

UTSA

Archives and Special Collections

MS 200. Oral History Collection

Adele E.U. Edisen Transcript, March 23, 2009

Tape1, Side1

Deana Noxon: Today is March 23, 2009. We are at the Maverick Branch Library at 8700 Mystic Park, San Antonio, TX 78254. My name is Deana Noxon and I will be interviewing at Adele Edisen. Do I have this permission to record this interview?

Adele Edisen: Yes, you do.

Deana Noxon: What is your full name?

Adele Edisen: My full name is Adele Elvira Uskali Edisen.

Deana Noxon: Your place of birth?

Adele Edisen: New York City, New York.

Deana Noxon: Your birthday?

Adele Edisen: March 11, 1928.

Deana Noxon: What colleges did you attend and degrees achieved?

Adele Edisen: I went to the college of the University of Chicago. I graduated in 1950.

Then went on to graduate school also at the University of Chicago, in the Department of physiology and received a PhD degree in 1954. I have 2 degrees, a bachelor of philosophy from the college, and a Dr. of philosophy from the division of biological Sciences University of Chicago.

Deana Noxon: Where have you been employed?

Adele Edisen: In various schools, colleges, and universities, in no particular order,

Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, I was there as a visiting investigator.

Tulane University Medical School in the Department of Psychiatry and

Neurology, also, later on in the Department of physiology and the medical school

at LSU, that's Louisiana State school of medicine, in New Orleans. I've also taught at Delgado College in New Orleans, St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans, Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Northwest Vista College in San Antonio and also I have been affiliated with the Mind Science Foundation of San Antonio.

Deana Noxon: I think we have covered the type of work that you did would like to elaborate on that?

Adele Edisen: Basically I'm a neurophysiologist and I have done research on the nervous system, mechanisms of synaptic transmission and inhibition. I have also done some work with mechanisms of acupunctural mechanisms in animals. So, my basic research has been on the nervous system.

Deana Noxon: Where were you employed in April of 1963?

Adele Edisen: at that time I was at the Department of physiology at LSU School of medicine I was a post-doctorate fellow of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness of the National Institutes of Health

Deana Noxon: In April of 1963 you were in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Adele Edisen: Yes, I went there to present a paper on the results of research I had done on synaptic inhibition. It was more of a combined neuro-anatomical study and electrophysiological study. I was there to present the paper and I did that on April 17, 1963.

Deana Noxon: While you were there, how did you meet Jose Rivera?

Adele Edisen: First of all, I had heard of José Rivera because Dr. Harris, who was chairman of the physiology department at LSU med, had received a call from him

in late November or early December of 62 telling him that I had received the post-doctorate award from the NINDB, The National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. I wasn't looking for him. I didn't even know he was there. But, I was going through the convention center where they had exhibits of textbooks, scientific equipment, and booths of the various foundations that were offering awards. Of course, the National Institutes of Health had various information booths at various places. I was interested in a postdoctoral fellowship that had been announced just recently. I wanted to find out more about it because I wanted to apply for it. This was a research career development award given to young investigators. It was for a five-year award. It was from NIH and I wanted to find out about it. When I saw an NIH booth, a general booth, I went there and I asked. I told them that I was a post-doc of NINDB and they said they had a booth up on the mezzanine floor. You should go up there because they will have information about that. So, I went up to the mezzanine floor and there were a couple of NIH booths and I found an NINDB booth and there was Dr. Rivera or Mr. Rivera, and that's how I met him. I sat down to talk with him.

Deana Noxon: What can you tell me about your meetings with José Rivera at the conference?

Adele Edisen: When I first sat down to ask him about the research development award, he had been speaking with someone else. I had to wait a little while he offered me a lifesaver from an opened package, a crystal mint lifesaver. I took it but he didn't use one himself, I noted. We talked a little bit. He remembered me, my name, knew that I was at LSU School of Medicine because he was on the research, he

was on the grants and awards committee of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. We spoke about New Orleans he said he had taught at New Orleans at Loyola and had lived there for a while and we knew some people in common, biochemist and some other people. We sort of established a kind of friendly relationship that way outside of just the postdoctoral fellowship. He didn't have any brochures on the fellowship I was interested in but, he said I should come back the next day that he would see if he could get something for me: application forms, descriptions, and so on. I did that the next day. At that time, I mentioned that I wanted to on my way home to New Orleans to go to Bethesda to visit the Institute. I had some friends, former classmates, and people I knew from Chicago who were working there so I wanted to meet with them and say hello. He invited me then to call him. He gave me his home phone number and his office number. He invited me to visit with him and have dinner at his home with his family, his wife and daughter. I thought that was very nice of him. By then it was the weekend, the meetings ended and I proceeded to go to Philadelphia to visit with my friends Gilbert Ling and his family. I spent the weekend with them and then left for Washington by train from Philadelphia to Washington and then from there to Bethesda by cab.

Deana Noxon: To go back just a little bit, did anything odd, did José Rivera ask you to do anything or really pressure you to do anything odd at the conference?

Adele Edisen: At this time, it was the second day he suggested that we go downstairs and have a Coke. We wandered around a little bit and then when we came back up to the mezzanine. He had me, he said, you ought to get an EKG here, because

it was the heart booth. The Heart Institute had a booth there and a technician. The setup was actually an armchair, which, I thought was interesting. It was not an examining table or anything like that. All you had to do was sit in the armchair and your EKG would be recorded, just like in Mission impossible (laughter). What he did was odd in that he grabbed the EKG recording and asked the technician, "is this a normal heart?" The technician quickly said to me when you get back to New Orleans you take this to your doctor and have him tell you what it is. He didn't want to say anything to Rivera. The other odd thing he did was as we were parting for the day he said to call him day or night if I noticed anything unusual or strange. I said, "What!" And he said, "I mean about the fellowship." I thought this is really... what is he talking about? However, I passed it off as just something... I just didn't think it was important or whatever but it really was he was feeding me LSD through the candy mints.

Deana Noxon: Were you feeling different at that point?

Adele Edisen: No, I really wasn't. I had gone to these meetings, in fact, I was quite ill when I left New Orleans to go to Atlantic City. I had a very bad respiratory infection. My doctor had prescribed a synthetic, semi-synthetic, penicillin for me because I was allergic to penicillin. I had to take that for 10 days and I was with fever and so on. But by the time I gave my paper I was feeling better and so I was still suffering from this infection feeling rather weak so some of the strange things I experienced I had attributed to that infection, rather to anything foreign like a drug or something like that. No, I didn't really feel anything, do anything, say anything, see anything, that would have been really strange so that's why I didn't

understand why he was asking me that. But I think what he was trying to find out was whether I was healthy and whether the dosage he had given me was having any effect or not.

Deana Noxon: You met with him outside of the conference in Washington DC can you tell me about the first meeting?

Adele Edisen: Yes, I got to Washington and Bethesda on Monday the 23rd of... the 22nd, excuse me, of April. I went to the NINDB, the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness and I called a few people I wanted to visit with but it was around lunchtime so, no one was in. I called Rivera's office thinking maybe I can get those forms and tell him I was in town. I did that and he suggested that we go to lunch so he drove over, picked me up in front of the building, and took me to lunch at a motel where they had, what do you call it you know when you stand in line you just pick out the food. What do you call that?

Deana Noxon: a buffet?

Adele Edisen: A buffet, right, I couldn't think of that, and so we did that. I offered to pay for my meal but he refused. He wanted to pay for it. I thought that was a little bit strange because the circumstances. Then I went back, he drove me back to the Institute and I was able to reach some of the people I wanted to see and made appointments for the next day. I went to listen to a special talk that was being given in a downstairs lecture hall, about NIH. Then he had told me he would pick me up, his secretary would find a place for me to stay, because I had no place to stay. Which, she did later that evening and that was when I had dinner with him, not at his home, but at Blackies's House of Beef. Which, was apparently, a very

popular restaurant in Washington. That was the evening of April 22. We were there, he again had given me lifesavers on the way there, and while we were waiting to be seated, we were standing at the end of a line of people waiting to go in even though he had made reservations. His wife apparently a nurse was on duty so we weren't having dinner at his home. As we were waiting, he asked me, or told me, that he traveled a lot and he had recently been to Dallas, Texas and he had liked the city. He told me about the Carousel Club. Which, he told me was a very nice nightclub that I should see or go to whenever I'm in Dallas. I made a mental picture of a merry-go-round so I would remember. A little more conversation and then he asked me did I know Lee Oswald. I had never heard the name I thought, I knew a boy in high school whose name was Fred Oswald I was wondering if they were somehow related. That is why I did remember that name. But, I didn't know him so I told him no. He said well, he's in Dallas now, but he's married, he was in Russia and he's married to a Russian woman. They have a child and they are planning to come to New Orleans. You should get to know them because they are a lovely couple. I was thinking, at that time I knew that the Cold War between the United States and Russia Soviet union was quite intense. American citizens were not allowed to go to the Soviet Union. Of course, I'm sure that we still had an embassy there but other than that ordinary tourist couldn't go, neither could they come here and here is a Russian woman apparently, who is in Dallas. That was basically what he told me, that I should get to know them. The rest of the evening the conversation, I was mostly talking about my research and plans for research just babbling on about that. At some point I asked him what he

was interested in, what he did, I learned that he that he was a bacteriologist. I didn't know that he had been in the Army, he didn't mention that, but that's what I later found out. He did his bacteriological work and I said what interested you in bacteriology? What were you interested in? He said he was interested in the hemorrhagic fevers. Now these were not very well known about in 1963. I think there may have been only one possible, a very small pocket of hemorrhagic fever existed in the world. Only later did we learn about Ebola and Lassa fever, and the Marburg fever's which were hemorrhagic fevers. I will say this, in retrospect, that he had been involved in biochemical warfare work in the Army. I'll just say that for right now later on I can tell you more about this but I didn't know any of this at the time.

Deana Noxon: Was anyone else present at your meeting?

Adele Edisen: No, not with us just waiters and people like that that came by.

Deana Noxon: How are you feeling physically before the first meeting?

Adele Edisen: I was a little bit, tired or maybe nervously affected because I had all these people and things that I wanted to do and see and so on and so forth and it was a strange environment for me. But I wasn't, I was just feeling the effects of my infection and I felt, I felt a little bit uncoordinated this is one symptom that I can attribute perhaps to LSD that I had later on that I was more aware of but other than that nothing that I can really describe that. That night however, I was not able to sleep. I was wide-awake. I didn't have any particular worries but, I couldn't get to sleep and noises were bothering me at the motel where I was staying, Kenwood Country Club Motel. He had said as we were driving there, that he had

heard on the car radio there was going to be a very bad rainstorm that night in the area. That I would probably be kept awake because of the storm and also the partying guest, other guests at the motel. He suggested that I would be awake. My throat was dry. I remember that. I kept drinking a lot of water, and it didn't seem to help. I stayed awake most of the night. I don't think I slept very much. When I woke up in the morning, I had a distinct déjà vu feeling. Everything I was doing, I had done before, like checking out of the motel, getting into the cab to go to the NIH. That was the only thing that I can remember that was really strange, that déjà vu feeling. I noticed also that the ground outside of the motel was dry. If it had been a driving rainstorm like the one I heard, my room was next to the pool and I could hear this water dropping on the pool lots of water coming down in the rain. Then when I see the grass outside, tall grass across the driveway by the motel, the tall grass was not beaten down, as it would've been in such a heavy rain. The dry parts where there was no pavement, there were some open soil areas that were perfectly dry. So, there had not been a rainstorm, as far as I could tell now. That really bothered me because I know I wasn't asleep and dreaming it. I was wide-awake and hearing all these sounds. That was perhaps, possibly a hypnotic suggestion he had made to me.

Deana Noxon: Did you meet with Rivera the next day?

Adele Edisen: Yes, that would have been Tuesday the 23rd. Again, I was supposed to visit him at his home. He would take me there is Secretary was to find another place for me to stay because the motel where I had been was completely booked up. Because of the Atlantic City meeting, scientists from other countries were

coming to the US for those meetings and coming to NIH. Every motel, apparently, around there were filled. I had planned to see all my friends that I had missed the first day. I spent the morning with Carl Frank. Carl Frank was also a graduate of the University of Chicago and a student of Ralph Gerard's and his PhD, he was a physicist originally but he became a neurophysiologist, he was head of the spinal cord section. We had a nice little visit, I was shown his lab, talked with his technicians. Carl was doing some interesting work he was interested in my hypothesis about synaptic inhibition. He said he was developing a way of measuring membrane electrical resistance, which would have answered the question concerning the mechanism I had proposed. We had a lot of things to talk about. I talked with his secretary and with his technicians and I had lunch with my friend Gene Streicher. Gene had been a physiologist also, student at the same time I was, and he was now an administrator in another department at NINDB. We ate in the cafeteria. Then I had an appointment with Wilford Rall. Wilford Rall had been a postdoctoral student under Gerard and he and he had developed some math... he was basically a mathematical biologist. He had developed some mathematical descriptions of motor neurons showing that the dendrites of motor neurons had different properties than did the cell body, which, was of interest to me. I was there in his office talking and then, just at 4: 30, and this is interesting because Rivera the previous night had said to call him at 4: 30 and he would take me to the new motel or hotel. I was pacing back and forth and talking to Wilford. I suddenly said, "I've got to call Dr. Rivera." I kept calling him Dr. Rivera; he didn't have a doctorate then. But anyway, I did do that and Rivera

said he would come by and pick me up. I finished what I had to say to Wilford and I started to leave. Wilford for some reason said he'd come downstairs with me and I know he wasn't about to leave for his home. I said, "No you don't have to do that I'm perfectly fine I have a suitcase that I left down in the lobby and I'll just pick it up and be on my way." He said, "No, no, I'll come down with you." It was almost as if he were being protective. I mean now, in retrospect, thinking about it. We went down, I don't know some 10 flights or whatever and sure enough Rivera came by in his car. Wilford introduced himself and asked where he was taking me. Rivera said that his secretary had found a space in the Raleigh Hotel, which was near the White House. That is where we were going. He put my suitcase in his trunk and we took off. I said goodbye to Wilford and thanked him for you now seeing him and so on. Years later, I met Wilfred again at a scientific meeting and when I said a few words to him, he sort of, suddenly looked relieved. As if I were still normal or something, I don't know, he may have seen me pacing maybe that was the thing that made him think about something that was going on with me which I didn't, wasn't unaware of, some kind of frantic movements. So that night, that evening, Rivera drove me to the Hotel Raleigh, an old Victorian type of place. He waited downstairs. I was supposed to leave my things there and then go off with him to his home. But, once I got in the car I found out again that we were going somewhere else because his wife was on duty again. We ended up at the first, I believe it was the first, motel built by the Marriott's, the Marriott Hotel chain. It was across the river. We went over the bridge, near the Lincoln Memorial. I remember the bridge because of the horse statues on it. It was a

brand-new building, the Marriott Motor Hotel it was called. We had dinner there.

That is where some strange things started happening.

Deana Noxon: Can you describe what happened during this meeting?

Adele Edisen: We were eating. Now, Rivera had said some strange things on the drive over there. Maybe I can put those in here to.

Deana Noxon: Sure

Adele Edisen: That are related. He asked me if I knew John Abt. I never heard of the person. He told me that John Abt was a lawyer who defended Communists against the Smith McCarran act. At that time, there was an act that forbade you from being a member of the Communist Party. The Communist Party had been a legitimate party. They always ran presidential candidates and things like that but now it was being outlawed in a sense. They were considered enemies or something. John Abt was apparently a civil liberties type lawyer who defended them. No, I'd never heard of him, this is what Rivera told me. He asked me also about the people I had met at NIH that day, at the Institute. He had a list of people that he pulled out of his vest pocket. These were all apparently foreign scientists. I had not met any of them. He wanted to know if I had made contact with some foreign scientists. I will tell you a very funny story about that Atlantic City meeting. At these big meetings, they had specialized interests groups, people who work on the liver or people that worked on certain parts of the body. They had an organization called, well there was the thyroid smoker, there was a liver dinner, and there was a club called the red cell club. There were these hematologists that were meeting, the FBI interviewed every darn one of them. (Laughter)

Deana Noxon: That is pretty funny

Adele Addison: Yeah, anyway. He had asked about these foreign people and I had not met them. But, anyways after dinner we were eating, some strange things happened before that. He had given me a lifesaver, I did want to put it in my mouth, and I started to put it in my purse. He saw that and he insisted that I eat it. I did and I felt, this time I felt a kind of euphoria just transient and I felt a little giggly. I didn't giggle but I felt like it. To make the story a little smoother, LSD has an effect of making people more susceptible to hypnotic suggestion. It opens up the sensorium so to speak, you take all, anything that comes into your mind, more or less seriously, and when somebody hypnotizes you, they focus on whatever they're saying to you. But, if you're not hypnotizable and you're not previously induced into this, either by suggestion of relaxation or by drugs like LSD, you don't pay any attention. Because we get suggestions all the time, we see billboards to buy this and buy that. We ignore that. But, in certain states, you may not do that or people that talk back to the television set because they think they're talking to real people. Anyway, he suggested that, they had on the table two bottles, little carafes, one full of olive oil and the other full of vinegar. You would pour the two together when you received your salad; you make your own salad dressing. He took the olive oil carafe and held it to his nose and he said this is funny it smells like vinegar. Then he gave it to me to smell and sure enough, it did smell like vinegar. I thought well maybe someone had mistaken the two and put the cap of the vinegar on there or something like that. It was a suggestion. If you can suggest something to a person under hypnosis that they can smell something,

which is a hallucination of a smell, that means they are pretty deep. I learned all this later. He did that and then after dinner was when the fun started. He asked me to do a favor for him, which was to call a man named Winston deMonsabert, in New Orleans. This is a man, he worked in the department of chemistry at Loyola University, in New Orleans. He said he wanted me to call him to ask him to call Rivera to tell him when he's leaving New Orleans. This was the message I was supposed to give him. Call Rivera when leaving New Orleans and I wrote that. I pulled out a little memo book I had. It was a little tablet inside of a leather red covering. I wrote down at the top, Winston deMonsabert call Dr. Rivera when leaving NO meaning New Orleans. We talked a little bit more. Then he said, you're in Dallas you are in a phone booth in your very nervous and upset, this is a suggestion now, your handwriting will be shaky. I'm thinking to myself what's with this guy my handwriting is not going to be shaky, it's going to be like it always is. But, this is what frightened me. He dictated a telephone number in all numbers and when I looked at it, it was like the scrawl of an illiterate or a child that was learning to write. It wasn't all my normal handwriting. This is interesting, at the time, New Orleans was still using the letter and number system for telephone numbers. For example, the number he dictated would have been twin Brook 9, TW94244. That was the way the telephone books were written. But, some cities like Washington and maybe New York were already on the total number system, so that 899 would have been twin Brook nine. Our home number was a university six, for example, they had different districts. So the same thing here but they use numbers now instead of, it's purely digital. He dictated a number

that was 899-4244. After I was sort of recovering from the shock, I thought my god is this man trying to hypnotize me. He said right down this name and I wrote down on the next third of the page, under his dictation, Lee Harvey Oswald. That was the first time I'd heard the middle name. I thought well Lee Harvey Oswald must be black because I knew in New Orleans where the African-Americans often use three names, like George Washington Carver, for example, so the full name. It was so unusual for a white person to use three names. I mean, they can do it, but this was, from what I was familiar with. So Lee Harvey Oswald was dictated. Then he said, "Tell him to kill the chief." I wrote in quotation marks "kill the chief," with a small C. It never occurred to me that he was talking about the president. I thought chief had some reference to the National Institutes of Health. Because, every study section like Carl Frank's spinal cord section, Carl Frank was the chief of that, Elizabeth Hartman, was the chief of the grants and awards section, of which, he was a member. Everybody was the chief. He kept telling this riddle, asking me this riddle and asking other people that we happen to come into like, the woman we had picked up in his car to give her short ride.. He said, "Why do they call NIH the reservation?" Well, I didn't know, and he said, because there are so many chiefs and no Indians. Ha ha. So that was where I thought the chief business had something to do with Oswald, may be applying for a job at NIH. I kept thinking he's a scientist who's been to Russia, married a Russian woman. I didn't think of asking him because I was sort of on my guard and I didn't want to display much of anything. I will say this, that I took that note, that little booklet, I put it in my purse. As I did so, I tore off the full page that had been written on and

put it aside in another place inside my purse. Then he was talking and he said, I'll show you where it will happen. I said, where what will happen? He didn't answer me. He said, well let me write it, I'll show you and he wanted to draw something or do something with the memo pad. I think he wanted to get that sheet but I gave him the blank page. He takes his pen, there was a pencil there with the pad, he drew a square, and then he drew a double line on the top and on the right-hand side of the square. He said these are the Windows and this is on the sixth, the fifth floor, fifth floor, not the sixth floor, fifth floor and he drew a little circle inside he said there will be some men up there. Then outside of the square he drew an X, this is where it will happen. Now he was having almost like a seizure, his face was all puffy and he looked like he was gloating and so on. What he was in a sense doing was describing the assassination, I think. I decided I would guard that first sheet of paper with my life because it had something to do with, I didn't understand what was going on but, I sensed that something weird was going on .I started to babble. I wanted to get out of there. As we were leaving and he was paying off at the cashiers counter, he stopped to talk to the cashier. I was getting to feel sick. I wanted to go to the hotel just to lie down. We started out from that dining room area onto the lobby and out towards the front door. As we pass the elevators, he pushed me into an open elevator. He said, you want to see the Persian room, or whatever it was. I'm in the elevator and we go up to the fifth floor. I think he was trying to confuse my memories or to do something. Outside the elevator was a big wooden sign that had room numbers painted on it with the arrow pointing down the hall. Next to the elevator was nothing more than a big

glass window overlooking the Pentagon. He pointed down the hallway, tapped on the wooden sign, and said what do you see down there? A bar? I didn't see anything but closed hotel room doors. I quickly turned around and I started to go to the elevators and then punched the call button. The elevator didn't come. While I am standing there, he's looking out the window and says, oh there's the Pentagon! Do you want to see the Pentagon? I thought he might push me out the window or something, I mean, I really did. So, I cautiously came, and looked. The elevator came and I ran to the elevator trying to get in before he could get in. But, unfortunately he put his foot in the door and he opened the door so he got back in with me. I couldn't get away from him. What I planned to do was run down and get a cab. Well, when we got downstairs, there was no cab. There weren't even other cars in the parking lot, only his car.

Deana Noxon: That was kind of scary.

Tape 1, Side 2

Deana Noxon: We are continuing on side two. I believe you were where you are in the elevator and you're going downstairs.

Adele Edisen: We got downstairs and I looked outside. We were outside there were no taxis available his car was the only one parked in the lot, my only means of transportation, apparently. He started talking about the note that he had apparently missed seeing again. He said, "How patriotic are you?" He said, "You'd probably go to the FBI. They'll want that note. Don't give it to them." Those were his instructions. I thought, I'm hanging on to that note if it kills me. When we got to his car, his passenger side door didn't work. He went inside and opened it from the inside. As I pulled the door open, I threw my purse on the seat so that it was between us and I got into the car. As I was leaning out to pull the door shut, I could hear him rustling in my purse. I think he was looking for the note. I thought he was trying to rob me, I don't know why I didn't think of the note, but I think that's what he was after. He must've thought I'd put it in there. He was concerned about and said don't go to the FBI and so on and so forth. I started a pattern of talking, talking about anything that came into my mind, about his wife being of Swedish descent, about the U.S. Constitution, anything. I thanked him for the dinner and stuff like that. But, I had my mind to get away from him as far as I could. I had to really sit down and figure out what was going on. Because some of the things he said, at first didn't make any sense. But you know, it was such a strange thing to be talking about, "it happening" and his pleasant, pleased look when he talked about "it happening". We got to the Hotel Raleigh and I profusely thanked him and all that. I got up to my room and again I couldn't sleep at

all. I thought the next day I would confront him, which is what I did. I shouldn't have done that because I think that sealed my fate.

Deana Noxon: Is that all you guys did was eat dinner or did he show you around town a little bit?

Adele Edisen: Oh yes, he had promised me, I forgot to mention that, he had promised me a tour, a sightseeing tour of the city. I had begged off. I said, well you know, I can do sightseeing on my own time. But, he was insistent. We went to see the cherry blossom trees I believe twice, we went to the National Archives once, saw the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Gutenberg Bible. The National Library of Congress, I think that's where that was. I saw the inside of the library. We went to Walter Reed. We went by the Supreme Court building. We even took a little tour of Georgetown. That is where it was really weird. One of the effects of the LSD was to make my eyes very light-sensitive. I pulled out my sunglasses and put them on. The other thing was, I looked at the Georgetown houses, which were built close together and they looked like little dollhouses, or not exactly dollhouses they were like the houses people might build for their children as a playhouse. I thought, my God they must have dwarfs that live here, because, I was trying to make sense of my perception. I knew this was strange and I knew it was nutty but I thought, I didn't accept it totally but, that's what I did to explain it to myself. That is one of the effects of LSD you get what they call mycropsia, you see things as smaller. You can also see them as larger than they are, you know, it can change your perception. Then we were going to go around the White House. He was going to show me the White House. The first time we were driving there was from the library. I remember we were going up a hill and then down a hill and he suddenly says, "I wonder

what Jackie will do and when her husband dies?" I said, "WHAT?" He said, "Oh, I mean the baby, she might lose the baby." Well, I didn't know she was pregnant, which I guess had been in the papers but, I hadn't read that. I guess that's why I remembered this statement. Then he starts talking about women having had a caesarian and then maybe having a normal vaginal delivery and did I know anything about that. I said, no I didn't. As we came towards the White House he said, "Sometimes tourists who come to Washington might see Caroline on her pony Macaroni, out on the lawn apparently, a possible suggestion to me. We went around it's sort of a circular drive around the White House. It was getting dark around twilight time. I thought, I don't think they allow horses in the city of Washington. Since it was getting dark, even if they did, she would be out on the lawn this time of night, or this close to darkness. We went off, did another tour of some other building, and then came back to the White House a second time. Again, the story about Caroline on the pony Macaroni and did I see her. I did not and I told him so. We went to another, maybe again to the cherry blossoms or something. The next time, the third time, when he asked me again if I saw Caroline on her pony, Macaroni, I thought, he wants me to see this. So I said ummm... I didn't say yes I just said ummm, which he took as a yes. He stepped on the pedal so hard that I was thrown back in the seat. Then he said, "Fine now we will go to dinner." Like, it was a reward for seeing.

Deana Noxon: That was odd.

Adele Edisen: Yes, well, he was suggesting a hallucination for me.

Deana Noxon: Yes.

Adele Edisen: This is what a hypnotist can do. If you're really hypnotized. I wasn't hypnotized because, I would have seen it.

Deana Noxon: Did he mention any other people during that drive other than Caroline and Jackie?

Adele Edisen: He said a number of things that were really, comments that he might make, when he was talking about, this is now later when he had already mentioned "it happening" at the dinner table.

Deana Noxon: okay

Adele Edisen: He said, "After it's over the men will be out of the country." Presumably, the men that were in that square fifth floor room.

Deana Noxon: The diagram that he drew?

Adele Edisen: Yes. Which, incidentally he put into his pocket. I did not have that. However, I got it, in the mail, -- in August of 63, as a little wadded up piece of something or other. In an envelope, written in a very crude scrawl, from Denver Colorado.

Deana Noxon: It was mailed to you?

Adele Edisen: I think he may have hypnotized somebody to write that out and put it in that envelope.

Deana Noxon: Was this after the assassination?

Adele Edisen: No, before August.

Deana Noxon: Oh, August.

Adele Edisen: Yes it was in August and I had just recovered from, I don't mean to jump around so much, but I had just recovered from a, I think it was to the polio Sabine vaccine that we all have taken, my children, my husband, and I. I was literally paralyzed for three days. I think I may had a touch of polio. I did go to a neurologist after this, when I was now walking again. But, I kept falling over to the right and I had some active abdominal

reflexes and things, so something had happened. He diagnosed it as possible ad node virus of some sort, who knew what. I know I had been working with a cat that when I excised the spinal cord, it was full of petechial hemorrhages, little tiny hemorrhages all over. It was pink, almost. The animal was incapable, it walked but it was very slow. Of course, we did end up sacrificing it. I may have somehow touched something and maybe...

Deana Noxon: Contracted whatever the cat had.

Adele Edisen: Yes, that might have happened. I did wash my hands after I touch that animal but you know you can't be sure. It may have come from that or it may have come from... some people did have polio as a result of these vaccines. In fact, some people had died from polio vaccinations. Dr. Alton Oxnard's grandchild, one of them died, he used the soft vaccine but anyway, it happened. I did recover and eventually everything was all right. That was in August and that was just about the time that I received that letter from Denver. The other thing he said about that, that referred to the assassination was, the director of the International Trade-Mart is involved in this. I did not know who that was, but I think we all know now that it was Clay Shaw, who was the director of the International trade-Mart in New Orleans. He had been accused by Jim Garrison, the DA there, of being engaged in the conspiracy to kill the president. That is what Rivera said. Then he said, and this is where he's referring to Oswald, but he didn't use him by name, he just said, "he'll call Abt", the lawyer who defended Communist, to defend him.

Deana Noxon: He mentioned Abt in the first conversation, or the first meeting that you had with him.

Adele Edisen: Yes, yes, that was also in the car trip on the way to a motel. Yes, he mentioned did I know Abt, the Communist defenders lawyer, lawyer for the defense. That he'll call Abt. Actually Oswald did call or tried to call him. Abt was not available. He lived in New York City. He had gone to his summer place in Connecticut where there was no phone; nobody could reach him that weekend. Remember, the assassination was on Friday and Saturday and Sunday.

Deana Noxon: Yes

Adele Edisen: Mrs. Paine was supposed to have tried to call him and nobody could reach him. That was interesting. Then he said we are going to send him to the library to read about great assassinations in history. He may have mentioned Lincoln. I don't think they found anything unusual in the books that Oswald took out of the library. He read some spy novels I think nothing about assassinations but that's what Rivera said. Then he said, after it's over someone will kill him. He's talking about Oswald, I think. Oswald whom he had told me previously was not what he seemed. He said after it's over someone will kill him. They'll say his best friend killed him. I think was supposed to be Jack Ruby.

Deana Noxon: Jack Ruby.

Adele Edisen: There's no real evidence that Oswald, the one that was killed, knew Ruby, that we have. There were cases of witnesses who claimed that they saw Oswald and Ruby and some other people at the Carousel Club, and some other instances. But, the thing is, that Oswald was always home with Marina. He was not running around at the Carousel Club, or he was at work. There was Oswald impersonator's, more than one probably. But, there was according to John Armstrong two Oswald look-alikes, I mean, well two Oswald's. One was Harvey, the one that was murdered by Ruby and married to Marina, who spoke

Russian. He was 5 foot 8. The second one was taller, he was 5 foot 11, and he may have been the one that was acting around with Ruby. It made it look like Ruby and Oswald knew each other. Then he said, "it will happen after the Shriners Circus comes to New Orleans." The Shriners Circus usually came, in fact all the years I remember; it always came the second week in November. It must have been a standing date for them to bring their Circus to New Orleans, into the municipal Auditorium there. We actually were given tickets by one of my husband's patients to take the children to that Circus, on the 17th of November. When they shot the man out of the cannon I thought that was it, I really, I almost fainted, I almost passed out. The other thing that he made mention of was, after "it happens" the president's best friend will commit suicide, he'll jump out of a window because of his grief. Now, there was a short report in our local paper, may be about a few sentences, a paragraph, as a sideline and it said, a man jumped out of a building in Miami, Florida. I wondered often if that was it, but it gave no name, nothing. Many years later, I was in contact with Mary Ferrell. Mary Ferrell collected every bit of magazine, newspaper and everything she could on the Kennedy assassination as of day one. Her collection now is a website called the Mary Ferrell Foundation. You can go there and read the documents, electronic copies of the documents. I contacted her, she became a very good friend and urged me to speak, out which I did. I asked her, I said, "do you have anything in your collection of materials of anybody committing suicide after the Kennedy assassination?" She immediately sent me a copy of the page from the Miami Herald newspaper describing the death of Grant Stockdale. Grant Stockdale was a businessman. He had been head of the committee in Florida to elect John Kennedy in 1960. They had become good friends, to the point where John Kennedy appointed him

ambassador to Ireland. Of course, he wouldn't just give that to anybody because Ireland was his country of origin, I mean his family's point of origin. Grant Stockdale went to Ireland and lived there for about 18 months I believe and came back and picked up on his business which had been neglected as a result of being in Ireland. He was upset by the assassination and made an attempt to go to the funeral. But, he missed the date. They had saved a ticket for him so he could go but, he had to come back and then he went back again and he of course, both times, spoke with Ted and Robert Kennedy. We don't know what he told them or what he knew but, according to newspaper reports he apparently was very... one newspaper said he was depressed they quoted George Smathers, who was a senator friend from Florida, saying that he had been very depressed. But, many people with whom he spoke even on the day that he died didn't seem to think he was depressed. He greeted the shoeshine boy at the building where he worked, the DuPont building in Miami. He had his office on the 13th floor. He came in it was a Monday, December 2, his secretary was usually there to open up the office but, this day she was not. She had gone to the dentist and apparently, he didn't have a key himself. So, when he got up there he had to go next door or across the hall to a law office and asked them to find somebody to, like the manager, the building manager, to come and open the door for him. This is what the secretary there did and he went, after they got the door open, he apparently went into the office. She had to run to the phone because, it was her phone she needed to answer. Then she heard a thud, a loud thud. He had fallen from the 13th floor to the fifth floor where there was a roof over another building right next to it, and he had died. The reason for thinking he was murdered and an investigator did look into this, she could not find the autopsy and the Medical Examiner's Office. This is years later of course. But, she did

find it in the public library in Miami. This is what she told me. The family was distraught they had a lot of harassment, there were four children involved, and the wife was very upset of course. She may have known more than she had told the children or anybody. He may have known something about the impending assassination, which, was already in the works from at least a year before, from everything else we know. He had done a lot of favors for John Kennedy. He had gone to an Air Force base near Miami. Kennedy asked him to look into, see the military was not obeying Kennedy, they were, well in this case, they were loading bombs onto these planes, and they were going to bomb Cuba. Of course, Grant Stockdale found out about this. He also did another favor for John Kennedy when the University of Mississippi had the racial problems with the black student that was being admitted to the school. Gen. Walker, Edwin Walker, from Washington or Dallas rather, came with a group of people who were rabble-rousers and there were some deaths there at that time. But, to prevent the riots and things Kennedy asked Grant Stockdale who was originally from Mississippi to go and talk to Ross Barnett, the governor, and asked him to use his national guard to protect the civilians and to protect the student of course, to keep this from escalating. Well Barnett, because he was a Mississippi Gov. and a segregationist, refused. What happened was Kennedy had to nationalize\ federalize the National Guard and use that force. But, it didn't stop the deaths. That was, I think, something that came out of this. The question is, what did Stockdale know? We know from newspaper reports, he claimed that he had been, he said things like, people were after him, he may have had personal threats already. But, why in April, what did he know in April that made Rivera say this to me. There was no other person that did this kind of suicide. It wasn't a suicide, probably what happened was that

whoever, probably CIA, because they knew all these tricks had gotten into his office. They can break through these doors. They can unlock them, waited for him. When he walked in, closed the door, knocked him on the head, dumped him out the window, and called it a suicide. That was CIA suicide. That was one way; they did it before with Dr. Frank Olsen in 1953, and many others that we don't even know about. Rivera knew a great deal about the assassination, I think. He wanted me to call Oswald to tell him to kill the chief, which I never did. I even considered that possibly the telephone was bugged, by possibly the FBI. Because, Mrs. Garner, who was the business manager's wife, had said in one statement, that two weeks after the Oswald's moved into the Magazine Street apartment a FBI agent by the name of Milton Kaack, that's spelled KAACK, had come and asked her to keep an eye on visitors he would have. They were keeping him under watch all the time he was in New Orleans. The only phone he had access to was that that belonged to the business manager. Oswald never in his recent time had a phone. He always used somebody else's phone for messages and whatnot. The Garner's, Jesse Garner, it was his phone number that was given to me. He took care of those apartments. Those apartments were Oswald lived in New Orleans, that property was owned by William McClaney. William McClaney was a gangster. He and his brother Michael owned casinos in Havana. Of course, when Castro came into power all those mafia and other gangsters were driven out. They had reason to get back at Castro. William McClaney owned this group of buildings on Magazine Street, which were rented out. They were really like in New Orleans, they were shotgun houses, you know wooden houses but we call them apartments. He also owned property across Lake Pontchartrain, north of New Orleans, where the anti-Castro Cuban's were holding their war games, all

through the 60s. Where the FBI raided them under the instructions of or direct orders of the president, in July of 63, and cleaned them out. William McClaney owned that property where they did their war games. So, you see the links here, and of course Oswald was painted by the CIA as a pro-Castro, pro-Soviet communist which he clearly was not. But, anyways those were some of the things that came out of this, that I've learned later. At the time when he said all these things, I didn't know what the heck he was talking about but, I was getting very suspicious. As I said, I did confront him and I think that's when he realized that he had gone too far. I think this is when he gave me more LSD than I could handle. This is when, on the way home on the plane, I thought I was dying. I felt that way for about a week. I went to my internist and told him and he said don't take even aspirin, don't take anything, because he didn't know what I had been given. I told my husband all about this. He said, "It sounds like a conspiracy to kill the president." I spent the rest of the summer fearing that it would happen.

Dana Noxon: Did you ever try calling the number that Rivera gave you for Lee Harvey Oswald?

Adele Addison: Yes, I did and I eventually ended up speaking with Oswald. First, I thought it was a fictitious number. Then I thought I'd try it so I called it may be the first week of May. I don't have an exact date on that. It was maybe, I came back to New Orleans on 24th of April, it would've been another week to May and another week into the early part of May. It was probably in the first week of May. I called that number just to see, my husband said don't ever call that number because you only get involved. I wanted to go to the FBI and Secret Service then and there when I, as soon as I came out of my daze in April. He did not want me to do that because he said will get involved. They will only investigate us, and they probably would've. I mean, who would believe this kind of story.

But, I really wanted to do that. Then I listened to him and he said he was going to look into it. He did try to, learn some more about Rivera. He asked a friend, a nurse, who was going to go to some medical meetings in Atlantic City and he thought possibly Rivera might be there, he told her to Palm his lifesavers. She did go but she didn't find him there. He wasn't there. Also, he consulted 2 lawyers, one was his cousin's husband in Chicago, the other one was a New Orleans lawyer. They just said if we were to do anything legal, it's only her word against his. On the phone call, the first time I called, Jesse Garner answered. I said to him, I identified myself and I said I would like to speak with Lee Harvey Oswald. He said, "There is nobody here by that name." Then I thought this really was a fictitious number. Then you know, I kept thinking, and it turns out that Lee Harvey Oswald rented his apartment on May 9th. Marina came down with Mrs. Paine on the 10th, I think. They started living there around that time. I did call again about a week later, this time the same man answered, named Jesse Garner. He called himself the landlord that he wasn't the owner. He was simply the manager of the buildings. I guess it was easier to say the landlord. He said, "Oh they've just arrived," When I asked for Oswald.

Deana Noxon: You actually got the number before Oswald was even living there?

Adele Edisen: That's right, Oswald obviously also had the number, and so did Rivera. They all had the number. Yes, I had his number before he arrived. You know that he was told to go there. Now what is interesting is in the Warren commission there is testimony of Mrs. Myrtle Evans. Myrtle Evans was a friend of Marguerite Oswald, the mother. Oswald looked up his father's grave and things like that when he was by himself at first, in New Orleans, looking for jobs and places. He got a job at the Reilly Coffee Company and he rented them the apartment. He went to Mrs. Myrtle Evans because she owned property, to

see if she could rent one of the houses to him. She didn't have anything available, there was nothing vacant. She took them to a friend of hers who also have property but Oswald didn't want to be on the second floor because Marina was pregnant. Myrtle and Oswald go driving around New Orleans and they're looking for vacancy signs and for rent signs. They're going around in the garden district apparently, driving up and down, and he keeps shaking his head no, no, no, no, it'll be too fancy or it will be too expensive. Then, they are on Magazine Street and he sees the vacancy sign for this location. He tells her to stop the car. So she goes around, parks on a side street, and they walk back. They look at the apartment that Garner shows them, for 65 bucks a month. She says this is a great deal, for that money. So, he rents the apartment then and there. But you see, it was he who picked it out. He knew that on Magazine Street there was a place. On the second phone call, I was told by Mr. Garner that Oswald was not there but, they had just moved in. He said that Ms. Oswald is here would you care to speak with her? I'm still trying to find out if Oswald knows Rivera, that's what I wanted to find out. She comes, it takes time for her to be brought to the phone, she comes to the phone and my God, the woman speaks Russian. As if I didn't know because I was told but it surprised me because Russians were not supposed to be in New Orleans. What are Russians doing a New Orleans? I talked with her in English. I did once upon a time learn a little bit of conversational Russian because wanted to try to learn the language to read Pavlov's works. I spoke to her in English, I believe she did understand English because I asked her if it would be all right if I called back in a week or so and speak to her husband. She said da. Now if she didn't understand what I was saying she wouldn't have said da or nyet.

Dana Noxon: Yes

Adele Edisen: She would have said what in Russian.

Dean Noxon: She responded to your question.

Adele Edisen: Yes. I left it at that. I did call back again. Again, I always get Mr. Garner on the phone, my third time, he goes and gets Oswald and Oswald comes to the phone. I introduced myself and I asked him to you know Col. or Dr. Rivera in Washington or Bethesda? He said no. I said that's really odd because he seems to know you and your wife. He didn't say anything. He didn't ask me why or say oh. I said could you please tell me, I was very apologetic because here I'm thinking he's a scientist and I'm asking these strange questions. I said, could you please tell me where this phone is located. He gave me an address. I remember, I think, it was 4709 or something like that, 9 was the last digit on Magazine Street. Oswald lived at 40, was it 4907, I have forgotten the first two digits but it was a 4 something, something 9. Now, he lived at 07. The Warren commission mistakenly says 05. But, these were all odd-numbered on the odd-numbered side of the street. 09 was the Garner residents. One building also that was right on Magazine Street, the others were in back of it, it was like this huge lot that had buildings on both sides and a driveway that went right past there. That was it. I thanked him profusely, saying thank you very much and I'm sorry to have bothered you, that was it. He did not have a southern accent that I could detect. If the Harvey and Lee distinction is made, Lee was from the South, and Harvey was from the north. He sounded like a northern speaking person. I could have mistaken him even for a New Yorker although I didn't get any sounds that sounded like New Yorrk. Somebody asked me at one of the meetings where I presented my material, it was a young newspaperman, he said, did he use the axe instead of ask? A lot of people have trouble with the sk sounds. Even when I

was going to school there were some kids who couldn't say ask. They would say axe, they did that a lot in the South particularly amongst the black people. The black people would say axe, or zinc for sink, there were different little phrases or words that were pronounced differently. Well he didn't have the chance to use the word ask what he was talking to me. This is what the person thought, that he would say that because of his southern background. So, that was that. Then I saw Oswald, I used to watch the channel CBS affiliate on TV for the news. In August, a week or so into August, they showed pictures, videos, whenever they had then, movies, of Oswald handing out leaflets, near Canal Street, in front of the International Trade-mart. These were also shown by NBC. NBC is the one that you always see reproduced on television these days. But, I was watching WWL. the CBS affiliate. The narrator called him Leon Oswald. I thought whew, thank God it's not the same name. Then I thought, he doesn't look much like an assassin. It was a lot of hype about the fair play for Cuba Committee that he was supposed to be the only member of, handing out leaflets. In some of the NBC pictures, you see Clay Shaw coming down the street and going into the International Trade-mart, behind this crowd of people. You watch sometime, if you see it again you will see Clay Shaw coming down. Things quieted down. I'm trying to get my viral infection, you know I was doing pretty well, trying to get back into my work. September comes, I'm down at school, I happen to go out for a drink of water. Standing by the water fountain was a friend of mine; he was a neurologist, Gregory Ferris. We stopped to talk for a moment and I looked down the hall. Down at the other end are elevators and off comes Rivera. He starts walking towards us. He wore rather thick glasses, he may have had cataract operations, in those days there were no contact lenses. He had trouble seeing some

distance I think. He didn't see me, I was right there, I mean in front of him literally, until he was about 10 or 12 feet away from me. When he saw me, he tripped backwards and looked as if he had seen a ghost because I am sure that is what I was to him, a ghost.

Dana Noxon: He was not happy about seeing you again.

Adele Edisen: No, no, I don't think so. I immediately called my husband. He called Greg and asked him keep an eye on me. He found out that Rivera was there on a site visit because the department of neurology had asked for a grant from NINDB. That's what Rivera's job was, to go to these different places, that's how he got to the Carousel Club. Yes, he had definitely looked like he had seen a ghost and he said I've got to see Fred Brazda. He knew Fred Brazda, who was the chairman of the biochemistry department, right across the hall from the physiology department. I was a friend of Fred Brazda too. It shook me up. I fretted about it. Oh, in July that's another thing, one of the things Rivera had said to me, I didn't mention before, was, remember that the first time will not be real. He was talking about "it happening". The first time it happens it will not be real, he told me. Just around the time of the summer solstice, which would be, late June, 20th, or so of June. There was an article, short article in our local paper about a lawn party that the president was to attend, I believe. Then someone was shot, I believe a Secret Service agent was shot. I could never find that article again. In the morgue, I went to the newspaper morgue and I did a lot of research, looking for these old articles, I couldn't find it. But anyway, It was there, I read it. I thought, my God this is the first time. I decided to call the Secret Service, against my husband's wishes.

Tape 2, Side 1

Deana Noxon: When you contacted the Secret Service, what transpired?

Adele Edisen: I called the Secret Service, as I remember it was in the afternoon and I wanted to make an appointment to speak with them. Now, this is a little strange but later on I found out that this is perhaps normal routine when you have a very small office. When I first called, the man who answered identified himself as Special Agent J. Calvin Rice. I assumed he meant Secret Service agent but when somebody says special agent that, I found out, really means FBI. That's what he was. I told him that I wanted to come down and speak to them about an experience I had in April where I met a man in Washington who said some really very strange things about the president that they should know about. Those were basically the words I used. He said, fine just come on down and told me where to go. Well, I got cold feet. I'm still thinking my husband would blow up. I didn't want to face his temper. I also was scared. I had that note with Lee Harvey Oswald name and "kill the chief" on it. I tore off that part, bottom part, because if that were ever found in my handwriting, and that was my handwriting, no longer scrawly, I would have a lot to answer for. I called back and this time I asked for agent Rice. It was a Secret Service number; it was in the phone book, same number. The man answered, this is agent Rice, I thought it was the same person I had spoken with but he sounded a little different. I said, I called little while ago and I wanted to come down but I can't do that. He said we will be here anytime you want to come. I hung up and that was that. The reason I make this distinction is that later on I found out that there was another agent Rice who was really the Secret Service agent. The FBI agent was fielding their calls. Now in the small

offices, the FBI's office was in the federal building on 600 South St. They changed the name of the street; it is some other name now. But, it was on the edge of a park In front of the old City Hall, Gallier Hall. It's a huge building, the federal building was. The FBI office was on the fifth floor of that building. The Secret Service office was in the postal building. There was a huge post office building kitty corner, across the street on Camp Street. The Secret Service office was over there, I didn't know that. I had told the second Mr. Rice who is the real one that I wouldn't be coming down. So, in a sense I spoke to the FBI agent. I was told later on that in a small office like they had in New Orleans, I think they only had two Secret Service agents in that office. If they were out checking up on counterfeiters or whatever else they had to do and both were out of the office, they didn't have a secretary to field the calls, the FBI would pick up their phones. They probably had them interlinked anyways, even though they were in different buildings. The J. Calvin Rice actually was ahead of the FBI in New Orleans, just to make that clear. I was confused for many years and later on I found out the difference. If I said agent Rice really meant the Secret Service agent.

Deana Noxon: Is there any record, did they write anything down about you calling?

Adele Edisen: That I don't know. I kind of thought when I did actually go down there after the assassination, agent, the real agent Rice I'll call him the real one, seem to indicate that he already new about my phone call and about even my talking to Oswald. I had that impression because at one point, I was talking and he threw his pencil down on the desk and said, "So that's how it happened!" He did. I thought oh my God they knew about it. They must've talked to Garner and he said he out this Dr. Adele Edisen called here three times for Oswald. On the July thing, I spent the rest of the summer, fearing that the

assassination would come. Then I had all kinds of, how can I say, I tried to talk myself out of it thinking the president is going to be well protected, he's got good Secret Service and other protections. My husband had the idea that Rivera was a little bit coo-kook and that he would eventually be found out. I sort of started to believe that too. I thought everything was going to be all right but then came the circus and so on and I, well anyway.

Deana Noxon: What were your thoughts the day Kennedy was assassinated?

Adele Edisen: That day I had gone to have a meeting with one of my children's teachers, it was of course a Friday. I went to work around, I got there I guess it was little bit after noon, maybe 12 thirtyish. Everybody was in the student physiology lab, the secretary, the professors, the students. They were listening to the radio and we heard that the president had just been shot. When I got on up to the elevator, up to the fifth floor, where the physiology department was one of the technicians saw me. I guess he was on his way to the bathroom or something. He said, Dr. Edisen, go in the lab, go in the lab. He was making me go there because of what was happening. I listened with everybody and of course, there was talk about a communist did it that was the first thing I heard. I thought, oh Jesus, World War III. It was like a nightmare in a sense coming true. I didn't know, I couldn't put it all together. I left for home around, I don't remember, 4o'clock or something. I remember driving over this over pass that I would go on, Claiborne Avenue, and the sky was just an orange-red from the sunset about to come. It was like all of a sudden it hit me. This is what Rivera had been talking about. I thought I have got to go to the Secret Service. I was going to try to convince my husband to come with me because he could certainly talk about what I had said to him in April, when I came back from the

meetings. You know, verify that this had happened to me. I guess I sort of felt that I should of gone down in July. I have a lot of remorse that I hadn't done that and that continued for a number of years. I finally met with Jim Garrison in 1974, many years later. I told him that. He said, "You couldn't have stopped it." He said, "They were determined to kill him, if they didn't kill him in Dallas they would have killed him somewhere else", which helped me feel a little better. Now that I understand more about how it happened, I can see that probably no one could've stopped it. I know LBJ for example, according to his close confidant, who wrote a book about his years as a speechwriter for LBJ, said that he had tried to convince Kennedy not to go to Dallas. He could go to San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Fort Worth, but not Dallas. Because LBJ knew that, it was a center of real right-wing hatred. LBJ and Mrs. Johnson, Lady Bird, in 1960 when they were campaigning, had been in Dallas at the Adolphus Hotel, which is a very fancy hotel. They were in the lobby and they were spat at and shoved by debutantes, the best of the best, and other rabble-rousers, John Birch type people. Of course, we know about Adlai Stephenson, who was a presidential candidate, had also been mauled my crowds in Dallas. LBJ had tried to warn him not to go. But, Kennedy wanted to go and his staff wanted him to go because they felt they could help bring the Democratic, get votes in Texas. It was partly political and all that. I know that pictures of LBJ at Fort Worth, the night before or the morning of, shows him looking at John Kennedy and looking very worried. I think he sensed that something bad was going to happen, he didn't know what but I think he expected something like that. Because they had had a poster, "wanted for treason", that kind of stuff was going on. I felt that day, devastated. When

my husband came home, I tried to say that we should go down there and tell them what I knew. He was still opposed, you will only get involved. Well, I was already involved

Deana Noxon: Did anything happen that was kind of odd around your house during this time?

Adele Edisen: Oh yeah. This is one thing that kept me from going down right away. I might have saved Lee Harvey Oswald life perhaps, I don't know. But, I doubt it because the FBI and the Secret Service didn't have much control over that. That was Dallas police. Yeah, Friday night, Friday evening, my husband was staying late at his office, he had patients he had to see. My children were playing in the backyard. We had a small; I guess you'd call it a shotgun type cottage, which was typical of uptown New Orleans. There was a driveway next to it, at the end of the driveway was a gate, and beyond that gate was a garage, which we didn't use as a garage. The backyard, there was a swing set and also a little wash house, where my laundry things were, my washing machines and dryer and stuff. The rest of it was just grass space, the dog and the kids were there. My daughter, the older one, came into the house and she said mom there's a man at the gate who is saying bad things, nasty things to us. I immediately went to the phone and called the police. By the time the police came, I told the kids to come in because I didn't know what was going on. I didn't get to see him but he apparently he had left and when this young policeman came he took whatever description the kids could give him and he went driving around to see if he could find him. He came back and said he wasn't there but he gave me a phone number I could call so I could reach him. Then, Sunday morning, by Saturday night I had convinced my husband that we should do this, that I should, we should go down there. I tried to get a babysitter Sunday morning and I couldn't, none of our regular babysitters were available. Then we even thought about taking the kids with

us. Which, I didn't want to particularly expose them to that. The children were again in the backyard, they happened to see this man. He was now under the neighbor's house. These raised cottages were about, they were on concrete posts, our house was like this, so the floor was really about 2 feet above ground. You could crawl under there. He was hiding under the neighbor's house. We called the police and two police cars came this time. They went under the house; they found nothing but pornographic magazines. I don't know for sure if that was the same person or not but it could've been. Maybe he was, you know, made to watch us or something. I thought it might've been a man who was hurt or affected by the assassination and was just taking it out on white people or white kids. Things like that could happen they just get angry. What happened was, then I went down. I was told by Mr. Rice, I called Mr. Rice, the Secret Service agent, and he said for me to come down to the federal building at 600 South. St. Tell the guard that I was to see him and the guard would call upstairs where he would be. That was not his office we were going to use, he didn't say this to me on the phone. But, he said I'll come down and meet you. You don't have to sign in. I waited and he came down the elevator and we went upstairs to the fifth floor. We were walking down the hall and he tells me that he had just gotten word from Dallas that Oswald had been shot. Didn't say he died but he was shot. I thought oh my God now it's coming, the stuff that Rivera had said. I said to him, well maybe what I have to tell you is important after all. We went down the hall we had to go past another set of elevators and then there was this room at the very back of the building. It was the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was their office. It was a huge room with a desk at one end for the director and then small desks lining the walls with telephones on each of them for other agents.

Deana Noxon: Whom did you speak with while you were there at that office?

Adele Edisen: When we walked into the FBI office there was a man standing there, heavy set, balding, I imagine late 40s or 50s of age, and he was introduced to me by agent Rice, I was given his name as Orrin Bartlett. He was from Washington DC, his position in the FBI, I didn't know it at the time, but later on, he was a special liaison agent between the FBI, the Secret Service, and the White House. He had, from other information I learned years later, he had been in the White House garage when the presidential limousine had been taken there and begun to be dismantled, the windshield taken off and a new one to put on, sent to the Ford Motor Company, it was a Lincoln, and had a windshield replaced. Presumably, because there was a bullet hole in the windshield and other things, the limousine was cleaned up. Agent Bartlett had been there until Saturday night and apparently had flown to New Orleans overnight, in the morning, whatever. He was waiting there.

Deana Noxon: Do you feel that he flew there to speak with you? Is that the same day, or was it just a coincidence?

Adele Edisen: I think he was called, maybe. Maybe, the Secret Service had called, because the FBI, the local FBI, was not handling this. The other agent Rice was not there at all, it was his office but he was not there. No one else was there except the three of us. Not because of me, they didn't know all except maybe because I had called Oswald. Maybe they thought that was important enough, I don't know. I think they did know that probably from talking with Jesse Garner. He may have been, because of certain other things that they might have, on their own learned about connections with Oswald and other people

that might have been marginally involved. I really don't know. But, he was there and he stayed. He was very much a part of the interrogation.

Deana Noxon: What you have told me today is the exact same basic story, I'm assuming, that you told the Secret Service. How do you feel that they reacted to your story?

Adele Edisen: I think they actually believed. I went in and I said I don't know if you're going to believe this. Because I didn't know, I thought they're going to just think I am a nut or something. But, agent Rice seemed to want to hear what I had to say. I said, I don't know where to begin. He said well, the best place to begin is in the beginning. I told him all about the meetings. The FBI agent remained standing by the desk that agent Rice was sitting at. He said, were there any meetings? You know, he asked a blunt question. I looked like; I don't know what you're talking about, what meetings? Agent Rice waved at him like let me do the talking.

Deana Noxon: Were they taking notes?

Adele Edisen: Agent Rice started taking notes, I think agent Bartlett was too but they soon stopped. I think that this whole interview was possibly recorded and maybe even filmed. I'll tell you why, because, when agent Rice would get up from the desk he didn't use the phone that was on the desk. There was a red phone on the desk. He would go to one of the side desks and use the phone there. Then he would come back. As he did that, he would do something under the lip of the desk. I could hear a faint whirring sound, like a tape recorder might have been playing. Possibly, he was turning it off and on accordingly. At the end the interview, later on, some hours later, Rice asked agent Bartlett, "Do you have the film?" I don't know if they had a camera that I didn't know about. They may have filmed the entire interview. Because maybe they felt it was that

important, I don't know. Maybe this is a routine thing that they did, I don't know that either. But, that's all I can say about that. They did not take notes. I know at one-point agent Rice went to the phone and called someone to whom he was most deferential. It was either his top-level boss or it was the president of the United States or it might've been the attorney general, Robert Kennedy, because he was asking him for permission to do something, like a legal permission, to have some legal safeguard. What I think it was for was to, because I think this is what he did, just from what I can remember, one of the ways that Rivera would apparently try to do the hypnotic thing with me was he would point to something like that, with a noise. Make it sound like he did on the board at the hotel.

Deana Noxon: Make a tapping noise.

Adele Edisen: He would get my attention to something like that. I think, Rice may have been asking if he could try hypnosis because, I couldn't remember certain things. I tried, you know, when you try to remember things you can't and I told him that. I told him that I knew something about hypnosis my husband had studied under Milton Erickson, who was the Dean of clinical hypnotist and had used hypnosis with some patients that he had who couldn't, who apparently could've been helped with hypnotic techniques. Milton Erickson was a psychiatrist in Arizona who used hypnosis primarily as a psychiatric treatment method. I told them, I even said, you know, I told them about some of these things that he had suggested, about the vinegar, the smell of vinegar and the olive oil or the Caroline on the pony Macaroni and all these things. What you see down there? A bar, you know.

Deana Noxon: Yes

Adele Edisen: He was saying on the phone, that I could hear, of course the FBI agent was engaging in conversation but, I was listening avidly because he was asking him. He said, and he said it several times, he said I really need your advice; I really need your permission. It seemed very important. He said, we have someone here who is very cooperative but, we need, you know, and da, da, da, da, da. I thought what, what is he talking about. I think, when I think about it, I think maybe he wanted to clear it so that if anything bad were to happen, because you do take a risk when you hypnotize somebody. He may have needed legal advice from the Department of Justice or he may have needed, I don't know what it was. I wish I knew. I told them just about everything I could remember except for the things that I really couldn't remember. When he came back from this conversation on the phone and I had pretty much gone into all of this, I guess it's the sort of thing that interrogators use, they challenge you. He said, "Do you expect us to believe you." Here I thought he was my pal. I had brought a packet of papers, which, I hadn't shown them anything in there. It was a collection of receipts, airplane tickets, all that sort of thing, hotel receipts, booklets, from the trip that would help me remember and they were all in this one little manila envelope. I had put it on the desk when I started talking with him so we hadn't looked at it. I grabbed that packet, I stood up, and I said, "I'm so sorry I've just been wasting your time, I apologize." I started to leave because I thought if they're not going to believe me, what the hell. He obviously did that to see how I would react. When he saw me get up and start walking towards the door he said, no, no, no, he said, don't go, what do you have there, meaning that packet. That's when I opened it up. I figured oh hell, it was just a little ploy. I opened it up and started going through, showing him, I gave it to him and let him look through it himself. He came across the

note with Winston deMonsabert, you know that little note that I treasured. I said oh, and then I remembered, oh on that Tuesday night he asked me to do a favor for him which was to call Winston deMonsabert and tell him to call. The telephone number was there, in that scrawl. I thought, you know I said I thought the Winston deMonsabert name was, at the time when it was given to me, I thought the phone number was fictitious, I thought, that was sort of a denial thing I think. The FBI agent went to one of those phones and called somebody and he came back and said yes, there is such a person, Winston deMonsabert. Then they really got excited. Then they recognized the phone number, well they must've because that was Jesse Gardner's phone number. That's how you reach Oswald. In fact, Saturday morning we got, was it the Saturday morning paper or Saturday afternoon, we used to get morning and afternoon paper. It must've been, or maybe afternoon paper because states item came out as a morning paper, I don't remember now. But, I remember it was around noon time, I think, when I saw the paper and on the front page, on the left-hand side, I remember, there was a two column article that said someone called Oswald.

Deana Noxon: Do you think they were talking about you?

Adele Edisen: Well of course I did. I wondered if they were. Someone called Oswald. Then I started reading it. I tried again to find that thing. I never saved that thing. I wondered if they knew somehow that I had called Oswald.

Deana Noxon: This was the Saturday before...

Adele Edisen: After the assassination, the morning after, Saturday the 23rd of November.

Deana Noxon: This was before you had went and talked to the Secret Service

Adele Edisen: Oh yeah, before I talk to them, yes. Now Oswald did get calls from his aunt, Lillian Murret, who lived in New Orleans, he had cousins and so on. Anyways, it made me think it was me because again, and only later did I realize, when I learned about Milton Kaack, the FBI agent, visiting Nina Garner, the landlady, I mean the business managers wife, that was asked to keep an eye on Oswald. Then they got real excited with the phone number. They obviously took me much more seriously then. I think they were pretty serious, they were just trying to find out what was going on. As I said, when the Secret Service agent through his pencil down, so that's what happened. I think h realized, I think they probably assumed I was innocent but they wondered what the hell I was.

Deana Noxon: How you got mixed up into it.

Adele Edisen: Yes, right.

Deana Noxon: Did they indicate that they were going to contact you later, that they were going to pursue this?

Adele Edisen: Well, they asked me to call them if I remembered anything else. Actually, I did and I called for agent Rice. What happened was, when I got home and this is into the next week actually, after I had been there. I couldn't find one of the airline ticket receipts and it was the one for the 24th because I had a duplicate, I had to change flight plans. I was wondering where the hell was it. I thought maybe it was left at their office by mistake. I know I gave that little memo note to the FBI agent. He asked me if they could have it. I said, yes if it will help. I wasn't worried about that it was just that I, for my own records, I don't know, I worried about that airline ticket. So, I called. Rice wasn't there. I got to talk to Bartlett and I told him. He said well you did give us a little memo note. I said yes, no, that's not the one in worrying about, it's just an airline ticket. He said no you didn't leave

anything there and I later did find it. It was sticking to something else in the packet. I did talk with him and I also did talk, no I guess that's the only one I really talked with, I didn't talk to Rice again. But, they asked me to call them if I remembered anything so, they wanted to pursue it that way. Agent Bartlett towards the end of the time I was there, called his headquarters in Washington and the field office in Washington because, they are two separate offices, and the Baltimore office, which would have jurisdiction over Bethesda and asked them to pick up Rivera for interrogation. I heard him talking on that phone. He had a good booming voice so you could hear him. He said, "Yeah, bring him in for interrogation." He was a big gun in the FBI apparently, so, he could give orders like that. I'm sure if they did interrogate him he would have lied. He would of went Oh she's crazy or whatever Rivera would have said. I don't know if he was even interrogated because at that time the acting attorney general was Nicholas Katzenbach. He was second in line under Bobby Kennedy. He had written some kind of note to J. Edgar saying that it's important that we or was it J. Edgar who wrote that note, I think it was Katzenbach who more or less said that we should limit or somehow keep it enclosed and focus on one suspect, Oswald. They didn't want a conspiracy, not a Russian conspiracy, not a Cuban, not a domestic CIA conspiracy, heavens no, or anything like that.

Deana Noxon: Yeah, just blame it on a lone nut running around out there.

Adele Edisen: Yes, exactly.

Deana Noxon: Is there any documentation of your conversations with the Secret Service before or after the assassination?

Adele Edisen: I have not been able to, under the Freedom of Information Act and privacy act. I recently had another round going about with someone who seems to be very conversant

with the Freedom of Information Act, who acted on my behalf and made all these inquiries. All the field offices that could have been involved with the FBI, the Secret Service, etc. and also the national archives. There is nothing of report from the Secret Service, Rice, or from Bartlett, that has been given to me. I would think there would be some kind of written report they would have given to their agencies. Why this is, I don't know other than that the government has a way of denying you access to your own papers even under the privacy act, if it's a matter of national security. I think, that the involvement of Rivera as an Army colonel, former army colonel, reservist, employee of the National Institutes of Health, as a suspect in the assassination, would be against this policy.

Deana Noxon: Did you ever fear for your safety after talking to the Secret Service?

Adele Edisen: Oh yes, very much so, and for my family. Because, Rivera had made threatening statements to me about that they were going to watch me all kinds of things. I remember there was a little boy down the street who wanted to play with my kids and he was from Mexico I guess, spoke Spanish. I wouldn't let my children play with him because he reminded me of Rivera. I thought maybe, get the kids involved, they're watching me, and seeing where I go, I was really quite paranoid. After I came back, from that meeting, I wouldn't eat with anybody in a restaurant and I wouldn't go near a fifth floor. It was all just reminders of a traumatic experience. I will say this about the fifth floor thing, when Rivera made that drawing and said it was on the fifth floor we know that the so-called sniper's nest was on the sixth floor. He was from Latin America. In Europe and in Latin America the first floor is not number one. The first floor is really our second floor. So, the fifth floor is our sixth floor. But, I was on the basis of the fifth floor.

Deana Noxon: Did you expect to testify for the Warren commission?

Adele Edisen: Oh yes, any day now. I lived through 64 waiting, waiting, waiting. I didn't know if I should call them. But, I wasn't called no. They didn't want to hear from me. In fact, they didn't want to hear from a lot of witnesses in Dealey Plaza or elsewhere whose stories might have contradicted the story of Oswald alone did it. That has been verified over the years.

Deana Noxon: The public became aware of CIA mind control experiments through Congress and the Church committee in 1975. As a neuroscientist, were you aware of these types of experiments prior to 1975?

Adele Edisen: I was not aware that this was part of the CIA mind control experiments. I did know about the LSD usage at Tulane with the prisoners, I think I told you about that. But, I didn't think of that as a CIA operation. I don't think anybody knew about this as a CIA mind control creating a robotic assassin or something like that. I knew about LSD and some of its effects but I had never experienced it until then, until my own experience. All I thought of it as was a kind of mimicking, things that happen to people normally, not normally, but if they're schizophrenic or have psychotic symptoms and they have hallucinations. The interesting thing about LSD is that it produces primarily visual changes; people see bright lights or patterns. I never really saw anything unusual except for the waving walls. The only time I had a really, what I would call an LSD experience was if somebody clapped their hands (clap) like that. I would see a flash of light at the same time. That's a common thing with LSD. LSD has some effects similar to adrenaline which is why I had the wide-open pupils and that is why I was having trouble with bright lights. Blood pressure goes up. I never had some of the trips, I may have had and not

remembered them but I don't think I had any losses of consciousness and being in another place or something as many people who took it voluntarily. They had happy trips, some of them. Some of them have bad trips. But, they used it as a recreational drug. No, I was not aware of LSD as a CIA mind control thing until the Rockefeller commission came out and told us about it in 1975. By then I had already written to

Tape 2, Side 2

Adele Edisen: In 1974, in the fall I went to see Jim Garrison. I had a nice conversation with him. Part of what I said to him, he was a consultant to the movie JFK, he asked me why I didn't come forward when he was having his trials. Of course, I was in the midst of a divorce, upheaval, and I didn't need another. Also, I thought if I go to be a witness as many of those witnesses were torn a part in the newspapers. I didn't think that anything I could say would be of any help because I really didn't know that much about Clay Shaw other than it was mentioned, the director of the you know. I also by then I knew that many witnesses had been killed in very strange ways or had died in very strange ways, which, would be murder. I said to Garrison, "If they can kill the president like that, they wouldn't think twice about killing someone like me." Those words are in the movie, spoken by an actress who represents multiple people. In April of 75, I wrote to, there was a program called the Tomorrow Show that came on after Johnny Carson, came on at midnight. The interviewer was Tom Snyder, who had in April three programs as I remember on the JFK assassination. He had some very interesting people on there, some of them who were on the Warren Commission; there was David Belin, who was a lawyer for the Warren Commission. Some pros and cons kind of thing. He had George O'Toole who did the voice analysis business, he was a CIA tool to see if people were lying or not, and he used it on recordings of Oswald's voice when he was asked, "did you kill the president" and Oswald's very calm answer, "no I did not", or something like that. Meaning he wasn't lying otherwise

he would have been having tremors and so on that you can pick up on a voice analyzer. People like that. He had Mark Lane on and he had others on. There was one professor by the name of Richard Popkin, who talked about a conspiracy and about a second Oswald because there were impersonations of Oswald. I wanted to talk to him because I thought there was a conspiracy. I wrote to Tom Schneider at NBC Studios and about a week later, or a couple weeks later, I got a letter from Pamela Burke who was the executive producer. I had said in my little letter that I did not want to appear on the program but, I had had an experience, this is why wanted to speak with that professor. She called the school; I didn't even say I was working at the school where I was, Degado. Apparently, they found out where I worked.

Deana Noxon: They tracked you down.

Adele Edisen: The note said to call her and gave me the number. I made the call. She was very interested, very nice lady, we got to be friends and for several years we had a telephone friendship. Turned out, she was a companion to Tom Schneider, he was divorced. She called NIH. Oh, I sent her a copy of a letter. I got sort of like a form letter in 64 from Rivera it was thanking me for, he was on this grants and awards committee but it was Elizabeth Hartman, the head of that, the chief of that, who had written to me asking for a report on my work under the post-doc. Which, I did. This was a letter thanking me for it. I think his secretary just put, it's a form letter, just used one of those stamps that they use for signing, but, it scared me. That was in 1964. I kept a copy, made copies of it and I sent one to Pamela. I told her about LSD and all that. The week after I talked with her like that out

came the TV news about this, 1975, mind control business. Then when we talked, she advised me to get a lawyer. She had found out that, Rivera had retired from NIH, in 1973, I think it was. She was really trying to find out more stuff. She might have wanted me to be on their program but she said, she gave me a bunch of names one time and asked did you ever hear of these people. I didn't say were Latin names. Stuff she found out from various things. I learned from her that Col. Fletcher Prouty, who's written some books, he's dead now, but he wrote some books. He was a consultant to the tomorrow program because she asked me, I was talking about something, and she said I wonder what Fletcher Prouty would say about that. She told me he was a consultant. There was a man, and I bet you it was Fletcher Prouty, he had been in 1974 on the tomorrow program as an interviewee and he had his face disguised and his voice disguised and he talked about his being a liaison between the Air Force, the CIA, and the Pentagon. That's exactly what he was. That's what Fletcher Prouty turned out to be. But, his name was not given, he was given an artificial name. He was in disguise. That's what led me to seek, to go to Jim Garrison that fall. The business of the CIA mind control, I didn't really get into, or to understand, I'm still finding out more things about it, until after the 1975 programs.

Deana Noxon: When did you first go public with your story and in what manner did you do it?

Adele Edisen: That I would say was in November of 1991. I wrote an article for a journal called The Third Decade, which, was published by Dr. Jerry Rose, who is a sociologist, at a university in New York State. He published my little article. I

was actually trying to find agent Rice to talk to him. He was probably about my age at the time so I thought he would still be alive. Then also, Mary Ferrell whom I'd recently befriended, Mary Ferrell said, "you're going to be safer if you go public." I was always afraid of being hit by a sniper bullet. I really was, there were times when it got to be bad when I thought about these things. Most of the time I just assumed nobody noticed me. But, you know how it is when you start thinking about something. There were times when I did get funny phone calls. This is after the divorce. I didn't know where they were coming from and there was no way at that time to prevent them, no answering machines, that kind of thing.

Deana Noxon: Were they saying anything to you?

Adele Edisen: Sometimes there was a ticking clock, you know, tick, tick, tick.

Deana Noxon: That would be odd.

Adele Edisen: Then something that sounded like a metal, like a pistol, the cocking of a trigger, at least that's what I thought it was. But, nobody says anything and they come in the middle of the night like two o'clock, three o'clock in the morning. Wake me up, then I'm lying there in bed and I can't get to sleep anymore because I'm scared. I didn't know where they were coming from. I had already contacted a lawyer in 1975, as Pamela Burke had suggested and had written letters to the CIA, FBI, and Secret Service. Not only once but two or three times by the time 1991 came around. I had also written, believe it or not, to Ted Kennedy. I gave him a copy of my 21-page narrative that I had written for Jack Peoples, my attorney. That had everything in it and he read it. His secretary told me, I didn't talk to him

but I talked with his secretary. She had put it in his briefcase that he took home at night. He must have read it because the next thing I heard from her was that he had given the material to Walter Sheridan, who worked for him now. Walter Sheridan had worked for Bobby Kennedy and had been on the committee that he had been on investigating labor racketeering. That wasn't much help because, as I found out later, Walter Sheridan was probably CIA himself and was protecting the agency. I called him and asked him what he had found. This is months after this had gone to him. He said we have been so busy with the Panama Canal business. I realized it was a dead end. I did not understand why Walter Sheridan would not follow through because he had been given that by Teddy Kennedy. I think the Kennedy family had been threatened well. They weren't about to do anything. They couldn't they didn't have the presidential power to do anything. That's what Bobby wanted to do, that's why he was killed, because he would have uncovered his brother's assassination. Teddy has been a good senator, pro-labor and everything else and then good things for civil rights. But, I think he's been threatened too, very much. I did go public in November of 1991, 1993 again, 1994, 1998, I've forgotten how many times after that. I spoke at research organization meetings. I will say one thing, that in February of 1991, before I spoke publicly or even had this paper written, I did track down Orrin Bartlett. He had retired in 1968 after 33 years and the FBI. He at first didn't know who I was. I said, I had met him in New Orleans. I explained, who I was, gave him my name. He said, "I was at headquarters." That was his stock answer. Somebody said headquarters was where ever he was. You know, these FBI agents when they

retire they're not supposed to speak about what happened when they were agents. Some of them do. As we got to talking more, he sort of remembered who I was. You know what he said, he said, "I'm so glad you called me." He not only said it once but about four times during that conversation. I got the feeling that he thought I had died. He was glad to know that I was still alive, I'm thinking. He asked the FBI to interrogate Rivera. Suppose he had been stopped or something blocked it. Remember, Rivera had a top-secret security clearance; he had worked with chemical bio-warfare business during World War II. He had pull you might say. He was a Col. in the Army and he knew about the Kennedy assassination. He was even at the autopsy.

Deana Noxon: He was at the autopsy?

Adele Edisen: He was at the autopsy, gloating I'm sure, at Bethesda, the night of the assassination, where they did the body. Maybe Bartlett thought like many of the other witnesses that I might have been done in. He didn't hear from me or whatever. I guess you wouldn't be looking for me. But, here I am calling him. I wanted to ask him; I got so flustered by what he said, thinking did he think I was dead kind of thing. I forgot to ask him if he had ever turned in a report on the interview. I think he knew who I was. I asked him to describe J. Calvin Rice, who was the FBI director in New Orleans. He told me he was a big tall blonde guy about 6 feet and heavysset. That, was no John Rice that I knew. John Rice was a slender, vey quick, graceful man you might say and he was very sharp and very bright.

Deana Noxon: Yes

Adele Edisen: I guess going public, I'm sure there were some people in the audience who didn't believe me, but some who did. This woman who got to investigate Grant Stockdale had heard about my talks and she called me. We got to be friends on the phone. She went ahead and did some work. I don't think I have really been bothered although I still think if enough people take me seriously then maybe they will be gunning for me. Jean Hill who was one of the Dealey Plaza witnesses, she was right next to the president when he was shot. She was in her little Redcoat. She had said that she saw a little dog in the car. But, it was a little hand puppet, Lamb chop, that Sherry Lewis did. Jean Hill said that probably saved her life, that people thought she was nuts. Because she saw a dog and there was no dog there. Therefore, she was nuts, and therefore don't listen to anything she says. She said, "That probably saved my life." Which, I think she was right.

Deana Noxon: What inspired you to testify for the assassinations record review board (ARRB)?

Adele Edisen: The fact that it was there and the fact that the number of researchers and organizations like COPA, Lancer, and the ASK organization. The first organization I spoke with in 1991 was the Assassination Symposium on Kennedy. The ASK group lasted until 1994. Their purpose was to get the documents opened. So, when they got the legislation passed in 1992, signed by a H. W. Bush, and then put into effect by Clinton, who became the next president. Their work was done. Even though we don't have all the documents we should be getting, we should have. My documents are not there, they may be there, if they're not destroyed. They should be coming out; they should be made declassified and

opened. There are still people wanting these things. I wanted the documents and I thought that by testifying I might be able to get that. So, I told my story, in an abbreviated form. You can read it on the Internet.

Deana Noxon: Did you discover any pertinent information as a result of testifying for the Assassinations Review Board?

Adele Edisen: I'm not sure I understand what you mean by pertinent information, relevant to myself.

Deana Noxon: Correct

Adele Edisen: I was just giving, like many of the people who testified, giving information to them. Because, they were preparing, the staff members were going to go to all of these agencies and demand these documents. We know the Secret Service didn't turn over much of anything. We know The FBI did not turn over everything. They have a filing system that is crazy. You have to practically know the file number of your document to get it, I was told by one agent. I think there was a problem with ARRB. There was one staff member who, he heard my story, and he had the jurisdiction to do with it because he handled the military aspects, military agencies and so on. That was Douglas Horn. He was about the only one who believed that there might be a conspiracy. Most of the other staff members didn't. They believed the government's story. They weren't all that you know, anxious to find stuff. Even Tunheim, who was chairman of the Records Review Board, he was a DA from Minnesota, I think, changed his attitude and became more government orientated in later years. I don't know whether people get threatened or whether they read something that changes their mind or whatever.

But, I am sure that if all the documents, the honest documents, that were not destroyed and are still available, that we would learn a lot more. We would learn a lot more about Oswald, and what his role was, as a patsy. We would learn more about who the actual shooters were, not that that's all that important. What's important is who paid for it and who did it. Who were the instruments that did it. Now that I've had all these years to read about this in some of the things that I learned from my father about what happened to Pres. Roosevelt, or could have happened to him. I now think that there are forces in this country, we have to admit it even though we don't like to, that there are some people who are very, how should we say, powerful, and they have more to say about our government than the ordinary voter does. I think that the assassination was basically a coup d'état, which means a overthrow of the government. It was a military coup, the one thing, Pres. Kennedy feared. He was even talking about this and he said if there is a young president and so many Bay of Pigs happened, a third bay of pigs, there will be an uprising from the military. He said, "But not on my watch." He said that to his good friend. The military, which was, he was commander-in-chief of the military but they weren't paying attention to him and the CIA were going against this direct orders. "Don't invade Cuba." Because he had promised that to, and he didn't want to do it anyways, but he had certainly promised that to Khrushchev. That's what resolved the whole tense situation and prevented World War III. Believe me. I think that these elements could not believe in peace and harmony. Even though there are countries in this world, we tolerate a heck of a lot of horrible dictators and we do good business with them. There are people in our

own country who wanted to get rid of Kennedy. Kennedy was for peace and for civil liberties. All those good things that we know about from our Constitutional readings and things like that. I think that Wall Street, which was behind the attempted coup against Pres. Roosevelt, elements of Wall Street, bankers, industrialists, wealthy people, the CIA, which is really an instrument of American business not of American people, and the military which has the gun power to do it. The president was killed by a number of shooters from the grassy knoll and from behind. They had to go to great lengths to change the movies, the films and pictures that were taken. The Nix film, which was taken of the grassy Noll just as the president was shot, that in itself has been altered. The Zapruder film is altered; it is not a true representation of what has happened. There are people who have seen another film that belongs to the government; they call it the "Other film." The "other film" for example, shows the limousine coming to, from Houston, coming down Houston and coming to Elm St. and makes the turn. In the Zapruder, you don't see the limousine making the turn. It is coming down Houston and then it jumps on to Elm Street and so do the cops and the motorcycles. It also stops on Elm further down just as the president is shot. That's what you see in this other film and there are at least six people who have seen it and have talked about it. Many of the others don't talk about it because they're scared because this is government controlled material. There is so much evidence that the Zapruder film does not show. Things have been taken out, put in, and so on and so forth. For example, people who go to Dallas and have seen the Zapruder film since 1975, when it was first shown on TV and they have seen it

over and over and over again. They go to Dallas and see Dealey Plaza and they say my god it's so small. Because, in the Zapruder film they have this expansive green grass behind the limousine, as the cars rolling past, and there looks like there is a great big long acre of land out there but it actually drops off, it is very small. I had that reaction myself. It's because the Zapruder film gives you an illusion, that it's bigger than it is. So things like that have happened and you think these are incredible things, who can imagine such stuff happening. But, when you think of what Kennedy was trying to do and this is when you read about his presidency, all the things he did. Always in the back of his mind and behind everything, pretty much, where things were for the good of the American people and for the betterment of our lives economically and otherwise. He even was about to attack, or he did attack in a sense, the Federal Reserve System, our banking system, which was unconstitutionally put into effect in 1913. If you read about the history of the Federal Reserve System you find out that we shouldn't be doing this business with these private, these are private banks and these 12 major well, I guess there are 12 regions, but these private banks lend money to the US government. The government prints the money with the Federal Reserve note on it. The Federal Reserve banks lend money to the government and charge interest and guess who pays the interest.

Deana Noxon: We do.

Adele Edisen: The taxpayer of course.

Deana Noxon: Is there any additional information we have not covered that you would like to discuss?

Adele Addison: Well there's a lot yes, I think I just discussed it as much as I could.

There's a lot more that people, as we get to know, and we have to eventually convince, I think most Americans are convinced, they say that 90% of Americans believe there was a conspiracy. Possibly, with Oswald involved. I'm sure Oswald was doing some kind of work for the government. He was an FBI informant and he may have been a CIA agent, as well as a Marine. There seems to be things like that that we should find out. But, we know that Oswald didn't kill anybody on that day. He didn't kill Tippit. He didn't kill the president. He didn't even shoot at them. I will give you the evidence that I know of, is that they could not find any nitrate on his cheeks, his right cheek, which would have been where he would have used the gun. The first gun found on the sixth floor of the schoolbook depository was not a Mannlicher- Carcano it was a 7.65 German Moser, which is a sniper's gun. The Mannlicher- Carcano, even the Italians called it the humane gun because you pointed at somebody and shoot and it doesn't hit them. It was a World War I gun. Then the Tippit shooting, witnesses couldn't quite place Oswald there. But, more importantly Oswald had a revolver with him. The cartridges found at the Tippit shooting our automatic pistol cartridges, not revolver bullets\cartridges. So, here is an innocent man who, he may have known something about the assassination but he was an innocent man blamed for a murder that was done by maybe three groups of shooters, in Dealey Plaza, and a whole bunch of CIA guys and Wall Street people who paid for it. That's the way I look at it. I would hope that people would read more, particularly young people who have to understand something about American history and in some ways also

something about human nature. I made a list of some books some people might like to read, if I could just read the brief titles and authors names.

Deana Noxon: Yes, that would be fine.

Adele Addison: Okay. I think one of the first ways to start into this is to read Mark Lane's

The Rush to Judgment because Mark Lane was an attorney who spoke up in defense of Lee Harvey Oswald. He did a lot of investigating, talking to a lot of eyewitnesses and things like that. He also wrote a book called *Plausible Denial*, which goes into the role of the CIA and the assassination. Anything written by Harold Weisberg, Weisberg was an investigator for congressional committees, that was basically his job. Later on he, on his own, he looked into the Kennedy assassination and very early afterwards wrote a book called *Whitewash*. That is a criticism of the Warren Commission and their conclusions and how they came about to do their conclusions. Those are early books written in the 1960s. A good book to study Kennedy's presidency is titled *Battling Wall Street* by Donald Gibson. Donald Gibson, Dr. Gibson, is a sociologist, he made a study of the presidency and because of that, he became interested in the assassination. He looked into that and he wrote a book called *The Kennedy Assassination Cover-up*. Then he revised it so it is a newer addition called *The Kennedy Assassination Cover-up Revisited*. Those are two good books to get at, to get into this thing. The Kennedy Assassination Cover-up has a good explanation of how the Warren commission was founded, how it came to be, because in the beginning there was no interest on the part of Lyndon Johnson or even J. Edgar Hoover in having a commission. LBJ wanted the Texas inquiry done; the murder was done in Texas,

that's where it should've been studied. Influences were played on LBJ that's taken up in *The Kennedy Assassination Cover-up*, a very good discussion of that.

Donald Gibson said that the Warren commission should not be called the Warren Commission because Warren had very little influence in it but rather, the McCloy -- Dulles commission. He says that Alan Dulles, former head of the CIA, and John McCloy, a Wall Street lawyer, who had a lot of governmental influence, worked to create what is known as the Warren commission. They prevented a lot of people from coming to testify and things like that, by selecting particular staff and so on. A wonderful book about JFK and more to his spirit is titled, *JFK and the Unspeakable* by James Douglas. If you read that book, he doesn't give you any answer, he doesn't have a hypothesis or theory, but just from the way he has written and what he produces, all of it is documented, you can only conclude that the CIA was certainly involved. There's another one that I missed and now I'm reading it. It is called, *JFK versus CIA* by Michael Calder. Another one on somewhat similar lines written by John Newman, a military historian, *Oswald and the CIA*, and he goes into that kind of relationship. Let's see what else. Probably, a hard book to find but if you get your hands on it treasure it because it has so much and it. It is written by, John Armstrong. Its title is simply *Harvey and Lee*, it deals with the impersonation of Oswald by a duplicate or a person who resembled him who played roles, did things, driving cars, buying cars or pretending to buy these things, bringing guns into shops and stuff like that. Making it look like the other one.

Deana Noxon: It was one person instead of two.

Adele Addison: Yes. Then there are two books that I think that in my mind, helped to understand the assassination as a movement to change our government which, in a sense it has done. Because no president after Kennedy is able to have the guts, you might say, or be fearless enough to undertake some of the changes in policies that we desperately need. Because they have the example of a president that is gunned down like a dog on the street, and it could be them. So they do not cross the lines and they could be braver but they cannot be because they fear for their, well just like anyone else. Kennedy perhaps had that fear but he decided to, because he talked about the possibility of a military coup. He knew what it meant. He was a student enough of history that he understood these things. Even though, he went ahead anyway, stubbornly. He knew. Jules Archer wrote *The Plot to Seize the White House*. It's about a 1933 -- 34 attempt to put in a fascist dictator, much like Mussolini. They organized former World War I veterans to march as an Army. They tried to get General Butler, who was really not of their kind but played along with them until he found out more and more about this plot. It was a Wall Street plot to take over our government and make it a dictatorship. Not many people know about it, just like not many people know about the Kennedy assassination because we haven't been told, we haven't been given the information. But, this is what happened. For many years, I sought information. I learned about this from my father because he had read about it in the newspapers at the time. I looked for information in the American history books and I couldn't find anything. I came across this book, and another one called, *50 Greatest Conspiracies of all Times* and one of the chapters was about the plot against the

White House. It was called the White House putsch or something like that. This book by Jules Archer is very good. Finally, a newer book I came across called, *Powers Behind JFK Assassination* by Randolph Jason Polasek. He takes up the issue of the Federal Reserve System, and how that controls and could have been behind the Kennedy assassination. Because, one of the things that Kennedy did in June of 1963, just months before his death, he had the Treasury Department issue \$4.3 billion of US notes that were interest-free and this money was to be kept in the government. It was not to be put on the backs of the taxpayer because it wasn't borrowed. Bankers saw this as a threat to the Federal Reserve System.

Deana Noxon: Yeah, it was going to cost them money.

Adele Addison: That's right. There is a great book by William Manchester called *Death of a President*. We suspect that William Manchester may have seen the so-called "other film." Possibly had seen it a 100 times and it's supposed to be more gory than the Zapruder, when the shot is made and all that. Manchester was so; someone said that he was so upset about it that he had a nervous breakdown for a couple months. He was hospitalized. But, he wrote this book and it's about the assassination, if you need to know the details of it and things like that. There are many other books. Sometimes even bad books can be of some help because they may have information or lead you to information that you might not find elsewhere. Those are ones that, I think, have made a lot of sense to me. I've read quite a few, naturally, and pondered just like everybody else about what it was all about. I think I feel now that it was really a major change in our government and it has had lasting effects. So that even today, 46 years or whatever it's been, 46

years later, we are still grappling with it and we have not found any answers to how it happened and why it happened.

Deana Noxon: I want to thank you for your time.

Adele Edisen: Thank you for letting me talk about this.