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# The Knoxville News-Sentinel

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Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I hope you and your very lovely lady had a great Thanksgiving holiday. I want to thank you again, very, very much for all of your thoughts, time and assistance. *hospitality!*

I am enclosing a copy of my story for you. I hope you will find it satisfactory. After you have read it over, I would like to hear your observations, criticisms, suggestions, etc. If I have made any errors, could have stated something more clearly, I want to know. Don't worry about hurting my feelings, my hide is as thick as my head!

I especially want to discuss with you a couple of points of potential further pursuit of this story, including what seems to me a startling coincidence I discovered too late to pursue for inclusion in this story. I will call you in about a week, after allowing you time to receive and read my story.

Regarding your earlier requests to me, Gerald Posner is not in Contemporary Authors through 1993. The local public and university libraries did not have Who's Who of New York, so I did not get to look in there.

For your own files, which will eventually be turned over to Hood College, I am also including copies of Osborne's death certificate; copies of the records from the Roy Akers funeral home that corroborate Lyman Erickson's story of the FBI's request for silence; and copies of my correspondence with the funeral home.

Technically, of course, the undated and unsigned note only shows that Erickson told the funeral home that the FBI wanted silence. However, its presence in the funeral home file is a general corroboration of that part of his story, and the entire circumstances of the note and my interviews with Erickson support his overall credibility.



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(1) When I contacted the funeral home, I had not yet located Erickson, much less talked to him.

(2) The funeral home official had no idea what I was working on, and never asked me why I wanted the material; he only told, in his first letter to me, that the note was included in the Osborne file. He sent me copies, and eventually, sent me the original documents from their files.

(3) Erickson says he does not specifically remember asking the funeral home to keep notices out of the newspaper.

The last point, if thought through, strongly supports his overall credibility.

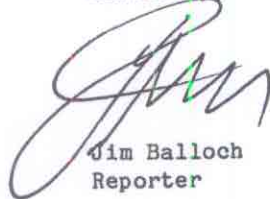
In other words, when I informed him (after he first told me his story) of the note's existence, that was a perfect opportunity for him to have embellished or exaggerated his story, had he been so inclined, by suddenly "remembering" that Oh, Yeah, the FBI had instructed him to do so. That would have been quite believable, given the overall circumstances of this bizarre episode.

Yet the fact he did not do so, even after I read the note to him several times, is a strong indication that he is not prone to exaggeration even when a golden opportunity to do so drops in his lap; that, in turn goes to his overall credibility on the rest of the story.

It may be that I have taken this story as far as it can go, but I am going to keep pursuing a few things, and I welcome any suggestions you may have.

I will be in touch.

Sincerely,



Jim Balloch  
Reporter