

# Area Woman To Testify In JFK Slaying Probe

By DWAYNE COX  
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TESTIMONY of a witness to the murder of President John F. Kennedy deemed "crucial" by the House Select Committee on Assassinations will come from a former Big Spring resident and the ex-wife of a man killed in a shootout in South Lubbock more than six years ago, The Avalanche-Journal has learned.

The witness, Beverly Massagee, formerly Beverly McGann, is referred to in a secret transcript of a March 17 briefing of the assassinations committee by Robert Tannenbaum, in charge of the committee's Kennedy investigation. The transcript of the briefing was accidentally leaked and The A-J obtained a copy.

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In the transcript, Tannenbaum refers to Mrs. Massagee as, "a female who was taking photographs on the south side of Elm Street, which would be facing what is known as the 'Grassy Knoll' and part of the Book Depository Building where allegedly Oswald was and fired the shots."

The transcript of Tannenbaum's briefing further states Mrs. Massagee told investigators recently she knew Jack Ruby, that she and a friend were introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Ruby prior to the assassination and were told he (Oswald) was a CIA agent and surrendered her film of the assassination to two men who claimed to be agents of the FBI and CIA.

In 1970, the woman was married to George McGann, a reputed Texas organized crime figure. Police found McGann, 34, and Jerry M. Meshell, 29, of Lufkin, dead in a house at 90th Street and Avenue S in Lubbock and police theorized both men died in an apparent shoot-out.

A man, however, was charged with the murders and convicted, but, an aura of mystery still surrounds the double shooting and investigators believe the killings may have been an organized crime "hit" ordered when McGann allegedly tried to increase his standing in organized crime in Texas.

In 1963, Beverly McGann was working in Dallas clubs and she and her husband were acquaintances of Jack Ruby. It was at Ruby's Carousel Club, the transcript states, that Mrs. Massagee's introduction to Oswald about two weeks before the assassination occurred. The transcript states Mrs. Massagee told officers she next saw Oswald when he was arrested.

After her friend spoke openly about meeting Oswald earlier and then soon disappeared, the transcript states, Mrs. Massagee "decided it would be in her best interests not to say anything."

But now, more than 13 years after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of President Kennedy, to which she found herself an important witness, fear again has stifled Mrs. Massagee's desire to talk.

The A-J located Mrs. Massagee last week in Smithville, Mo., where she and her husband Charles were staying at a Baptist church as part of an evangelistic tour.

In a 1971 interview, Mrs. Massagee said she was converted to her current evangelistic existence in January of 1970 in Big Spring.

She and her husband tour the country and their organization, Massagee Evangelistic Services, headquarters in Dallas.

Assassination researchers say her discovery of religion occurred after she first disclosed the story the House committee will investigate and became frightened about possible attempts on her life by organized crime figures or police.

The fear still lingers.

Although Mrs. Massagee declined to talk with The A-J, her husband spoke briefly about his wife's present status in the investigation.

"She's not able to discuss those matters at this point,"

Massagee said. "If some people thought she really knew something, her life might be in danger."

Massagee said his wife has been instructed by the assassinations committee not to discuss her future testimony and he tried to downplay her potential role in the investigation.

"If she had any evidence that would help solve the assassination, it would have been divulged long ago," he said. "All she knows is somebody took some film away from her who posed as agents from the FBI and CIA. She doesn't know if they really were agents."

Massagee said the committee has stated it will make an effort to bring his wife before the panel for testimony as soon as possible because "even if her life is in danger, there would be no reason for them to go after her after she testifies."

Massagee would not elaborate on who his wife feared, but he did say, "There have been an awful lot of suicides lately of people associated with this who had the back of

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BEVERLY MASSAGEE — House assassination probes feel her testimony is "crucial" to the Kennedy death investigation. (Photo Copyright The Houston Post Co.)

Not true!



AUDREY N. BELL  
How Many Bullets?

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their heads blown off."

Assassination authorities say they doubt Mrs. Massacre's revelations are valid and cite recurring discrepancies in her story as the foundation of their doubt.

William C. Wood, who was a special investigator for New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination in 1967 and 1968, told The A-J Mrs. Massacre's original statement concerning the two agents she surrendered her film to a short time after the assassination indicated the men were both FBI agents, and did not indicate one said he was associated with the CIA. And he also noted that normally CIA agents actively working on a case rarely — if ever — divulge their CIA identities.

Another Texas assassination researcher said The A-J Mrs. Massacre first referred to the two men who took her film approximately two days after the assassination — Texas Rangers.

The assassinations committee, however, according to the transcript, states the

## For Mexico Hit

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## Carter Envoy Pick

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Inscribed on the back of the picture was "Hunter for the fascist, Mr. H.A. Ha." The inscription, signed by Oswald, also contained a line dedicating it to "my good friend, George," and was dated May 4, 1963, indicating DeMohrenschildt did see Oswald after the April 13, 1963, date he told the commission was his last encounter with the man the commission states acted alone in killing Kennedy.

Other aspects of DeMohrenschildt's relationship with Oswald, whom he (DeMohrenschildt) aided and introduced in 1962, to the Dallas White Russian community in 1962, are evident in commission documents and testimony.

In a letter DeMohrenschildt wrote to a friend Dec. 9, 1963, he said "The first time I heard of Kennedy's assassination, Jeanne and I thought simultaneously — 'could it be that crazy lunatic Oswald?' Olmans claims DeMohrenschildt told him he was responsible for Oswald's actions Nov. 22, 1963, and that he and Oswald planned the assassination "from A to Z."

And, in another contradiction, in an interview in Dallas Wednesday, Jeanne DeMohrenschildt said she and her husband never considered Oswald might have killed the president after first hearing about the assassination.

Another coincidence directly related to the assassination is DeMohrenschildt's wife's relationship with an FBI agent who was a known associate of Oswald.

Before marrying DeMohrenschildt, Jeanne Jackson was separated from her husband Robert, who reported her to FBI agents as a Communist spy.

FBI agent James Hosby was assigned to investigate the then Mrs. Jackson in 1957. Hosby's name, address and car license number were found written in Oswald's notebook after he was arrested.

Further research indicates additional connections between DeMohrenschildt and the intelligence community, beginning with his detention and interrogation by FBI agents in 1941 after he and a companion were found sketching a military installation on the Texas Gulf Coast. DeMohrenschildt was released after the interrogation.

## Jurors Balk At Suicide Depth Study

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A coroner's jury has confirmed a police ruling that the death of George deMohrenschildt was a suicide, but the jury refused to investigate what led to the death.

"That's irrelevant," State Atty. David Bidworth said after the Palm Beach County panel released its finding on the death of DeMohrenschildt, who was a friend of Lee Harvey Oswald.

"We're here to determine whether he did commit suicide, or not. The other facts about why he took his own life are for someone else to look into."

DeMohrenschildt was found shot to death March 29, hours after an investigator for the House assassinations committee tried unsuccessfully to interview him about the assassination of President Kennedy.

His daughter, Nancy Tilton, testified at the jury's hearing that DeMohrenschildt had been "harassed by different people."

"One name was Olmans," she said. "He (DeMohrenschildt) said that man was trying to force him to say things that weren't true."

Dutch journalist Willem Olmans said in testimony before the committee recently that DeMohrenschildt had told him about a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

The manuscript, "In a Flash, I am a Party," has been turned over to the House assassinations committee, which hopes to determine if he, or someone else, was:

## Bus Wreck Victims To Leave Hospital

PLAINVIEW (Special)—The last of 19 Lockney students injured in a school bus-truck collision Thursday near Providence was expected to be released from Central Plains General Hospital here today.

Michael Lipman, 11, was in good condition late Friday, as was Jesse Yorra, 13, and doctors said both would probably leave the hospital today.

The two students and 17 others were injured when the bus collided with a truck and overturned in the Floyd County community.

Authorities said the vehicles collided at the intersection of FM 788 and FM 2301. The bus was enroute to schools in Lockney when the mishap occurred about 8:30 a.m.

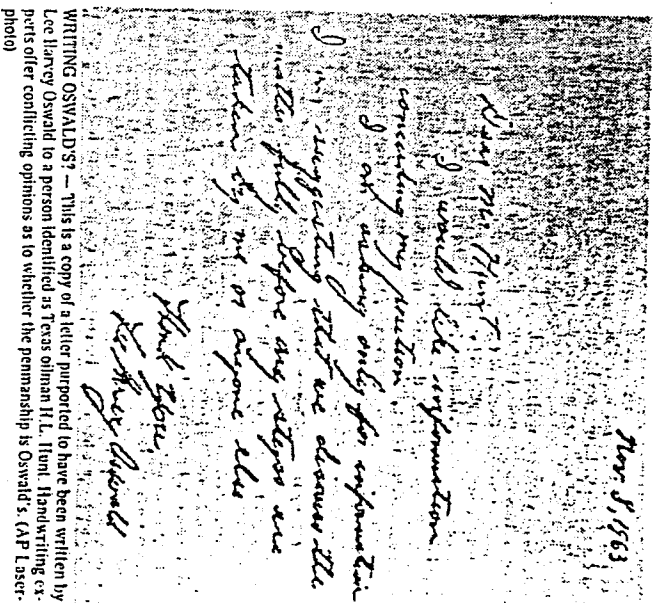
from the top of the "A" bus form, what appears to be an "o" and the letter combination "on" or "on."

The Dallas Morning News commissioned three handwriting experts who concluded the writer was Oswald. However the FBI said it is still attempting to determine the authenticity of the note and to whom it was addressed.

The day the note was made public, Dutch journalist Willem Olmans told the House Select Committee on Assassinations that George deMohrenschildt was the middleman between Texas oilman H.L. Hunt and Oswald in a conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy.

A spokesman for the Hunt family denied the note was written to Hunt and said Hunt never knew or communicated with Oswald.

— DWAYNE COX



WRITING OSWALD'S? — This is a copy of a letter purported to have been written by Lee Harvey Oswald to a person identified as Texas oilman H.L. Hunt. Handwritten experts offer conflicting opinions as to whether the penmanship is Oswald's. (AP photo)