

Cheers star's dad confessed he killed

Copyright © 1990
Globe Communications Inc.

CHEERS star Woody Harrelson's father — a mob hitman now in prison for gunning down a federal judge — confessed more than a decade ago that he was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy, **THE GLOBE** has learned.

The elder Harrelson even drew a map showing exactly where he was positioned in Dealey Plaza in Dallas on No-

JFK

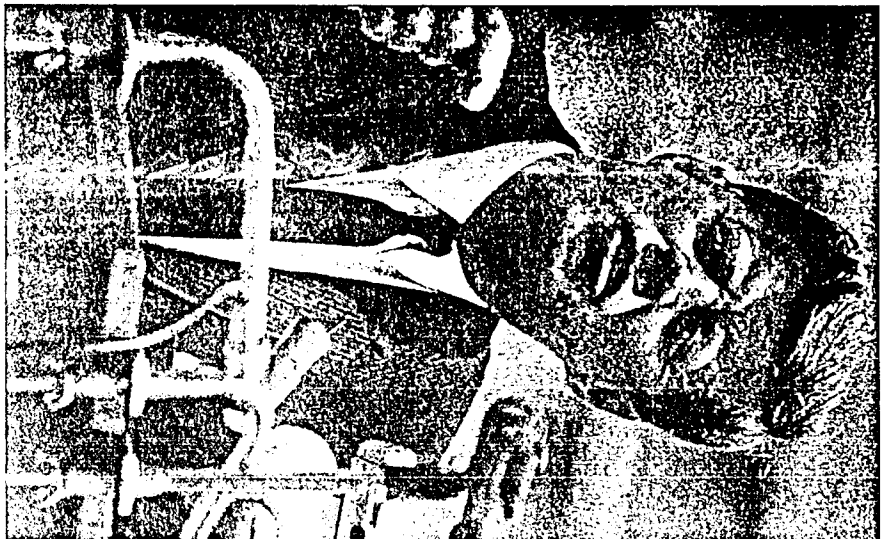
ember 22, 1963, as the doomed President's motorcade passed by, according to testimony at the hitman's murder trial in 1980.

Amazingly, 52-year-old Charles V. Harrelson has never been questioned by the FBI about his role in the JFK killing — even though his claims are supported by photographs of a mystery man arrested in Dallas less than an hour after the assassination. Top

More than 25 years after John F. Kennedy was gunned down, **THE GLOBE** reveals a new twist to his assassination

photography experts say the man very likely is Harrelson.

"Harrelson was, in my opinion, a member of the Kennedy assassination team," says Jim Marrs, a long-



How he matches up with mystery man in Dallas



HAIRLINE

TOP OF EAR

EYES

BOTTOM OF EAR

NOSE

LIPS

CHIN



Charles Harrelson (above) and a picture of the mystery suspect known as "The Tall Tramp," taken in 1963. "Unless Harrelson has an identical twin, there's no way he's not The Tall Tramp," say one leading photo expert

time Kennedy assassination investigator and author of *Crossfire*, *The Plot That Killed Kennedy*. Harrelson, whose son plays bartender Woody on *Cheers*, later recanted his admission.

But he has been linked by the FBI to a shadowy group of hired gunmen, mercenaries and drug smugglers known as "The Company."

He is now serving three life sentences in the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion, Ill., for the 1979 murder-for-hire killing of Judge John Wood of San Antonio, Texas, who was leading organized crime ties to the narcotics trade.

Harrelson is eligible for parole May 22, 1998.

"There was testimony at his trial that he admitted being involved in the JFK assassination. His defense

EXCLUSIVE

Woody Harrelson's father is a hired assassin jailed for life



Charles Harrelson is currently serving three life sentences for his role in the murder of a Texas judge. He's eligible for parole in 1998

attorney, Tom Sharpe Jr., has acknowledged. "Harrelson also admitted his involvement to police in September, 1980, following his arrest."

Reporter Anne Keifenberg, who covered the Wood murder trial for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, revealed:

"Joe Chagra (a government witness) told jurors that when he visited Harrelson... in jail in September, 1980, Harrelson told him about a 'will' in which he admitted killing Judge Wood and President Kennedy."

"Harrelson's reported confession was first made public after he was

arrested... he reportedly admitted both slayings. Chagra said Harrelson told him: "I will clear up the Kennedy matter at the same time I clear up the Wood matter."

CHAGRA testified that Harrelson "drew a map of Dealey Plaza in Dallas to show me where he was standing when Kennedy was shot."

He reportedly pinpointed a spot behind a fence on the famous "grassy knoll" where witnesses say they saw gunflashes and heard gunfire. Marrs says Harrelson told Chuck

Cook of the Dallas Morning News: "Listen, if and when I get out of here and feel free to talk, I will have something that will be the biggest story you ever had."

And when asked what that story would be, Harrelson would only reply: "November 22, 1963. You remember that?"

Marrs also reveals that when arrested for Judge Wood's murder, Harrelson was carrying the business card of a close friend, R.L. Matthews—a man he looked up to "as a father."

"Russell Douglas Matthews was close to Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby, the man who gunned down Lee Harvey Oswald," says Marrs.

"Matthews was described by the House assassinations committee as a man heavily engaged in criminal activity since the 1940s."

"If Dallas organized crime was indeed involved (in the JFK assassination), then the entire spectrum of the Dallas underworld at that time becomes suspect."

And this would have to include Charles Harrelson.

Researchers believe Harrelson is "The Tall Tramp"—one of three mysterious men photographed under arrest in Dealey Plaza. Witnesses saw at least one of the

He drew a map pinpointing his position when the president was shot

"Tramps"—the Harrelson look-alike—behind the fence on the grassy knoll near the plaza.

"Unless Harrelson has an identical twin—and he doesn't—there's no way he's not 'The Tall Tramp,'" says photographic expert Jack White, a consultant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which determined in 1978 that accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone.

The three men were called "tramps" because, at first glance, they look shabbily dressed, like bums. But blow-ups of the pictures show that their shoes appear to be new and shiny and their clothes are



Cheers bartender Woody Harrelson has traveled a different path — to TV stardom

OSWALD DIDN'T DO IT
Continued on page 6

Harrelson's dad: Oswald didn't do it

(Continued from page 3)

unsold. They are clean-shaven and their hair is neatly trimmed.

"There are enough amazing similarities between the man identified as 'The Tall Tramp' and Charles Harrelson that there is a very good probability that it is one and the same man," says George Pearl, one of the nation's top experts on photographic evidence.

"I believe that the 1963 tramp photos which I've studied and pictures of Charles Harrelson are close enough in comparison to warrant a full-blown investigation."

Assassination expert Gary Mack told *The GLOBE* that when he saw a videotape of Harrelson being led into court in San Antonio after his 1980 arrest, his heart raced with excitement. "My God! I said, 'There was 'The Tall Tramp!'"

"There were 17 years between the two photos — but the resemblance was just incredible."

No one has ever learned why the three "tramps," who were arrested while hiding in a boxcar, were released so

Investigators agree he's the mystery 'tramp' who was arrested after JFK assassination

quickly after the assassination. "Were all three real tramps, or was one or more of them part of

an assassination team?" authors Gary Shaw and Larry Harris ask.

"Thanks to Dallas law enforcement officials and the FBI, we may never know. Deputy Sheriff Harold Elkins released



them without any arrest record being made or any mug shots or fingerprints being taken. Not even their names were written down."

In an exclusive prison interview with *GLOBE* Executive Editor Charlie Montemery in Huntsville, Texas, Harrelson admitted that he had confessed to the JFK assassination. "I didn't care for Kennedy — that's true," he revealed.

"I said I killed JFK," he told Montemery. "I said it the day of my arrest."

— KEN HARRELL



Secret Service agent scrambles onto JFK's limo as wife dies; he leans over the mortally wounded president