

Interview of David Ferrie by John Volz at the District Attorney's Office at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 15, 1966.

VOLZ: Were you acquainted with Oswald?

FERRIE: To my knowledge, no. I was told and I believe but I am not sure, 3 years ago, I believe it was a Mr. Wall from the FBI who told me I think, I met Oswald. Something is telling me at the moment, roughly at the age of 15.

VOLZ: Oswald was 15?

FERRIE: Right. I have no way of estimating this. This was told to me third, fourth, fifth-hand. When the assassination of Kennedy took place a picture of Oswald was supposed to have been on television and a young fellow whose name I don't recollect, and the only hook I have is that his uncle runs a florist shop somewhere out on Canal Street, recognized the Oswald face on the TV presentation. He then calls one of the stations, WDSU or WWL, and says that he recognized the face and knew this fellow Oswald. In the interview, either newspaper or TV, but I am pretty sure it was public rather than an investigation, he and Oswald had been in the Civil Air Patrol cadet program in my unit and of course this kind of surprised me because I didn't recognize the name of this lad that identified Oswald's picture. This is being very frank, when I got hit with this thing I started me own investigation so for a 10-day period it was back and forth between me and the FBI. So far as I could develop this florist shop fellow had gone to school with Oswald and tried to get Oswald socialized, unsuccessfully, as part of the attempt to get him in the Civil Air Patrol. I understand he was in there for only a matter of days -- two or three weeks. This young fellow told me that he had, in fact, in company with other cadets come by my house. As near as I could put that together I must have been living in Kenner. He said I had met Oswald.

VOLZ: How did you get this information?

FERRIE: Some through the FBI and some I developed on my own.

VOLZ: You have no recollection of Oswald?

FERRIE: No I don't. This much is of interest. A fellow by the name of Jack Martin kicks the whole thing off and gets me involved. I don't mind this being in a public record. Martin is a psychopath. Martin has a special vendetta for me.

VOLZ: Why?

FERRIE: First, how do you explain a psychopath. However, there are specific grounds. I used to work for G. Wray Gill. Martin fancies himself as an investigator. He acquainted himself with me and tried to get some of Gill's work. Gill would not have him because as Gill says, Martin plays both sides of the street. One day I threw Martin out of the office. Not bodily, but I ordered him out. Remember the time of the first Marcello case in '63? Gill is the New Orleans lawyer for Marcello. Martin told Klein that I had taught Oswald how to shoot a rifle. Which is interesting, since I am not such a good shot myself. In any event, that year, the year of the assassination, I am uncertain but my belief is that Oswald was here in the City of New Orleans.

VOLZ: How do you know that?

FERRIE: I am trying to remember...newspaper stories. Klein questioned me about this. To my knowledge and belief I haven't met Oswald. I was busy working for Gill at that time.

VOLZ: Do you know Morris Brownlee? In what connection?

FERRIE: I have known Morris for 10 or 12 years. He has been in a lot of trouble during that time.

VOLZ: Did you take a trip on November 22, 1963?

FERRIE: Whatever the day that the verdict was rendered in the Marcello case I took a weekend vacation.

VOLZ: Where did you go?

FERRIE: Houston, Galveston and Vinton. I had some business for Gill to take care of.

VOLZ: What business was this with Gill?

FERRIE: One of his cases in Federal Court. Marion James Johnson was on appeal. I forgot whether I was to ask him for money for a transcript or what.

VOLZ: Where did you go first?

FERRIE: Houston.

VOLZ: What did you do in Houston?

FERRIE: We went ice-skating.

VOLZ: Who went with you?

FERRIE: Alvin Beauboef and Melvin Coffey. He is a rocket engineer at one of the electronic places.

VOLZ: You say you went ice-skating in Houston. Do you know what rink?

FERRIE: To my knowledge it was the only one in this area. Used to be one in Baton Rouge. I am a yankee and I like to ice-skate and that whole time during the trial it was pretty much a 7-day a week thing.

VOLZ: Do you recall when you went ice-skating?

FERRIE: When the verdict came in, as I recall we had to go back to the office at Noon. If I could recall the house the President was shot. It was at that time we heard the President was shot. In the next two or three hours thereafter the verdict came in. Then we went to the Royal Orleans Hotel and we had a victory party or whatever you call it. This thing must have gone on until supper time. Events are starting to come back, but memory is a tricky thing. Well would know.

paperwork. We wanted to go ice-skating and then hunting. We were going to hunt geese south of Beaumont in that area to be more specific. It seems to me we got to Houston..How long does it take to get to Houston?

VOLZ: About 8 hours I think. Did you ever fly to Houston?

FERRIE: I fly extensively. I was in Houston three times over the past week. I guess we got there about midnight.

VOLZ: Had you planned this trip?

FERRIE: We made up our minds when the Morcello trial was over we were going to take a vacation.

VOLZ: During or after the trial?

FERRIE: Even before the Marcello case we worked for G. Wray Gill any hour or any day and that usually was most days and most hours. He leads you a wild chase.

VOLZ: There had been a contemplated trip for sometime. You were going hunting but you didn't know exactly where you were heading for?

FERRIE: And couldn't have cared less.

VOLZ: Whose car?

FERRIE: Mine.

VOLZ: What kind of car?

FERRIE: 60 or 61 Comet wagon. At the time that we left we had no idea where we were going.

VOLZ: You were going hunting? Did you take any weapons?

FERRIE: Yes.

VOLZ: What kind?

FERRIE: Shotguns.

VOLZ: How many?

FERRIE: I assume offhand a weapon apiece.

VOLZ: You went to Houston and went skating. Do you recall whether it was the same day you left here?

FERRIE: We left at night. Stayed in a motel. Have to go back to the FBI for accuracy. Sometime that next day we went ice-skating. I was the only one that knew how.

VOLZ: Did you rent skates or have your own?

FERRIE: We rented them. I don't think I had my own skates. I think we rented them.

VOLZ: How long did you stay in Houston?

FERRIE: My recollection of the moment is we stayed there that next night. The day we ice-skated.

VOLZ: That would be November 23.

FERRIE: Whether we stayed in Houston the night of the 23rd I don't know. Something tells me we went to Galveston. We were looking for some evening activity.

VOLZ: What do you mean? Night life?

FERRIE: You can call it night life.

VOLZ: Looking for ladies?

FERRIE: We went down to Galveston, we found that the town was dead.

VOLZ: Did you leave for Galveston in the morning or night? Do you know what you did when you got to Galveston? Besides finding it dead?

FERRIE: I remember the morning in Galveston because we went out looking for bars and found out the only thing you could buy was beer. By our standards here it was dead. It couldn't get deader. So far the vacation had been falling on its head. It seems to me it was inclement, some inclemency in the weather. Coolness. I don't know what we expected for November, but we wanted something pleasant. I am trying to recall whether I stopped at Vinton on the way to Houston or coming back. I think

I may have my dates all mixed up here. I think we stayed in Vinton that night.

VOLZ: The night of the 22nd?

FERRIE: The night of whatever date we left here. We went to Marion James Johnson's roadhouse - a combination restaurant, bar etc.

VOLZ: That was in Vinton?

FERRIE: Yes.

VOLZ: What made you decide to go to Vinton?

FERRIE: Sooner or later I was going to have to go there for Gill. This was two birds with one stone.

VOLZ: What did you do in Vinton?

FERRIE: Talked to Marion James Johnson.

VOLZ: The night of the 22nd?

FERRIE: Yes, I think so. Once again, if I could get the record I could tell you so. Don't forget this was three years ago.

VOLZ: Then you went to Houston after Vinton?

FERRIE: I am recollecting it that way right now. The reasons I am saying that is this. When we left Galveston we decided to go look for the geese. I remembered I boarded a ferry across a channel down along the south shore. We did, in fact, get to where the geese were and there were thousands, but you couldn't approach them. They were a wise bunch of birds.

VOLZ: Did you kill any geese?

FERRIE: No.

VOLZ: Was that early in the morning?

FERRIE: Daylight but not early morning.

VOLZ: That would be about the 24th. You went to Vinton, Houston, Galveston.

FERRIE: I say it is all right in the absence of anything else.

VOLZ: After Galveston then, what?

FERRIE: We decided to go to Alexandria, La. where Beauboef had some relatives. Then we got the idea of staying there for 2 or 3 days. I decided to call Gill and tell him we were not coming back for a couple of days. Gill told me you had better get back here, we are in major trouble. Jack Martin told Klein that I knew Lee Harvey Oswald and had conspired with Oswald in the assassination of Kennedy. I came back and don't recall which day it was. Sat in this very office. I was pretty much surrounded by investigators and everybody. Klein asked me pretty much the questions that you are asking me now. They showed me 4 or 5 police photos of people and asked if I could identify them and I couldn't. One was supposed to be Lee Harvey Oswald for an arrest for disturbing the peace here in New Orleans. Klein decided that I did know Lee Harvey Oswald and arrested me as a fugitive from Texas and they took me over to the First District. I stayed there for a couple of days while all of this was checked out.

VOLZ: How long did you stay in Alexandria?

FERRIE: I don't think a full day. I don't recall staying overnight and somewhere along the line we thought we had better check in and that's when Gill told me to come back at once.

VOLZ: How did you arrange for gasoline?

FERRIE: I don't recall.

VOLZ: Do you have a credit card?

FERRIE: No.

VOLZ: None at all?

FERRIE: No.

VOLZ: Was the trip uneventful? Did you have any difficulties?

FERRIE: Not that I can recall. The events that stay in my mind are ice-skating, deadness in Galveston, geese and the phone call to Gill.

VOLZ: Did you do any hunting in Alexandria?

FERRIE: I don't believe we did. Again, I would have to go back to something else to refresh my memory.

VOLZ: Did you meet any friends. Do you have any acquaintances in any of those towns?

FERRIE: I know Marion James Johnson, a business acquaintance. No one in Houston or Galveston.

VOLZ: How about Alexandria.

FERRIE: These would be Beauboef's relatives.

VOLZ: Did you all 3 come back together?

FERRIE: Just the 3 of us, Beauboef, Coffey and myself.

VOLZ: Around that particular time in that area, what was Morris Brownlee doing?

FERRIE: I don't even know right now.

VOLZ: He was just a friend of yours or was he in your unit?

FERRIE: I don't think he ever joined Civil Air Patrol. This is going back 12 or 13 years.

VOLZ: Around that particular time, did you ever go hunting with Morris? Does Morris ever go hunting?

FERRIE: I would imagine so. I don't know if he ever went hunting with me. I don't know. This isn't the kind of thing you remember.

VOLZ: Did you ever take any trips with Morris?

FERRIE: Yes, I think so. But I am not sure about this. I would have to ask Gill. Somewhere back in 61 or 62 I had to go to Mississippi for Gill on an oil bill. I believe I took Brownlee with me because at that time he was doing a little work for Gill. I believe that on one of the many trips we took to Vinton because we were back and forth quite a number of times. I believe he was on one of those. Morris went along when Alice Gedeau (? sp), Gill's secretary, and I went down to one of the small towns, New Iberia or somewhere. There was a murder case where a defendant

had to be interviewed.

VOLZ: That was 61-52

FERRIE: Could have been 63.

VOLZ: Do you recall where you stayed in Galveston?

FERRIE: No.

VOLZ: Do you recall where you stayed in Alexandria?

FERRIE: No. My only source would be the FBI.

VOLZ: You are positive that all three of you came back together?

FERRIE: That is my recollection. The only way I would know for sure would be to call Mr. Wall or the individual.

VOLZ: But you are positive it was just the 3 of you that went and came back? Have you ever gone to Dallas?

FERRIE: Yes, I was in Dallas in March or April of this year.

VOLZ: How about around that time you went to Houston?

FERRIE: Thank God, no. As Gill said, if I had been in Dallas, I would have been in jail.

VOLZ: Since it came up earlier, you said you were supposed to have taught Oswald how to shoot a rifle. Have you ever taught anybody how to shoot a rifle.

FERRIE: Yes. This was in the Civil Air Patrol cadet program. Teach them how to shoot a .22 and sometimes something heavier. It is part of the program.

VOLZ: Did you teach any of these boys who were on the trip with you how to shoot.

FERRIE: Coffey, I don't know. Beauboef was a born hunter.

VOLZ: How about Brownlee?

FERRIE: He likes the outdoors but whether he goes hunting I don't know. He is the type that would collect botanical specimens. or if he did hunt he would use a bow and arrow instead of shooting.

VOLZ: You say Morris wasn't interested in guns.

FERRIE: I don't know one way or the other. Morris always

thing. At this moment my recollection of Morris is that his interests would be physics, rocketry, electronics and philosophy.

VOLZ: Was he ever on these cadet training encampments that you were talking about.

FERRIE: I don't recall one way or the other. If you are interested in completing this thing I will try to remember and write this down for you.

VOLZ: What are you doing now?

FERRIE: Flying.

VOLZ: For anybody in particular?

FERRIE: Flying for myself. Flight instructions. One of your former associates is one of my customers. Jerry Aurillio. I feel reasonably confident that the FBI agents who worked on this would cooperate and I could get other names, the times and everything else because at that time we had to work out a rather fabulous time schedule. They worked out Oswald's and mine, too. Then I could give you more definite answers.

VOLZ: The two boys that you went to Texas with, were they in your unit at the time.

FERRIE: I was not in Civil Air Patrol at that time.

VOLZ: Do you know if they knew Morris?

FERRIE: Yes, I think so. In what connection and to what depth I am not sure.

VOLZ: What was Coffey's first name?

FERRIE: Melvin. He worked at Michoud.

VOLZ: When was the last time you saw Coffey or Beauboef?

FERRIE: I see Beauboef routinely but Coffey not for a long time. He was upset about this because of his job.

VOLZ: Who does Beauboef fly for?

FERRIE: He is not employed as a pilot. He is looking for that kind of employment.

VOLZ: Do you know what he is doing now?

FERRIE: Working for his father-in-law in a meat packing place.

Chalmers Meat Packing Company, address is 5108 N. Miller

in Arabi.

VOLZ: Do you make a decent living with this flying?

FERRIE: I make a living, I don't know how decent it is.

VOLZ: Do you do any charter flying?

FERRIE: Occasionally.

VOLZ: Have you done any charter flying in the 60's?

FERRIE: In the first part of 1961...Up until August, '61 it was all air carrier.

VOLZ: For an airlines?

FERRIE: Eastern.

VOLZ: During that time in your spare time did you do any flying?

FERRIE: Civil Air Patrol, instructions on the side.

VOLZ: Did you do any charter work?

FERRIE: It is prohibited. Martin had me going to Cuba. It was in the newspapers... in a 110 mile an hour airplane with four hours of gas.

VOLZ: Were you doing any charter flying at the time when he accused you of this?

FERRIE: No. I was supposed to be working for the airline. I was also supposed to have gone in 1963. Klein asked if that summer I had been in Cuba. That was some more of Jack Martin. Is Pershing Gervais still around?

VOLZ: No, he is not in our office anymore. Do you want to see him?

FERRIE: Not especially. I just wanted to refer you back to him as to why I am in here this morning. I am thinking about Martin's personality. Martin somehow gets to be near the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral. He somehow gets involved in civil and criminal affairs. Martin gets in on all these interesting little things. He tried to get Pershing Gervais on brutality. There was a big mess for a few days. I

the Warren Report and I think Jack Martin would have seized on this because this is exactly his type of meat. I imagine he would come to someone like Frank Klein, Pershing Geryais or Jim Garrison and sometimes Martin convinces himself on his confessions, sometimes he doesn't. I know he was in the psycho ward in Charity for a while and was in the psycho ward in Texas. He used to run a diploma mill in Texas.

VOLZ: You feel he is responsible for your being here today?

FERRIE: Yes, I feel it is a possibility.

VOLZ: Have you read any of these articles?

FERRIE: No, I am too busy trying to earn a living. I do know I have seen statements regarding Governor Connelly. I have got nothing to hide. But I have been trying to figure out for the last two days what I was being subpoenaed for and I tried calling everybody to find out what it was all about. I tried Gill, he didn't know anything. The reason I am on this Martin thing is that Gill tells me 3 or 4 days back Martin called him and wanted to know where I was, where I was working and how I could be reached. Gill and I speculated over various possibilities and this Kennedy thing was one of them.

VOLZ: Would you be willing to submit to a polygraph?

FERRIE: Certainly, I would be willing to submit to truth serum. I have no hesitation at all.