

Geraci

JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 1/30/00
Files not searched/records not provided
New Orleans records
Philip Geraci III

In FBIHQ 105-82555, Section 226, beginning with a record that is marked both Not Recorded and Serial 5414, there is a series of records relating to one Philip Geraci III. I am quite familiar with that matter, having conducted my own investigation, which includes tape recorded interviews with both parents and later with Philip and his mother. I also interviewed a number of others who had knowledge.

Based on my own investigation I tell you that while I find only one factual error in these records, and the FBI in N.O. knew was inaccurate, there is an enormous amount that is omitted. This is one of the elements that makes this an interesting matter. Another is what happened to Philip later.

By happenstance Philip met Lee Harvey Oswald at the place of business of Carlos Bringuier. I have filed Bringuier appeals on which you have not acted, as I recall. Bringuier mediated this encounter at August 5, 1963. It was earlier, considerably earlier. It is Bringuier through whom Oswald established "Fred" credential in N.O.

Although these records say less, Philip was a witness before the Warren Commission. These records state only that he was interviewed by a staff member, who was Wesley J. Liebeler. The interview was a deposition. The FBI did the interviewing.

The original of this record and presumably other relevant records are in what appears to be a 174 file at FBIHQ. In New Orleans, 105-2467.

The suggestion of homosexuality, for which no privacy claim was made by the FBI, is valid. The "Mario" of the record may well be the name of a close friend of Clay Shaw (also associate in the Cordell Hull fund), Mario Bernades.

Now it happens that I have a copy of Sergeant Korne's juvenile report relating to Philip, so I know what the records show and thus what the FBI knew and omitted. I have also interviewed several of the sergeant's witnesses.

When Philip was a runaway he went to see his friend Bringuier, for whom he sold Cuban war bonds until Oswald reported that Bringuier was doing this without a

license. That ended Bringuier's bond sales. Odd that the FBI did not report this, I think.

Instead of taking care of his youthful, high school friend Philip Bringuier sent him to a French Quarter dive, The Silver Dollar, where Philip sustained a gang bang. This also is not in the FBI's records. It is in Berne's.

Philip was used by the Commission to give Bringuier an alibi for his first encounter with Oswald, setting it by a combination of false and altered testimony (which I can provide if it interests you) at August 2 or 5 rather than several weeks earlier. This enabled Bringuier to claim that he suspected Oswald because of a raid on a Cuban camp depot in 7/31. And thus it was alleged that Oswald was trying to "penetrate" Bringuier's one-man organization.

By the time Garrison developed an interest in Philip Garrison and I were not getting along very well, coming ^{from} ~~from~~ his intense dislike of criticism, but I had a relationship with several of his assistant Dan and some of the police assigned to him. The worst row we ever had was over Garrison's breaking an agreement we had made involving Philip. For a time I thought his former heavyweight boxer/assistant Scianbra was going to jump me, but the deal got back on track instead.

Philip had ignored three Garrison subpoenas. But the deal was that if Philip spoke to me and I conveyed what I learned to Garrison he would let Philip alone, absent some criminal acts. When the agreement was renewed I was able to arrange to interview Philip in the presence of the family lawyer, who I might say was astounded at what she heard from Philip and the mother.

One part that should have been in the New Orleans records provided and was not is that the night that David Bernie died Philip was kidnapped by of all people this same Sergeant Berne and a New Orleans vice squad detective who was also a Warren Commission witness and, although the Commission's records not not reflect this, to the best of my recollection, is the one who recruited Oswald into the Civil Air Patrol.

In this world of coincidences, Ferris was a CAP leader and four years before this kidnaping Philip was also in the same CAP in New Orleans.

The family was in on the kidnaping because it had been persuaded that this was a measure of protection for Philip and was on behalf of Garrison, who hadn't the slightest idea of it - fortunately.

They held Philip up for a week in the home of a relative outside of Garrison's jurisdiction. The account of their interest, from what they told Philip their interest was, is not credible. They taped the questioning over a period of a week.

The mother confirmed all of this and is the one who first brought it up.

Both kidnapers were FBI sources. Philip and one, Frederick S. O'Sullivan, were Commission witnesses. Yet I saw nothing in any way related to this in the New Orleans records or in the FBIHQ or Dallas assassination or commission files or in the SA Oswald file up to this point, which is close to its end. I have difficulty believing that FBI had neither interest nor information.

I have given you the numbers of Garrison files not searched. You have ignored that appeal for close to two years.

If in this matter the FBI had something it wanted to hide the method may be simple, yet the information could be retrieved easily, if not on a typical FBI FOIA search. There was no reason to believe that Philip planned any bombing. Therefore the FBI filed the records relating to this youth under bombing matters.