

Film Tests Explode Myth, No 2d Gunman In JFK Plot

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By ELEANOR ROBERTS
 Traveler Television Editor

2d JFK 'Killer' a Shadow, Film Shows

(Copyright 1967, UPI)
 An analysis by one of the nation's top photographic laboratories has rebutted a widely circulated theory that a second gunman was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

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

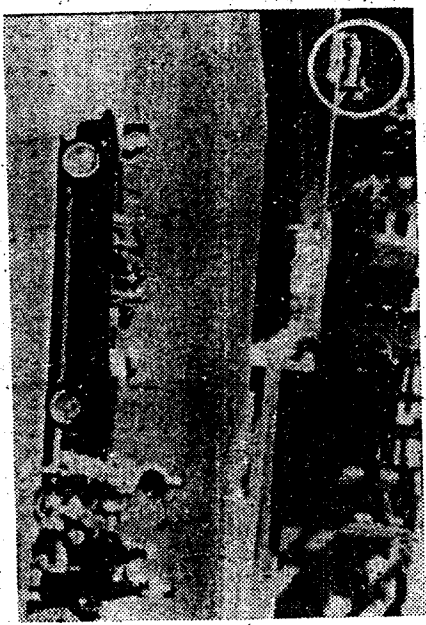
The 8 millimeter color motion picture was shot that day by Orville Nix, a federal government employee who was standing among the parade spectators in Dealey Plaza. It shows the President hit by the fatal bullet and Mrs. Kennedy climbing onto the back of the convertible.

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

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

Proponents of the theory of a conspiracy have sought to use the photographs as evidence that the Warren Commission was wrong in finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone and that all the shots were fired from the Texas School Book Depository Building.

Several persons in Dallas who were eyewitnesses to the assassination have reported seeing smoke or flashes from the knoll area and even more thought



(UPI Photo)
THE ITEK STUDY disproves the existence of second gunman on the grassy knoll (circle) taken from the movie film.

they heard shots from that direction.
 Nix first turned his film over to the FBI, and it was used, among other things, to determine the position of the President's car at the moment the fatal bullet struck his head.

The Nix film subsequently became the property of United Press International Newfilm (UPI/N).

Last February, the Itek Corporation agreed at the request of UPI/N to make an exhaustive scientific study of the 31 feet of film. Itek is one of the major manufacturers of highly sophisticated aerial reconnaissance cameras and its equipment was used in development of closeup color pictures of the moon made by the surveyor spacecraft.

Itek photographic scientists improved the quality of the film content by utilizing advanced image enhancement methods. Itek 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.

Several objects on and behind the grassy knoll were unclear in the original films and

the Itek scientists were themselves at first struck by the image of a gunman.

"The man with the rifle," however, 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."

A rifleman at that location would have had to fire from nine feet above the ground for his trajectory to clear existing vertical obstructions, it said. No person was visible on the roof of the vehicle. Even assuming a gunman was at sufficient height, the timing of the cavalcade was such that he would have had less than one-thirtieth of a second to get off the fatal shot, Itek said.

The laboratory used a variety of techniques in studying the photographs. A method known

as "dodging" produced an amazing clarity of light and dark tones. Use of color filters made them even sharper.

Nix, an employe of the General Services Administration and a man six-feet, six-inches tall, 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 18 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.



When CBS News telecasts its three-hour "The Warren Report" on successive nights—June 25, 26 and 27—(Ch. 5) it will mark the first time in network TV history that a special report has been dealt with in this fashion.

"We needed three hours to present the results of the six-month long inquiry," Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News explained. "We feel that a three-hour broadcast in a single evening is too much to ask of the viewers' attention span for so complex and controversial a series of questions and issues."

The three-part report will be shown at the same hour each night and a brief review of what has gone before will be given at the beginning of the second and third broadcasts. With such a controversial and fascinating subject, CBS should have no worries about viewers returning to this documentary

cliffhanger.

SALANT'S DECISION to spread it over three nights was a wise one. Viewers tend to be restless and all too few stick with a three-hour documentary special—fascinating as the content may be.

"The Warren Report" will review the Warren Commission's findings about events

before, during and after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald and also the criticisms of these findings.

Each point of controversy will be examined by CBS News including the investigation conducted by District Attorney James Garrison of New Orleans.

SIX MONTHS WORK, under executive producer Leslie Midgley, has gone into the special which should be of

historic value. Filmed interviews, reconstruction of events and results of various tests and experiments conducted in many parts of the country will be shown.

When Salant announced, five months ago, that CBS news was intensively re-examining the Warren Report and other information concerning the President's assassination, he said no decision would be made about the results of the re-examination unless they could determine that "it can contribute to public understanding and enlightenment".

"I did not feel that it would be useful simply to pit critics and defenders against each other in a debate, and that special broadcasts were not justified unless CBS News could clarify the issues and relevant facts and contribute to public understanding on the basis of an independent journalistic in-

vestigation," Salant said yesterday.

"These broadcasts have now been set because of my conviction that we can accomplish this objective. Each major point of controversy has been examined in great detail. We have uncovered fresh material. And we will present the conclusions based on our analysis and investigations."

Reporters for the three-part telecast, which will pre-empt regular programming, will be Walter Conkite, Dan Rather and Eddie Barker, news director of KRLD-TV, Dallas-Fort Worth.



2 JFK Killers Tale Kayoed By Film Study

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BEHIND FENCE

Itek said 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."

A rifleman at the location would have had to fire from more feet above the ground for his trajectory to clear existing vertical obstructions, it said. No person was visible on the roof of the vehicle. Even assuming a gunman was at sufficient height, the timing of the cavalcade was such that he would have had less than a 30th of a second to get off the fatal shot, Itek said.

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ENLARGEMENT AIDS

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TAKEN BY FBI

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FILM IMPROVED

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