

Six Remarkable Women

from the book Dr. Mary's Monkey by Edward T. Haslam



Bernice Eddy, M.D., PhD. (*right*) was NIH's top vaccine safety tester. In 1955, Eddy discovered faulty batches of polio vaccine from Cutter Laboratories. She tried to delay release of Salk's polio vaccine. Her warnings were ignored. In 1957, she and Sarah Stewart discovered "polyoma," a cancer-causing virus. In October 1960, Eddy announced to the New York Cancer Society that she had found a cancer-causing virus in the monkey cells used to make the polio vaccine.

Sarah Stewart, M.D., PhD. (*left*) As a researcher at the National Cancer Institute in the 1950s, Stewart promoted the idea that viruses could cause cancer. In 1957 she proved her theory in a classic study done with Bernice Eddy that launched a new era of cancer research. Unlike Eddy, she remained silent

about the contamination of the polio vaccine, but suddenly transferred from NCI to the U.S. Public Health Service that same year. Stewart was trained as a bacteriologist at the University of Chicago, where she attended Medical School with her friend Mary Sherman.



Mary Sherman, M.D. is the "Mary" in the title of *Dr. Mary's Monkey*.

Trained at the University of Chicago, Mary Sherman was an expert in the medical uses of radiation. In 1952, she became a Professor at Tulane Medical School and worked for Alton Ochsner, MD at Ochsner Clinic where she ran a bone cancer lab. She was the Chairman of the Pathology Committee of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and wrote many medical articles. In July 1964, she was murdered. Her badly burned body was found in her apartment on St. Charles Ave. The cause of death was a stab wound to the heart. The public was never told that her right arm had been completely burned off. Calling it a "local murder," J. Edgar Hoover refused to allow the FBI to actively investigate her murder. It is still listed as "unsolved" by the NOPD.



Judyth Vary Baker. A promising science student from Florida, Judyth Vary dreamed of finding a cure for cancer. She attracted national attention while still in high school by giving laboratory mice cancer faster than the national research laboratories. She was later trained to handle cancer-causing viruses in a National Science Foundation program at the Roswell Cancer Institute. In 1963 she came to New Orleans at the invitation of Dr. Alton Ochsner, Sr. to work on a secret cancer project with Mary Sherman. A cover job at the Reily Coffee Company was provided for her and Lee Harvey Oswald, who helped her with her secret research. After three decades of silence, she finally spoke up.



Anna Lewis was a waitress at Thompson's Restaurant in downtown New Orleans near the Reily Coffee Company. Her husband David Lewis worked for Guy Banister, the former head of the FBI's Chicago office and former Deputy Chief of the NOPD. She knew Lee Oswald as a customer from the restaurant and saw him there with Judyth Vary Baker. Anna and David Lewis also socialized with Lee Oswald and Judyth Baker on a number of occasions, including a visit to the 500 Club where she was introduced to Carlos Marcello. Questioned by Jim Garrison in the 1960s, Anna Lewis denied knowing Lee Harvey Oswald. Today, she admits that she lied to Jim Garrison.



Adele Edisen, PhD. As a neurologist doing research at LSU Medical School, Edisen attracted the attention of Jose A. Rivera, M.D., PhD, who was in town to give NIH grants to Tulane, LSU and Ochsner Clinic. Rivera invited Edisen to present a paper at a medical conference in the D.C. area. In her testimony to U.S. government's Assassination Records Review Board, Edisen stated under oath that Rivera gave her Lee Harvey Oswald's name and phone number and asked her to check in on him during the summer. Edisen, thinking Oswald was a scientist, called the number and spoke to both Oswald and his wife. Shortly after the JFK assassination, she reported her experience to the FBI office in New Orleans.

Author-signed copies of *Dr. Mary's Monkey* can be ordered online at www.DoctorMarysMonkey.com. Borders and Barnes & Nobles usually stock it. Most book stores can special order it. It can also be ordered from Amazon.com where it has a ★★★★★ Reader Rating. Cover price is \$19.95.