

MACNEIL'S NEWSHOUR

by
Jerry Organ

14. 6H411.
15. 2H283.
16. McWatters made no mention of the policemen entering the bus. The search of the bus was doubtless part of a routine procedure, involving the systematic search of every bus in the area. The authorities no doubt had a surplus of police manpower and therefore they could afford to send some of the extra ones to these marginally useful tasks.
17. Dallas Police Radio Log, 23H867-869. For more information on the search of the library, see "The Arrogant Suspect," in the January 1995 issue of The Fourth Decade.
18. 16H972.
19. Jerry D. Rose, "Double Agent Unmasked: A Reconstruction" The Third Decade, Sept. 1987, p. 13. Dr. Rose made a telephone call to Cecil McWatters on November 21, 1983. McWatters said that he saw Oswald on TV and at the police station prior to the line-up. As Dr. Rose pointed out in his article, any familiarity with the appearance of the accused before a line-up invalidates any identification obtained from it.
20. Jones said that the police kept McWatters up until 1:00 am Saturday or Sunday morning. They must have had a difficult time straightening out the details in the bus story.
21. 16H971.
22. 2H280.
23. WR626.
24. WR621.
25. WR604.
26. WR626. Bookhout's (WR621) and Fritz's (WR604) memoranda on Oswald's second story are essentially the same as Kelley's.
27. For a good treatment of the Tippit case, see Henry Hurt's Reasonable Doubt (Holt, Rinehart, Winston, New York: 1985), pp. 139-169.

As the only Nova Scotian in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963, Robert MacNeil's activities hold special interest for me. In the November Fourth Decade, William Weston goes far in challenging MacNeil's purported brush with Oswald, exploring the "conspiratorial implications" of the newsman's story.

Weston describes MacNeil as a "reporter on the White House staff," perhaps to imply he was officially directed. In fact, since midsummer 1963, MacNeil was the number two White House correspondent for NBC News. On this, his "first big presidential trip," MacNeil was covering the Texas tour along with Washington cameraman David Weigman.[1]

The Wild Goose Chase

Weston writes: "Several police officers and spectators were running up a grassy slope toward a tree-lined wooden fence, apparently in pursuit of a gunman." However, photographs of the aftermath tell a different story.

Witnesses who would later claim shots came from the fence area (Jean Hill, the Newmans, Malcolm Summers, Sam Holland, Beverly Oliver [?]) never point or immediately move toward the fence corner. The Wilma Bond slides reveal just one officer raced up the knoll, triggering the stampede of curiosity seekers.

One of the most enduring legends in conspiracy lore is that this policeman was Bobby Hargis, the motorcycle officer assigned to the left rear of the limousine. Critics take a morbid delight in describing how the impact of debris from the fatal shot induced him to run up the knoll.[2]

Mark Lane was one of the first to nominate Hargis as the officer who rushed to the railbridge, based on his testimony: "I ran up to this kind of little wall, brick wall up there to see if I could get a better look on the bridge, and, of course, I was looking all around the place at that time." [3]

Hargis was actually referring to having momentarily run to the retaining wall, not the overpass abutment.[4] Bond's first picture of the aftermath - - taken within 20 seconds of the last

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shot -- shows Hargis "just returning to his parked cycle," as does a film sequence by Mark Bell.[5] The Richard Bothun photograph captured Hargis after remounting his cycle.[6]

The policeman leading the wild goose chase was identified thirty years ago by the Warren Commission: Officer Clyde A. Haygood.[7]

Haygood was still on Main when he heard shots, and apparently responded to the sight of people sprawled on the Knoll. Haygood testified:

"Some of them were pointing back up to the railroad yard, and a couple of people were headed up that way, and I immediately tried to jump the north curb. I left my motor on the street and ran to the railroad yard."[8]

Pictures disclose several photographers from the motorcade were drawn to the Newman family, described by Trask as the "most obvious focal point in the confusion of the moment." One of these cameramen (MacNeil's comrade Dave Weigman) captured Haygood from that site as he cruised past.[9] Photographs by Life's Art Rickerby and a film sequence by Malcolm Couch show a black couple with a child fled along Elm as the officer rode down the street.[10]

At 12:35, Officer Haygood radioed that a bystander thought shots came from the Depository. Within two minutes, he transmitted:

"Get some men up here to cover this building, this Texas School Book Depository. It is believed the shots came from there. If you're facing it on Elm Street looking toward the building, it would be the upper-right-hand corner, the second window from the end."[11]

Haygood's quick specification of the Oswald window readily explains why critics have preferred to nominate Hargis as the officer on the Knoll.

On the Knoll

The Newmans' predicament and Haygood's disorientation misled much of the crowd then rushing over from Houston and Main, a circumstance long exploited by manipulative critics. MacNeil's immediate assumption was that Haygood was after an assailant.[12]

Adding to the confusion was the "high unison soprano wail" described by MacNeil: the sirens of the aborted motorcade on Stemmons, yet another inducement for latecomers to overtake the Knoll.

Harry Cabluck, a Fort Worth Star-Telegram photographer

aboard the bus MacNeil left, captured the lanky newsman and some teenagers running along Elm as the solitary Haygood nears the abutment.[13]

Cabluck's next picture depicts Haygood as he climbs the abutment post.[14]

Reaching the juncture of the railbridge and stockade fence, MacNeil remained long enough to observe police begin entering the railyard "to search the tracks and two trains." [15] MacNeil and the teenagers in the Cabluck picture are pictured in the Frank Cancellare photograph Weston refers to.[16]

The reporter then "ran along the top of the Grassy Knoll, looking for a phone," leading him to the Depository. MacNeil's hasty dispatch was logged in at 12:34 by NBC in New York. Long on conjecture and miscues, the bulletin is gold to Weston, who contends it "adds weight to the evidence" of a frontal assassin.

Agents of Subterfuge

Weston presents a litany of familiar bogus "Secret Service Agent" sightings, to which he adds the man Oswald encountered in his flight. What began as a common misperception has been inflated into mythical proportions.

Robert Groden maintains the "police officers [plural?] who rushed the Knoll in response to the shots" were deterred "by men who claimed to be Secret Service agents." [17] Harrison Livingstone (no stranger to hyperbole) romantically writes: "Men flashed Secret Service identification to Dallas policemen [?] and others who ran up the Grassy Knoll." [18]

The basis for this fanciful account turns out to be Officer Joseph M. Smith, who never rushed up the Knoll. Smith instead arrived at the parking lot from the intersection of Elm and Houston, where he was assigned to traffic duty.[19] Smith investigated that area because a woman yelled to him: "They are shooting the President from the bushes." [20]

In the parking lot some minutes later, he approached a man whose credentials Smith "did not examine closely." [21] Like Harkness, Weitzman and Craig, Officer Smith merely assumed some of the plainclothes detectives inundating the area (many on the order of Chief Curry and Sheriff Decker) were with the agency.

Civilians were also prone to this fallacy. Arnold Rowland supposed a casually dressed man he saw with a rifle at a Depository window was "a Secret Service man." [22] Could Oswald have made a similar wild assumption based on MacNeil's appearance and White House press badge?

The Right Place at the Right Time

Martin Shackelford and Gary Mack have disputed Gerald Posner's support for MacNeil, claiming Oswald instead encountered WFAA Program Director Pierce Allman. In a footnote, Weston cites CD 354 as proof of Allman's certainty. This document actually reveals that Allman (and a co-worker who was with him) refused to identify Oswald as the man they encountered; nor could Allman recall flashing his press pass.[23] Last fall, MacNeil stated the man he encountered "probably was Oswald." [24]

To counter MacNeil's consistent recollections, Weston places tenuous substance in a hearsay account by Secret Serviceman Thomas Kelley.[25] Assuming Kelley recalled the details accurately, Oswald (who lied repeatedly during interrogation) could have embellished aspects of the incident to make his assumed identification of the man seem more certain (not unlike Jean Hill). We have only Oswald's word that the man verbally announced his official station and produced "a book of identification." Weston takes literally the assassin's use of the term "young," but Oswald thought the man old enough to be a Secret Service Agent. MacNeil writes: "I am blond. My hair was very short then and I was wearing a White House press badge he might have mistaken for Secret Service." [26]

Weston claims MacNeil and Oswald both described encounters outside the Depository, near the front entrance. But a careful reading of Oswald's statement indicates he "about to leave" the building, while MacNeil has always specified he first spoke to someone after going "through the door."

The Three Calm Men

Weston makes much of MacNeil's failure to include the Oswald encounter in his November 30, 1963 statement to the FBI.[27]

Oswald himself mentioned the incident just once, in confidence to a Secret Service Agent whose presence may have triggered the recollection. MacNeil admits he thought this detail inconsequential until Manchester phoned him in June 1965.

With typical abandon, Weston jumps to extravagant conclusions in his interpretation of MacNeil's description of three men he encountered inside the Depository. By virtue of their "eerie calmness," Weston purports the trio was "performing some indispensable part" of the "assassination plot." [28] With such reasoning, Oswald's cool demeanor when confronted by

Officer Baker would represent empirical proof of his guilt.

More likely, the three men were employees at the Depository, calling acquaintances with the tragic news. It is also possible that MacNeil - - - who had just completed a hectic week - - - misstated the sequence of events. Thus the second "man nearer the door" was actually the first he spoke to, a cautious Oswald trying to be inconspicuous.

Groping in the Dark

Weston draws conclusions based on the wildest of speculations, leading to stinging charges of complicity against many of Oswald's fellow workers.

Speculation: Electrical power loss in the Depository from 12:25-12:33.

Resolved: This purported outage did not affect the rooftop Hertz clock sign or the Coke machine on the second floor. As John S. Craig has noted, Geneva Hine was no doubt referring to the indicator lights on her telephone console.[29] Returning from a brief sojourn, Hine recalls going "straight up to the desk because the telephones were beginning to wink; outside calls were beginning to come in."

The reason the west elevator - - - the only one of the two freight elevators that could be summoned - - - failed to respond to Truly's call was because Jack Dougherty was in the process of using it.[30] Why would conspirators risk detection by disabling the elevators? They could not have predicted that a police officer would rush into the building with someone knowledgeable about the elevators. Like Oswald, any conspirators would have used the rear stairway to escape, which is faster than the sluggish elevators and provides alternate routes.

Weston maintains police officers searching the building ordered floodlights because the Depository was "again plunged into darkness by a second power shutoff." [31] In fact, the upper floors of the building - - - where the police search concentrated - - - were used for the storage of book cartons and left dimly lit; light from the windows supplemented the low-wattage bulbs.

In connection with this, Weston has cited the accounts of several people who reported a loss of power to the freight elevators, ignoring the fact that not one of them had experience using the ancient devices. They likely failed to close the gate properly or manipulate the controls correctly.

Weston has also referred to the testimony of Victoria Adams

who, after leaving the building for a few minutes, tried to summon the passenger elevator only to discover "the power had been cut off." [32] However, Inspector Herbert V. Sawyer had taken that elevator to the fourth floor, possibly locking it in place while he searched that floor between about 12:34 and 12:37. [33]

Speculation: The brown coat man was seen standing next to a gunman on the fifth floor.

Resolved: Weston places unwarranted stock in Carolyn Walther's recollections. It is almost certain that the man Walther saw with "his forearms on the window" just as "someone in the crowd said 'Here they come'" was Harold Norman, seen doing the same in the Robert Hughes film. [34] Walther's "machine gun" was an embellishment after the fact (like Jean Hill's white dog and "Secret Servicemen").

Walther's "brown suitcoat" man was Bonnie Ray Williams, shown in the film to Norman's right in the same window. Bonnie Ray moved to the far edge of the adjoining window by the time of the Dillard photographs. [35] Researcher Dale K. Myers recently disproved the supposition that boxes were rearranged in the Oswald window. [36]

Speculation: Billy Lovelady and William Shelley were seen near the freight elevators at about 12:31.

Resolved: Lovelady and Shelley witnessed the initial stages of the parking lot search, which took a few minutes to organize. They entered the building no sooner than 12:34. [37]

Victoria Adams and Sandra Styles, who witnessed the assassination from a fourth floor window, claimed to have used the rear stairway within a minute of the shots. JFK shows Oswald overtaking the two women. Since they did not encounter Truly and Baker in the stairwell, nor recalled seeing those two men on the first floor, the women undoubtedly used the rear stairway sometime after Truly and Baker passed the fourth floor. [38]

Adams and Styles arrived on the first floor just as Lovelady and Shelley entered through the back entrance. The two men received their assignment to guard the elevators when Truly returned.

Speculation: Oswald came down from the second floor at 12:35.

Resolved: About two minutes after the shooting, Mrs. R.A. Reid encountered the assassin in the second floor open area on

his way to an exit that would have taken him downstairs. MacNeil's encounter places the fugitive Jurking near the front exit on the first floor about a minute later.

Speculation: Oswald speaks to foreman Shelley outside for 10 or 15 minutes.

Resolved: The basis for this contention rests entirely on statements made by Oswald as recorded in a November 25 FBI report by James Bookhout. [39] As noted above, Shelley remained with Lovelady well after the assassination; about the time Weston has Oswald meeting Shelley outside, Truly assigns him to guard the freight elevators.

Speculation: Oswald leaves the area in a Nash Rambler station wagon at 12:45.

Resolved: Only Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig thought the man who ran down the hill was Oswald. Pictures by Jim Murray and William Allen appear in Cover-Up showing such a car, but Craig is seen on north Elm, contrary to his statements where he places himself on south Elm. Craig's veracity can be gauged by his claim to have confronted Oswald with the observation - - an encounter denied by Captain Fritz - - and "Mauser" identification. [40]

Efforts to discredit Mrs. Bledsoe and William Whaley fail to recognize that both witnesses volunteered their information.

Oswald's shirt pocket contained the bus transfer with McWatters' distinctive punchmarks. During interrogation, the assassin conceded he had obtained the transfer and then taken a cab to his rooming house.

MacNeil's NewsHour

As with Best Evidence, William Weston's methodology - - fantastic speculation based on eyewitness impressions and wilful acts of miscomprehension - - leads to an improbable scenario. At its worst, such abuses deflect attention away from serious investigation and harms the general credibility of the critical community.

The MacNeil-Oswald encounter is a logical extension based on mutually corroborating accounts that conform to time restraints.

But could a young, brash reporter, intent on amassing facts, have innocently purported to be a Secret Service agent?

Although the enormity of the event led to unprecedented pool coverage among the rival networks, the initial instinct was to get the scoop. The classic example is that of UPI-

Merriman Smith who seized his pool car's only radiophone, then purposely stalled Jack Bell of AP by dictating the same take repeatedly.

Bell eventually wrenched the phone away only to discover the line dead.

When gunfire and sirens erupted, MacNeil rushed to get an edge on his competition, although he thought the incident a harmless protest. The NBC correspondent proudly writes:

"New York told me I had been ahead of the AP and the UPI with my first bulletin but it had taken them five minutes to get it on the air."[41]

MacNeil went to extraordinary lengths to reach Parkland, where he "was vastly relieved to be back in the right place to be covering the story." Now aware of the severity of the President's condition, MacNeil's competitive urges relaxed somewhat:

"I was the only reporter in the White House press corps who knew where the shooting came from and I filled the others in."[42]

Realizing his first bulletin from the Depository contained misinformation, the reporter "played it very carefully with NBC, cautioning them not to say more than we knew." That afternoon, NBC behaved the most responsibly, twice awaiting verification of newswire reports before major announcements. The network would not have another scoop until it carried live Tom Pettit's famous coverage of the Oswald transfer.

MacNeil spent the weekend "retracing Oswald's steps." By Sunday evening, his report "had more eyewitnesses" than DA Henry Wade.

MacNeil "and another NBC reporter stayed behind for about a week in Dallas doing our own amateurish investigation."

MacNeil's own career - - - as author and NewsHour co-anchor - - - does not reflect impetuous character. MacNeil is adamant: "I certainly did not identify myself as a Secret Serviceman!"[43] But Oswald bestowed on him that designation, marking one of the case's earliest misconceptions. Oswald's human error can be forgiven, but substituting his words with the most evil possible connotation is culpable. If researchers genuinely seek understanding and closure, then common sense and leniency would make better starting places.

Notes

1. Richard B. Trask, *Pictures of the Pain*, (Yeoman Press, 1994), p. 361.
2. Robert Groden, *The Killing of a President*, (Viking Studio Books, 1993), pp. 47-48; Harrison Livingstone, *Killing the Truth*, (Carroll & Graf, 1993), pp. 326-27; Jim Marrs, *Crossfire*, (Carroll & Gaff, 1990), p. 73; Gary Shaw and Larry Harris, *Cover-Up*, p. 134; Josiah Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, (Berkeley, 1967/76), pp. 129, 247. This view was also adopted by Robert Blakey and Gerald Posner. The debris was not blasted back to Hargis' position. Much of it was deposited over the Connallys, while skull and bullet fragments were driven to the front of the limo. The Zapruder film shows other matter was expelled slightly forward and upward. (Trask, p. 124, citing 1975 CBS/itek report) Because the limousine was traveling forward at 16 feet per second, much of the suspended matter was thought to have fallen behind the car. Hargis simply rode into the field of debris as it descended. (Posner, p. 316)
3. *Rush to Judgment*, (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1966), p. 42, citing 6 H 295.
4. Trask (p. 208) cites an undated Dallas Times Herald interview with Hargis, in which the officer states he "ran to the north side of Elm." Officer H.B. McLain reported Hargis fell before crossing Elm. (Gary Savage, *JFK First Day Evidence*, (The Shoppe Press, 1993), p. 370)
5. Trask, pp. 209, 268. Bond slide: see Trask, p. 208; Groden, pp. 45 center, 50 bottom (Groden erroneously credits this picture and a Hughes frame on p. 206 to Bell); Shaw, p. 5 top. Bell: see Trask, p. 268; Groden, p. 47. Life, November 24, 1967 (pp. 94-95) has images from both photographers. That Bond's first slide was taken some 20 seconds after the last shot - - - long enough for Hargis' dismount and return - - - can be demonstrated by the presence of James Altgens, who crossed Elm after photographing the limousine entering the Underpass. A Bond slide (Trask, p. 211 top) reveals Hargis and his cycle long gone, as the officer and his followers race up the Knoll to the railbridge. Hargis testified he thought shots might have come from the overpass, perhaps influenced (as so many have been) by the shock of the violent head snap. After riding through the Underpass, Hargis returned to the scene. At 12:34, he radioed: "A passerby states that shots came from the Texas School Book Depository." (David

- Lifton, *Best Evidence*, (Carroll & Graf, 1980/92), p. 365)
6. Trask, p. 156.
 7. Report of the Warren Commission [hereafter Warren Report], (Bantam, 1964) pp. 83, 572. William Manchester and David Lifton somehow combined Haygood with Hargis.
 8. Trask, p. 210, citing 6 H 297-98. Willis 6 (Trask, p. 175; Groden, p. 50 left center; Shaw, p. 137) shows Haygood's white helmet beneath the Fort Worth sign. Willis 7 (Trask, p. 176; Groden, p. 51 center) depicts him nearing the abutment. Towner 3 (Groden, pp. 51 bottom, 54) shows his abandoned motorcycle as followers - - including the naive MacNeil - - trail Haygood, and the first Press Bus enters the Underpass.
 9. Trask, p. 375; on page 426, Trask prints a Couch film clip showing the view Haygood had when he entered Elm Street. Trask indicates the front of his cycle likely appears in the extreme right of the Bothun picture (p. 156).
 10. Trask, pp. 403, 427; Shaw, pp. 154-55. A film sequence by Robert Hughes also captured Haygood dismounting as spectators from Main flood the area. (Trask, p. 266)
 11. Lifton, pp. 365-66; Warren Report, p. 572. Groden (p. 53) and Savage (p. 407) attribute this transmission to #22: Patrolman L.L. Hill. Lifton relates "the tape and Haygood's own testimony established that this is incorrect," assigning the error to the FBI transcriber. (Lifton, n. on p. 366)
 12. I have based MacNeil's activities on Chapter 13 of his book, *The Right Place at the Right Time* (Little, Brown & Co., 1982) and an interview he gave on CBC Morning News, CBC Newsworld, November 22, 1993.
 13. Trask, p. 333; Shaw, p. 134. A Bond slide (Trask, p. 210; Groden, p. 51 top; Shaw, p. 97 top) depicts MacNeil on the sidewalk just ahead of the Press Bus. MacNeil is also visible in a film sequence by Jimmy Darnell, which Trask describes on page 423. Darnell's three brief b/w film clips immediately follow the Zapruder film segment in "Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald,?" PBS, November 16, 1993. Richard Trask suggests the running man in the suit "is quite possibly Dallas Morning News reporter Kent Biffle, who was a passenger in the car between Cabluck's and the next bus." In a January 24, 1993 letter to me, Robert MacNeil positively identified himself as the man in the Cabluck picture.
 14. Trask, p. 334. The fence section through which critics like Livingstone and Grant Leitma contend an assassin fired is completely boarded.
 15. MacNeil, p. 208. This observation dissolves Gary Mack's view that the railyard held just a "solitary passenger car [with] no switch engine or any other train for hundreds of feet in either direction." (Decade, July 1994, p. 19) As proof, Mack cites the McIntire pictures which (as usual) he doesn't publish. Thankfully, McIntire's second picture is published on page 472 of Pictures of the Pain, revealing a light commuter two-car train next to the three Katy business cars. This juxtaposition is confirmed by an aerial photo taken that afternoon. (Trask, p. 350)
 16. Trask, p. 405; Groden, p. 49.
 17. Groden, pp. 47, 60.
 18. Livingstone, p. 82.
 19. Robert Blakey and Richard Billings, *Fatal Hour*, (Berkeley, 1981/92), p. 101; Marrs, p. 74. Smith had his back to the Depository and could venture no opinion as to the source of shots because of the strong echo effect.
 20. Thompson, p. 163, citing 7 H 535. Possibly, this woman mistook as assailants the black couple who fled from the retaining wall corner just after the fatal shot.
 21. HSCA Report, (USGPO, 1979), p. 184. In 1978 interviews, Weitzman, Harkness and Ronald Fischer "stated that they had surmised that any plainclothes individual in the company of uniformed police officers must have been a Secret Service agent." (HSCA Report, p. 184, n. 25 on p. 625) FBI Agent James Hosty told the Committee that Frank Ellsworth, a local ATF officer with the Treasury Department, had identified himself as a Secret Serviceman, a claim Ellsworth subsequently denied. According to a 1967 interview by Mark Lane with Secret Service Agent Abraham Bolden, rumors that "an unauthorized person had used Secret Service credentials in Dallas on November 22" prompted a service-wide credential check on November 27. (*A Citizen's Dissent*, (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1968), p. 193)
 22. Trask, p. 572, citing 7 H 351.
 23. CD 354 (late January 1964 interviews with James Powell, Terry Ford, and Allman) appears in Thompson, pp. 412-13.
 24. On page 209 of *The Right Place at the Right Time*, MacNeil recounts exiting the Depository, where a hysterical woman drew her attention to his press badge.
 25. Kelley's report, dated November 29, 1963, was published in the Warren Report (pp. 562-65).

26. MacNeil, p. 213.
27. Concerning this omission, MacNeil wrote me: "It was certainly in the account I wrote several days after the assassination and published as a chapter in my book *The Right Place at the Right Time*."
28. George O'Toole also applied undue speculation to MacNeil's FBI statement (*The Assassination Tapes*, (Penthouse, 1975), pp. 227-28). O'Toole theorized the two lights on the office phone noticed by MacNeil indicated Oswald was on the second floor receiving a call from his "Bureau contact" on the first floor phone --- a conjecture presented in the JFK travesty. However, Mrs. Reid did not observe Oswald using a phone in the open office area on the second floor, nor did the lunchroom contain a telephone.
29. *Third Decade*, March 1993, p. 22.
30. Warren Report, p. 143. This could explain why Dougherty failed to notice Oswald passing through the fifth floor.
31. "The Fifth Floor Sniper," *Third Decade*, May 1993, p. 31.
32. *Third Decade*, March 1993, p. 23.
33. Warren Report, p. 146.
34. Thompson, pp. 299-302. Excellent blowups of the Hughes film appear in *Frontline* (1993).
35. Perhaps this explains the "radically different configuration of images in the extreme southeast window of the fifth floor than that which is depicted in the Dillard photo." (*Third Decade*, May 1993, inside front cover) Weston is equally adventurous with his claim that the Dillard pictures were taken during the March 20, 1964 reconstruction. (May 1993, p. 26) However, the recreation photographs all show overcast conditions, while those of Dillard show the Depository's façade in full sunlight. Weston finds it odd that Williams and Norman are depicted in the Dillard photographs "looking at nothing in particular [and] waiting for something to happen." Even odder is that Weston had written on the preceding page (May 1993, p. 25) that the rush of people up the Knoll impelled "them to make the headlong dash to the westend window." This outside activity had yet to materialize when Dillard took his pictures, so the men had no reason to leave their position.
36. "Secrets of a Homicide: Exploring the JFK Assassination," Video Toaster User, November 1994, pp. 41-42.
37. Posner, p. 264.
38. Warren Report, p. 144.
39. Bookhout's report, described by Weston as "little known," appeared in the Warren Report (pp. 556-67).
40. Posner, p. 259; Warren Report, p. 151; Savage, pp. 139-65.
41. MacNeil, p. 210.
42. *Ibid.*, p. 211. When MacNeil entered the Depository, he encountered two witnesses who saw a rifleman in one of its windows. (p. 208)
43. Letter of January 24, 1993.

AN INDIANA RIFLE UPDATE

by

Sheldon Inkol

The following information comes from "The Indiana Rifle," an article I had published in the July, 1993 issue of *The Third Decade*.

A man checked into a seventh floor room at the Terre Haute House Hotel the night of November 25, 1963, registering under the name of Harry L. Power and giving a false San Antonio address. The hotel was across the street from the Democrat and Republican headquarters in Terre Haute. An unspecified threat was made against "a local official" and, on the morning of November 26, security was tightened around Governor of Indiana Matthew Welsh in Indianapolis. The man left the hotel the next day, leaving a disassembled 7.65 mm German Mauser behind. Subsequent investigation revealed that Harry L. Power had been in the Army, and was a top marksman and an outspoken member of the Young Communist League. The Terre Haute police suspected that someone might be using the name as an alias. According to Frank Riddle, Terre Haute's Chief of Police at the time, the FBI tried to link Power's presence at the hotel to a local political rally held near the hotel that night, and Power was also suspected of being involved in an attempt on the life of

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