

April 10, 1968

TO: LOUIS IVON, Chief Investigator

FROM: GARY SANDERS, Investigator

RE: H. A. WADE, JR. 2987 Clovis St.
Dallas, Texas
FE-9-1727 (A/C 214)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

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On April 9, 1968, at about 8:00 p.m., Frank Meloche received a telephone call from a MR. H.A. WADE of Dallas, Texas. MR. WADE said that he might have some information about LEE HARVEY OSWALD and his rifle.

On April 10, 1968, at 12 noon I called MR. WADE and he related the following information to me.

During the fall of 1963 (September or October) WADE and his father (now deceased) went to fish in the Elm Fork of the Trinity River near Irving, Texas. When WADE and his father arrived in their pickup truck they heard very loud rifle shots. Proceeding to the river, WADE noticed two men firing a rifle about 200 feet from the Royal Lane Bridge. The two men appeared to be sighting in the rifle although WADE said he did not notice their target and thus can give no estimate as to the distance the rifle was being sighted for. WADE said that what he remembers most about the incident was the very loud noise made by the rifle. To quote WADE, "It was louder than any rifle I had ever heard."

WADE remembers that the incident occurred quite a long time before the opening of deer season (Nov. 16th) in the Dallas area.

After the men stopped shooting they walked toward WADE and his father who by this time were in the process of fishing from the riverbank. The two men walked up to WADE and he asked if they were hunting. The man with the rifle answered, "No, we were just sighting it in." WADE described the rifle as being "very cheap looking" and the most noticeable thing about the rifle was that it had what appeared to be a new telescopic sight, but the gunstock wood was not even finished, in fact, it was quite rough looking. WADE said he did not notice whether or not the rifle had a sling. WADE told me he has never seen any pictures of the Mannlicher-Carcano found in the Texas School Book Depository, but he feels he would be able to identify the type of gun if he were to see it again. WADE admitted to me that he knew nothing about rifles and in fact did not own one.

WADE feels sure that the man who was carrying the rifle was LEE HARVEY OSWALD based on pictures of OSWALD which WADE has seen on television after the assassination. The man who accompanied the man with the rifle was heavy set, a little shorter than "OSWALD", in his mid-20's, wore khaki pants, and did not wear glasses. The entire confrontation lasted 2 to 3 minutes and WADE does not remember anything of the conversation except what has already been mentioned. The heavy set man never spoke and WADE said that "OSWALD" did not seem to have a Texas accent. WADE does not remember what "OSWALD" was wearing.

*old -
minutes?
Calam?
Sex?
Coloring?
Nationality?*

WADE describes the place where he went fishing as very secluded and although WADE did not observe "OSWALD" and his companion leaving in a car "They must have had one". WADE said he did not notice whether or not either of the two men were retrieving the spent cartridges ejected from the rifle. WADE added that the river has flooded 4 or 5 times since the incident, and it is very doubtful whether or not any physical evidence would still be present.

WADE has never spoken with anyone about this incident and he said that he would contact this office immediately if he was approached by any other agency or individual.

NOTE: The Irving Sport Shop incident according to DIAL P. RYDER, supposedly took place two or three weeks before the assassination (Rush To Judgment - p. 325). This would not jibe with WADE's incident which occurred "quite a few weeks before the opening of deer season." (Nov. 16th).

GARY SANDERS

GS/leb
cc: William Boxley