

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Officer retiring

Photo with Oswald gave Leavelle fame, no fortune

By GERRY FORGE
Staff Writer

"Money is the reason all the new evidence is turning up in the Kennedy assassination."

Detective Jim R. Leavelle, a veteran policeman with his own special place in history, was considering questions about those tragic days in November 1963.

"Everyone seems to be coming up with something that has not been said or shown before," he said.

"Take that guy (Dr. Robert Joling, president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences) SMU paid to come out there and speak," said Leavelle. "He was paid to say the assassination was a conspiracy, but have they offered someone who supports the Warren Commission to speak?"

A member of the Dallas Police Department 25 years, Leavelle is retiring. The announcement attracted uncommon interest because his face has become known worldwide.

It was Leavelle who was handcuffed to Kennedy's accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, that Sunday morning when Jack Ruby fired the shot seen by millions of horrified television viewers.

Bob Jackson, at the time a photographer for The Times Herald, captured a Pulitzer Prize for his photo of the event, a photo made all the more memorable for Leavelle's shocked expression as Ruby's bullet hit Oswald.

Today, more than 11 years later, Leavelle recalls that morning's event as "just another crime."

"People asked me if I was scared," he said. "Actually, it happened so fast I didn't have time to think — it did not occur to me that I could have been killed until the next day."

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Reflecting on his years enforcing the law, he said there was "no joy" in sending people to prison.

"I have a compassion for the younger generation," said Leavelle. "I try to bend over backwards for them."

And because of this compassion, he said, many youthful offenders have

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