

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1645781-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 1
Page 10 ~ Duplicate;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

REC'D ASST. DIR.
IDENT. DIV. FBI

APR 27 10 38 AM 1976

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F.B.I.

APR 26 4 57 PM '76

- Adm. _____
- Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. *RH/for* _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

INCONS OCT 22 1970
OATCON 11-17-70 dlp

Handwritten notes:
10/19/70
10/19/70

10/19/70

SEP 25 2 57 PM '70

REC'D-IDENT. DIV.
FBI

9/23/70

[redacted] did not at that time want to place a Missing Person notice. She was interested in the FBI's looking for Miss LASS. The Bureau's jurisdiction was explained to her.

b6
b7C

On 9/21/70 SA [redacted] Resident Agent, Auburn RA, which covers South Lake Tahoe, contacted Lt. [redacted] of the South Lake Tahoe Police Department. Lt. [redacted] said that relatives of Miss LASS had contacted his department and filed a Missing Person report concerning DONNA LASS. He said the matter was currently under investigation by his agency but that sufficient facts had not been developed to evaluate the disappearance of Miss LASS.

On 9/22/70 Lt. [redacted] informed that Miss LASS was last seen at her apartment by the apartment house manager on 9/5/70 and that she last reported for work as a nurse at the Sahara-Tahoe Casino on 9/5/70, her shift terminating at 2:00 A.M. on 9/6/70. Lt. [redacted] said his department had failed to locate anyone who had seen or heard from Miss LASS since she left work at the above casino. He said her nurse's uniform was left in a brown paper bag in a First Aid Room of the Sahara-Tahoe Casino, indicating she may have changed into civilian clothes at the termination of her shift. He said he learned that on occasion she did do this so that she could go to one of the bars for a drink or two at the end of her shift.

b6
b7C

Lt. [redacted] also advised that, according to his records, on 9/13/70 his agency received a telephonic request from [redacted] Security Shift Manager, Sahara-Tahoe Casino, for the South Lake Tahoe Police Department to make a welfare check on Miss LASS at her apartment inasmuch as she had not reported to work for several days. His agency responded, made inquiry at the apartment building, and determined she had not been in her apartment for several days. Her car was parked in the parking lot there. Lt. [redacted] also advised that Security Officer [redacted] at the Sahara-Tahoe Casino had received a telephone call from an unknown male on about September 7, 8, or 9, 1970, that Miss LASS was leaving the area due to illness in the family. Lt. [redacted] said that Security Officer [redacted] does not know the identity of the caller or the origin of the call.

b6
b7C

Lt. [redacted] said that an inspection of Miss LASS' apartment developed that all her personal effects, with the exception of one civilian outfit previously described, were still located in her apartment and that her car was still parked there. He said his inquiry reflected Miss LASS enjoyed a good reputation, was considered reserved and quiet, and as one who did drink on only limited occasions. She resided in her apartment alone, having moved into that apartment about 9/1/70. His agency interviewed

b6
b7C

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

[The main body of the document contains extremely faint and illegible text, likely representing the content of the transmitted message. The text is too light to be accurately transcribed.]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

9/23/70

her previous female roommates and two occasional male dates, but none had any information indicating she had been seen or heard from since her last work shift described above.

Lt. [] advised he had been contacted on a daily basis by relatives of Miss LASS and that they had indicated some dissatisfaction and disappointment with the investigation conducted by his agency.

b6
b7c

On 9/23/70 [] contacted SA [] [] of the Auburn RA, at which time she said she was dissatisfied with the investigation conducted by the South Lake Tahoe Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Zephyr Cove, Nevada, and wanted to know what action she could take to involve the FBI in the disappearance of her sister. She said it was her consensus and that of her family that Miss LASS had met with foul play.

The FBI's jurisdiction in such matters was again explained to []

b6
b7c

[] stated she is considering communicating with the Governor, Senators, or Representatives from her State of South Dakota, the Governor of California, or the FBI in Washington, D. C. in attempt to get the FBI involved in this matter.

There is no indication that there is a violation within the jurisdiction of the FBI. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department has been investigating this matter. This is being forwarded to the Bureau in the event inquiry is received, and no further inquiry is being made UACB.

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

[The main body of the document contains several paragraphs of extremely faint, illegible text, likely due to poor reproduction quality or fading. The text is contained within a large rectangular border.]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI

Date: 9/24/70

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, WFO (79-0)

DONNA (NMN) LASS
MISSING PERSON -
MISC. INFO CONCERNING

9-25
Chuz all files
Complainant
6

WFO of the FBI was telephonically contacted on 9/23/70, by _____ an assistant to Senator GEORGE MC GOVERN, telephone _____ furnished the following information:

Senator MC GOVERN's office had received a telephone call from one of the Senator's constituents in South Dakota who reported that _____ DONNA LASS, was missing and she was concerned about the possibility of foul play. Miss LASS is an employee of the Sierra Hotel, South Tahoe, Arizona. The _____ of Miss LASS suspected foul play inasmuch as DONNA's personal clothing and automobile were at the hotel.

Miss LASS is described as a white female, 25 years, 5'4", 135 lbs., last seen wearing a navy blue slack suit.

_____ stated that he would request the family to send complete description of Miss LASS to the Identification Division, FBI, Washington, D.C.

Above furnished for information.

- 1-D
- 2-Bureau
- 2-Minneapolis
- 2-Phoenix
- 1-WFO

REC-10
EX-113

79-31460-2

10 OCT 15 1970

VCH:bsl
(7)

6-15

Approved: F118 Km
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

NOV 17 1970

October 7, 1970

REC-10

79-31460-3

CPA/ke

EX-113

Honorable George McGovern
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

On September 30, 1970, I received your letter with enclosures regarding your interest in helping to locate Miss [redacted] in behalf of [redacted]

[redacted]

In an effort to be of assistance a search of our Identification Division files was conducted but I regret to tell you no indication of her whereabouts was disclosed. A missing person notice is, therefore, being placed in file in your behalf. Any information we may receive in the future will be forwarded to you until we have received advice that Miss [redacted] has been located.

We do not, of course, have the authority to conduct an active investigation in the absence of a violation of a Federal law within our jurisdiction. Enclosures are being returned.

MAILED
OCT 7 1970
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

[redacted]

HSL:kb/lrw

(7)

[redacted]

RETURN TO IDENT.
MISSING PERSON FILE
ROOM

Enclosures (2)

1 - Minneapolis (79-0) (Info) (Enclosures - 2) - copy of incoming and Sacramento airtel 9/23/70

1 - Sacramento (79-0) (Info) (Enclosure) - copy of incoming

NOTE: MP may be identical with FBI #555 145 H. This record consists of one civil applicant print received 3-17-70. Subj. last seen 9-5-70. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Bu has cordial relations with

Senator McGovern. [redacted]

name taken from back of photo sent with incoming. Notice to be posted.

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Bryanan, C.D. _____
- Callahan _____
- Casper _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Tavel _____
- Walters _____
- Woychik _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____

NOV 1 8 1970

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA., CHAIRMAN
 SPESSARD J. HOLLAND, FLA.
 JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS.
 HERMAN E. TALMADGE, GA.
 B. EVERETT JORDAN, N.C.
 GEORGE MCGOVERN, S. DAK.
 JAMES B. ALLEN, ALA.

GEORGE D. AIKEN, VT.
 MILTON R. YOUNG, N. DAK.
 JACK MILLER, IOWA
 CARL T. CURTIS, NEBR.
 ROBERT DOLE, KANS.
 HENRY BELLMON, OKLA.

COTYS M. MOUSER, CHIEF CLERK

MP# 41081
 Posted 10-12-70
 309 FB 575 pmo
 10-13-70

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 28, 1970

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Puckett	_____
Mr. Brown	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

NEV:

DOB: 11/3/44

Gentlemen:

RES: APT. #6, MONTE VERDE
WAY, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
CAIF.

I am enclosing a picture and related news story regarding the disappearance of Miss Donna A. Lass, formerly of South Dakota. This case was initially reported to the FBI last week by phone. It was indicated at that time that although no federal violation appeared to have occurred that your division wanted a picture of the missing Donna Lass in case anything subsequently developed.



With appreciation for your concern, I am

Sincerely,

George M. Govern
 George M. Govern

REFERRED TO
 RECORDS BRANCH FOR:
 MAIN FILE
 79-1

Missing Persons Division
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Department of Justice
 Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE

MCI 88

REC-10 79-31460-3

EX-113

1014
 SEP 30 1970

EXP. PROC.
 30-SEP-30-1970

1310

acc 10/7/70 mlz/kk/plw

ONE
 RE...

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5710

OCT 7 7 27 PM '70

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CORR & TOURS

OCT 1 12 47 PM '70

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Brennan, C.D.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Casper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Felt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Gale	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Walters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Soyars	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

OCT 1 3 50 PM 1970

REC'D IDENT. DIV.
FBI

REC'D SULLIVAN
FBI JUSTICE

OCT 1 10 50 AM '70

RECEIVED-TOLSON
FBI
OCT 1 10 08 PM 1970

SEP 30 5 08 PM '70

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

REC-D BISHOP
FBI

OCT 1 12 00 PM '70

10-19-70
DIRECTOR

FBI

Date: 9/24/70

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LAS VEGAS

DONNA CLASS
MISSING PERSON

LASS described white female, born 11/3/44, 5'4" tall, 135 pounds, blond hair, blue eyes, occupation registered nurse, Was last known to be wearing a blue slack suit with white stripes and blue shoes.

This date information received from Undersheriff GEORGE BRATOVICH, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Lake Tahoe, Nevada. LASS employed as nurse at Sahara Tahoe Casino, has been missing since 9/6/70. She resides at Apartment #6, Monte Verde Way, South Lake Tahoe, California. BRATOVICH stated that LASS' clothing and vehicle have been left at her residence and there was no indication of foul play. No demand for ransom or any other indication of kidnaping has been determined to date.

BRATOVICH advised that [redacted] of subject, appeared at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and also at South Lake Tahoe, California, Police Department making inquiry as to why FBI is not involved in investigation. BRATOVICH stated that the [redacted] indicated that they may make contacts with congressmen or senators in Washington, D. C., in effort to obtain FBI assistance to locate missing person. FBI, Las Vegas Division, has not been contacted to date by any relatives or acquaintances of missing person.

Foregoing information furnished to Bureau in event of any contact from congressmen or senators in Washington, D. C.

- ② - Bureau
- 2 - Sacramento
- 2 - Las Vegas

HEN:lad
(6)

REC-54

EX-113

79-1-13395
79-31460-4
B SEP 28 1970

b6
b7c

320 59 OCT 9 1970
Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge
NOV 17 1970

Sent _____ M Per _____

ONE
REC
MSC

SIX

Above information has been made available to
Resident Agency, Auburn, California.

Las Vegas Division will follow matter closely
with local authorities.

EX-103

REC-29

79-31440-5

November 10, 1970

old



b6
b7C

Dear 

On November 3, 1970, I received your letter with enclosures, your reference number 314-10-70, regarding Donna Ann Lass, a missing person,

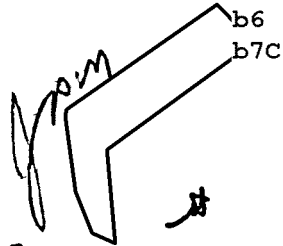
I regret we cannot furnish any information as information from our files can be given only to law enforcement and other authorized agencies for official purposes.

We do not have the authority to conduct an active investigation in the absence of a violation of a Federal law within our jurisdiction. Your enclosures are being returned.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 21
NOV 10 1970
COMM-FBI



Enclosures (3) --one copy each of three newspaper articles concerning Miss Lass.
1 - Omaha (79-0) (for info) (Enclosures-4) --copy incoming, 1 copy each of 3 newspaper articles.

- Tolson _____
- Sullivan _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Brennan, G.D. _____
- Callahan _____
- Casper _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Tavel _____
- Walters _____
- Soyars _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

NOTE: (See page 2.)

MSL:smb/lrw

(5)

lrw
FA7

Return to Eden
Miss...
Adm...
[Handwritten signatures]

60 NOV 23 1970 TELETYPE UNIT



b6
b7C

NOTE: Correspondent not entitled to results of information in our files. MPN previously posted 10/20/70 in behalf of Senator McGovern. May be identical with FBI number 555 145 H. Only fingerprints in this record are Civil Service prints. Subject appointed to position of Clinical Nurse with Department of Army, Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California. Prints record March 11, 1970.



RE-SEARCH BUREAU
of
DES MOINES

* BONDED * INVESTIGATIONS * LICENSED *

TELEPHONE
265-3660
AREA CODE 515

1327 EAST FOURTEENTH DES MOINES, IOWA 50316

still missing
Add'l info added
Rooted 11-17-70
October 24, 1970
311111

Director F.B.I.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Identification Division

Re: our case # 314-10-70
Donna Ann Lass
Missing Person

6-1
YAB
WJH

Gentlemen:

Our firm has been retained to locate the above captioned subject. The circumstances pertaining to her disappearance makes it seem advisable to inform your office also, in the event you may wish to place a stop in her fingerprint file. Your local agents in Des Moines, [redacted] and [redacted] made the suggestion to our office, after being consulted.

b6
b7c

Subject is described as follows; white female adult, 140 lbs, 5' 4" tall, auburn hair, blue eyes, D.O.B. 11-3-44. Hair short, combed over head from right to left, covering left ear. Teeth, good condition, no overlap, no braces, fungus discoloration causing crinkling condition on one hand. pierced ears, and also wore contact lenses, subject is a registered nurse.

Subject last seen alive and positive identification made at, Stateline, Nevada, at the Sahara Tahoe Casino at 2:00 AM, Sunday September 6, 1970.

**REFERRED TO
RECORDS BRANCH FOR
MAIN FILE
79-1**

Subject's auto, 1969 Camero convertible, black over red, california plate 447BJS, was found parked at the subjects apartment. This casino is two blocks from the boundary between Nevada and California, and subject was known to walk two blocks, and an additional 3 blocks to her apartment at the Monte Verdi Apts, #6, South Lake Tahoe, California.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

REC-29 79-31460-5

3 ENCLOSURE

15 NOV 17 1970

EX-103

*ONE
MSL*

ack M.L. Lombard 11/10/70

Subject has not been in contact with her family or friends, breaking a long habit of thoughtfulness. Subject left no sign of struggle at her apt., nor was there any evidence uncovered that would lead to deduce violence. Subject left bank book, all personal belongings except clothes worn, and purse containing check book, car keys, and personal cosmetics and wallet with less than \$25.00.

Sargent of the South Lake Tahoe Police Dept., was in charge of an investigation, case # 70-6436, and can furnish any data in addition to this pre-liminary report.

b6
b7c

Our office will be pleased to furnish any additional data you may deem relevant, and at the same time we respectfully request your acknowledgment of this transmittal, and also desire to be notified in the event your stop in her files flags an attempt at positive identification.

Enclosed are copies of 3 stories appearing in California newspapers.

Respectfully submitted,

U OF DES MOINES

b6
b7c

Missing Persons Division

cc file
encl.

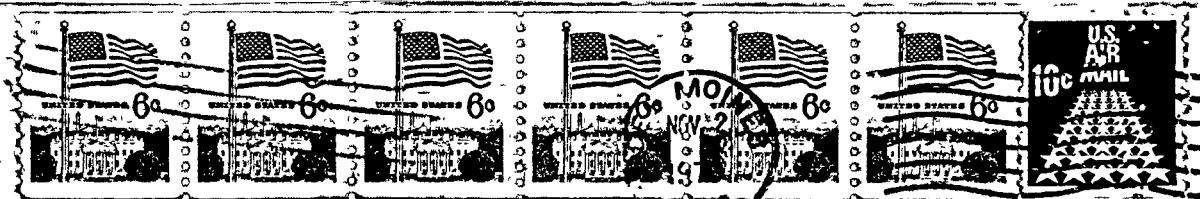
359

79-31460-5

ENCLOSURE



RE-SEARCH BUREAU
of
Des Moines, Iowa
1327 EAST FOURTEENTH 50316

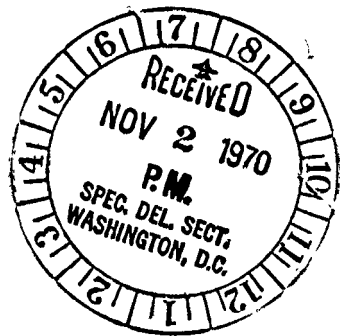
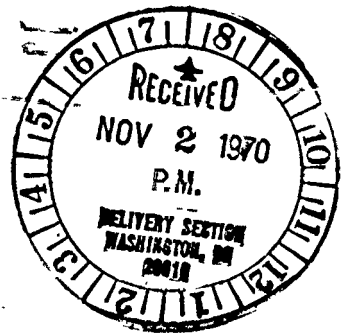


SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau Of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

**AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Attention: Identification Division



million bond issue to help pay the local share of the cost.
"We feel the dam and reservoir will

the bill that the recreation element will not become a fiasco and is not abused. We are concerned with what

loan be repaid almost entirely out of water sales revenue. The project would be financed by the bond issue,

ies of the district. The project would cover 4,600 acres with 23 miles of shore line.

Trail Grows Colder

Family, Friends' Concern Mounts For Missing Stateline Nurse

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — The trail of releasing Stateline casino nurse Donna A. Lass is growing colder for police investigating her mysterious disappearance while concern for her welfare by immediate family mem-

bers and friends is mounting. Sisters of the 25-year-old missing woman, Mrs. Dick Bellach and Mrs. Mary Pilker of Sioux Falls, SD, flew to South Lake Tahoe when they learned she had not been seen since

leaving work at 2 a.m. Sept. 6. They have paid the rent for the remainder of this month on Donna's apartment in which she stayed only one night and are reluctant to plan beyond that date in the hope their sister will be found and their lives returned to normal.

Donna lived during the summer with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lowe, a young couple who had planned to return to college but are remaining here also in the hope of being of some assistance in locating her.

Mrs. Lowe also is a nurse and worked with Donna from 1967 to 1969 at Santa Barbara. The missing woman was working at Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco when she was persuaded to seek employment at South Lake Tahoe by the Lowes last June.

Donna was described by Mrs. Lowe as "shy and retiring," a girl who never smoked, who drank very little and generally was opposed to the free life style of many of her contemporaries. She attended church at St. Mary's in the Pines "every Sunday."

The mystery of her disappearance was compounded by a male caller who notified her employer and landlord Sept. 7 that she would not be available because of illness in her family. The sisters told police there had been no illness.

Donna's car, a domestic compact model found at her apartment, was completely paid for, according to the sisters. She had a bank account and many new clothes which were discovered undisturbed in the apartment.

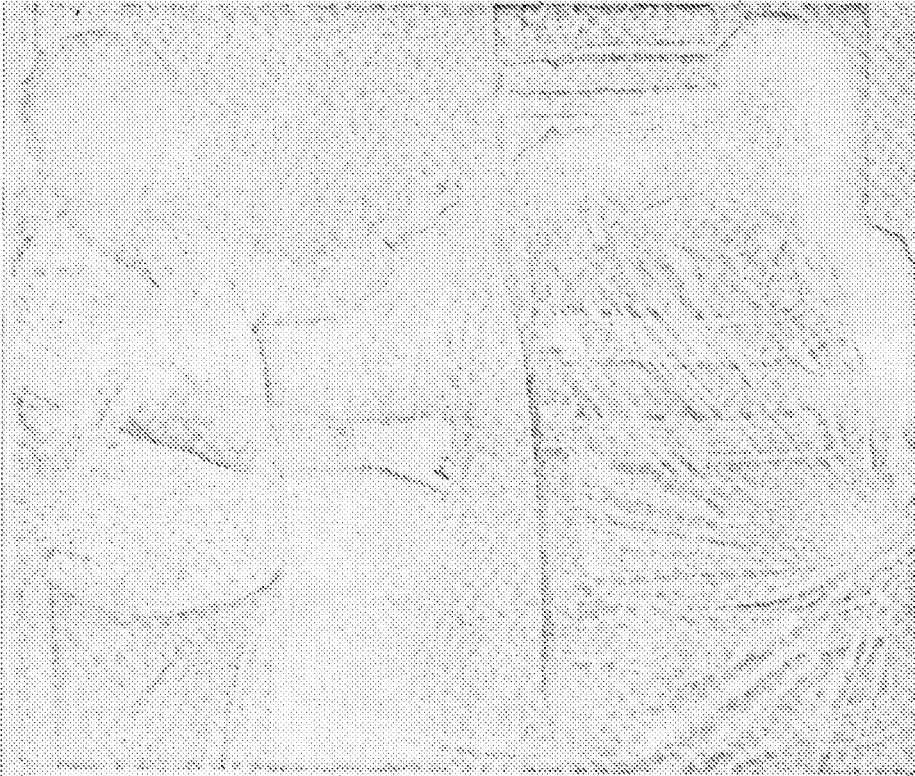
Lt. John Snow said detectives have



Donna A. Lass

followed every lead and talked to everyone who knew her or saw her before she vanished. Anyone who may have information which might assist police is requested to call the police at 541-4060.

There are similarities between this case and that of Sacramento nurse Judith Hakari, who was abducted March 7 from her Capital apartment and slain. Her body was found later in a shallow grave April 26 near Yuba, Placer County.



Concerned Sisters

Mrs. Dick Bellach, left, and Mrs. Mary Pilker, who flew to South

Lake Tahoe from Sioux Falls, SD, examine Donna's clothes.

See Photo

South Lake Tahoe,
El Dorado County

Donna Lass, a pretty young nurse who left San Francisco to work in the first-aid office of the Sahara hotel-casino here, has been missing for three weeks under odd circumstances.

Officially, her disappearance is a missing persons case under "extensive investigation," but it is known that police in three counties are checking connections with the suspected murder of a Sacramento woman last March.

Miss Lass, 25, described by friends and relatives as a happy, dependable girl, vanished about 2 a.m., Sunday, September 6, at the end of her shift at the Sahara in State Park on the Nevada side.

APARTMENT

With the exception of one outfit, her clothes and belongings in her newly rented apartment in South Lake Tahoe were found intact. Her 1933 convertible car was parked and locked outside.

A \$500 savings account was untouched and her credit cards have not been used since the disappearance.

On March 7, Judith Ann Hakari, 23, vanished at the end of her regular shift as a nurse at Sutter Memorial hospital in Sacramento. Her apartment was untouched

DONNA LASS Missing three weeks

Seven weeks later the "savagely beaten" body of Miss Hakari was found buried in a shallow grave in the Sierra foothills of Placer county. The case remains unsolved.

BODY

Miss Lass, whose family lives in Beresford, S.D., became a first-aid nurse at the Sahara last June after living the previous five months in San Francisco and working at Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio.

She liked her job, according to a close friend, and

and saving money for a trip to Europe.

Jo Anne Gottsche, who shared an apartment with Miss Lass in San Francisco and worked on the same ward with her at Letterman, said her friend described her winter plans in glowing terms during a telephone conversation September 2.

Miss Gottsche was invited to Lake Tahoe to spend the Labor Day weekend at Miss Lass' newly rented apartment. Not knowing the address, Miss Gottsche drove here and waited to contact her friend through the Sahara, but Miss Lass was absent from work. Miss Gottsche returned to San Francisco without seeing her.

As the absence lengthened, hotel officials contacted the South Lake Tahoe police, who checked her apartment and could find no clue to her whereabouts. Relatives in Sioux Falls flew here a week ago.

"The apartment was immaculate," Mary Pilger, Miss Lass' widowed sister, said yesterday. "She was expecting a friend from San Francisco for the weekend.

"She is a very dependable, friendly girl," Mrs. Pilger said. "She would never take

Dead End

Special to The Examiner

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — Worried lawmen said today they have reached a "dead end" in the three-week search for a missing gambling casino nurse — and conceded they think she has met with foul play.

Donna Lass disappeared in the early morning of Sept. 6 after she got off work at the Sahara hotel-casino in Stateline, Nev.

"We're suspicious of foul play because of the nature of the disappearance and the type of girl she is," said Sgt. Richard Dunn, of the South Lake Tahoe police.

'Straight'

He described the 23 year old Miss Lass, who went to the resort center from San Francisco in June to work in the Sahara's first-aid office, as "very clean cut ... straight."

She had worked the previous five months at Letterman General Hospital.

Her roommate in San Francisco, Jo Anne Gortliche, went to South Lake Tahoe to spend the Labor Day holiday with her. Miss Gortliche never saw her friend because she was missing from work. Hotel officials, a short time later, contacted police.

The circumstances of her disappearance, police said, have caused fears that it is connected with the March 7 disappearance of a Sacramento nurse.

Girl Murdered

Judith Ann Hakari, 23, vanished after finishing a night shift at Sutter Memorial Hospital in Sacramento.

Her apartment and car both were undisturbed. Police noted that Miss Lass' new apartment in South Lake Tahoe also was untouched and her car was parked outside.

Miss Hakari's body was found almost two months later in a shallow grave in the Placer County foothills. She had been "savagely beaten," police said.

Sgt. Dunn said investigators in South Lake Tahoe were working closely with the Sacramento sheriff's office because of the possible connection between Miss Hakari's murder and Miss Lass' disappearance.

Saving For Trip

A native of Berkeley, S.D., Miss Lass intended to save money while working at Tahoe for a trip to Europe next year. Relatives from Sioux Falls, S.D., arrived at Tahoe last week but have been unable to shed any light on her disappearance.

Sgt. Dunn said there was no evidence that Miss Lass was a party girl and she had no steady boy friend. "She did have lots of friends and she would never do this kind of thing without notifying someone," he said.

REC-4

EX-113

November 30, 1970

RA

79-31460-6

Honorable Earl E. Mardt
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Earl:

I have received your letter of November 23, 1970, concerning your interest in helping to locate [redacted] in behalf of [redacted]

[redacted]

In an effort to be of assistance a search of our Identification Division files was conducted but I regret to tell you no indication of her whereabouts was disclosed. A missing person notice was previously placed in file in behalf of Senator George McGovern. In view of your interest I am having a notation added to the effect that any information we may receive will also be forwarded to you.

We do not, of course, have the authority to conduct an active investigation in the absence of a violation of a Federal statute within our jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Esqst

MEL:lrw
(5)

[redacted]

RETURN TO IDENT. PERSON FILE ROOM

NOTE: MP may be identical with FBI number 555 145 H. Only fingerprints in this record is from CJC in connection with MP's employment as a clinical nurse with the Department of Army, "Letterman General," San Francisco, California. MPN posted in behalf of Sen. McGovern, 10/12/70. Notation to be added in behalf of Sen. Mardt. Bu has cordial relations with Senator Mardt and he is on the Special Correspondents list. Bu file number 79-31460 relates to MP matter.

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Starnes, C.D.
- Callahan
- Casper
- Callahan
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Tavel
- Walters
- Byars
- Felic. Rosen
- Malone
- Gandy

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

KARL E. MUNDT
MADISON, SOUTH DAKOTA

R. L. McCAUGHEY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

ROBERTA VAN BEEK
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

WALTER C. CONAHAN
PRESS SECRETARY

ROBERT E. RUDDY
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 20, 1970

MEMBER:

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Bishop	✓
Mr. Brennan CD	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Walters	✓
Mr. Soyars	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Miss Holmes	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

still missing
Rec'd 12-8-70
3112

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Edgar:

11-25-60
(all files)

6-6-

I have been contacted in behalf of [redacted]

[redacted]
Donna A. Lass, disappeared from Lake Tahoe, California, on
September 6.

Donna Lass is twenty-five years old and worked as a nurse at the Sahara-Tahoe Hotel, where she was last seen as she was leaving work at 2:00 a.m. I am told that on September 7, a hotel security guard received a telephone call from someone with a male voice, who reported that Miss Lass would not be at work because of illness in her family. Her landlord received a similar telephone call on the same day.

My information is that both the local police and Nevada police have been working on this case, and an Iowa private detective employed by the family has been in the Lake Tahoe area for about a week. If there is any way in which the FBI can assist in the search for Miss Lass, the family will appreciate it very much.

Cordially yours,

Karl E. Mundt

Karl E. Mundt
U. S. Senator

REFERRED TO
RECORDS BRANCH FOR:

MAIN FILE

79-1

(R-S.D.) 79-31460

EX-113

REC-2

12/11
17 NOV 23 1970

32 NOV 21 1970

ACK 11-30-70 MSH/lrw

ONE
NEW
MSL

January 19, 1972

REC-58 79-31460-7



b6
b7C

Dear

Your letter of January 12, 1972, with enclosures, has been received, and I appreciate the interest which prompted you to write.

With reference to your inquiry concerning Miss Donna Lass, it is noted that she is officially listed as a missing person. For your information, this Bureau does not have the authority to conduct an active investigation in the absence of a violation of a Federal law within our jurisdiction.

While I would like to be of assistance to you, this Bureau does not compile statistical data on missing persons. Our Uniform Crime Reports bulletin, a copy of which is enclosed, does contain, on page 159, statistics on the number of "runaways" arrested which is broken down by sex. In addition, I am enclosing some data on missing persons which may be of help to you.

MAILED 9
JAN 19 1972
FBI

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

TGB/HWA
Jan 19

Enclosures (3)
"When a Child is Missing"
"Service With Compassion"
1970 Uniform Crime Reports bulletin

NOTE: is not identifiable in Bufiles. We have had inquiries concerning Donna A. Lass who disappeared from Lake Tahoe, California, on September 6, 1970, and following a negative search of our Identification Division files a missing persons notice was placed in file on behalf of Senator George McGovern.

b6
b7C

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Felt _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Bishop _____
- Mr. Miller, E.S. _____
- Mr. Callahan _____
- Mr. Casper _____
- Mr. Conrad _____
- Mr. Dalbey _____
- Mr. Cleveland _____
- Mr. Ponder _____
- Mr. Bates _____
- Mr. Waikart _____
- Mr. Walters _____
- Mr. Soyars _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Miss Holmes _____
- Miss Gandy _____

JUL 6 1972
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

F101

UWA

516 North Leadale Avenue.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
January 12, 1972.

J. Edgar Hoover
Director of FBI
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing an article quoting you on technology's role in law enforcement. No technology will work if one cannot get immediate cooperation of law enforcement personnel. Such was the case of my dear friend (See enclosed circular.) How does one go about getting the assistance from the law when time is at an essence? I would appreciate your help in this matter. If we do not find Donna, we (her relatives and friends) are going to do everything to prevent this happening to others. *1c*

I would like to get statistics on the number of girls who have disappeared in the last five years in the United States and how many have been found. I also would like the same statistics for the states of California and Nevada especially in the Lake Tahoe region.

Thank you for your help. Enclosed find self addressed envelope for requested materials.

Sincerely yours,

EX-100

REC-58

ack sent to

79-31460-7

1-19-72

JAN 20 1972

CORRESPONDENCE

1c
2 ENCLOSURES
mail

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

Nurse Vanishes-- A Tahoe Mystery

South Lake Tahoe,
El Dorado County

Donna Lass, a pretty young nurse who left San Francisco to work in the first-aid office of the Sahara hotel-casino here, has been missing for three weeks under ominous circumstances.

Officially, her disappearance is a missing persons case under "extensive investigation," but it is known that police in three counties are checking similarities with the abduction-murder of a Sacramento nurse last March.

Miss Lass, 25, described by friends and relatives as a happy, dependable girl, vanished about 2 a.m. Sunday, September 6, at the end of her shift at the Sahara in Stateline on the Nevada side.

APARTMENT

With the exception of one outfit, her clothes and belongings in her newly rented apartment in South Lake Tahoe were found intact. Her 1968 convertible car was parked and locked outside.

A \$500 savings account was untouched and her credit cards have not been used since the disappearance.

On March 7, Judith Ann Hakari, 23, vanished at the end of her regular shift as a nurse at Sutter Memorial hospital in Sacramento. Her apartment was untouched and her car was found nearby



DONNA LASS
Missing three weeks

Seven weeks later the "savagely beaten" body of Miss Hakari was found buried in a shallow grave in the Sierra foothills of Placer county. The case remains unsolved.

BODY

Miss Lass, whose family lives in Beresford, S.D., became a first-aid nurse at the Sahara last June after living the previous five months in San Francisco and working at Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio.

She liked her job, according to a close friend, and planned to work through the winter at Lake Tahoe, skiing

and saving money for a trip to Europe.

Jo Anne Goettsche, who shared an apartment with Miss Lass in San Francisco and worked on the same ward with her at Letterman, said her friend described her winter plans in glowing terms during a telephone conversation September 8.

Miss Goettsche was invited to Lake Tahoe to spend the Labor Day weekend at Miss Lass' newly rented apartment. Not knowing the address, Miss Goettsche arrived here and waited to contact her friend through the Sahara, but Miss Lass was absent from work. Miss Goettsche returned to San Francisco without seeing her.

As the absence lengthened, hotel officials contacted the South Lake Tahoe police, who checked her apartment and could find no clue to her whereabouts. Relatives in Sioux Falls flew here a week ago.

"The apartment was immaculate," Mary Pilker, Miss Lass' widowed sister, said yesterday. "She was expecting a friend from San Francisco for the weekend.

"She is a very dependable, friendly girl," Mrs. Pilker said. "She would never take off on her own like that."

Our Lass correspondent

ENCLOSURE

79-31460-7

Hoover Describes Technology's Role In Law Enforcement

By J. EDGAR HOOVER
Director of FBI
Written for
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — I frequently hear the question asked: "Why has not crime subsided with the improvements to law enforcement in recent years?" The question is a good one and demands a straightforward answer. The answer, it seems to me, is clear: Improved law enforcement cannot by itself control crime.

The current crime problem developed over a long period of time. It is the outgrowth of multiple causes that essentially reveal that for many years our society has been out of kilter with a number of fundamental principles necessary for its healthy, orderly and secure progress under a rule of law. Reversing this trend will be neither quick nor easy.

To halt the growth of crime will require changes and improvements throughout our society but particularly in the administration-of-justice system.

Prisoner rehabilitation, court reorganization, adequate anti-crime legislation, penal reforms, and expanded data on crime and criminals, are but a few of the areas where efforts are being mobilized to correct deficiencies which have unintentionally aided the proliferation of criminality.

Outside the criminal justice complex, the disproportionate involvement of youth in serious crime demands priority attention with special emphasis in our educational system on the responsibilities of the individual to the rule of law in a free society. The importance of such an educational effort cannot, in my opinion, be overestimated.

As for law enforcement, it has entered an era in which its ability to respond to crime has been drastically improved by technology. The methods of law enforcement have not significantly changed but the manner in which they are applied has.

Primary among the advanced technology that is changing police capability are sophisticated communications and record-storage systems.

By use of the computer, communications and records have been impressively joined to give law enforcement an extraordinary tool in the discovery of crime and its perpetrators. More important, this computer technology holds incredible promise in the future

of law enforcement.

Consider the problem posed to police by a common street crime which reaches virulent intensity at this time of year—shoplifting. True to the parlance of yesteryear, the shoplifter to be successfully prosecuted most often be caught with "the goods on him."

The unsuccessful shoplifter who is detected inside the store or nearby poses no particular problem for the police. The property is recovered and his connection with the crime is irrefutably established. These circumstances lead to the offender's conviction which, of course, is the greatest of all crime deterrents.

But what of the shoplifter who anonymously and successfully flees the crime scene, or those—quite probably the majority—who leave the victimized establishment without their crime having been detected?

A few years ago the police would have had to rely on rare and chance events to uncover these offenders, especially in situations which could produce evidence to insure their convictions.

This is no longer the case. Discovering the hidden perpetrators of high-volume street crime offenses may never become the rule of police work, but increasingly it is becoming less and less the exception.

Versatile police communications systems and nearly instantaneous exchanges of vital law enforcement data on crimes and criminals, as exemplified by the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), are exposing thieves of all types hourly.

Two-way radio-equipped foot patrolmen can now translate mere suspicion into prompt and effective police action often leading to a felon's identification and arrest.

Many items of serially identifiable property reported missing or stolen in computerized police records frequently are swiftly located—sometimes with the probable thief—at a pawnshop some distance from the victimized establishment.

A patrol car officer's radio inquiry concerning the registered owner of a stalled vehicle, containing a dozen new women's dresses, can alert the officer to the possibility of a crime by the fact that the car's owner has a long arrest record for shoplifting.

Police performance is further improved by this new technology since a defendant's guilt

is more often established from the sureness of physical evidence rather than the uncertainty that frequently accompanies eyewitness testimony.

The NCIC, located at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C., now encompasses high-speed law enforcement communication and data exchange networks of 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.

With more than three million records, the NCIC computer has handled with cooperating law enforcement agencies as many as 90,000 transactions a day and is furnishing positive responses—identifying crimes, criminals, and stolen property—to as many as 900 inquiries daily. As this system expands, so will the proficiency of law enforcement.

Advancing technology now promises to some day soon convert the FBI's massive fingerprint files to computer storage with the ability to electronically read, classify, and retrieve a previously entered record.

With this capability it is conceivable that in the future a defiant criminal's identity (or that of an evasive suspect) might be instantly determined by simply placing his hand on an electronic scanning unit at police headquarters—or one mounted even in a patrol car.

New law enforcement technology is building a formidable assault on crime. This progress, I am confident, will spearhead a broad and successful attack on lawlessness from society as a whole.

EX-116

REC-1 79-31460-8

February 24, 1976

[Handwritten initials]

[Redacted address box]

b6
b7c

Dear [Redacted name]

On February 17, 1976, I received your letter regarding Miss Donna Lass, on whom a missing person notice has been maintained in our Identification Division files since October, 1970.

This notice will be continued, and you may be sure that the proper authorities will be notified upon the receipt of any future information concerning Miss Lass.

I am unable to conduct an active investigation, since there is no indication that a Federal law within our jurisdiction has been violated.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: MP, who disappeared from Lake Tahoe, CA, on 9/6/70, may be ident with FBI #555-145-H per prev corres. MPN placed 10/12/70, in behalf of Senator George McGovern, Bufile #79-31460. MPN to be continued.

AM:dsm
(4)

MAILED 7
FEB 24 1976
FBI

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____

[Handwritten initials: RHPA, JM]

RETURN TO IDENT. MISSING PERSON FILE ROOM *[Handwritten initials]*

57 MAR 19 1976 MAIL ROOM [] TELETYPE UNIT []

MPN 41081
still missing
PS
2-21-76

[Redacted]

b6
b7c

February 11, 1976.

Mr. Kelly, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535

2-18
42 pages
Cain
white
hand

Dear Sir:

I would appreciate any information that you might have regarding Donna Lass, who disappeared on or about September 6, 1970. Donna was employed as a registered nurse by the Sahara-Tahoe Hotel, Lake Tahoe, California, at the time of her disappearance. So far, in spite of much effort and money spent there are no clues. The FBI listed her as a missing person. There was a suspicion that she may have been a victim of the Zodiac killer. A five thousand dollar reward is offered for any clues leading to her whereabouts. Donna's father has passed away since her disappearance. Her mother's physical and mental condition has deteriorated due to the loss of her daughter. We hope the FBI will now help in this search. The family will cooperate in every possible way.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

b6
b7c

RECEIVED TO
INVESTIGATIVE BRANCH FOR:
✓ MAIN FILE 79-31460
79-1

REG-34

79-31460-8

26
3 FEB 17 1976

ONE
STAMP

EX-112

REC-16 79-31460-9

May 5, 1976

Honorable James Abourezk
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Abourezk:

On April 26, 1976, I received your letter concerning your interest in locating Miss Donna Ann Lass, on behalf of her family.

The disappearance of Miss Lass was brought to our attention in September, 1970. At that time, a missing person notice was placed in the files of our Identification Division. A notation is being added to the effect that any information we receive will be forwarded to you.

I can certainly understand the family's concern over Donna's disappearance, but based on the facts as known, there is no evidence of a violation of a Federal statute which would empower the FBI to conduct an active investigation. I regret that it is not possible for this Bureau to provide further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

1 - Office of Congressional Affairs (For info) Enc.--Copy of incoming.

NOTE: MP may be ident with FBI #555 145 H per prev corres.
Subj disappeared from Lake Tahoe, California, on 9/5/70. MPN placed 10/12/70 in behalf of Senator George McGovern, Bufile 79-31460. Notation to be added to the notice in the interest of Senator Abourezk.

- Assoc. Dir.
- Dep. AD Adm.
- Dep. AD Inv.
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin.
- Comp. Syst.
- Ext. Affairs
- Files & Com.
- Gen. Inv.
- Ident.
- Inspection
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Plan. & Eval.
- Spec. Inv.
- Training
- Legal Coun.
- Telephone Rm.
- Director Sec'y

MAILED 10
MAY 5 1976
FBI

REFERRED TO RECORDS BRANCH FOR
MAIN FILE 79-31460
RETURN TO IDENT/MISSING PERSON FILE ROOM
KAWSEN

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

55 MAY 27 1976

HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN
FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO
LEE METCALF, MONT.
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LA.
JAMES ABUREZK, S. DAK.
FLOYD K. HASKELL, COLO.
JOHN GLENN, OHIO
RICHARD STONE, FLA.
DALE BUMPERS, ARK.

PAUL J. FANNIN, ARIZ.
CLIFFORD P. HANSEN, WYO.
MARK O. HATFIELD, OREG.
JAMES A. MCCLURE, IDAHO
DEWEY F. BARTLETT, OKLA.

MPN
etc.
5-6
B

Asst. Dir.
Dep. AD
Dep. AD
Asst. Dir.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

GRENVILLE GARSIDE, SPECIAL COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. VAN NESS, CHIEF COUNSEL

April 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I am writing on behalf of the family of Donna Ann Lass who reside in [redacted]

b6
b7C

Donna Lass has been missing since September 1970, and investigations by California police and private detectives have not resulted in locating her.

Donna disappeared approximately September 5, 1970 from Lake Tahoe, California, where she was employed as a nurse at the Hotel Sahara. The family first learned of her disappearance when someone from [redacted] the Hotel Sahara called Donna's mother in [redacted] to ask why Donna had not been at work for about 10 days. The Hotel had received, several days prior, a phone call from a man who said that Donna would not be in to work for a while due to an emergency phone call she had received from her family in [redacted]. Because there had been no family emergency and no such phone call, the family feels that Donna was kidnapped.

EXP-PROC
30 APR 26 1976
b6
b7C

Donna was born November 3, 1944, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She graduated from Beresford High School in 1965, and received nurses training in Sioux City, Iowa. She worked at the Letterman Hospital in San Francisco and moved to Lake Tahoe, California in June 1970 to work as a nurse at the Sahara Hotel. She is 5'4", 135 pounds, brownish-blond hair, blue eyes and has pierced ears. Her social security number is 480-58-9944.

Donna's mother, Frances Lass, now resides at Bethany Lutheran Nursing Home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. If you ever wish to contact a member of Donna's family, I would suggest you call [redacted]

30

[redacted]

b6
b7C

While I understand the jurisdictional limitations the FBI must operate under, I would greatly appreciate anything your agency can do, and also would like to be informed of any information you receive relative to the whereabouts of Donna Ann Lass.

Thank you for your interest.

EX-112 REC-16 79-31460-9

Sincerely yours,

James Abourezk
James Abourezk
United States Senate

5-11
APR 26 1976
ONE

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

ackr... 5-4-76

FBI

Date: 9/23/70

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (7-0-84)
SUBJECT: DONNA ANN LASS
MISSING PERSON

*LASS, DENNA
NEE LASS COMPLAINT*

On 9/20/70

_____ telephone

_____ contacted this office.

_____ said _____ DONNA ANN LASS, Monte Verde Apartments, Apt. 6, Pioneer Drive, South Lake Tahoe, was last seen on 9/5/70 when she departed the Sahara-Tahoe, Hotel and Casino, where she was employed as a registered nurse. _____ said that she had learned that a telephone call was received by the South Lake Tahoe Police Department from the Nevada State Police advising that Miss LASS was called away due to an illness in the family; however, according to _____ no record exists with the Nevada State Police of such a call.

_____ also said that all the belongings of Miss LASS, with the exception of one outfit of wearing apparel, remained in her apartment. Miss LASS' automobile has been and is parked in her parking place at the apartment house. It has been there since she left for work 9/5/70.

_____ said that no threatening telephone calls and no calls or notes demanding ransom had been received.

_____ described Miss LASS as born November 3, 1944; 5'4"; 130-135 pounds; frosted blonde hair cut short; blue eyes. She was possibly wearing, as of 9/5/70, a blue pant suit, blue shoes, rust colored raincoat, and blue purse. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department has a photograph of Miss LASS.

- ② - Bureau (AM)
 - 1 - Sacramento
- JHW:lg

MCT-8 REC-10 79-31460-1
EX-113

B SEP 25 1970

Approved: *[Signature]*
NOV 17 1970 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

[Handwritten signatures and stamps]

see index

b6
b7C
b6
b7C
b6
b7C