

Send to Sylvia

DURING THE TIME

We need, first of all, question Volkland more about this whole incident, find out exactly how he knows the time was 12:40, on what criteria does he base his remembrance of time. We must question people in that gasoline station and round up other witnesses who saw Tippit there and try to find out what caused Tippit to leave. Did he hear a radio broadcast? Did they see him pick up his rifle and telephone and then start the car moving? Did another police car drive up or what? But this is an extremely fruitful area for further investigation.

We should also, when pursuing this, go to Kiest Boulevard and Bonnie View Drive and see if we can find people in that area, people in shops who by that time having heard about the President's assassination may be wandering around outside, may have seen Officer Tippit in Car 10, right there at that location. So the question is, Was Tippit lying when he reported in from Kiest and Bonnie View? Was this radio log faked afterwards to give Tippit a set of movements which would come from the dispatcher? because this would certainly bear looking into.

Summer 1966
Volkland interview

WOULD HAVE BEEN A CONVERSATION WITH VOLKLAND

Al Volkland is a Dallas free-lance photographer. He took the picture appearing on the top of page 24 in the hard-copy book "Four Days." It shows the presidential limousine up close and the Secret Service car in front of it on the back of the limo. He said he took this picture, was taken by Al Volkland because Bill Turner has a Dallas Times-Herald office and the picture was in the Times-Herald this week and Al Volkland's name there for the photo credits. I had asked Al Volkland to find out some information about the picture. We ended finding not only information about the picture, but we gained much information about Hippitt's whereabouts immediately after the assassination.

Hippitt's story with some peripheral information here. In order to get the negative, or prints from Al Volkland's original negative, one must contact John Mazzotta. He is in the photo department at the Dallas Times-Herald. One can also obtain prints of this picture by contacting United Press International in New York, since this picture was bought by UPI. But the original negative is with the Dallas Times-Herald. According to Volkland he was with his wife in their car coming down the Stemmons Freeway towards the direction, towards the direction where the president got on. In other words, he would have passed the President's car going in the same direction. Before he approached the Stemmons overpass, this is not the triple overpass, but the Stemmons overpass, he pulled his car over, this is about the 500 block of Stemmons, pulled his car over and got out of the car and prepared to take a picture. He pre-focused his camera, he said to 100th of a second or something like that, and he aimed his camera and the President's car came speeding by, Clint Hill on the back, and I questioned him closely about whether there had been any monkey-business there on the Freeway because the blur in the picture would indicate the car is going backwards, and the car in back of the President's car, that is the follow-up car for the Secret Service seems to be

Volkland-----1-1-1-1-1

standing still. Volkland explained that this was due to a weird effect--the first car had passed the pre-focus point where he was aiming the camera and so the blur appears as if it's in the picture. And instead, his camera caught the follow-up car coming at the pre-focus point so that the follow-up car looks like it's standing still and the President's car looks as though it's going backwards. At any rate, Volkland estimates that when the cars passed him they were hitting 40 mph. Of course in the background of Volkland's picture can be seen the railroad yards in back of the Texas Schoolbook Depository and the tower in which towerman Lee Bowen was in and probably the back of the building.

Jump to end of interview.

Volkland told me that just before the shooting started, now he couldn't hear the shots because just before the shooting started a switch-train which had just been sitting there idly, in the railroad yard, started up, and this is a switch-train, this is a train with 8 or 9 boxcars on it that crosses the triple underpass with its train of cars trailing out behind. This is the train that prevented any police on the outside of the triple underpass from even knowing that there was shooting, let alone hearing the sound of the shots. And Volkland told me he mentioned this to the police, that the switch-train, which had just been sitting idly, suddenly started up, just before what he realized later was the shooting, and headed toward the triple overpass with its string of cars. But nothing ever came of it.

corrected
Fact: Volkland lives about two blocks north, Volkland's position is about two blocks north of the Stemmons Freeway overpass, repeat, this is not the triple overpass, it is the Stemmons Freeway overpass.

MEMPHIS 44-1987-101-10

He immediately returned to his truck. He told me his wife was wearing a white dress and he found a signal 19 on the radio. The other item before the President's assassination was a Dallas plainclothesman and I believe Chief Lantry was at the wheel, and it was a Ford. And the train in the background that is now rumbling over the triple overpass is a Rock Island Line train.

So he got back in his car and started going home, and he ran out of gas. Now I don't know if he means he actually ran out of gas and had to go to the gas station to get a tank of gas, a can of gas, or whether he just noticed his gas gage was low--he'll have to be questioned on this. But he pulls up to a gas station at Zang's and Marsalis. Now this gas station at Zang's and Marsalis is exactly at the point where the Houston Street viaduct crossing the Trinity River comes over to the East Side side of Dallas. The Houston St. viaduct it should be noted is the one used by cab driver Whaley in driving Oswald across the river after he allegedly killed Whaley's cab in trying to make his getaway from the Texas School Book Depository. Now Volkland told us on the phone, and by us I mean myself and Bill Hoover, he was listening to part of the conversation that when he entered the gasoline station, and we don't know yet whether that was on foot looking for a gasoline car or whether he drove in in his car, but when he entered the station parked on the station's grounds was Officer Tippit, sitting in his car, observing gasoline coming over the Houston St. viaduct coming from this location. And he specifically stated, Officer Tippit was there observing traffic. In other words, you get the impression of the police car parked in the gasoline station, and Tippit observing the traffic. We do not get the impression that Tippit is sitting there talking anything over with the gasoline station attendant or eating his lunch or anything of that sort. He's sitting there using the gasoline station's facilities as a place from which to observe traffic. Another fact is that Tippit is

sitting in the north side of the driveway. The Tippit car is in the north side of the driveway, by the exit mouth of the overpass. Now I have here a note: From Dallas to Oak Cliff, 1400 block. I think that refers to the direction in which Tippit's car is pointed on the gasoline station grounds. And Volkland informed us Tippit lived in the 1100 block of North Beckley.

Questions that must be asked of Volkland are the following:

How does he know it was only ten minutes? What is the criteria? I didn't question him about this on the phone.

How long did he stay at the gasoline station? When does he first remember the talk after he left. Did he see a clock afterwards, was it 12:45 by the time he left?

Now he tells us that shortly after this, he was at a relative's house in Benavides, and that a diaper service truck was at this relative's house and he had just come from the Tippit shooting. And from the talk that Benavides gave, Volkland was under the impression that some of the witnesses mistook Benavides for one of the Tippit killers and this might be looked into by either asking Benavides exactly what he did, looking at his testimony because it's possible that Benavides in running around there gave the impression that he was running away from the crime. This is just a thought. Before Volkland got to the gasoline station, this means sometime between 12:30 and 12:40 and while he was driving in his car and he has a police radio in the car he heard Sergeant Hill's voice coming on the radio, talking the police department to surround the billing. And this was on channel one. (NOTE: Sylvia Maglier tells us that at 12:45 Tippit reports by radio that he's at Kinross(SP?) and Benavides. I've looked on a Dallas map; I think there's a mistake, I think it's actually spelled Kiest and Bonneyville; this is Kiest Boulevard and Bonnie View Drive. That intersection is considerably past the Houston Street viaduct and it should be noted that we can see here

VOYAGER-----5-5-5-5-5-5

the way the railroad tracks that went over the Triple Underpass
then continue over the Trinity River, probably on some sort of railroad
bridge, and where some railroad tracks go right past Kiest and Bonnieview.
Meanwhile, please note, neither the Houston Street viaduct nor the Kiest
and Bonnie View locations can really be considered to be in Oak Cliff--Tippit's
assigned area. The Houston St. viaduct is in an area called Kessler & Owens
Park. And the Kiest and Bonnie View location is smack in the center of a
location called Cedar Crest.