

# The Paines Know

## Lurking in the Shadows Of the Walker Shooting

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In the world of espionage, there is no such thing as coincidence. At least, that is what spymaster and CIA Director Allen Dulles had to say about the matter. How then do we explain the coincidence that during the two distinct time frames that the lives of the Oswalds and the Paines were enmeshed, two shootings of controversial political personalities would occur in Dallas: the first being the unsuccessful assassination attempt on Retired Army General Edwin Walker in April 1963 and the second being the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963. Oswald would be blamed for both, thanks in large part to the evidence made available through Ruth and Michael Paine.

The first time frame of March-April, 1963, was separated from the second time frame of October-November, 1963, by a five month hiatus in which the contact between the two families was minimal. Accordingly, how the relations between the two couples correlate with each of the two separate shootings is deserving of scrutiny. This article will concern itself primarily with the Walker shooting.

### Assassinations-R-Us

At the very moment of the Kennedy assassination, Michael Paine was discussing the politics of assassination over lunch with Bell Helicopter co-worker David Noel. Upon returning to their job duties, the two men learned that Kennedy had been shot. Paine's hands began to tremble so bad that he could not concentrate on work so he decided to go home to Ruth. Paine described to the Warren Commission how he agonized over whether to contact the FBI and tell them about the disturbed young man, Lee Harvey Oswald, who had entered his life in the Spring of 1963. Paine did not even try to explain away his lunch time discussion of assassination as a coincidence. Instead he took it one step further and told the Warren Commission that it must have been ESP, Extra-Sensory Perception.

When one considers his social contacts, it

is unlikely that November 22 was the first and only prior discussion that Michael Paine ever had about the subject of assassination. Michael Paine's mother was Ruth Forbes Paine Young, who in the 1930's had been the best friend of Mary Bancroft, an OSS operative during WWII. Bancroft had played a conspiratorial role with her lover, future CIA Director Allen Dulles, in the assassination attempt on Hitler's life in July 1944. From Bruce Adamson's research, it appears that Ms. Bancroft and Michael's mother remained in contact over the decades because in 1954 Mary Bancroft wrote a letter to Henry Luce, her other lover and longtime confidant, describing the Extra-Sensory Perception workshops that Michael Paine's mother and stepfather sponsored throughout the country that year.

Paine was also a member of a close group of Dallas friends which included Everett Glover, Norman Fredericksen and Volkmar Schmidt. According to JFK researcher Bill Kelly, who has studied these friends, Fredericksen's father had been a director for Radio Free Europe. Schmidt was a German engineer who had studied under Wilhelm Keutemeyer, a professor of psychosomatic medicine at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. Keutemeyer had also participated in the 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler along with Mary Bancroft and Allen Dulles. Surely Schmidt knew of his professor's past, and communicated this to the Paine social clique.

In early February of 1963, the Oswalds were invited to a party at the home of Everett Glover. Glover had earlier made the acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald through George De Mohrenschildt. Volkmar Schmidt was also a guest that evening, and would recall a three-hour political discussion with Oswald which included the merits of assassinating General Walker, whose fascist views were reminiscent of Hitler's. Schmidt reasoned that if Hitler had been assassinated earlier in his dictatorship, that millions of lives would have been spared, a position with which Oswald agreed. It is hard

to believe that Schmidt's sentiments and his conversation with Oswald had not been shared later with Schmidt's friend, Michael Paine.

Clearly, Michael Paine's lunch time discussion on the topic of assassination on November 22nd could hardly be viewed as a novel one, or for that matter a coincidence attributable to Extra-Sensory Perception. It seems that assassination would have been a comfortable topic amongst this Dallas group of friends.

### Pointing the Finger at Oswald

It has been generally believed in the research community that the first notion that Oswald might be responsible for the April, 1963 attempt on the life of General Walker came from a November 29, 1963 issue of the conservative German newspaper, the *Deutsche Nationalzeitung*. This brief article was allegedly based on a telephone interview with Walker on November 23rd. This same article described how Attorney General Robert Kennedy had intervened in April 1963 to prevent Oswald from being arrested for the crime. In his Warren Commission testimony, Walker denied drawing any connection between Oswald and the attempt on his life and told the Warren Commission he still had no reason to believe that Oswald was responsible. Walker was not asked, however, about the origins of the Robert Kennedy allegations.

In fact, one of the first published comments raising a possible association between Oswald and the Walker shooting came from none other than Michael Paine, who was quoted in the Saturday, November 23rd issue of the *Houston Post* as suggesting that Oswald may have been involved in the Walker affair. Michael Paine's ESP must have been at work again considering that there were no new facts known to the public at the time the paper went to press that could remotely lead to an association between the two crimes—especially since Walker was a rabid right-winger while Kennedy was a moderate liberal.

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Meanwhile a Dallas newspaper also reported on Saturday, November 23rd that the police were considering the possibility that President Kennedy's assassin may have been the mystery sniper who shot at Walker—only because both victims were politically prominent. At a Saturday afternoon press conference, a news reporter asked Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry if there was a connection between the two shootings. Curry simply replied that he did not know. That was the end of the discussion as questions returned to the events of the previous day.

Thus, no pertinent new facts had been disclosed to the public. By Friday night, authorities had become aware of at least one of the famous backyard snapshots of Oswald holding a rifle. The Friday search of the Paine's house also revealed the backyard photo of Walker's house. At least the police had some new evidence by Friday to support its suspicion. But what was the basis of Michael Paine's special insight so early in the investigation?

## Revisiting the Walker Case

A review of the Walker shooting is in order. On the evening of April 10, 1963, a shot was fired through the window of General Walker's study, narrowly missing him. (The newsworthy aspect of this incident was overshadowed by the truly shocking news that on April 10th the USS Thresher, a nuclear submarine, had sunk off the coast of Greenland with 169 men aboard.) Walker was slightly wounded by glass and wood splinters as the bullet struck the window frame, sailed over his head, penetrated a wall and came to rest neatly on a stack of books in an adjoining room.

General Walker had been forced into early retirement in 1961 by President Kennedy, who was unhappy with Walker's right-wing propaganda activities while commanding army troops in Germany. Walker retired to Dallas and became a leading spokesman for right-wing causes. He had just completed a nationwide speaking tour when the assault at his home occurred. Walker's cavalier attitude following the incident led some researchers to ponder whether this event was staged to rouse sympathy for Walker and his causes. However, when one examines Walker's testimony before the Warren Commission and his subsequent correspondence with researchers, Walker seemed to take this attempt on his life very seriously.

A former disgruntled employee of Walker's by the name of William Ewan Duff was arrested on April 18th but was quickly released

for insufficient evidence. After Kennedy's murder, Duff was interviewed again when it was reported that he had been seen in the company of Oswald in the Spring of 1963, an assertion which Duff denied. Duff's denial is supported by the fact that another Walker aide by the name of Robert Surrey resembled Oswald. Thus, mistaken identity could account for the Duff/Oswald sighting.

Prior to the Kennedy assassination, the only physical evidence that the Dallas police had to go by was a mutilated steel-jacketed 30.06 bullet, which is .30 caliber. There also happened to be several eye witnesses with very important information to offer concerning two men leaving the scene after the shooting in two separate cars. One car was described as an old light gray or green Ford while the other car was described as a black and white Chevy. One witness claimed it was a 1958 model Chevy, the other said it was a 1959 model Chevy. As for the descriptions of the two suspicious men, they did not resemble Oswald in any way. If Oswald was in fact involved, he must have had confederates.

The Dallas police officers searched the Paine house on Friday afternoon and came upon many photographs, one of which showed the rear of Walker's home and the office window through which the culprit had fired. This same photograph also depicted a black and white 1957 Chevy in Walker's driveway. It is still not clear as to just how and when law enforcement ascertained the house belonged to Walker. Perhaps one of the officers involved in the April 1963 investigation recognized Walker's home when some of Oswald's possessions arrived at the police station during the afternoon of November 22nd.

The Dallas police and the FBI reinvestigated the Walker shooting while the Warren Commission was in session. According to Robert Surrey, the black and white 1957 Chevy parked in Walker's driveway belonged to Charles Klihr, a volunteer aide to Walker. (When Surrey later appeared before the Warren Commission, he would not positively identify the car; he would only say that it probably belonged to Klihr.) Klihr was thirty-three years old at the time, worked at Texas Instruments and resided in Irving, not far from the Paines. The color of Klihr's car matched the description given earlier by witnesses to the Walker shooting and there is sufficient similarity of 1957, 1958 and 1959 Chevy sedans that these witnesses may have been describing the same vehicle.

Klihr was never called to testify before the Warren Commission, although there appears to be some correspondence between staff attorney Wesley Liebler and Klihr, the contents of which are unknown as of this date. The research community is well aware of the fact

that the photo of Klihr's car was tampered with so as to obliterate the license plate. While debate continues as to just when this obliteration took place and by whom, it is apparent that someone was endeavoring to protect Klihr's identity.

Interestingly, a car matching the description of Klihr's car had been observed several weeks before the Kennedy assassination in a field owned by Lovell Penn. Penn's wife told the FBI that the occupants of the car were target practicing in her field and the shooter looked just like Oswald. When she told the men to leave, "Oswald" became obnoxious.

All of the sightings of a black and white 1957-1959 Chevy should have inspired the FBI to question Charles Klihr in 1964, but it neglected to do so. The HSCA did take notice of Klihr and subpoenaed him to testify. Klihr, however, defied the subpoena and the matter was dropped.

## Ruth Conveys Useful Instructions

Oswald's apparent complicity in the Walker affair came to light after Ruth Paine, on November 30th, delivered to the Irving police one of Marina's home economics books with the befitting title of *The Book of Useful Advice*. Out of this book which was written in Russian would come fluttering the famous "Walker note" also written in Russian. This note provided explicit instructions to the reader in the event that the writer was arrested or killed. The Irving police, upon seeing the yet untranslated letter inside the book, relayed the evidence to the Secret Service, which in turn handed it to FBI Agent James Hosty on December 2nd.

After the FBI secured a translator, the first person to be confronted about this note was Ruth, who was interviewed at her home on the evening of December 2nd. She described the "shock" that she would even be considered as the author, much less the willing courier of such evidence. She claimed to have no prior knowledge of the note, which was in a cellophane envelope tucked between the pages. Unfortunately, there was no fingerprint analysis done on the note or the envelope, so we have only Ruth's word in this regard. Considering that Ruth testified to the Warren Commission that the Dallas police were leafing through books when searching her home on Saturday November 23rd, her word is suspect. Like the Minox camera which Michael Paine claimed the Dallas police overlooked, we are asked to believe that the police also overlooked Russian books in the Paine household and focused only on books written in English.

When the FBI first questioned Marina about this matter on December 3rd, Marina

disclosed that the note had been written by her husband, and further, that Lee had confided to her that he had shot at Walker. She hid this note for future use in case her husband ever attempted such a foolish thing again. It is not clear how she intended to use it as a roadblock to a future shooting. She did not rely on the note to thwart Oswald's alleged efforts to later shoot Nixon; instead she held her husband captive in a bathroom.

The Warren Commission almost forgot to question Ruth about this note but she saved the day when towards the end of her lengthy session on March 21, 1964 she points out to Counsel Jenner:

Ruth: [Y]ou have not yet asked me if I had seen anything of a note purported to be written by Lee at the time of the attempt on Walker. And I might just recount that for you if it is of any importance.

Jenner: Yes, I wish you would.

This is but one of many occasions beginning with Friday afternoon, November 22nd, that Ruth comes eagerly to the assistance of the authorities who might otherwise have overlooked vital evidence incriminating Oswald.

### **Alchemists in the FBI Lab**

Even before the FBI had Marina's incriminating statement, it requested the Dallas Police Department to make the recovered bullet from the Walker shooting available for examination by the FBI Lab. On December 2nd, the deformed bullet was sent to the FBI Lab which determined that the slug had the same general characteristics as the other bullets from Oswald's rifle, but was too mutilated to permit a match to the rifle itself. By the "same general characteristics," the FBI was referring to the 4-groove right-hand twist rifling pattern made by the rifle barrel. Since practically all rifles have a 4-groove right-hand twist, this means that the Walker slug resembled just about all other fired rifle bullets in the world.

Director J. Edgar Hoover was pleased to report these results to Warren Commission counsel Lee Rankin in a letter dated January 4, 1964. Hoover was obviously unaware of various Dallas police reports, made contemporaneously with its April 1963 investigation, that the Walker slug was a steel-jacketed 30.06 bullet—not a copper-clad Mannlicher-Carcano bullet. FBI Agent Vince Drain had been in charge of gathering up all of the old police reports on the Walker shooting, and had forgotten to mention this important detail in summarizing the police reports for Hoover. Obviously, the slug could not possibly have had the same general characteristics of the copper-clad 6.5mm bullets allegedly used by Oswald to kill Kennedy. Only the miracle of

alchemy could change steel to copper. Walker himself noticed this glaring discrepancy and said that the slug labeled as the Walker bullet was not the same as the one found by the police in his home after the shooting.

Marina, the Paines, and many other witnesses were questioned about General Walker, the shooting, and any statements by Oswald about Walker that might have suggested a motive. An interesting chronology emerges from their statements and testimony that suggests that the Paines know more about the Walker affair than they ever revealed to the authorities.

### **Social Spheres of Influence**

For starters, we have the Paine social circle, which included Everett Glover, Norman Fredericksen and Volkmar Schmidt as mentioned earlier. The benefits of assassinating General Walker were discussed at length by Oswald and Schmidt in early February 1963. Later that month, on February 22nd, another party was held whereby George and Jeanne De Mohrenschildt—also members of this social circle—would meet Ruth Paine allegedly for the very first time. The Oswalds were also invited for the express purpose of meeting the Paines. (Michael Paine denied being at this particular party although that is disputed by the host, Everett Glover.) All present claimed that General Walker was not a topic of discussion on February 22nd, as he had been at the prior party.

Walker was a topic of interest to the Dallas-Ft. Worth White Russian community as well. De Mohrenschildt explained that, because of the 15 million Russians who died during WWII resisting the Nazis, the exiles feared the threat of fascism every bit as much as the threat of communism. Walker, whom De Mohrenschildt deemed to be to the right of Hitler, appeared to be spearheading a neo-fascist movement in the United States. Thus, Walker was regarded as the most dangerous man in the country according to a guest at one of the White Russian parties attended by both the Oswalds and the De Mohrenschildts. De Mohrenschildt described how those in his social circle called Walker "General Fokor," while Walker in turn deemed De Mohrenschildt a "dangerous radical." Lee Oswald shared these serious anti-fascist views according to both De Mohrenschildt and Marina. One can only imagine the nature of the discussions which George and Lee had about Walker in private, as De Mohrenschildt never provided any details to investigators.

Similarly, Walker was also the subject of several of Oswald's conversations with Michael Paine in both the Spring of 1963 and the Fall of 1963. Although Paine acknowledged that he himself was adverse to Walker, he characterized any discussions which he and

Oswald might have had as few in number and benign in nature.

Clearly these two social groups (with overlapping group membership) held harsh views of General Walker. If we assume for a moment that Oswald was indeed involved in both the Walker assassination attempt and the Kennedy assassination, we at least have an explanation as to how one individual could be motivated with regard to both a right-wing victim and a moderately liberal victim. Kennedy was vulnerable because he was either too soft on communism, or too hard on Castro, depending upon one's perspective. Neither perspective would conflict with a strong anti-fascist position.

Was Oswald unduly influenced by the Paine social clique and the White Russian community with regard to anti-fascism? Did he engage in the shooting to show them he was a man of action, not just a man of words? Interestingly, Schmidt along with De Mohrenschildt and Paine all had an interest in hypnosis. Did they prey upon Oswald so as to suggest to him action which they themselves would never undertake, action they felt was worthwhile and morally sound?

### **Michael and Lee: Peas in a Pod**

During the month of March, in 1963, Michael Paine and Lee Harvey Oswald would each make changes in their residences. On March 3rd, the Oswald family moved from their Elsbeth apartment to the nearby Neeley Street apartment. On March 27th, Michael Paine moved from his Silver Bells apartment to the nearby Villa Fontaine Apartments on Dalworth Avenue in Grand Prairie. Both men had first separated from their wives in September, 1962, although the Oswalds would soon thereafter reconcile. The Paines would not reconcile until the day after Kennedy's murder. In the interim Oswald allegedly ordered his two weapons from two separate mail order houses. Marina would testify that at the end of March, 1963, she took one—maybe two—of the famous and controversial backyard photographs depicting Oswald in black garb holding both his weapons and current issues of the socialist and communist newspapers, *The Militant* and *The Worker*.

The Oswalds may as well have been separated, considering how little time Lee spent at home. Oswald was supposed to be taking a nighttime typing class that spring semester at the local Voc Tech school beginning in January 1963. But he was dropped from this course on April 8th after too many absences. Marina had no idea where he was spending his evenings during these months. In fact, while still at the Elsbeth apartment, she would express her concern as to his whereabouts to her landlady and

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make calls to various friends in the White Russian community in an effort to track him down.

Michael Paine spent his spare time at Unitarian singles dances and madrigal events in the company of Everett Glover and Glover's roommates. Skating was also a favorite pastime in this particular crowd according to Everett Glover, who happened to be a skating partner of the De Mohrenschildts. Michael Paine likewise enjoyed skating according to Ruth. In a most curious entry in one of Oswald's notebooks is listed a pair of skates amongst various household items which were sold off. This list is in English and the amounts listed are in keeping with dollars. Thus it is fair to assume that this list was made while in the United States. Is it possible that Oswald went skating with the Paine crowd when he was supposed to be attending his typing classes?

Michael Paine's extracurricular activities in the Spring of 1963 were not limited to just social fun. As was described in an earlier article in *Probe*, Paine liked to engage students at Southern Methodist University in political debate about communism in general and Cuba in particular. He promoted pro-Castro views. He even bragged of being personally acquainted with a real live communist, an ex-Marine who had recently returned to the States with a Russian wife, an obvious reference to Lee Harvey Oswald. Paine also invited students to attend local communist cell meetings. According to Robert Oswald, who was suspicious of Paine from the moment he met him, Paine was also rumored to be involved in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, just like Lee. Moreover, Paine liked to attend both right-wing and left-wing political meetings. Thus, no matter how Michael Paine endeavored to distance himself from Oswald during the Warren Commission investigation, the fact remains that Michael and Lee were two peas in a pod.

## With Marina Under Her Wing

While Michael Paine was socializing and proselytizing, and while Oswald's night time activities were unknown, Ruth spent her Spring of 1963 taking a keen interest in Marina Oswald. Ruth's cover story, adopted wholesale by the Warren Commission, was that she desired to practice the Russian language from a native Russian. As if reciting a mantra, every single acquaintance, friend and relative of Ruth's parlayed this explanation of the Ruth/Marina relationship to the FBI, an explanation fed to them by Ruth Paine herself.

This same Ruth who had studied Russian

on a regular basis since 1957 apparently did not like the language skills of the many native born White Russians living in the Dallas area to which she had ready access through the De Mohrenschildts, who themselves were native speaking White Russians. Nor must she have cared for the Russian speaking abilities of her own personal tutor in Dallas, Dorothy Gravitis, who had been born in the Soviet republic of Latvia.

Ruth would have several meetings with Marina outside of Oswald's presence during the month of March. According to Ruth, she preferred to be alone with Marina for reasons that are not adequately explored by the Warren Commission. Her justification was that she could better get to know this native Russian without the interfering presence of her husband. Yet there was no prior opportunity for Ruth to have observed any potential for interference so her motives remain suspect.

As for practicing the Russian language, neither Ruth nor Oswald spoke English with Marina, so there was no impediment from Oswald in that regard. Incidentally, Ruth's lack of efforts to teach Marina English during 1963 was just as derelict as Oswald's. The practical effect meant that Ruth, Michael and Lee Oswald could converse with each other without being understood by Marina.

## April 2: Dinner for Four

Following Ruth's several visits to Marina, Ruth then invites both Oswalds to her home for dinner and to meet her husband Michael, allegedly for the first time. When telling the Warren Commission the date of this dinner, Michael without hesitation states April 10th. If this were the case, then Oswald would have an alibi for the Walker crime, unless Michael Paine was an after-dinner accomplice in the shooting. Later in his testimony, the date is clarified to conform to Ruth's testimony.

Ruth's recollection of the April 2nd dinner is supported by her calendar; however, she was never asked if her calendar entry preceded the event or was entered onto her calendar following the event. We do know that Ruth's calendar was not always a contemporaneous accounting of her activities. April 2nd happened to be a Tuesday, the night of another typing class which Oswald would apparently miss.

We also know that Ruth enjoyed dinner parties. She was a member of a dinner group that met monthly that spring, one time at her house. Unfortunately, Counsel Jenner skipped over these entries in her calendar and thus we do not know the other members of this dinner group.

The Oswalds had no transportation to get themselves from their Dallas apartment to the Paine residence in Irving for the arranged April 2nd dinner. It was Michael who would trans-

port the Oswalds to and from their Neeley Street apartment for the dinner date. In the course of picking up the Oswalds at dusk (the one and only time that Michael ever acknowledged being at the Oswald residence), Michael apparently noticed the narrow clapboard siding on the Oswald residence because he would rely on this feature in readily identifying the location of a backyard photo to authorities on the very night of Kennedy's assassination. This was a bogus identifying factor, as at least 50% of the wooden houses in Oak Cliff had the same narrow type of siding (and still do today). Moreover, the clapboard was the least noticeable feature of the backyard photos. Nor was there any indication that Michael ever had occasion to be in the Oswalds' backyard where the fence and the stairs are far more dominant features of the photos than the clapboard siding.

Paine gives conflicting testimony as to whether Walker was discussed during this first encounter with Oswald. Ruth assures us that General Walker was not discussed at dinner. Ruth has stated repeatedly that she did not like politics. As we have seen from previous *Probe* articles, Ruth's interest in politics far exceeds that of any ordinary housewife.

## April 7: Come Live With Me

Five days later on Sunday, April 7th, Ruth composed a letter to Marina asking Marina to live with her. She claims she never delivered this to Marina. Counsel Jenner thought this was a most presumptuous act on Ruth's part, considering that the Paines hardly knew the Oswalds and there was no indication that the Oswalds were desirous of separating. But Ruth claimed that she feared that Marina might be forced back to Russia by her inconsiderate husband, and so she extended this invitation out of kindness and concern. Since she had had no occasion to personally witness any serious inconsiderateness of Marina on Oswald's part, we do not know how Ruth formed this notion in her mind or why any observed rudeness by Oswald would be tantamount to deportation efforts.

Marina is never questioned about this letter, so we only have Ruth's word that it was not delivered. Ruth still had possession of this letter at the time of her testimony before the Warren Commission. This was not unusual inasmuch as she claimed to have an agreement with Marina that Marina would return all letters sent to her by Ruth with such corrections in Russian grammar that Marina saw fit to make. Thus we have no real proof that the letter went undelivered. Unfortunately, this letter was never taken into evidence so its actual contents are not available to researchers.

April 8th was a Monday; this is the day that Oswald would visit the Texas Employ-

ment office to look for work, having recently lost his photography job at Jagers-Stovall. April 8th is also the day that Ruth may have visited Marina, based upon the April 8th entry of Marina's Cyrillic name in Ruth's calendar. Ruth is not certain, but if she had visited Marina, she states she might have taken her April 7th letter with her at that time—even if she didn't actually give it to Marina.

### **April 10 & 11: An Anticipated Arrest**

Ruth's calendar has an entry for April 10th in the name of Marina. Again, the word Marina is in the Russian Cyrillic alphabet coupled with an arrow pointing to April 11th, where Marina's Cyrillic name is entered for a third time. Ruth is asked by Counsel Jenner as to the significance of these entries. Aside from Ruth's flippant and dishonest comment that her Russian abilities must be improving (aluding to her use of the Russian alphabet), Ruth has no recollection whatsoever as to why she wrote Marina's name down for these two dates. She speculates that perhaps she was supposed to visit with Marina during April 10th and 11th.

Ruth's otherwise remarkable capacity to remember dates and details eludes her at this point, a most critical point considering that April 10th was the day of the attempted assassination of Walker.

If Oswald is in fact the author of the Walker note, he clearly anticipated being arrested by local authorities for something very serious when we consider the contents of his written instructions to Marina. If Oswald was indeed the culprit (or the patsy), was Ruth to take Marina under her wing come the 10th or the 11th in the event of Oswald's arrest? Ruth's assertion that on April 7th she feared Marina was to be forced back to Russia showed amazing foresight, considering that Oswald apparently feared that he would be arrested on April 10th or shortly thereafter. Does Ruth share the same capacity for ESP that her husband Michael possesses?

Ruth had previously told the FBI during a November 28th interview that Marina told her on April 11th that Oswald asked Marina to return to Russia. But this is four days after Ruth's April 7th undelivered invitation to Marina. In this interview, Ruth tells of bringing Marina to her home in Irving on April 11th, the day after the Walker shooting. Yet, as we have seen, in her 1964 testimony before the Warren Commission, Ruth would claim she could not recall the nature of her April 10th and April 11th entries in her calendar. Perhaps she feared that someone on the Commission would note the proximity in time to the Walker assassination effort, and thus decided to have a memory lapse.

Marina had begun a regular correspondence with the Soviet Embassy in Washington since February 17, 1963, seeking a visa to return to Russia. We do know that the FBI was intercepting mail delivered to the Soviet Embassy, and thus the FBI would have been aware of Marina's correspondence with the Soviets. Did the FBI communicate this to Ruth Paine and urge her to keep Marina from leaving? Is that the real reason why arrangements were made for Ruth to meet Marina on February 22nd at the Glover party?

Returning to April, we see that the 14th was an Easter Sunday, and this time the Oswalds would be visited by both George and Jeanne De Mohrenschildt. It was during this visit that George "jokingly" asked Oswald how he could miss his target referring, of course, to General Walker. It was also during this visit that Jeanne would claim to see a rifle on the Oswald premises, although her testimony is contradictory on this point and furthermore conflicts with Marina's statement that as of Easter Sunday the rifle was still buried near the site of the Walker shooting. These witnesses have obviously not had enough time to get their stories straight for the public hearings.

### **April 20: Saturday at the Park**

Ruth claims to have no other contact with the Oswalds until Saturday morning, April 20th, when she arrived at their home to take them to the park. The park had a fishing lake. Oswald is quite anti-social this day, according to Ruth, and spends all of his time "way over" fishing, so far away that he was not even visible for most of the time. We only have Ruth's inference that Oswald was present in the park even though he was out of view.

When Oswald does return to the women, he brings with him a single fish. Marina caught only a sunburn that day, which the De Mohrenschildts would comment upon in describing their next visit with the Oswalds shortly afterwards. It is apparent that during April of 1963, the Oswalds' social encounters were sandwiched between the Paines and the De Mohrenschildts who somehow managed to avoid running into each other while tending to the Oswalds.

Was Oswald brooding alone in the park over his failure to kill Walker, or was he meeting with someone in the park outside the presence of the women? Or was he even present in the park at all moments that the women were there?

### **A Saturday Gun Transaction**

Meanwhile, an interesting rifle transaction occurred on a Saturday morning in Irving, Texas, which may very well coincide with

the April 20th day at the park. Robert Taylor was working as a mechanic at the Shell gas station located a few blocks from Ruth's house. Two men drove up in what he recalls was a 1959 Chevy in need of minor repairs estimated to be \$11.50. They were without money for the repairs and offered to barter a .30 caliber Springfield military rifle for \$12.00, an offer which Taylor readily accepted. Taylor was certain that one of the men was Oswald. He did not know who Oswald was until he saw him on November 22nd, at which point he contacted the FBI to relate his information. Taylor could not pinpoint the exact date of this Saturday morning encounter except to say that it occurred sometime in March or April of 1963.

From other witness statements we learn that this incident could not have happened after Wednesday, April 25th when Glenn Smith started work at the gas station as a replacement for employee Curtis Crowder. Crowder had been present at the gun transaction, not Smith. While Crowder was not as emphatic as Taylor in stating that one of the men was Oswald, he told the FBI that the man did resemble Oswald. Smith explains to the FBI that he could not have witnessed the transaction *because it had occurred before he started working there*. Nevertheless, Smith is the "witness" that is called before the Warren Commission to testify. In this way, the Warren Commission avoids hearing any evidence that suggests that Oswald, instead of acting alone, may have acted in concert with others in a variety of activities involving guns.

Neither the FBI nor the Warren Commission apparently noticed the coincidence between the shooting of Walker which they attribute to Oswald and the subsequent gun transaction with Mr. Taylor. (Author Gerald Posner must have noticed, because he changes the day at the park to Sunday, April 21st.) Here we have a steel jacketed bullet from a .30 caliber military rifle which almost killed Walker, together with a black and white Chevy get-away car like the one owned by Charles Klihr of Irving, juxtaposed against a gun deal a few blocks from Ruth's house involving a .30-caliber military rifle bartered away by two men in a 1959 Chevy, one of whom looks just like Oswald. While this may not qualify as irrefutable proof of any nexus, it certainly qualifies as a bonafide lead worthy of pursuit.

### **April 24: Separation Again**

In the meantime, Ruth would visit the Oswalds again on Wednesday April 24, four days after the picnic and four days after the last Saturday that the Irving gun transaction could have possibly occurred. According to her calendar, the names of both Marina and Lee are entered for this date. When she appears at their home, much to her alleged surprise, the Oswalds are all packed

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for moving to New Orleans, expecting Ruth to transport them to the bus station. Their packed possessions do not include any home furnishings; perhaps they had sold off some of their household items, including skates, as suggested earlier. Oswald's handwritten list which itemized the skates also itemizes a gun to be sold. Is it possible that Oswald had access to other weapons besides the Mannlicher-Carcano and his .38 revolver? If so, how did he dispose of these guns?

The bus station scene occupied ten pages of Warren Commission testimony, suggesting that Attorney Jenner was not altogether convinced that it was pure coincidence that Ruth happened upon the Oswalds already packed. Ruth would also claim that she was able to persuade Lee to allow her to take Marina and June back with her to Irving. Thus we have Ruth succeeding at the last minute to get Marina to stay with her, for there is nothing to indicate any prior conversations about such an arrangement. After all, Ruth tells us that she never sent her April 7th invitation to Marina.

Ruth tells the Warren Commission that it was Marina's fragile state as a woman pregnant with her second child that caused her such concern over Marina's intended bus trip to New Orleans. At best, Marina was just three months pregnant, having delivered Rachel on October 20, 1963. Ruth had traveled extensively cross-country by herself well into her second pregnancy, and was even playing tennis well into her fifth and sixth months of pregnancy. Thus, Ruth's concern for Marina seems exaggerated. Ruth's testimony is fraught with contradictions, and this is one of the rare occasions where Jenner does not seem to believe Ruth; otherwise he has been rather solicitous of her during days of examination.

In any event, Oswald traveled to New Orleans by himself while Marina and June returned to Irving with Ruth. As Ruth would point out, had it not been for her separation from Michael, she and her two children would have never been able to accommodate Marina and the Oswald child for Ruth's house was small and had only two bedrooms. It was indeed a fortunate coincidence that Michael was out of the home at a time when Marina needed the assistance of a charitable woman such as Ruth Paine during this transition in the Oswalds' employment situation. And a most friendly separation it was because Michael visited Ruth several times per week. According to Ruth, she and Michael attended movies and dinner engagements more than they ever did before their separation.

The separation of the Oswalds lasted but

a few weeks when Ruth drove Marina to New Orleans in early May 1963. Oswald had found menial work at Reily Coffee Company and Marina's pregnancy continued without incident. Ruth's brief friendship with Marina evidently improved her Russian so much that Ruth was then able to get a job as a Russian teacher at St. Mark's, a private school in Dallas. After the first half of the summer term ended, Ruth began a two month car trip through the midwest and the northeast visiting various friends and relatives.

Eventually Ruth drove to New Orleans in late September on her way home to Dallas and took Marina back to Dallas while Oswald departed for Mexico. The only evidence of communication between the families during Ruth's vacation consists of a series of letters between Marina and Ruth. Nowhere does Marina agree to return to Dallas with Ruth although an invitation is extended.

Ruth tells the Warren Commission that the decision to take Marina back with her was spontaneously made in New Orleans (just as the same decision was spontaneously made at the bus station last April). But her friends and relatives back east tell the FBI a different story, that *Ruth had prearranged plans to pick up Marina on her return trip*. Prior to Ruth's arrival in Dallas, Lee Oswald had also told his relatives that Marina was going back to Dallas to have their baby. It seems that the only person who did not know of these Dallas plans was Marina herself, thus suggesting a closer link between Lee and the Paines than previously realized.

## The Paines Know

Before the Warren Commission, Marina stood steadfast behind her story that her husband was responsible for the Walker shooting. However, she takes her story one step further. She states that Lee told her that *both* of the Paines knew that he had taken a shot at General Walker. She does not state when the Paines learned of Oswald's role as a would-be assassin because she is not asked this obvious follow-up question by the Warren Commission.

If it is true that Lee told the Paines of his involvement in the Walker shooting, then one would have to wonder why in the world would the Paines continue to associate with the Oswalds right up to the night before Kennedy's death? Did the Paines learn of the Walker shooting right after it happened, such as on April 11th when Marina may have gone to Ruth's home? Or did they know about it before it happened? Were the Paines accomplices after the fact in getting Lee Harvey Oswald out of Dallas following the Walker shooting? Is it possible that they were participants in a plan to kill Walker?

In interviews with researchers, General Walker himself has maintained that Attorney

General Robert Kennedy and the Department of Justice interceded on Oswald's behalf to be sure that Oswald was not implicated in the shooting, a position he maintained until his death in 1993. Did Walker learn this from the *Deutsche Nationalzeitung* article or did the paper learn this from Walker? The *National Enquirer* featured a similar story. The Warren Commission was aware of this story and deemed it pure fiction.

The Paines have both denied that Lee told them of his attempt on Walker's life. But let us consider the recent developments concerning those backyard photographs which were either taken or fabricated shortly before the Walker shooting.

## 1990's: Michael Saw the Backyard Photos in April, 1963

Michael Paine, three decades later, is now admitting that he first saw Oswald's backyard revolutionary photos prior to the Kennedy assassination. In a CBS Report titled "Who Killed JFK—The Final Chapter" which aired in November, 1993, Paine told Dan Rather that Oswald proudly showed him a photograph holding his rifle and some papers when he went to pick him up one afternoon, presumably for the April 2nd dinner engagement. If true, this may account for Paine's lunch time discombobulation upon hearing the news of the Kennedy shooting. But if Paine knew Oswald to be a violent prone revolutionary as far back as April, how does Paine explain his subsequent relationship with Oswald? How could he let this person stay at his wife's house with his own children? Knowing that Oswald kept his rifle in a blanket (a blanket is just as obvious a feature in the backyard photos as the narrow clapboard), how could he fail to recognize the metal object wrapped in a blanket in his garage as a rifle which he handled several times? After all, he was the one who unloaded this bulky package when Ruth moved Marina and the Oswalds' meager possessions back to Dallas from New Orleans in September. Why did he withhold this vital information from the FBI and the Warren Commission? The Paines are becoming more suspicious by the minute and the oddities in their behavior and statements do not stop here.

## Hunter of Fascists Inside a Record Album

Recall that in May of 1963, Ruth drove Marina and the Oswald child to New Orleans to be reunited with Oswald who had since found a job and an apartment. Not too long afterwards, Michael Paine returned a record player and some records to Everett Glover which Marina had borrowed from the De Mohrenschildts. This delivery by Michael to the De Mohrenschildts was made via Mr.

The following are excerpts from a letter by Mary Bancroft to Henry Luce of May 1, 1954. Bruce Adamson secured this from the Radcliffe College Schlesinger Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts:

Whenever we disagree, I always think, "Well, never mind—that's just because poor Harry has not had the chance to learn what I know!" Nice, patronizing little attitude—but there we are!...And I think I have "got" the reasons for this latter attitude of mine—this feeling that you don't understand the United States! Want to hear some of those reasons? Well, I don't think you know what for want of a better term I shall call American aristocrats as well as I do—and I don't think you know all Americans with incomes under \$10,000 as well as I do. I'm dead certain you don't understand the lower classes as well as I do. [...]

I have a friend whose maiden name was Ruth Forbes, granddaughter of old J. Malcolm Forbes on one side and with Ralph Waldo Emerson on the other. She is an extremely tiresome or tiring girl because she is so serene and transcendental. Her first husband was a character called Lyman Paine, whose aunt was that Mrs. John Moors who at the age of eighty married that English clergyman of 68 or 58 and then up and died on her honeymoon—a death which Ruth finds "ideal." Lyman Paine was and is a Trotskyite—and lives in California with his very intense Jewish and Trotskyite wife. Ruth's second husband was a well-known psychiatrist whom she really loved and died of cancer. She has two children by Paine—one a crackpot—one a charming fellow. Her third husband—the one with whom I had the delightful conversation—is a character called Arthur Young who says it is inaccurate to say he invented the helicopter—some creation with a special blade—anyhow the one the army uses. This invention made him very rich—Ruth herself is plenty rich since the Forbes all hung on to their original stocks of all kinds and always married rich people. Well, Arthur and she are interested in extrasensory perceptions. They travel all over the world looking into everything being done along these lines—and he backs experiments and people he gets interested in. He says he feels at liberty to do this now without running the risk of getting locked up because people say, "Of course he did invent the helicopter." So he has that great practical protection. [...]

It is possible to talk astrology to anyone with a brain vibration of over 400 which is why we could explain anything we really chose to you and Adlai Stevenson but not to Ike or the Dulles boys. Your brain vibration is over 400 although this of course is one of those things you wouldn't know! Well, the other afternoon I was at the Young's for cocktails and there were so many people under 400 in the room that it seemed a bit difficult for us to have our usual romp so I thought I'd ask him about the bomb and flying saucers. He said the bomb in itself was uninteresting—my idea—the only thing about it that was important was the consciousness of it which is greeting mankind on the threshold of the Aquarian Age—for of course you know that the world is coming out of the Piscean Age and into the Aquarian which is why you are a bit antiquated to cling so to Jesus was a figure of the Piscean age—but never mind that! Since I think the consciousness of the bomb rather than the bomb itself is the important thing—and I do think that the bomb is primarily a moral problem—we didn't go on with that. We agreed. So then I inquired about flying saucers. Arthur grinned. Said he'd just returned from a flying saucer convention in the Arizona desert where he had talked with many believers. [...]

I am dying to try—as I said to you—running a clipping service for you. What is still not quite clear to me is just how to approach it—should I clip everything that interests me or should I clip what I think you ought to "know"?...Allen still subscribes to my clipping service—and once he actually depended on it. He doesn't need little attached notes, clarifying now—once he did. Maybe I'll try this on you. I am under the impression that you are artificially "Fed." I even think people who shouldn't actually do go out of their way to prevent you seeing certain things.

Notes: One of the sons Ruth Forbes had with Lyman Paine was Michael Paine, Oswald's friend. Adamson wrote *Probe*, "not only was Mary Bancroft Warren Commissioner Allen Dulles' lover, I can prove that she was a CIA agent." He also informed us that Bancroft wrote Norman Mailer in the seventies that "I might call a Kennedy 'trash'—but never my friend 'trashy.'" [The letter excerpted above is an exhibit from the revised and edited version of volume VI of *Oswald's Closest Friend: The George de Mohrenschildt Story*.]

Glover who had delivered the record player from the De Mohrenschildts to Marina in the first place. Glover then took the items to the De Mohrenschildts' storage unit since the De Mohrenschildts had left Dallas shortly after the Walker shooting to live in Haiti. In so doing, Glover becomes the courier of photographic evidence that was later "discovered" by De Mohrenschildt and used to incriminate Oswald even further.

Regardless of whether the Paines were ever in the physical presence of the De Mohrenschildts following the February 22nd party, this record player incident certainly means that the two couples were quite aware of one another. On November 25th, Ruth would have occasion to tell the FBI that Everett Glover was now living at the De Mo-

hrenschildts' residence. This further substantiates an awareness on the part of the Paines about the De Mohrenschildts.

The De Mohrenschildts claimed that when they returned to Dallas for a visit in 1966 they discovered another backyard snapshot of Oswald amongst their record albums in their storage unit. This discovery occurred just in the nick of time for the Garrison investigation would become public in 1967 and the authenticity of the first set of backyard photos discovered in the Paine garage was already under attack. This new photo would be used by Warren Commission supporters as proof that the backyard photos were not faked right before or after the Kennedy assassination in order to frame Oswald. After all, one had existed for six months prior to November 1963.

It is the author's opinion that the photos were made in anticipation of the Walker assassination and not the Kennedy assassination. It is also this author's opinion that the photos are indeed composites for the purpose of branding Oswald a left-wing revolutionary. While the final composite portraits may have been shot with an Imperial Reflex camera allegedly owned by Oswald, there are parts of the photographs which bear the hallmark of a 15mm camera lens according to one of the government's own experts. Note that the Minox camera admittedly owned by Michael Paine features a 15mm lens.

The back of this newly discovered photograph was inscribed "to my friend George" and dated "5/IV/63", the Cyrillic version of April 5, 1963. The FBI concluded that the handwriting was Lee's. In a different handwriting which appears to be Marina's is another comment, obviously satirical: "Hunter of Fascists, Ha! Ha! Ha!" This must have been a reference to the Walker shooting inasmuch as Marina told both the FBI and the Warren Commission that Oswald hated the local fascist organization which was led by General Walker. Yet if it were inscribed contemporaneously with Lee's dedication, then it predated the Walker shooting by five days.

Marina denied that the handwriting was hers during her HSCA testimony. She acknowledges the similarity and even concedes that the use of "Ha! Ha! Ha!" is an expression she would use; indeed there are instances of Marina using the expression "Ha! Ha!" in correspondence. However, she points out that she does not write certain letters in the manner appearing on the photo. The HSCA also notes that the fascist comment is written over a fainter handwriting barely visible underneath as if the original handwriting had been erased or copied over. Since both the Paines and the De Mohrenschildts had access to handwriting samples of both Oswalds, the inscriptions could well have been forged by one of them.

Although Ruth Paine insists that she had met the De Mohrenschildts but one time at Glover's February 22nd party, the two couples would get together for dinner in 1966 to discuss the Kennedy assassination in general and the De Mohrenschildts' newly discovered backyard photograph in particular. George De Mohrenschildt stated in his 1976 manuscript on Oswald titled "I am a Patsy!, I am a Patsy!" that he discussed this photograph with only very close friends. Those "very close friends" apparently included the Paines.

### Ruth and the Garrison Inquiry

This 1966 dinner engagement between the Paines and the De Mohrenschildts and their

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## The Paines

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discussion over the new backyard snapshot was mentioned for the first time by Ruth in her 1967 grand jury testimony in Jim Garrison's prosecution of Clay Shaw. The discovery of this new photograph should have reinforced Ruth's views that Oswald was indeed the lone nut assassin who deserved to die at the hands of Jack Ruby.

Be aware that this pious Quaker told author Jessmyn West in the summer of 1964 that she was "glad" that Oswald was dead and "glad" that he was killed by Ruby. Ruth justified her rather shocking and un-Christian comments on the grounds that Oswald's death spared Marina the trauma of a trial. We are reminded of Jack Ruby's phony excuse that he killed Oswald to spare Jackie Kennedy the trauma of a trial. Is the same screenwriter at work here?

Ruth's opinion of Oswald's guilt, however, does not become more entrenched with the DeMorchenschildt photo. Instead Ruth would write a positively gushy letter to Garrison offering to help out with his investigation and his courageous quest for the truth. Needless to say, the offer was ignored by Garrison who had already formed his own opinion that the Paines were suspicious characters.

### Conclusion

The Walker shooting is but another example of the many reasons why the Paines may have had a closer relationship with Lee Harvey Oswald than they will admit and a closer relationship with the De Mohrenschildts as well. It is imperative that they be forced to testify before the Review Board on this matter. Charles Klihr should also be compelled to testify as he may have some important knowledge about both the Walker affair and Oswald. ♦

### Probe Errata: The Embassy Letter

In Carol Hewett's recent article regarding Oswald's letter to the Soviet Embassy (*Probe* Vol. 4 No. 3 p. 16), readers were left with the impression that Ruth Paine wrote her mother about Lee Oswald in October of 1963 after Veteran's Day. But, as Hewett asked us to point out, Veteran's Day occurs in November so obviously this was impossible. The letter in which Ruth wrote favorably of Lee was in fact written in October but no inferences can be drawn from Ruth's failure to mention her changed opinion of Lee because her opinion did not change until the following month.

# A Smoking Hole in the Zapruder Film?

By Milicent Cranor

The most revealing statement ever made by a witness to the Kennedy assassination came from a man who probably did not understand what he saw.

Special Agent George Hickey on the last two shots:

[Kennedy] was slumped forward and to his left, and was straightening up...at the moment he was almost sitting erect I heard two reports... The first shot of the second two seemed as if it missed because the hair on the right side of his head flew forward and there didn't seem to be any impact against his head. The last shot seemed to hit his head and cause a noise at the point of impact... (18H762)

Hickey seems to be describing the effects of two bullets fired at Kennedy's head, but I think neither missed. The "hair on the right side" may be the triangular object that appears on the right side of Kennedy's head on the Nix film, about one-third of a second before the official head shot. In size, shape and location, it resembles the bone flap seen in autopsy photos.

Special Agent Clint Hill, made a statement that is equally revealing, but also very mysterious. Hill said Kennedy was shot in the head while he was "mounted" on the back of the President's limousine. Films show Kennedy's head exploding at a time when Hill is nowhere near the limousine. But then Hill said he had mounted it *twice*, that he fell off the first time, and had to catch up with it again. How fascinating that only the Nix film shows both times Hill climbs onto the limousine.

**Zapruder film:** During the entire period in question, the back of the limousine and the handgrips, are visible, either in the main part of the frame or in the sprocket hole area. At Z-333, Hill's face appears behind the car, but he does not climb it until much, much later.

**Nix film:** The moment is so brief, its discovery is like finding a single erratic heart beat on a graph. After the official headshot, the limousine moves about eight feet when Clint Hill

suddenly rises up on the bumper step. At this time, Kennedy is not obviously shot in the head again, but then Hill gets on and off at unnatural speed, and frames may be missing here. If you blink, you will miss the one moment he rises up, with his left hand outstretched over the handgrip which, for about three frames, he had grasped. Other action, described in detail by the closest witnesses, is also missing. Like a motorcycle officer passing the limousine before it zoomed out of Dealey Plaza. This is gross and should be visible on the Nix film, given its broad perspective.

In each of these films, especially the Zapruder film, there is a hole, and it is still smoking. Below, you can look down in the hole through the eyes of the closest witnesses. In these accounts, you will see puzzling references to first and second shots occurring too late to be associated with the first and second reactions seen on the Zapruder film. (The Nix and Muchmore films begin too late to show the earlier reactions.) This seems to be the rule, not the exception. An exhaustive review of all testimony shows that whenever a reference point (verbal or photographic) can be used to determine with some precision when a witness heard a shot, nearly all missed the earlier shots. Yet they still witnessed three shots—but at a time when only one reaction was left, according to the films. Most of these witnesses were located in the middle of, or further west on Elm Street. (Why didn't all witnesses hear all shots? One explanation appears in an expanded version of this report, "Anatomy of an Illusion," to be published later. Also see attorney Carol Hewett's excellent work, "Silencer, Sniper Rifles, and the CIA," *Probe*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1995).

### On film: Head Shot.

Frame 42 of the Muchmore film (presumed Zapruder equivalent Z-313), taken from behind the limousine: the top of Kennedy's head raises about an inch.

Frame 43: The head is closed again. A lid slammed shut. Clint Hill has just gotten off