

JERRY OWEN: MAN OF MANY HATS & COLLARS

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A man with Jerry Owen's criminal record just doesn't involve himself in the assassination of a presidential candidate unless the stakes were high enough.

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN: PSYCHO OR CYPHER?

The State claimed that Sirhan was legally sane at the time he murdered RFK. Concurrently, the State claimed considerable premeditation went into the planning of RFK's murder on June 5, 1968. The evidence was most persuasive in backing this contention.

The Defense claimed Sirhan was and is insane, that he suffers from "diminished capacity" as well as a catalog of other psychiatric malfunctions.

Sirhan made noises on occasion that he was politically motivated, but was outraged at being classified as a psycho; observers agree that Sirhan is a little of both, but more an enigma than anything else.

Theoretically, ~~there~~ only Sirhan knows why he plotted and then murdered a man he allegedly both loved and hated. His testimony - or what there was of it - alluded strongly to Sirhan's having several outstanding traits. He made it plain that he was bright, aggressive, arrogant, wiley, and a patent liar.

The latter facet to Sirhan's character caused both the State and the Defense to grasp at straws in ascribing motive from their respective positions. That a major world figure had been murdered was the only thing either side knew beyond question. From this immediate conclusion, an uncontested theorem was advanced from both directions: Sirhan was some kind of loner-Communist-psycho, who had taken revenge for an imagined life of violence he had suffered, who had autonomously decided to become a national hero to a foreign element he had virtually no affinity with whatsoever.

The only rational thing was the verdict: Guilty in the First Degree.

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Such an analysis of Sirhan's mental state more or less coincided with that of both the prosecution and the defense; however, certain less noble aspects of Sirhan's past and current life were skirted and/or avoided by the two court "protagonists"; to pursue a more seamy side of their victim-client's personal involvements would have cast doubt on their otherwise pat evaluations of this strange little man - and his possibly invented rationale.

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The defense contended that their client was mentally bereft, that this was the cause for his political machinations that led him to murder RFK; they claimed his experiments with the occult had produced some sort of self-propelled "Maoist Candidate"; finally, the defense asserted that their curious little client was really the byproduct of a violent American society and world turmoil, not really a murderer per se.

Ultimately, hard, irrefutable, material evidence persuaded the jury that Sirhan was sane at the time he executed RFK, that his was unmistakeably a calculated and contemplated crime against society. His only mistake was in getting caught.

However, expedience, not justice, had prevailed. Ignored were the threads of truth in an otherwise fabric of lies - and both sides had effectively avoided the obvious: Conspiracy.

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UNEXPLAINED/UNCHALLENGED CLUES:

Sirhan's Diary notes contain several cryptic thoughts that are interwoven in his obvious mind-conditioning efforts to murder RFK.

Says Sirhan: "I have never heard please pay to the order of..."; this would seem to be an effort to remove the thought concerned with some sort of payment. However, available Diary excerpts find the phrase "please pay to the order of" repeated at least three other times. These occur immediately before and after Sirhan's pre-occupation with the pending murder of RFK. Here, the Sirhan Diary notes will speak for themselves. Obviously, Sirhan's murderous thoughts are concurrent with his pre-occupation of receiving some kind of payment.

In between two of these phrases appears a somewhat huge number - an 8, followed by 5 or 6 zeros. This seeming sum was evidently on Sirhan's mind as he urged himself toward the murder of RFK.

On an adjacent page, Sirhan toys with another suspicious thought. Says Sirhan: "Today I must plan to come home in a new car...today I must plan to drive home in a new new new Mustang....in in a new Mustang...in a...tonight tonight tonight we I must by(sic) a new Mustang tonight tonight tonight tonight tonight Meet me tonight tonight Come tonight tonight tonight...".

Whatever else Sirhan was at this particular time, he was also a young man in an obvious hurry to achieve instant affluence. Murder and quick wealth - or thoughts of same - are ingredients not necessarily incompatible with assassination.

THE SIRHAN DIARY: Continued

Elsewhere in his Diary, Sirhan expounded his thoughts on his real and imagined plight in American society:

"Whatever may be said in praise of poverty, the fact remains it is not possible to live a complete or successful life unless one is rich. No man can rise to his greatest possibility.....

"I have often wondered what it is like to be rich.....rich.....RICH. Black Magic!"

Some "Communist", this Sirhan! His pre-occupation with wealth and/or the lack of it should have triggered someone's curiosity in relation to his possible ulterior motive for murdering RFK.

The fact remains that no one did - and the question remains unanswered: Was Sirhan motivated in whole or part by promises of substantial wealth as his reward?

JERRY OWEN -- SERMON AT SONOMA

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"And tonight the television cameras are here and they're televising here parts of this. They'll go through the tape and blend it together and, er, I just hope and pray that it'll be a blessing and that if somebody's viewing in home the spirit of God will come right where you are and touch you because America needs a spiritual awakening. We need a revival of the love of God - we need a baptism of the love of God. Now we realise the hippies talk love but that is a physical love and a sexual love. We don't need that. We need the love of God, a spiritual love like never before here in the United States of America. Now I'm going to ask the Lord to put his word within my heart and maybe tonight for fifteen to eighteen minutes, we might not take time to read 'em but have your Bibles ready, because on television lots of times I'd go for twenty-five minutes without stopping - just the Bible, just unrolling verse after verse, but maybe the Lord will call one or two of you and if we do, as I call you, walk up with your verse and stand here and read it to show the audience tonight, and a television audience, how God has put thirty-one thousand a hundred and seventy-three verses in this preacher's heart. And the reason the cameras are here tonight is because last - the other day before yesterday I believe it was, I was on one of the big stations in San Francisco with a man that talks to people and he interviewed me for one hour and, er, the owner of these cameras in this Company was so touched and thought it was so wonderful that sent his men here tonight. He had to leave to go back East on important business but his camera crew were here tonight and this is how they did - how they televise and how they make movies. I first started in "Prize-Fighter and a Lady" with Max Baer and then with Mae West, "Diamond Lil" and "Belle of the Nineties", "Swamp Angel" with Loretta Young, George Raft in "Prison Cell Break" and, er, way back in the early thirties I got a lot of bit-part work. I was just either a chauffeur, a newspaper boy, or a bodyguard or something but you know what happened to me? In 1937 I got acquainted with a man called Jesus and I'm sure proud of it. Do you know what he said in Job 22/21? "Acquaint now thyself with him and be at peace, thereby good shall come unto thee" and I got acquainted with him that night and now I'm going to ask you to bow your heads in a word of prayer and I'm going to ask God to give me a loaf of bread. Now you know why we call it a loaf of bread? In John 6:51 Jesus said "I am the living bread which come down from Heaven - if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever for the bread that I give is my flesh which I shall give for the life of the world".

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A man with Jerry Owen's criminal record just doesn't involve himself in the assassination of a presidential candidate unless the stakes were high enough.

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Sirhan made noises on occasion that he was politically motivated, but was outraged at being classified as a psycho; observers agree that Sirhan is a little of both, but more an enigma than anything else.

Theoretically, ~~there~~ only Sirhan knows why he plotted and then murdered a man he allegedly both loved and hated. His testimony - or what there was of it - alluded strongly to Sirhan's having several outstanding traits. He made it plain that he was bright, aggressive, arrogant, vile, and a patent liar.

The latter facet to Sirhan's character caused both the State and the Defense to grasp at straws in ascribing motive from their respective positions. That a major world figure had been murdered was the only thing either side knew beyond question. From this immediate conclusion, an uncontested theorem was advanced from both directions: Sirhan was some kind of loner-Communist-psycho, who had taken revenge for an imagined life of violence he had suffered, who had autonomously decided to become a national hero to a foreign element he had virtually no affinity with whatsoever.

The only rational thing was the verdict: Guilty in the First Degree.

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Such an analysis of Sirhan's mental state more or less coincided with that of both the prosecution and the defense; however, certain less noble aspects of Sirhan's past and current life were skirted and/or avoided by the two court "protagonists"; to pursue a more seamy side of their victim-client's personal involvements would have cast doubt on their otherwise pat evaluations of this strange little man - and his possibly invented rationale.

The State charged that Sirhan was a political assassin, some kind of loner-Communist, who killed RFK in order to become the national hero of Middle Eastern Arab-Communists, by drawing attention to their being victims of RFK's alleged oppressor-friends, the Israelis. Unfortunately, Sirhan didn't accomodate the State too well, for his alleged political motivations came through both late and vaguely defined.

The defense contended that their client was mentally bereft, that this was the cause for his political machinations that led him to murder RFK; they claimed his experiments with the occult had produced some sort of self-propelled "Maoist Candidate"; finally, the defense asserted that their curious little client was really the byproduct of a violent American society and world turmoil, not really a murderer per se.

Ultimately, hard, irrefutable, material evidence persuaded the jury that Sirhan was sane at the time he executed RFK, that his was unmistakably a calculated and contemplated crime against society. His only mistake was in getting caught.

However, expedience, not justice, had prevailed. Ignored were the threads of truth in an otherwise fabric of lies - and both sides had effectively avoided the obvious: Conspiracy.

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Sirhan's Diary notes contain several cryptic thoughts that are interwoven in his obvious mind-conditioning efforts to murder RFK.

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Whatever else Sirhan was at this particular time, he was also a young man in an obvious hurry to achieve instant affluence. Murder and quick wealth - or thoughts of same - are ingredients not necessarily incompatible with assassination.

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Some "Communist", this Sirhan! His pre-occupation with wealth and/or the lack of it should have triggered someone's curiosity in relation to his possible ulterior motive for murdering RFK.

The fact remains that no one did - and the question remains unanswered: Was Sirhan motivated in whole or part by promises of substantial wealth as his reward?

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"And tonight the television cameras are here and they're televising here parts of this. They'll go through the tape and blend it together and, er, I just hope and pray that it'll be a blessing and that if somebody's viewing in home the spirit of God will come right where you are and touch you because America needs a spiritual awakening. We need a revival of the love of God - we need a baptism of the love of God. Now we realise the hippies talk love but that is a physical love and a sexual love. We don't need that. We need the love of God, a spiritual love like never before here in the United States of America. Now I'm going to ask the Lord to put his word within my heart and maybe tonight for fifteen to eighteen minutes, we might not take time to read 'em but have your Bibles ready, because on television lots of times I'd go for twenty-five minutes without stopping - just the Bible, just unrolling verse after verse, but maybe the Lord will call one or two of you and if we do, as I call you, walk up with your verse and stand here and read it to show the audience tonight, and a television audience, how God has put thirty-one thousand a hundred and seventy-three verses in this preacher's heart. And the reason the cameras are here tonight is because last - the other day before yesterday I believe it was, I was on one of the big stations in San Francisco with a man that talks to people and he interviewed me for one hour and, er, the owner of these cameras in this Company was so touched and thought it was so wonderful that sent his men here tonight. He had to leave to go back East on important business but his camera crew were here tonight and this is how they did - how they televise and how they make movies. I first started in "Prize-Fighter and a Lady" with Max Baer and then with Mae West, "Diamond Lil" and "Belle of the Nineties", "Swamp Angel" with Loretta Young, George Raft in "Prison Cell Break" and, er, way back in the early thirties I got a lot of bit-part work. I was just either a chauffeur, a newspaper boy, or a bodyguard or something but you know what happened to me? In 1937 I got acquainted with a man called Jesus and I'm sure proud of it. Do you know what he said in Job 22/21? "Acquaint now thyself with him and be at peace, thereby good shall come unto thee" and I got acquainted with him that night and now I'm going to ask you to bow your heads in a word of prayer and I'm going to ask God to give me a loaf of bread. Now you know why we call it a loaf of bread? In John 6:51 Jesus said "I am the living bread which come down from Heaven - if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever for the bread that I give is my flesh which I shall give for the life of the world".

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Jerry Owen sports a curious set of names and identities. They are: Jerry Owen as such; Oliver Jerry Owen, understood to be his legal, given name; J. C. Owen, a seemingly-obvious inference; "Curly" Owen, a descriptive nickname; SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS, a title used on one of his religious bags of tricks, whereby this Orange County Christ performed social miracles by providing "Free pony rides for boys and girls who go to the church of their choice, read their Bible verse, and mind their parents."; for the time being Owen has discarded this last monicker in favor of an older, more tried and -true calling, THE WALKING BIBLE, a man who has "committed 31, 173 Bible verses into (this) preacher's heart (memory)", which is the billboard for a performance of seemingly-incredible Biblical recall, that Owen uses to fleece the provincial flocks throughout the nation's countryside. Whatever else Owen is, he is a spellbinding practitioner of rhetorical legerdemain - on stage and off.

Owen is 56 years old (1969); he stands at just over 6 feet, weighs in at about 225 to 240 pounds; he is highly muscular, with thick, powerful hands and arms, his face is that of a former boxer, which he is; this is a man who would stand out in any crowd, especially if he so chose.

Owen claims to be "non-denominational" and unaffiliated in his "religious" pursuits; he pleads poverty et al because he says "I don't charge (for my services)...the servants of the Lord don't charge.....a real servant of the Lord is willing to preach for food, shelter, and raiment...". Owen's much called upon "Hand of God" must work in mysterious ways for him, because he herds his brethren about in a late-model Lincoln Continental, lives in a more than comfortable spread alongside the Santa Ana River, and travels in

circles that are both fast and expensive. In reality, however, Owen is neither wholly "non-denominational" nor unaffiliated, religious or otherwise.

Owen is an allegedly onetime-member of one of America's most militantly inclined Right Wing church organizations, THE 20TH CENTURY REFORMATION CHURCH, which was founded by and still headed by Dr. Carl McIntyre; this organization is fanatically anti-Communist, anti-Government in this and other respects, and well-organized and financed by various reactionary elements; while Owen claims to have "left" the aegis of McIntyre's organizational structure, he has never stopped associating with key sub-leaders in this group; immediately after his alleged encounter with Sirhan, and his subsequent clash with the authorities in Los Angeles, Owen fled into the wilds of Northern California and directly into the arms of this aforementioned element. This associate group, it should be noted, operates under the direction of McIntyre's West Coast Headquarters in Pasadena - which curiously is the same community that is the home of another fundamentalist Christian group, known as the Sirhan Family.

Owen is quick to say: That he has no political affinities whatsoever; he is betrayed by the company that he has long kept. And the direction of this interest has long been virulently anti-Kennedy(s).

An incautious Owen has, by his own rambling statements, revealed that he also travels inside circles that are unmistakably "Underworld" in character; this involves professional boxing, thoroughbred horse racing, and parallel associations with known criminal elements. This segment of American sub-society, too, has made it known that the Kennedy name is anathema, especially that of Robert Francis, who

moved swiftly, uncompromisingly against organized crime, when he was acting as Attorney General. (As President, the pressure against the "Underworld" by RFK would have been substantially greater.)

Owen, himself, has a criminal record, splattering police blotters for over 30 years, from Indiana to Maryland, from Minnesota to Oregon, and from Arizona to his home state of California; his arrest record runs the gambit, ranging from violations of the Mann Act (involving a 14 year old girl-disciple-dupe) to child molesting, from attempted murder to arson and fraud, this latter resulting in his conviction in Tucson, Arizona for having burned down a church, then attempting to collect the insurance; he was sentenced to eight years, but was extricated, on a technicality, by high-priced, clever Counsel - in the person of one George T. Davis of San Francisco.

In a word, then, Jerry Owen, according to one high California law enforcement official, is one of the most "dangerous" individuals he has ever come across.

Jerry Owen's immediate appearance on the scene surrounding the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy must be considered suspect on its face, if one ponders his overall background.

Robert F. Kennedy once said "If we do not, on a national scale, attack organized criminals, with weapons and techniques as effective as their own, they will destroy us." This may have been the most prophetic statement he ever made.

JERRY OWEN: A CALCULATED TALE

FRAUD? DECOY? OR BOTH????

Jerry Owen knew too much, too soon, about too many details surrounding the assassination and its principal participants.

Beyond this, Owen's story is calculated to convey several ulterior thoughts: That Sirhan had Arab-type "co-conspirators" and a hippy blonde "moll" accomplice with him immediately preceding the assassination, all of whom were still "at large"; that Sirhan was virulently anti-semitic, anti-Israeli, a born Jew-hater; that Owen, himself, was just a simple cornpone preacher, a naive country-bumpkin-babe lost in the woods of downtown Los Angeles, an innocent victim-dupe in a scenario straight out of a low-budget science-fiction thriller. (We will deal with Owen's true character later.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
The end result of Owen's volunteering his complex story to Los Angeles authorities within critical hours following the assassination had a completely negative effect on the then-developing investigation: It sent limited manpower off on a Wild Arab Chase, absorbing valuable time and concentration, all for naught. Some four and one half months later, and several thousand hours of useless search, the authorities were forced by time and political expediency to announce to the public that exhaustive investigation had turned up absolutely no credible evidence of any conspiracy, that Sirhan had acted alone and unassisted.

To speculate: If Jerry Owen was assigned to "volunteer" his incredible "story" to distract authorities from other, diverse areas of suspicion, then it accomplished its purpose; Owen's known connections/involvements with known Kennedy-hating elements of the extreme (paramilitary) Right Wing and the "Underworld" would seem to identify these "other diverse areas of suspicion".

JERRY OWEN, THE LIAR: THE UNPAID PENALTY

The Los Angeles authorities say that Jerry Owen is an out-and-out liar, period; they conclude that Jerry Owen told his elaborate fairy-tale to accomplish the following: By "fingering" Sirhan and others, whom he pontificates into being unmistakeable co-conspirators, Owen was merely trying to make himself out a hero or sorts during an allegedly long-planned trip to the Middle East; said Owen in the tape recorded interview of July 2nd "...my wife and I are planning to go to.....Jerusalem and-eh....take a visit there...".

Said one high State law enforcement official about the local authorities' rationalization of Owen's involvement "I don't think they believe that themselves, so why should I?". Why should anyone?

Concurrently, Los Angeles authorities say that Owen's story is not one that can be disproven, since most of his alleged "co-conspirators" were figments of his imagination, who therefore theoretically could exist; in other words, it was Owen's word against their own. This, too, was (and is) an unacceptable explanation; the Owen story is loaded with patent, proveable lies.

Beyond the above lies the as-yet unpaid penalty for filing false police reports, which Owen did, in effect, some 5 or 6 times; the California Penal Code, Section 148.5 specifies that the perpetrator is subject to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine on each count; in this case, however, Owen would have plenty of company in the poorhouse and jail; at least 5 witness-accomplices have knowingly perjured themselves in supporting the Owen story, in whole or in part.

A man with Jerry Owen's criminal record just doesn't involve himself in the assassination of a presidential candidate unless the stakes were high enough.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

SUBJECT: KENSALT

DATE: 5/21/69

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies of a Letterhead Memorandum in reference to a broadcast made by one ART KEVIN of radio station KHJ concerning the Sirhan investigation.

Caliz

REC-3

*1-LHM tickler
3-LHM Dep.
Attn: Lynch
Room 2515
6/11/69
HAS/mj*

Cu

REC-7

62-587-1200

② - Bureau (Enc. 6) ENCLOSURE
2 - Los Angeles

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59 JUN 18 1969

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[Signature]