

Film Study Rules Out 2nd Kennedy Gunman

Photo Lab Finds 'Man With Rifle' Was in Actuality Only Tree Branch Shadows

BY JACK V. FOX and MAURICE SCHONFELD

United Press International © 1967

LEXINGTON, Mass.— An analysis by one of the nation's top photographic laboratories has demolished a widely circulated theory that a second gunman was involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Itek Corp. revealed Thursday that a months-long study of an amateur movie of the 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 motion picture was shot that day by Orville Nix, a federal 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.

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 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 St., where Mr. 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 witnessed the assassination have reported seeing smoke or flashes from the knoll area and even more thought 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.

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

Itek photogrammetrists and photo interpreters 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.

The independent Itek conclusions on the Nix

film were in keeping with the Warren report with one exception. The Itek study indicated that at the moment of the impact of the fatal bullet, the Kennedy automobile was about three feet farther back than the spot where the Warren investigation placed it.

Warren Finding, War Church Topics

The Community Church of Boston (nonsectarian) is sponsoring a series of talks on subjects ranging from "A Refutation of the Warren Commission's Report" to the war in Vietnam during the next three weeks.

Dr. Frederick L. Schuman, Woodrow Wilson professor

of history and government at Williams College, and author of books on international politics, Nazism, Communism and the Cold War, will speak Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the conservatory auditorium, 31 Hemenway st.

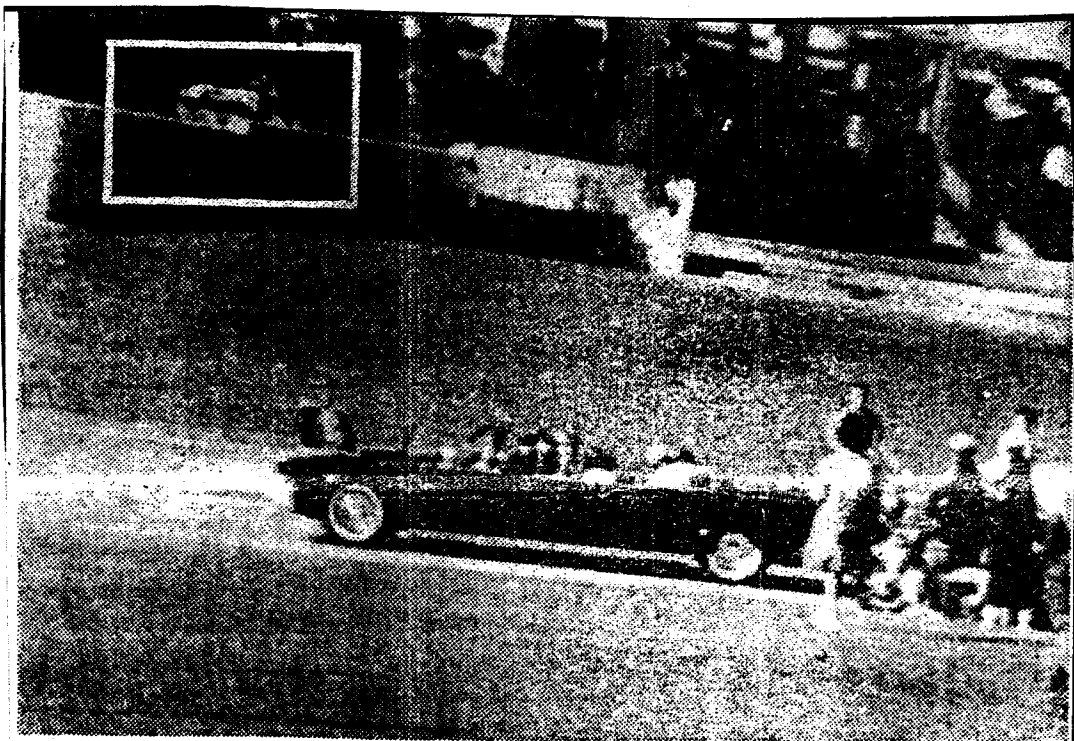
His subject will be "The Human Dilemma: 1967?"

In addition, the church will hold forum suppers next Wednesday and Wednesday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker at next Wednesday's supper will be Dr. Noam Chomsky, professor of modern languages and linguistics at M.I.T. His topic will be "Vietnam and the

Cold War Liberals."

Raymond Marcus will attempt to refute the Warren Commission's conclusions about the assassination of President Kennedy with photographic evidence at the June 7 supper. Marcus is the author of "The Bastard Bullet."



An Analysis of This Film Clip Demolished Theory That a Second Gunman Was Involved in JFK Assassination. Man With Rifle, (Outline), Was Found To Be Nothing More Than *As. L. C. H. over 5/19/67* Shadow of Tree Branches on Side of White Pavilion

UPI Telephoto

Camera Shift Solved JFK Puzzle

By RICHARD J. CONNOLLY
Staff Reporter

When Orville Nix moved 18 feet while photographing the assassination of President Kennedy, he inadvertently made it possible for science to solve a mystery created by his camera.

The General Services Administration employee stood among parade spectators in Dallas and focused his 8-millimeter movie camera with zoom lens on the President as he was shot.

Some of the frames showed a "figure" resembling a rifleman aiming at the Kennedy car. Critics of the Warren Commission, which declared that Lee Oswald acted alone, used the Nix photographs to support their assertion that the commission was wrong.

The mystery was not solved, and the theory of a

second gunman was not ruined until Thursday, when the Itek Corp. of Lexington disclosed that it had analyzed the movies at the request of United Press International Newsfilm, which acquired the film from Nix.

Itek, a leading photographic laboratory, determined that "the man with the rifle" was nothing more than tree shadows on a wall. A "vehicle-like" object on which the "figure" leaned was found by Itek to have been 20 feet from the shadows.

Highly technical procedures, some involving millionths of an inch, were used in the analysis of the film. The procedures were described Friday by Howard Sprague, assistant to Pres. Franklin A. Lindsay, during a press conference.

One of the most important steps was the creation of three-dimensional figures by the Itek staff, which numbered between 20 and 30 and worked on the film for almost two months.

Nix was about 200 feet from the Kennedy car when he took his first shots and then ran 18 feet through the crowd, stopping to aim his camera again.

Various advanced photographic image improvement techniques, similar to those used for the analysis of aerial photographs, were employed in the study of the Nix films. They were also subjected to stereoscopic analysis.

"Since photographer Nix was approximately 300 feet from the objects to be stereoscopically perceived," Itek said in its 55-page report, "it was fortunate that he moved

his vantage points while exposing the film.

"His movement provided a separation (stereoscopic base) of approximately 18 feet perpendicular to the direction of photography."

The depth or third dimension of all objects were precisely determined, Itek explained, after such factors as stereo base, object distance and image scale became known.

Stereoscopic photointerpretation showed that the unidentified "shape," which some persons thought was a man aiming a rifle, had no three-dimensional form.

It consisted of highlights and shadows of two-dimensional extent, according to Itek.

If Nix hadn't moved, the controversy would probably have gone on. *END*

The late Jack Ruby's entire estate, except for debts, consists of the pistol with which he shot Lee Harvey Oswald, a diamond watch, a diamond ring, a hat and a suit of clothes, his attorney, Alan Adelson, said in Detroit. Adelson said he will try to follow Ruby's wish that the gun be placed in the National Archives in Washington, but he said the weapon's ultimate disposition is up to the Dallas courts. The weapon, for which one collector has offered \$50,000, is in the custody of Dallas prosecutor William Wade.

New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and the private group financing his investigation of the Kennedy assassination have been named as defendants in a \$50 million damage suit filed in federal court in New Orleans. The suit was filed by attorneys for Gordon Novel, 29, former French Quarter bar owner who is being sought by Garrison as an important witness. Novel contended Garrison's accusations have ruined his "reputation as a man of honesty, honor and probity." Novel, now in Columbus, Ohio, is fighting efforts to extradite him to Louisiana. *P. V. S.*



New Orleans---and all that jazz