

Deadly Alliance

By Judyth Vary Baker with Howard Platzman, Ph.D.

OUTLINE OF THE CONSPIRACY

In 1963, the unsuccessful CIA-Mafia alliance to kill Castro -- top-secret until exposed by the Church Committee in 1975 -- was directly linked to the JFK assassination conspiracy. “Plan A” called for Castro to be killed through the use of a biological weapon that would make his death appear natural. If he could not be killed by October 25, 1963, the same group of conspirators would go to “Plan B”: killing Kennedy.

This is the first account of the JFK assassination that links it directly (in an either-or fashion) to the plot to kill Castro, and the first time Lee Harvey Oswald has ever been tied to the plot to kill Castro.

What this means is that the JFK assassination plot was an offshoot of a larger secret alliance that is already established fact. It is, therefore, not necessary to believe in the existence of a separate conspiracy theory.

Judyth is Recruited: To April 1963

- By the age of 15, Judyth achieved a reputation as a science whiz kid, having invented a new way to extract magnesium from seawater.
- Her real passion, though, was cancer research. Col. Philip Doyle set up a special lab for Judyth at her high school (Manatee High, in Florida), and introduced her to CIA asset, Dr. Canute Michaelson, who provided financial support for her initial work.
- Her appearance at an international science fair brought her to the attention of other medical figures with military or intelligence backgrounds, as well as top officials of the American Cancer Society: Dr. Harold Diehl and Dr. Alton Ochsner (of the famed Ochsner Cancer Clinic in New Orleans). Ochsner was Judyth's principal behind-the-scenes mentor through her late teen years.
- Judyth's lab was expanded and she received research materials from doctors at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Eli Lilly, Oak Ridge, et al.

Evidence: A letter dated 9-2-60 from Dr. David Jacobus at Walter Reed, making specific reference to chemicals supplied her and promising more.

- She was forced to take a loyalty oath., and, while still in high school, was required to learn conversational Russian at a local junior college from a Dr. Concevitch.

Evidence: A yellowed mailing envelope with the addressee, Concevitch.

- Her work came to the attention of Florida Senator George Smathers, a close friend of JFK's, who encouraged her to write to the President and volunteer to put her talents to work in the service of her country.

Evidence: A reply from the White House. (While not very dramatic, she soon received fresh supplies, as Sen. Smathers told her she would.)

- She spent the summer after high school graduation working under a National Science Foundation grant at Roswell Park in Buffalo, NY, the world's oldest cancer research center. Her studies centered on "substances which cause cancer to become most deadly."

Source: *The Bradenton Herald*, 9-6-61.

- Of the 60-plus students working under a grant, she was the only member of the group chosen by Dr. George Moore, head of Roswell Park, to work directly with him -- and she was the only one forced to stay at the local YWCA. She was, in essence, "kidnapped" from an off-site apartment she tried to rent and returned to the Y.

Evidence: Copious newspaper clippings on her achievements.

Corroborating testimony: Judyth recently located a man who also exhibited at the science fair. He, too, was approached by the CIA, but his left-wing views made him a poor candidate for recruitment.

Dr. Alton Ochsner

Along with Judyth herself, Ochsner is the primary new figure to emerge in this account of Oswald's stay in New Orleans.

Notes

- Ochsner was friends with Clay Shaw, who was unsuccessfully prosecuted by New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison for conspiring to assassinate JFK. Ochsner was director of International House at the same time Clay Shaw was a managing director. At different times, he and Shaw headed this organization AND the International Trade Mart. The two merged some years later.

- Ochsner's biographers quotes him as fearing that he would be indicted by Garrison (John Wilds and Ira Harkey, *Surgeon of the South*)
- Ochsner was also friends with "Wild Bill" Donovan, head of the OSS, the precursor to the CIA. Both were elected officials of the American Cancer Society in 1949.
- Ochsner founded the virulently anti-Communist Information Council of the Americas (INCA), which later figured heavily into the activities of both Judyth and Lee.
- Author Thomas Karnes (*Tropical Enterprise*) describes Ochsner as a consultant to the US Air Force "on the medical side of subversive matters."

Lee is Groomed: To April 1963

- Lee Oswald, a CIA operative, was groomed to look like a disaffected American for eventual use in Cuba. This was the primary reason for his fake defection to Russia.
- Lee told Judyth that he gave the Soviets information that he believed allowed them to shoot-down the secret U-2 spy plane (he had been stationed at the U-2 base in Atsugi, Japan).

Lee said that the military wanted to derail an upcoming summit in which it was feared that President Eisenhower, declining mentally, might be bested by Krushchev.

Note: Downed U-2 Pilot Gary Powers has stated his belief that Oswald had the information needed to bring him down.

- Upon his return from Russia, the CIA arranged for Lee to take a job at a Dallas graphic arts firm, Jagers-Chiles-Stovall, that was involved in highly classified work for the government, including the creation of detailed maps of Cuba. His CIA assignment involved identifying the location of safe houses.

Lee was not yet part of the CIA-Mafia plot in a concrete way, but would be linked to it in the spring of 1963.

Judyth and Lee

- When Lee was ordered to move to New Orleans in April 1963, he met Judyth by accident (or maybe not) at the new post office. They hit it off immediately, despite the fact that he was married and she was to be married in a matter of days.
- Lee arranged for both of them to be hired on the same day by the Reily Coffee Company, and he got them apartments within walking distance of each other.

Evidence: Judyth's W-2 form and pay stubs verify her contemporaneous employment with Oswald.

Evidence: Want ads for both positions in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* (to create a "cover" of normalcy).

Note: Both William Reily and Judyth's boss, William Monaghan, were active members of INCA. Monaghan, though nominally the company's credit manager, was actually ex-FBI and an expert in industrial security.

- At Reily's, Lee interviewed Cuban women, refugees, that were cycled thru the factory. Winning their trust, he would extract from them the names of safe contacts they had left behind in Cuba.
- Both Reily and Monaghan were aware of Lee's mission and Judyth's role as his "aide." But Lee's immediate supervisors were not..
- Judyth covered for Lee's activity, and for his daily absences from work, making sure to punch him out at 4:30PM or 5:30PM when he was no longer there, which was almost always.

Evidence: The Warren Report shows precise time-outs on the half-hour, an impossibility since there was a line to wait on and such precise time-outs could not occur accidentally. It didn't occur to Judyth to vary the time-out stamp.

Evidence: She also wrote an obviously phony background report on Lee for Reily's files. This report is also a Warren exhibit, although Judyth insists it has not been published in its entirety. One missing piece refers to a bank account; the WC reported no evidence that Lee had such an account.

- Often Lee would go through The Crescent City Garage, next door to Reily's, to get to the offices of ex-FBI man, now-CIA operative, Guy Banister, who was deeply involved in anti-Castro causes. This necessitated his befriending garage owner Adrian Alba.

Note: Previous accounts have maintained that Lee whiled away time at the garage reading gun magazines.

Note: The garage was regularly used by FBI and CIA cars. Alba has testified that he saw the driver of one such car pass a white envelope to Lee.

- Lee was fired after he stole a green glass Judyth was admiring but could not afford.

These glasses were packed together with tea made by the company. According to the Warren Commission, he had been reprimanded by supervisors who often could not find him (as well he should have been, because he was often not there). The glass incident was the proximate cause of his dismissal, but his work at Reily's was done anyway.

Corroborating testimony: She told her children in 1980 of this episode. Judyth still treasures the glass.

- Judyth was fired on August 9th, the day she was seen with Lee as he was handing out pro-Castro leaflets.

Evidence: Her last pay stub was cut that very day.

Evidence: There is a (poor) picture of her in the Warren Report standing next to Lee while he was leafleting. There is a resemblance between the girl in the photo and contemporaneous photos of Judyth. The dress pattern in the picture matches close-up photos of a dress Judyth wore in other photos in her possession.

The Noble Conspiracy

This is a totally new account of what was going on in David Ferrie's home-based lab.

- Lee arranged for Judyth to meet David Ferrie, who she would soon learn was an associate of New Orleans Mafia boss Carlos Marcello, a CIA-operative who flew missions into Castro's Cuba, and an "amateur cancer researcher."

Note: Ferrie had lost his job as an Eastern Airlines pilot because of his homosexuality. The 15-year-old Lee had spurned Ferrie's homosexual advances when Ferrie captained Lee's Civil Air Patrol Unit (CAP).

Corroborating evidence: After decades of denials that Oswald and Ferrie were acquainted, a photo emerged showing the two at a CAP picnic. Judyth says there

was an additional photo of the group, including Lee, hanging on the wall in Ferrie's apartment.

- In early May, Judyth was told Ochsner had set up both Ferrie's home-based cancer lab, as well as a smaller lab in the apartment of Dr. Mary Sherman, a luminary at Ochsner's Clinic. The labs were devoted to "the medical side of subversive matters," i.e., a form of biological warfare.

Corroborating evidence: The existence of the "cancer labs" is documented in an obscure book by Ed Haslam, *Mary, Ferrie and the Monkey Virus*.

- Judyth put her extensive training in ways of speeding tumor growth in the service of her government. Her job, which she accepted as a patriotic duty, was to culture the strongest possible strains of lung cancer for eventual transport to medical contacts in Cuba who could arrange for their injection into Castro through a seemingly "innocuous inoculation."
- This lung cancer material would appear to kill Castro "naturally," as a heavy cigar smoker might be expected to develop lung cancer. This "assassination by natural causes" would avert a possible confrontation with Russia that could ignite World War III. Judyth really believed this was a duty, considering the horrifying alternative.
- The serum in which the cancer cells were placed included a virus that knocks out the immune system, thus enhancing the strength of the already powerful cancer cells. This material – scraped from the kidney's of sick monkeys – was, in fact, the AIDS virus.

Note: This material, used in the polio vaccine and other application, is now the subject of an important new book on the origin of AIDS, Edward Hooper's *The River*. Judyth knew of its deadly potential and wrote letters to have its use stopped at the same time as she was working with it.

Associations

Judyth personally met other plotters, including Banister, Shaw, and Marcello, though, as a girl of 19 or 20, she was often treated as if she were wallpaper. Wallpaper with ears, a 160 IQ, and the ability to do cutting edge cancer research.

Banister

- Banister used Lee to collect the names of Communist sympathizers at areas colleges.

Corroborating testimony: Prof. Michael Kurtz, an historian specializing in Louisiana history, personally witnessed Lee, in Banister's company, making anti-integrationist remarks at Tulane. Banister was a racist. Lee, Judyth says, was staunchly pro-civil rights.

- Lee sometimes used a work area on the second floor of the 544 Camp building that housed Banister's offices.

Note: Critics of DA Jim Garrison insist there was no stairway between the two offices.

According to Judyth, while there was no public stairway, there were stairs leading down from the second floor to a door inside Banister's private office.

Corroborating Testimony: Anna Vincent, a new witness and ex-wife of Banister "detective" David Lewis, confirms the existence of the stairway (on audiotape).

- Judyth saw Lee sign out guns from Banister's weapons storeroom on the third floor of 544 Camp Street in New Orleans. Lee also kept his own guns there and, contrary to the belief of most conspiracy theorists, she maintains that he was an excellent shot. She never saw or heard of a Mannlicher-Carcano, the gun Oswald supposedly used to kill Kennedy.

Ruby, Marcello

- While Judyth was in Lee's company, she met Jack Ruby twice, in May and June of 1963, once at Ferrie's apartment and once at The 500 Club, a Marcello hang-out. Ruby worked with Banister and Marcello in running guns to Cuban exiles.

Corroborating testimony: Anna Vincent: "Ruby knew all of 'em," including Oswald. She also claims that David Lewis knew Lee before Judyth ever met him, she believes in 1962. It has long been suspected that Ruby and Banister ran guns to the exiles.

Corroborating testimony: Prof. Kurtz and others claim that Ruby was in New Orleans on several occasions in 1963.

Corroborating testimony: Gerry Patrick Hemming, head of Interpen, a mercenary group linked by some to the assassination, says he saw Oswald at the New Orleans airport in "mid-1962." (Actually, Hemming claims other members of his group were involved, but that he turned down two contracts from Texas money, believing he was going to be made the patsy. Hemming is still very much alive and talking.)

- Judyth knew Ruby as "Sparky" Rubenstein. When Lee was killed, she did not know that Jack Ruby and Sparky Rubenstein were the same man! The shock of seeing Lee killed on TV caused her to avoid all further coverage of the assassination,

- Lee told Judyth that he first met Sparky when he was just 15, and that he spurned Ruby's attempts to recruit him into Mob business. Even so, he ran errands for his uncle, Dutz Murrett, who ran a bookmaking operation for Marcello. Judyth accompanied Lee on one such errand.
- Lee told Judyth that he was trusted by Mob figures, up to and including Marcello, for his ability to keep his mouth shut. Marcello told Ruby to look after the boy when the family moved to Texas.

Corroborating evidence: Oswald's ties to the Mafia came not just via his uncle, but from his mother, who dated a number Marcello employees, including Sam Termine. Oswald and his mother lived in a Mafia neighborhood on Exchange Alley.

Lee As Spy

- Lee and Ferrie taught combat techniques to Cuban exiles at the CIA-established training camp at Lake Pontchartrain (other camps were in Florida), and portions of these training sessions were filmed. Judyth saw this film in Ferrie's apartment.

Corroborating testimony: Robert Tanenbaum, Deputy Counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, saw such a film before he quit the investigation in disgust. His attempts to relocate it have proved fruitless. Like so much other evidence (including the President's brain and numerous autopsy photos!), it is missing. Tanenbaum is today a very successful mystery writer, as well as the former mayor of Beverly Hills.

- Judyth saw Lee use an expensive Minox camera, typically used in espionage work.

Corroborating evidence: The FBI tried to get the Dallas police to change its evidence inventory from "small German camera" to "light meter" -- efforts fully documented by the officers they pressured. An FBI document refers to Minox film retrieved from Oswald's possessions after the assassination.

Where is the film today? Where is the camera or light meter? In fact, a Minox camera sits in the National Archives today (owner unknown). It is glued shut so its serial number cannot be seen. In any case, how could Oswald, supposedly a virtual pauper, afford a \$200 spy camera?

Note: According to Judyth, Lee's Minox was so sensitive that he never needed to use a light meter in her presence. She never saw him with one.

- To establish his pro-Castro bona fides, Lee handed out leaflets bearing the name of the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" three times in August. He got the idea for

leafleting from an episode of "I Led Three Lives," an early 1950s TV show about Herbert Philbrick, an FBI man pretending to be a Communist.

Evidence: Lee's brother, Robert, confirms his fascination with that show. (It would be nice to track down that episode.)

Note: Lee later met the real Herbert Philbrick, who was a consultant to Ochsner's group, INCA. He found his boyhood hero unimpressive in the flesh.

- Lee staged his own arrest at an August 16th leafleting,. His "fight" with Cuban exile leader Carlos Bringuier was based on an incident he had read about in a local newspaper months earlier. The story concerned a narcotics agent who provoked a street fight to enhance his cover as a bad guy.

Evidence: Judyth has the May 4, 1963 article.

Corroborating testimony: Ex-CIA agent William Gaudet said he saw Oswald inside the International Trade Center several times. Judyth says Lee stored some of his propaganda materials there. Gaudet has said the street scuffle was "a sort of PR operation" and declared his belief that Kennedy was the victim of an anti-Communist conspiracy. Gaudet was a friend of Ochsner's.

- At a meeting arranged by Ochsner's group, INCA, held to prepare for a radio interview of Lee, someone accidentally uttered the name "David Atlee Phillips." Lee came to believe his CIA handler, "Mr. B.," was actually Phillips. Judyth waited in the car as the meeting took place at Reily's.

Lead: Phillips, propaganda specialist in Cuban affairs, denied ever knowing Oswald. There are reports of a death-bed confession in which admitted, at the very least, that he did meet Oswald. Judyth's source, a national book award winner, claimed this information came from Phillips's nephew, a Shawn Phillips, but now refuses to help us locate this man.

- Lee then participated in a radio debate with Bringuier, also organized by Ochsner's group, INCA.
- Shaw and Ferrie knew each other well. Judyth accompanied Lee to an airfield where Ferrie took the other two men on a flight to Canada.

Corroborating testimony: An ex-secretary of Ochsner's, Aura Lee, worked at Shaw's Trade Mart and claimed that Ferrie, a distinctive-looking gentleman, was a frequent visitor to Shaw.

Corroborating testimony: Others have reported on Ferrie-Shaw flights to Canada before Judyth came along.

Judyth's Lee

Judyth portrays Oswald as a much more intelligent and charming man than we have seen in previous accounts.

- Although Lee confessed to her within days of their meeting that he beat Marina, Judyth says he never raised a hand to her. In fact, she describes no fights of any kind. Lee told her that Marina mercilessly denigrated him. Lee admitted to a mother-wife problem, which they often discussed, and she believes the abuse stopped (it would be interesting if Marina would confirm this).

Corroborating testimony: In his unpublished manuscript – *I'm A Patsy, I'm A Patsy* – the urbane George Demohrenschildt, described by some as Lee's CIA "babysitter" in Texas, described Marina's treatment of Lee.

- Although primarily self-taught, the range of Lee's knowledge impressed Judyth, as did his ability to teach himself Russian despite being dyslexic.

Corroborating evidence: Oswald's library records show that he was an avid reader. They also show Judyth's influence (anthropology and sci-fi), as well as books he took out for her to read (e.g., a primer on Communism). Judyth says he took out more books than are shown in the Warren Report, some using her or Ferrie's library cards.

Evidence: Refer to the text of a speech Lee gave to a Jesuit-sponsored conference in Mobile...a transcript of his radio debate...a short sci-fi story – "Her Story" – he wrote with Judyth.

Corroborating testimony: Demohrenschildt heaped praise on Lee's intelligence in his book (a different account of the man than the one he gave to the Warren Commission).

Note: "The Baron" committed suicide just prior to meeting with House investigator Gaeton Fonzi (*The Last Investigation*)

- While in the company of Oswald, Judyth sometimes posed as Marina, which was possible because of their physical resemblance and her ability to speak Russian. Judyth's husband was out of town most of their married life in New Orleans.

Evidence: Judyth has photos of herself at the time, some of which show a striking resemblance to Marina.

- Although they fell in love almost immediately, Lee and Judyth resisted becoming lovers until the summer.
- In testimony, Marina said Lee was always home at night, but she never said by what time.

Corroborating testimony: Anna Vincent asserts that she, her husband, Judyth and Lee were a foursome, meeting after work on a regular basis early that summer, usually at Thompson's Restaurant, where Anna worked. Lee and Judyth would keep company with them until 8:00-8:30 PM. Anna describes a call from Marina at Thompson's. Marina wanted to know if Lee was there with another woman.

Clinton/Jackson: Mystery Solved

This is a totally new account of the trip to Clinton

- Judyth's work took longer than expected, and was, to her horror, tested on at least one human guinea pig -- the real reason for the mysterious trip to Clinton, probably on August 23, by Shaw, Ferrie, and Oswald.

Note: The House Select Committee on Assassinations found the Clinton witnesses -- including John Birchers and CORE activists -- credible, but no one has been able to come up with a coherent explanation for the trip. All have been sidetracked by the fact that Oswald tried to register to vote while in Clinton though he didn't live there.

- Lee mentioned picking up a man in white hospital garb who guided them to the mental hospital in Jackson, the next town over from Clinton, and to the experimental area there.

Note: Witnesses reported seeing a fourth man -- a "man in white" -- emerge from the car with Lee in Clinton.

- The true reason for the long stop in Clinton was an unexpected delay: the prisoner(s) had not yet arrived at the hospital. Oswald got on line after betting Shaw that he could get registered just because he was white.
- Lee and Judyth were heartsick over the plan to treat a prisoner/mental patient, but were powerless to stop it. Several days after the first trip, Lee took Judyth to the hospital to see the test subject. Shaw OK'd it, as he wanted her professional assessment of the patient's condition.
- Judyth checked on the bloodwork to see if the serum "took." If the bloodwork was not conclusive, an immediate blood sample could have been drawn and checked while she was still there. As it turned out, radical changes began quickly. The man she saw (there may have been more than one) was Cuban, white, about Castro's age and physique.
- They made one stop going to Jackson and another on the way home. Judyth stayed in the car both times.

Corroborating evidence: Despite "slouching,," she was seen by at least two witnesses:

- ✓ Edwin Lea McGehee:

An "old...battered" car drove up to his barbershop and Lee Harvey Oswald came inside for a haircut. "There was a woman sitting on the front seat [of the car]...and in the back seat what I noticed was -- looked like a [baby] bassinet..." (Judyth says this was a car used by the Lewis's and that the bassinet was for the pregnant Anna).

- ✓ Mary Morgan, daughter of Reeves Morgan, State Representative (and a guard at the Jackson hospital!):

When Oswald was in the house talking with her dad, she went onto the porch and "just casually noticed there was a dark colored car parked under a tree in the front of the house." She remembered "seeing a woman in the car."

Note: The fact that there were two trips within days of each other explains why some accounts say this was a three-day trip. It is unlikely that any of these men, and certainly not Shaw, would make a three-day trip together.

- The test was a success, as the subject died within weeks.
- Lee and Judyth began to realize that they were trapped. They could not back out of the plot for fear they would be killed.

The Road to the Assassination

- Lee and Judyth actually liked the Kennedys; they never thought they would be racing a deadline to keep him alive. In private, Ferrie told them that he opposed the assassination; he was only putting on an act for Shaw, who represented Texas money in New Orleans.

Note: Excluding comments in Banister's company, every mention in the historical record of Oswald talking about Kennedy is a positive one. (We have a compilation of his statements.)

- Based on a message from H.L. Hunt conveyed to a Shaw associate, those involved with the labs had reason to fear for their lives once they had outlived their usefulness.
- Ferrie arranged for Judyth to take a job, beginning in September, at Peninsular Chem in Florida, which made highly toxic chemicals. There she continued to contribute to the project by making "custom" chemicals for Ferrie.

Evidence: Judyth has a read-out from a chemical analysis done at PenChem.

- The three understood, as early as the third week of August, that Lee's grooming in Russia and his activities in New Orleans made him the perfect patsy.
- Fearing he was a dead man if he tried to break with the conspirators at this point, he would join them, walking with eyes wide open into the patsy role. He hoped to get close to the inner circle of the conspiracy in Dallas and, claims Judyth, stop the plot from the inside. To get further inside, he would play up his connections to Marcello and revealed his marksmanship.
- At the end of August, Shaw paid for the last of several hotel trysts for Judyth and Lee. According to Judyth, Shaw felt sorry for them.
- Judyth then left for Florida. The supposedly impoverished Lee gave her \$400 for "emergencies" – equal to about \$2,800 in today's dollars. Judyth told her family that the money fell out of an ironing board she bought at a yard sale.

Mexico City: Mystery Solved

This is a totally new account of the mysterious trip to Mexico City.

- In August, Judyth trained Lee to handle the deadly materials. Judyth left for Florida at the end of the month.
- Lee couriered the materials to Mexico City at the end of September, expecting to meet a contact who would bring them into Cuba. He was ordered to make the trip by Mr. B.

New information: Mr. B may not have been Phillips. Another CIA figure, Frank Bender, one alias of Gerry Droller, was known inside the agency as Mr. B. He was posted to Mexico City at the same time as Phillips. The record says that Droller worked for the OSS during the war, but there are indications he actually worked on biological weapons for the Nazis.

- Lee was left holding the bag -- i.e., no one was there to meet him in Mexico City to take the materials off his hands. So he desperately tried to get into Cuba himself, where his knowledge of the language, the terrain, safe houses, and contacts might still be used. Indeed, initially, he expected to make the entire trip himself.
- He was frantic because the materials had a limited life span outside a lab – hence, the official reports of his erratic behavior. He was also frantic because he knew what failure meant. In fact, the conspirators had already turned to Plan B without telling him.
- They were later told that Hurricane Flora had created so much destruction that information about safe houses, and about Castro's routine, was no longer to be trusted, so Plan A was called off.

Endgame

- With Lee in Texas and Judyth in Florida, Ferrie arranged for about 14 back-channel phone calls through a cooperative (and well-paid-off) operator in Covington.

Corroborating evidence: Only one call placed to Oswald at the Book Depository is on record. This call came from “a lady with no accent” The Warren Commission tried to track the origin of the call, but couldn't get past Covington. According to Judyth, the record would not even show this call except for the fact that the operator putting this call through was not their usual operator.

Note: Interpen had a presence in Covington.

- Lee told Judyth that he made several unsuccessful attempts to stop the assassination, including calling death threats to the FBI.

Corroborating evidence: A number of anonymous threats and warnings were called into FBI offices prior to the assassination.

- In their last conversation, on November 20th, they discussed the option of fleeing before the assassination. Judyth recalls Lee's words precisely: "if I stay, that will be one less bullet aimed at Kennedy."
- Lee told Judyth of his last-ditch plan: to fire a premature shot, a warning shot, at the motorcade, hoping to alert JFK's Secret Service protectors.

Corroborating Testimony: At least 5 Warren Commission witnesses reported a bullet hitting the pavement behind the President's limo. This would have been his closest and presumably easiest shot.

Note: The "street shot" bullet was presumably never found, unless that is what is being picked up by the "mystery FBI man" photographed with Dallas Deputy Sheriff Buddy Walthers and Officer J.W. Foster. The photo has long been the subject of speculation.

New Testimony: Anna Vincent says it was open knowledge in the local Mafia that Lee fired a premature shot.

- If he did fire a warning shot, it went unheeded by the sleepy Secret Service agents.
- Lee and Judyth had made plans for an escape and rendezvous in Mexico. Judyth tells of Ferrie sobbing uncontrollably during phone calls with him because it had all gone so wrong. His 400-mile car trip to Houston the day of the assassination was made in vain (he told Garrison, variously, that he and two friends went roller-skating or goose-hunting.)

Deaths After Dallas

- Guy Banister died of an apparent heart attack at his home in early 1964.

New Testimony: According to Anna Vincent, her husband, David Lewis, and fellow Banister employee, Jack Martin, went to the office immediately upon hearing the news, only to find the files carted off and yellow ribbon surrounding the office declaring it to be a crime scene. Lewis played a minor role in the Cuban operation and, according to Anna, was told to "keep his mouth shut."

Note: Author Ed Haslam (see above) believes he saw remains of Banister's missing files at INCA's offices.

- David Ferrie died of an apparent brain aneurysm (not cancer as he told those curious about his lab) in early 1964.

Note: An empty bottle of Proloid – which could kill a man suffering from hypertension -- and two typed “suicide notes” keep his death controversial.

- Mary Sherman was brutally murdered in her bed just weeks later, with reports of cancer cells stolen.

Corroborating testimony: Judyth has a letter from a former resident of New Orleans in which he recollects radio reports of stolen cancer cells.

- Jack Ruby died of “a galloping cancer” in 1967. When he visited Ferrie's apartment in the summer of 1963, Judyth showed him the lab and told him about the cancer cell injections -- including where on the body the injections should be administered.

Note: In jail, Ruby insisted he was injected with cancer cells, but no one took him seriously. His mind was shot and they just assumed it was incoherent babbling.

- Clay Shaw died suddenly of cancer in 1972.

Note: He was being treated for an undisclosed illness at Ochsner's Hospital just prior to his death.

Note: Of the 8 persons Judyth knew who were connected to the New Orleans cancer project, 5 were dead by 1967. After 1972, only she and Ochsner remained -- and she was in hiding.

The Participants

Who was involved? Mafia, CIA “rogues,” Cuban exiles, financed by Texas oil – or a smaller group culled from these. When the CIA- Mafia alliance was established in 1959, an infrastructure was created that could be used by a subset of this group to put into motion the events of 1963.

Their Motives

The Mafia

JFK's failure to regain Cuba meant the permanent loss of billions of dollars from their casinos. Also providing motive was Bobby Kennedy's unprecedented assault on organized crime, including particularly aggressive treatment of New Orleans crime boss Carlos Marcello. The mob saw this treatment as no way to return a favor, i.e., their help in rigging the 1960 election results in Illinois and Texas.

The CIA

After the Bay of Pigs fiasco, JFK threatened to "split the CIA into a thousand pieces." He fired CIA Director Allen Dulles (who would later sit on the Warren Commission!) and General George Cabell (whose brother Earl was Mayor of Dallas in 1963). JFK was seen as soft on Communism, waekening his resolve in Vietnam, and the olive branch extended to Castro was the last straw.

Cuban Exiles

JFK was viewed by this group as a traitor to their cause. Kennedy's betrayal started with the Bay of Pigs and included the deal with the Soviets that ended the Cuban Missile Crisis (which produced a non-invasion pledge), RFK's dismantling in 1963 of training camps the CIA set up for exiles and his suppression of exile raids on Cuba, and, finally, JFK's attempt late in 1963 at a rapproachmant with Castro.

Texas Money

This group – led by H.L. Hunt -- detested JFK's Cuba policy, as well as his integrationist stance, but mostly they were threatened by his vow to repeal a major tax windfall, the oil depletion allowance. They wanted a man in the White House they could control, i.e., LBJ, and they needed to get him there fast, as the Bobby Baker and Billy Sol Estes scandals threatened his continuation as Vice President.

If this cabal couldn't get to Castro, paving the way for a rebellion, or at least more compliant leadership, they had decided to go after Kennedy. With the blame pinned on Oswald, who was groomed to look like a Communist, and would soon be groomed to look pro-Castro, they hoped to spark a second invasion of Cuba.

Ironically, CIA stonewalling of the Warren Commission was almost certainly conducted to prevent its relationship with the Mafia from being exposed, as well as its surveillance operation in Mexico City. Thus, the assassination cover-up was thus joined by high officials in the CIA, who may not themselves have participated in the assassination.

On Proof and Evidence

While there is no “smoking gun” proof -- no government document, for example -- for this particular plot, no such proof should be expected for a project kept so secret. However, the account provided by Judyth Avary Baker is much more detailed than any previous account by a late-emerging witness, and it explains a lot heretofore subject to speculation.

Note: Judyth’s knowledge of events in New Orleans is often first-hand. What she knows or believes about events in Dallas comes from conversations with Oswald or David Ferrie.

Last Words

“They did it too good.”

Gerry Patrick Hemming, Interpen, on why the conspirators failed:

"The key ticket with the guy was that he defected to the Soviet Union, he's been trained as a KGB agent. How could these people [the plotters] possibly figure out that this scenario would scare the shit out of the people in Washington? What backfired on the plotters was painting this picture that it was a Castro hit. It scared the shit out of some high-ranking people, and they covered it up. Jesus Christ, the best laid plans of mice and men. They did it too good. They painted *too* clear of a picture that burned its way right back to Fidel Castro. It scared the fuck out of the powers that be. They wouldn't go to war. The American people never realized we had come so fucking close to nuclear holocaust."

“...Who Struck John”

James Jesus Angleton, CIA counterintelligence spymaster:

"A mansion has many rooms and there were many things going on during the period of the bombings. I'm not privy to who struck John." [*The New York Times*, March 1975]