

guy name

Wenberg

Date 11/25/63

talked to [unclear]

Mr. ROBERT HEDRICK, Manager, Factory Outlet Shoes, 729 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that this business has been in operation since August 1, 1963, however, from July 1, 1963 he had possession of the building and was preparing for his original opening August 1, 1963. He advised that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was not employed at any time by his company. Mr. HEDRICK further advised that this location was previously under the name of Rhealee Millinery Company, whose home office is in Dallas, Texas. He advised that he has no knowledge of the employment record of this company or whether or not OSWALD was in fact employed by Rhealee Millinery Company.

Interview  
Dist.

Mr. HEDRICK advised that sometime during the month of August, 1963 he recalled seeing LEE OSWALD at the corner of Canal and Carondelet in the bus stop area distributing leaflets, however, he himself had no contact with OSWALD. He further advised that on one occasion he recalled seeing OSWALD in conversation with another individual whom he described as heavy set with swarthy, Latin complexion. He was not able to identify this individual carrying on conversation with OSWALD except to say he is of opinion that perhaps they were arguing in view of the motions of their hands and arms.

Aracha  
short

Mr. HEDRICK stated that when he saw OSWALD it was usually in the late evening around 5:00 PM when he would make his trip to the bank to make a deposit in the National Bank of Commerce night deposit box.

Mr. HEDRICK advised that he is unable to furnish further information regarding the Dolly Shoe Company but suggested a contact be made with Southern Shoe Company, 214 Decatur Street, since this company is the wholesale outlet for shoes in this area.

Send to  
Wenberg

CE 1903

On 11/25/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69  
by SA JAMES E. SCHMIDT, JR. and SA THEODORE R. VIATER/jab Date dictated 11/25/63

4/10/69

Dear Doc,

Thanks for sending me the copy of CE 1903, which I had entirely forgotten. I wish it had come to mind when I was there. This is consistent with a number of other reports I have called to your attention in their real content and in the superb effort of the agents to avoid it and its significance. Among the other cases that come to mind immediately are those of Ampolsk and Cerniglia (apparently never interviewed on this by the FBI). It is also confirmed by a number on which I sent you memos after my December visit to New Orleans.

What this report really says is that Oswald was seen regularly on Canal Street, giving out his handbill. Hedrick saw him often enough to recall his companion. Note next to the last paragraph: "when he saw Oswald it was usually in the late evening..." This certainly says Hedrick often saw Oswald. And that is something studiously avoided by all the various kinds of Feebees. It is exactly what I said in a number of memos and it cannot be without meaning a) that it was officially hidden and disguised and b) that he always did it in the same area. One of the conveniences of that location is proximity to Bringuier yet without ostentation.

The final paragraph says "he is unable to furnish further information regarding the Dolly Shoe Company", but the report cites none at all. What, one might wonder, is the information he did supply, and why was he asked for it? I gave you a report on the Dolly Shoe Co., as I recall it an O job application.

Perhaps not important, perhaps a means of ignoring both the area and the regularity of this literature ploy, only a single address is given, Carondelet and Canal. I think Hedrick undoubtedly recalled either others or that O was always in the same approximate spot.

The FBI was not interested in a link with Oswald when he, ostensibly, was engaged in apparently pro-Gastro activity. These go together like cats and dogs.

The 1967 N.C. phone book (can you update me?) does not list Hedrick. It does list the store, and I think I recall having seen it. So, I think Hedrick can be located - and I think he should, plus all the others I have singled out to you in this same connection. I think this may be one of our important clues.

Keep me posted if you go any further, and on any similar things you find.

Perhaps things are not pressing on you as they were. If this is the case, why not follow up on some of these? From the available indications, there should be something young Ampolsk knows. If there is, his shrink knows it for he treated the young man for not less than four years because of it.

Is it not fascinating that Oswald seems to have picked a place near Bringuier until he got the attention he needed, then abandoned that place for Shaw's place. Once he got attention there, he was finished, was he not - yet he remained in N.C. for five weeks or more. Look at where he picketed: the Wasp, where he could have gotten the attention but didn't; near Bringuier, where he succeeded; then near Shaw and other goodies. Like the Cuban Committee Alcock didn't follow up in the trial, on which I have independently developed quite a story that is in COUP D'ETAT. If the secretary in her first testimony gave a proper name for that committee. I'd like to know it.

Sincerely,

4/10/69

Dear Paul and Gary,

Possibly because this aspect has been out of my mind for so long does it hit me hard. Moo missed what I think is the most significant thing in the attached copy of the copy of JE 1903 he sent me, next to the last paragraph and the word "usually", which means often. That is so consistent with perhaps four or five other cases on which you may my memos.

Let me give you the geography. Canal is the dividing street. In the Quarter area, they all change their names. Decatur on the opposite side is Camp St. Despite the number, 544 is about 3 blocks from Canal. Bringuier and Pena are less than a block on their side. Going away from the River, Chartres is next (and an alley behind that is Echance Alley, where LHO lived). On the opposite side of Canal, Chartres is Magazine. On the corner of Magazine and Canal is the Cigali Bldg (remember O in NO and the notebook, where I learned that for the 117 in the notebook, 10% is the side door to the Cigali Bldg?). Royal is next (St. Charles on the other side of Canal), then Bourbon, which is Carondelet on that side of Canal. Dauphine follows Bourbon (Baronne). Common is the first parallel /street on the side of Canal opposite the Quarter. On the corner of Common and Baronne is the Nat. Bank of Commerce Bldg. Common, as it goes away from the river, becomes Tulane. Anyone on the river side of Bourbon going to this bank would go down Carondelet to take advantage of the angle at which Common goes. Hence Hedrick would have walked right past LHO going to the bank. There are consistent reports of O heading out right at that spot, some of which you may not have seen because Garrison got them, not the FBI. Some place him with Latins(Cubans).

This is too consistent to ignore. You may remember I tried to turn NO on on this in my memos being after my return in December. When you can, read my Ampolsk memo. There are several others, the names of the interviewees now escaping me, but they are in the literature-distribution file. There also, the consistent indications of regular distributions in that same area until Bringuier does the job for him. All ignored, none pointed out as having the hidden meaning. The agents had to have noticed this, as Liebaler should. Note in my Cerniglia memo that for several days before the LHO bust she got regular complaints about his activity from Cubans. The FBI never asked her anything about this (at least, didn't report it) in that JFK's stuff deBrueys and Steinmeyer wrong about Ricardo (you have the memos, edited out of O in NO).

I believe the Dolly Shoe report is an interview with Abe Fekover.

There is no explanation of how Hedrick recognized Oswald. I suggest it is from before the assassination. No means of identification indicated at all, especially no picture, and we know how many of those the agents used. Accident? Slippiness? I think not.

Does anything else fit in your mind? I am satisfied these things must be important. Too many of them were improperly reported - but known - and never followed, as they should, quite obviously, have been. And it is not only Shaw in the ITM but Gaudet and that mysterious Freedom for Cuba Committee acknowledged by Shaw secretary who was in the old ITM.

Fascinating to me!

To orient you further (from memory, a Waterbury's Drug Store where LHO

or a look alike were reported is at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Magazine and Canal. Andrews office between Dauphine and Burgundy. Hedrick between Bayol and Bourbon. The non-existing Canal St Address in the notebook and O in NO is in the next block away from the river from Andrews, on the other side of Canal.

It is all in a tight little area. Hedrick would have walked away from the river to Carondelet to go to the bank.

There was/is so much to be done in NO, and no one who can or will do it.

I find myself wondering that Mox sent me this at this juncture. I got it today, recognized his writing (consistent with JC's thinking), and when I had to speak to Lou about something else, he told me Mox asked him to send it to me.

On a different subject, I have a candidate for the man who went in the opposite direction in Memphis, to that other car. I also now have his picture. This is all conjecture, but I know that man, know him capable and of that ~~xxx~~ general disposition, possibly with the right connections. And skilled. And of the same general description. So, if either of you has anything with any kind of description of that man (referred to by Hanes in LOOK), I am anxious to get it. Checking his whereabouts out that day may be an impossibility. For me it will be. But, I have shared my suspicion with Lou.

Some time back I asked about a name I thought I had noticed in Gary's January batch from the Archives. That still interests me greatly, more now because of a possible coincidence between a man of whom I was told by an undependable informant and that of a man just picked up for a murder (S-I 4/8). The name of interest is Mark Holean (approx). If and when you have the time, please let me know, either way, either or both of you. If it is there, it could explain and validate many strange things.

Sincerely,