

IS GORDON NOVEL "THE UMBRELLA MAN"?



7 An enlargement from the Bothun picture shows the umbrella man to have dark wavy hair and neat attire. The Cuban's face appears to be Latin or Negroid, and possibly he has on a cap or beret.



In April 1978 in our Issue No.25 we reproduced a series of photographs which depicted the actions of a mysterious figure - "The Umbrella Man" - in Dealey Plaza during and after the assassination of John F.Kennedy. For many years his identity remained a secret until, during their Public Hearings as part of their investigation, the House Assassinations Committee, on 25 September 1978, produced 53-year-old Louis S.Witt and named him as "TUM".

Now, in his latest book, Bob Cutler has challenged this fact and, producing new evidence, has pointed his finger at Gordon Novel and identified him as the individual in question.

The above photograph which was taken by Richard Bothun immediately after the shooting has been enlarged to show the detail of the head and appended to this is a "mug shot" of the 21-year-old Novel after his arrest in June 1959 by New Orleans police on a car theft charge.

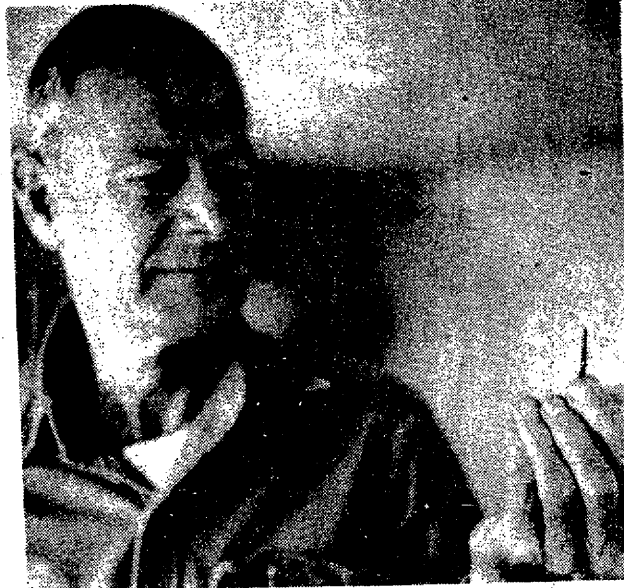
One of the main points of Cutler's theory is that the figure in Dallas resembles more a 25-year-old man (as Novel would have been in 1963) rather than the middle-aged guy of 38 years (as would have been the case with Witt! He has also calculated the fact that the open umbrella as shown in films and photographs taken on 22 November 1963 was 32" long by 38" diameter with 8 ribs; the brolly produced by Witt in Washington and admitted as evidence by HSCA was 35" long by 45" diameter with 10 ribs. Incidentally, who keeps an umbrella for fifteen years?? A broken one!

The new book, The Day of the Umbrella Man, is chock full of interesting information including an examination of Novel by Psychological Stress Evaluator arranged by Bob Cutler. The actual PSE examiner, Bob Browndum, an Investigative Consultant from New Orleans, says he is sure that Novel was in Dealey Plaza on the day of the murder.

One more important point is that TUM's actions indicate that he was left-handed. Witt is right-handed, Novel - (yes) - left-handed!

To date these new revelations by Cutler have only been aired on local radio shows and through one report (reproduced below) in a small-town newspaper. J.W.Burke jr. has given the information a big spread in the most recent issue of his newsletter, The Grassy Knoll Gazette (copies and subscriptions, contact him at: P.O.Box 5098, Richmond, VA 23220.)

The actual book has only been produced in a strictly limited edition of 100 copies. There are hopes that it may be commercially published. Meantime, if you would like to try your luck at buying a copy, write to: R.B.Cutler, Box 1465, Manchester, MA 01944. The price is \$6.00 PLUS postage.



ROBERT CUTLER HOLDS FLECHETTE

...a small dart like one which, he claims, was used in Kennedy assassination

Radical Yankee says he's found JFK's killer

By MARJORIE HOWARD
Sun Staff

MANCHESTER, Mass. — Robert Cutler is tall and lean and has the craggy face of a man who spends a great deal of time out of doors. His close cropped white hair and casual attire, along with a Yankee accent and a Harvard diploma, describe what he seems to be at first glance: the quintessential North Shore resident who lives in a world of tennis, boating and money.

He's the last person in the world you'd think would be obsessed with conspiracies and governmental cover-ups but start talking to him for awhile and he sounds a lot like the radicals of the 1960s who charged collusion between the military and big business.

In fact, after a few moments with Cutler you realize you're in the presence of a man so angry he gets up to pace the floor, talks about the idiots in charge of our government and recites a litany of names and places that have been so much a part of his life for so long that

he doesn't bother to explain who and what they are.

CUTLER HAS BEEN researching the Kennedy assassination since 1966 and says he knows the name of the man who really shot the president.

He is convinced the man was part of a conspiracy so powerful that 16 years after Kennedy's death the public still does not know the truth about what happened on November 22, 1963.

This unlikely radical has devoted a great deal of time and large quantities of money to accumulate information about the assassination since he first read Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment."

He has spent thousands of dollars hiring experts, publishing books, writing letters and amassing documents. He has travelled to Dallas and New Orleans. He has gradually allowed his architectural practice — located near the ocean in the picture book town of Manchester — to dwindle to practically nothing so he can spend his days and nights doing research.

He realizes some people think of him as a crackpot and he knows his friends have been humoring him for years. "You sit here and you think and you work and to hell with what anyone else thinks and what they say," he says in his gruff manner.

But he continues writing letters to newspapers, to government officials, to the Department of Justice, to the House Select Subcommittee on Assassinations and he refuses to be rebuffed.

HIS MOST STARTLING allegation, announced a little more than a week before the anniversary of Kennedy's death, was his naming of a Louisiana man, Gordon Novel, who he said was the real assassin.

Cutler claims that this man was the person who stood in front of a sign in Dealey Plaza holding an umbrella which was actually a weapon. Photos taken of the Kennedy motorcade show quite clearly a man with an open umbrella who would have been in a perfect position to get a shot at the president. Cutler alleges that this man fired a small dart, called a flechette, which struck Kennedy in the throat.

What makes the photograph especially eerie is the fact that the umbrella is so conspicuous. The day is sunny, the temperature reportedly 68 degrees, and no one else in the crowd has an umbrella.

Novel, claims Cutler, was not alone. There were probably two dozen people stationed along the motorcade, all part of a plot to kill the president.

THE DART MAY have instantaneously poisoned the president, freezing him in "an upright, sitting duck position for the rifles above and behind," says Cutler. Shots were fired, not by Lee Harvey Oswald, but by others, which hit the president and Gov. John Connally.

Sound crazy? Maybe...or maybe not. Cutler has collected such a wealth of technical information on Kennedy's death that it becomes difficult to understand some of his ideas unless you are well versed in assassination lore or have the time to wade through Cutler's data.

What becomes convincing is that Cutler and other assassination buffs have persuasive evidence that more than one person was involved in the death of the president.

THE WARREN REPORT, according to Cutler, says that one person fired three shots. One shot missed the president and wounded a bystander. One hit the president and Governor John Connally. The third shot hit the president in the back of the head.

The second shot hit Kennedy in the back of the neck, exited through the throat, hit Connally in the back of the right shoulder, exited from his chest, hooked left and entered and exited his wrist, ending up in his thigh, according to the Warren findings.

In one of eight books he has published at his own expense Cutler says "no simple solution can responsibly account for 10 wounds and four scars" (to a pavement, a curb, a sign and a windshield).

Cutler scoffs at the Warren Commission and is just as scornful of the House Select Committee which reopened the investigation. "It did not change things one iota," he says, slamming his hand down on his desk, "although it did introduce the word 'conspiracy' into the results."

Cutler's work has concentrated on the where, how and when of the assassination. The question of why inevitably comes up.

HERE'S WHERE CUTLER has his detractors and realizes there are some who "think I'm just plain nuts."

"It comes down to CIA involvement and a government cover-up. The CIA and the Mafia were used by people wanting power over the military-industrial complex. The FBI is involved right up to its ears. Both the CIA and the FBI were compromised and they ran to cover everything up and they did a spectacular job."

Cutler feels the business and military interests were determined to have a president in power who would promote their interests, that is, the production of arms and other items related to war. Kennedy was not such a president. "they did not want people who would make peace," Cutler says.

He claims Novel was a 25-year-old hired possibly by the CIA which has since sought to discredit him by having him convicted of arson and other charges during the last 16 years.

Cutler has interviewed Novel and hired a consulting firm to administer a psychological stress test similar to a lie detector test, in which Novel indicates he is not telling the truth when asked certain questions about his role in the assassination.

Cutler is determined to continue his research and publicize his findings. "I'm only interested in getting those in authority to confront the truth," he says.

He admits that since he began studying the Kennedy assassination he's "begun to question things more, such as the Three Mile Island report. I suspect everything."

And he knows he's an unlikely person to mistrust the government so strongly. At this point he cannot help himself.

"I've been living with this," says the man who has devoted so much of his life to this cause. "It's great fun to talk about grandchildren and what will we do for a party... It's great, but it's nearly gone for me."

THE SUNDAY SUN

Lowell, Mass.

December 2, 1979

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TV TALK

● **FAM AYRES** will tape a special programme for London Weekend Television when she tours Australia in September. It should be on screen next Christmas.

● **THE** ever-inventive Japanese are trying out a lightweight videotape recorder weighing a mere 7lb., claimed to be the lightest machine on the market. It will cost about £700.

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TV Times

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Help!

Dear Readers:

While being very pleased with the standard of the contents of this particular issue it is now time to come down to earth and to consider the future. The vast majority of subscriptions are now due and without some sort of credit balance to work with I'm sure that you can consider the difficulties!

I can quote directly from the most recent issue of Bill Burke's U.S. assassination newsletter as his comments are equally relevant on this side of the Atlantic - "It's no secret that this newsletter and others of its ilk are having a pretty rough time of it nowadays. The problem is basically twofold: the decline of paid subscribers, and a dearth of quality material for publication".

The reason why JFK.AF has not appeared on a regular, monthly basis over the past year or so is because of the fact that I am not prepared to publish rubbish just for the sake of producing every four weeks. My enthusiasm has not declined and is still high despite recent non-developments and assorted problems. I'll be more than happy to continue to provide an information service and to attempt to resume a more regular schedule but I need YOUR help.

The number which appears in the box below is the issue with which your subscription has expired. What you can do is to renew without delay and try to spread the word and interest new subscribers. Without sounding TOO much like a beggar, I wouldn't be averse to any gift subscriptions or donations to help the cause.

There is a sting in the tail!

Since this newsletter originated in September 1974 the spectre of inflation has touched virtually every aspect of our lives. For example, last month's Postage increases have meant that the rates have increased by 45% for British subscribers and (a massive) 66.6% for overseas Airmail delivery over that period. Add ever-increasing Printer's charges, envelopes, paper, etc. etc. and I hope you will appreciate that a subscription increase just cannot be put off any longer. Therefore, the new rates from this issue are: (12 issues) British Isles - £4.00 and U.S.A and Overseas - \$12.00 (or equivalent).

I realise that this is a helluva way to start the 1980s but these rates will be held just as long as is possible. A minority-interest publication with a comparatively small coterie may be fun but it feels the cold wind of realism that bit more. Sorry to bore you with this tale of woe but subscribers are the people who are going to keep this project off the rocks!

Thanks for your help.....

Harry Irwin



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