

October 5, 1994

Dear Harold,

It's almost two months since your letter and I haven't responded. I am now the Archivist at the Sixth Floor and we are building a research center/archive that will concentrate on the material not being collected elsewhere. Our initial emphasis will be the films, tapes and photos shot by local tv & radio stations and amateur photographers. Several have expressed interest in letting us administer their pictures: the Nix, Bronson and Willis material will probably wind up here. Much paperwork needs to be done, but all have been very receptive.

We'll build a proper temperature/humidity-controlled and secure vault here in the basement of the visitor's center, on the north side of the TSBD. We have the budget to acquire and preserve all the material properly and we're hoping Mary's collection will be here, too. Buck is very sick but still hanging on. It must be very difficult for her, and I try to call now and then with news about what we're doing (she's still an unofficial consultant and her input is very important.)

As I'm sure you know by now, although you didn't in your August 11 letter, David Marwell is the AARB Executive Director. He and Posner got acquainted when Posner wrote his Mengele book and did research in Germany. Marwell was the archivist overseeing all the confiscated Nazi documents! According to Dave Perry, Posner spent several weeks in Berlin poring through that stuff and they became friends.

The LaFontaine/Washington Post article did not include their videotaped interview with Elrod in which he said he didn't know anything about Ruby, Oswald or any gun deal. The tape aired on the "Hard Copy" tabloid tv show last November (the interview had been done in July 1993) Elrod's brother was also interviewed and all he could say was that he "felt" Elrod was holding something back, thus making it clear that Elrod had never admitted anything to his own brother! As soon as Elrod sits in front of a camera and says the LaFontaine account is true, I'll assume their story is as legitimate as their Roscoe White garbage in 1990. George Lardner told me that the Post ran their piece by him and he vetoed it; however, some other Post staffers found it interesting and thought it would be fun to run to see what would happen.

I have recently interviewed a retired Kodak exec who was present when Zapruder came to the lab. Z told him the shots came from behind him. The most important part of the guy's story, which we have on videotape, is his memory of Kodak processing a 35mm color slide while they were waiting for Zapruder's film to finish. He said a woman had been running across the grass from Main to Elm, stopped when she realized she wasn't going to get close enough, and snapped a picture. When they looked at it the exposure was fine, but it was way out of focus. Some bystanders were in the foreground, the car was behind them and the entire TSBD was behind the car - that lines up to the real Babushka Lady. He said the federal guys that were there pushed the technicians to try to clarify the fuzzy picture, but there was nothing they could do with 1963 technology. The woman left! He did not get her name, but stood next to her as she told her story. She was of normal height and weight, a brunette, and in her late 30's. So much for Beverly Oliver story - remember, she claims to have shot Super 8mm movie film.



Gary Mack
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10/8/94

Dear Gary,

It is to the Historical Foundation's credit that they selected someone not married to the official mythology for archivist. Glad you got it!

When you speak to Mary please tell her we asked for them. And hope for them, too. I do not want to trouble her or I'd write.

Except for not knowing about any gun deal ^{you say} what the La Fontaine had on Hard Copy is largely in the FBI's records. And if you do not know and would not learn from their article, Elrod told them police or sheriff in Memphis that the reason he turned himself in was he was afraid he'd kill his wife. He had the shotgun with him. In addition to what he said on Hard Copy he said he knew nothing about the assassination, either.

The Post reporter ~~who~~ seems to have been pushing to get that La Fontaine fiction used told me that Gardner had OKed it! He has been arguing it with me from time to time. ^(not Gardner)

Are you saying that the La Fontaines originated that Ricky White indecency? or were first to go for it?

The Post asked if they could send them what I wrote about their nonsense, I agreed, and in all this time they have had not a thing to say.

If you know of anyone who has the police records on the cells in which they kept Oswald I'd like to have it for the record. I know Jim Leavelle picked him up 11/24 in F-2/

Interesting that federal agents wanted that woman's 35mm of the Babushka Lady when they tried to avoid all the film possible. As you may recall, no indication of this in the Dallas files. I made duplicate copies of all in them relating to such things and you went over them.

Beverly Oliver's story never had any credibility at all. Besides which that was, as I recall, before Super 8 was marketed.

I've had an odd experience I may have mentioned to Dave with Kizzia. Gary sked for my help on their suit, I said I would all I could, I read and left marks on many pages of about six large deposition transcripts ~~in~~ (in which my only interest was in helping them) and arranged for Kizzia to have a copy of the ms. of NEVER AGAIN! ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ because there is much in it they can use. Brad said he'd be in touch after he read it. Silence. I wrote and told him if he has any question to please ask me. Silence. I suppose I told the truth about Crenshaw's role and perhaps about that pretty awful book and they are offended. They'd be better advised to be prepared on that rather than getting it a bit fuzzy about it. I do not recall but I well ^{denigrated the book.} could have. I'd like them not to lose that suit and they can blow it with what is reflected in their book. If you've heard anything I'm curious.

Best
Hickoff