



DEPT. OF CLASSICS
 QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
 KINGSTON, ONTARIO

30 November 1967

Harold Weisberg
~~Hyattstown, Md.~~ RT. 7, FREDERICK, MD. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thanks for your letter regarding my note about Life's recently-released pictures that were taken at the time and place of the assassination. As you request, I shall elaborate what I said in that note.

Life, 24 Nov. 1967, contains an article, "Why Kennedy Went to Texas", by Governor John Connally. Accompanying that article are various photographs that weretaken at the scene of the assassination shortly before and shortly after the President was killed. Enclosed are Xerox copies of some of those photographs and Xerox copies of other photos that do not appear in the Life article. I have numbered each of the Xerox copies so that you might refer to them more easily. ^{in red}

Pages 88 and 89 (#1) is a frame from a color movie by Robert Hughes. Life directs the reader's attention to the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD), but much more important is the view of the entrance of the TSBD. On the left side of the entrance is the man who also evident in the photograph by AP photographer, James W. Altgens. A portion of Altgens' picture with a blow-up of the man in the doorway is shown in Life, 2 Oct. 1964 (#2) and elsewhere. In spite of the statements of Billy Nolan Lovelady, who falsely testified that he is the man pictured in the doorway of the Altgens picture, no reasonable person can doubt that the man in the doorway is Lee Harvey Oswald. You know the reasons why. But the Hughes picture, as it is presented in Life, is of little interest or importance in regard to the identification of Oswald as the man in the doorway. *THE DISTANCE IS LONG AND THE COLOR IS BAD; BUT STILL IT SHOWS THAT THE MAN'S LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT IS UNBUTTONED IN FRONT.*

Of much greater importance is the blue-shirted, brown-haired female (?) figure who is framed by the doorway of the TSBD in Hughes' picture, for she obstructs a view of the doorway that might reveal the actual location of Lovelady whose shirt would be recognizable even from the distance at which Hughes took his picture. (FBI File #DL 100-10461, a report by agents Gemberling and Horton, dated 2/29/64, states that Lovelady "appeared at the Dallas FBI office...to be photographed" and that "at the time of the assassination and shortly before, he was standing in the doorway of the Texas School Book Depository...He stated that he was wearing a red and white verticle striped shirt..." The FBI took three photographs of Lovelady wearing that shirt; in no way does that shirt resemble the shirt of the man on the doorway of Altgens' picture. Moreover, it is reported that , a short time after the assassination, Lovelady told Herald-Tribune reporter Jones Harris that he was wearing that shirt at the time of the assassination. In 1967, however, as you

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 YOUR PHOTO
 WRITE UP IT
 PICTURE IN
 WWW II

note in Photographic Whitewash, p.294, Lovelady's wife claimed that her husband was wearing " a red-and-black check with a white fleck. The checks ... are about two inches." In either case, Lovelady's shirt is nothing like the shirt of the man in the doorway of Hughes' and Altgens' pictures. A photograph of Lovelady in the doorway is ~~only~~ only a bit less important than the Hughes and Altgens photographs of Oswald in the doorway, for it would settle the doubts of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ any individual, however irrational, who might remain unconvinced that ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ Oswald is the man depicted in the Altgens and Hughes photos.)

Evidently the girl in the blue shirt is standing on the concrete structure that encloses the reflecting pool on the southwest corner of Houston and Elm Streets. Moreover, she is so much higher than others around her that she must be standing on the very northernmost portion of the concrete wall, for that is the only part of the structure that is high enough to account for her elevation. That part of the wall appears to be about five feet high, whereas the rest of it is no more than a foot or two high (See picture in #3 AND #3A)

I believe that the blue-shirted figure who is framed by the doorway does not appear in Hughes' actual film, but was added to this frame (the only one ever published) for the sole purpose of obscuring an otherwise clear view of the TSB D doorway. The blue-shirted figure is much more clearly depicted than other individuals in her area, and the color of her brown hair is very distinct (It is the only brown that Hughes' film recorded, although there were negroes standing all around).

The early frames of the Zapruder film (#4; from Commission exhibits; I have viewed color photos published over the years in Life) show the northern end of the concrete structure very clearly. Howard L. Brennan, wearing a hard construction helmet, is pictured sitting on the high part of the structure. The blue-shirted figure should be standing near him, but neither she nor anyone else is shown on the wall with Brennan.

6/26/72 WTB:W, 6:16 PM, 4/10/72
Sixth Floor window

It is possible in various ways definitely to ascertain whether such a person was in fact standing on the wall of the concrete structure when the President's car turned the corner at Houston and Elm:

- 1) View other frames of the Hughes film that show the President's car travelling north on Houston and turning the corner at Elm.
- 2) View uncut frames of the movie by Elsie Dorman. Dorman took movies from the fourth floor of the TSB D (See #1) and photographed the motorcade as it approached her and as it turned the corner. On page 88 (#5) Life prints three frames of Dorman's movie which, uncut, probably show the concrete structure and (perhaps) the blue-shirted figure. FBI movies of a reenactment of the assassination (#3 and #3A) show the entire concrete structure as photographed from the sixth floor window on the east side of the TSB D. Dorman was located lower and to the west of the position from which the FBI photographed. ~~XXXXXX~~ (see #1), and it is extremely likely that she, too, photographed the entire structure.

Moreover, page 3 of Life (#1A, in Life's editorial) shows a minute, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ but very clear, portion of a frame of

↓ THIS IS GLEED TO # 1

Dorman's movies that surely shows Brennan, the high part of the concrete structure, and probably a good deal of the rest of the structure at the very moment when the President's car was turning the corner, when Hughes photographed the area that includes the blue-shirted figure. Jim and Tina Towner, who are shown in the fragment on page 3 of Life, are on the southwest corner of Elm and Houston, facing north and photographing the President as he passed in front of the TSBD. They are across the street from the TSBD, and are standing very close to Brennan and the concrete structure.

- 3) View all of Patsy Paschall's movie of the presidential motorcade. She photographed the motorcade from a window at Houston and Main (#6). If she photographed the motorcade as it proceeded north on Houston, her picture, too, will show the concrete structure that encloses the reflecting pool.
- 4) Check the Archives for other pictures of the concrete structure that were taken as the motorcade turned the corner from Houston to Elm.
- 5) Search for pictures of the concrete structure that are not in the Archives.

Here is another discrepancy in the pictures that Life prints.

Tina Towner was standing across the street from the TSBD doorway when she took ~~xxx~~ color movies of the President as his car drove between her and the doorway. Her movie evidently includes numerous frames that depict all of the TSBD doorway as it passed from left to right across her films. The frame of Towner's movie that Life publishes on page 91 (#7) shows only a portion of the doorway; ~~the~~ the right side of the doorway has been cut from the picture. Even the sprocket holes of the insignificant left side are shown.

Moreover, although we know from other photographs and from the testimony of witnesses that several people were standing in the doorway when Towner took her pictures, none of those people are evident in the photo that Life published. We know that a man resembling Oswald (and wearing a shirt that is identical in every respect to the shirt that Oswald was wearing) was standing on the west side of the doorway when the motorcade passed. Where is he in Towner's picture? Where are the others who are clearly depicted in the Altgens photograph?

Towner must have photographed that man and the others; she could not have failed to photograph them. If her pictures do not show the man's facial features, they must clearly show the color of his shirt, a vital piece of information. (The shirt appears reddish in Hughes' film, but the whole of that picture by Hughes has a reddish tint, and it was taken at a great distance.)

I suspect that a clear picture of Oswald and Lovelady together was erased from the picture that Life presents on page 91. You can test that suspicion by seeing all the frames of Tina Towner's film, or by finding another photo of the TSBD doorway.

On pages 92 and 93 of Life a dark figure crouches behind a wall that is shown in pictures by Hugh Betzner and Phil Willis. If that man joined the figures who are standing on the grassy knoll, his movements ought to be evident in the movies by Nix and Muchmore. I have not seen any frames of those pictures except those that are printed among the Commission's exhibits. Frame 42 of Muchmore's film (C.E. 885; #8) shows three men standing casually on the steps of the knoll. The picture was snapped a few seconds after the pictures of Betzner and Willis. ~~XXXXX~~ Do other frames of the Nix and Muchmore films depict the dark man's frantic dash down the stairs (with his hands in his pockets)? Are there other pictures of the knoll that record the man's movements? I am sure that pictures exist (existed?) which could definitely inform us whether a man dashed down those steps while the shots were being fired, but I wonder whether I shall ever see them.

Life may be right in asserting that there is no evidence to indicate that the dark man was anything more than an onlooker-- except that Zapruder and all the others who were standing in the area of the knoll thought that the shots came from the direction where that "dark shape" was crouching.

P.S. SEE NOTES ON #8 FOR EVIDENCE THAT THE "DARK SHAPE" CANNOT HAVE JOINED THE MEN ON THE SLOPE. THE NEW FIGURE ON THE SLOPE IS WEARING A WHITE HAT.

Here is more, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ unrelated to Life, but important enough to call to your attention. It concerns the paper bag in which Oswald is supposed to have carried the rifle into the TSB. The Commission claims that the bag was found on the sixth floor of the TSB right next to the window from which the Commission claims all the shots were fired.

WEARING A WHITE HAT.

None of the pictures of the area around the window show the bag in the place where the Commission said it was found, nor indeed anywhere on the scene. Commission Exhibit No. 1302, entitled "Approximate location of wrapping-paper bag, etc.", shows the corner in which the bag is supposed to have been found. The position of the bag is "evident" not though a picture of the bag in the place where it was found, but by a dotted rectangular shape with an arrow on it indicating "approximate location of wrapping-paper bag".

HARD TO RECONCILE

I find the absence of a picture of the bag in that place with the sworn testimony of Dallas Police Captain J.W. Fritz who was the first man on the scene at the sixth floor window after the assassination. Here is what Capt. Fritz said happened after he and his men discovered empty cartridges under the window of the sixth floor:

"I told them not to move the cartridges, not to move anything until we could get the crime lab to take pictures of them just as they were lying there and I left an officer assigned there to see that that was done, and the crime lab came almost immediately, and took pictures, and dusted the shelves for prints."

Dulles questions Fritz later in his testimony:

THE COMMISSION REPORT (P. 127) REFERS TO THE READER TO C.E. 1707 WHICH ALSO SHOWS THE DOTTED-LINE BAG.

Dulles: When was the paper bag covering that apparently he brought the rifle in, was that discovered in the sixth floor about the same time?

Fritz: No, sir; that was recovered a little later. I wasn't down there when that was found...

The bag was "found" by Lietenant J.C.Day, who undoubtedly is responsible for a good deal of hanky-panky, besides the paper-bag business.

That's it. I would like to write more, but it is terribly late and I must stop. Please let me know if I can do anything to help you.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Bernabei

Richard Bernabei

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... it was studied by
... Commission and the FBI and
... appeared in LIFE.

The pictures in this issue were found in many ways. Patsy Swank, another Dallas correspondent, was contacted by a Mr. Jim Towner, who said that he and his daughter Tina had been taking pictures just moments before the President was shot. We did not publish them at the time. This summer we learned that a lady named Elsie Dorman, who worked in the Book Depository, had taken a movie from the fourth floor of the building—she had kept it in a closet and never showed it to anyone. When we were studying her pictures (p. 88) in New York, we noticed a man and a girl with cameras. We sent it to Patsy, and she identified the two as Jim and Tina (above).



JIM AND TINA (TOWNER)

LIFE, 24
NOV.,
P. 3
EDITORIAL # 1A