

JWS 2/20/69

AHLER, Robert

Subject: Robert AHLER
& Dudley Lee Ferrell
Lee Harris
Larry Crafard

The latter three are included because they were innocently grouped with Ahler by the Warren Commission staff. They are similar in appearance to each other and not at all similar to AHLER.

CD pages that apply are: CD 45-6 of CD106, pp 255-8 of CD205, and 543-5 of CD7 (withheld). Memos applying are letter, Rankin to Hoover 3/18/64, two-page letter Hoover to Rankin dtd 3/24/64, CD71 p.37 (Harris), and a Memorandum dtd March 13, 1964 from Burt Griffin to "All Staff Members", which I obtained via Ahler name file but which shows "Oswald, Post-Russian 8" crossed thru. Apparently Archives didn't supply Gary with the latter page.

The Griffin memo gives descriptions of the above four persons. It concludes, "Mr. J. Edgar Hoover is being requested to provide six copies of appropriate photographs of Harris, Ahler, Crafard and Ferrell, together with a personal history of each, including their activities between September 26, 1963 and January 1, 1964. Please advise me if you have any other names to add to the list."

HOOVER evaded these requests with the pretext that they weren't OSWALD. (Which, however would mathematically increase their chances of being assassins, in my opinion).

These people got a pretty good checkout in various files with the exception of AHLER, which is the one I think Hoover was ducking. (I came on these memos by requesting what the Archives had on Ahler).

The AHLER pages are CD205 pp 255-6 & CD 106 pp 45-6. The latter two are shown Vol. 26 pages 511-2, Warren Report volumes. The lead on AHLER apparently came on advice 12/8/63 from a Mrs. Allie DuBose, Brownsville, Tex to San Antonio office FBI that a Mrs. Jackson had advised her on 12/4 that OSWALD stayed at her Dallas Motel, date unk. and gave a \$15 check on his closed New Orleans bank a/c. "Oswald" left a coat containing valuable papers which Jackson stated she was keeping for the FBI.

Page 256 of CD 205 is an interview 12/9 at Dallas of George Smith, Manager of Avalon Motel (where Ahler stayed). Had seen Mrs. Jackson. At no time had there been any discussion of OSWALD having stayed at the motel.

The interview of Mrs. Jackson is in Vol. 26. Robert AHLER stayed at her motel 3 weeks in June 1963. Suspected of having "Communist tendencies". Ahler "allegedly came to Dallas from New Orleans but was originally from N.Y. City." Described as w/m 30-35 yrs., 5-10', 170#, dark blond curly hair, blue eyes, with considerable acne on face. Ahler came to Dallas to work for Trinity Universal Insurance Co. Left there w/o notice. Left motel w/o notice leaving only a suitcoat in the room. Owed motel money. She had seen a booklet with a swastika on it. While at the motel AHLER averaged \$20 a week in phone calls to New Orleans. Always mysterious calls to "The Club". She listened in but couldn't decipher the conversations.

(Contd)

AHLER, p.2

While at the Avalon, AHLER wrote two bad checks on the Hibernia Bank of New Orleans. After he had left, a law firm from New York had been most anxious to ascertain his whereabouts. Ahler in no way resembled OSWALD. The only thing he left was a suitcoat which she later gave away.

NOTE by JNS: No mention made by her of the valuable papers left in the pocket, and no indication that the FBI asked her about the valuable papers. Remember, Jackson said that she was keeping some valuable papers to give to the FBI. No reason to believe she didn't. Not mentioning it in the write-up is par for J.Edgar's course.

So there it is.....

Considering the thousands of persons the Bureau ran down, for little or no reason, sometimes with a great expenditure of time, it is highly unlikely they didnt track down AHLER. My suspicions were originally excited by the valuable papers kept for the FBI, the Swastika booklet, the mysterious calls to New Orleans (what "Club"?), the New Orleans-Dallas pattern, same as Oswalds, and the impossibility of obtaining even a cursory interview of AHLER, when I was sure one or more had to exist (withheld?). The man would have been easy to trace from data available at Trinity Insurance and Hibernia Bank.

The matter remains to be clarified. Possibly Mrs. Allie DuBose, Beauty Operator of 904 Belthair, Brownsville, Texas, or Mrs. Estelle Jackson would provide information not given in the FBI reports.