

Photos Rule Out 2d JFK Assassin on the Knoll

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Lexington, Mass., May 18—An analysis by one of the nation's top photographic laboratories, has demolished a widely circulated theory that a second gunman fired from a grassy knoll in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Itek Corp. revealed today that a months-long study of an amateur movie of the actual shooting had disproved the existence of a rifleman pointing his weapon from a grassy knoll at the Kennedy car in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Itek made the study as a public service.

The 8 mm. color movie was shot that day by Orville Nix, a federal government employe who was standing among the parade spectators in Dealey Plaza. It shows the President hit by the fatal bullet and Mrs. Kennedy climbing onto the back of the convertible.

Pavilion With Low Wall

In the background is the knoll and atop it a wooden picket fence and a white concrete pavilion with a low wall.

Enlargement of certain frames brings out what resembles a man with one elbow resting on the roof of a station wagon behind the wall and squinting down a gun barrel at Elm St. where Kennedy was shot.

Itek photographic scientists improved the quality of the film content by utilizing advanced image enhancement methods. Photogrammetrists and photointerpreters made precise measurements of a number of significant objects in the photographs to insure proper identification of the objects and to determine the feasibility of the fatal shot being fired from certain points.

The man with the rifle was found to be nothing more than the shadows of tree branches and leaves on the side of the white pavilion.

Itek said the analysis showed that the object which apparently was a station wagon or some vehicle actually is in a parking lot behind the wooden picket fence and 20 feet behind the "shadow gunman."

Ran to His Left

Nix, who stands six-six, took his first few seconds of film approximately 200 feet from Kennedy's car and 300 feet from the pavilion atop the knoll.

Then he ran through the crowd about 25 feet to his left and zoomed his camera in on the scene again. The resultant triangular pattern permitted stereoscopic analysis of the objects in the background and was fundamental in determining that the so-called rifleman was actually a blend of shadows.

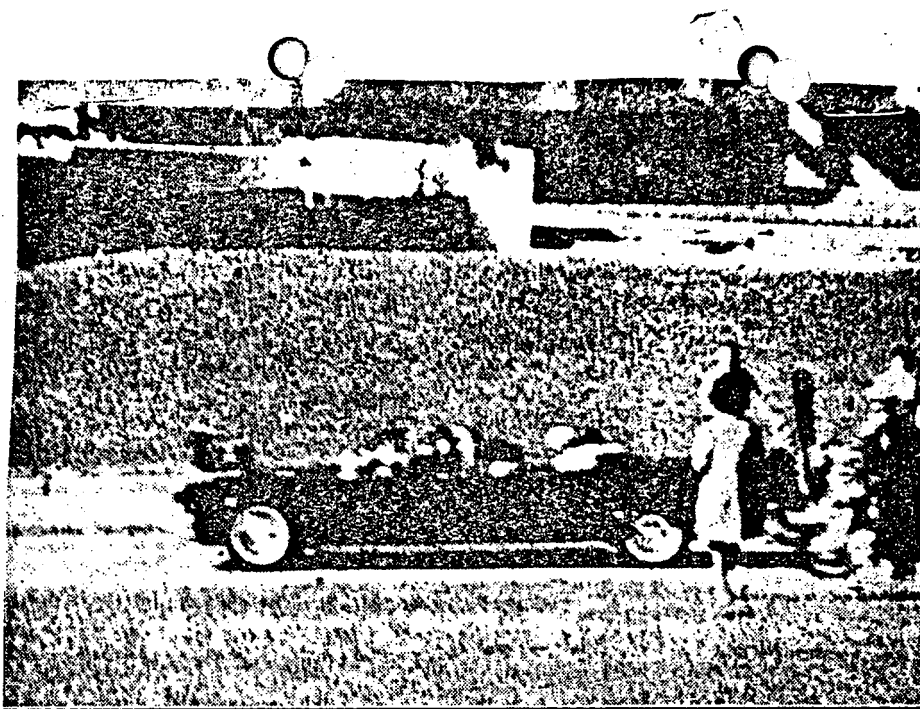
The Nix photos showed no individuals in front of the wooden picket fence up to the concrete wall.

*Tom Clipping
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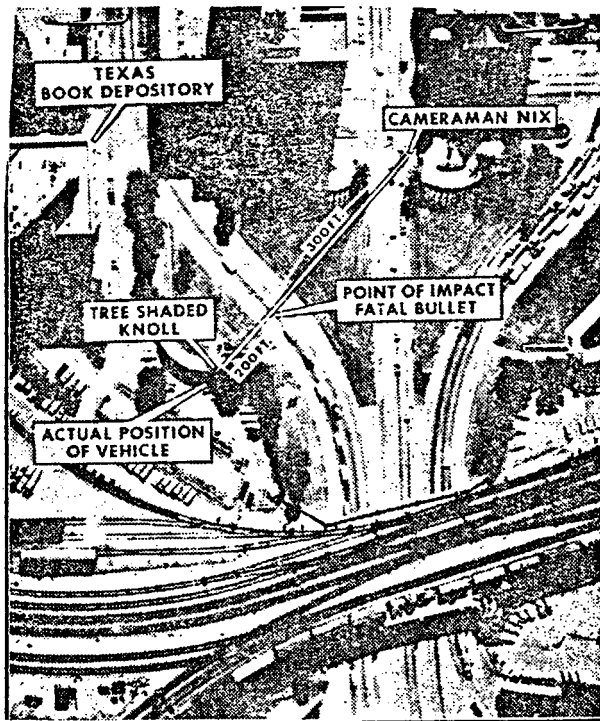
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Blowup of JFK assassination photo reveals no gunman on grassy knoll (upper left). (UPI/Conto)



Aerial view of assassination scene shows position of amateur photographer Orville Nix whose movie films were studied and analyzed for several months by J.A.H.