

# Questions Raised On Murder Bullets

12/13  
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Did a bullet from Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle chip the curb of Main Street near the Triple Underpass?

That question remained unanswered Thursday.

And it raised other questions:

—If one of the three shots from Oswald's mail-order rifle struck the curb, is it possible that another bullet ranged through President Kennedy's body and then hit Gov. John Connally?

—If the chip did not result from a bullet, how did it get there?

Buddy Walthers, an investigator for Sheriff Bill Decker, found the chipped spot less than an hour after a sniper shot President Kennedy and the governor as their car moved slowly over Elm Street toward the Triple Underpass.

"A man came up to me and asked if I was hunting for bullets fired at President Kennedy," Walthers related. "He said he had stopped his car on Main Street and was standing beside it, watching the motorcade, when the shooting started.

"He said something hit him on the cheek hard enough to sting. I checked the area where the man said he had been standing and found the chip in the curb. It was on the south side of the street."

Main runs parallel to Elm on the south.

Walthers and Investigator Allan Sweatt searched the area for about 20 minutes without finding a bullet. They concluded that if a bullet had struck the curb, the slug had ricocheted or disintegrated.

The motorist could have been hit by a sliver from the bullet or a particle of concrete from the curb, they concluded.

The chip appeared freshly made.

It was in line with the path a bullet would have taken if fired from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building toward the Kennedy motorcade. The trajectory, however, would have carried it above the heads of President Kennedy and the governor.

Walthers and Sweatt were within a block of the slaying site when the sniper opened fire. They

agreed with other witnesses that the assassin fired only three shots.

Gov. Connally said the first shot struck President Kennedy and the second entered his body.

Then, the governor related, another bullet struck President Kennedy.

That would account for the three shots.

It would not, however, account for the chipped spot.

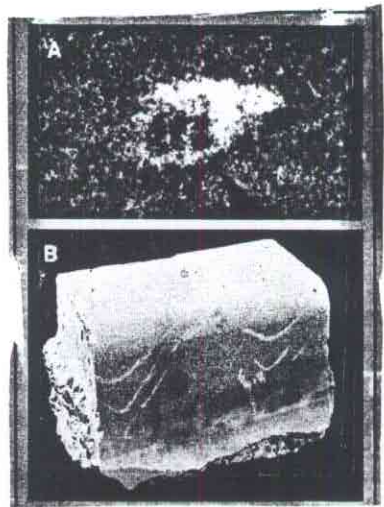
Various theories have been advanced.

Was Gov. Connally mistaken about what happened during the 10-second period in which the sniper shot him and the President? Did the rifleman fire two bullets into the car, with one striking both President Kennedy and Gov. Connally, and then hurriedly fire a third which passed over their auto?

Or did the chipped spot have no connection with the shooting? Couldn't the motorist have been struck by a speck of gravel thrown up by a car? Couldn't the chip have been caused by other gravel?

FBI and Secret Service agents may have the answers. But they haven't revealed what they learned during their intensive investigation of the murder of President Kennedy.

**The Curb Exchange** James Tague, who was standing on the curb along the south side of Main Street near the overpass, was struck sharply on the cheek at the time of the shooting. Police officers investigated immediately and said they found a "fresh chip in the curb" near where he was standing. A photograph was taken of the chip in the curb the next morning (photo A). Eight months later (July, 1964) the photographer and two F.B.I. men returned to the site to make measurements, but could not find the chip. The F.B.I. men hypothesized that in the interim "there [had] been numerous rains that could have possibly washed away such a mark and also... the area is cleaned by a street-cleaning machine about once a week, which would also wash away such a mark." A month after that, J. Edgar Hoover wrote the Commission that the F.B.I. had cut out the section of curb with the mark (a photo of which he enclosed B), and that indeed the mark was the same as that in the original photograph. This internal F.B.I. contradiction was discovered by Raymond Marcus, who also claims that the curb cutout





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

July 17, 1964  
Dallas, Texas

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

By letter dated July 7, 1964, the President's Commission requested additional investigation concerning an alleged mark on the curb in the vicinity of the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD), Dallas, Texas, which had been photographed by James Underwood, a Newsman with KRLD-TV, Dallas, Texas. In connection with this request, the President's Commission letter made available a photograph of the curb made by Tom Dillard of "The Dallas Morning News" which had been forwarded to the President's Commission by Martha Joe Stroud, Assistant United States Attorney, Dallas, Texas.

On July 15, 1964, James Underwood, residence, 9751 Parkford Drive, Dallas, Texas, a Newsman for KRLD-TV, Dallas, was shown two photographs. One of these photographs is of a mark on the curb on the south side of Main Street near the triple underpass and shows a hand shielding the light from this mark. The second photograph was taken looking across Main Street and up Elm Street toward the TSBD. Mr. Underwood identified these photographs as frames taken from a 16 mm movie film, which film was taken by him on the morning of November 23, 1963. Mr. Underwood advised he had been told by a Deputy Sheriff, whose name he could not recall, that there was a mark on the curb on the south side of Main Street near the underpass, which was possibly made by a ricocheting bullet. The photograph of the hand shielding the mark on the curb was made by Underwood squatting down in the gutter to get a close-up view of the mark, and the picture of the TSBD was taken by placing the handle attached to the underneath side of Underwood's movie camera on the curb near the mark and pointing the camera back toward the TSBD, in order to get a low-level shot.

Mr. Underwood repeated what he had told Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents on June 11, 1964, that he could not be positive the mark was made by a ricocheting bullet, but appeared to him that it could have been, based on knowledge acquired by him while in the military service. He further stated it was definitely a mark on the curb and not a nick in the curb. He repeated that the concrete was not broken and that the mark appeared to have possibly been made recently, but he could not judge how much time had passed since the mark was made when he took the photographs of it.

Mr. Underwood stated that prior to taking the photographs he met Tom Dillard, a Photographer for "The Dallas Morning News," near the entrance to the Dallas County Jail, and had told Dillard about the information he had received from the Deputy Sheriff about the mark on the curb. Dillard indicated he would possibly also take a still photograph of this mark.

On July 15, 1964, Tom C. Dillard, residence, 7022 Merrilee Lane, Dallas, Texas, a Photographer for "The Dallas Morning News," advised that on the morning of November 23, 1963, while at the Dallas County Jail entrance, he had received information from James Underwood, a Newsman for KRLD-TV, to the effect there was a mark on the curb on the south side of Main Street near the triple underpass. Underwood had told Dillard that the mark was possibly made by a bullet. Later during the afternoon of November 23, 1963, Dillard, using a Mamiyaflex 120 Camera, took a picture of a mark on the curb on the south side of Main Street about twenty feet east of the triple underpass. Dillard stated he was of the opinion the mark very possibly could have been made by a ricocheting bullet and that it had been recently made.

Mr. Dillard was shown a photograph of a mark on the curb with a hand holding a pencil pointing toward the mark. He identified this photograph as a copy of the one he had taken on the afternoon of November 23, 1963.

Mr. Dillard stated he definitely recalls it was a mark on the curb rather than a nick in the curb and the concrete was not broken or chipped.

On July 15, 1964, two Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, accompanied by Tom C. Dillard, a Photographer for "The Dallas Morning News," and James Underwood, a Newsman for KRLD-TV, went to the area approximately twenty feet east of the triple underpass and on the south side of Main Street. Through the use of the same camera used by Mr. Underwood on November 23, 1963, and by aligning three reference points in a photograph of the TSED taken by Mr. Underwood on November 23, 1963, from this same area, it was ascertained the mark observed and photographed by Mr. Underwood and Mr. Dillard had been at a point on the curb twenty-one feet and eleven and one-half inches east of a point where Main Street passes under the triple underpass. This same point where the mark had been observed by Mr. Underwood and Mr. Dillard was seventy-three feet and five inches west of the first lamp post on the south side of Main Street, which lamp post is the first one located east from the triple underpass on Main Street.

The area on the curb from this point for a distance of ten feet in either direction was carefully checked and it was ascertained there was no nick in the curb in the checked area, nor was any mark observed.

Reference points in the photograph taken by Mr. Underwood used to locate this point were a lamp post located in the right of the photograph, which appears to be midway between two buildings, a lamp post located on the north side of Elm Street, which is in line with the third row of windows from the southwest corner of the TSED, and which face south, and a traffic sign located on the left side of the photograph, which is to the west of the TSED.

It should be noted that no nick or break in the concrete was observed, in the area checked, nor was there any mark similar to the one in the photographs taken by Underwood and Dillard-observed in the area checked either by the Special Agents, by Mr. Underwood, or by Mr. Dillard. It should be noted that, since this mark was observed on November 23, 1963, there have been numerous rains, which could have possibly washed away such a mark and also that the area is cleaned by a street cleaning machine about once a week, which would also wash away any such mark.