

Reopen The Warren Commission

The Assassination Number 22

As soon as the Warren Report was made available, this writer realized Mrs. Earlene Roberts was an important witness for two reasons: Her testimony was startling, and there was a glaring gap in the questioning by Commission attorneys. This writer spent many days over the past two years searching for Mrs. Roberts—to no avail.

Now Mrs. Roberts has joined that long list of persons who had first hand information, but are now dead.

This lady shunned the public from the time her testimony was recorded. She complained at that time of "third degree" treatment. Apparently she was convicted of driving while intoxicated in Dallas which may have added to her desire for privacy. It is difficult for this writer to believe that a person suffering as she was with a serious case of diabetes, could be guilty of DWI.

We know of no reporter who interviewed Mrs. Roberts after she gave her testimony.

When a witness's testimony indicated conspiracy, the Warren Commission showed flexibility of methods in destroying the credibility of such witness. Here is testimony of Mrs. Earlene Roberts telling of the Dallas Police car which drove up and stopped in front of Oswald's rooming house while he was in the room after President Kennedy was killed.

MR. BALL. Did a police car pass the house there and honked?

MRS. ROBERTS. Yes.

BALL. When was that?

MRS. ROBERTS. He came in the house.

BALL. When he came in the house?

MRS. ROBERTS. When he came in the house and went to his room, you know how the sidewalk run?

BALL. Yes.

MRS. ROBERTS. Right direct in front of that door—there was a police car stopped and honked. I had worked for some policemen and sometimes they come by and tell me something that maybe their wives would want me to know, and I thought it was them, and I just glanced out and saw the number, and I said, "Oh, that's not their car," for I knew their car.

BALL. You mean, it was not the car of the policemen you knew?

MRS. ROBERTS. It wasn't the police car I knew, because their number was 170 and it wasn't 170 and I ignored it.

BALL. And who was in the car?

MRS. ROBERTS. I don't know—I didn't pay any attention to it after I noticed it wasn't them—I didn't.

BALL. Where was it parked?

MRS. ROBERTS. It was parked in front of the house.

BALL. At 1026 North Beckley.

MRS. ROBERTS. And then just eased on—the way it is—it was the third house off Zangs and they just went on

around the corner that way.

BALL. Went around the corner?

MRS. ROBERTS. Went around the corner off of Beckley on Zangs.

BALL. Going which way—toward town or away from town?

MRS. ROBERTS. Toward town.

DR. GOLDBERG. Which way was the car facing?

MRS. ROBERTS. It was facing north.

GOLDBERG. Towards Zangs?

MRS. ROBERTS. Towards Zangs—for I was the third house right off Zangs on Beckley.

BALL. Did this police car stop directly in front of your house?

MRS. ROBERTS. Yes—it stopped directly in front of my house and it just “tip-tip” and that’s the way Officer Alexander and Charles Burnely would do when they stopped, and I went to the door and looked and saw it wasn’t their number.

BALL. Where was Oswald when this happened?

MRS. ROBERTS. In his room.

BALL. It was after he had come in his room?

MRS. ROBERTS. Yes.

BALL. Had that police car ever stopped there before?

MRS. ROBERTS. I don’t know—I don’t remember ever seeing it.

BALL. Have you ever seen it since?

MRS. ROBERTS. No—I didn’t pay that much attention—I just saw it wasn’t the police car that I knew and had worked for so, I forgot about it. I seen it at the time, but I don’t remember now what it was.

BALL. Did you report the number of the car to anyone?

MRS. ROBERTS. I think I did—I’m not sure because I—at that particular time I remembered it.

BALL. You remembered the number of the car?

MRS. ROBERTS. I think it was—106, it seems to me like it was 106, but I do know what theirs was—it was 170 and it wasn’t their car.

BALL. It was not 170?

MRS. ROBERTS. The people I worked for was 170.

BALL. Did you report that number to anyone, did you report this incident to anyone?

MRS. ROBERTS. Yes, I told the FBI and the Secret Service both when they was out there.

BALL. And did you tell them the number of the car?

MRS. ROBERTS. I’m not sure—I believe I did—I’m not sure. I think I did because—there was so much happened then until my brains was in a whirl.

BALL. On the 29th of November, Special Agents Will Griffin and James Kennedy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation interviewed you and you told them that “after Oswald had entered his room about 1 p.m. on November 29, 1963, you looked out the front window and saw police car No. 207.”

MRS. ROBERTS. No. 107.

BALL. Is that the number?

MRS. ROBERTS. Yes—I remembered it. I don’t know where I got that 106—207. Anyway, I knew it wasn’t 170.

BALL. And you say that there were two uniformed policemen in the car?

MRS. ROBERTS. Yes, and it was in a black car. It wasn’t an accident squad car at all.

BALL. Were there two uniformed policemen in the car?

MRS. ROBERTS. Oh, yes.

BALL. And one of the officers sounded the horn?

MRS. ROBERTS. Just kind of a “tit-tit”—twice.

BALL. And then drove on to Beckley toward Zangs

