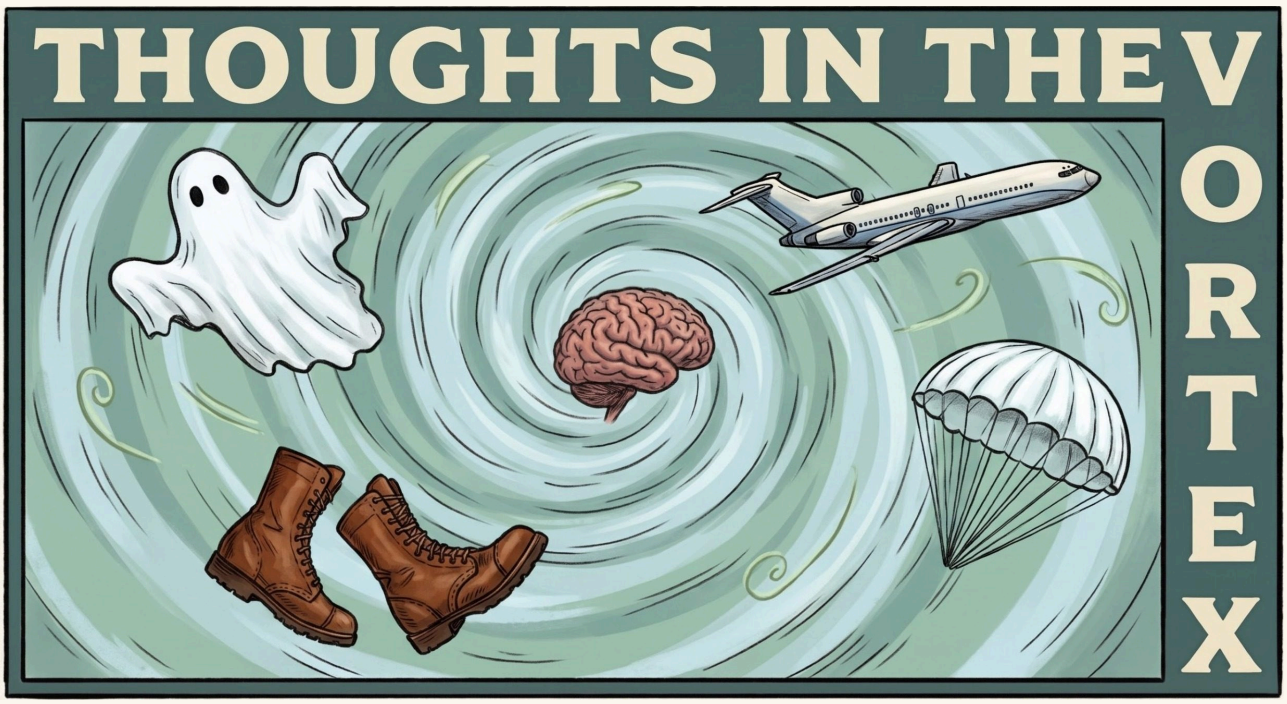


NORJAK · NORTHWEST ORIENT FLIGHT 305 · THE ELSINORE LEAD

Elsinore Ghost

D.B. Cooper Premonition or Total Booo-sheet?

In the summer of 1971 a lean, fortyish stranger in military jump boots asked a skydiving magazine editor at Skylark Field how you would jump out of a jet. Three months later Flight 305 left Seattle with its aft stairs down. The FBI went through 12,000 registration cards looking for him, ran down 14 of the 15 card leads, and never found him. Here is what the files show, who was on the list, and where the evidence went.

The tip · Aug 1971
Someone bearing a likeness to the Cooper sketch asked how to jump from a jet and where the Seattle & Portland jump centers were

The sweep · 12,000 → 15
433 cards photographed; 13 of 15 leads closed; Los Gatos & the JPL man left open

The list · 8 named men
8 unredacted names from the FBI's ~125-jumper list partially vetted in Appendix A

Sources
FBI Vault, D.B. Cooper files, Parts 1–122 (LA 164-497 Sub A)
Lyle Cameron FBI FOIA file, census, draft, death & FAA records

October 2026
Citations: Part / PDF page / Bates · FBI pages in the companion volume

SECTION 1 · BOTTOM LINE

An unidentified man, 13 eliminations, and two open ends

The short version. Each point is built out in the sections that follow, and every FBI statement carries a Part / page / Bates citation.

1. **The tip.** Six days after the hijacking, a skydiving-magazine editor the FBI calls a reliable source reported that the Bureau's sketch looked like a stranger he had talked with at Skylark Field, Elsinore, California, in mid-to-late August 1971. The stranger asked how a person could jump out of a jet. The source told him it could be done from an aircraft with an inward-opening door or a **rear stairwell**, with **full flaps and gear down** for drag. The stranger also asked about jump centers around Seattle and Portland; the source named three, including one "just north of Portland" on the Washington side of the Columbia (64/333/26776; 64/389/26839).
2. **The tipster.** His name is redacted (b7D) in the Cooper Vault release. A December 14, 1971 Los Angeles teletype that survives unredacted in The Black Vault's FOIA file on **Lyle Hazen Cameron** (FOIPA #1358876-000, pp. 67–69) names the *Skydiver* editor-publisher at 15206 Raymond, Gardena as **Lyle Cameron**, reports no derogatory information on him, and notes his 1968 service as a Bureau-approved informant (PSI - R). With the 1970 USPA directory and the redaction widths, that identifies the tipster as Cameron (§4).
3. **The sweep.** SA Edward A. Romanoff and center staff went through about 12,000 registration cards, photographed 433, listed ~125 April–August 1971 registrants on 12/10/71, and matched the 433 cards against August 1971 flight logs on 12/14–15/71, leaving 31 names. The source and the center between them knew 16 of those men by sight (8 + 8 = 16), leaving **15 cards no one could put a face to** (64/392/26842; 64/395/26845).
4. **Fourteen of the 15 leads were run down; 13 are documented as closed.** The 12/22/71 leads airtel (64/404–405/26854–55) assigned the 15 cards by location: 1 to New York at East Rockaway, 1 to Buffalo at Tonawanda, 1 to San Francisco at Los Gatos, 3 to the Santa Ana RA (2 in Santa Ana, 1 in Laguna Beach), and the rest—9 by arithmetic—to the LA case agent in the metropolitan area. Return memos in Parts 18, 20, 55, 56 and 64 close out **13 men**. Two ends stay open in the release: the **Los Gatos lead** has no return at all, and the **JPL Pasadena man's** Utah alibi was sent to Salt Lake City for checking and no answer appears (56/21/23406) (§5).
5. **The list.** The 12/10/71 memo of ~125 April–August 1971 registrants (64/371–382/26821–32) left eight names unredacted: **Blackmore, Booth, Chambers, Douglas, Mc Collon [McCollom], Nowell, Parry and Sanell**. Only **Guy M. Blackmore** is confirmed among the 15 leads (64/385/26835). Redaction-width matches between the other seven and the 1972 interview memos are **possibilities only**, because any of the ~117 blacked-out names could fit the same boxes—and a check of the men's card addresses rules several of those matches out (§7, §8).
6. **The ending.** On 1/28/72 the source was shown photographs of the Grand Island, NY man and of two other men from the leads; none was the man he had talked to (64/387/26837; 64/406/26856). **No document in the release says the Elsinore stranger was ever identified.**
7. **What is new in this report:**
   - background and credibility assessment of tipster **Lyle Hazen Cameron** from his 129-page FBI file (FOIPA #1358876-000), plus the 1964 FBI telephone-toll trace (LA 44-895, p. 39) behind the **Jack Ruby / Lee Harvey Oswald** story (§4);
   - recovery of **four previously overlooked elimination memos**—the East Rockaway NY caterer (20/212–214/6169–71) and the three Orange County jumpers (56/190–191/23591–92), including the Laguna Beach skydiver who told the FBI Cooper must have been a novice because an experienced jumper would have brought his own rig (§5);
   - an **address check** showing that the card addresses of McCollom, Nowell and Douglas don't match the Orange County leads their redaction widths seemed to fit (§8);
   - verification of the **August 24, 1971 *Look* magazine jet-jump advertisement** cited by Cameron (64/394/26844): a U.S. Army Airborne spread showing a paratrooper jumping from a C-141 jet (§3); plus enlarged snippets of **all eight unredacted men** on the 12/10/71 list (§7) and a 1992 death record for **John Loftin Nowell Jr.** (Appendix A6).

How to read this

[inference] marks reasoning rather than FBI statements; to verify marks records not yet confirmed (e.g. the 1975 Fred Chambers funeral notice). Every FBI page cited is reproduced in the companion PDF.

BOTTOM-LINE VERDICT

The August 1971 Elsinore conversation is one of the most specific pre-hijacking leads in the Norjak file, reported by an experienced, FBI-vetted skydiving figure (**Lyle Hazen Cameron**). The FBI's card sweep ran down 14 of the 15 August flight-log leads and documents 13 eliminations, but **the stranger in the military Cochrane jump boots was never identified**. The open FOIA targets are the 15th lead (**Los Gatos, CA**, 64/405), the Salt Lake City return on the JPL man (56/21), and the 433 card photographs (**LA 164-497-1B1**).

SECTION 2

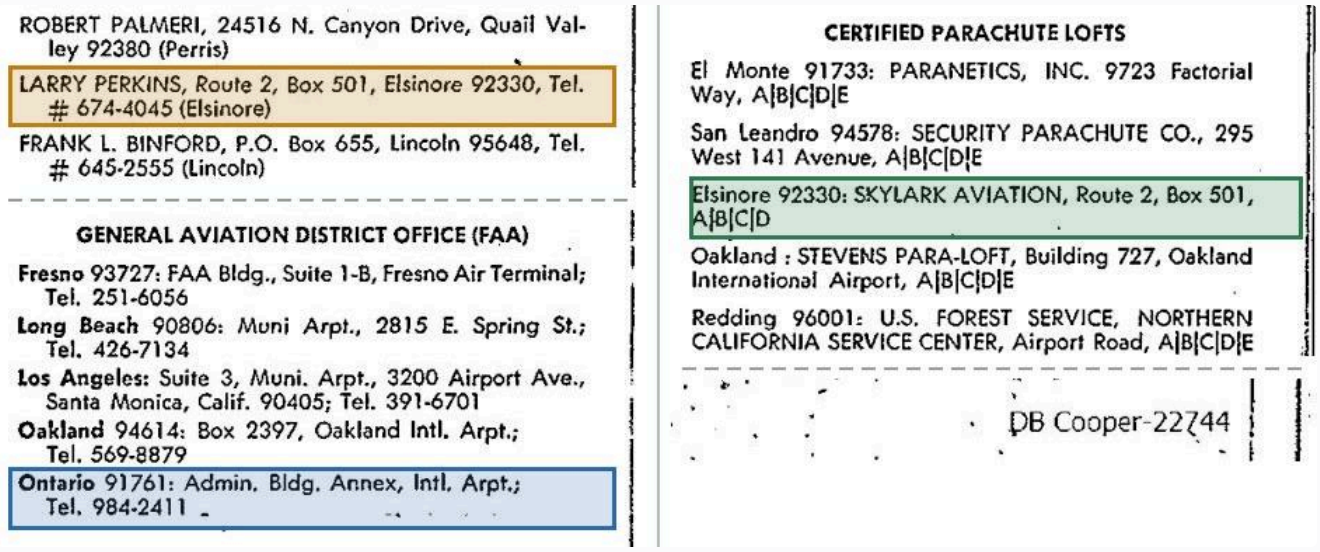
The place: Skylark Field, Elsinore

Southern California's busiest jump center in 1971, about 60 miles southeast of Los Angeles on the shore of Lake Elsinore.

- **The field.** According to Skydive World's "Project Pi" history, Cy Perkins and his brother bought Gordon Hunt Airport in 1952 and renamed it **Skylark Field**. Skylark Aviation began running a drop zone there in 1959. At its peak the fleet was two Howards, a Twin Beech called the "Elsinore Queen" and a Cessna 180 called the "Yellow Jacket". (Outside source: projectpi.skydiveworld.com/DZelsinr.htm.)
- **Who ran it.** In the FBI's paperwork the jump operation is **Elsinore Paricenter, Inc.**, Route 2, Box 501, Elsinore (64/371/26821). The 1970 USPA directory in the file lists the drop zone's area safety officer as **Larry L. Perkins** at the same address, and lists **Skylark Aviation** there as an FAA-certificated parachute loft (54/278–279/22743–44).
- **Volume.** The field logged 29,110 jumps in 1970 and was on course for more than 30,000 in 1971 (64/395/26845). The source estimated 8,000–10,000 jumpers had come through since June 1971, most of them repeat jumpers who might make six to eight jumps in a day (64/390–391/26840–41).
- **Registration cards.** Every jumper filled out a 5×7 card before his first jump at Elsinore, however experienced he was. Later visits produced only an unnamed ticket receipt. A USPA licence number, if the jumper had one, was added to his original card (64/332/26775; 64/390/26840). Cards from before 1969 recorded no height (64/392/26842).
- **Which FAA office covered it.** The same 1970 directory lists the Southern California General Aviation District Offices. The only one in the Inland Empire is **Ontario**, at Ontario International Airport (54/279/22744). That office moved to Riverside in 1979 (Sanell SF-50, §7). **[inference]** Elsinore, in Riverside County, almost certainly fell in the Ontario GADO's district in 1971, including oversight of Skylark Aviation's aircraft and certificated loft.

1970 USPA Directory: Larry Perkins (Elsinore ASO), Ontario FAA GADO & Skylark Aviation Loft

Part 54 p.279 · Bates 22744 (cropped & highlighted)



ROBERT PALMERI, 24516 N. Canyon Drive, Quail Valley 92380 (Perris)

LARRY PERKINS, Route 2, Box 501, Elsinore 92330, Tel. # 674-4045 (Elsinore)

FRANK L. BINFORD, P.O. Box 655, Lincoln 95648, Tel. # 645-2555 (Lincoln)

GENERAL AVIATION DISTRICT OFFICE (FAA)

Fresno 93727: FAA Bldg., Suite 1-B, Fresno Air Terminal; Tel. 251-6056

Long Beach 90806: Muni Arpt., 2815 E. Spring St.; Tel. 426-7134

Los Angeles: Suite 3, Muni. Arpt., 3200 Airport Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. 90405; Tel. 391-6701

Oakland 94614: Box 2397, Oakland Intl. Arpt.; Tel. 569-8879

Ontario 91761: Admin. Bldg. Annex, Intl. Arpt.; Tel. 984-2411

CERTIFIED PARACHUTE LOFTS

El Monte 91733: PARANETICS, INC. 9723 Factorial Way, A|B|C|D|E

San Leandro 94578: SECURITY PARACHUTE CO., 295 West 141 Avenue, A|B|C|D|E

Elsinore 92330: SKYLARK AVIATION, Route 2, Box 501, A|B|C|D

Oakland : STEVENS PARA-LOFT, Building 727, Oakland International Airport, A|B|C|D|E

Redding 96001: U.S. FOREST SERVICE, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER, Airport Road, A|B|C|D|E

DB Cooper-22744

SECTION 3

The tip: what the man asked, and what he looked like

LA file 164-497 Sub A, "Elsinore Paricenter, Inc." Main copy Part 64 pp.332–406, with further copies at Part 17 pp.281–316, Part 55 pp.42–139 and Part 70 pp.84–100. Case agent: SA Edward A. Romanoff, Riverside RA.

DATE	WHAT HAPPENED	CITE
Jul/Aug 1971	The source talks for 10–15 minutes with a stranger at Skylark Field about jumping, including jumping from jets.	64/389/26839
11/30/71	The source phones the Santa Ana RA. The sketch resembles a man who jumped at Elsinore "on three or four occasions" about 3½ months earlier. The man had asked what type of commercial plane could be jumped from, at what altitude and speed, and about jump centers at Seattle and Portland. The FBI calls the source "an authority in his field" and "an intelligent and reliable source".	64/333–334/26776–77; 64/388/26838
12/1/71	FD-302 interview at Skylark Airport, Elsinore. Covers jet exits, the rear stairwell, flaps and gear, Northwest jump centers, Cochrane boots, and gives a physical description.	64/389–391/26839–41
12/3/71	Card review begins. The source, "at the Elsinore center for the day", adds a detail: the man saved **Raleigh coupons** for jump tickets.	64/392–393/26842–43
12/9/71	The source narrows the conversation to mid-to-late August 1971 and notes a two-page ad in the 8/24/71 issue of *Look* magazine (pp. 46–47)—verified as the U.S. Army Airborne spread "*When you jump, it's just you.*" showing a paratrooper exiting a C-141 jet transport—that might have prompted the questions.	64/394/26844
12/10/71	Center employees are shown the sketch; none recognizes him. They mention a regular "with a criminal record" who bears some similarity, whom the source later rules out as someone he knows personally.	64/369/26819
12/14/71	Replying to Seattle's 12/8/71 background query (64/363–364/26812–13), LA sends a 3-page teletype (NR 023 LA CODE) naming **Lyle Hazen Cameron**, editor-publisher of *Skydiver*, confirming no derogatory information exists on him, and summarizing his 1968 service as a Bureau-approved Potential Security Informant (PSI - R).	Cameron FBI file, pp.67–69
12/16/71	The source explains that Elsinore jumps run from 2,500 to 12,500 ft in 1,000-ft steps (except 2,800-ft target jumps), notes that **10,000 ft is "reminiscent of Air Force training"** per **Air Force Pamphlet AFP 160-10-3 ("*Your Body in Flight*")**—the maximum safe altitude without oxygen—and surmises that "a man with Air Force experience may be the type of person that should be considered a suspect." He adds that a **USPA Class D license requires two night jumps**.	64/404/26854; 70/99/29851
12/17/71	SA Romanoff furnishes two copies of the Norjak ransom serial-number list to the Elsinore jump center.	55/42/23180; 64/368/26818
2/11–15/72	LA FBI checks the Raleigh coupon lead with Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. in LA (two salesmen cover Elsinore) and the Raleigh Premium Center in Louisville, KY (800-626-5510); none of the nine special-order clerks had ever received an inquiry to redeem coupons for parachutes or sport gear.	56/189/23590

The conversation (FD-302, 12/1/71) and the 12/16/71 Air Force addendum

- The man "asked several unusual questions, such as how would one go about jumping out of jets." The source told him "it could be done if the door of the aircraft opened inward or if it had a **rear stairwell that could be raised and lowered**," and that "full flaps and lowered landing gear would supply the drag needed to exit from a jet" (64/389/26839).
- The man asked where jump centers were in the Northwest (the 11/30 tip memo says Seattle and Portland, 64/333/26776). The source named three in Washington: "one by the Boeing Air Field in Seattle, one on the Washington side of the Columbia River, just north of Portland, Oregon, and the other center inbetween." The man did not write any of them down.
- They talked about jump altitudes; the source answered in terms of record altitudes, oxygen and free-fall time, and later added (12/16/71) that the **10,000-foot level** is "reminiscent of Air Force training"—the maximum altitude

considered safe without oxygen in AFP 160-10-3 (*"Your Body in Flight"*)—and that a man with Air Force experience might fit (64/404/26854). Flight 305 flew below 10,000 ft at the hijacker's demand.

- The source remembered him "rather vividly" for his **Cochrane boots**, which he said are peculiar to military jumpers and are not worn by teams, clubs, sport jumpers or novices, and noted that "nobody else has ever purposed such questions to him" (64/389–390/26839–40).

Side by side

	ELSINORE MAN (SOURCE, 12/1/71)	FLIGHT 305 HIJACKER (BUREAU DESCRIPTION)
RACE / SEX	White male	White male
AGE	**40–42**	Mid-forties
HEIGHT	6′0″–6′1″ *in boots*	5′10″–6′0″
WEIGHT / BUILD	165–175 lb, **slim**	170–180 lb, average to well built
COMPLEXION	**Light**	**Olive, Latin appearance**, medium smooth
HAIR	Dark brown, thin on top, receding both sides, front combed back, parted left	Dark brown or black, normal style, parted left, combed back
SMOKING	Raleigh coupons (added 12/3; Louisville check negative, 56/189)	Heavy smoker of Raleigh filter tips
OTHER	Military "Cochrane" jump boots	Brown ankle-length shoes; dark suit, raincoat
CITE	64/391/26841; 64/393/26843	19/79/5934; 70/78/29804

Caveats the record carries

- **The Raleigh detail came after the publicity.** The source said he "recalled this while studying the Government memorandum containing the description" of the hijacker (64/393/26843), and the Louisville Premium Center had no record of parachute requests (56/189/23590).
- **He offered his own innocent explanation—now verified:** on 12/9/71 (64/394/26844), Cameron noted that pages 46–47 of the **August 24, 1971 issue of *Look* magazine** carried an advertisement showing a parachutist jumping out of a jet aircraft, which "may have stimulated questions" by someone who saw it. Located and reproduced below, that two-page spread is a U.S. Army Airborne recruiting ad (***"When you jump, it's just you." / "Today's Army wants to join you."***, code `251 23-8-71`) depicting a four-panel sequence of a lone paratrooper exiting and descending beneath a four-engine **C-141 Starlifter military jet transport**.
- **Complexion and build conflict:** "light" and "slim" vs. the crew's "olive" and "average to well built".
- **The date shifted** from "July or August" (12/1) to mid-to-late August (12/9).

The August 24, 1971 *Look* magazine advertisement cited by Cameron (pp. 46–47) — U.S. Army Airborne C-141 jet jump

Look · Aug 24, 1971, pp. 46–47 (code 251 23-8-71)



When you jump, it's just you.

Airborne is an outfit that can show you who you are. Somebody who counts. One of a special breed of men.

When you jump, it's just you. Every time is like the first time. You get that jolt in your gut. The world turns at your feet. You know who you are.

Join this special breed. Get a special knowledge of yourself. Go Airborne. You'll get the best training there is. You'll get into better shape than you've ever been in. You'll get the extra money they call jump pay. You'll be somebody.

And in today's Army, if you pack the gear, the top has no roof. There's never been more opportunity. For education. For advancement. To see some of the world. To know some of the people in it. To get to know what you really can do.

See your Army representative. Or send the coupon. Get ahead. All the way. Airborne.

Today's Army wants to join you.

Two-page U.S. Army Airborne recruiting spread (*"When you jump, it's just you."*) showing a four-panel sequence of a paratrooper jumping from a C-141 Starlifter jet transport—confirming Cameron's 12/9/71 recollection (64/394/26844) of an ad showing a parachutist jumping out of a jet aircraft.

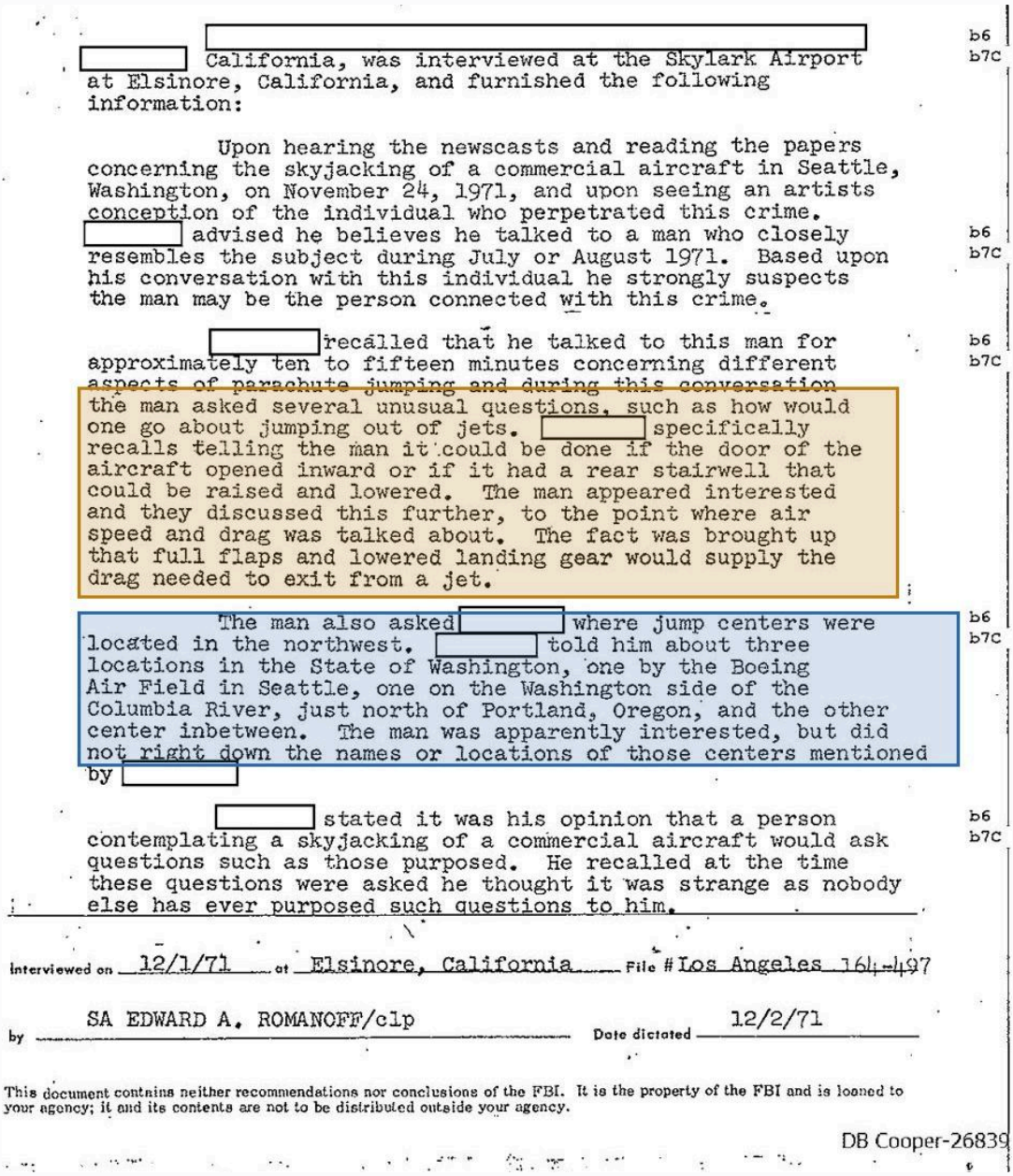
12/9/71 follow-up memo: narrowing the date to mid/late Aug 1971 & citing the 8/24/71 *Look* magazine ad (pp. 46–47)

Part 64 p.394 · Bates 26844

Concerning an individual who talked to him at Skylark Field at Elsinor, California who resembles the artist's conception of the hijacker of the Northwest aircraft in Seattle on November 24, 1971, [redacted] stated he has reviewed his thoughts and is certain he can narrow the time span to the middle or late part of August 1971 when this conversation occurred. He still believes it was strange that a person would ask questions about jumping out of jet aircraft and discuss air speed then have something like the hijacking that occurred happen a short time later. He also stated that it may be coincedental but he saw an advertisement on pages 46 and 47 of Look magazine dated August 24, 1971 showing a parachutist jumping out of a jet aircraft. He stated this may have stimulated questions by someone seeing this advertisement, however, he is still concerned since the individual he spoke to resembles the artist's conception of the hijacker. He does not know the name of the man he talked to and has not seen him since. He did state he believes he would recognize the man if he sees him again.

DB Cooper-26844

FD-302 of the source (Lyle Cameron), 12/1/71 — Jet exits, rear stairwell, flaps/gear & NW drop zones



[redacted] California, was interviewed at the Skylark Airport at Elsinore, California, and furnished the following information: b6 b7C

Upon hearing the newscasts and reading the papers concerning the skyjacking of a commercial aircraft in Seattle, Washington, on November 24, 1971, and upon seeing an artists conception of the individual who perpetrated this crime, [redacted] advised he believes he talked to a man who closely resembles the subject during July or August 1971. Based upon his conversation with this individual he strongly suspects the man may be the person connected with this crime. b6 b7C

[redacted] recalled that he talked to this man for approximately ten to fifteen minutes concerning different aspects of parachute jumping and during this conversation the man asked several unusual questions, such as how would one go about jumping out of jets. [redacted] specifically recalls telling the man it could be done if the door of the aircraft opened inward or if it had a rear stairwell that could be raised and lowered. The man appeared interested and they discussed this further, to the point where air speed and drag was talked about. The fact was brought up that full flaps and lowered landing gear would supply the drag needed to exit from a jet. b6 b7C

The man also asked [redacted] where jump centers were located in the northwest. [redacted] told him about three locations in the State of Washington, one by the Boeing Air Field in Seattle, one on the Washington side of the Columbia River, just north of Portland, Oregon, and the other center inbetween. The man was apparently interested, but did not right down the names or locations of those centers mentioned by [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] stated it was his opinion that a person contemplating a skyjacking of a commercial aircraft would ask questions such as those purposed. He recalled at the time these questions were asked he thought it was strange as nobody else has ever purposed such questions to him. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 12/1/71 at Elsinore, California File # Los Angeles 164-497

by SA EDWARD A. ROMANOFF/clp Date dictated 12/2/71

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DB Cooper-26839

In short. The technical overlap between the August 1971 Elsinore conversation and the November 24, 1971 hijacking is striking: a rear stairwell exit, full flaps and lowered landing gear for drag, a 10,000-foot unpressurized ceiling, and Northwest jump centers including one just north of Portland. At the same time, the physical description shows real tension (light complexion and slim build vs. the crew's olive complexion and average-to-well-built frame), the Raleigh coupon detail surfaced only after the witness read the FBI flyer, and the witness himself noted that an August 1971 *Look* magazine ad could have sparked the questions.

SECTION 4

The tipster: Lyle Hazen Cameron

The Cooper Vault release withholds the tipster's name under exemption b7D. Cross-checking the Cooper file against the 1970 USPA directory and The Black Vault's 129-page FBI FOIA release on **Lyle Hazen Cameron** (FOIPA #1358876-000, released 8/30/2018) identifies the tipster as Cameron with high confidence: the publisher's Gardena address, the USPA directory, the redaction widths and the "reliable source" history all point to him.

Who Lyle Cameron was in the world of parachuting—and his role at Elsinore

In 1971, **Lyle Hazen Cameron** (born January 2, 1931, Union, Maine; died June 19, 1993, aged 62, piloting a Cessna 180 out of Trujillo, Honduras) was one of the most prominent and connected figures in American sport parachuting. He was the founder, editor, and publisher of *Skydiver* magazine—the sport's premier independent trade monthly—and had served on the national board of the Parachute Club of America / United States Parachute Association (USPA) since 1961, including terms as Chairman of the Executive Board and National Director (80/362/35261; Cameron FOIA p. 32). Internationally, he served as coach, team leader, and world-championship judge for the U.S. Parachute Team across Europe and the Soviet bloc (Cameron FOIA pp. 18, 32, 38).

His position at the Elsinore jump center: Although some later forum accounts mistakenly called Cameron the drop-zone operator (which was the Perkins family's Skylark Aviation / Elsinore Paricenter), his FBI file documents his exact relationship to Skylark Field: Cameron was an independent commercial pilot, free-fall aerial photographer for film and television, and senior skydiver whose *"general area of operations is the Elsinore, California airport"* where *"he spends most of his time"* (Cameron FOIA pp. 16, 18, 27). He had been an Elsinore fixture since making the drop zone's first double baton pass in January 1960, knew the staff and regulars by sight, and was trusted by the center to screen the August 1971 suspect list alongside SA Romanoff (64/395/26845).

How the files identify him

CLUE / RECORD	HOW IT CONFIRMS & ILLUMINATES LYLE HAZEN CAMERON	CITE
On 12/8/71, after the redacted publisher of *Skydiver* (**15206 Raymond, Gardena**) offers to print the Cooper sketch, Seattle asks LA whether any derogatory info exists on him; LA replies on 12/14/71 (NR 023 LA CODE)	Omitted from the Cooper Vault, LA's 3-page 12/14/71 teletype survives unredacted in Cameron's FOIA file: it names **"LYLE CAMERON, EDITOR-PUBLISHER, 'SKYDIVER' MAGAZINE, GARDENA, CALIFORNIA"** and explicitly advises FBI HQ and Seattle that **no derogatory information exists on Cameron or *Skydiver* magazine** ("EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND CONDUCTED REGARDING CAMERON AND NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION DEVELOPED... NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION IN LOS ANGELES FILES CONCERNING 'SKYDIVER' MAGAZINE")	64/363–364/26812–13; Cameron FOIA pp.67–69
LA calls the tipster "an authority in his field" and "in previous contacts with the LA Division... an intelligent and reliable source" (b7D)	After Cameron picked up an Amtorg Trading Corp. Soviet engineer outside Disneyland on 6/4/66 to give him back issues of *Sky Diver*, LA vetted and operated Cameron as a **Bureau-approved Potential Security Informant (PSI - R)** from **2/16/68 to 10/31/68** during his international skydiving trips to Iron Curtain countries (Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, USSR)	64/333–334/26776–77; Cameron FOIA pp.6, 14, 18, 33, 56, 68
1970 USPA directory & redaction widths (12.0 / 11.8 full name, 7.0 surname)	Lists National Director **"Lyle Cameron, 15206 Raymond, #21, Gardena"**; **LYLE CAMERON** = 12 chars and **CAMERON** = 7 chars	80/362/35261; 64/389–394, 404
3/29/72: a b7D source reviews *Sky Diver* "dead" subscription files for a former Seattle subscriber	Matches Cameron as publisher and custodian of *Skydiver*'s subscription cards	24/383/7785

Verified law-enforcement and military career (FOIPA #1358876-000)

- **LAPD Officer (1955–1962):** Served seven years as a Los Angeles Police Department patrolman from May 1955 to May 1962 (Cameron FOIA pp. 59, 73, 87).
- **Military Service (NYNG, USMC, CANG & USAR):** Served in the New York National Guard (5/20/46–7/21/47, Brooklyn); U.S. Marine Corps active duty (6/8/52–12/9/54, Corporal, aircraft navigator MOS, Korean Service Medal; USMC

Reserve Sergeant to 4/7/58); commissioned 2nd Lt., California National Guard (1/6/59, Secret clearance) and promoted to 1st Lt., U.S. Army Reserve (9/21/61), completing active-duty parachute jumps at NAS Point Mugu (Feb–Mar 1963) and two weeks active duty at **Fort Bragg, NC** (12/3–18/64) (Cameron FOIA pp. 39, 42–47, 49, 59).

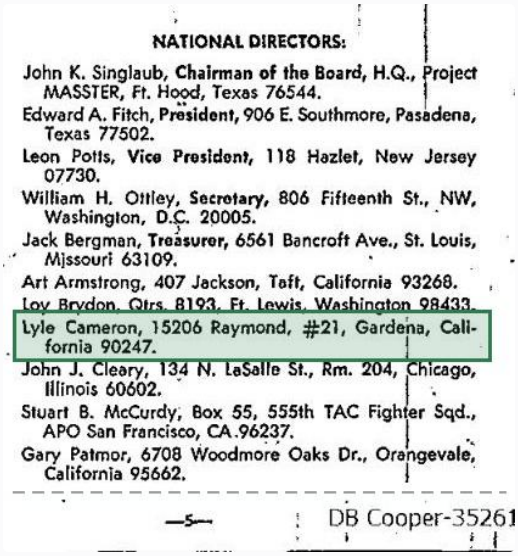
- **1968 Navy UDT-11 Parachute Club Case (LA 52-11733):** In Feb 1968, a Navy UDT-11 frogman at NAS North Island shipped three cartons of surplus Navy survival gear ($1,430.50) to Cameron to trade at a Las Vegas auction for parachute harnesses for the North Island Navy Parachute Club, which Cameron coached gratis. The AUSA in Los Angeles declined prosecution of Cameron on 2/26/68 for lack of criminal intent (pp. 65, 69, 115–130).

Sidebar · Cameron's phone number in the Ruby/Oswald file (Cameron FOIA p. 8)

A 2019 forum post (thedbcooperforum.com, reply #5141) said, citing Cameron's son, that the FBI looked at Cameron over a phone call with Jack Ruby. His FBI file shows the actual record: an 8/3/66 Director's letter cites a 9/1/64 FD-302 in the Los Angeles Ruby/Oswald file (typed "45-895"; LA 44-895 elsewhere) reporting Cameron as the subscriber to a number that had been called from another number—a routine toll-record trace. In 1964 that number was both his La Mirada home phone and the published number of *Sky Diver* (pp. 32, 38). **[inference]** A subscriber check most likely grew, in family retelling, into a conversation with Ruby.

1970 USPA Directory: Lyle Cameron listed as National Director at 15206 Raymond, #21, Gardena

Part 80 p.362 · Bates 35261 (cropped & highlighted)



NATIONAL DIRECTORS:

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—5— DB Cooper-35261

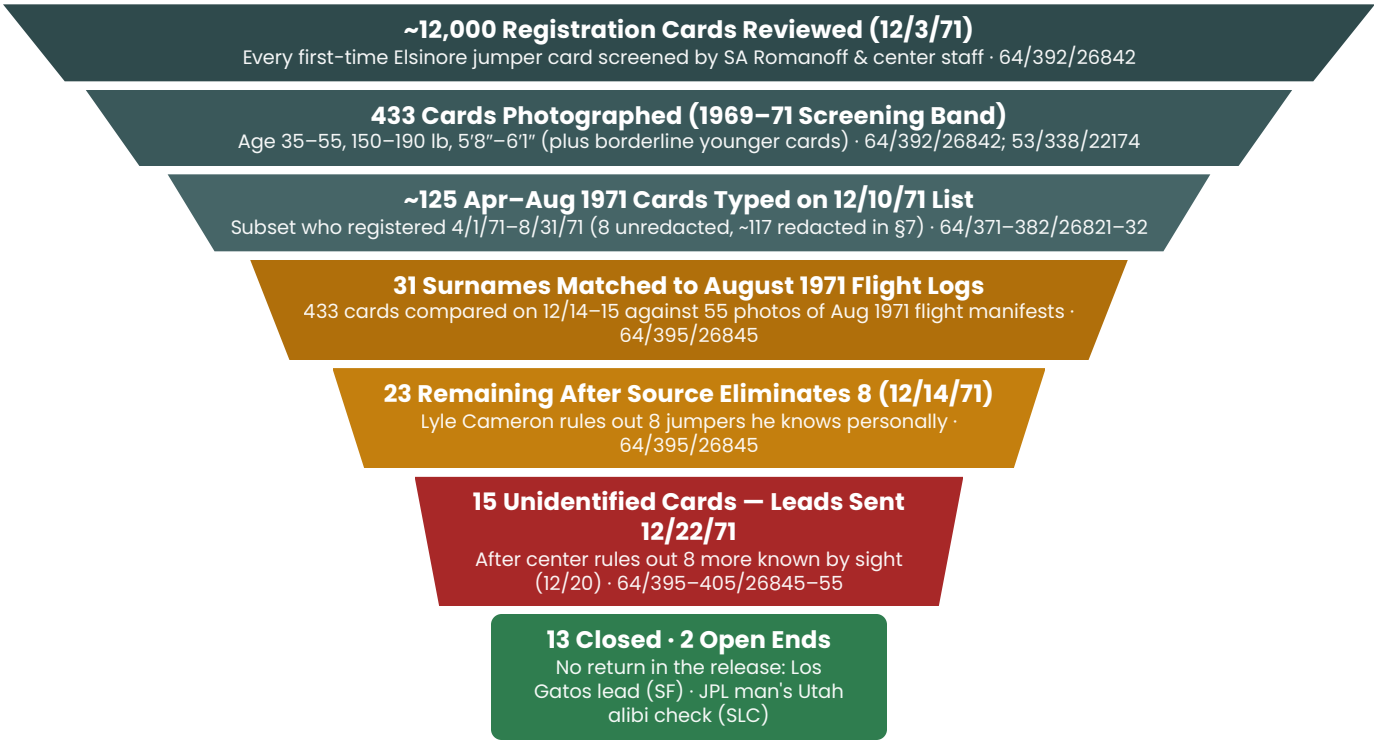
VERDICT ON THE SOURCE: LYLE CAMERON'S CREDIBILITY

Cameron was an experienced, well-connected and FBI-vetted source. He was a seven-year LAPD officer (1955–62), a reserve officer, a 1968 Bureau security informant, and a USPA National Director who spent most of his time at Skylark Field. LA's 1971 background check found nothing derogatory; a 1968 referral over surplus Navy gear ended with the AUSA declining prosecution for lack of criminal intent. No motive to invent the conversation is known. As *Skydiver*'s publisher he did offer to print the FBI sketch—worth noting, though it is not evidence of embellishment. The weak points are ordinary memory problems after the publicity: the Raleigh coupons surfaced only after he read the FBI description, and the date moved from "July or August" to mid-to-late August. His core account—a fortyish stranger in military Cochrane boots asking how to get out of a jet and where the Northwest jump centers were—comes from a credible witness, but it rests on his memory alone.

SECTION 5

The sweep: 12,000 cards to 15 leads—and 13 documented eliminations

December 1971 to March 1972. SA Romanoff and an Elsinore Paricenter employee screen the center's registration cards against August 1971 flight logs, and five FBI field offices run down the resulting 15 leads.



How the 12/22/71 leads airtel divided the 15 cards—and what came back

The December 22, 1971 airtel (64/388/26838, 64/404–405/26854–55; copies at 17/297–298, 55/111–112, 70/99–100) assigns all 15 photographed cards by field office and city. It names New York, Buffalo, San Francisco and the Santa Ana RA, and leaves "the remaining leads in the metropolitan Los Angeles area" to the LA case agent, which by arithmetic is 9 (9 + 3 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 15):

- **Metro Los Angeles — 9 leads for the LA case agent (64/405); 8 closed in January 1972, 1 left pending:** (1) a **BNDD agent from La Verne**, at the U.S. Attorney's office until 5:30 PM on 11/24/71 (56/20/23405, 64/383/26833); (2) a blond **Save-On Drug manager from Sherman Oaks**, worked until 10:00 PM on 11/24/71 (56/20/23405, 64/383/26833); (3) a **Sunland bartender**, at work until relieved at 6:00 PM on 11/24/71 and then with his girlfriend in Lancaster, who confirmed it (56/20/23405, 64/383/26833); (4) a **Pacific Telephone manager in Glendale**, in his office until 4:30 PM on 11/24/71 (56/22/23407, 64/384/26834); (5) **Guy M. Blackmore**, night-shift LA hotel manager, interviewed 1/14/72 (64/385/26835, redacted copy 56/23/23408); (6) a **Tri-Cities Concrete employee in Redlands** who had taken the jump training and paid for a first jump but was too "winded" to jump; employment records put him at work until 5:15 PM on 11/24/71 (64/385/26835, 56/23/23408); (7) an **Epp Brothers Manufacturing Co. employee in Long Beach** with a full beard about eight months old, at work until 4:30 PM on 11/24/71 (64/385/26835, 56/23/23408); (8) a divorced man interviewed at **Hawthorne living at Big Bear**, stocky (~180 lb) with thick reddish-brown hair and glasses (64/386/26836 — a possible, though unconfirmed, redaction-width fit to **Jack D. Douglas**; see §7 & §8); and (9) a **JPL Pasadena employee** (56/21/23406), whose Thanksgiving travel alibi in Utah was sent to Salt Lake City/Provo for verification. The agent noted he did not resemble the sketch. **No Salt Lake City return appears in the release.**
- **Orange County, CA — 3 leads set out in 64/405, all 3 eliminated in February–March 1972 (56/190–191/23591–92):** (10) **Santa Ana #1** (interviewed 2/16/72), worked the 4:00 PM to midnight shift on 11/24/71 at the Cherry Rivet Division of Townsend Co., 1227 E. Warner, Santa Ana, verified by his wife and payroll records; (11) **Santa Ana #2** (checked 2/16/72 at 3400 S. [redacted], Santa Ana), worked daily after school at a high school pool and described by the apartment manager as a "very muscular young man, weighing more than 200 pounds, about 5′10″ with a full head of brown hair"; and (12) the **Laguna Beach lead** (contacted 2/16–17/72, interviewed 3/7/72 at his business in Anaheim, CA), a veteran

parachutist who jumped periodically at Elsinore and Perris, confirmed in his Anaheim office morning and afternoon on 11/24/71 by his secretary's calendar, who told the FBI he believed Cooper was a **novice** because an experienced skydiver would never jump with a strange parachute rather than bringing his own chute on board.

- **Buffalo (at Tonawanda, NY) — 1 lead set out in 64/404, returned 12/28/71 (55/138–139/23282–83; 18/346–348/5678–80):** (13) a **Grand Island, NY private pilot** and Chevrolet plant employee who jumped at Elsinore on 6/17 and 6/21/71 whose 11/24/71 work alibi rested on a co-worker's recollection—the plant had closed for the holiday week and records couldn't be found (18/347; 55/138). He told agents he had never discussed jumping from a jet with anyone at Elsinore and had never made a night jump (55/139). On 1/28/72 the source looked at his photographs: not the man (64/387/26837).
- **New York (at East Rockaway, NY) — 1 lead set out in 64/404, eliminated 1/24/72 (20/212–214/6169–71):** (14) an **East Rockaway, NY caterer** (5′10″, 185 lb, blue eyes, salt-and-pepper hair) who catered a private party (location redacted) from 3:30 PM on 11/24/71 until 2:00 AM on 11/25/71 and produced his jump log showing two jumps at Elsinore on April 29, 1971 plus two at Elsinore and five at Otay on 1/12/72, when he saw the composite drawing; it did not look familiar to him.
- **San Francisco (at Los Gatos, CA) — 1 lead set out in 64/405:** (15) **No return memo found in the released files.**

Laguna Beach / Anaheim skydiver's opinion that Cooper was a novice (3/8/72 memo)

Part 56 p.191 · Bates 23592 (reconstructed from OCR & redaction coordinates)

LA 164-497

periodically at both Elsinore and Perris, California. He advised he would cooperate in any way possible, adding he personally was at his place of business on 11/24/71, and appointments on the calender of his personal secretary would indicate his activities on that date.

On 3/7/72, [redacted] was personally contacted at [redacted] Notations on the calender of his personal secretary indicated he had appointments in his office on both the morning and afternoon of 11/24/71.

b6
b7C

[redacted], who was very cooperative and knowledgeable regarding parachute jumping, advised he has observed the artist's conception of the Seattle hijacker and recalls none of numerous parachutists with whom he has associated with at both Elsinore or Perris, California, who resemble the artist's conception. He noted that in his opinion the hijacker was a novice who had not been through any organized jump school or had military jump training. He based this opinion on the fact the man had used a strange parachute to jump with, adding he

b6
b7C

DB Cooper-23592

Reconciling the file's conflicting counts

- **Why Seattle said "16 eliminated by interviews":** Seattle's January 1972 summary (19/80/5935; copy 70/79/29805) states that "Sixteen of the individuals whose cards were photographed were eliminated as possible suspects by interviews. The remaining 15 possible suspects are being systematically reviewed." Comparing that wording against LA's 12/22/71 airtel (64/395/26845) suggests **[inference]** Seattle's summary writer paraphrased LA's 8 + 8 = 16 eliminations "based on personal knowledge of the individual" as "by interviews".
- **Total cards on file vs. photographed:** Memos variously cite "in excess of 1,800" since May 1971 and ~10,000 since 1957 (64/332), ~25,000 back to 1957 (64/357), or ~12,000 reviewed (64/392), with "approximately 400" (64/357) vs. 433 photographed (64/392; 53/338).
- **Surname-only log matching:** Flight manifests carried surnames only, and LA warned that "the last name on the flight record does not mean that the jumper was the person whose registration card was pulled" (64/395/26845). The two New York men show how loose that match was: their logs put their only 1971 Elsinore jumps in April and June, not August (20/212/6169; 55/139/23283). The photo displays to Cameron on 1/28/72—the Grand Island man and two other men—were negative (64/387/26837; 64/406/26856, memo dated 1/31/72).

VERDICT ON THE FBI'S CARD SWEEP

Contrary to the common assumption that the FBI left the 15 Elsinore cards hanging, Parts 18, 20, 55, 56 and 64 show that **agents ran down 14 of the 15 leads** between December 1971 and March 1972 and **documented 13 eliminations** by alibi, records or appearance. Two ends stay open in the release: the **Los Gatos, California** lead (64/405/26855) has no return serial, and the Salt Lake City check of the **JPL man's** Utah alibi (56/21/23406) never comes back. Some eliminations are thinner than others: the Grand Island man's alibi rested on a co-worker's memory, though Cameron also rejected his photographs.

SECTION 6

The fifteen cards

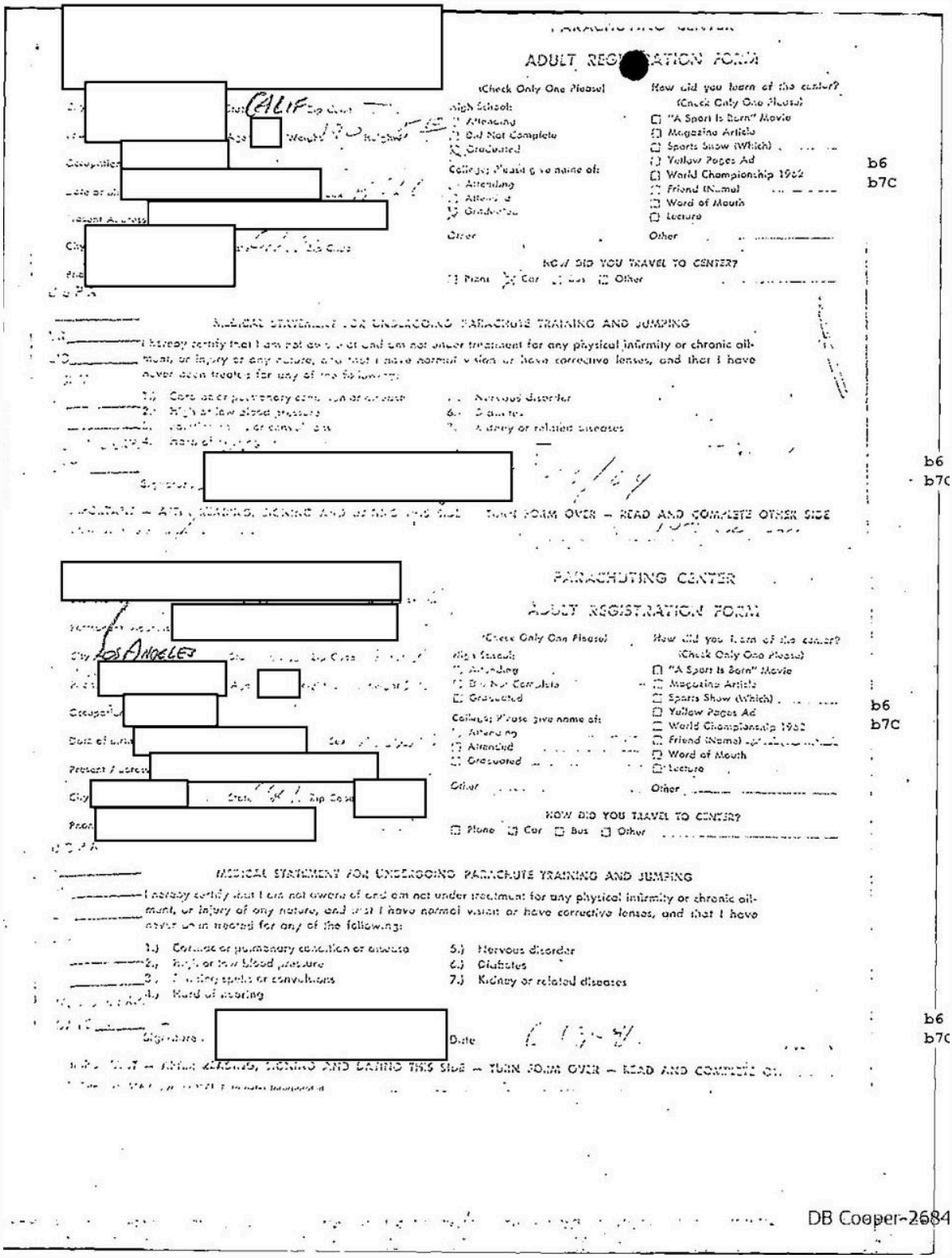
Elsinore Paricenter "Adult Registration Form" cards reproduced at 64/396–403/26846–53 (and duplicate copies in Parts 17, 55, and 70), two per page. Below is every detail that remains legible across the 15 cards, alongside the geographic breakdown from 64/404–405.

#	STATE / CITY	WT / HT / SEX	EDUCATION	LEARNED OF CENTER	TRAVEL	SIGNED	LEAD / NAME LINK
1	Calif.	190? / 5′10″ / M	HS grad; college grad	—	Car	illegible	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
2	Los Angeles, Cal.	—	—	—	?	6/17/71?	Blackmore (or other LA lead)
3	Calif.	—	College attended	Word of mouth	?	illegible	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
4	Calif.	165? / 6′? / M	HS grad; college attended	Friend (named, redacted)	Car	8/16/71	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
5	Calif.	—	—	—	—	illegible	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
6	CA	—	—	Other (redacted)	Car	8/?/71	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
7	Cal. (USPA lic.)	—	HS grad?	Word of mouth	Car	?/?/71	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
8	Cal.	—	—	—	—	illegible	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
9	Calif.	— / — / M	HS grad; college attended	Yellow Pages?	Car	illegible	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
10	Cal.	—	College?	Word of mouth	?	illegible	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
11	Calif. ("same")	—	HS grad; college attended	Other (redacted)	?	illegible	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
12	Calif.	—	HS grad; college attended	Word of mouth	Car	illegible	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)
13	**New York** (USPA)	—	HS did not complete?	Friend (named, redacted)	Car	illegible*	NY #1: Tonawanda or E. Rockaway (elim.)
14	**New York** (USPA)	—	College attended?	Magazine / word of mouth?	**Plane**	illegible*	NY #2: E. Rockaway or Tonawanda (elim.)
15	Calif. ("same as above")	150 / 5′? / M	HS grad; college grad	Friend (named, redacted)	Car	8/26/71?	CA pool (11 of 13 closed)

- **Why the eight list names can't be matched to cards:** FOIA reviewers blacked out each card's name, street address, phone, occupation, age and date of birth, and the city on 12 of the 13 California cards. Even Blackmore, confirmed among the 15 (64/385), could be Card 2 ("Los Angeles, Cal.") or any card whose city is redacted.
- **13 California cards + 2 New York cards = 15 leads (64/404–405).** The 13 California cards correspond to the 9 Metro LA leads handled by SA Romanoff, the 3 Orange County leads (2 Santa Ana + 1 Laguna Beach), and the 1 San Francisco lead (Los Gatos, CA). Eleven of those 13 California leads are documented as closed; the Los Gatos lead has no return, and the JPL man's Utah alibi check never comes back.
- **Both New York leads (Cards 13 and 14) were closed.** One is the Tonawanda / Grand Island private pilot who jumped at Elsinore in June 1971 (55/138–139/23282–83); the other is the East Rockaway caterer who logged two Elsinore jumps on April 29, 1971 and was catering a party on Thanksgiving Eve (20/212–214/6169–71). Both cards show USPA entries (as does Card 7), though the Grand Island man said he was registered with USPA but held no licence (55/139).

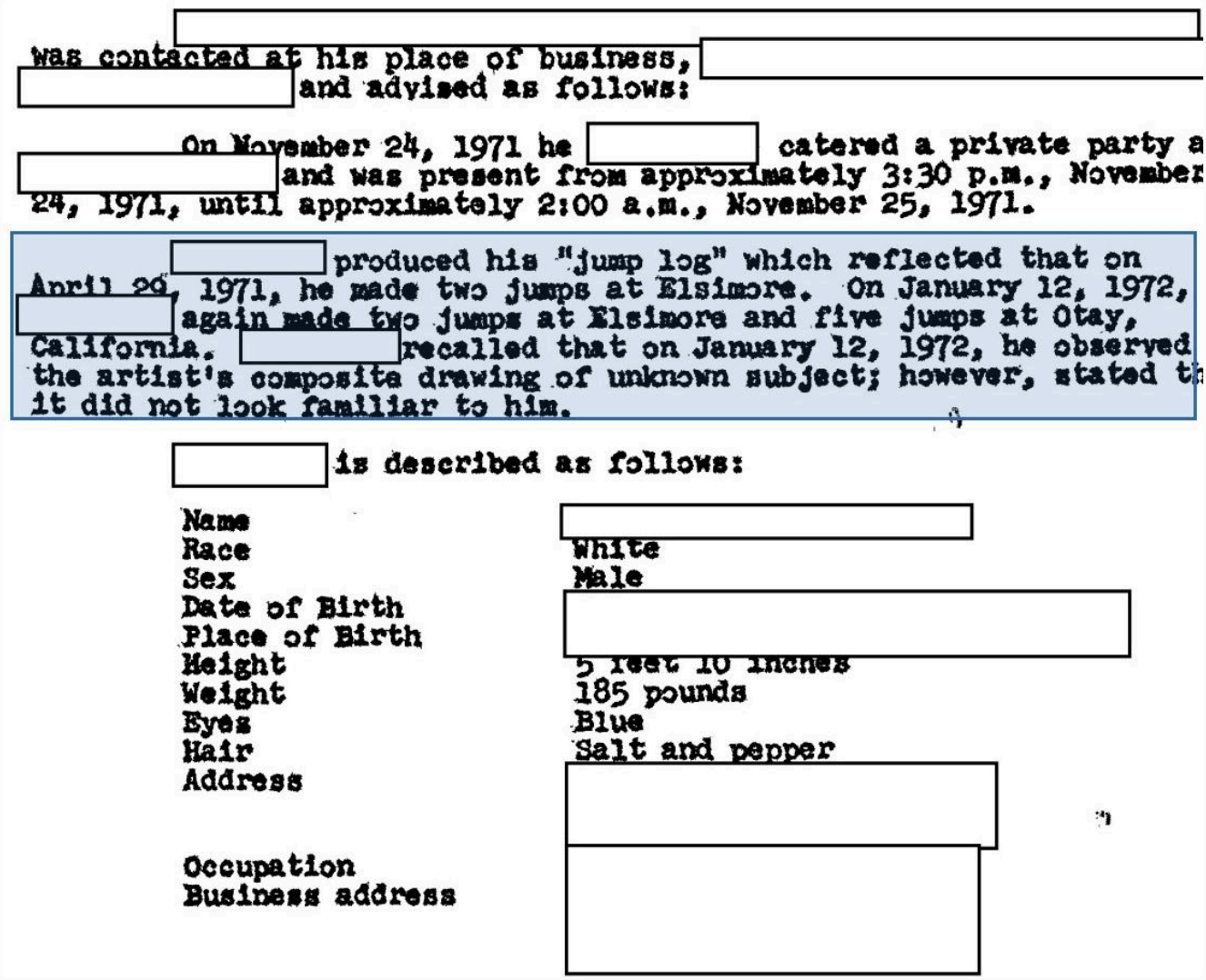
- ***Card dates.** The signing dates on Cards 13–14 can't be read on the Vault scan (64/402/26852). An August reading ("8/?/71") would conflict with both men's logs: their only 1971 Elsinore jumps were in April and June, and a card is filled out before a jumper's first jump there.

Visual example of what the 15 redacted cards look like (Cards 1–2) Part 64 p.396 · Bates 26846



Included as a representative full-size example showing how names, street addresses, cities, phone numbers, occupations, and dates of birth were blacked out across all 15 cards (64/396–403).

East Rockaway, NY caterer FD-302 (resolving the second New York card, Card 13 or 14) Part 20 p.212 · Bates 6169



was contacted at his place of business, [redacted] and advised as follows:

On November 24, 1971 he [redacted] catered a private party a [redacted] and was present from approximately 3:30 p.m., November 24, 1971, until approximately 2:00 a.m., November 25, 1971.

[redacted] produced his "jump log" which reflected that on April 29, 1971, he made two jumps at Elsinore. On January 12, 1972, [redacted] again made two jumps at Elsinore and five jumps at Otay, California. [redacted] recalled that on January 12, 1972, he observed the artist's composite drawing of unknown subject; however, stated th it did not look familiar to him.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Place of Birth	[redacted]
Height	5 feet 10 inches
Weight	185 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Salt and pepper
Address	[redacted]
Occupation	[redacted]
Business address	[redacted]

January 24, 1972 interview eliminating the East Rockaway, NY caterer (5'10", 185 lb, blue eyes, salt-and-pepper hair), who catered a private party on 11/24/71 and logged two Elsinore jumps on 4/29/71.

In short. Because FOIA reviewers blacked out the name, address, phone, occupation, and birth date on every one of the 15 reproduced cards (64/396–403), the public scans alone cannot identify the cardholders or tie them one-for-one to the 12/10/71 list. Resolving the identities behind the cards requires requesting the original unredacted 35mm card photographs preserved in bulky exhibit **LA 164-497-1B1** (53/338/22174) or the unredacted elimination serials in **LA 164-497 Sub A** (§9).

SECTION 7

The eight unredacted men on the December 10, 1971 list

The 12/10/71 memo lists "adult register cards" for people who registered to jump between 4/1/71 and 8/31/71 (64/371–382/26821–32). It runs to about 125 names. Someone wrote "Index all names" across the top, and handwritten slash marks tick off entries as they were indexed. Eight entries escaped FOIA redaction. **Being on this list is not suspicion:** these are men in the 35–55 age band who registered at Elsinore that summer, compiled before the FBI narrowed the pool to the 15 August flight-log leads. One-page profiles are in Appendix A.

Can these eight men be tied to the 15 leads?

Only Blackmore, whose name survives on one copy of his 1/14/72 interview (64/385/26835). The list was typed on 12/10/71, four days *before* the 433 photographed cards were matched against the August flight logs (64/395/26845), and roughly 117 of its ~125 names are blacked out. So a redaction-width match between one of the other seven men and an interview memo (§8) is **a possibility only**: an unknown name could fit the same box. This caveat applies to every redaction fit in this report and isn't repeated each time. The card addresses on the list help in the other direction—they can rule a man *out* of a lead set at a different address.

- **The Hawthorne / Big Bear man (64/386/26836, interviewed 1/19/72):** divorced, no longer at his listed address, living in Big Bear; spent Thanksgiving with his sister and 11/24/71 with his girlfriend. The memo describes *him* as ~180 lb and stocky, with thick reddish-brown hair, glasses and a round face. **Jack D. Douglas** (Gardena, which borders Hawthorne; later divorced) fits all three boxes—full name, surname and the 19-character former address. A possible match, not an identification.
- **The JPL Pasadena employee (56/21/23406, contacted 1/13/72):** his boxes (13.7 / 7.1) fit **Fred G. Chambers** and **Berkeley M. McCollom**. McCollom is unlikely: his card address was Newport Beach, Santa Ana RA territory, while this lead was the LA case agent's **[inference]**.
- **The Laguna Beach / Anaheim jumper (56/190–191/23591–92, interviewed 3/7/72):** several of the eight fit some of his boxes, but the lead was set at his **Laguna Beach residence** (56/190). None of the eight lived there—McCollom's card says Newport Beach, Nowell's Long Beach, Douglas's Gardena—so the address argues against all of them **[inference]**.
- **The Epp Brothers employee (64/385/26835 & 56/23/23408, interviewed 1/17/72):** interviewed at work in Long Beach, eliminated (full beard about eight months old; at work until 4:30 PM on 11/24/71). If typed without a middle initial, his boxes fit Long Beach resident **John L. Nowell Jr.**

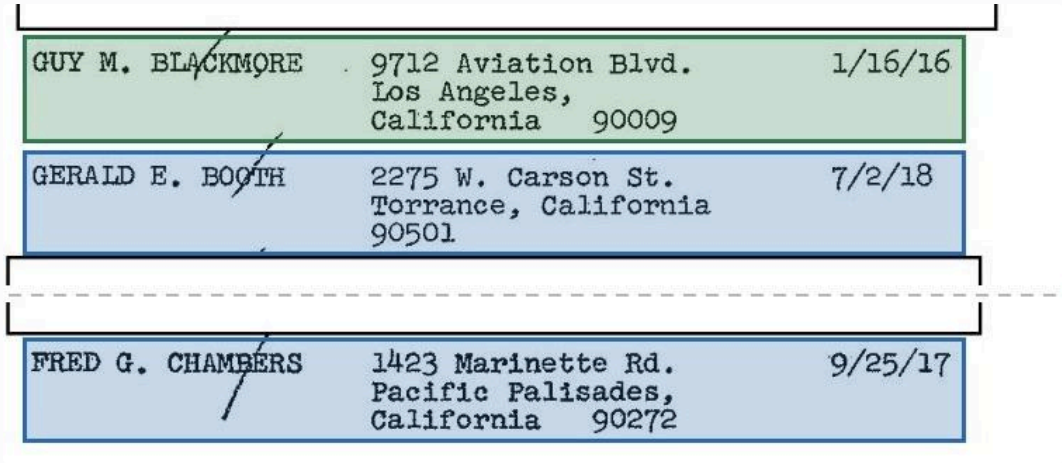
NAME ON LIST	IDENTITY & DATES FOUND	AGE 11/71	1940S DRAFT DESCRIPTION	WORK	FBI HANDLING / REDACTION POSSIBILITY
Guy M. Blackmore LA 90009 · 64/372	b. 10/1/1916 Lusk, WY (interview; list says 1/16/16); alive 1983	55	"thick salt and pepper" hair (1972)	Hotel management, works nights	**Confirmed: Eliminated 1/14/72 (64/385)**
Gerald E. Booth Torrance · 64/372	Gerald Edwin Booth, b. 7/2/1918 Missoula; **d. 1/7/2009**	53	6′1″, 175, brown eyes, brown hair, dark complexion	Wake Island contractor & POW; auto salesman	**No named follow-up**
Fred G. Chambers Pacific Palisades · 64/372	Probable: b. ~1918 MO; unconfirmed 4/11/1975 LA death notice	54	—	Aircraft assembly (1950)	**Possible JPL fit? (§8)**
Jack D. Douglas Gardena · 64/373	Born John David Swacina, 12/2/1919; **d. 6/24/1994** San Diego Co.	51	5′9″, 125, brown eyes, **brown hair**, sallow (1941)	IRS agent (1950)	**Possible Hawthorne fit? (§8)**
Berk Mc Collon Newport Beach · 64/376	Berkeley Malcolm McCollom, b. 4/18/1918 Pomona, CA	53	5′8½″, 160, hazel eyes, brown hair, dark	Carpenter, building industry (1950)	**Box fits only; address argues against (§8)**

NAME ON LIST	IDENTITY & DATES FOUND	AGE 11/71	1940S DRAFT DESCRIPTION	WORK	FBI HANDLING / REDACTION POSSIBILITY
John L. Nowell (×2) Long Beach · 64/377	John Loftin Nowell Jr., b. 2/13/1921 Richmond, VA; **d. 10/21/1992** Orange Co., CA	50	6′0″, 180, **blue eyes, blonde hair**, light complexion	Aviation engineer, Douglas Aircraft	Possible Epp Bros. fit? (§8)
David F. Parry LA 90036 · 64/377	b. ~1917 New York (1950 census)	55	—	Public relations executive (1950)	No named follow-up
Albert Sanell Montclair · 64/379	b. 3/15/1919 Kansas City; **d. Sept/Oct 1981** San Bernardino Co.	52	**6′3″**, 165, blue eyes, black hair, dark (1940)	**FAA airworthiness inspector, Ontario GADO**	No named follow-up

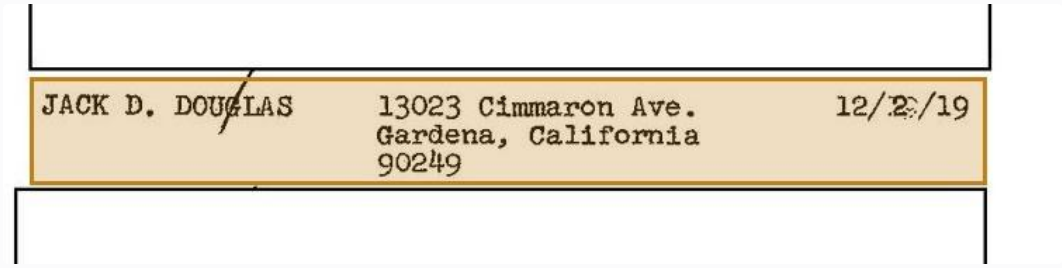
In short. Every one of the eight unredacted men on the December 10, 1971 list was **50 to 55 years old** in November 1971—roughly a decade older than Lyle Cameron's estimate of 40–42 and older than the Flight 305 crew's "mid-forties". Why these eight escaped redaction isn't known. **Guy M. Blackmore** was interviewed and eliminated on 1/14/72 (64/385); **Nowell** (blonde, blue-eyed) and **Sanell** (6′3″, blue-eyed) clash sharply with the hijacker's physical description; and while **Booth's** 1940 draft card (6′1″, 175 lb, brown hair, brown eyes, dark complexion) is the closest physical match on paper, none of the eight men shows any evidence of being D.B. Cooper.

All eight unredacted entries on the FBI's December 10, 1971 list — Enlarged full-width view (Part 64, pp. 372–379)

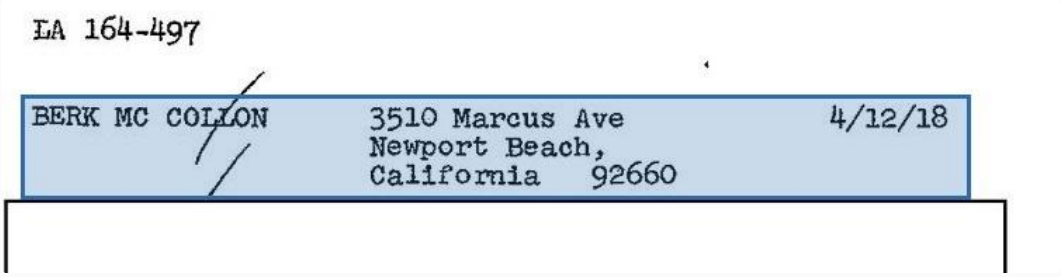
1. Guy M. Blackmore (confirmed eliminated 1/14/72), Gerald E. Booth & Fred G. Chambers — Part 64 p.372 · Bates 26822



2. Jack D. Douglas (13023 Cimmaron Ave., Gardena, CA) — Part 64 p.373 · Bates 26823



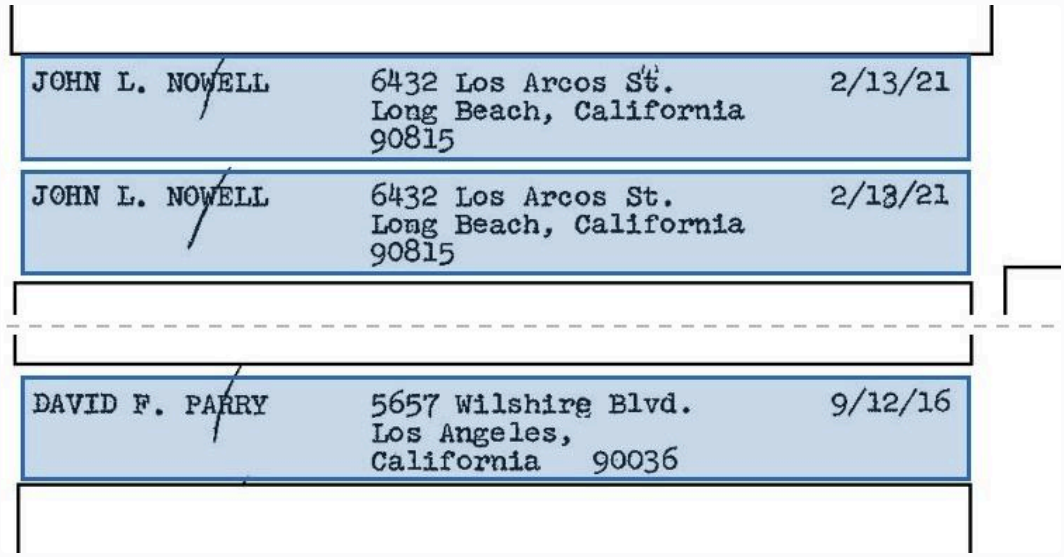
3. Berk Mc Collon [Berkeley M. McCollom] (3510 Marcus Ave., Newport Beach, CA) Part 64 p.376 · Bates 26826



LA 164-497

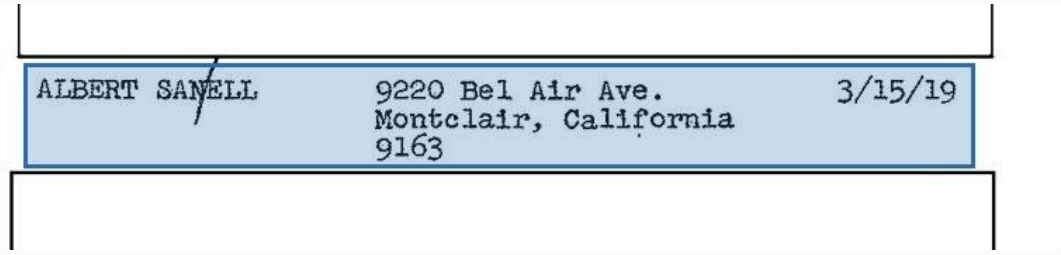
BERK MC COLLON	3510 Marcus Ave Newport Beach, California 92660	4/12/18

4. John L. Nowell (6432 Los Arcos St., Long Beach — listed twice) & David F. Parry (5657 Wilshire Blvd., LA) Part 64 p.377 · Bates 26827



JOHN L. NOWELL	6432 Los Arcos St. Long Beach, California 90815	2/13/21
JOHN L. NOWELL	6432 Los Arcos St. Long Beach, California 90815	2/13/21
DAVID F. PARRY	5657 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, California 90036	9/12/16

5. Albert Sanell (9220 Bel Air Ave., Montclair, CA — FAA Inspector, Ontario GADO) Part 64 p.379 · Bates 26829



ALBERT SANELL	9220 Bel Air Ave. Montclair, California 9163	3/15/19

SECTION 8

Redaction fits against the elimination memos

Testing the eight unredacted names from the 12/10/71 list (plus Lyle Cameron) against the typewriter character widths of the redaction boxes in Parts 20, 56 and 64—plus a check of each lead's address against the men's card addresses.

Method & control

Each redaction box in redactions.db is measured in pica typewriter character widths (±1.0 character tolerance) and tested against full name (with and without middle initial), "Mr. + surname", surname alone, and street address. **Control case:** in the redacted duplicate of Guy M. Blackmore's interview (56/23/23408), all three boxes match GUY M. BLACKMORE (16 vs. 15.8), Mr. BLACKMORE (13 vs. 12.8), and BLACKMORE (9 vs. 8.8).

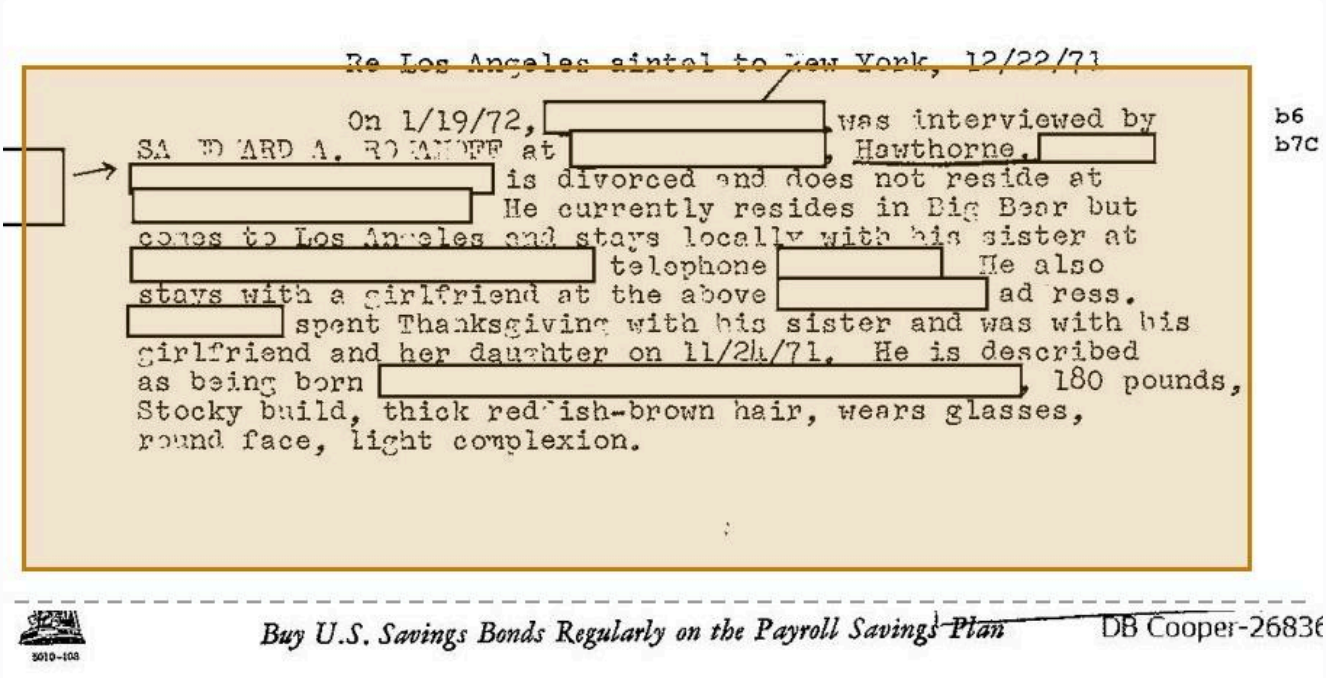
Limits: width can rule a name out, but a 13–15-character full name or 6–8-character surname is common, so a fit is only a possibility (see the §7 caveat). Addresses are a stronger filter: the list's addresses come from the same registration cards the leads were built from.

REDACTED INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	BOXES MEASURED (CHARS)	NAMES FROM THE 8 THAT FIT	ASSESSMENT
The confidential source 64/389–394; 64/404/26854	full name 12.0, 11.8 · surname 7.0 (×6)	**LYLE CAMERON** (12) and **CAMERON** (7) match every box within 0.2 chars (and unredacted 12/14/71 teletype confirms Cameron)	Cameron confirmed (§4)
Hawthorne / Big Bear man 1/19/72 · 64/386/26836	full name 14.9 · surname 8.0 · former address 19.8	Among the 8 known names, only **JACK D. DOUGLAS** (15 / 7) with "13023 Cimmaron Ave." (19) fits all three boxes; Gardena borders Hawthorne	Douglas (possible fit)
Laguna Beach / Anaheim business owner 2/16–3/7/72 · 56/190–191	p.190: full 15.0, surname 8.0 p.191: full 14.9, surname 6.1	Box fits: **Douglas** (15 / 7) all 4; **Berk Mc Collon** (14 / 8) and **John L. Nowell** (14 / 6) 3 of 4; **Chambers** the two p.190 boxes. But the lead was a **Laguna Beach resident** (56/190), and none of the eight lived there.	Unlikely (address mismatch)
JPL Pasadena employee 1/13/72 · 56/21/23406	full name 13.7 · surname 7.1	Among the 8, **Berk Mc Collon** (14 / 8) and **Fred Chambers** (13 / 8) fit both boxes; **Nowell** (14 / 6) and **Sanell** (13 / 6) are within 1.1 chars	Chambers (possible); McCollom unlikely (Newport Beach card)
Epp Bros., Long Beach 1/17/72 · 64/385 & 56/23	full name 12.2 · surname 5.9	If typed without middle initial, Long Beach resident **John Nowell** (JOHN NOWELL = 11, NOWELL = 6) plus **Booth** and **Parry** fit	Nowell if no MI (possible)
Santa Ana #1 (Cherry Rivet) & Santa Ana #2 (HS pool) 2/16/72 · 56/190/23591	SA #1 surname 6.3 · SA #2 surname 6.5, 6.9	Single-box surname fits for **Nowell** (6), **Sanell** (6), **Douglas** (7); SA #2 was a "very muscular young man" (>200 lb), ruling out the 50–55 list men	Unlikely (single-box only)

REDACTED INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	BOXES MEASURED (CHARS)	NAMES FROM THE 8 THAT FIT	ASSESSMENT
East Rockaway NY caterer 1/24/72 · 20/212/6169	surname 7.9 (full name 15.0)	New York resident (Card 13 or 14); none of the 8 named men lived in NY	NY cardholder (not on 8 list)
BNDD; Save-On; Sunland; Glendale; Redlands 56/20, 22, 23; 64/383–385	Glendale full 20.0, surname 9.1; Redlands full 13.1, surname 7.8, 6.1	No consistent multi-box fit among the remaining unredacted names	None of the 8 fit

Hawthorne / Big Bear interviewee elimination memo (1/19/72) — Three redaction boxes & physical description

Part 64 p.386 · Bates 26836



Re Los Angeles airtel to New York, 12/22/71

On 1/19/72, [redacted] was interviewed by SA [redacted] at [redacted], Hawthorne, [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] is divorced and does not reside at [redacted] He currently resides in Big Bear but comes to Los Angeles and stays locally with his sister at [redacted] telephone [redacted] He also stays with a girlfriend at the above [redacted] address. [redacted] spent Thanksgiving with his sister and was with his girlfriend and her daughter on 11/24/71. He is described as being born [redacted], 180 pounds, Stocky build, thick reddish-brown hair, wears glasses, round face, light complexion.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan DB Cooper-2683

Note that the physical description ("180 pounds, Stocky build, thick reddish-brown hair, wears glasses, round face, light complexion") belongs to the redacted Hawthorne interviewee; linking this memo to Jack D. Douglas is a suggested possibility based on box widths, not a confirmed fact.

VERDICT ON THE REDACTION-WIDTH FITS

Redaction-width analysis is strongest when independent evidence backs it, as with **Lyle Cameron** and the **Blackmore** control. For the other seven men it gives possibilities only. The best one—**Jack D. Douglas** as the **Hawthorne / Big Bear interviewee** on 64/386—rests on three matching boxes, a divorce and neighboring Gardena/Hawthorne, but it isn't established, and that interviewee's stocky 180-lb build and reddish-brown hair shouldn't be read back onto Douglas (his 1941 draft card says brown hair, 125 lb). The address check cuts the other way: it makes McCollom, Nowell and Douglas unlikely as the Laguna Beach man, and McCollom unlikely as any of the 15.

SECTION 9

Where the evidence went, and what specific documents remain unreleased

Thirteen of the 15 leads are documented as closed, but the Los Gatos lead and the JPL man's Utah alibi check have no return in the public release, the 1972 interview memos are heavily redacted, and the underlying card and flight-log photographs were preserved as bulky evidence for decades.

1. The chain of custody in the FBI files

DATE	WHAT THE FBI CUSTODY RECORD SHOWS	CITE
2/4/72	Form **FD-192 (Bulky Exhibit Inventory)** registers **LA 164-497-1B1** in the Los Angeles office's bulky evidence room: "433 *photographs of registration cards bearing name, address, and description data of persons who registered to parachute at Elsinore since* 1969" and "55 *photographs representing flight records for the month of August* 1971". Signed semi-annual retention certifications on the form run continuously through **1/28/83**.	53/338/22174
12/13/91	Los Angeles forwards Don Allen McCary's original 8½×10 Skylark Field photograph and five-page jump logbook to Seattle, where they are registered as **Seattle Enclosure 1A(827)**.	106/148/48444; 89/23–31/39410–18
7/23/02	Los Angeles ships its entire 164-497 file series to Seattle for consolidation into **SE 164A-81-G**, including 14 main volumes, enclosures 1A1–1A72, and "*one (1) volume of file* 164-497 *Sub* A, *containing investigation at the Elsinore Paricenter*". LA's Evidence Control Center is instructed to search for the **1B and 1C** bulky items; no reply appears in the Vault release.	52/34–36/21635–37; 66/89/27845

2. Exact FBI documents and physical exhibits that can be requested via FOIA

Rather than a generic request for "Elsinore files," the record identifies **six specific groups of unreleased or redacted FBI documents and physical exhibits**, each answering a distinct open question:

TARGET DOCUMENT / EXHIBIT	FILE & VAULT CITE	WHAT THE DOCUMENT ACTUALLY IS	WHAT QUESTION IT ANSWERS
1. Missing "Los Gatos, CA" Return Serial Omitted Paper Serial	LA 164-497 Sub A / SE 164A-81-G (lead set out at 64/405/26855)	The **San Francisco Division's return airtel and FD-302 interview report** investigating the 15th unidentified Elsinore registration card—a jumper living in **Los Gatos, CA**, assigned on 12/22/71—which was left out of the public Vault PDFs.	Shows whether the 15th and final August manifest cardholder was interviewed and eliminated like the other 14, or remained unresolved.
2. Salt Lake City / Provo Alibi Serial (JPL Lead) Omitted Paper Serial	LA 164-497 Sub A / SE 164A-81-G (lead set out at 56/21/23406)	The **Salt Lake City Division's return memo/FD-302** verifying the Thanksgiving 1971 Utah travel alibi of the **Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Pasadena** jumper interviewed on 1/13/72.	Shows whether the JPL man's Utah alibi was ever confirmed—the only Metro LA lead without a documented close.
3. Bulky Exhibit 1B1 & 2002 ECC Inventory 488 Photographs	LA 164-497-1B1 (53/338/22174; 52/34–36/21635–37)	The physical packet of **433 35mm photographs of post-1969 Elsinore registration cards** and **55 photographs of the August 1971 flight manifests**, plus the 2002 LA Evidence Control Center reply/disposition log showing whether 1B1 was shipped to Seattle or destroyed after 1983.	Recovers the original uncropped card photos and August flight logs—the single most important primary evidence in the Elsinore investigation.
4. Unredacted Pages & Files for the 4 Deceased List Men Privacy Waiver Re-review	64/383–386, 396–403; 56/20–23, 190–191 (plus main/xref files)	Reprocessing of the blacked-out name and address boxes on the **15 registration cards** and the **14 elimination interview memos** (plus any indexed FBI files) using proof of death for **Gerald E. Booth** (d. 2009), **Jack D. Douglas** (d. 1994), **John L. Nowell Jr.** (d. 1992), and **Albert Sanell** (d. 1981).	Settles whether **Jack D. Douglas** is actually the Hawthorne/Big Bear interviewee on 64/386, and whether Nowell, Booth, or Sanell appear in any 1972 interview memo.

TARGET DOCUMENT / EXHIBIT	FILE & VAULT CITE	WHAT THE DOCUMENT ACTUALLY IS	WHAT QUESTION IT ANSWERS
5. Lyle Cameron's Norjak Serials FOIPA #1358876-000 Follow-up	LA 164-497 Sub A (Cameron FOIA p.3)	Unredacted copies of Cameron's 1971–72 Norjak interviews and any Cooper serials indexed to him, which his 2018 release left unprocessed (64/333–335, 389–395, 404–406; 24/383).	Removes the (b)(7)(D) redactions on Cameron's Cooper interviews (he died in 1993).
6. Don McCary Photo & Logbook (1A(827)) Photo & Log Enclosure	Seattle 1A(827) (106/148/48444; 89/23–31/39410–18)	High-resolution scan of Don Allen McCary's **original 8½×10 Skylark Field print** (89/24/39411, instead of the dark third-generation photocopy) and the unredacted **"Pilot's Signature & License No." column** on his 5-page jump log (89/27–31).	Identifies the jump pilot seated to McCary's right in the airplane doorway with his booted foot sticking out.

SECTION 10

Later tips that point back to Elsinore

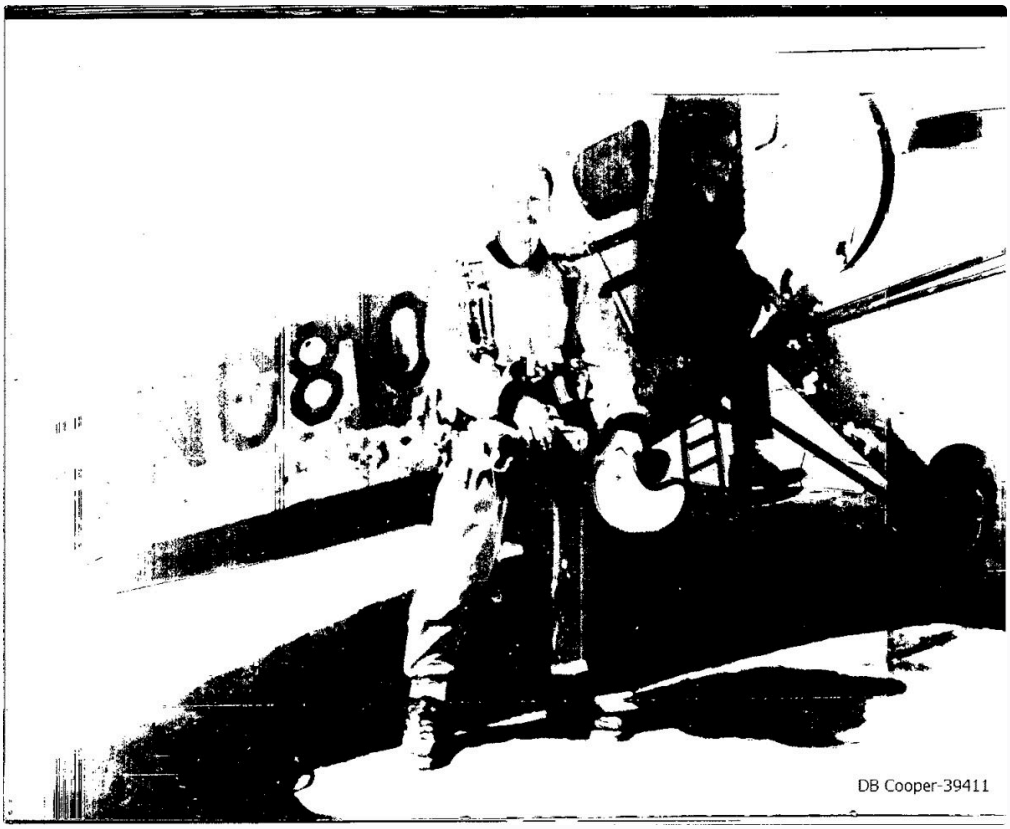
Don Allen McCary, 1991: "the pilot is Cooper"

On 11/29/91, during the 20th-anniversary coverage, Don Allen McCary walked into the Riverside RA. A deaf skydiver from Riverside (born 10/5/41, 5′7″, 135 lb), he brought a photo of himself in jump gear at Skylark Field and stated "the pilot was identical to D. B. Cooper", noting the pilot's signature and licence number were in his log. **We assume the man McCary is referring to is the man seated to McCary's right (viewer's left) inside the aircraft doorway with his booted foot sticking out.** LA forwarded the photo and log to Seattle as **1A(827)** (106/148/48444; 89/23–31/39410–18).

What McCary's log shows (89/27–31):

- Jumps 31–50, the span McCary gave for the photo, run from 10/3/70 to 9/17/72.
- His last Elsinore jumps before the hijacking were on **7/17/71**, from a Howard and a Cessna; he logged **no jumps in August 1971** (his next entry is "11/?/71" at Perris Valley).
- The aircraft tail number in the photo ends in "...810", which does not match current FAA registry entries for Larry L. Perkins or Skylark Aviation.

Don Allen McCary (standing, right) at Skylark Field (10/70–9/72) Part 89 p.24 · Bates 39411



We assume the man McCary identified as "identical to D.B. Cooper" is the dark-haired man seated to McCary's right (viewer's left) inside the plane doorway with his booted foot sticking out.

Five other Elsinore threads in the files

- **December 1971, Latin Sky Diving Club (54/343/22810; 53/449–450/22308–09; 98/275/44343):** A Los Angeles teletype and report note a local club of 10–20 East LA skydivers who jumped at Perris and Elsinore; the named subject was eliminated after an LAPD/NCIC check and composite comparison.
- **August 1972, Burbank informant tip on an ex-Marine jumper (59/474/24644):** On 8/10/72, a confidential Burbank informant reported a former U.S. Marine who had "jumped many times at Elsinore, California" as a civilian and suggested a name connection to "D.B. Cooper".

- **January 1973, Hollywood interview (30/231–232/10880–81; 60/266):** A former charter member of the Seattle Parachute Club recalled a skydiver who jumped at Elsinore in the early 1960s, but discounted him as under 30 and 6′3″.
- **September 1973, Skylark Air Field photo check (33/305–306/12437–38):** On 9/12/73, an FBI agent showed a suspect's photo to an operator at Skylark Air Field, Croydon Road, Elsinore, who recognized the man as an occasional novice jumper who had made one or two jumps at Elsinore.
- **1986, Dallas police officer tip (48/69/19887):** Reported meeting a possible Cooper at an Elsinore parachute school in 1966–67, but described a man 5′6″–5′7″ and 140–160 lb with blondish receding hair—far smaller than the hijacker.

> **In short.** None of the later Elsinore tips corroborates the August 1971 stranger: Don McCary's 1991 tip points to a Skylark Field *jump pilot* (whom we assume is the man seated to McCary's right in the plane doorway with his foot sticking out) rather than an August 1971 visiting jumper, and McCary's logbook confirms he made no jumps at Elsinore in August 1971. Similarly, the 1971–1986 secondary tips involve men whose ages, heights, or backgrounds were quickly ruled out.

SECTION 11

Assessment: premonition or booo-sheet?

Was the Elsinore stranger D.B. Cooper? Here is the case each way, updated with the newly uncovered file records.

FOR: THE STRANGER COULD BE COOPER

- **The questions match the exact method.** Three months before Flight 305, he asked how to jump from a jet and was told the answer was a **rear stairwell** plus **full flaps and lowered landing gear** for drag—the exact configuration flown on 11/24/71.
- **The 10,000-foot figure.** Cameron noted on 12/16/71 (64/404) that 10,000 ft—the maximum safe altitude without oxygen in AFP 160-10-3 (*"Your Body in Flight"*)—is "reminiscent of Air Force training", not a standard Elsinore sport altitude, and that a man with Air Force experience might fit.
- **He asked about jump centers around Seattle and Portland** (64/333), and Cameron told him of one just north of Portland on the Washington side of the Columbia —the general area where the hijacker is believed to have jumped.
- **The Raleigh cigarettes link.** Cameron reported on 12/3/71 that the stranger saved **Raleigh cigarette coupons** to trade for jump tickets (64/393/26843), matching Cooper's heavy smoking of Raleigh filter-tips on Flight 305.
- **A novice checking things out fits.** Many investigators—and the Laguna Beach jumper the FBI interviewed (56/191/23592)—thought Cooper a novice or rusty ex-military jumper, the kind of man who might visit a busy commercial center to ask how a jet exit works.
- **The witness is a premier authority.** Lyle Cameron was a former LAPD officer (1955–62), a vetted FBI security informant (1968), and a USPA National Director with no known motive to invent the story.
- **Physical & gear overlap:** ~6′ in military Cochrane jump boots, ~170 lb, dark receding hair parted left, aged ~40–42, and never identified.

AGAINST: THE LEAD DOESN'T HOLD UP

- **The idea may have come later.** On November 12, 1971—twelve days before Flight 305—Paul Joseph Cini hijacked Air Canada Flight 812 (a DC-8) after it left Calgary, had it diverted to Great Falls, Montana, demanded $1.5 million, and planned to parachute out. *If* Cooper took the idea from Cini, an August conversation came too early. This is a possibility, not evidence: nothing in the files ties Cooper to Cini.
- **Thirteen of the 15 leads are documented as closed.** Unless the stranger was the Los Gatos man (64/405) or the JPL man (56/21), he either never filled out a post-1969 card under his true details, or wasn't among the 31 August surname matches.
- **Post-publicity contamination on the Raleigh coupons.** Cameron recalled the Raleigh coupons only after studying the Bureau's flyer (64/393), and the Louisville Raleigh Premium Center confirmed no one had inquired about parachute redemptions (56/189).
- **An innocent trigger is documented and verified:** the 8/24/71 *Look* magazine U.S. Army Airborne ad (pp. 46–47, *"When you jump, it's just you."*, showing a jump from a C-141 jet, 64/394), which Cameron raised himself.
- **Complexion and build conflict:** Cameron's "light" complexion and "slim" build clash with the crew's "olive, Latin appearance" and "average to well built".
- **Rear stairs and drag came from Cameron, not the stranger.** The conversation shows curiosity, not 727 knowledge, and the *Look* ad shows a jet jump was in the public eye that summer.

OVERALL VERDICT: PREMONITION OR BOOO-SHEET?

The Elsinore conversation is **not "booo-sheet"**: it comes from an experienced, FBI-vetted skydiving figure (**Lyle Hazen Cameron**) with no known motive to invent it, who described a stranger in military Cochrane boots asking how to get out of a jet and where the Seattle and Portland jump centers were, three months before Flight 305. But it is one man's memory, sharpened after the publicity, and the questions also fit an ordinary jumper who had just seen the *Look* ad. The FBI ran down 14 of the 15 card leads and documents 13 eliminations, and Cameron didn't recognize the photographs he was shown. That leaves three possibilities: the stranger was the **Los Gatos** lead (64/405) or the **JPL man** whose Utah alibi check never came back (56/21); his visit never produced a matching post-1969 card and August surname; or he was an innocent jumper. FOIA requests for the San Francisco and Salt Lake City returns and the 433 card photos (LA 164-497-1B1) are the next step.

Section 12 · Open questions

1. **What happened to the Los Gatos lead (San Francisco, 64/405/26855) and the JPL man's Utah alibi check (Salt Lake City, 56/21/23406)?** Were returns filed in LA 164-497 Sub A or SE 164-81 and left out of the Vault release?
2. **Do the 433 card photographs and 55 flight-log photographs (LA 164-497-1B1, 53/338/22174) still survive?** How did LA's Evidence Control Center answer Seattle's 7/23/02 consolidation request (52/34–36/21635–37)?
3. **Do FOIA releases on the four confirmed deceased list men (Booth, Douglas, Nowell, Sanell) match any of the redacted 1972 interviews?** Specifically, was Jack D. Douglas actually the Hawthorne/Big Bear interviewee (64/386), or another name on the 12/10/71 list?
4. **Who is the jump pilot in Don McCary's Skylark Field photo ("...810", 89/24/39411)**, seated to McCary's right in the doorway with his foot sticking out, and is the 4/11/1975 Grover City funeral notice for Fred Chambers our listed jumper?

APPENDIX A

The eight named men: profiles

One page per man, in the list's alphabetical order. Sources are the FBI list (64/371–382), WWII draft registration cards, the 1940 and 1950 censuses, California death indexes, FAA personnel files, and outside archival research. Photos are credited inline; Ancestry user-tree photos require the tree owner's permission before public posting. **None of these men is accused of anything:** they are eight unredacted entries from a ~125-name list, and apart from Guy M. Blackmore none is tied to the 15 leads (see the caveat in §7).

#	NAME	PHOTO / DRAFT CARD FOUND	DEATH ESTABLISHED	FBI OUTCOME / REDACTION POSSIBILITY
A1	Guy M. Blackmore	No	No (alive 1983; prob. d. by 2015)	**Confirmed eliminated 1/14/72** (64/385/26835; control case)
A2	Gerald E. Booth	Photos (c.1941, c.1960, 1986) + draft card	**1/7/2009**	No named follow-up (weak 5-char box fit)
A3	Fred G. Chambers	No	Unconfirmed (4/11/1975?)	No named follow-up (possible JPL box fit)
A4	Jack D. Douglas	Yearbook photo + draft card back	**6/24/1994** (San Diego Co., CA)	No named follow-up (**possible Hawthorne/Big Bear fit**, 64/386)
A5	Berkeley M. McCollom	Draft card back	No	No named follow-up (box fits only; Newport Beach card address argues against)
A6	John L. Nowell Jr.	Draft card back	**10/21/1992** (Orange Co., CA)	No named follow-up (possible Epp Bros. fit if typed without middle initial)
A7	David F. Parry	No	No	No named follow-up (fits Epp Bros. only w/o MI)
A8	Albert Sanell	*FAA Horizons* (1964, 1965, 1967), pin + draft card	**Sept/Oct 1981** (San Bernardino Co.)	No named follow-up (borderline JPL & 6-char boxes)

> **In short.** Four of the eight unredacted men have confirmed death records (**Gerald E. Booth**, d. 2009; **Jack D. Douglas**, d. 1994; **John L. Nowell Jr.**, d. 1992; and **Albert Sanell**, d. 1981), making any indexed FBI files on them immediately eligible for FOIA release. Traits from the anonymous 1972 elimination interviews (such as the Hawthorne interviewee's reddish-brown hair on 64/386) aren't facts about these men unless FOIA confirms the match.

APPENDIX A1

No photograph found.
Leads: Lusk Herald; LA hotel trade directories

Guy M. Blackmore

Confirmed Eliminated by the FBI, 1/14/72

ON THE LIST	"GUY M. BLACKMORE, 9712 Aviation Blvd., Los Angeles 90009, DOB 1/16/16" (64/372/26822)
BORN	10/1/1916, Lusk, Wyoming (per FBI interview; the list's DOB conflicts). One of nine sons of William S. and Lela May (Sparks) Blackmore.
FAMILY	Son Michael Floyd, born 7/9/1952 in Lusk; mother the former Paddy McLain. He was 19 in January 1972, matching the interview's "son currently attending college".
RESIDENCE	Eugene, OR / Hollywood, CA (1955); Los Angeles (1968, 1976, 1983), per siblings' obituaries
WORK	Hotel management; works nights
DIED	Not found. Alive in 1983; probably deceased by 2015 **[inference from brother's obituary]**
AGE 11/71	55

FBI handling

The FBI interviewed him on 1/14/72 under the 12/22/71 Elsinore leads. That makes him the one man on the 12/10/71 list provably among the 9 Metro LA leads from the 15 cards. The interview notes "thick salt and pepper colored hair", "hotel management business, works nights and spends the day at the beach", and a son at college. His whereabouts on Thanksgiving Eve were verified, and he does not smoke (64/385/26835; the duplicate copy at 56/23/23408 redacts his name).

COOPER FIT: GUY M. BLACKMORE

Eliminated. He was ten years older than the stranger, had thick salt-and-pepper hair, had a verified Thanksgiving Eve alibi, and did not smoke. His primary importance to this investigation is as the confirmed **control case** validating the redaction-fit method (§8).

Outside sources: Niobrara County Library obituary and birth index (Lusk, WY), obituary ids 478, 4306, 475, 470, 480, 473, 7634; birth id 398.

APPENDIX A2



c.1941, Wake Island (*Blue Book*, p.33).



c.1960 graduation.

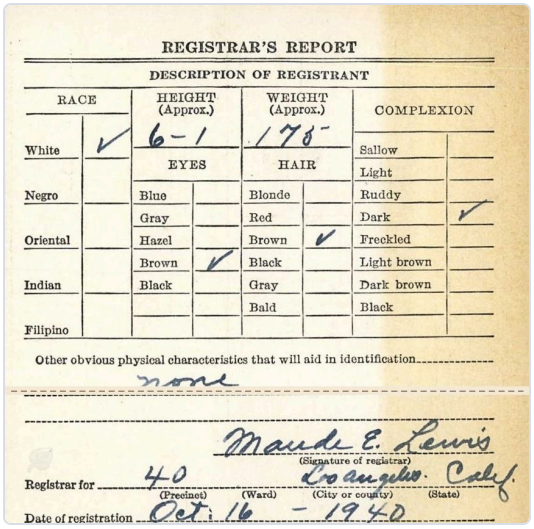


1986 photo.

Gerald Edwin Booth

No named FBI follow-up found

ON THE LIST	"GERALD E. BOOTH, 2275 W. Carson St., Torrance 90501, DOB 7/2/18" (64/372/26822)
BORN	7/2/1918, Missoula, Montana. The draft card's DOB matches the list exactly.
DRAFT CARD	10/16/1940, LA Local Board 256. White, **6′1″, 175 lb, brown eyes, brown hair, dark complexion**. Employer: Standard Oil station, Wilmington. Annotated "To Pac. Naval Air Bases, Wake Is. … 4/9/41".
WAR	Civilian contractor (CPNAB) on Wake Island, captured December 1941. Held at **Tokyo #5-B, Niigata** (Mansell roster), which received about 150 Wake civilians from Shanghai in July 1944 and was liberated in September 1945.
1940 / 1950	1940: Los Angeles, single, service-station operator. 1950: San Diego, wife Marion, automobile salesman.
LATER	Graduation photo c.1960 (degree unknown). Torrance in 1971.
DIED	**1/7/2009** (Gilbert Wake CPNAB roster)
AGE 11/71	53



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White	✓	6-1	178	Sallow	
		EYES	HAIR	Light	
Negro		Blue	Blonde	Ruddy	
		Gray	Red	Dark	✓
Oriental		Hazel	Brown ✓	Freckled	
		Brown ✓	Black	Light brown	
Indian		Black	Gray	Dark brown	
			Bald	Black	
Filipino					

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification: none

Maude E. Lewis (Signature of registrar)

Registrar for 40 (Precinct) (Ward) Los Angeles (City or county) Calif. (State)

Date of registration Oct 16 - 1940

1940 WWII draft card (back, cropped): **6′1″, 175 lb, brown eyes, brown hair, dark complexion**.

COOPER FIT: GERALD EDWIN BOOTH

Low. On paper his 1940 draft-card description is the closest of the eight to the Flight 305 crew's: **6′1″, 175 lb, brown eyes, brown hair, dark complexion**. However, he was 53 in November 1971 (against "mid-forties" and Cameron's 40–42), and nothing in the released files connects him to parachuting beyond the 12/10/71 registration list. Because his death is confirmed (1/7/2009), any indexed FBI reference to him is eligible for FOIA release.

Sources: WWII draft registration card and 1940/1950 federal censuses (Ancestry); Bonita Gilbert, Wake CPNAB civilian roster rev17 and *Blue Book* PDF (bonitagilbert.com); Roger Mansell, Tokyo 5-B Niigata camp roster (mansell.com).

APPENDIX A3

No photograph found.
Draft card not yet located

Fred G. Chambers

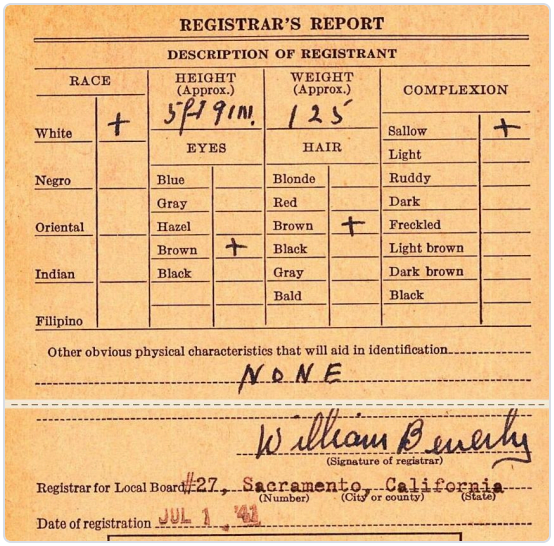
No named follow-up · Possible JPL box fit? (§8)

ON THE LIST	"FRED G. CHAMBERS, 1423 Marinette Rd., Pacific Palisades 90272, DOB 9/25/17" (64/372/26822)
1950 CENSUS	Fred Chambers, 32, born about 1918 in Missouri; 3315 Canby Ave., Los Angeles; **aircraft assembly, aircraft factory**; wife Ester; sons Brice and Keith. identity probable, not proven
DIED	Possibly a 4/11/1975 notice: funeral pending at Sunset Chapel, Grover City (now Grover Beach) for "Mr. Fred Chambers, North Hollywood", who died in Los Angeles. It gives no age or family, so it remains **unconfirmed**.
AGE 11/71	54

COOPER FIT: FRED G. CHAMBERS

Insufficient data (Low). Physical appearance unknown; he was 54 in November 1971 and worked in aircraft assembly in 1950. While his name forms (FRED CHAMBERS = 13, CHAMBERS = 8) are a possible character-width fit for the JPL Pasadena man (56/21/23406, 13.7 / 7.1), that is a possibility only. (They also fit two boxes for the Laguna Beach jumper, but that lead was a Laguna Beach resident and Chambers's card says Pacific Palisades.) Still needed: California Death Index check by DOB 9/25/1917 and his WWII draft card.

APPENDIX A4



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)		WEIGHT (Approx.)		COMPLEXION	
White	+	5 ft 9 in.		125		Sallow	+
Negro		EYES		HAIR		Light	
Oriental		Blue		Blonde		Ruddy	
Indian		Gray		Red		Dark	
Filipino		Hazel		Brown	+	Freckled	
		Brown	+	Black		Light brown	
		Black		Gray		Dark brown	
				Bald		Black	

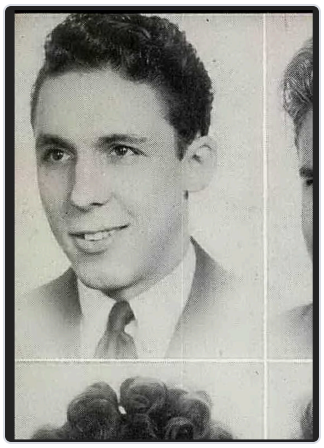
Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification: NONE

William Beverly
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board #27, Sacramento, California
(Number) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration JUL 1 '41

1941 WWII draft card (back, cropped): **5′9″, 125 lb, brown eyes, brown hair, sallow complexion**.



Yearbook photo, school/year unknown (Ancestry user artspirits21).

Jack D. Douglas

born John David (Jack D.) Swacina

No named follow-up · Possible Hawthorne/Big Bear fit? (§8)

ON THE LIST	"JACK D. DOUGLAS, 13023 Cimmaron Ave., Gardena 90249, DOB 12/2?/19" (the day is overtyped) (64/373/26823)
BORN	12/2/1919. The draft card says Sacramento; the family tree says Alameda. Parents John Jacob Swacina and Lillie Cole. Name changed legally to Douglas in 1943 (per family tree).
CONFIRMED 1941 DRAFT CARD	7/1/1941, Sacramento Local Board 27: "Jack D Swacina", student; **5′9″, 125 lb, brown eyes, brown hair, sallow complexion**. Later address: Gayley Ave., West Los Angeles, near UCLA.
1950 CENSUS	San Francisco, **Internal Revenue agent**
FAMILY	Wife Catherine Jean, who later took the surname Carter, implying divorce. Son Michael Edward (1947–2003).
DIED	**6/24/1994**, San Diego County (CA Death Index)
AGE 11/71	51

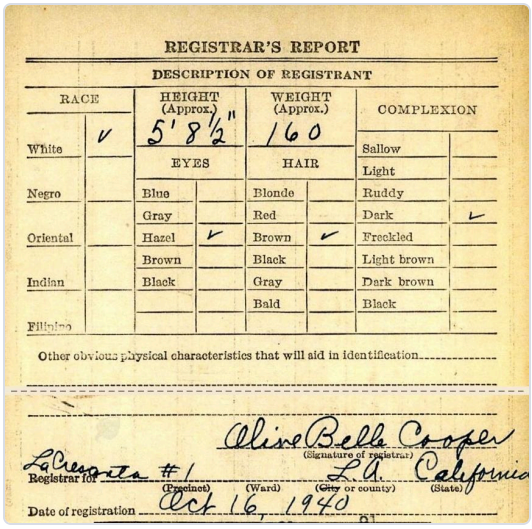
Why the link to the Hawthorne / Big Bear interviewee (64/386) is a suggested possibility—not final

On 1/19/72, SA Romanoff interviewed an unnamed jumper at Hawthorne (64/386/26836) who "is divorced and does not reside at" his listed address, had moved to Big Bear, spent Thanksgiving with his sister and 11/24/71 with his girlfriend, and is described in that memo as **about 180 lb and stocky, with thick reddish-brown hair, glasses, a round face, and a light complexion**. Among the eight unredacted names on the 12/10/71 list, Douglas is the only one whose full name (15 vs. 14.9), surname (7 vs. 8.0), and former address ("13023 Cimmaron Ave." = 19 vs. 19.8) fit all three boxes on 64/386, and Gardena directly borders Hawthorne **[inference]**. However, other names on the list could fit the same boxes (§7), so another divorced jumper from the Hawthorne area could occupy those boxes—so **the 64/386 interviewee's reddish-brown hair and stocky build must not be attributed to Douglas as an established fact**.

COOPER FIT: JACK D. DOUGLAS

Low either way. Based strictly on his confirmed records, Douglas was 51 years old in November 1971 and stood **5′9″** (1941 draft card: brown hair, brown eyes, sallow complexion), placing him a decade older than Cameron's estimate of 40–42 and at the bottom of the FBI's height band. And *if* he is the Hawthorne/Big Bear interviewee on 64/386 (a suggested possibility testable via FOIA since he died in 1994), then he had thick reddish-brown hair, glasses, a stocky 180-lb build, and an alibi for Thanksgiving Eve (with his girlfriend).

APPENDIX A5



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)		WEIGHT (Approx.)		COMPLEXION	
White	✓	5' 8½"		160		Sallow	
		EYES		HAIR		Light	
Negro		Blue		Blonde		Ruddy	
		Gray		Red		Dark	✓
Oriental		Hazel	✓	Brown	✓	Freckled	
		Brown		Black		Light brown	
Indian		Black		Gray		Dark brown	
				Bald		Black	
Filipino							

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification

Aline Belle Cooper
(Signature of registrar)

La Crescenta #1 (Precinct) (Ward) L.A. (City or county) California (State)

Registrar for

Date of registration Oct 16, 1940

1940 WWII draft card (back): 5′8½″, 160 lb, hazel eyes, brown hair, dark complexion.

Berkeley Malcolm McCollom

No named follow-up · Box fits only (§8)

ON THE LIST	"BERK MC COLLON, 3510 Marcus Ave, Newport Beach 92660, DOB 4/12/18" (64/376/26826). Both the surname and the DOB are mistyped.
BORN	4/18/1918, Pomona, California (draft card)
DRAFT CARD	10/16/1940, Local Board 181, La Crescenta. Wife Lana Fern; employer Litchfield Lumber Co., Glendale. **5′8½″, 160 lb, hazel eyes, brown hair, dark complexion**.
1950 CENSUS	4937 Angeles Crest, Burbank; **carpenter**, building industry; WWII veteran; wife Fern; children Suzanne and Jack
DIED	Not found
AGE 11/71	53

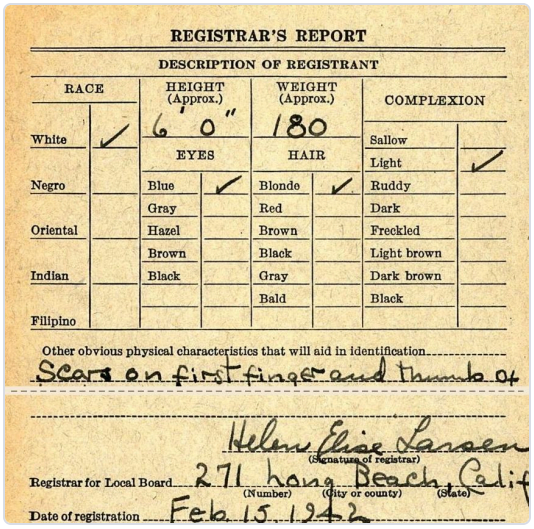
Redaction-fit possibilities (§8)

BERK MC COLLON (14) and McCOLLON (8) fit three of the four boxes for the Laguna Beach/Anaheim jumper (56/190–191/23591–92) and both boxes for the JPL Pasadena man (56/21/23406). His card address argues against both: the Laguna lead was a Laguna Beach resident, and a Newport Beach card would have gone to the Santa Ana RA, whose three Orange County leads were Santa Ana (2) and Laguna Beach (1) (64/405; 56/190) **[inference]**. He was probably not among the 15.

COOPER FIT: BERKELEY MALCOLM MCCOLLOM

Low. At **5′8½″** on his draft card and age 53 in November 1971, McCollom sat at the very bottom of the FBI's height screening band and well below both the Flight 305 crew's 5′10″–6′0″ and Cameron's 6′0″–6′1″ in boots.

APPENDIX A6



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)		WEIGHT (Approx.)		COMPLEXION	
White	✓	6' 0"		180		Sallow	
		EYES		HAIR		Light	✓
Negro		Blue	✓	Blonde	✓	Ruddy	
		Gray		Red		Dark	
Oriental		Hazel		Brown		Freckled	
		Brown		Black		Light brown	
Indian		Black		Gray		Dark brown	
				Bald		Black	
Filipino							

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification: Scars on first finger and thumb of

Helen Elise Larsen
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board: 271 (Number) Long Beach (City or county) Calif (State)

Date of registration: Feb. 15 1942

1942 WWII draft card (back): 6′0″, 180 lb, blue eyes, blonde hair, light complexion; scars on left index finger and thumb. (Note: a 1965 Orlando clipping is a different John L. Nowell Jr., b. c.1931.)

John Loftin Nowell Jr.

Deceased 10/21/1992 · Possible Epp Bros. (Long Beach) fit?

ON THE LIST	"JOHN L. NOWELL, 6432 Los Arcos St., Long Beach 90815, DOB 2/13/21". He is **listed twice**, having filled out two cards (64/377/26827).
BORN	2/13/1921, Richmond, Virginia (draft card; exact match)
DRAFT CARD	2/15/1942, Long Beach Board 271; employer **Douglas Aircraft, Long Beach**. **6′0″, 180 lb, blue eyes, blonde hair, light complexion**; scars on the first finger and thumb of the left hand. Later address in Oklahoma City.
1950 CENSUS	Santa Monica; separated; **aviation engineer**, aircraft manufacturing
DIED	**10/21/1992, aged 71, Orange County, California** (CA Death Index; Find a Grave Memorial #262335566)
AGE 11/71	50

Redaction-fit possibilities (§8)

Nowell is the only Long Beach resident among the eight unredacted names. If typed without a middle initial (JOHN NOWELL = 11, NOWELL = 6), his name fits the boxes for the Epp Brothers employee interviewed at work in Long Beach (64/385; 56/23)—a possibility only (§7). His names also fit three of four boxes for the Laguna Beach jumper (56/190–191), but that lead was a Laguna Beach resident and Nowell's card says Long Beach.

COOPER FIT: JOHN LOFTIN NOWELL JR.

Low. Although his height (6′0″), weight (180 lb), age (50, the youngest of the eight), and career as a Douglas Aircraft aviation engineer are superficially intriguing, his **blonde hair, blue eyes, and light complexion** clash directly with both the Flight 305 crew's and Cameron's dark-haired descriptions. His confirmed 1992 death makes any FBI file on him immediately releasable under FOIA.

APPENDIX A7

No photograph found.
Lead: PR trade directories; LA Times archive

David F. Parry

No named FBI follow-up found

ON THE LIST	"DAVID F. PARRY, 5657 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036, DOB 9/12/16" (64/377/26827). 5657 Wilshire is a Miracle Mile commercial address, likely his office.
1950 CENSUS	33, born about 1917 in New York; 387 Kenter Ave., Brentwood; **public relations**, PR firm; wife Edith N.; children Lynn, David M. and Richard G.
DIED	Not found
AGE 11/71	55

COOPER FIT: DAVID F. PARRY

Low. Physical description unknown; tied with Blackmore as the oldest man on the unredacted list (55 in November 1971), he was a Los Angeles public relations executive on Miracle Mile. While "5657 Wilshire Blvd." (19 chars) matches the length of the Hawthorne man's 19.8-char former-address box, DAVID F. PARRY (14 / 5) does not match the Hawthorne man's 8.0-char surname box. Still needed: WWII draft card and death record.

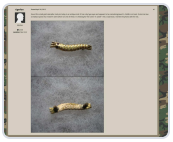
APPENDIX A8



FAA Horizons, 9/64, p.16 ("Pedal Pushers").



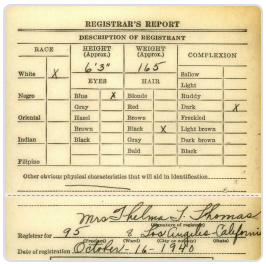
FAA Horizons, 1/65, p.25 ("Wing Man").



Caterpillar Club pin ("A. SANELL", auction find).



FAA Horizons, 5/67, p.18: Sanell on his 10-speed "Gitane" bicycle leaving FAA HQ.



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)		WEIGHT (Approx.)		COMPLEXION	
White	X	6'3"		165		Sallow	
		EYES		HAIR		Light	
Negro		Blue	X	Blonde		Ruddy	
		Gray		Red		Dark	X
Oriental		Hazel		Brown		Freckled	
		Brown		Black	X	Light brown	
Indian		Black		Gray		Dark brown	
				Bald		Black	
Filipino							

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.....

Mrs Thelma T. Thomas
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for 95 (Precinct) 8 (Ward) Los Angeles (City or county) California (State)

Date of registration October 16 1940

1940 WWII draft card (back, cropped): **6'3", 165 lb, blue eyes, black hair, dark**.

Albert Sanell

No named FBI follow-up found

ON THE LIST	"ALBERT SANELL, 9220 Bel Air Ave., Montclair, DOB 3/15/19" (64/379/26829)
BORN	3/15/1919, Kansas City, MO. Confirmed by his WWII draft card, FAA SF-50s and the Social Security Death Master File.
DRAFT CARD	10/16/1940, LA: employer North American Aviation. **6'3", 165 lb, blue eyes, black hair, dark complexion**.
PARACHUTING & THE CATERPILLAR CLUB	**First jump in 1936** at the National Air Races, Mines Field, under pioneer jumper Archie Atherton. **Caterpillar Club member:** Founded in 1922 by parachute manufacturer Leslie Irvin (Irving Air Chute Company), the Caterpillar Club is an honorary association of airmen who have successfully used a parachute to bail out of a disabled aircraft to save their lives—named after the silk-spinning caterpillar ("*Life depends on a silken thread*"). Sanell earned his gold caterpillar pin on **June 13, 1944**, when his U.S. Navy torpedo bomber was crippled by Japanese anti-aircraft flak over Saipan and he made an emergency bailout into the Pacific. His engraved pin ("A. SANELL") surfaced online in 2012 after a collector bought it at an antique mall/auction.
CAREER	• Soloed at age 12 (1931); North American Aviation mechanic, 1937–42. • US Navy aviation pilot and machinist's mate, 1942–48 (carriers *Ranger* and *Lexington*). • NACA Muroc/Edwards, 1948–51: crew on **D-558-2 Skyrocket drop flights** from a B-29. • Lockheed, crop-dusting and Convair through 1958. • CAA/FAA from 1958: Houston; Washington HQ (1964–67, where *FAA Horizons* profiled his 20-mile daily bicycle commute from Silver Spring on his 10-speed "Gitane" and his Touring Wheels cycle club); then **General Aviation maintenance inspector, duty station Ontario CA, from 5/5/1968** (Ontario GADO). • Moved with the office to Riverside on 2/11/1979. Retired 8/29/1980, GS-13.
DIED	**1981** (DMF says October 1981; FOIA response letter says 9/2/1981, San Bernardino Co., CA).
AGE 11/71	52

COOPER FIT: ALBERT SANELL

Low physical fit, high historical interest. Sanell had the deepest aviation and parachuting résumé on the list and in 1971 was the FAA maintenance inspector at the Ontario GADO that likely oversaw Elsinore and its certificated parachute loft **[inference]**. At **6'3"** with blue eyes and age 52, however, he was substantially taller and older than both the Flight 305 crew's description and Cameron's description of the Elsinore stranger.

Sources: National Personnel Records Center FAA Official Personnel Folder via FOIA (SF-50s, service summary, employment narrative); *FAA Horizons* (DOT ROSA P, Sept 1964 p.16 [dot/90569], Jan 1965 p.25 [dot/90573], May 1967 p.18 [dot/90601]); 1950 federal census; Social Security Death Master File; US Militaria Forum (2012 Caterpillar Club pin thread).

APPENDIX B

Citation table

FBI Vault, D.B. Cooper files. Part / PDF page / Bates "DB Cooper-NNNNN". All previously blank Bates stamps have been verified against the page images and neighboring serials. The main copy of every page listed is reproduced in full in the companion volume, *Elsinore Ghost — The FBI source pages*; the last column gives its page there.

DOCUMENT	PART	PAGE	BATES	COMPANION P.
Initial teletype on Elsinore registration card system & USPA Monterey	12	302–303	2481–82	6
Tip phoned to Santa Ana RA, 11/30/71	64	333	26776	9
Source described as 'authority in his field', reliable	64	334	26777	10
Card handling; 1,800 cards since May 1971 / 10,000 since 1957	64	332, 335	26775, 26778	8
Card review memo; ~25,000 cards back to 1957 (copy at 54/363/22830)	64	357	26806	26
Skydiver magazine, 15206 Raymond, Gardena offers to print sketch	64	363–364	26812–13	22
Two copies of ransom serial-number list furnished to Elsinore, 12/17/71	64 / 55	368 / 42	26818 / 23180	18
Employees shown sketch; 'criminal record' regular ruled out	64	369–370	26819–20	19
12/10/71 list memo of ~125 adult register cards (header; full list 371–382)	64	371	26821	61
List: Guy M. Blackmore, Gerald E. Booth, Fred G. Chambers	64	372	26822	62
List: Jack D. Douglas	64	373	26823	63
List: Berk Mc Collon [Berkeley M. McCollom]	64	376	26826	66
List: John L. Nowell (×2), David F. Parry	64	377	26827	67
List: Albert Sanell	64	379	26829	69
BNDD (La Verne), Save-On (Sherman Oaks) & Sunland bartender eliminations	64 / 56	383 / 20	26833 / 23405	31
Pacific Telephone (Glendale) elimination	64 / 56	384 / 22	26834 / 23407	32
Guy M. Blackmore, Redlands (Tri-Cities Concrete) & Long Beach (Epp Brothers Mfg.) eliminations	64 / 56	385 / 23	26835 / 23408	33
Hawthorne / Big Bear man elimination (possible Jack D. Douglas fit)	64	386	26836	34
JPL Pasadena man interview & Provo/Salt Lake City alibi lead	56	21	23406	36
Grand Island man's photos shown to source: negative, 1/28/72	64	387	26837	49
12/22/71 leads airtel cover page (copies at 17/281, 17/299, 55/95, 70/94)	64	388	26838	28
FD-302 of source (Lyle Cameron), 12/1/71	64	389–391	26839–41	12
Card review: ~12,000 reviewed → 433 photographed	64	392	26842	15
Raleigh coupons recalled after reading Bureau memo, 12/3/71	64	393	26843	16
Conversation narrowed to mid/late Aug 1971; 8/24/71 Look magazine ad	64	394	26844	17
August 1971 flight records: 31 matches → 23 → 15 remaining cards	64	395	26845	27
The 15 photographed Elsinore registration cards	64	396–403	26846–53	53
12/16/71 source analysis: 10,000-ft Air Force ceiling (AFP 160-10-3) & Class D night jumps	64 / 70	404 / 99	26854 / 29851	29
12/22/71 geographic assignment of all 15 card leads (NY, BU, SF, OC, LA)	64 / 70	404–405 / 99–100	26854–55 / 29851–52	29
Photos of two men shown to source 1/28/72 (memo 1/31/72): negative	64	406	26856	50
Grand Island / Tonawanda, NY jumper interview & Buffalo lead ('at Gardena')	55 / 18	138–139 / 346–348	23282–83 / 5678–80	41

East Rockaway, NY caterer FD-302 & RUC airtel, 1/24–26/72 (Card 13 or 14)	20	212–214	6169–71	46
Brown & Williamson (LA) & Raleigh Premium Center (Louisville, KY) coupon check, 3/7/72	56	189	23590	21
Three Orange County eliminations: Santa Ana #1 (Cherry Rivet), Santa Ana #2 (HS pool) & Laguna Beach/Anaheim business owner, 3/8/72	56	190–191	23591–92	39
Seattle summary & Bureau description ('16 eliminated… 15 reviewed')	19 / 70	79–80 / 78–79	5934–35 / 29804–05	51
Sky Diver dead-subscription file review by b7D source, 3/29/72	24	383	7785	25
USPA 1970 directory: Lyle Cameron, National Director, 15206 Raymond #21, Gardena	80 / 54	362 / 275	35261 / 22740	24
USPA 1970 directory: Skylark drop zone, ASO Larry L. Perkins; Ontario GADO; loft	54	278–279	22743–44	4
FD-192 bulky exhibit LA 164-497-1B1 (433 card photos + 55 flight-log photos)	53	338	22174	73
2002 LA → Seattle file transfer (14 vols, 1A1–1A72, Sub A vol; 1B/1C query)	52 / 66	34–36 / 89	21635–37 / 27845	74
Don Allen McCary airtel (12/13/91), photo & jump log (Seattle 1A(827))	106 / 89	148 / 23–31	48444 / 39410–18	77
Latin Sky Diving Club (Perris & Elsinore)	54 / 53 / 98	343 / 449 / 275	22810 / 22308 / 44343	87
1972 Burbank informant tip on ex-Marine jumper at Elsinore	59	474	24644	91
1973 Hollywood interview (former Seattle Parachute Club charter member)	30	231–232	10880–81	92
1973 Skylark Air Field, Croydon Rd., Elsinore photo display	33	305–306	12437–38	94
1986 Dallas police officer tip (Elsinore jump school, 1966–67)	48	69	19887	96