

The mystery of the Furniture Mart sighting of Lee and Marina Oswald and their children and its solution

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Here I propose to establish that witnesses' claims to have seen the Lee Harvey Oswald family visiting the Furniture Mart store in Irving, Texas on an unknown date in early November 1963 were a genuine sighting of Lee and Marina and their child and newborn baby and the date and circumstances that occurred, departing from the Warren Commission and researchers who have rejected it.

The Furniture Mart Oswald family sighting

Edith Whitworth, owner of the Furniture Mart in Irving, and another woman visiting in the store at the time, Gertrude Hunter, told of a visit to the Furniture Mart sometime in early November 1963 of a man, a woman, a small girl, and a newborn baby carried by the woman. After the assassination these women told of this and identified the family as Lee and Marina Oswald and their two children, a 2-year old girl and a baby girl born Oct 20, 1963.

What Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter saw that day. After driving up to and parking in front of the store, a man had entered the store asking for a gunsmith which a sign outside advertised, while a woman and children waited in the car. Store owner Mrs. Whitworth explained that the gunsmith had moved and referred the man to the Irving Sports Shop located about a block-and-a-half down the street. About to leave, the man noticed and expressed interest in Mrs. Whitworth's furniture for sale, saying he and his wife would be needing some furniture soon, in the next two or three weeks for an apartment move. The man went out to the car and came back into the store followed by a sullen, non-speaking woman carrying a newborn baby and with a ca. 2- or 3-year-old little girl who was whining a little. Mrs. Whitworth began showing the furniture. The man was polite and interested but the woman showed no interest and said nothing.

Then they all left the store and drove away, seemingly headed for the sports shop to which Mrs. Whitworth had referred the man.

The man told Mrs. Whitworth either that the baby was a girl and had been born about two weeks prior to the incident at the Furniture Mart or on October 20 (Mrs. Whitworth was a little unclear which of the two the man said exactly but remembered it was one of the two if not both: either two weeks earlier or Oct 20). It happens that Marina Oswald gave birth to Rachel, second child of Lee and Marina—full name Audrey Marina Rachel Oswald—on October 20, 1963. The small girl of the family in the Furniture Mart corresponds to then 2-yr-old June, daughter of Lee and Marina. Mrs. Whitworth's and Mrs. Hunter's other details of the man and woman matched Lee and Marina in physical descriptions and in what both Furniture Mart women remembered as the unusual behavior of the woman not speaking. In a face-to-face meeting of the two women with Marina set up by the Warren Commission in July 1964, Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter each unequivocally confirmed positive identifications of Marina as the woman who had been in the store while Marina denied it.

At the time this occurred, Marina and the two children were living in the home of Ruth Paine of Irving, located 2.3 miles away from the Furniture Mart. Lee, Marina's husband, had a rented room in Oak Cliff, where he stayed week nights, and a full-time job at the Texas School Book Depository in downtown Dallas. Lee would catch a ride with a coworker to Irving on weekends to visit his wife and children, staying in Ruth Paine's house. Lee had no car and no driver's license.

Despite the descriptions of the Furniture Mart women and the positive identifications of Marina in the face-to-face indicating Lee and Marina and their child and baby had been there, such a conclusion faces seemingly insurmountable difficulties.

A first problem is that the family arrived in a car driven by the man with no other driver or person with them. The man had parked the car in front of the store and the man drove the family away in the car when they left. But Lee Oswald did not have a car, did not have a driver's license, and both Ruth Paine and Marina testified they had never seen or known Lee to drive a car on his own.

Second, in the face-to-face of Mrs. Whitworth, Mrs. Hunter, and Marina set up by the Warren Commission, Marina denied having been in the Furniture Mart. Marina insisted she had no memory of seeing either woman before, in stark contrast to the two women who positively identified Marina as the woman in the store that day.

Third, Ruth Paine, whose detailed testimony to the Warren Commission provided the timeline relied upon for reconstructing the movements and locations of Lee and Marina in October and November 1963, one of the most thorough and reliable of witnesses associated with the JFK assassination, denied knowledge of any trip to the Furniture

Mart on the part of either Lee or Marina, said she would have known if there had been such a trip, and believed such a trip never occurred.

And fourth, the Warren Commission concluded that there was no possibility on logistical grounds such a visit of Lee and Marina and their children could have occurred when Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter said it did. According to Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter the family came in to the Furniture Mart during business hours on a weekday—remembered by Mrs. Hunter to be a Wed, Thu or Fri of the week ending Nov 9 or Nov 16, and by Mrs. Whitworth similarly as one of the weekdays in the week ending Nov 9, though neither could situate the exact day—but Oswald’s weekdays in early November were accounted for by full-time employment at the Texas School Book Depository, and Oswald’s work records showed no missed days or missed hours at work. On weekends when Lee was at Ruth Paine’s house, Ruth knew where he and Marina were and they had never gone to the Furniture Mart, let alone driven there in a car which Lee did not have with Marina and the child and baby.

In light of these puzzles, at the request of the Warren Commission’s lead counsel seeking to resolve the matter, the FBI tried to identify some other family in the area which had a baby born late October and a ca. 2-3 year old girl of similar description, which might have been confused in identification with the Oswalds by the women at the Furniture Mart. But the FBI was unable to find any viable alternative possible identification.

This mystery has received no convincing solution all these years. That is what the present study proposes to remedy.

Abstract of the argument

Since no one supposes Edith Whitworth, an experienced retail business owner, intentionally fabricated or hallucinated the story, most researchers have assumed it must have been some sort of freak mistaken identification, some other family of four of exactly similar description.

Theories of intentional impersonation (as some conspiracy authors have suggested) in explanation of what happened at the Furniture Mart are not judged here worthy of serious consideration. Any theory of impersonation would have to have not only an actor pretending to be Lee and an actress pretending to be Marina, but an actor 2-yr old girl and actor baby as well, in a highly elaborate and choreographed machination, all for the purpose of having two women in a furniture store weeks later *maybe* remember and report that a family looking like the Oswalds had driven to the store with the man asking for a gunsmith for unknown reason. That is *way, way* too elaborate for such a trivial outcome to be plausible. Just dismiss that one.

This study will find differently, that what the women at the Furniture Mart saw was no mistake: indeed it was Lee and Marina and their two children in the Furniture Mart, and the perceived difficulties have reasonable solutions.

It will be found that Lee drove a blue and white 1955 Oldsmobile sedan belonging to Michael Paine parked in front of Ruth Paine's house, on Monday, November 11, without Ruth's knowledge or permission—the only known time Lee did that—with Marina and the children. It will be found that Lee had access to that car that day and ability to drive to the Furniture Mart even though he had no driver's license; that Ruth Paine's testimony was truthful and accurate according to her knowledge but the trip to the Furniture Mart occurred without her knowledge; and that Marina's denials on this matter have not been truthful. I will now run through each of these points in detail.

When?

Although neither woman could fix a specific calendar date with certainty, both women believed it had occurred during business hours on a weekday. Mrs. Whitworth thought it was (as first told to the FBI) Nov 6, 7, or 8 (Wed-Fri), or (as later told to the Warren Commission) Nov 4, 5, or 6 (Mon-Wed). Mrs. Hunter thought it was Nov 6, 7, 13, or 14 (Wed-Thu's). This is a case in which knowledge that an event occurred should be distinguished from uncertainty and error concerning the date, though, it will be noticed, the correct date to be shown, Nov 11, is near the mistaken dates suggested by the witnesses such that the error in estimation of "when" on the part of the witnesses remembering later, after the fact, is not a huge one.

Mrs. Whitworth to the FBI:

"Mrs. Whitworth said she is confident in her own mind that the man, woman, and two small children who visited the Furniture Mart on November 6, 7, or 8, 1963, as she has previously related, were Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina Oswald, and two small children." (FBI, 5/5/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=1142#relPageId=737>)

Mrs. Whitworth in testimony to the Warren Commission:

"[I]t was along the first of November ... [the baby] was 2 weeks old ... yes [the man said the baby was 2 weeks old at that time] ... I judge that he would have been in the store around the 4th, 5th, or 6th of November, because we were fixing to go to a ball game, this lady and I ... the first week in November ... We [Mrs. Hunter and I] were planning a trip, you know, to this football game ... it wasn't the weekend ... during the week ... the baby was 2 weeks old when he was in the store and it was the first week in November that he was in the store and I don't know what date that would have been that he was in the store ... it was before that Friday [Nov 8]."

On or about Thu Nov 28, 1963, *Paris-Match* reporter Paul Matthian was present when Mrs. Hunter was interviewed by Jean Campbell of the *London Evening Standard*:

“Matthian recalled that Mrs. Hunter, in attempting to determine the date of the Oswald visit to the store, associated the date with a particular bus trip that her husband had taken, and she decided that the Oswald visit must have occurred on either Wednesday, November 6, 1963 or Thursday, November 7, 1963, a day or so subsequent to her husband’s bus trip. He [Matthian] advised that Mrs. Hunter stated that she devoted more attention to Marina Oswald than to Lee Harvey Oswald because Marina was carrying an infant, approximately two **or three weeks** old, in her arms. Mrs. Hunter voiced some nice remark about the baby and recalls that Marina did not reply to Mrs. Hunter’s comment. Mrs. Hunter then stated, according to Matthian, that Oswald spoke to Marina in a foreign language, apparently apprising Marina of Mrs. Hunter’s comments.” (FBI, 7/9/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=11676#relPageId=6>)

Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter reconstructed and pegged the event as in relationship to and having occurred before a Friday night football game between Irving High School and Richland Hills High School which was an “away” game at Richland Hills near Fort Worth. Although neither Mrs. Whitworth nor Mrs. Hunter were themselves certain of the date, the FBI confirmed the date of that football game was Friday Nov 8, 1963. (FBI, 8/21/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=1141#relPageId=631>)

But when Jean Campbell contacted Ruth Paine she received this emphatic negative response:

“Miss Campbell said later, in talking with Mrs. Paine where the Oswald couple stayed and where presumably Oswald lived only week ends, the matter became still more confusing. Miss Campbell said it was confusing because **Mrs. Paine ‘vowed up and down’ that Mrs. Oswald never went anyplace either in a car or walking. Miss Campbell asked Mrs. Paine if Mrs. Oswald had been out of the house with the children the first part of November or the 6th or 7th. Mrs. Paine said absolutely not.** Miss Campbell asked if Mr. Oswald had a car and she said, **‘Of course he doesn’t. He doesn’t know how to drive,’** and he never came to get her during the day at any time. Miss Campbell said Mrs. Paine was flustered when she said this because **Miss Campbell pressed the point hard and Mrs. Paine would not talk with her any more.**” (FBI, 12/6/63, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=57673#relPageId=158>)

The FBI concluded in agreement with Ruth Paine:

“Investigation by the Dallas Office [FBI] has shown that Lee Harvey Oswald was working at the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas at the time these persons

were allegedly seen by Mrs. Whitworth. Investigation has further established that Lee Harvey Oswald could not drive an automobile and Mrs. Ruth Paine, landlady of Mrs. Oswald in Irving, Texas, has stated that Mrs. Oswald was definitely at her residence at the time the individuals were allegedly seen by Mrs. Whitworth.” (FBI, 12/10/63, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=57748#relPageId=84>)

But from the finding that the event could not have occurred during the week ending Fri Nov 8 as indicated by Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter it does not follow that the event did not occur. What this evidence may actually indicate is not that the event did not happen but that the witnesses erred on the date. Bear in mind the question of the date only became a matter of attention or interest to the witnesses after the weekend of the assassination of Nov 22-24, when the witnesses first attempted retrospectively to remember or reconstruct the date. Neither of the two women remembered exactly, and they talked to each other about it, increasing the chances of an error on the part of one becoming common to both. Remembrance of an event while being in error as to when it happened is one of the most common types of human error: an incident is remembered but not exactly when it happened. In such cases humans attempt to reconstruct the relative and absolute timeline for the event by means of associations or linkages, not always accurately. That is what should be considered in the present case: the incident occurred but needs to be dated correctly.

Lee Oswald was normally in Irving only on weekends—riding out to Irving from Dallas on Friday evenings with fellow Book Depository employee Buell Wesley Frazier who lived down the street from Ruth Paine, and then Lee returning with Frazier back to Dallas to work on Monday mornings. But there was one exception to the usual Monday return: on the weekend of Nov 9-10, 1963, Oswald remained at the Ruth Paine home in Irving one additional day, through Monday night Nov 11, because Monday Nov 11 was a holiday, Veterans Day. It was not a workday for employees of the Texas School Book Depository.

According to a timeline compiled by the FBI on Nov 28, 1963 from information obtained from Ruth Paine, Ruth reported:

“November 11, 1963 — This was a holiday. [Lee] stayed at the Paine residence this entire day and night. He practiced parking for a short period with Mrs. Paine’s car. **Mrs. Paine was gone for two or three hours this date** but Lee was there when she left and there when she came back.” (FBI, 11/28/63, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=57699#relPageId=37>)

In later testimony Ruth placed the parallel parking lesson a day earlier on Sunday Nov 10, with no further mention of Lee practicing parallel parking on Monday Nov 11. But the day of the parking practice of Lee with Ruth does not matter. The point of interest is the period of time Ruth was away from her house on November 11.

From Ruth Paine's Warren Commission testimony, when she was taken through her calendar on which she had written notations of appointments and events:

“Now the morning of the 11th of November I was **not home from something before 9 o'clock until about 2 that afternoon.** I don't know what transpired during that time.” (3H116)

“There is an entry on November 11, ‘Veterans Day.’ I have already referred to the fact that I was **away from 9 or so in the morning until about 2 in the afternoon** and this was a day that Lee was at home or at the Fifth Street address at my home ... **I was away from about 9 in the morning.**” (9H361)

“The **only time** when he was there and **I was away long enough for him to have gone somewhere and come back**, and I now know but can recall was **Monday, the 11th of November.**” (9H396)

Ruth Paine elaborated in a written affidavit of June 24, 1964:

“At no time after Marina and I and our children arrived in Irving, Texas, on September 24, 1963, from New Orleans, Louisiana, did I ever take Lee Oswald or Marina Oswald to the Irving Sports Shop, which is located at 221 East Irving Boulevard, Irving, Texas. I was quite aware during all of this period of Marina's activities and where she was. I know of no occasion when either she or Lee Oswald visited either the Furniture Mart or the Irving Sports Shop. 9. There was no occasion during the period Marina resided with me in the Fall of 1963, of which I was aware or now recollect, that Marina rode either in my station wagon or any other automobile or means of conveyance with Lee Oswald at the wheel. Neither the Irving Sports Shop nor Mrs. Whitworth nor Dyal Ryder was ever mentioned in my presence by either of the Oswalds. (. . .) 13. I was not present in my home for part of the day on November 11, 1963. **As I testified, I made a trip that day, which was Armistice Day and a holiday, to Dallas, Texas. I was gone from approximately 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Not wishing to burden Lee and Marina with my children, I had them stay at my neighbors the Craigs. Marina and Lee Oswald and their children were in my home when I left and were there when I returned.** Based upon my conversation with Marina and Lee Oswald, **and my understanding of their plans for the day, it is my clear opinion that all of them remained in my home during my trip to and from Dallas.**” (Ruth Paine affidavit, 6/24/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=45#relPageId=164>)

Ruth Paine's trip was to an attorney in downtown Dallas related to Ruth preparing divorce papers. The timeline of Ruth for Nov 11 might be reconstructed something like this. Downtown Dallas is about ten miles from Irving and about a 20-30 minute drive

depending on traffic according to a current online driving-time calculator. If the appointment with the attorney had been set for 10 a.m., Ruth might have made her advance arrangements to take her children next door at 9 a.m., then driven to Dallas to be there in good time for her 10 a.m. appointment. Let us suppose the meeting started at 10 a.m., and went through a second hour ending toward noon. Ruth might then have taken a little time to herself to review and decompress (the babysitting might have been arranged to be open-ended to allow as much of the day as needed). Then, with or without other add-on errands on the way home, Ruth might have returned around 2 p.m.

The solution here is quite simple: that *time frame* on Nov 11 is when Lee with Marina and their children went to the Furniture Mart—during those hours Ruth was gone on Monday Nov 11. It was that day and time, because of the weight and credibility of the witness testimonies that the event happened and there is no other possible time it could have happened.

Michael Paine visited the Ruth Paine house the day before, on Sunday Nov 10, according to Michael's and Ruth's testimony. Michael was not staying overnight with Ruth, from whom he was separated, prior to the assassination; Michael will have returned to his apartment in Grand Prairie that evening. Meanwhile the next day, Veterans Day, Mon Nov 11, 1963, was a work day at Michael Paine's place of employment, Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth that year. (Michael Paine: "Bell did not then have that day off and he [Lee] did, so he was there that morning, a Monday morning on that date of that holiday" [2H405].) When Ruth left her house at 9 a.m. Mon Nov 11, neither Michael nor Ruth nor their two children were there.

But, a blue and white 1955 Oldsmobile owned by Michael Paine, parked in front of Ruth Paine's house, was.

Could Lee Oswald drive?

Prior to the assassination Ruth Paine was helping Lee prepare to get a driver's license. She gave him driving lessons. Ruth told the Warren Commission that on her first driving lesson with Lee in mid-October, Lee took the keys, got in Ruth's 1955 Chevy Belair station wagon, started it up, and with Ruth in the car drove several blocks on city streets to the shopping center parking lot where they were going to practice, upsetting Ruth who did not want Lee driving her car illegally on public streets without a license or learner's permit. From Ruth Paine's testimony to the Warren Commission:

Mr. JENNER – You are now reading from Commission Exhibit No. 425.

Mrs. PAINE – Which is a letter dated October 14, in my hand, from me to my mother.

Mr. DULLES – Would you give your mother's name?

Mrs. PAINE – Her name is Mrs. Carol Hyde.

Representative BOGGS – Where does she live?

Mrs. PAINE – In Columbus, Ohio. It was likely written to Oberlin, where she was a student at that time. “If Lee can just find work that will help so much.

Meantime I started giving him driving lessons last Sunday (yesterday). If he can drive this will open up more job possibilities and more locations.”

Mr. JENNER – Yes.

Mrs. PAINE – I want to comment too on the nature of this lesson.

Mr. JENNER – The Commission will be interested in that but you go ahead.

Mrs. PAINE – Now?

Mr. JENNER – Go right ahead.

Mrs. PAINE – I knew that he had not even a learner’s permit to drive. I wasn’t interested in his driving on the street with my car until he had such. But on Sunday the parking lot of a neighboring shopping center was empty, and I am quite certain that is where the driving lesson took place.

Mr. JENNER – That is your best present recollection?

Mrs. PAINE – Yes. Now I recall this also, and it is significant. I offered him a lesson and intended to drive him to this area for him to practice. He, however, started the car.

Mr. JENNER – He got in and started the car?

Mrs. PAINE – **He got in and started the car so that I know he was able to do that and wanted to drive on the street to the parking lot.**

Mr. JENNER – He wanted to?

Mrs. PAINE – He wanted to. I said, “My father is an insurance man and he would never forgive me.”

Mr. JENNER – Your father?

Mrs. PAINE – My father. And insisted that he get a learner’s permit before he would drive on the street.

Mr. JENNER – At that moment and at that time he acted, in any event in your presence, as though he himself thought–

Mrs. PAINE – That is right.

Mr. JENNER – He would be capable of driving an automobile from your home to the parking area in which you were about to give him a lesson. That was your full impression, was it not?

Mrs. PAINE – **Yes. I should add that, as I am recalling, he did drive a portion of the way, he drove in fact, it is about three blocks, to the parking lot. I was embarrassed to just tell him “No, don’t.”** But I did, in effect, on the way there, when he was on the street, driving on the street in my car, when we got there I said, “Now, I am going to drive back.” I didn’t want him to.

Mr. JENNER – From your home to the parking lot?

Mrs. PAINE – The first time before we had any lesson at all. And at that time I made it clear **I didn’t want him to drive in the street.** Also, it became clear to me in that lesson that he was very unskilled in driving. We practiced a number of the things you need to know, to back up, to turn, right angle turn to come to a stop.

Mr. JENNER – Was this on the parking lot?

Mrs. PAINE – This was all on a parking lot.

Mr. DULLES – **Did I understand you to say he drove three blocks, was that all the way to the parking lot? So he drove all the way to the parking lot?**

Mrs. PAINE – **Perhaps a little longer. But a short distance, whatever it was**, to the parking lot, yes. Rather than stopping in midstreet and changing drivers. Going to turn a right angle---

Mr. DULLES – How well did he do on that?

Mr. McCLOY – That is what she is telling.

Mrs. PAINE – No; that is a separate answer.

Mr. JENNER – She is talking about the parking lot.

Mrs. PAINE – I was very nervous while he was doing it and was not at all happy about his doing it. **I would say he did modestly well; but no means skilled** in coming to a stop and turning a square right angle at a corner.

Lee Oswald did not have a driver's license. He was not an experienced driver. But as known from elsewhere, his uncle or cousin in New Orleans had taught him to drive a little, enough that Lee was capable of driving from point A to point B locally, as he in fact did with Ruth Paine's car with Ruth in it according to Ruth's testimony just cited. From an FBI interview of Marina Oswald:

“Mrs. Oswald was asked if Oswald could drive a car, and she replied that he did not have a driver's license. She said Mrs. Paine had taught him something about driving a car after he returned to Dallas in October, 1963. She said also that **Oswald's cousin who lived on French Street in New Orleans had taught him something about driving. She said she believes Oswald could have passed a driver's test.**” (FBI, 11/29/63, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=95652#relPageId=44>)

From a Secret Service interview of Ruth Paine of Dec 5, 1963:

“Mrs. Paine said that **insofar as driving a motor car is concerned**, in her opinion, **Oswald was perfectly capable of doing so**. She did not consider him to be a proficient driver, however. On several occasions she had allowed Oswald to practice driving her 1955 Chevrolet station wagon, which has an automatic shift. **Oswald could manage the car**, but experienced difficulty in parking and maneuvering a car in close quarters through heavy traffic. He had considerable trouble backing into a parking space. She took him out to drive on several occasions. Mrs. Paine said that Oswald told her that while in New Orleans, he had used his uncle's automobile on at least one occasion. She felt sure, however, that he did not possess a driver's license. Her own car was not, to her knowledge, ever used by Oswald.” (<https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=10490#relPageId=629>)

Therefore Lee had the *ability* to drive 2.3 miles to and from the Furniture Mart on the date it happened. That Oswald was not a skilled or experienced driver is in agreement with Mrs. Hunter at the Furniture Mart telling of how she had to run out to shout at the driver as he was leaving—Oswald—that he was about to drive the wrong way on a one-way street in front of the Furniture Mart. According to Mrs. Hunter the driver—Oswald—made no overt acknowledgement but did then correct, turned the car around and drove in the right direction.

The conclusion is: any notion that Oswald could not drive at all is spurious. Oswald was capable of driving 2.3 miles to the Furniture Mart and back from Ruth Paine's house.

What car did Oswald drive to the Furniture Mart?

At the Furniture Mart Mrs. Hunter saw the car driven by Oswald pull up to the store. From her early interview with Jean Campbell of the *London Evening Standard*:

“Mrs. Hunter further stated [on ca. Nov 28, 1963], according to Miss Campbell, that when the Oswalds left the store, Marina placed the older child into a **1956 or 1957 two-tone blue and white Ford or Chevrolet** and then entered the vehicle herself with her infant daughter. Oswald entered the vehicle, sat behind the steering wheel, and turned the vehicle around and proceeded in the direction of the Irvington [*sic*] Sports Shop. According to Miss Campbell, Mrs. Hunter related that Oswald, in doing this, was proceeding the wrong way on a one-way street and had to turn the vehicle around again.” (FBI, 7/7/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=1317#relPageId=577>)

The same was told to Jean Campbell by Mrs. Whitworth who also saw the car:

“According to Miss Campbell, Mrs. Whitworth stated [on ca. Nov 27, 1963] that **the Oswalds left the store and entered a two-tone blue and white Ford** believed to be a 1957 model.” (FBI, 7/7/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=1317#relPageId=577>)

In a later interview to the FBI:

“[Mrs. Hunter] recalls the car as being a **1957 or 1958 Ford, two-tone blue and cream**“ (FBI, 5/6/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=58994#relPageId=36>)

From Mrs. Hunter's Warren Commission testimony:

Mr. LIEBELER. Could this car have been an Oldsmobile?

Mrs. HUNTER. No, sir; it was a Ford—it was just like the one that my friends had in Houston.

Mr. LIEBELER. You are sure it wasn't a foreign car of any kind?

Mrs. HUNTER. Oh, no; no.

Mr. LIEBELER. It was a Ford?

Mrs. HUNTER. It was a 1957—I think it was a 1957 Ford instead of a 1958.

Mr. McKENZIE. **Blue and white?**

Mrs. HUNTER. **Blue and white yes, sir.**

Mr. McKENZIE. **Blue on the bottom and white on the top?**

Mrs. HUNTER. **Yes, sir.**

And a summary from the FBI to the Warren Commission:

“By letter dated August 6, 1964, the President’s Commission advised Mrs. Gertrude Hunter, Irving, Texas, had furnished certain information alleging she had observed Lee Harvey Oswald in Irving, Texas, in November, 1963, in an automobile she believed was a **1957 Ford, blue and white** in color. Mrs. Hunter expressed the opinion this automobile was **similar to an automobile** owned by a Houston couple whom she identified as ‘Mr. and Mrs. Dominick’ [*sic*; Dominey] (...) Mrs. Dominey was questioned regarding the description of all automobiles owned by her family during 1963 (...) the only passenger automobile owned by the family during 1963 was a 1958 model Ford sedan. This automobile was purchased in 1958 and the color was originally **turquoise and white.**” (FBI, 8/14/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=1142#relPageId=492>)

Mrs. Whitworth, Warren Commission testimony:

“I would say it was a **blue and white car** and I have always said that it was a **Ford or Plymouth**—it was something with fins on it.”

The important points are the two colors—blue and white—and that the car appears to be a sedan. Blue and white corresponds exactly to the one car to which Lee Oswald had access Monday morning Nov 11 when Ruth Paine went to Dallas. The car Oswald was seen driving to the Furniture Mart can be identified. It was a two-tone blue and white 1955 Oldsmobile which had been bought only about three weeks earlier by Michael Paine. Michael Paine in buying that car appears to have done so with intent that it could become available to Lee for use or purchase as soon as Lee got his driver’s license which was about to happen. As will be established momentarily, *that car was parked in front of Ruth Paine’s house the morning of Mon Nov 11* when Ruth left in her car (her two-tone green 1955 Chevy Belair station wagon) and was gone for several hours. After Ruth left in her car for her meeting in Dallas, Oswald is seen arriving to the Furniture Mart in a car of exactly the same two colors as the one parked in front of Ruth Paine’s house that morning. That is because Lee drove that car to the Furniture Mart.

Here is the timeline and whereabouts of Michael Paine’s blue and white 1955 Olds on Nov 11, 1963:

Time: late October 1963. The car is purchased.

“Mr. [George] Stephenson [colleague of Michael Paine’s at Bell Helicopter, Fort Worth] stated that he recalled having had one business transaction with Michael Paine about a month prior to November 22, 1963, in which he, Stephenson, **sold a 1955 Oldsmobile to Michael Paine for \$200**” (FBI, 4/1/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=11246#relPageId=29>).

Time: October 25, 1963. The car is taken to Ruth Paine’s house.

Mr. LIEBELER. The occasion that you met Oswald at the ACLU meeting [Fri Oct 25, 1963] was the only time at which you ever met Oswald, is that correct?

Mr. KRYSTINIK. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. You mentioned that you had met Marina Oswald and child prior to that time.

Mr. KRYSTINIK. Yes; **Michael had bought an old blue**—he had a French Citroen automobile. At any rate, he had the two cars and he wanted me to drive either his car [the Citroen] home or follow him home in my car. And he was **taking the Oldsmobile to Irving** and I followed him in my car and took him back to the research laboratory and picked up his Citroen. At any rate, when I drove the car in, he went into the house and **brought Ruth out and Marina**. And all I remember is one little girl. I didn’t see the baby. The little girl came out with her mother and Ruth introduced me to Marina. She impressed me at the time as very sweet and very polite. I spoke as slowly and as distinctly as I could to her in English, Texan to be exact, and she turned to Marina—Marina turned to Ruth and spoke to her in Russian, and I asked Ruth if I was talking too fast, and Marina said I am talking too Texan. At any rate, that was about it. I told her that she had a beautiful little girl and hoped that she would like the United States. And she commented that she did, that it was a wonderful country. That I can remember for sure. That impressed me, because it seems that where there is a possibility of a Russian saying something nice, it is nice to have a compliment. At least I felt complimented. (...) I talked with her [Marina] **while Ruth was looking at the car with Michael**. I mean I talked to her rather than with her.”

Time: November 5, 1963.

Ruth Paine, Warren Commission: “[On Tue Nov 5, 1963] I was aware that he [FBI agent James Hosty] had parked his car out in front of my house. (...) he had **parked directly in front**. But to the best of my recollection, **in back of the Oldsmobile of my husband’s** (...) to the best of my recollection, **an Oldsmobile that my husband bought was also in front of the house**, so that the cars would have been close at the bumpers.”

***Time: November 11, 1963.**

Lee Oswald witnessed driving Marina and their children in a blue and white sedan of mid-1950s vintage to and from the Furniture Mart.

Time: January 7, 1965.

Dallas Police: “On January 7, 1965, a report was submitted stating that a **1955 Oldsmobile, 4 door, color blue and white**, Texas license NY-9880, was observed parked in front of subject’s [Michael Paine] residence, 2515 W. Fifth Street, Irving, Texas ... the vehicle is registered to subject at the above address.” (https://whokilledjfk.net/ruth_paine.htm)

These testimonies verify that the blue and white 1955 Olds of Michael Paine was parked at Ruth Paine’s house on Oct 25 and Nov 5, 1963. After buying it from his coworker at Bell Helicopter, Michael (who lived in Grand Prairie, a different suburb of Dallas) had the car brought to Ruth Paine’s house in Irving on Oct 25 where it remained parked there. The car was there on Nov 5, and by extension, and because there is no information or reason why it would have been moved anywhere else, the car will have still been there, in the same place in front of Ruth Paine’s house, six days later on Nov 11.

The blue and white car Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter saw Oswald driving that day on Nov 11, 1963 was the blue and white 1955 Olds belonging to Michael Paine parked in front of Ruth Paine’s house on the morning of Nov 11. After Ruth left that day for her meeting in Dallas, Oswald drove Marina and their children to the Furniture Mart in a blue and white car. *It is that car. It is the same car.* Neither Ruth nor Michael Paine knew Lee drove Michael’s car that morning. *But Lee did*, because witnesses *saw him* doing so.

From Michael Paine’s Warren Commission testimony:

Mr. LIEBELER – **Did he ever use your automobile?**

Mr. PAINE – **Not to my knowledge.** Presumably he couldn’t drive. He couldn’t have used my automobile very well because I don’t believe he knew where my second key was, and I would always have the key.

Mr. LIEBELER – What kind of an automobile do you own?

Mr. PAINE – It is a French Citroen.

Mr. LIEBELER – What model?

Mr. PAINE – 1959; year 1959.

Mr. LIEBELER – Not a 2CV?

Mr. PAINE – No; it is an ID-19, I guess.

Mr. LIEBELER – Is that the only automobile that you own?

Mr. PAINE – While they were here **I bought a second automobile; an Olds, ’55 or ’56 Oldsmobile, ’56**, I believe.

Mr. LIEBELER – When was this?

Mr. PAINE – During the time, sometime between September and November, I bought a secondhand ’56 Oldsmobile.

Mr. LIEBELER – For your own personal use?

Mr. PAINE – Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER – So that you then had two cars?

Mr. PAINE – Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER – And Ruth has a station wagon, doesn't she?

Mr. PAINE – Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER – And that is her own car?

Mr. PAINE – Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER – Is that the only automobile that she owns?

Mr. PAINE – Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER – What model is that?

Mr. PAINE – '55.

Mr. LIEBELER – Chevrolet station wagon?

Mr. PAINE – Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER – Do you know whether Oswald used that?

Mr. PAINE – Ruth took Oswald to practice driving in a parking lot.

Mr. LIEBELER – Did she tell you about that?

Mr. PAINE – Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER – What did she tell you?

Mr. PAINE – I can't remember whether she has told me so much more since November 22 and I can't remember whether she may have said before that. She was telling me how he was persistent, diligent in trying to learn, not very particularly skilled, and apparently quite pleased at the whole process. He was grateful to her and one of the nicest kinds of communication she had with him. (...)

Mr. LIEBELER Did you ever discuss with him driving an automobile or obtaining a driver's license?

Mr. PAINE I probably said it would be well to get a driver's license. It would be well—I probably said, "You probably need a car to get around here." In other words, effectively, no.

Mr. LIEBELER Did he ever indicate to you that he planned to purchase an automobile?

Mr. PAINE I bought this secondhand car for \$200.

Mr. LIEBELER What kind of a car is that? Mr. PAINE That is a **1956 Oldsmobile**.

Mr. LIEBELER When did you buy it?

Mr. PAINE I bought it while they were there, while Marina was staying with us, which was sometime in November. Either October or November, probably the early part of November. They went out to admire the car. \$200, I suppose, didn't seem out of their reach then. Mr. LIEBELER Did he indicate to you that he was thinking—

Mr. PAINE Therefore, I think Ruth, **they went out to admire the car** and, of course, **I was thinking that it, this might make it appear to them that the car was within reach, and driving was something to be sought.**

Mr. LIEBELER In addition to the Oldsmobile that you mentioned, you personally own a Citroen automobile and your wife owns a station wagon, is that correct?

Mr. PAINE That is correct.

Mr. LIEBELER You never saw Oswald drive any of those cars at any time?

Mr. PAINE That is correct. **I had keys to both of my cars so he could not have driven them without—**

Mr. LIEBELER Without your knowledge?

Mr. PAINE Or else somehow getting another. He would have to—**you can, I have driven my car when I have broken the key.**

Mr. LIEBELER But you never saw him drive it?

Mr. PAINE I never saw him drive it.

How could Lee drive Michael Paine's car if Lee never had a key?

Michael Paine's testimony indicates he never gave Lee a key to the 1955 Olds nor did he have knowledge that Lee had ever driven it. Although it is theoretically possible Lee could have hotwired the car to start it (<https://www.quora.com/Can-you-start-an-old-car-with-a-screwdriver?share=1>), that would only be possible if the car was unlocked where it was parked. More likely the car would have been locked when parked outside and not in use. Ruth Paine elsewhere testified that her garage door was kept locked to entry from outside, indicating security consciousness. If the parked car was locked a hot-wiring method of starting the car would not be possible. Also, Mrs. Hunter at the Furniture Mart was at the front of the store looking at the Oswalds leave outside the store. Mrs. Hunter was in a position to see, and by her account Mrs. Hunter did see, all of the movements of Lee and Marina in leaving in the car. Neither Mrs. Hunter nor Mrs. Whitworth said anything about noticing a delay or unusual behavior in Lee in getting the car started, nothing other than in agreement with a normal person getting into a car and starting it with a key in the ignition. For these reasons it can be concluded that even though neither Michael nor Ruth had given Lee a key to the car, nevertheless Lee had access to a key that morning. It had to have been by means of a key Michael had left with Ruth Paine.

When Michael Paine had the '55 Olds taken to the house in Irving and parked there, he would have left a key with Ruth in case Ruth needed to move the car. Since Ruth so far as is known never drove the '55 Olds herself (had no need to do so since she had her own Chevy Belair station wagon), there is no reason to assume Ruth would necessarily carry the key to Michael Paine's '55 Olds on her person. The key to the '55 Olds would then be somewhere at the house, in some personal or private drawer of Ruth's, unknown to Marina and Lee (or so Ruth thought). And yet since the car *was driven* that morning, the mechanism would be via that key that Michael will have left with Ruth.

It is not necessary to know exactly how Lee or (perhaps more likely) Marina knew where that key was and obtained it without Ruth's knowledge, only that that is what happened. We know that happened, because the car was driven. Lee was seen driving it: the blue and white Olds, *that* car, the one parked in front of Ruth Paine's house on the morning of Nov 11 before Lee drove it to the Furniture Mart.

There is therefore no mystery which car Oswald drove to the Furniture Mart. It was the only car available to Lee, the only car he could have driven. The exact match of the two colors confirms this analysis is correct and that the car driven to the Furniture Mart was Michael Paine's blue and white '55 Olds parked at Ruth Paine's house.

Circumstances of Lee and Marina and their children on Nov 11, 1963

At that time Michael and Ruth Paine were separated and on track to divorce, though they remained supportive of each other. (Michael and Ruth resumed living together after the assassination and the divorce did not go forward at that time.) The reason Ruth went into Dallas on Mon Nov 11 was to meet with a divorce attorney. Lee knew of this trip of Ruth's in advance, and Ruth mentioned in her Warren Commission testimony that the evening before that Monday, Lee had inquired if she was upset about the upcoming meeting, which Ruth considered a thoughtful gesture on Lee's part. Ruth Paine:

“[T]his was the 10th of November ... I was disturbed about it [letter to the Soviet embassy in Washington, D.C. written by Lee which Ruth had seen]. I didn't go to sleep right away. He was sitting up watching the late spy story, if you will, on the TV, and I got up and sat there on the sofa with him saying, 'I can't speak,' wanting to confront him with this and say, 'What is this?' But on the other hand I was somewhat fearful, and I didn't know what to do ... if he was an agent, I would rather just give it to the FBI, not to say 'Look, I am watching you' by saying 'What is this I find on my desk' ... No, I was not [fearful of physical harm] ... I sat down and said I couldn't sleep **and he said, 'I guess you are real upset about going to the lawyer tomorrow.'** He knew I had an appointment with my lawyer to discuss the possibility of a divorce the next day, and that didn't happen to be what was keeping me up that night, but I was indeed upset about the idea, and it was thoughtful for him to think of it. But I let it rest there, and we watched the story which he was interested in watching. And then I excused myself and went to bed.”

In planning for her meeting in Dallas on Mon Nov 11, Ruth had arranged childcare next door for her two children. From other testimony of Ruth, Marina liked to leave the house whenever she had opportunity to go with Ruth on errands (item #6 at https://www.jfk-assassination.net/russ/testimony/paine_r5.htm.) If Lee did decide to drive somewhere on Mon Nov 11 without Ruth's knowledge, Marina's track record was of wanting to go too. However, for Marina to go that day meant taking the children, 2-yr-old June and 3-week-old Rachel born Oct 20.

Time of day

“Mrs. Hunter stated she visited in the Furniture Mart, a furniture store previously located on East Irving Boulevard, Irving, Texas, **frequently during the latter months of 1963.** She explained the Furniture Mart was operated by

Mrs. Edith Whitworth and she, Hunter, would go to the furniture store on Wednesday and/or Thursday afternoon of each week to make plans with Mrs. Whitworth for attending the Irving High School football games that were held on Friday evenings. She said she always arrived at the Furniture Mart **between 1:00 and 2:00 P.M.** and would leave between 4:00 and 4:15 P.M.” (FBI, 5/18/64, <https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=59600#relPageId=92>)

The visit of Mrs. Hunter to Mrs. Whitworth’s store on the afternoon of Wed or Thu Nov 6 or 7 to discuss tickets and a trip to Fort Worth for the “away” Irving High School football game of Fri Nov 8 that Mrs. Hunter remembered surely occurred and need not be denied. What must be denied is that the incident in which Lee and Marina and the children entered the furniture store *also* occurred on *that* occasion. Neither the FBI nor Warren Commission asked Mrs. Whitworth or Mrs. Hunter to attempt to recall or describe occasions Mrs. Hunter was in the Furniture Mart after Nov 8. No question was asked of either Mrs. Whitworth or Mrs. Hunter concerning the morning of Monday Nov 11, Veterans Day. There is therefore neither direct confirmation nor disconfirmation from Mrs. Hunter that she was in the Furniture Mart the morning of Veterans Day because the question was not asked.

The Furniture Mart itself certainly can be expected to have been open on Veterans Day due to holidays being top retail selling days for large-ticket items. Therefore Mrs. Whitworth will have been there the morning of Nov 11. That can be assumed. As for Mrs. Hunter, she told of her customary practice on the weekdays in which she visited Mrs. Whitworth to delay her time of departure from home to the furniture store until after a daily phone call between 1 and 2 p.m. from her daughter on the daughter’s lunch break at the daughter’s place of work at a title company. But because the title company was an office job and most non-retail businesses were closed on Veterans Day for the holiday, it can be assumed the daughter would not have been working normal hours Mon Nov 11 due to the holiday. Therefore the 1 to 2 p.m. factor governing the time of departure of Mrs. Hunter to the Furniture Mart on any other day is not applicable on Nov 11, if Mrs. Hunter visited the Furniture Mart that day. From Mrs. Whitworth’s Warren Commission testimony:

Mr. LIEBELER. Did Mrs. Hunter come in usually on a particular day or **did she just come in from time to time?**

Mrs. WHITWORTH. Well, she said she did—**for some reason why or other**, but to me, **I couldn’t fix any certain day, you know**, working in the public like I did and all that. I couldn’t, you know, not meaning anything at that time—**I couldn’t put a date on it you know**, what day she come or anything.

The picture is that Mrs. Hunter was a frequent visitor to Mrs. Whitworth’s store. It was more than transacting utilitarian business since by Mrs. Hunter’s account her average time at Mrs. Whitworth’s store was between 2 and 3-1/4 hours, longer than necessary to conduct business. It is clear she was going there to hang out. The arrangements for

football game tickets were part of it but her visits hardly were limited to that purpose. It is as if the game tickets were the excuse when the truth was she liked the socializing. Mrs. Hunter's statement to the FBI that she would arrive between 1 and 2 p.m. is reflected in what Mrs. Hunter testified to the Warren Commission: "I never did leave the house only after 2. My daughter works at Commercial Title and she calls me before she goes back off of her lunch hour at 2 o'clock."

Since Mrs. Whitworth would have the Furniture Mart open for business on Veterans Day, and since it is clear Mrs. Hunter liked going to the Furniture Mart, Mrs. Hunter very well might have dropped in to the store the morning of Veterans Day. In fact the analysis of the present study concerning the timing of Lee and Marina at the Furniture Mart on Nov 11 becomes evidence Mrs. Hunter *was* there Monday morning Nov 11, because she was there when Lee and Marina were there and Nov 11 is the only date Lee could have driven Marina and their children to the Furniture Mart where they encountered Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter. That Monday morning, Veterans Day, may have been the first opportunity for Mrs. Hunter to see Mrs. Whitworth following the "away" football game of Irving High School in Fort Worth the previous Friday evening, Nov 9. There would have been no need for Mrs. Hunter to delay leaving the house until 2 p.m. as on other days. The morning of Mon Nov 11 may have been the first opportunity for Mrs. Hunter to catch up with Mrs. Whitworth on some detail of interest or gossip related to the trip out of town for the football game of the previous Friday. However it came about, because Mrs. Hunter was there when Lee and Marina arrived, Mrs. Hunter was there Monday morning Nov 11.

Although the evidence indicates this was the case—that Mrs. Hunter was in the Furniture Mart with Mrs. Whitworth on the morning of Monday Nov 11 when the Oswalds were there (because she was there when they were)—the puzzle is why would neither Mrs. Whitworth nor Mrs. Hunter remember that the Oswalds' visit happened on the morning of Veterans Day. Why did both women mistakenly say they thought the visit occurred on a different time of day as well as a different calendar day than when it actually occurred? How could that mistake have come about? Perhaps it is as simple as this: neither woman directly remembered what day the Oswalds had been there (Mrs. Whitworth directly said she had no idea of the date apart from a calculation based on "two weeks" after the birth of Lee's baby daughter of Oct 20 that she remembered Lee telling her). One of the two women mistakenly reconstructed the date (that would be Mrs. Hunter). The one told the other and the other adopted the mistake too. And so came about a mistaken placement of calendar date and time of day for both witnesses, witness error. Mrs. Hunter's certainty concerning the time of day derived from a backward reasoning that she always waited until after her phone call at 1 to 2 p.m.—except that did not apply on Mon Nov 11.

Since Ruth Paine left her house on Mon Nov 11 at 9 a.m. to go to Dallas, the most likely time Lee and Marina would have loaded the children into the car and Lee have driven to the Furniture Mart would be as reasonably soon after Ruth was safely gone as

practicable, without undue delay so as to accomplish the desired task, return and be settled at home before Ruth returned (with Ruth's time of return perhaps not known for sure). The time Lee and Marina and the children left Ruth Paine's house for the Furniture Mart therefore might make the best sense—be reconstructed as—in the neighborhood of maybe 9:30 a.m. or so, some time not long after 9 a.m.

This analysis up to this point leading to the conclusion that Lee and Marina were at the Furniture Mart on the morning of Monday Nov 11 receives strong, heretofore-unrecognized corroboration from weather history data. The data to follow *prove* that the family Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter saw in the Furniture Mart—the four members of the Lee and Marina family—were at the Furniture Mart *on a morning* and the visit *did not occur during any afternoon*.

Smoking-gun corroboration that the visit of Lee and Marina and their children to the Furniture Mart occurred on a *morning* in agreement with the morning of Mon Nov 11, from weather history data

The detail of interest is that Mrs. Whitworth remembered the temperature was *cool* when the Oswalds visited her store. Mrs. Whitworth remembered light wraps on Marina and the child for warmth.

Mrs. Whitworth, Warren Commission testimony:

“Well, it would be more from the middle of the day until, you see, say 3 o'clock in the afternoon or maybe 4 o'clock in the afternoon. When they came in, and drove up to the front, and Mr. Oswald came in the store first. He came in and asked, you know, about this part of the gun and then he went back to the car, and after asking me about, you know, it—I said I didn't have the part—I didn't have the gun part that he wanted, he said, 'You have furniture in here?' And I said, 'Yes.' He said, 'I am going to be needing some,' and he went back to the car and took whatever he had back to the car, and then he came back in and she followed him and she had the baby in her arms. **It was a tiny baby—he told me it was 2 weeks old**, and this little girl [indicating June Oswald] was walking in front of Mrs. Oswald and she was whining a little bit and Mrs. Oswald was, you know, carrying the baby and we come back in and went to the extreme back of the store, and I showed them some bedroom suites and had to pull these beds out and Mrs. Oswald stood there and she never said anything, but Mr. Oswald and I talked, you know, about the furniture, and then we talked about the babies, but she turned and left before he did, you know, because I walked back up to the front of the store with him, because she was already at the front of the store by the time we turned and went up there, **and it was a cool day and it was cool enough that you would have on a little wrap and this little girl, as well as I remember, had on some kind of a short sweater or coat, and Mrs. Oswald had on a short coat too**, and she had her hair tied back.”

Again Mrs. Whitworth, Warren Commission testimony:

“Even, you know, her dress and all—as far as telling you what color she had on—I could tell you just about how she was dressed. She looked clean but she looked like a person that had gotten in the car to come to town for something and she probably come out of the house with just the dress she had on **and a short coat**, and **the little girl had on some kind of short coat. It wasn’t really cold—it wasn’t real cold then** and he had on slacks. He didn’t have on what I call really work clothes—he wasn’t dressed—but he had on a pair of slacks ... It was a sport coat, I think, with the collar turned back **and he had on a sweater**, you know, deal. They weren’t dressed, you know, really dressed, but they were dressed good enough to go out, you know, to kind of casual shop or something like that—that kind of shopping.”

Again Mrs. Whitworth, Warren Commission testimony:

“[W]e discussed the babies and trading babies, you know, we was just joking, in fact, in fact I was, anyway, and he said he had hoped to have had a boy when he had the two girls, and we were hoping for a little granddaughter. We talked and she walked off. She never would—she never offered to show us the baby or anything and that’s what impressed me more than anything else. Otherwise, I probably would have never paid any attention to them being in the store or anything else, but it was that special talking to him and I was to expedite [*sic*] just about like he was on television one time. **It was cool that day and you had to have on**—it was probably the 4th, 5th, or 6th of November.”

“*It was cool enough that you would have on a little wrap.*” Remember, Mrs. Hunter thought the time of day this happened was after 2 p.m. (“it was after 2 o’clock in the afternoon, because I never did leave the house only after 2. My daughter works at Commercial Title and she calls me before she goes back off of her lunch hour at 2 o’clock”). And Mrs. Whitworth echoing Mrs. Hunter: “from the middle of the day until, you see, say 3 o’clock in the afternoon or maybe 4 o’clock in the afternoon.”

However weather history records establish that *cannot* have occurred *in the afternoon*. The cool but “wasn’t real cold” temperature remembered by Mrs. Whitworth *can only* have been true *on a morning*. From the Weather Underground website in which one can look up historical hourly temperature data for Dallas measured at Love Field I compiled the table below from graphic chart data, with temperatures in Fahrenheit for the dates shown in 1963 (<https://www.wunderground.com/history/daily/us/tx/dallas/KDAL/date/1963-11-11>).

	Mon Nov 4	Tue Nov 5	Wed Nov 6	Thu Nov 7	Fri Nov 8	Mon Nov 11
9 a.m.						63
10 a.m.						67
11 a.m.						71
12 p.m.	76	73	75	80	73	73
1 p.m.	80	78	78	83	75	
2 p.m.	81	80	80	85	73	
3 p.m.	83	81	80	85	71	
4 p.m.	81	81	80	84	70	

With the exception of a bit of a breeze on Thu Nov 7 (ca. 20 mph) and briefly on Fri Nov 8 only at noon (ca. 20 mph), there were no unusual breezes or wind the rest of these days (ca. 5-15 mph). There was no rain on any of these days. On the two best-candidate afternoons according to Mrs. Hunter of which one was believed by Mrs. Hunter to have been the day of the Oswalds' visit—Wed Nov 6 and Thu Nov 7—the temperatures were 80 and 85 degrees, respectively, at the time Mrs. Hunter placed the family in the store, *not* consistent with a woman and child each having on a *wrap to keep warm* because it was “*cool that day*”. Temperatures of 80 and 85 degrees at 2 and 3 p.m. in the afternoon are *hot*. People and children *sweat* and do not wear outer wraps at those temperatures. *80 or 85 degrees is not “cool that day” temperature!*

The only time frame in these days that works in agreement with “*cool that day*”, such that it was necessary to “*have on a little wrap*”, is the roughly ca. 9-10 a.m. time frame. Any time after 11 or 12 on any of these days is excluded. And with this data comes a realization: it was not a *cool day* which Mrs. Whitworth remembered (*there were no cool days* in these days according to the weather data). It was instead a *cool time of day* that Mrs. Whitworth was remembering!

Monday Nov 11 at 9 a.m. was 63 degrees with 12 mph light breeze (breezes lower perceived temperature slightly), rising to 67 degrees by 10 a.m., still below 70, still sweater or light wrap weather outdoors with a light breeze for a child or adult for comfort. But according to the weather data the light wrap for comfort temperature appears true on Mon Nov 11 only up to maybe 10:30 a.m. or so (similarly on other days, though since all days other than Nov 11 are excluded as possible for the Furniture Mart visit other mornings are not of interest here). If Mrs. Whitworth retrospectively conflated a memory of a cool temperature with Mrs. Hunter's claim that the time was 2 p.m., Mrs. Whitworth could come to believe (inaccurately) that it had been a “*cool day*”.

But there *was no* “cool day” in these days. All days at issue at 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. were either unambiguously hot or, in the case of Fri Nov 8, warm and balmy, but none “cool”.

The weather history data for Mon Nov 11 combined with Mrs. Whitworth’s memory of the temperature having been “cool” when the Oswalds were in her store with Lee, Marina, and child all wearing light wraps, agrees with the reconstruction that Lee and Marina and their children left the Ruth Paine house sometime between say ca. 9:15 and 10:00 a.m., somewhere in there, when indeed 63 or 67 degrees with a light breeze would feel a little cool but not “real cold”. It was not a cool *day* that Mrs. Whitworth remembered. It was a cool *time of day*. And that cool *time of day*, from weather history data, *establishes that the time of day of the Lee and Marina visit to the Furniture Mart in Irving occurred in exact agreement with the window of opportunity for Lee to have driven Marina and the children to the Furniture Mart on Mon Nov 11, after 9 a.m., after Ruth Paine left for Dallas.*

Incidentally, in one of Ruth Paine’s references to that Veterans Day in her testimony, Ruth seemed to remember her time of departure as actually a little before 9 a.m.:

“Now the morning of the 11th of November I was **not home from something before 9 o’clock** until about 2 that afternoon. I don’t know what transpired during that time.” (3H116)

(And Ruth’s “I don’t know what transpired during that time”, above, is right.) The weather data does not lie. Mrs. Whitworth’s memory of Marina and the child wearing light wraps establishes that the time Lee and Marina were in her store is exactly when Lee had opportunity to drive the blue and white car parked in front of Ruth Paine’s house, after Ruth Paine left the house the morning of Mon Nov 11.

With this, the date and time of day of the Oswalds’ visit to the Furniture Mart in Irving is established.

The baby was born “two weeks ago”

Mrs. Whitworth remembered Lee telling her his baby girl had been born “two weeks” earlier, and the date of birth of Rachel Oswald is known and fixed at Oct 20, 1963. The memory of Lee’s mention of “two weeks” could be why Mrs. Whitworth (who otherwise said she did not remember what day it had been) seemed inclined in her Warren Commission testimony to move Mrs. Hunter’s preferred Wed or Thu (Nov 6 or 7) a little earlier to Mon-Wed (Nov 4-6), in order to be closer to “two weeks” from Oct 20. In fact the true date of the visit to the Furniture Mart, Nov 11, is a little more than 2 weeks, 22 days to be exact, after Oct 20. It was actually 3 weeks, in agreement with Mrs. Hunter in her earliest interview (to reporter Jean Campbell ca. Nov 28, 1963) saying the baby in the store was “two or three weeks old”. However, Mrs. Whitworth consistently remembered only “two weeks ago”, no mention of three, as what Oswald had told her, so

let us stipulate without further argument that that is what Oswald did tell her. How is this to be understood, and is this an objection to Nov 11 being the correct date? I think not.

The main point is reconstructing how everyday language would be expected to work in a case of Lee, a proud father, speaking of his baby girl and how old she was. Thinking this through, here is my analysis. For days 0-6 after the birth one would not say “a week old” but instead x number of days old. One starts speaking of “a week old” or “one week old” starting at, not before, day 7. (On day 6 one might say “six days old” or “tomorrow she will be a week old”, but probably not “she is a week old”.) Speaking informally one would speak of “a week old” (or “a week and x days old”) for the next days after day 7, maybe changing to saying “a week-and-a-half old” around day 10 or 11. At day 14 there would be speaking for the first time that she is now “two weeks old”. From day 14 up to day 19 or 20 and beyond, no longer is the exact number of days likely to be counted or told so much, just a number of weeks but the rounding goes only in one direction, lagging behind not rounding up. That is, a baby 2 weeks and 4 days old is spoken of as two weeks old not three weeks old. Therefore if “two weeks old” might be spoken from days 14 through 19 or 20, that gets us close to Nov 11 which is day 22, but is still two or three days short. But a different factor may be operable in which Lee might have structured his mental time-markers in terms of Mondays following weekends.

Rachel Oswald was born 11:30 p.m. on Sunday night Oct 20, at Parkland Hospital (<https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=11280#relPageId=22>). Lee did not first see his new baby girl until after work on Monday Oct 21. Marina was discharged from Parkland on Tue Oct 22. When Ruth Paine drove Lee to Parkland to visit Marina and the newborn Monday evening, all conversation would be about Marina and the birth “last night”. Although technically and on the birth certificate the birth was the previous calendar day (11:30 p.m., before midnight), the language from Marina and nurses may have been entirely of the birth “last night” thought of by Lee as part of that day, Monday. It may therefore have been the next Monday, Oct 28, that Lee would think of and speak of Rachel as “one week old”. By this reckoning Lee would think of Rachel turning “one week old” on Mon Oct 28, then “two weeks old” on Mon Nov 4, and the switch to “three weeks old” would normally have occurred on Mon Nov 11 (the day of the Furniture Mart visit), but because Mon Nov 11 was a holiday Lee still thought of it as part of the weekend when Rachel was still two weeks old, before “Monday” returning to work when she would become thought of as “three weeks old now”, which that particular week happened the morning of Tue Nov 12 when Lee was back to work following the weekend.

The key point is it is an easy slippage to undercount a newborn’s age in number of weeks, whereas errors are much less common in the opposite direction in overstating how many weeks old is a baby. It as if one speaks dozens of times in a week to family, friends, new acquaintances and well-wishers of a certain number of weeks as the baby’s age, and gets used to saying that number by rote, and then one has to consciously remember to manually update (so to speak) the active working files in the brain to

change that number of weeks to the next one up, +1, at the right time. If one forgets to do that conscious +1 manual update (so to speak) it is easy to continue to speak of the same number as before, even a little after the number is obsolete, until one recalculates and registers the update to the new number—the same phenomenon as writing the previous calendar year for a date in early January of a new year.

So for Lee Oswald on the Monday of that long weekend of Nov 9-11, 1963 to tell Mrs. Whitworth his baby girl was born two weeks earlier is not unrealistic in terms of actual human behavior. And we know Lee spoke to Mrs. Whitworth in the Furniture Mart on Nov 11 and not an earlier date because any earlier date is excluded and Nov 11 is when it happened.

Purpose of the trip

The purpose of the trip was for Lee to get something done on a rifle which up to that point had been kept in a blanket in Ruth Paine's garage without Ruth Paine's knowledge—the famous mail-order rifle shortly to become identified as the murder weapon in the assassination of President Kennedy on Nov 22, 1963, just eleven days later.

After driving to the Furniture Mart, Lee got out of the car, with Marina and the children remaining in the car, walked in the store and asked Mrs. Whitworth for a gunsmith that a sign outside advertised. Lee was carrying some unidentified object wrapped in brown paper of dimensions 15-18" x 2-3" related to a firearm. From Mrs. Whitworth's Warren Commission testimony:

“[The package was] loosely in brown paper and you know, it didn't have any strings on it, as far as I remember—it was loosely tied ... he held it with one hand ... I didn't see it [what was in the wrapping] ... it wasn't large—I'd say it might have been this big [indicating] ... what is that—**about 2 or 3 inches in diameter?** ... And then it was **some 15 or 18 inches long** ... He asked me if I had this particular part, some particular part, but not knowing about guns, I didn't have it. I don't remember it, you know, what he asked for ... I don't know what it was, because I don't remember.”

Upon leaving the Furniture Mart, Lee with Marina and their children were last seen headed to the Irving Sports Shop about 1-1/2 blocks away to find the gunsmith to whom Mrs. Whitworth had directed Lee.

Mrs. WHITWORTH. ... I told him we didn't have a gunsmith and he asked for this part and I don't remember really just what he asked for, but whatever it was, it led me to know that **he wanted a gunsmith**, which we didn't have.

Mrs. HUNTER. ... he went down to the door on that end of the building and went in and he asked her, he says, **'Where is your gunsmith?'** I remember that and

he had something—I won't say just what it was, because I wasn't particularly interested. I wasn't in here being down there at the time. She told him that the gunsmith was moved—that he wasn't there, and she showed him down the street where to go to.

Mr. McKENZIE. Where did she tell him to go?

Mrs. HUNTER. Well, now, I don't know, but it was back down east on Irving Boulevard.

Mrs. WHITWORTH. There was a gunsmith or a sports shop or something back down there.

Mrs. HUNTER. There was a sport shop down there where she showed him to go. I remember that much of it....

Why would Lee and Marina keep the borrowing of the car and this short local trip secret from Ruth Paine?

Marina Oswald, in testimony to the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), Sept 11, 1978, sheds light on what may have been going on:

“I was very grateful to Mrs. Ruth Paine who gave us shelter when I needed it. I was very embarrassed about the fact that if she finds out that I knew about all this, the trips to Mexico **and the rifle** and things like that, it was very embarrassing for me to admit to myself that she had been used, you know in a way. It would be against her religion and her beliefs and it was insulting for me to do such a thing to a friend.” (https://www.jfk-assassination.net/russ/m_j_russ/hscamar2.htm)

As Ruth Paine testified, she knew nothing of Lee and Marina having gone anywhere during the hours she was gone on Mon Nov 11. Lee and Marina were there when she left; they were there when she returned; they told her nothing of having gone anywhere; they concealed the trip from her. Ruth testified she never lent Lee her car to drive by himself nor did Ruth know of Lee having driven any other car. All of this resulted in Ruth's certainty that Lee and Marina never went to the Furniture Mart or Irving Sports Shop, which was the conclusion of the Warren Commission. But it was the wrong conclusion, and not because there was anything wrong with Ruth Paine's testimony.

For on this point, Ruth Paine, though truthful according to her knowledge in her testimony, was mistaken, because Lee and Marina kept it from her. Lee surreptitiously “borrowed” Michael Paine's car parked out front without obtaining permission and without Lee or Marina telling Ruth after the fact. The reason Lee did not ask is pretty obvious: because Ruth would have said no because Lee had no driver's license. Even more serious was the purpose of the trip, the matter of the rifle, also unknown to Ruth. Ruth believed no such trip of Lee and Marina happened on Nov 11 because she could not imagine it would have occurred without her having been told or knowing about it. However the evidence is clear—from the credibility of the witness testimony and the

improbability of a match occurring by accident of not one but two identical colors between the car seen at the Furniture Mart and the car at Ruth Paine's house that morning—the evidence is clear that the trip *did* happen without Ruth having been told about it, without her knowledge. Lee and Marina and their two children were *seen* in the Furniture Mart. Lee was *seen* driving there in a car of exact color match to Michael Paine's blue and white Olds.

Lee drove Michael Paine's blue and white Olds without permission and the trip had something to do with the rifle. Ruth testified (and that testimony is to be believed) that Ruth was unaware of a rifle in her garage all the time it was there. Ruth appears to have been something of an outlier among her fellow Texans in having strong views against firearms, especially in a home with small children, compared to prevailing views (Buell Wesley Frazier down the street had a rifle; probably dozens more rifles were in homes in immediate proximity to Ruth Paine; apparently that was pretty common). At some point, unaware of the rifle wrapped in a blanket in her garage, Ruth could easily have mentioned or expressed in passing her anti-guns view to Marina who, caught in the middle, would listen and hear but never tell Ruth of the rifle in the garage. In Thomas Mallon's book, *Mrs. Paine's Garage* (2003), Michael Paine is quoted in an interview of 2000 remembering that "his Quaker wife was 'so allergic' to guns that 'she would have forbidden [Oswald] to have the rifle in the house'" (<https://www.jfk-assassination.net/garage.htm>).

It is therefore tempting to speculate that Marina's awareness of Ruth's negative views toward guns was relayed to Lee by Marina, and by only a slight further step in imagination, could have been the precipitating cause of Lee taking steps on Nov 11, by means of some repair of the rifle, to prepare or ready that rifle for a sale or dispossession out of Lee's hands. At this time Lee *was not using the rifle*. After Lee's arrest on Nov 22 and searches of all of his possessions, *no trace* of ammunition or rifle cleaning supplies was found (not consistent with someone actively using a rifle). Lee was *not using* the rifle. The rifle, unused, was simply sitting dormant with other of Lee's possessions in Ruth Paine's garage, unknown to the trusting woman hosting them.

There could be two additional factors in play in this scenario (that Lee on Nov 11 was readying the rifle for a sale or conveyance out of his hands). One, pressure from Marina herself for reasons independent of Ruth's scruples. Marina had her own reasons and history with Lee and from all accounts was not happy with Lee having the rifle. (Above all: the memory of the unsolved—so far as police were concerned—rifle shot fired through a window of the Dallas home of General Edwin Walker the night of April 10, 1963. Walker claimed he was in the room at the time and almost hit. Whatever the full truth of the case, Lee *told* Marina that he had done it with the rifle and Marina *believed* that to be the case, to her horror; she had made Lee promise not to do that any more.)

And two, a possible anticipation of a move. There are indications that Lee in November was wanting and asking Marina and the children to live with him again in an apartment

of their own, without delay. Marina elaborated on this in her HSCA testimony (https://www.aarclibrary.org/publib/jfk/hasca/reportvols/vol12/pdf/HSCA_Vol12_MarinaOswald.pdf). Even in the Furniture Mart on Nov 11, as Mrs. Whitworth recounted, Lee talked about an anticipated need for furniture in two or three weeks for an apartment. According to Marina, on the night before the assassination, Thu night Nov 21, Lee asked her to move into an apartment with him that weekend, promised to buy her a washing machine, whatever it took to get his family under one roof again. (Marina said she declined, told Lee she wanted to wait on that until after Christmas, citing practical grounds.) The point: Lee's intent to move into an apartment with Marina and their children would include moving their belongings out of Ruth Paine's garage. This could be a factor prompting Lee to dispose of a rifle not being used anyway and to which Marina was opposed, even before the move.

If Lee's actions on Nov 11 were a preparation for a disposition of the rifle influenced by Marina citing Ruth's anti-gun views to Lee, Lee ironically could have been attempting to accommodate Ruth's scruples (and Marina's) on Nov 11 by taking action to get the rifle out of Ruth's garage. Since the rifle appears to have been a long-time source of marital contention and since he was not using it, these factors individually or in combination could underlie a decision on Lee's part to ready the rifle for a sale or conveyance, which is at least one reasonable interpretation of what Lee and Marina were doing on Nov 11 with the Furniture Mart trip. If this scenario is correct Lee would not be the first man in history to give up a beloved gun or motorcycle or hazardous activity because the woman in his life drew a line in the sand over it. That is one of the most common features of domestic life in America.

Because of the driving of the car without permission and the matter of the rifle, Lee and Marina will have cooperated in agreeing that neither tell Ruth of the trip, and neither did. Did Marina object to Lee driving Michael's 1955 Olds without permission? But if she did, what was she doing in the car herself? Does Marina's sullenness and lack of any word or smile seen by the women at the Furniture Mart; her disinterest in the furniture being shown; her lack of showing the baby to the women or interacting, suggest the aftermath of an argument or that Marina was upset with Lee prior to going into the Furniture Mart? Or (not necessarily in contradiction to the preceding) had Marina acquiesced to—maybe even reluctantly assisted in—Lee driving the car as a *quid pro quo* for a promise from Lee to get rid of the rifle Marina did not want him to have? As to why Lee and Marina would borrow a Paine car without permission—a breach of hospitality—the simplest explanation is because it was the only way Lee could accomplish the trip to the gunsmith that needed to be done with the least amount of conflict.

Why did Marina deny she had been in the Furniture Mart when the Warren Commission set up the meeting of the three women in July 1964?

Marina had already lived a lie (one of many in her unusual life) on the matter of the Furniture Mart up to the point of the face-to-face (Marina had told both Ruth and investigators that she had never seen Lee drive a car). As happens when people are caught up in deception, a choice can sometimes be made to stick with a story rather than the discomfort raised by disclosing truth. It may also—formally this is a distinct point—be understood as Marina distancing herself from the rifle, for obvious reasons in the aftermath of Nov 22.

In the face-to-face meeting set up by the Warren Commission, the two Furniture Mart women both absolutely recognized Marina without a moment's hesitation from either, while Marina denied having been in the Furniture Mart or having seen the women before. From the beginning Marina said she had never seen Mrs. Whitworth before. In the case of Mrs. Hunter, Marina first said she recognized Mrs. Hunter, then immediately changed to saying she did not remember having seen Mrs. Hunter either. In reading the bizarre testimony in which these three women and now 3-year-old June Oswald were put together in the same room to meet each other while investigators noted and studied their interactions, it is obvious that one of the two parties—the Furniture Mart women, or Marina—is *wildly* mistaken or untruthful. The issue is which.

Was it Mrs. Whitworth, the longtime sensible business owner who had no reason to lie and a second witness backing her up? Or was it Marina who had reason to dissemble and a track record of having done so on numerous occasions? It is not too difficult to decide which of the two parties has the greater likelihood of being the dissembler, if a choice has to be made (in this case a choice has to be made). Simple witting dissembling is the simplest explanation for why Marina, in that face-to-face, denied she was the woman in the store with two children and a husband exactly matching the description of Lee and herself and their two children, even when Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter were right there in person recognizing her, both saying it was Marina in the Furniture Mart beyond any question or doubt.

Some highlights of the face-to-face (Mrs. Whitworth, Mrs. Hunter, and Marina Oswald)

Mrs. Whitworth: “I did talk to him [Lee], and I know it was him and I know she [Marina standing in front of Mrs. Whitworth] was in there”.

Mrs. Whitworth: “I am definitely sure they [Marina and 3-year-old June Oswald in front of Mrs. Whitworth] were in there [Furniture Mart]” ... **they were there ... I don't have a doubt in the world but that they were there** ... Lee told me that the baby was 2 weeks old and we discussed my grandchildren about the same age and that they were boys ... he said he had hoped to have had a boy when he had the two girls.

Comment: Marina confirmed that that detail matched Lee—that Lee had wanted a boy.

Mrs. WHITWORTH. ... [speaking to Marina] I thought your car was a two-tone car, either a Ford or a Plymouth—now—I don't know. I thought it was **blue and white** I wouldn't, you know, swear to that. I mean, too many cars drove up out in front like that, but it was what happened on the inside of the store that I was more impressed with and remembered, and your actions and his, because she acted like she wasn't interested in what he said because she didn't exchange words or anything, but I did talk to him, and I know it was him and I know she was in there. She may not remember it, but if I was to see her today and seeing her that day and I was to meet her on the street, it would be hard for me to identify her. You know, she [Marina in front of Mrs. Whitworth] still has the features, but her face was round and **she had her hair pulled back** [indicating].

Mr. GREGORY. You mean in a pony tail?

Mrs. WHITWORTH. In a pony tail.

Mrs. OSWALD. No; it wasn't that.

Mrs. WHITWORTH. Well, there was something tied around it—you had something tied around it, I mean, slicked back from her face.

Mrs. OSWALD. I didn't wear this.

Mrs. WHITWORTH. **I called it a pony tail, but it was kind of pulled back to the back.**

Mrs. OSWALD. I had two pigtails.

Mrs. WHITWORTH. Well, she might have it was tied back and whipped back from her face.

Comment: Mrs. Whitworth remembers Marina as having her hair pulled back and tied in the back when she was in the Furniture Mart, which was distinctive and different from Marina's short cut of hair at the face-to-face, and Marina confirms that was correct. Mrs. Hunter also said she remembered Marina "**wearing a pigtail or something—her hair was long**, and I remember one side the string was hanging down longer and that was at the furniture store". Now compare this: a wire service photo of Marina of ca. Nov 22, 1963 showing Marina with long hair pulled back and what could be confused with looking like a single ponytail, likely what Mrs. Whitworth saw and was describing (https://kyozoufs.blob.core.windows.net/filestoragecs4/Pictures/_16/15428/15427858.jpg). Both Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter were in agreement that Marina's hair was longer when she was in the Furniture Mart than the short hair style Marina had in the face-to-face of July 1964, and that is in agreement with Marina whose hair was long before her hair was cut and styled short, by Vada Oswald, a professional stylist, Robert Oswald's wife, a few days after the assassination. There is one discrepancy: after the agreement on the pigtail, Mrs. Hunter says she saw ribbons in Marina's hair on another occasion but Marina says "I never wore any ribbons or bows in the hair. Maybe it was somebody just like me?"

Mrs. WHITWORTH. ... Her face was round then and **she was pretty then—I'd say she was pretty.**

Mrs. OSWALD. **Thank you.**

Comment: Marina thanks Mrs. Whitworth for the compliment that she was “pretty then”, when Mrs. Whitworth saw her in the Furniture Mart. This is simultaneous with Marina’s denial that she was in the Furniture Mart. Who does Marina think is being complimented?

Mr. LIEBELER. ... **do you remember ever seeing these ladies before, Marina?**

Mrs. OSWALD. **Just this one [indicating Mrs. Hunter].** Perhaps, now, I saw her, because there is a woman of that particular type, a lady like this out in Richardson—I may have seen a lady like this in Richardson.

Mr. LIEBELER. But you do remember seeing a woman that looked something like Mrs. Hunter, here, Mrs. Hunter being the woman in the blue dress?

Mrs. OSWALD. **I don't think that I saw her** but I saw a woman or women like her—not one, but many of that type.

Mr. LIEBELER. Now, Mrs. Hunter, as you sit here and you look at these children and you look at Marina, are you sure in your own mind that these were the people who were in the store that day?

Mrs. HUNTER. I have seen Marina several times before the baby came—several times. She said she saw me do you remember talking to a lady about getting help for you before your baby came?

Mrs. OSWALD. For housework?

Mrs. HUNTER. No; she [apparently a Salvation Army woman at a gas station] was talking about the welfare of clothes for the baby before the baby came, but I don't know who she was.

Mr. LIEBELER. Now, wait just a minute, Mrs. Hunter, you say you talked to Marina about this?

Mrs. HUNTER. She was with another woman and this other woman didn't come around, and I couldn't understand too much of what she said, and she couldn't understand too much of what I said, and I says, “If you need help with this baby, we can get you help at Parkland Hospital.” Do you remember that?

Mr. LIEBELER. Just a minute, would you describe the other woman?

Mrs. HUNTER. Now, the other woman don't mean a thing to me. All I know, she was with this other woman, but I live on Second Street and it was down below me, four or five different streets and this woman, I believe, was going to see someone about fixing a tire or changing a tire. Now, I couldn't tell you what the other woman had on because it was just curiosity to me why—that her couldn't speak like we could and was in this condition and I kept asking her where her husband was and I never did make her understand me and I finally asked her if they had separated [indicating hand signals]—and I did that way—with her, and she made me understand he was staying over in town, but then, I didn't know

who she was or nothing about her.

(...)

Mrs. HUNTER. This was before I would say it was in September or October. It was before just a little while, I know, before your baby came [Oct 20], because I won't tell you the remark I made, but anyhow, I know it was pretty close—almost due time you could tell from the way you were carrying the baby, it was almost time for the baby.

Mrs. OSWALD. **I can't remember her [indicating Mrs. Whitworth].**

Comment: Marina first says she recognizes Mrs. Hunter. But immediately Marina backtracks and changes to the opposite, says she does *not* think she has seen Mrs. Hunter before. Mrs. Hunter then described two occasions when she had encountered or seen Marina in Irving prior to the Furniture Mart. On one of those occasions—going back before Oct 20—Mrs. Hunter had actually talked to Marina (or tried to) in person. Marina not only *denies* she was in the Furniture Mart but *denies* memory of the other time too, even after Mrs. Hunter's description. At the end is Marina deflecting? The topic was Mrs. Hunter giving details of a previous encounter with Marina which for some reason Marina also wants to deny. Marina does not respond to that. Instead, Marina points to a different person and says she doesn't remember Mrs. Whitworth, as if to change the subject.

Mr. LIEBELER. Now, you saw Mrs. Oswald, or who you think was Mrs. Oswald, in the Station there that day before you saw her in the Furniture Mart; is that right?

Mrs. HUNTER. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. Now, when you saw her in the Furniture Mart, did you recognize her?

Mrs. HUNTER. No; it didn't dawn on me I didn't think a thing in the world about it.

Mrs. OSWALD. Excuse me, do you remember how I was dressed and was I pregnant at that time?

Mrs. HUNTER. Yes.

Mrs. OSWALD. And what did I have on?

Mrs. HUNTER. All I know is you had on a jacket.

Mrs. OSWALD. What color?

Mrs. HUNTER. It was pretty chilly—it was a rose or more of a—it wasn't red.

Mrs. OSWALD. Was it blue?

Mrs. HUNTER. **It was more of a rose.**

Mrs. OSWALD. **I had a rose short one.**

Comment: Here Marina confirms she had a jacket of the exact color seen on Marina by Mrs. Hunter.

Mr. McKENZIE. Now, at that time when you were standing in the doorway and he had gotten in the car and you told him he could not go that way, where was

Mrs. Oswald sitting?

Mrs. HUNTER. **She was in the car by him and the little girl was standing up in the seat between them and she had the tiny baby in her hands.**

Mr. McKENZIE. And was it a two-door automobile or a four-door automobile?

Mrs. HUNTER. Well, I wouldn't say as to that, but I believe it was a two-door, but I wouldn't swear to it.

Mr. McKENZIE. And he was behind the wheel?

Mrs. HUNTER. Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE. And she was sitting next to him?

Mrs. HUNTER. Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE. With the child between them?

Mrs. HUNTER. Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE. And there was no one else in the car other than the baby?

Mrs. HUNTER. If it was, they was down in the floorboard of the car and when he started out, he pulled out back that way, and I said, "Don't go back that way, it's a one-way street." I said, "Go down to the red light."

Mr. McKENZIE. What did he say then?

Mrs. HUNTER. He didn't say anything; he didn't thank me nor nothing.

Comment: Probably Lee was embarrassed at being corrected on his driving in front of Marina, especially if Marina had asked Lee if he was sure he knew how to drive well enough that it was safe to take the children.

Mrs. HUNTER. ... Could I ask her a question? [Addressing Marina Oswald.]
Don't you have a rinse on your hair now?

Mrs. OSWALD. A rinse yes. My hair is dark—not too dark.

Mrs. HUNTER. A dirty blonde.

Mrs. OSWALD. Well, thank you.

Comment: Mrs. Hunter notices that in July 1964, eight months after she saw Marina in the Furniture Mart and two other times, Marina's hair is a different hue than she remembers from before. Marina confirms the hue of her hair has been changed (by a rinse). Continuing, from Marina's Warren Commission testimony:

Marina: "I have **never** seen Lee drive the car in my lifetime. Lee **never** drove a car with me or the children in it."

Marina: "I am sure this lady [Mrs. Hunter] is trying to tell the truth. But the only possible person who could have driven the car when we were in that store could have been Mrs. Ruth Paine. She knows all the stores where we went because we **never** went there without her."

Marina: "I do not remember that I was ever in a furniture store ... **I was never in any furniture store** ... I can't remember I was in a furniture store."

Mr. LIEBELER. Marina, did you at any time go with Lee and the children when Lee had something with him wrapped in a brown sack that he took into a store?

Mrs. OSWALD. **No.**

Mrs. WHITWORTH. It would be about this long [indicating].

Mr. LIEBELER. Indicating about how long?

Mrs. WHITWORTH. I would say about 15 or 18 inches.

Mrs. OSWALD. I would have noticed if he had had an object with him.

Mr. LIEBELER. Now, Mrs. Whitworth, you testified that when this man came in the store he did have an object with him about 15 inches long wrapped in brown paper; isn't that right?

Mrs. WHITWORTH. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. And you also testified that this man asked about a part for a gun; isn't that right?

Mrs. WHITWORTH. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. And you know he had some part of the gun wrapped in this package; didn't he?

Mrs. WHITWORTH. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. And you also testified that this man asked about a part for a gun; isn't that right?

Mrs. WHITWORTH. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. And you thought that he had some part of the gun wrapped in this package; isn't that right?

Mrs. WHITWORTH. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. Do you understand that, Mrs. Oswald?

Mrs. OSWALD. Even if he did, I—would not have understood what he was saying, because I simply did not know the language, but I don't recall him having any object in his hands such as that referred to here.

Mr. LIEBELER. At any time; is that correct?

Mrs. OSWALD. **No; at no time.**

(...)

Mr. McKENZIE. **Marina, do you remember a blue and white car?**

Mrs. OSWALD. **I don't know**—what kind of car did Mrs. Paine have?

Mr. McKENZIE. Do you know what kind of car Mr. Paine had?

Mrs. OSWALD. No; I don't.

Mr. McKENZIE. What kind of car did Mrs. Paine have?

Mrs. OSWALD. I don't know that either, but all the time Mrs. Paine, she take me to the store.

Comment: In this sole instance, in the entirety of known FBI interviews and Warren Commission testimony, in which Marina was asked whether she remembered a blue and white car, Marina says she does not know, even though a blue and white sedan belonging to Michael Paine had been parked in front of Ruth Paine's house for weeks when Marina was living there, and was the car in which Lee drove Marina and the children to the Furniture Mart. Is the way Marina answers the question a deflection of attention to Ruth Paine's green station wagon? There was no followup, such as getting

an answer from Marina to the question (of whether she did or did not remember Michael Paine's blue and white car).

Mr. LIEBELER. Have you had a chance to go through the store, Marina? [*note: these questions took place in front of the Furniture Mart which Marina has just toured, July 24, 1964*]

Mrs. OSWALD. No; **this is the first time.**

Mr. LIEBELER. This is the first time you have been here?

Mrs. OSWALD. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. And you have now looked at the outside of the store and looked through the inside?

Mrs. OSWALD. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. And you are quite sure you have never been here before?

Mrs. OSWALD. **I'm sure I never was here before I am quite sure.**

Mr. LIEBELER. You are sure of that in spite of the testimony that you heard this morning from Mrs. Whitworth and Mrs. Hunter; is that right?

Mrs. OSWALD. Yes; that's right. She told how I was dressed with a rose jacket—that's true I had a rose jacket.

Mr. LIEBELER. She may have seen you somewhere?

Mrs. OSWALD. Yes; but **I never was here** maybe she saw me on the street somewhere. She said it looked like she saw me someplace else and that's the reason why I wanted to see this store, **but maybe I have forgotten by now—**

Mr. LIEBELER. You are now standing directly in front of the store at 149 East Irving Boulevard, aren't you?

Mrs. OSWALD. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. And you are sure you have never been here before?

Mrs. OSWALD. **No; I have never been here before.**

Mr. LIEBELER. Do you have anything to add, Mr. McKenzie?

Mr. McKENZIE. No.

Mrs. OSWALD. **I don't know if I were inside this store, but I don't recall it now.**

Mr. LIEBELER. You don't recognize this store as a place you have ever been before?

Mrs. OSWALD. **No.**

Comment: Marina expresses certainty that she was never in the Furniture Mart and that she doesn't know if she has been in the store but does not recall it now.

~ ~ ~

Marina Oswald Porter, who is still living, has continued to deny to the present day that she was in the Furniture Mart store before the assassination. The evidence in the present study is overwhelming that Marina's denials on the Furniture Mart episode have not been truthful. The present study has shown that the visit occurred and when and how the trip was done on the morning of November 11, 1963. The mystery on this should

be concluded: Lee and Marina and their children were in the Furniture Mart in Irving on that date. The Warren Commission erred, and researchers today err who say otherwise.