

AT LYNBROOK, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK - September 17, 18, 1948:

Inasmuch as it has been determined that Chambers' parents had resided at 228 Earle Avenue, Lynbrook, Long Island, New York, for a number of years and that his mother is presently residing at this address, the following investigation was conducted for the purpose of obtaining information concerning the background of Chambers and his family.

At the Municipal Building there is registered the death of JAY CHAMBERS, father of Subject, at the age of 53 years, on October 29, 1929. A certified copy of this certificate of death on file with the Division of Vital Statistics, New York State Department of Health, reflects that the information appearing thereon was provided by JAY CHAMBERS, JR. (the Subject), then residing at 228 Earle Avenue, Lynbrook, Long Island, and is as follows:

"The father of Subject, Jay Chambers, was born on October 17, 1876, in Philadelphia, Pa. He was married to LAHA WHITTAKER. His father's name was JAMES S. CHAMBERS and his mother's maiden name was MEDORA E. CARPENTER. It was indicated that the father of the Subject had resided in Lynbrook for 27 years. The immediate cause of his death was stated to be chronic hepatitis."

The following persons were interviewed in the neighborhood of 228 Earle Avenue, Lynbrook, the present address of Subject's mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Delong, residents at 217 Earle Avenue since 1930, advised that Mrs. Chambers, mother of Subject, was gracious and friendly in a formal manner, confining her acquaintance to a greeting or nod of recognition. Their own curiosity had prompted them on many occasions to inquire of others as to the Chambers' background and they were amazed to learn that no one seemed to have any particular information about the Chambers family. They added that the grandmother of Subject was "eccentric" while living at 228 Earle Avenue with her daughter; that she would appear on the streets during the summer with a fur coat bundled about her and carrying trinkets. Not having seen her for several years they inquired about the grandmother of Subject's mother, who advised them that she had no longer been able to attend her mother and had committed her to an institution.

Mr. and Mrs. Delong further advised that in the past several years they had extended several invitations to the mother

of Subject to come to their home for dinner but that she had repeatedly refused, stating that she retired early evenings. She did, however, promise Mr. and Mrs. DeLong that she would visit their home to inspect some art pieces but she never came. Mr. and Mrs. DeLong added that it was their understanding that there were only two sons in the Chambers family; namely, Richard, who had committed suicide, and the Subject. They could recall that about eight or ten years ago they saw Subject and his wife at Subject's mother's home but they stated they never became acquainted with them.

✓ Mrs. Meier, resident at 219 Earle Avenue for the past eight years, advised that she could provide no information concerning the Subject or his family. She added that she has seen the mother of Subject very rarely in recent months.

✓ Mrs. A. Jandrews, who has resided at 222 Earle Avenue, for the past ten years, and whose residence is adjacent to that of Subject's mother, stated that she had never become acquainted with the Chambers family. She added that she has seen the mother of Subject on several occasions during the past ten years and that their acquaintance was limited to an exchange of greetings. She added that the mother of the Subject tries, through the use of cosmetics, the wearing of a red-brown wig, and a style of dress, to appear younger than her actual age which she estimated to be in the early seventies. She could provide no further information concerning the Chambers family.

✓ A Mr. Whitcomb, who resides at 225 Earle Avenue, upon interview was found to be uncooperative and refused to divulge any information.

✓ Reverend Charles C. Kane, Methodist Minister residing at 244 Earle Avenue, advised that he was not particularly acquainted with the Subject's mother and knew very little of the Chambers family background. He stated that he had visited the Chambers home on one occasion and during the period of time his female assistant, whose name he would not furnish, had lived in the Chambers home as a roomer. This assistant has long since moved to California because of ill health and her present whereabouts are unknown to Reverend Kane. On the occasion of his visit to the Chambers home he noted that the interior of the home appeared to him to be a small museum cluttered with bric-a-brac, art pieces, antiques, etc. Rev. Kane professed that he would have enjoyed knowing Subject's mother as she appeared to be an interesting person to him but because of her attitude, while not unfriendly, it was impossible for him to cultivate a closer acquaintance.

✓ Mrs. O'Sullivan, a resident at 248 Earle Ave. since 1943, could furnish no information whatsoever and was surprised

to learn that the Subject and his family were the occupants of 228 Earle Avenue.

Mrs. Smith, a resident of 252 Earle Avenue since 1944, was not aware of her "notorious neighbor" until she read the newspaper accounts on Subject. She could provide no information.

*Alice
Smith*

Mrs. George Morgan, resident at 290 Earle Avenue since 1909, and her married daughter, Alice, jointly provided the following information. The Chambers family was living at 228 Earle Avenue when Mrs. Morgan first came to live at 290 Earle Avenue in 1909. Richard Chambers, Subject's brother, used to play with her son and the Adair boy. The Subject, whom she knew as Vivian, did not mingle with other boys and was not a likable child. He seemed to prefer staying at home reading and was termed a sissy by the neighborhood children. When both the Chambers sons grew older their association with the neighborhood children ceased inasmuch as the neighborhood children went to the local high school and the Chambers boys went to the South Side High School in Rockville Centre, Long Island. The Chambers boys were continually in their mother's company when seen on the streets. Mrs. Morgan and her daughter never knew Subject's father, except by sight and reputation, which was that of a clever, brilliant, and competent artist and illustrator. Their acquaintance with Subject's mother was limited to brief conversation on general topics, however, the Subject's mother was considered to be brilliant and gifted, acting vigorously and vivaciously in all her endeavors. Her personality, although pleasing, was theatrical, leading one to believe that she may have had a professional background.

The only knowledge Mrs. Morgan and her daughter had of Subject's grandmother was a rare sight of her walking on Merrick Road talking or looking at no one and with both hands cupped holding articles. She wore a fur coat in the warmest weather and was considered to be a mental case by the neighbors.

Mrs. Morgan and her daughter could not recall Subject's living at 228 Earle Avenue during the past ten years, and the last time she saw him was at the funeral services of Chambers' brother, Richard. Summarizing, Mrs. Morgan and her daughter advised that the neighborhood gossip was to the effect that Richard had acquired the alcoholic habit, which accounted for his marital unhappiness and, consequently, resulted in his suicide; further, that Subject retained his effeminate mannerisms as he grew into manhood. They concluded by stating that Subject's mother has operated an antique shop in Hempstead L. I. for the past year.

AT LYNBROOK, L. I., NEW YORK - September 22, 1948:

Mrs. Chester Talfor, 96 Lenox Avenue, who taught Subject in the seventh grade at the Lynbrook Elementary School, advised, together with her husband, that they had no knowledge of the Chambers family origin. Their knowledge of the family was confined to the following information. Mrs. Talfor recalled Subject as being a sissified student, who constantly walked home from school with a little girl named Vermilea, and who she now believes is married and has the name of Mrs. Sinclair.

According to them Mrs. Chambers, the mother of Subject, was a rather odd character, but genial and progressively active in community organizations, it being known that she was affiliated at one time or another with the Mother's Club, the Civic League, and patriotic organizations during World War I. They both believed she had a theatrical background although they had no proof of same. The father of Subject was an artist who was an aloof person and who never registered an interest in civic affairs by his attendance or voice. They best recalled him by a wager of \$5.00 which he once made on his contention that he could walk from his home at 228 Earle Avenue to the business center of Lynbrook and return to his home clad only in pajamas, without being molested or causing any undue distraction. He accomplished this feat and, of course, won the wager.

M. A. Kelsey, President, Peoples National Bank, Lynbrook, who resides at 19 Alice Court in Lynbrook, and who has been a resident there for 46 years, could provide no information in the development of the inquiry as to the year of arrival of the Chambers family in Lynbrook.

Charles D. Vosburg, Superintendent of the Lynbrook Elementary School, who resides at 28 First Street in Lynbrook, was not available for interview although several attempts were made to contact him.

Mr. Phillips, the proprietor of a grocery store located at Stark Place and Broadway, Lynbrook, whose wife was reported to have once associated with the mother of Subject in the antique business, advised that he and his wife could provide no helpful information about the private lives or past background of the members of the Chambers family.

Mr. Thompson, Building Inspector in the Assessor's Office, Town Hall, Lynbrook, advised that authentic records concerning inhabitants of Lynbrook date back only to 1913 and based only upon his recollection he opined that the Chambers family first came to reside at 228 Earle Ave. about 1905.

AT EAST ROCKAWAY, L. I., NEW YORK - September 24, 1948:

With respect to the information that the mother of Subject had had her mother committed to an institution, Dr. Arthur Jaques, a psychiatrist, residing at 243 Atlantic Ave., East Rockaway, and a former member of the Lunacy Commission, advised that he has a hazy recollection of being requested to come to the Chambers home at 228 Earle Avenue, Lynbrook, over 20 years ago for the purpose of examining and committing Subject's grandmother, Mrs. Whittaker, to an institution. His recollection is that his diagnosis was senile dementia. He and his wife agreed to search through old records in the attic of their home for any possible file on this matter and upon subsequent contact Dr. Jaques advised that he was unable to locate any records in his old files of his examination and commitment of Mrs. Whitaker, maternal grandmother of Subject. He suggested that a check be made at the Nassau County, L. I. Department of Health, for possible recorded information.

At the Nassau County, L. I. Department of Health a Mr. Wolfe, the supervisor of this department, advised that no records for the period 1925-35 existed in his office. He suggested that inquiry be made at the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene at the sub-office at 217 Broadway, New York City, for a possible record concerning any commitment to an institution of the maternal grandmother of Subject.

AT MINEOLA, L. I., NEW YORK - September 17, 1948:

At the Nassau County Courthouse, Lt. H. Koehl advised that the Nassau County Criminal Records Bureau was not in existence before 1930. His check of the criminal records from 1930 to date on all individuals named Chambers or Crosley was unproductive in that none of the records found of these names were determined to identify Subject or members of his family.

At the Nassau County Town Hall, Mineola, Nassau County Registrar Frederick Hettrich, upon search of his files, advised that he had no record of births of any members of the Chambers family. He further advised that he could not locate any death record for Mrs. Whittaker.

AT NEW YORK CITY - September 24, 1948:

At the Department of Mental Hygiene, New York State, 217 Broadway, a Miss Ryan, upon examination of her records, reported there was no record of a Mrs. Whittaker having been committed to a mental institution from Lynbrook, L. I., New York, between the years 1925-35. She suggested that contact be made at the Albany Office of the Department, where the master files repose, however, she informed that a very substantial reason for

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obtaining confidential information of this type would have to be provided before such information would be furnished.

Contact has been made with an informant in the District Attorney's Office, Court House, Albany, New York, with the view of determining whether records are in existence which reflect the commitment of Mrs. Whittaker by Dr. Arthur Jaques, formerly a member of the Nassau County Lunacy Board, and if it is determined that she was committed, photostats of such documents as are available indicating diagnosis and treatment are to be obtained. To date no results have been obtained from this source.

If deemed advisable further investigation will be conducted to determine if Mrs. Whittaker, the maternal grandmother of Subject, was ever committed to a mental institution and further to establish whether she is alive or dead. It is believed that in establishing her death information concerning any possible confinement to an institution would be obtained.