

916-A Jefferson Drive
Kerrville, Texas

November 18, 1967

*Replied
by hand
no copies
11/23/67*

Dear Sylvia:

Do you have Penn Jones' new effort? It has a small clue on Page 5 which may be significant, to wit:

Jenner. Did I ask you about Betty MacDonald this morning, as to whether she was at that February 1963 party?

DeMohrenschildt: Oh, yes; I think that is the librarian. The name MacDonald sounds familiar to me. Is she Pierce's fiancée? That is how I remember her.

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Jenner. Was there not present a Miss Betty MacDonald?

Mrs. Paine. Which I had completely forgotten about, yes; there was. . . . Betty MacDonald I do recall lives in the same apartment building as this couple, and it is a long German sort of name, I think.

On Page 6, Jones comments as follows: "Richard Pierce was never called as a witness. Miss MacDonald's apartment was never identified. Where Miss MacDonald worked as librarian was never identified. Yet all these people knew what they were really hiding.

"Betty Mooney MacDonald, a woman once employed as a stripper by Jack Ruby according to some evidence, was present at a party given by the Everett Glovers in February, 1963, also attended by the DeMohrenschildts and the Lee Harvey Oswalds. . . ." She was the alibi for Darrell Wayne Garner who was accused of shooting Warren Reynolds on January 23, 1964.

"A week after Miss MacDonald sprung Garner, she was arrested by the Dallas police for fighting with her roommate. An hour after Miss MacDonald was placed in jail, she was found hanging from a cell bar by her toreador pants. Dallas authorities ruled her death a suicide." Naturally.

I have felt from the beginning that the Branch Library on the corner of Jefferson and Marsalis played a key role in this thing. It would have made an ideal exchange point, for instance, for the real and the fake Oswald. Also, the first reports of action in this area were that Oswald actually got to and went into the Library. A close friend of mine--we were both living and working in San Antonio at the time--went to Dallas the day after the assassination. Bill was raised in Oak Cliff and his parents still live there. When he came back on Monday, he showed me on a Dallas map the route "Oswald" was supposed to have followed. It showed that he went into the Library but turned back toward the Texas Theater when police cars converged upon it from several directions.

On my first visit to Dallas after that, I went to this Library and it seemed adequately housed at that time. It was something of a shock on a subsequent visit to find that it had been replaced by a new structure. Such a project would, among other things, have provided a reason to disburse the employees to other libraries and minimize the risks they might have constituted as witnesses to events which might have taken place there.

Although it may seem far fetched, this might be the key to unlock the first door. Was the library closed November 22? Who were the permanent, part-time, temporary, and volunteer staff? Where are they now? Was one of them Betty Mooney MacDonald--under that or another name? Why was the building replaced? Was Ruby's address so carefully avoided in the Warren Report to keep from showing the library was only two short alley blocks away from it?

To your knowledge, has this every been thoroughly checked out?

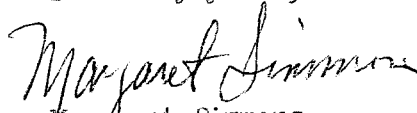
I've also read this week Gil and Ann Chapman's book. Their big deal was the relationship of the points of importance in Oak Cliff--especially the location of Ruby's apartment. I wrote them a note adding the location of the branch library and my thoughts on it along the above lines but not in as much detail because I had not read of DeMohrenschildt's mentioning Betty MacDonald as a possible librarian.

They did have one very startling item on their Page 97, however. The statement that Darrell Tomlinson--who found Exhibit 399 (of which Penn Jones says, page 69, "It was imperative that the bullet be found for that is the only link to the Oswald rifle. The other bullets shattered into tiny fragments.")--was actually one Artemis Haverford and formerly a citizen of Johnson City, Texas, really was a kick in the head, to say the least.

As you know, I felt from the beginning that Garrison was a pressure valve to take the steam out of the demands on the Federal government to reopen the case. It looks like the demands are going to build up even more this Fall and we can only hope that something will turn up which cannot be ignored or "explained" away. It is really fantastic that we as a people no longer have the righteous indignation to blast this thing wide open and accept the consequences--whatever they may be.

The best of luck with your book--I'm looking forward to reading it, if you are in need of the understatement of the century.

Sincerely yours,


Margaret Simmons

cc: Penn Jones
Gil & Ann Chapman

P.S. - I'm working on my theory of the full implication of the library and will send