

March 30, 1968

Dear Harold:

I'll make a start at putting on paper all my "ripe suspicions" about Ruth Paine. Since I took an instant and violent dislike to her, there's not one thing she says that I don't regard with a jaundiced eye. It's hard to be fair with her, but I'll try.

First thing that struck me is that her calendar, described by Marina as "meticulous", is not that well-filled. It is no more "meticulous" than anyone else's unless you use a magnifying glass and then you can see that it is full of corrections and erasures. The members of the Commission worked from photographs of it so that I presume they saw only what everyone else would see without studying it. The copy that I got from you (from the Archives) is much clearer and shows the indentations made by the ~~xxx~~ erased words better than the copy in the Volume XVII. My husband has inquired and found that the writing on the original could be brought out by a photographic process, but that a picture can't.

The top of the February page is almost completely filled in all around the word February. "Marina's last period Feb 5 or 15." was not that originally. The word "Marina" was actually a word that started with the letter "G" and the line drawn thru the 5 was an arrow down from the word "February." On the 20th appears "Leopard's?" At the "r" something else had been written and underneath that it was filled in pretty solid. Under "Ash Wednesday" seems to be something that starts with a "J".

Before I go on with this, I want to say that I think this calendar ties in with Ruth's and Marina's (and possibly Eric's letters from Russia), letters. There are words and thoughts and phrases underlined in the calendar and the same things show up in the letters. For instance, in July, Ruth has underlined "depend" of "Independence Day". Then in her letters to Marina she uses "depend", "dependent", and "independent" quite a bit. Through all their letters that summer, there is a really strange repetition of phrases and combinations of letters such as "sof" and at the top of the January page of the calendar, or rather on January 1st and 6th, is "very soft." I can't help wonder if the two of them had any shortwave radio communication between themselves and other people possibly.

At the top of March, of course, is that little item "\* - IHO purchase of rifle." Then, off to the left of that is "Oct. 23." There was something else written in there after the "Oct. 23." Her explanation is that she wrote that the day after the assassination when the news came that the rifle had been purchased on March 20. When asked why she wrote Oct. 23 instead of Nov. 23, she answered that she had been so rattled at that time (or words to that effect -- I can't find it now in the MR) that she was off by a whole month! The asterisk in the March 20th square has the word Marina in it, but underneath has something that starts over in the 19th square. The 22nd square has more than "Bell Dinner" in it. In the first place "Bell" looks as if it were originally "send", and then, under that is some more stuff that has been erased. Almost every square in March has something in it.

At the top of April is supposedly "Larry Hoke Apr 14". Ruth said that Larry Hoke is her new nephew born on that day. A close examination would seem to show that the "L" was originally a "B" and the "a" is an "e." Following the "Hoke" there was something with a downstroke originally. She entered in the first part of this calendar (p. 53) Lawrence John Hoke but that is the only birthday she put in there. It seems that the new Oswald baby's birth would have been put there, too, if she was so "meticulous."

In April, on the 5th, is something that looks like "Have art bring ... tapes, books."

On the 15th, it looks like "ear Inspect Lawrence? Of course, there is an Inspector Lawrence on the Dallas Police force.

On the 4th and the 20th of April appears the word "Pick" — once in "Pick up clothes" and ~~the~~ "pickie", which she said was really "picnic".

On the 30th, "Marina" looks as if it originally were "ring". On the 10th, "Marina" written in Russian looks nothing like what is supposed to be the same word in the April 8 square. That square had something written on its bottom line.

of May  
On the 19th/is what looks like "on the state committee" in shorthand.

On the 16th of May is "Mental Health". Mrs. L. C. Connell of ~~the~~ one of the Cuban groups belongs to the Mental Health, too.

On the 24th is "Sculpture" with the "S" and the "ture" separate from the other letters. Culp?

On the 26th is "SALINE" or "SABINE", but it looks as if it were originally "ALINE" or "ELINE". I keep wondering if she knew Aline Mosby. There is an Alyn Young with a dot over the "y" in her address book, Exh. 402. It has an address of Grand Prairie, Texas, and also a c/o Mrs. Ethel Jones, Shady Grove. The telephone exchange is BL.3, which is the same exchange as Irving. That seems unlikely.

In June, between the words "SUNDAY" and "MONDAY" is something that looks like "/ 5 less". (I meant that to be a plus sign at the end of the line above this.)

She has "Theater Centre? ~~or~~---Frankie June 20" along the top of June. The only thing that bugs me is that with spelling Centre should have gone the spelling Theatre. "Frankie" was made out of something else.

Thru the whole calendar you will notice the name Paula and, twice, Paulette. She wasn't asked who these people were. If she was, I haven't found any account of it.

At the top of July appears "Sarah" apparently. Under a magnifying glass, it becomes "Saich." My husband doesn't pay very much attention to all this, but I showed it to him and asked him to read out the letters as they appeared to him and that is what he said. A Mr. Saich is mentioned as one of the employees of the catering company that was to serve the luncheon at the Trade Mart. He was in on the meetings with Winston Lawson, (Secret Service), when they were planning details. This catering company was a Boston outfit and I think it was called Crotty Bros.

Another thing in June that I forgot. On the 6th there appears what looks like "Raggio" and then (3 Sisters). Dean Andrews spoke of three sisters at one point and I believe their name was Realpey-Plaza. There is a Mr. Raggio who is a member of the A.C.L.U.; it may be the Dallas group. If that is "Raggio" instead of "Raggio", it could be a nickname for Ragnar Kearton, ~~xxxx~~ who is ~~xxxx~~ married to George DeMohrenschildt's stepdaughter. He and his wife, Christina, drift in and out of this story like ghosts and no one seems to know just what they do — I do ~~xxxx~~ mean the Kearton's. His father is a big bug at an aircraft company. His politics seem to be pretty far to the right.~~xxxx~~ They were in Dallas that summer. Underneath the Raggio/Raggio is "Lib.", and under that is "arrive". That could be the name of a ship. I don't know where I'm going with this, you understand — I'm just musing on paper. I't probably all rubbish and completely useless but I'm just throwing out this stuff at you.

Practically every day in October has something written in it -- we know Ruth did an awful lot of things on the 11th (had coffee with the neighbors, took her Russian typewriter downtown to Dallas to have it repaired, went to see the property that Michael had bought, and wrote a letter to her mother), but nothing shows on the calendar unless you use the glass on it. I've just about put my eyes out trying to figure out what it says.

On the 9th of November, "VOTE" in huge letters has been made out of something else.

Incidentally, Harold, when I looked at your Dallas phone directory for the year 1963, I looked up the name "Lollar" who is the dentist that Ruth Paine was supposed to have taken her child to (including the morning of the assassination). I found none listed under Dr., but there was a Troy Lollar. Please check this; I'm not that sure any more.

On the 11th, we have that "Raggio" again, but this time the "g's" look like "a's".

December is strangely empty.

At the bottom of November is "Planned Parenthood." It looks more like "Forrest."

This is the best I can do for now. I want to get this into the mail, but I am very dissatisfied with it. I only touched on the tying-in with the letters.

Sincerely,

Shirley S. Orr  
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