

5809 East Rosewood St.,
Tucson, Arizona.
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85711

Dear Miss Meagher: I am interested in names. Yours is, I believe, Irish.

You might not believe it but my name was originally French and came into the English from that language but that was seven hundred years or more ago so I suppose it is sufficiently English and was when it got to America in the early 1600's. Yet I am to some indiscoverable extent Irish, or Scotch-Irish and of the mixture which still numbers probably more than 50 percent of the population and from 1797 to ~~xxx~~ about the 1890's was so overwhelmingly dominant. Some people call us WASPS but we aren't quite that really. We are English-Scotch and Scotch-Irish with a dash of something else ~~xxxxxxx~~ in most cases. In my case the something else is a sixteenth or a thirty second German.

About the professors and the movements of Mr. Kennedy's head: I am afraid I can't go along and with sound reason. You see, all engineering is applied physics, in most cases not beyond first or second, maybe third, year college physics. I have often been told that my associates said of me that I was "good on theory". I am not so sure about the "good" but if a theoretical solution was required I could usually dig it out. The trouble with professors of physics is that they tend to get away from the "down to earth" elements unless they teach first year college physics. In one of your footnotes you mention a professor who said something about "conservation of momentum" which is all very well but the principle of conservation of momentum does not say a word about nor concern itself with direction which is precisely the concern in the case of Mr. Kennedy's head. The principle of conservation of momentum says, in effect, for a projectile when it smashes an object: "The sum of the momentums of the various parts or particles plus the ~~xxxxxxx~~ residual momentum of the projectile, if any, is equal to the momentum of the projectile at the instant it struck." Direction does not enter into the matter at all. The professors tend to get away from their lowly origins but most engineers never do though most of them probably are not much on theory. The problem of the head movement is a simple, earthy problem treated in elementary physics not above freshman college. I am enclosing a rather crude sketch with explanation. Engineers never get away from problems of this kind, hardly even in electronics or the higher reaches of ~~optics~~ and heat. Every engineer who designs a steel structure, whether a building, a bridge or a machine, has to deal with it. It is, in the case of an appendage or a movable object, a force applied in a line that does not pass through the center of gravity nor parallel to such a line.

Incidentally, I had to explain to my son...and he is a physical chemist, Ph.D. with the National Laboratory at Oak Ridge. He does his work with pencil, paper, various calculating devices and a huge computer the number of which I do not remember. It was 900 plus but they may have a new one by now. When I first mentioned the head movement and its explanation he offered some objection but I explained and he agreed. It has been some years since he dealt with elementary physics but, for the most part, I never got away from it. Oh, I had to get up into a fairly rarefied atmosphere now and then but most of my problems were quite earthy.

I do not quite understand your comments about Lane, Weisberg, Salandria and so on. I know little or nothing about the men though I have had a number of letters from Weisberg, in part at least because I have been so situated that it has been not at all convenient

for me to keep up with the literature on the subject. You might call me a cynic though I myself have always objected to the derivation of that term by the gabbling Greeks. I have managed to maintain some peace of mind by expecting hardly anything of anyone and allowing to public figures hardly more than 24 hours credit. I expect them to "lay it on the line" every day if they are to retain some of my confidence.

From the lucubrations of Salisbury, Mizer and Congressman Folsom one would think that the assassination of a president would necessarily shake the foundations of the Republic and that J. Edgar and his FBI were revered and sacred National Institutions. If those people mean what they say, then they just don't know the American people. Unless Johnson was an accessory, and he probably was, Warren could have told the truth and I myself would have depended upon a Dallas regiment of the Guard to deal with any situation that might have arisen. Or, if I had been a mite leery about the Dallas boys, I would have brought in a regiment from San Antonio. They would have had any ructions that might have arisen ~~xxxxxxx~~ under control in short order. But with Johnson as an accessory, the situation would have been difficult and to take proper action it might have been necessary to eliminate Landslide Lyndon and McCormack hasn't a brain in his head. The only reason I can think of that half way justifies the actions of the Commission is that Johnson was an accessory. It was often said that he would have done ~~xxx~~ anything to be President and Kennedy's death was his only chance.

Incidentally those dopes of the Secret Service on the boards of the follow-up car, including Clint Hill, Mrs. Kennedy's body guard, should have been brought to trial for criminal negligence. But then one of them might have ~~xxx~~ spilled the beans just as Oswald ~~xxxxx~~ might have if he had lived to be tried. If that dope on the front position on the right running board had got into action after the first shot he might have performed his function and saved the President. But he never did get into action as far as I know and Clint Hill moved only when Mrs. Kennedy was practically out on the trunk of the car. And I do wish Clint would explain just what in heck the "deck line" is on a naked body. Only two witnesses to the autopsy really located the back would accurately and they were Greer and Kellerman. Greer did pretty well and Kellerman was precise: "Under that big muscle between the neck and shoulder."

are authentic If the President's coat and shirt as shown in FBI Exhibits 59 and 60 ^{it} is possible to prove that the wound in the back was about where the autopsy says. And, of course, there was no wound with a downward angle of 45 to 60 degrees unless the gunman used a helicopter and I don't think he did. At no time was the President close enough to the Depository for even a 45 degree downward angle. A casual look at the coat might cause one to think that the shot entered 6 inches below the collar and at a downward angle of about 60 degrees but a closer look shows something quite different. I have explained on a separate sheet. Also a shot from "the knoll" to the throat would have made exit to the left of the spine in the back and about one inch below the throat wound. The coat and shirt should have shown such a wound and they do not. Thus there was no such wound and no such shot, not an effective one at any rate. There may have been a shot fired from the knoll but if so it did not hit anybody and was not intended to do so.

I am sure at least four shots were fired, the one that hit Connally from the seventh floor window immediately above the ~~much~~ talked about sixth floor window. Brennan couldn't see good as his testimony proved and the jail inmate Mitchell agrees with young Rowland that

there was nobody at the window when the shots were fired. All the activity on the sixth floor was by way of diversion. So were any shots from anywhere outside the Depository or its adjoining garage. I believe the rifleman on the seventh floor fired one shot at Connally, saw that he had made a hit, and left the building at once according to plan. The real expert marksman in the garage meant the first shot for a head shot but some person along Elm Street extension, incline or even as far away as Commerce Street, got into the line of fire for an instant and he depressed the gun's muzzle, still hoping for a fatal shot. And about an inch to the left and he would have had a fatal shot. The head shot was fired ~~xxx~~ by the same man and that was expert shooting. That shot could have had a downward angle of hardly more than 4 degrees and made exit before it reached the frontal bone. A fair sized fragment imbedded in the brain makes it even more remarkable that Mr. Kennedy was not quite dead on arrival but it seems there was a fair sized fragment that went out through the top of the head. Where those two fragments came from that were in the car when it got to Washington I have no idea. Somehow I doubt that they were portions of the bullet which struck the President in the head.

No, I have not seen the films, only reproductions published in Life and the black and whites in the Report and frames 208, 209 and 211 in Thompson's book. However the evidence of the film reproductions I have seen is so massive that no amount of detail could change the picture. The Zapruder film in black and white shows the flesh, bone and brain matter ballooning out around the head in frame 313 and in the same frame two large and many small streamers of the same matter flying out to the left front and into the south-south west wind that was blowing briskly that day. Frame 314 is still a bit but all the others with one exception show the wound as a clear white V shaped blaze extending from above and behind the right ear toward the front, widening as it goes, and ending at a line of hair about even with the temple toward the front. The width of this hair line in front is not discernible but it definitely is there. The last two or three frames published show the wound as a deep V, almost a cross section, and the last frame blends in with Mrs. Kennedy's left shoulder. I doubt that the moving film would be as good as a set of stills for this study. I could not possibly doubt that the wound was anything other than I have described nor that the bullet struck "about an inch to the left and a little above" the occipital protuberance. At this point I might say that a shot fired 4 inches above that protuberance would barely have grazed the head. My head is pretty large. If I had ever had Mr. Kennedy's head of hair I would have required a 7 3/4 hat and the top of my head, the crown, is almost exactly 4 inches above the occipital protuberance.

A "wound of the left temple" could have only been ~~xxx~~ inflicted by a shot from the left or the jail house in the left rear. Frame 312 shows that Mr. Kennedy's left temple is about at or below Mrs. Kennedy's right shoulder and that she has her arm on the back of the car seat and had not quite completed encircling ~~xxx~~ his neck with her arms. Both hands, however, are at the shoulder. Mrs. Kennedy shielded him from a shot from the left front and came very close to shielding him completely from a shot from the left or left rear. As for shots from the Dal-Tex or the Records building, the angles were never right. And about angles, physical or trigonometric that is, I know.

I quite agree with Leo Sauvage when he said ,in effect, "Never in the history of the world have the police and the news media collaborated so thoroughly to falsify everything that happened."

When I first checked the Warren Report to see about the angle and other lies on pages 104 through 107, then the angles of the wound and then the Views Through the Rifle Scope, I knew what I would find and yet what I found sickened me. The Report itself together with the paens of praise with which it was received reflect a situation among the denizens of the Establishment that is foul and corrupt almost beyond belief. If I had not known for many years that this nation was ruled by a bunch of cutthroat pirates that could give Teach lessons, I would have been sick. As it was I found it painful to read the Report and was grateful for the books even though I did not actually read either until more than two years had passed. It would not have occurred to me to write it up except that it seemed that nobody else was going to...not my particular findings at any rate.

The Oswald Affair has been likened to the Dreyfus Affair in France and there are similarities. There is, however, one massive difference; In France in 1899 there were prominent people ,intellectuals and members of the Establishment such as Clemenceau and Emile Zola, who faught for the honor of France for at least they had some vestigial ideas of national integrity and honor. But in the United Staeses today no such ideas of integrity and honor exist. The National Emblem is the Fast Buck. No people more besotted ever lived. The only people to protest or even to recognize this foul mess are a handful of unknowns. I suppose it is fitting and inevitable that the richest nation the world ever saw should also be the most corrupt. I heeard on televis the other day that the Secretary of Treasury, I believe it was, recommended that business compete with the Mafia. How low down can you get?

Maybe Atty. Gen.

The FBI Report said that the President's back wound was at a downward angle of 45 to 60 degrees. This, however, is impossible because there is no point along the Elm Street incline where the President was close enough to the building for even a 45 degree angle. The boys probably misguessed this angle from the hole in the coat. Of course the gunman might have used a helicopter but I imagine he xdidn't. (For the coat see FBI Exhibit No.59)

If we look at the hole in the coat uncritically it would appear to have been made by a bullet fired at a downward angle of about 60 degrees and in a plane very close to that of the coat. But if we look at the hole critically we find that it is in the shape of a bullet, a bullet with a pointed nose and pointing upward at an angle of about 60 degrees. Such a hole could have been made only by a bullet travelling in a plane very close to that of the cloth at the point where it entered. Now, of course, a bullet moving upward at such an angle was also impossible. It must have been, then, that the coat was in another position. If we move the cloth of the coat upward and to the right until the hole is about over the spot claimed as the back wound by the autopsy report, we will find that a bullet travelling at a very small angle from the right could have made the hole. No other position for the particular portion of the coat will do.

If then we look at the shirt, FBI Exhibit 60, we find that the hole in the shirt is of the same shape as that in the coat, definitely

that of a bullet with a pointed nose, and squarely across a stripe of the shirt. The shirt could have been torn in this fashion only if it had been bunched up under the coat. The cloth must also have been twisted slightly so as to throw the stripes in to a position perpendicular to the path of the bullet at that point. No other position could have produced such a hole in the shirt.

Thus we have proved two things: 1) That the wound on the back portion of the body was not 6 inches below the coat collar but at about the point claimed by the autopsy report; and 2) that the bullet was not one with a round nose but one with a pointed nose. If the hole in the coat were carefully measured it would give rather closely the caliber of the bullet.

The reproduced photographs of the exhibits I have are those in Epstein's Inquest.

I would have had more regard for those Dallas doctors if they had simply got on with the examination and forgot about the tracheotomy (the Navy calls it X "tracheostomy") How anybody could even have dreamed that a man could possibly live with something like 20 % of his brain shot away I cannot understand. MD's ,like other professionals and others are, as a group, not too bright and I wouldn't lay any bets on Dr. Perry to judge from his looks. And the character who spoke of a "wound of the left temple" should have observed before he spoke. A mass of blood and other matter does not necessarily indicate a wound. Oh, the Dallas doctors were quite all right as doctors go and undoubtedly better than those at Bethesda. Military medics not only are subject to orders but they are subject to the atrophying effect of military life, atrophy of the mind, that is. The biggest dolts I ever knew were military brass and I am not sure but that Ike ranked near the top of the list of dopes. I know Geo. C. Marshall did. We used to say that there were three ways to do a job, the right way, the wrong way and the military way. Of course there are a large ~~number~~ number of ways to do or attempt to do a job but the intent of the aphorism is plain. I once knew a man who was instructor in physics at West Point when he was a second lieutenant. When he was a colonel and a general, I wasn't sure that he knew which end of a field gun the shell came out of. The military tries to make robots out of its people and it succeeds to a surprising degree.

I think Ken O'Donnel should have been tried for violation of Texas law and the Secret Service men along with him. The President would have had a much better autopsy in the Parkland Hospital than he had at Bethesda.

If anybody in this mess acted with any sense or regard for law and decency, I cannot find who it was.

If one single congressman would speak out in Congress about the Report and read from it and the Hearings he could blow the thing sky high but none of the sczawlags will. I was revolted, I am revolted and shall, doubtless, remain so. A number of MD's over the years, two last January, have said my prospects for life are very long. I don't know that I want it.

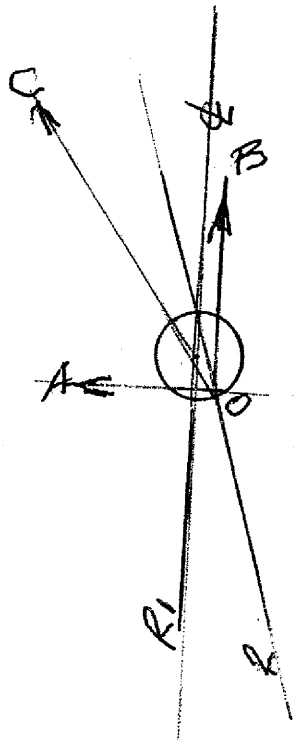
So much of the "solid evidence" in this case is obvious junk and it would seem that it would hardly fool anybody who was not determined to be deceived. The rifle itself was quite inaccurate and the sight far worse. Nobody with any sense attempts to hit anything with a gun without testing it and nobody who had ever tested the rifle would have tried to shoot a goat with it. If light still moves in straight lines, Frazier faked his hit patterns badly beyond 15 yards. If the bullet hit 4 inches high at 2 15 yards, it should have been about 27 inches high at 100 yards and, by actual test firing of a closely similar weapon, was 28 1/2 inches high. If the pistoleer had shot at a range much more than 6 feet he would probably have missed. With that oversized barrel one could hardly hit the side of a barn from the inside. The handcrafted brown paper sack looks like a gag to me and the three empty shells are not much better. Only two of them could have been fired in that time and place. The third was crimped and, from the look of a photograph of the crimp, was deliberately crimped with a center punch and a hammer. Oswald picked up a jacket, olive-brown in color or about that, at his room. The police evidently took it away from him at the theater but couldn't put the white jacket on him because it was too big. The gray jacket came from a parking lot, so tis said, and the Federal Bungling Institution couldn't trace either of two laundry marks, at least so they appear to have said. It was a hell of a frame but such a ramshackle job that it is hard to see how anybody would try to stick by it.

I hope you will pardon this computer paper. It was my intention to retype this but I seem to need more breath than I have.

Sorry you suffer from some of my ills. It has been damp and cool here though actually hardly any rain and those things are bad for me. I am bothered by atmospheric humidity more than almost anything. Though a week or so ago the mulberry pollen bothered me a good bit. When the air is hot and dry and there is little wind I do fine. The house is air conditioned and that is fine but it is just not big enough. One needs a place the size of a hospital. I spent a few weeks in a hospital not so long ago and you'd never have known I had the allergy condition while I was there.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
 W. L. R. Joy



The circle represents the head with the line designated as ~~the~~ the line through its center of gravity. If the path of the bullet had been R1 then the head would have had one movement which would have been to the President's left...except that it would have been pulled back part way by the neck muscles after the bullet force was spent.

The actual path of the bullet, however, was approximately R and struck the head to the right of center of gravity. Had the head been a free body it would have moved off in a line OC to the left of the line of the bullet, the applied force. But it was not a free body ~~but~~ ^{though it} could move some. Hence it snapped to the left approximately along DA and then to the President's left but not quite in the path of the bullet, the line ~~DA~~ OB. A single force applied off center and at angle has the effect of two forces applied at the same point but at right angles to each other. Had the bullet struck parallel to the centerline it would have had a turning effect as well as that of moving the head in the direction of the center line. It would not have snapped toward the back.

A lead ball would have moved off along OC.