

THIS MAY SHOCK AND AMAZE YA

BUT WE AIN'T HEARD THE WHOLE TRUTH YET

FROM WESLEY FRAZIER

The September 1977 HSCA interview of Wesley Frazier raises several new questions regarding his knowledge of incidents pertaining to Lee Harvey Oswald, the President's assassination and subsequent events of November 22, 1963.

The brunt of this study will focus on Frazier's first few hours after the assassination. It turns out that, after 47 years, little is known, and that his activities have been intentionally obfuscated.

We will then digress into related evidence that reveals alarming contradictions with the official story as presented by the Warren Commission, and raises the spectre of Frazier's possible complicity in the assassination.

THE OFFICIAL TIMELINE

Up from Huntsville looking for work, 19-year-old Wesley Frazier had started as an order-filler at the Book Depository in mid-September. He had moved into the home of his 30-year-old sister, Linnie Mae Randle, at 2439 West 5th St. in Irving, down the block from Ruth Paine's home, where Marina Oswald was staying.

Frazier took an extra bedroom and shared the Randle home with Linnie Mae's husband Bill and their three young daughters Diana, Patricia and Caroline Sue. His mother, Essie Mae Williams, up on an extended visit from Huntsville, moved in with her husband David Williams in mid-October. But David soon experienced a reoccurrence of heart failure. As Frazier recounted in his testimony (II, p. 211): "They were there a week before he got sick... he was in the hospital 3 or 4 weeks, somewheres, 4 or 5 weeks" before November 22nd.

Frazier's testimony gives us almost nothing as to his activities or whereabouts after he left the Book Depository. That timeline can be pieced together from the joint police reports of detectives Gus Rose, Richard Stovall and John Adamcik (XXIV, pp. 291-293) and Rose's HSCA interview.

2:15 Frazier returns to the Randle home.

He testified (II, p. 236) he was dismissed from the Depository “between 1 and 2 there sometime, roughly.”

BALL: Then you went on home?

FRAZIER: Right.

3:00 Rose, Stovall & Adamcik park nearby the Paine home in an unmarked car; await arrival of sheriffs Harry Weatherford, J.L. Oxford and Buddy Walthers in a County Car.

3:30-4:45 Search conducted of Paine home.

4:45 While the detectives are loading evidence into the County Car, Linnie Mae Randle drives by and, when asked what she knew, tells them that her brother Wesley had brought Oswald to work that morning; she saw Oswald carrying a long paper package; “SHE WAS SUSPICIOUS. She said her brother was visiting her father at PARKLAND HOSPITAL, and WE COULD REACH HIM THERE.”

5:45 Adamcik brings Ruth & Michael Paine and Marina Oswald into the Forgery Bureau Office at DPD HQ.

6:00 Rose phones Parkland, but no sign of Frazier.

Rose traces him to Irving Professional Clinic, contacts Irving detective J.A. McCabe.

6:30 McCabe arrests Frazier at Clinic, takes him to Irving Police Department.

7:00 Rose & Stovall arrive at Irving Police Dept.; accompany McCabe & Frazier to Clinic, search Frazier’s car.

7:30-8:30 Rose, Stovall, McCabe & Frazier proceed to Randle home; search conducted; confiscate British Enfield .303 rifle and partial box of ammunition. Randle contacts Baptist minister Rev. Campble.

9:00 Frazier, Randle, Campble taken to Homicide & Robbery Office at DPD HQ; Frazier and Randle provide signed affidavits (XXIV, pp. 209, 223)

9:30 While Rose & Stovall are driving Frazier, Randle (and apparently Campble) back to Irving, they receive radio request to return to DPD HQ for a polygraph test.

10:00 Frazier & Randle give FBI statements to SAs Richard Harrison & James Bookhout (WCD 5, pp. 316, 320).

11:20 R.D. Lewis arrives at DPD HQ to give polygraph to Frazier.

DOUBTS ABOUT RANDLE AND THE ENFIELD

When Randle spoke with the detectives about 4:45, she had no apparent reason to have been suspicious of Oswald that morning, even if she had seen him carrying a long brown package. Because she disclosed in her FBI interview that same night that Frazier had told her Oswald “was fixing up his apartment” and he’d come over to Irving that Thursday because Ruth Paine “was going to give him some curtain rods.”

But her suspicion is a mere subtlety in comparison with her outright deception that Frazier could be found at Parkland Hospital. *If* Frazier was actually at the Irving Clinic at 4:45, Randle insured that the detectives would not stop by there on their way back to Dallas, and she had a chance to alert her brother via a phone call. *But if* Frazier was still at the Randle home at 4:45, Randle insured that there was no chance the detectives could search it then, and effectively take Wesley by surprise. And if he was indeed home, it’s certain that sister & brother decided the best course of action was for Wesley to drive the 4.5 miles out to the Clinic- she would then look like she’d simply been mistaken about the location of David Williams.

Gus Rose realized he’d been deceived about 6:00 and it comes as no surprise that Frazier was thereafter arrested as a possible accomplice to Oswald. Randle, by providing false information to a police officer, had also placed herself under a cloud of suspicion. It is worth noting that she worked in the nursing profession.

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Rose & Stovall confiscated the British Enfield .303 and half a box of bullets during their early evening search of the Randle home. The rifle was described on the property clerk's invoice (DPD JFK Archives, Box 1, Folder 7, Item 47) as having a 21 ¾" barrel and a peep sight (this is not a lens, but typically a thumb-sized mount on the trigger end of the barrel; this short tube with a narrow puncture allows the shooter to better focus his eye on the front sight and target). But some basic information was never reported by the Dallas Police.

Was the Enfield ever photographed? When was the last time it was used? If while hunting, who were his companions? Was it ever used out at a shooting range? Who else knew that he owned it?

These questions are not superfluous. Because Garland Slack recounted for the FBI that Oswald had been at the Sports Drome Rifle Range in Grand Prairie on November 17th, and that he'd been brought there by a man named 'Frazier' from Irving, Texas (XXVI, p. 681).

And, once the alleged assassination weapon was carried out of the Depository, WBAP broadcast its first news description "Crime Lieutenant J.C. Day just came out of that building. Reported British .303 rifle with telescopic lens."

Day had just been up on the 6th floor when two deputy sheriffs identified the weapon as a 6.5 Mauser. Where on earth did he get the idea he could call it a British .303? Why did he mis-identify it for the reporter?

THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM INTERVIEW

We now fast-forward to Frazier's 2002 interview with Gary Mack for the Sixth Floor Museum's Oral History project. Frazier's memory was remarkable keen during the first hour. He remembered the name of the catering truck- Industrial Catering Service- that used to come by the Depository at mid-morning. He recalled an incident where Billy Lovelady and some co-workers were laughing about a comment made regarding Lovelady's facial resemblance to Oswald.

But during the second hour, while recounting his activities while leaving the Depository, Frazier had a "memory merge" that must be interpreted as intentional.

(25:00)

MACK: When you got home, who was there? Your sister, was she there with kids, or-?

FRAZIER: Well, I didn't go directly home. Because what I had- what I did was that, uh, I stopped by the hospital where my stepfather... they were treating him, I think, for heart failure... He had gone into

the hospital I think a day or two before Friday. Or he'd been there several days... a hospital located at Irving Boulevard and Pioneer.

(27:45)

[A nurse had come into the room and told Frazier he had a phone call. She said,] 'You'll have to come out to the nurse's station and take the call.' Well, I opened the door and proceeded to the nurse's station. And at that time I was met suddenly by two detectives from the Dallas Police Department. They were detectives Rose and detective Stovall... They told me they were taking me downtown Dallas... And they had already been searching in my car. 'Cause I remember looking in the back seat- the back seat had been pulled out and I asked 'em, I said, 'What have you been doin' in my car?' And they said, 'Well, we've been searchin' your car.'

(32:20)

[Frazier thought that this had all occurred between 1:30 and 2:00]

MACK: Is it possible your memory might have distorted the times of this?

FRAZIER: I could be wrong, but I don't think so, Gary. Because, um- because I had left work. And I heard about the President being pronounced dead [on the car radio]... I remember going out to the hospital there. And I wasn't there very long- 10 or 15 minutes at the most, and they were there. But how they got my name and how they got on to me, I don't know.

(36:36)

MACK: So they took you from the hospital up in Irving all the way to downtown Dallas.

FRAZIER: Downtown Dallas.

Frazier was off by several weeks as to his stepfather's hospital stay. By "mis-remembering" that David Williams had just gone in, Frazier's motive for visiting him looks more natural and compelling. By "mis-remembering" the arrival time of Rose & Stovall at the Clinic, and their search of his car, Frazier managed to avoid any discussion about his time at the Irving Police Department, the search of the Randle home, the confiscation of his Enfield rifle, and what he actually did with himself from 2:00-5:00.

Was it Barbara Streisand, in "The Way We Were", who sang, "What's too painful to remember, we simply choose to forget?"

THE HSCA INTERVIEW

The available 2-hour portion of the 4-hour 1977 interview with the HSCA's Jack Moriarty and Maxwell Day touches only briefly on Frazier's experiences that afternoon and early evening of the 22nd. He admits that he was taken to the Irving Police Department (III-6): "*The confession center. And it was a small sit-down there. And that's what I said all the police was there at that time.*"

When he recounts the search at the Randle's, Frazier makes it sound as if he was home at the time and the police barged in (III- 10). But we know that Frazier returned to the premises accompanied by detectives Rose, Stovall & McCabe.

MORIARTY: *Police arrived. And then what happened?*

FRAZIER: *They walked right up.*

MORIARTY: *They opened up- they opened up and, uh- they walked right in and they looked in. So you're exposed to this- exposed to what the people would do once inside there- in your home.*

FRAZIER: *That's right. They would just come right in and search. They would come right in there... they never did use the proper right or authority.*

One can hardly blame the detectives for not tracking down a judge and procuring a search warrant at 7:30 PM to search a home of a possible accomplice to the assassination; they had just searched the Paines' without one (HSCA Rose, p. 20).

But this incident illustrates Frazier's propensity for portraying himself as "*just a victim of circumstance. It isn't fair*" (IV-4). There is little doubt that he was psychologically intimidated while in Dallas Police custody. Yet the blame for this is not entirely theirs. For there is more to Frazier than his persona of an innocent country boy caught up by happenstance in the crime of the century. There are several critical details about which he has yet to come clean.

Frazier stated he didn't learn Oswald was in custody until he was on his way out of Irving that evening- acting as if he had been oblivious to all the news reports that afternoon (III-6):

MORIARTY: *Now, at this time they had you in, uh, briefly in Irving- did they tell you that they had Oswald?*

FRAZIER: *No, they didn't tell me that.*

MORIARTY: *When was the first time that you found that Oswald was, uh, was a patsy?*

FRAZIER: *Uh, I found that out- I found that out, uh- let's see, either right before I went over to Dallas. Or when I worked over in Dallas. In other words, they didn't tell me right at first.*

(III- 8):

FRAZIER: *And then they all pointed out that he did it.*

MORIARTY: *And that was after you had, uh- that you went to Irving.*

FRAZIER: *Hm-hmmm.*

MORIARTY: *This was after- you knew at that time- you knew that Oswald was being-*

FRAZIER: *Framed.*

MORIARTY: *Did you suspect that they had that in mind?*

FRAZIER: *Uh, no. I didn't, uh- when I came home and all- we're all in- in the same room as I am sitting like this, you know?*

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Researcher Ian Lloyd points out a glaring contradiction between Frazier's HSCA interview (III-8) and his Commission testimony (II, p. 221):

FRAZIER: *No. I didn't know that he'd been caught. But I will tell you this. I knew that he had the rifle.*

MORIARTY: *Hm-hmm.*

FRAZIER: *He did. And I said to myself, I said, 'Oh, my God.' That was the first thing right there on the [Depository] steps.*

BALL: *In driving back and forth with Oswald did you ever hear him- did you ever talk about guns?*

FRAZIER: *No, sir; he never did.*

BALL: *Did he ever tell you he owned a gun?*

FRAZIER: *No, sir.*

Researcher Frank Nelson points out that Frazier is the only known witness to an odd occurrence just before the assassination- the escort motorcycles backfiring as they rounded the Houston/Elm corner. In the Sixth Floor Museum interview (Hour One, 55:27) Frazier relates that *“they were kind of clowning around. Cuttin’ their motorcycles off and on to make ‘em backfire.”*

Frazier’s HSCA interview mentions that he was “very good friends” (III-1, IV-15) with two of these escorts. Apparently he formed these friendships after arriving in the area that September. If these escorts were not acting a bit juvenile at the Houston/Elm corner, then their behavior suggests that they knew what was about to transpire- and were alerting the snipers and/or acclimating the crowd to popping noises.

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Conspiracy theorists are divided as to whether Oswald brought just a little lunch bag to work that morning- as he maintained to Captain Fritz- or whether he brought in a two-foot package of “curtain rods”- which Frazier had consistently maintained from the beginning. The general consensus is that Oswald couldn’t have taken even a broken-down 40” Mannlicher-Carcano to work that morning.

The following excerpt (IV-18) adds a bombshell detail about what Oswald may have carried (this was mixed among several duplicate recordings on the second side of the Archives’ Tape 3; it seemed to fit with the content of Tape 4).

DAY: Two feet.

FRAZIER: Right. Somewhere around two feet, give or take an inch here or there. And I told them that I only- only glanced.

DAY: At the package.

*FRAZIER: I didn’t look at the package. I didn’t look at it. This meant the **briefcase**. Where we’ve been going here. That pretty well describes the **briefcase**. It was only- probably two feet.*

In the next revelation, also on IV-18, we learn that Frazier stood next to Oswald in a DPD lineup- an incident never before reported. “Two feet” also happened to be the distance between them.

FRAZIER: He was standing next to me. He was pretty close to somewhere around two inches- where they could measure this thing.

MORIARTY: *Two feet.*

FRAZIER: *Two feet?*

DAY: *It was two feet.*

FRAZIER: *Right. And- and Mr. Oswald was there and he told me that they made a positive identity down there. And I said- I said, 'Lee.' It was made several times. He insisted. He said, 'You drove the car.' He said he owned Dallas. He believed everything they told him about the package. He said he wasn't interested in other people or anything with people. He believed in no one. He said he actually told myself that.*

SHIELDS' HSCA INTERVIEW

It's all well and good, and seemingly credible, that Frazier parked his '54 Chevy by the Houston St. warehouse that morning, and spent a short while revving his engine to charge up the battery; Oswald then proceed to walk the 400 yards across the railroad yard to the Depository, carrying his package, "*roughly 50 feet in front of me*" (II, p. 228) or "*a good 100 or 150 yards*" (IV-10).

But warehouse worker Edward Shields, interviewed by the HSCA a month after Frazier, recalled an incident that casts complete doubt on this railyard episode. Shields was part of a 3-4 man skeleton crew that remained behind at the Houston St. warehouse (WCD 87, p. 4) when the book company moved into 411 Elm St. Over the winter of '62-63.

Shields was on the 1st floor of the warehouse at the time that Frazier arrived in the parking lot, and he recalled (pp. 14-15):

I think Charles Givens hollered out there and asked Frazier where was his rider and he told him: "I dropped him off at the building." Yeah, that was it... Well, I was down on the floor when they hollered out and said and the answer he gave them, I don't know, I think he said: "I dropped him off at the building." Now, whoever it was hollering asked him, I don't know.

DAY: *This is the morning of the assassination?*

SHIELDS: *Hm-hmm.*

DAY: *Somebody hollered out the window and say: "Where is your rider?" And to your recollection, Frazier says, "I dropped him off at the building."*

SHIELDS: *Yes.*

Shields' recollection puts Oswald's railyard walk with the package in the fiction section. It suggests that Frazier informed Oswald he was going to spend some time charging the battery, and they agreed to drop Oswald off beforehand at the Depository- whether with or without the package, we don't know.

And it opens up the possibility that it was Frazier himself who carried a package across the railyard into the Depository. Nor can the possibility that Frazier's afternoon at the Randle home included wiping down his Enfield rifle- this cannot be unequivocally dismissed.

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Wesley Frazier alone is cause to convene a grand jury investigation into JFK's assassination. A further recorded interview, challenging him in the many weak areas of his story, might be "just what the doctor ordered"- what Dallas DA Craig Watson is looking for to justify a formal legal inquiry.

Work will continue in the meantime deciphering the content of the first 2 hours of his HSCA interview, which should give us a lot more information about his midnight polygraph test.

My opinion is that, were a grand jury begun, Frazier should be granted immunity from prosecution- letting him tell the whole truth without fear of reprisal, no matter what his complicity, if any, in the murder and treason of November 22, 1963. My hunch is that his secrets are jaw-dropping.