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Mike Ewing
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Dear Mike,

As a follow-up to my last letter of the eighteenth, here are additional details of leads and information I came across on the New Orleans investigations. All has been previously given to the HSCA verbally and by memoranda.

COLLIN B. HAMER JR.

On May 7, 1976 Hamer granted me a two hour interview in his home in Metairie, La. His wife was mostly in another room and had expressed strong reservations about his discussing the Oswald^A in New Orleans subject.

Hamer first named two fellows as being close to Ferrie in the Civil Air Patrol. They were Tommy Compton (who, he said, had attempted suicide in '58 or '59) and Melvin Coffee (my notes reflect a phone # for "Mr. Coffee" - may be his Dad- 733-2847). He later mentioned Oliver St. Pee as someone who hung around with Ferrie and would now be reachable through the Model Cities Program at City Hall or tel. 887-4699. All three were in Warren Commission documents.

With respect to an Oswald-Ferrie relationship, Hamer downplayed the significance. He'd known of Oswald in Junior High and was already in the C.A.P. unit commanded by Ferrie when Oswald joined, only to attend " a couple of meetings ". He described the C.A.P. regimen as pseudo-militaristic, complete with rifle practice. Ferrie, he went on was an oddball and in 1963 or so the Border Patrol came asking Hamer questions about Ferrie and he referred them to Charles Fox. (also in W.C. documents).

Hamer provided me with a very poor Xerox copy of one page from a list of active C.A.P. cadets during the time Oswald was in. He said he'd typed it from personnel files as an assignment when stationed at Kenner. That, he went on, was not where Oswald had been which was "the hanger." I will find enclosed a copy of my copy. There exists no available....

documentation (to the best of my knowledge - I have searched) of the F.B.I. or W.C. having this list or making inquiries of most individuals named. Hamer explained some of the symbols and abbreviations; most relevant perhaps being that all individuals with a serial of #5000 or lower could have been in with Oswald.

Regarding the Ferrie personnel file at C.A.P. , Hamer indicated one Mary Dellsperger (ph) would possibly have knowledge of the files contents before and after the F.B.I. borrowed it (returning,he said, a one inch file when a three inch one was given them). A Mary Berkowitz, Wing Hdqts., La. Wing C.A.P., Rm. 312, Lakefront Airport, N.O. 70126, mailed me a copy of the file. It is 55 pages and she says that is all that now exists in their office. This was provided me in exchange for sending her 75 pages of W.C. documents pertaining to C.A.P. people. In case all is not accessable in H.S.C.A. files (I know how things get buried there) please advise as to what you want and it will go out to you within one days notice at 6¢ per page copying costs.

Hamer told of a Diane Kennedy, now at Gulf South Research,(notes reflect two tel. numbers--837-4028 and 283-4623) who had been working as a Public Library associate when the F.B.I. came to check take out records (presumably Oswald's; perhaps Ferrie's too), She is reported to have told Hamer they only spent 30 minutes but also went to Branch Libraries. Recall the controversey, never settled to my satisfaction, over Ferrie voluntarily denying in an F.B.I. interview that he ever loaned his card to Oswald. Oswald's loan record, not neccessarily complete but, but impressive, is a W.C. document.

You expressed an interest in Voebel. He never interested me much other than an unsubstantiated rumor (Mary Ferrel knows the details) that his Florist truck was somehow involved in an intelligence related death. Hamer spoke at length concerning Voebel and his death at age 31 of pneumonia. He said a possible way to locate Voebel's widow (remarried) would be her sister or sister-in-law; Shelly Bourgois. He gave a phone number for Claude and Cheryl Bourgois as 833-9707.

My impression of Collin Hamer is, for what it's worth, the man is honest and level headed. He is discreet and asked that I not have his name published. I've only mentioned him to H.S.C.A. staffers.

-David Pearce Magyar

Warren Commission document #75, pp. 589-590 is an interview with Magyar regarding his application for a Mexican travel visa on 9-17-63. He provides details on his trip by small plane to Mexico and acknowledges a personal acquaintance with Ferrie.

Marilyn Dorathea Murrett

Professor Blakey, in his narration on the meaning of possibly conspiratorial implications via association with Oswald, made reference to Dutz Murrett and his bookmaking activity as a possible connection with organized crime. I find his daughter Marilyn also to have some interesting background associations and unexplored activities. Unfortunately my file on her is loaned out (see Ed Lopez or Gaeton Fonzi; I think they may have the same W.C. documents). In that she testified before the Warren Commission the Archives maintains a key person file for her. She was reported in the Northern Virginia Sun, an article by Allen and Scott, to have been on a list of defectors given L.B.J.. Her international travels have interesting parallels with Oswald's. (ie..Japan, Mexico). Don't miss C.D. 1080 re Harold R. Issacs and Center for International Studies.

Lawrence J. La Borde; a.k.a. John Tebalt

Gaeton Fonzi has been fully briefed as to information La Borde provided me during interview in the Florida Keys during January of '76. Briefly, La borde is a soldier of fortune and former C.I.A. operative. He claims to have been involved in three attempts on Castro's life. Robert K. Brown wrote of him in Soldier of Fortune Magazine. My session with him was like something out of an old movie. Bodyguards with guns, paranoia and bragadaccio. He reports to have seen an Oswald look-alike doing anti-Castro war games out of the Keys in '61. On top of this he adds a personal and professional acquaintance with Ferrie dating back to C.I.A./Guatemala operations. Finally he reports a meeting with Ferrie at the New Orleans airport in the summer of '63 wherein Ferrie indicated people were being recruited out of Cuban operations to kill Kennedy. I've been told the committee has not attempted to locate him and I'd like to know why. My offer to assist in locating him still stands.

Sam Turmani

We have already discussed this man and the information Mary Ferrell provided on him...ie..worked for Marcello, knew Ruby, grew up in New Orleans with Oswald's mother, claims Garrison owed his political existence to Marcello. My memo to Tannenbaum on him ought to be easy to locate.

Adrian Alba

Cliff Fenton, among others on the staff, has been advised of the information Alba conveyed to me concerning his association with Oswald. Briefly, Alba tells of signing out a green Plymoth sedan

from his Crescent City garage (next door to Reilly Coffee Co.) to an F.B.I. Special Agent, name unrecalled. It was his business then and now to house vehicles for federal employees. On the day in question he reports to have been out front in the afternoon and to have sighted the vehicle approaching. Expecting to greet the driver he says the car continued on, stopping in front of Reilly Co. where Oswald appeared and was passed a white envelope.

This story has problems. First it does not appear in his Warren Commission testimony or interview reports at the Archives. He is unclear as to whether he told it to investigators in '64. Secondly, the man is close friends with John Rice, A.S.A.I.C. Secret Service, who was very active in the original investigation. Thirdly, this is a classic example of overly questioned witnesses who have been reading on the subject. He does'nt know how the story re-emerged in his memory but thinks it was sparked by a T.V. commercial. (Laugh, I rode a Greyhound bus down to hear that one). In any event, I don't think the story should be dismissed out of hand. He says he told the story upon recollection or at the time to a fellow scoutmaster and friend who is still in the area. Also there may be records.

A rather interesting element came up in the interview (actually we had two in '76). He tells of having "helped Lee rivet an old guitar like strap for a rifle he had at home". Alba showed me the actual hammer used and called over Oswald's old supervisor Charles Le Blanc who confirmed being asked at the time by Alba for some rivets. Recall the rifle when allegedly photographed in March had a rope sling and now a makeshift strap.

Alba resides at 624 Focis, Metairie LA. tel. 835- 5135 and his office number is 525-5135.

I'll phone you Tuesday or Wednesday.

Best Wishes,

Kellum