

HILL, Mrs. Jean L.

(see Mary Moorman)

R, 640/7

"Speculation. - A witness to the assassination said that she saw a man run behind the concrete wall of the overpass and disappear.

"Commission finding. - Mrs. Jean L. Hill stated that after the firing stopped she saw a white man wearing a brown overcoat and a hat running west away from the Depository Building in the direction of the railroad tracks. There are no other witnesses who claim to have seen a man running

toward the railroad tracks. Examination of all available films of the area following the shooting, reexamination of interviews with individuals in the vicinity of the shooting, and interviews with members of the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County sheriff's office failed to corroborate Mrs. Hill's recollection or to reveal the identity of the man described by Mrs. Hill. 5"

The index to the Report gives only one reference to Mrs. Hill by name, in the section Speculations and Rumors (R, 640,/7). Without the supplementary volumes, R 640 is all one would learn of Mrs. Hill.

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: Index, XV:
: Testimony, VI, 205
: Referred to, II, 42-43, 57-59
: Not listed:
: CE 2582, XXV, 854
: CE 2594, XXV, 875
: CE 2003, XXIV, p. 212
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Mrs. Hill, testifying: "I heard someone yelling ... 'It looks like he got away,' ... I heard lots of people yelling, 'Did he get away, did he get away, and which way did he go.'" (VI, 213)

(Mrs. Hill was standing on the south side of Main St., VI 206.)

Footnote 5: CE 2582, CE 2594.

CE 2582 (FBI interview of Mrs. Hill, Mar. 13, 1964). Mrs. Hill said she thought 4 to 6 shots came from the knoll area; saw a man in a "brown raincoat and hat run west in the direction of the railroad tracks," started across Elm street, lost him from view. She rejoined her friend, Mary Moorman, on the south side of Elm Street and they started to leave the area, but were "stopped by Mr. Featherstone, a Dallas newspaper man, who took them to the press room at the Dallas County Sheriff's office." (CE 2582 makes reference to p. 35 of SA Gemberling's report of Nov. 30, 1963, which have not yet found.)

CE 2594 (letter, J.E. Hoover to Commission, May 6, 1964). JEH reports failure of efforts to identify individual seen by Mrs. Hill; no mention that others "failed to corroborate Mrs. Hill's recollection." (CE 2594 makes reference to pp. 43 to 49 of SA Gemberling's report of Apr. 15, 1964, which have not yet found.)

Footnote 5 does not list Mrs. Hill's testimony. In her testimony, she said she ran up the knoll (not mentioned in CE 2582) in pursuit of the man in the "brown overcoat"; lost him when she got to the tracks. When she returned to the south side of Elm, Miss Moorman was crying, a man was trying to

take her camera from her, and telling her she had to go with him. Took both of them to the County Courthouse building, to a room which they did not know until later in the afternoon was the press room ("We didn't know that we were in a pressroom. We just knew we were in a courthouse and with police. I mean, this was to us a police station." VI, 217.) He would not allow them to leave ("He kept standing in front of the door ... and he wouldn't let us out." VI, 216.) She said this man was "Featherstone of the /Dallas/ Times Herald." (VI, 215.)

Mrs. Hill said Featherstone "stole" the Polaroid picture Miss Moorman had taken of JFK "probably about the third shot." From Mrs. Hill's testimony, which is not clear on this point, it would appear Miss Moorman never got the picture back. (VI, 220.)

FBI interview of Miss Moorman (CE 1426) quotes her as saying she gave Secret Service the first picture she took, showing TSB in the background; the second picture was given to the FBI, background not described. If the two women shown in Zapruder film - one using camera? - are Mrs. Hill and Miss Moorman, the picture given to the FBI or "stolen" by Featherstone would have shown knoll in background. (Zapruder film, CE 885, p. 59; Muchmore film, CE 885, p. 84.)

Mrs. Hill said Featherstone told her, "You know you were wrong about seeing a man running ... you didn't ... don't say that any more on the air ... " (VI, 222.)

Footnote 5 does not list CE 2003 (XXIV, 212), Mrs. Hill's affidavit to the Sheriff's Department, Nov. 22, 1963. In this she also mentions "Featherstone of the Times Herald."

Featherstone's name is given in three separate documents: in Mrs. Hill's testimony (six times by her, twice by Arlen Spector who took her testimony), her affidavit, and her interview by the FBI. Not once is his given name mentioned, nor is there any indication of interest in it. Mrs. Hill's testimony was taken in Dallas and a telephone call to the Times Herald might have cleared this up. There is no indication the Commission asked the FBI to find him, or that the FBI did so on its own. (If there is, have not found it yet.) His name does not appear in the Index, even as "referred to".

If Featherstone was merely trying to sew up a valuable picture for his paper, why did he tell Mrs. Hill not to say she had seen the man running? The man might simply have been running in panic at the

sound of the shots, but the fact remains that Featherstone told her not to speak of it again. In view of the possible implications, why did the Commission not pursue the matter of Featherstone, including his motive?

Since Featherstone got to Miss Moorman as fast as he did, he presumably was in the immediate vicinity of the assassination. He was not called to testify, and if he was asked for a statement by the police, Sheriff's Department or the FBI, have not found it yet.

Miss Moorman also was not asked to testify. She was interviewed on Nov. 22, 1963 by the FBI (CE 1426, XXII, 838). She said she took two photographs, one as the motorcade came toward her with the TBSD in the background, and the second as the Kennedy car came past her position, when she heard what she thought was a firecracker.

Miss Moorman said that "as the President's car drove off she started to leave the area and was stopped by a Mr. Featherstone, a newspaper man with the KRLD Radio and TV Station who questioned her concerning her observance of the incident." No mention of the struggle for the camera, or being taken to the County Courthouse building.

(See page on Mary Moorman.)

R, 71/2

"When the shots were fired, many people near the Depository believed that the shots came from the railroad bridge over the Triple Underpass or from the area to the west of the Depository. 7"

Footnot 7 gives references to FBI interviews of people who thought the shots had come from this direction, but omits any reference to Mrs. Hill.

See page on Mrs. Eric Walther, who saw a man at window (or windows) of TBSD, wearing "apparently .. a brown suit coat"; saw him only from the waist up. Was not called to testify. Her statement to FBI, CE 2086, XXIV 522.

MOORMAN, Mary (see Jean Hill)

Miss Moorman is not listed by name in the index to the Report; presumably she is not mentioned by name in the Report.

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- : Index, XV:
- : Referred to, II, 42;
- : VI, 206-219
- : Not listed:
- : Decker Exh. 5323, XIX, 454-543
- : CE 1426, XXII, 838
- : CE 2003, XXIV, 195-404
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"A Mrs. Mary Moorman was in the office with a picture of the President getting shot. I asked her if she had any more pictures and she said she did. I got all these pictures and looked at them and in one picture Mrs. Moorman had taken a picture of the lead motorcycle officer, in the background of this picture was a picture of the Sexton Building and the window where the gunman sat when doing the shooting. I took this picture to Chief Criminal Deputy Sheriff, Allan Sweatt, who later turned it over to Secret Service Officer Patterson."
 (Report of Deputy Sheriff John Wiseman, Nov. 23, 1963; Decker Exh. 5323, XIX, 487.)
 No mention of Featherstone.

"Secret Service Agent Patterson ... gave this woman his card, advising her that the picture would be returned to her."
 (Report of Allan Sweatt, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Nov. 23, 1963; Decker Exh. 5323, XIX, 533.) No mention of Featherstone.
 Did Miss Moorman get this picture back?
 Moorman affidavit, Sheriff's Dep't (Decker Exh. 5323, XIX, 487). Identical item listed as CE 2003, XXIV, 217. No mention of Featherstone.

"Mrs. Moorman advises that the photograph she took showing ~~the~~ ... the Texas School Book Depository Building was given by her to Secret Service Agents John Joe Howlett and Bill Patterson shortly before 4:00 p.m. November 22, 1963. The second photograph taken at the time she heard the shots showed the President slumping sideways in the automobile. She furnished this photograph to Bureau Agents." Agents not named, time not given, no mention of receipt for picture or promise to return it. (FBI interview of Miss Moorman Nov. 22, CE 1426, XXII, 838.)

Have not yet found either of these pictures reproduced as exhibits.
 (See article by Raymond Marcus, Los Angeles Free Press, 24 Nov 67, section II, for interesting material on way photo was dealt with in Warren Report. Article filed Garrison.)

See article by Raymond Marcus, Los Angeles Free Press, 24 Nov 67, filed Garrison.

Article deals with photo taken by Mary Mrs. Moorman, recounting what happened to it after she took it; says Featherstone is James Featherstone of Dallas Times Herald, and that in phone conversation with David Lifton in Nov 65 Featherstone says that in the three hours or so in which the photo was out of Mary Moorman's hands it had been sent up to the Dallas Times-Herald.

Article gives result of analysis of photo by Marcus and others. Majority of those to whom Marcus showed a blow-up (of area behind the wall on grassy knoll) believed photo shows a human figure.