

Reopen The Warren Commission

Two weeks ago we printed the story of Sgt. Dean. Let us entitle it: The Persistent Patrolman. This week we tell what we shall call The Forgetful Flatfoot. Harry N. Olsen was on private duty on the day of the assassination. He was guarding an estate. But he was unable to recall (1) the address of the estate; (2) didn't know who lived in the house and (3) didn't remember the name of the officer who gave him the job.

Olsen's statement went like this:

MR. SPECTER. And what was your next occupation?

MR. OLSEN. Dallas Police Department.

SPECTER. What was your rank in the police department?

OLSEN. Patrolman.

SPECTER. And how long were you employed by the Dallas Police Department?

OLSEN. Five and a half years.

SPECTER. When did you end your employment with the Dallas Police Department?

OLSEN. In the latter part of December, 1963.

SPECTER. And how were you employed after December of 1963?

OLSEN. I left Dallas and came to California and am working for a collection agency.

SPECTER. Have you held that same job from the time you first arrived here in Los Angeles until the present time?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. Are you married or single, Mr. Olsen?

OLSEN. Married.

SPECTER. And what is the name of your wife?

OLSEN. Kay.

SPECTER. And what was her name prior to her marriage to you?

OLSEN. Kay Coleman.

SPECTER. What was her occupation prior to being married to you, that is where was she employed?

OLSEN. She was employed at the Carousel Club.

SPECTER. When were you and Mrs. Kay Olsen married?

OLSEN. I believe it was December. It could have been January.

SPECTER. December of what year?

OLSEN. 1963, or January of 1964.

SPECTER. Do you know Jack Ruby?

OLSEN. Yes.

SPECTER. When did you first become acquainted with Mr. Jack Ruby?

OLSEN. Oh, about 3 years ago.

SPECTER. What were the circumstances of your making his acquaintance?

OLSEN. I was with the police department at the time and I was working that area where his club was, and it was a routine check of his place.

SPECTER. How did you and Jack Ruby get along during the time you knew him?

OLSEN. We spoke. And sometimes he would get mad and I would talk to him and calm him down a little bit.

SPECTER. How often did you visit Jack Ruby's club, the Carousel Club?

OLSEN. Oh, once a week, I guess. Sometimes more and

sometimes less.

Bertha Cheek testified an officer named Olson told her that Jack Ruby needed some money to invest in a new club. The Commission did not try to determine if "OLSON" and "OLSEN" were the same man or if they were in any way related. Harry N. Olsen was the only man by that name listed on the Dallas Police Roster.

SPECTER. Did you ever have any disputes with Ruby?

OLSEN. Sometimes.

SPECTER. What was the cause of the disputes?

OLSEN. He would get mad with some of his help, some of his employees mostly, or customers. And he was erratic and hotheaded.

SPECTER. What specific indications did you observe that he was erratic or hotheaded?

OLSEN. Well, sometimes he would get so mad he would shake.

SPECTER. What would cause him to get that mad?

OLSEN. Anything. I mean he would just fly off the handle about anything.

SPECTER. Can you give me a specific illustration of what caused him on any occasion to become that angry?

OLSEN. Mostly with his help.

SPECTER. A moment ago you said that you had disagreements with him over the way he treated his help. What was it about the way he treated his help which caused you to have any disagreement with Jack Ruby?

OLSEN. Well, they would want to quit and he would get upset about that.

SPECTER. Was that in relation only to Mrs. Kay Olsen who was an employee of his, or did that apply to other employees as well?

OLSEN. Others.

SPECTER. Why was it that you were concerned about other employees?

OLSEN. He would talk to me about it and ask me what I thought, and I would try to tell him just to calm down.

SPECTER. But as a result of those conversations with Ruby, you had disagreements with him?

OLSEN. Not very often. Not very often.

SPECTER. Can you give me any other information as to what caused any disagreement between you and Jack Ruby?

OLSEN. No, I can't think of anything.

SPECTER. Where were you living in the fall of 1963, say in September of 1963?

OLSEN. On Theatre Lane.

It would be helpful if we knew his address on Theatre Lane, but the Commission Attorney seemed not to think of such a question.

SPECTER. And where was Mrs. Kay Olsen, who was then not your wife, living at that time?

OLSEN. On Ewing.

SPECTER. What was her specific address, if you recall?

OLSEN. 325 North Ewing, I believe.

SPECTER. What was your relationship with Kay in the fall of 1963?

OLSEN. We were going together.

Some testimony omitted here.

SPECTER. Where did Mr. Ruby live in the fall of 1963, say September of 1963, if you know?

OLSEN. He lived on Ewing.

SPECTER. Do you recall—

OLSEN. Right at Stemmons Freeway.

SPECTER. How far was that from Kay's house?

OLSEN. Approximately 4 or 5 blocks.

Some testimony omitted here.

SPECTER. Do you know whether or not Jack Ruby knew Officer J. D. Tippit?

OLSEN. I heard that he did.

SPECTER. From whom did you hear that?

OLSEN. It was a rumor that he did.

SPECTER. When did you hear that rumor that he did know Officer J. D. Tippit?

OLSEN. While talking with other officers, I couldn't specifically say when.

SPECTER. Was that after Tippit was killed?

OLSEN. Yes.

SPECTER. Did you ever hear anybody say that Jack Ruby knew Officer J. D. Tippit before Officer Tippit was killed?

OLSEN. No, sir.

SPECTER. Could you recall specifically who it was who said that Ruby knew Officer Tippit?

OLSEN. No, sir.

SPECTER. Did you ever see Jack Ruby and Officer J. D. Tippit together?

OLSEN. No, not that I recall.

Some testimony omitted here.

SPECTER. Do you recall November 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was assassinated?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. Tell me, as specifically as you can recollect, exactly what your activities were on that day.

OLSEN. I was employed by the Dallas Police Department and I was working at an extra job guarding an estate.

SPECTER. Whose estate was that?

OLSEN. I don't remember the name.

SPECTER. How did you happen to get that extra job?

OLSEN. A motorcycle officer was related to this elderly woman and he was doing work, but he was in the motor—

SPECTER. Cade?

OLSEN. Motorcade of the President, and I was off that day and able to work it.

SPECTER. Do you recall the name of the motorcycle officer?

OLSEN. No.

SPECTER. Where was that estate located?

OLSEN. On 8th Street in Dallas.

SPECTER. Do you recall the specific address or the cross street on which it was located?

OLSEN. It's in the Oak Cliff area, it's approximately two blocks off of Thornton Stemmons.

The memory of Patrolman Olsen is bad, but the forgetfulness of Commission Attorney Arlen Specter seems unpardonable. Olsen claims he can not remember the street address nor the name of the owner for whom he is working. Olsen says he can't even remember the name of the policeman, related to the estate owner, who gave Olsen the job. Could one wonder if Olsen was hiding something? Specter made no effort to determine on which side of the street the estate was located. He did not try to determine the color of the house. He did not ask how many stories tall the estate was.

Olsen gave the wrong expressway as part of the

where he changed his mind. If
away is not in Oak Cliff, Olsen must have meant that
but it seems to have mattered none of it.

SPECTER: What time did you start to guard the
area on that particular Friday?
OLSEN: About 7 a.m.
SPECTER: And how long did that guard duty last?
OLSEN: Until about 8.
SPECTER: Eight p.m.?
OLSEN: P.m. Yes, sir.
SPECTER: Did you have any visitors while you were
there on that day?
OLSEN: Yes.
SPECTER: And who was the visitor or visitors?
OLSEN: Her.
SPECTER: What time did she get there?
OLSEN: Right after the shooting was over.
SPECTER: How did you learn of the assassination?
OLSEN: I was called out on the phone. I was
at home. I was called by the police. I was
called by the police. I was called by the police.
SPECTER: By whom?
OLSEN: By the police.
SPECTER: Whom did you see outside?
OLSEN: No one who I know by name. They just said
"You heard the news." And I said "Yes, I had."
SPECTER: It becomes important, when questions are
asked, to be pointed in Vol. XXIII, page 887 of the Warren
Report Exhibits. The radio dispatcher inquired the location
of officer J. D. Tippit. Tippit gave his location and his last
radio signal from 8th and Lancaster.
The next most obvious question should have been asked
the
the
the
question was never asked.
We return to the testimony with:
SPECTER: Where did you have lunch on that Friday?
OLSEN: There at the place that I was watching.
SPECTER: Where did you have supper that day?
OLSEN: At her house.
SPECTER: What time did you go to her house? And
"her" I take it you mean Kay's house?
OLSEN: Yes.
SPECTER: Then what time did you go to Kay's house?
OLSEN: When I got--when the motorcycle officer came

relieved me.
SPECTER: And what time was that?
OLSEN: Oh, 8, about 8.
SPECTER: Did you have an automobile?
OLSEN: No, no.
SPECTER: How did you get from the house where you were guarding to Kay's house?
OLSEN: Walked.
SPECTER: How far was it?
OLSEN: About 4 blocks.
SPECTER: Did the cast on your knee restrict your walking in any material way?
OLSEN: Yes, sir.
SPECTER: Were you able to walk with the cast on your knee?
OLSEN: A little bit, not much.
SPECTER: But you were able to walk enough to cover 4 blocks to Kay's house?
OLSEN: Yes. And it swelled after I had walked it.
SPECTER: What did you do after arriving at Kay's house?
OLSEN: Well, going back to that, I had crutches, I believe, that I used. Now, what was the question?
SPECTER: Kay Coleman lives a half block from Ben St. on Ewing which is two blocks from Thornton. Since Olsen says he walked four blocks to get to Kay's house, he must have lived five or six blocks from Thornton. From the elevation of 8th St., six blocks from Thornton, a person in the yard could have seen Oswald when he crossed 8th St. on his way from his rooming house to the spot where Tippit was shot. Olsen is now asked about Pinnell or Oswald.
SPECTER: Testimony is resumed concerning Olsen and Kay's activities and conversation with Ruby on Friday night in restaurant next week.
SPECTER: Olsen took pictures at Jackson Hospital in Dallas, Texas, on Friday night, October 27, 1963, after the assassination of President Kennedy. Olsen was arrested at the hospital on October 28, 1963, and taken to the Dallas County Jail. Olsen was released from the jail on October 30, 1963, and returned to his home in Dallas, Texas. Olsen was interviewed by the Dallas Police Department on October 31, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed again by the Dallas Police Department on November 1, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a third time by the Dallas Police Department on November 2, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 3, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fifth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 4, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a sixth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 5, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventh time by the Dallas Police Department on November 6, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed an eighth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 7, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a ninth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 8, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a tenth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 9, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed an eleventh time by the Dallas Police Department on November 10, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twelfth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 11, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a thirteenth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 12, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fourteenth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 13, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fifteenth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 14, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a sixteenth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 15, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventeenth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 16, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed an eighteenth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 17, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a nineteenth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 18, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twentieth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 19, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-first time by the Dallas Police Department on November 20, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-second time by the Dallas Police Department on November 21, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-third time by the Dallas Police Department on November 22, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 23, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-fifth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 24, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-sixth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 25, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-seventh time by the Dallas Police Department on November 26, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-eighth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 27, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a twenty-ninth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 28, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a thirtieth time by the Dallas Police Department on November 29, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a thirty-first time by the Dallas Police Department on November 30, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a thirty-second time by the Dallas Police Department on December 1, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a thirty-third time by the Dallas Police Department on December 2, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a thirty-fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 3, 1963, and his statements were taken. 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Olsen was interviewed a forty-second time by the Dallas Police Department on December 11, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a forty-third time by the Dallas Police Department on December 12, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a forty-fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 13, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a forty-fifth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 14, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a forty-sixth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 15, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a forty-seventh time by the Dallas Police Department on December 16, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a forty-eighth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 17, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a forty-ninth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 18, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fiftieth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 19, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fifty-first time by the Dallas Police Department on December 20, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fifty-second time by the Dallas Police Department on December 21, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fifty-third time by the Dallas Police Department on December 22, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fifty-fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 23, 1963, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a fifty-fifth time by the Dallas Police Department on December 24, 1963, and his statements were taken. 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Olsen was interviewed a sixty-third time by the Dallas Police Department on January 1, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a sixty-fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 2, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a sixty-fifth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 3, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a sixty-sixth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 4, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a sixty-seventh time by the Dallas Police Department on January 5, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a sixty-eighth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 6, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a sixty-ninth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 7, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventieth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 8, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-first time by the Dallas Police Department on January 9, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-second time by the Dallas Police Department on January 10, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-third time by the Dallas Police Department on January 11, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 12, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-fifth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 13, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-sixth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 14, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-seventh time by the Dallas Police Department on January 15, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-eighth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 16, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a seventy-ninth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 17, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed an eightieth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 18, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed an eighty-first time by the Dallas Police Department on January 19, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed an eighty-second time by the Dallas Police Department on January 20, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed an eighty-third time by the Dallas Police Department on January 21, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed an eighty-fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on January 22, 1964, and his statements were taken. 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Olsen was interviewed a ninety-second time by the Dallas Police Department on January 30, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a ninety-third time by the Dallas Police Department on January 31, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a ninety-fourth time by the Dallas Police Department on February 1, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a ninety-fifth time by the Dallas Police Department on February 2, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a ninety-sixth time by the Dallas Police Department on February 3, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a ninety-seventh time by the Dallas Police Department on February 4, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a ninety-eighth time by the Dallas Police Department on February 5, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a ninety-ninth time by the Dallas Police Department on February 6, 1964, and his statements were taken. Olsen was interviewed a hundredth time by the Dallas Police Department on February 7, 1964, and his statements were taken.