In an earlier article, it was shown that the chances of Judyth Vary Baker and Lee Harvey Oswald both obtaining employment at the same firm on the same day in New Orleans were just over one in a million. [1] We did not make a lengthy interpretation at that time, but were showing that their employment was something other than chance. It is our contention that their employment was prearranged by “a group of planners” who were in control of the course of events. The present article attempts an interpretation of that outcome; we have invited Judyth Vary Baker to comment on aspects of the article. First, the backgrounds of both Judyth and Lee are reviewed in terms of their likely usefulness to the project, said to be the elimination of Fidel Castro through the use of deadly human cancers.

Judyth’s Background

Judyth had been an exceptional science student at Manatee High School in Bradenton, Florida, where she graduated in 1961. [2] While in high school, she won a National Science Fair-International award in Indianapolis for a project that modified a method to extract magnesium from seawater more efficiently. She also won honors in the national Westinghouse Science Talent Search and Florida Academy of Science contests with a project involving inducing lung cancer with cigarette smoke product in white mice. Her work with anti-radioactive steroids and x-irradiation to impede metastasis of soft tissue carcinomas in mice was guided in part by scientists at the Walter Reed Institute. During high school, she had a laboratory set up for her by Col. Philip Doyle to conduct cancer research under the guidance of local doctors and the American Cancer Society. Her work was personally inspected by Dr. Harold Diehl, Vice President of Research for the American Cancer Society. Dr. Canute Michaelson, a geneticist and radiobiologist, and said to be a CIA asset, helped obtain financial support for Judyth and other promising science students; because of Sputnik, there was a particularly strong interest in developing promising science students. [3] {Note from Judyth: Dr. Michaelson was a former espionage agent who worked in the anti-Hitler underground in Europe. Though his visit was for only a few days, his impact on me, as a hero in clandestine activities against Hitler, and as a scientist devoted to biochemistry, was profound.}

Judyth spent the summer after high school graduation working at the Roswell Park Institute in Buffalo, New York, with a National Science Foundation grant. Dr. George Moore was the Institute’s Director, and Judyth was assigned to his personal laboratory, where she did research in mass cancer cell techniques (then a new field) and in melanogenesis. She also helped test variations of the (now-famous) RPMI formula for the
growth of human cancer cells. When she entered St. Francis College that Fall, she continued working on cancer research. She and/or the college received grants under the National Institutes of Health, The American Cancer Society, Eli Lilly, and The National Cancer Institute, to do work with malignant melanoma. [4] She presented a research paper on melanogenesis to The Indiana Biological Association at that time. [5] By the spring of 1962, she was working with human cancer cells, blood cells, and radiation under a special licensure arrangement arranged by the University of Florida. [6] That she had come to the attention of Alton Ochsner, M.D. and Director of a renowned cancer clinic in New Orleans, is no stretch. {Note from Judyth: Dr. Ochsner learned of my work at the high school level two years earlier as the friend of both Dr. Moore of Roswell Park Institute, and of Dr. Harold Diehl. All three doctors testified as anti-smoking crusaders for The American Cancer Society, and Judyth’s first important cancer project had involved mice and lung cancer from cigarette products.}

Lee’s Background

On the other hand, Lee Harvey Oswald’s background is in stark contrast to Judyth’s. He was a high school dropout, entering the Marines at 17. He earned his GED while in the Marines, but had a checkered career in the service. He applied for an early discharge from the Marines to “help his mother”, but instead defected to the Soviet Union. While there, he met and married Marina Prusakova and repatriated to the United States with his wife and child in 1962 after nearly three years of residence in the Soviet Union. He at some point learned the Russian language to a remarkable degree. After returning to the United States, he held several low paying jobs. That, in the main, is what was “officially” known about him during his lifetime. Arguably, there is nothing in this “official” background that could be remotely useful to Dr. Ochsner. But after his death, we learned that he was a likely FBI informant [7] and had CIA connections as well. [8]

The latter may have been the more likely reason for interest by Ochsner; indeed, the CIA may have sent Oswald to Ochsner, but for reasons far different than Ochsner may have thought (see the section on the interview of Ed Haslam). Presumably, from Ochsner’s point of view, they were going to need a courier to take a container of the cancer cells to a drop off point in Mexico. Oswald’s likely undercover work might have been seen as useful for this task.

Judyth’s Choice

Judyth was invited to New Orleans for the summer of 1963. At her initial meeting with Dr. Alton Ochsner, Judyth was promised early admission to the Tulane Medical School, and she was told she could have an internship with Dr. Mary Sherman, or she could be involved with another project where she would work with Dr. Sherman, Dr. Ochsner, David Ferrie, and Lee Harvey Oswald, whom she had spent some time with prior to the meeting with Dr. Ochsner. However, Ochsner was extolling the virtues of the latter
assignment. “He’s telling me it’s up to me to choose. I can have a plain internship with Mary Sherman, or I can work with Mary Sherman, and with David Ferrie and a go between [with] them, and I can facilitate that, and I can see Lee all the time and help him; and that’s what intrigued me, and I can see him a lot...There were elements that wanted to kill our president. It can be blamed on Fidel Castro if he is still alive. If this happened we can very well enter World War III and we could have nuclear warfare...The idea is that we have to get rid of Castro so that people will get off Kennedy’s case. It was worded to me as, ‘Lady, actually you can be helping to prevent World War III!’... Ochsner was recruiting me into an assassination plot to kill Castro.” [9] The project that Ochsner wanted Judyth to work on was Project Freedom. {Note from Judyth: When I came to New Orleans two weeks early, both Ochsner and Sherman were out of town, and I found myself temporarily stranded. My fiancé had offered to come to New Orleans to marry me if he could convince his parents to allow him to work away from their real estate office. Therefore, the impending marriage was kept a secret. At this time, I was met by Lee Harvey Oswald. He knew about Dr. Sherman because Lee had just met with “Dr” David Ferrie the night before. Ferrie claimed to be Dr. Sherman’s assistant in a very special, but clandestine, cancer research project. Ferrie was expecting a young assistant to help him because he had a very busy schedule set up for the summer. He erroneously believed I was the person who was to be involved. By the time he discovered his error, I had learned more than I should have about the clandestine project. It makes you think hard about what a young patriot might be able to do to help make a difference. And Lee was there, telling me about all he’d done as a low-level spy in Russia. He was going to be involved against Castro, too. I thought about Dr. Canute Michaelson and his underground activities. And I was hooked.}

The Likely Planners

The persons most likely to be involved with planning Judyth’s and Lee’s employment at Reily’s Coffee would probably include Alton Ochsner, M.D., William Reily, William Monaghan, and to a lesser extent, Guy Banister. Ochsner was the focal person, and the person responsible for inviting Judyth to work on the secret project in New Orleans. Ochsner, Reily and Monaghan were members of the Information Council of the Americas, an anti-communist group with particular dislike for Fidel Castro. Reily was also the owner of Reily’s Coffee. Monaghan was a temporary Vice-President of Reily’s Coffee, ex-FBI, and a former officer with Standard Fruit with expertise in industrial security. [10] Banister would likely have been a liaison to the planners, and would probably have reported on his conversations with Oswald. [11]

Project Freedom: Ochsner’s Anti-Castro Project

Project Freedom was a project presumably run out of Robert Kennedy’s office. More
likely, those who ran the project would imply that the authorization was through the Attorney General’s Office. This project was one of several approaches for removing Fidel Castro from power. [12] The plan was to produce a cancer virus that would make it appear that Castro died of natural causes. Judyth was both an accomplished person in cultivating fast acting cancers, and avowedly anti-Castro, making her an ideal candidate for her task. What Judyth hadn’t fully comprehended was that if she was successful, were this secret ever revealed, she would likely be banished from science. On the other hand, Ochsner would have much more to lose, and thus needed the protection of plausible denial.

Along with Judyth, the anti-Castro group also included Mary Sherman, M.D., the noted cancer specialist, and David Ferrie, whose doctoral coursework in psychology and science was completed by correspondence with an un-accredited university in Italy. [13] Judyth and Lee would work at small medical laboratories in the homes of Dr. Sherman and Ferrie. The lab animals were kept in a separate house nearby, where preliminary work – including the development of tumors -- was carried out by unknown others. (See Haslam’s book Mary, Ferrie, and the Monkey Virus.) { Note from Judyth: Lee brought us materials from Eli Lilly, located only a block from Reily’s and easy for him to access. He also transported materials to a medical office on Prytania Street located near his apartment, as well as to and from the U.S. Public Health Service’s laboratories, also located close to his apartment and mine. Because he was merely a lowly worker, nobody suspected that Lee was a trusted courier of biological materials and chemicals for the project. And because he was intelligent, Lee eventually became the perfect choice to transport the bio-weapon to Mexico City, which required special training to keep the cancer cells alive.}

Clay Shaw also was to be involved in an aspect of the project, as were undoubtedly others. [14] Judyth’s work proceeded, taking longer than first expected. Her job was to culture “the strongest possible strains of lung cancer for eventual transport to medical contacts in Cuba who could arrange for their injection into Castro through a ‘routine inoculation.’ ” [15] The cancerous material was ready in late August. Someone, perhaps Ochsner, decided to try the material out on a person or persons similar to Castro (similar in a biological sense). The trips to Clinton, LA and to Jackson, LA appear to be to test the cancerous material on a live subject. [16] A former prisoner at the Angola Prison, William Livesay, reported that he was sent as a volunteer by bus with other prisoners to East Louisiana State Hospital for experiments—within months of the experiment ordered by Ochsner. [17]

Judyth objected to using one or more prisoners for cancer research experiments without their being aware of the deadly potential of the experiment for which they had volunteered (if in fact they had volunteered). Judyth wrote a note, thereby creating a
potential paper trail that could lead directly to Ochsner. It is for this that Ochsner became angry with Judyth, and ended her chances for entry into Tulane Medical School. [18] It is known that at least one patient-volunteer was inoculated. Several days later, Judyth, with Shaw’s approval, inspected the blood work. Radical changes began quickly. The man, a Cuban, died within weeks.

It struck us that the Ochsner group most likely already had cancer cells that could be injected into a subject prior to Judyth’s arrival. Under such a situation, they would see if, in fact, Judyth could improve the toxicity of their product. More importantly, a “patsy” could be invoked to take the heat off Ochsner. A paper trail would be fatal to such a plan. Of course Ochsner would become enraged. It would interfere with his plausible denial if the activities of the group ever became public.

The Ed Haslam Interview

Ed Haslam is not among the best known authors regarding aspects of the JFK assassination (though he should be). He is the author of Mary, Ferrie & the Monkey Virus. [19] This book is perhaps the most interestingly written work that addresses issues in New Orleans related to the assassination. Haslam was the son of a physician (also Ed Haslam) who was a well-known professor at the University of Tulane Medical School. Happenstance seemed to follow Haslam. In 1972, he enrolled in Tulane University. He was interested in taking a course in anthropology, and went to their table at registration. There, he met a young woman (fn. Barbara) whom he dated for a period of time. He visited her apartment, for which she paid a very low rent. The apartment, at 3225 Louisiana Avenue Parkway, had been unoccupied for several years: the owners were trying to eradicate the smell apparently derived from housing a laboratory of mice and other animals. It turns out that her apartment was the primary site of David Ferrie’s underground research laboratory. In March 1980, Haslam began working for Fitzgerald Advertising in New Orleans. In 1982, he was sent by the advertising agency “to check out” whether the agency should get involved with a particular business. While at the business, he was shown Guy Banister’s files (yes, in 1982!). The book has many other interesting tidbits.

In an interview [20], Haslam begins by mentioning the medical project run by Dr. Alton Ochsner, which Haslam refers to as the Medical Manhattan Project. It involved research on monkeys, ostensibly in relation to finding the cancer-causing virus, SV40, on the early polio vaccines (a contaminated polio vaccine had previously killed Ochsner’s first grandson, probably accounting for his interest in the SV40 contamination problem). Dr. Mary Sherman was somehow exposed to a nuclear accelerator’s rays (used in working with the virus), burning off much of one side of her body and her right arm. She was then murdered (perhaps a mercy killing) and her body taken to her apartment. A fire was
started to cover up the evidence.

A connection between Lee Harvey Oswald is made to Dr. Ochsner. Ochsner was present at the debate between Oswald and the anti-Castroite, Carlos Bringuier. A phonograph recording of the debate was produced by Ochsner’s INCA. On the jacket of the record, Ochsner is said to be the only person present at the debate who knew Oswald defected to the Soviet Union. The CIA originally sent Oswald to New Orleans to identify the training camp set up to assassinate Castro. He was also to infiltrate Ochsner’s medical research to the extent he could, and inform the CIA of the goings on.

In the Fall of 1972, Haslam first heard the name Judyth Vary Baker. Haslam was invited with his girlfriend (Barbara) to a party because he had got into an argument regarding David Ferrie’s cancer laboratory. Haslam was asked by his girlfriend to refrain from talking about Lee Harvey Oswald or David Ferrie or related issues. Haslam was introduced to the host, who said her name was Judyth Vary Baker. “Baker” said she was from Florida, and was at the Tulane medical school doing “esoteric experiments with exotic chemicals,” but would not talk about it any further. She indicated knowing Lee Harvey Oswald, and wished to pump Haslam for what he knew. Haslam had warning lights go on in relation to this woman. For one, if she was working at the Tulane medical school, then why didn’t she recognize the name Ed Haslam, also his father’s name, and a prominent researcher at the school? Haslam left the party and refused a future invitation from “Baker”.

In the Fall of 2000, a national news organization investigating Judyth Vary Baker contacted him. The news organization sent Haslam background information on Baker, and he eventually called her. He mentioned to Baker that he had dinner at her house in New Orleans in 1972. Baker told him she didn’t live in New Orleans in 1972; she left in 1963 and never came back. It was then Haslam knew that the person he met in 1972 was an imposter. Haslam had been in contact with the real Judyth Vary Baker for a couple of years at the time of the interview (2003). He has read newspaper documents from the 1960’s, and has seen some of her documents. They support the claim that she knew Oswald. Her descriptions of Ferrie’s labs are consistent with his own. As it happened, Judyth and Haslam used the same bank in New Orleans. Haslam concludes that Judyth is an unusual person, and very bright; “I think she is the real article.” [21]

The Update of Mary, Ferrie, the Monkey Virus

Haslam has updated Mary, Ferrie & the Monkey Virus. [22] After the original version was published, Carol Hewitt, an attorney who helped him in his original research, pointed out that, according to the Warren Report, Vol. 19, the FBI was looking for evidence regarding either Lee Harvey Oswald or A. J. Hidell on the Monday and
Tuesday following the assassination, at the U.S. Public Service Hospital in New Orleans (where Haslam determined that the linear particle accelerator was housed). Haslam asks, “Had Lee Harvey Oswald been sent to New Orleans to spy on secret experiments of the U.S. Public Service Hospital?” [23] Dr. Mary Sherman’s death occurred while the Warren Commission was still in operation.

Haslam conjectures that the laboratory was sabotaged to blow the cover off the secret laboratory and call attention to Oswald. Had this connection been pursued, the lone-nut theory would have been in jeopardy. Also at risk was the secret about the mutating monkey viruses in an effort to solve the problem of the contaminated polio vaccines before knowledge of the spoiled vaccines became public knowledge. If the plan to expose the secret laboratory had been successful, American history would likely have turned out differently. [24]

What was Oswald’s role with the Ochsner group?

Oswald’s role with Ochsner would seem to be directly related to the role that he apparently performed in the military and with intelligence organizations since his discharge from the Marines. He surely had no background with “deadly cancers”, such as was Judyth’s forte. Having Oswald “work” with Judyth and Ferrie would serve the purpose of validating his presence with them. They would clearly notice his initial novice abilities in a research laboratory, even if he were a quick learner. His final mission (taking the materials to Mexico to the liaison person, who would in turn move the materials on their way to Cuba, to be used against Castro) would also help validate his presence with them. Of course, his having been sent there through the CIA would also validate his presence. On the other hand, from the point of view of the CIA, he was to keep the CIA informed as to anti-Castro activities in New Orleans. What may not be clear here is that the CIA was not a monolithic entity; the anti-Castro activities were also undoubtedly being funded/run by CIA entities that were operating outside the framework of the Director of the CIA, who was cooperating with Kennedy’s admonition to avoid further provocations regarding Castro. Thus the part of the CIA that Oswald was working with may have used the trip to Mexico to insure that the materials did not get into assassins’ hands. Other parts of the CIA may have caught wind of this and set up Oswald to be the patsy in the JFK assassination. Persons within the CIA may have deliberately mislead Oswald even though they were supposedly trying to save Castro from assassination.

Negative reaction to Judyth by some JFK researchers

It would be remiss of us to avoid the reactions to Judyth in the JFK research community. Those reactions are several; early on, she addressed technical issues on cancer to those
who either were dealing with cancer themselves or who had loved ones who were. [25] However, writings such as those by McAdams [26] have seemed to carry the day among the more vocal members of the research community. Without repeating all of those criticisms, suffice to say that her believability is brought into question. Or more radically, some would argue that perhaps her entire story is a fabrication. Thus, the original article [27] was written to see if in fact Judyth and Oswald were at all likely to have by chance applied for jobs at Reily Coffee and were hired on the same day, and then both begin working on the next day. We showed that it was a most unlikely event that this hiring process was by chance.

We also are trying to address the “love affair” as to whether or not it occurred. First, however, it seemed useful to look at time lines for both Judyth Vary Baker and Lee Harvey Oswald for their individual time in New Orleans for 1963.

Time Lines for Judyth and Lee in New Orleans, 1963

Judyth Vary Baker in New Orleans, 1963

April 20: Judyth arrives in New Orleans.
April 26: Judyth meets Oswald in front of the post office when Judyth went there to get a letter from her fiancé, Robert Baker.
April 27: Oswald introduced Judyth to (Dr.) David Ferrie, who was said to be a colleague of Dr. Mary Sherman, a noted cancer researcher. Oswald introduced Judyth to Guy Banister, who confirmed that Oswald was working on the anti-Castro project. Then Oswald took Judyth to meet Alton Ochsner, M.D., an internationally known physician working with cancer patients and cancer research. First Oswald went in by himself, and then he invited Judyth in and introduced her to Dr. Ochsner.
April 27-May 9: Both Judyth and Lee were instructed to read the advertisements for jobs in the New Orleans Times-Picayune, focusing on the jobs at 640 Magazine, with interviews with Mr. Alvin Prechter.
May 1: Robert Baker arrived; he wished to get married immediately, because he had to leave before midnight May 3rd to go to a summer job in the Gulf Coast area.
May 2: Because of a 2-day waiting period in Louisiana, Baker and Judyth eloped to Mobile, Alabama, where they were married. [28]
May 3: evening: Robert Baker left for his summer employment.
May 3-4 Midnight: Judyth was evicted from her rented room due to a police raid and found herself on the streets. [Times-Picayune articles for May 4-5 describe these raids]
May 4: By afternoon, Lee helped Judyth move into an apartment at 1032 Marengo, within walking distance from an apartment he said he was going to take for himself soon thereafter.
Prior to May 9: Judyth worked at a fast food restaurant, Royal Castle. She worked a total
of 24 hours at Royal Castle. She states that her stipend for her summer internship did not start with Ochsner for another two weeks (she’d come 2 weeks early to New Orleans due to the University of Florida being on the trimester schedule, unbeknownst to Ochsner). Therefore, she had to earn some money to pay for her rent at the YWCA, where she initially stayed.

May 9: Judyth and Lee were interviewed by A.T. Prechter at 640 Magazine; they were both hired and began working for Standard Coffee (a small Reily Coffee subsidiary) the next day. Oswald was interviewed first. Judyth waited at the A-1 Employment Agency until she was contacted by Oswald. The person whom Judyth spoke to wanted to know if Judyth got a job at the coffee company, trying to extract a payment for the referral, in case that Judyth got a job. (29)

May 10: Judyth’s first day at work. Judyth worked as the production floor secretary and credit research assistant for Mr. William Monaghan, Vice-President and Finance and Credit Manager of Reily’s Coffee.

May 17: Both Judyth and Lee were transferred to Reily Coffee. They were the only persons hired by Standard Coffee and the only persons transferred to Reily Coffee during that time frame.

July 19: The day Oswald was fired at Reily, an ad was ordered, which appeared the following day in The Times-Picayune, seeking to replace the secretary for Reily’s Vice President, William Monaghan. No one was hired until the ad was replaced later in the month by another ad with more attractive details.

August 9: Judyth was terminated by Reily Coffee, the day she was seen with Oswald as he was passing out pro-Castro leaflets. [30]

August 25: Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald go to Clinton and Jackson, LA. They waited in Clinton for hours and were observed by a number of witnesses there. {Note from Judyth: They were waiting to join the convoy that was taking the prisoner/prisoners from Angola to Jackson’s mental hospital. There was an unexpected delay. Shaw used a leased vehicle – a black Cadillac -- owned by Ochsner’s International House (where Shaw had worked with Ochsner for several years until 1962) and leased to The Trade Mart. The presence of all three men, and the orderly with them, was required at this time. After reaching the mental hospital as part of the convoy, apparently at least one person of Cuban descent was administered the cancerous material.} Within 72 hours, Judyth was taken by Oswald in a different vehicle (an old car) to see the patient. Radical changes began quickly. The man was dead within weeks. [31]

September 1: {Note from Judyth: I left New Orleans, but I did not enroll in school. Instead, I merely did some artwork at the Craft Shop there until arrangements were made for me to work at Peninsular ChemResearch Laboratories near the university, where in overtime hours I created materials useful in preserving live cancer cells in liquid nitrogen. I didn’t care that I hadn’t enrolled to continue my education, because Lee Oswald and I planned to meet in Mexico in a few months.}
Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans, 1963

April 24: Oswald arrived late at night by bus from Dallas; he had originally bought a ticket for Marina to accompany him, but Marina was invited to live with Ruth Paine in Irving while Oswald looked for a job in New Orleans. [32]

April 26: Oswald appeared at the unemployment claims office and was interviewed by John R. Rachal.

April 29: Oswald was interviewed at the unemployment claims office by Bob Hunley (an FBI confidential informant). [33]

Oswald moved in with his aunt and uncle, Dutz and Lillian Murret. [34]

April 30: Oswald telephoned Marina and told her he was staying with the Murret’s. [35]

May 5: Oswald visited the widow of his uncle William S. Oswald for 45 minutes. His cousin, William Oswald, son of William S. Oswald (whom LHO had never met) was then a route salesman for Reily Coffee. [36]

May 6: Oswald went to the A-1 Employment Agency, who referred him to Pelican Printing for a possible job as a photographer. He was not hired. [37]

May 7: Oswald reappeared at the unemployment claims office. He also filled out forms at the Commercial Employment Agency, who referred him to the Darrell DeMoss Company; Oswald never showed for an interview. [38]

May 6-7-8: Oswald and Judyth worked together to earn incidental money at Reverend James’ Souvenir Shop on Rampart St. (Judyth took a team of researchers to the site of this shop in Jan. 2000). Oswald told his Aunt Lilian Murret regarding applying for this job:

“Mrs. Murret: ...anyway, Lee looked in the paper and finally found this –I don’t know where it was, but it was up on Rampart Street, and they wanted someone to letter.

Mr. Jenner: To letter?

Mrs. Murret: To do lettering work, yes, and so he called this man and the man said to come on out, so he went on out there to see about this job. First, while he was waiting for the appointment time, he sat down and tried to letter, and well, it was a little sad, because he couldn’t letter as well as my neighbor’s 6-year old girl, but I didn’t say anything, so when he got back he said, “Well, I didn’t get the job.” He said, “They wanted someone who can letter, so I didn’t know how to do that.” [39]

May 9: Oswald was interviewed and hired for a job at Reily Coffee. He also found an apartment at 4905 Magazine. [40]

May 10: Oswald began work at Standard Coffee, a small subsidiary of Reily Coffee.

May 11: Marina and her daughter were driven to New Orleans by Ruth Paine, arriving at the Murret’s at 3:00 PM. The group then went to Oswald’s apartment. Ruth Paine stayed for three days with them at the apartment. [41]

May 14: Ruth Paine left for Dallas. In Paine’s and Marina’s correspondence, Marina noted that Lee’s love for her seemed to have disappeared after Mrs. Paine left. [42]
May 15: Oswald went to the A-1 Employment Agency for Judyth, trying to get them to not charge Judyth for the referral. Lee talked them into accepting half of her first week’s pay ($17), instead of the customary full week’s pay for the referral. Oswald paid the $17 himself. As this was Judyth’s birthday, she considered this payment by Lee as a birthday gift. (43)

May 26: Oswald wrote the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) to obtain membership, a FPCC charter, and a photograph of Fidel Castro. Oswald stated his intentions were to form a FPCC branch in New Orleans. [44]  { Note from Judyth: He mentioned planning to rent an office for these activities, and that the cost would be $30 a month.}

May 27: {Note from Judyth: Lee asked me to buy an American Express money order for him to provide a record of having rented an office for FPCC activities, as he had no bank account and wanted evidence of the transaction. Judyth provided Oswald with a $30 American Express money order (it is dated May 27) from money she and Oswald had earned at Reverend James’ Souvenir Shop prior to being hired at Reily’s.}

May 28: Oswald repaid Judyth $30 in cash. Judyth deposited $30 into her bank account, which was recorded on her next bank statement. Judyth still has the American Express money order in her files.

May 29: The FPCC sent Oswald a membership card, but discouraged him from starting a chapter in New Orleans, because “...Louisiana seems somewhat restricted for Fair Play activities.” This did not dissuade Oswald from his FPCC activities in New Orleans. [45]

June 4: Marina wrote the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC that she was homesick, had family problems, and wished to bring her daughter and have her baby in the Soviet Union. [46]

June 15-16: Someone, likely Oswald, passed out FPCC leaflets to naval personnel from the USS Wasp, just docked in New Orleans; earlier in June, someone, probably Oswald, passed out leaflets at the Tulane University campus. [47]

June 24: Oswald applied for a new passport in New Orleans. He received the passport the next day. [48]  {Note from Judyth: A former Customs Agent was brought in from Miami, Florida to help expedite Lee Oswald’s passport. Other passports were also processed in the same short time period to protect Lee’s passport from close inspection. I met this former Customs Agent on June 25 on the steps of the Custom House in New Orleans, and have described him to his living family members as having a German accent, silvery hair, and tattoos on his fingers. The man was Charles Thomas, AKA Arthur Young. Both names were familiar to the members of his family who were still alive. I recognized his face and saw the tattoos on his fingers on photos provided to me by his family. They also had photos of Cubans who were friends of his, in their possession.}

July 19: Oswald’s last day of employment at Reily’s Coffee; he immediately applied for unemployment compensation. [49]

July 23- until Oswald left New Orleans; he would leave his apartment each day around 1:00 and return around 5:00, according to the report of Gladys Rogers, who lived in the apartment adjoining the Oswald’s. [50]  {Note from Judyth: The Rogers’ testimonies need
to be closely inspected. They reveal that Mr. and Mrs. Rogers were placed at 4907
Magazine St.—the address Oswald claimed was his—and took his mail for him. Oswald
and his family actually lived in 4905, but Oswald paid for the Rogers’ rent and utilities at
4907. Marina and Ruth Paine both wrote letters to each other using the 4907 address
even though Mrs. Paine spent three days living at 4905. Mr. Rogers did not get a job until
after Oswald left New Orleans. Lee told me that they were there to protect Marina, who
was pregnant, from possible harassment by anti-Castroites, since Lee advertised his
address as 4907 Magazine to the public.}
July 26: Oswald cashed his last Reily Coffee paycheck at a Winn-Dixie store at 4303
Magazine. The same day, someone visited the Atomic Energy Museum in Oak Ridge,
Tennessee, giving their name and address as: Lee H. Oswald, USSR, Dallas Road,
Dallas, Texas. [51]
July 27: The Murret’s picked up the Oswald’s and drove to Mobile, Alabama, where
Oswald gave a talk on contemporary life in Russia at Spring Hill College; his cousin
Eugene Murret was a student at the college and instrumental to Oswald’s invitation to
speak there. [52] {Note from Judyth: “A contact, who was a priest well known to the
Kennedy family, attended this important meeting, during which information important to
Ochsner and the Samoza family was passed to Jesuit priests there, and information
regarding Marxist-Leninist policies was discussed, along with Castro’s influence and
increasing presence in Central and South America. Bobby Kennedy was personally
advised of some of this information, and Lee courriered some information to this
meeting.}
August 5: Oswald visited the Casa Roca Clothing Company and spoke with the owner,
Carlos Bringuier, about his (Oswald’s) guerilla warfare expertise and his anti-Castro
views. [53]
August 9: Oswald was handing out FPCC leaflets on the 700 block of Canal Street.
Oswald got into a scuffle with three Cubans, including Bringuier. All four were arrested.
Oswald spent the night in jail. [54]
August 10: Oswald asked for FBI SA John Lester Quigley to interview him. In a very
unusual tactic for the FBI in such situations, Quigley did in fact go to the police station
and interviewed Oswald. He was released later that day. [55] {Note from Judyth: A
friend of Dutz Murret who was a lawyer associated with Mafia godfather Carlos
Marcello bailed Lee out.}
August 12: Oswald pled guilty to disturbing the peace and paid a $10 fine. [56] {Note
from Judyth: Marina didn’t call anybody to see why Lee never came home the night
before. She knew he could have been arrested and hurt. Lee actually spent a small
number of nights away from home. Marina has denied that he did so. By now, Lee and I
were deeply in love and had stopped double-dating with Anne and David Lewis. David
was a former private investigator for Guy Banister and did part-time work gathering anti-
Castro information for the project. Anna is on film describing me as Lee Oswald’s
“mistress”}
August 16: Although unemployed, Oswald had the means to pay 19 year old Charles Hall Steele $2 for 15-20 minutes of distributing leaflets. (This would be closer to $15 in today’s money.) A cameraman from WDSU-TV was sent to film the event. [57]

August 17: Oswald had a 37 minute interview with William Kirk Stuckey of WDSU radio regarding Oswald’s activities with the FPCC. Excerpts of the interview were broadcast that evening. [58]

August 21: A 25 minute radio debate took place between Oswald and Bringuier on WDSU radio. After the debate, a 5 minute interview was conducted by personnel from WDSU-TV. [59]

late August or early September: Oswald met in Dallas with David Atlee Phillips. [60]

September: Oswald was at the Ryder Coffee House with Kerry Thornley (who later wrote a novel about Oswald), according to Barbara Reid. [61]

September 19: Oswald spoke with Assistant District Attorney Edward Gillian. [62]

September 20: Ruth Paine arrived at the Oswald’s apartment. [63]

September 22 or 23: Ruth Paine drove Marina and her daughter back to Dallas. [64]

September 25: Oswald left New Orleans. [65]

Was there a love affair between Judyth and Oswald?

First, it should be clear to most readers that a definitive answer is out of the question. We simply have no information directly from Oswald. That does not preclude such an affair; it simply means a definitive statement will be lacking. We can address issues related to the possibility of such a relationship, however. We know that Judyth declares that such a relationship existed. But was it also a love affair for Oswald? At the time they met, Judyth was engaged and was to be married within a week. This did not appear to be a marriage made in heaven: “The elopement, its event so low in Robert’s [Baker] and my memories that we did not have even a single photo from New Orleans, not a single souvenir–between his being a cheapskate (I had to buy my own wedding band) and my aversion to having married at all–originally to get birth control pills–we therefore had and kept NOTHING to commemorate our elopement whatsoever... I never brought up what I was doing in his absence... I have a postcard from my new husband mailed to me while he was in New Orleans, too busy to drop by on his new wife!” [66]

On Oswald’s point of view; arguably, he was unhappy with his wife. According to George DeMohrenschildt, Oswald was badly treated by Marina: “She [Marina] picked on him, annoyed him, as if she desired a separation, which she achieved through us. The letter from Marina’s ex-lover that Lee intercepted. What annoyed us also was that Marina tried to ridicule Lee. She called him a fool, a moron.” [67] Also noted in the May 14 time line for Lee, was that Marina felt that Lee’s love for her left the same time as Ruth Paine left New Orleans. Perhaps initially Oswald might have told himself that a relationship with Judyth was in the line of duty, much as was the case when his involvement with a
Japanese girl, resulting in VD for Oswald. He contracted gonorrhea, which had its origin "in the line of duty, not due to his own misconduct." [68] It would appear that, given the amount of time they spent together (according to Judyth), they had the opportunity for an involvement; both seemed to be in failed or failing marriages, which they might use as a justification. The time they spent together on May 4, when Lee helped Judyth move to a new apartment, may have been an impetus to provide an attraction between them. When, and if they acted upon that attraction (and for that matter, how often), almost all of the reporting of that is by Judyth. According to Judyth, though they fell in love almost immediately, they resisted becoming lovers until the summer. [69] At the end of August, Clay Shaw paid for the last of several hotel trysts for Judyth and Lee. Shaw was said to have felt sorry for them. [70] Anna Lewis and her husband David Lewis (who worked for Guy Banister) were said to be a foursome with Judyth and Lee, often at Thompson’s Restaurant, where Anna worked. They would often stay until 8:00 or 8:30 PM. Once Marina called the restaurant, wanting to know if Lee was there with another woman. [71] Judyth disputes Marina’s Warren Commission testimony regarding Oswald’s being home by 5 PM, except for the night of his arrest. Judyth claims, for example, that one evening, Lee clocked out at Reily’s at 7:32 PM, then needed about half an hour to get home.

Then there is the issue of whether the relationship was seen similarly by both Judyth and Lee. From Judyth’s report, Oswald gave her $400 before she left New Orleans. This gift has a double meaning; not only does it relate to a sense of caring by Oswald for Judyth, it also indicates that Oswald had a significant source of income beyond his wages at Reily Coffee, from which he had already been fired. Judyth explained away the $400 to her husband Robert by saying it fell out of an ironing board she bought at a yard sale. [72] The proximate cause of Oswald being fired at Reily’s Coffee was his stealing a green glass Judyth admired but could not afford. These glasses were packed together with tea made by the company. Oswald refrained from packing a glass into a container, saving it for Judyth. Judyth still treasures this glass. [73]

At the same time Lee Oswald began working in Dallas after his return from Mexico City, Ferrie arranged for Judyth to take a job at Peninsular ChemResearch, in Florida, which produced highly toxic chemicals. She continued to contribute to the project by making custom chemicals for Ferrie. [74] Also, with Judyth in Florida and Lee in Dallas, Ferrie arranged for several back-channel phone calls through a cooperative operator in Covington. {Note from Judyth: This phone line was usually used by the Mafia regarding horse racing wagers.} Covington is directly across the Pontchartrain from New Orleans, about 30 miles North. The last call is on the record. The call came from “a lady with no accent” to Oswald on 11/20/1963 at the Texas School Book Depository. [75] Judyth’s remembrances of Lee Harvey Oswald gives a more human side to the Oswald character than has been typical of most writings about him. It also addresses largely hidden aspects to his clandestine activities in 1963 New Orleans.
Oswald’s ability in spoken Russian

Still unanswered, at least to our satisfaction, is, just how did Oswald seemingly learn to converse so well in Russian? Armstrong [76] stated: “But in the case of Lee Harvey Oswald the CIA took a young Russian-speaking boy from Eastern Europe, and after living parallel lives for 7 years (age 12 to 19), successfully merged the identity of two people into one. For reasons that may never be known, Lee Oswald was chosen, and sent to New York in the fall of 1952, to begin the process of loaning his identity to a Russian-speaking boy from Eastern Europe. Seven years later, this boy “defected” to Russia after assuming the Harvey Oswald’s identity and background.” It should be pointed out that this was Armstrong’s hypothesis, to be contrasted to the Warren Report version. Another hypothesis suggested here is that Oswald learned Russian under the auspices of the CIA. It would also explain why Oswald, who was fairly fluent in Russian, refrained from speaking Russian in Russia; he did not want to be suspected of being a CIA false defector. It was suggested that Oswald studied some language at the “Monterey School of the Army”, now the Defense Language Institute. [77] Oswald claimed not knowing a word of Russian on his defection to the Soviet Union on October 16, 1959. [78] While Judyth disputes that Oswald was anything other than American born, she recognized his facility in Russian; she’d studied Russian herself. [79] DeMohrenschildt [80] also marveled at Oswald’s ability in Russian compared to his (DeMohrenschildt’s) ability in English. However, even if Judyth were right (about Oswald being American born), the Armstrong hypothesis would not necessarily be invalidated, but could be modified to address emerging facts. As Judyth has pointed out, Oswald was unable to find his father’s grave at a cemetery in New Orleans. She remarked about her surprise in this regard. [81] We still have more to learn about Oswald. Could he have been involved in taking a crash course in Russian either in Monterey California at a governmental facility there, or somewhere else? The amount of secrecy involved in the many layers of the U.S. government is larger than most would imagine. [82]

The trip to Mexico City

The trip to Mexico City also remains an enigma. If Oswald was to deploy the cancerous materials to the CIA, rather than meet the person at the drop off at a designated souvenir shop in Mexico City, it is unlikely we will ever know Oswald’s intentions. Oswald apparently tried to take the cancerous materials to Cuba himself (or perhaps not). Judyth’s account, which she says she heard from Lee in a phone call, is that Lee was supposed to meet a person at a souvenir shop and turn over the materials, with instructions on how to keep the cancer cells alive. The person never showed, leaving Oswald to try to take the materials to Cuba himself. This failed, and Oswald went to Dallas. He was instructed to check into the YMCA, rather than immediately reunite with
Marina. There Oswald was shown reconnaissance photographs of the destruction in Cuba caused by Hurricane Flora. The hurricane caused the medical team assembled to administer the cancerous cells to Castro (and to use x-ray overdoses to bring down his immune system) to be scattered in response to the hurricane. A “Mr. B.” showed Oswald the photographs. Oswald had met “Mr. B” previously, “In Texas”, Judyth reports, “some weeks before he went to Mexico City. He took a private plane flight there and was back that night. He said he wasn’t even served lunch, and felt badly used thereby.” Oswald suspected that Mr. B. was David Atlee Phillips. [83] Fonzi [84] inferred that Maurice Bishop (Mr. B) and David Atlee Phillips were one and the same. If this portrayal of events is correct, Oswald would have a plausible explanation to persons in New Orleans. On the other hand, had Oswald intended to deliver to the drop off person, who did not materialize, Oswald also had a plausible believability for his CIA handlers.

There is one other anomalous event about Mexico City after Oswald’s death. A photograph was released that purportedly was taken (by the CIA) when Oswald visited the Cuban and Russian embassies in Mexico City. The man simply did not resemble Oswald. Could this have been a signal within the intelligence community? The man in the embassies’ photographs has been identified as Ralph Geb, a friend, classmate, and football teammate of Malcolm Wallace, long identified as a henchman for Lyndon Johnson. [85] Wallace has been identified as the person whose fingerprint was found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. [86] Perhaps the CIA was also sending out a message to the public at large with the publication of Geb as Oswald in CE 237. Except within the critical research community, that message has been largely ignored.

Oswald as a Customs agent

Joan Mellon [87] reported that Oswald also had an affiliation with the US Customs Service. Apparently one of Oswald’s jobs with Customs was investigating David Ferrie. Oswald was a Potential Securities Informant (according to Mellen), who would report violations of the Neutrality Act, which in particular would involve any planning of activities to invade Cuba or harm Castro. {Note by Judyth: Long before Mellen’s book came out, I called Mellen and told her to investigate Lee’s connection with Customs, since his friend was Arthur Young, AKA Charles Thomas, whom I met, and whose family has been located in Louisiana. Lee first met Thomas/Young in Buffalo, New York, where he had gone, skipping school, to see Niagara Falls—quite a distance from the Bronx for a twelve-year-old to travel. He and Mr. Thomas struck up a friendship. I told this fact – about Thomas being posted in Buffalo, New York – to a person who turned out to be a family member. Eventually, she found a photo of her grandfather, Charles Thomas, working at the Customs post in Buffalo, New York.} [88]
In 1963, there were six anti-Castro camps operating north of Lake Pontchartrain. The FBI succeeded in closing down one of the camps on July 31, 1963. The closed camp was the only camp with ties to Bobby Kennedy. The five camps with CIA ties were left alone. [89] Oswald may have been involved in this bust, having ties with both the FBI and Customs.

Oswald had been involved with Ferrie at one of the CIA camps. [90] {Note by Judyth: Lee was maneuvered into providing a map to the camp. Later, with the help of David Ferrie, blame was placed onto pro-Castro camp infiltrator Fernando Fernandez. Manipulating Lee into looking like a traitor to the anti-Castro camp had placed Lee’s life in danger.} In the process of Bobby Kennedy’s anti-Castro planning, a picture of Oswald was shown in at a meeting in Bobby’s presence. One of the persons present wanted to know who that person was; he’d appeared in several pictures. The person was identified as Oswald. Bobby never met Oswald. Mellen concludes, “In some circles, if not in Bobby’s, the impending assassination was a very open secret.” [91]

Was Judyth recruited to serve as a patsy, if necessary?

It is documented that Judyth did in fact work at Reily’s Coffee during the summer of 1963. Her past experience in scientific pursuits are far more suggestive of her clandestine cancer research than traveling all the way to New Orleans to be a clerk typist for the summer. Many such jobs would seem to have been open to her in Florida, if that were her interest. But why did Ochsner recruit her? As indicated earlier, it was most likely the case that Ochsner’s institute had already developed a product themselves. Judyth could have perhaps improved their product, but she could also be the patsy, were the research uncovered. Ochsner could claim that she was recruited for her abilities but her own anti-Castro thoughts were pursued on her own, against Ochsner’s wishes, giving him plausible denial. Perhaps Ochsner might have paved the way for her entrance into Tulane Medical School. But she would always be vulnerable to the anti-Castro research being found out. As it was, Ochsner worried about being indicted by Jim Garrison. [92] But as long as Judyth remained in science, she could potentially lose her standing due to being involved in a conspiracy to eliminate Castro. Even today, if the government pursued it, she might be vulnerable. That, of course, would be most unlikely, given all the skeletons that might be unearthed.

Notes
1. Williams, J.D. & Cousins, K.T. (2005). Judyth and Lee: Was their employment at Reily Coffee a chance event? Dealey Plaza Echo, 9.2, 37-43. This probability was found as follows: Using the want ads from the New Orleans Picayune for May 9, 1963, there were 193 different job advertisements that Oswald could have reasonably applied to;

there were 165 advertisements that Judyth could have responded to. The product of \( (1/193) (1/165) = 0.0000314 \), or a little over 3 times in 100,000. It was estimated that Reily’s would hire about 1 applicant in 5. This would be true of both Judyth and Lee. Therefore, the probability is \( (1/193) (1/165) (1/5) (1/5) = 0.0000012 \), or 1.2 times in a million. This, essentially, establishes that Lee and Judyth getting jobs at Reily on the same day was unlikely a chance event, but rather, in some way was planned, either by the two of them, or by someone else.

2. e-mail from Judyth regarding corrections to our original article (7/12/2005).


4. Ibid.


6. e-mail from Judyth, (7/12/2005).


10. Phelps.

11. The concept of a planning group is our inference to the available information, and not attributable to any other source.

12. “Project Freedom” may have been a local name, or one of several local names, to refer to the project whose purpose was to remove Fidel Castro from power. The name Project Freedom was used by Phelps (2005). There were other such projects. Richard Helms is purported to have told Henry Kissinger, “Robert Kennedy personally managed the operation on the assassination of Castro.” Russo, G. (1998). *Live by the sword: The secret war against Castro and the death of JFK*. Baltimore, MD: Bancroft Press, p. 424.


16. Ibid.

17. e-mail from William Livesay to Judyth (5/6/2004).

18. e-mail from Judyth (7/12/2005).


21. Ibid.


27. Williams & Cousins.
28. e-mail from Judyth (7/12/2005).
30. Phelps, p. 23.
31. Ibid, p. 29.
32. Armstrong, J. (2003). Harvey and Lee: How the CIA framed Oswald. Arlington, TX: Quasar. p. 528. Armstrong posited two different Oswalds, one he refers to as Lee, and one he refers to as Harvey; the person killed in the Dallas police station was referred to as Harvey. When using Armstrong, the time line refers to the activities of Harvey.
33. Ibid, p. 532.
34. Ibid, p. 532.
35. Ibid, p. 532.
36. Ibid, pp. 533-534.
37. Ibid, p. 534.
38. Ibid, p. 534.
39. WC 8H 136.
40. Armstrong, p. 535. Actually, 4909 Magazine is first given as the address, but 4905 Magazine is the address given later.
41. Ibid, p. 538.
42. Ibid., p. 540.
44. Armstrong, p. 542.
45. Ibid., p. 542.
46. Ibid, p. 545.
47. Ibid, p. 545.
52. Ibid, pp. 550-551.
55. Ibid, p. 568.
56. Ibid, p. 569.
57. Ibid, p. 571.
63. Ibid, p. 599.
64. Ibid, p. 600.
66. E-mail posted for Judyth by Laura Hanning. Re: Why I have a ‘memory for details’- also a map of Lee’s 4905 Magazine & my 1032 Maringo. (12/1/2002) . Jfkresearch.com
67. deMohrenschildt, G. (1977). *I’m a Patsy! I’m a Patsy*! p. 32. Manuscript published as an Appendix to the staff report of the House and Senate Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). Also available on some internet sites, including jfkresearch.net/russ/jfkinfo4/jfk12/hscapatsy.htm
69. Phelps, p. 28.
70. Ibid, p. 28.
71. Ibid, p. 28.
73. Ibid, p. 23
75. Ibid, p. 31.
76. Armstrong, p. 68.
78. Armstrong, p. 262.
79. E-mail from Judyth to JDW, (2/16/2003).
80. deMohrenschildt, G.
81. Baker, J. (11/21/2002). RE: Did the family know? Judyth recounts: Lee couldn’t remember location of dad’s grave at cemetery. Post on jfkresearch. “[Two Oswalds] would account for some of the unusual behavior of Lee concerning the Sunday tour of New Orleans Lee gave me the same day he visited his father’s grave...he did not know where it was and had to ask about it’s location...why would he never have visited it before, and why did he forget his father’s grave location? I was waiting wearing high heels, until the guy went back to the office after showing Lee, and wanted Lee to be by himself. Lee had to ask where the grave was. Why? I am trying to understand this and some equally interesting actions of his.”
82. Many years ago, JDW had a student who was collecting remote sensing data on weather. He was interested in studying weather changes at Chernobyl after the explosion there in 1986. He was invited to go to Washington, then to Reston to CIA headquarters.
After informing the secretary of his reasons for being there, she made a few calls, and told him to wait in the hallway. A bit later a man showed up, handed the student several hundred pages of printout, and asked, ‘Is this what you need?’ After a brief perusal, the student realized this data was precisely the data he sought. The mysterious man ended with, ‘I wasn’t here, I didn’t give you this data, and we never met.’ Then he walked off. A week later, the student brought his data to my office, still awed by the interchange. After seeing the data, I said, ‘Yeah, but how in the world will you ever document how you got the data, for your thesis?’

88. Thomas/Young’s granddaughter, as indicated earlier, is the co-author, Kelly Thomas Cousins. This early meeting of a Customs agent near the US-Canadian border (Oswald reported to Judyth that he crossed the border, unaccompanied by an adult) might be coincidental, or it may play into aspects of Armstrong’s Harvey-Lee theory. In either case, this is a fascinating tidbit.
89. Armstrong p. 352.
90. Mellen, p. 70.
91. Ibid, p. 379.