

1992 Grand Marquis Jackson, MS

EM02-025 3884

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI JACKSON DIVISION

COMPANY PLAINTIFFS
V. CIVIL ACTION NO. J-97-01443
FORD MOTOR COMPANY DEFENDANT

DEPOSITION OF

This deposition is being taken at the instance of the defendant at the office of Jackson, MS on June 18, 1998, at 9:00 A.M.

Representing the Plaintiff:
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Reported by: Pearlle Westmoreland, CSR
Metro Reporting Services
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

This deposition is taken pursuant to notice in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for all purposes allowable.

called as a witness, having first been duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows, to-wit:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Would you state your full name?

A.

Q. I'm Gregory Davis, and I

represent Ford Motor Company in a lawsuit that's been filed by State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, and State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company against Ford Motor Company. I take it you have given depositions before?

A. Yes, sir, I have.

Q. If at any time you don't understand me or we are not speaking the same terms, please stop me and ask me to repeat or rephrase the question.

Okay?

A. Sure.

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Q. What is your current address?

A. My office is Ridgeland, Mississippi.

Q. That is a copy of a vita that I was provided. Is that your current vita?

A. I'm sure it's fairly accurate. It might not have covered the last school and the last court appearance. I think that is fairly correct with the exception of the last court appearance and a school I attended in May of this year.

Q. What school was that?

A. That was the their annual seminar.

Q. Where was that held?

A. Portland, Oregon.

MR. DAVIS: I'm going to attach as Exhibit 1 the notice of deposition, and Exhibit 2 the vita that was just referred to.

(SAID WAS MARKED EXHIBITS 1 & 2)

Q. (By Mr. Davis) what did you bring with you to the deposition today?

A. My files that I have accumulated over the last year or year and a half consisting of a report of the referenced loss, reports from other

1 consultants involved in the case, and what I call a  
2 vault file.

3 Q. A what file?

4 A. Vault.

5 Q. When you say vault file, what does that  
6 mean?

7 A. It consists of the rough notes and the  
8 initial instructions.

9 Q. Would those be the initial instructions  
10 from the person who hired you?

11 A. Yes, it should have that.

12 Q. May I see your vault file?

13 [REDACTED] I'd like to  
14 delete from this file a statement from  
15 [REDACTED] As you know, that report is  
16 subject to a motion to compel at this  
17 point. And if the judge grants your  
18 motion, I will produce that, but at this  
19 point I'm not going to produce that.

20 MR. DAVIS: A one-page document?

21 [REDACTED] One-page document.

22 MR. DAVIS: All right.

23 Q. (By Mr. Davis) [REDACTED] in going  
24 through what you refer to as a vault file, I notice  
25 that you have some photographs. It appears to be

1 A. But these are not a part of mine. When I  
2 say these, the ones that we've got listed as  
3 3/20/97, I don't have them included in my report,  
4 and I believe they are going to be for Owens.

5 Q. Would you have taken them or would  
6 [REDACTED] have taken them?

7 A. I don't remember.

8 Q. Do you have the negatives to those  
9 photographs?

10 A. I'll look to see if I can find them. A  
11 fast review of the negatives that I have, I think I  
12 have four frames that will cover these 20 or some  
13 15 to 16 of them. Most of what we have here are  
14 the same item and they are trying to get the color  
15 correct at the processing plant. So I think I have  
16 what you've asked, yes.

17 MR. DAVIS: We would ask that a set  
18 of prints be made from this.

19 [REDACTED] You want prints  
20 made of these four photographs?

21 A. I think you could look through this and  
22 get you a print, because they are of the same  
23 number, just a difference in coloration.

24 [REDACTED] Pick out what you  
25 want. We will make a color photocopy.

1 22 photographs, and the photographs have a date  
2 marked on them that appears to be March 20, 1997.  
3 Is that correct?

4 A. I doubt if all of them will have that  
5 date on them. What this is, I have them listed in  
6 a package as extras. And I know the photographs  
7 that are depicting the burned rubble from the fire  
8 scene are extras that were taken during my scene  
9 examination. The ones that are marked 3/20/97, I  
10 think these are photographs that were taken for  
11 [REDACTED] when he made an examination of the  
12 artifacts taken from the loss. They are not  
13 photographs that I have with my report, and I'm not  
14 a hundred percent sure that I took them. But I  
15 think that is where they originated, was during  
16 [REDACTED] report of the artifacts.

17 Q. Earlier in this lawsuit I was produced  
18 certain photographs, prints, actually 79 prints.  
19 The photographs that we have that came out of the  
20 vault file, they are not included in the 79 that I  
21 received?

22 A. Well, I'm sure that, say, these depicting  
23 the fire scene, looks like a bed rail, probably  
24 are.

25 Q. Okay.

1 Let me make sure I understand.

2 [REDACTED] are these photographs of the  
3 physical evidence that you have at your  
4 office?

5 THE WITNESS: It appears to be, yes.

6 [REDACTED] And is that the  
7 same physical evidence that was reviewed  
8 by Ford and its expert witness?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 [REDACTED] And they took  
11 photographs of that same evidence?

12 THE WITNESS: I don't know whether  
13 they took photographs, but they had  
14 access to it.

15 [REDACTED] All right.

16 Q. (By Mr. Davis) So as I understand it,  
17 there are four photographs that were taken, and  
18 this is four different prints developed from the  
19 negatives?

20 A. That is what it appears. I will have to  
21 look at them real close to see that. What we have  
22 done is we have reproduced a number of sets of my  
23 original photographs. And each time if there is  
24 something that they don't like in the processing,  
25 they will print another of the same view.

1 Q. Right.

2 [REDACTED] Do you want a print  
3 of those four?

4 MR. DAVIS: Yes.

5 [REDACTED] We will get you  
6 copies of all of those. That's no  
7 problem.

8 Q. (By Mr. Davis) And this other photograph  
9 is a photograph showing the bed rail of the house.  
10 Is it my understanding that is not a part of your  
11 report, but is a photograph that was taken?

12 A. I think it is going to be a part. I  
13 think we will have additional photographs in here.  
14 Let me look through here and see if I can find that  
15 particular one. In my photograph number 72, I see  
16 this same bed rail, but it is not of the same  
17 view. So apparently this is a photograph that I  
18 took while on scene and did not include it in my  
19 report.

20 Q. Is there anything significant about that  
21 photograph which has to do with the cause of the  
22 fire?

23 A. I can't see anything of interest in the  
24 photograph nor do I remember precisely why I took  
25 that particular shot.

1 MR. DAVIS: We would just ask that a  
2 print be provided of that one also.

3 [REDACTED] Sure, we can give  
4 you a copy of it.

5 Q. (By Mr. Davis) [REDACTED] the other  
6 documents in your vault file appear to be a storage  
7 invoice for \$60.00?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. A May 7, 1996 letter to [REDACTED]  
10 Houston from you?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. A May 2, 1996 letter to you from [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. A two-page report with numbers in the  
16 bottom right-hand corner, 48 and 49, which is the  
17 report of J. [REDACTED]

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And that is a part of your report,  
20 correct, the two-page report of [REDACTED]

21 A. It is.

22 Q. There are some handwritten notes dated  
23 December 8, 1995. Would these be notes that you  
24 made based on a conversation that you had with  
25 [REDACTED]

1 A. Yes, the two pages are.

2 Q. And behind those two pages is Evidence  
3 Collection Log?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And it indicates that you collected a  
6 D.C. motor from under left front of the motor  
7 compartment, and number 2 would be electrical  
8 wiring from left side of motor compartment?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. The next document are some handwritten  
11 notes with 12/8/95 at the top?

12 A. Yes. That's the rough sketch of the  
13 electrical distribution file for the referenced  
14 loss.

15 MR. McALLISTER: For the house?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 Q. [REDACTED] Then there's an apparent  
18 drawing of a floor plan?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Did you prepare the actual drawing of the  
21 floor plan?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. And there is the handwritten drawing of  
24 the floor plan dated 12/8/95?

25 A. Yes. This is the sketch I made at the

1 fire scene, in which I made the sketch that I  
2 submitted to State Farm.

3 MR. DAVIS: We will ask that these  
4 documents that are stapled together be  
5 attached as Exhibit 3 to Mr. Vickers'  
6 deposition.

7 [REDACTED] You can attach them  
8 as an exhibit to the deposition if you  
9 want. We are going to object at this  
10 point to the introduction of any of those  
11 exhibits into evidence as his report has  
12 been provided to you already. That's  
13 fine.

14 MR. DAVIS: We can attach a copy.

15 (SAID WAS MARKED EXHIBIT 3)

16 Q. (By Mr. Davis) [REDACTED] the next  
17 document you have is an Assignment Data and Charge  
18 Log?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Is this the document that you maintain as  
21 all the time that you've worked on the case?

22 A. Yes. This is what we put in the file,  
23 and it's an activity log for that date and the  
24 charge for the activities.

25 MR. DAVIS: We'd ask this be

1 attached as Exhibit 4.  
 2 [REDACTED] same objection.  
 3 (SAID WAS MARKED EXHIBIT 4)  
 4 Q. (By Mr. Davis) The next document is a  
 5 handwritten document. What is this document?  
 6 A. This is a number of photographs requested  
 7 by [REDACTED]  
 8 Q. Would the numbers of the photographs  
 9 correspond to the numbers in the 1 through 79 that  
 10 was produced to me?  
 11 A. I'm sure they would, yes.  
 12 MR. DAVIS: We'd ask that this be  
 13 attached as Exhibit 5.  
 14 [REDACTED] same objection.  
 15 (SAID WAS MARKED EXHIBIT 5)  
 16 Q. (By Mr. Davis) The next document appears  
 17 to be two small pages with handwritten notes on  
 18 them?  
 19 A. Correct.  
 20 Q. What is that?  
 21 A. One of them that's dated 4/12/96 was  
 22 Johnny Masomer, State Farm, telephone number. I  
 23 don't know why this was called in, but apparently  
 24 on that date I had some conversation with Johnny.  
 25 The second, which is dated 4/24/96 has to do with

1 absolutely nothing to do with this case.  
 2 Q. (By Mr. Davis) [REDACTED] is this just  
 3 your report in bound form with the actual prints  
 4 attached to it?  
 5 A. Correct.  
 6 Q. And you have another -  
 7 A. This was a copy that I brought along,  
 8 which is the same as this, but without the  
 9 photographs. It just has photocopies of it.  
 10 Q. What is the total number of pages of your  
 11 report, which is dated April 29, 1996?  
 12 A. 50.  
 13 Q. And page 50 of that report is an  
 14 automobile damage consultant's report? Is that  
 15 correct?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. And that is the report of [REDACTED]  
 18 [REDACTED]  
 19 A. Correct.  
 20 Q. Did you consider [REDACTED] report in  
 21 your conclusions reached in this case?  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. I have Exhibit 2, which is your vita, so  
 24 I will briefly go through some of your background.  
 25 You are currently married?

1 the conversation with [REDACTED] attorney, who was  
 2 requesting a file report.  
 3 Q. The next document is dated 2/13/96; is  
 4 that correct?  
 5 A. Correct.  
 6 Q. And could you read that for us?  
 7 A. This is [REDACTED] telephone number,  
 8 [REDACTED] "Related that his sister-in-law was  
 9 watching a TV program from Canada where they  
 10 reported several fires in the Mercury Grand  
 11 Marquis. "Will try to find out the station and  
 12 date to get better information."  
 13 Q. After talking with [REDACTED] about  
 14 this, did you have any other conversation with him  
 15 or anyone at State Farm regarding his telephone  
 16 call on February 13, 1996?  
 17 A. Not that I recall.  
 18 [REDACTED] You don't want to  
 19 put his telephone conversation about the  
 20 other fires into evidence?  
 21 MR. DAVIS: Not into evidence.  
 22 [REDACTED] You have been given  
 23 copies the newspaper articles, haven't  
 24 you?  
 25 MR. DAVIS: Yes, but they have

1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. And that would be [REDACTED]  
 3 A. Correct.  
 4 Q. And you have two children?  
 5 A. Correct.  
 6 Q. Do they live in the Jackson area?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. What are their names now?  
 9 A. [REDACTED] is the older, and [REDACTED]  
 10 [REDACTED]  
 11 Q. Have you bought any new cars in the last  
 12 two years?  
 13 A. I have.  
 14 Q. What cars have you bought?  
 15 A. A pickup, not a car.  
 16 Q. What kind of pickup was that?  
 17 A. Chevrolet.  
 18 Q. And that is the only car you or your wife  
 19 has bought, car or truck?  
 20 A. In the last two years?  
 21 Q. Yes, sir.  
 22 A. No. I think I bought a Ford in that  
 23 period.  
 24 Q. Was that for you or your wife?  
 25 A. For me.

1 Q. What kind of Ford was that?  
 2 A. I believe it was an '84 Ford F-250,  
 3 four-wheel drive.  
 4 Q. Who insures your vehicles?  
 5 A. Allstate insured the Ford. State Farm  
 6 insures two of them.  
 7 Q. The name of your business is [REDACTED]  
 8 [REDACTED] Incorporated?  
 9 A. [REDACTED] Enterprises.  
 10 Q. Is it a corporation?  
 11 A. It is.  
 12 Q. Would you and your wife be the  
 13 shareholders?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. Other than you and your wife, are there  
 16 any employees of [REDACTED] Enterprises,  
 17 Incorporated?  
 18 A. I have part-time help, yes.  
 19 Q. Are they consultants or secretarial or  
 20 what type of part-time help?  
 21 A. The employees that I'm classifying as  
 22 employees are part-time help, laborers.  
 23 Q. What are their names?  
 24 A. Are you speaking presently or during this  
 25 two-year period?

1 Q. Presently.  
 2 A. One is [REDACTED] one is Roger  
 3 Shoemaker, and I hire my oldest grandson, [REDACTED]  
 4 [REDACTED] to do yard maintenance and things around  
 5 the office.  
 6 Q. And you have been employed by or working  
 7 as [REDACTED] Enterprises since 1980?  
 8 A. I think the enterprise began in about  
 9 '85.  
 10 Q. [REDACTED] in what area do you consider  
 11 yourself an expert?  
 12 A. Principally origin and causes of fires.  
 13 Q. The origin and causes of fires?  
 14 A. Correct.  
 15 Q. And that would be fires involving homes,  
 16 automobiles, and what other type fires?  
 17 A. Just vehicles in general. I have worked  
 18 some fires involving heavy equipment, but the bulk  
 19 of it is structural fires and vehicle fires,  
 20 automobiles and trucks.  
 21 Q. You're not an expert in the design and  
 22 manufacture of vehicles, are you?  
 23 A. I am not.  
 24 Q. Have you published any articles regarding  
 25 the cause and origin of fires?

1 A. I have not.  
 2 Q. Have you relied upon any articles in  
 3 forming your opinions that you may have read  
 4 regarding the cause and origin of vehicle fires?  
 5 [REDACTED] Let me be sure I  
 6 understand. Are you relating that to  
 7 this particular fire or just fires in  
 8 general?  
 9 MR. DAVIS: This particular fire.  
 10 A. Not in this particular fire, no.  
 11 Q. (By Mr. Davis) In this case you were  
 12 contacted by an employee of State Farm regarding  
 13 making a determination of the cause and origin of  
 14 the fire; is that correct?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. What type relationship do you have with  
 17 State Farm regarding working as a consultant in  
 18 determining cause and origin of fires?  
 19 A. I'm not sure what you're speaking of in  
 20 relationship. They call me and I work for them.  
 21 Q. Is it a contract basis?  
 22 A. No, it is just on an individual basis.  
 23 Q. Do you know how many open files you have  
 24 now with State Farm?  
 25 A. Open files probably will not be over two

1 or three.  
 2 Q. When you say open, what do you mean by  
 3 open?  
 4 A. I mean that I haven't written a report on  
 5 or haven't worked the scene. I think I have two on  
 6 the books now that I have to work when my time  
 7 permits.  
 8 Q. So once you finish your report, you  
 9 consider that a closed file?  
 10 A. Yes, sir.  
 11 Q. Do you know how many closed files you  
 12 have for State Farm that are in litigation?  
 13 A. No, I sure don't.  
 14 Q. Do you have any way of knowing once  
 15 you've done a report whether, I guess, there is  
 16 litigation concerning that case or if litigation is  
 17 terminated?  
 18 A. Usually I'm not aware of that until one  
 19 day an attorney calls me and says I'm working for  
 20 State Farm and we're looking into this particular  
 21 case. Most of the time it is a year or year and a  
 22 half later that I'm even aware that there is  
 23 litigation going on.  
 24 Q. On an average how many assignments do you  
 25 receive from State Farm per year?

1 A. I don't know. I don't keep up with it.  
2 It would be hard to give you a guesstimate on it.  
3 Q. You mentioned about your vita, that it  
4 did not include the last school you attended and  
5 the last trial. Would that be testimony at a  
6 trial?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What recent testimony have you had that  
9 is not included in your vita?

10 A. We were involved in some litigation in  
11 federal court involving an electric blanket from  
12 Sunbeam, who was being sued by - God, I can't  
13 think of the lady's name now. [REDACTED]

14 Q. Did you actually testify at the trial?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. Were you retained by Sunbeam?

17 A. No, I was working for Allstate Insurance  
18 Company.

19 Q. What court was that case held?

20 A. Federal court under Judge Barbour.

21 Q. Was Allstate a plaintiff?

22 A. No. [REDACTED] became the plaintiff in  
23 this case. What little I know about it, Allstate  
24 and Sunbeam settled.

25 Q. When did you testify?

1 A. It was within the last two or three  
2 weeks.

3 Q. So after you testified, the case settled?

4 A. No. We lost. [REDACTED] lost. Allstate  
5 settled their part of it some years back.  
6 [REDACTED] initiated the suit.

7 Q. So you had done some work for Allstate in  
8 making a fire cause determination?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And [REDACTED] called you to testify on  
11 her behalf?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Who represented Sunbeam?

14 A. I can't think of it now, but I'll get it  
15 for you.

16 Q. [REDACTED] am I correct in saying that  
17 you were first contacted on December 6, 1995,  
18 regarding the fire at [REDACTED]'s home?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And what were you asked to do?

21 A. To conduct an origin and cause  
22 examination of loss.

23 Q. Who contacted you?

24 A. [REDACTED]

25 Q. Did you also speak with [REDACTED]

1 A. That was later. I think this particular  
2 loss where there was a house and a vehicle  
3 involved, two adjusters were assigned to it.  
4 [REDACTED] was the vehicle adjuster, and  
5 [REDACTED] the structural part.

6 Q. And what did you do after he contacted  
7 you?

8 A. Well, on the 8th I drove to the loss and  
9 conducted an investigation of the scene.

10 Q. Did you make any notes regarding your  
11 examination?

12 A. I drew the sketch that you have listed as  
13 Exhibit 3.

14 Q. In Exhibit 3 there is a page that -  
15 could you read to me what it says?

16 A. "December 7, 1997, [REDACTED]  
17 related that [REDACTED] was at home. He slept in the  
18 opposite end of the house. She in den. She heard  
19 a noise and went to the door and saw hood of car on  
20 fire with fire spreading to ceiling. This car is a  
21 1992 Mercury Grand Marquis. CRASH has had problems  
22 with electrical at wiring in back seat area,  
23 ignition switch, alternator."

24 Q. Who is CRASH?

25 A. That's an organization within, I guess,

1 the State Farm Insurance Companies that compile  
2 information relating to defects in vehicles.

3 Q. Did you receive any documents from CRASH?

4 A. I did not.

5 Q. So the notes that you have that CRASH has  
6 had problems with electrical at A, B and C, would  
7 that be something that [REDACTED] told you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And this is dated December 7th, so it  
10 would have been before you went to the scene; is  
11 that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I assume you talked to [REDACTED] on the  
14 telephone?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And then you actually went to the scene  
17 on December 8th?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Did he tell you what problems CRASH had  
20 with wiring in the back seat area?

21 A. I don't recall if he did. I probably  
22 would have written it down had he told me more  
23 information.

24 Q. And you never saw any documents from  
25 CRASH regarding wiring in the back seat area,

1 ignition switch or alternator?  
 2 A. No.  
 3 Q. So other than talking with [REDACTED] on  
 4 December 7th, did you do anything else regarding  
 5 the case on December 7th?  
 6 A. I don't recall anything.  
 7 Q. So the next thing you would have done is  
 8 go to the scene on December 8th?  
 9 A. Correct.  
 10 Q. And when you arrived at the scene, who  
 11 was present?  
 12 A. The person that I carried with me was  
 13 [REDACTED] who was a helper at that time.  
 14 [REDACTED] were there or either came there  
 15 shortly after I arrived. It seemed like there was  
 16 someone else who was either there or came by, but I  
 17 don't remember who they were.  
 18 Q. Did either [REDACTED]  
 19 come by?  
 20 A. No.  
 21 Q. And after you arrived, what did you do?  
 22 A. Began the process of examining the fire  
 23 scene.  
 24 Q. In the photographs that you took, I take  
 25 it some of the photographs - do some of the

1 A. Correct.  
 2 Q. Do you know how that happened?  
 3 A. This is something that we find so often  
 4 where the structural of this building has collapsed  
 5 on the roof of the vehicle. After it becomes hot,  
 6 then it will distort or distort.  
 7 Q. And after the taking of the initial  
 8 photographs of the scene as it existed, what did  
 9 you do then?  
 10 A. Once the scene was documented, then we  
 11 begin moving the debris in and around the carport  
 12 and documenting those things that we found that  
 13 would be of interest there.  
 14 Q. As you were documenting these, were you  
 15 making notes of it or how did you document it?  
 16 A. By photographs.  
 17 Q. What component parts of the vehicle did  
 18 you find separated from the vehicle?  
 19 A. The thing that was of interest in making  
 20 the debris removal around the vehicle, we found  
 21 that the motor and pump, which I later learned to  
 22 be an air leveling device, had burned loose from  
 23 the vehicle and was found lying on the concrete  
 24 slab covered with debris. This suggested to me  
 25 that this came off earlier in the fire and became

1 photographs show the condition that it was in when  
 2 you arrived before anything was moved?  
 3 A. Yes. Before I do any work on the fire  
 4 scene, I try to document the conditions as I found  
 5 them.  
 6 Q. I'm going to look at photograph number  
 7 8. I'll hand it to you.  
 8 A. All right.  
 9 Q. Does that correspond to your photograph  
 10 number 8 in your report?  
 11 A. It does.  
 12 Q. In that photograph there is a person.  
 13 Who is that person?  
 14 A. That is [REDACTED]  
 15 Q. All right. And that is a photograph  
 16 showing a view from the rear end of the vehicle,  
 17 correct?  
 18 A. It's the carport looking north, which  
 19 will encompass the rear end of the vehicle, yes.  
 20 Q. And would this be the condition of the  
 21 scene with the carport view when you arrived before  
 22 anything was moved?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. In that photograph number 8, it shows  
 25 that the roof of the car is deformed?

1 of interest and prompted me to take it as evidence.  
 2 Q. Did you take a photograph of it as you  
 3 found it, this motor?  
 4 A. I don't recall photographing it in the  
 5 debris specifically. I think you would have a  
 6 difficult time getting a shot of it because it was  
 7 up under the vehicle.  
 8 Q. So when you found this, did you find it  
 9 by raking?  
 10 A. Yes, sweeping and raking. In fact, we  
 11 didn't know what it was when we pulled it out.  
 12 Q. Who actually found it? You or the other  
 13 gentlemen that was with you?  
 14 A. I don't recall whether [REDACTED] or I  
 15 would have been the first to pull it out.  
 16 Q. And after you found it, what did you do  
 17 with it?  
 18 A. Once finding that there was a  
 19 considerable amount of damage to that particular  
 20 item, it was photographed. Just going back to one  
 21 of your earlier questions, photographs 19 and 20  
 22 would depict the general area for which this pump  
 23 was found, but it doesn't show specifically the  
 24 pump because of the debris covering the pump.  
 25 Q. So in photographs 19 and 20, they show a



1 view of the vehicle, photograph 19 in particular,  
2 looking from the front driver's side towards the  
3 front passenger's side?

4 A. Yes. It actually covers the left front  
5 fender looking into the motor department, and 20 is  
6 a close-up of the wheel well area.

7 Q. And in either one of these photographs,  
8 you cannot see that actual motor?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. And you don't know who found it, you or  
11 the other person who was with you?

12 A. I don't have any direct recollection of  
13 that.

14 Q. And I see in photograph 21, it is taken  
15 and it appears that all around the vehicle it has  
16 been swept or raked; is that correct?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. Are there some parts in front of the  
19 vehicle in photograph 21?

20 A. There are.

21 Q. What parts are those?

22 A. At this particular time I don't recognize  
23 them.

24 Q. All right. Were those parts that are in  
25 front of the vehicle in that photograph, which is

1 your photograph number 21, were they placed there  
2 after the sweeping and raking was done?

3 A. Yes. What we do, in order to clean the  
4 area we have to either move or rotate those items  
5 to get the debris swept out, and then we try to put  
6 them back as close as we possibly can to where they  
7 were.

8 Q. Do you have a photograph of the motor  
9 that you found, which was placed back in a position  
10 as close to where it was found after the area was  
11 raked or cleaned?

12 [REDACTED]: Are you asking him  
13 if he replaced it after it was raked?

14 MR. DAVIS: And photographed?

15 A. You're speaking of the air pump leveling  
16 motor?

17 Q. (By Mr. Davis) Yes, sir.

18 A. I have a photograph of it, but it is  
19 going to be held up above the left front cross  
20 member for photographing.

21 Q. And what photograph number is that?

22 A. That will be photographs 29 and 30.

23 Q. Photograph 29 appears to show the motor  
24 that we're speaking about, correct?

25 A. And the pump, yes.

1 Q. And it is resting on part of the frame of  
2 the vehicle?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what is shown in photograph 30?

5 A. It's the wiring attached to this pump and  
6 motor.

7 Q. Is the wiring as shown in photograph 30  
8 still attached to the vehicle, or is this wiring  
9 that was on the ground found in the debris?

10 A. At the time of the photograph it is not  
11 attached to the vehicle, but it was embedded in the  
12 debris along the left side of the vehicle at the  
13 time that I found it, and I raised it to the top of  
14 the fender for photographing.

15 Q. The photographs that we have which are 1  
16 through 79, were all of these photographs taken on  
17 your first visit to the scene, which was December  
18 8, 1997?

19 A. No. Photographs 75 through 79 were taken  
20 on I believe it is January 5th at Coparts Salvage  
21 Yard in Brandon, Mississippi.

22 Q. So photographs 1 through 74 were taken on  
23 December 8th?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. If we can, I want to briefly just go

1 through the photographs starting with 1, and if you  
2 could tell me what is significant about the  
3 photograph as far as your investigation of the  
4 cause and origin. I take it photograph 1 is just a  
5 picture of the structure as it existed when you  
6 arrived?

7 A. Looking from the southeast, yes.

8 Q. Photograph 2?

9 A. The structure looking from the northwest,  
10 I believe. Correct.

11 Q. I'm going to skip through some of them.  
12 Photograph 6 has two vehicles that are burned. Was  
13 anything significant about this?

14 A. The burn conditions indicated that the  
15 fire was communicating from basically the acrch,  
16 northeast.

17 Q. Is photograph 7 a photograph of an  
18 antenna?

19 A. The base of an antenna, yes, sir.

20 Q. And photograph 9, this is a photograph of  
21 the vehicle as it appeared when you arrived,  
22 correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Is this vehicle totally burned?

25 [REDACTED] I'm not sure I

1 understand your question.

2 Q. (By Mr. Davis) Is there any other fire  
3 damage that could have been done to this vehicle?

4 A. You could have melted it down. But as  
5 far as what we refine during the fire scene  
6 evaluations, I would say it is a totally burned  
7 vehicle, yes.

8 Q. What is significant about photograph 9 as  
9 far as your investigation into the cause and origin  
10 of the fire?

11 A. Photographs 9 and 10 are documentations  
12 of the vehicle as found. And you will try to  
13 encompass the areas in general, so I'm taking 9  
14 looking at the front left side, and 10 looking at  
15 the rear and right side.

16 Q. Photograph 11, this is a picture of some  
17 tools. Were those the tools used to help clear the  
18 area, which on top of a can there appears to be a  
19 rake?

20 A. No. Those tools were apparently there  
21 during the fire.

22 Q. And up near the front passenger's side of  
23 the vehicle is a gas can?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Was any gas in that can?

1 A. It was burned.

2 Q. Was anything attached to the lawn mower?

3 A. As far as implements?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. I didn't see any.

6 Q. Does the lawn mower have a battery?

7 A. It did.

8 Q. And did you view the battery of the lawn  
9 mower?

10 A. I don't specifically recall at this date,  
11 but I'm sure I looked at the lawn mower as a  
12 potential. And, of course, the battery would be a  
13 potential heat source.

14 Q. And did you make any notes regarding the  
15 potential heat source of the battery and the lawn  
16 mower?

17 A. I made no notes, no.

18 Q. Was the battery attached to anything?

19 A. I don't recall.

20 Q. Do you recall whether there was a battery  
21 charger there?

22 A. I did not document one, so apparently I  
23 did not see one.

24 Q. Photograph 16 has two what appears to be  
25 plastic bags near the driver's side fender of the

1 A. It wasn't at the time that I was there.

2 Q. Was not?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Did you make a determination as to  
5 whether this gas can had anything to do with the  
6 fire?

7 A. Of course, that's the thing we look at  
8 first when you know that there is a flammable  
9 liquid in the area. I was told by the Billows that  
10 it had approximately a gallon of gas in it at the  
11 time or prior to the fire, and my inspection of it  
12 did not indicate it played any appreciable part in  
13 the origin or cause of the fire.

14 Q. What happened to the gas that was in  
15 there?

16 A. It burned.

17 Q. Were any holes in the can where when the  
18 gas burned it came out of the gas can?

19 A. There was a hole in the filler tube,  
20 spout.

21 Q. In photograph number 15, it shows a view  
22 with what appears to be a lawn mower in it?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. What was the condition of that lawn mower  
25 when you arrived?

1 vehicle in the front.

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. What are those?

4 A. They were probably put there for taking  
5 of evidence.

6 Q. Do you know what evidence actually went  
7 into those bags?

8 A. I'm sure it is wiring, burned wiring.

9 Q. Photograph 26, is that Mr. Davis' hand?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And what was he trying to show?

12 A. He was trying to group the wires for  
13 photographing that came out of the fire wall along  
14 the left rear of the motor compartment.

15 Q. Was there anything significant about  
16 those wires regarding your investigation into the  
17 cause and origin of the fire?

18 A. They were indicative of heat,  
19 considerable heat further to the front of the  
20 vehicle which was sufficient to burn the wires  
21 into.

22 Q. How much heat would it take to burn wires  
23 into?

24 A. It should take about 1,981 degrees to  
25 melt the copper.

1 Q. In this fire did you make a determination  
2 as to how hot it got in terms of degrees?

3 A. No.

4 Q. But based on that photograph which we  
5 just looked at, which would be 26, you say it got  
6 in excess of 1,981 degrees?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are there any other photographs of any  
9 other parts which could indicate to you a  
10 temperature that the fire reached?

11 A. In parts of the automobile?

12 Q. Or the house.

13 A. Well, one thing that I looked at was the  
14 degree of melting of the aluminum window frames.  
15 That requires temperatures in excess of 1,200  
16 degrees. An overall view of the structure  
17 indicated that there was more heat, as judged by  
18 the melting of the window frames, around the east  
19 end of the structure than the west end.

20 Q. When you say east end, what is on the  
21 east end?

22 A. The carport, the kitchen, and the laundry  
23 room.

24 Q. In photograph 27 were you trying to show  
25 anything in particular?

1 just laid it on the ground and it was taken as  
2 evidence. Not on the ground, excuse me. It is on  
3 the carpet floor.

4 Q. Photograph 38, you show the filler tube  
5 for the gas tank?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And what was significant about this?

8 A. We were just trying to document the  
9 conditions around it. The cap wasn't present in  
10 the photograph. I think it was a plastic cap that  
11 had melted.

12 Q. Did you make a determination as to  
13 whether the gas tank exploded on the car?

14 A. I saw no evidence of that.

15 Q. In talking with [REDACTED], did  
16 they mention to you that they thought the gas tank  
17 exploded?

18 A. They made comments that as they were in  
19 the carport, they were concerned that the car might  
20 explode, and they left walking to the road waiting  
21 for help. And once they were down near the road,  
22 they noticed that there was some type of an  
23 explosion that intensified the fire.

24 Q. Do you know what that explosion was?

25 A. I don't have any direct knowledge as to

1 A. Showing the conditions in the extreme  
2 left front component of the motor compartment.  
3 This is an area that is showing more intense heat  
4 impingement to the fender.

5 Q. When you say impingement to the fender,  
6 what do you mean?

7 A. Just fire made contact with the fender.

8 Q. In photograph 31, can you tell me what  
9 that is showing?

10 A. That's the left side of the engine  
11 compartment looking forward, and this is where I  
12 have laid wiring that ran along the left side of  
13 the engine compartment. I guess that is part of  
14 the pump in the background.

15 Q. The wiring that you laid on the fender,  
16 is that wiring that was found still connected to  
17 the vehicle or disconnected?

18 A. I'm sure that some of it was connected.  
19 Much of it had been burned loose. I think this is  
20 the same bundle of wiring that we've shown earlier  
21 that Mr. Davis is handling which you questioned  
22 about in photograph 26.

23 Q. There is also some wiring shown in  
24 photograph 32?

25 A. I believe this is the same harness. We

1 it, but it is probably the filler tube on the car  
2 burning, allowing gas vapors to burn.

3 Q. Do you have a photograph of the  
4 passenger's side fender of the vehicle looking from  
5 the inside of the engine compartment towards the  
6 outside?

7 A. I have it from the exterior. It is  
8 covered in 19 to some extent. Also in 21 it is  
9 covered to some extent.

10 Q. And in photograph 19, can you tell  
11 whether there was impingement?

12 A. Looking at 19, in the right rear you can  
13 see some of the paint chips remaining. If you will  
14 look at photograph 21, you will see additional areas  
15 of the paint incrustation still there that wasn't  
16 present on the left fender.

17 Q. Can you point that out to me?

18 A. Yes, sir. See, we're looking down at the  
19 lower part of the fender. Well, the rear.

20 Q. To the rear near the door?

21 A. Yes. Near the fire wall, we'll say.

22 Q. All right.

23 A. Yes, this is there. This is paint  
24 flakes. What we find during the burning process,  
25 where you have a lot of direct flame impingement

1 with intensive burns, the paint is completely off.  
2 In other areas it just melts, and it will just come  
3 up as a scale more or less.

4 Q. What is this area near the driver's side  
5 which appears to be where the steering mechanism  
6 comes through?

7 A. That is around the brake booster.

8 Q. Would that be the same type of paint  
9 chipping that we would see?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. The other photographs appear to be  
12 documentation of the contents of the home in the  
13 post-fire condition?

14 A. Yes. As I go through the fire, we  
15 photograph it room by room, and sometimes we will  
16 bring in close-ups of individual contents that's  
17 present or recovered during the debris and raking.

18 Q. In photograph 72 it shows near the bottom  
19 left-hand corner of the photograph two what appear  
20 to be containers, metal containers?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. What were those?

23 A. I'm not sure that I remember precisely  
24 what I was told, but in talking to the [redacted] I  
25 think they had painted at some point and time or

1 this was remains of something that they had done in  
2 their house as far as painting or cleaning of the  
3 structure.

4 Q. Also in photograph 74 I see what appears  
5 to be in the center at least four cans, two large  
6 and two smaller containers?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Would those also be some sort of painting  
9 supplies?

10 A. These are the same containers that we've  
11 just looked at in 72. The two smaller ones aren't  
12 shown, but the other two are.

13 Q. What room was this located in?

14 A. I believe they are in the south side of  
15 bedroom 3. I don't have them documented on the  
16 sketch, but that is the notation given.

17 Q. After your December 8th - strike that.  
18 On December 8, 1995, other than what we've gone  
19 over, you arriving at the scene, taking  
20 photographs, raking, taking additional photographs  
21 of the vehicle and the house, do you remember doing  
22 anything else in your investigation?

23 A. No, nothing but what we've just talked  
24 about. We documented the scene. We took the  
25 debris off the floor in the carport area, and we

1 raked the entire structure, putting up the contents  
2 and artifacts that were there.

3 Q. At that time had you made a conclusion  
4 regarding cause and origin of the fire?

5 A. The evidence indicated the fire  
6 originated in the automobile. As far as a  
7 conclusion as to the exact cause, I had not. We  
8 weighed heavily upon the input of [redacted]  
9 [redacted] that this was where they saw the fire  
10 burning, and then the evidence that we documented  
11 seemed to support the fire communicating from that  
12 area. But I was of interest in the electrical  
13 pump, the electrical components there, and that was  
14 taken. And of course, the next step was to give it  
15 to [redacted]

16 Q. After December 8th, did you go back to  
17 the scene where the house is located?

18 A. I did not.

19 Q. After December 8th did you talk with [redacted]  
20 [redacted] regarding what you saw  
21 at the scene?

22 A. I don't have anything documented as to  
23 reporting back to [redacted] but I would have  
24 talked to him sometime the day of the fire or the  
25 next day or soon afterwards and just discussed with

1 him what we found on the scene and of course to get  
2 permission to go ahead and get a consultant  
3 involved in evaluating the electrical system.

4 Q. After your December 8th inspection, do  
5 you remember talking with [redacted]  
6 [redacted] with any concerns about the lawn mower  
7 that was located under the carport?

8 A. I have no recollection of that.

9 Q. So with respect to the next action taken  
10 on this investigation after December 8th, what did  
11 you do?

12 A. Well, I have reported the vehicle was  
13 examined at CoParts by [redacted] and myself.

14 Q. And what was the date of that  
15 examination?

16 A. I have it listed as January 5th.

17 Q. That would be 1996, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. So at the January 5, 1996 inspection,  
20 that would have been you and [redacted] going to  
21 CoParts to look at the vehicle?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And also at this time you had certain  
24 parts?

25 A. The evidence I had taken from the fire

1 scene, I had them in my possession, but I don't  
2 think he examined those on that date.

3 Q. Did he take those with him?

4 A. I believe he made his examination at my  
5 office of those artifacts taken. I'm looking at  
6 his report to see if he says - he doesn't say and  
7 I have no direct knowledge as to whether he took  
8 them or examined them at my office.

9 Q. Do you know if you were present when he  
10 examined the motor?

11 A. I don't have any direct knowledge or  
12 recollection of it. The photographs that we've  
13 looked at and talked about earlier, I believe I  
14 took them. And if that was so, it would have been  
15 in my office and my presence.

16 Q. Did you make any videotape recordings of  
17 any examination by you or any other consultant?

18 A. No.

19 Q. So after January 5, 1996, what did you do  
20 next?

21 A. I don't remember what the next date we  
22 became involved. I guess this is when [REDACTED]  
23 was contacted.

24 [REDACTED] We are going to  
25 object to any questions about [REDACTED]

1 at this point until the judge rules on  
2 your motion.

3 MR. DAVIS: And I reserve the right  
4 to take his deposition after that time to  
5 get details regarding [REDACTED]  
6 investigation in the event the judge  
7 rules that I can.

8 Q. (By Mr. Davis) After this situation with  
9 [REDACTED] what did you do next?

10 A. After receiving a report from him, I  
11 submitted a report and conclusion.

12 Q. I have a document which is Fire Cause  
13 Determination for State Farm Insurance Company.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. Is this a copy of the report and  
16 conclusion that you are referring to, which has  
17 photocopies of prints attached to it?

18 A. That seems to be it with the exception of  
19 page 50.

20 Q. And page 50 is [REDACTED] report?

21 A. It is.

22 MR. DAVIS: We're going to attach  
23 this to the deposition as Exhibit Number  
24 6.

25 (SAID WAS MARKED EXHIBIT 6)

1 Q. (By Mr. Davis) Regarding the fire that  
2 occurred at the [REDACTED] residence on December 6,  
3 1995, you were unable to make a determination as to  
4 the specific cause and origin of that fire; is that  
5 correct?

6 A. Well, you're using the term "cause and  
7 origin." You're talking about two separate  
8 things. The origin I was certain had originated in  
9 the left side of the engine compartment. I felt  
10 more strongly the left front quadrant.

11 The actual cause, I was extremely suspicious  
12 of being an electrical fault, simply because of the  
13 information that the car had been parked for  
14 approximately 11 and a half hours. As far as the  
15 exact reason for the fault, I did not, no.

16 Q. So if I understood correctly, you were  
17 able to reach a conclusion as to the origin of the  
18 fire?

19 A. You're using the term "reached a  
20 conclusion."

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Yes, I had accepted that the origin was  
23 there. Conclusion to me means when you bring all  
24 the facts together and you get a summary.

25 Q. All right. Let me see if we can talk in

1 the same terms then.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. With respect to the origin of the fire,  
4 you were able to make a determination or provide an  
5 opinion as to where it originated?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But with respect to the cause of the  
8 fire, you were not able to reach a conclusion?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. With respect to the electrical evaluation  
11 done by [REDACTED] attached to your report as pages  
12 48 and 49 there is a report from [REDACTED] which is  
13 dated January 24, 1996?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And in his report in paragraph number 3,  
16 he states that the compressor motor was evaluated?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. He says the end plate was removed from  
19 the compressor and it was found that melted  
20 aluminum from the compressor cylinder was guddled  
21 in the bottom of the crank case?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Were you present when he removed the end  
24 plate from the compressor?

25 A. I don't recall being there.

1 Q. In order to remove it, he would have to  
2 take something apart on that compressor, correct?  
3 A. It sounds that he did, yes.  
4 Q. And in the condition that you have it  
5 now, is it put back together?  
6 A. Mr. Davis, it's been looked at so many  
7 times, I don't really know what the conditions are  
8 now, but I don't remember anyone reassembling it.  
9 Q. This is [redacted] correct?  
10 A. Correct.  
11 Q. Where is he currently employed?  
12 A. He is a fire consultant.  
13 Q. Was he at one time employed at  
14 Mississippi State University?  
15 A. Yes. He is retired from being a  
16 professor there.  
17 Q. Was he a professor in electrical  
18 engineering?  
19 A. He was.  
20 Q. Do you know how many years he was a  
21 professor at Mississippi State in electrical  
22 engineering?  
23 A. I think he hired on there sometime in the  
24 late 60's.  
25 Q. And in his conclusion it says, "After a

1 that were used.  
2 Q. So if [redacted] had not looked at this  
3 vehicle, then based on your examination, this  
4 sentence would not be in your report as far as that  
5 it is possibly around the alternator terminal?  
6 A. Correct.  
7 Q. There are instances where the damage  
8 that's caused by the fire itself can prevent a  
9 person from making a determination as to the cause  
10 of the fire; is that correct?  
11 [redacted] I object. You're  
12 asking him to speculate at this point.  
13 You can answer if you can.  
14 A. Yes, there are conditions where what you  
15 feel and the evidence indicates caused the fire,  
16 that you will not be able to hold in hand and say,  
17 "Yes, this is it," and this is because of the  
18 excessive damage done in most total burns.  
19 Q. (By Mr. Davis) Would the fire that  
20 occurred on December 6, 1995, to the [redacted]  
21 property be considered a total burn?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 MR. DAVIS: That's all I have at  
24 this time.  
25 [redacted] I don't have any

1 close inspection of the burned vehicle and samples  
2 from the burned vehicle, it is my professional  
3 opinion that there is no evidence which  
4 conclusively indicates the ignition source of the  
5 fire was associated with the electrical system."  
6 A. That is what he said.  
7 [redacted] That's a partial  
8 reading of what he said, correct?  
9 MR. DAVIS: There is one other  
10 sentence in there.  
11 Q. (By Mr. Davis) In your report on page 4,  
12 you have a conclusion, which the last sentence  
13 says, "The more probable cause for the fire was an  
14 electrical failure possibly around the alternator  
15 terminal."  
16 A. Correct.  
17 Q. With respect to the alternator terminal  
18 having anything to do with the cause of the fire,  
19 you did not make that determination; is that  
20 correct?  
21 A. That was made by [redacted]  
22 Q. So that is not your determination from  
23 your investigation of the vehicle, the house, or  
24 anything to do with this fire?  
25 A. I was using input from the consultants

1 questions.  
2 [redacted] No questions.  
3  
4 \*\*\* DEPOSITION CONCLUDED \*\*\*  
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1 I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify I have read or had  
 2 read to me this transcript, and subject to these  
 3 conventions below, if any, I find it to be the  
 4 correct testimony given by me.  
 5  
 6 Page \_\_\_\_\_ Line \_\_\_\_\_  
 7 Changed To: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 15  
 16 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 17 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_, deponent  
 18  
 19 State of Mississippi  
 20 County of Hinds  
 21 Subscribed and sworn to before me, this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
 22 of \_\_\_\_\_, 1998.  
 23 \_\_\_\_\_, Notary Public  
 24 My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
 25 \_\_\_\_\_

1 COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  
 2  
 3 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
 4 COUNTY OF HINDS  
 5  
 6 I, Pearlle Westmoreland, Official Court  
 7 Reporter for Hinds County, do hereby certify that  
 8 the foregoing 53 pages constitute a true and  
 9 correct transcript of the deposition held on the  
 10 18th day of June, 1998.  
 11 I do further certify that my certificate  
 12 attached hereto applies only to the original and  
 13 certified transcripts. The undersigned assumes no  
 14 responsibility for the accuracy of any reproduced  
 15 copies not made under my control or direction.  
 16 Witness my signature, this the 20th day of  
 17 June, 1998.  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21 PEARLLE WESTMORELAND  
 22 Official Court Reporter  
 23  
 24 CRR NO. 129  
 25

\$60.00 (1)	10:7	31 (1)	38:8	action (2)	1:6	artifacts (2)	6:12	booster (1)	41:7	
'84 (1)	17:2	32 (1)	38:24	44:9		6:16	43:2	45:5	bottom (2)	10:16
'85 (1)	18:9	38 (1)	39:4	activities (1)	12:24	assigned (1)	23:3	41:18	48:21	
00 (1)	1:14	39201 (1)	1:20	activity (1)	12:23	Assignment (1)	12:17	bought (4)	16:11	
1 (1)	2:3	1:23		actual (2)	11:20	assignments (1)		(6:14	18:19	16:22
4:17	4:20	39211 (1)	1:25	15:3	29:8	22:24		bound (1)	15:3	
31:15	31:22	39225 (1)	1:17	additional (1)	9:13	associated (1)	50:5	brake (1)	41:7	
32:4		4 (1)	2:8	42:14	42:20	Association (1)	4:12	Brandon (1)	31:21	
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VITA

[REDACTED]  
RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

PERSONAL DATA

[REDACTED] in Webster County, near Eupora, Mississippi.

Married to the former [REDACTED]  
Two daughters, [REDACTED]

EDUCATION

[REDACTED]

-59.

MILITARY SERVICE

Volunteered for a 24 month enlistment in the United States [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], April, 1956.

Earned meritorious promotions and honorably discharged with the rank of  
Corporal, April, 1958.

EMPLOYMENT DATA

March, 1985: Self-Employed, [REDACTED] MADISON,  
[REDACTED] NOW LOCATED IN RIDGELAND, MS.

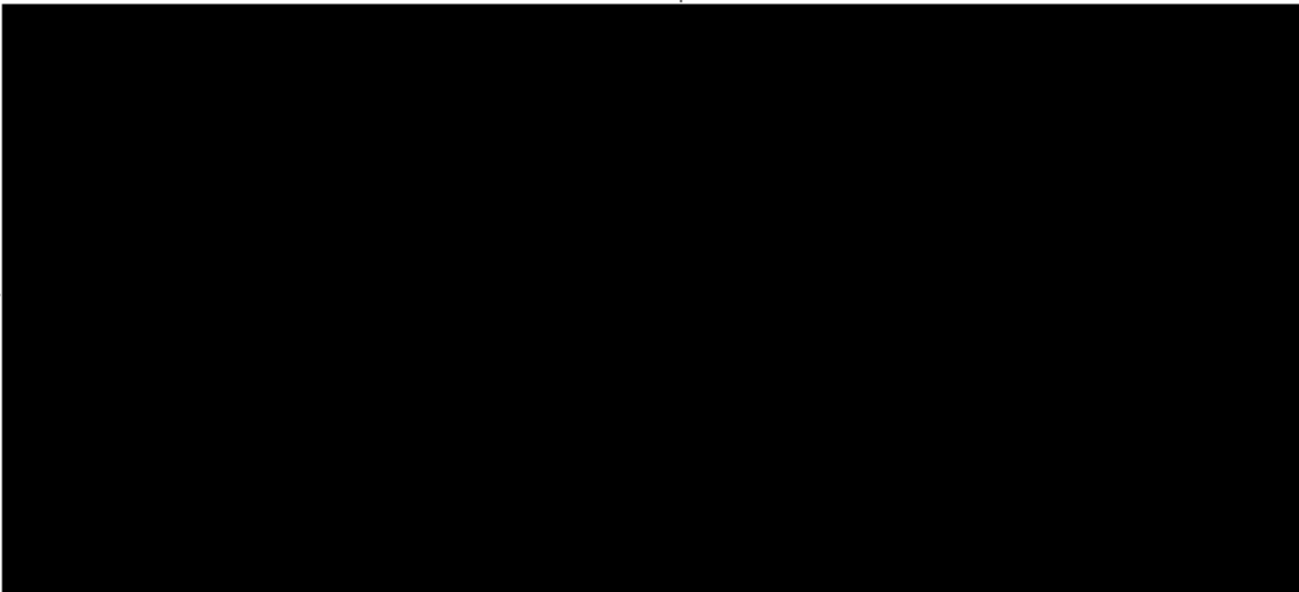
Fall Semester, 1981: Taught a class in Arson and Explosives at the  
[REDACTED] MS, for the [REDACTED]

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Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS.

July 1, 1980: Employed by [REDACTED]

April, 1960-July, 1980:



1958:

AL,

SPECIAL TRAINING

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FIRE ACADEMY:

- October 6, 1989: Fire and Arson Investigation, 24 hrs.
- October, 1988: Fire and Arson Investigation, 20 hrs.
- November, 1987: Advanced Arson, 20 hrs.
- May, 1987: Electrical Fire Causation, 5 hrs.
- November, 1986: "Arson Problem in Mississippi," 24 hrs.
- October, 1985: Advanced Fire Investigation Techniques, 20 hrs.
- October, 1984: Fire Investigation Seminar, 28 hrs.

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November, 1983: Arson Investigation Seminar, 24 hrs.

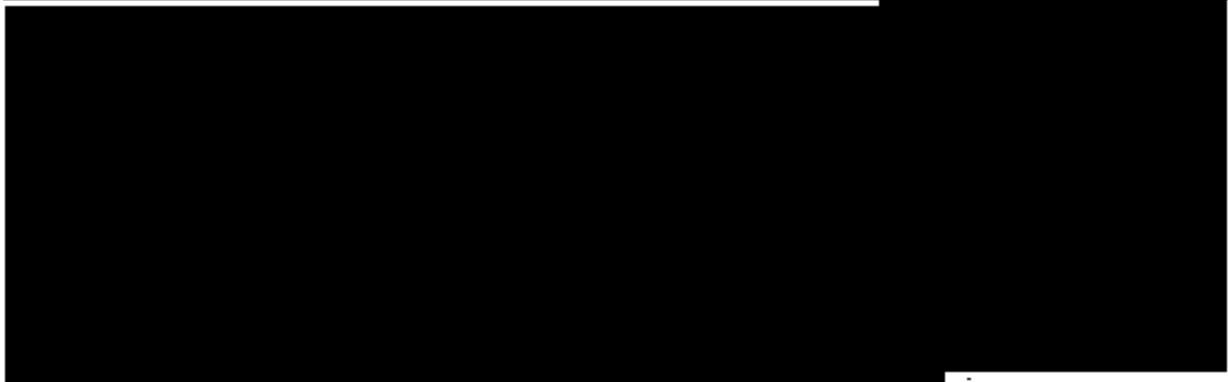
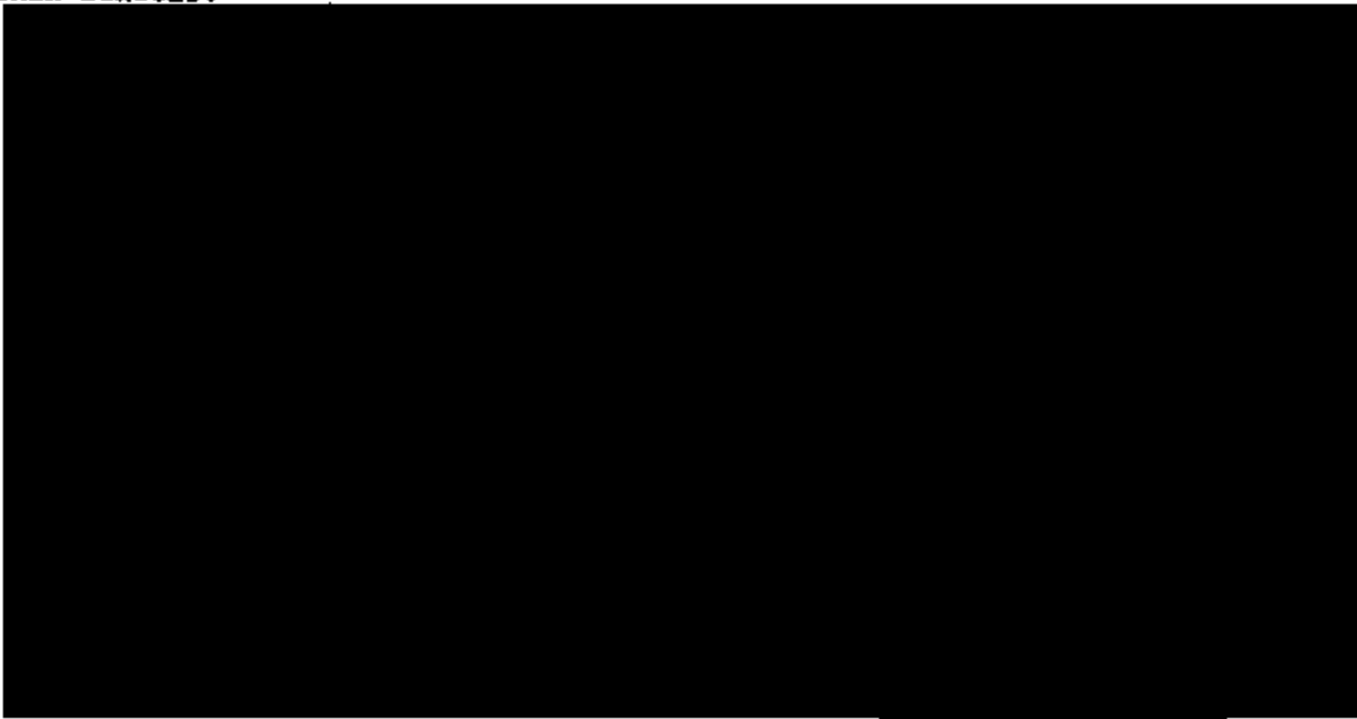
January, 1980: Arson Detection, 12 hrs.

September, 1978: Southern Fire Investigator School, 24 hrs.

September, 1977: Southern Fire Investigator School, 16 hrs.

April, 1977; Southern Fire Investigator School, 18 hrs.

OTHER SCHOOLS:





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Fire Investigators Association, 20 hrs.



2002-825 36881

COURT TESTIMONY

AS EXPERT WITNESS

FEDERAL COURTS

- November 13, 1995: [REDACTED] v. State Farm Fire and Casualty, Company, Bossier City, LA., Judge Don Walters.
- November 1, 1995: [REDACTED] v. State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, New Orleans, LA., Judge Patrick Clark.
- January 9, 1995: State Farm vs. [REDACTED] Federal Court, Jackson, MS, Judge Barbour.
- October 3, 1994: [REDACTED] vs. White-Rodgers, A Division of Emerson Electric Company. Oxford, MS.
- June 14, 1994: [REDACTED] v. State Farm Insurance Company, Federal Court, Jackson, MS Judge Wingate.
- December 13, 1993: [REDACTED] v. Whirlpool Corporation, Federal Court, Lafayette, LA.
- January 11, 1993: [REDACTED] v. Chubb Insurance Co., Western District of Louisiana, Monroe, LA.
- November 10, 1992: [REDACTED] vs. Saab-Scania of America, Inc., Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA, Judge Mitchell.
- July 6, 1992: [REDACTED] v. State Farm Insurance Company, 5th Federal District Court, Lake Charles, La, Judge Edwin Hunter.
- October 15, 1991: [REDACTED] et al vs. Saab-Scania of America, Inc, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA, Judge Adrian Duplantier.
- August 19, 1991: [REDACTED] et al vs. Amana Refrigerator, et al, Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson, MS, Judge Tom Lee.
- February 3, 1990: [REDACTED] v. State Farm Fire and Casualty Company,

Northern District of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

January 17, 1990: [REDACTED] et al vs. Mississippi Valley Gas Company, et al, Jackson, MS, Judge Tom Lee.

May 2, 1989: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Southern District of Mississippi, Judge Wingate.

July 5, 1989: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Northern District of Mississippi, Clarksdale, MS, Judge Glen H. Davison.

September 14, 1987: [REDACTED] v. Kansas City Fire and Marine, Federal Court, New Orleans, LA, Judge Louis Moore.

April 27, 1987: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Federal Court, Shreveport, LA, Judge Thomas Stagg.

September 15, 1986: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Western District of Louisiana, Monroe, LA, Judge Walters.

August, 1986: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Federal Court, Jackson, MS, Judge William Barbour.

September 16, 1985: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Federal Court, Shreveport, LA Judge Thomas Stagg.

August 8-10, 1984: [REDACTED] v. Nationwide Insurance Company, Federal Court, Biloxi, MS, Judge Joe Fish.

July 22, 1983: [REDACTED] v. Mission National Insurance Co., Federal Court, New Orleans, LA, Judge Peter Bear.

March 28, 1983: [REDACTED] v. Hartford Insurance Co., Federal Court, New Orleans, LA, Judge Casslry.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

July 8, 1996: [REDACTED] v. Ford Motor Company, Rankin County Court, Judge Samuel Richardson, Brandon, MS., Cause #95-1152.

May 22, 1996: [REDACTED] v. Lewis Barnes, Jefferson Davis Circuit Court, Prentiss, MS. Cause #4145-2.

September 11-12, 1995: [REDACTED] v. Carrie Whitfield, Coahoma Circuit Court, Clarksdale, MS., Judge Smith.

May 8-12, 1995: [REDACTED] et al, v. Mississippi Valley gas, et.

al, Hinds County Circuit Court, Jackson, MS, Judge Gibbs.

April 3-6, 1995: [REDACTED] v. State Farm Insurance Company, Lee County Circuit Court, Tupelo, MS, Judge Barry Ford.

April 7, 1994: [REDACTED] v. James Moore, Hinds County Circuit Court, Jackson, MS, Judge Chet Henley.

February 3, 1994: [REDACTED] v. Cleveland Auto and Electric, Bolivar County Circuit Court, Cleveland, MS, Judge Thomas.

November 29, 1993: [REDACTED] v. McGary, Lee County Circuit Court, Tupelo, MS, Judge Garner.

September 16, 1993: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Hinds County Circuit Court, Jackson, MS, Judge Chet Henley.

December 1992: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Harrison County Circuit Court, Biloxi, MS.

March 16, 1992: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Tishomingo County Circuit Court, Iuka, MS, Judge Frank Russell.

May 15, 1990: [REDACTED] v. Al Finch, Lowndes County Circuit Court, Columbus, MS, Judge Lee Howard.

August 30, 1989: [REDACTED] v. Al Finch, Lowndes County Circuit Court, Judge Lee Howard.

August 28, 1989: Allstate v. [REDACTED], Tupelo, MS, Judge Garner.

February 24, 1989: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Harrison County Circuit Court, Gulfport, MS, Judge Jerry O'Terry.

July 11, 1988: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] v. Fuller Sheet Metal Works, Inc., Hinds County Circuit Court, Jackson, MS.

January 13, 1988: [REDACTED] v. Garner Realty, Inc., Hinds County Circuit Court, Jackson, MS, Judge William Coleman.

December 2, 1986: [REDACTED] v. State Farm, Tishomingo County Circuit Court, Iuka, MS, Judge Frank Russell.

November 25, 1986: [REDACTED] v. Thomas Coleman, Bolivar County Circuit Court, Cleveland, MS, Judge Elzy J. Smith.

- June 10, 1986: [REDACTED] v. William D. Jones, Harrison County Circuit Court, Biloxi, MS.
- January 16, 1986: [REDACTED] v. Allstate Insurance Co., Tishomingo County Circuit Court, Iuka, MS, Judge Wicker.
- November 5, 1985: Allstate v. [REDACTED], Lee County Circuit Court, Tupelo, MS, Judge Garner.
- July 13, 1983: State of Mississippi v. Owen L. Harden, DeSoto County Circuit Court.
- 1982: [REDACTED] v. American States Insurance Company, Hinds County Chancery Court, Jackson, MS, Judge Paul Alexander.
- 1978: State of Mississippi v. [REDACTED], Hinds County Circuit Court, Judge Reuben Anderson.
- 1978: State of Mississippi v. [REDACTED], Preliminary Hearing, Jackson, MS.
- 1978: State of Mississippi v. [REDACTED], Preliminary Hearing, Jackson, MS.
- 1977: State of Mississippi v. [REDACTED] Preliminary Hearing, Jackson, MS.

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURT

- November 4-5, 1993: [REDACTED] v. State Farm Insurance Company, Bastrop, LA. Eastern District Court, New Orleans, LA, Judge Patrick Clark.
- April 15-16, 1992: [REDACTED], et al, v. Lanier Electric Company, et al, 9th Judicial District Court, Rapides Parish, Alexandria, LA, Judge Ross Foote.
- February 25, 1991: State of Louisiana v. [REDACTED] West Carroll Parish, Oak Grove, LA, Judge Glenn Roberts.
- May 30, 1990: State of Louisiana v. [REDACTED] West Carroll Parish, Oak Grove, LA, Judge Glenn Roberts.
- January 30, 1989: [REDACTED], v Bobby R. Franklin, State Farm, Cosmos Communications and Maryland Casualty Co., 4th Judicial District Court, Ouachita

Parish, LA.

July 24, 1986: [REDACTED] et al v. Edward Jones, 7th JCD.,  
Catahoula Parish, LA., Judge Glenn Grienow.

February 16, 1986: State of Louisiana v. [REDACTED] First  
Judicial District Court, Cade Parish, Judge John F. Pant.

June 22, 1984: [REDACTED] v. Zurich American Insurance Co.,  
Bossier Parish, LA, Judge Graydon K. Kitchens,

March 12-15, 1984: State of Louisiana v. [REDACTED] and Edvie  
Smith, Leesville, LA, Judge Ray B. Tuck, Jr.

MEMBERSHIPS

Mississippi Fire Investigators Association.

International Association of Arson Investigators.

National Fire Protection Association.

CERTIFICATION

Certified Fire Investigator: By the Mississippi Chapter of the  
International Association of Arson Investigators.

Dec 8 1985  
Car# 5748

She related that she was watching a movie when she heard something firing/burning & other noise. at 1st she was afraid to open the door to get check but did & saw the tire (front) burning. She woke her husband & - Then both tried to extinguish the fire by pouring water on them. at this time fire was dripping down on the front part of the left front tire & there was fire coming from up under the <sup>front</sup> hood.

The car was a demonstrator with ~~25000~~ 25000 miles when purchased. There was approx 70,000 miles on it when burned. Had been driven less than a mile the day before the fire & parked around 1:30 PM (12/5/85). The cooling tank had just been filled with approx 20 gal of coolant. The only problem was a new clutch installed on the A/C compressor breaking in the summer.

They exited the house by way of the rear door to the den & was on near the road when the car blew up. at this time the back

of the down hit up with fire  
the other got engulfed with  
fire.

There was a SGT. Down with  
about 1 gal of gasoline sitting near  
the ~~left~~ right front of the car. This  
was for the riding lawn mower.

They are certain that the fire  
was set on the left front corner  
of the car & not the lawn mower.  
The ceiling was the press board  
(water).



Dec 7/1995

related that driver was at home, he sleeps in opposite end of house to son in law. She heard a noise & went to door & saw hood of car on fire with fire spreading to ceiling

This car is a 1992 Mercury ~~GM~~ Mercury. CRASH was had problem with ~~acceleration~~ at

- (A) Wiring in back seat area
- (B) Ignition switch
- (C) After notes.

**EVIDENCE COLLECTION LOG**

CASE # CASE #3948

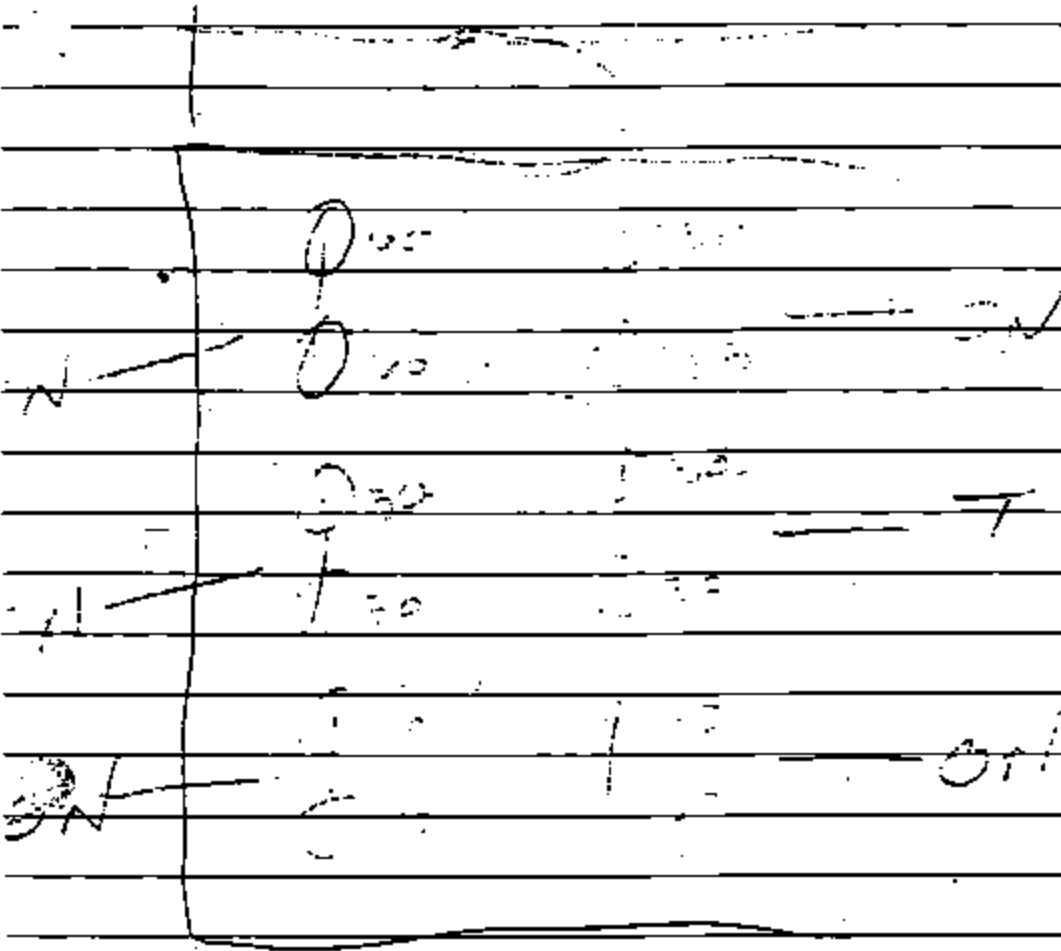
CLIENT: STATE FARM

DATE: 12/8/1995

EVIDENCE #	DESCRIPTION	DISPOSITION
1	D. C. MOTOR, FROM UNDER LEFT FRONT OF	MOTOR COMPARTMENT
2	ELEC. WIRING, FROM LEFT SIDE OF MOTOR	COMPARTMENT

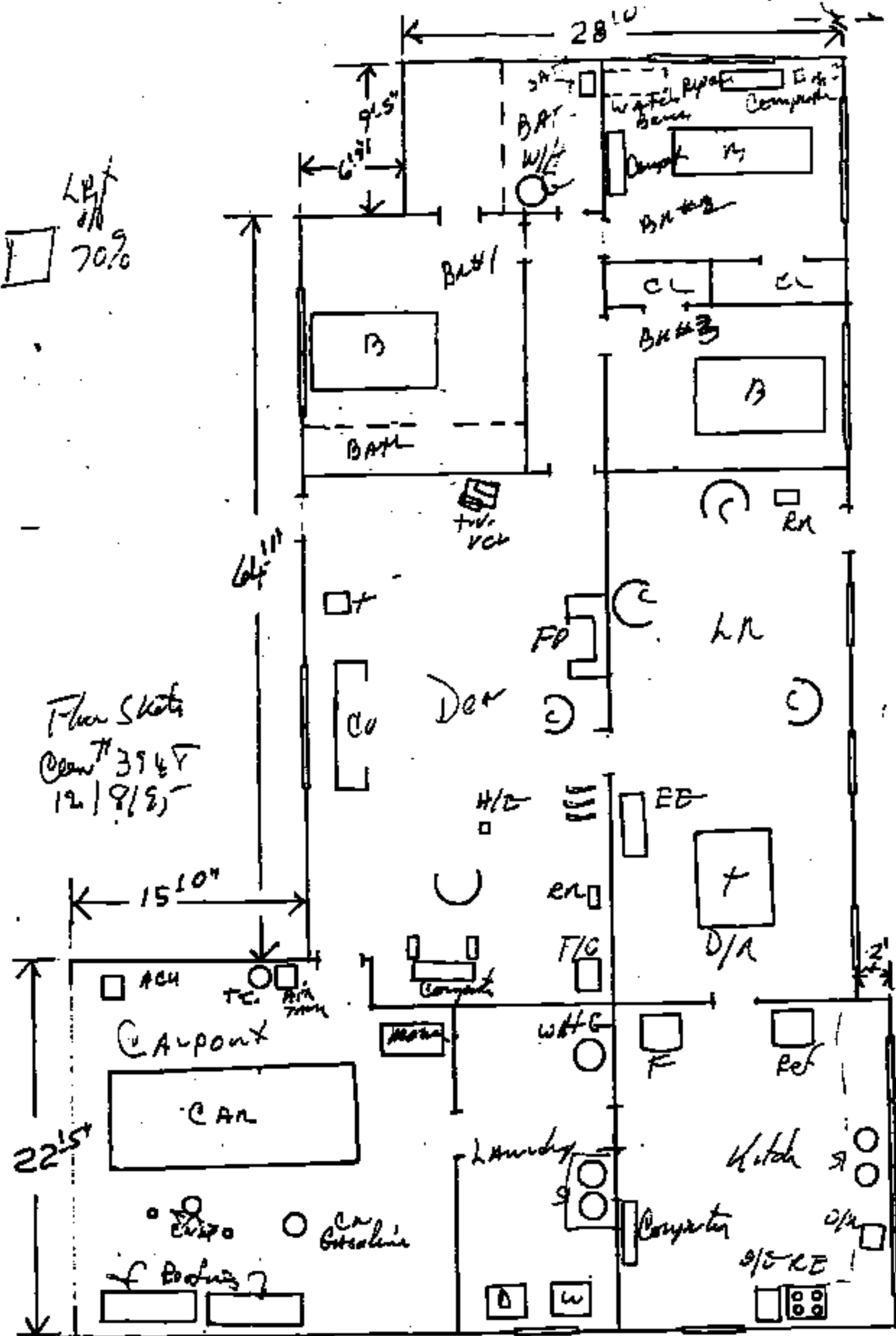
COLLECTED BY JAMES VICKERS  
(SIGNED)

2-1-5



Control

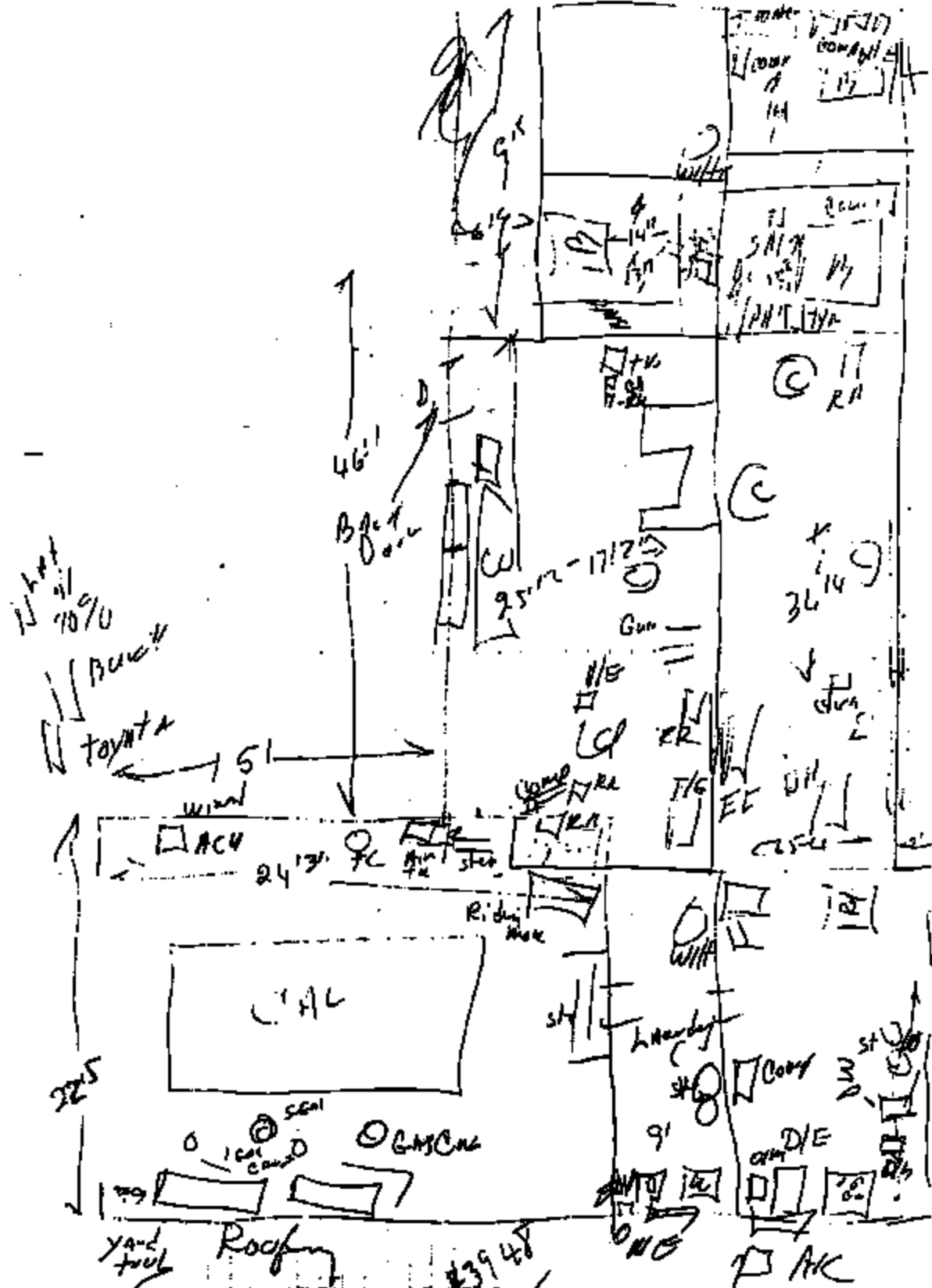
LPT  
 8/10  
 70%



Floor Skets  
 Clean # 3947  
 12/9/85

17 Acc

28' 7" West



11' 1/2" x 10' 0" Bunch  
 Toyota

AK 3948  
 12/8/81



**ENTERPRISES**  
**ASSIGNMENT DATA AND CHARGE LOG**

*Go print*  
*Stock # MM1304-9*

CASE # 3948  
12-6-95

CLIENT State Farm  
P.O. Box 3810  
Mendham MS 39303  
 REQUESTED BY Malcolm Houston  
 PHONE W 800.244.0284 693.2785  
 FIREMEN \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE W \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_

INSURED \_\_\_\_\_  
Collinsville MS  
 PHONE W \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_  
 CLAIM # \_\_\_\_\_  
 DISCOVERED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE W \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_  
00W 12-6-95 1:00 AM

CODE FB: FIRE SCENE, TR: TRAVEL, RW: REPORT WRITING, DEP: DEPOSITION, CRT: COURT, CON: CONSULTANT,  
 INVPH: INTERVIEWPHONE, INVFP: INTERVIEWPERSON, EA: EVIDENCE ANALYSIS, ES: EVIDENCE STORAGE,  
 AST: ASSISTANT, MC: MISC/COST, PD: PER DIEM, MI: MILEAGE, PH: PHOTOGRAPHS, SA: SAMPLE

DATE	CODE	HR.	INFORMATION - COMMENTS - EXPENSE	CHARGE
12/1/95	OK	-	M. Houston requested an origin/cause examination of a total home fire w-3 Auto mobile	
12/8/95	TT	5	JMV	250.00
	FS	3 3/4	JMV	243.75
	Art	-	JOHANNIE DAW 6	85.00
	MS	-	230 @ .30 7	69.00
12/18/95	RW	20	JMV	130.00
	PH	-	74 @ 1.25 92.50	92.50
1/25/96	Con	-	[REDACTED]	292.00
1/25/96	Con	-	[REDACTED]	482.50
1/25/96	Rel	1	JMV	65.00
4/29/96			3948 / 3134	1714.75
3/20/97	Con	1/2	Meeting w/ Pat 3 Jay	127.50
1/3/97	Con	2	Meeting Ford Expert - R. KOWARSKY Pat 3 Jay	120.00
				297.50



*Photos Requested*

<i># 9</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>17</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>32</i>

*Received  
By*



**FIRE CAUSE DETERMINATION**

**FOR**

**STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANY  
POST OFFICE BOX 3810  
MERIDIAN, MS 39303-3810**

**OF**

**HOUSE/VEHICLE FIRE  
LAWRENCE PIERCE  
569 PIERCE ROAD  
COLLINSVILLE, MS**

**BY**

**[REDACTED]  
RIDGELAND, MS [REDACTED]**

**CASE #3948  
CLAIM [REDACTED]  
DECEMBER 8, 1995 - JANUARY 3, 1996**

**[REDACTED]**  
**ER02-025 35558**



**CONTENTS**

	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FLOOR PLAN SKETCH:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SKETCH LEGEND:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PHOTOGRAPH ARRANGEMENT:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S REPORT:</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE DAMAGE CONSULTANT'S REPORT:</b>	<b>50</b>

**ENTERPRISES, INC.**  
FIRE SERVICES  
215 INDUSTRIAL COVE  
RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI 39157

(601) 856-8903  
(601) 826-8018

April 29, 1996

Client: State Farm Insurance Co. re: House/Auto Fires  
P. O. Box 3810 Lawrence Bilow  
Meridian, MS 39303 569 Pierce Road  
Collinsville, MS

Attn: Mr. Malcolm Houston Case #3948  
Claim # [REDACTED]

**FIRE SCENE/VEHICLE EXAMINATION/CONCLUSION**

On December 8, 1995, and again January 5, 1996, at your request, I examined the referenced loss, in an attempt to establish the origin and cause for the fire. Information given indicated the fire occurred December 8, 1995, around 1:00 a.m., with the insureds, [REDACTED]

While on the fire scene, I spoke briefly with both [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Information given reflected [REDACTED] as being asleep in the western end of the house, and [REDACTED] watching television in the den, near the carport. [REDACTED] first heard a frying sound, then a burning sound and other noises. She first thought someone was breaking in, and was reluctant to open the door, but she soon opened the door, and saw the left front tire of the Mercury, parked in the garage, burning. At this time, she notified her husband and they both witnessed the fire burning around the left front tire, and under the automobile. They tried to extinguish the fire, by pouring water on the tire, to no avail. The

substantiating the origin of the fire as being near the eastern end of the structure. The Buick and Toyota, parked in the rear yard, southwest of the garage, confirmed heat communicating from the northeast, in the area of the garage.

An interior examination, where the debris was examined and removed in the garage, revealed that the heavier burning occurred in the motor compartment of the Mercury. This type of localized burning is associated with the origin of the fire. No evidence was found to indicate the gasoline tank on the car or the five gallon container ruptured.

The interior of the structure was raked, raising all remaining content parts. There was supporting evidence that the house was fully furnished, with the normal furnishings found in a home, including electronics and computer components. During the raking of the debris, the electrical components were also raised. An examination of these electrical components revealed all parts of the system had been damaged by varying degrees of heat and flame contact. Even though damaged by the fire, I found no conclusive evidence of an electrical failure which would have caused the fire.

An examination of the LP gas system, including the tank, visible piping and appliances, was conducted. This examination revealed the tank was OFF, and the gauge registered approximately 70

██████████ fearful that the car would explode, left the garage and went down the driveway, to wait for help. Soon afterward, there was an explosion around the garage, causing the fire to intensify. When asked, the ██████████ are certain that the fire came from the left front portion of the Mercury, and not the riding lawn mower parked nearby. There was a five gallon container, with approximately one gallon of gasoline, on the garage floor near the right front of the Mercury. The gasoline tank on the Mercury had just been filled with approximately twenty gallons of gasoline. The Mercury was purchased as a demonstrator, with about 25,000 miles on it, and at the time of the loss, there were approximately 70,000 miles on it. They had experienced no problems with the automobile, other than having to replace an airconditioning compressor clutch back in the summer. The car was last driven approximately one mile on the day before the fire, and had been parked in the garage around 1:30 p.m., before the fire. There were two other cars, a Buick and a Toyota, parked in the rear yard, southwest of the garage, which were later damaged by the fire.

An examination of the loss clearly places this to be a total in a structure built on a conventional/slab foundation, with brick exterior siding, aluminum framed windows, wooden doors and a shingled roof. The heavier salting to the aluminum window frames around the eastern end suggested the fire was most intense here,

percent of capacity. Neither the gas furnace or water heater showed any evidence of failure to relate to the cause of this fire.

As there was clear evidence the fire originated within the motor compartment of the Mercury, parked in the garage, wiring samples were taken along the left side of the motor compartment, as well as a small motor, which had burned loose and fallen on the concrete under the left side. These samples were taken for future potential evidence.

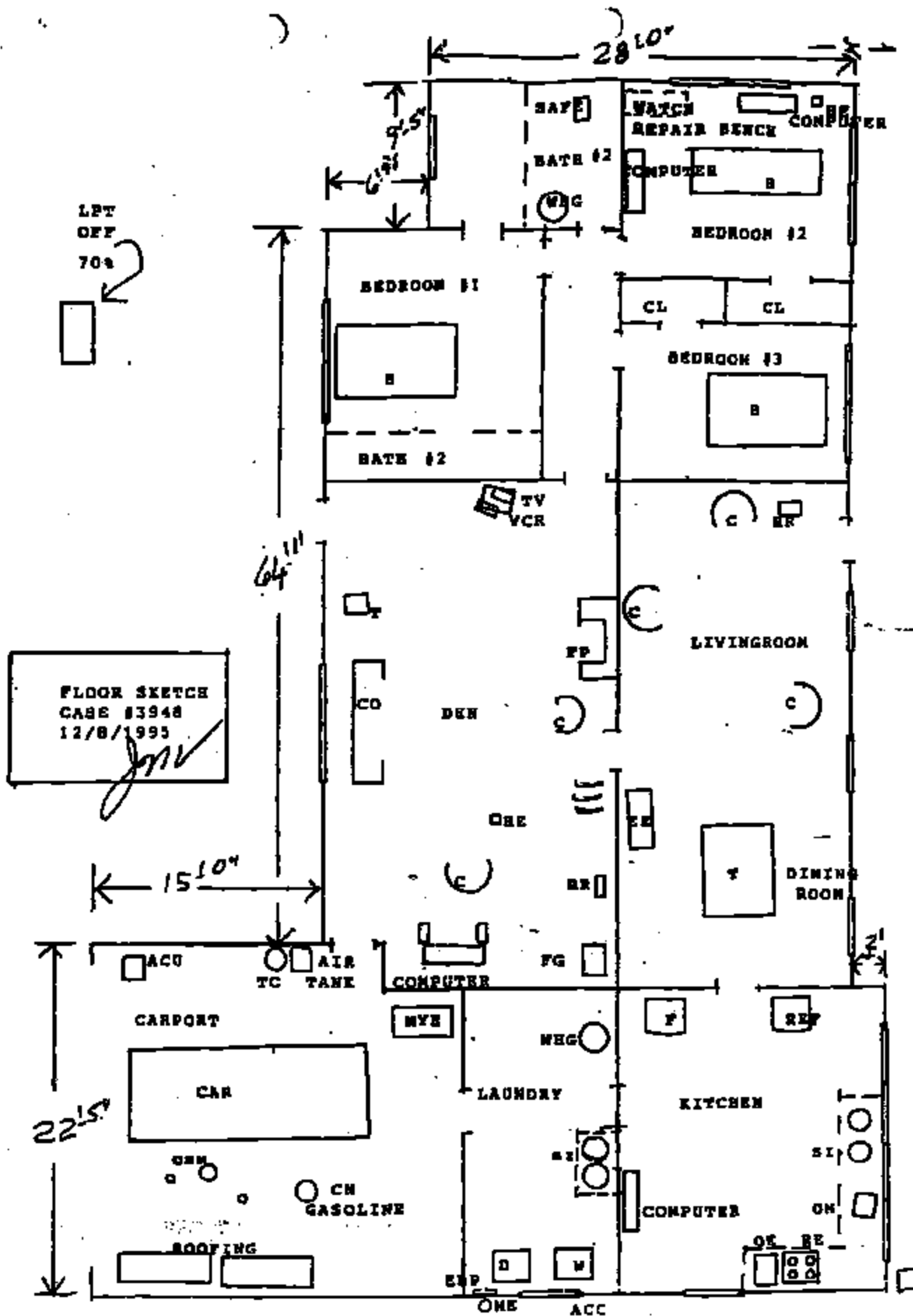
CONCLUSION

Upon conducting an examination of the fire scene, and considering the information furnished by [REDACTED] the reports of Dr. [REDACTED] an electrical engineer, and [REDACTED] who conducted examinations of this loss, it is my opinion that the origin for the referenced fire was in the motor compartment of the Mercury, parked in the garage. The more probable cause for the fire was an electrical failure, possibly around the alternator terminal.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]  
FIRE SCENE ANALYST

/pv



FLOOR SKETCH  
 CASE #3948  
 12/8/1993  
*JMV*

LPT  
 OFF  
 708

JAMES VICKERS ENTERPRISES

SKETCH LEGEND

AE	APPLIANCE/EQUIPMENT	HK	HEATER/KEROSENE
ACC	AIR CONDITIONER COMPRESSOR	L	LAMP
ACU	AIR CONDITIONER UNIT	LK	LAMP/KEROSENE
ACD	ACCESS OPENING	I	IRON
B	BED	IB	IRONING BOARD
BC	BOX/CARDBOARD	LPT	LP GAS TANK
BM	BOX/METAL	ME	METER/ELECTRIC
BYC	BICYCLE	MG	METER/GAS
C	CHAIR	MYE	MOWER/YARD EQUIPMENT
CAB	CABINET	OFE	OFFICE EQUIPMENT
CD	CHEST OF DRAWERS	OE	OVEN/ELECTRIC
CH	CHIFFONIER (CHIFFORBE)	OG	OVEN/GAS
CHM	CHIMNEY	OM	OVEN/MICROWAVE
CL	CLOSET	PIA	PIANO
CLO	CLOTHING	PB	PAPER BOOKS
CK	CLOCK	REF	REFRIGERATOR
CM	COFFEEMAKER	RE	RANGE/ELECTRIC
CNP	CONTAINER/PLASTIC	RG	RANGE/GAS
CO	COUCH	RR	RADIO/RECORD PLAYER/ STEREO.
D	DRYER	SHM	SHELVES/METAL
DE	DESK	SHW	SHELVES/WOOD
DR	DRESSER	SI	SINK
DW	DISHWASHER	SM	SEWING MACHINE
EDP	ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION PANEL	ST	STAIRS
EE	EXERCISE EQUIPMENT	STO	STOOL/OTTOMAN
F	FREEZER	T	TABLE
FA	FAN/ATTIC	TC	TRASH CONTAINER
FB	FAN/BOX	TCP	TRASH COMPACTOR
FO	FAN/OSCILLATING	TO	TOASTER
FC	FILE CABINET	TRC	TRUNK/CHEST
FLP	FLOWER POT	TV	TELEVISION SET -
FP	FIREPLACE	VCR	VIDEO RECORDING EQUIP.
FE	FURNACE/ELECTRIC	W	WASHER
FG	FURNACE/GAS	WHE	WATER HEATER/ELECTRIC
HE	HEATER/ELECTRIC	WHG	WATER HEATER/GAS
HG	HEATER/GAS	WB	WEIGHT BENCH
HW	HEATER/WOOD		



CEILING LIGHT



FAN: CEILING



ELECTRICAL SWITCH



ELECTRICAL OUTLET



ELECTRIC SHORTS



ELECTRIC IRON



VACUUM CLEANER



GUNS



LOW CHARRING



HOLES BURNED IN FLOOR



BURNED OUT WALLS



SPALLED CONCRETE



SAMPLES

*gpc*

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 1

X

Photos #1 & #2  
show the burned  
structure, located  
from the north  
and southeast.



X

X

PHOTO # 2



X

X

ER82-025 36884

7

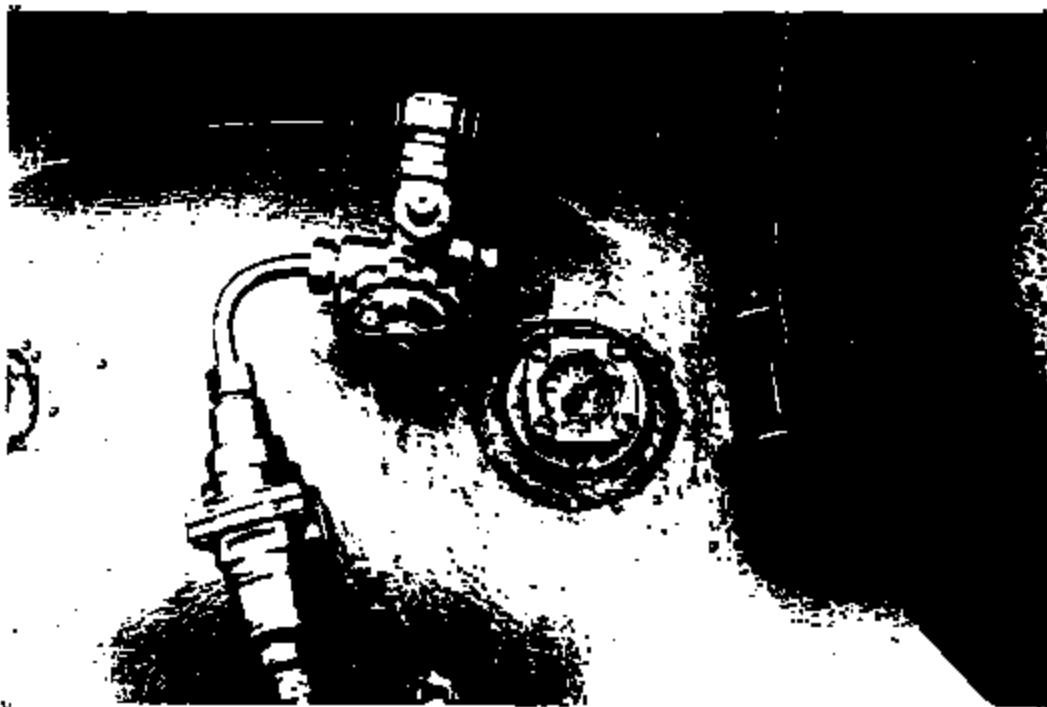


PHOTO # 3



X  
Shows the electric service entrance and electrical distribution panel.

PHOTO # 4



X  
Shows the LP gas tank, with the valve OFF and the gauge registering 0% of capacity.

3

CASE # 1948

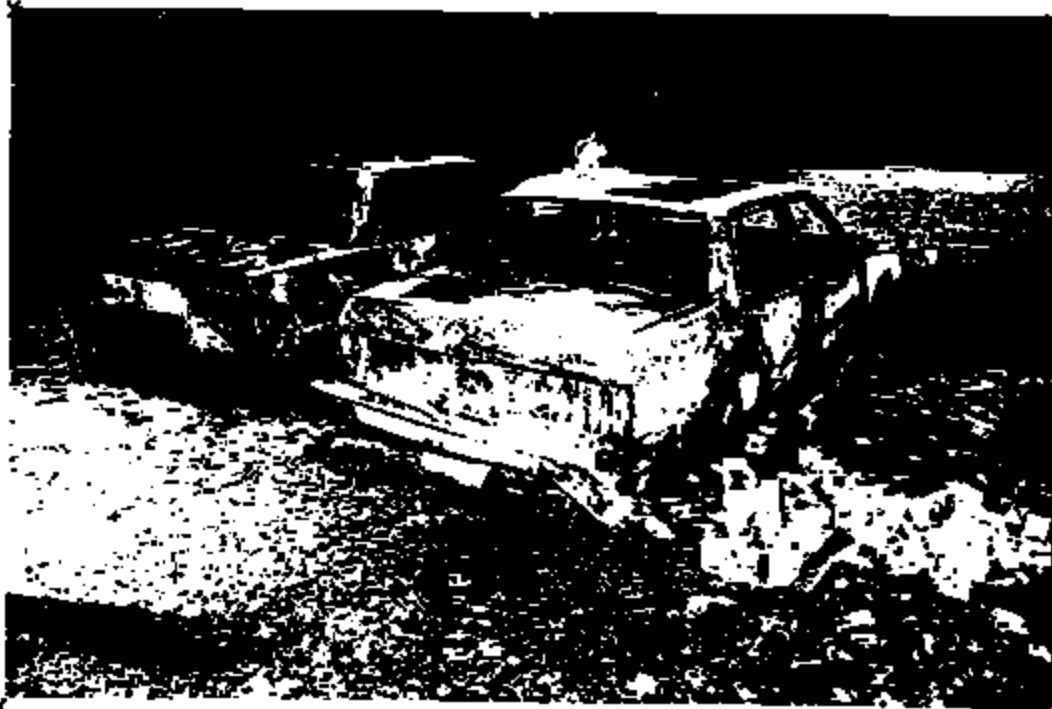
PHOTO # 5

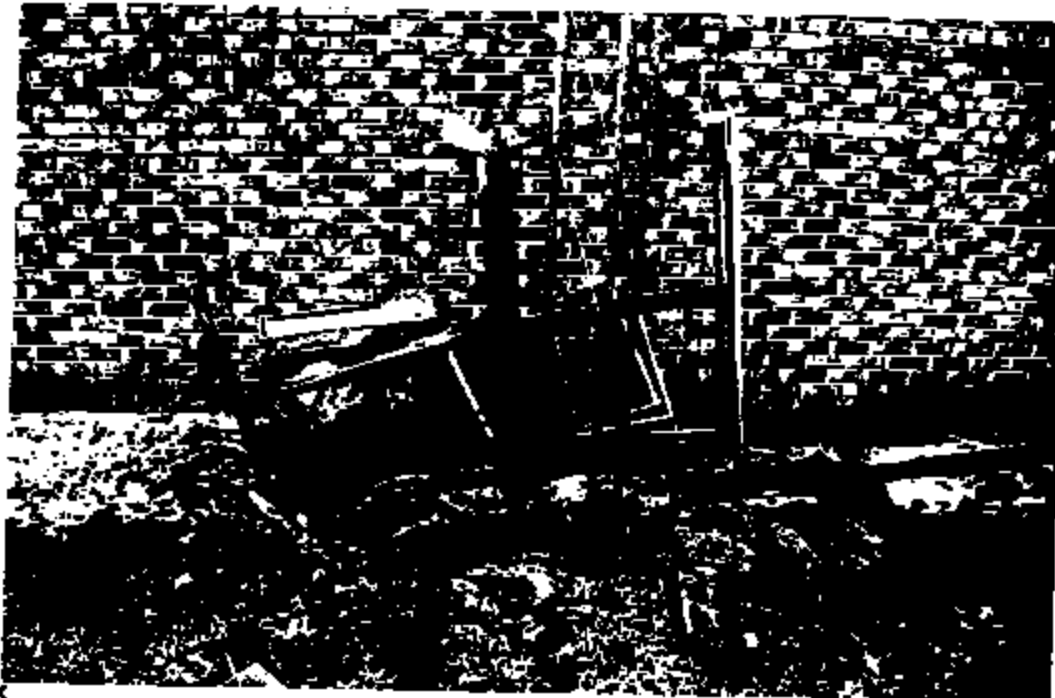


Photos #5 & #6  
show two automo  
biles, a Buick &  
Toyota, looki  
ng at the fronts  
of each, respecti

X

PHOTO # 6





Shows the base  
a TV antenna a  
aluminum window  
at the west end  
of the structure.

X



Shows the car  
with the burned  
Mercury inside.

X

10

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 9



X  
PHOTOS #9 & #10  
show the burned  
Mercury, looking  
at the front, the  
side, rear and  
right side, res-  
pectively, as fol-

PHOTO # 10



X  
E902-825 38000

CASE # 3948



PHOTO # 11

X

Photos #11 & #12 show the conditions along the east side of the airport, looking north and south, after the debris was removed.

X



X

PHOTO # 12

X

X

CASE # 1948



PHOTO # 13  
X

Shows the right side of the burned Mercury, in relation to the gasoline can.

X

X



X

PHOTO # 14

X  
Shows the right end of the gas line tank on the burned Mercury.

X

X

CASE # 1948



PHOTO # 15

Photos #15 & #16 show the burned conditions along the west side of the carport, after debris removal. Looking north and south.

X



X

PHOTO # 16

X

ENG-025 35911

CASE # 194B

X

PHOTO # 17

X



Photos #17 & #18  
show the burned  
conditions to the  
front fenders.  
Looking from the  
left and right  
sides, respectively.

PHOTO # 18



EA02-025 36812

15



CASE # 1948

PHOTO # 19



Photos #19 & 20  
show close-ups  
of the left front  
fender and wheel.

PHOTO # 20



ENG2-625 36913

16

PHOTO # 21



Photos #21 & #22 show the burned Mercury, looking at the front. #21 is a close-up of the motor.

PHOTO # 22





CASE # 3943

PHOTO # 23  
X

Photos #23 & #24 show the burned conditions along the right and left sides of the motor compartment, looking to the rear.



PHOTO # 24

1E

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 27



X  
Photos #27 & #28  
show the burned  
conditions to the  
left side of the  
engine compartment,  
with a  
close-up of the  
electric motor  
for the ABS.

X



X

PHOTO # 28

X

X

X

X

20



CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 25  
X

Photos #25 & #26  
show the conditions of the  
burned electrical wiring  
in the rear of the motor  
compartment.



PHOTO # 26  
X

X

X

19

EA82-025 38916



CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 29  
X

Photos #29 & #30 show the electric motor for the air pump, once it was pulled from the floor under the left front part of the motor compartment.

NOTE IN PHOTO #1: THE BEAD ON THE ELECTRIC WIRE.

X



X

PHOTO # 30

X

X

X

21



CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 31  
X

Photos #31 & #32  
show the electrical  
wiring harness,  
which ran along  
the left side of  
the motor compart-  
ment.

X



PHOTO # 32

X

22

X



X  
Photos #33 & #34  
show the interior  
around the left  
dash and driver  
seat, basically  
as found, and  
the debris removed  
from the floor-  
board.



23



CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 35



Shows the right  
dash, in the ar-  
of the front pas-  
senger seat.

PHOTO # \_\_\_\_\_

X

X

X

X

EP82-025 38821

24

CASE # 1948

PHOTO # 36

X



Photos #36 & #37  
show the rear passenger seat, looking to the right and left side, respectively.

PHOTO # 37



EA82-025 38822

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 38



Shows the filler  
tube for the gas  
oline tank.

X

X

PHOTO # 39



X  
Shows the laundry  
room, looking  
south.

X

CASE # 3942

X

PHOTO # 40

X



Photos #40 & #41 show the center in the laundry room. position for photograph

X

PHOTO # 41



X

X

CASE #

PHOTO #



X  
Shows the  
tions around  
west side  
laundry room  
around the  
heater.

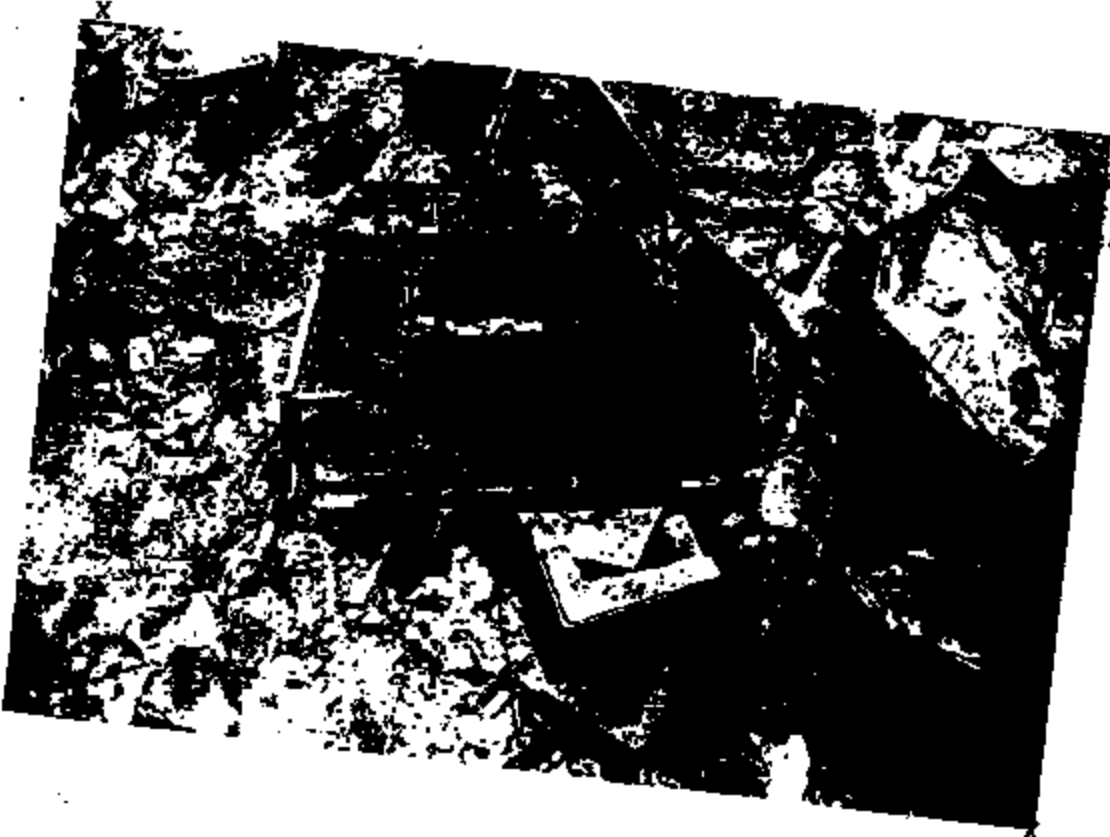


PHOTO # 45

X  
Shows the base  
component for a  
computer.

CASE # 1948

PHOTO # 44

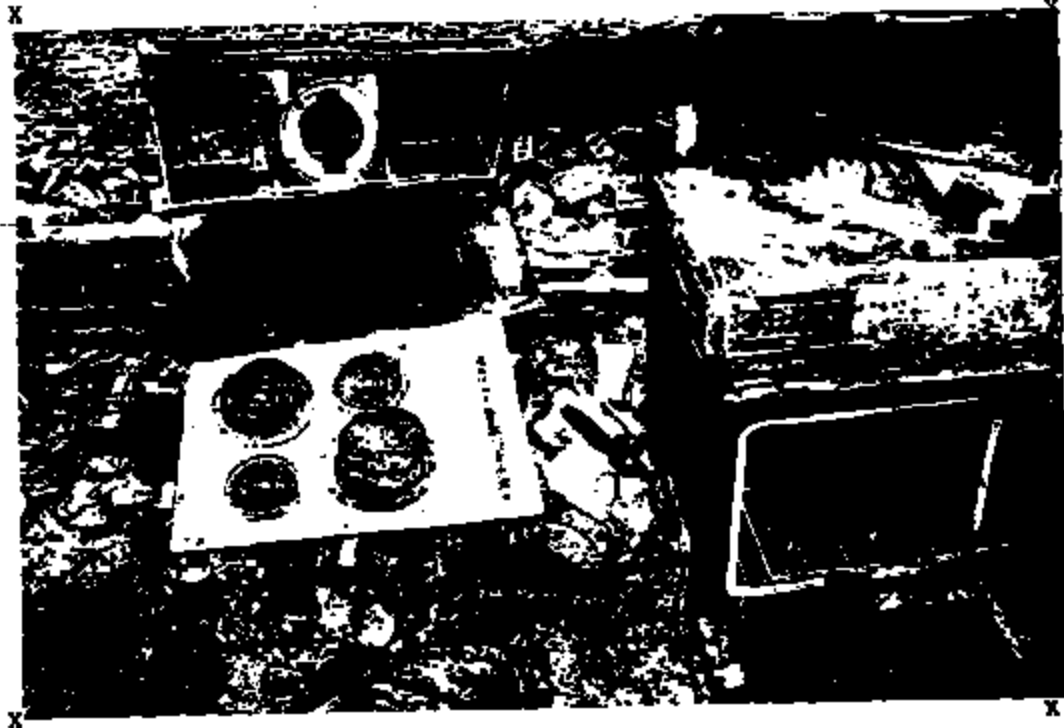


Photos #44 & 45 show the condition in the kitchen, looking north, principally as found, with the walls pushed and the debris sifted.

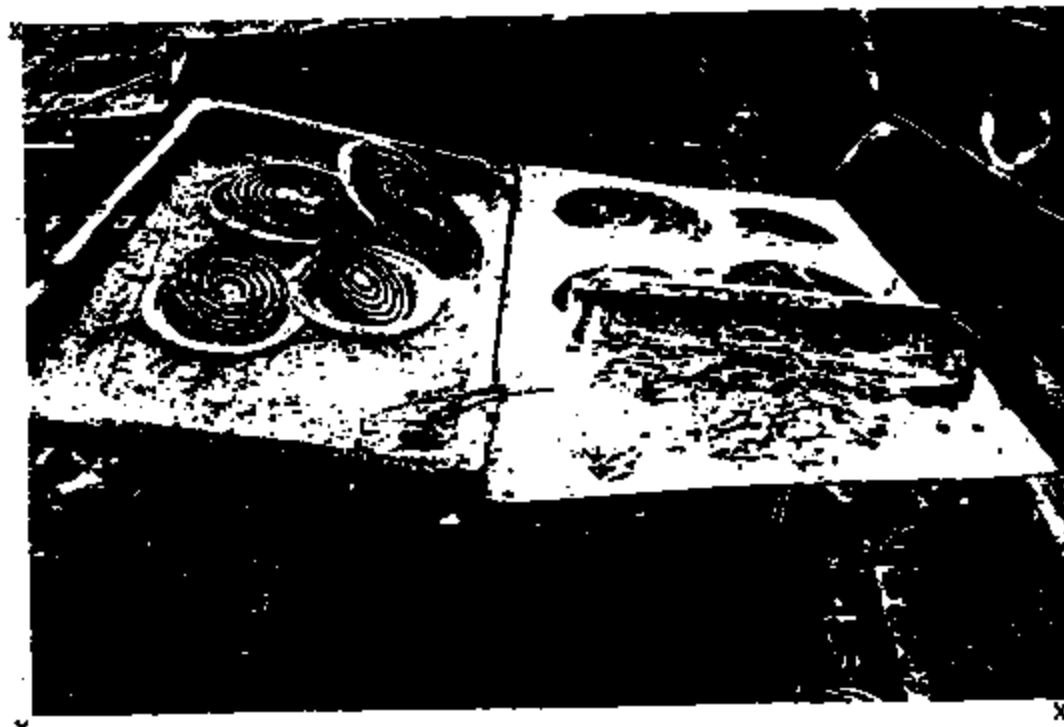
PHOTO # 45



29  
E982-625 38826



Photos #46 & 47 show the range top, the vent, and oven, positioned for photographing, and with the controls for the range exposed.



CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 48  
X

Photos #48 & 49  
show the condition around the  
compressors for the refrigerator  
and freezer.



X

PHOTO # 49



ER02-625 38928

31



CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 50



Photos #50 & 51 show the condition in the living room, looking north, as from the east, after the debris has been sifted.

PHOTO # 51



ENG-625 3825

3E



CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 52

X

Shows the tree  
mill, shown es  
ter in photos  
#50 & #51.

X

PHOTO # 53

X

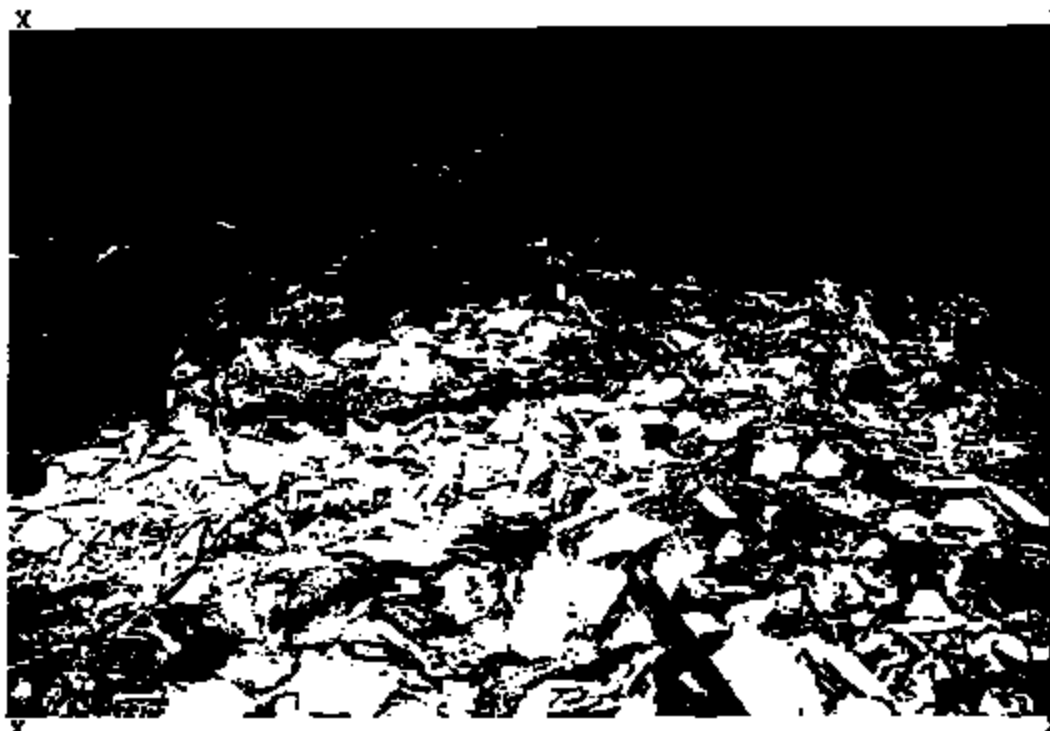
Shows the meta.  
extension bars  
for a dining  
table.



X

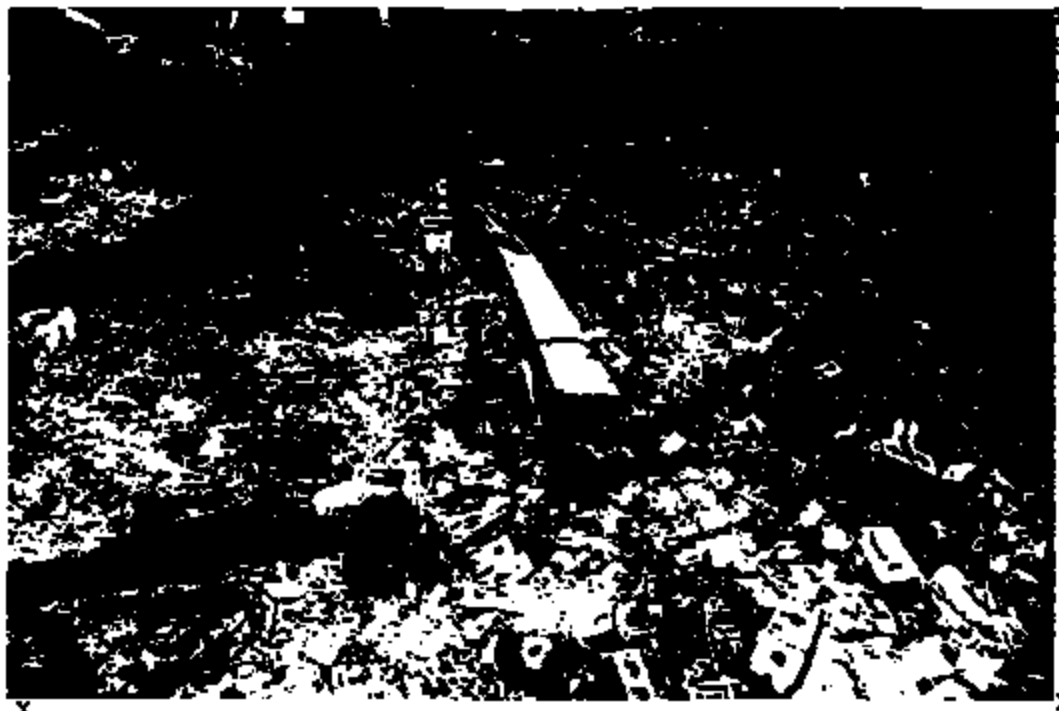
CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 54



Shows the cond  
itions in the  
ingross, look  
east.

PHOTO # 55



Shows the cond  
itions in the de  
area, looking  
east.

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 56

X

Shows three guns  
and a BB gun &  
the central gas  
furnace.



X

X

X

X

PHOTO # 57

X

Shows an electric  
heater and several  
pieces of  
electronics, some  
of which are be-  
lieved to be  
parts of a com-  
puter.



X

35

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 58



Shows the den  
area, looking  
west.

PHOTO # 59



Shows a TV, V  
and other elec-  
tronics and con-  
trols at the we-  
side of the liv-  
ing room.

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 60

X



Shows the fire-  
place.

X

X

X

PHOTO # \_\_\_\_\_

X

X

EA82-825 38834

37

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 51



Photos #61 & 62  
show the condi-  
tions in bedro-  
ck, as found,  
looking south  
and after debris  
had been raked

X

X

PHOTO # 62



ER22-825 36935

38

CASE # 3943

PHOTO # 63



Photos #63 & 64 show a campsite with a cook stove and electronics found in bed #1.

PHOTO # 64







PHOTO # 65

Photos 165 & 166 show a gas water heater and a safe in the general area of the bathroom.

X

X



PHOTO # 66

X

4C

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 67



Photos #67 & #68 show the conditions in bedrock #2, looking north, as before and after debris was sifted.

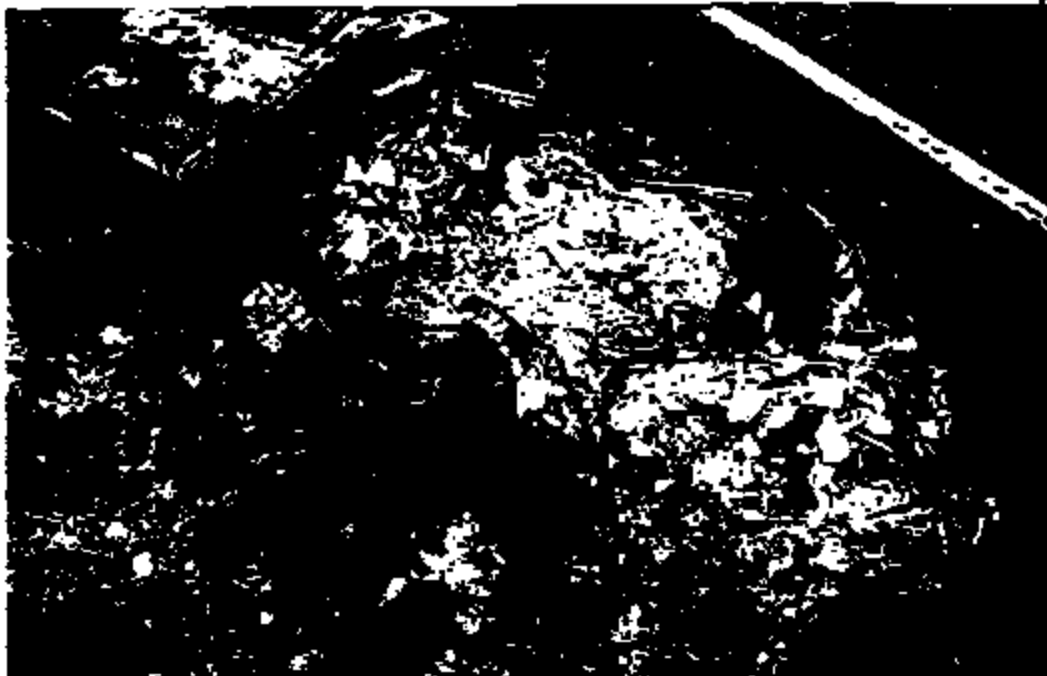
PHOTO # 68



41

CASE # 3949

PHOTO # 69



Photos #69 & #70 show computer components and watch bench and electric heater, found along the west side of bedrock #2.

PHOTO # 70



EA82-625 38938

42

CASE # 3942

PHOTO # 71



Photos #71 & #72 show the conditions in bedrock #3, looking north, as found and after the debris was situated.

PHOTO # 72



ERR-025 38948

43

CASE # 3948

PHOTO # 73



Shows electronics and a box fan, previously shown in the background of photo #72.

PHOTO # 74



Shows several metal containers and books, found in the debris at the south end of bedroom #3.

CASE # 3942

PHOTO # 75

X



Shows the Mercedes  
looking at the  
front, after be  
ing raised at  
CoParts Salvage

X

X

PHOTO # \_\_\_\_\_

X

X

X

X

45

EA82-825 36942

CASE # 3943

PHOTO # 76

X



Photos #76 & #77 show the Mercruiser around the front left and right wheels.

X

X

PHOTO # 77



X

X

46

CASE # 1048

X



PHOTO # 78

X

Photos 178 & 179  
shows the Merc.  
raised, looking  
from the rear  
and a close-up  
of the gas can.

PHOTO # 79



47



**JOHN K. OWENS, PH.D., P.E.**

Post Office Box 36  
Starkville, MS 39760  
Telephone: (601) 323-8882  
Fax: (601) 323-8081

Date: January 24, 1996

Claim Rep.: Malcolm Houston

Client:

Ridgeland, MS

Insured:

Claim No.:

Attention:

Re.: Automobile Fire

Case: 3948

Insurance Company: State Farm

File: F96-002

#### ELECTRICAL EVALUATION

On January 3, 1996, a trip was made to the COPART Salvage Yard in Pearl, Mississippi, for the purpose of inspecting and evaluating the electrical system in a burned Mercury Marquis automobile. The vehicle was moved from Row C-133 to the front of the yard for evaluation. The COPART stock number was MM 1304-95. [REDACTED] was present and assisted in the inspection. [REDACTED] stated that the automobile burned on December 6, 1995, at approximately 1:00 a.m.

The vehicle was a total burn, and the fiberglass hood was burned away. The inspection of the interior of the burned vehicle indicated that the fire came from the engine compartment. The dash had collapsed away from the fire wall of the vehicle. Melted copper wiring was noted in the interior and in the engine compartment. In the engine compartment intense bluing of metal in the driver's side wheel well was noted. The intense bluing indicates intense heat in the area where the air suspension system compressor and its motor mounted. [REDACTED] had collected the compressor motor and a number of other components from beneath the vehicle on December 8, 1995, and delivered them for evaluation.

On January 22, 1996, the compressor-motor, identified as Sample 1, was evaluated. The end plate was removed from the compressor, and it was found that melted aluminum (from compressor cylinder) was puddled in the bottom of the crankcase. The motor was separated from its housing and inspection failed to reveal any pre-fire failure in the motor. Inspection of the motor-compressor did not indicate that the motor was powered when it was burned. Packaged with Sample 1 in separate bags were a screen, a small DC motor, a solenoid and ceramic substrate. All of these items were victims of the fire. Also, Sample 1 included a bag of melted/fused copper wire, which indicates the high temperature in the engine compartment.

This report is furnished to James Vickers Enterprises and becomes the property thereof.  
Release of this report to any other individual or agency is solely the responsibility of  
James Vickers Enterprises.

ERG2-625 38845

48

██████████  
Re: Case No. 3948 ██████████

January 24, 1996

page 2

Sample 2 consisted of wiring from the left side of the engine compartment, along with connectors and a solenoid. All of these items were victims of the fire.

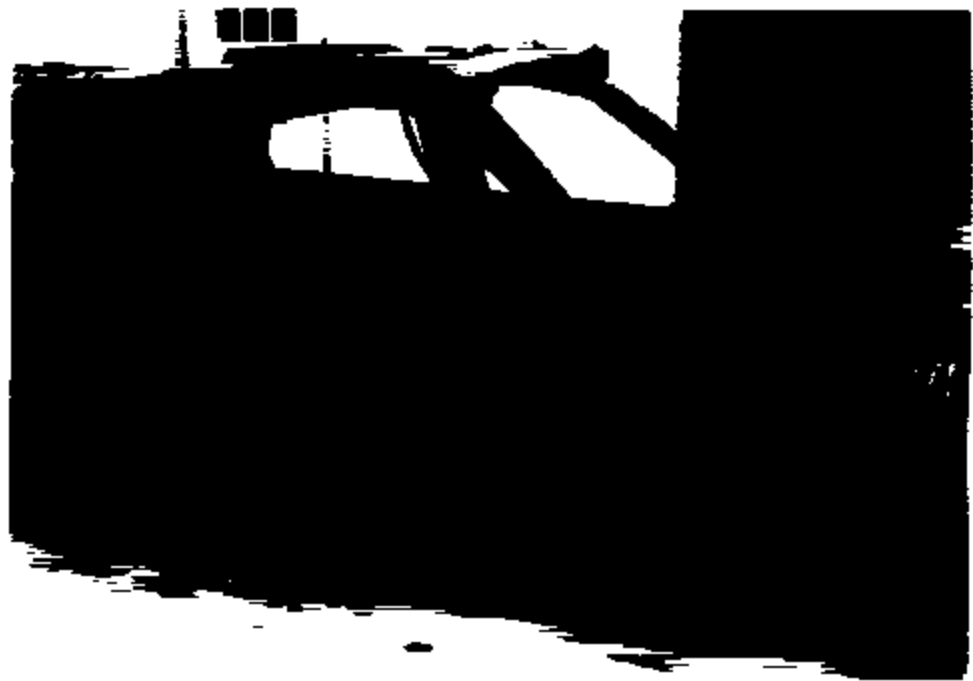
#### CONCLUSION

After a close inspection of the burned vehicle and samples from the burned vehicle, it is my professional opinion that there is no evidence which conclusively indicates the ignition source of the fire was associated with the electrical system. The damage was so extensive that evidence of electrical involvement could have been obscured by the fire.

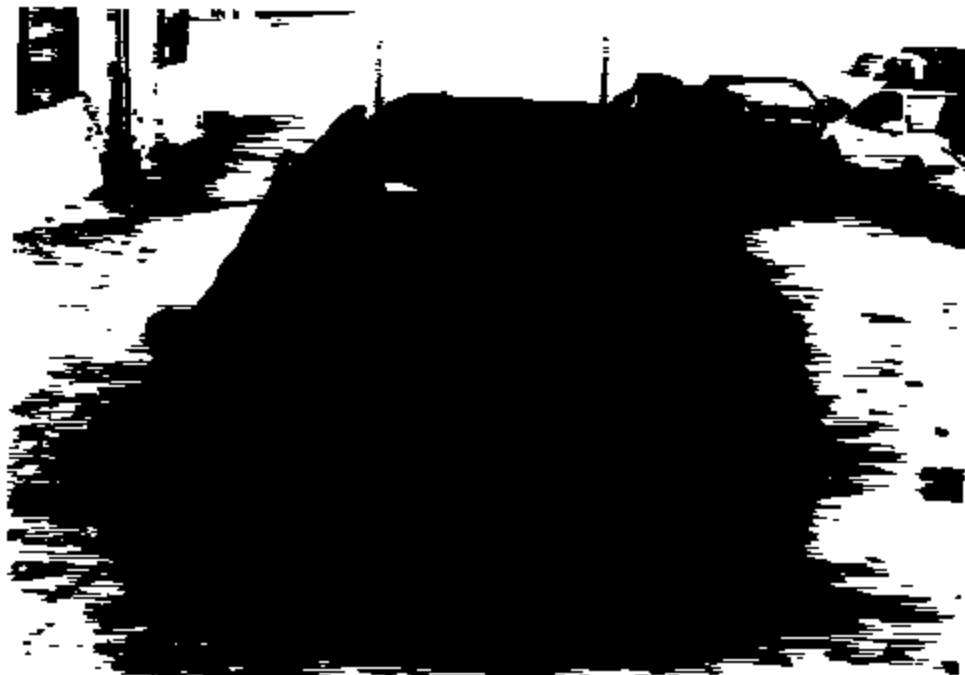
*John K. Owens*  
John K. Owens, Ph.D., P.E.













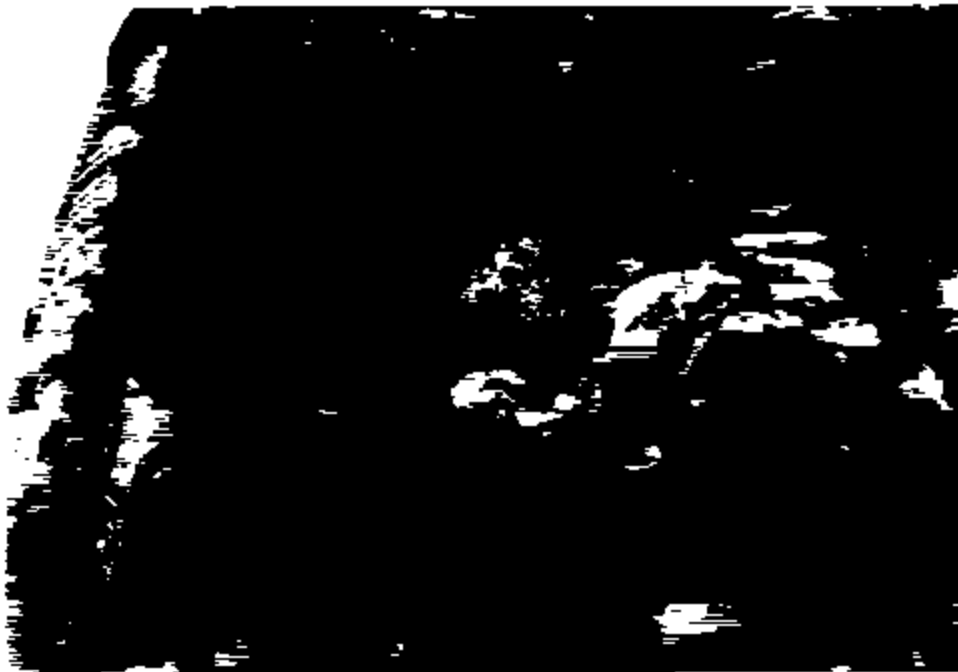






















EA02-025 3881







ER02-025 38964

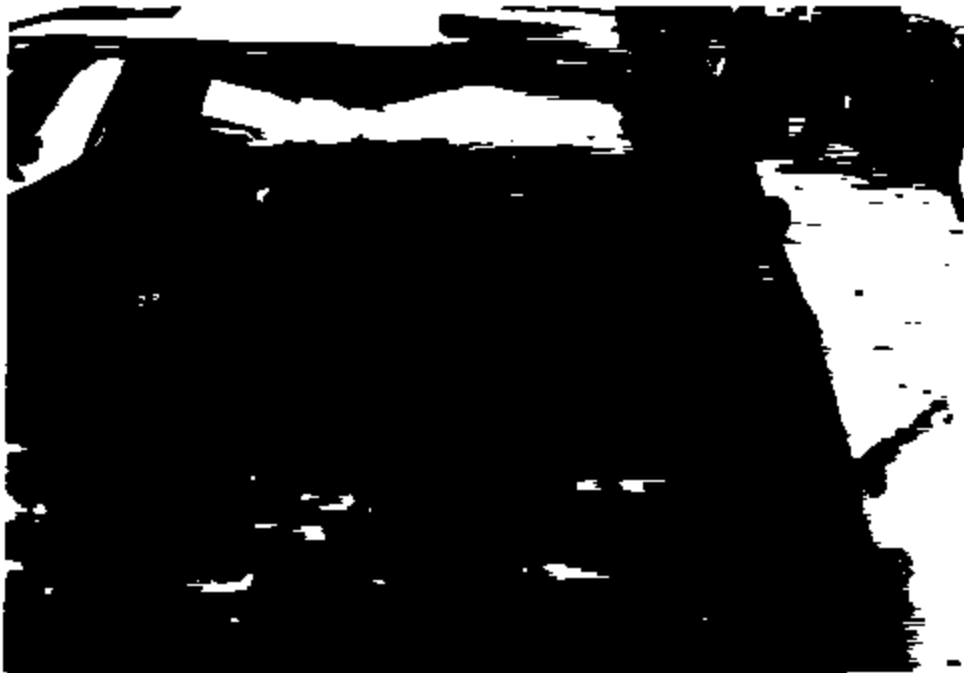






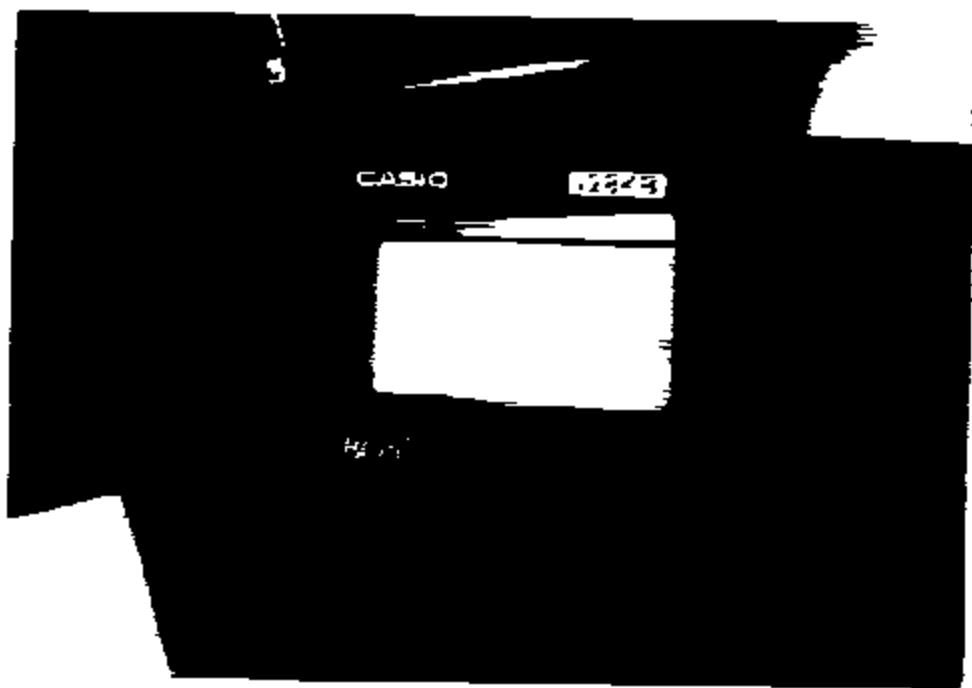
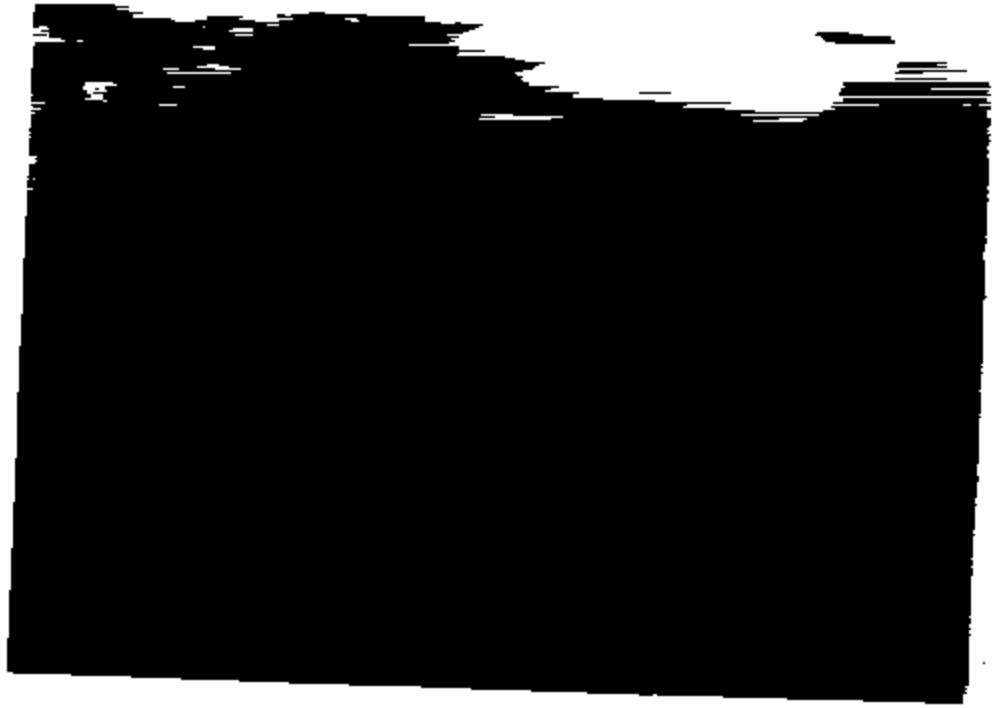






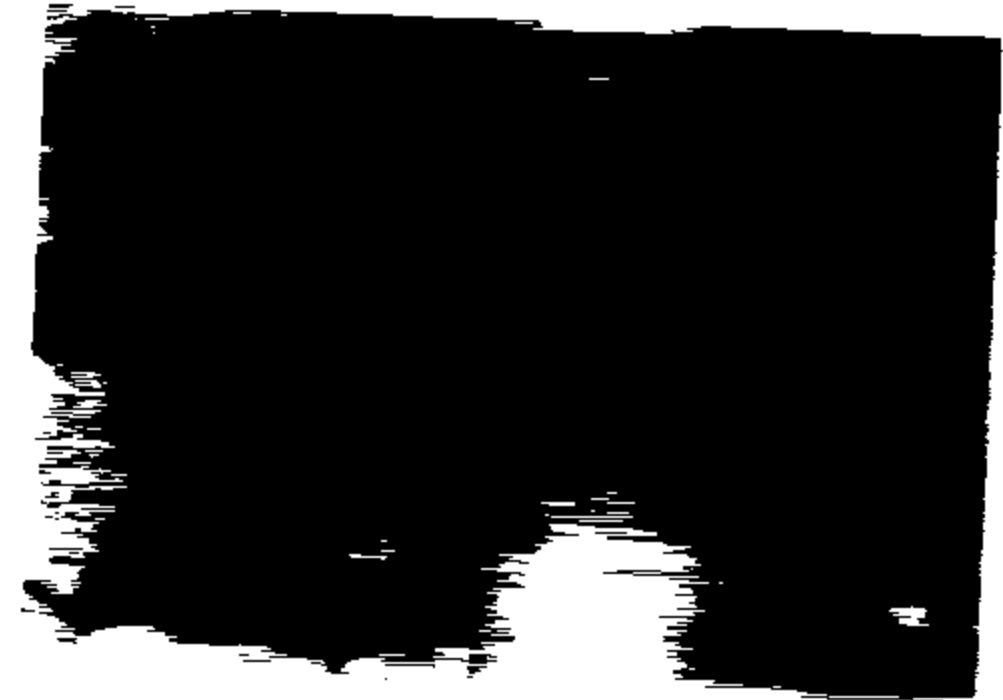
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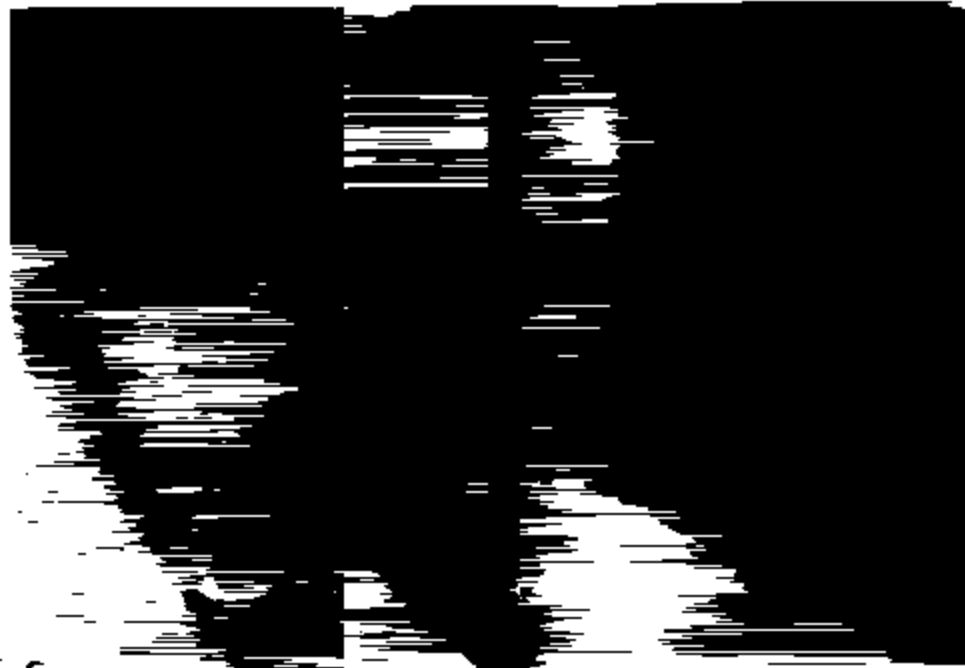




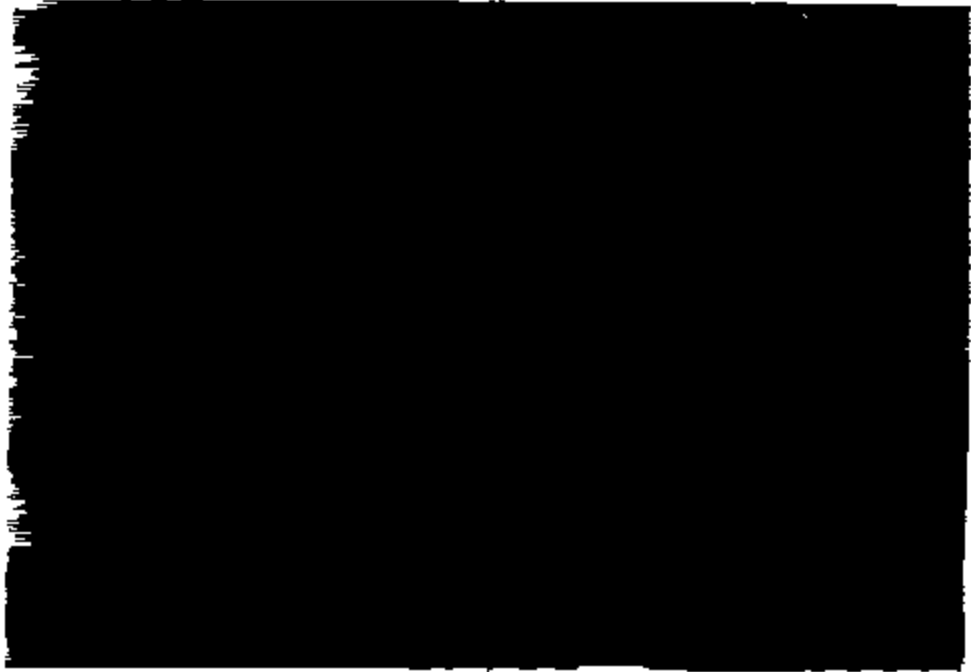


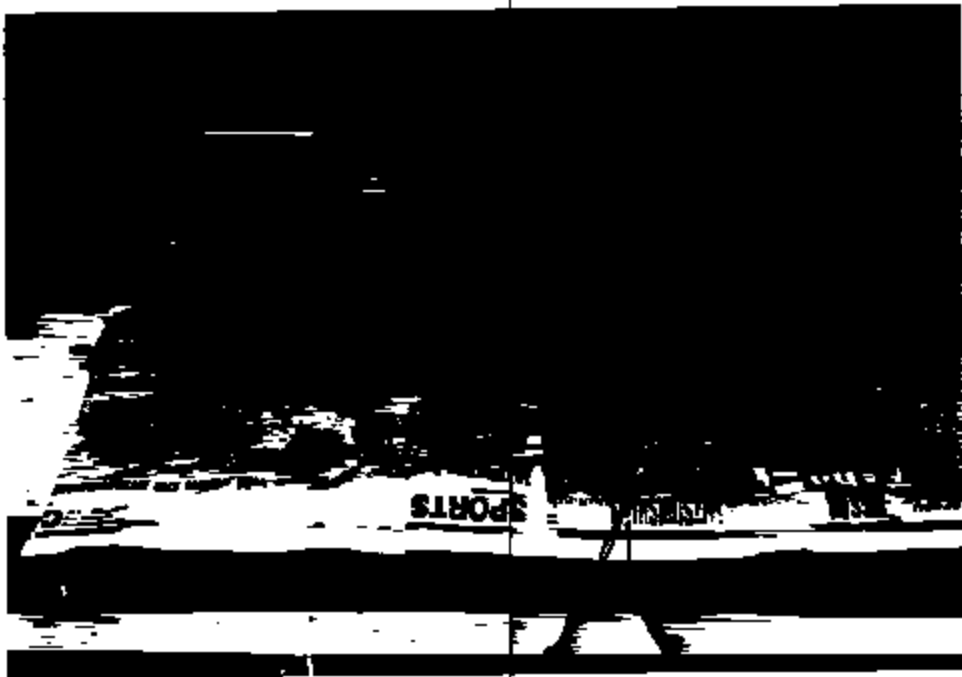




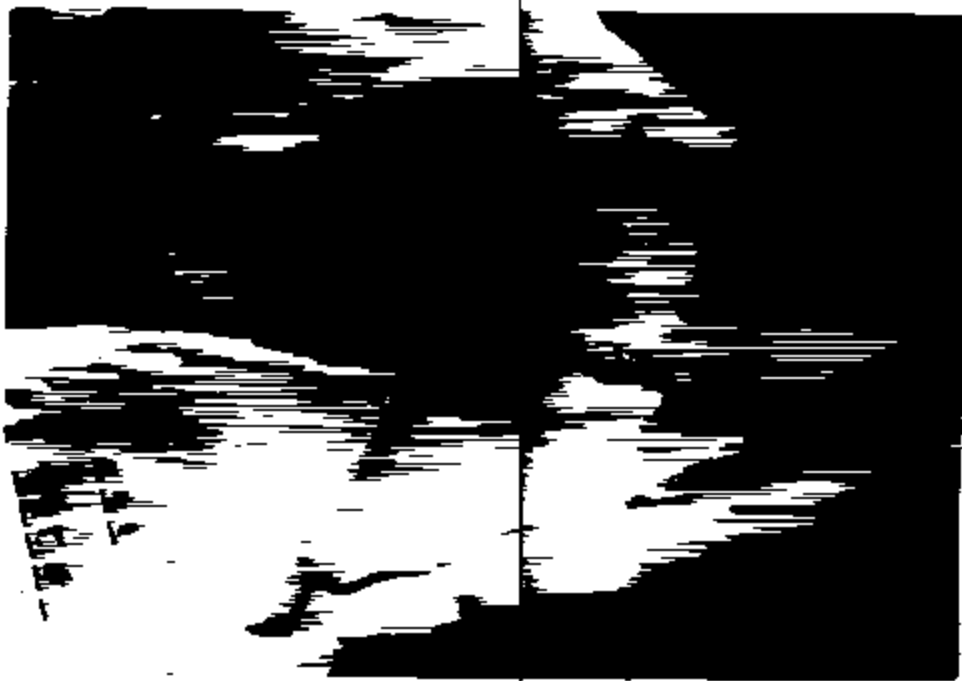














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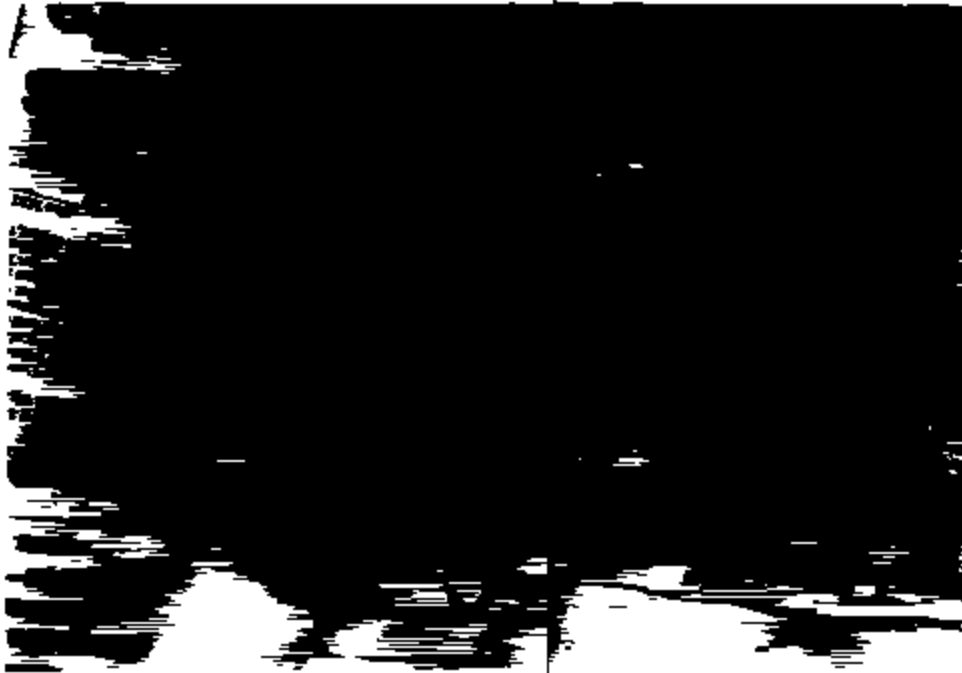


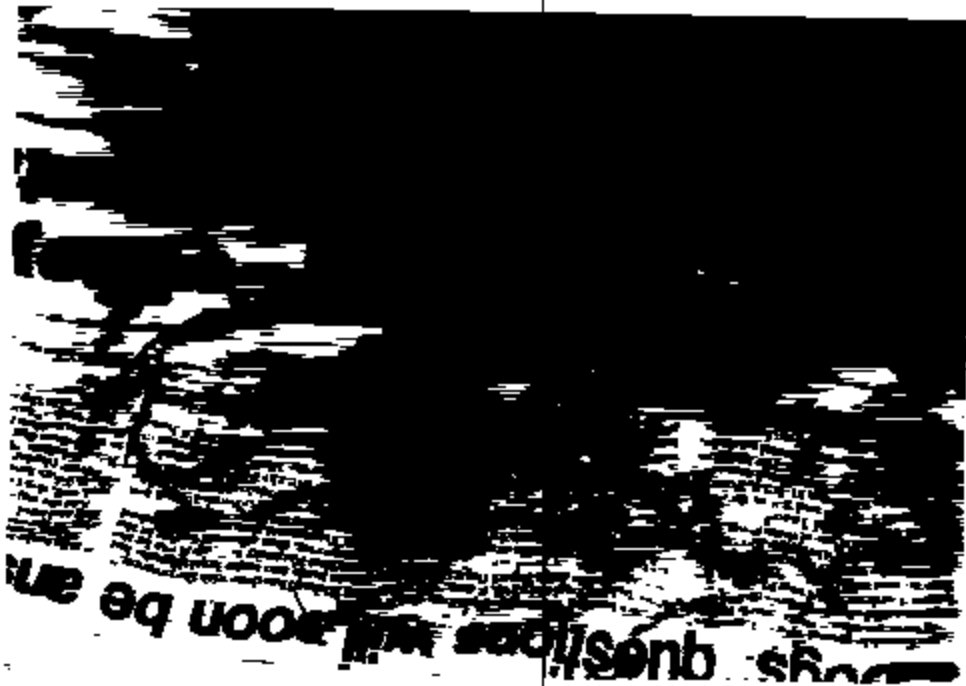


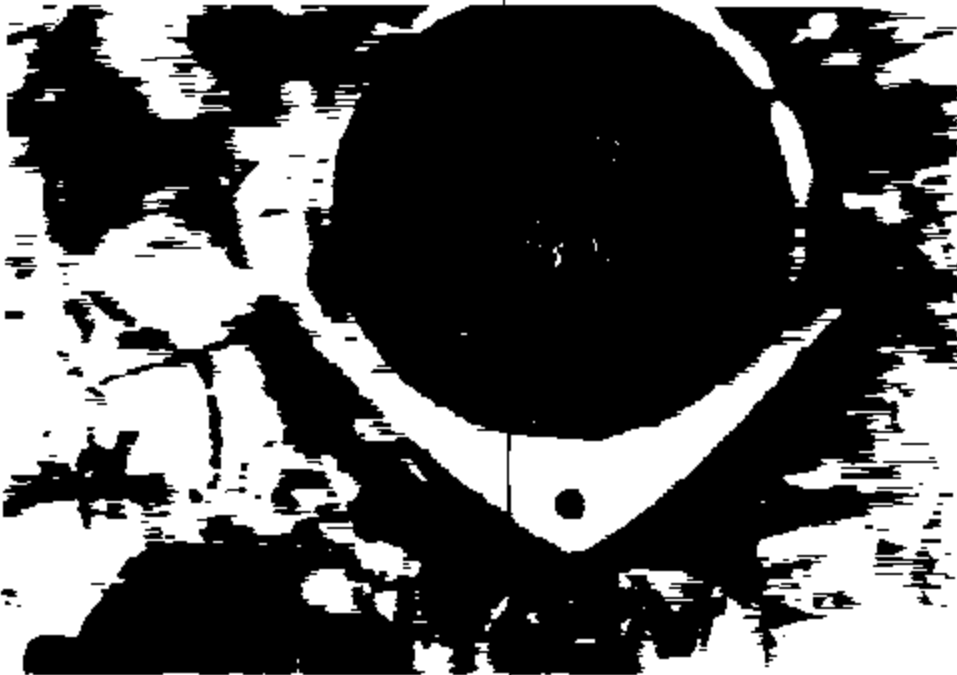
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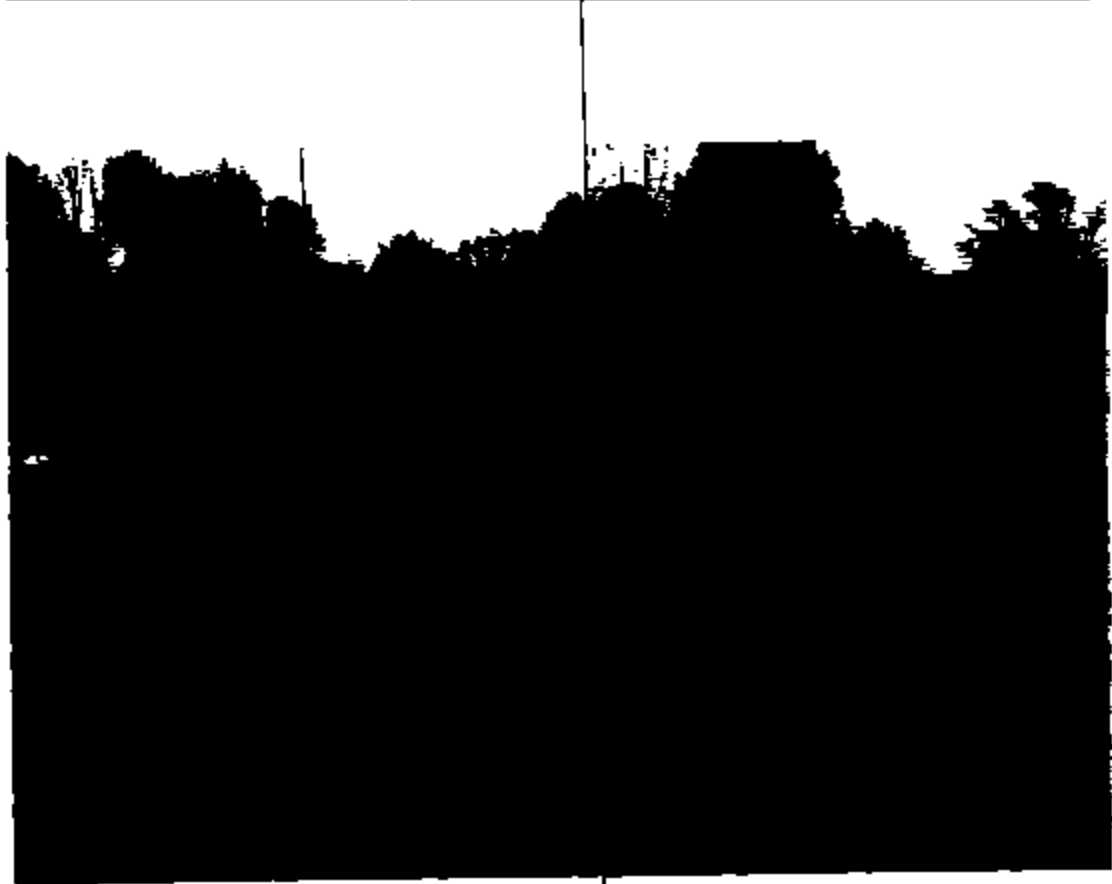
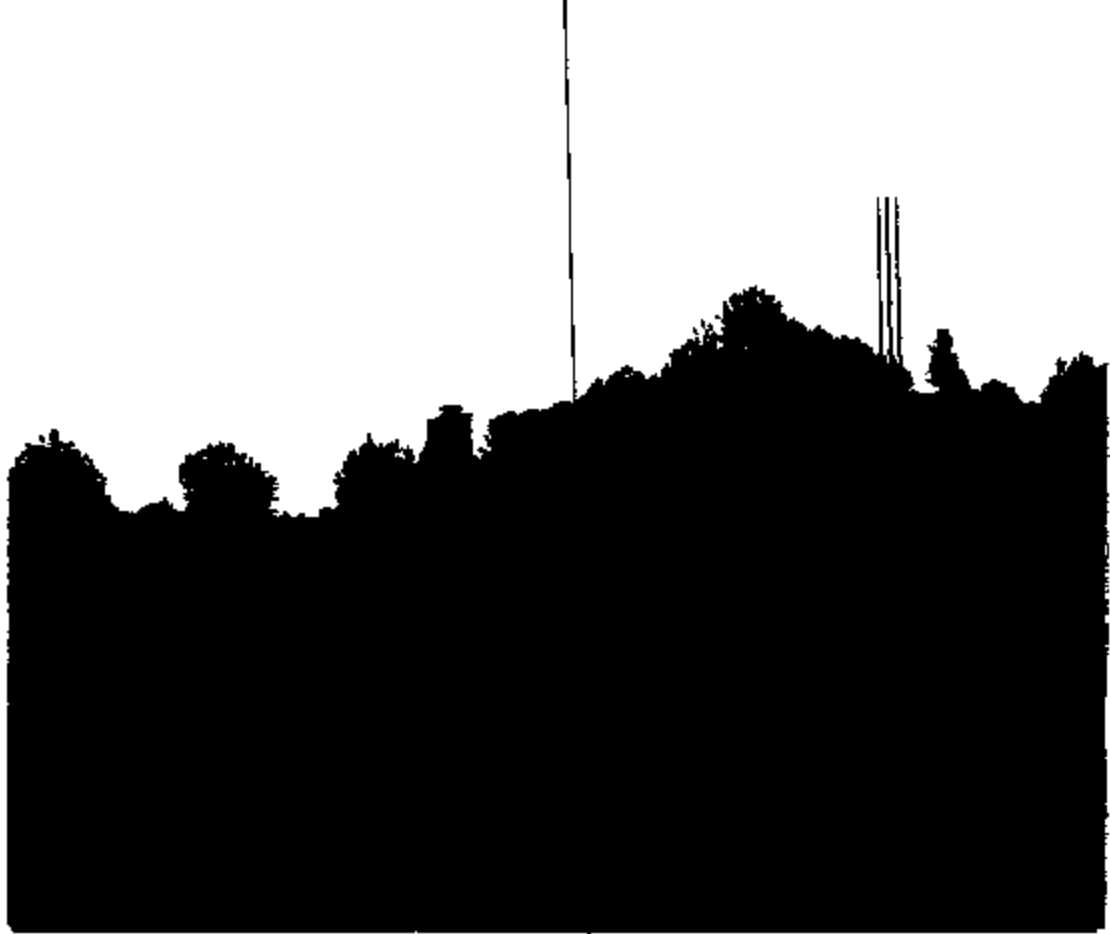






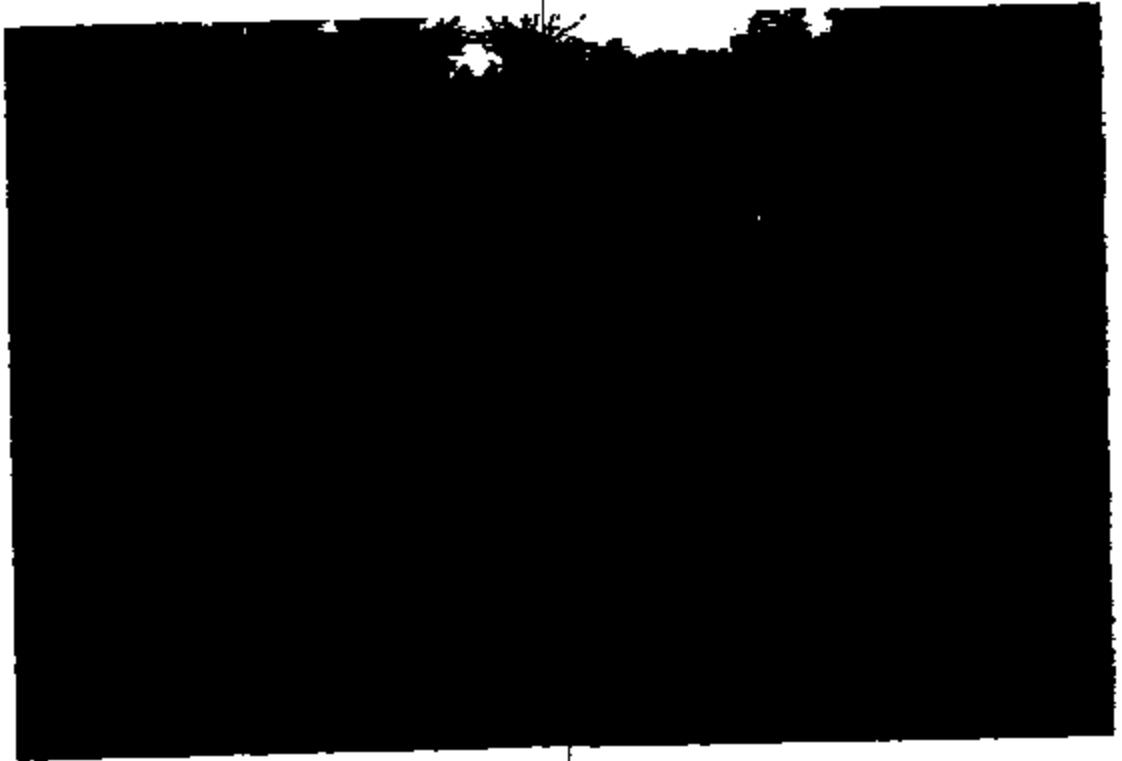
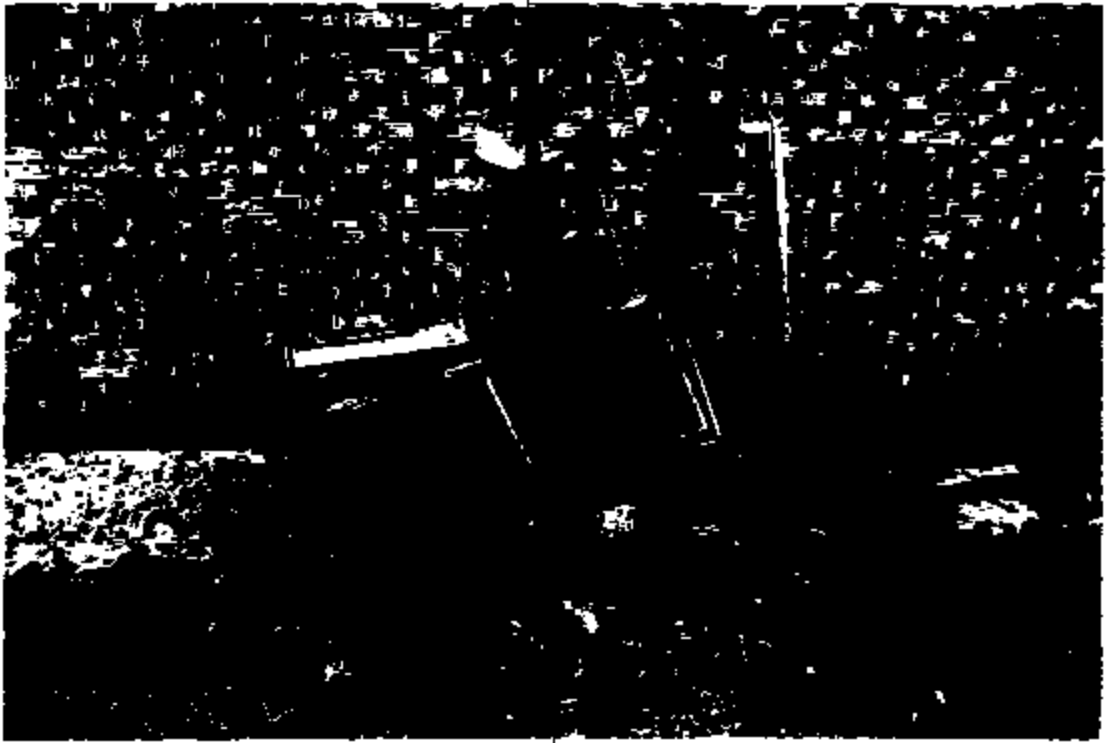




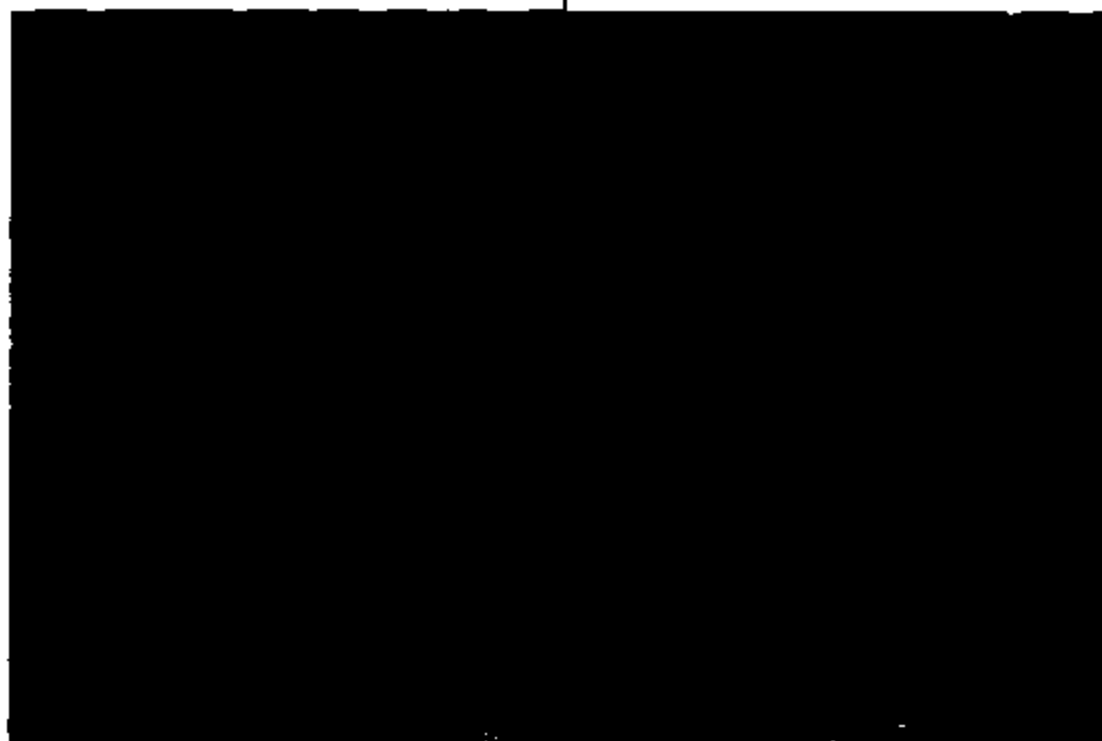
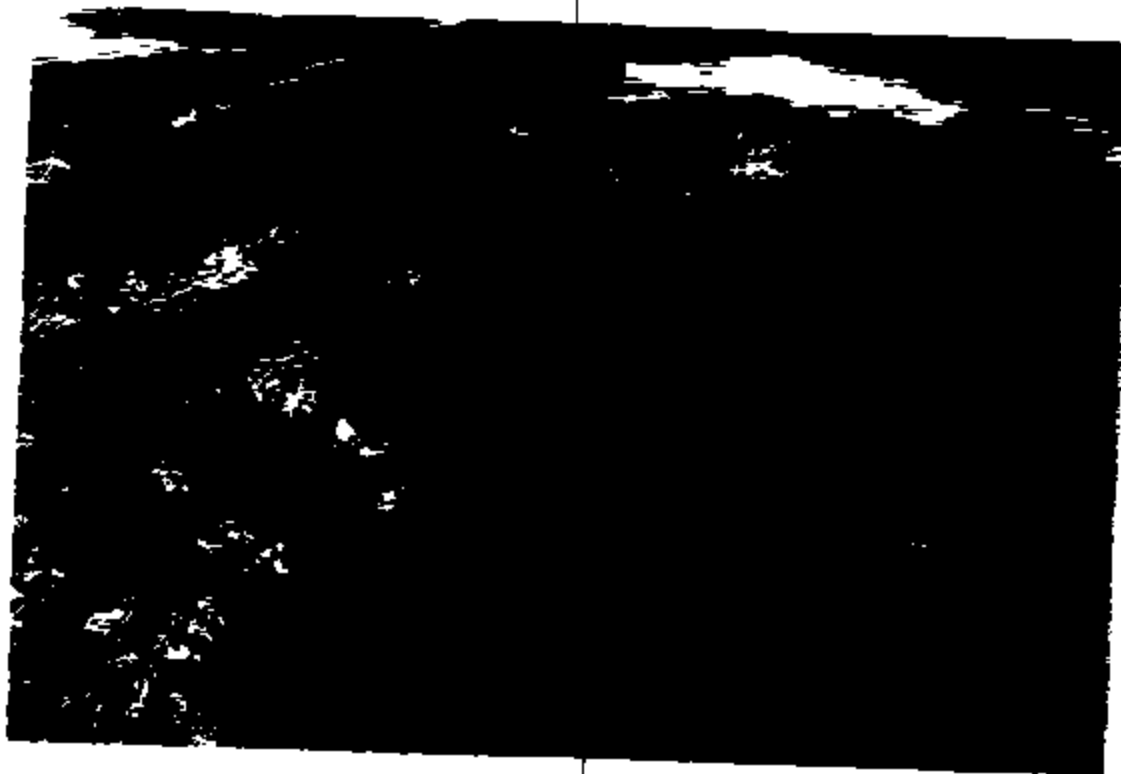


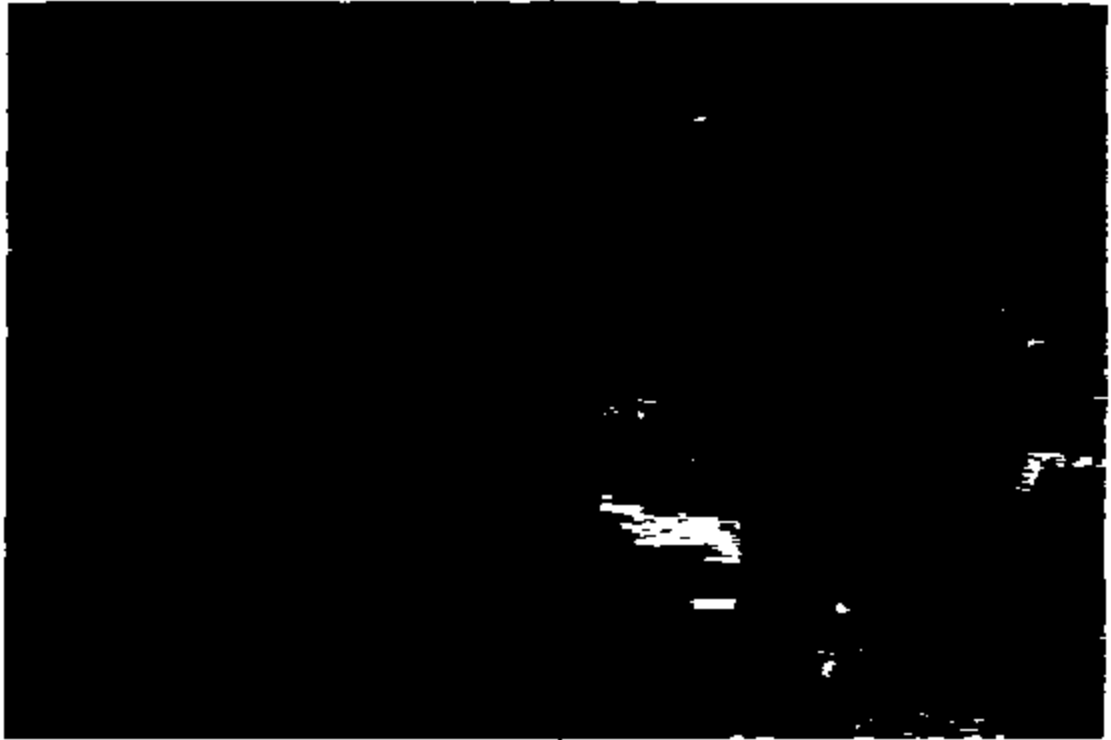




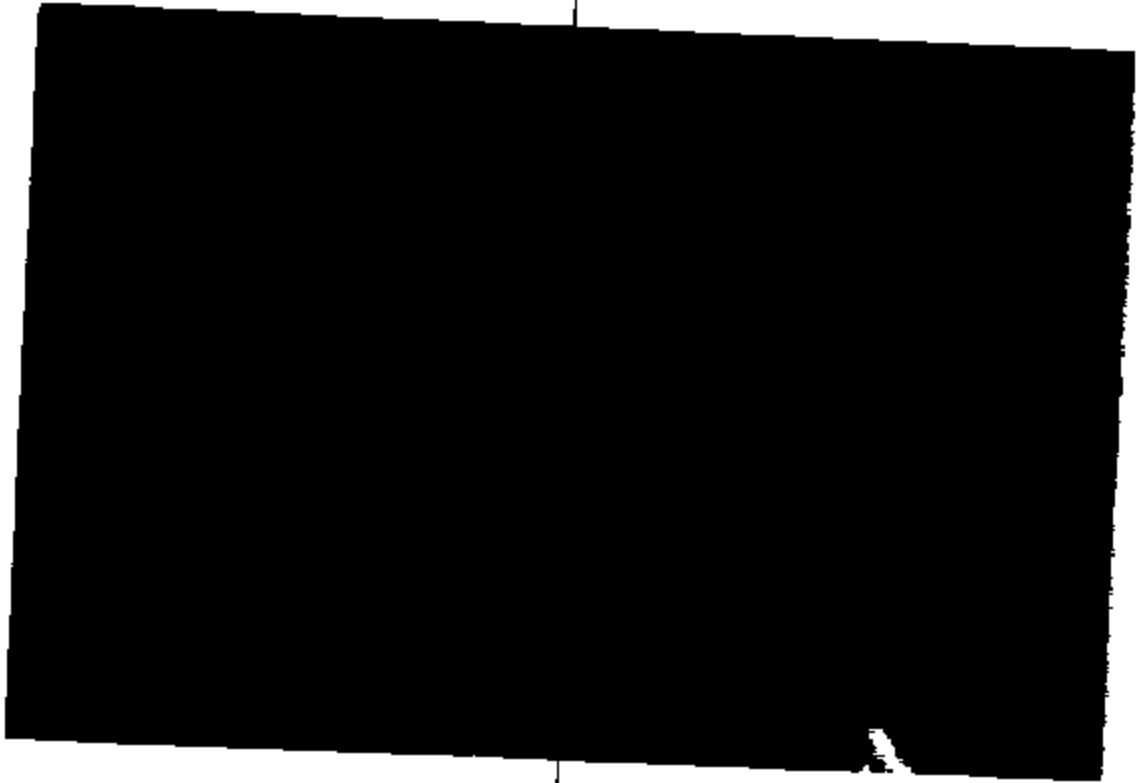
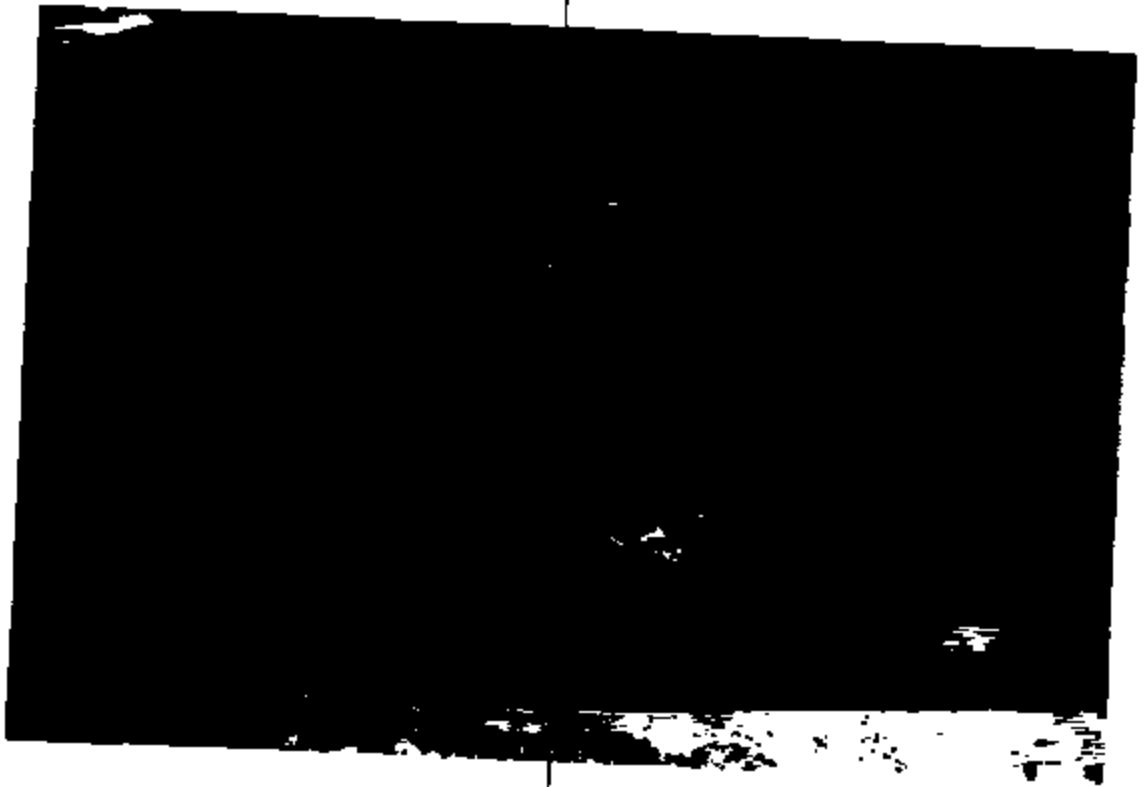


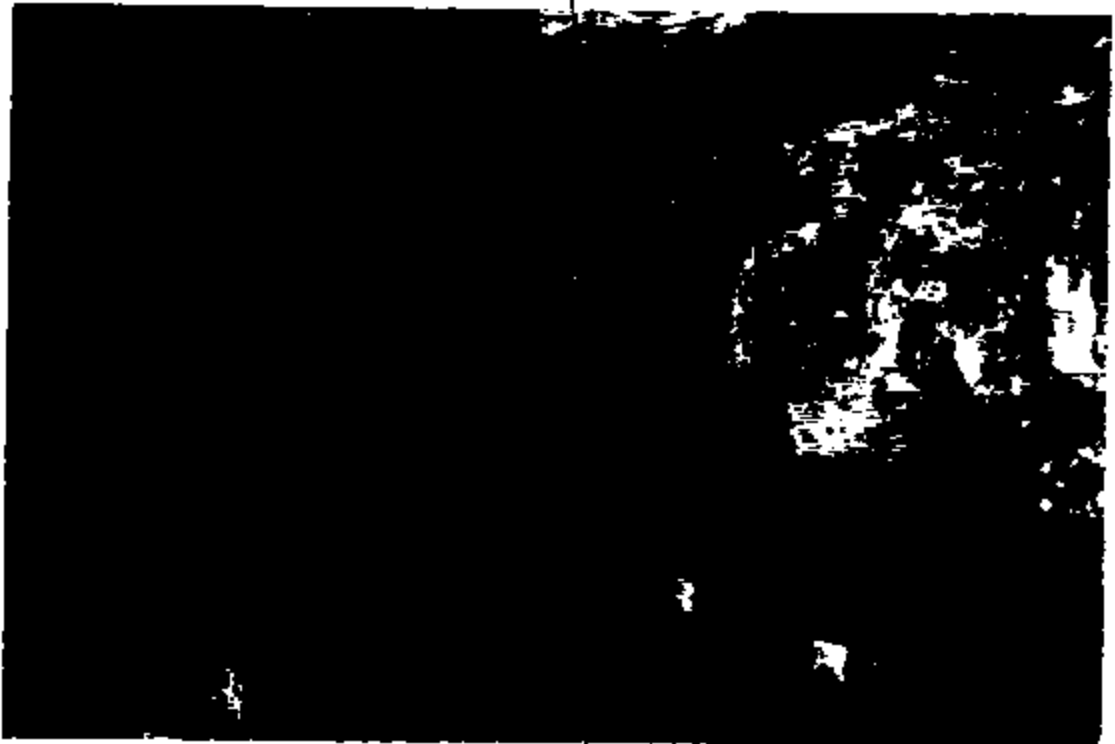
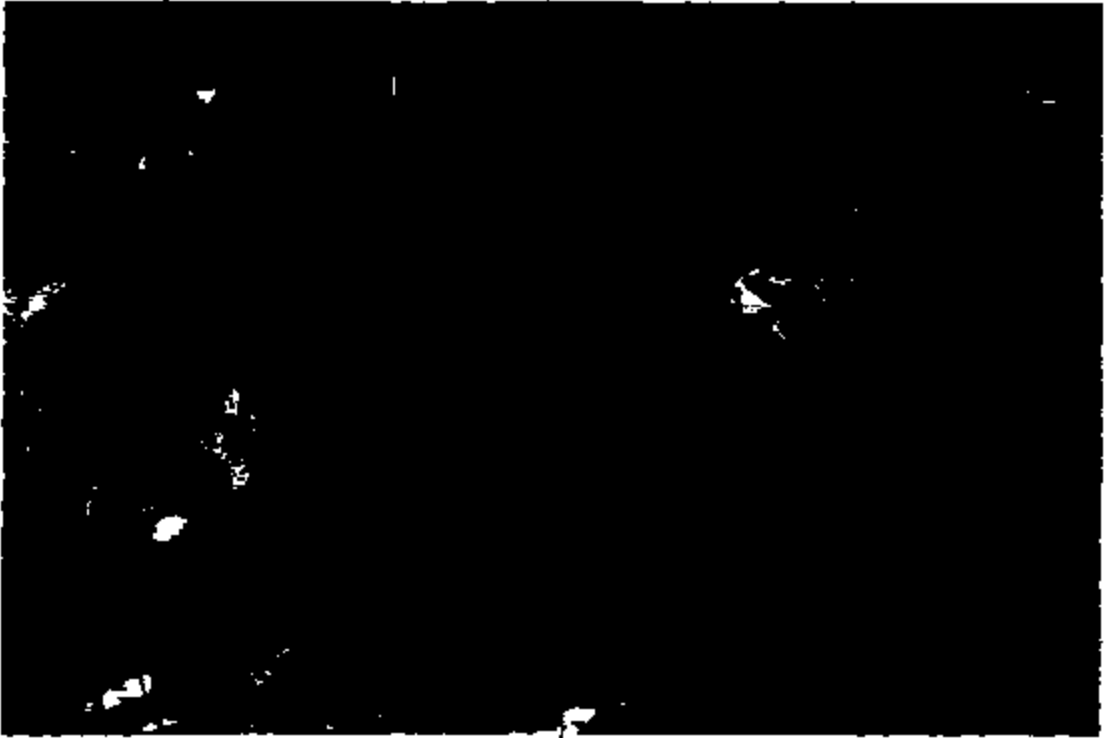


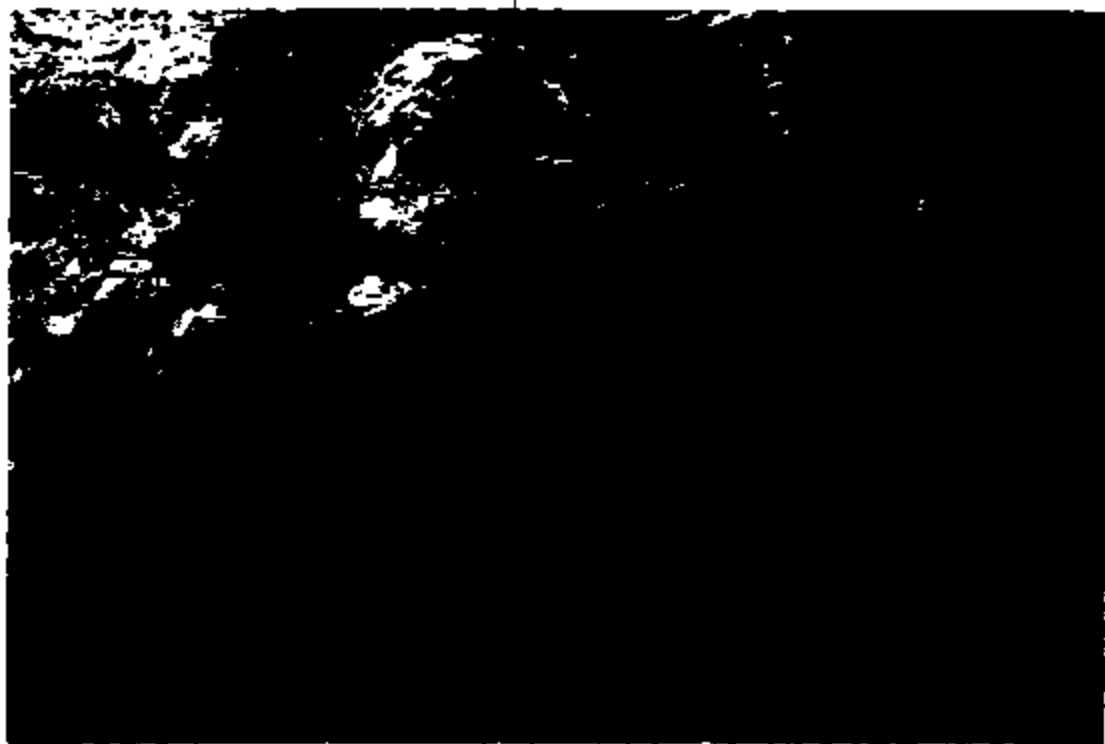




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