

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10115-10118

RECORDS SERIES :
NUMBERED FILES.

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 014231

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM : COOK, AUSTIN.
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 03/09/78
PAGES : 8

SUBJECTS :
COOK, AUSTIN; INTERVIEW.
TIPPIT, J.D., ASSOCIATES AND RELATIVES.
COOK, MAEBERT.

DOCUMENT TYPE : SUMMARY.
CLASSIFICATION : U
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : O
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 06/30/93

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :
Box 253.

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

KENNEDY

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

014231

1. Identifying Information:

Name <u>Austin Cook</u>	Date <u>3/9/78</u>
Address _____	Place _____
City/State <u>Dallas, Texas</u>	Telephone _____
Date of Birth _____	M or S _____
Social Security _____	Spouse _____
	Children _____

2. Physical Description:

Height _____	Color Eyes _____	Hair _____
Weight _____	Special Characteristics _____	
Ethnic Group _____		

3. Personal History:

- a. Present Employment: _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
- b. Criminal Record
 - 1. Arrests _____
 - 2. Convictions _____

4. Additional Personal Information:

- a. Relative(s): Name _____
 Address _____

- b. Area frequented: _____
- c. Remarks: _____

Investigator _____

Date _____

KENNEDY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Austin Cook Date 3/9/78 Time 3:05 p
Address _____ Place _____
Dallas, Texas

Interview:

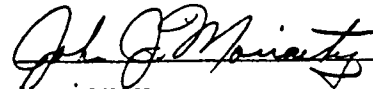
Mr. Cook was reinterviewed at 3:05 p.m. on 3/9/78 in a room in the rear of a one story restaurant.

I explained to Mr. Cook that we were in the process of reinterviewing people with a view of developing wider information in terms of Tippit's associates, friends, and any name that we hadn't run across before. He indicated that he had told us all that he had known last time, but that he would try to reconstruct how he met him.

In 1961 Officer Carol Lewis was required to give up his part time job as Security Officer at Austin's Barbecue due to a transfer from the radio partol to the detention services. It had something to do with his being overweight. In any event, he brought Tippit around and introduced him. This is how J.D. secured his job. This was sometime early 1961.

Captian John Squire, active currently with the Dallas PD, and probably the commander of the radio patrol, is a man not

Interviewer Signature



Typed Signature John Moriarty

Date transcribed 5/3/78

By: CS Form #4-

Interview: Austin Cook

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previously mentioned by Mr. Cook, and described as a long-time friend of Cook's and JD's. It seems as though Captain Squire used to patrol this area but he would only drink coffee sitting in the scout car and studying his books instead of coming inside and spending more time with the other people. Mr. Cook has known Captain Squire since he was a private and they still are apparently close friends. This is about the only name in terms of friends and associates that Mr. Cook can recall not having mentioned the first time.

In response to my question-- if Mr. Cook had ever known Jack Ruby: He advised that he had known Bert Bowman (phonetic), who was a friend of Ralph Paul's (since deceased). Mr. Paul had been Jack Ruby's partner. It seems as though twenty eight years ago, Mr. Cook started Austin's Barbeque at its present location. The name to begin was The Bull Pen and his partner was Bert Bowman. About eight years later, Bert Bowman wanted to open up his own place in Arlington, Texas and he wanted to call it the Bull Pen. Mr. Cook bought Mr. Bowman out, renamed the location on Illinois Ave. Austin's and Mr. Bowman opened up the Bull Pen in Arlington. Some eight or ten years later Ralph Paul bought the Bull Pen from Bert Bowman. Bert Bowman then opened up the place known as Pudnuh's. (Note this is the Texan drawl

Interview: Austin Cook

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pronunciation of the word partner--Mr. Cook explains that it is spelled something like P-u-d-n-u-h-'s). In any event this is the name of the place that Bert opened up, also in Arlington, located on Division Street.

So in a round-about way, Austin Cook knew Jack Ruby--in view of the fact that they had a mutual partner. Mr. Bert Bowman was Austin Cook's partner first and was later Ralph Paul's partner--who at one time was Jack Ruby's partner. They certainly operated in the same subculture although Mr. Cook says he doesn't specifically remember meeting Jack Ruby, but he could have--it just could have slipped his mind.

Mr. Cook and Bert Bowman originally got together some 32 years ago in 1946 (here in Dallas) when an older man by the name of Libby, and Mr. Cook joined together to buy a corner grocery store at that time located at 9th and Ewing in Oakcliff. They brought it from a lady by the name of Mrs. Bowman, who was Bert's mother. That business lasted a couple of years and Bert, who had been the butcher for his mother, stayed on about six months until Libby and Cook were stablized. Although Bert left after about six months time, this was the beginning of a long-time friendship between Cook and Bowman.

Interview: Austin Cook

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To Mr. Cook's best recollection, Bert and his stepfather and mother then opened up another place, something like a grocery store, where the old Sears and Roebuck's used to be located on Jefferson Street--now it is a furniture store. He lost track of Bert for several years after that.

Cook is not certain whether he ever met Ruby in person or if Ruby ever came into Austin's. He just doesn't have any recollection of this.

Talking in terms of the John Birch Society: Not that it really has anything to do with this investigation, but the FBI brought it up years ago when they interviewed Cook, so he is bringing it up now. Cook indicates that there is a Dr. Rose Linie (phonetic), a dentist, having offices on South Hampton and having a home address at Crow Creek. He infers that Dr. Rose Linie was one of the key people in the John Birch Society. He also mentions the name Jean Guinn-- a man that he hired as a dishwasher some three years ago. This man has since been charged with, and convicted of, homicide. While employed as a security guard in another place of business here in Dallas, he (Guinn) shot and killed a juvenile. The trial went badly, in view of the fact that they produced pictures of Mr. Guinn and the (I believe, 16-year-old) boy} was Black. Mr. Austin relates

Interview: Austin Cook

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how Mr. Guinn is currently serving something on the order of a four^{year} sentence for this. The charge would have been-- against the juvenile, something on the order of shoplifting. Continuing with this miscellaneous type of information, Austin Cook asked me if I knew where Johnny Witherspoon lived in 1963. I told him that I did not. He indicated that I should find out, it might help in determining why Tippit was traveling at 10th and Patton in November of 1963.

Mr. Cook also explained to me that he now owns one-half of Austin's because his partner is his ex-wife Maebert Cook, who lives at 2320 Mountain Lake Road. He indicated that she worked at Austin's during the three-year period that J.D. Tippit was employed there and, possibly, she could help me. He gave me directions on how to get to this address, which isn't far from Austin's, and I proceeded to make this my next stop.

INTERVIEW OF Maebert Cook
4:30 p.m. 3/9/78
2320 Mountain Lake Road
Dallas, Texas
339-8938 (home)
337-2242 (Austin's)

Ms. Maebert Lieolla Cook was at home with her 18-year-old niece, at which time I interviewed this lady in the dining room of this one-story home. She advised that she

Interview: Austin Cook

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had known J.D. Tippit during the time that he was a security guard, although she had been preoccupied with her other restaurant known as The Three Brothers. The Three Brothers is located on Harry Hines directly across the street from Parklawn Hospital. While this location gave them the opportunity to hear all of the sirens related to the assassination, they really didn't have any idea of what was going on. She advised that she had been the manager of The Three Brothers restaurant that was co-owned by Austin Cook and eventually they were married. They also opened up another place named Big Daddy's. Big Daddy's was located at East and 67th. That lasted about three years before they sold it. They sold The Three Brothers sometime early in 1964, concentrating on Austin's Barbecue.

Maebert Cook says she does not have any acquaintances who claimed to have known Ruby or Oswald. Tippit would be the only one that she is familiar with. She knew that Tippit was friendly with some of the help and mentions Calvin Lawrence and Earnest Joe Johnson. One of the two of these Black men would have been present while Tippit was working there. She believes that it was Calvin Lawrence who is now working for the Dallas Power and Light Company. He still stops in the place every once and a while. A tour of duty at Austin's Barbecue consisted of two waitresses, two cooks and two or three dishwashers. Johnny Tompson is the only waitress name

she can recall. She says the dishwashers came and went in such rapid order that Tippit probably wouldn't have gotten to know them anyway.

She indicated that she did meet Marie Tippit shortly after the death of J.D. when she came to Austin's in black clothes and talked to Austin Cook. She was either introduced to or Austin pointed her out to her. In any event, they talked for some time.

Ms. Cook advises that she and Austin are also partners in the Swiss Retreat located at 2509 Berne Street in Dallas. A private club for members only. From the outside it appears to be one of the nicer clubs around time.

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10087-10359

RECORDS SERIES :
NUMBERED FILES

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 0006909

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM : COOK, MAEBERT LEOLLA
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 03/09/78
PAGES : 4

SUBJECTS :
TIPPIT, J. BACKGROUND, DESCRIPTION AND IDENTIFICATION

DOCUMENT TYPE : SUMMARY
CLASSIFICATION : U
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : O
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 06/17/93

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :
BOX 132. FOLDER TITLE:

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

JFK Routing Slip 006909

NO. _____

DATE 4-5-78

Document I.D. INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

INDEX

Cool, Maebert Leola
Rippit, JD

Monty
COPY TO
Robert Blakey
Gary Cornwell
Kenneth Klein
Charlie Mathews
Jim Wolf
Tiny Hutton
Jackie Hess
Cliff Fenton
Mike Ewing

Team #1

Team #2

Team #3

Team #4

Team #5

BM

Special Instructions:

Form #2

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

006909

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Identifying Information:

Name MAEBERT LEOLLA COOK Date 3-9-78
Address 2320 MOUNTAIN LAKE RD. Place RESIDENCE
City/State DALLAS, TEXAS 339 8938

Date of Birth _____ M or S _____
Social Security _____ Spouse _____
Children _____

Physical Description:

Height 5'4" Color Eyes BLUE Hair GREY
Weight 160 Special Characteristics _____
Ethnic Group CAU

Personal History:

- a. Present Employment: CO-OWNER OF AUSTIN'S BARBECUE
Address 2321 ILLINOIS AVE.
Telephone 337 2242
- b. Criminal Record
 - 1. Arrests _____
 - 2. Convictions _____

Additional Personal Information:

- a. Relative(s): Name _____
Address _____

b. Area frequented: _____

c. Remarks: DIVORCED WIFE OF AUSTIN COOK

Investigator Oral Roberts Date 3-9-78

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NAME Maebert Leolla Cook Date 3-9-78 Time 1630
Address 2320 Mountain Lake Road Place Residence
Dallas, Texas

Interview: This lady was running the "Three Bros." Cafe located on Harry Hines opposite Parkland Hospital in 1960 when Austin Cook bought the place. He changed the name to "Austin's #2" and then changed her's--they were married.

She was then associated with Austin's on Illinois and came to know J. D. Tippit as the Security Guard. Wasn't that close a friend, not knowing his family, but as a person on the job, he was steady and affable in his relationship with fellow employees. No problems of any description to her knowledge. His function was confined to the Illinois Place. The Three Bros (Austin's #2) or, later, the Big Daddy's Place didn't require the services of a Security Guard.

Normally, they had two cooks, two waitresses, and two or three dishwashers work a shift. Johnnie Thompson is the only name she recalls as a waitress back that far, because they still see her from time to time. Calvin Lawrence and Ernest "Joe" Johnson were two of the black dishwashers who were there then. Calvin is with the Dallas Power and Light Company now and comes in once in a while. "Joe" quit, came back and quit again. Haven't seen him since last working tour.

Interviewer *Jack Moriarty*
(Signature)
Jack Moriarty
(Typed)

Date Transcribed Rife 3-31-78

Maeber Leolla Cook Interview
Page 2.

She has kept track of the ex-employees who have died--
all waitresses: Vernon Spencer, Geraldine Greenwell and
Betty Myers. All three were there in J. D.'s time.

She met Marie Tippit after the murder. She had come
to Austin's, dressed in black, a short time after J. D.'s
death and Austin either introduced them or pointed her out
(she didn't mention anything about the mysterious flowers
Marie told Austin about on that occasion).

Never knew Ruby or Oswald and didn't know anyone who
did, except in Ruby's case, she knew Ralph Paul was a mutual
friend.

She also told me about the "Swiss Retreat" in response
to my inquiry about the place "next door." This is a private
club and she and Austin own this, too. No further details.

From the outside this club appears well kept and could
well be one of the better clubs, despite its small size,
around town. No opportunity to see the inside, so far.

The address on the front is 2509 Betine Street and a
"members only" sign is prominently displayed.

NOTE: While the three addresses for Austin's (Illinois
Avenue), Maeber's Home (Mountain Lake Road) and the
Swiss Retreat (Betine Street) are technically correct,
they give the reader the impression they're some distance
apart. While the opposite is true; Austin's--in the
rear--is separated from the Swiss Retreat by a driveway

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Maebert Leolla Cook Interview
Page 3.

and a small barber shop and the Swiss Retreat is
the next building (a common wall situation) to Maebert's
home.

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)