

CHAPTER 13

Roll call of participants: part 4

Agent **Gerald W. O'Rourke**: Agent Jerry O'Rourke was part of the shift consisting of ATSAIC Arthur L. Godfrey (shift leader), SA Gerald S. Blaine, SA Kenneth S. Giannoules, SA Paul A. Burns, and SA Robert R. Faison. This group of men arrived in Fort Worth from Washington, D.C. at 2:15 p.m. on November 21, 1963 for duty at the Hotel Texas as part of the 4 p.m. – 12:00 midnight shift (JFK arrived 11:50 p.m., ten minutes before midnight). After having helped protect the President during the morning of November 22, 1963 in Fort Worth (as part of the 12:00 midnight to 8 a.m. shift), this coterie of agents proceeded on to Austin for JFK's proposed stop after his Dallas trip.¹ Blaine went on to become a member of the Overseas Security Advisory Council—OSAC—for the U.S. Department of State, in his capacity as the OSAC Private Sector Representative representing the IBM Corporation and, later, as the Director of International Security for the ARCO International Oil and Gas Company. O'Rourke waited nearly forty years to break his silence—it was worth the wait:²

Lee Harvey Oswald didn't act alone when he killed President John F. Kennedy, a retired agent said Wednesday, and *the President died because Secret Service agents failed at their jobs*. "Officially, the answer to Oswald when somebody asks—*because we were ordered to say it*—is that the Warren Commission found that he acted alone," retired agent Jerry O'Rourke said. "But was there more than one gunman? Yes, personally I believe so. And my personal opinion about Jack Ruby is that he was paid to kill Oswald." O'Rourke grew up in Telluride and attended Western State and Regis colleges, then spent 22 years in the Secret Service. Now retired and back home, he spoke Wednesday to the downtown Grand Junction Rotary Club. O'Rourke said his group of agents, about ten of them, had protected Kennedy the morning of November 22, 1963, at a breakfast speech in Fort Worth. Then the group left by air for Austin, the next stop planned for the President's Texas tour.

"We got the word (of the assassination) in the air, and we didn't believe it at first," he said. "We were joking. But later, most of the agents had tears in their eyes. Agents believed in Kennedy, and *we knew we failed our job in Dallas*." After his White House tour ended during Johnson's presidency, O'Rourke spent a year in the Secret Service *intelligence division*, which offered him glimpses into the investigation of Kennedy's death.

Those glimpses, and *the accounts of other agents*, have convinced O'Rourke that *Oswald didn't act alone*. He cited several reasons:

Kennedy had a number of enemies, any of whom could have plotted against him. They included Southerners angered by his insistence on civil rights; organized crime; labor unions unhappy with investigations of them by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy; Cuban dissidents angry over the failed Bay of Pigs invasion; and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The shots were impossible to make. O'Rourke learned to shoot as a boy and trained as a marksman in the military. He said his visits to Oswald's perch at the Texas Book Depository convince him that no one could have fired a rifle three times so quickly, hitting the president and Texas Governor John Connally.

The trajectory of one of the shots could not have been made from a gunman on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository. The shot entered Kennedy's body at his lower back and traveled up, to exit near his throat.

The circumstances of the autopsy were irregular. Texas law requires autopsies to be done in state, but agents, *acting on the orders of White House*, took Kennedy's body back to Washington, D.C. The autopsy was performed at Bethesda Naval Medical Center under secrecy that prevails to this day.

Evidence was destroyed. O'Rourke said that on the day of the assassination, one agent was ordered to clean out the cars used in the motorcade, getting rid of blood and other evidence. *The agent told O'Rourke that he found a piece of skull, asked the White House doctor what to do with it, and was told to destroy it.*

Instructions were given to lie. The agent in charge of motorcade protection [presumably Kellerman] told O'Rourke that he was told by the Warren Commission during his testimony that he did not hear a fourth shot and he did not see someone running across the grassy knoll. *But the agent insisted that his account was accurate.*

Evidence about the shots is in conflict. An open microphone on a motorcycle in the motorcade picked up four shots, not three.

"In my opinion, Hoover wanted the commission to find that Oswald acted alone," O'Rourke said. "The complete file won't be released until 2027, and the reason for that is most of us will be dead by then."

[Emphasis added.]

Gerald Blaine wrote the author on June 12, 2005: "I did not hear Jerry O'Rourke's comments, but I cannot even imagine an agent who went through the whole thing expressing a conspiracy theory, but everyone is entitled to their own thoughts. My study and evaluation over the years, based upon the threat scenarios we had to deal with pointed to Oswald's acting alone."

O'Rourke wrote the author: "Did President Kennedy order us (agents) off the steps of the limo? To my knowledge President Kennedy never ordered us to leave the limo ... President Kennedy was easy to protect as he completely trusted the agents of the Secret Service. We always had to be entirely honest with him and up front so we did not lose his trust ... The bubble top was plastic and wasn't even bullet resistant but it is possible it could have deflected the bullet if the bullet was not coming straight on."³ However, O'Rourke would not respond to a second letter from the author and did not wish to speak further about the matters at hand when contacted by phone on February 11, 2004.

That said, O'Rourke did consent to corresponding with the author via email on June 17 and 18, 2005—the former agent wrote: “Keep in mind, some of the former agents you interview are not going to be receptive to you. Most don't mind talking about the assassination but they still are very protective. Also, many continue to have some problems (mental?) dealing with what they feel as a failure on their part ... Some of the retired agents have contested my beliefs on the assassination but most of those agents were still in diapers when November 22, 1963 [the assassination] came about. I always answer them by stating, 'I was there, were you?' Some of those guys you interviewed are great guys while the others are ... [O'Rourke ended this comment in this fashion].” O'Rourke added: “As I told you[,] a couple agents have problems with the assassination, Clint [Hill] being one. He is a good friend of mine but I have not seen him in 25 years ... Yes, Clint still has problems with November 22, 1963 ... Again, there are a lot of 'people' (and agents) that disagree with my findings [regarding] November 22 but they have not done any research ... I have visited with several of the agents that were right with JFK, at the time, and plied them with drink [!]. When all of the records are completely released[,] we will know [what happened], if [we are] still alive.”

Regarding Agent Art Godfrey, author Anthony Summers, who also interviewed the agent, wrote: “Godfrey ... had been unusually close to both [Richard] Nixon and [Bebe] Rebozo. After retiring in 1974, he had visited the disgraced President at San Clemente and watched the Grand Prix with him at Long Beach. Rebozo even asked Godfrey to work for him. As late as 1994 Godfrey was a member of the February Group, an association of diehard Nixon loyalists.”⁴

Fellow former agent Darwin David Horn, Sr., described Godfrey as “a very good friend who enjoyed protection so much he stayed there for his entire career”.⁵ (This was later confirmed to the author via an email from former agent Walt Coughlin.) For his part, Gerald Blaine said of Godfrey: “He won two Silver Stars in Yugoslavia during WWII.”⁶ Sam Sulliman said that Godfrey “had quite a war record”.⁷

Blaine also told the author: “Paul Rundle [ATSAIC of V.P. LBJ Detail]⁸ and I went to high school together and served in the Korean War together.”⁹ The former agent stated that he had started in the Denver office of the Secret Service and later served on the WHD for six years under Eisenhower, JFK, and LBJ, leaving in July 1964 to become director of security for IBM. (“The White House Detail was a blackball system. There were 34 or 36 agents assigned to the WHD with 5 people per shift. You got 15% of a GS9 for overtime: 10 cents an hour! Six years of protection—you lose contact with the outside world. It was time for a change,” Blaine said.) The former agent now works for OSAC (see Burke, below). Blaine confirmed that he was not contacted by the HSCA. Blaine would not respond to a follow-up letter. However, the former agent was responsive and friendly when the author phoned on June 10, 2005. Blaine said, among other things, that “the Secret Service learned so much from the assassination” and “the Warren Commission did a great job”! Blaine did add a more surprising detail: “I was supposed to go from Tampa to Dallas [on November 18, 1963],” stating further that the agent who went in his place, David Grant, was dating Clint Hill's wife's sister at the time—she was working for Braniff Airlines then (the two

went on to be married, thus making Hill and Grant brothers-in-law). In fact, Blaine had just spoken to Hill on June 9, 2005, shortly after—unbeknownst to Blaine—the author had contacted Hill via Registered Mail. Blaine is close to Hill: he attended Hill's son's wedding, along with fellow former agent Bill Livingston. The former agent also expounded on his IBM career, stating he served for 27 years as the director of security and, surprisingly, that himself and fellow former agent Walt Coughlin “both had oil interests in Yemen” (Coughlin works for Hunt Oil, as well).

For his part, former agent Kenneth S. Giannoules, having ignored two prior letters several years beforehand, told the author on February 11, 2004: “I don't think I want to participate.”

Agent **John F. “Frank” Yeager**: Agent Frank Yeager was a part of the shift that was specifically assigned to the Austin part of JFK's Texas trip, which also included William B. Payne (advance agent for Austin, having arrived in Austin November 12, 1963), Robert R. Burke (assisted in the advance; specifically, for the LBJ Ranch in Austin City, Texas, having arrived in Austin for the LBJ Ranch November 18, 1963), Donald Bendickson (V.P. LBJ Detail), and Gerald Bechtle (V.P. LBJ Detail). These agents were augmented by the aforementioned Godfrey, Blaine, Giannoules, Burns, and Faison, as well as by Agents James R. “Jim” Goodenough (V.P. LBJ Detail), Michael J. Shannon (V.P. LBJ Detail), Robert E. Lockwood (San Antonio Office), and PRS agent Howard K. Norton.¹⁰ Yeager also assisted Payne and Burke with the Austin advance. Interestingly, like Blaine above, Burke also went on to become a member of the Overseas Security Advisory Council—OSAC—for the U.S. Department of State, in his capacity as Director of Corporate Service and Security for the Monsanto Company; he even testified on C-Span in 1997.

The *Asheville (North Carolina) Citizen-Times* reported on November 20, 2003:

But for those 40 and older, Kennedy's assassination remains a vivid, painful memory. That's especially true for Frank Yeager, the retired Buncombe County Public Schools superintendent who served in the Secret Service on Kennedy's detail from Spring 1962 until the assassination. *Yeager typically would have been in the car behind Kennedy's in the Dallas motorcade that Friday afternoon but instead he was doing advance security work in Austin, Texas.*

He still winces when he talks about receiving the call that the President had been shot, and learning 45 minutes later that he was dead. “It was shock,” Yeager said. “It was hard to believe. There was extreme sadness, because not only had we lost a President, we'd also lost a person I considered a friend.”

Growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, Yeager led a relatively sheltered life, but as a young man he got an itch to work in law enforcement and applied to the Secret Service in 1961. A year later he was traveling the world with Kennedy and his family, when they weren't “in residence” at the White House.

Yeager found Kennedy remarkably approachable, a “super-nice person to work for.” “He was charming, and he was also sensitive and caring,” Yeager said. “And

he also had a great sense of humor.” One night when Yeager was working the graveyard shift at the White House, stationed at the elevator at ground level, the light came on, and Kennedy emerged in a bathrobe. The president—the most powerful man in the world—just wanted Yeager to have a snapshot of Yeager and Kennedy’s aunt that was taken on a recent trip to Ireland. That glimpse of Kennedy points to his larger appeal, Yeager believes.

“His warmth and caring and his sense of humor and intellect all came out in ways that were real,” Yeager said. “I think people saw a potential greatness there, and I also think the family—with the two children and the First Lady and the type of person she was—that kind of gave us a lift in this country. It was almost too good to be true.”

That sense of greatness still captivates, Yeager says, because it’s so American at its core.

“I think that’s what’s really lasting about Kennedy—he created a hope that America would be significantly better, particularly for those less advantaged,” Yeager said.

[Emphasis added.]

In a letter to the author dated December 28, 2003, Yeager wrote: “*I did not think that President Kennedy was particularly ‘difficult’ to protect.* In fact, I thought that his personality made it easier than some because he was easy to get along with. I can see why some might think that he was more difficult to protect because he was younger than other presidents and had small children who made the Kennedy family much more active than most presidents. With his large extended family, there were many more activities to deal with involving both the extended and immediate family. His popularity also presented unique problems with crowd control.” [Emphasis added.] With regard to the author’s question, “Did President Kennedy ever order the agents off the rear of his limousine,” Yeager responded: “*I know of no ‘order’ directly from President Kennedy ...* I don’t know what form or detail that this request was made to the Secret Service ... *I also do not know who actually made the final decision,* but we did not have agents on the rear of the President’s car in Dallas. I was doing the advance for President Kennedy in Austin, Texas where he was going next when the President was in Dallas.” [Emphasis added.] Yeager also added: “In my opinion, President Johnson did pose more “problems” than President Kennedy because he was much more difficult to deal with on a personal level. He did not try to please anyone that I saw, unless it was his wife, and I am not sure about that.”

In a follow-up letter to the author, Yeager wrote: “I believe that Oswald was the assassin and that he was alone that day; however[,] I don’t know if someone or [some] group put him up to it.”¹¹

Former agent James R. “Jim” Goodenough wrote the author on March 16, 2004:

I was appointed as a Special Agent with the Secret Service in August 1959 at Indianapolis, Indiana. I retired in April 1985 at Toledo, Ohio. [Gerald] Bechtle and I were co-workers when we were assigned to LBJ starting in 1962 until April 1965 when I was transferred to the Milwaukee Field Office. When LBJ became President, I was assigned to his daughter Luci until my transfer.

President Kennedy was a pleasant and cooperative person to work for. I was never permanently assigned to his detail but did work one summer helping to provide security at their summer home on Cape Cod. While I was involved in the President's and LBJ's security at Houston, Texas, the day before the visit in Dallas, I was not knowledgeable regarding the security arrangements in Dallas. You probably have already read the Warren Commission Report but if not I would suggest you do as that might shed some light on your question regarding agents not riding on the limousine.

Agent **J. Walter "Walt" Coughlin**: Coughlin helped assist fellow WHD agent Dennis R. Halterman with the San Antonio advance, which involved the San Antonio International Airport, the Aerospace Medical Center, and Kelly Air Force Base on November 21, 1963. The agent was apparently still in the city when JFK was shot, yet, later on the same day, Coughlin was part of the 4 p.m. – 12:00 midnight shift at the Kennedy residence in Middleburg, Virginia.¹² The agent remained on this detail at least into the following day, November 23, 1963.¹³

Coughlin attended DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Maryland: his biography from the school's website reads as follows:

J. Walter (Walt) Coughlin was the first DeMatha athlete to receive ten varsity letters: three for football, three for basketball, three for baseball, and one for golf. He was the starting end on DeMatha's first football teams and was a Scholastic Sports Association All-Prep selection his junior year. He broke his leg in a game during his senior year but completed the game nonetheless. Walt was the starting guard on the basketball team his junior and senior seasons and started at catcher on the baseball team all three years. He was also named All-Prep (by the SSA) in baseball his senior year. Walt also coached and taught at DeMatha in the late 1950s. After graduation from DeMatha, Walt played freshman football at the University of Maryland before being drafted into the service. He was voted on the All-Army football and baseball teams in 1955 and played semi-pro football until 1959. He later received two meritorious awards during a distinguished career with the U.S. Secret Service. He currently is president of J. Walter Coughlin & Associates, an international security consulting firm, headquartered in Dallas, Texas.

Coughlin wrote to the author, detailing his entire Secret Service career:¹⁴

2-61 thru 3-77—Charleston, W.Va.—Counterfeit Detail NYC—White House—6-62 - 12-64—VP Detail 12-64 to 1-69—ASAIC Louisville, Ky.—SAIC Omaha, Neb—SAIC Dallas—transferred to Foreign Dig[nitary Division], D.C., to process out of SS for medical retirement ([due to] ulcers).

From Coughlin's Cushing Memorial Library (Texas A&M University) oral history from April 19, 1986: "When I got out of college, in retrospect, I probably would have wanted to go to law school," Coughlin said. "But I didn't have any money. I had friends who were in the FBI. They were talking about some of the restraints that Mr. Hoover was putting on them at the time. I didn't think that I was that kind of a free spirit in some of those kind of things. I didn't think I would have lasted. Then I heard about the Secret Service. I was not familiar with it. There was the appeal of the White House, the travel, and so on. So I applied and was fortunate enough to be selected." Coughlin added: "I had the opportunity on three occasions to go to Vietnam. The first would be in 1965.¹⁵ The second was the inauguration of President [Nguyen Van] Thieu and Vice President [Nguyen Cao] Ky which, I guess from memory, was 1966. And one time after that in late 1967 ... I was not in the military at the time. I was there on all three occasions with Vice President [Hubert Horatio] Humphrey who was sent there on a political mission by President Johnson. My mission there was, as a member of the Secret Service, to protect Mr. Humphrey ... we used the element of surprise with no scheduling ... we worked within the confines of the military in a very secret manner, but it was still a very risky operation ... from the standpoint of general protection, the policy in protection of the president is organization, scheduling, [and] logistics. Within all the confines of a smooth operation, you hopefully have real good security. You have good intelligence gathering. You have good communication between different police organizations: motorcade routes, intersection control, ticket control, access control, ushers, and everything right down to where everyone sits and when they're supposed to be in their seats. So basically what you do as a Secret Service agent is to organize as best you can down to the scheduled minute, sometimes the second, particularly for television purposes. Under that umbrella of organization comes good security."

During the same oral history interview,¹⁶ Coughlin had some other interesting things to say: "I'm not that convinced that our intelligence apparatus in Vietnam was that effective at all. *I knew a lot of CIA guys that were there.* They were really frustrated by it all because you were dealing with the Asiatic mind which in and of itself seems to be rather secretive. Even some of the South Vietnamese forces were sympathetic to the North. You never really knew who your friends were." [Emphasis added.] The former agent had many thought-provoking things to say about the war in Vietnam, including: "In retrospect, I think we went in there with good intentions. I think we got bogged down in a land war in Asia, which history has told us never to do. It got so political in the end that all of those mistakes just contributed to our downfall. The Americans are very impatient people. For the Asiatics, time means nothing to them. They'll just outwait you ... I think if we went in there to win it, we should have won it. And the only way we were going to do that was to bomb 'em back to the Stone Ages as Curtis Lemay suggested. He was an Air Force general. He should know something about it ... [t]he only way we ever beat the Japanese was bomb them."

Surprisingly, regarding the horror known as the March 16, 1968 My Lai massacre, under the command of the U.S. Army's Lt. William Calley, Coughlin said: "Personally, if you're going to analyze the war, I feel sorry for Calley. He did exactly what he had to do ... [t]hat's just the price you pay for war and terrorism."

Besides, what the hell difference is it? An adult's life is just as valuable as a kid's. It's just a sentiment that people seem to have ... [s]ome of the Vietcong forces were ten and twelve years old. Are they not to be killed because they're kids, even though they are soldiers? What the hell's the difference? If they're killing your people and it's a war, then you have to annihilate them. Age is not a matter, I don't think ... I think Calley was a scapegoat." Incredible. The My Lai massacre involved the unprovoked, brutal and unwarranted killing of over 300 unarmed civilians including women, children, and the elderly. Calley ordered his men to enter the village firing, though there had been no report of opposing fire. According to eyewitness reports offered after the event, several old men were bayoneted, praying women and children were shot in the back of the head, and some of the women were beaten and raped before being killed. For his part, Calley was said to have rounded up a group of the villagers, ordered them into a ditch, and mowed them down in a fury of machine gun fire. Journalist Seymour Hersh won fame by breaking the story in November 1969.¹⁷

With these disturbing sentiments in mind, it's no wonder that the former agent referred to the war demonstrators as "peaceniks", adding: "The fact is, they were not that way at all. They were a very militant people ... I think some of them were out there for a lark. I think there was some Communist infiltration."¹⁸ However, as author Anthony Summers reported: "The President [Nixon] had long since ordered an in-depth CIA analysis of the 'Communist factors' behind the [Vietnam war] protests. When the CIA found evidence of no such involvement, he merely ordered further investigation. 'There was nothing we could do to convince him,' CIA Director [Richard] Helms recalled."¹⁹ [Emphasis added.] Apparently, Nixon was in good company with his views for, in addition, Coughlin also said: "I am a conservative ... [Humphrey's] the only true liberal I've ever met. Most liberals scream for busing and put their kids in private schools ... [t]he Johnson administration will go down in history as a bad administration, though because of the Vietnam War. Everything else [Civil Right Act, etc.] is secondary."²⁰

Coughlin said that President Kennedy was "very friendly, very funny". (Walt later added: "Kennedy and Humphrey were both very nice.")²¹ The former agent described standing on post at the White House as "usually very boring". Regarding the President's relationship with Frank Sinatra, Coughlin responded: "Sinatra was around a lot as was all the 'Rat Pack', Sammy Davis, Peter Lawford (JFK bro[ther]-in-law) and Joey (forget his last name) [Bishop]. I know what Sinatra's rep[utation] is but he was always very nice to us. Liked the ladies, had a good time but I truly liked him as a human being. (He was very generous.) The kind of person Sinatra was—he was on the BOD [Board of Directors] of Budweiser—one day he saw a Humphrey staff man drinking a Schlitz and said 'give me your home address because every week for the next year a case of Bud will be delivered to your home so you will stop drinking that shi--y Schlitz.' And it happened!"²² JFK made a trip to California in March 1962, which was the famous occasion when he canceled plans to stay at Sinatra's home at Palm Springs and stayed—to Sinatra's rage and frustration—at Bing Crosby's place instead. The official excuse was that the Secret Service thought the Crosby place was more secure. The story ever since has been that either the President or RFK, or a combination of both, had simply realized that Sinatra's mob connections com-

promised him too much for the President to continue to associate openly with him.²³ Regarding this trip, Coughlin wrote: “[I] was on that trip but I have no idea why the switch.” (For his part, former agent Frank Stoner wrote: “I saw Sinatra with JFK on many times. The first time was at JFK’s Inaugural Ball. That night he was very close with the Pres[ident]. I can’t remember if he sat in the Press Box. He was at the White House on several occasions and was always very up beat with all he came in contact with.”)²⁴ In addition to helping advance the Miami (November 18, 1963) and San Antonio (November 21, 1963) trips, Walt told the author that he “did the advance to Berlin [June 1963]”. When the author asked Coughlin “Did the assassination affect you guys more because you were so close to JFK?” the former agent said: “Probably so because (only speaking for myself) we failed our mission.”²⁵ Regarding the transition from JFK to LBJ, Coughlin wrote: “Transition was very difficult—firstly we were all very despondent and we really liked JFK and it was mutual. LBJ was anything but friendly and he did not want anything to do with us. Also—the culture shock was significant: from Hyannis Port, Palm Beach and Palm Springs to the dirty ranch and cattle guards of south Texas was a real setback.”²⁶ Coughlin later wrote: “LBJ was a first class prick ... Norman Edwards took his BS—the agents would not—Norman was a good driver and person.”²⁷

The author wrote to Coughlin: “I get the strong feeling that the Secret Service is like the Marines: once an agent, always an agent, and that every (former) agent is your brother. There seems to be a special bond and a lot of guys are still good friends (and even attend your conferences!).” The former agent responded: “Yes—we are quasi-military. We went thru a lot together and remain close forever. We saw the good, the bad and the ugly and keep it to ourselves to protect the current agents.”²⁸ In fact, Coughlin helped produce the AFAUSSS book from 1991, *Looking Back and Seeing the Future: The United States Secret Service 1865–1990*.²⁹ (Walt later added: “Have not read any book about SS.”) Walt also wrote: “The reality is the most respected [agents] are those who were good [at] both protection and field work—took lots of transfers and paid the ‘full price’ i.e. Paul Rundle—Glenn Weaver—Stu Knight—Larry Sheafe—perhaps me!—Bob Newbrand—Bob Burke—(and others) but you get my drift. Most of the protection only guys [such as Art Godfrey and Bob DeProspero] never left D.C. and there was some resentment about that. Never enough to affect friendships but it was there.”³⁰ Regarding his training, Coughlin wrote: “We had to qualify w[ith] handgun every 30 days and shoulder weapons twice a year. I was only a fair shot.”³¹

Regarding the HSCA, Coughlin later wrote the author: “No. I had no contact with them nor have I faith in their findings—i.e. their acoustical study is impossible to reach any accurate, scientific conclusions because the trees at Dealey Plaza were much larger and the Hyatt Hotel (and other buildings) had been built [since].” The former agent also remarked: “I had 20 years of Govt. service—at the White House from June 1962 to January 1969.”³² In a later email to the author, Coughlin described former V.P. Hubert Humphrey this way: “A wonderful man. Too liberal for my taste but a genuinely nice person—naive but nice!” The former agent added: “I was in Viet Nam 3 times w[ith] Humphrey.”³³ (Coughlin described President Nixon as “A quiet, bright, shy recluse.”)³⁴

The author asked Coughlin: “Besides disagreeing with Newman, Sherman, Paolella, and McIntyre about their comments ([the] forum they used them in), was it ‘neat’ seeing them on TV? Describe your reaction; I would think it would be ‘cool’ to see former comrades on TV?” The former agent responded: “Not at all. They angered me by violating our unwritten code. The President’s personal life is none of our business to share w[ith] the public. I will discuss things that are already publicly known and I may or may not give my opinion on a subject. It is imperative the President can trust his current agents and former agents can best assist in that by keeping their mouth shut.”³⁵ Regarding the feelings of agents Ready and Landis to the tragedy in Dallas, Coughlin wrote: “Ready and Landis are ... very ‘laid back’ people. I have no idea what their *true* feelings are.”³⁶ [Emphasis in original.] Regarding his superiors, Walt wrote: “Behn, Borning and Johns were always my superiors but I had a good professional relationship w[ith] each. After we all retired and became equals we became friends.”³⁷ When the author brought up the vaunted SAIC of Reagan’s detail, Robert L. “Bobby D.” DeProspero, Walt wrote the following in response: “Have known Bobby for many years. Very disciplined—no nonsense guy—wrestled [at] West Va. U. Very good protection guy—Bobby is respected but not always likeable—very hard to know—private. Other protection guys as or more respected—Jerry Parr—Clint Hill—Win Lawson—Bob Taylor—Rufus Youngblood—Jim Rowley (maybe others).”³⁸ (Former agent Mike Maddaloni wrote: “Bobby D. was competent, but not friendly. Very quiet, short in stature, but a weightlifter who was very powerful.”³⁹ Former agent Bob Snow wrote the author: “I know Bobby De (his nickname in the Service). He was one of the best.”⁴⁰ Former agent Jerry Kivett wrote the author: “I served on occasions with Bob ... and have high regard for [him].”⁴¹ Former agent Howell “Hal” Purvis likewise wrote: “He was a dedicated agent and well respected by his peers ... I thought he was the best.”⁴² For his part, former agent Dar Horn wrote: “I knew Bob de Prospero. I believe that he was on the Nixon Detail. That detail spent much time out here in San Clemente. When Nixon was here either Bob Powis or I would have been with them. We spent much time at the compound in San Clemente. The Secret Service has an abundant amount of ‘good people’[;] Bob de Prospero was one of the many.”⁴³

Finally, the author asked Coughlin, “Are you 100% sure/satisfied that Oswald and Ruby acted alone?” Coughlin responded: “No doubt in my mind.”⁴⁴ (Fellow former agent Darwin Horn agreed: “Bet your life that it was Oswald alone in Dallas.”)⁴⁵

Agent **Jerry Dolan**: Jerry Dolan worked as a Secret Service agent from 1961 to 1964, guarding Kennedy and his family. “The concern about him was very intense,” Dolan recalled recently. “There were a lot of mentally ill people who came around to try to see the President.” Some were women who would come to the capital city with “some really hot ideas” about what they were going to do with the young and handsome chief executive, according to Dolan. Others, he said, intended to kill the President. The potential assassins included a man who showed up at the East Gate of the White House with two straight-edged razor blades in his vest pocket and another who had wired himself as a bomb. The man with the razor blades told Dolan and another agent he was from Mars and it was time for him to return to the planet—with the President. The man who

was a walking bomb had placed sticks of dynamite in the pockets of a hunting vest and wired them to a flip switch he wore in the middle of his chest. When he was caught by the Secret Service, he said he did not like the President because the President was a Roman Catholic.

Thanks to Secret Service agents, Kennedy was largely unaware of many of the threats to his life, according to Dolan. "We wouldn't tell him that somebody was trying to shoot him or that we caught somebody trying to break into his quarters," Dolan said. "We just couldn't lay that on him. He had enough to worry about trying to run the country." There was an incident in 1962, though, that made Kennedy more cautious. An agent was seriously hurt when he blocked the President from injury as a crowd rushed eagerly toward him during a Rose Garden appearance. "The president apologized afterwards and said he would never place us in a situation like that again," Dolan said. "I think that was the first time he realized that maybe there was a danger involved."

Dolan joined the Secret Service at age 28, after three years as a park police officer and patrolman in St. Paul, Minnesota. He soon found there were many hardships to be endured along with the advantages of the duty. His family did not have a permanent home, and he could not spend much time with them. In addition the work schedule was hectic. One time Dolan had worked into the morning and then was told to pack his bag and report to Andrews Air Force Base. He soon found himself flying to a breakfast meeting in Ohio, a dedication ceremony in Wyoming, and then a dinner reception in Seattle. That night it was time for him to report again for his regular shift. Dolan recalls that a White House doctor gave him two pills the agents called "zingers" to help him get through the night. In the three years Dolan worked for the Service, his hair changed from black to gray.

He became a familiar figure to the Kennedy family. Called "Agent Dolan Jerry" by the President's son, John-John, Dolan, like the other agents, received Christmas and birthday presents from the Kennedys and often found himself in casual conversation with the President. "He was a very thoughtful, a super-intelligent man who had the kindest feelings for everyone around him and everyone working with him," Dolan said.

In late November of 1963, as Kennedy departed on a speechmaking tour of Texas, Dolan did not accompany him as he had expected.⁴⁶ Instead he went on leave to Omaha, Nebraska, to be with his wife, Josephine, for the birth of their third son. Dolan was eating lunch with several federal agents in a downtown Omaha restaurant when a US marshal came to tell him that Kennedy had been shot. Dolan immediately flew to Washington, DC, to resume his duties. Dolan guarded the President's young widow and her two children from then until April 1964, when Jacqueline Kennedy moved to New York City.

Now a lieutenant in charge of the police department's canine unit, Dolan recently mused about his absence from Dallas on that November day in 1963. "If I had been there, maybe it would have been different," he said. "I was charged with the protection of this man, my whole training was towards his protection, and I had had personal contact with the man over a period of months. Then to

have happen to him exactly what I was trying to prevent, well, it's still an emotional thing for me. I have been to Dallas, been to the area where it happened and looked at it. And I still dream about it. I guess I have some real guilt feelings because I am a master marksman with my right hand and an expert with my left. And this would have been an easy right-hand shot to where he was in the window. There was nobody facing that window. I would have been the only one on that side of the car. There is no doubt in my mind I could have hit him, or at least put enough rounds in the area so he wouldn't have gotten off a second shot."⁴⁷

For nearly 30 years, Jerry Dolan was haunted by the moment that two bullets slammed into then President John F. Kennedy as his motorcade drove through Dallas. Dolan, who died Tuesday, was a young Secret Service agent in 1963, but he wasn't in Dallas the day Kennedy died. He was at home with his wife for the birth of their third son. Funeral services will be held this weekend for Dolan, who died while vacationing in northern Minnesota. He had been on medical leave from the police department since December, and suffered from a heart ailment. He was 62. A native of St. Paul, Dolan joined the army after high school and served in Japan and Korea during the Korean War. When he returned to the US he enrolled in college and graduated in 1958 with a degree in sociology ...⁴⁸

Agent **Frank D. Slocum**: From an article on the 40th anniversary of Kennedy's death:

Tragedy still sore spot for ex-agent

November never fails to stir up Frank Slocum's worst memories. Even after 40 years, he can't escape them. They don't bother him as much as they do other retired U.S. Secret Service agents. But they can set his upper lip to quivering, and if he doesn't stomp them back, he'll cry. Slocum, who once headed up the Honolulu office of the Secret Service, protected five presidents during his 20-year career. And while Slocum wasn't in the doomed presidential motorcade in Dallas that morning—he was in Los Angeles working criminal cases—he was there that afternoon, standing on the sixth floor of the Texas school book depository ... Slocum had protected Kennedy on other assignments. He liked him. All the agents liked him. "He was very personable," Slocum says ... The emotional measure of their loss could not really be weighed by the Secret Service agents until days later. Those agents assigned to remain in Texas, Slocum among them, huddled around a television set in a Johnson City motel to watch the Kennedy funeral. "We had lost a popular president," he says. "We were feeling maybe it could have been avoided. Did we do something wrong?" ... In the aftermath, Slocum and another agent wrote a thick manual on presidential route security. Among their suggestions: no open windows ... "Was there something we could have done?" Slocum says again, and not for the last time. "I don't know if there was."⁴⁹

In a letter to the author dated January 16, 2004, Slocum wrote: "I spent three years at the White House with Ike but was not assigned to the WH Detail during the JFK Administration. I only had short times with him when he visited the Los Angeles Office area plus the special assignment in Florida for the vacation

and greeting the Cuban POWs in 1962. I didn't arrive in Dallas the day of the assassination until that afternoon ... My times with JFK I found him to be extremely intelligent with a terrific memory including names of all the agents and a good sense of humor. As to how he will be treated by history, we will just have to wait and see. Unfortunately, we didn't have him with us long."

Former agent Darwin David Horn, Sr., the ASAIC of the Los Angeles office during the JFK era, wrote the author: "Frank Slocum was one of the best partners that I ever had and is still a great friend. He lives in Honolulu and we talk often."⁵⁰ Horn later wrote: "He is one of my favorite people. We worked a lot together in L.A. [Los Angeles]. A great partner. Whenever we got together as partners things were going to happen. We talk every week or so now."⁵¹

Los Angeles Agent **Leon L. Gopadze**, Dallas Office Agent **Charles E. Kunkel**, and Dallas Office Agent **James F. "Mike" Howard** (assigned to Marina Oswald after the assassination):⁵² Serving as both her interpreters and her captors, Marina was threatened with deportation in subtle (and not-so-subtle) ways if she didn't tow the "official" line that her husband, Lee Harvey Oswald, was the lone nut assassin of JFK. *The New York Times* of December 8, 1963 reported: "Secret Service agents suggested to her [Marina] that it might be safer and easier for her to return to the Soviet Union than to try to live in the United States. This distressed her ... *She is now secluded from Oswald's relatives as well as from the public.*" [Emphasis added.] While Marina originally denied that Oswald had a revolver, a riflescope, or even a rifle, all this would change soon enough after the questioning by these agents.⁵³ Russian-speaking agent Leon Gopadze, Marina's interpreter, translated Marina's letter in the following way, in contradiction to the above account: "I am very, very grateful to the Secret Service agents who treated me so well and took such good care of me. Although some of the letters which I received accused these wonderful people of preventing me from seeing others, I am free to do anything I want ..."⁵⁴ Perhaps a tad flowery and overdone.

In addition, Gopadze, responsible for translating Marina's many FBI interviews and her first Warren Commission appearance,⁵⁵ was first introduced to Marina by the Secret Service as "Mr. Lee", the very same name Lee Harvey Oswald had used when rooming at a boardinghouse away from his wife in 1963.⁵⁶

Perhaps Oswald's mother, Marguerite, summed up the situation best: "Mrs. Oswald claimed at certain points that her son was *an American espionage agent*. She claimed at other points that, if her son shot the President, he was part of a conspiracy involving Marina, Ruth Paine, *two Secret Service agents*, and a 'high government official' who she refused to identify."⁵⁷ [Emphasis added.] As author Fred Newcomb reported:⁵⁸

Secret Service agents Howard and Kunkel made certain claims to gain the confidence of the Oswald family. When Howard interviewed Robert Oswald on November 23, 1963, he asserted that personal details of the family would be of special interest to Mrs. Kennedy. Robert thought this meant that Howard was close to Mrs. Kennedy.⁵⁹ Also on November 23, Kunkel told Oswald's mother, Marguerite, that he was sure Oswald killed the President. Marguerite objected.

Howard replied that Kunkel was upset because he had guarded Mrs. Kennedy⁶⁰ ... They were assigned to the Dallas/Fort Worth area, not Washington, D.C.⁶¹ ... Marguerite came to be 'deathly afraid' of both Kunkel and Howard. On May 12, 1964, she told the FBI in Fort Worth she not only refused to allow Kunkel in her home, but did not want anything further to do with them both.⁶² Marguerite stated, "I have had documents stolen from me. I have had newspaper clippings stolen from my hand by the Secret Service."⁶³ Marguerite also said: "... I thought that we have a plot in our own government and that there is a high official involved. And I am thinking that probably these Secret Service men are a part of it." It's funny how Marguerite picks out Howard and Kunkel over all the agents who guarded her and her family.

On December 4, 1963, Special Agent James M. Howard, assigned to the Dallas, Texas office, and who assisted in the advance arrangements at Fort Worth, Texas⁶⁴, advised that *he was on duty at the Texas Hotel from the time the President arrived until 4:00 a.m. on November 22, 1963*; that he was representing the Dallas Office and had occasion to meet and to talk to many of the Special Agents accompanying the President from Washington in the lobby, at the President's suite and in the Agents' rooms. He stated that at no time did he ever see any Special Agent of this Service in an intoxicated condition; that he himself was not at the Press Club [how about the Cellar?]. This Special Agent's remarks are worthy of comment, as it is known that he does not drink intoxicants of any kind, and it is believed that any remarks by him would be unbiased [!].

[Emphasis added.]⁶⁵

So, *where* was Dallas agent Howard at 12:30 p.m. on November 22, 1963? Why did he wait until a 1999 lecture to state where he was at that specific time: allegedly cleaning President Kennedy's room at the Hotel Texas in Fort Worth.⁶⁶ He did not mention exactly where he was during the assassination to either *The Fresno Bee* or to *The Houston Post*, both in 1993, his only known pre-1999 interviews.

During the time of his December 4, 1963 statement, Howard was temporarily assigned to Lynda Bird Johnson's Detail (from December 1, 1963 – January 24, 1964, to be exact). Howard, along with his partner Kunkel, allegedly on an unspecified assignment on November 22, 1963 in Washington D.C. (another 1999 Howard statement), were the only Dallas office agents connected to the Dallas trip *not* to have reports made available to the Warren Commission. Howard became a member of the White House Detail on March 29, 1964. Reward?

If that weren't enough, Mike Howard and his brother Pat deliberately planted the story that a janitor saw Oswald pull the trigger!⁶⁷ That said, according to author Harrison Livingstone, "Retired Secret Service agent Mike Howard ... has repeatedly hinted at LBJ's involvement in the plot."⁶⁸

As for Kunkel, the agent was involved in the investigation of a very obscure yet deadly threat to JFK's life: one Russell W. McLarry, as the following newspaper account makes clear:

A 21-year-old Dallas Machinist was arrested by the Secret Service today on charges of threatening to kill President Kennedy. The machinist, Russell W. McLarry, said the threat had been made in jest Nov. 21, the day before Mr. Kennedy was assassinated here. Two women to whom Mr. McLarry allegedly made the statement reported it to the police in Arlington, about 15 miles west of here, soon after they heard of the assassination.

At a preliminary hearing in Fort Worth today, the Secret Service agent who apprehended Mr. McLarry testified that the machinist had said he was "proud—no, glad" that the President had been killed.

Mr. McLarry attends night classes at the Arlington State College in Arlington as a freshman. The alleged threat was made on the campus to two women students.

Mr. McLarry was alleged to have told the women that he would be working near the Trade Mart the next day and would be waiting with a gun to "get" the President.

Works Near Trade Mart

Charles E. Kunkel, of the Dallas office of the Secret Service, testified that he had confronted Mr. McLarry with this report and that, in substance, the student had admitted it.

Mr. McLarry works at the Dahlgren Manufacturing Company, which makes lithographic printing equipment in a plant three blocks north of the Trade Mart. President Kennedy was driving to the mart to make a luncheon speech when he was killed, apparently by rifle shots from a sixth-floor window of a downtown Dallas building in the other direction from the mart.

United States Attorney Barefoot Sanders said here today that he had no evidence of any connection between Mr. McLarry and Lee H. Oswald, the alleged assassin ... The authorities said they had found no connection between Mr. McLarry and anti-Kennedy leaflets that appeared on the Arlington campus the day before the assassination. The leaflets bore the heading: "Wanted for Treason".

Mr. McLarry was interviewed by the Secret Service Tuesday night and was arrested this morning. The agency indicated that the case had not been pursued immediately after the assassination because there had been more pressing things to do.⁶⁹

Another newspaper report noted: "The Complaint was signed by Charles E. Kunkel, special agent for the Secret Service."⁷⁰

November 21, 1963 ... in a building near the Trade Mart ... Charles Kunkel, the agent with an unspecified Washington assignment on November 22, 1963, according to Howard.

In addition, *Newsweek* added this important detail to the mix: "... McLarry, who is unmarried, lived in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, where Lee Harvey Oswald, the President's accused assassin, and Jack Ruby, Oswald's killer, also lived"⁷¹

With agent Kunkel now dead and agent Howard incommunicado, it will probably be difficult to unravel these mysteries further.

Former agent Darwin Horn wrote the author: "[Leon] Gopadze and I worked Los Angeles for about 18 years. He was one of my mentors. When we went into squads there in 1965, Leon took the counterfeiting squad and I took the special investigations squad. He retired in about 1971 and expired several years later. [He was] one great person and agent."⁷²

Conclusion: These three agents were to make sure that Marina Oswald portrayed the "patsy", Lee Harvey Oswald, as a lone nut killer. They were to tie up untidy "loose ends" ... and two of them cannot be ruled out as the agent of unknown repute in Dealey Plaza that day. Interestingly, just moments before he died on January 22, 1973, former President Johnson asked that Agent Mike Howard come to his room "immediately."⁷³

Agents **Robert W. Foster**, **Thomas Howard Wells**, and **Lynn S. Meredith** were all part of the "kiddie detail", guarding Caroline and John Kennedy, Jr.: From a newspaper account:⁷⁴ "Robert Foster: Today a U.S. marshal for the Southern District of Ohio, Robert Foster is a 1948 graduate of Worthington High School and a graduate of The Ohio State University. He was a Secret Service agent for 22 years, before he retired in 1978. During Kennedy's administration, and for a year after the assassination, his main responsibility was the protection of the President's children, Caroline and John. Not surprisingly, he calls the months following the President's death 'the worst year of my life'. Foster, who was given the family's Welsh terrier, Charlie, when Mrs. Kennedy moved out of the White House, says he will never write a book about his experiences.⁷⁵ 'We were there by fate,' he says. In a note to him, Jacqueline Kennedy wrote: 'To Robert Foster, who did so much to make our children happy—how grateful the President was to you and how we will miss you.'"

Foster's White House Communications Agency (WHCA) code name was "Dresser", Wells' was "Dasher", while Meredith was "Drummer".⁷⁶ Like Foster, Tom Wells was also interviewed by William Manchester.⁷⁷

Former agent Lynn S. Meredith wrote to the author:⁷⁸ "To elaborate a little more on the assassination in Dallas, I have always believed that the following adverse situations all contributed to the unnecessary and unfortunate death of President Kennedy: (1) *No Secret Service agents riding on the rear of the limousine.* (2) It was a nice day and the bubble top of the limousine was up and open for better viewing of the occupants [sic—it sounds as if Meredith is describing a partial bubbletop formation here]. (3) The President was wearing a back brace which caused him to immediately return to an upright sitting position after he was struck in the back of the neck by the first bullet [this assumes that JFK was both hit in the back of the neck and that this was caused by the first bul-

let, matters still in contention forty-plus years later]. (4) The 6th floor window of the Texas [School] Book Depository Building where Oswald was located was open and made for easier shots directed at the President. (5) *Inadequate security along the entire ten-mile motorcade route from the airport to downtown Dallas that day, particularly in the buildings along the route of travel.* (6) Oswald being allowed to enter the Texas Book Depository on the morning of November 22 with a rifle wrapped in paper and not arousing any suspicion by anyone in the building [again, matters hotly contested by the research community]. (7) *The motorcade route published several days in advance* which allowed Oswald [time] to make plans to assassinate the President. (8) The sorry fact that Oswald's Russian wife, Marina, did not alert the FBI, Dallas police, the Secret Service, or anyone else that Lee Harvey Oswald had fired the same rifle at retired Army General Edwin Walker about six months earlier and had missed by a fraction of an inch. (9) Oswald had been a Sharpshooter in the Marine Corps and got lucky in firing three shots at the President, and the President and the Secret Service got unlucky." [Emphasis added.]

Meredith continued: "I'm sure there are more reasons to explain the assassination but the above are the main ones in my opinion. Incidentally, the Secret Service, the FBI, and the Warren Commission all remain convinced that Oswald was the lone assassin and it was not a conspiracy of any kind. And that is my unswerving opinion, too. The only bullets fired and recovered came from Oswald's Italian made rifle and there were no shots fired from ground level."

"Regarding your question [about my background], I spent 32 years and 5 months in the Secret Service from 1951 to 1983, and 19 of those years were spent in Washington, D.C. on numerous protective assignments."

In a follow-up letter to the author dated May 22, 2005, Meredith wrote: "Yes, I am flattered that Mary Gallagher included me in her book, *My Life with Jacqueline Kennedy*, and I actually have several copies of this book. I became well acquainted with Mary Gallagher during the first year of the Kennedy Administration in 1961 when she was the personal secretary to First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy ... Clint Hill ... was a good friend of mine and we were assigned together with the Kennedy family for the better part of four years, but I have had no contact with him since I retired twenty-one years ago ... I continue to be impressed with your interest in political affairs and the Kennedy assassination in particular. You knew, I'm sure, that the Secret Service is convinced that the lone assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald and that it was not a conspiracy. He definitely was the only person who fired any shots at the President!"

¹ RIF#154-10001-10104; 154-10001-10064; 154-10001-10057; 154-10001-10050; 154-10001-10044; 154-10001-10033; 18 H 779; Air Force One radio tapes and transcripts; Bill Moyers' interview on A&E (1992); *Death of a President*, p. 317.

² Ellen Miller, "Ex-agent refuses to toe party line on JFK slaying," *Special to the News*, RockyMountainNews.Com (November 20, 2003).

³ Letter to author dated January 15, 2004.

⁴ Anthony Summers, *The Arrogance of Power: The Secret World of Richard Nixon* (Penguin USA, 2001), p. 247 (see also photo section regarding picture of Godfrey).

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- ⁵ Email to author dated January 30, 2004.
- ⁶ Author's interview with Blaine, February 7, 2004.
- ⁷ Author's interview with Sulliman, February 11, 2004.
- ⁸ 16 H 950-1; 18 H 814; Youngblood, p. 93.
- ⁹ Author's interview with Blaine, February 7, 2004.
- ¹⁰ RIF#154-10001-10104; 154-10001-10064; 154-10001-10057; 154-10001-10050; 154-10001-10044; 154-10001-10033; 18 H 779; Air Force One radio tapes and transcripts; Bill Moyers' interview on A&E (1992); Manchester, p. 317.
- ¹¹ Letter to author dated January 24, 2004.
- ¹² USSS RIF#154-10001-10033.
- ¹³ USSS RIF#154-10001-10029.
- ¹⁴ Email to author dated February 29, 2004.
- ¹⁵ Other agents involved with Humphrey's protection included Glenn Weaver (the SAIC of his detail), Rufus Youngblood, Bob Taylor, Bill Livingood, and Bob Burke (Youngblood, pp. 199-210).
- ¹⁶ Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University, J. Walter Coughlin oral history, April 19, 1986.
- ¹⁷ See also Anthony Summers, *The Arrogance of Power: The Secret World of Richard Nixon* (Penguin USA, 2001), pp. 333-4.
- ¹⁸ Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University, J. Walter Coughlin oral history, April 19, 1986.
- ¹⁹ Anthony Summers, *The Arrogance of Power: The Secret World of Richard Nixon* (Penguin USA, 2001), p. 339.
- ²⁰ Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University, J. Walter Coughlin oral history, April 19, 1986.
- ²¹ Email to author dated May 6, 2005.
- ²² Email to author dated February 26, 2004.
- ²³ This was also discussed in an email exchange the author had with noted author Anthony Summers on February 26, 2004.
- ²⁴ Email to author dated February 26, 2004.
- ²⁵ Email to author dated February 24, 2004.
- ²⁶ Email to author dated February 26, 2004.
- ²⁷ Emails to author dated April 27, 2005 and May 6, 2005.
- ²⁸ Email to author dated February 27, 2004.
- ²⁹ Email to author dated February 28, 2004.
- ³⁰ Email to author dated April 26, 2005.
- ³¹ Email to author dated February 27, 2004.
- ³² Undated letter to author received February 21, 2004.
- ³³ Email to author dated February 22, 2004.
- ³⁴ Email to author dated February 28, 2004.
- ³⁵ Email to author dated February 29, 2004.
- ³⁶ Email to author dated February 29, 2004.
- ³⁷ Email to author dated April 28, 2005.
- ³⁸ Email to author dated April 26, 2005.
- ³⁹ Email to author dated April 24, 2006. For good information on Robert DeProspero, see Joe Petro's book, *Standing Next to History*.
- ⁴⁰ Email to author dated December 9, 2004.
- ⁴¹ Email to author dated February 4, 2006.
- ⁴² Email to author dated February 3, 2006.
- ⁴³ Email to author dated April 25, 2005.
- ⁴⁴ Email to author dated February 22, 2004.
- ⁴⁵ Email to author dated March 1, 2004.
- ⁴⁶ When asked if he recalled Dolan, former agent Walt Coughlin responded: "Vaguely but cannot put a face on him." (Email to the author dated February 29, 2004.)

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- Coughlin later wrote that he did indeed remember working with Dolan. (Email to the author dated May 5, 2005.)
- ⁴⁷ Condensed from the *St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch*, Sunday, November 20, 1988.
- ⁴⁸ Condensed from the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Friday, August 13, 1993.
- ⁴⁹ *The Honolulu Advertiser*, November 22, 2003.
- ⁵⁰ Email to author dated January 30, 2004.
- ⁵¹ Email to author dated March 1, 2004.
- ⁵² Other agents guarded Marina and the Oswald family, as well, including Robert Jamison, Norman Sheridan, Gary Seale, and Alwyn Dickerson, among others. 1 H 461: Inspector Thomas Kelley and SA Howard were with Robert Oswald when he saw his brother Lee in custody.
- ⁵³ Secret Service interview, CD 344, pp. 23, 43; WR 128; 1 H 492; see also Stewart Galanor, *Cover-Up*, p. 92.
- ⁵⁴ 18 H 642.
- ⁵⁵ 5 H 588. See also Walt Brown, *The Warren Omission* (New Castle, Delaware: Delmax, 1996), p. 238.
- ⁵⁶ 23 H 385.
- ⁵⁷ *The Secret Service Story*, p. 213; 1 H 169–170.
- ⁵⁸ Newcomb, pp. 291–2.
- ⁵⁹ CD 75, p. 356; Robert L. Oswald, *Lee: A Portrait of Lee Harvey Oswald by His Brother* (New York: Coward–McCann, 1967), p. 149.
- ⁶⁰ CD 1066, pp. 532, 533, 539; 1 H 169.
- ⁶¹ As Kunkel's detailed obituaries make clear, while Howard only became a Washington agent *after* December 1963.
- ⁶² CD 1066, pp. 532, 533.
- ⁶³ 1 H 129.
- ⁶⁴ The Secret Service's Final Survey Report for the Fort Worth leg of the Texas tour lists Agents Bill Duncan, Ned Hall, and Howard as assisting in the advance arrangements. However, Howard is listed as "James M. Harwood".
- ⁶⁵ 18 H 675.
- ⁶⁶ Interestingly, as previously noted, Ira David Wood III reported in James H. Fetzer, ed., *Murder in Dealey Plaza* (p. 20): "While showering this morning [November 22, 1963, Hotel Texas, Fort Worth], JFK takes off his Saint Jude and Saint Christopher medals and leaves them hanging on the shower head. When later 'sweeping' the room, Secret Service agent Ron Pontius finds the medals and puts them in his pocket, with the intentions of returning them to JFK after the Dallas motorcade. Pontius eventually gives the medals to Marty Underwood who, at last report, still retains them." Not only is there no mention of Agent Howard, Pontius did not refute this account when contacted by the author in October 2000.
- ⁶⁷ 25 H 721–2, 725: Lane/Rankin correspondence; 25 H 844–850: The Howards' side of the story.
- ⁶⁸ *Stunning New Evidence* (2000), online publication: Secret Service chapter.
- ⁶⁹ *New York Times*, December 20, 1963, p. 19.
- ⁷⁰ *The (Washington) Evening Star*, December 19, 1963 (this newspaper article photocopy was found in DNC advance man Jerry Bruno's JFK Library Texas trip files).
- ⁷¹ *Newsweek*, December 30, 1963. p. 15 (courtesy of researcher Bill Adams).
- ⁷² Email to author dated January 30, 2004.
- ⁷³ Irwin Unger, *LBJ: A Life* (John Wiley & Sons, 1999), p. 536. Howard wasn't there, but agents Ed Noland and Harry Harris rushed in with a portable oxygen machine instead. It was too late: LBJ had passed away.
- ⁷⁴ *Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*, November 20, 1988, Final ed., "Capitol Magazine" section, p. 9.

⁷⁵ Foster did speak to author William Manchester on November 18, 1964: *The Death of a President*, p. 662. The former agent also appeared on television in 1999 to discuss the death of JFK, Jr., as did former agent Thomas Wells.

⁷⁶ *The Death of a President*, pp. xxii, 61.

⁷⁷ Manchester, p. 669: December 18, 1964.

⁷⁸ Letter to author dated March 9, 2004.