

RB, HR, PH, JW Oh my Oswald, P. 17A

Bob Smith/CTIA "CASH REWARD" Memo of 7/22/72 Harold Weisberg 7/25/72

This is not intended for further distribution or comment on the opinions I express. The divisions and bitterness are already too great. But some of you may not get this great offer of a cash reward and Bob will, being as serious as he is, send copies.

He/they apparently think one of the great unknown mysteries of the JFK assassination, worth "hours attempting to identify this publication without success", is learning the publication from which that ad was clipped. The Symbol is AM3, presumably A \_\_\_\_\_  
M\*\*\*\*\* 3 (I wonder if there is an American Marksman?)

When one investigates an investigation, and any inquiry into the JFK assassination makes this indispensable, there is almost nothing not legitimate. My query is whether this is any kind of priority item, whether "hours" ~~and~~ ~~hours~~ of work spent on this are better spent on this than other remaining mysteries and doubts. Especially when there remains no proof connecting the pistol with the crime and existing proofs, as a matter of legal evidence, are negative.

It reminds me of Bob's trip here ostensibly to go over my rifle and ammo file, but he spent it all on explosive bullets, not having determined whether the available evidence rules their use out or whether the existing conditions present any reason for using them. That day, perhaps unrelaxed, I almost chopped a thumb off.

This, to me, is one of the reasons the CTIA has spent all this time and money and come up with nothing new of which I know. They merely lust for the files of others, on the general theory that because Bud has the money, organized this committee and has the noblest of intentions, he owns the subject, as did Jane and Garrison before him.

Supposedly Bob is broke. So he offers a \$25.00<sup>1</sup> reward for a specimen of the ad and \$10 for identification of the publication.

For those of you who wonder at my seemingly low bailing point or what some may regard as intolerance and what sometimes come back to me as a fatherly or avuncular attitude, I invite independent assessment of this as an item of such priority. If there is no disagreement, perhaps you can better understand why I am anxious that my material not be used by others without my assent and why I have cut off from so many.

Perhaps also there is a continuing explanation of the Bud/CTIA failure for more than two years after agreeing to it to return what Bud got from me on the promise it would not ever get into CTIA files or hands and the return of what he got from me as my lawyer, which he after agreeing to return all earlier stuff because I had stipulated no CTIA connection, also put in CTIA files.

That Sroague alone misused it is more than enough. That others also did is worse. That there has been no response to my last letter of about three weeks ago you can evaluate for yourselves.

Now this is Bud and Bob and a board and members and sometimes helpers - and they are offering a reward for THIS - after wasted hours.

This is not to say they are completely without accomplishment. They won a suit they kept secret from me until after it was before the court. In the last minute before hearing the government gave them the three duplicates of Odum Exhibit 1 referred to in CD566. They did not sue for the picture allegedly showing Oswald. Bud has not been anxious to brag of this capitulation or show me the pictures. im says they are more severely cropped than either available version. Now they may sue for the ones said to show Oswald.

Of such the kindom and the glory.

Of such the history of our great successes.

HW

Commission Exhibit No. 790

**MAIL COUPON**

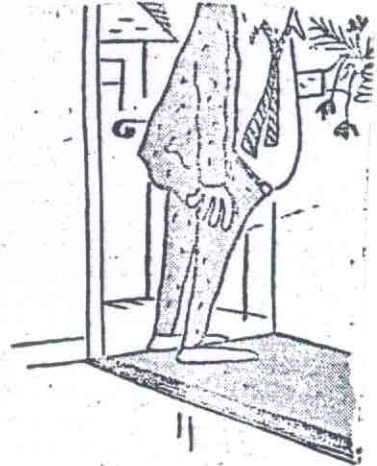
**SEAPORT TRADERS, INC.** 1221 S. Grand Ave. Dept. AG-3 L.A. 15, Cal.

Gentlemen: Please ship me the following:

Quantity	Product	Cost per Item	Total
_____	Mexican Bowie	5.95	
_____	.410 Shotgun	58.95	
_____	.22 Derringer	18.95	
_____	Flintlock Muzzle	45.80	
_____	Remington .22	10.85	
_____	.22 Long Rosco	12.95	
_____	air rifle	89.95	
_____	.22 Mag. 6 Shooter	39.95	
_____	Handcuffs	5.75	
_____	Western .23	12.95	
_____	.38 S. & W. Spec.	39.95	
_____	38/08 Springfield	39.95	
_____	.38 Scotland Yd. Sp.	16.95	
_____	Large 6 1/2 knife	22.95	
_____	.38 St. W. 7" Hbl.	29.95	
_____	.22 Ital. Auto	19.95	
_____	.22 Snubble	12.95	
<b>TOTAL PRICE</b>			<b>291.95</b>

Enclosed is \$10.00 check or M.O. (M.O.'s require 1/3 deposit). (Be sure to specify & give complete ordering info.) I understand all items are to be shipped F.O.B. L.A. express charges collect. Calif. res. add 4%; state tax. When ordering pistols, please sign statement:  
 I hereby state that I am a citizen of the U.S., and that I have never been convicted in any court of the U.S., territories, possessions or District of Columbia of a crime of violence or a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding 1 year, nor am I at present under indictment or a fugitive from justice, nor of legal mind of sound mind.

NAME AD. BROWN AGE 28 DATE 4/27  
 WITNESS S. J. DUTCH  
 ADDRESS P.O. Box 2915  
 CITY DALLAS STATE TEXAS



"Happy anniversary,

Front Side (Enlarged)

Reverse Side (Actual Size)

(Original on newsprint)



CASH REWARD

The attached sheet is a photostatic copy of the front and back sides of a mail-order coupon from an unknown publication which I am trying to identify.

This coupon is of considerable historical importance. It is believed that by means of this coupon Lee Harvey Oswald, using the alias "A. J. Hidell", purchased a .38 S&W revolver in the early part of 1963. This revolver was later used in the slaying of a police officer subsequent to the assassination of President Kennedy.

Neither the Warren Commission nor any investigative agency has ever been able to identify the specific publication from which this coupon was clipped. The mail order house involved, Seaport Traders, Inc., was unable to identify it in 1964, and it is no longer in business under that name.

The original of the coupon itself is in the National Archives at Washington, D.C. It is printed on newsprint paper (light-weight, non-glossy), which eliminates most gun, hunting, and sports magazines as possible places where the ad might have been published and suggests a weekly or bi-monthly publication such as Shotgun News or possibly a detective or humor type of magazine on pulp paper. There is a portion of a cartoon on the reverse side (see copy).

In the company address on the front of the coupon, there is a department number, "AM-3" (see copy). If this follows the usual advertising practice, the symbol "AM-3" would signify that the name of the publication had the initials (or abbreviation) "A\_\_\_ M\_\_\_", and that the specific issue was the third one of that year, e. g., March in the case of a monthly publication. However, because of possible errors or re-use of previous ads, it cannot be guaranteed that "AM-3" follows this rule. Incidentally, I am unaware of any gun, hunting, or sports publication having the initials "A\_\_\_ M\_\_\_".

It is very likely that the year of publication was 1963. Even here, however, there is some uncertainty because Oswald is known to have saved old magazines. Seaport Traders, Inc. is known to have run similar ads as far back as the 1950's. Such ads (not the same as the attached copy, however) may be found in the May '62 issue of Guns, Sept. '62 issue of Shooting Times, Nov. '62 Guns & Ammo, etc.

I have spent many hours attempting to identify this publication without success. Nevertheless, I am confident that it does exist (although it may no longer be published) and can be found.

I hereby offer a \$25 reward to the first person (as determined by the postmark on the envelope) who sends me a bona fide specimen of the publication containing an ad just like the one from which the attached coupon was taken. If an actual specimen is not available, I will give \$10 to the first person who can identify the publication (by name, address of publisher, and date of issue) and prove that the ad actually appeared in that issue.

Robert P. Smith  
927 15th St. NW, #409  
Washington, D. C. 20005

*Bob Smith*

July 22, 1972