

GREENWOOD Liz Fusco/jeanne

Friday nite, saturday morning 12:30-1:15am Fred Lee Thomas was shot. Silas and Jake McGhee saw the body and took pictures of it. The newspaper said that the cause was unknown but that the body was badly beaten. The body was found 1 and 3/10 miles from where Thomas was last seen walking down the highway. A shot was heard in a white area called Resettlement 3 miles from the highway and 5 miles from where he was found. A second newspaper article said that Thomas was killed through a hit and run accident, which the coroner jury had decided. An autopsy was performed without the consent of the family. On the highway blood and hair was found; a pack of Camel cigarettes with blood was found. The coroner had said that the body had a high alcoholic content. The second newspaper article had said that he had just come from a nite club. No Negro clubs are within five miles of that area so it is almost impossible to believe that it was hit and run because of the way that the body was mutilated and a bullet hole was seen.

Liz feels that Thomas had been mistaken for the guy who used to drive her around. There is reason to believe that the KKK is involved. The FBI was down Friday morning to talk with James Hooper, President of the Klan. Hooper owns a plantation; he fired one family because of participation in the freedom union. His son is one of the people who have been chasing people around after they attended mass meetings and intimidating them. It is felt that federal action should be taken regarding Hoopers involvement. The county buried the boy's body yesterday afternoon at 4:30. No one knew about it until later; not sure that the family was there.

MORE ON KILLING OF FRED THOMAS Liz Fusco/bab

The parents of Fred Lee Thomas had planned to have the funeral serviced today. When they went to the Funeral home yesterday with the burial clothes, they were informed that the burial would take place that day. This was because the coroner or the embalmer ruled that the body couldn't be kept because it was so mutilated. They were told that the body would be buried even if they protested.

There is an eye witness to the body being thrown out of a car. The person said that he saw this happening thursday nite, but is not of the time. He was coming from a friend's house just off highway 49, (between Greenwood and Sidon) and saw a car--65 or 64 Plymouth--slow down and dim its light, then the body flew out of the window, the heels went up and the head went down. The eye witness said, "I never seen a body thrown that hard. Musta been dead when it or throwed, or it was a powerful man that throwed it."

The car then went forward for about 10-15 miles, then backed up, the witness was afraid that they had seen him and were coming back at him. He hid in bean field. The left light came across him as he hid. That suggested that the car backed slantwise across the highway to run over the boy's body and drag it. The witness said that the car backed up for about 90 yards then went on.

The witness says he knows the names of the three men in the car. Their names were given to FBI agents Shawn and Fedderely of the Greenwood FBI by Liz Fusco at 8:30pm today. The agents came after Liz called John Doar and complained that the only person who talked with agents in Greenwood was James Hooper, president of the LeFlore County KKK.

The two agents insisted that Liz give them the name of the witness. They threatened her with being charged with felony of withholding information.

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Sunday August 22, 1965

GREENWOOD CON'T

Liz called the Justice Department and spoke to Owens for about an hour. He told her that she should have given the information to the agents. Liz doesn't Agent Shawn because when she moved into Sidon, he came by and asked her what subversive organizations she belongs to.

Even through Liz had a very complete list of all the makes and models of the cars that were driving around the community, the two agents didn't want that information.

Liz also told Owens that the community feels the kid was murdered to scare them away from registering to vote. Owens said that he had no prccf of that. Liz said that unless the FBI went and talk to the people in the community about that, they would never get the proof. Owens said in effect, I understand the way you feel, but you can't tell the FBI how to investigate.

EASTERN SHORE, MARYLAND Ellen Fishman/bab

A suit has been filed by an injunction against the RC Arena in Cambridge in the U.S. circuit court in Baltimore. The arena is a swimming pool. Lawyers are trying to hold up the trials for tresspassing arising out of a pool integration attempt on July 4, until this suit is heard. The hearings are scheduled for September 20.

A meeting is scheduled this week with members of the United Steel Workers Union and SNCC. They want to talk about discrimination in the Union. Out of the High School Freedom School class of five, a discussion group seems to be growing with about 30 kids. They are very interested in civil rights problems, particularly, jobs, schools and police. They are trying to get a local minister to act as advisor, so that they can continue to meet.