

purchased), I did not attend. However, I did attempt, unsuccessfully, to persuade Beverly (through Colin) to appear on a local cable program with me to discuss her allegations, but her schedule, which included singing at a local church, did not permit it. I was prepared to question her honesty. Maybe next time.

—Peter R. Whitmey

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To the editor: I've always enjoyed reading William Weston's informative articles. But he often makes unwarranted assumptions and draws problematic conclusions. His recent "Tenth and Patton" article (November 1996 issue) tells of an "elderly" auto mechanic who claimed to see Oswald drive a red 1961 Ford Falcon away from a parking lot near the garage he was working at in within about a half mile and a half hour of the Tippit killing.

First of all, Weston assumes that the "elderly" T.F. White had good eye sight and correctly identified both Oswald and the license plate number, PP 4537. With more than a dozen reports of "false Oswalds" and Oswald look-a-likes on record, how can we assume from an elderly man's description of an apparent two or three second sighting of a man's shoulders, neck and face, from a distance of about ten yards, that this was indeed Oswald?

Also, Weston should have acknowledged the fact that Oswald did not have a driver's license, and despite the fact that he had taken a few driving lessons with Ruth Paine, there is no accurate record of him operating an automobile by himself. Most researchers rightfully don't believe that the historic Lee Harvey Oswald test drove a car at Downtown Lincoln Mercury on November 9, 1963.

Certainly White's description of the driver leaving the parking lot "at top speed" sounds suspicious, but it doesn't necessarily tie the driver to the assassination or the Tippit murder. Shouldn't Weston have acknowledged that this story might either be a red herring or indicate another Oswald impersonation?

The story contains a series of extraordinary coinci-

dences including that the PP 4537 license plate (but not the car) belonged to a friend of J.D. Tippit who had ties to the intelligence community. Unfortunately, none of these very interesting coincidences make it any more likely that Oswald was driving the red Falcon.

The most serious problem with Weston's article concerns the statement he makes on page 30 that since "Oswald" was driving in a suspicious manner it suggests that he knew about and was complicit with the conspiracy. Weston then follows this up with the following statement on page 34 and five conclusions he pulls from this "observation." "The mere fact that there are deep, mysterious connections regarding the red Falcon is sufficient grounds for accepting the validity of the auto mechanic's story that Oswald was driving it."

It's impossible for me to imagine what Weston had in mind when he wrote this. His circular reasoning is apparently that because the license plate (which could easily have been mis-copied), belonged to the car (though the red Falcon did not) of a man who knew and visited J.D. Tippit that day, and because an elderly man decided that the alleged assassin and cop murderer looked just like the man he'd recently seen act suspiciously (even though, gee, we don't know what Mr. White's optometrist would think about this), therefore, it must have been Oswald who was willingly acting as the patsy for the assassination of the president he admired and was apparently willing to die for helping to kill him.

Weston evidently failed to consider that someone who had just seen something suspicious might be naturally inclined to link it to sinister events occurring nearby. Therefore, a man who looked like no one in particular becomes Oswald after Oswald becomes the suspect in a nearby murder. But even if Oswald was driving the red Falcon, it doesn't mean that he was complicit with the conspiracy. There is too much evidence that he was being controlled. Also not considered is that there is some evidence that the man who Johnny Calvin Brewer saw outside his shoe store was a "false Oswald" whose purpose was to lead police to the real Oswald. There are many possible explanations for all these perceived events, some of which have probably never been considered. But jumping to unwarranted conclusions is counter-productive.

would take too much space to comment on the rest of Weston's five "conclusions," (don't get me started). I would state that they are impossible, but rather that the idea they follow from this interesting story demonstrates a strange sort of logic.

In each of two other recent Fourth Decade articles regarding Oswald sightings in Wisconsin, Weston made a glaring "leap of faith" that the individual in question was indeed the "historic Oswald," and from there jumped to other unwarranted conclusions.

Mr. Weston and other Fourth Decade readers should be made aware of John Armstrong's extremely important research on the multiple addresses and multiple school records of Marguerite and Lee Harvey Oswald. It offers, by definition, an alternative and more plausible explanation not just for the Wisconsin Oswald incidents, but for the North Dakota and other Oswald incidents as well.

Mr. Armstrong's presentation and corresponding paper published in the "Proceedings of the Research Conference of the Fourth Decade," is, in my opinion, the single most important piece of research I've seen on the JFK assassination. It dramatically expands the scope of Jack White's important work. In Fredonia, I observed while Peter Dale Scott and Armstrong spent three intense hours exchanging information and comparing notes. It was obvious that Scott understood the importance of the new information.

I believe that there could be a very strong correlation between the work of Weston and Armstrong. But Armstrong insists that his interest in Oswald ends with 1959. And Weston seems unable to sense that these incidents indicate that there was more than one Oswald, and not just compartments aligned with the intelligence community forging time slots so Oswald could travel around the U.S.

Although Armstrong is the first to admit that his work is not finished and that all conclusions have not been drawn, the importance of his work to Weston and all Fourth Decade readers cannot be exaggerated. It should force many of us to rethink some preconceived notions. We should all encourage Armstrong to publish his preliminary findings in our Fourth Decade article, or encourage Dr. Rose to republish his conference paper for all Fourth Decade readers. Mr. Armstrong has encouraged other researchers to pursue the same leads he's following. Although it may take several years, a book on Marguerite's multiple addresses and Lee

Harvey Oswald's multiple school records could prove to be extremely important.

Mr. Weston is a very important researcher who regularly exposes extremely interesting bits of information. The fact that he sometimes tries to force square pegs in round holes is possibly due to human nature. We all want our little jewels to have immediate and ultimate great value. To be more patient and restrained in our conclusions can sometimes be very difficult.

The Armstrong research suggesting two Oswalds certainly provides a compelling new theory which could potentially explain some Oswald anomalies.

—Tom DeVries

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