

### Carver's 40 Biographers

Gallagher's loyalty to Noel Young and Capra is apt, given the extraordinary relationships Ray Carver built during his lifetime, many of which are memorably rendered in the 40 reminiscences in Capra's other Carver book, *Remembering Ray* (Sept., \$14.95). Subtitled "A Composite Biography," the collection, edited by William Stull and Maureen P. Carroll, includes contributions from writers such as Joyce Carol Oates, Jane Kenyon, Robert Coles, Haruki Murakami, Tobias Wolff, Hayden Carruth and Jay McInerney; editors Gary Fisketjon and Ted Solotaroff; and others whose lives Carver touched, including Dorothy Catlett, his typist, who remembers Carver's return from the hospital after lung surgery, "and that wonderful bear hug without the smell of cigarette smoke."

Vintage and Capra are both in the midst of setting up their promotional plans. Vintage will arrange readings in the four film-festival cities in which *Short Cuts* will be playing—New York, New Orleans, Denver and Chicago—with actors reading Carver stories. There will also be movie posters available for bookstores, and Vintage is offering bookstores in several markets the chance to sponsor free screenings of the film. Capra has readings and book signings (of the screenplay) by various actors set for Book Soup in West Los Angeles and Samuel French in L.A. Other venues are still under negotiation.

### A Carver Backlist

#### Stories

*Where I'm Calling From* (Vintage)  
*Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*  
 (Vintage)  
*What We Talk About When We  
 Talk About Love* (Vintage)  
*Cathedral* (Vintage)

#### Poetry

*A New Path to the Waterfall*  
 (Atlantic Monthly Press)  
*Where Water Comes Together  
 with Other Water* (Vintage)  
*Ultramarine* (Vintage)

#### Prose & Poetry

*No Heroics, Please: Uncollected  
 Writings* (Vintage)  
*Fires: Essays, Poems, Stories*  
 (Vintage)

## New JFK Book Continues PGW's Sales Thrust

On November 22, on the 30th anniversary of the assassination of President John Kennedy in Dallas, Thunder's Mouth Press will publish *The Last Investigation* by Gaeton Fonzi, the man who was the chief—and sometimes virtually the only—field investigator for the House Assassinations Committee in 1978-79.

Fonzi, a quiet, mild-mannered man who lives in Miami, began as a believer in the Warren Commission Report, he says. He began to have doubts only when, as a young reporter, he first heard the skeptics and then interviewed Arlen Specter, the Commission's chief counsel, and found him evasive and self-contradictory about some of the more controversial evidence suggesting that the president might have been shot from the front as well as from behind—certain evidence of a conspiracy.

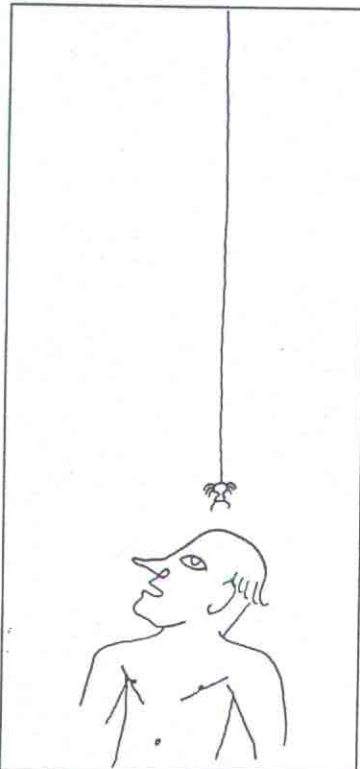
Much of Fonzi's book is an inside examination of the way the House Committee's later investigation was emasculated by political infighting and then by chief counsel Bob Blakey's cozy relationship to the Central Intelligence Agency, which, says Fonzi, ensured that certain fruitful lines of inquiry were not adequately pursued, and took far too many CIA explanations on trust. "The investigation was not intended to get at the truth," he says resignedly.

Fonzi doesn't pretend to know who killed the president, or why. What he does know is that Antonio Veciana, a leading anti-Castro Cuban and a founder of the terrorist group Alpha 66, insisted to him that he was backed in many of his actions by a CIA contact known to him as Maurice Bishop—and that a month before the assassination he met Bishop in Lee Harvey Oswald's company. David Atlee Phillips, a senior CIA officer who died five years ago, was eventually head of the CIA's Western Hemisphere operations and at the time of the assassination was in charge of covert anti-Castro operations in Mexico City, bore an uncanny resemblance to Veciana's description of Bishop. And although Veciana would never publicly confirm they were the same person, Fonzi is utterly convinced that they were, claims that Phillips perjured himself before the Committee about

his knowledge of Veciana and that the Committee condoned that perjury.

Phillip's role in the story has added significance because of the controversy, which lasts to this day, about Oswald's mysterious visit to Mexico City before the assassination, on which the CIA admits it made a mistaken identification but has been otherwise evasive; in his role Phillips must have been aware of activities at both the Cuban and Mexican consulates, where Oswald supposedly showed up seeking a visa to Russia via Cuba.

*The Last Investigation* is a prime example of what Charlie Winton, president of Publishers Group West, the book's distributor, sees as the current new phase of Kennedy assassina-



In 1955, when Pantheon first published *A Bestiary*, compiled by Richard Wilbur and illustrated by Alexander Calder, it was in a limited fine-art edition of 750 signed, numbered and boxed copies (\$18). Pantheon's reissue (Oct., \$25) might be considered the fin-de-siècle edition: no autograph, no box, an edition of 25,000. The drawing above illustrates the Spider entry.



tion books. "At first, in the late '60s, you got the early critical books. They said, and I think proved, there was a conspiracy. Then in the late '80s were the books that tried to put it all together and make sense out of the evidence, suggest who might have done it and why. This was a body of books that became the next step."

That's also when PGW, under Winton, became strongly involved in the marketing of assassination books. *Crossfire*, the book by Texas professor Jim Marrs that became the primary source for Oliver Stone's *JFK* movie, was the first of the books PGW took on. It was published by Carroll & Graf, which along with Thunder's Mouth became leading publishers of such books among smaller independent publishers (the larger houses, until quite recently, have been only sporadically interested; see *Book News*, May 3). It ended up selling 50,000 copies in hardcover and over 200,000 in paperback.

Later titles PGW handled included Mark Lane's *Plausible Denial*, published by Thunder's Mouth in 1991 (195,000 in hardcover, 30,000 in paper to date), Harrison E. Livingstone's *High Treason Two* (Carroll & Graf, 70,000), Dick Russell's *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (Carroll & Graf, 40,000), a paperback reprint of David Lifton's *Rest Intention* (Carroll & Graf, 162,000) and now Fonzi's book, which is going out with a first printing of 50,000 and an author tour.

#### A Parlor Game

"I think we've handled these books very well, and the figures speak for themselves," says Winton, whose interest is such that he has even worked with Thunder's Mouth editors on the editing of Fonzi's book. "But what's important to me is the role books have played in the process of examining the assassination. It's been a far more important role than that played by either the government or the news media."

As to the future of the genre, Winton says, "It seems to me that in some recent books the process has become a parlor game. Many of the key people have died, and no one else is likely to come forward now." He concedes there's some resignation in *The Last Investigation*, and Thunder's Mouth president Neil Ortenberg adds, "For a book to work for us, it has to go further than before. It's possible this [*The Last Investigation*] could be the last kind of book in the genre, the story of how we failed to get the truth."

—JOHN F. BAKER

## Book Blames World Bank for Earth's Destruction

The World Bank, founded in 1944 and funded by 10 of the world's leading industrialized nations, including the U.S., Japan and Germany, comes under unflattering scrutiny in a book due next February from Beacon Press. Bruce Rich, a senior attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund and the author of *Mortgaging the Earth: The World Bank, Environmental Impoverishment, and the Crisis of Development*, characterizes the Bank's loan practices, tied always to specific projects, as ecologically disastrous. Since its inception, he says, the Bank has been "a prime accomplice in a quiet war against the diversity of humankind's cultures and our planet's biological inheritance." The Bank was born with a lack of accountability, he says, and has become a fundamentally nihilistic institution with no coherent project except its own self-perpetuation. The Bank makes \$23-\$25 billion in loan commitments to more than 100 developing countries each year, he claims.

Rich uses leaked documents from sources inside the Bank to expose, most notably, the Bank's involvement in the destruction of the Brazilian rain forest. "The Bank spent a half-billion dollars to finance a thousand-mile penetration road into a chunk of the Amazon rain forest three-quarters the size of Texas," Rich says. "In less than four years the area had one of the highest rates of deforestation in the entire Brazilian Amazon. One of the worst outbreaks of malaria in recorded history broke out. The bank had to approve another \$90 million emergency loan for malaria control, which involved spraying DDT."

#### Crisis of Development

Rich concedes that a good portion of *Mortgaging the Earth* is an exposé of the organization, but maintains he has also written a revisionist history of the Bank on its 50th anniversary, a look at the emerging environmental movements in countries like Brazil and Indonesia, and a philosophical reflection on the Bank as "an embodiment of a lot of the problems of our modern market civilization." He says: "The last third of the book deals with the crisis of modern development and the dominant thrust toward economic

growth that mesmerizes all societies around the world."

The World Bank celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding in July 1994. "They're obviously planning an official history highlighting all the wonderful, positive things the bank has done," says Margaret Lichtenberg, marketing director at Beacon. "We'll publish in time to get publicity around the fact that this book is the real story." The idea, she says, is to create a counterstory to the bank's celebration.

The attempt to tie news of the bank to *Mortgaging the Earth* has apparently already begun. Rich talks about arriving at work one morning and finding a story in the *Washington Times* about Jesse Jackson in Africa. "He compared the world financial organizations to lynch mobs," Rich says. "He said, 'They no longer use bullets and ropes. They use the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.' If you want to know what Jesse meant when he said that, read my book."

A former lawyer for the Natural Resources Defense Council, Rich has been at the Environmental Defense Fund since 1985, where he serves as a watchdog on the multilateral banks and encourages activists in Third World countries. *Mortgaging the Earth* is his first book. He once consulted for the Bank. "In the early and middle 1980s," Rich says, "I looked at the single most destructive activities for rain forests and species, and I saw the hand of the World Bank." He found a publisher for *Mortgaging the Earth* in some small part because Beacon Press had had success working with authors from public policy organizations.

"We knew the Environmental Defense Fund," says senior editor Deanne Urmey. "So I started talking with people there and found out that Bruce was the man with the book." Urmey, who worked with Marian Wright Edelman on her bestseller *The Measure of Our Success*, says Beacon's Boston location makes this kind of active book solicitation a necessity. "Editors here tend to think of the people they want to work with, and then go straight to them."

*Mortgaging the Earth* will have a print run of 7500 copies, which Lichtenberg calls "substantial for us." At this time ads are planned for the *New Republic*, the *Nation*, *Mother Jones* and *E*, with media in Washington and New York City targeted for wooing.

—MARTIN PEDERSEN