

New Orleans

April 2, 1968

Dear Harold,

Delighted to get your letter....it was like a water in a very dry wasteland....but with very full clouds hanging above. I've got so darn much (what I think is valid) information that the frustration of not being able to accomplish something with it is making me climb the wall. Of course with MM out of town that darn office is like an ivory tower and it seems they won't lower the draw bridge...I will NOT bother Jim...but when I say I'm not going keep collecting this to no avail I find in concience I have to keep it up. Enough.....

CASTILLO'S:

1.....When I first heard rumors about Pat Hoffman's downward path it concerned 200 block of Canal, the bars there....Cubans... Castillo's...her shocking appearance..

2.....What papers had said about Oswald walking through the neighborhoods in which he had lived..

3.....Thornley working there..

4.....Ivan Kottman having had his Sal de Arms there and wondering if he had the lease that Castillo eventually acquired and who was the attorney for the transaction.....and Ivan then opening up the Mexican rest. in front of the Cuban hangout bar on Bourbon Street.. and then the Ryder pattern involving all of them..

5.....Oswald lived on Exchange Place at same time Ivan had gay bar there..

6.....Castillo's across street from N.O. Tourist Comm. in Courts Eldg. at 420 Royal..

7....."DR." Ferrie lived in Metarie while Castillo's still located in Met.

8.....and this leads into one of the French Opera Bruces:

Bruce Owens...Brother-in-law of Jim Poole's wife '61-'62. Knew Thornley, Al Thompson, Vic Latham; all that crew. Brother of Paul Owens "husband" of Lyla Hay, who worked in Jim Garrisons office in '63. As of Dec. '67 address was 319 Divisadero St., San Fran. and is operating a hippie crash pad. Think he also worked at Castillos, but won't swear to it..but I connect him with it in some way...Don't know yet about parrot but did have earring, will check...also on Ruthie..

9.....The day that you and MM were here and Martin MacAuliffe had just called it was for Lyla Hay's phone number...Maybe to get Bruce's address????

10.....The other Bruce knew much of the same crowd and is on file for having stolen a check writing machine around the early '50s, can't remember his last name but will check it out....You didn't give me a description so I'll describe them for you....

Bruce Owens is app. 30-32, 5'7 or 8. App 140 or less. Brown straight hair, pale blue eyes and wears fairly strong prescription glasses. Sort pale--fair.

The other Bruce is around six foot, quite good looking, dark blond, sometimes sun bleached curly hair, blue eyes, perfect teeth and extremely well built....has tatoos on <sup>n</sup> both arms.

They are complete opposites....but tall Bruce also wore earring occassionally and I do sort of remember a parrot with him.

The only Mexican reporter's name I could get was that of a gossip columnist who might have been through here....but if he wasn't would know others. I think it's a good lead. Pepe Romero who worked on the Mexico City Herald (Excelcior?).....Still trying though.

This may be irrelivant but a lady named Amata (? phonetic)died a year ago. A lady whore who was considered the Queen on the Cubans and the most valuable source of information.

Joel Palmer called last night trying to reach Jim G. on a non-CIA phone...Sorry this is not neater or more complete but all I could roust up immediately....Though I have so many notes we could make enough confettii for the President if we knew who he was! Hurry back....Waiting for MM to arrive now...Hope your patient wife is recovering..and will someday be able to come with you...Kelley thanks you for the hug.

Barbara

P.S. to tantalye: Spent last Wed. eve. with Kent Courtney & Ronnie Lane! — later —  
Also — did you seal your letter with my tape?