Mr. Farris L. Rookstool, III
1801 N. Lamar St., #300
Dallas, TX 75202

8/14/90

Dear Farris Rookstool,

When I first looked at the picture you were kind enough to send, I wondered when and where it was taken. The fence is the first thing that took my attention, then the rifle, then the book in my hand. But in a few seconds I was confident of my recollection. It was taken in the back yard of a man I'd visited just that one time. Most of his back yard was taken up by a swimming pool. and there was just the one time I held that rifle any place but home and on a local firing range. Moreover, it does not have the scope. I had that put on locally. So, I'd just gotten it, in Pasedena.

So, I'm curious. How did you get a picture taken at Fred Newcomb's in Sherman Oaks? He never even offered it to me. I didn't recall that it had been taken.

I think the date was about February, 1968 even though the book appeared 12/66.

Remembering the range reminds me of what may interest you. I was never an expert but when I was young I'd been a pretty good shot. I'd had a little experience with rifles and pistols. I was always curious about the dent on one of the shells recovered in the Texas School Book Depository. The bullet could not have been loaded that way and there is nothing the ejected shell could have struck that could have caused such a dent. There was no explanation of it by or to the Warren Commission. The FBI did not volunteer it and the Commission did not ask.

The friend who went to the range with me was a rifle buff and he was well informed. He tried but could not duplicate that kind of damage in firing the rifle. I asked the retired colonel in charge of the range if he had any idea how it could have happened. He didn't but he directed me to a man who was a stranger to me and had a sideline of as I now recall selling rifles and other things.

He figured it out. He operated the bolt more vigorously than I'd ever seen one pulled in ejecting the shell and that threw it back so hard it made a dent before the shell hit the earth.

It doesn't seem likely that anyone would have used such force in that crime as officially described. It certainly would not have made aiming the next shot easier.

If you get a better print I'd appreciate it.

and if you want one autographed, I'll be glad to.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold

Harold Weisberg