Lee Harvey Oswald

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**Articles**


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Collections

The Museum’s Collection provides audio, visual, documentary resources, and artifacts related to Lee Harvey Oswald. The collection includes materials related to his life, the assassination, his arrest, detention, murder by Jack Ruby, funeral, exhumation and legacy. Artifacts and documents include letters and photographs. Audio and video recordings include oral history interviews, home movies and archival news footage.

Please visit our online collections database for more information. For research assistance, please contact the Reading Room at readingroom@jfk.org or (214) 741-6660 ext. 6646.

Oral Histories

For more information about the Oral History Collection

Hugh Aynesworth

A science and aviation reporter for the Dallas Morning News, Aynesworth was the only reporter to be present at all of the major moments that occurred during the weekend of November 22, 1963: the president's assassination, the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald, and the shooting of Oswald by Jack Ruby. In the years since, he has become a recognized authority on the assassination. Recorded July 28, 1994, November 19, 1998, and April 18 and November 19, 2007.

Paul Bentley

Chief polygraph examiner with the Dallas Police Department in 1963, Bentley was involved in the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald at the Texas Theatre. Recorded February 16, 1994, April 18 and September 14, 2007, and January 22 and May 16, 2008.

Fred Bieberdorf

A first aid technician working at Dallas police headquarters on November 24, 1963, Bieberdorf was the first individual to examine Lee Harvey Oswald after he was shot. After riding in an ambulance with Oswald to Parkland Memorial Hospital, Bieberdorf returned to police headquarters and conducted an examination of Jack Ruby. Recorded March 9, 2007.

Kent Biffle

A reporter for the Dallas Morning News, Biffle was one of the only journalists inside the Texas School Book Depository while investigators gathered evidence on the sixth floor of the building. He later covered the Clay Shaw trial for Newsweek magazine. In 1959, as a reporter for the Fort Worth Press, he wrote stories about Lee Harvey Oswald's defection and tried to reach Oswald by telephone in Moscow. Recorded June 28, 1993.
Isadore "Izzy" Bleckman

Eugene Boone
Boone was the Dallas deputy sheriff who discovered the rifle on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. Prior to joining the sheriff's department, he worked at the Dallas Times Herald and had contact with Jack Ruby. Recorded November 25, 2003, November 20, 2006, and November 18, 2008.

Elmer L. Boyd
A Dallas homicide detective in 1963, Boyd was heavily involved in the investigation November 22-24, 1963, and he served as one of Oswald's primary handlers on Friday and Saturday. He was at the Trade Mart, Parkland Memorial Hospital, the Texas School Book Depository, and Dallas police headquarters over the weekend. He was with Oswald during his first interrogations, police lineups, paraffin tests, and the famous midnight press conference. Ironically, Boyd previously worked a security detail for Kennedy when the president briefly visited Dallas in 1961. Recorded February 23, 2007.

Johnny Calvin Brewer
The manager of Hardy's Shoe Store in Oak Cliff on the day of the assassination, Brewer noticed a suspicious individual (who turned out to be Lee Harvey Oswald) and followed him down the street to the Texas Theatre. Brewer pointed Oswald out to Dallas police officers and witnessed his arrest. Recorded November 21, 2005.

Robert Bruton
As operations manager for KXOL radio in Fort Worth in 1963, Bruton covered the president's visit to the city in 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald's death at Parkland Memorial Hospital, and Oswald's funeral the following day. Recorded January 24, 2011.

Dorothy M. Bush

Maurice C. Carroll
A reporter for the New York Herald Tribune in 1963, Carroll covered the scene at Dallas police headquarters and witnessed the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. After covering the Jack Ruby trial in 1964, Carroll was selected as the author of defense attorney Melvin Belli's memoir on the case, Dallas Justice (1964). Recorded November 30, 2007.
William R. Chiles
Co-owner and vice president of Dallas typesetting company Jaggers-Chiles-Stovall, Chiles oversaw the hiring and firing of employee Lee Harvey Oswald, who worked for the business from October 1962 to April 1963. Recorded January 26, 2011.

Raymond R. Cline
A Dallas police officer from 1954 to 1977, Cline was assigned to the Dallas Trade Mart for President Kennedy's planned luncheon. He once visited Jack Ruby's Carousel Club after being told that officers received free drinks there. Later in his career, he came to know Marina Oswald when she worked at a Dallas convenience store on his patrol beat. Recorded August 6, 2009.

Michael Cochran
A reporter for the Associated Press, Cochran interviewed Marina and Marguerite Oswald during the weekend of the assassination and then served as a pallbearer for Lee Harvey Oswald. Recorded July 14, 1993, and November 19, 1998.

Jack Davis
A teenager in Oak Cliff, Davis was inside the Texas Theatre when Lee Harvey Oswald arrived, and he believed Oswald sat next to him for a short time. Recorded August 6, 2002.

James F. Dahman
A sergeant with the Dallas Police Department in 1963, Dahman was assigned to the presidential luncheon at the Dallas Trade Mart. After the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald on Sunday, Dahman was present for Oswald's autopsy and family viewing of his body at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Recorded August 6, 2010.

Ken DuVall
A truck driver with Central Motor Freight in Dallas, DuVall frequently picked up shipments of textbook boxes at the loading dock of the Texas School Book Depository. On November 22, 1963, he allegedly saw Lee Harvey Oswald in the second-floor lunch room approximately thirty minutes before the assassination. Recorded May 6, 2009.

Jim Ewell
A Dallas Morning News reporter, Ewell was at the Texas Theatre when Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested. Later, Ewell became the spokesperson for the Dallas County Sheriff's Department. Recorded December 14, 1993

Buell Wesley Frazier
An employee of the Texas School Book Depository in 1963, Frazier drove Lee Harvey Oswald to work occasionally. He did so on November 22, 1963. Frazier also witnessed the assassination and was detained and questioned by Dallas police. Recorded June 19 and 21, 2002.
L.C. Graves
A Dallas police detective, Graves was on Lee Harvey Oswald's left side when he was shot during his transfer on November 24, 1963. Recorded March 21, 1994.

Paul Groody
As director of the Miller Funeral Home in Dallas, Groody served as the undertaker for Lee Harvey Oswald and organized his funeral on Monday, November 25. In 1981, he was involved in the exhumation of Oswald and briefly viewed the body at Baylor Medical Center. Recorded October 23, 2006.

Wilborn Hampton

Gerald Hill
A Dallas police officer in 1963, Hill was present during the search of the Texas School Book Depository and was at the Texas Theatre in Oak Cliff when Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested. Recorded August 31, 1993, and April 18, 2007.

Mary Hollies
An employee of Scott Foresman publishers in 1963, Hollies worked on the fourth floor of the Texas School Book Depository and occasionally rode the same bus as Lee Harvey Oswald. Her memories of Oswald and the day of the assassination differ from other eyewitnesses and coworkers. Recorded January 18, 2011.

Jimmie R. Hopkins
Hopkins was a sergeant in the Dallas Police Reserves in 1963. After working motorcade crowd control, he was on dispatch duty when he took a call from the Texas Theatre box office reporting that a suspicious-looking man--later determined to be Oswald--had entered without paying. His many other assignments that weekend included guarding Oswald inside his cell, guarding Jack Ruby, and guarding the entrances to both Dallas City Hall and Parkland Memorial Hospital's emergency room. Recorded on January 8, 2003.

Bob Jackson
In 1963, Jackson was a photographer with the Dallas Times Herald. On November 22, 1963, he covered the president's arrival at Dallas Love Field and, while riding in the motorcade, spotted a rifle in the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building. He was also at Parkland Memorial Hospital and Dallas police headquarters that day. On Sunday, Jackson captured an iconic

Frank B. Johnston
A thirty-five year photographer with The Washington Post, Johnston was working for the Austin bureau of United Press International in 1963. In the basement of Dallas police headquarters, he captured an image of Lee Harvey Oswald approximately one second before he was fatally shot by Jack Ruby. In 1964, Johnston testified at Ruby's trial and also covered the event as a UPI photographer. Recorded August 15, 2009.

Dr. Ronald C. Jones
Jones was the chief surgery resident in Parkland Memorial Hospital's emergency room on November 22, 1963. He was among the team of doctors that worked on the resuscitation of President Kennedy in Trauma Room One. Less than 48 hours later, he was part of the surgical team that treated Lee Harvey Oswald. Recorded October 31, 1997, and November 21, 2005.

Spaulding Jones
Jones had an office inside the Texas School Book Depository building in 1963 and believed he was on the elevator with Lee Harvey Oswald the morning of the assassination. Recorded April 6, 1995.

Ferd Kaufman
An Associated Press photographer in Dallas from 1957 to 1977, Kaufman was at the Fort Worth breakfast and the Trade Mart luncheon on November 22, 1963. He took one of the first still photos of Lee Harvey Oswald in custody following his arrest and later covered the Jack Ruby trial in 1964. Recorded July 7, 1999, and August 3, 2009.

James Leavelle
Leavelle was the Dallas police detective immortalized in Bob Jackson's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Wearing a light-colored suit and a cowboy hat, Leavelle was handcuffed to Oswald and helped wrestle Jack Ruby to the ground. Recorded on June 10, 2002, June 2, 2005, January 24 and October 12, 2007, November 19, 2008, and September 10, 2010.

Dr. Robert N. McClelland
An instructor in surgery at Parkland Memorial Hospital in 1963, McClelland participated in the treatment of President Kennedy in Trauma Room One. He also assisted in the surgery of Gov. John Connally and, less than two days later, the treatment of Lee Harvey Oswald. Frequently interviewed over the years, McClelland continues to research and speak on the subject. Recorded July 16, 2001, and February 10, 2011.
Jon McConal
A longtime reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, McConal spent the weekend of the assassination in the newsroom and interviewed Marguerite Oswald on Sunday. The following day he served as a pallbearer at Lee Harvey Oswald's funeral. Recorded November 19, 1998, and October 20, 2005.

M. "Nick" McDonald
The Dallas police officer who arrested Lee Harvey Oswald, McDonald was the first to approach Oswald inside the Texas Theatre and was slightly wounded while scuffling with him during his arrest. Recorded November 20, 2003.

Bill Mercer
Mercer was a news and sportscaster at KRLD-TV and Radio in 1963. At the midnight press conference for Lee Harvey Oswald, he informed Oswald that he had been charged with the murder of President Kennedy. Recorded November 22, 1998, February 23, 2005, November 1, 2007, and November 20, 2008.

Don Moffeit
A clerk at the Retail Credit Company in Oak Cliff, Moffeit and some of his coworkers were standing outside the Texas Theatre when Dallas police brought Lee Harvey Oswald outside. Recorded May 31, 2007.

L.D. Montgomery
A Dallas homicide detective in 1963, Montgomery was sent to the Texas School Book Depository shortly after the assassination. He discovered a brown paper bag on the sixth floor that might have been used to carry a weapon into the building. On Sunday, Montgomery was walking directly behind Lee Harvey Oswald when Jack Ruby shot Oswald. Recorded on November 25, 2002.

Luke Mooney
In 1963, Mooney was a Dallas County deputy sheriff who watched the motorcade pass and heard shots fired. Later, while investigating the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building, he discovered the "sniper's nest" and three empty rifle shells. Recorded on December 4, 2002, November 20, 2006, June 24, 2009, and July 28, 2010.

Harold Norman
An employee of the Texas School Book Depository in 1963, Norman was on the fifth floor underneath the alleged sniper's perch at the time of the assassination. Recorded July 31, 1991.

John G. Oswald
A native of New Orleans, Oswald lived in Fort Worth in 1963. His recognizable last name prompted death threats, vandalism, an FBI interview, and police protection in the aftermath of the
assassination. Years later, genealogy research indicated that he may have been a distant cousin to Lee Harvey Oswald. Recorded August 12, 2010.

Ike Pappas
A reporter with radio station WNEW-New York, Pappas flew to Dallas to cover the assassination story and spent the weekend at Dallas police headquarters. On Sunday, he was one of the closest bystanders to the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Recorded March 1, 1993.

Francois Pelou
A reporter with Agence France-Presse (AFP) in 1963, Pelou flew from New York to Dallas after the assassination and covered the scene at Dallas City Hall. He was a close eyewitness to Lee Harvey Oswald's shooting, and he was immediately interviewed by other reporters. In 1964, he covered the Jack Ruby trial. Recorded July 22, 2005.

Jerry Pollard

Dr. Harlan Pollock
A first-year resident at Parkland Memorial Hospital in 1963, Pollock was upstairs in the operating room area when the presidential party arrived. On Sunday, he was part of the anesthesia team during Lee Harvey Oswald's surgery. Recorded July 15, 2005.

Charles W. Powers
A longtime Dallas insurance executive, Powers was attending Dr. Pepper's first national sales conference and saw the Kennedy motorcade on Main Street. After retiring in the early 1990s, he became an active local historian and developed a Lee Harvey Oswald tour of Dallas and Oak Cliff in conjunction with the Dallas Historical Society. Recorded July 16, 2009.

Dr. Earl F. Rose
A distinguished forensic pathologist, Rose served as Dallas County medical examiner from 1963 to 1968. In that capacity, he performed the autopsies for Officer J.D. Tippit, Lee Harvey Oswald, and Jack Ruby. He would also have performed President Kennedy's autopsy had his body not been taken immediately back to Washington, D.C. Recorded November 8, 2005.

Jeanne Saunders
Saunders was the widow of the Rev. Louis Saunders, who performed the funeral services for Lee Harvey Oswald after a last-minute cancellation. Recorded July 2, 2001.
Dr. Kenneth Shields
A longtime English professor at Southern Methodist University, Shields was one of the founders of the North Texas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). He encountered Lee Harvey Oswald at a Dallas meeting shortly before the assassination. Recorded November 18, 2004.

Peggy Simpson
The only female Associated Press reporter working in Texas in 1963, Simpson covered the events of that weekend at the Texas School Book Depository building and Dallas police headquarters. On Sunday morning, she was an eyewitness to the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Recorded April 11, 2005.

Richard Sims
A Dallas homicide detective in 1963, Sims was heavily involved in the investigation that weekend, and he served as one of Oswald's primary handlers on Friday and Saturday. After leaving the Trade Mart and Parkland Memorial Hospital on November 22, 1963, Sims gathered the three empty shells as evidence at the Texas School Book Depository and was then with Oswald during his first interrogations, police lineups, paraffin tests, and the famous midnight press conference. Recorded February 16, 2007.

Robert Stone

Harlin Veasey
A state trooper assigned to motor vehicle inspection, Veasey drove one of the press cars in the Kennedy motorcade. Following the assassination, he was assigned guard duty for Gov. Connally at Parkland Memorial Hospital and was at the hospital when Lee Harvey Oswald arrived following his shooting. Recorded December 1, 2010.

Dr. Phillip E. Williams
As an intern at Parkland Memorial Hospital in 1963, Williams watched the emergency room scene unfold on November 22 and got a chair for Jackie Kennedy outside of Trauma Room One. Later, he assisted in the surgery of Lee Harvey Oswald. Recorded May 22, 2003, and July 8, 2008.

Aron Vigushin
A building engineer and member of the Young Communist League, Vigushin was living in the Russian city of Minsk when Lee Harvey Oswald defected to the Soviet Union. Vigushin was acquainted with both Oswald and his future wife, Marina Prusakova, and he practiced at the same firing range as Oswald between 1960 and 1961. Recorded November 6, 2009.
Oswald’s Been Shot!

A panel discussion as part of its annual observance of the assassination's anniversary. A collection of law enforcement officials, photographers and reporters who were at or near Dallas Police Headquarters when Lee Harvey Oswald was shot by nightclub owner Jack Ruby discussed memories of that day. Featured panelists included KLIF police reporter Gary DeLaune, KRLD radio and television reporter Bob Huffaker, Dallas Times Herald photographer Bob Jackson, Dallas Police detective James Leavelle and NBC News producer Fred Rheinstein.

The Sixth Floor Museum Announces the Addition of Lee Harvey Oswald’s Wedding Ring to Exhibit

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza has added Lee Harvey Oswald’s wedding ring to the core exhibit on the sixth floor. Learn about the 14-karat gold Russian wedding band that Oswald famously left in a tea cup at his wife's bedside the morning of November 22, 1963.

Living History with Buell Wesley Frazier

An interview between Buell Wesley Frazier, a former employee of the Texas School Book Depository, and Museum Associate Curator Stephen Fagin. Mr. Frazier drove Lee Harvey Oswald to work on November 22, 1963. He witnessed the assassination and was detained and questioned extensively by Dallas police. Frazier later testified for the Warren Commission.

Websites

Kennedy Assassination Home Page - Lee Harvey Oswald
Created by John McAdams, Professor of political science at Marquette University, the site is "dedicated to debunking the mass of misinformation and disinformation surrounding the murder of JFK." McAdams provides photographic and documentary evidence detailing Oswald's life, his character and possible motives for assassinating President Kennedy.

Mary Ferrell Foundation - Lee Harvey Oswald
This website was created by researcher and historian Mary Ferrell. The site offers the largest searchable electronic collection of materials related to the JFK assassination.

National Archives - The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection
The site offers online guides on the various record groups, including the records of the Warren Commission, Assassination Records Review Board and the House Select Committee on Assassinations. For details on Lee Harvey Oswald, please see: Chapter 5: Detention and Death of Oswald, Chapter6: Lee Harvey Oswald: Background and Possible Motives and Chapter 13: Biography of Lee Harvey Oswald.
**PBS Frontline** - "Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?"
This three-hour documentary investigates and examines the life and mysteries surrounding Oswald. The result of a year-long investigation by more than a dozen reporters and expert consultants, "Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?" draws upon hundreds of witnesses, in particular those who closely studied and observed him, as well as documents, photos, and video and audio recordings.

**Spartacus Educational** - The Assassination of JFK: Lee Harvey Oswald
This is part of an online educational website called Spartacus Educational, created by a British teacher/historian designed. The site offers a comprehensive overview of Oswald's life. Contains several video clips from documentaries about the Kennedy assassination.

**The Portal to Texas History** - http://texashistory.unt.edu/
The Portal to Texas History is created and maintained by the University of North Texas Libraries' Digital Projects Unit. The Portal is a gateway to Texas history materials and includes photographs, letters, fingerprint cards, documents and other resources from the Dallas Municipal Archives on Lee Harvey Oswald.