

Excerpt from interview of Jim Garrison by Johnny Carson
NBC-TV Channel 4 New York City 11:45 p.m. Wednesday 1/31/68

Garrison ...The palmprint was not confirmed by the federal Government either. That was an announcement by the Dallas Police. You will also find that no test was ever made to see whether the rifle was fired. You will also find that a young lady named Vickie Adams, if you will look in Volume XII, was on her way down from the 4th floor during the time that Oswald was supposed to have descended, and no one passed her at all...

...Now, if you look in the Warren Commission Report, especially in the Exhibits, you will see Julia Ann Mercer's statement. Here is an affidavit sworn to...the stationery indicates that it was the Sheriff's Office, County of Dallas, and the fact as it's described in the Warren Commission indicates that Julia Mercer, an hour or so before the assassination, was proceeding by the grassy knoll when she was stopped by traffic.

And she happened to be next to a truck a young man was getting out of with a rifle. And she was stuck where she had to look inside and see the driver. Now, the Warren Commission Exhibits indicate to you that she could not see the driver clearly and that this truck had "Air Conditioning" written on the side. Actually, in spite of the fact that this young lady saw a man getting out of the grassy knoll with a rifle she was never called by the Warren Commission. They didn't call anybody that had evidence that conflicted with Oswald was the lone assassin...

In her affidavit, she says, on the driver's side of the truck there were printed letters in black, oval shaped, which said "Air Conditioning." She said, I could not see the driver too clearly. And then it has her signature here, and it's certified to by a notary public. When I showed this to Julia Ann Mercer, she stated this:

The signatures on this affidavit are not mine but are very good imitations, except that the capital A is not close. Incidentally, this is published in the Warren Commission, Decker Exhibit 5323. I did not sign anything of this kind, and furthermore there was no woman present at any time I was questioned. It is not true that the truck had "Air Conditioning" printed on the side. I repeatedly stated that there was no printing on the side. I did not say that I could not see the driver too clearly. The fact is that I looked right in his face, and he looked at me twice. This is why I was able to recognize him when I later saw him shoot Oswald on television. In other words, she was stating immediately that she recognized the driver of the truck...from which the man got out with a rifle, as Jack Ruby. As a matter of fact, she stated, and her signature's right here, that within 24 hours after the assassination the Federal Bureau of Investigation was showing her pictures which included Jack Ruby, and they omitted this from her printed statement. Here's the FBI statement: On the driver's door the words "Air Condition" were printed in black letters, and then it goes on to state that she saw the driver but doesn't give his name. In a separate FBI report, it said she could not identify Jack Ruby's picture.

Her answer is this: Four pictures were ~~shown~~ selected by me as the driver of the truck. One of them was Jack Ruby. I remember seeing his name on the back of the picture when they turned it over. I again recognized Jack Ruby when I saw him shoot Oswald, and I said to my family who were watching TV with me, that was the man I saw in the truck. And she also wrote here: It was November 23,

the day before Ruby shot Oswald, when I picked out the picture of Jack Ruby. In other words, she was shown Jack Ruby's picture, with his name on the back, within 24 hours after the assassination, more than 24 hours before Oswald was shot, and there's not a hint of this in the 26 volumes...

Carson Are you saying by that that somebody changed that statement?

Garrison, Well, of course...The young lady told me, and I have her signature here, that she never said this...I don't think anybody talked to Julia Mercer because she was threatened and left very early...

Carson Well, didn't Mark Lane talk to Mrs. Mercer about an air-conditioning truck in which she said, at first her statement was, he took a tool box out, and then later it became a gun case? And according to testimony that I've read, the Warren Commission later checked and found that the air conditioning truck belonged to a firm that was doing work on a building nearby.

Garrison Julia Ann Mercer never said at any time that there was air conditioning on the side of the truck. This was put in, because later on, it was not her statement, she has said here within the last several weeks, and signed her name, this this is not true, it's a false affidavit, her name was forged and it was Jack Ruby driving the truck...

The point is, this lady saw Jack Ruby driving a truck...she says she did... about an hour before the assassination...Aren't you aware that there was a space gap between the two newspapers, when he went from one to the other, a 20 minute space gap? and they don't know where he was?...The point is, she was there.

Carson But doesn't that implicate the Dallas Police?

Garrison They're IMPLICATED. How do you think they did it? How do you think they did it?...

Now let me read to you an affidavit which will indicate to you the technique the federal government used in this investigation. This is an affidavit sworn to by Mark Lane, who is not only a distinguished author but who is working for me as an investigator for nothing, and helping me. Mark Lane has sworn before a notary that in January 1968 he interviewed William S. Walter in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Walter informed me and Annalise Lane that he had been employed by the FBI during 1963. He said that he was a security clerk and was assigned to the New Orleans office of the FBI. Walter said that during the morning of November 17, 1963 he received a TWX message directed to all southern regional offices of the FBI. The message advised that an attempt to assassinate President Kennedy would be made in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Walter stated that as he was alone on duty on the midnight to 8 a.m. shift he immediately called the special agent in charge of the New Orleans office, Mr. Maynard, and informed him of the contents of the message. He was then advised, informed to call a number of FBI agents in New Orleans who maintained contact with various informants. Walter also told me that an FBI directive ordered the New Orleans office to direct the various agents who had conducted interviews regarding the assassination of President Kennedy to examine those interview reports to make sure that there were no conflicts contained within them. The agents were ordered to resolve the conflicts, prepare new reports, and to destroy the old ones...

Carson Somebody saying something...Did that actually happen? You said that Mark Lane said that a man told him, but did it actually happen?

Garrison If you fly down to New Orleans, I can show you these people talking, but you just invited one person up here, I'm telling you what they said, each time I tell you, you say, is that a fact? All I can say is that it appears to me to be a fact. If you want to reject it, you can...

At Dealey Plaza, there were 10 men arrested, and this has been kept secret for more than four years. Here are the pictures of five of them being arrested, and they've never been shown before...Several of these men arrested have been connected by our office with the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States Government. The probability is that this is why Officer Tippit was killed...as a diversion which allowed them to turn loose these 10 men...The federal government is suppressing it...the Administration, the Administration of your government...On the order of the President of the United States, the executive order which forbids every person in this audience, and every person listening to this broadcast, which forbids them to look at this evidence until September in the year 2049 to look at this evidence...

Carson (You) have come up with no credible evidence to support any of (your) theories.

Garrison...I am not allowed as an attorney to come up with evidence until the case comes. Why don't they just let me fall on my face?...I am trying to tell you that there is no question, as a result of our investigation, that an element of the Central Intelligence Agency of our country killed John Kennedy and that the present administration is concealing the fact.