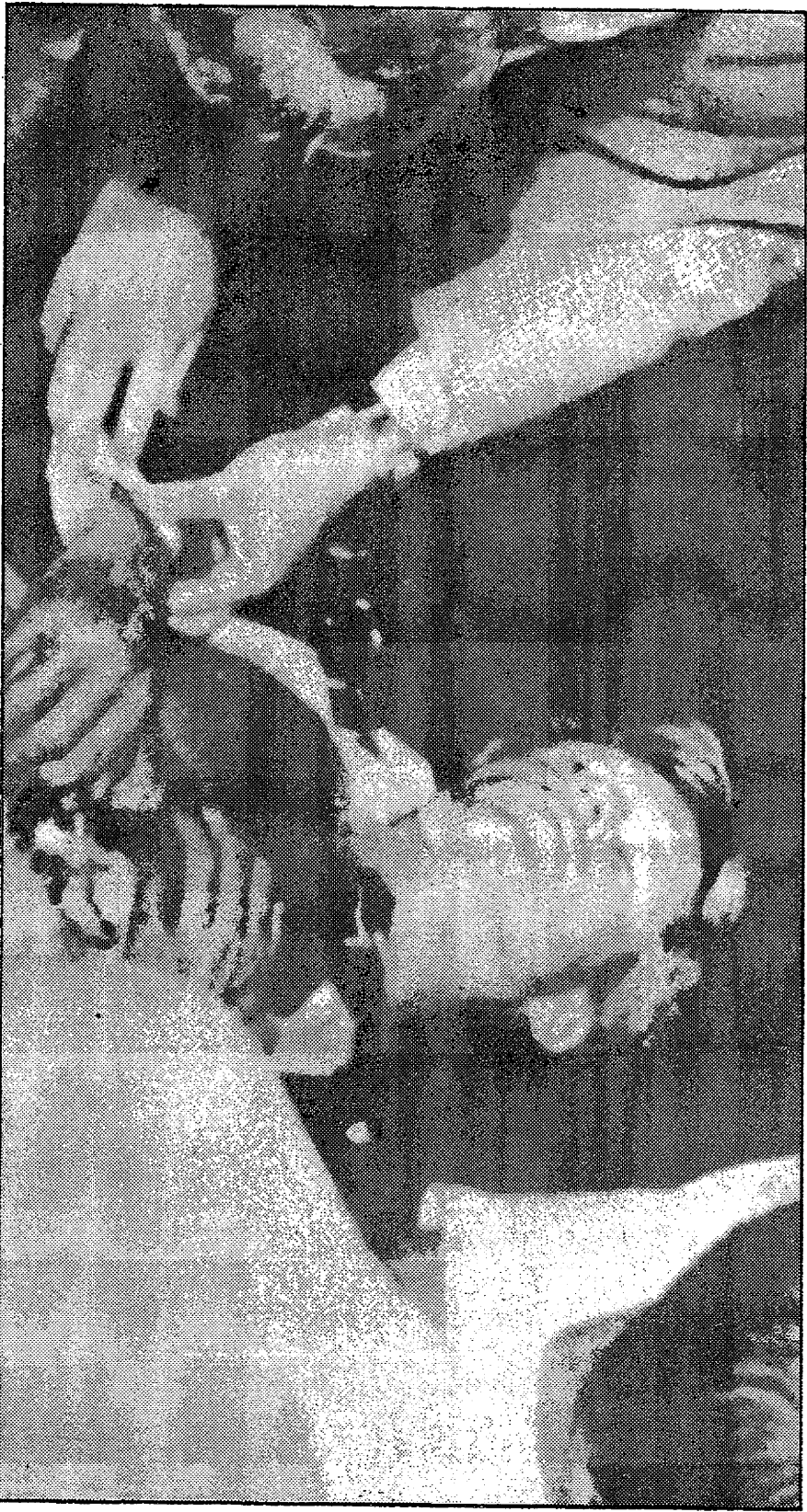


THE NATIONAL **TATTLEER**

PRESENTS A SPECIAL REPORT



*Six years after this horrible moment when Robert Kennedy lay dying, ballistics experts say Sirhan didn't fire the fatal bullet, and a massive amount of evidence has been accumulated to prove the official investigation didn't uncover the true story.*

# The Vanishing Weapon

# The Official Verdict on Sirhan is Wrong. Someone Else Killed RFK. Read the Facts.

Sen. Robert Francis Kennedy, brother of a slain President and youthful heir to his political dynasty, was shaking hands with a \$75-a-week dishwasher when, suddenly, gunshot sounds reverberated like a string of fire crackers through the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. It was a few minutes past midnight June 5, 1968 — almost exactly six years ago.

Seconds later, the Senator lay dying on the hotel's kitchen floor as supporters wrestled down and then sat upon a young Arab immigrant who appeared to have been firing a pistol wildly.

Hopes for a second Kennedy in the White House, buoyed by the young Senator's upset victory in the California Democratic primary, were dead.

Los Angeles authorities were confident they had a cut-and-dried case with the seizure of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. Sam Yorty, the city's highly conservative mayor, even jumped into the affair — for which he was later officially reprimanded — and revealed scribbles in notebooks reportedly found in Sirhan's home. One notation, Yorty said, stated Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968 — the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war. Sirhan was tried by California and found guilty the following year — his own lawyer did not dispute his guilt and he was sentenced to die in the gas chamber. Sirhan's death sentence was commuted to life when the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed capital punishment. But in the six years following Bobby

Kennedy's assassination, evidence has been piling up that Sirhan did not act alone during the episode in the hotel kitchen.

Much of this evidence has been documented by a California free-lance broadcast journalist, Theodore Charach, who produced a 117-minute documentary film, "The Second Gun," which has not been released nationally.

Charach's documentation, bolstered by extensive research and interviews by TATTLER's staff, has been employed in this special 12-page section, which details why more than one gunman was involved in Sen. Kennedy's assassination — and how Sirhan Sirhan may not have fired the fatal shots at all.

**SOME OF THE EVIDENCE** within these pages:

- Statements by two of the nation's leading ballistics experts that at least two separate guns were involved in the assassination.
- The account of Don Schulman, a television station employee, who was an eyewitness to the assassination. Minutes after the shooting, he said he saw Sirhan fire his gun and saw a security guard draw a gun and fire back. Police discounted Schulman's story, claiming he was not in the kitchen pantry at the time. But a Los Angeles Police Department report shows that Schulman was in the pantry at the time.
- An interview with a security guard, Thane Eugene Cesar, who admitted to

Charach that he drew his gun after Kennedy was shot but he quickly contended he did not fire it. Cesar said he was carrying a .38-caliber weapon while serving as a private Kennedy bodyguard, but he — despite his sworn testimony to the contrary — also owned a .22-caliber pistol, the same caliber as the one that killed the Senator. He sold the .22 pistol after the assassination and the weapon was reported stolen in Arkansas.

• The fact that while Los Angeles police insisted their extensive investigation showed no persons of right-wing political persuasion were near the pantry tumult, Cesar, the security guard, said later in an interview that he opposed both John and Bobby Kennedy and feared blacks and Communists were trying to take over the country.

• Results of the Kennedy autopsy performed by Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, the Los Angeles county coroner, which lend credence to the "second gun" theory. Noguchi's findings were that the bullet that killed Kennedy was fired from inches behind him. Some witnesses said Sirhan was standing well in front of Kennedy when he fired.

• The resulting speculation, especially by forensic experts, that the bullets fired by Sirhan wounded the five surviving victims and that it was a second gunman who fired the shot that killed the Senator.

• Psychological examinations conducted by Dr. Edward Simson, of Sirhan while Simson was chief psychologist at San Quentin

prison. The physician claims there is a strong possibility that Sirhan did not write the notorious "diary" that was a strong factor in his conviction.

Dr. Simson's strong dissent from the findings of a team of court psychiatrists and psychologists who concluded Sirhan was a "paranoid schizophrenic." Simson, in fact, calls the Sirhan case "the psychiatric blunder of the 20th Century."

Many other discrepancies add weight to the demands that the Robert Kennedy assassination investigation be reopened to dispel the mystery that surrounds it.

At present this objective is being pursued in two ways.

1. Baxter Ward, a powerful member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and a candidate for governor of California, has announced a new public investigation of the new allegations and new evidence we are publishing.

2. Godfrey Isaac, prominent Beverly Hills attorney, has been retained to seek a new trial for Sirhan, he revealed to TATTLEER. He said he feels a court will find that the evidence will show Sirhan should receive a second trial.

In short, virtually all of the Robert Kennedy assassination story that is known to date is being published together in the TATTLEER issue you now hold.

## An Exclusive Interview With Mary Sirhan, The Convicted Assassin's Mother

# 'I Know That With All We Have Found out, the Time Will Come That He Will Have a New Trial,' Says She

By VAUN WILMOTT  
Of the Tarter Staff

Mary Sirhan insists her son, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, did not go to the Ambassador Hotel deliberately to kill Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. "It just happened," Mrs. Sirhan told TATTLER in an exclusive interview. "My son was there, but he didn't go as they said ... deliberately to kill."

The 62-year-old Arab mother said she is convinced new evidence and her faith in God will result in her son being granted a new trial.

"I believe in God very strongly," she said. "I know that with all we have found out, the time will come that he will have a new trial."

Mrs. Sirhan said she is unhappy with the legal representation her son has received by his various lawyers.

"SO FAR, it's been six years and until now my son never even had a defense," she said. She revealed that the Sirhan family is negotiating with another attorney to take up her son's cause. That man, TATTLER learned, is Godfrey Isaac, a prominent Beverly Hills, Calif. attorney.

Sirhan, 34, is serving life in the California state prison at San Quentin on a first degree murder conviction. A jury initially sentenced Sirhan to die in the gas chamber for the June 5, 1968, murder of Senator Kennedy.

The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment after the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed capital punishment. Mrs. Sirhan vigorously criticized Grant Cooper, the attorney who represented Sirhan at his trial, for not presenting a different defense.

"Look at what the people say in the tran-

script," she said. "It's not me; I don't say it. "The transcript quotes Cooper as saying, 'I'm not here to free a guilty man.' A defense (lawyer) should say this?' asked the determined mother.

She remarked that her son, who was wrestled to the floor firing a revolver when Kennedy and five other persons were shot, has adamantly insisted he doesn't remember what happened before and during the shooting.

"HE HAS TOLD THEM that many times. And he spoke the truth," said Mrs. Sirhan. The mother said she has escaped being harassed by the public because her son is a convicted assassin.

"People comfort me because they know me; they know my son," Mrs. Sirhan said. "I wish all the people would know my son. He is not a giant; he is a simple person."

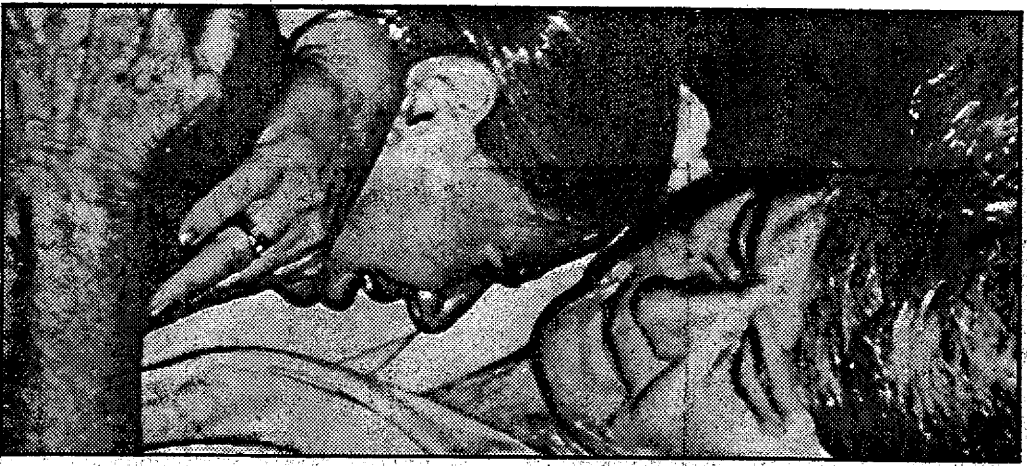
Unlike Marguerite Oswald, the mother of the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, Mary Sirhan is not interested in commercializing on her infamous son.

"There is a book they made now," she said. "You don't know what they made with that. We never would do such a thing. I myself will not accept any money from such a thing because that would be like blood money."

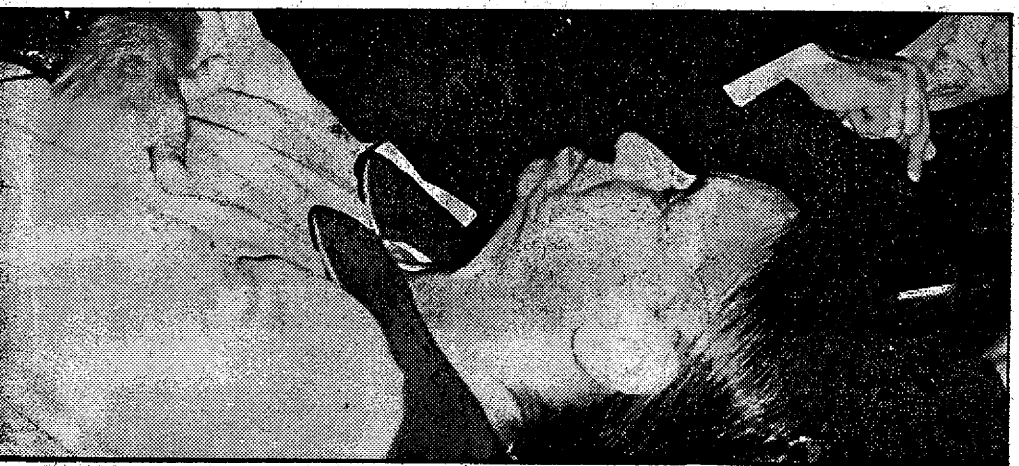
MRS. SIRHAN expressed concern over certain threatening letters her son has received in prison.

"But we have somebody who really takes care of him," the mother said. "God in heaven. He's the only One who watches him."

"Many times he used to tell me, 'Mom, the gas chamber is only a few steps away from me, but God puts it down there ... not people.'"



MRS. SIRHAN WHEN SON WAS HELD.



MRS. SIRHAN TODAY: SHE'S 62.

## One of the Nation's Top Criminologists Checked Clues & Found:

# 'CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST THAT TWO GUNMEN HAD TO BE TRACKED'

The man credited with providing the first scientific evidence that more than one gun was used in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has received nothing but ridicule as his reward.

The first forensic scientist to dispute the official findings in the assassination probe was William W. Harper of Pasadena, Calif., a leading criminologist for almost 40 years.

Harper, acting unofficially, spent months investigating the assassination in 1970. He made careful studies of trial evidence, including bullets and shell cases, the report of the Kennedy autopsy, autopsy photographs and portions of the trial testimony.

THE VETERAN criminologist concluded that two .22-caliber weapons were involved in the assassination and they were fired by two gunmen from different points.

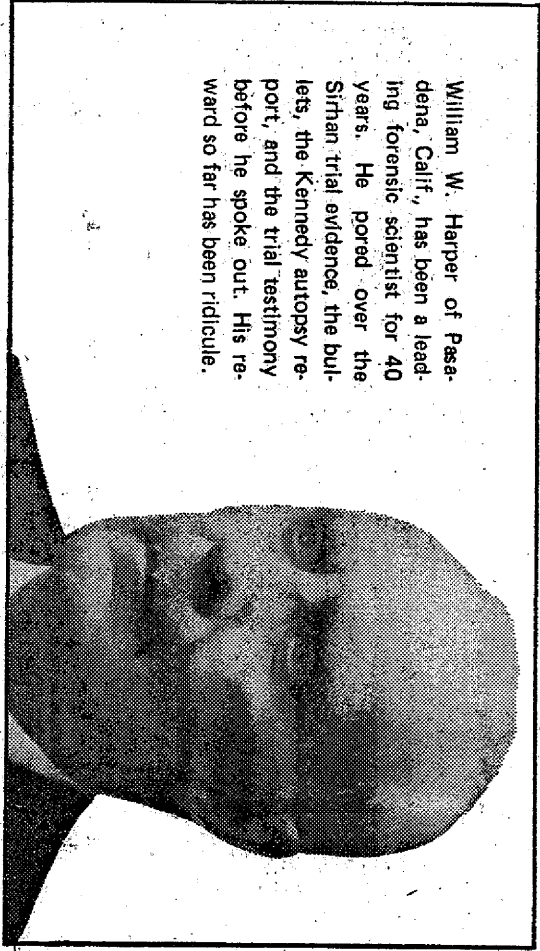
The five surviving victims, Harper found, were wounded by Sirhan Sirhan while the shots that killed Kennedy were fired by a second gunman.

These findings came from an expert with extensive qualifications. For seven years he was in charge of the technical laboratory of the Pasadena Police Department. During World War II he was in charge of technical investigation for U.S. Naval Intelligence at San Diego.

A fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, he has qualified as an expert in courts in seven states. During his lengthy career he has been a ballistics expert in more than 300 deaths involving firearms.

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William W. Harper of Pasadena, Calif., has been a leading forensic scientist for 40 years. He pored over the Sirhan trial evidence, the bullets, the Kennedy autopsy report, and the trial testimony before he spoke out. His reward so far has been ridicule.



Now in failing health, Harper declined a lengthy interview with TATTLER on orders from his doctors. But his extensive correspondence on his probe of the Kennedy assassination evidence reveals his fascination with the bizarre case.

HARPER POSES an interesting question: What position would the Los Angeles police have taken had Sirhan Sirhan escaped the assassination scene without having been seen by witnesses? The assumption is that the autopsy, medical reports and other physical evidence remain what they are today.

"Upon completion of the autopsy it would have been immediately evident that the Senator had been fired on by some gunman in close proximity to him and to his right and

rear," Harper said. Sirhan was standing in front of Kennedy when he fired a volley of shots from a handgun, it is agreed.

Would the gunman, Harper asks, then have turned and fired indiscriminately into the crowd following Kennedy?

"THESE CIRCUMSTANCES would suggest to any experienced homicide detective, as well as to any criminalist, that two guns were involved and two gunmen had to be tracked down," Harper concludes.

Harper claims Sirhan's capture with his gun at the scene caused a mesmerization of the investigative efforts.

"The well-established teachings of criminalistics and forensic pathology were cast aside and by-passed in favor of a more

expedient solution and, unfortunately, an erroneous over-simplification," Harper said. Harper is outspoken in his belief that the Kennedy murder case should be reopened.

"There are too many things about this that point in one direction, and I think that the Kennedy family should by all means be interested in this, because the next probably will be Ted Kennedy, and then it will go on down the line - any of them," the criminologist said.

HARPER NOTED that he is the only criminologist active on the West Coast who has no affiliation with any law enforcement agency.

The veteran detective began studying the evidence and reaching his conclusion after reading the book "Special Unit Senator," former Los Angeles Chief of Detectives Robert A. Houghton's account of the Kennedy investigation.

In correspondence with journalist Theodore Charach, Harper noted that since he started his investigation of the evidence, the district attorney's office and police officials began spreading rumors to discredit him.

Journalist Charach used Harper as a key figure in his film, "The Second Gun," to back up his theory that more than one gunman was involved in the assassination.

Harper said he is convinced that police bungled the ballistics investigation of Kennedy's death.

"If they get by with this," he said, "then you can say that the science of criminalistics was buried when they buried Robert Kennedy."