

David B. Perry

4601 Ainsworth Circle

Grapevine, Texas 76051

October 31, 1992

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Harold,

Here are a couple of items I tinkered around with. I am sorry I didn't pass out the "**Detectives Claim New Three Tramp Theory**" when I first wrote it. Now that Craig and Roger's have published "**The Man On The Grassy Knoll**" my article would have had more impact. At any rate hope you find the material interesting. Does the baloney ever stop?

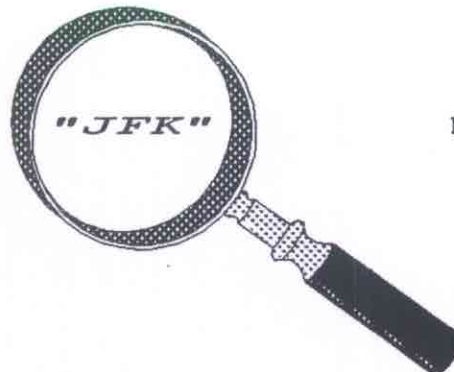
Nikki and I send our best to you and Lil.

Regards,



Dave Perry

THE



NEWSLETTER

4601 Ainsworth Circle Grapevine Texas 76051

January 5, 1992

DETECTIVES CLAIM NEW THREE TRAMP THEORY

Two Crosby, Texas private detectives, Phil Rogers and John Craig issued a news release and held a press conference in Dallas on November 11, 1991. The two claimed they had identified the individuals that appear in the "Three Tramp" photographs taken in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963.

The tramps were perceived to be Chauncey Holt (Old man tramp), Charles Harrelson (Tall tramp) and Charles Rogers (Frenchy). Charles and Phil Rogers are not related.

The details were probably obtained by the detectives after interviews with Holt. Charles Harrelson is serving a life sentence for killing Federal Judge John Wood. Charles Rogers, after allegedly killing his

parents in Houston in 1965, fled to Central America.

Based upon the news release, the detectives reported Holt was in Dallas to deliver handguns and forged Secret Service identification pins to "anti-Castro activists including Homer Echeverria and Orlando Bosch." Holt thought there was to be "a staged incident."

Holt also claimed he was a master forger who prepared Oswald's "Fair Play For Cuba" handouts and was filmed in New Orleans by television station WDSU as Oswald passed out the information. Additionally, on November 22, 1963, Holt alleged he arrived from Arizona in the "Oldsmobile station wagon" observed by Lee Bowers.

SOME TRAMP HISTORY

The public first became aware of the tramps in late 1967. Jim Garrison showed some photographs of the tramps when he appeared on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. Garrison originally obtained the prints from Kennedy assassination researcher Richard E. Sprague. Sprague was a collector of assassination site photographs who became convinced that the tramps were involved. This despite Lee Bowers and police testimony to the contrary.

Unfortunately, Garrison not only believed the tramps were involved in the assassination but the "arresting officers" as well. In the book, "On The Trail Of The Assassins" (pp. 207-210) Garrison claimed the police were culpable because they wore ill fitting uniforms, carried their weapons incorrectly and one officer had a radio receiver in his ear.

Even when Garrison knew the two officers had been identified as Bass and Wise by Canfield and Weberman in their book "Coup d'Etat In America" he refused to modify the story. To this day some people believe the tramps are involved. Garrison's imprudent statements about the police are all but forgotten.

C. ROGERS and C. HOLT

On September 28, 1991 an article appeared in the Houston Chronicle. In the story, "'65 Case Tied To JFK Death?" by Eric Hansen, John Craig and Phil Rogers linked Charles Rogers to the Kennedy assassination as a tramp.

After reading the article I

wanted to talk with both detectives. At first I was unsuccessful in contacting either Craig or Rogers. However, fellow researcher Dave Murph had friends on the Houston Police force. Using those contacts Dave got in touch with Craig and through Dave so did I.

When I discussed some tramp story background with John Craig there were problems. Craig claimed he knew little of the tramp theory or Chauncey Holt. His solitary interest was in the Rogers case.

Simultaneously I was getting information on Holt from other sources.

It appears Holt was first "discovered" by two Atlanta businessmen, Lamar Waldron and Thom Hartman. I had heard that on September 28 and 29, 1991 the pair brought Holt into Dallas to be interviewed by J. Gary Shaw and Mary Ferrell.

Other researchers understood Holt claimed that he was with Harrelson and a mystery man, Richard Montoya on 11/22/63. Montoya, Holt claimed, was "Frenchy."

In late October, during a phone conversation with Craig we were discussing names used by Rogers. Suddenly, Craig exclaimed that Rogers used the name Richard Montoya. Surprised, I told John I expected he would be in Dallas on November 14, 15 and 16 for the Assassination Symposium On John F. Kennedy (ASK). I felt he would use the Rogers/Montoya story to prop up Chauncey Holt. He denied this until 11/09/91 when he admitted he would attend.

RICKY WHITE REVISITED

True to form, The JFK Assassination Information Center (co-sponsors of ASK with The Texas Observer) allowed the detectives to present the unsupported Chauncey Holt revelations. Holt did not appear. Another researcher, Gus Russo discovered "there wasn't enough time to make proper security arrangements" whatever that meant. The first symposium leaflet claimed Holt was to be present. ASK had months to come up with security arrangements!

I was reminded by a fellow researcher that The JFK Assassination Information Center's 1990 Ricky White Labor Day conference came with a promise we would get to question Ricky White. When we got there Gary Shaw claimed Ricky wouldn't be at the meetings. Trisha (Ricky's wife) felt Ricky had spent too much time investigating his father's involvement in the assassination. Ricky needed some rest. So they went to Sea World in San Antonio.

Two days later, September 4, 1991 at the Jim Marrs' meeting I asked Ricky why he didn't appear. Ricky's response . . . "They told me to stay away."

HOLT vs. the EVIDENCE

From talking with seven symposium participants I discovered the Holt story didn't hold up well and Rogers and Craig had difficulty getting the audience to respond positively to their "proof."

They brought along "forensic expert" Lois Gibson. I

was told it took about ten minutes to reel off Gibson's impressive credentials. Gibson was featured in an article "I Just Want To Catch Crooks." (May 1990, Reader's Digest)

The story reveals her credentials are somewhat less impressive. She has a 40% success rate using the "FBI Facial Identification Catalog." She was taught to use the book at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Va. in late 1984 or early 1985. I am told ANY competent portrait artist could achieve similar results using the "Catalog." It will require more than Gibson's statements to verify the Holt proclamations.

Through the press kit Holt made certain claims.

(1) He prepared the "Fair Play For Cuba" handouts for Oswald.

Wrong . . . The handouts were prepared for Oswald (using the alias Osborne) by the Jones Printing Company in New Orleans. Oswald paid \$9.89 for them on June 4, 1963.

(2) Holt arrived 11/22/63 from Arizona in an Oldsmobile station wagon observed by Lee Bowers.

Possibly . . . but maybe Holt merely read Bowers' testimony. Bowers saw that vehicle at 12:05 pm. This would make it difficult for Holt to leave the parking lot, ditch the car, deliver the guns, deliver the fake identification, return to the "pergola nearest the TSBD" and run to the boxcar without any witnesses observing the event.

Bowers claimed he couldn't tell which State the station wagon was from because he couldn't see the license plate. However, he did see a Goldwater for President bumper sticker. It doesn't take much of an imagination to link Barry Goldwater with the State of Arizona.

(3) The tramps were "told to wear work clothes as if they were railroad employees."

Wrong . . . unless Frenchy is some kind of working supervisor. Isn't he wearing a sport coat?

(4) "Holt is the first credible person to ever come forward and say he was in Dealey Plaza and was a member (albeit unwittingly) of the conspiracy."

Wrong . . . To refer to a self-described career criminal and master forger as a credible person borders upon the ridiculous. Once Holt found he was involved in something more serious than "some kind of staged incident" it became his obligation to contact the authorities.

Rogers and Craig concluded their appearance at the symposium was "an honor and civic duty." Honor and civic duty would better be served by turning Holt into the authorities as an accessory in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. They chose not to do so. I think they join the ranks of many others who create a sensation, obtain exposure in

the press, make a few dollars and leave the research community holding the bag. Personally, I wonder when the book will be out?

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Texas Secretary of State's office informs me "John Craig and Company forfeited their incorporation papers on 01/09/89 for non-payment of taxes."

The Texas State Private Investigators Bureau shows John Craig is flagged as a Status 40. "This means that agency is on an insurance suspension."

Maybe both bureaus have given me information on another John Craig. Although I think not, I will be happy to supply my notes to any of you who wish to follow up on this aspect of the case.

More Tramp Information

I think the best source for information on the tramps is "Coup d'Etat In America," Canfield and Weberman, The Third Press, 1975, pp. 59-62. Some examples:

The first search of the trains behind the TSBD revealed little. Harkness "shook down a long string of boxcars but found nothing. A 'clearall' was sounded and the trains were allowed to leave."

Later the police decided to shake down a northbound freight. Bowers pulled the freight up opposite his tower. The car the "tramps" were pulled from was originally located behind the Postal Annex. (Verified by

Harold Weisberg 11/20/91)

The tramps were pulled from the train after 2 pm. (CD 1420)

Bowers referred to the tramps as "winos." "...the most frightened winos I've ever seen in my life since there were possibly fifty policemen with shotguns . . . "

It is strange that some investigators verify their theories that the involvement of three tramps (now the Holt story) is accurate by using Bowers' statements. The same group fails to explain why Bowers always identified the tramps as winos.

Bass and Wise turned the men over to Sheriff Harold Elkins. Elkins turned them over to Fritz. Fritz believed he turned them over to the FBI. Canfield concluded, "From the gist of Fritz's statement it seems as if the FBI questioned the tramps, cleared them, and let them go.

Lately, Gary Mack and I have been labeled "spoilers." We have been accused of trashing the Roscoe White and Holt stories as well as questioning the "computer photo enhancement" abilities of Tom Wilson.

We see it differently. We attempt to corroborate the statements made by those claiming to have "inside" knowledge of the assassination against the preponderance of information. We also check the sincerity of those individuals who bring the "insiders" forward.

One final point . . .

Some attenders were disappointed at what they felt was improper focus of press coverage on the radical aspects of the conference. A few complained at being identified by the media as "buffs."

No matter, it was a resounding success for ASK and The JFK Assassination Information Center. They grossed about \$30,000.

© Copyright 1992 David B. Perry

MEN OF ZEAL

By 1976 I had acquired an interest in the John F. Kennedy assassination and spent time comparing "The Warren Commission Report" to the twenty-six Warren volumes. To my dread the testimony conflicted with the final report. I concluded I had been duped by the Warren Commission. In 1991 I developed that same sinking feeling again. It wasn't over Oliver Stone's movie or the plethora of assassination literature that hit the bookstores. I started checking the stories of some researchers and found their accounts contained historical inaccuracies, embellishments and occasionally outright deception. Looking into what was written about Jean Hill, Lee Bowers Jr., Roscoe White and John Crawford I found I was again misled, this time by the very people I admired. I concluded some researchers in their zeal to solve the mystery had done the very thing they denounced the Warren Commission for, they falsified the testimony.

I decided to review the story of Roger Craig. Craig was a deputy sheriff on November 22, 1963. He claimed to have witnessed several curious events in Dealey Plaza. He spoke freely about them, lost his job, became the favorite of many researchers especially Penn Jones Jr. and died by his own hand on May 15, 1975.

My focus became Craig's sighting of a Nash Rambler in front of the Texas School Book Depository on November 22. His testimony became important when it was claimed Ruth Paine (Marina Oswald's friend) owned a Rambler allegedly fitting Craig's description. I used three sources. They are Craig's 1971 autobiographical manuscript, his testimony before Warren Commission Counsel Belin and Craig's affidavits of November 22 and 23 of 1963. In my research I compared Craig's words in each of these documents to determine if he embellished his story.

First comes Craig's Rambler story from the autobiography.

"When They Kill a President"

Copyright 1971 Roger Craig

"Back to November 22, 1963. As I have earlier stated, the time was approximately 12:40 p.m. when I ran into Buddy Walthers. The traffic was very heavy as Patrolman Baker (assigned to Elm and Houston Streets) had left his post, allowing the traffic to travel

west on Elm Street. As we were scanning the curb I heard a shrill whistle coming from the north side of Elm Street. I turned and saw a white male in his twenties running down the grassy knoll from the direction of the Texas School Book Depository Building. A light green Rambler station wagon was coming slowly west on Elm Street. The driver of the station wagon was a husky looking Latin, with dark wavy hair, wearing a tan wind-breaker type jacket. He was looking up at the man running toward him. He pulled over to the north curb and picked up the man coming down the hill. I tried to cross Elm Street to stop them and find out who they were. The traffic was too heavy and I was unable to reach them. They drove away going west on Elm Street."

"In addition to noting that these two men were in an obvious hurry, I realized they were the only ones not running TO the scene. Everyone else was running to see whatever might be seen. The suspect, as I will refer to him, who ran down the grassy knoll was wearing faded blue trousers and a long sleeved work shirt made of some type of grainy material. This will become very important to me later on and very embarrassing to the authorities (F.B.I., Dallas Police and Warren Commission). I thought the incident concerning the two men and the Rambler Station Wagon important enough to bring it to the attention of the authorities at the command post at Elm and Houston."

"I first saw my testimony in January of 1968 when I looked at the 26 volumes which belonged to Penn Jones. My alleged statement was included. The following are some of the changes in my testimony:

- * I said the Rambler station wagon was light green. The Warren Commission: Changed to a white station wagon;
- * I said the driver of the Station Wagon had on a tan jacket. The Warren Commission: A white jacket;
- * I said the license plates on the Rambler were not the same color as Texas plates. The Warren Commission: Omitted the not--omitted but one word, an important one, so that it appeared that the license plates were the same color as Texas plates;
- * I said that I got a good look at the driver of the Rambler. The Warren Commission: I did not get a good

look at the Rambler. (In Captain Fritz's office) I had said that Fritz had said to Oswald, "This man saw you leave" (indicating me). Oswald said, "I told you people I did." Fritz then said, "Now take it easy, son, we're just trying to find out what happened," and then (to Oswald), "What about the car?" to which Oswald replied, "That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Paine. Don't try to drag her into this." Fritz said car--station wagon was not mentioned by anyone but Oswald. (I had told Fritz over the telephone that I saw a man get into a station wagon, before I went to the Dallas Police Department and I had also described the man. This is when Fritz asked me to come there).

We now compare statements in Craig's autobiography to his Warren Commission testimony of April 1, 1964.

* I said the Rambler station wagon was light green. The Warren Commission: Changed to a white station wagon;

Mr. Belin. All right

And then what did you see happen?

Mr. Craig. I saw a light colored station wagon, driving real slow . . .

Nine questions later:

Mr. Belin. What kind and what color station wagon was it?

Mr. Craig. It was light colored-almost-uh-it looked white to me.

* I said the driver of the Station Wagon had on a tan jacket. The Warren Commission: A white jacket;

Mr. Belin. What about the man who was driving the car?

Mr. Craig. Now, he struck me, at first, as being a colored male. He was very dark complected, had real dark short hair, and was wearing a thin white-looking jacket-uh, it looked like the short windbreaker type, you know, because it was real thin and had a collar that came out over the shoulder (indicating with hands) like that-just a short jacket.

* I said the license plates on the Rambler were not the same color as Texas plates. The Warren Commission: Omitted the not--omitted but one word, an important one, so that it appeared that the

license plates were the same color as Texas plates;

Mr. Belin. Did it have a Texas plate, or not?

Mr. Craig. It had the same color. I couldn't see the-uh-name with the numbers on it. I could just barely make them out. They were at an angle where you couldn't make out the numbers of the-uh-any of the writing on it. But-uh-I'm sure it was a Texas plate.

When Belin posed the question it would have been less confusing if Craig had answered the inquiry directly. Instead of responding yes or no he describes the difficulty in reading the numbers.

* I said that I got a good look at the driver of the Rambler. The Warren Commission: I did not get a good look at the Rambler.

Mr. Belin. You say that he first struck you that way. Do you now think that he was a Negro?

Mr. Craig. Well, I don't-I didn't get a real good look at him.

I find it curious that Craig was uncertain of the race of the individual "[he] got a good look at" but was specific as to the color of the jacket the man was wearing.

(In Captain Fritz's office) I had said that Fritz had said to Oswald, "This man saw you leave" (indicating me). Oswald said, "I told you people I did." Fritz then said, "Now take it easy, son, we're just trying to find out what happened," and then (to Oswald), "What about the car?" to which Oswald replied, "That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Paine. Don't try to drag her into this." Fritz said car--station wagon was not mentioned by anyone but Oswald. (I had told Fritz over the telephone that I saw a man get into a station wagon, before I went to the Dallas Police Department and I had also described the man. This is when Fritz asked me to come there).

This important piece of testimony is seriously flawed.

Mr. Belin. All right.

Then what did Captain Fritz say and what did you say and what did the suspect say?

Mr. Craig. Captain Fritz then asked him about the-uh-he said,

"What about this station wagon?"

Craig never claimed anyone altered this portion of his testimony. He said Fritz mentioned a car not a station wagon.

Next we compare the Warren Commission testimony to Craig's FBI affidavits given on November 22, 1963. This to verify the accuracy of Craig's claims that the Warren Commission altered his testimony. Commission Exhibits (CE) CE 1992/CE 1993 in 24H23 and CE 1967 in 23H817 contain Craig's affidavits.

* I said the Rambler station wagon was light green. The Warren Commission: Changed to a white station wagon;

CE 1993 "He stated he also noticed an automobile traveling west on Elm, which he feels was a white Nash Rambler station wagon with a luggage rack on top."

* I said the driver of the Station Wagon had on a tan jacket. The Warren Commission: A white jacket;

CE 1992 "Mr. Craig described the driver of the automobile as a white male, American, dark-complected, short hair, wearing a light colored jacket.

* I said the license plates on the Rambler were not the same color as Texas plates. The Warren Commission: Omitted the not--omitted but one word, an important one, so that it appeared that the license plates were the same color as Texas plates;

CE 1993 "Mr. Craig stated he did not have the license number, but feels that it was a 1963 Texas license."

* I said that I got a good look at the driver of the Rambler. The Warren Commission: I did not get a good look at the Rambler.

CE 1992 "Mr. Craig described the driver of the automobile as a white male, American, dark-complected, short hair, wearing a light colored jacket. Mr. Craig stated he had previously described this man as a Negro male, but has since decided that the driver was a white male."

We now discuss the Rambler station wagon, in particular the relationship between the Rambler, Craig saw and Mrs. Paine's Rambler wagon. Would it surprise you to find that the Paine's didn't own a Nash Rambler station wagon? How did the story get started?

After Craig describes the vehicle he saw to the Warren Commission he goes on to say "No; except-uh-except for the fact that it came out later that Mrs. Paine does own a station wagon and-uh-it has a luggage rack on top. And this came out, of course, later, after I got back to the office. I didn't know about this. Buddy Walthers brought it up. I believe they went by the house and the car was parked in the driveway."

Note that Craig never suggested what kind of station wagon the Paine's owned. He never mentions he saw the car.

From Warren Commission Volume II, pg. 506. (2H506)

Mr. Jenner: "Describe your automobile, will you please?"

Mrs. Paine: "It is a 1955 Chevrolet station wagon, green, needing paint, which we bought secondhand. It is in my name."

Where did the change take place? On March 14, 1968 Penn Jones Jr. published an article with the title "*The Importance of Roger Craig.*"

"Craig insisted from the day of the assassination that he saw Oswald race down the grassy area and get into a station wagon like the one owned by Mrs. Ruth Paine of Irving."

That statement is inaccurate. As you can see from the records, Craig eventually discovered Paine owned a station wagon. He never indicated he saw the Paine vehicle. As it turned out, the Paine's station wagon was a Chevrolet not a Nash Rambler. The Paine vehicle was green in color. Craig claimed the Warren Commission altered his testimony of the color of the Rambler from white to light green. However, his original description (CE 1993) is "a white Nash Rambler." It was Penn Jones Jr. that "put it together" for us by inserting the word like in his article.

Craig claims he saw his "testimony in January of 1968 when [he] looked at the 26 volumes which belonged to Penn Jones." Craig met Jones in the late 1960's and wrote his autobiography in 1971. Is it possible Jones guided Craig's description of what he saw? Here is the appropriate passage from the autobiography.

"I ran to the front of the Texas School Book Depository where I asked for anyone involved in the investigation. There was a man standing on the steps of the Book Depository Building and he turned to me and said, "I'm with the Secret Service." ". . . He showed little interest in the persons leaving. However, he seemed extremely interested in the description of the Rambler. This was the only part of my statement which he wrote down in his little pad he was holding. Point: Mrs. Ruth Paine, the woman Marina Oswald lived with in Irving, Texas, owned a Rambler station wagon, at that time, of this same color."

Conclusion:

In my opinion Craig's claim of altered testimony, shown in this article to be inaccurate, was more the result of Penn Jones' influence than Warren Commission duplicity.

© Copyright 1992 David B. Perry

"SUDDENLY"

Shortly after the Kennedy assassination the agencies of government realized they had a predicament. Having decided Lee Harvey Oswald murdered President John F. Kennedy there was still the enigma of motive. Oswald had no propensity for violence. Granted there were claims Oswald took a shot at General Edwin Walker in April of 1963, alleged episodes of wife beating and opinions he had an antisocial disposition. However, most of the assertions were unsubstantiated. In a courtroom setting a competent attorney could refute the allegations. Since the suspect was deceased and without representation, Oswald was an easy target for character assassination.

Over a decade after the Warren Commission completed their work a book was published which, on the surface, appeared to shed light on Oswald's stimulus for the crime. We discovered in Priscilla Johnson McMillian's "**Marina and Lee**" that Oswald watched two movies on television. The movies were "**Suddenly**" and "**We Were Strangers**." In 1983, Jean Davison's book "**Oswald's Game**" appeared. That book amplified the threads of McMillian's observations into a full blown motive. Over the years Davison's theory has become entrenched in assassination folklore. It is used as "supporting evidence" by the Oswald as lone gunman theorists.

We begin with a description of both movies.

Suddenly (1954)** Frank Sinatra, Sterling Hayden, Nancy Gates, James Gleason. Dated thriller. Sinatra is impressive as the leader of a pack of hired assassins who plan to murder the President during his stopover in a sleepy little town. Due to the uncomfortable echoes of the Kennedy assassination, the film was out of circulation for many years, but it has not reemerged as a long-lost treasure; it is riddled with fifties stereotypes and mouthpiece characters. (Dir. Lewis Allen, 77 mins) ¹

¹ Steven H. Scheuer, Movies on TV and Videocassette (New York:Bantam Books, 1990), p.1021

We Were Strangers (1949)**1/2 Jennifer Jones, John Garfield, Pedro Armendariz. Despite the powerhouse cast, this movie about political intrigue and revolution in Cuba during the thirties is a disappointment. (Dir. John Huston, 106 mins) ²

With these summaries in mind we can review the appropriate section of both books to put the event in perspective.

"Lee saw two movies that night [Saturday, October 19, 1963], both of them saturated in violence. One was **Suddenly** (1954), starring Frank Sinatra, which is about a plot to kill the President of the United States. In the film Sinatra, a mentally unbalanced ex-serviceman who has been hired to do the job, drives to a small Western town where the President is due to arrive by train, debark, and get into a car that will drive him to the High Sierras for some mountain fishing. Sinatra finds a house overlooking the railroad station and seizes it, subduing the occupants. He leans out of a window and gets the railroad tracks into the cross hairs of his rifle sight. He waits and waits; finally, the train comes into view. But it chugs through town without stopping, and in the end Sinatra is killed.

Marina dozed through the first movie, and the one that followed- **We Were Strangers** (1949). This, too, was about assassination. Based on the actual overthrow of the Machado dictatorship in Cuba in 1933, the movie stars John Garfield as an American who has come to help the cause of revolution. He and a tiny band of cohorts plot to blow up the whole cabinet, including the president, at a single stroke. The plot fails and Garfield dies, but the people rise up in small groups all over Cuba and overthrow the dictatorship.

Marina remembers the movie's end-people were dancing in the streets, screaming with happiness because the president had been overthrown. Lee said it was exactly the way it had once happened in Cuba. It was the only time he showed any interest in Cuba after his return from Mexico." ³

As reinforcement to the portrayal of events established as fact in "**Marina and Lee**" enter Jean Davison. In "**Oswald's Game**" the same story appears with some major modifications.

² Ibid, p.1172

³ Priscilla Johnson McMillian, Marina and Lee (New York:Harper and Row, 1977), pp.475-476

"On the day following his birthday they went into the living room after supper to watch television together. Marina lay with her head in his lap, half-asleep, while he watched two old movies. Occasionally she felt him sit up straight and strain toward the television set, greatly excited.

What was he watching that caused this unusual reaction? By an eerie coincidence, the double feature he had chosen echoed the theme of Castro's public warning: murder plots against Cuban leaders could lead to retaliation." ⁴

Davison, as McMillian, explains the plots of both films, maintaining the first movie shown was "Suddenly." She goes on to claim, "I believe that, together with the two recent threats he [Oswald] made against President Kennedy's life, this excited reaction and his comments indicate that Oswald was, in fact, aware of Castro's warning about American-backed plots to assassinate him. He was excited because the double feature practically read his mind." ⁵

The reality is the event as described in both books is inaccurate. To see the not so subtle modifications one must review a minimum of four sources. The sources are Marina Oswald's testimony on the subject (1H71), Commission Exhibit 1790 (CE 1790) found in 23H403 and the television pages of **The Dallas Morning News** and **The Dallas Times Herald**. This material will be used to dismantle both stories but in particular that of Jean Davison.

"On the day following his birthday they went into the living room after supper to watch television together. Marina lay with her head in his lap, half-asleep, while he watched two old movies. Occasionally she felt him sit up straight and strain toward the television set, greatly excited."

From Marina's testimony (1H71):

Mr. Rankin. Well, "Suddenly," was about the assassination of a president, and the other was about the assassination of a Cuban dictator.

Mrs. Oswald. Yes, Lee saw those films.

⁴ Jean Davison, Oswald's Game (New York:W.W. Norton and Co., 1983), p.224

⁵ Ibid, p.226

Mr. Rankin. Did he tell you he had seen them?

Mrs. Oswald. I was with him when he watched them.

From Marina's statement to the Secret Service December 9, 1963 (CE1790).

"Marina Oswald further stated that her husband twice saw the TV showing of a moving picture depicting a plot to kill a Cuban dictator with a bomb where the plotters had to dig a tunnel and that Lee did not like the picture as he said that was the way they did it in the old days. She also thought Lee saw a TV showing of a movie where an attempt was made to kill a President at the railroad station with a rifle, from a house, but she was not sure about it (emphasis mine). The way Marina Oswald was describing the later picture, it leaves very little doubt that this picture is entitled "Suddenly" starring Frank Sinatra." ⁶

The official reports are very different from the Davison version of events. Marina never told investigators that she watched the movies with Lee after supper, that she lay with her head in Lee's lap, that they watched two movies, that Lee was greatly excited by the movies or that they saw "Suddenly" at all!

Davison claims, "The movie (We Were Strangers) was a fictionalized account of an actual situation which existed in Cuba-except that the methods shown were out of date." ⁷ She has forgotten it was Marina Oswald that made this claim for her husband in CE 1790, ". . . and that Lee did not like the picture as he said that was the way they did it in the old days."

"What was he watching that caused this unusual reaction? By an eerie coincidence, the double feature he had chosen echoed the theme of Castro's public warning: murder plots against Cuban leaders could lead to retaliation."

Here we have the assertion that the Oswalds watched a double feature in the comfort of the Paine living room. It is not true.

⁶ File No. CO-2-34030, CE 1790, 23H403, Report of ATSAIC Leon I. Gopadze.

⁷ Jean Davison, Oswald's Game (New York:W.W. Norton and Co., 1983), p.225

Years ago Fort Worth, Texas researcher Gary Mack reviewed the TV listings for the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He was the first I know of to question the validity of McMillian and Davison's versions of history. I decided to corroborate Mack's research and increase its scope. I started checking the TV listings in the newspapers beginning with Saturday, October 19, 1963. This was the date both authors maintained Oswald viewed both films. In the end I checked all listings between September 16, 1963 and November 15, 1963. Here are the results.

1) No television station in the Dallas/Fort Worth area showed a double feature during the period checked. Mack previously discovered it was not the policy of any station to show double features. My research confirmed his work.

2) "**We Were Strangers**" was aired twice during the review period. First shown on Channel 11 - Saturday, October 12, 1963 at 10 PM, it next appeared on Channel 11 the following day, Sunday, October 13, 1963 at 1 PM. It was impossible for the Oswald's to go ". . . into the living room after supper to watch television together."

3) "**Suddenly**" never aired during the period reviewed. Remember in CE 1790, "She (Marina) also thought Lee saw a TV showing of a movie where an attempt was made to kill a President at the railroad station with a rifle, from a house, but she was not sure about it."

In what appears to me as nothing more than journalistic dishonesty both authors and Davison to the greater extent fabricated a scenario that had no basis in fact. All three of us had the same documents at our disposal. They chose to ignore the facts. It is the average citizen that pays a price when individuals distort the historical record.

© Copyright 1992 David B. Perry

David B. Perry
4601 Ainsworth Circle
Grapevine, Texas 76051