

Mr. Paul Wilson
50 Ocean St.,
Nahant, MA 01903

8/29/58

Dear Mr. Wilson,

In your letter of August 26 you state you are asking those who were alive then and are listed in Who's Who where we were when President Kennedy was assassinated. That really requires that I explain why anyone listed in Who's Who would be in such a place at that time and how he then learned of the great and tragic event.

I was one of the many in the military in World War II who dreamed of freedom and intellectual independence by becoming a farmer.

I became a poultry farmer and I was gathering eggs when the President was killed. (My wife was the national chicken cooking champion in 1956 or 1957, the chicken queen for a year; I was the national barbecue king of 1959; and two years later we won first and third prizes in a national contest for raising chickens.) I recall clearly exactly where I was in which of our chickens houses the moment I heard the first report on the radio.

You may wonder what I was doing with a radio in a noisy place like a chicken-house, noise except at night.

When portable transistor radios were first available, in late 1962 or early 1963 Washington, D.C.'s then only good music station had a contest, in 25 words or less the most usual place I hear the good music station. It happens I had an old radio I placed in our main henhouse and despite the clamor the chickens seemed to like it. So that I listened to good music in the hen house with that transistor radio, the first I ever saw. It fit on my belt and had an earphone that eliminated much of the noise. I was midway through the first of the four pens of our main henhouse when the broadcast was interrupted for the first flash by Merriman Smith of the United Press.

AUG. 26,1996

Dear Mr Weisberg,

I am working on my summer hobby of writing to the people who lived when President Kennedy was shot that are listed in Who's Who in the East in my library. I would be greatful if you would write me, on a sheet of your paper, telling me about where you were when this bad thing happened. Did you know Mr. Kennedy? I have sent along a stamped addressed envelope. I am very intrested in history and a letter from you would be a nice addition to my collection of letters from the Who's Who book.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul Wilson