

U. S. Department of Justice

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Date: 03-25-2015

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

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Bureau File Number

See also Nos.

CLASSIFICATION NO.

157-12353
157-12344
Haw

Serials

Volume Number

6

Date prepared

Date received

Received from (name or symbol number)

Received by

6/22/70

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

SA BRENT W. WARBERG

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person

by telephone

by mail

orally

recording device

written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:
Date

Date of Report

6/22/70

Dictated 6/22/70 to PATRICIA A. PACE-MB

Date(s) of activity

6/19 - 22/70

Transcribed 6/23/70

Authenticated
by Informant

Brief description of activity or material

Information concerning first annual

File where original is located if not attached

FEATHERSTONE Black Art Festival and activities
of JOHN BUFFINGTON.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.
VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

Information recorded on a card index by _____ on date _____

Remarks:

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ENCLOSED REPORT,
IF USED IN A REPORT BEING PREPARED FOR DISSEMINATION,
SHOULD BE SUITABLY PARAPHRASED IN ORDER TO ADEQUATELY
PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THIS INFORMANT.

1 - FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

1 - 100-985 (JOHN HENRY BUFFINGTON)

1 - 157-12345 (FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE BLACK ART FESTIVAL)

Block Stamp

157-12345-8

BW BW

JUN 22 1970

[Handwritten signature]

Handwritten notes: CW, 9-9-70, [initials]

6/22/70

Columbus, Miss.

The source advised that the First Annual FEATHERSTONE Black Art Festival was held in West Point, Miss., on June 20 and 21, 1970, and was a complete flop. The source stated that although most of the performers which had been scheduled did show up the crowd was very small. The source stated that two sessions were to be held in a park in West Point, Miss., and that the afternoon session scheduled for 6/20/70, was attended by 12 individuals. He stated that the Sunday afternoon session which was scheduled for June 21, 1970, was not held. Concerning the night sessions which were held at the gymnasium on the campus of Mary Holmes College, the source stated that these were better attended with approximately 200 people attending the rally at night early on Saturday night and a much smaller group attending the program on Sunday night.

The source went on to state that he believes the \$1.50 donation which was asked for probably cut down on the attendance at the sessions. The source went on to state that most of the people in this area like to get out and have entertainment, however, they do not care to pay for it. The source also stated that one of the other problems may have been the extreme heat experienced by the Northeastern Section of Miss. during the past week.

The source stated that most of the program dealt with entertainment and there was really not much eulogizing of RALPH EDWARD FEATHERSTONE or WILLIAM "CHE" PAYNE. The source went on to state that as a whole the program was a complete disappointment to JOHN BUFFINGTON.

Concerning BUFFINGTON, the source stated that BUFFINGTON states that he is going to Africa sometime in August, 1970, however, the source stated that he has still been unable to verify this. He went on to say that as of yet BUFFINGTON has not been doing any packing nor has there been any talk of what he plans to do concerning the leadership duties of the black people in West Point, Miss., when he, BUFFINGTON, leaves.

FBI

Date: 6/23/70

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-12345) (C)

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE
BLACK ART FESTIVAL,
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI,
6/20 AND 21/70
RM

Re Jackson airtel to Bureau 6/9/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of an LHM concerning the above captioned matter.

One copy of this LHM has also been designated for the USA, Oxford, Mississippi; USA, Jackson, Mississippi; Secret Service, Jackson; and two copies furnished MIGp, Jackson.

In view of the fact that the captioned festival has been completed, the Jackson Division is conducting no further investigation regarding this matter and is placing the case in a closed status.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)
1 - Jackson
BWW:mif
(3)

[Handwritten signature]
157-12345-7

Searched _____
Serialized new
Indexed _____
Filed new

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

JN 157-12345

ADMINISTRATIVE:

For the information of the Bureau, the source identified in enclosed LHM is [FOIA(b)(7) - (D)], Jackson file [redacted]

[FOIA(b)(7) - (D)]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi 39205

June 23, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE
BLACK ART FESTIVAL,
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI,
JUNE 20 AND 21, 1970

Reference is made to memorandum at Jackson, Mississippi, dated June 9, 1970, captioned as above.

On June 22, 1970, a source, reliable in the past, advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that the first annual Featherstone Black Art Festival was held in West Point, Mississippi, on June 20 and 21, 1970. The source described this festival as "a complete flop."

The source stated that the festival, as scheduled, called for two afternoon sessions at Community Park, West Point, Mississippi. The source stated that the session held at 11:00 AM on June 20, 1970, was attended by twelve individuals. The afternoon session, scheduled for June 21, 1970, was not held.

Concerning the night sessions, which were held at the gymnasium on the Mary Holmes College campus, the source stated that the Saturday program was attended by approximately 200 people; however, the program scheduled for the night of June 21, 1970, had approximately one hundred individuals in attendance. The source stated that all the performers who were scheduled to show up did attend and that at times there seemed to be more performers than spectators.

- 11 - Bureau
- 1 - USA, Oxford
- 1 - USA, Jackson

2 - MiGp, Jackson

① - Jackson (157-12345) 157-12345-6

BWW:mif
(17)

Searched _____
 Serialized
 Indexed _____
 Filed

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE
BLACK ART FESTIVAL,
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI,
JUNE 20 AND 21, 1970

The source went on to say that one of the biggest causes for the small attendance was the \$1.50 donation per person which had been asked for. The source stated that most of the people in the area enjoy entertainment; however, they do not want to pay for it. The source also stated that one of the problems was, in all probability, the high temperatures experienced by the West Point area for the past week.

Concerning the festival itself, the source stated that it followed the planned program, with quite a bit of music; however, not much time was spent eulogizing or talking about Ralph Edward Featherstone or William "Che" Payne.

The source stated that the festival was a very disappointing affair to John Henry Buffington, the organizer of the festival.

On June 22, 1970, Billy Busby, Chief of Police, West Point Police Department, advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that investigation conducted by his department determined that the first annual Featherstone Black Art Festival was a complete disaster as far as the organizers of the festival were concerned. Busby stated that all sessions of the festival were extremely poorly attended and, as far as he could determine, the whole festival was a complete failure. Busby stated that no incidents occurred and that those in attendance, both spectators and performers, appeared to be well mannered.

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.

Date prepared

Date received

6/9/70

Received from (name or symbol number)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Received by

SA BRENT W. WARBERG

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person by telephone by mail orally recording device written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Date of Report

6/9/70

Dictated 6/11/70 to RD-PAP

Date(s) of activity

6/8-9/70

Transcribed 6/12/70

Authenticated by Informant _____

Brief description of activity or material

FEATHERSTONE Memorial; CECIL CARTER in

West Point; Activities of JOHN BUFFINGTON.

File where original is located if not attached

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE. VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

Information recorded on a card index by _____ on date _____

Remarks:

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- 1 - FOIA(b) (7) - (D)
- 1 - 100-985 (JOHN HENRY BUFFINGTON)
- 1 - 157-12165 (CECIL CARTER)
- ① - 157-NEW (MEMORIAL TO RALPH FEATHERSTONE)

100-3457

Block Stamp

157-12345-5

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
JUN 12 1970

Warberg

6/9/70

Columbus, Miss.

Source stated that the main activity in West Point, Miss., is the preparation for the Black Festival in honor of RALPH FEATHERSTONE. The source stated JOHN BUFFINGTON has made all arrangements for the program and claims that all individuals scheduled to appear are confirmed.

The source further stated that he heard that BUFFINGTON has resigned from his post in West Point and plans to take an extended trip to Africa. Source said this was news to him, however, he would try to determine if this was true and if so would find out who, if anybody, will replace BUFFINGTON, and who financed the trip.

Concerning CECIL CARTER, the source advised that CARTER came to West Point and stayed only a few days. The source stated CARTER did meet JOHN BUFFINGTON and talked to him and other Negro residents concerning the racial situation in West Point and inquired about the organization of Negroes with reference to the Clay County Community Development Program and Mary Holmes College. The source stated that after a few days, CARTER left with no apparent plans to return to Miss. Source said he believes CARTER either returned to New York City or to Philadelphia. The source further advised that he had no idea why CARTER came to West Point, but feels CARTER was not impressed.

The source further stated that JOSEPH KILGOE, a dean at Mary Holmes College, has been made Vice President. He said KILGOE is a fine individual, interested in education, and should help keep any possible trouble at Mary Holmes College, next year down.

Date prepared

June 9, 1970

Date received

6/8/70

Received from (name or symbol number)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Received by

SA BRENT W. WARBERG

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person

by telephone

by mail

orally

recording device

written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:
Date

Date of Report

6/8/70

Dictated 6/8/70 to Betty Lou Watkins
(mb)

Date(s) of activity

5/26/70 - 6/8/70

Transcribed 6/9/70

Authenticated
by Informant _____

Brief description of activity or material

Planned activity for First Featherstone

Blakart Festival.

File where original is located if not attached

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

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- 1 - FOIA(b) (7) - (D)
- 2 - 157-New (FIRST FEATHERSTONE BLAKART FESTIVAL)
- 1 - 100-985 (JOHN HENRY BUFFINGTON)

157-12345-4
Block Stamp

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
JUN 9 1970
FBI - JACKSON
Warberg

West Point, Mississippi
June 8, 1970

The source advised that JOHN BUFFINGTON, through his position with the Clay County Community Development Program, is setting up the memorial for RALPH FEATHERSTONE. The memorial is to be called the First Featherstone Blakart Festival and is to be held on June 20 and 21, 1970, in West Point, Mississippi, under the sponsorship of the Clay County Community Development Program.

The source stated that the festival is to be held at the community park in West Point, Mississippi, and also at the gymnasium on the Mary Holmes College campus.

The source stated that the festival is being dedicated to the memory of RALPH FEATHERSTONE for his work in Clay County, Mississippi, where he helped organize the Mississippi Fish Equity, the Clay County Community Development Center, and an all-black community organization.

The source further stated that mention will be made of the fact that FEATHERSTONE and CHE PAYNE were murdered in Bel Air, Maryland, by white individuals who were trying to kill H. RAP BROWN.

The source stated that several individuals, including IKE COLEMAN and TOM DENT, are coming into West Point, Mississippi, to take part in the program. The source further stated that there will be an exhibit of black books from the Drum and Spear Book Store in Washington, D. C. There will also be several singing groups, which will include the Harambee Singers, and a group of singers called the Hammerneers, which are sponsored by FANNIE LOU HAMER.

Concerning the cost of the festival, the source stated that they are asking for donations of \$1.50 per person for every session. Concerning the sessions, the

source stated that there will be four sessions, two each day. The source stated that beginning on June 20, 1970, at 11:00 a.m., a program will be held at the community park in West Point, Mississippi, which will include lecturing and reading and other exhibits concerning black books and black art, and also a skit by the Black Power School. Another session will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening at the Mary Holmes College Gymnasium, which, for the most part, will concern music and a dramatic scene put on by the Free Southern Theater of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Concerning the two sessions set for Sunday, June 21, 1970, the source stated that these would be comprised of singing groups and the entire programs will be musical.

The source stated that he is not positive that BUFFINGTON has definite commitments on all individuals who have been put on the program to take part in the festival; however, the source stated that he is to take the program to the printers in West Point, Mississippi, to be printed up.

The source thereafter made available a copy of the program for the First Featherstone Blackart Festival.

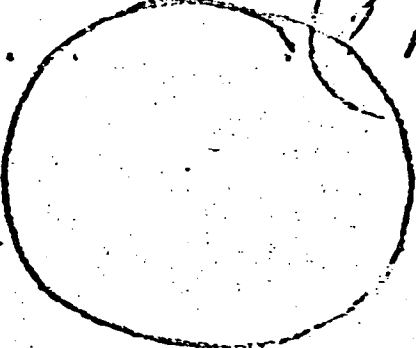
1st FEATHERSTONE BIKANI FESTIVAL

JUNE 20th & 21st

1970

Began

Round ~~Black~~ Circle
(Middle)



!! We Are An African People!!

Sponsored by:

CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INC.
328 Cottrell Street Phone 337-2156
WEST POINT, MISS. 39773

