

# Man claims he found live bullet buried under top of grassy knoll

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By EARL GOLZ

A Dallas man said he found a live round .45-caliber bullet, corroded and buried about 4 inches in the ground, at the top of the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza.

Acoustics experts now contend a second gunman fired at President John F. Kennedy from the knoll in 1963.

Hal Luster said Friday he told a representative of the House Assassinations Committee Sept. 11 about the bullet, but he hasn't heard anything from the panel since his telephone call.

Luster, who sells reconditioned office machines, said he found the cartridge while searching for coins with a metal detector in May 1976. "I spent several hours there look-

ing around for coins," Luster said. "All the coins I found were dated later than the assassination, but the bullet was buried deeper."

The steel-jacketed round-nose bullet originally was developed for military automatic handguns. It inflicts great damage to a human body when fired from a range of 50 yards or less, but generally is not very accurate beyond that distance. It also has a loud muzzle blast.

The head stamp on the cartridge reads "USC Co. 18," which gun experts say stands for the now defunct U.S. Cartridge Co. and a 1918 date of manufacture.

Luster said he found the bullet behind the 4-foot-high cement retaining wall leading from the west end of the white pergola atop

the grassy knoll. It was buried in dirt where the wall connects with the pergola, only a few feet to the left of where Abraham Zapruder was standing when he filmed Kennedy being shot.

The other end of the wall is less than 25 yards from the spot where Kennedy was shot. It also is closer to Elm Street than the wooden fence, which is a few feet behind.

Robert Groden, a staff photographic consultant for the house panel, has claimed for years a man armed with a rifle and standing in a classic military firing position at the end of the retaining wall is visible in movie film taken by amateur photographer Orville Nix. He also claims he can see the man through

the foliage in several frames of the Zapruder film.

Acoustics experts told the house panel this week they have "95 percent" proof four shots were fired at Kennedy and that the third shot came from the grassy knoll, not from the Texas School Book Depository.

The sound of the third shot, however, is now considered by the audio experts to be a rifle, not a pistol.

When the Cambridge, Mass., acoustical firm of Bolt, Beranek and Newman test fired guns in Dealey Plaza last summer, both a rifle and a pistol were used from behind the wooden fence atop the grassy knoll. No shots were test fired from behind the retaining wall.