

Phone Calls from Phoenix to Dallas on 11/22/63

MARK Allen

9/1/76

On November 22, 1963, Jack Eurich, owner of the Hi-Liter Bar in Phoenix, Arizona reported that a man had placed a call from a pay phone in his establishment to a "rifle range in Dallas" shortly after the assassination. Eurich had never seen the man before, but he was able to give a description of the man's physical appearance, clothing, and automobile he drove.

The F.B.I. checked the records of that phone and found four calls to Dallas had been made that day. Three of the calls were made person to person to Jacqueline Kennedy at Parkland Hospital. Strangely enough, phone records show that two of the calls, both of them not completed because the line was busy, were placed minutes before the assassination at 12:14 and 12:20pm CST. The other call to Parkland, which was completed, was placed at 12:37 CST. The caller, whose name is deleted from the F.B.I. report, was then connected to a "security officer." (CD 1107, pg. 742)

On 11/28/63, the F.B.I. interviewed a William Mortimer Means, who fit Eurich's description well. Means was an unemployed painter who claimed to have come to Phoenix because of his emphysema. Means admitted calling Parkland Hospital from the Hi-Liter Bar on 11/22, but his explanation was inadequate. He claimed that after hearing of the President's shooting he became so upset he decided to call the hospital in Dallas to see if it were true. Means denied asking for Jacqueline Kennedy.

Means does not appear to have been confronted with the phone company records showing that two phone calls to Parkland were attempted before he could have possibly heard about the assassination. It is of note that the Bureau's report on this call, found in Cd 301, mentions only the completed 12:37 call. A few more pages are found in CD 1107 on the call, but the document showing the other two calls was not released until earlier this year.

The other call to Dallas from the Hi-Liter in Phoenix on 11/22 was to phone number 368-0096. The time of the call apparently was not recorded by the operator and the identity of the subscriber was not given in the report. One possible clue to who it might be, however, is found in the interview of Means. The report relates:

"Means denied calling any other telephone number in Dallas on 11/22/63 and said he does not know anyone named VAL MAE STONE. He says the only Turf bar he knows of is in Billings, Montana."

This is a rather intriguing paragraph. The 1963 Dallas City Directory lists a Val Stone as the wife of John E. Stone, whose occupation is given there as manger of Sol's Turf Bar. When a gambler named Sidney Seidband was arrested in Oklahoma City in 1959, the F.B.I. obtained a list of gambling acquaintances from him in the Dallas area. The list included Jack Ruby, Lewis McWillie, who ran gambling operations at the Tropicana in Havana, and Johnnie Eli Stone and Sal Solomon, co-owners of the Turf bar. (See CE 1693) At the time of the assassination, Seidband resided in Phoenix.

Jack Ruby is known to have visited the Turf bar on 11/23/63. It is also quite likely that Ruby was at Parkland Hospital minutes after the assassination, given the testimony of Dallas reporter Seth Kantor.

Unfortunately the Library of Congress is missing the 1958-63 Dallas phone books. From looking at the City directories and a 1964 phone book, it appears the Stones had an unlisted number. I was, however, able to ascertain that they lived in the "Emerson" exchange area (EM)(36) which was where the call was placed.

However, it should be noted that if the number did belong to the Stones, they must have changed it immediately after the assassination. The May, 1964 Dallas phone directory lists the mystery number to a Vernon G. Schimmel. McElvaney Hall, SMU.

Any researcher with further information bearing on this memo is encouraged to contact me. References: CD 1107, pg. 742-3; CD 301, pgs. 178-85; CE 1693:

Date April 9, 1964

JACK EURICH, owner of the Hi-Liter Bar, 4712 North 12th Street, Phoenix, Arizona, pay telephone number 279-9079, furnished the following information at 3:15 p.m.:

At about 11:25 a.m., on November 22, 1963, a man came into the bar and asked that the television set be turned on. EURICH turned on the television set and almost instantly the news of the shooting of President KENNEDY occurred.

The man remained in the bar for about one hour, drinking three bottles of Palestaff beer from the bottle. This man placed a telephone call to a rifle range in Dallas, Texas. The man first placed a telephone call which was not completed. The long distance operator called back and told EURICH that there would be a delay in the call which the long distance operator referred to as the "call to the rifle range in Dallas." EURICH stated that the man completed the call before he left the bar because he, EURICH, gave the man the change to pay for the call.

EURICH described the man as white, approximately 60 to 65 years of age, 5' 10-11", 185 to 200 pounds, grey hair, and quite red faced. The man talked soberly, very slow, and, in fact, did not talk much at all. He wore a brown sweater over a yellow shirt and yellow or tan work pants which were pretty dirty.

EURICH said that this individual was driving an old Buick, probably a 1952 or 1953 model, which was a faded light green color, and which had Montana license plates.

EURICH had never seen this individual before.

742

On 11/22/63 at Phoenix, Arizona File # PX 59-42
by SA ROY W. REGER / dsc Date dictated 4/6/64

Date April 9, 1964

The records of the _____, Arizona, contained the following information:

Three telephone calls were made on November 22, 1963, from telephone number 279-9079, which is a pay telephone at 4712 North 12th Street, Phoenix, Arizona, to telephone number 631-5050 in Dallas, Texas. The first call was made at 12:14 p.m.; the second at 12:20 p.m.; and the third at 12:27 p.m. The line was busy on the first two calls. On the last call the ticket indicates that the money was deposited, but no one appeared on the line. It was not shown whether the money was collected or returned to the person making the call.

A _____ (phonetic) made a person to person call to _____ After the line was busy twice, _____ was connected to "a security officer."

Telephone number 631-5050 in Dallas is listed to the Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas.

In addition, another call was made from telephone number 279-9079 to Dallas, Texas, telephone number 368-0096. The time this call was made is not indicated.

The above information can only be made public in the proper proceeding upon the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum which should be directed to

Phoenix, Arizona.

On 11/22/63 at Phoenix, Arizona File # PX 89-42

by SA ROY W. REGER / dsn Date dictated 4/8/64

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed

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WKB:vm
DL 89-43

William Mortimer Means, also
Known as Bill Means ✓

On November 22, 1963, at approximately 12:37 p.m., CST, a telephone call was received at Parkland Hospital from Phoenix, Arizona, wherein the caller asked to talk to JACQUELINE KENNEDY, wife of former President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY. MEANS did not talk to Mrs. KENNEDY.

Date December 2, 1963

main file

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WILLIAM MORTIMER MEANS, 3940 North 33rd Avenue, advised that he came to Phoenix, Arizona on October 8 or 9, 1963. He said that prior to that he had been living in Billings, Montana from 1956 to September, 1963; at which time, he made a trip to St. Paul, Minnesota where he stayed only about a month, and then came to Phoenix because the climate at St. Paul was too damp. He stated that he first resided in Phoenix at the Sun Valley Motel on East Van Buren Street for about one week, and then resided at 410 East Pierce Street for one month, after which he moved to his present residence.

MEANS advised that he had never been to Dallas, Texas in his life and the only person he knows there is a Doctor MILLER. MEANS explained that in about 1961 at Billings he contracted emphysema, and in 1961 he read an article in the Reader's Digest about a research center at the University of Texas (Dallas) that was doing work in connection with emphysema. He stated that as a result of this article, he wrote to a Dr. MILLER there for information concerning the disease.

MEANS advised his doctors in Billings were FRANK MOHS and a Dr. GIBBS, who were associates and were located at the Billings Clinic. He said Dr. MOHS recommended that he, MEANS, come to Phoenix, Arizona. He stated he has no doctor in Phoenix as yet.

MEANS stated that he has a Social Security disability pension, and he displayed a Certificate of Social Insurance Award from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Social Security Division, reflecting he suffers from emphysema; and effective May 8, 1963, he was awarded \$117.00 monthly. MEANS stated he is unemployed due to his physical condition.

MEANS advised that on the morning of November 22, 1963, he stopped to visit a friend, GLENN CLYATT, a contractor who operates under the name of Wilco Construction Company at offices on North 12th Street about three blocks south of Camelback Road. He said CLYATT, who resides at 1903 East Whitton, was not in his office and neither was "CHUCK" who works there. MEANS said he then went up 12th Street a block

On 11/28/63 at Phoenix, Arizona File # 182 PX 89-42
 by SA ERNEST J. VAN LOON/btg Date dictated 11/29/63

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EJVL/btg

Mark Allen got 7/18/76

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EJVL/btg

or a block and a half to a bar. He said he did not recall the name of the bar, but believed it was "Hi" something. He said the bar was on the west side of 12th Street and about one block south of Camelback Road.

MEANS advised that he went in this bar to get a package of cigarettes and that he had a beer. He said that while he was in the bar, some woman came in and told the bartender that she heard on the radio that someone was shot or dead. MEANS said he did not hear who she was talking about and asked the bartender who told him that it was President KENNEDY.

MEANS said this "hit him hard, right between the eyes". He said he had always liked President KENNEDY and just could not believe what he had heard. He said he got excited and decided to call Dallas to find out whether it was true or not. He said he placed a call through the Phoenix operator and had her connect him with the Dallas operator whom he asked to connect him with the hospital to which President KENNEDY had been taken. MEANS said his only purpose in doing this was to verify the report and denied that he asked for Mrs. KENNEDY. MEANS said he talked to a woman at the hospital, who he believed was probably the telephone operator there, and this operator would not connect him with anyone else. MEANS said he asked her for one of the guards, but was told there was no one around. He said he believes that he asked the operator whether or not it was true that President KENNEDY had been shot, but he is sure that she did not verify this for him.

MEANS stated that he had been drinking "some" before this happened, and after he made the above-mentioned call, he thought to himself that he had been "a damned fool". He said, "I no doubt overstepped myself." MEANS said that if he had not been drinking, he is sure he would not have made the call. He explained that the reported shooting of the President was very upsetting to him in his condition, and his only intention was to verify the report.

MEANS advised that he had made only one call to Dallas, Texas (that is, he called only one number there), but he might have gotten a busy line. He said he thinks

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he remembers the operator calling back one time saying she could not get through to the hospital. MEANS said he did not stay long at the bar after making the call to the Dallas hospital. MEANS denied that he asked the bartender at the bar to turn the television set on, and said he was almost sure it was not on while he was in the bar.

MEANS advised that he certainly had no ill feelings concerning President KENNEDY and did not want to cause any trouble. He said he had a great deal of respect for President KENNEDY. He stated he believed President KENNEDY had advanced many modern and upright ideas and wanted the best for everybody. He said he admired President KENNEDY's speeches and believed that President KENNEDY had done a lot of good for the country.

MEANS denied that he knew LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBENSTEIN, aka JACK RUBY; and said he never heard of these people before they were in the news.

MEANS denied calling any other telephone number in Dallas on November 22, 1963, and said he does not know anyone named VAL MAE STONE. He said the only Turf Bar that he knows of is in Billings, Montana.

The following description was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Name	WILLIAM MORTIMER MEANS
Age	57
Date of Birth	May 9, 1906
Place of Birth	Chatfield, Minnesota
Height	5' 11"
Weight	172
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Iron gray
Former Occupation	Painter and decorator
Social Security No.	311-10-7036
Scar	4 inch diagonal scar, outside of right arm about 2 inches above wrist
Parents	JOHN and JESSIE (FREEMAN) MEANS, both deceased