

Garrison' Files

10/18/94

In response to my letter asking him about Garrison's files, which Garrison spread the word he had stolen and sold to the CIA, Steve Bordelon phoned ~~to~~ today. He is even more outraged than I'd believed about Garrison's lies because he is the one who saved those files, kept them from falling into the hands of the successor DA, Garrison's enemy, former US assistant attorney in N.O. and because, as Steve tells it, of all the staff he is the only one who did not desert Garrison after his defeat. He is not critical of others for finding ~~out~~ other work but when Garrison needed help they were not there. When Garrison lost the election, Steve's friend won as coroner and Steve has been working for him ever since. At the opposite end of the ~~same~~ building.

I do not here record all that Steve told me because I think it will not be good for those files to be used, which would mean misused. The CIA does not have them and it was Garrison who abandoned them. Steve has moved them several times. First was to the coroner's office, where he kept them next to what I think he referred to as "the meat box." Then he built a shed for them behind Garrison's house. Not the one in which he and his family had lived, where he lived after his marriage broke up. Ever since then they have been where Steve took them. When it came to where he had to put them in storage, he did that ^{for Garrison.} When Garrison refused to pay the storage charges Steve made an arrangement of which he told me for them. As of today those files are ~~at~~ still there. One five-drawer cabinet. There had been two but before moving them the first time Steve eliminated what he referred to as the junk. If he had done that, five drawers would have been more than were required to hold the rest,

Steve is particularly bitter because he did look out for Garrison when others did not. On the IRS arrest, he got a friend to represent Garrison at first. (Garrison wound up defending himself and did it well. ^{He} was not convicted.) He did many other favors for Garrison when he was alone, ill and in need of help. He was the only one who did not miss a session of that trial including Garrison's family. ^{He} also has the tapes of it aside from two he used over again.

He made several references to Garrison's paranoia. Because he was paranoid when

I knew him I presume this means ~~he~~ he got much more paranoid.

I ~~doubt~~ ^{doubt} very much that Steve was informed enough ~~at~~ to recognize all that was what he called junk.

He was quite specific in saying that the CIA had never spoken to him. He also made it clear that nobody had tried to get those files. Nobody cared. Nobody wanted them is what I take of it.

I asked about Ivon and ^Uoisel. He told me that Ivon defeated himself when he ran for re-election to the legislature. No details or explanation. He said, as I recall that Lynn ^Uoisel is a guard I think at a court. I asked about no others.

Garrison regarded his first assistant, Charlie Ward, as an enemy before the Shaw trial. Ward was ^Uolated from that. After they both became judges they had a friendly relationship again, Steve said. I asked about no others. What Steve said about the renewed Ward friendship is that politics makes strange bedfellows.

I knew of Steve's loyalty to Garrison and the many ways ^U in which he showed it when I knew them. I also knew from Posner's book that he lied in saying he had or found ^{Garrison's files} them. He used nothing from them, of what ^U I knew was in them, and there is much in them he could and would have used. He could have had much fun with them!!!

I looked into them only one time, when Andrew Sciambra told me what file to look at. It related to a quotation I had ^U given someone who immediately filed a distorted account of it. Other than that all I knew of them is what others showed me or told me to copy. I did not even keep copies of all the exhibits I used in the memo that kept ~~me~~ ^U Garrison from ^U desecrating the fifth JFK ^(full account elsewhere) assassination anniversary. For which I am now sorry! I should have kept a complete file of copies of those exhibits. I've recorded more of this elsewhere. Ivon had promised he would have his detectives get anything I needed and he kept his word. All ^U I kept was the documentary proof that ^U Garrison knew that Robert Lee Perrin had in fact killed himself in 1962, despite which he was going to charge him in 1963 with being one of the Grassy Knoll assassins. I should have kept copies of the craziness Garrison had ^U Boxley check out, also ~~me~~ relating to Perrin. And the report of Perrin's state trooper ^{friend} ~~friend~~ he called to tell him he had just taken poison.

I doubt very much if there was anyone who was as loyal to Garrison or liked him any more than Bordelon when I was there. This makes it even more despicable that Garrison, who knew better, accused him of selling his files to the CIA to explain their seeming disappearance. He did not dare use them in his writing and he knew it.

If Garrison did not know they ~~were~~^{were} largely trash, a real indictment of him, he was crazy. Not seeing to it that they were destroyed is therefore particularly crazy. As ~~was~~ allowing the real situation to exist, that they could be found, gotten and used against ~~him and me~~ *him and me*.

Steve did say that toward the end Jim did not seem to be really aware of realities, although he did not use these words.

However, when he wrote Garrison was well aware of the fact that if he had used those files he'd have been a laughing stock and he would not have been able to sell his books. He was much safer doing what he did in On the Trail of the Assassins, just making it up as he went.

Garrison's regular staff was of city employees. Bordelon was one of the detectives assigned to him. He was also usually Jim's chauffeur. He, Lynn Loisel or both met my plane and delivered me to the airport. If Jim wanted me, he used Steve to find me. For Xmas 1967 Steve got a beautiful silver-plater and expensive pistol for a staff gift to Garrison. He also had it fancily engraved. Other chipped in but it was Steve's idea. He was available to drive Jim pretty much around the clock and still did investigating.

I never heard him complain and do not ever recall his being other than pleasant, and friendly.

Dear Steve,

10/19/94

I appreciate your call yesterday. Garrison's behavior was even worse than ^{he} had indicated to me. For him to have treated any of the detectives I knew and liked that way would have been terrible but it was ever so much ^{more} that he abused you that way because you were always there when he needed someone, without regard to the hours or personal life, and were so obviously dedicated to him.

I have written a short memo for the historical record and unless you should want to make a tape of what you shocked me by telling me yesterday, that will do.

Aside from all my own work, none of which is theoretical or other than factual, I have about a third of a million pages of once-withheld government records I got ~~me~~ by a dozen or more FOIA lawsuits. All will be a permanent free public archive at a fine small local college, Hood College

The memo I have written will be there in the event that in the future someone wants to check out such things as what Posner wrote and lied about.

Or the lie that Jim put out.

I'm sorry I cannot travel. It is too dangerous for me and has been for 17 years.

My mind has not failed much but my body has in many ways. I'm rather weak now but I'm still percolating, writing.

Again thanks and best wishes,

Harold

Harold Weisberg

And I do remember and appreciate how thoughtful and Lynn were with me, always.