

Dear Dick,

3/1/91

MY apologies, and a reflection of my excitement, these are the notes I had in mind when I wrote you yesterday morning. As in Poe's story of The Purloined Letter, which I've learned that today's young people do not read in school, Helen had put the entire file of them where I'd asked her to, in the most obvious of places, the one place I should not have missed it and the one place I did not look - where I'd not miss them when I sat to read in the living room!

After I copy them and address the envelope, I'm taking the mail out, bringing the papers in to read, and I'll not return to this subject, if I can keep it out of mind, until after my morning's walk, for which it does not appear to be windy enough not to do a bit early.

Sorry,

Harold

If you do not perceive the significance I attribute ^{to} the underlying records, make notes and I'll explain. ₁

*if note finished reviewing 26 when
I'd stopped*

194 pp

when earlier?

FBI-King, Section 20, Serial 2322 only, the first of three volumes compiled by Hester
(only (W/2/2/20) claim)

1. crime scene 3-7 charts see pp 455

The opening two pages say it is a whitewash, to the degree dared. Dated 4/17/68. The two synopsis pages bear the same date. The period covered is 4/8-16. While there need be no connection, the time coincides with the filing of the B'ham conspiracy charge and the identification of Ray, whose name was picked up before the official announcement of it, as earlier notes show and identify the source on.

from House writing

There is a series of reports on rooming-house people, with Stephens contradicting himself on the same day and virtually no support for the official account when even the FBI prepared the versions. Most were drunk or otherwise incapable of being witnesses.

The next section, on the Lorraine, begins with a long Marrell McCullough report, 6 pages. We are to believe that with him an eyewitness he was not interviewed until 4/11/68, the date of this interview/ He is used to build a case for the shot coming from the bathroom when there is obviously no basis for the opinions. However, he also smelled gunpowder, not likely with a shot from the inside of a building 200 feet away.

Almost all place the shot as coming from the ~~under~~ bushes, not flophouse.

Bailey, initially, not even asked for guest list

No reference to any Invaders present at motel, any protection, no interview with Kyle and many others. Not one of press.

67-70 71-74 75-7

Persons at Canipe's: Canipe-no screeching of tires. Note false emphasis on cars and white Mustang and on wraig deputy. Compare with Ghermley as described by Hester himself. Bernell Finley some parts of story impossible, some clearly confabulation, especially on time. Julius L. Graham: Hist story consistent with package being dropped before shot. Same impossibility as Graham Finley's - the deputies did not see the large package until Canipe called their attention to it. Edwin Bodenheimer Nothing.

Fire station:

Ghermley: Not interviewed until 4/16 if this is first report. Initial account other than Ghermley's of where he was. Black detective announced King shot. Landers scaled wall. This report is rearranged to make it appear that he was a long time getting to Canipe's. He did use walkie-talkie to report finding package. Also has him saying Canipe saw fleeing white Mustang at high rate of speed. before Dellahite got there Douglass did. Douglass double-parked their Tac 10 stationwagon and "aided in guarding the evidence." Ghermley's estimate of total elapsed time to ~~xxxx~~ "he discovered" the package "was no more than 2 ~~or~~ 3 minutes."

Vernon Venard Dellahite: He went over the wall and ran around the block. He saw the package. His account, of running, is contrary to the version attributed to Canipe. It actually has him saying that when he got to the parking lot (here referred to as an area of "large outdoor signs") that there was no "area" in which anyone could "conceal himself." The deliberatness of this falsification is apparent, the seriousness obvious. It is a fair interpretation that by the 11th, the day of the interview, the FBI was deliberately hiding this. They go farthur and make it appear impossible for anything to have happened in that area. The entrance to the parking lot, never identified as an overgrown parking lot, is referred to as "the driveway."

Pta Terrence N. Landers: The report has him saying that someone at the Lorraine said the shot came from the second-floor windows. Not one report of those interviewed says that.

Fireman Charles Elvin Stone: He was looking and saw "ing hit. ~~xxxx~~ This report dated 4/11. Of the shot, "he thought it came from the parking lot north of the fire house."

Police Lt. George W. Loenneke: He was "looking through a peephole in a newspaper...and with him was a Negro police officer, Officer RICHMOND, and another fireman named William King." Richmond called out that "ing was about to leave. Loenneke looked. What follows is vort important: "Individuals by the name of BABY JESUS and Reverend BEVEL were standing to the extre right of Dr. KING. Loenneke stated that as Dr. KING turned slowly to his left to say something to the individual below was when the shot was fired. Loenneke advised that

that it appeared to him as though Dr. KING was looking at something or someone that fired the shot."

This and the other relevant reports all fit. The shot came from the parking lot. King had turned to his left, which had him facing the parking lot, not the flophouse.

Loenneke told the others King had been shot.

Here, after telling the others that King had been shot "he went out the front door of the station onto Main Street, but he did not observe anyone running on Main Street or any pedestrian traffic whatsoever. ...did not see a white Mustang on Main Street... nor did he hear the sound of an automobile leaving in a hurried manner."

"Approximately 30 seconds after the shot had been fired, a Negro male appeared on the balcony, and started taking photographs of Dr. KING's body." (Lew?)

"LOENNEKE advised that . . . the shot that was fired came from the left of the firehouse and from a position which could not be seen from the window from which he was observing Dr. KING." Not interviewed until 13 and a eyewitness of police rank.

Pta Barney G. Wright: In Tac 3 unit of 3 vehicles, four men in each. He was sitting in lounge. He did not hear shot but did hear rattling of window. (From shot inside a distant building?)

This interview, of 13th, has others of emergency squad calling out what not one report says, that shot came from rooming house. It then has Wright getting into squad car with Douglas, who broadcast the fact to headquarters, with this cute addition: "He does not remember seeing any officer near Canipe's Amusement Center, 424 Main Street, at the time he and Patrolman DOUGLAS got into their emergency unit." It would have been impossible because the fire house is set back from the street and the street bends away from the line of necessary vision at that point. This is I think intended to undermine the Ghormley story. This is carried farther when he had circled the block going south first. He says it took only 2-3 minutes but even then "he does not recall seeing any officer near Canipe's..." He was assigned to the Ghormley and Douglas unit.

Fireman William Bishop King: Interview 4/13. While he was on 7 a.m. 24-hour duty that day "two officers of the Memphis police force had been on location in the fire station conducting a surveillance of the KING party from a door to the rear of the fire station." Charles Stone is a black cop. "...he thought the shot came from his left.

Pta William B. Gross: Interview 13. He was on phone to sick wife, broke off, did not jump wall, ran to Main St. where he saw two police officers and a deputy sheriff, at Canipe's. He then stood guard in front of Canipe's. He was there from within 2 or 3 minutes "until the investigation was completed." Parking lot gate was open. Locked while he was on guard.

No Richmond. No ref. to Redditt.

Others in Vicinity: Charles Hurley. Interview 4.5. Wife Perry, same day. Ditto Elizabeth Copeland. Ditto Mrs. Frances B. Thompson. But all have a white car, maybe Mustang, in front of Canipe's with a man sitting in it an hour and 15 minutes of more before the crime. David Harrison Owens, also 5, also Seabrook Wallpaper, nothing at all but on 5.

Persons at Jim's Grill: George Rowland Harding, 4/12/68. Robert D. Wheeler, 4/12. Franklin Wilson Ray, Jr., 4/12: one of the cars near Canipe's he recognized as the white Fairlane of Jimmy Walker. In front was Jewers white Cadillac. Rosie Lee Delaney, waitress, 4/5. Harold P. Parker, 4/15. These six are hardly all. Where is Jewers? And all the others who reported a white Mustang in front of Jewers' car and when it was gone before the crime?

Other Persons Who Had Contact With Unknown Subject: Six pages on Ralph Carpenter and Corda York, 4/5 and 4/16. There is on 4/16 what can be a hesitant identification of a "alt picture - after it was in the papers, as this report does not say.

Oliver Rexall: two interviews with Mrs. Peggy Burns, 4/4, 4/11. Sold kit little before noon 4/3. She did not work on 4th.

Rebel Hotel, 14 pp. Anna Christine Kelly, 4/11, 4/8. Mrs. Henrietta Hester, 4/11. Sara Levings, 4/11. Mrs. Sallie Moore, 4/10. Ivan Webb, 4/11. Victor Durratt, 4/11. Sallie Moore, 4/11. Sam N. Hudson, 4/11. Bucky Sanders, 4/11. Andy Gast, 4/13. (Gardritza)

Physical Evidence and Photographs: 4/4-5. List of items SA Robert Fitzpatrick got from Zachary and delivered to SA Robert A. Frazier 5:10 a.m. 4/5, at lab in DC.
 4/6 Three items, including windowsill, that Fitzpatrick delivered to SA James Cadigan at Document Section lab in D.C. 9:55 night 4/6. Separate report on slug for 4/4-5. 4/9, Fitzpatrick on sending New Hebel registration, etc.
 4/4 list King's clothing, etc., made available for FBI inspection. Key to Room 307 (p.153)
 4/5, p. 154, removal of windowsill.
 4/4, p. 155. Room 5B searched 7:15 p.m.
 4/4, p. 157, results DA's search of 5B
 4/11, 4/10 (two, in this order) pp. 162-170, list 62 pictures scene crime, 1-18⁷ by Homicide Bureau, other MPD, photographers' names obliterated. 18-30 Kings body, at hospital. 31 begins these taken 4/5. 32 shows fire station looking east (removed bushes there?) 33 tee.
 4/11 on aerial pix. 171
Autopsy findings: 174-185 (last not numbered). Seems to be identical with what was used in extradition

XPM

pp 3-7, charts of crime scene

15. Reason Ray did not take first room given: he did not want to pay extra for cooking, etc when he would not be eating in.
21. Stephens not even in the hall at the time the man ran out.
29. Grace said shot was from outside, from east (?)
30. Reeves is quoted as saying he had no way of knowing the "exact location" from which the shot came. The general location he did know and told re- parking lot.
- 42-7 McCullough. He had just returned, parked car, was south of King looking north, saw him fall backward and then looked to west and "saw no one ~~in~~ either on the ground or in any of the buildings which face east toward the Lorraine..." Jesse Jackson was in doorway of what has to be 307 looking over King's body at flephouse window. McC. first to reach body, tried first aid. (Some description of wound that was visible on 45.) Conjecture that is not reasonable attributed to him to make it appear shot came from flephouse at bottom of 45. He smelled gunpowder, "similar to the odor which one smells when a firecracker is exploded." Certainly not from a shot inside a building 200 feet away. Says he remained until 8 p.m. but makes no reference to any police questioning. No reference to Kyles.
- 48-9 Abernathy. "...stated that judging from the sound of the noise it appeared that the shot came from directly in front of the door and not from any great distance."
- 51-4 Solomon Jones. Kyles is Kizer (phon) and dinner was to have been at 5 from what Jones had been told, or what "yles told me. On entering 306 King told Jones to start car. He did. Signal to assassinate? Car parked in front of 207. Jones a little to south of King? King facing west, Jones facing east. Saw shot hit and King fall backward. He has Jackson standing at 305 door. Eskridge standing by Jones at time. He and Eskridge turned west "since that was the direction in which the shot had originated." Not northwest. "...he looked opposite the point where he was standing...a large retaining wall..grassy area with some small shrubs and bushes...behind some buildings...He got a quick ~~look~~ glimpse of a person with his back toward Mulberry Street...approximately 60 feet from where he was standing..." saw above waist only. He drove Andy Young and Bernard Lee to hospital. Note no funny-business with a white sheet covering on man as was later attributed to him.

Note to self: other interviews obviously called for an ¹missing arc of Laue, Earl Caldwell, Josephine Colfield

- 55-7 Bernard Lee in 206. Time crime he was standing at bottom north steps to balcony. He was looking at two women helping when he heard shot. It "came from across the street in front of Dr. King's room. ..." He is certain, cited military experience. "Rev. LEE stated he immediately looked toward the buildings which were to the west of him but aid he did not see anyone in any of the windows. ..." If immediately it would have been impossible for one to extricate himself from that window-bathtub situation by then.
- 58-9 Andy Young. In 209. Confirms directions to "ones to start meter. "...observed police officers coming from the area where he thought the shot may have come from..." He described this as "a large clump of bushes...opposite the area where Dr. King's room was located." He went farther, in even t is FBI version, explaining that "he would not have been able to observe a flash from a gun being fired" from there because of the swimming-pool wall, actually a wall along the street, Lorraine side.

- 60-61 Ceolar Shavers, Lorraine maid, on 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. shift. On hearing the sound she was walking along the balcony. This is the way the FBI angles what she said: "She advised that she looked in a northwesterly direction toward some ~~XXXXX~~ buildings where she believed the sound came from. She stated that she did not see anyone, and definitely did not see anyone in ~~the~~ bushes on the west side of Mulberry Street nor ~~anyone~~ running away from these bushes."

This interview was delayed until 4/12, when the FBI knew what it was working around, had to hide to stick with the flophouse frame and the planted evidence.

She was about in front of 304 when she heard the shot. Her attention was first attracted to the "people beginning to assemble," directly below. From that point she could not have looked very much to the northwest because the part of the motel along Mulberry and running from there to the balcony blocked vision. She might have been able to see the flophouse bathroom window but it would hardly have been north-westerly. Much closer to west. And all this report talks about is the bushes in that immediate area, from where she was "on the west side of Mulberry Street." This does not and cannot relate to those in the vicinity of the parking lot.

My own pictures will disclose whether she could have seen the bathroom window. Her statement can be prebative on that but not on bushes toward which she did not look. The added "definitely" is the FBI propaganda.

62 Walter Bailey. He says that King had stayed there a dozen times. He was not asked for the guest list from this 4/4 report, an obvious need. If he later provided it the FBI managed to omit it from this volume of basic evidence.

67ff is the Canipe section. By going over this with care it is possible to make out a case that the getaway car could have been a white mustang parked there if not in the parking lot but the case that it was Ray's cannot be made from it. In the first two Canipe pages it is made to appear that Canipe saw the package and the Dellahite simultaneously. However, this is not what it says and in fact is not what Canipe says. It is semantical evidence of the FBI's manufacture. Says his car 1952 red station wagon. Police report says pickup. (Gross?)

74ff Finley is uncertain whether speeding mustang came from street parking space at Canipe's or whether possibly it pulled away from a parking space farther south of this point." This includes the parking lot.

83 Dellahite. The FBI uses this in an effort to make Ghermley's account, which eliminates Ray and the bathroom. Compare with summary, Ghermley there first.

87 Ptn Landers searched ground around flophouse for footprints only.

89-90 Fireman Stone says Richmond among named police in surveillance operation and that the shot came "from the parking lot located north of the Fire Department."

FBI-King Section 26, Serial 2634, second Hester report. Filed 4/30/68.

Of 35 recorded copies none to any prosecutor.

Cover page C says includes investigations of period of earlier report, 4/17. Not included in it "for reasons of brevity." It says. It also acknowledged "persons who were at Jim's Grill...at about the time of the murder...report seeing a white Mustang parked almost in front of Jim's Grill. The owner of this Mustang has not been located and has not voluntarily come forth. It is not believed that this Mustang is pertinent in this investigation and should not be confused" with the one they want believed to be the one in which the subject "fled from the scene."

Synopsis begins with admission no single person at the scene, the Rebel Motel or the Rexall Drug Store made an identification of Ray from the pictures. Carpenter could not make positive identification.

Persons at Rooming House:

5 "Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY...were shown to Mr. CHARLES QUITMAN STEVENS...were not familiar to him..."

6 Anschutz made no ID and "said he would not be able to."

7 Bessie Brewer made no ID and "She further advised that she did not believe she would recognize the man..."

8 Reeves, ditto. Also Frank Brewer on 9, Mrs. Stephens on 10, with Rebel people Anna Christie Kelley, Henrietta ~~Stue~~ Hagemaster, Victor Durpet, Sava Loving and Sadie Mc Kay on 11 saying the pictures "do not in any way look familiar to them." (Names as in report.)

Persons at Rebel Motel:

12 ff. "Not in any way familiar" to five others on 14.

Oliver Rexall Drug Store:

15 ff Mrs Peggy Brown "advised that she is unable to say if this is the same person who was in the store."

York Arms 17 ff. Carpenter "could not positively identify".

Investigation at or near the Lorraine:

19 ff: Mrs. Norman (Georgia M.) Brown 20 ff Places Cabbage at meeting with local pastors and ministers at "the Church of Minimal Salary (Phonetic)" after 1 p.m. 4/4 Cabbage was speaking when she and other arrived. Jesse Jackson then in a smaller room. After 1:30

4/4 King went to Mrs. Davis room to be able to relax. told others where he was, and from there phoned "a STAN LEWINSON (phonetic) of a (First Name Unknown) Wadhtel" in New York. Later joined by Andy Young, Chauncey Eskridge and others King remained there until 5:45. She was on scene but was not interviewed until 4/15

26 ff: Mrs. Jasper (Lucretia) Ward. From next days's report she is white.

31-36 is 4/11 registration list at Lorraine. 45 rooms occupied, none with more than two and the only no-assigned room from 301 through 316 302 and 313. These also show no Invaders' registrations or Colfield.

37-43 Rev. Samuel B. Kyles, interview delayed to 4/23 although he was there and King was to have been his dinner guest and he had just left King's side when King was killed.

Room 303 in his name but he was not in it. SCLC used it. (38) He is quoted as having said before the assassination both papers reported that King and his party were at the Lorraine. In fact the report was that King had been served there, process server, no more.

(38) In even the FBI's version he said the shot came not from the flophouse but from the bushes. King standing 4-5 minutes before he was shot (42) is what he told me. "He saw no one looking out of ~~the~~ any of the windows to the buildings facing Main Street."

44 ff; Charles Ballard, Rm 310 and James Elmore Phillips, 45-6, in Rms 310, 315 from 4/30 to 4/4, 5:45 p.m. not identified as but apparently Invaders. The reason these are selected is apparent: they both had left. Phillips identifies as "his associates" Charles Ballard, Charles Laverne Cabbage, John Burrell Smith and Edwina Harrell who also had been staying at the motel." On 34 310 is listed to Ballard, but as of Atlanta, 315 to Mabelle Hendricks, also of Atlanta. The FBI knew these meant more and the addresses are covers for the Invaders.

No other Lorraine entries.

Persons at Jim's Grill:

48-9, Jowers, interviewed 4/5 but omitted from all earlier records to Washington. There is a carefully distorted mention of his parking his Cadillac "directly in back of a white Mustang on the street directly in front of his Grill." It quotes him on colors those of Mississippi licenses whereas he was clear on Arkansas colors, which coincided with those of Alabama that year. The rest is devoted to Chastain's "eggs and sausage" man, who turns out to be not Youngblood but Gene Pearson Crawford, Jackson, Tenn. and who was released when it "was determined" that he "had no part in the Murder..." (Check my taped interview and the evidentiary hearing on the Jowers actualities.)

50-1 Gilbert Stephen (Steve) Cupples belonged to the 1959 White Chevrolet Impala parked across the street from Jim's grill "at approximately 5:03 p.m." That white car near Canipe's? "He said he recalls seeing Jimmy Walker's white Fairlane Ford parked directly south of the fire hydrant located near the entrance to Jim's Grill." In non-FBI English this is in front of Canipe's. He "recalls seeing a white Mustang...parked directly in front of JOWERS Cadillac," which was "located in the first parking space north of the fire hydrant. Here the FBI skips to 6:05 when it has Cupples saying that when he looked out the window the Mustang ~~was~~ was gone. The time lapse is an hour.

52-3, David M. Wood: At about 5:05 "he walked in front of a Mustang automobile which was parked close to Jim's Grill...immediately in front of " Jowers Cadillac which was "immediately to the north of the fire plug." His description of the Mustang is somewhat detailed: dirty, no hubcaps, etc. Black tires., no front license. No Memphis sticker. He did not notice, it says, until after King was killed, after six, that the Mustang was gone. He had been spending his time playing a machine, pinball or shuffle-board. He also recalls that "a Fairlane owned by Jimmy Walker was parked just south of the fire plug. He even recalled that when Walker "entered Jim's Grill which was shortly after 5:00 p.m." he "made a remark that the Mustang took his parking place."

54 Kenneth W. Foster: ~~When~~ When he entered Jim's Grill at about 5:05 "he recalls specifically that he walked between a white Mustang and a white Cadillac that were parked near the entrance to Jim's Grill.." Recalls black tires on Mustang but no hubcaps. It was where ~~Jimmy~~ Jimmy Walker usually parks. "Mr. Foster explained that JIMMY WALKER parked his white Ford Fairlane just south of the fire hydrant...immediately north was parked JOWERS white Cadillac and immediately in front of the white Cadillac to the north was a white Mustang...." He also was playing the machines, did not hear any shot and only when the deputy came and told them not to leave did he look out and see the Mustang was not there.

56-8 Paul Sander Vargas, Jr. was with Steve Cupples, Franklin Tay and Jimmy Walker when they walked to Jim's Grill. He recalls Walker's car where the others placed it.

57-8 Barry Elwood Tubbs. He also recalls the same location of Walker's white Fairlane, "just south of the fire hydrant."

59-60 Billy Ray Hoard went to Jim's Grill with Kenny Foster. "...he recalls a line of white cars parked immediately in front of the grill...four or five...recalls seeing Jimmy Walker's...just south of the fire hydrant..."

62-3 James A. Walker, Jr. found a white Mustang parked where he usually parks, in front of where Jowers parked his white Cadillac ~~west~~ west of the hydrant? so "he had to back up and park in the first space just south of the above-mentioned fire hydrant." But he "noticed prior to parking ~~there~~ that BARRY TUBBS' "incoln Continental was parked in front of the Mustang..." which "appeared to be slightly dirty or at least not recently washed."

FROM HIS ACCOUNT HE LEFT NO ROOM FOR THE CAR BEHIND HIM IN FRONT OF CANIPE'S TO JACKRABBIT OUT. IT WAS SO TIGHT HE WAS AFRAID HE'D GET A TICKET.

64-5 Frank Holt: was walking and didn't reach the scene until he was "instructed by a Memphis police officer of Shelby County Sheriff's officer to go in Jim's Grill and to stay off the street..."

66-7: William Zenie Reed left the grill between 5:15 and 5:30 "and saw a white Mustang was parked near the entrance of Jim's Grill. ...had not recently been washed." after he and Ray Hendricks, who had returned to Jowers' for his jacket, walked north "he saw a white Mustang go east on Vance from South Main Street." He had reached his room and was in it for "as much as 15 minutes when he heard numerous sirens in the immediate vicinity area going down toward Jim's Grill..." and much of the rest of the world that is in the same direction.

68-9: Ray Alvis Hendrix, with Reed, tells the same story about leaving about 5:30, remembering he had forgotten his jacket, going back and learning later that while he was doing this Reed was examining the white Mustang. Same story about a white Mustang turning into Vance Street. They were in their rooms when they heard the sirens. Mustang not rushing, no tire squeals.

There is no single report in this that is specific that is not in direct contradiction of what the FBI said, the official position, etc. There is no single report that is even consistent with the official version. Without exception all those who notice cars place a white Mustang where Ray told me he had his parked, without exception all place the white car near Canipes as next to hydrant and a white Fairlane belonging to Jimmy Walker. The totality is overwhelming, as is the official representation of the direct opposite.

It is not "for reasons of brevity" that all of this was omitted "in the last report."

Medical Information: 70ff This being basic in any homicide it requires four pages, two of which are half pages only. 15 days after the assassination the FBI obtained the "Emergency Room Summary," ~~by Dr. Reed~~ retyped rather than xeroxed. Dr. Ted Galyon was first, joined by Drs. John ~~Reed~~ ^{Reiser} and Rufus Brown. There was a tracheotomy but this statement not only does not say through a wound but the opposite, that "a portion of the right apex of the lung was bulging through the wound."

Consistent with this, the day before, or 14 days after the crime, the ever-diligent FBI interviewed Dr. Jerry T. Francisco, medical examiner, from whom it obtained 5 photographs he had taken two weeks earlier. Minor part of p. 74.

Driver's License and Automobile Registration: 75-7 Duplicate license mailed 3/1 to Alabama ~~License Plate, 70-54~~ 2608 South Highland and not returned.

So how did he get it without some at that address sending it?

Continental Dance Studios, N.O. 78 ff: No Ray.

Physical Evidence and Latent Fingerprints: 83ff. Angled rehash. Memphis tells Washington what Washington had told Memphis.

Miscellaneous: 111ff