

*Checked
Ford Motor File
Second Oswald*

M E M O R A N D U M

February 14, 1968

TO: LOUIS IVON, Chief Investigator

FROM: KENT SIMMS, Investigator

RE: Interview one FRED SEWEL, Fleet & Truck Manager,
Stephens Chevrolet, 840 Carondelet Street

On February 14, 1968, Det. Kent Simms in company with Det. Sal Scalia interviewed a MR. FRED SEWEL at the Stephens Chevrolet Company at 840 Carondelet Street and showed him a picture of one WILLIAM DALZELL for possible identification as being the second man with OSWALD in 1961 when he, OSWALD, attempted to purchase a truck.

MR. SEWEL observed the picture stating that this man resembles the second man who was with OSWALD on the above mentioned occasion but that he could not positively identify him as being such. MR. SEWEL went on to relate that the man who came in with OSWALD had a scar over his left eye, that he didn't have a spanish name but that he was a Cuban type. Further, that this man was either an engineer or a mechanic as he was familiar with the working parts of a truck. Also, that he was between 5'6" and 5'8" and well over 200 pounds. He was the athletic type and in his mid-twenties.

MR. SEWEL further stated that the original bid was turned over to the FBI and that he is under the impression that this office has a photostat of the same with the name of OSWALD and the name of the other person who appeared with him.

It was further learned from MR. SEWEL that he recalls that at a meeting he attended that a salesman who was at one time employed by Bolton Ford had mentioned that this same Cuban type person along with a man believed to be OSWALD had also come to the Bolton Ford company inquiring about a truck. MR. SEWEL can not remember the identity of the salesman.

JA: Now, what was the name of the other man, the thin man? Did you ever see his name written on the bid?

FS: I think that OSCAR DESLATTE wrote that on there, LEE OSWALD, but he didn't use the HARVEY, just LEE OSWALD if I remember right.

JA: LEE OSWALD?

FS: Yes, it's been six years or course. He represented himself as LEE OSWALD. He's the man that spoke up and said, "I'm the man handling the money. You ought to have my name too."

JA: Did you actually hear this man identify himself as LEE OSWALD?

FS: Right. That's what he said.

JA: Did the other man identify himself to you too?

FS: No. OSCAR had his name on the bid. He didn't mention his name. He didn't say much after that. Most of his was asking questions about the product he was trying to buy.

JA: How long were they in your office? Or were they in your office?

FS: Not in my office, but OSCAR and I had a double desk, like you would sit there and I would sit here. But I wasn't at my desk all the time, I was in and out working because I had customers, and at the time I was handling service on trucks too, writing the tickets and okaying the jobs, and ordering the material. Kind of running a one-man operation down there.

JA: How long was he in your presence?

FS: I would say that the men were in there that I could see them maybe around an hour.

JA: That long?

FS: Close to that. It's hard to tell that kind of time when you're working.

JA: Did you ever see these men again after that occasion? Did you ever ask Mr. DESLATTE (Mr. Garrison entered the office at this time)

JA: I wonder if you could repeat what you have already told me. It's already on the tape but it won't harm to repeat it to Mr. Garrison. Who the men represented themselves to be, etc.

FS: The first thing, Mr. Garrison, when Bolton went in the Ford business and got out of the Chevrolet, I went with them as Truck Manager for Bolton Ford, and a few weeks

what I didn't know I looked up in the book we had there, which was a new product to us too, that van. So then they got the bid made up, and the man seemed to be satisfied with it and the total amount of money, and the price the product was going to cost them. And then this man's name was mentioned and then this fellow appeared to be about, like I said, 5'6 or 7" maybe, kind of thin, about 140 maybe a little less. He looked like he needed a meal and he looked like he needed a haircut. He was clean but he wasn't well dressed and he wasn't shabby. He said by the way, you'd better put my down on there because I'm the man handling the money. He got kind of spruced up you know, and he hadn't said too much before that. He was kind of overseeing the thing. The fact is, he didn't have much to say about the quality or anything like that. He was just observing before that. And then we got to talking and OSCAR says "What is your name?" and if I remember he used just LEE OSWALD not HARVEY.

JG: He didn't use OSWALD he used LEE.

FS: Was it LEE?

JG: Do you ever recollect he said LEE OSWALD?

FS: I think LEE OSWALD, and I think OSCAR wrote it down. Or that may be - it's been six years I may be wrong. If you have that paper you know. I can't remember that long. But I remember the men. So then when the President was assassinated and the name came out, OSCAR come in either the next morning or the morning after and and said, "Say Fred, do you remember those two guys who was in here from Cuba trying to get some buses cheap?" and I said, "Yes". He said "I think that one of those men was the one who killed the President." I said, "Aw your kidding" and he said "We've got a piece of paper around here somewhere with a bid on it." He went and hauled that piece of paper out and the OSCAR called the F.B.I.

JG: Did it have "OSWALD" on it or "LEE OSWALD"? Do you remember looking at it?

FS: I can't remember that. It's been six years but I know that the man who identified himself as OSWALD was in the office and made that remark. Now, I do know that.

JG: You do remember that. (not understandable) Kind of Latin type?

FS: Yes. Kind of olive complexioned and he was, like I said, he was a good technician. I've been in this business about 30 years and he knew his business and what he wanted to buy.

JG: Was he heavy-set or thin.

FS: No.

JG: He wasn't heavy-set?

FS: No, he wasn't heavy-set and he wasn't slim, he was well built as you might say.

JG: But medium build?

FS: Right. And he was shorter than OSWALD, if it was OSWALD.

JA: You mean he was shorter than 5'6" or 5'7"?

FS: I think he was. I think he was the shorter of the two.

JG: He had an unusual knowledge of engines or what?

FS: Pardon.

JG: He had an unusual knowledge of engines or trucks or what?

FS: He acted like he knew what he wanted to buy and he knew and he was very interested in the horse power the compression ratio, the displacement and the

JG: He represented himself as a JOSEPH MOORE at the time he was there which is a rather Anglo-Saxon name.

FS: Is that what he said, "MOORE"? Well, that could be the name. Now I knew there was two names and two men.

JG: This is exactly what the Motto of the F.B.I. almost precisely.

FS: Is that right?

JG: Yes, but when he talked to us yesterday he simply denied that it had ever happened.

FS: Why?

JG: I don't know. But it's obvious that there were two F.B.I. Agents and not just one.

FS: There was two there.

JG: It's obvious that it happened and he said no, it was a voice on the phone he never saw anyone.

FS: Well, he's upset. He's an elderly man.

JG: Upset, but we insisted that it had to happen. We showed him the report which showed the two agents said it did not happen. We said how did you give them that copy of yours. He said the government gave the address on the phone and I mailed it to them.

FS: We handed it to them.

JG: Of course, that's in the report. Do you suppose anybody has tried to talk to him or scared him in this thing?

FS: I don't know. Now I talked with my wife about this when it first -

JG: Just a voice on the phone.

FS: She said well, if they ask you. I said do you think I ought to go down and tell Mr. Garrison this and she said No, if they want you they'll call you, so I never did bother you.

JG: We don't know (something) We're glad you came.

FS: She said, well OSCAR is all excited and upset. And I said well, why? And she said, well I don't know. I said, well the only thing we can do is tell the man what we know, and if it'll help him any it's a good cause. And if they call me, I will do that.

JG: It's the best story there ever was but for some reason Mr. DESLATTE doesn't want to tell us about it. He denies the whole thing.

JA: Did he call you last night?

FS: He called me and told me that they had called him. He called me yesterday.

JA: Did he call you and tell you that we had talked to him?

FS: Yes. That they were going to or that they had called him.

JA: What did the F.B.I. Agents do when they came there?

FS: The first thing they come in and identified themselves. They were two young fellows. They weren't very old. They looked like kids to tell you the truth. I don't want to degrade them or anything but they looked real young. They didn't look like they were F.B.I. men. I mean, they're supposed to look a little elderly, you know, have a big gun on their hip. You don't see F.B.I. men very often or very long, so when they walked in and identified themselves - one of them I had seen before at the used car lot when a car was stolen. But the other one was a real young fellow. They walked in and they said we're from the F.B.I. and we've come to pick that paper up that Mr. DESLATTE called about. We had it laying right on the desk - on his side of the desk. They took two pieces of plastic and they scooped it up between it and they said have you touched this and we said, well, I guess so. He said have you touched it? and I said yes. They said, did the men touch it and I said I don't believe so. We both verified it because I don't think they touched it at all because we didn't ask them to sign it. There wasn't any money being transacted, there was just a bid. If there had been money transacted or if they had given us an order, we would have made them sign it, then we would have had their signatures. But I don't believe they touched it.

JA: Had they shown you some pictures? The F.B.I. Agents?

FS: No.

JA: They didn't show you any pictures?

FS: No. They didn't show us no pictures. They didn't do anything but take that paper and they offered us a receipt.

JA: Did you take a receipt?

FS: No.

JA: You don't have a copy of that paper anywhere around?

FS: No.

JA: That was the only copy?

FS: The only copy. We had a copy you see, but we kept the copy and give them the original. This was a copy that the F.B.I. got. The original went to the two men who asked for the bid.

JA: They didn't show you any pictures?

FS: No.

JA: The F.B.I.?

FS: They never did call back. They never did come down there again. In fact, they told us that OSWALD wasn't even in the country at that time. He couldn't be.

JA: Have you ever seen - you've seen many pictures of OSWALD.

FS: I saw his shot.

JA: You saw his shot.

FS: On television.

JA: Was that the same guy?

FS: Well, it appears to be the same man. He had changed a little and at the time it looked like he was a little heavier. Because at that time he was white. It looked like he'd come out of Iceland or something like that. I mean, he didn't look healthy as I remember him, because there was so much distinction between the two men who were trying to get the bid. The man looking like the Cuban and - they were different people altogether.

JA: Would you say that the non-Cuban looked somewhat similar to OSWALD? Looks in appearance similar.

FS: No.

JA: The non-Cuban now, you wouldn't say he looked anything like OSWALD?

FS: Oh, the non-Cuban. Yes, yes, I think it was him. I think it was OSWALD and I told the F.B.I. but they said that it couldn't be because he was in Russia. I said, "Well, then we've wasted your time then (I think I made that statement to them) if he wasn't in the country."

JA: Did you ever hear from these men again?

FS: No, I didn't and I don't think OSCAR did.

JA: What did OSCAR tell you on the phone? Did he tell you he came up here and told us he didn't remember any of this?

FS: No. No, he didn't tell me that. He told me, he said, "The F.B.I. got in touch with me and I think they're going to call you." And I said, "Well, OSCAR the only thing to tell them is what you know."

JA: The F.B.I.?

FS: No, I mean the D. A.

JA: The D. A.?

FS: He said the D. A. I'm sorry. He said, "Fred, the D. A. got in touch with me." (The D.A. Office. He didn't use no names) "They got in touch with me about this OSWALD thing that we made the bid for." And he says, "I think they're going to contact you." We talked for a little while and I said, "All I can tell you is that we can tell them what we know." And he said, "That's been a long time Bud." I said "I know, it's been six years." That was about all we talked about.

JA: Do you know any reason why he would come up here and say he never saw these men before?

FS: No, I -

JA: In other words, the story he told us was that he received a call over the telephone and never saw anybody and it's completely contrary to the F.B.I. report and I just didn't believe the F.B.I. Agents would write something down completely contrary to what happened.

FS: Well, this happened, I can tell you that. But he was - really OSCAR was in on it more than I was. I was there and that's all. I okayed the deal and I give him the amount to put on the price of the truck and every instant I was in on it all the way, and the men were in the office. One of them looked like OSWALD and he identified himself as OSWALD.

JA: Positively he identified himself as OSWALD?

FS: Right. I heard him say that. And this other man didn't say anything more after that, much, he was - in fact one of them was interested in the buying and OSWALD acted like he was going to handle all the money. He made a statement to that affect.

JA: They didn't leave a card or anything like that?

FS: No.

JA: Do you know where they had their headquarters?

FS: I think we asked them for an address and they said they didn't have one. I believe we asked them for an address.