

KNOLL THEORY DEMOLISHED—

Photo Analysis Rules Out Second Gunman In Kennedy Assassination

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L EXINGTON, Mass. (UPI)—An analysis by one of the nation's top photographic laboratories has demolished a widely circulated theory that a second gunman was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The ITEX Corporation revealed Thursday that a month-long study of an amateur movie of the actual shooting had disproved the existence of a rifleman pointing his weapon from a grassy knoll at the Kennedy car in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. ITEX made the study as a public service.

The 8 millimeter color motion picture was shot that day by Orville Nix, a federal government employe who was standing among the parade spectators in Dealey Plaza. It shows the President hit by the fatal bullet and Mrs. Kennedy climbing onto the back of the convertible.

Shows Resemblance

In the background is the knoll and atop it a wooden picket fence and a white concrete pavilion with a low wall.

Enlargement of certain frames brings out what to the

naked eye bears a resemblance to a man with one elbow resting on the roof of a station wagon behind the wall and squinting down a gun barrel at Elm Street where Kennedy was shot.

Proponents of the theory of a conspiracy have sought to use the photographs as evidence that the Warren Commission was wrong in finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone and that all the shots were fired from the Texas school book depository building.

Several persons in Dallas who were eyewitnesses to the assassination have reported seeing smoke or flashes from the knoll area and even more thought they heard shots from that direction.

Given To FBI

Nix first turned his film over to the FBI and it was used, among other things, to determine the position of the President's car at the moment the fatal bullet struck his head.

The film subsequently became the property of United Press International. Newsfilm (UPI) last February, the ITEX Corporation agreed at the request of UPI to make an exhaustive scientific study of the 31 feet of film. ITEX is one of the major manufacturers of highly sophisticated aerial re-

connaisance cameras and its equipment was used in development of closeup color pictures of the moon, made by the Surveyor spacecraft.

Film Improved

ITEX photographic scientists improved the quality of the film content by utilizing advanced image enhancement methods. ITEX photogrammetrists and



photointerpreters made precise measurements of a number of significant objects in the photographs to insure proper identification of the objects and to determine the feasibility of the fatal shot being fired from certain points.

Several objects on and behind the grassy knoll were unclear in the original films and the ITEX scientists were themselves at first struck by the image of a gunman.

"The man with the rifle," however, was found to be nothing more than the shadows of tree branches and leaves on

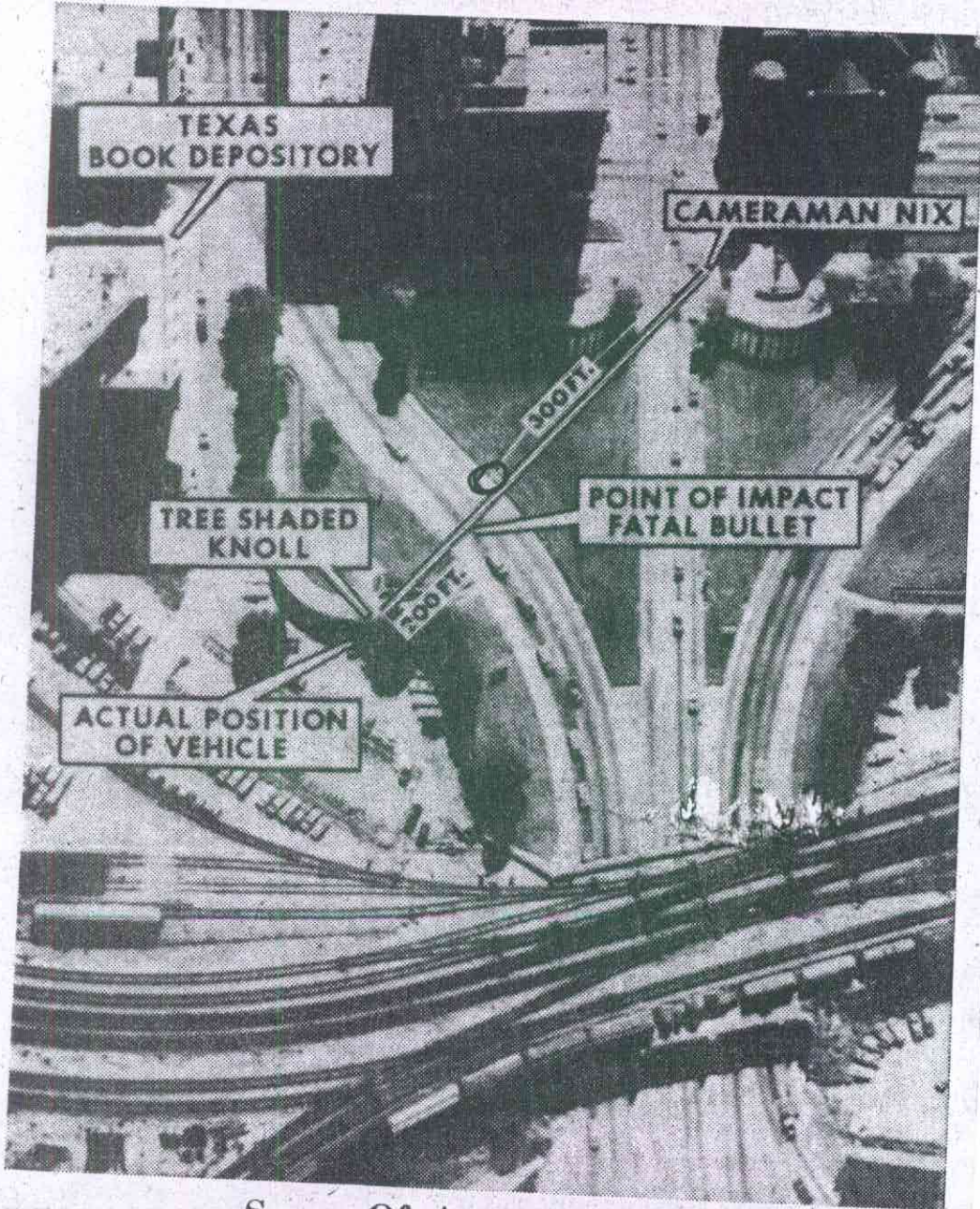
the side of the white pavilion. ITEX said the analysis showed that the object which apparently was a station wagon or some vehicle actually is in a parking lot behind the wooden picket fence and 20 feet behind the "shadow gunman."

Limited Time

A rifleman at that location would have had to fire from nine feet above the ground for his trajectory to clear existing vertical obstructions, it said. No person was visible on the roof of the vehicle. Even assuming a gunman was at sufficient height, the timing of the cavalcade was such that he would have had less than one-thirtieth of a second to get off the fatal shot, ITEX said.

Nix, an employe of the General Services Administration and a man six-feet, six-inches tall, took his first few seconds of film approximately 200 feet from Kennedy's car and 300 feet from the pavilion atop the knoll. Then he ran through the crowd about 18 feet to his left and zoomed his camera in on the scene again. The resultant triangular pattern permitted stereoscopic analysis of the objects in the background and was fundamental in determining that the so-called rifleman was actually a blend of shadows.

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Scene Of Assassination