

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/68

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RITA STEIN, also known as Rita Rosas, was interviewed at her residence, 5666 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles (Hollywood), California, on April 24, 1968, at which time she furnished the following information:

She said she was born March 4, 1938, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is 5'3" tall, weight 118 pounds, dark eyes, and black hair. At the time of this interview she was wearing a mini-skirt and blouse and white high plastic boots. She said she attended McDonald School in the French Quarter and a Catholic girls academy in New Orleans. She said she was 30 years of age and has four children.

She said she is not sure of the exact date she first met ERIC STARVO GALT; but places the time as mid-December, 1967. She said she thought it was about December 10th or 12th, but her brother has a receipt for a political registration which would have made the date December 14, 1967. She met him in the Sultan Room bar in the St. Francis Hotel on Hollywood Boulevard in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. It was in the evening. She was returning the keys to her cousin, MARIE MARTIN's, car, to MARIE, who was working as a barmaid in the Sultan Room.

MARIA and RITA were standing near the end of the bar and the individual she later came to know as ERIC GALT, was seated adjacent to the end of the bar where they were standing. She said she told MARIE that it was going to be necessary for her to go to New Orleans, "to pick up my kids". "GALT was having a drink. MARIE said, as a joke, 'Would you like to take my cousin home?' GALT evidently thought she meant around the corner. I had the impression that she had seen him before and was familiar with him. I told him that I had to go to get my kids in New Orleans. He said that he was from Alabama. He showed me his driver's license and I believe it was from Alabama. I gave him my local address. He seemed nice. Did not come on smart. He looked like an insurance man. Was real quiet."

On 4/24/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 44-1574-S-495

SA's THEODORE M. GARDNER and
GILBERT G. BENJAMIN/GGB/pih

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"I came home and told CHARLIE". She said she told her brother CHARLES STEIN, about the conversation she had had with GALT in the Sultan Room, and his agreement to drive her to New Orleans to pick up her two daughters. She said she also told CHARLIE that she did not want to go "on the road" alone with a strange man; but that she was desperate to get her kids.

"The next morning he came over, early. About 9:00 a.m. He thought CHARLIE was my husband. He didn't believe that he was my brother. I introduced him to CHARLIE again. He left for about ten minutes. I didn't think he would come back. He did come back though. He said, 'I'm going to do you this favor. You do me one favor. There won't be any expenses for the trip to New Orleans, if you, your brother and your cousin go with me to register for WALLACE".

RITA said they agreed to do this. GALT drove them in his Mustang. He drove directly to the headquarters which was in North Hollywood, California, on Lankershim Boulevard across the street from the Riviera Sofa Company. Driving to and from the WALLACE headquarters, CHARLIE STEIN, MARIE MARTIN and ERIC GALT rode in the front seat; and RITA and her two sons, DINO and LINO ROSAS, sat in the back. GALT did not enter the election headquarters with them but sat in the car. He did not tell them to ask for anyone in particular by name. Shortly after they were inside, GALT then came in. "There was a lady who registered us. There was also a man at a desk. He was about 35 years of age. GALT spoke to him. He looked like he knew him. GALT did not register. He went to a coffee machine in the room and got coffee just like he knew where it was. I don't drink coffee so I didn't have any", said RITA.

She said that from where she was sitting in the back seat, on the way to register, she noticed that there were some extra license plates up behind the back seat. She said she thought they were black and white in color and is sure they were not orange and black or yellow and black like California license plates. She did not know what state they represented. She thought there were only two such plates, but could not make a positive statement on this. The car was not too neat. She said she thinks there were some dirty white papers on the floor in the back seat. She said she did not notice anything written on these papers. There were no suitcases or boxes inside the car.

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After registering, GALT drove them back to the house on Franklin Avenue. "MARIE went home and got a whole bunch of clothes and boxes which she brought over and loaded up the back seat and trunk. I helped her put things in the back seat. I did not see any of GALT's luggage. She was sending her things to her daughter, MARIAN DE GRASSE, who lives with her grandmother on Bartholomew Street in New Orleans." RITA was not sure of the exact street number but thought it was either 631 or 611 Bartholomew.

When asked to place the exact date of the trip to the WALLACE headquarters and her brother, CHARLIE and GALT leaving for New Orleans, she said, "I thought it was about December 13th and 14th; but my brother, CHARLIE has the voter's registration ticket that shows it was the 15th of December".

After the car was loaded, CHARLIE and GALT took off for New Orleans. They were gone about a week and returned early in the morning about 5:00 a.m. RITA said she was asleep on the couch in the front room of her home and was awakened by the return of GALT and CHARLIE.

RITA said that when they unloaded the car, GALT did very little carrying in of things such as luggage or boxes. She said he left most of that up to the STEINS. She said that her mother sent her a lot of clothing and "junk". She said most of the so-called "junk" was in the nature of New Orleans newspapers. This material was in boxes in the car.

Every time GALT entered her home, RITA said he never got further than half way through the front room. He did sit on the couch once. He did not enter any of the other rooms. He never had a drink of water, or anything else or any food in her home. She said that when he returned from New Orleans with her two daughters, KIM and CHERYL, she explained that as it was nearly Christmas, she would like to show her appreciation for what he did by having him over for a big New Orleans style Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. He thanked her for the offer but said he did not want to come as he had to watch his weight.

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GALT then left and she did not see him again for two days. She said that he returned on this occasion to bring back a blackboard belonging to her children that had been overlooked in the unloading of the car. She said that it was about 1:00 or 2:00 in the afternoon. He just came up on the front porch with the blackboard and did not come in the house.

She said that she saw him again in the Sultan Room two or three weeks later at night. She said that it could have been shortly after New Years, but that she could not place the date any closer than that. It was about 7:00 in the evening. She said she was taking MARIE's car back to her at the Sultan Room on that occasion. GALT was sitting in the bar. "He told me, 'Hello', and said that I must be elated to have my kids back. I said I was. He offered me a drink; but as I was in a hurry to get back to the house as I left the children alone, I declined. The whole conversation and meeting took at the most five minutes."

RITA said she saw GALT again about the end of January or the beginning of February in the Sultan Room but just to say "hello".

RITA said that she told MARIE several times that she just could not believe it that anyone would do a favor like that for a complete stranger. She said that one in a million would take a trip like that.

She said that when he showed her his driver's license in the Sultan Room on the night of their first meeting, she believes he pulled it from a thick black wallet. He told her that he was not working and that was why he had the time to take the trip to New Orleans. He indicated that he had been in Mexico for five years. She said that he had owned a bar there. He was not specific as to where in Mexico it was located, and she did not talk to him long enough to get into any details about his prior background.

According to RITA, "I kept saying, 'Are you really going to go? Don't get my hopes up!' I don't get that much money, that I myself, can go to New Orleans when ever I want. He impressed me as just a nice, friendly sort of a guy. Kind of old fashioned. Every time I talked to him he put his head down and would not look me straight in the eye. He seemed shy.

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"He said he was from Alabama and I think the license he showed me had his picture on it, but I'm not sure. He did not mention any cities in Alabama but we really did not talk that much. I never went to his house. I never shook hands with him. He was neat and clean cut. His hair was short, brown and grey. About every other hair on his head was grey. He had no scars that I remember. His ears stuck out a little. His teeth were nice and regular. He had a sort of pale grey looking complexion. No beard at all. He was always wearing a dark suit with a white shirt and tie, every time I saw him. His walk and posture was straight, he sort of looked like a stuffed animal. He had a little bit of a paunch around the middle. He said that he had to watch his weight. I don't remember him wearing any rings. He never mentioned marriage. I asked him if he liked kids. That was very important to me as he was going to have to ride all the way back from New Orleans with my girls. He said, 'Oh, they're all right'."

RITA said that after the children (her two daughters) got home to Los Angeles, they commented that on the return trip he sang along with the car radio all the way across the country. They described his singing as a cross between a hum and a "woo woo" of a train whistle. They said that every morning ERIC, which they called him, would feed them cornflakes and milk for breakfast. He would usually leave them in the car and go in and get the food and bring it out to them. They also said that he and CHARLIE took turns driving. They sat in the back seat. They recalled that once they stopped where there was snow on the ground and another time when they stopped the ground was all covered with rocks.

RITA said that she never got into a deep conversation with GALT, not that he was a snob, but rather that he impressed her as just being shy. She said that her brother, CHARLIE, thought that GALT might have been in politics; but she did not know on what he based this assumption unless it was his taking them out to register for the WALLACE campaign. She also said that her brother told her that he did not think that GALT had had much experience driving in winter conditions of snowy highways, because they almost had a wreck on the trip either to or from New Orleans.

Concerning her own personal background, RITA STEIN said that she was born in New Orleans. Was married at age 18

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to ALBERT DE MEN, from New Orleans. She had the two daughters by this marriage which ended in divorce. She has no idea of the address of this former husband, she said.

She subsequently married STANLEY ROSAS, also from New Orleans. She said they separated on several different occasions. He was extremely jealous. Also very moody and unpredictable. He had a used car lot in New Orleans and also in Los Angeles, with her brother CHARLIE. He was a top notch car salesman; and was manager of Lot No. 2, for Felix Chevrolet Company in Los Angeles prior to his death. She said he never told her anything about his business or personal life. She said that she thought he had another woman (or "chick" as she called it). She said she got this impression because he was giving all her own things away, such as her television set, her personal clothing, etc. She said that his attitude would change from day to day. One time he would be all sweetness and smiles, and the next he would be aggressive and abusive. He beat her on numerous occasions, she said, adding, "And I have the bridge in my mouth to prove it". She said that she did not have any idea that he may have been on dope or drugs, and that it was a complete surprise to her when an officer from the Los Angeles Police Department came to the house to tell her that her husband, STAN, had been found dead in the back seat of his automobile near Cahuenga Boulevard in Hollywood from an over dose of narcotics.

She insisted that she was not and never had been a user of narcotics. She said that in fact she did not smoke, drink coffee, and seldom drank any alcoholic beverages.

She said that she was not now employed. That her only source of income was from the Social Security payments she received from her late husband's Social Security benefits. That she also occasionally received a few dollars from her brother, CHARLIE, who was drawing or had drawn unemployment compensation. She said she also occasionally got some financial assistance from her relatives (mother and mother-in-law) in New Orleans, or from her boy friend, whose name she refused to furnish. She said her boy friend was "a nice respectable guy, with an eight-to-five job, who I don't want to get mixed up in this thing.. He knows nothing about GALT, and I don't want him to get involved, or I'll lose him". She said that being a widow with four children to support she is in no position to do anything which might alienate her boy friend,

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as she doesn't know when and where she might get another one that would put up with a woman with four children. She said that it is hard for her to get out because it requires a baby-sitter unless it is some time that CHARLIE will be home and willing to remain with the children. She said that CHARLIE is very good with children and she has no qualms about leaving her brood with him.

Returning to her sources of income, she said that she receives approximately \$320 monthly Social Security benefits. Her brother, CHARLIE, receives unemployment checks amounting to \$45.00; and of this sum he frequently gives her about \$25.00 toward the household and food expenses. Occasionally her cousin, MARIE, will give her \$5.00 or \$10.00 to clean her apartment.

She said that her late husband, STANLEY ROSAS, operated the car lot which she thought was called the Broad Street Car Company during 1961-1962, near the intersection of Broad and Canal Streets in New Orleans. She said that her brother, CHARLIE, had worked with him in New Orleans. Also that he had been employed as a car salesman at Transportation City on Figueroa Street in Los Angeles, and at Brand Motors in Burbank or Glendale, California. She said that CHARLIE was in the Army some years ago. He also was a traveling salesman for a firm that sold check writers. On this job he covered the territory in the middlewest and the south, out of Louisiana up through Kansas and into North and South Dakota. CHARLIE was born May 11, 1931 in New Orleans.

She said that about some six months ago CHARLIE started growing the beard that he now wears. She said she did not know why he decided to grow the beard, stating, "Man, I don't ask him why you letting your beard grow!" She said that she and he do not talk about the hippie movement. She does not like hippies and will not let them in her house. She said that CHARLIE frequently goes to the so-called "hippie love-ins", but she thinks that it is merely as a spectator. She said that she went with him on one occasion to a love-in in Griffith Park. She took her youngsters along, and let them play on the swings and slides in the park while she watched to see what people do in a love-in.

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She said that her rent in her present home at 5666 Franklin Avenue, is \$115.00 per month. Her other expenses include lights, gas, telephone, food and clothing for herself and her four children.

She said that she and STANLEY ROSAS left New Orleans, in 1963, and came to Los Angeles. He wanted a change of scenery and felt Los Angeles would be a good place for a car salesman to get a job. She said that during 1964 her brother, CHARLIE, came out to visit. He liked Southern California so well that he stayed. About two years ago, her cousin, MARIE MARTIN, came out to live in California. She said that she and her late husband were the "pioneers" in the family. She said that MARIE, prior to her job as a cocktail waitress in the Sultan Room, was a professional dancer. She used to travel as a strip dancer.

She said that at the time of her late husband's death, she and he were living at 3340 Floyd Terrace in the Hollywood Hills area of the City of Los Angeles. She said that right after his death she was in a kind of a state of continuous shock. She said she has always been "spooky", which she went on to describe as scared of death and the dead. She said that she began to see shadows in the Floyd Terrace house and she would wake up thinking she saw her deceased husband standing beside her bed. She said that it got so when she was out driving she would go right through the red stop lights like they were not there and she ended up getting several traffic tickets. It finally got so bad that she went to a psychiatrist, a Dr. YOUNGER, in Burbank, California for psychiatric help and consultation. He suggested that she move out of the Floyd Terrace house, which she did, and then she got back to normal and stopped having the fear of her dead husband.

RITA said that her husband, STANLEY ROSAS, was born about 1938 or 1939 in New Orleans. "He had been going with another chick for about four years at the time he met me. Three months later he married me. His mother has been against me from the beginning. She could not stand her son marrying a girl that already had two children. His mother took his death very hard. In fact, she has gone crazy. She wants my children and will stop at nothing to get them." RITA said that her mother-in-law has remarried and continues to live in New Orleans. RITA declined to furnish her mother-in-law's name, stating she did not want her to be contacted by the FBI. She felt that

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it might give her additional fuel toward trying to get RITA's children away from RITA.

.. RITA insisted that she did not have any information about her late husband being involved in narcotics. She said that he was a big man, that he weighed over 200 pounds, and that it was her understanding that narcotic addicts were usually skinny emaciated persons. She said that she personally had no part in narcotics. That she was neither using or selling narcotics, marijuana, drugs or pills of any kind. She said that to the best of her knowledge, her brother, CHARLIE, was not mixed up in narcotics traffic in any way either. She said, "If he was, I would notice it".

She said, "Since CHARLIE has been unemployed he sleeps alot. He does some song writing. He reads a lot. He likes the outdoors. He spends a lot of time climbing the mountains in nearby Griffith Park. He can just stand and watch the sky for three hours at a time. He likes kids. He gets along very well with my kids. He has been married three times."

She said that at the time of her husband's death, the school were her daughters were in school, Valley View Elementary School, took up a collection, which amounted to \$200.00 which they gave her to help tide her over. She said that the payments on the Floyd Terrace residence were too high and the mortgage was foreclosed. She said that she could not have kept the house even if she had wanted, but in view of her psychological problems relating to the house, she was glad to leave.