

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

G, I

Date November 29, 1963

Mr. CURTIS LA VERNE CRAFARD, also known as Curtis LaVerne Craford, Larry, C.L. and Smoky, was located at the cabin of ROY PARKS in rural Antrim County, Michigan. He was visiting his sister, Mrs. CORABELLE INGERSOLL. This individual volunteered the following information:

He was born at Farwell, Michigan, on March 10, 1941, raised in Michigan and California, until his family moved to Dallas, Oregon, in 1958. The family were fruit harvest people. In September, 1958, he enlisted in the United States Army and served until November, 1959, when he was given a general discharge under honorable conditions. He married WILMA JEAN DEANNEY, June 16, 1962, and she was from Dallas, Texas. He first went to Dallas, Texas, in March, 1963, to attempt a reconciliation with his wife, but finally they separated in June, 1963, as his wife was a lesbian.

During August, 1963, he started to work with a carnival and followed this work, which accounted for his being at the Texas State Fair in Dallas, Texas, on or about October 15, 1963.

He joined a carnival show which was named "How Hollywood Makes Movies." This was run by a BOB CRAVEN, of Hollywood, California, and he performed the duties of a roustabout. He lived in a tent on the fairgrounds and stayed with this show and another show which was a rock and roll outfit until the fair closed on approximately October 30, 1963.

During the time he was employed with the "How Hollywood Makes Movies", he ascertained that JACK RUBY had approximately \$150.00 invested and on or about October 21, 1963, at closing time, he was introduced to RUBY by a "DEEK" MILES, another one of the backers. He saw RUBY two or three times during the Texas State Fair, as RUBY would check on the progress of the show. When the fair closed about the end of October, 1963, RUBY hired him to tear down the stage and take it to the Carousel Club in Dallas, Texas. He worked with a man named HOWARD (Last Name Unknown), a Negro, who had been employed by RUBY for approximately 18 years. After completing this job, RUBY asked him to stay at the club and work for room and board. He had the room in front of RUBY's office. This would be approximately November 1, 1963.

Ex.No.5226 - CRAFARD, C. L Deposition  
Washington, D.C. 4-10-64

On 11/28/63 at Bellaire, Michigan File # Detroit 44-563

by SA THEODORE S. KRAMER / MOS Date dictated 11/29/63

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Burt W. Ruffin

Washington, D.C.  
April 10, 1964  
C.L. Craford  
EX 5226

CRAFARD EXHIBIT No. 5226

His job at the Carousel Club consisted of being a handyman, clean up man, part-time bartender and also answering the telephone. It was his duty to take down names and addresses of people calling the club for RUBY. RUBY ran almost an ad every day in the local paper for waitresses and performers. He also had ~~some~~ financial interest in a Twist Board Company at Fort Worth, Texas. Telephone calls in a number of twenty to forty would be received daily and these calls were placed in a stenographers notebook, which he kept on RUBY's desk. E

The only odd incident concerning telephone calls was that about three or four times a day during the time he was at the club, a call would come in and the man would ask if Mr. RUBY was there. If RUBY was not there, the man refused to leave his name and on every occasion during this period of time, it was the same person who called. He brought this to RUBY's attention on numerous occasions and RUBY told him to forget about it; however, RUBY was not alarmed. F

CRAFARD would stay at the club and eat his meals at the Eat Well Cafe and the drugstore across the street from the club. Money for these meals was taken from the cash register. RUBY also purchased his clothes from the Good Will Store and gave him some spending money.

RUBY had an apartment with an individual named GEORGE (Last Name Unknown), who sold Christmas cards and worked part time on the door at the club. He did not know where RUBY's apartment was located, but had the telephone number, WH. 1-1050.

He would see RUBY every day for about one to two hours and this usually occurred between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM, at the Carousel. Other than that, RUBY would telephonically contact him almost every hour for any calls. He has no knowledge where RUBY spent his time outside of the club. Usually, RUBY would then return to the club at about 10:00 PM each evening and stay until closing time, which was 1:30 AM during week days and 2:00 AM on the weekends.

He stated RUBY trusted him and he would handle anywhere ~~from~~ \$300.00 to \$400.00 daily; however, ANDY ARMSTRONG or ALEXANDER, the Assistant Manager and bartender, would handle the money until Midnight and, thereafter, he would close up. CR 84

CRAFARD EXHIBIT No. 5226—Continued

Most of the time at about 5:00 PM, RUBY would call in from his home and, if needed, he told him he would be available there until he came to the club later. He said most of the affairs of the club were handled by ARMSTRONG, who performed paper work, etc., and this individual was with RUBY for approximately nine years.

Continuing, he said that on a few occasions during the daytime, he would accompany RUBY around the Dallas area. He recalls one day, time unknown, that RUBY went to various companies in regards to the purchase of a safe for the club, as RUBY had the habit of carrying all his money in his pocket. On another occasion, approximately three weeks ago, he went with RUBY when RUBY checked about some sound equipment for the club. This was at an electronics company in about the 2200 or 2300 block of Elm Street. They were there ten or fifteen minutes and did not purchase anything. On this occasion he, CRAFTARD, was wearing a suit and he feels they were there at about 3:00 PM or 4:00 PM. He said that when they entered the place of business, the electronic equipment, speakers, public address systems, etc., were on the right and left-hand sides in between a counter and a stairway that went to a storeroom on the second floor. He related that most of RUBY's time at the club was spent talking business and he had the habit of always telling the employees who they could talk to. RUBY was somewhat outspoken, had a quick temper and when mad would use loud language in his relations with the employees,

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On November 17, 1963, he recalls telling RUBY that he would desire to cease his employment there on the 18th. He said that RUBY then told him he would put him on a salary and persuaded him to stay indefinitely. CRAFTARD said he was not too fond of the work and was not busy enough at the club. He also said RUBY had a .38 caliber revolver which he kept in a money sack locked in the trunk of his car. He said that when transporting money, RUBY kept his money in the trunk with the revolver and always kept the revolver with him when moving money.

C1281

*... him during the November ...*

In regards to RUBY's temper, he said that one night, approximately November 14 or 15, 1963, RUBY was having trouble with an M.C., EARL NORMAN at the Carousel and about 1:30 AM he, RUBY, sent CRAFTARD out to the car to get the gun. That was the only time he ever handled RUBY's gun and on that occasion did not take it out of the sack. He said that the gun was believed to be the property of HOWARD, the Negro employee.

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CR 84

On November 20, 1963, he recalls RUBY coming in at approximately 4:00 or 5:00 in the afternoon and requesting CRAFARD to go work at the Club Vegas. RUBY stayed at the Carousel until approximately 6:30 PM. ANDY, the bartender, was there, along with GEORGE, RUBY's roommate. At the latter time, RUBY returned to his home and came back to the club at about 8:00 PM, when he transported CRAFARD to the Club Vegas. That evening, he called three or four times in regards to the crowd and Mrs. EVA GRANT, RUBY's sister, also called in regards to the crowd. At closing time, which was 2:00 AM, RUBY called and said he would be late as the "law was at the place" and LITTLE LIXX, one of the strippers, was sick and he had to take care of her. He waited there until approximately 3:45 AM, at which time RUBY met him and they had breakfast at the Lucas B and B Restaurant, next door to the club. On this date, RUBY was accompanied by a girl named GLORIA, who did not work at the club and who was about 22, white female, 5'6", 125 pounds, blond hair. This girl would be known to MARGIE (Last Name Unknown), waitress at the Carousel. He said that RUBY returned him to the Carousel at approximately 4:30 AM, on November 21, 1963.

On November 21, 1963, he called the club to wake him up at about 11:00 AM, and then came in later in the afternoon, sometime between 12:00 and 3:00. ANDY was at the club at this time and he recalled there was a woman, along with her husband, who desired a job. Thereafter, RUBY left and later in the afternoon called him again to go to the Vegas as the bartender. At about 7:30 PM, RUBY picked him up and took him to the Vegas Club, and he did not see RUBY again until approximately 2:30 AM, after closing, at which time they again had breakfast at the Lucas B and B, returning to the Carousel at about 3:30 or 4:00 AM.

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in re  
summary of  
Ruby's work  
at Houston*

On November 22, 1963, he said he was awakened by ANDY, the bartender, at 11:30 AM, by way of telephone. He then dropped back to sleep and shortly after noon, ANDY came to the Club, personally woke him up and stated that the President had been shot. He had not heard from RUBY previously that date and at about 1:30 PM, RUBY came into the club and said the club would be closed that night and the entire weekend. He told ANDY to notify the personnel and, thereafter, called the paper and placed an ad to that effect. CRAFARD said that he was much surprised by this action as the club could not financially stand to be closed and it was strictly his opinion that RUBY did this as a gesture to make good will on behalf of the public. After

*Compare  
Andy's statement  
Compare / Contradict  
reword.*

that RUBY said that he was going to his sister's home and asked CRAFTARD if he desired to accompany him, which offer was refused.

RUBY left the Carousel at about 3:30 PM, being described by CRAFTARD as "pretty well shaken up." They knew at that time there was an arrest of a suspect, but he cannot recall the name of any person being mentioned; however, the name of TIBBITS, the policeman, was mentioned and RUBY said he was acquainted with him. Upon leaving, RUBY was what CRAFTARD termed being emotionally disturbed. He told CRAFTARD to call Mrs. GRANT's home before he went to dinner and upon his return. This was not an ordinary request and CRAFTARD had no knowledge of RUBY's reason.

RUBY then came back to the club or called CRAFTARD about 7:30 PM that evening. He did not discuss the assassination, he did not mention being at the police department or anything else. He just wanted to check in regards to telephone calls. He did not see RUBY again until the next day.

On Saturday morning, November 23, 1963, at about 5:30 AM, RUBY called him and told him to meet him downstairs with the Polaroid camera and some film. RUBY was very excited and, in a matter of minutes, a telephone call was received from the fellow at the All Wright Parking Lot, telling him that JACK was there and to hurry up. When he got to the car, GEORGE, RUBY's roommate, was also there and they drove out on the Stemmons Freeway, where RUBY showed him a sign "Impeach EARL WARREN." On the end of this sign it said for further information write Post Office Box 1744 or a similar number.

RUBY instructed him to take three pictures of the sign and they then drove to a waffle shop near the Carousel for coffee. RUBY and GEORGE were talking about the sign and the Post Office Box and they had very little conversation concerning the assassination. RUBY then dropped CRAFTARD off at the club at 6:20 AM and said that he and GEORGE were going down to the Post Office to look at that Post Office Box. CRAFTARD said that he was completely puzzled, as EARL WARREN was unknown to him. This was the last time he saw JACK RUBY. He also recalled that while being at the waffle shop on Commerce Street, RUBY was reading about LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the newspaper. He, at this time, did not express any previous knowledge or acquaintance with this individual and he (CRAFTARD) had never, to the best of his knowledge, heard RUBY or anyone else at the club previously

mentioned this name. He said that it seemed odd to him that RUBY was more excited about the EARL WARREN sign than about the assassination. RUBY, at this time, made no threats or other comments concerning OSWALD.

After being dropped off at the club, CRAFARD called RUBY at approximately 8:00 AM, at RUBY's apartment and told RUBY that they needed food for the three dachshunds that were kept at the club. CRAFARD said that RUBY berated him for waking him up and he then decided to pack up and leave the club as he did not want to take any other verbal abuse. He did not say anything to anyone about leaving and just packed his clothing, left the club, at about 12:00 Noon that date and started hitchhiking north. He proceeded north on 77 to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and on to Clare, Michigan, where he arrived on Monday, November 25, 1963, at about 9:30 PM, at the home of a cousin, CLIFFORD ROBERTS. His main reason for coming north was to recontact his sister, who had not written him for some time. He had no other explanation for his hasty departure, but said that it is just the way he does things.

Returning to RUBY, he said that he can never recall this individual making any statements concerning revenge on OSWALD. He, CRAFARD, saw RUBY's picture in the newspaper the day after his arrest and said that he never saw OSWALD in the Carousel or Vegas Clubs and he definitely knows that he never took this name down from a telephone call. He said that he first found out that OSWALD had been killed on November 24, 1963, at about 8:00 PM, and did not know RUBY was responsible for it until Monday, November 25, 1963.

In regard to RUBY's contacts, CRAFARD said that most of them were recorded in the stenographer's notebook on the desk and that the only other ones would be MICKEY RYAN, who was a bartender in a gun club located in Dallas. He termed RYAN as a very close friend. He cannot recall RUBY ever saying he had any contacts with the underworld, and the only illegal activity that he could recall RUBY speaking about was that each night at the Carousel, as a promotional stunt, they would have drawings and give away champagne to the ladies and Wilkinson swart edge razor blades to the men. RUBY stressed the fact that these razor blades were a blackmarket product and he had no knowledge from where they were obtained.

CRAFARD EXHIBIT No. 5226—Continued

Concerning RUBY's relations with the police, CRAFARD said that on the average, two men in uniform would visit the club nightly at about 11:30 PM and receive free coffee. CRAFARD said that he had no knowledge himself of any Dallas policemen, but RUBY claimed to know the majority of men on the force. He said he was advised that off-duty policemen could come into the club without paying the \$2.00 cover charge and that the ordinary price for beer and set ups was 60 cents and the policemen were to be charged 40 cents. He knows of no police contacts on RUBY's behalf, but said RUBY did keep a police card in the cash register at the Carousel with a name, unknown to him, on it.

Another close friend of RUBY's was a BILL WILLIS, who is the drum player at the Carousel.

He said at no time did RUBY ever demonstrate any homosexual tendencies and that he specifically recalls on one occasion an individual, who was a female impersonator, made a request for employment at the club and RUBY became infuriated and stated that type of act was repulsive. C 7a

In closing, CRAFARD said that he intends to stay in the Bellaire, Michigan, area until Friday, December 6, 1963, and his address will always be known to Miss GALE EATON of Harrison, Michigan, and he will advise the Traverse City Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by card of any moves.

Several colored photographs were taken of CRAFARD and the following physical description was obtained from interview and observation:

Name	CURTIS LA VERNE CRAFARD
Aliases	Curtis LaVerne Craford, Larry, C.L., Smoky
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	22
Born	March 10, 1941, Farwell, Michigan
Height	5'8"
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown

CRAFARD EXHIBIT No. 5226—Continued

Complexion	Medium
Scars	1" scar calf of right leg; <u>½" scar center of upper lip.</u>
Tattoos	None
Education	11½ grades
Occupation	Laborer and carnival worker
Social Security Number	511-56-9651
Parents	HUGH and ALICE CRAFORD, 1219 Birch Street, Dallas, Oregon
Sister	CORABELLE INGERSOLL, Bellaire, Michigan
Sister	NORMA NEAL, age 18, Dallas, Oregon
Sister	ALICE CRAFORD, Dallas, Oregon
Brother	EDWARD CRAFORD, U.S. Army, Los Angeles, California.
Military Service	U.S. Army RA 1962841, September 18, 1958, to November 10, 1959; general discharge under honorable conditions, not eligible for re-enlistment; discharged per AR-635-200-STN 264
Arrests	Police Department, Findlay, Ohio, 1961, taking a minor across a State Line, no prosecution; Police Department, Dallas, Oregon, January, 1963, drunk and disorderly, fined \$25.00 and three days.
Marital Status	Separated
Wife	WILMA JEAN TEANNEY CRAFORD,
Scn	ROBERT GERALD CRAFORD, born March 1, 1963, Dallas, Texas

CRAFARD explained that his surname is CRAFARD rather than CRAFORD as is the rest of the family, because when he entered the Army, his name was misspelled CRAFARD and he has considered this his name ever since.

CRAFARD EXHIBIT No. 5226—Continued