

ASK Conference
Dallas, TX
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Notes re

The "Tramps" Photos Session

On Saturday evening at 8:00 pm the last session of the Assassination Symposium on John F. Kennedy was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Reunion Square, Dallas, Texas, billed as a Research Investigation presentation on the identification of the infamous "tramp" in Dealey Plaza.

Attendance was heavy, perhaps 250-300 persons, surprisingly heavy after three days of a conference. I sat with Hal Verb.

The moderator was J. Gary Shaw, who throughout seemed rather distant or out of place. He rarely spoke and never to the issue. I thought he was embarrassed, but I may be mistaken in that.

Three panelists spoke, using a machine from time to time to throw through photographs on a screen to illustrate their points and inform the audience. They sat with Shaw at a long table with a white cover, raised perhaps two feet above the floor on a large, long stand and used a cord with button to engage their machine to throw out the pictures.

Panelists: Lois Gibson of the Huston Police Department who said she was a forensic artist.

John R. Craig was the principal of the three. He had run an agency to hire undercover agents for the drug enforcement agency, etc.

Phillip A. Rogers was apparently a journalist, but who worked with Craig to do a book on Charles Fred. Rogers, a celebrated crook, murderer, and CIA man who had lived in Huston.

Craig introduced the rambling, disjointed subject that lacked a focus, but essentially dwelt on the notorious escapades of C. F. Rogers [no apparent relationship to Phillip Rogers, although no one said so.] After he finished Gibson spoke in another rambling, rolling movement into the tramps question. Rogers spoke but seldom.

Gibson set up her bona fides by showing how good she was at forensic sketching, taking down information from people and drawing the face of the criminal. She threw a dozen examples on the screen, along with a reconstruction from a skull or two. Her unchecked or unverified claims to great success gave her later comment on the tramps a cover of plausibility.

The tramps are:

Charles F. Rogers: wanted for murder in Huston for in 1967 killing his aged parents and chopping them up and storing them in the refrigerator. A seismologists with Shell of Canada, had a short wave broadcasting radio in the attic, a linguists, member of the Civil Air Patrol in the 1950s, CIA active. Had post office boxes under assumed names. Terribly bright. Born in 1921. The short dark haired tramp.

Chancy Marvin Holt, came forward and claimed to be the older tramp in the photographs. Born in 1921 he led a life of crime, worked for CIA. A printer, a documentation specialist who provided Oswald with his Hidell card and his New Orleans posters, Social Security card, etc.

Charles Harallelson. Texas criminal. In a number of trials. murderer for hire. Prison now for the judge Wood assassination. Confessed to the killing of JFK. In Marion Illinois prison. The tall tramp.

Gibson took over the mike after the ramble by Craig and began to show how the tramps looked like the photographs of the three. She compared chins, cheek bones, hair lines, jaws, and on and on. Her language included phrases such as: "big old ears" and "sticking out jaw." No sophisticated language was used, absolutely no scientific or forensic material was referred to. No notice of the House Select Committee and the Rockefeller didos with the photographs. She worked in a complete isolated manner, immune to all that had transpired before.

No critical references to time and place and details of the "arrest" of the tramps appeared. It just was and she the expert told how to solve the crime of the century through her many years of success as a HPD forensic artist.

Midway through I got tired and extremely uncomfortable with the insanity and went to the bathroom. I came back at the question period where the nuts ground them up! Steve Jaffe said it was the most irresponsible two hours he had ever heard and then sat down next to Mark Lane, which is enough to drive a Baptist to join the Catholic Church. To the question of why could both the old man and the dark one be seen as the same age when one look to be in his youth and the other in his old age, Gibson blithely explained it by facial constructs.

The analysis of course was flawed in the extreme with dubiety the brother of forced. The three repeatedly said they were just throwing this information out to the critics to follow up if they chose. No copyright or patent or exclusivity was claimed. Afterwards the audience was stunned. I think even the nuts were shell shocked by the

Came back to continue the "tramps" section

blatant irresponsibility and amateur devices. Everyone felt let down, except of course a few who walked away with notebooks and smiles of secret insight gained.

Hal Verb stuck it out. He is tough, I thought I would go out of my mind.

Later Hal and I had coffee in the restaurant --2.00\$ per cup! and talked to 1:00 about serious things. He brought me back to life with his conversation and high order of insight and understanding.

If there was ever an indication of incompetency, of fools unloosed on the world it is to be found in this session of the Dallas' group insanity.