

sure the bastard's dead," or words to that effect. She later heard a similar quote from either Shaw or Crenshaw during a meeting in the Stoneleigh bar that included Shaw, Crenshaw, Jens Hansen and Oliver Stone. Jane says she made notes of the incident at the time and they still exist.

Researchers should also know that in a New York Times interview with Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, published May 26, 1992, Crenshaw complained that co-authors Shaw and Hansen had taken "poetic license" with his role in the treatment of Kennedy and that the book "had exaggerated his role in Kennedy's care." Furthermore, Crenshaw told the FBI, in two 1992 interviews, that parts of his book were incorrect, and likewise "poorly worded." Those interviews are available from the National Archives.

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**To the editor:** In the November 1993 issue there are several articles commenting on Gerald Posner's book, Case Closed. (A beginners guide to warping facts, distorting the truth, and fabricating events.) As you know, this book was extensively reviewed and highly praised in the Aug. 30 – Sept. 6, 1993 issue of U.S. News & World Report. On page 74 of this issue of U.S.N&WR, there is an article entitled "The Sniper's Nest" by Gerald Posner.

Most fairy tales begin with "Once upon a time..."; but Posner begins with "They had quarreled earlier in the evening, as they so often did, and during the night when Marina Oswald rested her foot against Lee's leg, he shoved it away with a ferocity that surprised her. When she got up the next morning, her husband was gone and the coffee pot in the kitchen was cold. Returning to the bedroom, Marina was startled to see that he had left \$170 on top of their bureau. It was a remarkable sum for the Oswalds, and she knew it must be all of their savings. She did not notice something else that would have alarmed her. On the bureau, in a hand painted demitasse that had belonged to her grandmother, Lee had placed his wedding ring. He had never before taken it off. It was Nov. 22, 1963."

Supporters of the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald was the lone assassin of President Kennedy often cite the "fact" that Oswald left his wedding ring and \$170 on the dresser, in Marina's bedroom at the Paine residence, on the morning of the assassination. They claim that his action indicates that he was planning the attack, and knew he would probably not live to see Marina again. Therefore he left her all his money and

his wedding ring. Posner states in his opening paragraph as quoted above, she did not notice the ring in the tea cup, yet he writes the sentence in a manner that leads the unwary reader to believe the ring is there. If Marina did not notice the wedding ring in the tea cup, how could anyone else know it was there? Where did the Fairy Tale originate? I believe attention came to be focused on the ring after the death of her husband when Marina would have logically asked for the return of the ring.

I must admit that the wedding ring, and life savings tale, has always been one of the facets of the assassination story, that has caused me some doubt that Lee had no cognizant role in the conspiracy. When a friend challenged my belief that Oswald was simply a patsy, and cited the wedding ring story to support his contention of Oswald's involvement, I decided to do some research to see if I could find the facts about the wedding ring.

The testimony of Ruth Paine can be found in Volume III of the "Hearings". Her testimony before the Warren Commission on March 19, 1964, reveals a much different picture concerning the wedding ring story, than the picture that Posner portrays. On page 112 she states that FBI agent Bardwell Odum was PRESENT in her home when she found the wedding ring.

On page 17 Mrs. Paine states that no FBI agent visited her home between November 5th and the afternoon of November 23, 1963. She said two FBI agents visited her home looking for Marina, on the afternoon of the 23rd. (On page 110 she identifies them as agents Hosty and Abernathy) She testified that this was the FIRST visit by the FBI after the assassination. (Marina was being hidden from the FBI and the general public [reporters] by The Secret Service. Agents Hosty and Abernathy were trying to find out where the S.S. were keeping Marina. Mrs. Paine had overheard the S.S. men talking about housing Marina at the Executive Inn and she called there looking for her. [Probably at the behest of Hosty] Marguerite answered the phone but would not let Mrs. Paine talk to Marina. Soon after the call, the Secret Service moved Marina, Robert, and Marguerite to the Six Flags Hotel in an effort to keep the FBI away from Marina.)

At about noon on November 24th, (shortly after Ruby silenced Oswald) Marina called Mrs. Paine, (see page 90) and asked Mrs. Paine to gather together her personal belongings, so the police could pick them up and bring them to her. One of the items Marina mentioned was "a little purse with some

money in it that she had left on top of the dresser." During this conversation there was no mention of the wedding ring, but Marina did ask about the little purse containing the \$170.

On page 112 Mrs. Paine states that FBI agent Odum came to her home and said Marina wanted Lee's wedding ring and asked Mrs. Paine to see if she could find it. (This was probably after Oswald's funeral.) Whereupon, FBI agent Odum accompanied Mrs. Paine to the bedroom, and was present when Mrs. Paine found the ring in a little tea cup.

It would have been impossible for Marina to have asked FBI agent Bardwell Odum to retrieve the wedding ring until sometime after November 24th because the FBI did not know where she was being kept, and they did not talk to Marina until sometime after the 24th. Therefore she could not have asked Odum to find the ring and the ring could not have been found on the morning of the assassination.

If, however, the FBI had possession of Lee's ring (a distinct possibility because, after Nov. 24th, they could easily have removed it from Lee's cold, dead body) they could easily have planted the ring, making it possible for the ring to be "found" when agent Odum visited the Paine residence and "helped" Mrs. Paine find the ring.

No matter how one looks at this story, it is obvious that someone was lying. (Either Ruth Paine or the FBI or both, actually anyway you slice it the FBI was lying because Ruth Paine was by her own admission a confidential informant for the FBI.) It certainly seems clear that Marina did not find Lee's wedding ring along with the \$170 on the morning of the assassination.

Another aspect of the story that casts doubt on its plausibility is the fact that by Ruth's testimony on page 112 we know that Marina never mentioned that Lee had left his ring when he left that morning. It seems to me that if he had left the ring, that would have signified something to Marina, if she had found it that morning. It would not take much imagination to imagine Marina saying something like "Lee and I quarreled last night and this morning he left his wedding ring on the dresser." She would probably have wanted to talk to someone about it, especially on the afternoon and evening of the assassination yet there is no evidence she ever mentioned it to Mrs. Paine or her mother-in-law, or anyone else.

It is my belief that attention came to be focused on the ring when Marina asked about her husband's wedding ring some time after his death, and this simple inquiry was then used to fabricate another tale to bolster Hoover's shaky fabrication

that Lee Oswald was an unstable malcontent loner bent on killing John Kennedy.

Since I have mentioned the U.S. News & World Report at the opening of this letter, I would like to call your attention to a couple of photos that appear in the "Sniper's Nest" article in the Aug. 30-Sept. 6, 1993 issue of U.S.N.&W.R. which reveal something I find very interesting. On page 78 there is a reprint of a Tom Dillard photo taken at the time of the shooting. This photo shows Bonnie Ray Williams and Junior Jarman in the 5th floor window. The famous S.E. 6th floor window is directly above them. Just to the viewer's right or on the east side of the vertical column dividing the two 6th floor windows, is a box which must be sitting on top of another box. This box appears to be tight against the inside south wall right next to the dividing column. On page 82 is a reprint of a Dallas police photograph (CE 715) taken at about 1:15 pm, 11-22-63 of "Sniper's Nest" showing the spent shells lying on the floor directly on the spot where Tom Dillard's photo shows a box was sitting at the time of the shooting. If the box was there, (Dillard's photo assures us that it was,) how did the shells get under the box? How could Deputy Mooney have spotted the shells if they were under the box? Many Dallas police officers testified that nothing had been moved in the "Sniper's Nest" after it's discovery and yet the box is gone in the police photo (CE 715) and the spent shells are in its place. The answer to these questions cannot be that Mooney simply moved the boxes and discovered the shells UNDER the box because the shells would not have been ejected from the rifle and landed under the box, nor would Mooney have anyway of knowing they were there (unless he had X-ray vision.) Can you shed some light on this puzzle for me?

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**To the editor:** I think that Jack White is on the right track in suggesting that the Zapruder film must be studied for evidence of tampering (November Fourth Decade). I have studied frames of the film intensively for quite a while, and have submitted several research papers to my congressman asking for Congress to initiate a review process to appoint a special prosecutor or criminal investigative group to reinvestigate the assassination.

The alteration of the film can be discerned in various spots and includes both intentional frame removal and masking (using techniques to create blurring and fake shadows) to