

Midland man gives new theory on JFK

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Mr. White was killed under "mysterious circumstances" in an industrial fire and explosion in 1971. Ricky White said he believed that his father was killed for trying to sever ties with U.S. intelligence operations. Ricky White decided to investigate on his own after witnessing the suffering of his father, who died 26 hours after receiving third-degree burns on 99 percent of his body.

Ricky White told reporters at the news conference that he wanted to expose the government forces that covered up the facts of the assassination.

"My father was an individual that

I loved and deeply admired, even today," he said. "He was told by our government to do something. . . . You don't question the government."

He said he learned about his father's role in the assassination from a diary he found in 1962. But when he took the diary to the FBI in 1968, Ricky White said, he was frightened by five hours of intense questioning. After Mr. White returned home with the diary, Midland FBI Agent Tam Ferris asked to retrieve his FBI notebook he had left in the box containing the diary. Later, Mr. White said, he discovered that the diary was missing. He said he does not know who has the diary, and he never allowed anyone else to read it.

"It's something that you don't take down to your next-door neighbors and let them read," he said. "Even today, I wouldn't share it with outsiders because it's a part of my father that I didn't know. I knew a man who was a whole lot different person, a man that I loved and treasured."

He said his discovery of the diary was "stunning" because his father "never gave the impression of being a bad guy, of being involved in anything."

"I know that you're taking one man's word on a diary that doesn't exist, but I'm an individual that will tell you the truth," he said.

Mr. White said a proposed book deal fell through last year but said he hoped a movie could be made of his story. He said he has not earned any money from his story "at this time."

FBI officials in Midland and Washington declined to comment on the allegations.

Ricky White asked Monday for investigations by Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox and Dallas County District Attorney John Vance.

Ron Dusek, a spokesman for Mr. Mattox, said his office is willing to review Mr. White's charges.

"But of course we'd need to have the cooperation of the federal government in order to verify," Mr. Dusek said.

So far, he said, the federal government appears to be satisfied with the results of the Warren Commission investigation.

Mr. Vance did not return calls for comment.

Gus Rose, who investigated the Kennedy assassination as a Dallas police homicide detective in 1963, said he had never heard of Roscoe White until Monday.

Mr. Rose speculated that perhaps Mr. White worked in the physical ev-



The Dallas Morning News John P. Hixson

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"I'm convinced this is just another one of those conspiracies theories, like the guy who was convinced that someone other than Oswald was in Oswald's grave," Mr. Rose said. "To me there's no question that Oswald killed Tippit."

Officer Tippit's widow, Marie Thomas, agreed.

Mrs. Thomas, who remarried several years after Officer Tippit died, rejected any contention that her husband may have known Roscoe White.

"I don't know what he's talking about. I don't understand the reason why he's saying that," Mrs. Thomas said.

Ricky White did not turn 3 years old until Nov. 24, 1963, but said he vaguely remembers seeing his father and four others rehearse the assassination by firing into an automobile on the remote McVay Ranch in Van Horn. Each visit seems to recall more memories, he said.

Mrs. William McVay of Van Horn confirmed that Ricky White visited her ranch about two months ago and told her the target practice story. He told her that the men involved in the shooting had stayed at an old house, dating to 1880, on the property. But Mrs. McVay said she laughed at him.

"We had never heard of such a thing. I don't see how he could remember something that happened when he was 3 years old," Mrs. McVay said.

Mrs. McVay said she and her husband bought the ranch in 1967, several years after the practice would have taken place. People who owned the land in 1963 could not be reached for comment.

Mark Lane, a Washington, D.C., lawyer and author who has studied the assassination for years, said Mr. White's story may have some validity.

"Everything he says is consistent with the evidence that we know to be true," said Mr. Lane, 62, whose best-selling book about the assassination, *Rush to Judgment*, was published in 1966.

Mr. Lane campaigned for Mr. Kennedy in New York during the 1960 presidential race and has served in the New York State Legislature. His years of studying the assassination have convinced him that the Warren Commission's findings are false, he said.

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"He was just a conceality. This young man may believe his father killed Kennedy, but it's just not so," Mr. McGaghren said.

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