

Dear Hal,

12/15/83

It is a truly remarkable coincidence that you wrote me at the time you did, and about the Jim Mason show and the review of Davison's book, because at just that time I was thinking of writing you about both. Let me take you back to mid-December 1966, and we are at Joe Dolan's show, about quarter of 8 in the morning. A guy calls and does not want to talk to me on the air. You keep him on the phone until the show is over, when I speak to him. About the Oswald he knew in the Marines. Who had crypto clearance, which required top secret clearance. He wanted anonymity and I agreed and discouraged your efforts to locate him when you gave me leads. Well, over the Davison book, which is a stinker and not worth buying for any reason at all.

I checked this guy out enough to know he was for real, and then I went farther, and without going into the details now, have Navy confirmation. I need no more on that. But what I was thinking it might be good to talk to that guy about is a couple of details not in Oswald's personal records: he was part of at least one operation against Sukarno, possibly two. So, I was thinking of having Jim air me with the story and an appeal for him to now come forward.

With the silly, really ignorant Teel review, if Jim wanted we could have some fun with that.

One of the points in all of this is that Davison says that Oswald had only a low clearance, yet she cites the very page on which his boss said that he had at least secret because that was the minimum they all required for that work. And this back in the USA, not in the theater of operations.

I'm not certain it would be worth the time, but I was thinking about this. It would make Jim a good show in any event.

Despite the seeming specificity of the woman who called in and said her father killed King, I'm inclined to agree with Jim, that she is making it up. First of all, as I've now learned, there was no second Mustang. Second, Gracie Stephens was crazy, sick in bed, and saw nothing at all. I also do not buy her explanation of why she is not afraid to say her father is the killer. At the same time she did give a name of someone she claimed to be working with. Until some time after the first of the year, if then, I'll not have time to check with him. If you'd like to write him and ask, please do.

When I get the remaining FOIA cases over I'll return to writing, with a new King book, all researched. And documented.

I've told Paul the nature of my proof that Oswald had crypto clearance and was in Operation Strongback but I've asked him not to distribute it until I can complete some further checking. It is OK with me if you want to see it. You may recall the 1966 matter better than I do and you also spoke to that caller when I was on the air.

If you can find time for some more checking, Davison, the name, is worth checking because the author was in Georgia teaching college at the time of the assassination, appears to be of the far right, and you should remember another Georgian named Davison, Dr. Alexis, who gave Oswald his mother's address for him to look her up. Alexis was in the Moscow Embassy, was a drop in the Penkovsky case, has a brother who also was an air attache, and the White Russian credentials and belief and practice could not be improved upon for that family. Alexis's brother is Peter, who you may remember was at Columbia's school of Russian studies. His father, the late Dr. Hal, was prestigious in Georgia medicine. He had a brother, also a prestigious doctor, whose name is T.H. Now Jean, who is from Louisiana, is married to a zoologist named John. He appears to be at the Univ. Vermont,

at Burlington. The phone is in her name, not his. So, I'm wondering if there isn't a directory of zoologists that would include some bio. on Joyhn. If he traces to Alexis' uncle it gets pretty interesting.

I doubt the Chronicle would carry anything on the Tool review now or that it would be worth the time if it did. It also is interesting that nobody at all has asked me about this book except as I'll explain and I know of only one other review, in the WzPost, by Gardner, not taken with it at all.

What you heard of KPFA was a syndicated show out of New York. The producer asked me to do much work on it and I did, only to have the whole thing corrupted on the air, with the phone wiring rigged so I could not participate. I was on the part before what you heard. But except for a few people who are local and I told about it, I've not heard from any of its audience, so it had little impact.

It is strange that the book is doing nothing with all the indicated push behind it. Tool probably had only proofs because he'd not have failed to mention the jacket puffery by Tom Wicker and Dan Schoor of which I was told. I also have only proofs. Maybe it was just one of those books someone wanted published?

I'll probably resume this later or tomorrow. You told me nothing of yourself except that you have a job and by coincidence had that day off and thus heard Eason's show. Surely after all these years there is some news.

By and large we are OK. I had successful arterial surgery (left femoral) 9/80 but had two serious complications after it, with the result that there is little circulation on the left side. I can walk about a city block before having to elevate the left leg. The therapy is walking, and I do that six days a week at a nearby mall where I'm allowed in so early I complete three hours by the time it opens for business. But this takes a big hunk of six mornings a week. In 1975, when I was getting PM ready for the printer, an earlier thrombosis condition, diagnosed as my getting old, got worse and I was at the point where I could not walk before I was hospitalized. By then the damage to the veins in the left leg and thigh was permanent. In 1977 a different arterial blockage was located in the back of my chest. So, I'm limited in what I can do and for how long I can do it. But aside from these limitations and the resultant weakness I'm OK and feel otherwise good just about all the time. Which isn't bad for going on 71.

We have not moved but the post office has given us a series of different addresses since Route 7. As the area grew the routes were changed and we were 8, then 12, and finally we got street addresses out in the country.

You do not mention Jim Ehite and it has been a long time since he mentioned you. So I do not know if you are aware that Jennifer died of cancer several years ago and that Jim, in appreciation of the many kindnesses of Hospice of Marin, has been helping it since. It is a fine thing he does and because of the kind of fine and extremely competent person he is he has done it and many people much good. He do not hear from him as often because he stays quit busy. Not long ago a detached retina was welded by laser, quite successfully from what he said.

Remember Bob Kaffka? He was an FBI symbol informer and now I know your source of the nonsense about Arnold Lewis Kessler. Whether he informed on you or not I do not know.

Davison could not have done basic research without knowing about my books. Her omission of them comes from her need to avoid them. Her work is deliberately dishonest.

It is possible that the film seen in Columbus was prepared and distributed by critics and includes a number of films. I know nothing about the technique you mention but the films were of a better original quality so they may project much better.

I never hear from Idfton, which I regard as a blessing, know nothing about his book, another blessing, but recall he said when ~~was~~ promoting his first rot that his sequel was to be out for the 20th anniversary. There was a gag going around then that he could not call his second book by the title of the first Second Best Evidence.

Os Marv Morgan still around? If he is please phone and remember me to him, Judy and Mike, who was a wonderful ~~is~~ baby and is a young man now.

I don't know if Paul told you but I now have about a half-million pages of formerly withheld pages, mostly FBI and CIA, obtained under FOIA.

Speaking of Eason, it is surprizing that when he has callere on the JFK assassi- nation it has been so many years since I've heard from him. Maybe I did or said some- thing he didn't like. If you speak to him, my best regards to him, please.

est,

Hal Verb  
P. O. Box 1815  
San Francisco, CA 94101

December 1, 1983

Dear Hal:

I know it has been a long time since I've written you and kept in touch but I did want to mention a few things I came across recently that may be of interest to you. Before I begin to mention this I would like to know how you're doing & even though I realize that it would be difficult - if not impossible - to keep abreast of what's happening at least this small attempt on my part will keep us in touch. Anyway, I do hope you're well and your wife also.

Paul Hoch sends me his news letter which I'm sure you also receive and that does give me some idea of what is going on. At least it is a non-media kind of information that I wouldn't find elsewhere. I have not kept up to date on the books, articles, etc. that have come out on the JFK & the MK cases but the S.F. Chronicle did publish a review of a recent book by Jean Davison ("Oswald's Game") a copy of which I'm enclosing. The review is a dreadful re-hash of "the lone nut who wants to make history all by himself" theory that probably has been better written by other writers. I don't know who the reviewer is (his name is Larry Tool who once taught political history at Rutgers - my Alma Mater, incidentally) but if this is the kind of "history" he taught we're all in pretty bad shape. I'm tempted to call him up since he's in the area and find out why the Chronicle picked him as opposed to say, Paul Hoch who obviously has better credentials or even yourself.

but knowing the Chronicle's biased and consistent approach to the JFK case, it is not surprising that the review (and the reviewer's biases) should appear.

Incidentally, over the KPFA radio recently I heard Jean Dawson appear as a guest panelist airing her views. Peter Dale Scott was on the panel and I can't recall who else. When I was at a book store recently I glanced through her book (although many researchers are mentioned conspicuously absent was your name & particularly your book "Oswald in New Orleans"). Since she dwells quite a bit with Oswald's motivation before he committed the "final" act, New Orleans figures heavily in her work. It could be that she never read your work but if she had read it and ignored it, it is obvious to me, at least, why she would. The New Orleans episode leaves hardly any doubt that he <sup>(Oswald)</sup> was establishing his credentials as a Marxist, pro-Cuban but was, in fact, doing this as a double agent for what I still believe were his intelligence connections. His WDSU "debate" and how the Commission & Brinkman handled it all point in one direction - a cover to hide his real purposes.

Well, I guess I should get her book & study it because I think it should be answered.

But I do want to get to the main reason I'm writing you and that is something I heard on the radio while I was driving in my car during the Thanksgiving vacation. I had been tuned to the TIM EASON show on KGO on Friday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> at about 2-5 p.m. The only reason I was tuned to him is that I never get a chance to hear him during the day since, obviously, I am working.

In any event, at about that time some woman called

and claimed that her father had driven the "other" Mustang car in the Martin Luther King assassination. She said that her father had killed Martin Luther King and not James Earl Ray. Not only did she say that her father had killed King but she also claimed that he was also responsible for the Atlanta children bombings. She did not identify herself but said that she had appeared on the "TODAY" show the "past summer" (which, I guess, means in 1983). Eason said he found it hard to believe her - after all, if she were going around saying her father had killed King why wouldn't he try to "eliminate" her? Her response to that was that he wouldn't dare to do that because other people whom she knew would come forth and in effect, reveal all. Besides, she said, she could see <sup>to it</sup> that he could be done away with if it ever came to that. Eason remained unconvinced by her story but the woman said she would offer evidence to him and then said "how much would it be worth to you?". Eason countered that he wasn't interested in paying for information and challenged her to present something substantive.

I didn't tape the show but made a few notes during the program. She did say that her father is in Henderson, North Carolina and that he is a "professional hit man" and a member of the "KLAN" (KKK). I presume "hit man" could mean a hit man for the "KLAN" and perhaps the "mob" but I can't be certain if she did state this latter point.

She had also mentioned that a woman witness in the King case "Grace Stevens" had information in the King case proving a conspiracy existed but that she had been put away in a "mental institution" and has been there for 10 years (presumably against her will).

Eason responded to this claim saying he knew of

Stevens & her being put away. He claimed he had contacted the institution and they told her that Steven was not being held against her will and was perfectly free to go any time she wanted but that she had expressed no desire to leave (it wasn't clear to me if Eason had spoken with Stevens herself but it was my feeling that he had not & was therefore relying on an official there who said this).

The caller also mentioned that she had been in contact with a Danny Sheehan in Washington (probably D.C.) who had worked with her (or something) to do with ~~the~~ Greensboro (she didn't explain exactly what this meant). The caller pointed out that this was the first time she had called Eason's program (she said she waited patiently for "40 minutes" before going on). In fact, she stated, this was the first time she had heard his program. She mentioned she had actually tuned him on trying to listen to something else. (Ironically, it was the first time for me to be listening to him in ages!). If it wasn't for the fact that I had a day off, I would've never been listening.

Although she didn't mention how (or who) this Danny Sheehan (my spelling but this sounds like how she pronounced it) was, I did look his name up in the October, 1982 Telephone Directory at the library here and his name does appear as follows = DANIEL (& JUDITH) SHEEHAN  
8603 TRUMPS HILL ROAD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
(UPPER MARLBORO) - (PHONE # 301-952-0552)

I thought perhaps he might be a lawyer but he is not listed in the yellow pages as an attorney & the listing I've given you is from the white pages. I believe you should call him to find out what he knows (I hope this is the same person she mentioned).

Soon after she got off (Eason made no attempt to get her name), another caller called & briefly

discussed the JFK assassination. He said he had recently been in Columbus, Ohio and had seen on TV an assassination film (not the Zapruder film). Although he didn't say which film it was I'm pretty much convinced it was the Orville Nix film, since he said it was viewing the assassination from "the other side". He claimed the film was very detailed & more close-up than anything he had ever seen before. He said the film was done in a "ROTO FILMOGRAPHIC" technique (his wording, not mine) & the film was provided for by a "local businessman" who was a local buff.

Do you have any idea as to whom he is referring to and what he means? I don't but I've been out of touch with buffs and I know a whole new generation of researchers have cropped up.

Well, I do hope the above will be of some value to you. But do keep in touch and I will try to let you know what I'm doing and, of course, if I can be of any help in anyway let me know.

By the way when Dave Lipton was in S.F. earlier this year he said he was working on a sequel to his book. Do you know anything about this. Last time I saw him was when he was in town and appeared on KGO radio. I tried to get an Oakland Tribune reporter to interview him but at the last minute that paper chickened out leaving the reporter totally mystified as to why. I said it was par for the course as you well know.

Anyway, keep well & do write.

Best,  
Hal