

Braden signed statement

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT. Not Under Arrest. Form No. 88

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SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF DALLAS, TEXAS

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this the 22 day of November A. D. 19 63

personally appeared Jim Braden, Address 621 S. Barington Dr.
Apt. 6 Los Angeles, Calif.
Age 49, Phone No. 4725301 Home Office 215 S. La Cienega Blvd.
Beverly Hills, California

Deposes and says:-

I am here on business (oil business) and was walking down Elm Street trying to get a cab and there wasn't any. I heard people talking saying "My God the President has been shot." Police cars were passing me coming down toward the triple underpass and I walked up among many other people and this building was surrounded by police officers with guns and we were all watching them. I moved on up to the building across the street from the building that was surrounded and I ask one of the girls if there was a telephone that I could use and she said "Yes, there is one on the third floor of the building where I work". I walked through a passage to the elevator they were all getting on (freight elevator) and I got off on the third floor with all the other people and there was a lady using the pay telephone and I ask her if I could use it when she hung up and she said it was out of order and I tried to use it but with no success. I ask her how I can get out of this building and she said that there is an exit right there and then she said wait a minute here is the elevator now. I got on the elevator and returned to the ground floor and the colored man who ran the elevator said you are a stranger in this building and I was not suppose to let you up and he ran outside to an officer and said to the officer that he had just taken me up and down in the elevator and the officer said for me to identify myself and I presented him with a credit card and he said well we have to check out everything and took me to his superior and said for me to wait and we will check it out. I was then taken to the Sheriff's office and interrogated.

Jim Braden

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 22nd day of Nov A. D. 19 63

Edwin Cox
Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

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WHO IS JIM BRADEN?

Jim Braden is a handsome, wealthy, middle-aged oilman with offices in Beverly Hills, California, and New Orleans, Louisiana. He is on speaking terms with some of the most important people in the oil industry. Jim Braden is also an embezzler, gambler, love swindler, con man and petty thief; a graduate of some of the toughest prisons in the United States.

But more important than those facts, Jim Braden was present in Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, the day **President John Fitzgerald Kennedy** was assassinated. And, quite probably, Jim Braden was inside or close to the **Texas Book Depository**, the building from which Lee **Harvey Oswald** fired the fatal shots at John Kennedy, according to the findings of the Warren Commission.

What is there to substantiate this claim that Jim Braden was present in Dealey Plaza on that day? The very pages of the Warren Report where the name of Jim Braden is listed twice. There is no mention of Braden's name in the index. But it can be found in Volume XIX of the Warren Report in Exhibit 5323. That is the exhibit presented to the Warren Commission by Bill Decker, the sheriff of Dallas County. On page 527 of Volume XIX, it shows that Jim Braden was one of 20 people questioned immediately after the assassination by deputy sheriff **L. (Lummie) Lewis.**

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COUNTY OF DALLAS
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

Serial No.

NAME OF SUBJECT

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

NAME OF OFFICE, DIVISION OR JURISDICTION ETC.

(Please print unless noted otherwise)

On: Nov 22, 1963

I was standing on the sidewalk on Main Street in the 300 block just east of Houston Street, when the motorcycle passing the corner on Houston Street, was a 2nd floor - I heard a shot. I saw the crowd and came across Houston Street to Elm Street to the Park. I saw some people there. I began to talk to them getting names and addresses.

I talked to the following named people:
Walter Thomas - w/111, 3160 9th Avenue - RT 1-1065.
John Hall - w/115, 1521 Pleasant Drive, RT 1-9377.
Scott Jacobs - w/120, 730 V. 9th Street, RT 2-0168.
The above people work at the Texas School Book Depository Building.

The following named people were brought to the Sheriff's Office and interviewed under their names:
Bob Johnson - w/122, 101 S. Mustang, Irving, Texas - Texas Auditor's Office.
Kornel Fisher, c/o County Auditor's Office.
R. E. Lester, JR. - w/124, 1922 Wilshire, RT 7-9701
W. A. - w/125, 254 - Dept. 1 - in the building
F. J. - w/126, 8/11, 3256 - RT 7-1861
Saw man in 816 about 15 min before shooting with a gun. Wife Barbara - w/127, W.A.

John D. Fisher - w/128, 4027 Elmwood Way, RT 8-0939.
Was with 235. Saw man on next to top floor and gave description of person. Party shirt hat on, not a sweater. Sweater on in front and not a shirt. 2nd sample. In his 20's. Sport shirt and slacks. Sport shirt opened at collar.

Charles Brohn - 1619 Kings Highway - RT 2-4883. Works at Mack's in Mesquite in Lynwood. Was on Grass on Elm St. saw president when he was shot.
David Olson - C/N/13, Husband, John - c/n/13, 4502 Underwood Dr. Copl. at Marriott. RT 8-7751. Standing on Elm by Freeway Sign.

I furnished this case by checked (check one)
 Interviewed by Agent
 Interviewed by Sheriff
 Interviewed by (Name)
Signed

Docera Exhibit No. 5323-Continued

Form 110 (Rev. 1-60)

COUNTY OF DALLAS
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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I furnished this case by checked (check one)
 Interviewed by Agent
 Interviewed by Sheriff
 Interviewed by (Name)
Signed

Docera Exhibit No. 5323-Continued

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When deputy Lewis states that Jim Braden "was in building when Pres. assassinated," the inference seems to be that Braden was in the Texas Book Depository. What other building could Lewis have been talking about? From the very moment the fatal shots were fired the Texas Book Depository was foremost in the minds of every investigator in Dallas.

The deputy decided to take Jim Braden into custody for questioning. According to one report, Lewis became suspicious when Braden tried to identify himself with a credit card from the Richfield Oil Company. From that brief encounter between Lewis and Braden we find one important piece of evidence, the California driver's license numbered H 751 775 with which Braden finally identified himself. That number is important because it opens up a whole new area of investigation never before explored by the FBI.

The records of the California Department of Motor Vehicles show that license H 751 775 belongs to Jim Braden of 280 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California. The Braden file shows that he uses his place of work as his address on the license "for business reasons." Before moving to that work address, Braden used 215 S. La Cienega Boulevard, also in Beverly Hills. Both addresses are office buildings where Braden has been associated with the same group of businessmen since the early 1960s.

But, there is one other important piece of evidence. The Department's file shows that Jim Braden was not always known by that name. Before September 10, 1963, he was known as ~~Eugene Hale Brading~~ the name of a former convict with a criminal record dating back to 1934.

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On that day in September, less than 2-3 months before John Kennedy
was murdered, Eugene Hale Brading notified the driver's license division
of the California Department of Motor Vehicles that henceforth he would be
known as Jim Braden. And, Jim Braden it was.

But back to deputy Lewis in Dealey Plaza the day of the murder with
Jim Braden in tow. The deputy's suspicions were aroused so Braden was
taken to the Dallas Sheriff's Station for questioning. Lewis filed his
supplementary investigation report. Someone in the sheriff's office,
we don't know exactly whom, questioned Braden. After signing a
voluntary statement, which was notarized, Braden was released from
custody. In the confusion that existed that day in Dallas Braden was
just a face in the crowd, just another person who had been in Dealey
Plaza and should be routinely questioned about the crime of the century.

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Without grounds of adequate suspicion a person being questioned
cannot be fingerprinted and photographed. Had that been done, of course,
Braden's true identity would have become known in a relatively short
period of time. Braden returned to Los Angeles where two months
later, in January of 1964, he was routinely questioned by FBI
agents making a follow-up investigation. The questioning was done in
the office building where Braden worked on La Cienega Boulevard. The
Los Angeles FBI agents were acting on the request of the FBI office in
Dallas simply to obtain any additional information Braden might be able
to shed on the assassination. Again there were no grounds for
finger and print taking and Braden was able to hide behind his new
alias. That he told the truth was substantially the same as what he
told someone in the Dallas Sheriff's office. The statement given in Dallas
is in Volume 469, Volume 1 of the FBI files, and it would
be to be expected that the statement given in Dallas.



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF DALLAS, TEXAS

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this the 22 day of November A.D. 1963

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Address 621 S. Parkington Dr.
Apt. 6 Los Angeles, Calif.
Office 215 S. La Cieroga Blvd.
Beverly Hills, California

Age 49 Phone No. 4725101 Home
Dweller and says:-

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William Carl
Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

DECKER EXHIBIT No. 5323-Continued

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Jim Braden tells how he was in the building across the street from Texas Book Depository, how he went into that building to make a phone call; how an elevator operator became suspicious and called an officer; how he tried to identify himself with a credit card and finally wound up at the Dallas Sheriff's station.

In a case of such magnitude it would have almost seemed routine for someone in the Dallas Sheriff's Office to have checked in Braden's home state, California, with the intelligence division of the state Justice Department.

The fact that Braden was really Brading might possibly have been determined very quickly since the man known as Eugene Hale Brading was well known to state investigators. The fact of the name change could have been determined very rapidly from Braden's drivers license number.

But the records of the California attorney general show that on September 22, 1963, no one in Dallas made any requests for information about Jim Braden. Normally, such requests for information from the state attorney general are logged in the criminal record of the person about whom the information was sought.

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About the only new information the Dallas authorities were able to cull out of Jim Braden was that of his home address, an apartment house on South Darrington Avenue in West Los Angeles. Braden never used that address in any of his public dealings, always preferring the office building in Beverly Hills. And, upon returning from Dallas, he apparently found other living accommodations in quick order.

Had someone in Dallas been a little bit more thorough, a wealth of information on Jim Braden was readily available. Under the name of Eugene Hale Brading and assorted aliases, there were eight different entries alone in the files of the Texas Department of Public Safety. The last was on August 20, 1952, when Brading was personally escorted out of town by **Dallas Sheriff Bill Decker.**

(more)

