

Dear Jim,

3/14/82

Until your letter of the 10th I was not aware that Joan Hitchcock had died. I also was not aware that she owned the building on Pacific Avenue in which "our Christian stored those 5,000 copies of Oswald in New Orleans. I understood that he lived there with a woman who may have been a servant in some wealthy person's home.

It is not those books Howard latched onto. He found some in a bookstore, which told him it had another case of them. He was to have sent me those he had gotten and he was to go get the case and send it. I've not had a word since, not since the day before he had his tonsils out.

Odd that I got your letter yesterday and in Today's WPPost Magazine there is a squib on her, responding to a reader's question, had she become an alcoholic. It says that the last years of her life sabattled a drinking problem.

This is really for Dave because I do not recall how detailed the notes I made are or where they are.

I regret that I was her guest for the last time the last time I was in SF. I mean that I regret that I never got back, because we then made an arrangement that on my next trip I also would stay with her and we would then tape an oral history which she would put away for many years, her recollections of JFK the man.

Her mansion in which she lived was not on Pacific Avenue. I am sure it was Broadway, on the side toward the harbor, with a fine view of it from the rear, with a fine large room on the second floor giving a beautiful view of it. I took some pix of that view. As I did of her at the gate on the street.

She slept with more than JFK. I had to check with her about another close to him when Garrison was off on his pseudo-associatist kick, as usual quite wrong.

As I recall it, the last time she saw JFK was during the convention in LA, when he was nominated. I think he had to leave her room via a fire escape, to avoid detection.

She told me that he loved Jackie and told her so, but also wondered if Jackie was sleeping around.

When her husbands learned of her affair with JFK they beat her up.

We all drank heavily when I stayed with her, but she did not get drunk. The last night I was there she slept with a member of a once famous ~~quartet~~ *Quintet Trio* that was starting up again. It had taken the name of a city, like the Newbury quartet, which was not its name. We had a pleasant party that night, with the quartet singing for us.

She was a kind and thoughtful hostess, and that she had a deep feeling for JFK was apparent. Her eyes tears often enough as we talked.

Hal was in at least one dinner, at a very good but not overly fancy restaurant.

She then had two small children with her, the older one, a boy, not more than 6-8 and a girl a little younger. The boy was the spitting image of JFK. I don't know who his father was. I breakfasted with the kids before they went to school. She was usually still asleep.

She had tried without success to interest Jess Unruh, then Speaker, in the JFK assassination. So did Christian, I suspect with distrust after Christian's effort. She then was letting Christian use a small sports car she had.

To her credit, after the JFK connections came out and Exner pulled her book I, Joan did not take the same road.

Best,