



1 ad Houma

Benson had reportedly visited the bunker less than a week prior to the 22nd and had found nothing amiss.

Few ~~many~~ things concerning the Houma case are certain, but one thing has been determined. ~~nothing~~

Toward the end of February, Gordon Novel and others who had been on the 1961 raid appeared in Garrison's office for questioning. ~~Although both Novel and the others~~

During the questioning -- by several members of the DA's staff -- one of the witnesses gave a detailed account of the raid.

The trip began after dark, the witness stated, on a night between July and September.

Among those in the group, he said, were Novel, David W. Ferrie, Sergio Arcocha-Smith, Layton Patrick Martens, himself, several Cubans and another, unidentified man.

Two vehicles made the trip, he related. One was a 1956 Lincoln owned by Novel, and the other an old, dark-painted van truck.

The auto started out first, the witness alleged, and the van truck ~~next~~ followed, leaving New Orleans between 7 and 8 p.m., ~~with Novel~~ with Novel driving the Lincoln.

It was a short trip, he went on, and Novel made his way directly to ~~the~~ an old airfield on the outskirts of Houma, used as a blimp base in World War II. The witness and Novel had both been to the field before, he said "for the drag races."

more

2 ad houma

The purpose of the trip, he stated, was to "secure ammunition and other explosives" from the bunker, ~~which~~ for purposes unknown to the witness.

He told the investigators that ~~in~~ the party ~~had~~ gained entrance to the bunker by breaking a padlock with a boltcutter - a long-handled, scissors-like tool -- which had been carried in the truck.

There was a large number of crates in the bunker, he recalled, and among those marked "Schlumberger" were some bearing military stencils.

A few were open, he said, but the only ~~was~~ objects in them he could identify were artillery stimulators -- powder charges without shells.

After loading the crates into the truck, the man continued, the two vehicles made a quick return trip to New Orleans. It was after midnight, he said, when they pulled up outside of David Ferrie's house on Atherton dr. in Metairie.

There they unloaded the ~~boxes~~ boxes, he stated, and the group broke up.

The district attorney's staff learned from the man that he and Novel were to have been paid by Arcacha. The money for this, he said, was to have come from proceeds of a telethon produced allegedly for the benefit of Cuban refugees.

He concluded that neither he nor, as far as he knew, Novel had ever been paid by Arcacha.