

INFORMATION CONCERNING CURTIS CRAFORD LEARNED IN RECENT YEARS FROM A CRAFORD FAMILY MEMBER

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I have visited and talked with the oldest daughter of Craford from his second marriage, Jaci, who lives in Oregon, twice so far. In both cases my notetaking was done in this way: I had the talk with Jaci, and as soon as I left I immediately stopped in to the first all-night restaurant counter I could find and wrote longhand everything I could remember from the conversation which had just occurred, as accurately and as fully as I could. From those primary notes I compiled the written account of it which I reported at that time on the Education Forum. The first visit was Sept 21, 2024. Here is my verbatim report of Sept 23, 2024 of that visit.

First visit with Jaci

On Sept 21, 2024 I talked to a daughter of Curtis Craford, Jaci, whom I had not previously met or had contact, for about 90 minutes taking a walk. She said I was the first since Peter Whitmey to ask about the 1963 stuff of her father. She said when she tells people today her dad was in the Warren Commission (report) most people say "what's the Warren Commission?"

A few points learned:

— the blinking. She confirmed Craford was a blinker, said one of her siblings and she too had that, but not 2 other siblings, that it was something genetic, not from my guess of contact lenses (she corrected me: said Curtis wore glasses and never wore contact lenses). The blinking was real but wasn't contacts or drugs, but some inherited feature.

— dentures. He had them and wore them always. She was almost sure he got them when he was in the Army, because Curtis talked to her and the family about one of the reasons he

enlisted was to get dental work done by the Army and he had had a lot done, she assumed that was when he got his dentures.

— Her father never wrote about his story of Dallas 1963, never showed any sign of wanting to tell anything even at the end of his life. She interpreted that as part of his lifelong fear.

— a terrible auto accident which seriously injured Curtis and two of Jaci's siblings (Jaci was not in the car) and nearly killed her mother in April 1979 was told by their family friend auto mechanic that it was definitely a sabotaged cut steering wheel and Curtis and the family believed it was an attempt to kill Curtis out of belief he knew more than he had told, as part of JFK assassination witness suspicious deaths.

— Craford was left-handed. She said he was, she and one sibling also were, but her mother and two siblings were right handed. This question was a priority question to me because my analysis of the Tippit patrol car fingerprints, on the assumption those are from the killer, I analyzed as the killer had to be left-handed, firing the pistol held in the left hand while stumbling or balancing with the free right hand on that right front fender. I could not see it working if the gun was held in the right hand. I have been so convinced of this I have said in the past that being right handed I almost regarded as stand alone exculpatory indication on any individual suspect. But I could never find whether Craford was L or R handed. Now, that question is answered. However there is a curve ball here: Jaci said she is a shooter herself and even though she is left-handed, she shoots with her right hand. She could not remember which hand Curtis actually used in her memory to target shoot weapons. However there was no uncertainty on Craford being left-handed.

—I asked if her father wore the same kind of hairstyle later in life as when he was in Dallas at age 22. She thought he did yes. I asked if she could remember of two men's styles in back, block versus taper cut, which Curtis wore. She thought taper, though said she wasn't sure. I asked and she confirmed she knew the difference in meaning. (I intend to ask her to ask her sister this same question and see if her sister might have a more confident memory of an answer to this question either way.)

— she said she personally saw a resemblance of her father and the pictures of Oswald.

— she knew of no mob connections of Curtis nor did she remember him speaking of any. However she said he was an initiated member of a biker gang called the Gypsy Jokers, which he joined in Michigan though it has chapters nationally.

— I asked if Curtis had many friends or not. She said not many close friends other than the ones at the bar he met daily who thought they were his close buddies but really weren't she said. She did not think he talked about things of Dallas 1963 to anyone more than her and her siblings.

— languages Curtis could speak (I asked). German? She knew of no German from him, and doubted it since she did not remember him speaking German to her German-speaking grandparents. Any other languages he could speak I asked. “He thought he could speak Spanish but he really couldn’t” (Jaci).

— she volunteered this curious detail re Craford’s height. Jaci said he was actually a physically small man, she said two or three times he was really 5’5” but that he would always overstate his height, claim to be taller than he was, and claimed once to be 5’9”. I commented that the FBI when they interviewed her father in late 1963 had his height as 5’8” but I added I think the way the FBI did some of those physical identification reports was by asking people how tall they were, not measurement. But Jaci volunteered without prompting from me the detail about Curtis routinely overstating his height

— I asked was Craford religious. She said not much.

— said he worked security for Pinkerton and for a lumber mill as his jobs in Oregon, but also continued some carnival work into the 1980s.

— I asked if Curtis had talked about any theories about the JFK assassination and she said no, which she thought was a little puzzling to her but he just didn’t talk much about the JFK or express particular theories about it.

— I asked did Curtis keep in touch with any of the people in Dallas or Carousel Club after he left Dallas, and she did not think so.

— she did not remember Curtis saying anything about belonging to the Teamsters Union (I asked).

— she said he told them the reason he left Dallas was because of an argument with Ruby. She gave two issues Curtis told them of the argument: that Craford had been too friendly with a girlfriend of Ruby’s, a jealousy issue; and that Ruby had wrongly accused Curtis of taking money out of the till (“which he wouldn’t do”—Jaci). The way Craford explained it to his family, his leaving with no goodbyes within hours of the assassination and Tippit killing was unrelated causally and coincidence—it was because of an argument with Ruby that happened to happen then.

[My second visit with Jaci was Oct 19, 2025 and I reported the below verbatim on Oct 20, 2025.]

Second visit with Jaci

Yesterday I visited and talked with a daughter of Curtis Craford, Jaci, located in a town in Oregon.

I learned new information on Craford’s hair.

(1) Without leading, I asked her to tell me about her father's hair. What color was it.

She said for a long time (as a child) she **thought it was black**, but she realized it was actually **very dark brown**.

Compare to the two physical descriptions of the Tippit killer's hair in the minutes after the killing, broadcast on police radio:

(Source believed to be Ted Callaway): suspect is "white, slim, **has dark hair** and is about five feet ten inches tall."

(Source believed to be Warren Reynolds): suspect is "a white male about 30, 5'8", **black hair**, slender."

(2) She said her father always had a **full head of hair** and never went bald to the end of his life.

Lt. Croy speaking of Helen Markham, said Markham in the minutes after the killing described the killer's hair as "**bushy**".

Lt. Hill testified the first man he talked to at the crime scene said the gunman had "brown **bushy** hair".

(3) I learned new information concerning a habit of Craford to talk to himself under his breath.

I asked her "do you know if your father had any habit of talking to himself under his breath?" She answered **yes**, that is what he did, he did have such a habit.

Compare Scoggins, the cabbie, heard the gunman muttering to himself as he went by Scoggins after killing Tippit: "**poor dumb cop**".

(4) I learned information which appears to support the truthfulness of Peter Whitmey's account that at his and Craford's first meeting in Oregon in 2003, Craford had said he had been a hit man for a mob figure in San Francisco, Calif ca 1962.

She said although she had never read Whitmey's article, she was familiar with the hit man detail.

I asked if she believed it was true. She said she did not know. I asked if it was true that Craford said he was. Answer: yes. I said it was also reported that Craford told his brother that, and that his brother believed it, and asked if those two things were true. She confirmed it was true that Curtis had told his brother that, and that his brother (her uncle) believed it was true.

I asked if her father had a history of making up stories, she said no. I asked that in several ways and returned to it a couple of times—did he tell tall stories like some men in bars? Was he a bullshitter?

Answer: no, he didn't do that. Would he have told that as a spoof to a gullible reporter just for kicks?
Answer: no.

I asked if Curtis ever talked about specifics, she said no, not to her or any family member that she knew, he carried secrets to his grave. She did not think he had told his second wife, Jaci's mother, anything about it since she never mentioned it to Jaci.

The claim of Craford that he had been a hit man at the earlier era of his life when he worked for Jack Ruby, appears to be confession, rather than made up.