

Lee Harvey Oswald's address book: a follow-up note

Kevin Coogan

In Anthony Frewin's 2015 *Lobster* article 'Inside Lee Harvey Oswald's address book', he discusses an entry in Oswald's address book about the far right.¹ Oswald wrote:

NAT. SEC. DAN BURROS

LINCOLN ROCKWELL

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

AMERICAN

NAZI PARTY

(AMER. NATIONAL PARTY)

Hollis sec. of Queens N.Y.

(NEWSPAPER)

NAT. Socialist Bulletin.

Frewin cites an appendix in my book *Dreamer of the Day* showing that Oswald clearly derived his information from a story in the American Communist Party paper *The Worker*.² The article in question was penned by 'Mike Newberry', who frequently wrote about the far right.³ In June 1961, for example, Newberry issued a pamphlet entitled *The Fascist Revival: The Inside Story of the John Birch Society*.⁴ In 1963 he authored *The Yahoos*, a

¹ Anthony Frewin, 'Inside Lee Harvey Oswald's address book', *Lobster* 70 (Winter 2015). <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster70/lob70-lee-harvey-oswald.pdf>>

² Kevin Coogan, *Dreamer of the Day: Francis Parker Yockey and the Postwar Fascist International* (New York: Autonomedia, 1999), pp. 616-17.

³ 'Mike Newberry' was a pseudonym for Stanley Steiner, who became a prominent historian of the American West.

⁴ Available on line at <<https://tinyurl.com/urkb8qs>> or <https://ucf.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/ucf%3A4861/datastream/OBJ/view/The_fascist_revival__The_inside_story_of_the_John_Birch_Society.pdf>.

book examining the broader far right revival in the United States.⁵

In this note, I hope to show the context behind Newberry's story and to highlight an even earlier source than *Dreamer* that correctly identified *The Worker* article as Oswald's source.

On 20 March 1962, Newberry published a front-page article in *The Worker* (Midweek Edition) entitled 'American Nazis Establish Their National Headquarters in Queens', the article I cite in *Dreamer*.⁶ Announcing an 'Exclusive', Newberry begins his piece:

'Under the thinly disguised name of the "American National Party", the discredited American Nazi Party is moving its national office and office records to New York City and has established a headquarters in Queens as an operating base for the "Storm Troopers."'

The article comes with a picture of George Lincoln Rockwell's 'Hate Bus' that in May 1961 drove from Virginia to New Orleans, opposing integration. The image (taken from a photo that appeared in the May 1961 issue of *Life* magazine) shows a group of Rockwell's Nazis standing by the small VW bus. There is a circle around the head of one would-be Stormtrooper, Dan Burros. The caption reads:

'DAN BURROS, "national secretary" of the American Nazi Party (in circle) was one of the leaders of Rockwell's "Hate Bus", which toured the South inciting violence against Freedom Riders. Burros is now "vice chairman" of the "American National Party", which has opened headquarters in Hollis, Queens.'

Newberry also writes that Burros was both the 'National Secretary and racist "theoretician"' of the ANP, and that the July 1961 issue of the *National Socialist Bulletin* 'lauded the appointment of the baby-faced Burros in announcing this appointment to this post'.

Newberry's article was provoked in part by a ruling from the United States Supreme Court. In November 1961, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a decision by New York City Parks Commissioner Newbold Morris preventing Rockwell from speaking in Union Square, even though Rockwell had submitted a legal request to speak there. Rockwell filed his petition in

⁵ Mike Newberry, *The Yahoos* (New York: Marzani & Mansell, 1964).

⁶ Due to a typo, in *Dreamer* it reads '20 March 1961' instead of 1962.

May 1960 in the hope that he could speak in Union Square on the Fourth of July. Although Morris's decision was upheld by lower courts, the Supreme Court ordered that Rockwell be allowed to speak.⁷ According to Newberry, Rockwell intended to give a public speech in Union Square on 20 April 1962, Hitler's birthday.

Although I believed I was the first to discover the Oswald address book/*The Worker* connection, this is not the case. In the July 1996 issue of the JFK assassination research journal *The Fourth Decade* (Vol. 3/No. 5) there is a note on page 35 written by the journal's founder and editor Jerry Rose. Rose reports that in response to article by him entitled 'Oswald and the Nazis' in the March 1996 issue, a researcher named J. P. (Jerry) Shinley sent him a document from the FBI (FBI 105-70374-Not Recorded) that was a clipping of Newberry's *The Worker* story. Rose writes that 'every element of Oswald's entry in his notebook could have been taken from this article', and that 'it thus seems nearly certain that the material in *The Worker* was the source of the Oswald notation'.

Rose writes that it remained unclear how Oswald got a hold of the story because he only returned to the United States in June 1962, a few months after the article appeared in print. He notes that even though Marina Oswald testified to the Warren Commission (1H101) that Oswald regularly read *The Worker* while he was in Russia, 'how and where did Oswald obtain an English language newspaper in Minsk?' But *The Worker* was no ordinary English-language paper; it was the official publication of the Communist Party USA, and it is surely no surprise that Oswald could find the paper in Russia. In any case, Marina made clear that Oswald read the paper while in Russia. Rose, however, postulates that perhaps an unidentified FBI informant gave Oswald a back copy after he returned to America. However, I believe the overwhelming likelihood is that Oswald read Newberry's story in Minsk and took particular note of it because the 'Hate Bus' attracted a great deal of media attention, particularly in Oswald's sometime home town of New Orleans.

On 25 May 1961, the *New York Times* ran a UPI story entitled '10 Nazis

⁷ See the 14 November 1961 *New York Times* article entitled 'Supreme Court Backs Rockwell on Right to Speak in City Parks.'

Seized in New Orleans' reporting that Rockwell and his cohorts had been arrested on 23 May by local police and charged with disturbing the peace 'as they tried to picket the movie *Exodus*.' Rockwell had flown to New Orleans for the demo while the other ANP members drove the 'Hate Bus' from the ANP's Virginia national headquarters to New Orleans. Besides picketing the film, Rockwell's Nazis wanted confrontations with civil rights organizers and groups such as CORE.

Shinley and Rose first linked the entry in Oswald's address book to *The Worker* in 1996, some three years before me. Rose and I independently came to the conclusion that Oswald drew his address book entry from *The Worker*, although I think the evidence clearly points to Oswald's first reading the story in Russia, while Rose holds out the possibility that Oswald may have been shown it by an unidentified FBI informant sometime after returning to the United States in June 1962.

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His article 'Tokyo Legend? Lee Harvey Oswald and Japan' appeared in Lobster 70 (Winter 2015).