

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Visitors increase with time Oswald grave draws!

CURIOUS

By LES THOMAS

Plot 253 at Rose Hill Burial Park always has been a magnet for the curious. But these days more people than usual are traveling the winding cemetery road to stare at the flat granite tombstone.

"I guess it's the conspiracy theories," says cemetery office worker Mrs. Shirley Mullen. "We've had a lot more visitors.

"Sometimes it's three or four a day."

Groundskeepers have grown so accustomed to giving directions, when a car stops they almost start pointing before the question is asked.

Some people go a long way to get there.

"One man called from Connecticut earlier this year," says Rose Hill office manager Mrs. Floy Stetson, "and asked if this was the cemetery where Lee Harvey Oswald was buried.

"He flew out here just to see and had a taxi bring him right to the gate."

Curiosity is what lures most of the visitors.

"I just wanted to show my father," a Fort Worth man viewing Oswald's grave told a reporter. "He's from out of town."

THE PUBLIC HASN'T forgotten Kennedy's accused assassin, but time apparently has tempered some of its hatred for him.

"I was showing some people some grave spaces the other day," says cemetery manager Larry Mullen, "and I told them it was near Oswald's grave.

"They just said, 'Oh.' It didn't bother them."

Mullen said a former cemetery employe recently bought two grave sites adjacent to the four-space plot where Oswald is buried.

"He said he wanted to be nearby so when people came to see Oswald, they'd be seeing him too."

Despite the sale, Mullen said he has had no takers.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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~~for four remaining \$30 grave spaces that adjoin the~~
Oswald grave.

After 11 years though it seems that most of the public outcry over Oswald's burial at the Fort Worth cemetery has ebbed. Retired Col. Eugene Seltzer, a trustee and half owner of the cemetery who died last week, was a prime target of the original fury.

"He had to move out of his house and into a hotel for two days because of the phone calls. People called from all over the country threatening him," recalls Mrs. Stateson.

Oswald's mother bought the four-space plot two years before Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby.

"Mr. Seltzer just took the position that he had the right to be buried here," said Mrs. Stateson.

THE NEW WAVE OF speculation and theories about the assassination probably has had much to do with the increase in visitors to Oswald's grave. All three office workers at the cemetery believe there is credibility to the theories.

"I have never agreed with the Warren Commission since the day Ruby shot Oswald," said Mrs. Stateson.

"Oswald knew too much. That's what I think. The people should know more about it than they do."

Mullen and his wife also doubt that all the facts are known. "I have doubts about whether he (Oswald) was the only one involved," Mullen said.

There is probably a lot of psychological raw material for the popularity of the new speculation.

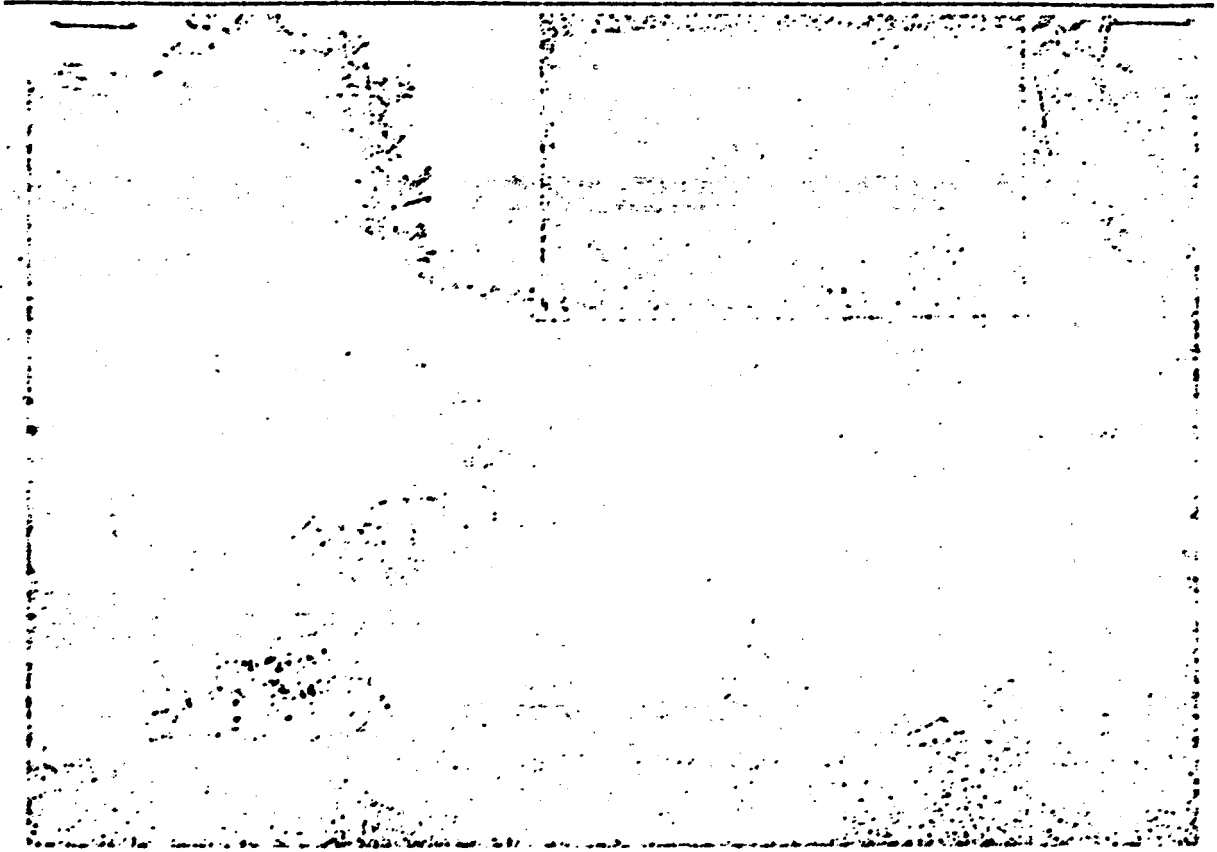
To most Americans, the Kennedy assassination was a frightening, unfathomable act. How, they wondered, could one man send the world topsy turvy?

But if the new visitors to the East Fort Worth graveyard are looking for new enlightening clues and reasons, they are likely to be disappointed.

Oswald gave little information in life. He yields

even less in death. His brown granite tombstone, stingy with its details, seems symbolic of the enigma. No dates. Not even a first name.

Just "Oswald."



—Star-Telegram Photo

BURIAL SITE—Plot 259 at Rose Hill Burial Park on the East Side, still is an attraction to the curious. It contains the grave, arrow, of Lee Harvey Oswald, marked by a simple, flat headstone, inset.