

Replied by hand  
7/20/87

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Dear Ms. Meagher,

I am involved in my own investigation of the JFK assassination, and recently read your excellent analysis The Accessories After the Fact, along with numerous other books on the subject by Scheim, Hurt, Lane, Summers, Epstein, Kurtz, Lifton, Davison, Weisberg, Savage, Manchester, Roffman, Eddowes, McKinley, McMillan, Schlesinger, Martin, and Blakey.

Several books including yours make reference to the apparent suicidal death of a woman named Nancy Jane Mooney, who for some unexplained reason also went by the name Betty MacDonald. Even though you included an entire chapter on the subject, you did not mention the fact that reference is made by the W.C. lawyers, Griffin, Hubert, ~~and~~ Liebeler and Jenner to a member of the Russian Community also named Betty MacDonald, in interviews with Michael Paine, Ruth Paine, Everett Glover, and George DeMohrenschildt. According to Everett Glover, she was a librarian at Socony Oil where Glover worked and came to a dinner party hosted by Glover with Richard Pierce, Glover's roommate and colleague, as well as the third roommate Volkmar Schmidt. This dinner party was organized to introduce the Oswalds to Ruth Paine, a friend of Glover's.

Most likely the Betty MacDonald that came to the dinner party was not the same person that hung herself in the Dallas jail on Feb. 13, 1964, especially since she was apparently interviewed by Edward Epstein in preparing a chapter for his 1978 book Legend (according to his notes). However, the index for Volumes I-XV indicate that it is the same person. Oddly enough your 1966 index only has two references under Mooney/MacDonald - an interview with Ruby handyman Andrew Armstrong and with Gen. Walker, who mentions her death but not her name.

I have written to Henry Hurt and David Scheim about this aspect of the case without much success, but a reporter in Dallas, Kent Biffle, is looking into <sup>it</sup> for me. Through the Assassination Archives I was able to obtain your address, and would greatly appreciate any ~~xxx~~ clarification you could make. (I am still waiting for a response from Edward Epstein, who appears to be out of town since I wrote to him in May)

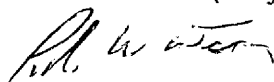
I was also intrigued by reference in your book to the Ralph Simpson phone call from Victoria, B.C. I spoke to R.H.W. Smele's sister-in-law after reading Dean's testimony in the W.C. volumes. His first name was Ralph and his mother's maiden name was Simpson.

and she feels that he most likely used the name "Ralph Simpson" instead of his real name. However, there is also the possibility that Simpson was either an uncle or cousin on his mother's side. Mr. Smele died two years ago and his wife also is deceased, but his sister lives in Vancouver. However, after being contacted by the sister-in-law, she stated that she didn't want to speak to me, and claimed to have never heard about the phone call (Mr. Smele's sister-in-law also had never heard about it). I sent her photocopies of the Dean interviews of March 24 and April 1. She has a son who inherited Ralph Smele's belongings who she is going to talk to when he visits. By the way, X Ralph Smele lived at the address, 1141 Caledonia (misspelled by Lean) until 1979 with the same phone number given by Dean, not far from the B.C. legislature. There is no listing in the Canadian Law List for either 1963 or 1964 under the name "Batter" who is referred to as his lawyer by Sgt. Dean. One of the documents included in Vol. XIX, p. 447, lists Batter as "The attorney General", which suggests that Smele might have contacted the Attorney General's department of the B.C. government.

Since talking to Mrs. Smele, I have received a copy of notes taken by Earl Golz, during an interview with Sgt. Dean while he was in Washington testifying in July, 1964 (sent to me from the Assassination Archives). According to the notes, Dean told someone named Murphy Martin about the call, and he phoned Mr. Smele from a motel room with Sgt. Dean and his wife present. The person, not identified X in Golz' notes, who talked to Martin indicated that he had been told by the "R.C.M.P., his government and this government to not talk about film." I also spoke to Sgt. Dean by phone in Tyler, Texas, thanks to Kent Biffle, and Dean stated that he is convinced the film was intercepted by the authorities. I mentioned to him that Smele's sister-in-law thought the whole thing was a prank, since Smele was an alcoholic and very irresponsible, but Dean still felt the call was genuine. Even if it was a prank, you would think that the FBI would make a report on it anyway (Dean mentions in his Washington interview that the FBI had the name of the caller, which by then he had forgotten.) In the course of writing your book, did you happen to phone Smele yourself, and if so, what did you learn?

I look forward to hearing from you in regard to these two intriguing ~~xxxxx~~ aspects of the case as soon as possible. By the way I phoned you this morning "collect" to confirm your address and phone number.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Watson