 through 6 as follows and were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory on December 27, 1951. The Laboratory submitted its report by letter dated December 29, 1951.

1. 3 quart containers of soil and debris taken from the center of the blast crater and from the edges of the crater and the surrounding area.

The Laboratory advised with respect to these specimens that they contain very wood fragments, glass fragments and several small wads of cotton fiber. There was nothing present in this sample to permit identification of the particular type of explosive substance used.

2. Bed sheet taken from the bed of the victims which was in the debris.
3. Debris taken from the immediate area under the flooring of the bedroom of the victims.
4. Articles of clothing taken from the rubble and debris of the bedroom area.

The Laboratory stated with respect to items 2, 3 and 4 that they consisted primarily of fragments of wood, glass, cleansing tissue, miscellaneous dirt, dust and debris but nothing was found to permit identification of the explosive substance used. The Laboratory stated that on the basis of the presence of the numerous wood fragments it appeared a high order explosive substance was used. Dynamite is classified as a high order explosive.

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5. Plaster cast of footprint found in loose sand in orange grove area in vicinity of victims' home.

6. Plaster cast of footprint found in loose sand in same area.

The Laboratory stated with respect to items 5 and 6 that the size of the shoes that produced the impressions reproduced in the plaster casts is estimated to be between 7 and 9. No markings were found on the cast which would assist in tracing the shoes making the impressions.

Thereafter all the remaining debris, sand and soil in the bombed crater and in the surrounding vicinity under the house of the victims was carefully sifted and the items listed below were found. These were submitted to the Laboratory by letter dated January 2, 1952, and are described as items 7 through 11. The Laboratory replied by teletype dated January 7, 1952.

7. Several pieces of glass, a heavy round rubber washer, a substance which appeared to be some sort of wax or candle tallow. Two of the pieces of glass were found deep in the crater caused by the explosion and the other pieces, together with the rubber washer were found within a 6' radius of the crater and under the house with the other debris.

8. Several pieces of glass and a cork stopper which was found in sifting the debris in the immediate vicinity of the bombed crater.

9. Brown-colored dust which was scraped from under the windowsill which was located immediately above and below the north bedroom window of the victims.

10. One piece of rope containing an unknown purple and yellow discoloration found in the debris under the house under the victims' bedroom. One metal clip found in the explosion crater. One rubber washer found in the debris under the victims' bedroom. A small spring found in the debris under the victims' bedroom.

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11. One piece of glass tubing found in the orange grove north of the victims' residence approximately 25 yards from the side of the house.

The Laboratory advised with respect to items 7 to 11 as follows: some pieces of glass mentioned in item 7 fit pieces described in item 8. Pieces from both items came from a glass vial with 3/4" outside diameter. The refractive index of all the glass except one small fragment was said to suggest that the majority of the glass came from the same or similar source. The use of such vials is unlimited. They are found in laboratories, pharmacies, etc. It was stated the foreign substance on the glass is paraffin wax. The large latex rubber washer has a hole the same diameter as the vial and could have been used as a holder. It was stated washers like this are frequently seen in laboratories around neck graduated cylinders to prevent the cylinders from chipping if they topple over. It could have wide use as a cushion in many industries, particularly in radio, television, etc.

It was stated the cork stopper fits the neck portion of the above mentioned vial and could have been the stopper for this vial.

It was stated the metal clip mentioned previously is from a pilot light clamp found on some radios and television sets.

The steel spring mentioned has many uses.

The brown colored dust scraped from the window sill consists of wood and sand particles.

The rope is sash cord. The foreign substance is similar to crystal violet, also known as gentian violet, used as dye in the textile industry as well as antiseptic and bactericide.

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The Laboratory stated generally with respect to the above items that a glass vial of the size which would approximate the size of the vial represented by the pieces of glass submitted could hold sufficient nitroglycerine to cause the damage in this case. It was stated that nitroglycerine is usually exploded by shock such as that from a blasting or electrical blasting cap. It was stated a candle would not normally be used to set off nitroglycerine but could possibly, under certain conditions. This conclusion by the Laboratory was in answer to a hypothetical question as to whether a candle placed in the top of a test tube filled with an explosive chemical such as nitroglycerine could burn down completely, causing the lighted wick to drop into the chemical and cause the explosion. The Laboratory stated that had the vial from which the glass fragments came been used to hold nitroglycerine and the nitroglycerine been set off while in the vial it is doubtful whether any glass fragments would have been found. It was stated none of the submitted materials are of value in determining the type of explosive substance used or the method used to set off an explosive charge. The residue found at an explosion scene is usually carbon which could have originated from a number of different sources other than the explosive used.

The Laboratory was requested to advise whether from an examination of a piece of wood discolored by the flash or smoke from an explosion it could determine the type of explosive material used.

The Laboratory stated in answer that in the event a blasting cap or electrical blasting cap were used to set off the charge there may be bronze particles imbedded in the wood members. It was stated that in view of this it would be desirable to forward the wood, at least that closest to where the explosion occurred, to the Laboratory for examination.

The Laboratory was also advised that there had been obtained a piece of the main supporting sleeper which contained a grayish deposit which appeared to have been blasted onto the wood from the

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explosion. Visually the grey substance appeared to be similar to the greyish material submitted to the Laboratory which was obtained from the soil in the bottom of the crater. The Laboratory was requested to advise whether from further examination of this greyish deposit they could determine the type of explosive material used. The Laboratory advised that the greyish deposit was probably sand inasmuch as examination of the wood previously forwarded by the Sheriff's Office of Dade County revealed the same type of deposits as described to be sand.

12. 8 pieces of wood containing smoke and other blasting effects obtained from the immediate vicinity where the explosion occurred. These pieces of wood were submitted to the Laboratory on January 9, 1952, for the purpose of determining, in accordance with the Laboratory's suggestion, whether any pieces of bronze or copper are imbedded in the wood to indicate whether or not a blasting cap was used to detonate the unknown explosive charge and whether they may reveal foreign substance on one of the pieces of wood could give any indication as to what type explosive material was used.

13. Portion of one of the mattresses on which the victims were sleeping, those forwarded January 9, 1952.

The Laboratory by teletype dated January 23, 1952, advised that nothing was found in the wood or mattress which would assist in identifying the explosive substance used or the method of igniting an explosive substance. Metal particles dug from two pieces of wood were identified as corroded pieces of galvanized wire resembling chicken wire. A peculiar pattern of concentric rings on one piece of wood was believed to have been caused by a bed spring when the wood was driven against it by the force of the explosion.

On January 14, 1952, items 14 to 17 were forwarded to the Laboratory for examination.

14. Cardboard container containing soil from the vicinity of the home of victim HARRY T. MOORE, which soil was not affected by the explosion, and is a specimen of the ordinary soil in the area.

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15. Cardboard container containing soil which was taken from the center of the crater caused by the explosion of one pound of TNT in the form of two one-half pound blocks of TNT detonated by a #8 instantaneous electric detonator. This TNT charge was set up in the center of a large wash tub full of soil taken from the area of the victims' home not previously contaminated by the original explosion.

16. Cardboard container containing soil taken from the center of a crater caused by the explosion of one pound of 50% duPont dynamite in the form of two one-half pound sticks of dynamite and detonated by a #8 instantaneous electric detonator. This dynamite was detonated in the center of a separate wash tub full of soil taken from the vicinity of the victims' home, which soil was not previously contaminated by instant explosion.

17. Cardboard container containing soil taken from the center of a crater formed by the detonation of a 10' coil of prima cord which was coiled in a circle 6" in diameter and laid flat in the center of a large wash tub of soil taken from the area around the victims' home, uncontaminated by the original explosion. The prima cord is filled with the explosive PETN and it was detonated by a #8 instantaneous electric detonator.

To date the FBI Laboratory has not furnished the results of its examination of the above four items.

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DETAILS: Investigation in this matter was conducted by the following Agents: Assistant Special Agent in Charge WILLIAM W. BURKE, EDWIN H. DUFF II, FRED E. GORDON, THOMAS E. MATTHEWS, CLYDE P. ADERHOLD, H. WAYNE SWINNEY and FRANK BEECH.

At approximately 3:40 A.M. on December 26, 1951 Sheriff H. T. WILLIAMS, Brevard County, Titusville, Florida, contacted Special Agent EDWIN H. DUFF II at Daytona Beach by phone from Mims, Florida and advised that the home of HARRY T. MOORE, an officer of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People located at Mims, Florida, had been bombed by some type of explosive which had been placed directly under the bedroom of MOORE and that the blast had killed MOORE and that MOORE's wife, HARRIETT, was in a serious condition at the Sanford Memorial Hospital.

The Sheriff advised the blast had occurred at approximately 10:30 P.M. on December 25, 1951 and that a blood hound had been brought to the area and had been able to trace a track leading from the home through an orange grove to a hard road where the trail was lost. The Sheriff indicated that a guard had been placed around the entire area and that it was his intention to forward any evidence obtained to the FBI Laboratory for examination.

The Miami Office was immediately advised and the information relayed to the Bureau.

Pursuant to instructions, Special Agent DUFF and FRED E. GORDON proceeded to the scene of the blast.

AT MIMS, FLORIDA.

Upon arrival at the scene the following individuals were present:

Deputy Sheriff CLYDE BATES
Deputy Sheriff GILES PLATT
County Judge and Coroner VASCAR B. CARLTON
Assistant State's Attorney HUBERT GRIGGS
Sergeant GEORGE SIMS, brother-in-law of victim MOORE
JOE WARREN, close friend of victim and his brother
HEN WARREN, also a friend of the victim.

At the time of the agents' arrival it is to be noted that the area was enveloped in a very dense ground fog which made visibility practically impossible and it was several hours before dawn started breaking which caused the fog to lift and effected better visibility. State's Attorney GRIGGS and Coroner CARLTON advised that instructions had been issued

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to the Sheriff to call a Coroner's jury and at the moment the Sheriff was notifying the necessary individuals to report for Coroner's jury duty at 8 A.M. on December 26, 1951.

The area had been protected by Deputy Sheriff BATES and the other individuals present from the time of BATES' arrival upon the scene at approximately 10:45 P.M. or about 15 minutes after the blast occurred.

BATES said he had received a telephone call from Night Jailor ROBERTS at the Titusville Jail that an explosion had occurred at the home of the victim at Mims, Florida. BATES said that he had dressed and immediately proceeded to the scene, some four and one-half miles north of his home in Titusville.

BATES said that upon his arrival on the scene there were quite a few people milling around the house and that the area was in complete darkness and visibility was poor due to the fact enveloping ground fog.

BATES said at the time of his arrival victim MOORE and his wife had already been removed from the house by Sergeant GEORGE SIMS and his brother, ARNOLD SIMS, brother-in-law of the victim and near neighbors and were enroute to the Sanford Memorial Hospital at Sanford, Florida, approximately 37 miles distant. BATES said he had been told by some of the spectators on the scene that MOORE was in a very critical condition and unable to talk when removed from the debris and that his wife was apparently suffering from severe shock as she was apparently talking incoherently.

BATES said that he had immediately determined that some type of heavy explosive had been placed under the northeast corner of MOORE's bedroom and the resulting blast had torn the entire bedroom to bits and had shredded the floor of the bedroom as well as the ceiling and the walls. BATES said that upon his arrival he had immediately looked into the blast crater underneath the house and had been unable to detect any odor which would indicate the nature or type of explosive that had been used. He said there was definitely no odor which is usually present when dynamite is used for such a purpose and that he had been told by the first arrivals on the scene that there was no apparent smoke or other indication to show what type of explosive was used.

BATES said that he had determined that MOORE, together with his wife HARRIETT, his daughter ANNA ROSALIE and his mother ROSA M. MOORE, had, earlier in the evening of December 25, 1951 been present at the home of ARNOLD SIMS, a brother-in-law of the victim and near neighbor, together with quite a few other relatives and friends of the MOORES' and the SIMS' and that

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from the best available information it was indicated that the victim, together with his wife, daughter and mother had left the SIMMS home between 9 and 9:15 P.M. and that they had ridden from the SIMMS home to the MOORE house in MOORE's Ford sedan which had been parked immediately in front of the house and that thereafter MOORE, with his family, had entered the house and had thereafter retired.

He said that the information indicated that the daughter was apparently asleep at the time the blast occurred and that the mother of the victim was apparently in the process of dozing off when the blast struck.

BATES said that MOORE and his wife occupied the front bedroom on the northeast corner of the 75 foot frame dwelling and that the victim's mother occupied the second bedroom or middle bedroom on the north side of the home and the daughter occupied the third bedroom located on the northwest corner or back corner of the house and which is separated from the second bedroom by a small bath room. The blast was so severe that it completely split the house at all seams, blew all windows in the house out and completely disintegrated and splintered the front porch.

Photographs of the scene were obtained and copies are being forwarded to the Bureau.

BATES said that immediately after his arrival upon the scene and upon learning the nature of the incident, he immediately radioed the Sheriff's Office at Titusville and requested that Sheriff H. T. WILLIAMS be informed. He further requested that Deputy Sheriff GILES PLATT at Melbourne be advised at once and requested that PLATT bring with him immediately to the area the blood hound which is used by the Sheriff's Office in connection with criminal investigations.

BATES said that an immediate inquiry in the area had failed to develop any information indicating that any suspicious individuals had been noted in the area during the early evening or during the Christmas day period and he said that after the arrival of PLATT and the blood hound, the dog was apparently able to pick up a scent near the house which he tracked from the house to a grapefruit tree located approximately 50 feet from the northeast corner of the home and from there to a palm tree located almost directly in front of the house about 100 feet away and from there to an orange tree in the grove which extends in front of the home for a distance of some 200 yards until the grove is separated by a hard road known as the Old Dixie Highway.

From the orange tree in the grove, behind which the unknown subject is believed to have stood, the trail was traced by the dog in a northeasterly direction through the soft sand toward the Old Dixie Highway where the dog apparently lost the trail. BATES said that in following the dog through the orange grove the dog and/or the officers following the dog had apparently stopped in and obliterated all but three or four of the footprints which the unknown subject is believed to have left. Casts of two prints were made and were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for examination.

By way of background concerning MOORE, BATES advised that MOORE had been a resident of the Mims area for a period of approximately 25 years and that he was one of the most active members of his race in the Brevard County area and had at one time been Principal of one of the Brevard County Schools but due to some difficulty which he encountered with the Brevard County School Board, he had either been discharged or allowed to resign and that in recent years MOORE had been directing most of his activities to work of the NAACP.

BATES further advised that during the past four years or so MOORE had not maintained a permanent residence at Mims, Florida and was believed to have been residing more or less permanently in the vicinity of Lake Park, Florida near West Palm Beach where his wife was believed to have been employed as a school teacher. BATES said that MOORE and his family had apparently only used the home at Mims, Florida for weekend visits and he is not believed to have been in the vicinity of his home at Mims, Florida for a period of approximately four weeks prior to the blasting of his house.

BATES said that subsequent to his arrival upon the scene he had talked with many of the colored residents in the area who had visited the scene and had been unable to obtain any information from any of them which would shed any light on the party or parties responsible for the death of the victim.

BATES said that during the early morning hours he had been sitting on the bumper of a car talking to BEN WARREN, a brother of JOEL WARREN a close friend of the victim and that BEN WARREN had told him, BATES, that he, BEN WARREN, had in the recent past told HARRY MOORE, the victim, that he, WARREN, thought MOORE was "going a little too far and a little too fast."

BATES advised that it was common knowledge in Brevard County that MOORE had been quite active in NAACP work and that most recently he had been engaged in investigating the "Groveland Case" in Lake County, Florida, which involved SAMUEL SHEPHERD and WALTER LEE IRVIN. BATES further advised that

subsequent to the incident which occurred in Lake County wherein SHEPHERD was killed and IRVIN was wounded by Sheriff WILLIS McCALL, that numerous newspaper items had been reported in the Atlanta, Miami, Jacksonville and Daytona Beach newspapers quoting MOORE and others in connection with the Lake County incident.

BATES added that while MOORE had been engaged in active work for the NAACP they, the Sheriff's Office in Brevard County, had never experienced any difficulty with MOORE nor had any incidents or racial matters arisen which had caused any attention to be directed to MOORE'S activity in that field. BATES added that they regarded MOORE as a quiet and peaceful fellow and they knew of no definite enemies which he may have had and knew of no one that would have a motive for killing MOORE. BATES added that general talk among the arrivals on the scene attributed MOORE'S death to his possible activity in the investigation of the Groveland case in Lake County.

At 8 A.M. a Coroner's jury, headed by Coroner and County Judge VASSAR B. CARLTON and assisted by Assistant State's Attorney HUBERT GRIGGS, convened to view the scene. The Coroner's Jury heard the story as related by Sergeant GEORGE SIMS and his brother, ARNOLD SIMS, the first arrivals upon the scene and brothers-in-law of the victim, and after hearing their testimony the jury recessed pending further investigation by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.

The jury was composed of W. O. B. CHITTENDEN; W. H. BELL; R. H. HUDSON, publisher of the Titusville Star-Advocate newspaper; R. A. CUTLER, Titusville Druggist; JOE WARREN, colored and N. N. GILBERT, colored.

Assistant State's Attorney HUBERT GRIGGS and County Judge VASSAR B. CARLTON both advised that they had known victim MOORE and his wife as residents of Brevard County for a great many years and that MOORE had formerly been a teacher in the Brevard County School system but that due to some difficulty, the exact nature of which was unknown to them, MOORE had either been discharged or allowed to resign from his job in the school system. Both men advised that they were aware of the fact that MOORE in recent years had been quite active in NAACP affairs and had received considerable newspaper publicity in connection with his activity, particularly that with reference to the "Groveland Case."

Judge CARLTON said however, and GRIGGS confirmed the fact that as far as they knew MOORE had never created any trouble or dissension in Brevard County and that they looked upon him and regarded him as a good citizen. They both added that in recent years MOORE had not spent too much of his time