

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

. Identifying Information:

Name Chester H. Boyers  
Address Route 1, Box 447  
City/State Smithfield, Va. 23430  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security \_\_\_\_\_

Date 4-25-78  
Place \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
M or S \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Children \_\_\_\_\_

. Physical Description:

Height \_\_\_\_\_  
Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
Ethnic Group \_\_\_\_\_

Color Eyes \_\_\_\_\_ Hair \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Characteristics \_\_\_\_\_

. Personal History:

- a. Present Employment: Chief Petty Officer in charge of the Pathology Department at Bethesda Naval Hospital  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Criminal Record
  - 1. Arrests \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Convictions \_\_\_\_\_

. Additional Personal Information:

- a. Relative(s): Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

b. Area frequented: \_\_\_\_\_

MD 62

c. Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator Mark Flanagan

*Mark Flanagan*

Date April 25, 1978

KENNEDY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Chester H. Boyers Date April 25, 1978 Time 7:30 p.m.  
Address Route 1, Box 447 Place \_\_\_\_\_  
Smithfield, Virginia 23430

Interview: I contacted Chester Boyers regarding his presence at the autopsy of President Kennedy. Mr. Boyer's address is Route 1, Box 447, Smithfield, Virginia 23430.

After confirming that Mr. Boyers did receive the letters rescinding the orders of silence and explaining the Committee's mandate, Mr. Boyers agreed to answer questions concerning the autopsy.

Mr. Boyers said he was the Chief Petty Officer in charge of the Pathology Department at Bethesda Naval Hospital in November 1963. He said he arrived at Bethesda in 1959 or 1960 and has had this assignment ever since.

On the evening of the autopsy Mr. Boyers said he was at home on leave. Upon hearing that the President had been shot and killed and anticipating that the President's body would possibly be brought to Bethesda, Mr. Boyers went to Bethesda around 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. After arriving he proceeded to the laboratory and then to the autopsy room where he prepared the area for possible use.

During the actual autopsy Mr. Boyers said it was his

Interviewer Signature Mark Flanagan  
Typed Signature Mark Flanagan

Date transcribed Rife 5-10-78

By: \_\_\_\_\_ 000852

responsibility to "keep things going" and to "get things done" from a technical viewpoint. Mr. Boyers insured that Marines guarded the room to check on persons leaving and entering.

After the autopsy Mr. Boyers wrote down some of the persons who were present. These included Jan <sup>Rud</sup>~~Reid~~nicki, Commander Humes, Commander Boswell, Robert Karner, Commander Ewing of the X-Ray Department, an Army General FNU Curtis (not positive about this), and the Chief of Neurosurgery.

Mr. Boyers said that he was constantly moving about the room. Concerning the wounds of President Kennedy, Mr. Boyers stated that there was a large wound to the right side and towards the rear of the head. Another wound was located in the upper back just under the scapula. Mr. Boyers also noticed that a tracheostomy had been performed.

During the autopsy Colonel Finck of the U.S. Army arrived. At this point Mr. Boyers also mentioned that the mortuary arrived at approximately 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning.

Mr. Boyers stated that many X-rays and photographs were being taken. He could not provide any additional details concerning these two activities.

During the autopsy Mr. Boyers said that the doctors kept looking for the bullet that entered the upper back. He also mentioned that the doctors used a metric ruler to measure the wounds.

Mr. Boyers was the person who typed out the receipts for

the missile fragments which the F.B.I. agents Sibert and O'Neill received. Mr. Boyers currently has a copy of this receipt. He stated that he submitted several missile fragments, probably three or four, all of which came from President Kennedy's head. He also stated that even though the receipt only stated that "a" missile was given to Sibert and O'Neill, several fragments of a missile were submitted and that he only prepared one receipt.

Mr. Boyers commented that the path of the missile tract originating in the upper back seemed to indicate that the missile exited through the tracheostomy.

Regarding other persons in the autopsy room, Mr. Boyers said very few people were leaving and entering and that no family members were present in the actual room. Mr. Boyers also said that he was answering the phone and that no phone calls came from the family or from Parkland Hospital.

Mr. Boyers stated that he recollects the doctor concluding that only two bullets struck the President from the rear. He estimated the massive wound in the head measured 3 inches by 3 inches.

Mr. Boyers believes that the doctors performed a complete autopsy. The internal organs and the brain were examined. Mr. Boyers again commented that he took notes following the autopsy.

Following the actual autopsy, Mr. Boyers stated that he prepared the tissue slides of the internal organs and of the brain. On November 22nd he prepared eleven blocks of twenty-two sections from the heart, lungs, kidney, stomach, intestines, and skin (from the wounds). He then gave the material to Dr. Boswell. He described this procedure by saying that during the autopsy the doctor would cut a piece of an organ and then save it for sectioning at a subsequent time. Mr. Boyers also said that on December 2nd he prepared six blocks of eight or twelve sections of the brain. He claims that these slides show the path of the bullet through the brain tissue. He described the slides as being one inch square by one-fourth inch thick.

Mr. Boyers stated that the normal procedure would be to store these slides in the permanent file section of Bethesda Naval Hospital. He commented that the material would be filed under the autopsy number, in this case 863-272. Mr. Boyers speculated that the President's tissue material could still be there or that they may have been given to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Concerning the brain, Mr. Boyers said that to section the brain it must be removed during the autopsy and "set" for approximately one week. Usually it is suspended in a bucket on a net in several gallons of formaldehyde. After sectioning any material that isn't utilized is normally incinerated. Mr. Boyers said that after the sectioning he gave the brain slides

to Dr. Humes and Dr. Boswell. Mr. Boyers also mentioned a Mr. Benson as someone who may have been involved in the sectioning. Further, Mr. Boyers said that Humes and Boswell only gave him the tissue material that was to be prepared into slides; he did not see or perform the actual cutting. He consequently does not know what happened to the remainder of the brain. He did mention, however, that he does not believe the brain or other tissue slides were immediately filed according to normal procedures. He thinks Humes or Boswell may have temporarily placed them in a safe for security reasons.

Mr. Boyers also mentioned that the 6" x 8" stainless steel containers described in the inventory list of the autopsy materials was too small for the brain; he said that such a container was normally used to place the smaller parts of all the other organs removed during the autopsy. Mr. Boyers said he had not contact with or knowledge of Dr. Buckley.