

4/15/70

Dear Mc,

When we were talking the other day, there is something I forgot until just finding a memo on my piled-up desk.

Some time ago I told you of some of our recent work on the Alba angles. Many just do not make sense, like the FBI taking magazines and dusting them for Oswald's prints some so old they didn't get printed until after he had left N.O. and one, as I recall, not until after he was dead. Obviously, this was not done for Oswald's prints.

I finally located more magazines than they said they took, as I recall. All had been thoroughly examined for prints, all were discolored, etc.

Going along with this was the mysterious appearance of a mysterious man who claimed to be one of Alba's friends (his general description might excite you) to get some of these magazines, never returned, before the Feeks got them, when Alba wasn't there. This was the a.m. of 11/23/63. Jesse McNeill let him have them.

Now that young man in N.O. could possibly have picked just that time to misrepresent himself as a close friend of good ol' Adrian and "borrow" those magazines just before the feds got there to take and print them? And just how little interest could the feds be in trying to identify and locate him?

We have been engaged in plumbing this matter systematically for some time. Paul has done some great work. But we cannot linger on single items like this indefinitely. Also, he will very soon be in DE for a couple of days and will be spending what time he can at the Archives. It might be of interest to you if he could pursue this further. So, please send me two copies of whatever you have on Alba, McNeill, and any other employee or associate or friend, etc. I know there was some investigation, for Jim told me Alba was a "nutsman". This is something Lou can give a girl to do. Please ask him right now so there can be one more N.O. angle cleaned up when there is a chance.

We have located the page of the magazine from which the order sent to Klein's was torn and the tears match perfectly.

I took for granted you'd assume it, but in case you didn't, all those magazines showed no other prints, for none are identified! Alba didn't read them, the people he took them to his garage for didn't read them, etc. Only one person ever look at them, and he, Oswald, left but one print on one page. How do you like that for a real good investigation, FBI style?

Thanks,

Paul- no further comment on Alba mem until you finish, but I was wrong in suggesting to you, as I think I did, that they didn't get the pix 11.23. We'll see if this reminder does any good. If only Vince, who still has a latch on Jim, would say something, we'd get these things we seek. Jim is dead on this subject and Vince is dead on us. I fear the reasons are complex and psychological. A request for his help from Gary did no good. I don't know if a note from you would be of benefit. It could not hurt.

Harold Weisberg

KLEIN'S ADS, ALBA'S MAGAZINES, AND STUFF LIKE THAT

4/2/70

To: SM, HW, GRS, MEF, JNS, RB, DL.

I haven't had the time to put together a decent memo on all this, so these are just disorganized comments to supplement my memo of 1/21/70.

The 7 magazines taken from Alba's are FBI Exhibit D-15, described as "three magazines." As previously discussed, the June 1963 issue has Oswald's print on page 37, and the coupon is torn from the Klein's ad on page 59. FBI Item D-85 is two Klein's coupons, allegedly picked up in Irving on 11/23. One of the coupons matches the torn-out ad, perfectly as far as I can tell. A not very good copy is enclosed.

*Oswald  
mag?*  
The cover letter to CD 578 says that "the results of investigation concerning this exhibit are recorded on Page 388" of CD 7. That page only indicates when the coupons were found (along with the rifle photos on 11/23 - strange?) and when they were given to the FBI. Apparently the FBI never connected the coupons and the ads.

As previously mentioned, there may be some such conclusion at CD 7, p. 329, which is withheld (but I doubt it). I'll keep trying to get this page. (Incidentally, the item related to the Worker on the previous page and maybe p. 329, which is presumably the reason for the withholding, may well be the letter LHO wrote which was intercepted and apparently opened after 11/22.)

The second coupon in D-85 is Klein's Dept. 222 (thus around June 1962), page 3 of some magazine (not Amer. Rifleman or Field & Stream). Klein's doesn't keep records that far back. Clue: the Eddie Bauer ad on page 4 is "Dept. S2." If you can identify this magazine easily, please do!

Completely unrelated, but similar: CD 206, p. 40 (enclosed). Questions: what magazine (should be easy to identify)? Where is this ad published or listed in the Federal Register? (It doesn't ring any bells.) Could the original grips on the revolver already have been replaced when Oswald got it?

The mysterious stranger was not identified by Alba. (CD 75, p. 263, enclosed.)

There is little of value in Alba's statement (CD 87, SS 407, attachment). No clarification of the visitor or the number of mags lying around. (Oswald did tell Alba he expected to go to work at Michoud.) The pages around 200 in CD 7 are identical to what I have from CD 75.

Some time ago I heard speculation that Oswald's gun orders may have been part of his job as a petty agent, in connection with Sen. Dodd's investigation of mail-order gun sales. Where did this come from? Any evidence for it?

Klein's did check their records for another sale to Oswald, finding none. (See CE 2957.)

This is all very weird, but I can't think of any conspiratorial scenario that would involve planting the mags at Alba's or the coupons on Oswald. Any ideas?

PLH





## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/23/63

Mr. ADRIAN T. ALBA, 624 Focis Street, Metairie, Louisiana, owner and operator of the Crescent City Garage, 618 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, telephonically advised at 3:45 p.m., November 23, 1963, that he had been told by Mr. JESSE MC NEIL, his relief manager at the Crescent City Garage, that after SA DAVIS was at the garage on November 23, 1963, an unknown man had gone there and spoken to Mr. MC NEIL. He quoted Mr. MC NEIL as saying the man stated he was a friend of Mr. ALBA and that he would like to borrow Mr. ALBA's gun magazines. He continued that Mr. MC NEIL described the man who made this request as being a white male of heavy build, black hair, who was well dressed wearing a sport coat.

Mr. ALBA stated he could recall no friend of this description who would be interested in borrowing his gun magazines.

1 DL 100-10461  
 REG:mv:s:ms

Among LEE HARVEY OSWALD's personal effects examined after his arrest on November 23, 1963, there was noted an advertisement out of an unidentified publication in which Hershon Company, 1230 South Grand Avenue, Dept. GA-10, Los Angeles, California, advertised Hershon Custom Walnut Grips for hand guns. The advertisement contained the date "October, 1959" in longhand at the bottom.

It is pointed out that the FBI Laboratory examination of the Smith and Wesson .38 caliber weapon, Serial No. V510210, in OSWALD's possession when arrested, disclosed that the original grips on that weapon had been replaced. It is also pointed out that in October, 1959 OSWALD was en route to Russia.

On December 23, 1963, Mr. JERRY LUNDLAD, Office Manager, Hershon Company, 1230 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California, advised SA WILLIAM J. MC CAULEY that records for 1963 and 1962, including correspondence and invoices, failed to disclose any sales identifiable with OSWALD and that no sales have been made to anyone in Russia for some years.

On 11/23/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69

by SA LESTER G. DAVIS /cv Date dictated 11/23/63

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