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People



BENNO FRIEDMAN (2)

^A woman who indexed all the evidence

Some Warren Commission critics came late to their skepticism; Sylvia Meagher was there at the beginning. An omniverous reader of assassination literature from the day President Kennedy was shot, the plump 54-year-old divorcée greeted the commission's report with disdain. "I was shocked by the discrepancies and omissions that could only be considered deliberate," she says. "I had to do something."

So she did. Converting the liquor closet of her Greenwich Village apartment into a library of assassination minutiae, Meagher spent five years working nights, weekends and vacations, puzzling over a mystery she still has not solved. "I became obsessive," she admits. "Between 1965 and 1970 any kind of normal living became impossible. I even gave up Scrabble!" In the process, she published *Accesso-*

ries After the Fact, a biting analysis of the Warren Commission Report, and a comprehensive index to the report and the evidence. Other assassino-
logists use them both as basic references.

A deputy director of the New York office of the World Health Organization, Meagher lives alone with her calico cat, Mimi, and seems oblivious to either money or fame. She didn't even vote for Kennedy in 1960. ("I thought he was a glamour boy.") Meagher says, "I see myself as a student. I'm just an ordinary middle-class person who reads politics and detective stories and goes to the ballet." She is convinced that Lee Oswald was a scapegoat for the actual murderers. "He was a pawn, a patsy," she fumes. "Who is to say this couldn't happen to any individual without friends or money?" □