

1/28/67

Dear Shirley,

Thanks for the info of the 25th.

I've had several letters from Striso but I've never met him. Hope he has what he says he has.

The transcripts are still all secret at the Archives.

As I recall it, Daughterty may not be all there but was considered harmless. Truly testified about him, I think. The Army rejected him.

Wasn't Givens arrested? I think he was and a pickup was broadcast.

Unless they do not let me, I'll leave Capitol alone because I'd rather spend my time on constructive things. They are, however, wretched people. I've not gotten my copies of the record yet. They were going to send me six. Bill was going to make me a tape so I could hear it but hasn't yet.

They took what I said of Holland out of context, and it included what you correctly say of the follow-up car. My point was that dependence upon eyewitnesses, whether by the Commission or Lane, is weak. Using the knowingly wrong, as Lane did, weakened what Holland had to say that was right. This was not news to the Commission. I've got the FBI report in which Holland is quoted as saying the same thing.

Looking forward very much to a visit from LA and Penn next month. They are wonderful folks, and the only real battling I've done about the record is about Penn, who is a nobleman.

Thanks, Agatha.

Sincerely,

Herold

January 25, 1967

The second part of the Manchester-Look serialization has come out since I wrote the enclosed. Manchester has really disgraced himself--as far as his assessment of Lee Oswald is concerned. He depended on the Report, rather than on the 26 volumes, for his very dubious "research." This makes a bad historical book for the man (Manchester) who claimed in a NY Times ad that he knew more about the case than anyone!

Notice Manchester's reliance on Givens' statement (April '64) that he saw Lee on the 6th ~~flr~~ floor at "5 to 12". Yet Givens did NOT make this statement before Mary Rattan (Notary Public) on Nov. 22nd, nor to the FBI (in a deposition) in March '64. Givens who had a police record could very well be an ideal subject for police-agency pressure. Measure his statement with William Shelley's, Vol. 7, p. 390:

Ball:...when is the last time (on Nov. 22) that you saw Oswald?

Shelley: ~~xxxxx~~ It was 10 or 15 minutes before 12.

Ball: Where?

On the first floor over near the telephone.

(This fits in interestingly enough with Norman's testimony, V. 3, p.189. Norman who was obviously under pressure of some kind, as noticed by his ~~x~~ vacillation in fifth floor narrative, claimed to have been on the first floor at lunch time where he saw Jarman over by the first floor telephone. Lee claimed to have eaten a sandwich in "Junior's" presence. Jarman claimed not to have spoken to Lee since 9:30 AM when the "people were gathering" in Dealy Plaza. This is ridiculous, as the people did not begin to gather at all in this rather sparse area until after 11:30. Norman also vacillates as to whom he saw in the lunchroom (domino room): "I can't remember who ate in the lunchroom..." "I think there was someone else in there..."

It all seems obvious to me that Lee went into the domino room for his lunch where Norman probably saw him, after having spoken to Givens while Givens was enroute down from 6th at 11:30--Lee having been on 5th at this point. After getting his lunch Lee wandered out onto the first floor near the telephone where his confrontation with Jarman took place. Meanwhile Shelley saw Lee at this point and gave testimony in this regard. The Commission however dismissed this and accepted instead Givens rather questionably-orientated testimony.)

All of the Negro boys involved-Givens, Williams, Norman, Jarman, Piper, etc.--were scared to death. I am intrigued by the following:

McCloy: You testified you had not seen Oswald except this one occasion in the morning. Did you hear any of your friends or coworkers say whether they had seen Oswald on that morning?

Norman: Not until after...

McCloy: After the assassination?

Norman: Yes, sir; that is the only time.

(Belin breaks in)

Belin: Offtherecord.

Discussionofftherecord.

Can this be found now in the Archives?

On top of this is the fascinating testimony of Daugherty. This was so confusing that I can't believe it wasn't deliberate. If a man is REALLY this dumb can he hold a job year after year? We should know more about Daugherty? What were his politics? I have the inference that he was an insane fan of the right-wing. Was he interested in guns, rifles? Did he belong to any organizations?

Interesting, too, is Frazier. He was a fanatic on guns, rifles. The more I think about him the more I feel the original impetus towards Lee Oswald may have come from him. He and his sister knew all the neighborhood gossip. He knew Lee was thinking (on Marina's urging) about buying a car. He knew when Lee got the job. He may have discussed guns with Lee and learned about the garage item. He may have picked up the curtain rod story from another discussion with Lee--or Ruth. HE had access to that horrible garage--when Ruth was out--at night. The Paines had no dogs then. The garage was not locked. The neighborhood would not have thought it strange had Frazier actually entered Ruth's house at any time. Frazier of course has no brains. Whatever part he may have played, he was directed. But the idea to use Lee in something may have come from him as he would have the background on Marina and Russia, etc.

I was told by an Oklahoma City reporter that Frazier had a record at Huntsville. Never have checked on it. Truly told me Frazier had worked for him "over a year" yet the testimony has Frazier saying he had only been with the building a month or two. Frazier was a disgrace after the assassination. His fear was so thick you could cut it. He trembled and shook every time he was approached. He refused to give interviews. His sister refused. Allegedly they were not even courteous to Ruth. They have moved of course, but the grandparents were still in the house last time I checked.

Must close. All the best.

S.

Inclosing one letter from Staso (don't return it) in which he says
you are his "pal."

January 20, 1967

Harold:

I understand perfectly your not being able to find time to write; and this is precisely why I waited so long to contact you and why I sent you that item anonymously. You have too many burdens already. I will, however, as you suggest, from time to time, send you a note with an idea or two on it.

I am still terribly convinced of Lee's innocence, so I suppose this makes me rather a poor fish; but it seems the more I examine what he said he did, compared with what they say he did, the more his viewpoint wins out. Indidentally, if you look closely at a clear copy of the Altgens photo, you can see what appears to be a bracelet (left wrist) on the Oswald-Lovelady figure. I notice in the government-Lovelady pictures, Billy's hands are behind him. Perhaps he wears a watch or a bracelet routinely too.

I will find the Jarman references for you this weekend; am also working a little extra on B. Wesley Frazier who continues to hold my interest.

The Capitol Record wasn't so bad. At any rate, I am prepared to let people make fun of me anytime. Schiller and Lewis are so dedicated to that sorriest of all games, the acquisition of a buck, that I predict a most unfortunate emotional life for them. I think they are up to their rectums in compromise already. Leave them to heaven. As for Holland, the old man was probably thinking of the follow-up car, in which, as you know, a SS agent did rise with a AR-1 (?). Epstein made an ass of himself by lambasting Penn. It doesn't do, this criticizing of one another. I have never heard Penn say a harsh word about any of the Easterners (or Westerners), and I think Epstein must be an example of northern poor white trash to have so conducted himself. But I have other stories for other times in this regard. At present, we should concentrate on the case and not ~~fall~~ fall out with one another.

Sincerely,
"Agatha Christie."

Agatha Christie

Incidentally Louis Nizer insulted my pal Harold Weisberg on a radio program. The little shyster is going to get the surprise of his life. Excuse the language but he fits into my story in a damned serious way. He is an establishment appointed fighter...who has something inside !

540 Tuckahoe Road
Yonkers, N. Y.
January 22, 1967

Dear Shriley,

Just noted an article in the New York City World Telegram Journal called the " Scavengers " which I feel is extremely uncalled for in our free society. You are mentioned and there is a very fine picture of you in it. HELLO I now know how you look.

By strange coincidence I hit on an article in Ramparts by Brackman and a Faye Levine. It was about a set of books by a Ulov Leboeuf which was a complete hoax. Mrs. Meagher wrote a scathing reply in the next issue of Ramparts for which I am grateful. I have been putting off a meeting with Mrs. Meagher whose Index I have purchased and I hope to make the appointment next week. By strange coincidence the Leboeuf spoof sent me on a chase as my line connects with Vegas.... I hit paydirt! I also have put a little pressure on the playful twins who wrote the article about LeBoeuf which may teach them not to play with serious things or imply anyone's motives. Thank goodness I have stayed out of the limelight and all of my stuff is in good hands in Europe. I am close to the break and I hope to stir up some new evidence from a top Warren Commission witness in about ten days. I all will be done out of Europe by remote control which will work even if I disappear.

I really wonder if the publicity in the World Telegram Journal did you any good ? I don't like the people who handled the article.

Have a very important part of my package in California and I wonder if you have any contact with the Mrs. Joseph A. Field, Jr. in Beverly Hills. Although my noose is almost tight enough I could use some information which can only be obtained in California. I am also going to trip Melvin Belli into participating even though he cold shouldered me after I asked him a particular question.

I may have time to put this thing into a film but my time schedule is very short as I intend to press for a major break within two weeks no less than a month. I am deadly serious and have the pieces to this fantastic puzzle laying into the right places. Your assistance with the California contact would be appreciated. I also assure you that you will be fully informed as to the "break" as I will send you a copy as soon as it is completed and prior to publication. The most cordial regards.

Jules
Jules Striso

DO YOU WANT A COPY OF THE STORY IN WTV.

SEE ME TUE