

13 Myths That Won't Down

Two and a half years have passed since the dramatic "Four Days" when President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed as he rode in an open car through Dallas, Tex. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested by police for shooting the president from the upstairs window of a school book depository building. Two days later Oswald himself was shot and killed in custody of police in the county jail by a man named Jack Ruby, who is still in jail pending pleas.

The Warren Commission made an extensive investigation of the assassination and produced a voluminous report. The verdict: Oswald, unaided, killed the president.

But there were people in the Dallas throng who thought a second gunman had a part in the killing. Rumors, myths and all kinds of questions have persisted.

Recently Edward J. Epstein, a Cornell University graduate student, published a book, "Inquest",

questioning many of the Warren findings and emphasizing the reports there may have been a second gunman. A second book, "Rush to Judgment" by Mark Lane, who was attorney for Oswald's mother, will be published in August. Articles in Newsweek, Time, New Republic and Look have raised questions about the commission report.

Meanwhile the death story of John F. Kennedy remains officially unchallenged. So far as court and commission records are concerned, Lee Harvey Oswald killed the president and Jack Ruby killed Oswald. It is that simple.

But myths and rumors will continue. There will be new books examining the tragic story. Students love to play with the tangled threads of history.

It is likely that 50 and 100 years from now new articles will be written purporting to uncover the "true facts" on the killing of a president.