

# JFK files: Suddenly a bunch of nuts became suspects

□ Jackie's griet, JFK's last words: Oswald's psyche. Pages 18-21.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There was Hobo Smith. And a Miami Beach gangster called Jimmy Blue Eyes.

A French woman named Truth. And Glenn T. Carthron, a telephone pole creosote salesman, who said Jimmy Hoffa paid \$1.5 million to have John Kennedy killed.

How did he know? God told him in Philadelphia.

All got the attention of FBI agents as they hunted for the real story behind the president's assassination.

Pages and pages of files made public yesterday by the FBI — 40,001 pages to be precise — show that the bureau chased tips from shoeshine boys, mental patients, artists, drunks, phone operators, businessmen, housewives. Almost anyone who offered anything by way of help made it into the official record.

A Michigan man phoned FBI

headquarters to say the Russians had paid five men to kill Kennedy. An agent investigated. He duly reported two empty whisky bottles and the man's inability to get out of bed.

A woman suggested that agents investigate graffiti on a bathroom wall at a Maryland restaurant. One agent thought a chalk scrawl, inside a boxcar in Michigan might be Lee Harvey Oswald's. Check it out, he ordered.

Hobo Smith was from Spartanburg, S.C. "Locate and interview."

ordered Washington. The files aren't clear about what agents found, but it couldn't have been much.

The matter of "Suspect Smith," as agents called him, was dropped as a "chronic complaint."

Agents heard about Jimmy Blue Eyes from a shoeshine boy. He quoted the gangster as saying, "They should have gotten the whole family, including Robert Kennedy."

The Miami field office reported it — See Back Page, Col. 1

## JFK files: Suddenly nuts appeared

—From Page 1

to Director J. Edgar Hoover. Not much came of that investigation either — Jimmy Blue Eyes didn't really mean it.

"Angele" was how the French woman signed her letter: "Is Hitler really dead and buried? Yes, I know, you were told he is, although it has not been proved. But I, Truth, am telling you that that monster is not dead... You are now warned, be watchful and merciless... Attacks can take place within the very near future."

Her handwriting matched nothing in the bureau's Anonymous Letter File. Dead end.

Agents reported Carthron, who peddled creosote to keep telephone poles from rotting, described his message from God this way:

"He told of his being in this room at the Ben Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., and while in the bathroom a light came through the

transom and a voice spoke... He told of being so frightened he fell to the floor and held onto the bathroom fixtures."

Agents in Louisiana heard that a man in a Stetson hat had said, "If we can't put a man in by ballot, we'll get rid of this one with a .30-30." They came up with eight men who wore Stetsons — five senators and three representatives.

An artist sent Hoover a two-page letter about his theory on the assassination — and offered to paint his portrait in the bargain. The director politely declined.

An El Campo, Texas, woman who disagreed with her uncle's approval of Kennedy's policies sent the uncle a wire: "Thank God, you did it."

Agents hunted the woman down, and she agreed that it was a tasteless joke.

But the agents interrogated her anyway — for days.

"Examine contents of suspect Oswald stomach and intestines for traces of chicken," wired a California man. In another telegram, a New York man said: "Suggest analysis of feces of suspect Oswald Harvey (sic) for traces of chicken."

The concern seems to have been prompted by the discovery of chicken bones near the spot where investigators said Oswald was standing when he shot at Kennedy.

Oswald's "void" was examined, but the files don't show whether analysts found any chicken.

S. F. EXAMINER  
12/8/77 p. 1

## The JFK files

# Jackie's picture of the shooting



## JACKIE ONASSIS' MEMORY 'Oh my God, they shot him'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — "Oh my God, they have shot my husband, Jack. Jack!"

From Jacqueline Kennedy's first anguished words as bullets ripped into the presidential limousine in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, to the autopsy hours later in a military hospital outside Washington, newly released FBI documents provide a vivid portrait of John Kennedy's assassination.

John Connally and his wife, Nellie, occupied jump seats in front of the president and his wife. Connally was wounded and recalled the moments from his bed in St. Davis Hospital Dec. 11, 1963: "First sense or realization of anything unusual I became conscious of a shot on what seemed like a gunshot."

A bullet pierced Connally's body, passed through his wrist and lodged in his left leg where it shattered.

"Oh my God! They are going to kill us all," he recalled saying. He leaned toward his wife, who pulled him close.

"No, be still," she soothed him. "You are going to be all right."

"I was never really conscious of hearing the second shot but felt it hit me," Connally said. "I was conscious of a third shot and heard it, I had a feeling the third shot hit President Kennedy but did not see it actually strike his body."

"About this time I became conscious of the fact that we were all splattered with what I thought was brain tissue from President Kennedy."

Mrs. Connally told the agents that parts of Kennedy's brain tissue fell on her. She said she heard Mrs. Kennedy say, "They killed Jack, his brains are in my hand."

Doctors worked for seven frantic minutes to save Kennedy, using an assortment of sophisticated equipment. They put him on oxygen, connected to a respirator and later an anesthesia machine. He underwent an emergency tracheotomy to clear blood from his throat, received blood transfusions and an injection in his ankle with a solution to correct dehydration.

The resident surgeon and first doctor to examine Kennedy's massive head wounds, Dr. James Carrico, found Kennedy had "slow, agonal respiratory efforts. Two external wounds, one in the lower third of the anterior neck, the other in the occipital region of the skull, were noted."

No bullets were found in the president's body during the autopsy, FBI documents showed.

## A discrepancy over last words

WASHINGTON (UPI) — John Kennedy's last words may have been either "Get me to a hospital," or "My God, I've been hit," according to two different versions by the head Secret Service agent in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

His first-person accounts of Kennedy's shooting were contained in 40,001 pages of FBI documents released yesterday.

Roy Kellerman, assistant agent in charge of the White House detail, was the ranking Secret Service agent that day. He was riding next to the driver of the presidential car. He recalled that the car had just traveled through a crowd of 250,000 people and he "breathed a sigh of relief" as they approached an underpass.

He heard a shot, "observed the president slump forward and heard him say 'Get me to a hospital.'"

Kellerman said it took eight minutes to get to the hospital. Upon arrival "the president was breathing and gasping for breath, but did not appear conscious."

In a separate interview Kellerman said he "distinctly and positively" heard Kennedy say, "My God, I've been hit."

In this version of the events, Kellerman was sure of what Kennedy said because he had been "in almost daily contact for the past three years, with the president, and could pick his voice out from any group of people."

## The JFK files

# As boy, Oswald fantasized about killing

WASHINGTON (UPI) — When Lee Harvey Oswald was 13, a psychiatrist found him to be suffering from delusions of power and fantasies about killing or hunting people.

At 15, Oswald had begun to study Marxism. The next year he wrote to the Socialist Party in New York or more information about its Youth League.

And after the assassination of John Kennedy, Oswald's Russian-born wife Marina told police it was Oswald who "had an obsession to get his name in history" and tried to kill Gen. Edwin Walker, a prominent Dallas right-winger.

These facts emerged from the newly-released FBI documents providing new insight into Oswald's psychological makeup and motivations.

The Warren Commission's handling of Oswald's motives has often been criticized as unsatisfactory.

"Lee," stated a psychiatric profile on Oswald compiled in 1953, "has to be diagnosed as a personality pattern disturbance with schizoid features and passive regressive tendencies. He has to be seen as an emotionally quite disturbed youngster who suffers under the impact of ... emotional isolation and deprivation, lack of affection, absence of family life

and rejection by a self-involved and conflicted mother."

Children's probate court of New York City ordered the profile because of Oswald's excessive absences from school: "The root of his difficulties seems to be his relationship with his mother (Marguerite Oswald) ... a rigid, self-involved woman with strong ideas."

Years later, in the first FBI interview with Oswald, conducted 18 months before the assassination, agents found Oswald a "cold and arrogant" man.

The memo said Oswald "beat his wife ... Marina, and 'drank to excess' while living in Fort Worth.

There were three FBI views of Oswald before the assassination.

The FBI memo said Oswald was first interviewed upon his return to the United States from the Soviet Union. The date was June 14, 1962, in Fort Worth, Texas. The



Lee Harvey Oswald

agents found Oswald "very curt and short in answering many questions and gave the impression of being cold and arrogant. He advised that he was not willing to take a polygraph test."

Oswald told the agents he was never recruited "at any time" by Soviet intelligence, and provided no information on the Russians.

The second interview took place Aug. 16, 1962. Oswald disclosed that he had contacted the Soviet embassy in Washington to provide his Russian-born wife's current address — "which was required by Soviet law."

At the end of that interview, according to the document, Oswald agreed to "contact the FBI if any person ever contacted him in the United States under suspicious circumstances."

The third — and last — interview came Aug. 10, 1963, in New Orleans. Oswald told agents that he was unemployed but voluntarily working for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

"Other than the connection with the FPCC, investigation developed no subversive data regarding subject ... But the memo ends with two blanked out portions with handwritten questions — "Why not? When? — in the margin.

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### Lookin



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# Hoover's zeal in defending FBI

By Saul Friedman  
Knight News Service

WASHINGTON — Documents first released by the FBI show that J. Edgar Hoover was almost as interested in defending the FBI as he was in solving the mysteries behind the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Hoover's famous preoccupation with his own and the FBI's reputation stand out clearly in the papers. He took great pains to defend the Bureau against any outsiders.

Indeed, even questions from ordinary Americans did not go unnoticed by the FBI and its investigative apparatus.

When a New York couple, in a telegram to Hoover, wondered what he was doing about the case, the FBI chief replied icily: "Individuals are quick to find fault. More often than not they speak without any knowledge of the facts . . ."

A type-written memorandum attached to the bureau's file copy of Hoover's reply notes ominously that the FBI had searched its files to see what it had on the New York couple.

"Based on information available," the note said, "no information identifiable with correspondent located in Bufiles."

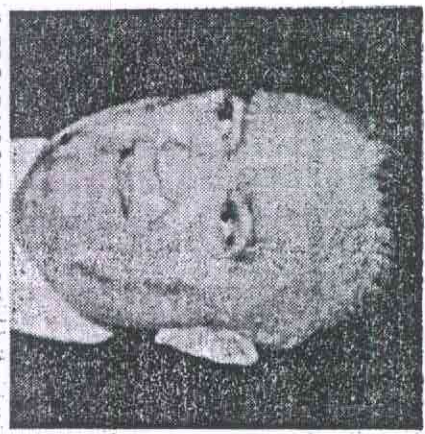
The Bureau's anger and the power of the FBI were not only directed at citizen critics.

Hoover's top aides, in an internal memo, denounced then CIA Director John McCone for allegedly leaking stories to newspapers designed to undermine the FBI investigation.

McCone, reached in Los Angeles, where he now lives, denied leaking any information to the press regarding the investigation.

"I had the closest personal relationship with J. Edgar Hoover and good relations with 'the FBI,'" McCone said. "I think if any allegations of this kind had come to Hoover's attention, he'd have gotten on the phone and called me about it."

Hoover, through top aides, enlisted the help of ranking publishing and television network officials to protect the reputation of the FBI.



J. EDGAR HOOVER (IN 1962)  
Concerned with public relations

And the FBI Director fought tooth-and-nail to short-circuit the creation of an independent commission to investigate the assassination.

Eventually, when the commission under then Chief Justice Earl Warren was created, Hoover and the FBI cooperated. And the commission, after nine months of investigation, reached the same conclusion as Hoover — that Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy.

But doubts have lingered among many Americans. And critics of the Warren Commission's findings and the FBI have suggested that the early pressure to solve the case quickly, for the sake of the country and to protect the FBI's reputation, were among the reasons for a shoddy investigation.

David W. Behn, a ranking lawyer-investigator for the commission, said in his book defending the findings of the commission, that the FBI reports were often misleading, filled with error or just plain wrong.

One example, to which Behn points, is the FBI report on the autopsy on Kennedy's body. The FBI agents attending the autopsy reported that they saw two entrance wounds in the President's body, but only one exit wound, in his skull.

This has led to speculation that then Texas Gov. John Connally was wounded by a second assassin and that Oswald didn't act alone. However, the commission said that the FBI agents were wrong and that the second bullet which entered Kennedy's body exited and then hit Connally. The commission claimed that the exit wound was obscured by a tracheotomy incision in the President's throat.

This difference is vital. The commission, itself, in putting forth the view that a single bullet killed Kennedy and wounded Connally, acknowledged that if there were two bullets there had to be two assassins.

Such apparent problems however were ignored by Hoover and his investigators after they reached their conclusions on the case during the afternoon and evening of Nov. 22.

Thus Hoover, at 4:01 p.m., 3½ hours after the shooting, called the late Robert F. Kennedy, then the attorney general, to tell him the case was all but solved.

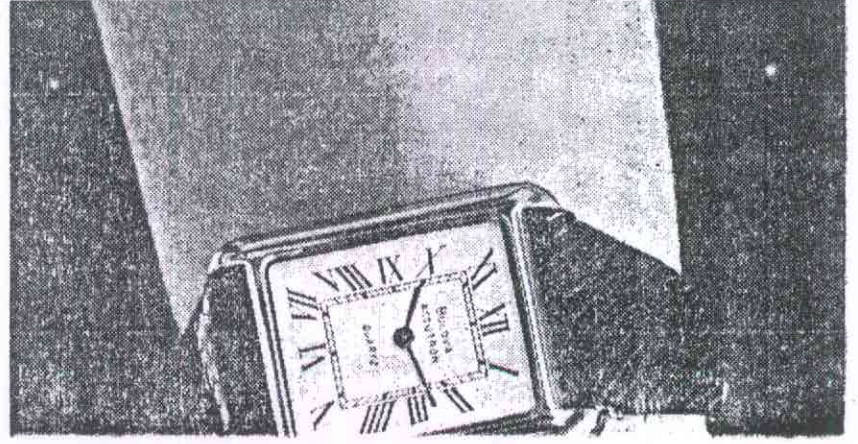
"I called the attorney general at his home and told him I thought we had the man who killed the President down in Dallas," Hoover wrote in a memo dated Nov. 22. "I stated the man's name is Lee Harvey Oswald . . . I said that he is not a Communist but has Communist leanings . . ."

An hour later, in talking to a Justice Department official, Hoover said Oswald probably was the guilty man and "would be in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

Curiously, Hoover's official order to agents throughout the country to "follow and resolve all allegations pertaining to the assassination" did not go out on the FBI wire until 10 o'clock that night.

Agents scouted the nation running down clues, tips and calls from drunks, nuts and even bizarre practical jokers.

But within days, despite the murder of Oswald on Nov. 24 by Jack Ruby and the growing clamor for a blue-ribbon investigation, Hoover issued instructions to wind up the investigation by Nov. 29.



The timeliest gift, SFA introduces it  
— pretty face, but a  
electronic, accurate, and new,  
numerals, gold-toned case

*The Spirit of Christmas!*

\*Warranty can be obtained without charge

EL RANCHO  
SELL

# Jack Ruby said he was blinded by fury

New York News

WASHINGTON — All Jack Ruby said he could remember of the man he murdered was that he emerged from nowhere in between two men. "That's all I can remember. Naturally, I knew who he is. To me he had this quirky, smug vindictive attitude."

"I can't explain what impression he gave me, but that is all I can ... well, I just lost my senses. The next I knew I was on the ground and five or six (policemen) were on top of me."

From thousands of pages of newly released FBI documents Jack Leon Ruby (born Jack Rubenstein in Chicago in 1911) emerges as a tormented, sometimes belligerent, often emotional man. His decision to kill Lee Harvey Oswald appears to have been made on the spur of the moment, minutes after he managed to walk unnoticed into the basement of Dallas Police Headquarters, Nov. 24, 1963.

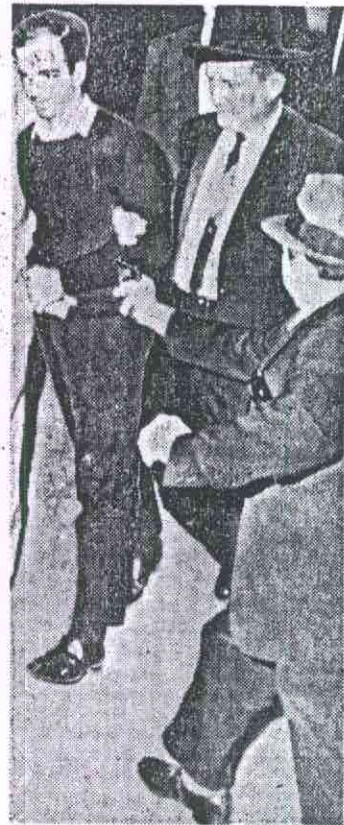
Ruby apparently slipped in when a

guard left the entrance to stop traffic for an emerging police car. The FBI files, saying Ruby was not helped into the building by a member of the press, said he may have entered no more than 10 seconds before the shooting.

"No one knew I was going to shoot him," Ruby, a local nightclub operator, told the FBI. "I didn't discuss anything with anyone about shooting him." It was easy, Ruby told the agents. He always carried heat (a gun). You had to in the nightclub business in Dallas. There were so many stickups and he often carried a large amount of cash.

"When he shot before me like he did, something in my insides tore out," Ruby said. The Texas "outsider" said he thought about Oswald "being associated with communism and how he blemished this beautiful city and Mrs. Kennedy having to come back for the trial."

Then Ruby said, he reached into his pocket and took out his gun. He fired a single shot.



Jack Ruby, inset, may have slipped into police headquarters only seconds before gunning down Lee Harvey Oswald



# Paper flood in JFK assassination

S.F. EXAMINER  
12/8/77 p. 46

A TOTAL of 40,000 pages of FBI internal memos on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy have been released under the Freedom of Information Act, providing an extensive feast of fact and speculation to stimulate the appetite of that insatiable breed, the conspiracy cultists.

Considerable time would be needed to digest the entire report. Once that has been done by the many who make either a career or a hobby of questioning the conventional verdict on the assassination, a number of conclusions will emerge. All will differ.

While never foreclosing the possibility of a change of mind, we have accepted the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald did it on his own. His wife, Marina, has written a book holding that view.

As for the newly released material, it discloses that J. Edgar Hoover had in hand letters

purportedly written to Oswald from Cuba that referred "to the job he was going to do." Hoover withheld these missives from the Warren Commission because he could not prove their authenticity.

We are loathe to second guess the director 14 years later, but it would seem that that was of sufficient interest to be turned over to the commission members, leaving them to judge the veracity.

The newly released papers tell how the Oswalds wanted to return to the Soviet Union because Marina was homesick and unemployed. They took the first action to effect the return nine months before the assassination.

Had the Soviet embassy acted promptly to process that request, encouraging the return, the course of history would have been changed. Life is full of might-have-beens, this one more poignant than most.

14 San Francisco Chronicle

Fri., Dec. 9, 1977

## JFK Death Probe

# What Next Batch of FBI Papers Will Tell

Washington

The FBI still pursues "tips" on who killed President Kennedy and the second stack of assassination files, due out next month, will reflect that sort of endless, leftover gumshoe work, a bureau spokesman said yesterday.

Continued scrutiny of the first 40,000 pages of the FBI's Kennedy murder files, released Wednesday, divulged more intriguing but inconclusive tidbits of insight into the 1963 Dallas slayings.

Investigative memos show that the CIA assured the FBI Oswald was never "an informant in their organization," for example, and indicated that Warren Commission members were satisfied Lee Harvey Oswald could have fired the fatal shots from his sixth-floor window perch once they inspected the scene of the crime.

The files also depicted Oswald as a hostile, hermit-like Marine who read Communist literature behind locked doors in his barracks room, and Jack Ruby, his killer, as a tough Chicago street kid who might have run errands for Al Capone.

But nothing emerged to undermine the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald alone killed Kennedy for motives still unknown, and an FBI spokesman who has helped prepare the files for public release said the 40,000 pages due for release in January won't change that picture.

"I really don't think there are going to be any major new revelations from this new material any more than there were in the material just released," he said. "But, if this is your field, you'll find it interesting."

"Of course, the (conspiracy buff) people who make a business of this will dispute that. I understand some of them are already saying the true stuff is what was never written down."

"Well, there's not much you can do about that."

The initial files have already covered the most active, intensive period of the bureau's investigation. They run through September, 1964, when the presidential commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren concluded its probe and issued its findings.

The next 40,000 pages of assassination papers will bring the investigation up to date — apparently with activities increasingly devoted to checking out wild goose chase tips.

"If somebody jumped up out of a rose bush last month — or let's say last year, since these things are becoming more infrequent — and said he knows who did it, we check that out and that will be included in the material," the spokesman said.

"I'd say it will predominate with that sort of thing."

United Press