

Film of JFK Shooting Shown at Shaw Trial

By John P. MacKenzie
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NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 13—The color film of the murder of President John F. Kennedy was exhibited four times today to a shocked courtroom as part of District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination conspiracy case.

Four times—once in frame-by-frame flashes—the jurors and spectators watched in morbid fascination the eight-millimeter movie that has provided the most vivid account of the crime.

It was Garrison, the Orleans Parish prosecutor, making good on his opening-statement promise to bring the crime home to the jury "in color motion picture" never seen by the general public.

The film was declared authentic on the witness stand by Abraham Zapruder, the Dallas dress manufacturer and amateur photographer who relived the tragedy as he described what he had seen through the lens of his home movie camera.

"I saw the approach of the motorcade. As it approached, I heard a shot and noticed where the President leaned to Jacqueline . . . Then another shot hit him right in the head. His head practically opened up . . ."

Mr. Kennedy's reaction to the first shot was to "grab himself, he reached for his chest, for his throat and leaned forward to Jacqueline."

After another shot hit its mark and the motorcade rushed by, Zapruder got down from his perch on a concrete abutment and found himself walking slowly toward Dealey Plaza, saying over and over, "They killed him, they killed him."

Zapruder, who had broken down and cried while giving his testimony to the commission, maintained his composure on the witness stand.

The film has been barred from public showing under the terms of Zapruder's agreement with Time magazine, which pur-

chased and copyrighted it. The film is available, however, for official inquiries.

Unlike two other witnesses today, Zapruder was not asked where he thought the shots had come from. Outside the courtroom, he said they couldn't have come from behind him on a grassy knoll, which was ahead and to the right of the motorcade, because the gunman "would have had to shoot right through me."

To many who have read much about the film but had never seen it, the most striking aspect besides the fatal bullet impact was Mr. Kennedy's abrupt motion, up and backward in the limousine next to his wife, Jacqueline, and behind then-Texas Gov. John B. Connally and his wife.

To Garrison, his aides and many others who insist that no single person could have perpetrated the crime, the sudden movement is the most dramatic evidence that the President was shot from in front of the motorcade.

With the aid of the same film, the Warren Commission unanimously determined that shots came from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building, to the right and rear of the limousine, and from no other direction. Possible explanations for the movement have included the sudden acceleration of the limousine after Lee Harvey Oswald's first non-fatal shot allegedly struck the President.

The famous Zapruder film was the gruesome spectacular that Garrison had needed to keep his campaign going against the Warren Commission, which held that Oswald acted alone, and also to give surge to his case against retired businessman

Spectators were deeply moved. Even the all-male jury appeared stunned by the re-creation of the few crucial seconds at Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

What could not be detected was whether, or to what extent, the film would help or hurt the case the jury must decide—the guilt or innocence of Shaw, a prominent social and cultural figure accused of plotting the crime with Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie.

The four exhibitions to the jury followed an initial showing in the hushed and darkened courtroom—to test the film's authenticity while the jury was excused.

When the jury returned, it was shown the film and at the jury's request it was shown a second time. Then it was run frame by frame—18.3 frames for each second of actual time, according to the Warren Commission. Finally, at the request of one juror, the critical second half of the film was run once more at normal speed.

Judge Edward A. Haggarty Jr. overruled defense objections and permitted the prosecution to use the film and a surveyor's drawing, an aerial photograph and a mock-up of the Plaza as courtroom exhibits.

Although Garrison's long-sought prime objective is believed to have been the forum he now has for his multiple-assassin evidence, the evidence

O ASSASSINATION OF PRES. JOHN F. KENNEDY

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

Handwritten notes:
Zapruder
5-1-64

- The Washington Post Times Herald A-1
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Daily World _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Examiner (Washington) _____

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itself was justified on the grounds that it "corroborates" other testimony against Shaw. Technically, to convict Shaw, the prosecution need not prove that the alleged New Orleans-based conspiracy reached fulfillment in Dallas. But the events in Dallas had been ruled admissible on the theory that evidence of multiple assassins — by showing the existence of some conspiracy — would tend to support the State's evidence about a plot in Louisiana.

That evidence, summarized today by Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock, has consisted of testimony by Perry R. Russo, 27-year-old book salesman who swore he heard Ferrie talk of murder in the presence of Shaw and Oswald, and Charles I. Spiesel, 50, an accountant who said he heard Shaw and Ferrie talk of cross-fire rifle shots and escape by airplane.

Their testimony had been considered sorely in need of corroboration after cross-examination.

Defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond brought out that Russo did not consider the conversation he heard to be seriously conspiratorial. Spiesel, who led the jury on a fruitless search for the apartment in which the other discussion was allegedly held, was shown to have filed multi-million-dollar lawsuits against policemen, private detectives and business competitors, charging conspiracy and subversion.

Garrison was in the courtroom briefly today, but had left by the time his aides ran the film. He is expected to follow up the film with witnesses, most of whom testified or were interviewed by the Warren Commission, for their testimony about the film's meaning.

In Washington Friday, Garrison's aides will ask General Sessions Court Judge Charles

W. Halleck to compel the National Archives to produce autopsy reports and photographs together with the murder weapon, bullets, clothing and other assassination material, which the Justice Department has opposed turning over.

In the course of offering the surveyor's drawing and other exhibits, the prosecution called Dallas County Surveyor Robert H. West, who had watched the motorcade, and asked him where he thought the shots originated.

West, who stood at Main and Houston sts. to the southwest of the motorcade, indicated with his hand a broad area to the northwest of him.

The witness, who said he was not questioned by Federal investigators about it, thus seemed to satisfy the prosecution and the defense, because both the grassy knoll beyond the motorcade and the Depository behind it were to his northwest when the shots rang out.

Buell W. Frazier, Oswald's fellow Depository worker who had driven him to and from his wife's home in a Dallas suburb, testified that he heard three shots on the Plaza, apparently from the underpass ahead of the motorcade.

Frazier said the second and third shots came "back" to back." He will be cross-examined Friday.

Judge Haggerty, to the apparent surprise of both sides, set the stage for the trial's Dallas phase by ruling that neither the State nor the defense may introduce any more evidence on hypnosis.

The State had been trying to show that Russo's testimony was confirmed by what he said under hypnotic trances. The defense had been preparing evidence that a hypnotist had planted nonexistent events in Russo's mind.