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Report of BSO Canal Dive/Search on  
2/12/97 (Sgt. L. Whitford)  
(Adam Walsh)

000310

From: **Phil Mundy**  
Investigator  
State Attorney's Office  
Phone 305-831-6368  
Pager  
Mobile [redacted] /14

To: **Ralph Ray, Jr.**

St. Johns River Water Management District  
Executive Director: Henry Dean  
P. O. Box 1429  
Palatka, Fl. 32178-1429

Of particular assistance was Mr. Maurice  
Sterling, David Girardin, and Gary Nichols.  
Attached is B.S.O. Dive Report and Sgt.  
L. Whitford's business card.

Upon reading the report I am now cognizant  
that the bones are still being studied and  
were sent to the West Palm Beach M.E.'s  
Office. I will follow up on this.

201 S.E. 6th Street • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

*BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE*



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SERGEANT L. WHITFORD  
SUPERVISOR, MARINE SQUAD/DIVE TEAM  
DEPARTMENT OF CRIME PREVENTION

P.O. Box 9507  
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33310

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**BROWARD SHERIFF OFFICE  
DIVE RESCUE TEAM MISSI REPORT**

BSO CASE# 97-2-6765 OTHER AGENCY CASE# Hlwd  
 LOCATION #174 Marker @ Fl. Turnpike St. Johns County DAY Wed DATE 2/12/97  
 JURISDICTION St. Johns County S.O. PER. REQUESTING SERV. P Mundy, State Atty Ofc. Inv.  
 SCENE O.I.C. Ferguson MODE: CALLOUT, X PLANNED, ON VEIW  
 CRIME/INCIDENT Suspicious Incident/AOA Hlwd OBJECTIVE Human Remains/evidence  
 SHOULD THIS MISSION BE CRITIQUED IN TRAINING? YES    , NO X, WHY    

**PERSONEL SUMMARY**

NAME	ON	OFF	TOT HRS	REG DUTY HRS	OFF DUTY HRS	OTHER HRS	DIVE	AIR FILLS	REMARKS
Ferguson	0730	1530	8	8				0	DMDD
Hodges	0730	1530	8	8					DD
Bushong	0730	1530	8	8					DD
Sweeney	0730	1530	8	8					DD
Dunning	0730	1530	8	8					DD
McDermott	0730	1530	8	8					DD
Sanderson	0730	1530	8	8					DD
Hagen	0730	1530	8	8					DD
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>				<b>0</b>	

**PROPERTY/ EVIDENCE SUMMARY**

OBJECT	FOUND BY	TIME	MARKED	DELIVERED TO	TIME	REMARKS
Bones	Hagen		N/A	Dep. Ferguson	1400	for transport to ME in Broward
			N/A			
			N/A			

**NARRATIVE:**

Investigator Mundy from the Broward County State Attorney's Office contacted the Dive Rescue Team to request an underwater search be performed. The search was to be performed in the canal located at the 174 mile marker on the Fla. Turnpike. This Deputy was taken to the scene by Inv. Mundy and upon evaluating the scene, determined it to be a large search area and some excavating of the scene would be necessary. Based on this it was decided to take the team up in two groups and cover the entire area in one day. The early team (shown above) started at the high probability area and worked out from there. This entailed the grid search method, using small hand tools and rakes to sift through the hard packed bottom. Using this method the team covered the area north of the roadway to the fenced area to the north (diagram attached). *Con't*

ATTACHMENTS: MISSION LOG,     POLICE RPT,     TRAINING RPT,     ADMIN. RPT.

DIVE MASTER: [Signature]

CCN# 1353

APPROVED: [Signature]

DATE: 2/18/97

BSO DRT #011 REV 8/90

### DIVE RESCUE TEAM MISSION REPORT

**BSO CASE #** 97-2-6765      **OTHER AGENCY CASE #** \_\_\_\_\_  
**LOCATION** #174 Marker @ FI Turnpike St. Johns County    **DAY** Wed    **DATE** 2/12/97  
**JURISDICTION** St. Johns County S.O.      **PER. REQUESTING SERV.** P Mundy, State Atty Ofc. Inv.  
**SCENE O.I.C.** Ferguson      **MODE:** CALLOUT, X    **PLANNED,** ON VEIW  
**CRIME/INCIDENT** AOA State's Atty Office      **OBJECTIVE** Human Remains/evidence  
**SHOULD THIS MISSION BE CRITIQUED IN TRAINING?** YES   , NO X, WHY \_\_\_\_\_

#### PERSONEL SUMMARY

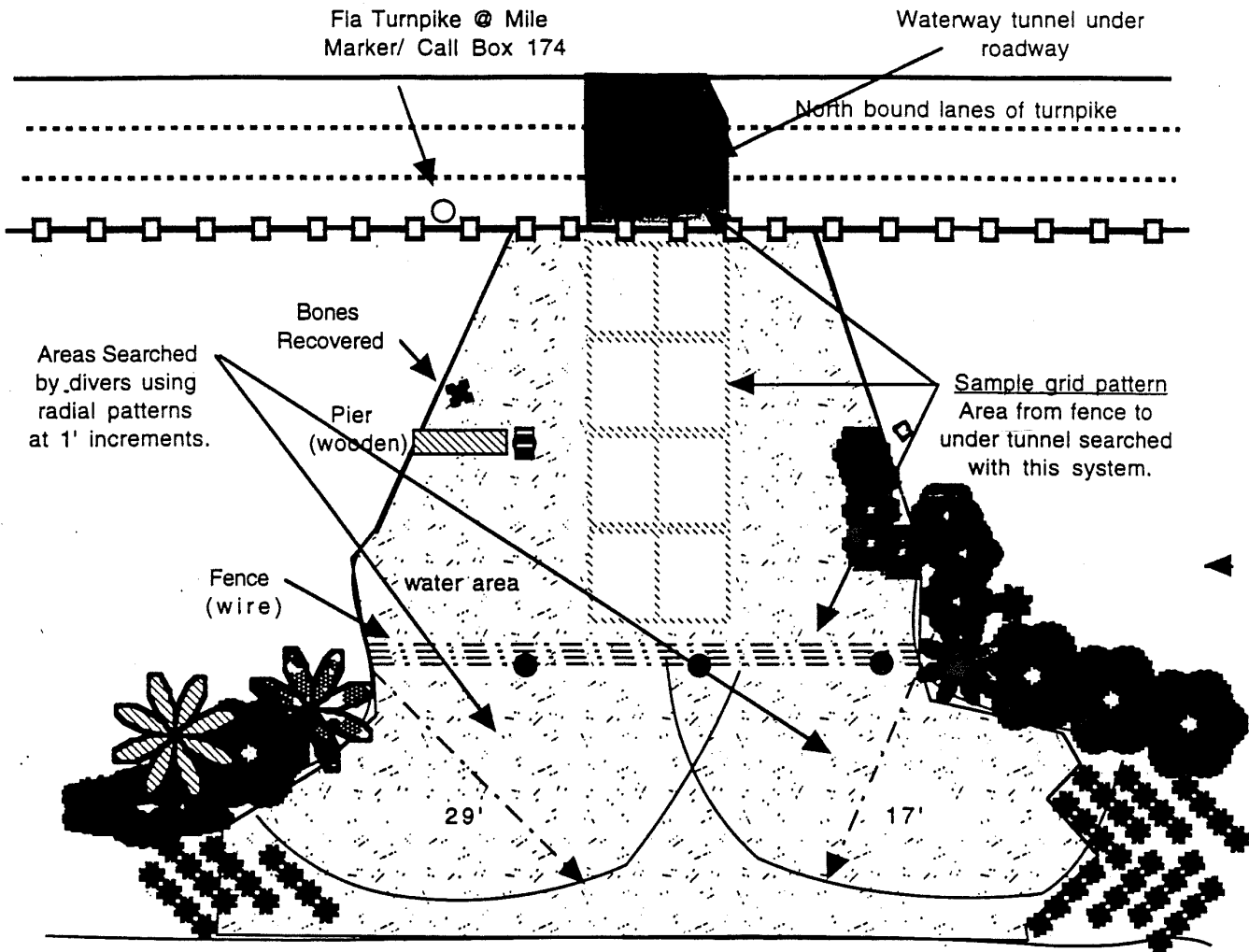
NAME	ON	OFF	TOT HRS	REG DUTY HRS	OFF DUTY HRS	OTHER HRS	DIVE	AIR FILLS	REMARKS
Whitford	0900	1700	8	8			0	0	DMDD
Baker	0900	1700	8	8			1	1	DD
Fahy	0900	1700	8	8			1	1	DD
Rall	0900	1700	8	8			1	1	DD
Gannon	0900	1700	8	8			1	1	DD
Berchielli	0900	1700	8	8			1	1	DD
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>			<b>5</b>		

#### PROPERTY/ EVIDENCE SUMMARY

OBJECT	FOUND BY	TIME	MARKED	DELIVERED TO	TIME	REMARKS
Bones	Hagen		N/A	Dep. Ferguson	1400	for transport to ME in Broward
			N/A			
			N/A			

**NARRATIVE:**  
 The area in the tunnel leading to the south side of the roadway was also searched for approx 100'. This team had the only place where bones were recovered, a point where the wooden pier attached to the land (see diagram).  
 Upon arrival of the second team the area was expanded to the area north of the fence line into the larger canal opening. This area was first examined by using radial sweep patterns with divers on scuba. This was later finished with divers using the grid pattern along the area of the fence. The collected bones were located by Dep. Hagen and transported by Dep. Ferguson to the Broward County Medical Examiner. Upon initial examination the M.E.'s Staff was not ready to rule the bones animal and requested experts from West Palm ME's office to make the final determination.

**ATTACHMENTS:**    MISSION LOG,    POLICE RPT,    TRAINING RPT,    ADMIN. RPT.  
**DIVE MASTER:** Ferguson      **CCN#** 1353  
**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_      **DATE:** 2/13/97      **BSO DRT #011 REV 8/90**



DIVE SCENE DIAGRAM:

- X= TENDER POSITION
- - - = VECTOR LINES
- \* = SPECIAL OBJECTS OF INTEREST (LABEL)

DIAGRAM KEY CONTENTS:

- TENDER POSITION FIX
- FOUND OBJECTS FIX (ONE VECTOR & DISTANCE)
- PERTINENT OBJECTS ON LAND (FIX & LABEL)
- NOTE RADIUS OF SEARCH AREA
- NOTE AREA OF SEARCH AROUND FOUND OBJECTS
- MEASUREMENT OF SEARCH PATTERN (SIZE, ARCHS, ETC)
- SURFACE WEATHER CONDITIONS



CURRENT (DIRECTION & VELOCITY)

- WATER & AIR TEMPS
- DEPTHS (AVG, DEEPEST & POINT WHERE OBJECT FOUND)
- WATER QUALITY AND VISIBILITY (SURFACE, AT DEPTH)

- DETAILS OF OBJECTS WHEN FOUND
- NOTES ON RECOVERY TECHNIQUES USED
- NOTE DAMAGE DONE DURING RECOVERY
- SAMPLES OF BOTTOM SOIL, WATER, CONTAMINATES
- EVIDENCE ON SHORE IF NOT HANDLED BY CRIME SCENE
- WITNESS NAMES AND STATEMENTS NOT TAKEN BY DETECTIVES
- OTHER PERTINENT FACTS, OBSERVATIONS, ACTIVITIES, OR OPINIONS OF NOTE TO INVESTIGATORS.

**ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT**

Henry Dean, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 1429 (Zip 32178-1429)  
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