

# MEMORANDUM

July 10, 1995

To: Anne Buttimer

From: Joe Freeman

Subject: LHO Education and Employment Records and the JFK Collection

Per your request of some time ago, I've done some work reconstructing Oswald's educational and employment history in order to determine what records relevant to these topics are in the Collection. The results of this survey are summarized below. *Let me state at the start that all the school and employment records I looked at in the Warren Commission Exhibit files at Archives II were copies, not originals.*

## EDUCATION

### Primary School

| Grade | School | Location                  | Dates                        | Source  |
|-------|--------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| 1     |        | Benbrook<br>Common School | Benbrook TX 10/31/45 - ?     | CE 1874 |
| 1     |        | Covington ES              | St. Tam.LA 9/19/46 - 1/23/47 | CE 1413 |
| 1     |        | Lily B. Clayton ES        | F.Worth TX 1/27/47 - 5/30/47 | CE 1873 |
| 2     |        | "                         | " 9/9/47 - 3/18/48           | "       |
| 2     |        | George Clark ES           | " 3/19/48 - 6/2/48           | "       |
| 3     |        | Arlington Heights ES      | " 9/8/48 - 6/3/49            | "       |
| 4     |        | Ridglea West ES           | F.Worth TX 9/7/49 - 6/2/50   | CE 1873 |

|   |   |   |                  |   |
|---|---|---|------------------|---|
| 5 | “ | “ | 9/6/50 - 6/1/51  | “ |
| 6 | “ | ” | 9/5/51 - 5/29/52 | “ |

The Warren Commission collected school records for each of the above primary school grades, with the exception noted below. CE 1473 covers Oswald’s first grade stint at Covington Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, LA. CE 1873 covers his Texas elementary school history.

The only part of his elementary school record *for which the Warren Commission did not obtain full documentary confirmation is his first grade stint at Benbrook Common School in Benbrook (greater Fort Worth) TX.* CE 1874 is an FBI memo which references that the County Superintendent of Schools of Fort Worth unearthed a card indicating that LHO entered the first grade at the Benbrook Common School on 10/31/45. Neither the card, nor a copy, appears to be part of the Warren Commission’s documents. Moreover, the County Superintendent was able to tell the interviewing FBI agent that Oswald took five subjects (all A’s and B’s), was present for 82 school days while being absent 15. So records must exist, or at least did at the time of the Warren Commission investigation.

As an aside, the Superintendent interviewed by the FBI agent said the card listed Oswald’s birthdate as 7/9/39. This date is incorrect by some three months, but the Superintendent told the FBI agent that the incorrect date was no doubt intentionally given to the school authorities to ensure that LHO could be enrolled (as children were required to be 6 years of age by Sept. 1st to enter first grade, and LHO would not have made the cutoff had his true birthdate been used).

Also uncertain is how long Oswald was enrolled at Benbrook, since he repeats the entire 1st grade during the 1946/47 academic year.

### Junior High School

[In August of 1952, LHO and his mother moved to NYC]

| Grade | School                     | Location | Dates             | Source  |
|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| 7     | Trinity Evang. Luth        | NYC      | 9/8/52 - 9/26/52  | WC      |
| 7     | PS 117                     | Bronx    | 9/30/52 - 1/16/53 | CE 1384 |
| [?    | Youth House                | NYC      | 4/16/53 - 5/7/53  | WC]     |
| 7     | PS 44<br>Farragut Jr. High | Bronx    | 1/16/53 - 6/53    | CE 1384 |

| Grade   | School          | Location | Dates       | Source  |
|---|-----------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| 8   | PS 44           | Bronx    | 9/53 - 1/54 | CE 1384 |
| [In January of 1954 LHO and mother return to New Orleans] |                 |          |             |         |
| 8   | P.G. Beauregard | NO       | 1/54 - 6/54 | CE 1413 |
| 9   | "               | "        | 9/54 - 6/55 | "       |
| [?  | Stripling       | F.Worth  | ?           | ?       |

By a 2/4/64 letter to General Counsel Rankin, New York City Mayor Robert Wagner forwarded *copies* of LHO's NYC school records to the Warren Commission.

These records constitute CE 1384. Again, the records seem complete with a single exception: Oswald's three-week stay at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran (where he was enrolled for the brief period in which he and his mother stayed with his half-brother John Pic and his family). His brief enrollment there is only referenced in Warren Commission documents, as far as I have been able to determine. Obviously, he wasn't there long enough to receive any grades, but apparently the Warren Commission secured no documentary evidence of any type on Oswald's brief stint there.

Oswald's New Orleans Junior High records were obtained (again, copies) by the Warren Commission and are part of the Collection in the form of Commission Exhibits. As has been noted in public testimony before the Review Board, there remains the issue of Oswald's possible attendance at Stripling Junior High in Fort Worth. According to Jim Marr's testimony before the Review Board, both Marguerite and Robert Oswald reference LHO's attendance at Stripling in their Warren Commission testimony. I located Robert's reference (attached) but not Marguerite's. It's worth noting that Robert Oswald, in his testimony, seems to think LHO was in 7th grade (which would have been a Jr. High grade) during school year 1951-52. In fact, LHO was in the 6th grade during that year. In any case, I've found nothing new on this. Jim Marrs says he spoke with Frank Kudlaty (who was Assistant Principal at Stripling Jr. High in 1963) who says the FBI came to Stripling and took LHO's school records the day after the assassination. Perhaps we should confirm with Kudlaty and approach the FBI, as well?

### Senior High School

| Grade | School | Location | Date | Source |
|-------|--------|----------|------|--------|
|-------|--------|----------|------|--------|

|    |                   |         |                   |         |
|----|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| 10 | Warren Easton NO  |         | 9/8/55 - 10/10/55 | CE 1413 |
| 10 | Arlington Heights | F.Worth | 9/5/56 - 9/28/56  | CE 1873 |

These records (copies) are among the Warren Commission's exhibits.

**Adult Education -- Typing Class**

|   |                  |   |
|---|------------------|---|
| Dallas Independent School District<br>Public Evening School | 1/14/63 - 4/8/63 | CE 1873<br>(photocopy<br>of registra-<br>tion card) |
|---|------------------|---|

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Pre-Marine Corps**

| <b>Employer</b>                            | <b>Location</b> | <b>Dates</b>       | <b>Source</b>                                       |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| Dolly Shoe Co.<br>(part-time)<br>stock-boy | New Orleans     | 1955               | CE 2238, plus M.<br>Oswald's testimony<br>before WC |
| Gerard F. Tujague, Inc.<br>messenger       | New Orleans     | 11/10/55 - 1/14/56 | CE 2227, CE 2237                                    |
| J.R. Michels, Inc.<br>office boy           | New Orleans     | 1/17/56 - two wks. | CE 2228   |
| Pfisterer Dental Lab.<br>messenger         | New Orleans     | 1956               | CE 1386, CE 2229<br>CE 2230                         |

Oswald worked for the Dolly Shoe Co. while he was still in school. His mother was employed there and prevailed upon the store's manager to give LHO a part-time job. He worked Friday afternoons and Saturdays. The WC collected no formal records from this employer; CE 2238 is merely a summary of an FBI interview with the store manager, who had to strain to remember LHO at all.

Oswald's stint with Tujague, Inc. is more documented. There are employee record sheets from the

firm (CE 2237) in addition to a statement from Mr. Tujague (CE 2227). In the latter document, Mr. Tujague indicates that he would search for cancelled checks and time cards and provide them to the FBI if he found them. Though these aren't found among the Commission Exhibits, the DOJ-FBI Federal Register list of items does list five time cards from Tujague's (FBI Exhibit D-111) as well as a W-4 form (D-112) and a 1/17/56 release form (D-113).

The only information in the WC Report and Exhibits relative to Oswald's two-week stint as an office boy and runner at J.R. Michels, Inc. is a FBI report of an interview with the Office Manager of the firm. He provided the FBI with information from a W-4 form for Oswald, and this form is FBI Exhibit D-109 on the Federal Register listing.

There are no records among the Commission Exhibits for Oswald's stint with Pfisterer Dental Laboratory; only references to his employment there by co-workers who knew him (CEs 1386, 2229, 2230).

### Post-Russian Period

#### [6/13/62 - LHO returns from USSR]

| Employer                                  | Location      | Dates             | Sources   |
|---|---------------|-------------------|---|
| Leslie Welding Co.<br>Sheet Metal Worker  | Fort Worth TX | 7/17/62 - 10/8/62 | Graves Exh. 1<br>CE 1173, CE 1943<br>CE 1405, CE 2189                     |
| Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall Co.<br>photography | Dallas TX     | 10/12/62 - 4/6/63 | CE 1174, CE 1150-<br>56, CE 1886, CE<br>2195, Cunn. Exh. 4,<br>Gangl Exh. |

#### [4/23/63 - LHO moves to New Orleans]

|   |                |                   |   |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---|
| William B. Reily Co.<br>machine greaser | New Orleans LA | 5/10/63 - 7/19/63 | CE 1175, CE 1154<br>CE 1398, CE 421,<br>CE 1893, CE 1911<br>CE 1940, CE 1946<br>CE 1951, Burcham<br>Exh. 1, Hunley Exh. |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---|

[10/3/63 - LHO returns to Dallas]

Texas School Book Dep.      Dallas TX      10/16/63-11/22/63 CE 496, CE 944  
CE 1943,1949, 2454

Warren Commission exhibits for Oswald's employment with Leslie Welding include photocopies of his job application form (CE 1943), payroll information form and W-4 form (CE 1943-A), Termination of Employment Record (CE 1943-B), paychecks (CE 1173/2189), his letter to the company indicating where to forward his final check (CE 1405) and time cards (Graves Exhibit 1). There is also a Texas Employment Commission form recording their referral of Oswald to Leslie Welding (CE 1895).

Documentation for his employment at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall Co. includes photos (actual photographs, not photocopies) of his paychecks (CE 1174), his termination form (CE 427) and time records prepared by Oswald (FBI Exhibit D-187). According to a 3/24/64 FBI memo (attached), Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall gave Oswald's employment application and referral correspondence with the Texas Employment Commission to James Deprato, Special Agent of the IRS, on 11/23/63. I haven't come across these documents in the WC Exhibits or FBI Exhibits list. I may just have missed them, or maybe they never surfaced, but they appear to have been handed over. CE 2189 (attached) references them as attachments to a Secret Service Dallas Field Office memo of 12/12/63.

Documentation for Oswald's tenure at William B. Reily Co. includes photographs of his paychecks (CE 1175), his application for employment (CE 1398) and eleven time cards (FBI Exhibit D-110). On 11/23/63, the William B. Reily Co. also handed over a copy of a Character-Financial Report they ran on Oswald, as well as copies of employment reports (handwritten) filled out by Oswald in connection with his duties (referenced in CE 1894). The latter reports were turned over to A.G. Vial of the Secret Service, who was also the recipient of Oswald's W-4 form which had been filed with the coffee company. I haven't located the latter two items in the Commission or FBI Exhibits. Subsequently, during the HSCA investigation, Reily was served with a subpoena and handed over (again) much of the same material (see attached HSCA document, Agency File Number 005917, which contains a listing). So these items are also presumably in the HSCA collection (though exactly where is not clear to me as of this writing).

Documentation regarding Oswald's hiring and work at the Texas School Book Depository include his 10/15/63 application for employment, his W-4 form and time records from 10/16 to 11/22 (CE 1949) and salary receipts (FBI Exhibit 422).

There is also extensive documentation concerning LHO's unemployment claims, checks, etc., from both the Texas and Louisiana employment commissions.

## **Summary**

With the exceptions noted in the text of the above memo, the employment and school records of LHO are well-documented. This must be qualified by reiterating the caveat made at the beginning of the memo: the documents in the JFK collection relating to the educational and employment history of LHO seem to be mainly copies, as opposed to originals.