

11/5/77

Dear Wendell Krueth,

Sorry not to have been able to respond to your last letter sooner.

On your coming trip to Dallas, the only thing that would at the moment be of special interest to me is any of the news stories that have appeared since June, when I was there.

All the things you mention are of interest but there is a limit to what I can be deeply involved in. Banister is an example. I do not regard him as a significant figure. Interesting, very much. I did some cursory investigating back in 1968 or thereabouts. However, I would be very interested in any information for an entirely different reason. I would like to be able to add it to my Banister file for the future, for it to be available to all, including those who have a different view of his role, or those who believe he does not really figure in the JFK assassination. He does figure in other activities that can interest some people.

The same is true of Kiltner. I think you realize that I popularized him. I'm interested in completeness in that file. Dan Christensen is a good friend. I have seen what he has written but neither of us can afford the phone calls to stay in close contact.

John Thomas Mason is of more interest. You may remember that in Whitewash I had a chapter "The False Oswald." On this you may want to job Gary Schoener's memory. When I spoke in Mpls in mid-May 1968 a young man named John Martin was turned on and provided me with a film the FBI had kept secret from the Warren Commission. Gary, other students and I viewed the film, which Martin loaned me. I left it with Gary for copies to be made. This included some stills. I think you should examine one still in particular, taken from over Oswald's right shoulder and from the back. He looks much different in it. Then if you see Mason again you may have a different or a new perspective. But I have never had any doubt that someone was counterfeiting Oswald and this is of much interest to me and will continue to be. It also is more relevant to work I still plan and have begun.

I have not been able to keep up with recent releases. Gary can probably refer you to those who have if he has not, as I presume is impossible for him. I doubt there would be much on Banister because neither the FBI nor the Secret Service, both knowing him, would have been willing to look into him and because neither would have seen him as relevant.

My source on his brain damage was Aaron Kohn. He runs the New Orleans Crime Commission. He is not a friend. We have never met. But if you do not come on as one who regards Banister as the master-mind of the JFK assassination he might be informative. As I recall they knew each other from the Chicago FBI. Kohn apparently regarded Banister as a good cop and brought him to New Orleans because he regarded him as honest. The New Orleans police were pretty corrupt, even for that corrupt city.

Banister was of the extreme right and reportedly associated with Cubans of that view. I know there was some controversy over what happened to his files, whether his wife or his secretary received them. I don't know if Jim Garrison would be helpful on this. He thought Banister was important in the JFK case. What Mrs. DeGidio has not told you is that Garrison got himself in trouble about the time you report he started to drink heavily. I think I reported it in Oswald in New Orleans. It was much even for the N.O. cops and he had to go.

The other names in your letter mean nothing to me.

Thanks, good luck and best wishes,

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Dear Mr Weisberg;

Am enclosing a memo on Guy Bannister and a photo, copied from one given to the DeGidio family by Bannister. I don't really think there is much the DeGidio's could tell me # that is of any real importance. (although the "Isle Of Pines" mention did interest me)

I do expect to obtain photocopies of letters, envelopes, and a few other photos of Bannister. I will send them as soon as it is done.

Mrs DeGidio is a nice lady and very helpful but somewhat disorganized. I have not talked to her husband as I suspect that he might be unwilling. (she agrees)

I also have some info of perhaps more interest regarding Joseph Milteer from a man in Quitman Georgia. Dan Christenson of "Miami" magazine has covered some of the info from the same source but I think he has not really gone into it very deeply. If you care for it I will send it also. That would be mostly in the form of tape transcript, and it is not complete yet.

I attempted to interview John Thomas Masen while I was in Dallas earlier this year, (without much success).. He did bear a remarkable resemblance to Oswald. I showed him CD 853 p.3. He seemed quite alarmed and refused to speak with me beyond that point. He was polite and indicated that his unwillingness to be interviewed stemmed from fear. (a particularly sensitive point with him seemed to have been my interest in George Parrell)

In our phone conversation you mentioned some brain damage that Bannister suffered while in Chicago. If you are able to find the time at some point I would hope to learn more about that, or any documents recently released that pertain to Bannister, Ferrie, etc.

That's about all...I think I will be in Dallas in mid November.

If there is anything of interest to you there that I might be able to cover, let me know, and I will try to get to it while I am there.

Sincerely

Wendell Krueth

