

Dear Johann,

10/2/82

Sorry I could not respond earlier to yours of the 22d. Been busy on FOIA affidavits.

What Robert changed his mind about is my belief that Lovelady was wearing the larged checked shirt his wife described to me (and of index of PhotoWW) because this really is shown in the dark portion of the Martin (Dallas) film and thus the shirt on the man in the Altgens picture cannot be the one Lovelady was wearing.

I've heard nothing of the alleged tape of Oswald made by some Cubans and do not remember seeing any records in the N.O. files relating to this. I'd have to have something more specific to use in litigation, thanks.

Hope you can locate Addie, of whom I'd never heard. Remember reporter named Bob, though. If he found people who knew Oswald, that could be quite valuable.

What you say about the strength of your recall of what the agents asked you is confirmed by what their reports having nothing to do with you say. They really were trying to identify those in the stills and showed six of your prints. But what I find provocative is that I recall no such report having to do with their speaking to you. However, the only agents who displayed any diligence in trying to ID those in your film were not regularly assigned to this case. So they may not have been cued in on the FBI's party line. In any event, this effort was short-lived and was aborted entirely by the time they got the Martin (Mpls) footage. So, if you have not already made an FOIPA request for the FBI's records on or about you, suggest you do. They may try to hold you to the usual "main" JFK files but do not accept this. They undoubtedly have such info, if they are trying not to disclose it, filed in a number of possible catchall files. One used for the media at FBIHQ is 94, which has the cover title of "Research Matters." They also use 80, titled "Laboratory Research Matters," and in the field offices there can be no applicability of that title. If you still are not satisfied, ask for copies of all the cards from all indices. If you do this, try a sleeper, say including the major-case index. (They've not acknowledged that it exists and it might not because Dallas had a special one, but if you act like you know they have one, they may acknowledge it. The Dallas index had a special purpose - letting them know what they had sent to FBIHQ from which FBIHQ could have given copies to the Warren Commission. The Dallas index is limited to those few main files.

Have I ever asked you if you ever spoke to Vern Rottman? And learned how Oswald had his name and those phone numbers?

I' ~~chx~~ had nothing but stonewalling on getting prints. They say I've gotten "photostats" but I've gotten only xeroxes of what I do have. I don't recall if I have any N.O. bulkies, which is where they file such things.

I am clear that Jesse Core and Ed Planer both told me of looking at the footage on the microfilm and expecting to find Jesse in it and not finding him there. Of course, their recollection could have been unclear and they could have expected to see the outtakes. I'm not clear on expecting now that I think. I'd have to dig up my notes. But it is certain that he was in the original footage, from what they said.

What you say about someone using a reflex is confirmed, if not necessarily at that very moment, in reports Garrison got. Ivy-League type.

The only business man Japanese I know about is Ehara, and I think I've told you all I know about him. He was with Alice.

Unless the FBI had reason to hide them with false claims to exemption, I do not recall any reference to any other photos or photos in the files and I read them all.

Hope your trip to NO was/is a success. Best wishes,  
PS If you see Jesse, please give him my best wishes.

*Johann William Rush*

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Dear Harold:

You said that Robert changed his mind and came to your belief. What was that about?

Regarding the photos and movies that the FBI offices may have had, you probably know more about it than I do, but I would think that perhaps the most valuable from New Orleans would be the "stills" of the Canal St. affair that Doyle says were taken by "an older man in a suit." It is remotely possible that the FBI may have gotten some photos from the NOPD, but I imagine they would have surfaced by now since the NOPD has has a record of individual policemen selling NOPD photos to sleazy magazines.

Also, there was some rumor about some Cubans making a covert tape recording of Oswald engaged in a political discussion (HSCA report). This tape was supposed to have been turned over to the FBI either in N.O. or Miami.

I remember shooting a lot of film at WDSU with a reporter named Leo Addie, several weeks after the assassination. We interviewed several people who had known Oswald. I wish I had saved this film, but I did not. It is possible that the FBI may have asked for a copy (but I doubt it). I can't get any response out of WDSU, and I'm now trying to locate Leo Addie.

How about home movies of Oswald taken by his brother? Hawkins has some stills from one of these movies. Seems like the FBI may have copies of those movies taken in Dallas or Ft. Worth in 1962 (and perhaps 1963).

Regarding my stills, I am sure there would be nothing of value that the FBI or SS might be covering up regarding the prints themselves since I have always had in my possession a 1st-generation copy of all the scenes.

I remember very clearly my instructions from the various agents. They "wanted to try to identify other people in the pictures with Oswald." So I took what I thought were the best frames for this purpose. I have just recently made some new blow-ups from my copy, and I believe these are better than the ones I gave to the FBI and SS due to the method I used to make the



different sets of blow-ups. I happen to find one of my old "reject" prints that I made back in 1963 and I find that the grain pattern of the original film is "soft" (slightly out of focus). This is because I used a photo enlarger to make 4 X 5 (or perhaps 2½ X 3½) negatives. I made the prints from the negatives. So, my modern prints are better than the SS/FBI prints.

However, it may be of some interest to track down their original prints since they may have made some notations on the front or back of them as they began to identify the people. Also, I can't find my original negatives, so I either left them at WDSU (doubtful), or I gave them to the FBI/SS, or I lost them.

Again, I am sure there were several scenes that were edited out of the original and thrown away the days the original films were shot. But I recall remembering -- years ago -- that none of the scenes edited out were of any particular interest, except that the scenes that went on the air were originally longer. In other words, I shot long scenes, and the "best" of each scene was used, the rest was thrown away. Of course I wish now that I had every inch and every frame. I also wish I had the leaflets that Oswald gave me that I took back to the station after the Trade Mart leafleting (I can't remember if they had addresses printed on them).

I think that I might have told Paul Hoch that I seemed to recall a still photographer being at the Trade Mart, but my memory is now fuzzy on this. Seems like I do remember someone with a twin-lens reflex (120 roll film - 2½ X 2½) taking a couple of shots, and I think the newspapers used that size in those days. But I am just not sure since I didn't seem to recognize the photographer. There is a photo studio across the street (today) and I'm going to check that place in a week or so to see if just by chance someone came out of there and took a couple of shots.

How about a Japanese businessman? I have no recall of any being present with a camera, but I do remember that they always seemed to be around the Trade Mart and they shot photos of everything that moved (typical of the ones you see in big cities today).

I think I told you that WWL could have provided the FBI and SS with prints from their films but as I recall, Mike O'Conner took photos only of Oswald and Steele.

Did I tell you that the NOPD had sort of a PR-SWAT team that would be called in to tape record and photograph mass arrests in case of Civil Rights demonstrations in 1962, '63, etc. It is possible that they had a couple of people rush to Canal St. when they heard that a policeman needed assistance making a "demonstration" arrest. But again, I think the NOPD would have probably released this material long ago.

How about other photos that may have been given to the FBI and SS by other "tourists" who might have snapped Oswald handing out leaflets in Dallas or on the docks in N.O.? Bringuier once told me that he thought he saw a "latin" student shooting movies on Canal St. He is supposed to have tipped off the FBI (or some agency) to see if they could track down that student. Of course this could be "Martin."

  
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