

Famous Zapruder Movie

Still Frames From Assassination Film Show the Warren Commission Was Wrong

Dallas dress manufacturer Abraham Zapruder, a Russian immigrant now in his grave, became the one man who experts now believe had significant evidence to prove a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Using a Bell and Howell home movie camera, he captured on 8 mm film the actual shooting.

As soon as word got out about Zapruder's 27-second movie, major news organizations around the world started to bid for the rights to publish the film.

EVENTUALLY, ZAPRUDER struck a

bargain with Time-Life, Inc., reportedly for a sum between \$150,000 and \$250,000, although some estimates have run as high as \$1 million.

Time-Life gave the Warren Commission a print from the film and the Warren report published frames from that print in volume 18.

HOWEVER, ABOUT 1965, bootleg prints of the film fell into the hands of assassination researchers around the country and private showings of the film were conducted. The Texas Observer, a liberal publication, was

the first to offer copies of the film to the public; soon thereafter, ads for the film appeared in other publications, offerings from various individuals and groups.

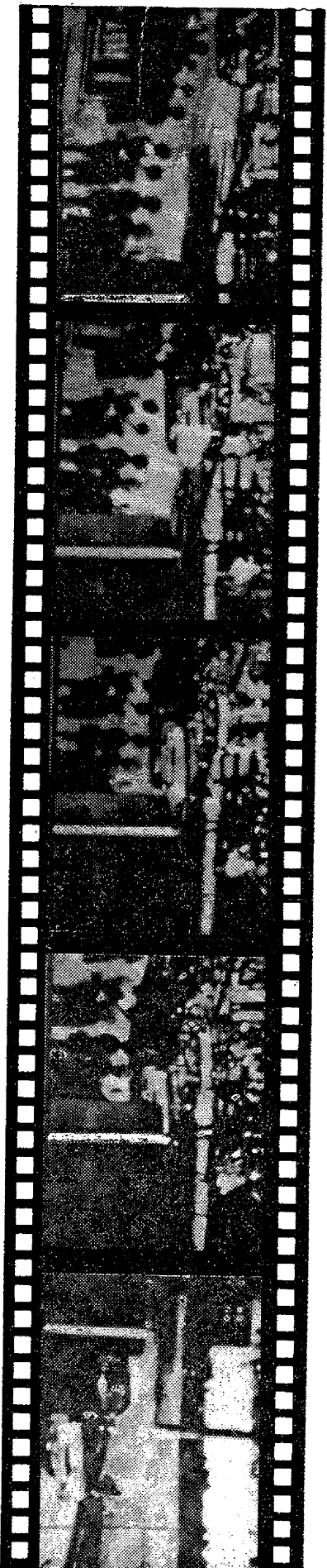
In April of this year, Time, Inc., announced that the original film had been returned to the family and heirs of Abraham Zapruder.

Time, Inc., spokesman Lou Slovinski also said that several first generation copies of the movie and slides were being deposited at the National Archives, and that the Zapruder film itself would keep its original print at the archives as well.

The frames from that home movie published here come from a print of the film believed to have been taken from the copy that was given to the Warren Commission. That copy was then enlarged to 16 mm, and the prints shown here are from that 16 mm film.

WHILE THE QUALITY of the prints are poor and that situation is compounded when published on newspaper, they are presented here to demonstrate the incorrectness of the Warren report conclusion.

—THE EDITORS





Close inspection of a home movie could ultimately bring official recognition that a conspiracy involving cross fire murdered John F. Kennedy.

The Zapruder film of the assassination has now been shown on network television late night talk shows. The impact is unforgettable.

But a frame-by-frame inspection is far more devastating to defenders of the Warren Commission report and the psyche of the average American.

The Warren Commission concluded Oswald fired three shots in 5.6 seconds from the sixth floor of the Book Depository, killing Kennedy and wounding Connally.

By TOM LUTZ
Of the Tarter Staff

THE FIRST SHOT, according to the commission, passed through the back of Kennedy's neck and exited out his throat. The same slug then hit Connally in the back, broke his fifth rib, ripped through that part of his body, crashed into his right wrist bone, tore through it and then embedded itself in his right thigh. (That slug, called the "magic bullet," by critics, was discovered on a stretcher in Parkland Hospital, where Kennedy and Connally were taken. The bullet was in near-perfect condition. (See "magic bullet" story on centerfold.) In all, it went through almost five inches of bone and inflicted seven wounds, counting the entries and exits.)

The second bullet sailed over the car, according to the commission, and the third blew off a five-inch chunk of the President's head and killed him.

The Zapruder film shows something very much different.

The 27-second movie begins as the limo carrying the Kennedys and the Connallys appears in the left-hand corner of the screen at the top.

Seated to Kennedy's left is his wife. Immediately in front of him is Connally, whose wife is seated to the left at his side. Directly in front of Connally is Secret Service Agent Roy Kellerman, and driving is Agent William Greer.

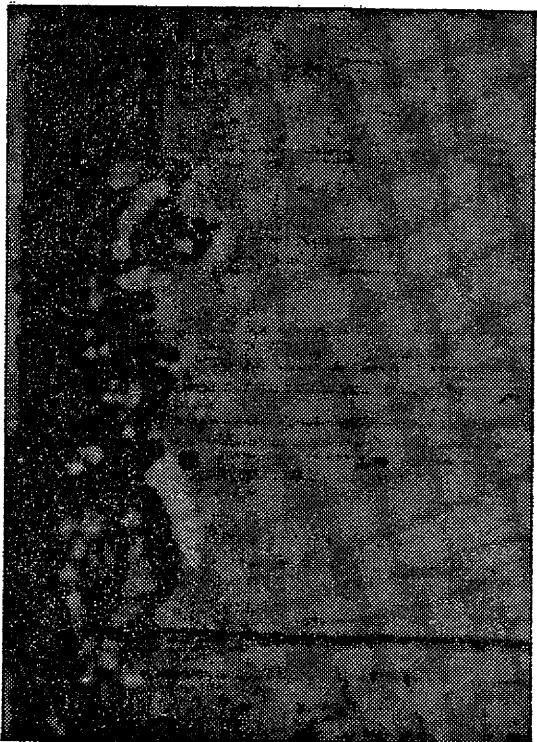
Kennedy begins to wave with his right arm, then stops. While his arm is still in the air, the car passes behind a road sign. As the car comes out from behind the sign, Connally is looking to his right, starting his turn around to see what has happened to the President. As the car advances to the point at which you can see Kennedy, it is apparent that his hands are going in a protective

action to his throat.

THE FRAMES THAT FOLLOW are the critical ones. As Connally makes his turn, Kennedy has his arms up to his throat and begins to lean toward his wife as she puts out her arms to catch him. Then Kennedy is hit again, or so it seems, for he slumps forward and down.

Something less than a second later, Connally's cheeks puff out, as if the wind were being knocked out of him, and his hair is messed. He is obviously going through some violent reaction for his image in this frame is much more fuzzy than that of Kennedy and his wife.

The most important frame soon follows. In a single jerking motion backward, Kennedy's head is struck and his skull begins to explode. The motion is unmistakable — his head, in a single frame, is snapped front to back, as compared to the previous frame. The action of the skull being



blown away and a rather large chunk of it landing on the trunk of the car is completed in the four to five frames following that.

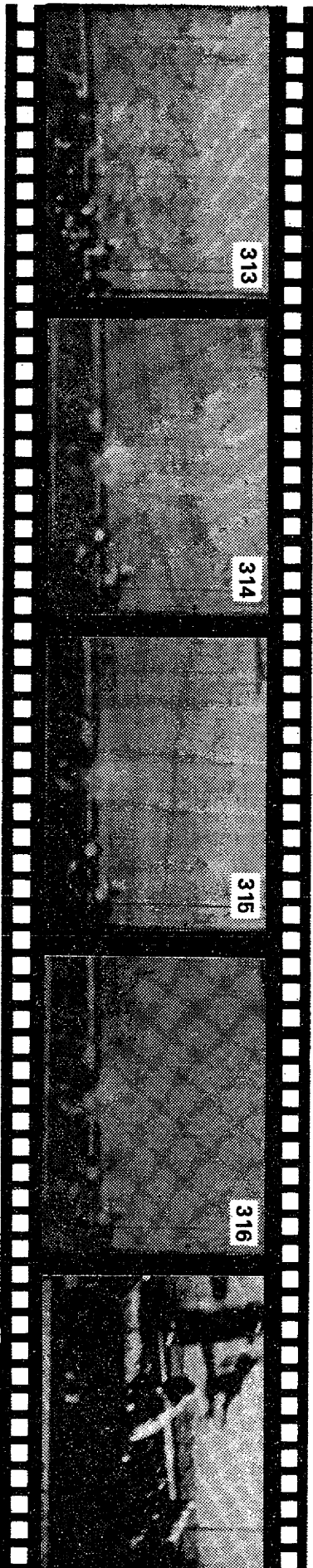
Lifelessly, Kennedy then begins to slump into his wife's open arms. The action is slow, taking almost one second, and then his wife starts to climb out onto the trunk of the car.

Study of the conclusion of the film indicates that Mrs. Kennedy may have had more in mind than getting out of her way in climbing out on the trunk. In her obviously

hysterical condition, she exits across the trunk of the car left to right. As she moves, it becomes apparent that she is reaching for the piece of the President's skull that was blown away.

Importantly enough, the car is still moving slow enough that Secret Service Agent Clint Hill is able to catch up with the car and start to mount it from the rear. He does not reach Mrs. Kennedy; she appears to climb back into the car herself.

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THAT, IN ESSENCE, is what a layman would see upon the Zapruder film, and a layman's analysis of that viewing would bring these conclusions, at least:

● Kennedy was hit once, if not twice, before Connally was struck.

● Since the Zapruder film ran roughly 18 frames to a second, the first bullet that hit Kennedy and then, according to the Warren Commission report, went on to strike Connally defied physics. Straining all physical laws, the Commission admitted that shots fired by the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle traveled at a speed of about one-ninth of a second from the Book

Depository to the Kennedy car.

Counting the frames in the Zapruder film, and assuming the Commission was right, it would have taken the first bullet at least one-half of a second to travel from the Book Depository, go through Kennedy, and then strike Connally. That leaves the first bullet hanging around in space for at least seven-eighths of a second.

(Most critics of the Warren Commission contend that the first bullet would have had to hang around in space for upward to 1.8 seconds. They contend this on the basis of believing that Kennedy was struck earlier than the Warren Commission contends and that Connally, which can be strongly argued by inspecting the film, was

struck later than the Commission concluded. Playing it conservatively however, and assuming the Warren Commission figures, you are still left with almost half a second of bullet-travel time the commission cannot account for.)

● The fatal bullet that struck Kennedy was not fired from the Dallas School Book Depository; rather it came from some location in front of the car. A layman would conclude that because, in the matter of one frame of the Zapruder film (less than 1/18th of a second), Kennedy's head pops backward. (The Warren Commission and its defenders contend that the reason the President's head snaps backward is that while he was hit from behind, he had a nervous-system

reaction that caused him to move against the grain of the traveling bullet.)

That is what a layman most likely would conclude from viewing the Zapruder film. Experts see much more.

Robert Groden, an optics technician who creates slides for industrial films and restores old photos, believes as many as six shots were fired at the Kennedy car.

Groden, 29, was only 18 at the time Kennedy was shot. About nine years ago, he secured a bootleg copy of the Zapruder film. He has studied it since then and is now undoubtedly the world's foremost expert on its contents. He wrote, in Rolling Stone, "I've done more investigative and optical research on clear copies of the Zapruder film than any other private citizen or agency."

HE HAS LECTURED around the nation and appeared on public media. He is convincing.

In essence, he believes:

● In all, there are or were 332 frames of the Zapruder film. Ten frames are missing or damaged in the film. Two particularly important frames, numbers 207 and 212, suffer stress marks because frames number 208 through 211 have been sliced out. Those missing frames, 208 through 211, were damaged by a junior photographic technician from Time, Inc., prior to the film being copied and turned over to the Warren Commission.

● Unexplained thus far are missing frames 155 and 156. Time, Inc., has not commented on those frames. The Warren Commission, in its published report of the film (Vol. 10), starts with frame number 171,

thus avoiding the issue of an earlier splice.

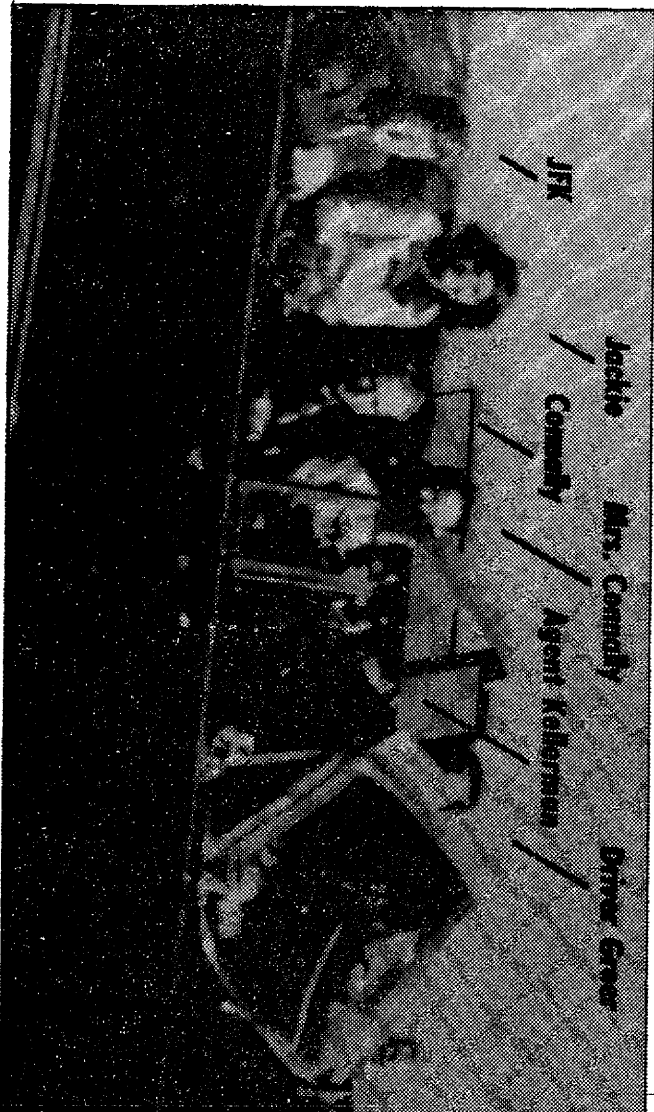
● The Warren Commission's published version of the frames from the Zapruder film reversed frames 314 and 315. (FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover admitted this was a "printing error"). The importance of this is that in frame 313, Kennedy receives his fatal head wound. By reversing frames 314 and 315, it would appear that Kennedy might be moving forward, instead of backward, meaning that the shot could have come from the Book Depository (which it didn't) instead of from in front of the car.

● Kennedy was hit first some time when his car was behind the road sign. This shot came from in front of the car because the entry point (just below his necktie) is smaller than the exit area (in the back of his neck). Kennedy was hit again, at frame 227, in the back about six inches below the shoulder blades. The first shot that hit Kennedy's head comes at frame 313. It is a glancing blow and throws him slightly forward. In the next frame (314), he is hit again, this time from in front with a high-powered rifle that sends him backward violently - 10 to his left and toward his wife.

● Secret Serviceman William Greer, the limousine driver, did not speed up the car until long after he said he did under sworn testimony.

● Frames 412 and 413 show the head, ears and rifle of an assassin in some underbush.

● Frames 454 through 478 show yet another man atop the stockade fence on the grassy knoll who appears to be a possible assassin. In all, analysis shows, between four to five assassins were involved.



Jackie / Mrs. Connally / Agent Kellerman / Drive Co.