

Ferrie

Barnes

dick billings

hakell feb 14, 1967

NBC AND DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE

See Warren Commission volume 24, p. 453 CE 2038: "Barnes said Bob Mulholland^{olland} of NBC news Chicago, talked in Dallas to one Fairy, a narcotics addict now out on bail on a sodomy charge in Dallas. Fairy said that Oswald had been under hypnosis from a man doing a mind-reading act at Ruby's "carousel". Fairy was said to be a private detective and the owner of an airplane who took young boys on flights "just for kicks"."

The above Barnes is Gene Barnes of NBC, a west coast camera man. Bob Mulholland is now producer of the Huntley-Brinkley show in Washington.

I spoke with Mulholland as well as Dick Valeriani and Dick Fisher all of whom were in Dallas for NBC during the weekend of Nov 22-26, 1963. Mulholland was directing the NBC coverage of the assassination.

Mulholland said he remembered something about a guy with an air plane, that the name Fairy or Ferrie was familiar and that he had a vague memory of someone flying guns to Cuba and queers. Mulholland however did not speak to anyone in Dallas as he was busy with the NBC crew. And did not recognize the picture of Ferrie. He recalled that he probably heard

the above from John Coporan of NBC news New Orleans. Mulholland said that Coporan called and told him about Ferrie and shortly thereafter the FBI visited Mulholland. He remembers the story because of the FBI visit because that is when he discovered his phone was tapped. Valeriani and Fisher remember the incident.

I called John Coporan who is now with WNEW-TV news in New York. He remembers the story very well. "we got an anonymous tip and one from a ..."

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"I didn't have too much success". He then called Mulholland in Dallas.

Soon after that call he too received a visit from the FBI. Garrison then arrested Ferrie.

On Monday Ferrie called Coporan and said he had seen him giving editorials on TV and he wanted to talk. Coporan went over to the jail, he remembers Ferrie had a migraine headache. He also remembers "he was an odd duck". They talked for one half hour and Ferrie convinced Coporan that "someone had very cleverly linked Ferrie to Oswald knowing it looked believably. "Ferrie was very upset."

When Coporan left the call the Secret Service went in. After them, the FBI talked with Ferrie, and after them Garrison's men went in. Coporan was the first to talk with Ferrie.

"Ferrie was working as a private investigator for a prominent New Orleans lawyer, G. Wazy Gill. I think Gill got him released and then fired him. Ferrie called me a couple of times after that protesting his innocence. The story continued to intrigue me, so we tried to follow it up. But then we decided there was nothing to pursue and gave up."

"Personally I think Garrison arrested Ferrie in order to make himself famous, but maybe the FBI asked Garrison to make the arrest because they didn't want to be involved if the accusation turned out to be false, which it did."

Coporan was in a hurry and he was also rather curious why I was so interested in Ferrie. I didn't want to pursue it too far in case he might mention my call to any of his friends in N.O.

Too bad, but it looks like ^{by} the time the story got to Barnes it had been added to mind reading stories etc. And the FBI knowing all about Ferrie anyway just discounted it. As far as I can find, Ferrie's name is not mentioned anywhere