

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
TEXAS RANGER DIVISION

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Date: 08-09-96

FILE TITLE 1 MURDER - FC - #1900 2 LITTLEFIELD, LAMB COUNTY - #140 3 ANGIE CRUZ 4 08-06-96	THIS REPORT IS THE PROPERTY OF TEXAS DPS-TEXAS RANGER DIVISION. NEITHER IT NOR ITS CONTENTS MAY BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE THE AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.
ACTIVE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INACTIVE: <input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED: <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICTED: <input type="checkbox"/> STATIONED: LUBBOCK SUBMITTING INVESTIGATOR INV-ID-NR: 2824 BY: W. YEAGER SUP-ID-NR: 4669 BY: B. CAVER <i>BKC</i> CPT-ID-NR: BY: SEC-ID-NR: DATE: 08-13-96	FILE NR TYPE PROGRAM RC086241A C 1900 DISSEMINATION CX RELATED FILES D1 F1 D2 F2 D3 F3 D4 F4 D5 F5

YEAGER

RPT-RE: INVESTIGATION REPORT

SYNOPSIS

On 08-06-96, writer was requested to assist on the above investigation by Ranger Sal ABREO. Writer assisted ABREO at the crime scene, took statements from witnesses and obtained information attempting to develop suspects.

DETAILS

1. Writer was contacted by Ranger Sal ABREO at 7:15 A.M., on 08-06-96, requesting assistance with the above entitled investigation. ABREO advised he was investigating a capital murder in Littlefield at the Jolly Roger store on US 385, where the female clerk was shot and killed. ABREO requested writer to pick up Scott WILLIAMS at the DPS Lab in Lubbock and bring him along with the lab equipment to Littlefield to assist in processing the crime scene.
2. Writer and WILLIAMS traveled to Littlefield and assisted ABREO processing the crime scene. Information was received that Mary Jane ESPINOZA, a clerk at the Town and Country store on US 84, may have some information pertaining to a possible suspect who appeared suspicious in her store around 8:00 P.M., on 08-05-96. ABREO requested writer to locate ESPINOZA, interview her in reference to her information and obtain a statement.
3. Writer located ESPINOZA at her place of employment and requested her to go with writer to the Lamb County Sheriff's Office where she could be interviewed. After arriving at the SO, ESPINOZA was interviewed and a witness statement was obtained. ESPINOZA stated why the man appeared suspicious and described him in her statement. The man was described as a Hispanic male, 26 to 29 years old, with slicked hair possibly in a ponytail, wearing dark shades and was about 5'11" tall. ESPINOZA further stated the man appeared clean, was casually dressed and had a medium complexion. The man was driving a large sized, gold-brown car with a white top. ESPINOZA stated the car had a paint job that appeared new.

DPS SENSITIVE

AS-TRIAL 04975

CONTINUATION

DATE: 08-09-96

PAGE: 2

FILE TITLE	FILE NO.	TYPE	PROGRAM CODE
1 MURDER - FC - #1900	RC096241A	C	1900
2 LITTLEFIELD, LAMB COUNTY - #140			
3 ANGIE CRUZ			
4 08-06-96			
ACTIVE <u>X</u> INACTIVE <u> </u> CLOSED <u> </u> RESTRICT <u> </u>			
BY: W. YEAGER, #2824			

4. After taking ESPINOZA's statement, writer was introduced to Joe Mark RODEN by Ranger FOSTER who advised he may also have information pertaining to this investigation. RODEN stated he was coming into Littlefield at approximately 1:30 A.M. to 1:40 A.M., when he observed a gold older model car with Alaska plates north bound on US 385 in Littlefield. The car was traveling at a slow rate of speed and RODEN observed it pull into the Jolly Roger parking lot. Writer took a written statement pertaining to the above facts.
5. Writer assisted Officer HILBURN take three (3) written witness statements from Mary Helen GALLEGAS, Jose ACEVEDO, 14 yoa and Adam Valentino BALDERAS, 15 yoa at the Littlefield hospital. These statements were pertaining to Alberto SIFUENTES, who was in Littlefield the night of this offense in a gold colored car. Muleshoe Police Department officers had advised Littlefield Police Department officers earlier SIFUENTES should be checked as a possible suspect.
6. Writer returned to the scene and assisted Ranger ABREO in processing the scene and gathering evidence consisting of an overhead sign and a portion of the store counter.
7. On 08-07-96, writer was advised by Lamb County SO that Border Patrol Agent MANNING of the Lubbock office had picked up eleven (11) illegal aliens from the Olton area driving an older model gold car and he was enroute to Lubbock with the aliens. At 10:30 A.M., 08-07-96, writer contacted the Border Patrol Office, advised them of the above investigation and requested photographs of the above aliens. Writer was advised the aliens told Border Patrol agents they had been driving straight through from Mexico when their car broke down and were arrested.
8. At 11:00 A.M., 08-07-96, writer was contacted by Chief HOLDER of Levelland Police Department, who advised of two (2) possible suspects from Levelland who drive a 1985 gold colored Chrysler 4-door. They were described as Armando Ramirez GONZALES, DOB 10-11-78 and Jerry Ramirez GONZALES, DOB 08-01-77. Writer contacted Lubbock Police Department ID Officer Wesley SHIELDS and advised him of the above information. SHIELDS stated he would obtain prints from HOLDER and compare them to latents from the scene.
9. On 08-07-96, writer returned to Littlefield and discussed the investigation with Littlefield investigating officers. Writer was advised a witness had been located and identified as Brenda Lee WALTERS-AYALA, 20 years old, who gave a written statement pertaining to being in the store just before the murder occurred and what she observed.

DPS SENSITIVE

AS-TRIAL 04976

CONTINUATION

DATE: 08-09-96

PAGE: 3

FILE TITLE	FILE NO.	TYPE	PROGRAM CODE
1 MURDER - FC - #1900	RC096241A	C	1900
2 LITTLEFIELD, LAMB COUNTY - #140			
3 ANGIE CRUZ			
4 08-06-96			
ACTIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INACTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICT <input type="checkbox"/>			
BY: W. YEAGER, #2824			

10. Writer was also advised the Amherst Police Department Officer had stopped a gold 1983 model Lincoln with Texas Registration SSW-78P approximately 55 minutes after the above offense occurred. The people in the car were reported as Alberto Gamez SIFUENTES, DL# 03341861, Oscar Henry LUCKE, DL# 02901916 and Mary DAVILA, DL# 11438088. Writer was advised LUCKE with the DL# 02901916 was the owner of the car. The vehicle registration returns to a Jesus RAMIREZ of PO Box 180 in Muleshoe.
11. Writer returned to Lubbock and was contacted at 9:15 P.M. and advised to return to Littlefield to assist in interviewing two (2) possible suspects who were detained in a store in Olton after reportedly being overheard talking about killing someone.
12. The two (2) possible suspects were identified as Manuel Lorenzo MENDIOLA, w/m, DOB 09-07-74, SS# 462-59-3026, FBI# 418523WA4 and Eduardo Alvanano JALOMO, w/m, DOB 05-24-70, TXDL# 08567678. The suspects were brought to the Littlefield PD for interviewing. Writer assisted Officer Wes CAMPBELL of the Littlefield PD with the interviews. Both suspects seem unconcerned and advised they had been visiting about a tape they heard in which a man shot himself and was brought back to life. The suspects advised they were talking in Spanish and don't understand how anybody could have mistaken what they said about the tape. The suspects were separated during the interviews and had the same stories. The suspects advised that they were living near Hale Center, TX, working on farms as migrant workers and their bosses were Alfredo MARIN and Renalto MARIN of 806-879-2359. JALOMO did not arrive in Hale Center until 08-07-96 from Arkansas. After interviewing the (2) two suspects, writer contacted Renalto MARIN at above telephone number who confirmed the suspects' story. After interviews were terminated, both were released to return to Hale Center.
13. On 08-09-96, writer traveled to the Lubbock PD and obtained information from analyst Robert STACK in reference to possible violent suspects with a gold colored vehicle. This information was delivered to Ranger ABREO by writer.

CUSTODY OF EVIDENCE

NONE

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

1. Manuel Lorenzo MENDIOLA, w/m, DOB 09-07-74, SS# 462-59-3026, FBI# 418523WA4

DPS SENSITIVE

AS-TRIAL 04977

CONTINUATION

DATE: 08-09-96

PAGE: 4

FILE TITLE	FILE NO.	TYPE	PROGRAM CODE
1 MURDER - FC - #1900	RC096241A	C	1900
2 LITTLEFIELD, LAMB COUNTY - #140			
3 ANGIE CRUZ			
4 08-06-96			
	ACTIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INACTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICT <input type="checkbox"/>		
	BY: W. YEAGER, #2824		

2. Edwardo Alvanano JALOMO, w/m, DOB 05-24-70,
TXDL# 08567678

WITNESSES & INVESTIGATORS

1. Scott WILLIAMS, Tech
DPS Laboratory
Lubbock, TX
2. Mary Jane ESPINOZA, clerk
Town and Country store
Littlefield, TX
3. Officer HILBURN
Littlefield PD
Littlefield, TX
4. Wes CAMPBELL, officer
same as #3

Correct copy 8-26-96

CONTINUATION

DATE: 08-16-96

PAGE: 5

FILE TITLE	FILE NO.	TYPE	PROGRAM CODE
1 MURDER - FC - #1900	RC096241A	C	1900
2 LITTLEFIELD, LAMB COUNTY - #140			
3 ANGIE CRUZ			
4 08-06-96			
ACTIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INACTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICT <input type="checkbox"/>			
BY: W. YEAGER, #2824			

SYNOPSIS:

Writer assisted Ranger ABREO in developing suspects and interviewing same.

DETAILS:

- 14. Writer was contacted on 08-07-96 by Danny ESCOBEDO of the Lovington, New Mexico Police Department. ESCOBEDO stated that he was working a shooting where a Hector BONILLA, w/m, DOB 10-22-70 had shot his girlfriend with a .22 caliber, semi-automatic pistol. The girlfriend was identified as a Maria HERNANDEZ and she had been brought to the University Medical Hospital in Lubbock for treatment.
- 15. ESCOBEDO stated BONILLA had turned himself in to Lovington police at 5:00 AM, Texas time, 08-06-96. ESCOBEDO stated BONILLA had earlier threatened to go to Lubbock and finish the job he started on HERNANDEZ. ESCOBEDO had heard BONILLA was in the Hospital area and was interviewed by a UMC police officer.
- 16. On 08-08-96, writer and ESCOBEDO met at UMC Hospital and learned BONILLA had not been seen in the area. The officer who reportedly had talked to BONILLA requested a check on a vehicle license given to him earlier when officers had been advised of BONILLA's threats to come to Lubbock. The dispatcher who ran the check thought the officer had stopped the vehicle and would have talked to BONILLA.
- 17. On 08-12-96, at approximately 5:00 p.m., writer traveled to Sudan and assisted Ranger ABREO. Writer, along with Ranger ABREO and CIS Investigator Sally ARREDONDO, located Mary DAVILA and interviewed her at the city hall in Sudan.
- 18. Mary advised officers that on 08/05-06/96, she was with Joe Luis and a Miguel LNU in a gold colored car when stopped in Amherst returning from Lubbock, where they had been dancing. Mary advised that she did not know the above men's last names, but that Miguel was the one who owned the car.
- 19. After further interviewing, Mary changed her story and stated that Joe Luis was Gilbert. Mary advised that they had stopped in Littlefield prior to going to Lubbock, where Gilbert called his girlfriend, who was visiting someone at the hospital.
- 20. Mary said that the three of them continued on to Lubbock, where they danced at a nightclub on Clovis Road until about 1:30 a.m. on 08-06-96. They then went to Sudan and were stopped on the way back near Amherst.

211

CONTINUATION

DATE: 08-16-96

PAGE: 6

FILE TITLE	FILE NO.	TYPE	PROGRAM CODE
1 MURDER - FC - #1900	RC096241A	C	1900
2 LITTLEFIELD, LAMB COUNTY - #140			
3 ANGIE CRUZ			
4 08-06-96			
	ACTIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INACTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICT <input type="checkbox"/>		
	BY: W. YEAGER, #2824		

Mary looked at a photo of Alberto SIFUENTES and said the man was Gilbert.

21. ABREO and Sally ARREDONDO continued to interview Mary DAVILA and writer traveled to Muleshoe in an attempt to locate Alberto. Upon arrival in Muleshoe, writer contacted local officers attempting to identify the gold vehicle with Texas registration SSW78P and associates of SIFUENTES. When stopped, the owner of the vehicle was reportedly Henry LUCKE with DL number 02901916. Bailey County Deputy Don CARTER had checked on LUCKE and learned that he lived in the Abilene area and was never in the Muleshoe area.
22. Officers traveled to SIFUENTES' residence at 507 E. Avenue F in Muleshoe in an attempt to contact SIFUENTES and did locate same at residence. Muleshoe officers also observed the gold vehicle SSW78P at this residence. SIFUENTES was brought to the Muleshoe PD to be interviewed by writer and at the same time the other officers learned that the owner of the car was at the same address and was identified as Jesus Esquivel RAMIREZ with DL number 12901916, which is one number different from the number given to officers by the Amherst officer who stopped the vehicle on 08-06-96, and showed address of Box 180, Ranch House, Muleshoe, TX, which corresponds with the return on the car registration. Officers then also brought RAMIREZ into the PD.
23. Both SIFUENTES and RAMIREZ were interviewed in reference to their whereabouts in the early morning hours of 08-06-96 and denied being in the area of the Jolly Roger store in Littlefield. However, RAMIREZ stated, "Why would we rob a store for \$300 or \$400 dollars, when I make \$500 dollars a week?" At this time, no one knew the exact amount of money taken during the robbery. ABREO and ARREDONDO, after taking a statement from Mary DAVILA, came to Muleshoe and assisted in interviewing the above men. At 10:25 p.m., on 08-12-96, RAMIREZ signed a consent to search his vehicle and his trailer, which is his residence, located on the west side of Muleshoe. During the interview, RAMIREZ advised writer that he did have a .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol at his residence. Writer, along with ARREDONDO, went with Muleshoe officers to the trailer where writer located the pistol in a storage area beneath the heater. The location was photographed by ARREDONDO and the pistol was taken into custody. The pistol was immediately taken back and placed in the custody of Ranger ABREO. The pistol, when recovered, was in a pouch along with a partial box of .22 ammunition.
24. After gathering evidence and the above information, ABREO contacted the District Attorney, who advised officers to hold both SIFUENTES and RAMIREZ. Bailey County officers took custody of RAMIREZ and SIFUENTES, who were placed in the Bailey County Jail.

DPS SENSITIVE

AS-TRIAL 04980

CONTINUATION

DATE: 08-16-96

PAGE: 7

FILE TITLE	FILE NO.	TYPE	PROGRAM CODE
1 MURDER - FC - #1900	RC096241A	C	1900
2 LITTLEFIELD, LAMB COUNTY - #140			
3 ANGIE CRUZ			
4 08-06-96			
	ACTIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INACTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICT <input type="checkbox"/>		
	BY: W. YEAGER, #2824		

CUSTODY OF EVIDENCE:

All evidence in custody of Ranger ABREO.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

3. Jesus Esquivel RAMIREZ, w/m, DOB 12-20-48
5'7'', 135 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes
TXDL#12901916
4. Alberto Gamez SIFUENTES, w/m, DOB 04-22-73
5'5'', 130 lbs., brown eyes, black hair
TXDL#03341861

WITNESSES & INVESTIGATORS:

5. Salvador ABREO, Sgt.
Texas Rangers, Company "C"
Box 420
Lubbock, TX 79408
(806) 747-4491
6. Sally ARREDONDO, Sgt-Investigator
DPS - CIS
Box 420
Lubbock, TX 79408
(806) 747-4491

DPS SENSITIVE

AS-TRIAL 04981