

My Beat

by John Kendall

Die-Hards Are at It Again on Kennedy Death

The die-hard doubters, conspiracy buffs and second-gun theorists are at it again. They're sniffing like long-eared hounds through the files of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination in the state Archives in Sacramento.

Somewhere in the 50,000 documents collected by the Los Angeles Police Department they are hoping to find the track of a phantom gunman hidden from public view for almost 20 years.

They were eagerly waiting when the records, maintained in secrecy for a generation, were made public last week. And, once again they speculated that Sirhan B. Sirhan may not have been the only gunman in the Ambassador Hotel's pantry when the New York senator was shot.

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Never mind that Sirhan, now 42 and hoping for parole from Soledad Prison, said in a telephone interview two years ago, "I killed the senator and acted alone. That is true and I have admitted that."

Never mind that the LAPD formed Special Unit Senator and conducted a yearlong investigation, interviewing nearly 5,000 individuals as it tracked down conspiracy theories in the most extensive probe in department history.

Never mind that Los Angeles city and county authorities conducted investigations of the original investigation

without finding much more than some mislabeled bullet evidence at Sirhan's trial and the LAPD's destruction of door jambs and ceiling tiles, which were not introduced as evidence.

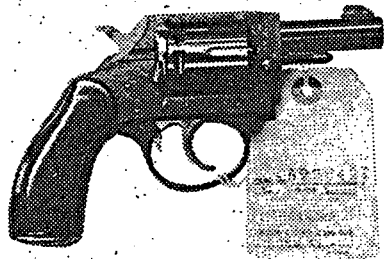
Never mind that the LAPD and FBI, and who knows how many other government agencies, would have had to engage

The .22-caliber revolver used by Sirhan B. Sirhan when he shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

in a grand conspiracy for some unknown motive to conceal the existence of a second gunman.

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Boxes of Evid

By LOIS TIMNICK, Times Staff Writer

The week started routinely enough.

A weary jury, now in its second year of the McMartin Pre-School molestation trial, showed no reaction as a 13-year-old boy completed five days of the most graphic, detailed, bizarre—and sometimes inconsistent—testimony it has heard so far.

But then prosecutors lugged boxes and sacks into the courtroom and began extracting from them—piece by piece—items that Manhattan Beach police had seized during a search of the defendants' home four years ago.

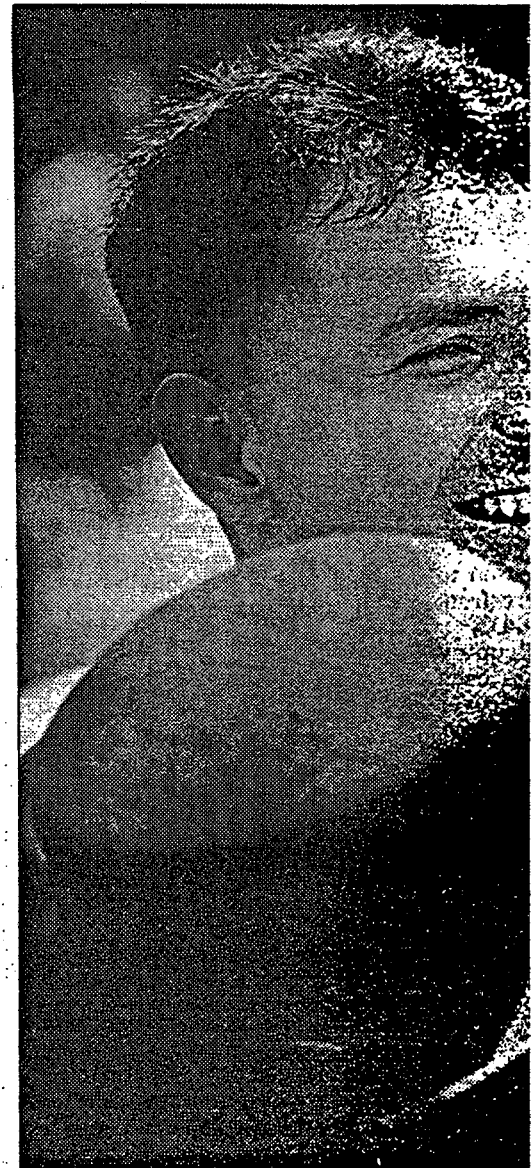
The evidence, which was not presented during the 18-month preliminary hearing, included crumpled pages torn from porno-

graphic film, camera other toy Hood cosmetics makeup pants—mooted w and comm

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And, they seemingly ignore the implications of an unique "second gun" discovery hearing held in Los Angeles Superior Court nearly 13 years ago. Here's the way it unfolded:

Seven noted ballistics experts were brought to Los Angeles at county expense in 1975. They fired Sirhan's gun, exhaustively examined bullet evidence introduced at Sirhan's trial and later responded that:

"There is no substantive or demonstrable evidence to indicate that more than one gun was used to fire any of the bullets examined."

At least three of the criminalists came close to positively identifying Sirhan's .22-caliber Iver-Johnson Cadet as the weapon used in the assassination attack, but ultimately, each panelist decided that there simply were not enough identifying marks on the bullets to do that.

The skeptics called a press conference and said, in effect: Ah, ha! since the experts failed to positively identify Sirhan's gun, then the question of a second gun remains open. Strictly speaking, that's true.

But what if you relate another of the panel's findings to Sen. Kennedy's assassination? The experts discovered that the muzzle of Sirhan's .22 had been damaged in a way that marked bullets with a double-furrowed gouge.

They found that characteristic gouge on bullets taken from Kennedy and two other victims, Ira Goldstein and William Weisel, and on test bullets fired by the LAPD in 1968 and by the experts themselves.

Also, five of the experts found—directly or inferentially—that bullets recovered from the three victims came from the same gun. However, they declined to identify Sirhan's revolver as that gun because of the possibility that another weapon exactly like it might exist somewhere.

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But, consider this:

For a second gunman to have shot Kennedy or the others, the invisible assassin would have had to fire a revolver exactly like Sirhan's, down to the damaged barrel, while using the same copper-coated, mini-mag, hollow-tip ammunition and shooting at the same time as Sirhan. And, without being seen by people closest to Kennedy in a pantry crowded with 70 people.

Now, what are the odds of a second gun? You'd have a better chance of winning the California Lottery.

Kendall is a Times staff writer.

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Police Ranks Get a Boost

Frank Ryan Anguiano III, 2, tries on man-sized hat at graduation of Police Academy class that included his father, Frank P. Anguiano. At right, LAPD Chief Daryl F. Gates inspects some of the 75 new members of the police force.



Turner Family Live

By PATT MORRISON and LAURIE BECKLUND, Times Staff Writers

There was only one left.

Of the nine Turner brothers who came to Los Angeles from Detroit with their mother more than 17 years ago, three are dead—the latest killed on Tuesday—and five were in custody.

Only "Little John" Turner, 21, the youngest of the nine, was still on the street Friday night. And lawmen feared he was armed, injured and angry.

The Turners were well known in their neighborhood—by the locals who considered them a loyal family—"with a couple bad apples," said a neighbor—and by the people who arrested them, who considered them more than just bad apples.

To neighbors, they were the "Turner Boys," brothers who walked together and stuck together and, said one young girl, "didn't

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let outsiders mess around here." That gang members the '1 their block.

To the authorities them time after tim crime wave unto the glary, arson, drug robbery. Their narrc house in Watts was yield a harvest of u drugs and Uzis an thortities said.

John, the suspect of a sheriff's deput this week, was ar incident by a Los SWAT team at 7:2

11th-Hour Money-Laundering Run t