

5809 East Rosewood St.,
Tucson, Arizona. 85711
April 18, 1969.

Miss Sylvia Meagher,
c/o Bobbs Merrill Co.,
My dear Miss Meagher:

Would it interest you to know that the Warren Report contains within itself proof, not evidence but proof, that Lee Harvey Oswald did not fire the shots that first wounded and then killed President Kennedy? That those shots were not fired from the sixth floor of the Depository nor from any other place within or on the building? That the shots were, instead, fired from about ground level from a point a short distance west of the building?

This point, the sniper's post, is about half way between the southeast corner of the building and the "knoll" and is about the central point which will satisfy the opinions most of the people present appear to have had as to where the shots came from. It is also about the nearest ^{to an} ideal sniper's post in the area for this particular crime. Many have wondered why the sniper in the window did not fire while the President was approaching on Houston Street or on the turn and the grade before he went behind the big oak and so did I when I was in Dallas on Jan. 18, 1964. But the actual assassin could not have fired until about the time he did. He was blocked by the trees and the crowd. Incidentally Mr. Kennedy started to wave in Zapruder frame 206 and was waving during frame 207 and 208 but had abruptly stopped by frame 209. He was probably shot between frame 207 and 208. Willis whose no. 5 was, he said, snapped when he was startled by the sound. It would have taken about three frames or a little less for the sound to reach Willis while the bullet would get to the victim in a frame or ~~two~~ less.

Would it also interest you to know that the "re-enactment" also contains proof that the Report is false because the was. This is proved by the Views Through The Rifle Scope on Commission Exhibits 889, 891, 893 etc., especially 893. The bullet fired as shown in those photographs could never have inflicted Mr. Kennedy's shoulder-throat wound. If you look, you will see that the vertical crosshair is almost off the right side of the neck and thus the bullet would little more than graze the neck on the right side and, instead of exiting through the throat, would plunge down into the chest and probably make exit through the rib cage. The falsity of the re-enactment is ^{also} ~~is~~ proved by the false language on pages 104 through 107 and the false calculation of a false angle on page 106. ^{It is} also proved by the autopsy report which says that the bullet entered $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the point of right shoulder and "just over the border of the scapula." It says the exit was through certain rings which I cannot identify but FBI Exhibit 60 shows the nick on the collar band made by the bullet so it made exit at almost exactly the upper level of the clavicle. The scapula and the clavicle are at very nearly exactly the same level so this vertical angle is very small indeed. By being generous it works out to $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. But there is also a horizontal angle which is quite wide. Mr. Kennedy had a shoulder width of about $18\frac{1}{2}$, possibly $18\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Thus from the wound to the midline of the body was $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The exit wound was about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to the left of the midline so the

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angle to the President's right of a line drawn through the two wounds would have been 43 to 45 degrees. This large angle was wholly neglected by everyone, the Commission, the ~~boys~~ boys and Mr. Rankin who set up the fake and all the critics and protagonists. I know of only one person who mentioned ballistics specifically and that was the late Robert Ruark. He said in an article published on Oct. 9, 1964 that he had read the Report scrupulously three times and the ballistics aspects made no sense. And he was quite right.

Would it interest you further to know that though Mr. Robert A. Frazier says that the rifle was accurate, his own figures for the test firing he did tell another story? Those figures are in Vol. III of the Hearings. They show an inaccurate rifle and an even more inaccurate scope. At 60 yards the ~~scope~~ scope, according to Frazier's own figures, had a potential miss of 13 inches. Actually he fudged some of his figures or did a lot of work on the scope for it, as he says, the scope placed the shots 4 inches high at 45 yards it should have placed them more than 16 inches high at 60 yards and he would have had a potential miss at that range of 18 inches. Similarly with the same setting the scope would have placed the shots about 28 inches high at 100 yards and he would have had a total miss potential of about 31 inches. When it comes to lying, Mr. Frazier may not be tops but he is in the running. Of course, it meant his job if he told the truth. And he did not always lie. Nobody but an idiot would fire a gun without first testing it and nobody who had tested that gun would have tried to hit anything with it. One could make some Fourth of July noise with it and that is about all.

There is more but let it wait.

As for my part, ~~I~~ my health from the last months of 1963 through most of 1964 and again in 1965 and, to some extent in 1966, ranged between fairly good and dangerous so it at least inhibited my doing any investigating. In any case, I supposed somebody else would get around to the ballistics but none has. Had Robert Ruark lived he would. I was moved to think of anyone else who even mentioned the CBS review of the "re-enactment" and it, obviously, didn't "re-enact" anything. So, after doing a couple of other things I had to do, I accumulated some data and, two or three months later, started to work.

The study of material in the Report didn't take much time and in a few months I had worked up a number of study sketches and three articles which I called THROUGH THE RIFLE SCOPE, TESTIMONY OF THE WOUNDS and THE FATAL WOUND. Beginning a little over a year ago, I tried to get somebody to publish them but nobody was interested and, for the most part, they simply did not seem to understand the nature of what I had. What I had worked up was absolute proof unless the autopsy report was false and anyone who attacked me would have had to attack the report and prove the report made by Bethesda Naval Hospital to be false.

Now I am, in some sense, a disapprover of that report but only on the ground that it is sloppy and was poorly performed. I believe that it is basically correct and have said that if FBI Exhibits 59 and 60 are authentic (the President's coat and shirt) then I can prove that the autopsy report is correct for the body wounds. The head wound report is correct for other reasons. First of all, there ~~is~~ the Zapruder film and some others and there is the topography of Dealey Plaza. For instance, if the neck wound had been made by a frontal shot

from the "knoll" the bullet would have been travelling downward and to the President's left so the exit wound would have been an inch or so below the entry wound and to the left of the spine with corresponding rents in the coat and shirt. Unless the clothing also are faked, there are no such rents. The downward angle from the "knoll" to the throat wound would have been about 5 1/2 degrees, the distance about 150 ft. The Dallas doctors, like everybody else but the various police forces, seemed in much too big a hurry to get into the act. Gun shot wounds in the throat are not common and I doubt that Dr. Perry ever saw one before. And then the flesh and skin on the throat are loose and relatively flabby so that it could not be as easy to determine whether the wound was of entry or of exit as it would be for a wound anywhere else on the body. The firm flesh of the shoulder was elastic while that of the throat was just flabby like every other throat.

And then small arms fire with smokeless powder does not produce "puffs of smoke" but, at most, thin wisps of white smoke hardly visible for as much as 10 feet. Guns do flash but the flash of even a 6 inch howitzer or a large naval rifle is not visible in full daylight to say nothing of bright sunlight such as there was that day. I have personally fired many types of guns up to and including light field guns and have seen many more firings and of all sizes up to and including large naval rifles.

To continue with my manuscript experiences: After it seemed clear that I could not get the articles published, I thought to review certain work already done, see if I could find something new and then add my new material to form a fairly short book. I decided to stick to the guns except Ruby's and call the work THE TESTIMONY OF THE GUNS. I began with the Mauser and could find no reason to believe that 5 men, all of whom must have seen a Mauser to know it and especially Fritz, a veteran of 42 years on the Dallas police, would not know a Mauser when they saw it and to one who knows guns, the Mauser and the Carcano do not look alike. As it happens, I own one of each. Next I took up the appearances in various reports, through all of its several supposed and verbal gun shipped from Klein's and the other appearances of the gun until it was displayed by the police on the evening of November 22. And, as you point out, there may have been two rifles or more than two of the same serial number. Then I took up the three shells by the window all of which with the live round had been in other guns. And one of those shells was crimped, evidently by means of a center punch and hammer, and could not have been fired in that time and place. And then the rifle is not a repeater unless it has a clip. I know... I just checked.

Then I took up the brown paper bag, a piece of foolishness. A perfect waste of time for nobody carries a rifle in a paper sack even if the sack is long enough. Just wrap and tie it and a rifle is far more easy to handle in every way if assembled. And that bag was crimped by being doubled lengthwise twice and the folds were deep and firm. If Oswald made the bag in Irving, why fold it? Oddly enough, the bag was 38 inches long... and there are a number of Mauser carbines just about 38 inches long and one made for Argentina is only 36 3/4 inches long. Then I took up the eyewitness with the bad eyesight who could not possibly have seen what he said he saw and showed that he did not and could not have identified anybody. He said he saw a man at the window wearing a white shirt and so did 5 other witnesses but that man was not Oswald. The FBI and the Commission did not get together on

the color of the shirt but both agree that it was of dark color. So by the testimony of 6 witnesses the man at the window was not Oswald. And, to revert, no traces of the gun, which was said to have been well oiled, was found in the bag and that is not possible. So the gun was never in the bag.

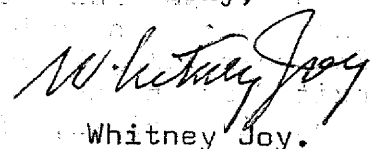
O.P. Wright, Director of Security for the Dallas Hospital District insists that the bullet found by Tomlinson on the stretcher was pointed nosed and not round nosed. One of Jedgar's boys must have done a little salting. Anyhow, the bullet was probably not found on either Kennedy's stretcher or that of Connally but on that of a little boy who was brought in 14 minutes after Connally.

Thus I followed through and found that when all of Mrs. Markham's testimony is considered that she not only did not identify Oswald at any time - she said "I couldn't be sure *" but her time schedule on her way to work, her regular routine when she worked, put her at the intersection of Tenth and Patton at a bit before 1:08 and the radio logs indicate that Tippit was shot just after 1:08 to say nothing of the testimony of Bowley and Benevides. Mrs. Markham was due to catch her bus, a long block and one or two street intersections away at 1:15 as was her wont and go to her work at the Eatwell Cafe where she made the two to ten shift. She said she left home at 1:00 sooo...Oswald could not have been the man she saw and the man she described was not Oswald and neither was the man Benevides described. In January 1964 Domingo Benevides' brother Ed was killed by gun fire apparently in mistaken identity. Since he testified before Counsel Belin, Benevides has "got religion" and now subscribes to the story of the police. No doubt he had to if he wanted to live.

It would seem that Officer McDonald stopped to talk to two men in the theater before he reached Oswald in order to pick up Oswald's pistol. It also seems that that pistol had a bent firing pin when examined after McDonald turned it over and could not fire. Yet it had been used to kill Tippit and ~~was~~ had supposedly been in ~~the~~ the arrest. Query: How did the firing pin get bent? Nobody answered this question...in fact nobody asked it. Thus Oswald could not have had the gun in his possession. The police would have wanted him to have a gun that would not fire but he would not have wanted such a gun.

All in all, I typed up some 300 sheets in 20 chapters and sent out about two dozen inquiries. One editor said he would like to see the ms. but, after several weeks, he is returning it on the grounds that it is "too technical." I am sure that is not the reason for there are only a few technical terms used and they but a few times. ~~k*~~ As Fred Cook wrote me, "they've all gone Establishment." My query is: What do I do now?

Most sincerely,


Whitney Joy.

Over
About the clip: It is a six shot clip. When the last round from the clip is loaded into the chamber, the clip falls out through the bottom of the magazine. An empty clip cannot be inserted into the magazine so that it will stay there. Thus no clip in the gun as found.

I am sorry this thing is getting so long. It had never occurred to me before that a series of wounds could be analyzed mathematically but, because of the topography and the angles, some of these can.

At the time of the assassination I lived in So. Cal. and had to come here to get out of the fog which was filling my lungs with pus. We got the San Diego paper which must be about the worst big city paper in the country. Thus I depended almost wholly on television for my knowledge of the shoulder-throat wound and I think its nature was pretty clear to me almost by the evening of November 23. I know there was a lot of other reports but the wound as reported in the autopsy was the most consistent. Half a dozen or more witnesses said that the President was knocked to his left and all but one said forward or words to that effect. As for the head wound, I should think the Zapruder film should be about enough on that. No sign of any strike by more than one bullet is shown on the film and the wound is very clear after about frame 314 which is still a little misty. Frame 313 shows flesh, bone and brain matter ballooning out and two strong and many small streamers moving sharply out to the left front and into the wind. The fairly strong south-south west wind explains much that has been seen, such as spraying the motorcycle policemen to the left. They would have been sprayed wind or no. That sharp movement of the head to the rear is explained by a principle of elementary physics in a section that is or was known as "Composition and Resolution of Forces." The bullet struck about 1 inch to the right and just above the occipital protuberance, that is, off center to the right. If you have your cue ball at an end of the table and want to knock a ball into the side pocket when it is near the center of the table how do you hit it? The bullet striking where and from the direction it did, acted like two forces, one in the direction of the bullet and one in the direction of the centerline of the head, that is, to the left. The head was driven forward in the path of the bullet and then, not being a free body, snapped toward the back. It had to move both ways as near simultaneously as possible.

~~Pennsylvania and California.~~ Allergies won't let me do much though I could work at my job most of the time. But the calendar sort of caught up with me, too. I can understand some people's doubts and I have doubted more than most of the doubters, for I have known since about November 23 without much doubt that ^{the bullet making} the shoulder-throat wound was never fired from any sixth floor with the distance only 175 feet. Had the distance been about 600 feet I might have agreed. Now that I know better just how flat that wound was, the building would have to be 800 feet away. But being used to considering all sorts of angles and grades and lines and ~~xxx~~ curves, I applied a little of my own professional knowledge, elementary though it was, to the various wounds and notions. I am quite sure that the Zapruder film shows substantially all there ever was to be shown and that one shot and one only hit the President in the head. At the time he was hit in the head it would have been almost impossible for him to have been shot in the left temple and if there had been such a shot, there must have been an exit wound on the Zapruder film. There is one exit wound and only one on that film...the exit from the top of the head just short of the frontal bone. The wound is a clear, white V from frame 314 on except for frame 318 which is obscured by a whirl of dirt and dust, a "dust devil." I once had some training in sites for snipers and on Jan. 18, 1964 I came to the conclusion that the "knoll" was a bad post for a sniper. He would have to stand up to fire over the fence, and his head and shoulders would

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have been exposed. And he would have had to cross a large amount of open space to escape in any direction except down to the motorcade and I rather think he would have avoided that.

There is a garage space just west of the building. It is 20 feet wide and had doors of heavy wire mesh. A sniper in there would be concealed from every direction if he stood 5 feet back and the mesh offered no obstruction to rifle fire. There was and is a back door which, some years ago, had a Yale type lock. Some changes have been made since 1967 but I imagine that has not been changed. There is still room for a large truck near the door, a truck of the type I saw in there at least twice. A man in there had a fine view under the trees from which all low branches and underbrush had been cleared. He could see clearly across to the areas south of Commerce Street and down to the underpass. And that is the spot to which the angle of the throat-shoulder wound pointed.

Please forgive my long widdedness.

I do hope you have a suggestion. What I have added to what has gone before destroys the report whether any of the powers could recognize it or not.

You have written an excellent book. If the time comes when you can add something to it...

W.J.