

Date 5/19/64

HUNTER SCHMIDT, JR., county reporter, "Dallas Times Herald", Herald Square, Dallas, Texas, was interviewed regarding an article appearing in the November 28, 1963, edition of the "Dallas Times Herald", captioned "OSWALD GUN SIGHT MOUNTED IN IRVING".

SCHMIDT advised he recalled writing this article on the morning of November 28, 1963, in his offices on the fourth floor of the Times Herald Building. He stated that on the morning of November 28, 1963, he arrived at work at 7:00 A.M., as is his usual custom; and, as he entered the city news room, he was advised by other reporters already on duty, to the effect that information had been received by them that the Dallas Police Department was in possession of information that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had had a telescopic sight mounted on his rifle at a suburban gun shop. He stated he was told that a gunsmith by the name of "RYDER" had mounted a scope on a rifle for an individual by the name of "OSWALD" and that this matter was currently being investigated by the Dallas Police Department. SCHMIDT stated the gun shop allegedly was located in the suburban community of Garland, Texas, and this matter was brought to his attention inasmuch as he was assigned to handle the outlying suburban areas.

SCHMIDT advised he checked city directories for Garland and surrounding areas and was unable to locate a gun shop employing an individual by the name of RYDER. He stated he then checked city directories for the name RYDER and determined that DIAL D. RYDER of Irving, Texas, was employed by the Irving Sports Shop, located on Irving Boulevard in that city. He stated he attempted to contact the Irving Sports Shop by telephone, but, after receiving no answer, then called DIAL D. RYDER at his residence. SCHMIDT estimated the time of his call to be between 7:30 and 8:00 A.M. on the morning of November 28, 1963.

SCHMIDT advised the telephone was answered by an individual claiming to be DIAL D. RYDER of 2028 Harvard Street,

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on 5/18/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461
by Special Agent EUGENE F. PETRAKIS and A. RAYMOND SWITZER/ds Date dictated 5/19/64

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Irving, Texas, and that, after identifying himself fully as a reporter for the "Dallas Times Herald" newspaper in Dallas, Texas, he then asked RYDER if he had attached a telescopic sight to a rifle for a man named OSWALD. SCHMIDT advised that it was obvious from the opening conversation that he had awakened RYDER and RYDER made mention of the fact that he was quite sleepy and had not slept well the night before. RYDER, however, was very helpful and cooperative in answer to SCHMIDT's questions, and appeared to be very happy to furnish answers to any questions submitted by SCHMIDT.

SCHMIDT stated RYDER advised him he was employed at the Irving Sports Shop, located on Irving Boulevard in Irving, Texas, and that part of his duties consisted of performing repair work on rifles and other weapons for customers of that sports shop; and, in the course of his business, he recalled having attached a telescopic sight and bore sighted a foreign-made rifle for a customer named OSWALD about a month prior to that time. RYDER told him he could not recall the make of the rifle, although he believed it to be foreign made, but would be unable to further identify it.

RYDER explained to him that he had located an undated ticket made out to one OSWALD reflecting the notations, drilling and tapping \$4.50, and bore sighting \$1.50, total charges \$6.00. RYDER explained this ticket could only reflect that he had drilled and tapped screw holes for mounting a telescopic sight and that, according to the charges reflected on the ticket, the work done on the rifle would consist of drilling three holes for which he charges \$1.50 each, and the other \$1.50 would reflect charges for bore sighting.

SCHMIDT advised RYDER went on to explain to him in detail the significance of the term "bore sighting", which SCHMIDT interpreted to mean the alignment of the telescopic sight to the rifle bore for accurate shooting.

SCHMIDT advised he recalled RYDER volunteering that insofar as he could remember, the customer OSWALD bought no ammunition for this rifle from him.

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SCHMIDT advised he recalls specifically questioning RYDER as to the further description of this OSWALD for whom RYDER allegedly performed this work, but that RYDER explained to him that he had performed work of this type on a great many rifles during that time of year as the hunting season was approaching, and he had no recollection whatsoever of the individual named OSWALD for whom he performed this work. SCHMIDT advised that at the conclusion of the interview, RYDER appeared very cordial and he recalled RYDER inviting him to recontact RYDER at any time in the future in the event he desired further information in this regard.

SCHMIDT stated that, based upon the information received from RYDER, he immediately sat down and wrote the article captioned "OSWALD GUN SIGHT MOUNTED IN IRVING", and, that after submitting it to the rewrite department for approval, it was dispatched by messenger to the press rooms immediately thereafter so that it could be included in the next edition of the "Dallas Times Herald". SCHMIDT explained that he believes this article came out in the 11:00 A.M. edition, although he could not be positive as there are five editions a day of the "Dallas Times Herald". SCHMIDT advised the article appeared in the lower left-hand corner of the front page, but did not carry his by-line. He stated, however, the article was well received and he recalled answering several inquiries that day from other members of the press and television media.

SCHMIDT advised that while at his residence the evening of November 28, 1963, he observed a taped television interview on the 10:00 o'clock news of CBS Television, in which RYDER denied furnishing any of the information to a "Dallas Times Herald" reporter as set forth in the article, and, although RYDER indicated the possibility existed the Irving Sports Shop could have performed work for LEE HARVEY OSWALD without the knowledge of RYDER, RYDER did not mention the work ticket or any of the items listed thereon as he had to SCHMIDT early that morning and, in effect, denied having furnished the contents of the article as written by SCHMIDT.

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SCHMIDT advised he was naturally upset over the denial by RYDER, and the following morning, November 29, 1963, at approximately 9:00 to 10:00 A.M., he telephoned the Irving Sports Shop again and spoke to a Mr. GREENER, the owner of the shop. He advised GREENER that the information set forth in his article of the preceding day was exactly as related to him by RYDER and that he had no other source of information. He asked GREENER if RYDER had discussed this matter with him and inquired as to the reasons why RYDER had denied furnishing him, SCHMIDT, this information. SCHMIDT stated GREENER advised him that he, GREENER, was completely unaware of any of the information set forth in the article of November 28, 1963, until he was contacted by CBS Television reporters on the afternoon of November 28, 1963, and, after being interviewed by the television reporters, he confronted RYDER with the facts set forth in the newspaper article, but that RYDER denied furnishing any of these facts to any reporter at any time.

SCHMIDT stated GREENER told him that RYDER did admit receiving a telephone call in the early morning hours of November 28, 1963, but that he denied furnishing any information to the caller.

SCHMIDT stated that as a result of the conversation with GREENER and the denials of RYDER, he did not pursue the matter any further and wrote nothing else about the Irving Sports Shop.

SCHMIDT advised the only time he has ever spoken to RYDER was on the morning of November 28, 1963, and the only occasion he has had to converse with Mr. GREENER was on the morning of November 29, 1963, as related above. SCHMIDT denied having any other source of information for the article of November 28, 1963, and reiterated the fact that all the information set forth in this article was furnished to him solely by DIAL D. RYDER in the course of their telephonic conversation between 7:30 and 8:00 A.M. on the morning of November 28, 1963.