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Date 12/17/63

Mr. FLOYD LESTER WHELLER, 2938 Bardell, Dallas, who is better known as "COTTON WHELLER", was interviewed at which time he advised that he is self-employed and as a general rule works as a concessionaire for the local carnivals. In connection with this business, WHELLER travels extensively and has met several people in the line of carnival business.

Mr. WHELLER advised that sometime in November, 1963, approximately one week prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY, he was in Jack's Bar located on Exposition Street and while there he met an individual by the name of VERN DAVIS, who is from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was introduced to DAVIS by JACK HARPER, who owns and manages Jack's Bar. During the conversation, Mr. DAVIS stated that he was interested in joining the Lone Star Showman's Club, a club of carnival people in Dallas and mentioned something to the effect that his intentions were to finance an elephant and to create a small act so as he could travel among the various carnivals. In connection with this, Mr. WHELLER advised that DAVIS requested someone to represent him so as he could obtain a membership to the Lone Star Showman's Club. Mr. WHELLER went on to say that he signed the application for VERN DAVIS so as he could have the opportunity to become a member of this club. Mr. WHELLER was unable to furnish any pertinent information concerning VERN DAVIS other than the fact that he had signed his application and had talked briefly with him that afternoon. He could recall nothing unusual concerning their conversation that particular day at Jack's Bar and could not recall all of the individuals present during their conversation.

Mr. WHELLER advised that shortly after JACK RUBY shot LEE HARVEY OSWALD, he received a long-distance telephone call from two different individuals who identified themselves as being newspaper reporters from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. On both occasions, these reporters asked if he, WHELLER, had any information pertaining to the presence of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY at a bar called Jack's Bar in Dallas, Texas. Mr. WHELLER told both of the reporters that he could not imagine where they got this erroneous information and stated that he has never

on 12/16/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agent LANSING P. LOGAN - gj Date dictated 12/17/63

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been acquainted with LEE HARVEY OSWALD other than what he had read in the local newspapers. To the best of his knowledge, he has never seen LEE HARVEY OSWALD and could only recall seeing JACK RUBY several years ago. In regard to these telephone calls, Mr. WHELLER stated that he later learned that VERN DAVIS, whom he had signed the application for, for the Showman's Club, had mentioned that LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY were present at Jack's Bar during their conversation in November, 1963. WHELLER was under the impression that VERN DAVIS was possibly imagining things and stated that the information furnished by VERN DAVIS was quite erroneous. After viewing photographs, Mr. WHELLER stated that he had never seen this individual at any time other than in the newspapers and was positive that OSWALD was never in Jack's Bar when he was talking to VERN DAVIS in November, 1963.

Mr. WHELLER further advised that he first met JACK RUBY when he was driving a taxicab in Dallas approximately nine years ago and could recall taking various customers to the Silver Spur which he believed was owned and operated by JACK RUBY at that time. His association with JACK RUBY was strictly a casual acquaintance and stated that he never became a close associate of RUBY. He could recall seeing JACK RUBY on the streets of Dallas on several occasions and could recall one specific time several years ago when he had seen RUBY at the Adolphus Hotel and believed that RUBY was handing out pass cards for his club believed to be the Silver Spur at that time. WHELLER explained that it has been almost eight or nine years since he last talked with RUBY and could offer no information as to his present activities, associates or friends. He explained that he had no pertinent information whatsoever concerning JACK RUBY and knew of no connection between LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY. He had heard nothing that would indicate RUBY had possibly conspired with any particular individual to shoot LEE HARVEY OSWALD and could offer no information as to why RUBY had actually shot OSWALD.

A photograph of JACK RUBY was shown to Mr. WHELLER at which time he advised that this was the same individual he was acquainted with several years ago and knew him only as JACK RUBY. He related that he had never seen RUBY in any of the bars during the past several years and definitely did not see him when had conversed with VERN DAVIS at Jack's Bar in November, 1963.

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The following individuals were contacted on December 12, 1963, by SAs LANSING P. LOGAN and ALTON E. BRAMBLETT at Jack's Bar, sometimes referred to as Ed's Bar located at 813 Exposition Street, Dallas, in efforts to determine if LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY had visited this bar at any time. It was noted that VERN A. DAVIS, who was interviewed by Bureau agents at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, had furnished information to the effect that he had visited this particular bar in Dallas on one occasion during the month of November, 1963, and had indicated that he observed both LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY at this bar. During the interview of DAVIS, it was noted that he was not positive of the presence of LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

NORMAN BETTS, 815 Exposition Street, Dallas;

ETHEL RYKES, 840 Portmona, Dallas (bartender);

REBEL BEAVER, 815 Exposition Street, Dallas.

All of the above individuals were contacted and advised that they had never heard of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY other than from the local newspapers and television. Photographs of OSWALD and RUBY were exhibited to each of the foregoing individuals at which time they all advised that they had never seen either of these individuals at this bar. All of the above individuals are frequent patrons of Jack's Bar, also called Ed's Bar and have been in the area for several years. In addition, they all advised that if OSWALD or RUBY had been in the club at any time, they would definitely know their names and would be able to identify them.

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JAMES KLEIN, Anaheim, California, advised that his mother, EDNA MARIE TABOR, on November 24, 1963, while visiting his brother, JOHN F. KLEIN, Casandra Way, Dallas, Texas, telephonically told him that a man named JAKE (LNU) told her that he had seen JACK RUBY and LEE HARVEY OSWALD together. JAKE owns a club or bar in Dallas. JAMES KLEIN said his mother had a heart ailment and preferred she not be contacted for that reason.

The following investigation was conducted by SAs EDMOND C. HARDIN and ROBERT J. WILKISON at Dallas, Texas:

Mrs. JOE E. PIERCE, 10705 Casandra Way, Dallas, Texas, on December 6, 1963, identified JAKE as JAKE MIRANDA, owner and operator, Miranda's Steak House and Bar, Dallas.

Mr. JAKE MIRANDA, owner and operator Miranda's Steak House & Bar, 3616 Parry, on December 7, 1963, advised as follows:

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He did not personally know JACK RUBY or LEE HARVEY OSWALD and never saw them together. He did not recall ever telling anyone he saw OSWALD and RUBY together.

However, shortly after RUBY shot OSWALD, exact date not recalled, he received a telephone call from someone at an unknown newspaper in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This person said information had been received to the effect that VERN DAVIS, Oklahoma City, had allegedly seen OSWALD and RUBY together at Dallas. According to the person calling, DAVIS had reportedly thought he had seen RUBY and OSWALD together at the Parkside Bar, which is located around the corner from MIRANDA's establishment, when he had recently been in Dallas and thought that RUBY and OSWALD might have gone to MIRANDA's establishment. MIRANDA told the person calling he did not recall anyone resembling RUBY or OSWALD ever being in his establishment.

Mr. MIRANDA recalled that a week or so prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY a man who introduced himself as VERN DAVIS, from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, appeared at his establishment to eat. DAVIS was a professional ticket salesman. DAVIS told MIRANDA that his name (DAVIS') was being submitted as a prospective member of the Lone Star Showman's Club, which was then meeting in Dallas.

Mr. MIRANDA said he had no other additional information concerning the matter.

Mr. JACK HARPER, Owner of Jack's Bar, 831 Exposition, since November 26, 1963, and Mr. ED E. FORD, 6551 Anita, former owner of the bar, formerly known as Ed's Bar, on December 7, 1963, advised as follows:

They did not recognize photographs of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY as photographs of anyone whom they had seen in the establishment, which was formerly named Parkside Bar. They said a few nights ago some men who they believed were newspaper reporters and police officers

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were at the bar showing pictures in an effort to determine if they had seen OSWALD and RUBY together at the bar.

Mrs. JACK HARPER, wife of the owner, and Mr. JOHN KOZLAUSKY, Bartender, Jack's Bar, on December 7, 1963, advised they did not recognize the photographs of RUBY and OSWALD as photographs of anyone whom they had seen in the bar.

It is noted that VERN A. DAVIS, income tax accountant and salesman, last employed at Midwest Publishing Company, Midwest City, Oklahoma, was interviewed at 8120 Southeast 6th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on November 25, 1963, concerning the above.

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