



Aug-65

Photos -- M-a, M-b, M-2a, M-2b, M-2c, M-5a, M-5b, W-5, W-6, W-7

I. M-a was taken with a Polaroid camera by Mary Ann Moorman. The location is well past the TSBDB, which would be to the right of the picture as viewed. The area seen in the background is the grassy knoll, west of the building. In the upper right half of M-a is a concrete wall extending south from the semi-circular monument structure (not shown). In the upper left half of M-a is a fence extending from the railroad overpass towards the monument. Orientation can be achieved by comparing M-a with the aerial photo in vol. 17, pg. 360. The brightly sunlit facet of the wall in the upper center of M-a can be seen in the aerial photo as a small vertical line, less than 1/16" long, approximately 1/2" below and 1/4" to the left of the center of the picture.

The sketches on the masking sheets attached to M-a and M-b are those suggested by the images seen in the cut-outs, and numbered accordingly, #1 through #5. M-b is an enlargement from M-a of the wall and fence area of the knoll. It was made prior to the time image #5 on M-a was detected, and therefore #5 was not included in M-b. M-2a, M-2b, and M-2c are further enlargements of image #2 from M-a. M-5a and M-5b are enlargements of image #5 from M-a.

The enlargements should be viewed in each case at that distance at which the dots become imperceptible. It is further suggested that the series is best viewed in sunlight.

W-5, W-6, and W-7 were taken by Phil Willis, and are shown in vol.21, pg.770-771 (as slides No. 5, 6, and 7 of Willis Ex. No. 1). Willis fixes his position (v.7,p.493) shortly before W-5 was taken by identifying himself as the man appearing almost directly behind the first motorcycle officer in color picture #1, Life Memorial Issue, 12/2/63. He testifies he moved westward from this position for approximately 3 seconds before taking W-5. W-6 was taken some seconds later, and W-7 a number of seconds thereafter. While stating his firm belief that the shots came from "high above directly across the street from me" (the TSBDB), he saw "police officers racing over toward a concrete wall"(on the grassy knoll), v.7,p.497.

The black arrow in W-5 points to Pres. Kennedy. Willis states the black arrow in W-6 points to "back of Secret Service agent climbing onto back of the presidential car" (ibid.). Note dark image in W-5, indicated by white arrow (white arrow not added by Willis). Position of this image appears consistent with that of #2 in M-a. Willis says he snapped W-5 upon hearing shot (v.7,p.493). (FBI photo-expert Shaneyfelt states (v.15,p.697) this picture approximately corresponds in time to Zapruder frame 210.

II. Mary Moorman states (v.24,p.217): "As Pres. Kennedy was opposite me, I took a picture of him. As I snapped the picture of President Kennedy, I heard a shot ring out . . . "

(examination of Zap. fr. 313 -- v.18,p.70, in which JFK was struck in the head -- shows M-a was virtually simultaneous with this frame; Mary Moorman is seen in Zap. fr. 313 with upraised camera behind officer).

Based on Zap. fr. 210 as corresponding in time to W-5, and Zap. fr. 313 as corresponding in time to M-a, time-lapse from W-5 to M-a was

six seconds (assuming 18F.P.S.). Note that dark image in W-5 does not appear in W-6, taken several seconds after M-a. W-7 follows W-6 by a few more seconds, and shows spectators and plain-clothesmen running in the direction of the grassy knoll. Note two individuals running up the slope to the right.

- III. Attention is directed to the puffy blotch appearing in front of and below the #2 image as seen in M-a, M-b, and M-2a. The "puff" does not appear to be a shadow, as there is nothing in front of that section of wall to cast it; and it clearly is not part of the shadow cast by the tree to the left in M-a. It does not appear to be a permanent mark on the wall itself as it apparently extends somewhat above the top. The puff can also be seen in frames of 8-mm. movie films taken by Orville Nix and Mary Muchmore. It appears at the left in Nix frame 24 (v.18,p.81), and is faintly visible at the right in Muchmore frame 42 (v.18,p.84). FBI photo-expert Shaneyfelt (v.5,p.143) identifies Nix 24 and Muchmore 42 as depicting the head shot shown in Zapruder 313 (v.18,p.70), (and therefore virtually simultaneous with M-a).

The puff is also faintly visible at the center of Nix frame 66 (v.18,p.82). It is seen most clearly, in color, at the top of pg. 21 in "Four Days", by U.P.I. and American Heritage. This frame can be identified as Nix, approximately fr. 79, by comparing it with Nix fr. 66 and 88 (v.18,p.82).

- IV. At least two eyewitnesses reported seeing a puff of smoke from the grassy knoll area at the time of the shots. S. M. Holland, who was watching the motorcade from the railroad overpass, in a written statement to the sheriff's dept. shortly after the shooting (v.24,p.212), said: "But the puff of smoke I saw definitely came from behind the arcade through the trees". He re-affirms this while testifying several months later (v.6,p.243).

Austin Miller in his statement to the sheriff's dept. (v.24,p.217) states:

"I saw . . . smoke or steam coming from a group of trees north of Elm off the railroad tracks". However, when he testifies months later (v.6,p.223) he is not asked about the "smoke or steam" mentioned in his written statement.

Dep. Sheriffs McGurley (v.19,p.514) and Oxford (v.19,p.530) each state in their investigation reports that after running up the grassy knoll towards the railroad yard, they were told by a man that smoke had come from the vicinity. Since neither officer gives the name of the informant, it is not clear whether he could have been either Holland or Miller.

- V. A number of witnesses reported smelling gunsmoke at the time of the shooting. Senator Yarborough, who was in Vice-Pres. Johnson's car in the motorcade, is quoted in the Texas Observer, 11/29/63:

"You could smell powder all the way here . . . "

Seth Kantor, a Scripps-Howard reporter writing about Sen. Yarborough's reactions, records in his notebook (v.20,p.351), "You could smell gunpowder (Sen. Yarborough was not called to testify, but submitted a written statement dated July 10, 1964 (v.7,p.439) in which he does not mention gunpowder, and states his belief that the shots came from his right rear).

Patrolman J. M. Smith (v.7, p.535-6) was standing at the intersection of Houston and Elm at the time he heard the shots. He ran past the TSBDB, up the grassy knoll, and into the parking area behind. Although he is quoted in the Texas Observer, 12/13/63, as having smelled gunpowder there, (" . . . a faint smell of it -- I could tell it was in the air . . . a faint odor of it"), he is not asked about it while testifying.

Mrs. Earle Cabell, the wife of the mayor of Dallas, was riding in the "third or fourth" car in the motorcade, and states her car was making the turn from Houston onto Elm, when she heard the first shot (v.7, p.486-87). The car was still facing the TSBDB. She looked up and saw a "projection" out of the "first or second double window" on the sixth floor. She is unable to say if the "projection" was an arm or a mechanical object. After the first shot, she gave no further attention to the window. After the second and third shots she "was acutely aware of the odor of gunpowder".

She refers to Congressman Ray Roberts as having been in the same car, and quotes him as having answered "yes" to her query (some months later) as to whether or not he, also, had smelled gunpowder. Congressman Roberts was not called to testify.

Mrs. Donald Baker, an employee of the TSBDB was watching the motorcade from the north side of Elm Street in front of the building. She testified that she began to smell gunsmoke after the second shot. She was not asked in what areas she detected the odor, despite the fact that she ran in the direction of the grassy knoll, believing the shots came from there (v.7, p.510, 512).

VI.

Other photos, both movies and stills, were taken from the south side of Elm Street, which, had they been presented, might tend to confirm or refute the presence of people behind the wall and fence; and might also serve to clarify the nature of the "puff".

Besides the above considerations, any photos taken of the motorcade at the time of the assassination are obviously of great historical interest. Nevertheless, many such photos were not presented in the volumes; and most of those who took photographs were not called to testify -- although they were presumably looking through viewfinders at the President at the time of the shooting. A scrutiny of the volumes discloses the following references to movie and still photographs and/or those persons taking them. (In each case the photos were not presented and the picture-takers were not called to testify; and in each case the pictures referred to were taken from the south side of Elm Street -- the opposite side from the TSBDB and the knoll):

Mary Moorman, who took M-a -- not called to testify, although her statement to the sheriff's dept. is presented in v.24, p.217. Her photo appeared in numerous publications -- usually with the area above the wall cropped out -- but it is not presented in evidence, as such. It does appear as part of C.E. 2426 on pg. 355 of the Report, where it is included in an enlargement of a section of that exhibit (which is a photo of the inside of Ruby's apartment). However, when C.E. 2426 appears in the volumes (v.25, p.525) the enlargement is omitted, and therefore the Moorman photo is indiscernible. The individual who took the Ruby apartment photo is not identified, and there is no indication that he was called to testify.

Based on the direction in which the bottoms of coats worn by Jean Hill and Mary Moorman are billowing (v.18, p.65-67, 84-85), the wind was to the east.

Hugh Betzner, Jr. -- says he took three still photos of the motorcade; the first, from the southwest corner of Houston and Elm while Pres. Kennedy's car was still on Houston Street; the second and third, from the south side of Elm, as the car was going toward the overpass. He believes his third picture included the fence area (of the grassy knoll), from where he believed the shots came. The sheriff's dept. took his camera and films. His statement to the sheriff's dept. appears in vol. 24, pg. 200. He was not called to testify; and there is no mention of his films -- in testimony of FBI photo-expert Shaneyfelt, or elsewhere in the volumes.

Robert Hughes -- FBI report by Spec. Agt. Barrett (v.25, p. 873) states that Hughes took 8-mm. color movies of the motorcade from the southwest corner of Houston and ~~Elm~~ as it turned left onto Elm. Barrett further states in his report that the TSBDB is shown in full, and that "From the photographs there appears to be a person in the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository Building which is the most distant window to the right"

Agt. Barrett's statement has revealed that the FBI office in Dallas was in possession of a film taken immediately prior to the assassination which shows a man -- presumably the alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald -- in the sixth floor window of the TSBDB.

Neither the photographer Hughes nor Agt. Barrett are called to testify; nor is any portion of this film presented; nor is it mentioned anywhere else in the volumes; nor is there any indication that the Commission is aware of its existence; nor does FBI photo-expert Shaneyfelt give any indication that he has heard of the film, let alone analyzed it (v.5, p.140):

Mr. Specter: (after having been told by Shaneyfelt of the Zapruder and Nix films) Did you analyze any other film in connection with this inquiry?

Mr. Shaneyfelt: Yes, I analyzed a film that was an 8--mm. motion picture film taken by Mrs. Mary Muchmore of Dallas, Texas.

. . . And after Shaneyfelt has shown the Zapruder, Nix, and Muchmore films;

Mr. Specter: Have we now seen all the films from Dallas? That concludes the films.

Ralph Simpson -- on March 24, 1964, in a phone call from Victoria, B.C., Simpson told Sgt. Dean of the Dallas police that he had taken 8-mm. movies from the "southwestern part of the plaza" and was air-mailing them to Dean immediately, (v.12, p.443-445):

Mr. Dean: . . . The city hall operator had called me and told me she had . . . a operator on the line from Victoria, B.C. . . and that . . . this operator had told her she had been talking to a man in Victoria about some films he had of the assassination. . . I heard some of the conversation, and the man sounded rational, and the operator in Victoria, Bernice Williamson . . . the night supervisor . . . said she had talked with this man long enough that she thought he probably had something . . . And so I accepted the call. . .

Mr. Dean (cont'd): . . . he said he had been here on vacation and learned the president was coming, he had stationed himself on the southwest part of the plaza, toward the railroad tracks, and that he had a wide scope camera, and that he believed he had gotten the assassination, and . . . the building in the background because it's in a trajectory of the line of fire . . . When he told me he would send them to me, he said, "You can have them. I haven't developed them, and you don't have to send me any copies of them back".

Testifying one week later on April 1, 1964, Dean said that as of then Simpson's film had not yet arrived in the mail (v.12, p. 446). Testifying a third time on June 8, 1964 (v.5, p. 256), Dean again mentions Simpson's phone call and the film, but does not indicate and is not asked whether he ever received it. There is no further mention of the Simpson film.

the Nix and Muchmore 8-mm. movie films -- mentioned previously, were both taken from south of Elm Street. Only six frames of the Nix film (v.18, p.81-83) and three frames of the Muchmore film (v.18, p.84-85) are presented:

Mr. Specter; (v.5, p.143): Are there any other photographs in that album (C.E.885, v.18, p.1-85) in addition to the Zapruder frames?

Mr. Shaneyfelt: Yes; there are. There are six photographs selected at random from the Nix film, including frame 24, . . . depicting the shot to the head of the President, and three photographs picked at random from the Muchmore film, including frame 42 . . . depicting the head shot . . .

(Zapruder fr. 313, Nix fr. 24, Muchmore fr. 42, and M-a all depict the same head shot).

In Nix fr. 24 (v.18, p.81) the "puff" appears on the bright facet of the wall at the left edge of the picture. The area above the wall is too dark to either confirm or refute the images seen in M-a. In Nix fr. 66 (ibid., p.82) the puff is visible in the center, but again, the entire area (in which the images appear in M-a) is extremely dark (also Nix, approx. fr. 79, top of pg. 21, "Four Days"). The puff is faintly visible in Muchmore fr. 42 (v.18, p. 84), but the area above the wall is not in the picture. Neither Nix nor Muchmore testify before the Commission.

VII. The Report concludes (p. 639) that, "There is no evidence that any shots were fired at the President from anywhere other than the Texas School Book Depository Building".

Writing in "The Minority of One", March '65, Harold Feldman discloses that of the 121 witnesses to the assassination whose statements are registered in the 26 volumes, 38 could give no clear opinion as to the direction of the shots, 32 believed they came from the direction of the TSBDB, and 51 thought they came from the grassy knoll. Included among the many individuals who rushed to the grassy knoll were the large majority of deputy sheriffs and police officers present at the time. (the article is reported in the N.Y. Times, 3/1/65, under the heading, "Writer says second man shot at Kennedy from grassy knoll")

VIII. The Report makes no reference to people who may have been behind the wall or fence on the grassy knoll immediately prior to the shots. On the KNBC television News Conference program in Los Angeles on Feb. 27, 1965, Mr. Joseph A. Ball, senior counsel for the Warren Commission, responded to a question regarding speculation that shots came from the grassy knoll; ". . . That happens to be the part of the investigation of which I had charge . . . There were no people there . . ."

Mr. Ball repeated his conviction on this point several months later in more specific terms. In reply to a letter inquiring on the matter, he wrote: ". . . I have heard of speculation that there were men secreted behind the wall on the grassy knoll just before shooting of the President, but I have found no evidence to support such a claim". In support of his finding Mr. Ball refers to the testimony on pg. 72, Report, of Lee J. Bowers, Jr., who was at work in a railroad tower fourteen feet high, located to the north of the grassy knoll at a distance behind the curving railroad tracks. (The roof of the tower can be seen in the aerial photo in vol. 17, pg. 360. It appears at the left edge of the picture approximately 2-1/2 inches from the bottom).

A reading of Bowers' full testimony in the volumes (v.6, p.284-289) reveals information of potential significance not indicated on pg. 72 of the Report. He states that beginning 10 o'clock in the morning the police had covered the area and had cut off traffic (behind the TSBDB and the grassy knoll) "so that anyone moving around could actually be observed. Since I had worked there for a number of years I was familiar with most of the people who came in and out of the area".

He tells of three automobiles (apparently unfamiliar to him), which entered the area behind the TSBDB and the grassy knoll at intervals within 20 minutes prior to the shooting. He identifies these cars as a blue-and-white 1959 Oldsmobile, with out-of-state license; a black 1957 Ford with Texas license; and a white '61 or '62 Chevrolet with out-of-state license similar to that of the first car. Each of these cars cruised the area slowly. Bowers believes that the driver of the '57 Ford was holding a microphone or telephone to his mouth. He did not see the third car depart. He states (referring to the area at the top of or behind the grassy knoll):

"At the time of the shooting there seemed to be some commotion, and immediately following . . . a motorcycle policeman who shot nearly all the way to the top of the incline".

Asked to describe the "commotion" by Mr. Ball, he replies:

"I just am unable to describe, rather than it was something out of the ordinary, a sort of milling around, but something occurred in this particular spot which was out of the ordinary, which attracted my eye for some reason, which I could not identify".

It is difficult to understand why Mr. Ball cites Mr. Bowers' testimony as supporting his own conclusion that there were no persons behind the wall on the grassy knoll.

* * * * *

The foregoing and enclosed material is not for publication, and is presented here for the purpose of further study and evaluation by interested parties.

JFK-1

The twelve photos in JFK-1 are enlarged sections taken from Zapruder frames 310-321 (v.18, p.68-74). The interval between each succeeding frame is approximately 1/18 second (Report, p.97). (Zapruder can be seen in W-5. He identifies himself -- vol. 7, pg. 570 -- as the figure standing on the abutment immediately to the right of the upper right-hand corner of the Stemmons Freeway sign). The photos, taken from the right side of the presidential car, show only the rear-seat passenger section with President and Mrs. Kennedy (proper orientation may be more easily achieved by viewing the full frames in vol. 18. Also see color panel #5, Life, Oct. 2, '64, which can be identified as Zapruder fr. 309 by comparing it with that frame in vol. 18, pg. 68).

Frames 310-312 show that JFK's head and body were in a relatively stable position immediately prior to fr. 313, which depicts the impact of a shot to the head. Prior to fr. 313, he had slumped leftward toward Mrs. Kennedy and was being supported by her.

The Report says (pg. 19) that the second bullet which struck Pres. Kennedy (fr. 313) entered the right-rear portion of his head (see drawing, v. 17, pg. 45). Nevertheless the photo sequence in JFK-1 shows that immediately after being struck -- ostensibly from the rear -- JFK's head did not move forward, but backwards and to the left, (despite the fact that his head had been tilted sharply forward with chin close to his chest).

Note the distance from the back of JFK's head in fr. 312 to the seat-back behind him. By fr. 316, 1/6 second after impact in fr. 313, this distance has markedly lessened; indicating his head is moving sharply to the rear. This movement continues through fr. 321, at which point his head has either made contact with the seat-back, or is in position to do so. The elapsed time from the impact at fr. 313 to completion of the movement to the left-rear in fr. 321 is approximately 4/9 second.

The question presented by the sequence of photos is whether the immediate movement of JFK's head to the rear after having been struck in fr. 313 is consistent with a bullet having come from the direction of the Texas School Book Depository Building, which was almost directly to the rear of the car, (see aerial photo, vol. 17, pg. 360).

July '65
R. Marcus

(Revised to JFK double head-hit
313-314 -- see Ramparts letter 6/10/66)