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Woodcut by Albert Berghaus of Booth shooting Lincoln at Ford's Theater.



Matthew Brady photo of

## Now, About Those 18 'Missing

Now, dear reader, here's a proposition: Every day you've got to determine, if you read us at all, what's true, what's false, and, as in most cases, what lies inconclusively in between. Witness today.

Elsewhere in these pages, you'll find a column by our colleagues, Jack Anderson and Les Whitten. It begins with the riveting words: "The FBI has quietly entered the investigation of another presidential assassination—this one the 112-year-old shooting of Abraham Lincoln . . ." The column goes on to say: "The belated FBI inquiry into Lincoln's death may help to resolve such mysteries as these: Was Lincoln the victim of a secret conspiracy reaching into his own cabinet? . . ." Credit for this monumental investigation ("new light on these questions") is given to "some 18 pages that mysteriously disappeared from Booth's diary but may now have turned up." And: "Now an indefatigable American expert, Joseph Lynch of Worthington, Mass., has found what appears to be the missing pages."

Not having much else to report in this most normal summer since the '50s, which is to say dull, aside from the recent discovery of that long-extinct prehistoric monster, the plesiosaurus, from the murky depths of the southern seas off New Zealand, or a sociological examination of the deeper significance of the latest phenomenon, the film "Star Wars," we turn now to that burning question—not who killed Kennedy, but who killed Lincoln. And also how that subject happens to surface in the press this first week of August, '77.

The American expert, Joseph Lynch, lists his address as P.O. Box 72, Worthington, Mass. His phone, the operator says, has been disconnected. A day of indefatigable tracking led from Worthington, Mass., to Salt

Lake City, Utah, and ended at the Steamboat Square Book Shop in Albany, N.Y., where Mr. Lynch was said to receive messages. "He's a very private man who jealously guards his privacy," the proprietor said, cautiously. Mr. Lynch maintains a phone in the Albany area, but it, too, is unlisted. Finally, late in the day, after more enterprising investigative reporting, the elusive Mr. Lynch himself was on the phone.

"I'm always interested in the subject of, shall we say, Americana, the artifacts of history," he pronounced, in a Brooklyn accent. "One might call me a dealer-collector. In general, I know a lot about American history. It's the thing I liked best in school. I'm not a liberal in my politics. No one's ever accused me of being a Communist. If anything, I'm conservative in my views. I'm totally amateur, I admit. My education is limited to high school and the business arena, as we know it—making a living from one day to next. I'm not Charlie Big Bucks, either."

Mr. Lynch then proceeded to tell the following story:

Some 3½ years ago, he was conducting an inventory and appraisal of papers in the possession of heirs of Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's secretary of war. As is his custom, he read out a description of various letters and manuscript pages into a tape recorder. Among the papers were some 18 pages of handwriting, which seemed to have been torn from a diary. In checking into the contents, he determined that these were the missing pages from John Wilkes Booth's diary. No matter how. He did.

In the course of his work, he happened to mention his discovery to another dealer, who in turn passed it on to another, who in turn . . . Anyway, you get the picture: The word was out.

Fast curtain, exit Mr. Lynch. David Balsiger, end act one. P

David Balsiger was in the making of a movie on "The Lincoln" to be produced by Sunn Classic with offices in Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. Sunn Classic describes "a unique family film company" that produces motion picture material. Sunn says of starting a picture, this inn-

### Haynes John

### HYPE

company locates the special group of people who will enjoy that particular kind of picture and then shapes it to their preference, custom tailor."

In other words, it uses the techniques that serve us in everything from advertising cigarettes to politicians: market research, polling, computer research to determine what the audience wants, and then makes the films. "Docu-dramas, TV: "The Life and Times of George Washington," "The Mysterious Monsters" and "The Amazing World of Psychic Phenomena."

The company modestly claims that its "Lincoln Conspiracy" will uncover a shocking historical conspiracy. It's sort of a Watergate-revival. "If Watergate ever happened, of course, it would be a record of the seeds of the crime, and to fortify lives. And sells. Even before the picture is made."

David Balsiger, described as a "gative snooper" by the company,



Brady photo of Stanton.



Photos from the Bellmann Archive

From a book on Booth, rendition of his capture by New York cavalry.

# Missing Pages' in Booth's Diary

exit Mr. Lynch, enter a  
end act one. Plot thickens.

the gumshoe work that all reporter-researcher  
investigators must do when he stumbled  
on a lead.

"And what about that FBI investigation?"  
you ask. Read on. Denouement to come.

was in the East research-  
a "The Lincoln Conspiracy,"  
d by Sunn Classic Pictures,  
n Salt Lake City and Los  
Classic describes itself as  
y film company." In its pro-  
rial, Sunn says of itself: "Be-  
picture, this innovative com-

He says he was in Washington, D.C., at a  
Civil War type gun show, when he heard  
about an Americana collector who had found  
the missing pages from Booth's diary. "It  
took me nearly six weeks to track Lynch  
down," Balsiger says. After calling dealers  
from New York to Boston, he finally got a  
call back. He and Lynch began negotiations  
over the material. And here, if it hasn't al-  
ready, the story becomes too complex to un-  
ravel at this writing. But the essence:

Sometime last fall, Michael (Mike) Har-  
mon, curator of the Ford's Theater Museum,  
got a call. It might be worth his time to con-  
tact a film company, Sunn Classic, in Salt  
Lake City, he was told. Seems new material  
on the Lincoln assassination had been  
turned up. New material is always turning  
up, but Harmon made the call. In time, he  
met Lynch, Balsiger and other people from  
the movie company. One of them asked for,  
and got, permission to photograph the origi-  
nal Booth diary on display in the museum.  
There had been rumors, among the hordes  
of Lincoln assassination conspiracy buffs,  
that Booth's diary contained "invisible"  
writing. The keys to the case.

## es Johnson

### TYPE

special group of people who  
particular kind of film and  
to their preferences like a

Balsiger says Lynch estimated the value of  
the material at a quarter of a million to a  
million dollars, and that Lynch, acting as  
the middleman for the heirs, first put a price  
of a quarter million on it. Lynch denies this.  
The Stanton heirs, he says, didn't want to  
deal with anyone. "So far as they were con-  
cerned, the diary was a black spot on every-  
one concerned," he says. That is, Stanton  
clearly was implicated as the master conspirator.  
How would you like to be known as a direct  
descendant of the man who had  
Father Abraham slain?

After that, Harmon says, the government  
decided to protect itself. "We asked the FBI  
to examine the diary in our possession to  
alleviate any future uncertainty as to its  
authenticity, or any questions pertaining to  
'hidden' writing." That was done. The diary  
is now back in its case in Ford's Theater.

ds, it uses the modern tech-  
us in everything from self-  
o politicians: mass market re-  
computer readouts to de-  
the audience wants. Then it  
ins. "Docu-dramas," it calls  
Sunn's credits, for film and  
and Times of Grizzly Adams,"  
us Monsters" and "The Amaz-  
"Psychic Phenomena."

The FBI has never looked at the "missing  
pages" from the diary. As Harmon says:  
"Being a cautious historian, I have to say  
this: The burden of historical proof rests on  
Lynch. If a guy says, 'Hey, I have the docu-  
ments that say Mary Lincoln did it,' it's the  
burden of that person to produce the docu-  
ments in question. The only way anybody's  
going to be able to determine their authen-  
ticity is when they become public documents  
subject to public scrutiny and examination."

modestly claims "The Lin-  
cy" will uncover "the most  
rical conspiracy of our times."  
Watergate-revisited, before  
happened, of course. The  
ime, and so forth. Watergate  
s. Even before the fact.

Harmon's a Civil War buff himself. He re-  
calls being fascinated by an event a year  
ago. Lincoln's wallet had been sealed inside  
a box maintained at the Smithsonian. It was  
opened during the bicentennial celebration.  
Guess what they found.

er, described as "an invest-  
" by the company, was doing

Five dollars—in Confederate money.

# Hospital Cost Curb Passes Senate Panel

By Victor Cohn  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Carter's plan to bring hospital costs under control passed its first hurdle yesterday when a Senate committee voted even tougher limits on hospital and medical spending than he proposed.

The Carter proposal for an approximate 9 per cent limit on annual increases in hospital revenues was adopted 9 to 3 in somewhat altered form by the Senate Human Resources Committee.

Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph A. Califano Jr. called the committee action "a dramatic first step toward checking the reckless increases" that have seen hospital costs rising by 15 per cent yearly.

But the cost control plan must still be acted on by the Senate Finance and the House Ways and Means and Commerce committees. In none of these three has it even emerged from health subcommittees.

This makes it virtually sure that no controls could go into effect by Oct. 1, the President's target date.

The version passed yesterday—shaped largely by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and his health subcommittee staff—would add two important provisions to the administration plan.

One is a proposed two-year moratorium on hospital building or expansion except in states that adopt statewide plans providing for such expansion. The administration had proposed limiting such building to \$2.5 billion worth in the two years, a sharp reduction from an expected \$7 billion worth without a lid.

Yesterday's version would also prevent doctors from adding equipment worth more than \$150,000 to their offices without state health planning agency approval.

The committee bill would also:

- Force hospitals to make financial statements including profits and losses in all departments, available to consumers as well as to the HEW secretary.

- Attempt to discourage private hospitals from transferring or "dumping" nonpaying patients into public hospitals.

- Allow hospitals to increase rates and revenues by more than 9 per cent if agreements with nonsupervisory, low-income workers call for larger wage boosts. Unions have persuaded the administration to accept this compromise, even though it and other exceptions might raise the limit on revenues to 10 to 11 per cent.

President Carter in April said hospital cost controls could save \$2 billion the first year. He called this start on health cost control essential if the nation is to afford adequate national health insurance.

# House Continues to Insist On Tough Abortion Stand

By Spencer Rich  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House, insisting on a tough anti-abortion position, voted 238 to 182 last night to ban all abortion funding of abortions except to save the life of the mother.

The issue now goes back to the Senate to determine whether the Senate will take the House language or continue to demand softer language with more exceptions.

The vote came on an amendment to the final House-Senate compromise version of the \$60.1 billion appropriations bill for the departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare for fiscal 1978.

The House, in initially passing the bill had banned all federal funding of abortions but the Senate had substantially weakened it. The Senate allowed exceptions for situations where the life of the mother was threatened, where pregnancy resulted from rape or incest or where the woman's doctor considered abortion "medically necessary" for whatever physical or psychological reason.

In conference, where all other differences between the two bills were settled, there was a complete impasse on abortion and House floor manager Daniel Flood (D-Pa.) went back to the House last night for re-endorsement of a strict House position.

Flood said, "A large vote for it this time will send a clear message to the other body" that the House

isn't going to back down on tough language, which is favored by the Carter administration.

Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), author of the original House amendment, said, "A fetus is a human life . . . abortion kills human life." He said the Supreme Court had ruled that "even though abortion is legal, there is no constitutional right to have it paid for by public funds." The bill affects only those women, about 250,000 to 300,000 a year, who have abortions funded by the Medicaid program for low-income women. It doesn't prevent anyone from having an abortion if she can pay with her own funds.

Reps. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), David Obey (D-Wis.), Patricia Schroeder (D Colo.) and several others all argued that the House ban is so tight that it wouldn't allow for abortions even in situations where the fetus was known to be seriously defective or where the pregnancy would damage the health of the woman, even if not directly threatening her life.

Stokes and others argued it would deprive women of the right to abortion simply because they can't pay for it.

Stokes said the provision would "force . . . women to continue pregnancies even when they know they are carrying a deformed or diseased" fetus, asserting that according to HEW predictions there would be 292,000 illegal abortions, 25,000 illnesses or injuries and 230 deaths.

# Today's Activities in Senate, House

## Senate

Committees:  
Armed Services Subcommittee on Manpower & Personnel—9 a.m. Open. U.S.-NATO posture. Harold Brown, Sec. of Defense, 1114 Dirksen Office Bldg.  
Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs—9:30 a.m. Open. Financial inst. reform legislation mark-up. 322 DOB.  
Economic Natural Resources—9 a.m. Open. Proposed nomination of James Schlesinger to be Energy Dept. secy. 310 DOB.  
Environment & Public Works Subcommittee on Resource Protection—9:30 a.m. Open. Fed. Aid to Non-Game Fish & Wildlife Act; Lynn Greenwall, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Daniel Fogel, Wildlife Management Inst.; John Grandy, Defenders of Wildlife; others. 420 DOB.  
Finance—10 a.m. Open. Mark up pending business. 221 DOB.  
Foreign Relations—10 a.m. Open (with immediate vote to close): U.S.-USSR treaty on limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests; Savra Stevens, CIA; to be followed by open session on the same treaty with David McDuffie, DOD Asst. Secy.; Vice Adm. P. J. Keenan, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. 421 DOB.  
Governmental Affairs—10 a.m. Open: Employment discrimination complaints in the Senate; Sens. Abourez, Brooke and Clark; Eric Schnitzer and Lawrence Sheldon, NAACP; others. 322 DOB.  
Human Resources Subcommittee on Labor—9 a.m. Open. Minimum wage increase; Panel of economists farm workers and women. 422 DOB.  
Human Resources Subcommittee on Health—9 a.m. Open. (cont. with the Select Comte on Intelligence) CIA, drug testing programs; CIA Director Starfield Turner. 322 DOB.  
Judiciary—10 a.m. Open. Nomination of Earl Warren to be dist. judge for western Louisiana. 222 DOB.  
Select Comte on Indian Affairs—10 a.m. Open. Reorganization of Bur of Indian Affairs. 257 Russell Office Bldg.  
Commerce—9 a.m. Open. Farm bill. Room to be arranged.  
Armed Services—2:30 a.m. Closed. Business meeting on the unification of armed forces. 572 Cannon.

## House

Meeting at 10 a.m.  
Committees (18).  
Panel 10 a.m. Open. Oversight on programs for non-Americans. Seattle. Alvin. Ullman. pub. 773 Payburn House Office Bldg.  
Banking, Finance & Urban Affairs—9:00 a.m.

Open. Subcomte. on the City. Hrgs on "livable cities". Endowment for the Arts. Comm. Hearings. 214 RHOB.  
Education & Labor—9 a.m. Open. Elem. Secondary. 411 Voc. Edu. Subcomte. cont. Hrgs on H.R. 15. Elem. & Secondary Edu. Act. Ernest Boyer. Comm. of Edu. 3173 RHOB.  
Government Operations—9 a.m. Open. Legis. & Natl. Security Subcomte. on reorg. of Exec. office of the President. OMB Dir. Lance. 2154 RHOB.  
House Administration—9:30 a.m. Open. Full Comte. Budget for Science. Comte. on Intelligence. 422 Cannon.  
Interior & Insular Affairs—9:45 a.m. Open. Mark up pending legis. 132; Longworth House Office Bldg.  
International Relations—10:30 a.m. Open. Intl. Organ. Subcomte. Cont. on Invest. of Korean-American Relations. 220 RHOB.  
Interstate & Foreign Commerce—9 a.m. Open. Consumer Protect. & Finance Subcomte. Cont. Hrgs on H.R. 831; Securities Investor Protect. Act. amend. 212 RHOB.  
Interstate & Foreign Commerce—9 a.m. Open. Oversight & Invest. Subcomte. Cont. Hrgs on exposure to PBB. N.C. dept. 222 RHOB.  
Interstate & Foreign Commerce—9 a.m. Open. Commerce Subcomte. Cont. discussion on broadcasting. 312 RHOB.  
Judiciary—9 a.m. Open. Immin. Crt. & Intl. Law Subcomte. Oversight Hrgs on alleged West war criminals. Int. Comm. Castillo. dept. 222 RHOB.  
Judiciary—9:15 a.m. Open. Immin. Civil & Const. Rights Subcomte. Hrgs on D.C. voting representation in Congress. AC. 211 RHOB.  
Science & Technology—9 a.m. Open. Environ. & Atmos. Subcomte. Cont. Hrgs on oceans enviro. R&D. 322 RHOB.  
Science & Technology—9:30 a.m. Open. Sci. Res. & Tech. Subcomte. Office of Tech. Assessment Review. pub. 222 RHOB.  
Science & Technology—10 a.m. Open. Com. & Intl. Sci. Planning & Analysis Subcomte. cont. Hrgs on nutrition research. Esth. Peterkin. Spec. Asst. to the Pres. 324 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Small Business—10 a.m. Open. Spec. Sml. Business Programs Subcomte. Cont. on EPA's laboring regulation. dept. 222 RHOB.  
Standards of Conduct—10 a.m. Open. Pending business. 311 RHOB.  
Committee on Administrative Review—10 a.m. Open. 40-min. units. Tax. force. Recommendations on House Administrative Operations. H-30 Cap.

# Department Of Energy Established

## DEPARTMENT, From A1

be given to a commission insulated from political pressures.

As finally passed, the bill gives the commission power to set the price of new natural gas but authorizes the secretary to make proposals and to set reasonable time limits for the commission to make a decision.

The commission would also set wholesale interstate electricity rates and would share with the secretary limited pricing powers over domestic crude oil. (Oil prices were basically set by a 1975 law and under the pending energy bill would be taxed up to the world price.)

The power to set gas prices would be crucial to carrying out a coherent national energy policy if Congress approves Carter's proposal to continue price controls over new natural gas and extend them to intrastate as well as interstate gas.

Carter and Schlesinger issued statements praising Congress for swift action on the reorganization.

The new Energy Department would acquire energy functions from four Cabinet departments and one independent regulatory agency.

From the Interior Department it would take regional marketing functions over electric power, now handled by the Bureau of Reclamation and Interior's four regional power administrations; coal development and energy data programs, now in the Bureau of Mines; and control over the rate of energy production on the public lands, now in the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM would retain responsibility for actual leasing of public lands.

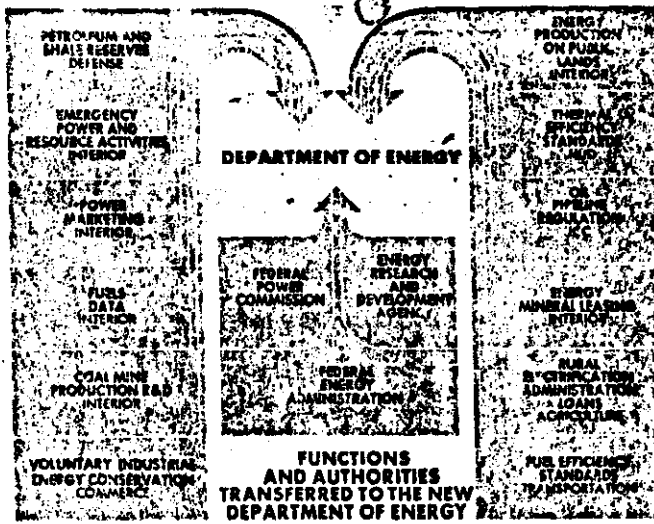
The new department would also be given:

### Couple Convicted for Feeding Lye to Baby

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 2 (UPI)—Leita Mae Veal, 19, is to be sentenced Sept. 8 for feeding her 3-week-old baby caustic lye in a plot to blackmail a babyfood company. Her husband, Eddie, 20, also has been convicted and is to be sentenced Aug. 18.

The couple complained in April, 1976, that after they fed a can of baby food to their daughter, Jeanette, she began to vomit blood.

Investigators later said that the Veals had spiked the baby food with drain cleaner, a caustic lye solution that burned the infant's mouth and throat, intending to sue the baby food company and collect damages. The child was placed in a foster home.



By Terry Dale—The Washington Post

- Authority to set building conservation standards, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Voluntary industrial conservation programs, from the Commerce Department.
- Jurisdiction and administration of the naval petroleum and oil shale reserves in California, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, from the Department of Defense.
- Authority to set oil pipeline and coal slurry rates, from the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The House had written in a "sunset" provision requiring that the department go out of existence by the end of 1982 unless Congress extended its life. The administration opposed this, arguing that it would prevent long-range planning. The conferees settled on a provision that merely directs the President to make a comprehensive review of the department's performance and report on it to Congress by Jan. 15, 1982.

The Department of Energy becomes the 12th Cabinet-level department, the first to be created since the Department of Transportation in 1966.

## Insulation Plan Approved In 1st House Energy Vote

### ENERGY, From A1

local suppliers. But federal officials could keep utilities out of the lending or installing business if it were considered anti-competitive. Utilities that were in the business of installing insulation as of April 20, when President Carter delivered his energy message, could continue.

The bill requires state governors to compile lists of lending institutions and insulation suppliers in each area for the benefit of residents. The close vote appeared due to the argument made by Republicans that governors might be tempted to list only their political supporters.

In other actions, all subject to reconsideration before passage of the bill later in the week, the House:

- Voted 212 to 210 to order a study by the Department of Transportation of the potential energy savings from setting minimum energy standards for "off-highway vehicles," including non-commercial motorboats and aircraft. Gasoline mileage requirements for automobiles take effect with 1979 models this fall. Opponents called this an

other case of government control of private possessions.

- Voted 252 to 166 to order another DOT study of the energy potential offered by bicycles and how to eliminate obstacles to their use by commuters.

- Authorized 317 to 105 a \$65 million outlay to help local governments survey insulation needs in municipal buildings.

The bill also authorizes \$900 million in grants over three years to help insulate schools and hospitals. Adopted 265 to 161 was an amendment applying to this construction work the Davis-Bacon Act requirements that workers be paid the prevailing local wage.

Also approved—as the House passed by the section without amendment—was a requirement that energy standards be set for major home appliances.

### The President's Schedule

- 8 a.m.—National security briefing.
- 9:30 a.m.—Sen. Russell Long, Cabinet Room.
- 11:15 a.m.—Signing of the 1977 Surface, Air and Reclamation Act, Rose Garden.
- 12:30 p.m.—Lunch with Rosalynn Carter, Oval Office.
- 1:30 p.m.—Mrs. Charles Schultz, wife of the Chief Economic Adviser, Oval Office.

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Project Douglas  
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comple[unclear] w/ Diary from  
Kordis theater."

one [unclear] of time period

95-216208-11  
ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. Kelly  
1 - Mr. Mones

August 25, 1977

OUTSIDE SOURCE

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I would like to thank you for your suggestions and interests in our examination of the John Wilkes Booth "diary".

The two photographs you so kindly furnished are being returned herewith as you requested.

When our examination is completed the results will be furnished by official report to the Department of Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

AUG 25 1977

Enclosures (2)

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_
- Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_

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REC-3

20 JAN 1978

TKK/BJK

MONES BJK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
RECORDED UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
C-3-77 Laboratory Work Sheet  
dcg

NO LAB FILE  
LATENT

To: United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20242

FBI FILE NO.

LAB. NO.

YOUR NO.

95-213108 /  
D-770520035 K3 PN

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
JOHN WILKES BOOTH

Examination by:

Hones

Examination requested by:

Addressee

Reference:

Letter 5-19-77

Examination requested:

Document

Specimens received:

5-19-77

Q1

Diary of ~~John~~ John Wilkes Booth



RECORDED  
7/11/77  
asc#

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NO L&S FILE  
MONES  
6/15/77

Laboratory Work Sheet

To: Mr. J. Dunning  
Acting Regional Director  
United States Department  
of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Capital Region  
Washington, D. C. 20242

FBI FILE NO.

95-216208-13  
D-770615073 PN

LAB. NO.

Re: AUTHENTICATION OF  
JOHN WILKES BOOTH'S DIARY

YOUR NO.

Examination by:

Examination requested by: Addressee

Reference: Letter 6/3/77

Examination requested: Document

Specimens received: 6/15/77

K1 Two letters written by JOHN WILKES BOOTH

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS, FURTHER DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Over-all photograph of diary in an open position showing major area of missing pages, left page headed "DECEMBER, 1864."
2. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page is inside of front cover, right page is headed "Pocket DIARY, 1864."
3. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, same as "2", showing portions of writing under cut edge between cover and diary page.
4. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, right page depicting railroad time table headed "DISTANCES AND TIME."
5. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "A COMPLETE TABLE OF STAMP DUTIES AS AMENDED MARCH 3, 1863."
6. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "STAMP DUTIES."
7. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "A TABLE OF STAMP DUTIES ON DEMAND AND TIME NOTES, INLAND BILLS OF EXCHANGE, ETC."
8. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "ECLIPSES IN 1864."
9. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MOON'S PHASES FOR 1864 SAN FRANCISCO."
10. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FEBRUARY, 1864"
11. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "APRIL, 1864"
12. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "JUNE, 1864"
13. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "AUGUST, 1864"

14. Photograph of open diary, depicting two pages, left page headed "OCTOBER, 1864."
15. Photograph of open diary, depicting two pages, left page headed "DECEMBER, 1864," showing remaining cut edges of missing pages (close-up of No. 2).
16. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page bearing handwritten date "April 1865" (mechanically printed date "Tuesday, June 14, 1864").
17. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1864."
18. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1864."
19. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1864."
20. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1864."
21. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1864."
22. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1864."
23. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1864."
24. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1864."  
(Tear shows across right sheet.)
25. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, same as 24, except tear shows across left sheet.
26. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1864."
27. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1864."
28. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1864."

29. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1864."
30. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1864."
31. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1864."
32. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1864."
33. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1864."
34. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1864."
35. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1864."
36. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1864."
37. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1864."
38. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1864."
39. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1864."
40. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1864."
41. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1864."
42. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1864."
43. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1864."

44. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1864."
45. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1864."
46. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MEMORANDA."
47. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. FEBRUARY."
48. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. APRIL." (Tear on top right page.)
49. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, top of left page is torn, right page is headed "CASH ACCOUNT JUNE."
50. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. JULY."
51. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. AUGUST."
52. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. OCTOBER."
53. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. NOVEMBER."
54. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. DECEMBER."
55. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUMMARY OF CASH ACCOUNT." (right page is blank and partially torn)
56. Photograph of open diary depicting partially torn back page and back inside cover.
57. Photograph depicting partially closed diary.

58. Photograph depicting "front" of closed diary.
59. Photograph depicting "back" of closed diary.
60. Photograph of diary depicting inside leather surfaces and pockets.

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS, FURTHER DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

61. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, right page headed "Pocket DIARY, 1864," left page is inside front cover.
62. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, same as "61," showing portions of writing under cut edge between cover and diary page.
63. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, right page depicting railroad time table headed "DISTANCES AND TIME."
64. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "A COMPLETE TABLE OF STAMP DUTIES AS AMENDED MARCH 3, 1863."
65. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "STAMP DUTIES."
66. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "A TABLE OF STAMP DUTIES ON DEMAND AND TIME NOTES, INLAND BILLS OF EXCHANGE, ETC."
67. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "ECLIPSES IN 1864."
68. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MOON'S PHASES FOR 1864 SAN FRANCISCO"
69. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FEBRUARY, 1864"
70. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "APRIL, 1864"
71. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "JUNE, 1864"
72. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "AUGUST, 1864"

73. Photograph of open diary, depicting two pages, left page headed "OCTOBER, 1864."
74. Photograph of open diary, depicting two pages, left page headed "DECEMBER, 1864," showing remaining cut edges of missing pages.
75. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page bearing handwritten date "April 1865," (mechanically printed date "Tuesday, June 14, 1864").
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77. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1864."
78. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1864."
79. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1864."
80. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1864."
81. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1864."
82. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1864."
83. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1864."  
(Tear shows across right sheet.)
84. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, same as 83, except tear shows across left sheet.
85. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1864."
86. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1864."
87. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1864."



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89. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1864."
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95. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1864."
96. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1864."
97. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1864."
98. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1864."
99. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1864."
100. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1864."
101. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1864."
102. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1864."

103. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1864."
104. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1864."
105. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "MEMORANDA."
106. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. FEBRUARY."
107. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. APRIL." (Tear on top of right page.)
108. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, top of left page is torn, right page is headed "CASH ACCOUNT JUNE."
109. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. JULY."
110. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. AUGUST."
111. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. OCTOBER."
112. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. NOVEMBER."
113. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. DECEMBER."
114. Photograph of open diary depicting two pages, left page headed "SUMMARY OF CASH ACCOUNT." (Right page is blank and partially torn.)
115. Photograph of open diary depicting partially torn back page and back inside cover.

116. Photograph of diary depicting inside leather surfaces and pockets.
117. Photograph depicting "back" of closed diary.
118. Photograph depicting partially closed diary.
119. Photograph depicting "front" of closed diary.

FORENSIC TECHNIQUES APPLIED TO THE  
JOHN WILKES BOOTH DIARY

120. Infrared reflectance photograph of inside of front cover (8" by 10" negative).
121. High contrast photograph of inside of front cover (8" by 10" negative).
122. Infrared reflectance photograph of inside of back cover (8" by 10" negative).
123. High contrast photograph of inside of back cover (8" by 10" negative).

Photographs 120 through 123 were attempts to enhance the indistinct writing on the inside front and back covers of the diary.

- 124 and 125. Indented writing photographs from page headed "TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1864." (Two 5" by 7" negatives showing two different lighting angles have been printed side by side.)
- 126 and 127. Indented writing photographs from page headed "CASH ACCOUNT. SEPTEMBER." (Two 5" by 7" negatives showing two different lighting angles have been printed side by side.)
128. Photographic print made from X-ray negative of folded diary.
129. Photographic print made from X-ray negative of unfolded diary.
130. Black and white photograph (4" by 5" negative) utilizing #15 yellow filter of page entitled "SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1864."

- 131. Black and white photograph (4" by 5" negative) utilizing #15 yellow filter of page entitled "TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1864."
- 132. Black and white photograph (4" by 5" negative) utilizing #15 yellow filter of page entitled "MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1864."
- 133. Black and white photograph (4" by 5" negative) utilizing #15 yellow filter of page entitled "SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1864."
- 134. Black and white transparency showing page entitled "SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1864" and print showing page entitled "FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1864." (The transparency is an enlargement of negative #75. The print is an enlargement of negative #77. They should be enlarged to as nearly the same size as is possible.) :

The order of photographs 135 through 366 is similar to that of photographs 1 through 60. They are grouped according to the particular photographic technique used to produce them.

- 135 through 192. Infrared reflectance photographs of the whole diary in sequence.
- 193 through 250. Infrared luminescence photographs of the whole diary in sequence.
- 251 through 308. Ultra-violet reflectance photographs of the whole diary in sequence.
- 309 through 366. Visible fluorescence with ultra-violet illumination of the whole diary in sequence.

The following photographs are depictions of the known handwriting of JOHN WILKES BOOTH received from the National Archives:

367. Two pages from letter beginning "Dearest beloved Mother ..."
368. Two pages from letter beginning "on that account ..."
369. Final page of letter beginning "watch you with ..."
370. First page of letter beginning "My Dear Sir ..."
371. Second page of letter beginning "say country right ..."
372. Third page of letter beginning "Knows no one would ..."
373. Fourth page of letter beginning "Republican party. Strange ..."
374. Fifth page of letter beginning "never bestowed upon ..."
375. Sixth page of letter beginning "the entire world could ..."

7C  
June 23, 1977

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. Clarence Kelly  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C. 20005

Attn: Mr. Barry Mones

Dear Sir:

At the request of a group of Lincoln scholars, the National Park Service has sent the famous John Wilkes Booth diary to you for special light photography and for handwriting analysis. I am not certain what information you were given about this request. My purpose here is to give you the background and to explain why the matter is of great historical importance.

Last year Sunn Classics Productions, a Schick Razor Company affiliate, decided to make a film about the murder of President Lincoln. As part of their research, this firm sent one of its technical advisors to Washington and the National Park Service gave him permission to photograph the diary under special light conditions. The film company thus had a monopoly on the pictures and we were concerned that they might distort the results for sensational or commercial reasons - there being no independent and respected source to which serious historians could resort as a check. This was not an idle fear as we knew that some of the documents being used by the (film) company were of questionable authenticity.

REC-65

EX-57

95-216208-13

It is our hope that you will use the most sophisticated means to photograph each and every page (from cover to cover) of this diary to bring up whatever is there or to demonstrate that nothing is there that can be recaptured by such means. This will preclude a claim that the privately made photographs brought up writing not found by the FBI in "scanning." Thus negative information is as important as positive information. Every picture you make (and they should all be preserved) may help to prevent subsequent distortion of history for sensational purposes.

20 JAN 19 1977

Since this matter arose, there have been many suggestions that the Booth diary is a forgery designed to assist in a "cover up." This needs to be settled, one way or the other. For purposes of comparison, two known Booth documents are available in National Archives: the "To whom it may concern letter" and the letter Booth wrote to his mother explaining his motives for planning to kidnap the President. These letters will be made available to you on request. We realize that you cannot be asked to say that any of these documents are in the hand of Booth. For historical purposes, it will suffice for you to state whether or not they are in the same hand. The authenticity of the two National Archives documents is not in dispute (both are signed) nor is any dispute likely to be raised. So your analysis will be definitive.

[REDACTED]

I am sure that your standard procedures call for keeping a detailed record of what you did and how. It is likely that requests will be made by scholars and by colleges and universities for information to back up your report to the National Park Service. The Booth diary will never again be made available for analysis - indeed, it took intervention as high as the Vice President to persuade the National Park Service to make it available for your analysis.

[REDACTED]



11-2

REPORT  
of the



1-Mr. Mones

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

October 3, 1977

To: Mr. J. Dunning  
Acting Regional Director  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20242

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

REGISTERED

FBI FILE NO. 95-216206  
LAB. NO. D-770615073 PH  
YOUR NO. D-770520035 PH

Re: EXAMINATION OF JOHN WILKES  
BOOTH'S DIARY

*Clarence M. Kelley*  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Examination requested by: Addressee

Reference: Letters 5/19/77 and 6/3/77

Examination requested: Document

Specimen received 5/19/77 under cover of letter dated 5/19/77  
(D-770520035 PH):

Q1 Diary of John Wilkes Booth

Specimen received 6/15/77 under cover of letter dated 6/3/77  
(D-770615073 PH):

K1 Two letters written by JOHN WILKES BOOTH

Enclosures (3)

Page 1

(over)

*Personally delivered to  
Miles Harmon U.S. Park Service  
Ford's Theater 9/30/77  
By SA Barry L. Mones  
BIM*

REC-65

20 JAN 1978

*RM*  
BLM:bp (4)\*

*990*  
*1/5/78*  
*sim*

*MAJESS 3451*

Result of examination:

The diary is identified as a "Pocket Diary, 1864, James M. Crawford, No. 54 Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo." The diary is contained in a leatherbound folder approximately 6 1/16" X 9 1/8" when fully opened. It is a trifold design with a large pocket inside the front cover and pockets for postage, tickets and a holder for a writing instrument inside the back cover. The diary is glued in place in the middle section. Beneath it is another large pocket. All of the pockets were lined with a fabric. There is an impression in the center pocket, possibly from a coin, measuring approximately 11/16 of an inch.

The first twenty-four pages are mechanically printed with miscellaneous information. Between the inside front cover and the first page of this miscellaneous information there have been two sheets (four pages) cut out. There are sixty dated diary pages beginning with the page printed "Saturday June 11, 1864" and ending with the page headed "Thursday December 29, 1864." There are two additional pages dated "Memoranda" and eighteen pages headed "Cash Account."

1864 was a leap year and each sheet in the diary contains six dates. Assuming that the first missing sheet was headed January 1, 1864 and the last printed date on the bottom of the last missing sheet was Friday 10, then there would be 162 days, divided by six dates per sheet, accounting for 27 missing sheets or 54 pages. These 27 sheets are between the last page of miscellaneous printed information and the first page of the diary headed Saturday June 11, 1864. Twenty-five of the edges of these pages are visible and have been cut. There are two additional sheets (four pages) of which the edges are not observable. Those edges may have been obscured by the laminating of the respective connecting pages.

Each packet of pages making up the diary consists of eight sheets (sixteen pages). On the first page of most of the packets a consecutive number can be seen on the lower portion of the inside bound edge. The number two appears on the remaining portion of the first missing page. The second, third and fourth remaining packet edges are accounted for, totaling twenty-four sheets or forty-eight pages. The first sheet of the fifth packet is also present for a total of twenty-five sheets (fifty pages). The next two sheets of packet number five, which are missing, and of which the edges are not visible, were originally connected with the two packet pages headed June 23 and June 29.

It was noted that many of the remaining edges of the group of twenty-five missing sheets contain portions of handwriting which in addition to the cut edges would assist in any future examinations relating to these missing pages.

The sheet (two pages) headed Sunday July 17, 1864 has been torn out. The next missing portion of the diary is the top 1 1/2" of the sheet which would be headed Wednesday August 10, 1864. The side of this sheet representing Saturday August 13 contains some very limited lead markings. The sheets headed Monday August 22 and August 28 have been torn out. The sheet headed December 9 has also been removed.

Between the Memoranda sheets following the dated pages and the pages headed "Cash Account - January" there are three additional sheets torn out. There is a cash account sheet for February/March cut out; a cash account sheet for April/May torn out; the top portion of the cash account sheet for May/June removed and the cash account sheet for August/September cut out.

Between the summary of cash account page in the back of the diary and the rear cover there are three torn out sheets, a half torn out sheet and a full torn out sheet, respectively. In total, there are forty-three full sheets (eighty-six pages) missing from the diary.

The inside front cover which contains handwriting, exhibits characteristics of normal wear and abrasion. While the paper surface is raised, it is believed that most of the abrasion was the result of items carried within the pockets of the diary. While a positive conclusion could not be reached in this regard there is no indication of any intentional erasures or obliteration.

Most of the text on the inside front cover is extremely faint, and the content of some of the visible text is open to interpretation. The only handwriting which is clear enough to be beyond question is the wording and numerals "3221; 420; 6 \_\_\_; \_\_\_ Douglass; \_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_ St.; 58; \_\_\_ ard; \_\_\_ s \_\_\_ ers." In order to provide a more complete and coherent description of the questionable text, one interpretation is as follows: "3221; \_\_\_ Mf., 420 P \_\_\_ between 6 & 7; \_\_\_ Douglass 47 South \_\_\_ St., St. Louis, mo; 58 L \_\_\_; \_\_\_ vard; J. \_\_\_ Chanslers."

The brown semicircular mark on the inside cover and the title page of the diary is a stain of unknown origin. There are additional stains throughout the diary of unknown origin.

The inside of the back cover also exhibits characteristics of wear and abrasion. Several lines have been crossed through. The only text that could positively be determined are the numbers 57 and 407. Other wording and numerals exist however, a reasonable interpretation of their content cannot be derived from the remaining portions alone.

What appears to be text on the diary page headed Friday June 17, 1864 is actually transferred text from the surrounding pages. Most of this text is from the page headed June 26. Additionally, in at least one location, parts of the text from the page headed Tuesday June 14, have transferred directly to the page headed Friday June 17.

This transference is exhibited on all of the laminated pages. The primary cause for this transference from page to page has to do with the fact that the original writing produced indentations on one side of the pages and raised characteristics on the reverse sides. Over the years dirt, oils, etc. have been deposited on the raised areas. The raised characteristics produced by the writing on the June 29 page can be seen in reverse (i.e., a mirror image) not only on the Friday June 17 page but also on the June 23 page. The opposite effect can be seen on the Monday June 20 page. Here especially in the lower left area of the page, an impression of the June 29 writing can be seen. However, in this case the writing was indented rather than raised. The paper surrounding the indentations has collected dirt and darkened, and the indentations remained cleaner and therefore appear lighter.

All non-destructive tests including forensic photographic techniques such as infrared reflectance, infrared luminescence, ultra-violet reflectance and visible fluorescence with ultra violet excitation were negative regarding examinations concerning purported secret writings in the diary.

As a result of the complete examination of the diary, no invisible writings, unusual obliterations or alterations or any characteristics of question were found.

The dated pages of the diary are faintly lined with horizontal blue lines. The four sheets of the diary headed Saturday June 11, Friday June 17, Thursday June 23, and Wednesday June 29 have at an earlier date been laminated and rebound into the diary. On these pages, very faint indications of lines exist however, due to the age, dirt and lamination they are extremely difficult to note. It was noted that the next page headed Tuesday July 5 is in similar condition but not laminated. On areas of this page the visibility of the faint lines is also hindered by wear characteristics and dirt. On the less worn areas of the page the lines are visible. In addition, the laminated sheets are gilt edged like the rest of the pages in the diary. The paper has the same laid finish consistent throughout the diary and all of the dated pages were printed utilizing the same method. While the printing on these diary pages exhibits characteristics which resemble an offset method, the possibility that letterpress was used cannot be eliminated.

All pages of the diary were examined for indented writings. Some were noted on the page headed Tuesday July 5, 1864. It was determined that these indentations resulted from handwriting on the previous page. Some of these indentations also show on the page headed Monday July 11. The only other indentations noted are on the cash account page for September. These appear to be numbers, however, they are too indistinct for the text to be determined. As previously noted the preceding page is missing.

In conclusion it was determined that the handwriting contained in the diary (exclusive of the inside of the front and rear cover) was prepared by the writer of the specimens furnished by the National Archives as known handwriting of JOHN WILKES BOOTH.

Due to the indistinctness of the faint writings on the inside of the covers it could not be determined if Booth did or did not prepare these writings.

Q1, R1 and assorted photographs are returned herewith.



RECORDED  
7/11/77  
asc#

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NO L&B FILE  
MONES  
6/15/77

Laboratory Work Sheet

To: Mr. J. Dunning  
Acting Regional Director  
United States Department  
of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Capital Region  
Washington, D. C. 20242

Re: AUTHENTICATION OF  
JOHN WILKES BOOTH'S DIARY

FBI FILE NO. 95-216208  
LAB. NO. D-770615073 PN  
YOUR NO.

Examination by:

Examination requested by: Addressee  
Reference: Letter 6/3/77  
Examination requested: Document  
Specimens received: 6/15/77

K1 Two letters written by JOHN WILKES BOOTH

The diary is letterhead approximately 6  $8\frac{1}{16}$ " X  $9\frac{3}{8}$ " when fully opened. It is of trifold design with a large pocket inside the front and pockets for postage, tickets and a holder for writing instrument inside the back cover.

The diary is glued in place in <sup>the</sup> middle section. Beneath it is another large pocket. All of the pockets were lined with a material. There is an impression in the center pocket, possibly from a coin, measuring  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ".

The diary is identified as "Pocket Diary, 1864, James M. Crawford, No. 54<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, Mo."

The first twenty-four pages are mechanically printed with miscellaneous information. There are sixty dated diary pages beginning with the page printed "Saturday June 11, 1864" and ending with the page headed "Thursday December 29, 1864." There are two additional pages headed "Memoranda" and eighteen pages headed "Cash Account."

Between the inside front cover and the first page there have been two sheets (four pages) cut out. It was determined that 1864 was a leap year and each sheet contains six dates. Assuming that the first missing sheet was headed January 1, 1864 and the last printed date on the bottom of the last missing sheet was Friday 10, then there would be 162 days, divided by six dates per sheet, accounting for twenty-seven missing sheets of fifty-seven pages.

Between the last page of miscellaneous printed information and first page of the diary headed Saturday June 11, 1864 ~~there are twenty-seven sheets which have been cut out.~~ Twenty-five of these edges are visible. There are two additional sheets of which the edges are not observable (four pages). Those edges may have been obscured by the laminating of the respective connecting pages. Each packet of pages making up the diary consists of eight sheets (sixteen pages). On most of the packets a consecutive number can be seen on the lower portion of the inside bound edge. The number 2 appears on the remaining portion of the first missing page. The second, third and fourth remaining packet edges are accounted for, totaling twenty-four sheets or forty-eight pages. The first sheet of the fifth packet is also present for a total of twenty-five sheets (fifty pages). The next two sheets of packet five, which are missing, and of which the edges are not visible, were originally connected with the two packet pages headed June 23, and June 29.

20 MAR 1865



The next missing sheet (two pages) headed Sunday July 1 1864 has been torn out.

The next missing portion of the diary is the top 1 1/2" of the sheet headed Wednesday August 10, 1864. The side of this sheet representing Saturday August 13 contains some very limited lead markings.

The sheets headed Monday August 22 and August 28 have also been torn out. The sheet headed December 8, has also been removed.

Between the memoranda sheets following the dated pages and the page headed cash account - January there are three additional sheets torn out. There is a cash account sheet for February/March cut out; a cash account sheet for April/May torn out; the top portion of the cash account sheet for May/June removed and the cash account sheet for August/September cut out.

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It was noted that many of the remaining portions of the group of twenty-five missing sheets contain portions of handwriting which in addition to the cut edges would assist in any future examinations relating to these missing pages.

The inside front cover which contains handwriting, exhibits characteristics of normal wear and abrasion. While the paper surface is raised it is believed that most of the abrasion was the result of items carried within the pockets of the diary. While a positive conclusion cannot be reached, there is no indication of any intentional erasures or obliteration.

Much of the text on the inside front cover is extremely faint, and the difficult handwriting leaves the content of some of the visible text open to interpretation. The only handwriting which is clear enough to be beyond question is the wording and numerals "3221; 420; 6\_\_; \_\_ Douglass; \_\_7\_\_ St.; 58; \_\_ard; \_\_s\_\_ers." In order to provide a more complete and coherent description of the questionable text, one interpretation is as follows: "3221: \_\_Mf., 420 P \_\_ between 6 & 7; \_\_ Douglass 47 South \_\_ St., St. Louis, mo; 58 L\_\_; \_\_vard; J. \_\_ Chanslers."

title page the diary is a stain of ink of unknown origin. There are additional stains throughout the diary of unknown origin.

The inside of the back cover also exhibits characteristics of wear and abrasion. Several lines have been crossed through. The only text that could be positively determined are the numbers 57 and 407.

What appears to be text on the diary page headed Friday June 17, 1864 is actually transferred text from the surrounding pages. Most of this text is from the page headed June 26. Additionally, parts of the text, numerals and lines from the page headed Tuesday June 14, is also transferred to the page headed Friday June 17.

This transference is exhibited on all of the laminated pages. The primary cause for this transference from page to page has to do with the fact that the original writing produced indentations on one side of the pages and raised characteristics on the reverse sides. Over the years dirt, oils, etc. have been deposited on the raised areas. The raised characteristics produced by the writing on the June 29 page can be seen in reverse (ie., a mirror image) not only on the Friday June 17 page but also on the June 23 page. The opposite effect can be seen on the Monday June 20 page. Here especially, in the lower left area of the page, an impression of the June 29 writing can be seen. However in this case the writing was indented rather than raised. The paper surrounding the indentations has collected dirt and darkened, and the indentations remained cleaner and therefore appear lighter.

All non-destructive tests, including forensic photographic techniques such as infrared reflectants, infrared luminescents, ultra-violet reflectants and visible fluorescents with ultra violet excitation were negative regards to examinations concerning purported secret writings in the diary.

As a result of the complete examination of the diary, no invisible writings, unusual obliterations or alterations or any characteristics of question were found.

The four sheets of the diary headed Saturday June 11, Friday June 17, Thursday June 23, and Wednesday June 29 have at an early date been laminated and been rebound into the diary. On these sheets, very faint indications of lines exist, however, due to the age, dirt and lamination they are extremely difficult to note. It was noted that the next page headed Tuesday July 5 is in similar condition but not laminated. On areas of this page the visibility of the faint lines is also hindered in a similar manner by wear characteristics and dirt. On certain portions of this page the lines are visible in the less worn areas. The laminated sheets are also gilt edged like the rest of the diary. The paper has the same laid finish consistent throughout the diary and all of the mechanical printing was done using offset methods.

All pages of the diary were examined for indented writings. Some were noted on the page headed Tuesday July 5, 1864. It was determined that these indentations resulted from handwriting on the previous page. Some of these indentations also show on the page headed Monday July 11.

The only other indentations noted are on the cash account page for September. These appear to be numbers however they are too indistinct to determine the text.

In conclusion it was determined that the handwriting contained in the diary was prepared by the writer of specimens furnished by the National Archives as known handwriting of John Wilkes Booth.

*(evaluation of the diary)*

*... the handwriting of John Wilkes Booth ...*

*... the handwriting of John Wilkes Booth ...*

When electromagnetic radiation of the wavelengths which comprise what we call visible light, ultraviolet, and infrared radiation strike a surface, <sup>or absorb</sup> one of three things will happen. The energy may be transmitted, reflected, or absorbed by the surface. We see objects because of their effects upon visible light; combinations of transmittance, reflectance, and non-reflectance (absorption). However what we cannot see is the effects which surfaces of objects have upon the invisible ultraviolet and infrared radiation. Quite often the effects which a surface has upon <sup>invisible</sup> visible radiation <sup>are</sup> is different from its effects upon visible light. Many forensic photographic techniques involve the recording of these effects which are not visible to the eye. For example, a particular ink sample may absorb much of the visible light which strikes it and appear dark. At the same time the ink may reflect much of the ultraviolet and transmit the infrared. In this example, the ink sample would photograph as if it were "light colored" under ultraviolet, and as if it were transparent

under infrared illumination. Thus two different ink samples which appear visually identical can be shown to differ through the use of invisible radiation.

By the use of proper light sources, filters, and films, a record can be made of the effects of a substance upon a selected portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. This is the basis for techniques such as ultraviolet reflectance, infrared reflectance, and infrared transmittance.

Several other useful techniques are based upon what can be described as a special case of absorption which is in general known as luminescence. When light is absorbed by a surface, it is <sup>most commonly</sup> converted to electromagnetic radiation of a lower energy and thus longer wavelengths known as heat. However when struck by ultraviolet or visible light, certain substances will absorb the radiation and re-emit radiation which can be seen and/or photographed. The general term for this type of re-emission is luminescence. The two most commonly used techniques which utilize this effect are conventionally known as visible fluorescence and infrared luminescence.

scence. When illuminated by ultraviolet radiation certain substances will re-emit or fluoresce visibly and seem to glow. By illuminating certain substances with particular wavelengths (colors) of visible light a re-emission of longer visible wavelengths or even longer infrared wavelengths may be produced. When the re-emission is in the infrared portion of the spectrum, the general term of infrared luminescence is applied. This luminescence can be photographed on infrared film.

A good idea of the effects which can be obtained by these types of specialized photography can often be obtained by viewing the invisible radiations through an image converter which is an instrument that converts infrared and ultraviolet into visible light similar to the way in which a TV converts the electromagnetic radiation of the broadcast signal into visible light.

Indented writing can be detected and photographed by lighting the area with oblique or sidelighting which casts shadows into the depressions caused by the pressure of a pen or pencil in writing on a previous page.

Through the use of extremely high contrast films,  
and "contrast filters" quite often very faint writing  
or writing which has been partially obliterated through  
friction with another surface can be photographed so that  
it can be seen more clearly.