

3/14/76

The following is a summary of my research in the National Archives and in the files of Bernard Fensterwald during 11/12-75. As there has been very little published material published on the Mexico City trip, I have no way of knowing how much of this information is already known to researchers. Hopefully, everyone will find it useful to some extent.

On 9/17/63 Oswald visited the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans where he was issued 15 day tourist card #24085. The man whose tourist card was apparently issued directly before Oswald was William George Gaudet, who told the F.B.I. on 11/27 that he was a former employee of the C.I.A. (C.D. 75, pg. 588)

Comparing information garnered from Oswald's and Gaudet's tourist card applications (CE 2478, CD 75, pg. 588), two things are possibly significant. First, all of the 19 people who appeared at the Consulate on 9/17 had their names listed in C.D. 75 in the order first name, middle, last name except for Oswald and Gaudet. The former's name was mistakenly inverted Harvey Oswald Lee and the latter's is listed Gaudet William George. This is probably innocent as Oswald's inversion is plausibly explained by the bunching together of Harvey Oswald on his application, thus suggesting Lee, Harvey Oswald. As Gaudet probably filled out his application "Gaudet, William George" and he appeared before Oswald, this might have influenced the consulate employee to think Oswald's name was an inversion as well. Researchers are free to come up with other explanations for this coincidence.

Another minor point is that of the 19 appearing on 9/17, only Gaudet, Oswald, and one other person (Arthur C. Mason, 6 month tourist card # 4363760) listed "tourist" as the purpose of their trip.

Curiously enough, Gaudet's name appears in the Hearings and Exhibits on a completely different matter. CE 2880, an F.B.I. report relates that William George Gaudet telephoned the New Orleans F.B.I. office on 11/27 stating "he had heard Jack Ruby from Dallas, Texas had purchased paintings from one Lorenzo Borenstein."

Gaudet was interviewed by Warren commission critic Bernard Fensterwald on May 13, 1975. Gaudet denied giving any information about Ruby to the F.B.I., and claimed CE 2880 was a complete fabrication. It is noteworthy that the interview of Gaudet concerning his appearance at the consulate the same day as Oswald (C.D. 75 pg. 588) and the report on his information about Ruby (CE 2880) were both taken by the same agent (John William Miller) on the same day (11/27/63).

It should be noted there is no evidence that Oswald and Gaudet were in the consulate at the same time. Gaudet didn't remember Oswald being there and he is corroborated by Elena Tejada, an employee of the Mexican consulate who claimed "there was something about Oswald that made her remember him." Tejada, who did not actually wait on Oswald, was interviewed by Gary Sanders, an investigator for Garrison, on 3/19/68. Tejada stated she was sure Oswald was alone when he applied for his tourist card.

Also appearing at the consulate on 9/17/63 was David Pearce Maygar (#24088). Maygar told the F.B.I. he was a friend of David Ferrie, who figured heavily in the investigation of New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison. I know of no other exhibits or documents indicating the F.B.I. explored Maygar's background further.

On the morning of 9/23/63 Marina Oswald and her baby daughter June left New Orleans for Irving, Texas. Very little is known about Oswald's movements the next two days. While his exact time of departure from New Orleans on the way to Mexico City is not known, there is strong evidence he did not leave the city until the morning of the 25th. Post office records show that an unemployment check Oswald cashed in a New Orleans grocery store did not arrive at his post office box until after 5:00am the 25th. The store, Winn Dixie #1425, did not open until 8:00am. I have done considerable research on this very subject with the hopes of establishing an earlier departure time for Oswald. But the Commission's evidence in this area is pretty solid.

There is strong evidence Oswald boarded a Trailways bus in Houston, Texas at 2:35am 9/26. Oswald probably continued along the Trailways bus system until he reached the U.S.-Mexican border at Laredo, Texas. Once in Mexico Oswald had to transfer to the Flecha Roja bus line for the rest of his journey to Mexico City. Unlike their American counterparts, Mexican bus lines often maintain passenger lists for long bus trips. Misleading F.B.I. exhibits aside, there was a passenger list made for Oswald's bus, but it disappeared under suspicious circumstances.

The F.B.I. apparently did not begin to ask for the passenger list until 3/64. On 4/2/64 Alejandro Saucedo, manager of the Flecha Roja bus terminal in Mexico City, told a "confidential source" that "shortly after the assassination" two investigators he believed to be from the Mexican Federal Police picked up the original passenger list. The men already had with them, according to Saucedo, the carbo which the driver had left at the terminal at Nuevo Laredo. (C.D. 979a)

But the Mexican Federal Police denied sending anyone over to pick up the lists. (C.D. 979a) As far as I know, the passenger list for Oswald's bus (Flecha Roja No. 516) was never recovered and the "investigators" never identified. The Commission ultimately used a baggage list (CE 2566) as well as the eyewitness testimony of Bryan and Meryl McFarland (WR 732-3) to place Oswald on that bus.

The Warren Commission concluded that Albert Osborne sat beside Oswald on the bus from Nuevo Laredo to Mexico City. Osborne, a naturalized Canadian citizen who had apparently been working as an itinerant Baptist minister, was traveling under the assumed name of John Howard Bowen. Osborne, 74 at the time, claimed to have used both names since the 1920's, using the alias "in order to obtain a more American name and for the purpose of obtaining American citizenship and an American passport" (C.D. 393)

Osborne apparently had used the name Bowen for some time and was known to his Church friends by that name. He repeatedly lied to the F.B.I., claiming his true name was Bowen, and this tainted his steadfast denial that he sat beside Oswald. Four other passengers, the McFarlands, and Pamela Mumford and Patricia Winston, who boarded the bus later, positively identified him as sitting by Oswald.

The most interesting question about Osborne is his source of income. He claimed to receive money from "independent Baptist churches and members of Baptist churches with whom he was in contact" for his missionary work. He not only received enough money for himself to live on, but also told the F.B.I. he provided "books and financial assistance" (C.D. 393) to other evangelical churches. Osborne claimed to have worked as a gardener when funds were low.

The F.B.I. checked up on a few donors to Osborne's work, but

does not appear to have done an extensive study of his income. Specifically, Osborne spent several hundred dollars in traveling expenses alone during the two months following his journey with Oswald. After his trip from Laredo to Mexico City, he returned to Laredo on 10/1. Then he traveled to New Orleans where he obtained a new Canadian passport in his real name on 10/10. Then he went back to Laredo for a few days before traveling to New York City by bus. Around 11/14/63 Osborne flew to London, England, where he "visited relatives" and then flew to Madrid, Spain to visit a "Baptist church." On 12/5/63 he returned to New York City. (C.D. 393)

The Commission apparently was not too concerned about Osborne. He was never called as a witness nor did he file a deposition. As early as 3/30/64 Hoover wrote a letter to J. Lee Rankin, stating "in view of the foregoing (the F.B.I. had found no link between Oswald and Osborne) .. no further investigation is being conducted concerning Osborne's background unless a specific request is received by you." Two F.B.I. reports dated in 7/64 indicate such a request may have been made, although both are still withheld.

Oswald's surveillance by the C.I.A. while in Mexico City has raised many questions, but I have found nothing in my research to appreciably contribute to this subject. Those interested should consult the recently published anthology The Assassinations, Scott, Hoch, Stetler, eds., specifically the articles "The C.I.A. and the Man who was not Oswald" and "C.I.A. Activities and the Warren Commission Investigation". Also, on the taped phone calls see the New York Times and the Washington Star, 9/21/75.

Oswald arrived in Mexico City around 10:00am 9/27. After checking into the Hotel del Comercio, an inexpensive hotel a few blocks from the bus station, he probably went first to the Russian Embassy. (See C.D. 1216, for instance) Later the same morning he also visited the Cuban Embassy.

The Report concluded that Oswald's visits to both the Russian and Cuban Embassies were for the purpose of obtaining a visa to Cuba in transit to Russia. Yet while noting that one of the consuls that waited on Oswald at the Russian Embassy, Valerily Vladimirovich Kostikov, was serving covertly as a member of the Soviet K.G.B., the Warren Report did not mention that Kostikov was assigned to the "liquid affairs" division, "whose responsibilities included assassination and sabotage." (C.D. 928) While it has been widely accepted that the K.G.B. carries out political assassination, C.D. 928 is the first confirmation I know of that Kostikov was specifically involved in this area. It was released early this year.

The F.B.I. investigation of those who entered Mexico at Nuevo Laredo 9/26 and exited there 10/3 as Oswald did turned up several people with interesting travel schedules. The most notable is Manuel Vicente Porras Rivera, a Costa Rican citizen who was trying to obtain a visa to Cuba at the same time as Oswald.

C.D. 963 relates that Porras Rivera told unnamed authorities on 3/3/64 that he was concerned with the situation in Cuba and wanted to "ascertain the true conditions in Cuba and make this information available to the authorities in Costa Rica." Costa Rican authorities said they had nothing to do Porras Rivera.

Rivera said he first visited the Cuban consul in Meridia, Mexico, but his application for a visa there was turned down. He then traveled to Mexico City to apply at its Cuban consul, but he arrived there on a Saturday (9/28) and the compound was closed. Although Rivera remained in the capital city until 10/2, he claimed he never

attempted to visit the Embassy again.

Rivera left Mexico City the same day as Oswald, though apparently 12 hours later. (Oswald at 8:30am and Rivera at 8:30pm) Rivera, like Oswald, traveled to Laredo, Texas and then on to Dallas, "where he spent several days." Then Rivera traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana and stayed "four or five days"(C.D. 963) before returning to Costa Rica. The interview with Rivera does not indicate why he went to Dallas and New Orleans.

C.D. 1007, pg. 12 shows that Isaac Levy Leon, a male Cuban citizen 47 years of age entered Mexico at Nuevo Laredo the same day as Oswald. He is listed as proceeding from New Orleans with final destination of Mexico City. It should be noted however that Levy may not have come directly from New Orleans and he apparently entered Mexico between 12 and 6am (judging by the shift of the employee who stamped his tourist card) while Oswald supposedly crossed the border between 1:30 and 2:00pm.

The number of sightings of Oswald during his week long trip to Mexico City could be important. Aside from the well known Sylvia Odio case, others include:

1) Lee Dannelly, a selective service employee in Austin, Texas believed Oswald visited her office on 9/25 seeking help on his dishonorable discharge. (CE 2137)

2) J.G. Hardin, employee of a City Directory firm, believed Oswald picked him up while Hardin was hitchhiking on the main road between Houston and Dallas on 10/3. Hardin believed Oswald was driving a 53 Ford. (C.D. 75?, pg. 27d)

3) Laymon Stewart, General manager of radio station KOPY in Alice, Texas believed Oswald applied for a job at his station on either 9/28 or 10/4. He remembered the man had a wife who could not speak English and a baby child. He believed Oswald was driving a 53 or 54 Chevrolet sedan. (C.D. 75, pg. 566)

4) Bernard Thompson, a chauffeur in Washinton, D.C., told the F.B.I. that on 9/27 Oswald angrily told him to move his car that he stationed in front of the Hotel Willard at 14 and "F" streets in the nation's capital. (C.D. 320, pg. 650)

Any researcher with information on the points raised in this paper is encouraged to contact me.

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Date 11/27/631

WILLIAM GEORGE GAUDET, Waveland, Mississippi, P.O. Box 365 advised that to the best of his recollection in the early afternoon of September 17, 1963 he picked up his travel permit from the Mexican Counsellor's Office at the Whitney Bank Building in New Orleans. He stated that at the time he entered the Mexican Counsellor's Office, there were six or seven persons waiting to pick up permits and to the best of his recollection, LEE HARVEY OSWALD was not one of them. GAUDET further stated that he left New Orleans, September 19, 1963 via Pan American Airlines at 12:00 noon. He stated that he could not recall the flight number, but is positive that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was not one of the flight passengers in the First Class Section. He further stated that he did not observe OSWALD in the Tourist Section, although he may have been there. He stated this Pan American flight landed in Merida, Mexico and then continued on to other Central and South American countries. GAUDET stated that he did not actually enter Mexico as he was continuing on to the South and Central American countries. GAUDET further stated that he could not recall the exact date he returned, but that it was approximately three or four weeks later. He stated OSWALD was not a passenger on the return flight to the United States.

GAUDET stated in his opinion that if OSWALD was a Marxist, that he would not have gone to Merida in Mexico as this is, in his opinion, a strictly anti-communist area. GAUDET also indicated that he has in the past been an employee of CIA.

11/27/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # 89-69

SA JOHN WILLIAM MILLER :lav Date dictated 11/27/63

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Date 11/27/63

1 WILLIAM GEORGE CAUDRY telephonically contacted this Agent to advise that he had heard JACK RUBY from Dallas, Texas, had purchased paintings from one LORENZO BOKKENITTIN, Street, CAUDRY also stated that he did not know what dates RUBY bought these paintings.

Date 11/27/63

1 LORENZO BOKKENITTIN, 318 Royal Street, advised that he knew one JACK RUBY only as a customer, and that he had sold RUBY, during the summer of 1958, several paintings of local scenes. The price of which he recalled to be approximately \$100.00. He stated that he does not recall the exact information, inasmuch as his records concerning this sale had been destroyed.

C. 11/27/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 44-2064

by SA JOHN WILLIAMS MILLER :JSM Date dictated 11/27/63
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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2880-Continued

C. 11/27/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 44-2064

by SA F. J. DAVIESON, JR. :JSD Date dictated 11/27/63
SA JOHN WILLIAMS MILLER
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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2880-Continued

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SAUCEDO stated he had assisted the Mexican Government investigators in searching for the passenger lists relating to the trip of September 26-27, 1963, and was quite certain the name of LEE HARVEY OSWALD did not appear thereon. He added, however, that the Flecha Roja bus line makes connection at Laredo, Texas, with the Continental Trailways bus line in the United States, and if a passenger who had purchased a through ticket to Mexico, D. F., from a point within the United States were to board the Flecha Roja line at Laredo or Nuevo Laredo, no record of that passenger by name would be made on the passenger list. He explained that the passenger list would include a seat designation and ticket number in the name of "Continental."

The second confidential source abroad advised that on April 2, 1964, and thereafter, ALEJANDRO SAUCEDO furnished the following additional data:

He recalled that shortly after the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, two investigators, whom he described as being with the "Policia Federal Judicial" (Federal Judicial Police), appeared at the Flecha Roja terminal, Mexico, D. F., and requested the original passenger lists of bus No. 516 of September 26-27, 1963, for review. SAUCEDO remembered that the two investigators examined the passenger lists, filed by dates, in a storeroom at the offices of the Flecha Roja bus terminal, found the originals for the pertinent date, and borrowed same. He could not recall the names of the investigators or the exact date they appeared at the office.

SAUCEDO now recalled clearly that these two investigators, whom he could only describe as being "in their thirties," had the duplicate copy of the passenger list which apparently had been at the Flecha Roja bus terminal office in Nuevo Laredo when the trip for September 26-27, 1963, began. The investigators stated they wanted the original list because the duplicate copy made at Nuevo Laredo was not completely legible. SAUCEDO stated they had the original copies of the passenger manifests for Flecha Roja bus No. 516 for September 26-27, 1963, when they left.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

CR 999

28 September 1963 - OSWALD again visited the Soviet Embassy. He spoke with Soviet Consul KOSTIKOV (whom he later referred to as "comrade Kostin").

NOTE: Valeriy Vladimirovich KOSTIKOV, who has functioned overtly as a Consul in the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City since September 1961, is also known to be a staff officer of the KGB. He is connected with the Thirteenth, or "liquid affairs" department, whose responsibilities include assassination and sabotage.

SECRET

GROUP 1
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in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, where he contacted the Cuban Consul on several occasions and tried to obtain a visa to Cuba. When the Cuban Consul in Merida denied his visa application, he traveled to Mexico City where he stayed at a small hotel, name not recalled, which is located about three or four blocks from the Palace of Fine Arts.

On a Saturday, the exact date of which he could not recall but believed to be September 28, 1963, he called at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City where he was stopped by a guard outside the building and was told that the Cuban Embassy was not open. He was instructed to return the following Monday but he did not try to contact the Cuban Embassy again.

Several days later, he left Mexico City at about 8:00 or 9:00 PM by bus for Nuevo Laredo. He recalled arriving at Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, where he changed buses for Nuevo Laredo. He entered the United States at Laredo, Texas, but was unable to recall the exact time he arrived in the United States, believing, however, that it was about 3:00 or 4:00 PM on the day following his departure from Mexico City. On the same afternoon, he boarded a Greyhound bus at Laredo for Dallas, Texas, where he spent several days before traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he remained four or five days and from where he returned to San Jose, Costa Rica.

A photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD was exhibited to him and he was positive that he had not seen OSWALD at any time while at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City or en route to the United States by bus through Nuevo Laredo.

INQUIRIES TO LOCATE EDWARD
BASTIEN AT GUATEMALA CITY

The first confidential source abroad advised that, according to the files of the Mexican Immigration Service, EDWARD BASTIEN was issued Mexican tourist card FM-8 No. 36257 by the Mexican Consulate General, Guatemala City, Guatemala, on October 1, 1963, and his name was among those who departed from Mexico on October 3, 1963, at Nuevo Laredo. His entry to Mexico occurred on October 1, 1963, at the Central Airport, Mexico, D. F. He was described as a male, American citizen, etc.

CONFIDENTIAL

"Militant"
7 June 1965, p.5

Green Light for Gusanos

The Cuban Coast Guard announced May 22 that it had destroyed an armed launch operated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, killing one operative and capturing two. The launch had the mission of taking aboard a spy who had infiltrated into Cuba earlier. The Cubans said the launch had come from Key Marathon in Florida and that one of the captured men was Silvino Martinez Romero, a CIA specialist in smuggling men in and out of Cuba.

Meanwhile, Cuban exiles in Miami are "suddenly feeling a loosening of reins from Washington," according to the May 27 *Christian Science Monitor*. Since the Dominican crisis, say the counter-revolutionaries, "the red light

on our activity has turned green." One of them said, "There has been more activity in the past few weeks than in the past six months." The *Monitor* added that in particular the *gusanos* "find fewer restraints on movements in and out of Cuba."

Note: List of tenants^{*} at Hotel del Comercio, Mexico, D.F., during the time L.H.O. stayed there in September, 1963, includes:
Silvino MARTINEZ, stayed 9/28/63 only, room 24 (4th floor).
Unknown whether same party as above clipping.
(Address listed as Queretaro, Queretaro.)

*24H595