

5809 East Rosewood St.,
Tucson, Arizona.
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85711

Dear Mr. Weisberg: I am sorry. I didn't know.

A few years ago one of your critics said you didn't have a nickle...or maybe it was a dime. He seemed to think that disqualified you as a researcher. I didn't agree. A fellow without a dime might just possibly do better than one with a dime. I am hardly a respecter of persons. I might read a book just because a certain person wrote it but I would read primarily just to see what he would have to say and not with any more expectation of truth. You did a good job. As a matter of fact, most of the critics, if not all of them, did good jobs but they avoided one field which, to me, was decisive, that of ballistics, rifles and so on, except for certain external facts that anybody might gather. So I thought to concentrate on the rifles and all that was said about them since nobody else had. I approached the work from the standpoint of my early familiarity with rifles and my old "stiff-ticket" from the School of Fire, Ft. Sill, Okla. It would have given me some bitter amusement to go on the stand and show up Mr. Robert A. Fraser, J. Edgar Hoover's Liar-in-Chief on this job. He made a number of statements about the so-called Oswald rifle but he also included his firing data in Vol. III of the Hearings. The two do not agree and he faked his data in several points. The last book I read was that of the former Chief of Police of Dallas, Jesse Curry published in paper back, size of Atlantic Monthly. He just rehashed a little the same old crap. For the proposed motorcade route he included that published in the Dallas News on the morning of November 22 which continued on Main Street and made the slight right turn onto Stemmons.

Mr. Sprague, in Computers and Automation, claims that Mr. Kennedy was first hit at Zapruder 189 but the man is shown waving in Frame 193 and again in frames 206, 207 and 208. I think he must first have been hit between frames 207 and 208. LIFE published photographs taken by Willis (Willis 5) and Hugh Hetzner taken at about the same instant and at about the same spot. Both indicate that Mr. Kennedy has not yet been shot. Thompson published the missing frames, 208, 209, 210 and ~~211~~ 211. Frame 210 shows the motorcycle cops on the left with their faces turned to look directly at the President, a sure sign that something has happened in the Presidential car. They are looking straight ahead in Willis 5. So it would seem that Frame 210 and Willis 5 were not taken at the same instant. Willis 5 was taken before Frame 206.

Mr. Sprague spends some time on a cop with overshoes and the Umbrella Man. The fact is that it ~~xxxx~~ had been raining that morning and did not clear up until past 11. Anybody who went out early might have been still wearing overshoes or carrying a bumbershoot. Mr. Sprague thinks the Babushka Lady may be a Mrs. Beck, student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. After she had her film developed she spoke to the Detroit police about the film. The FBI then got to her and appear to have confiscated the film. He thinks it probably shows the source of the rifle fire and I couldn't agree more. Probably the only film taken that day that does .

Mrs. Beck also talked to the Detroit Free Press but Sprague does not quote her.

It has been assumed by everyone that those bullet holes are just ordinary bullet holes and I did not think to investigate them more thoroughly until I had already written over 300 pages and been turned down by 110 book publishers, 100 of hard cover and 10 of paper backs. Then somehow I got to studying the things and they are very individual holes, something quite rare. They actually show the shape of the nose of the bullet. The 1968 autopsy said the hole in the coat was oval but it isn't. It is pointed with the point upward. The hole in the back of the shirt is more sharply pointed and lies squarely across one of the vertical stripes of the shirt. The bullet was necessarily pointed and entered the shirt at a small angle to it. I went out and did a bit of test shooting with a sandbag for a shoulder. Firing downward at a small angle I got the nose of the bullet shaped in the cloth. Counsel argued that the coat and shirt had been twisted around and upward to put the holes over the shoulder wound. This is true and I can think of no other way in which the cloth could have been properly positioned so that the bullet would make the holes shown. Thus if the garments and the holes are authentic as well as the photographs, they prove the correctness for the shoulder wound of the Autopsy Report. The vertical angle, that is, the downward angle in the vertical plane, was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 degrees. The shoulder wound was one of entry. Twist the garments around and up and the point of the hole and the bullet were toward the body. I added a short chapter to my probably never to be published work to go into the bullet holes in some detail. Of course I always rejected the Knoll as the sniper's post. It is too exposed. And if a sniper had been there Willis 5 and Hetzner's photo should have shown something. One does not simply walk up to a firing post and bang away if he intends to hit anything. He has to get set and aim. 5/18 second is hardly enough time. Better take 2 seconds. I learned the trick of quick firing long ago and a major of infantry, instructor at the University here, says the Army now teaches that method. My score was phenomenal but, not being an infantryman, I never fired for record.

Incidentally I am 77 years old and living on a couple of modest pensions and a very small amount of other income. I have been told by more than one doctor that my life expectancy is about 20 years more. I am plagued by allergies by the dozen, even to earth and water. My hands get sore if I get them in mud. Water immersion for half an hour 3 times a day would make my hands sore. Last August I found I was photosensitive. My arms swelled up to look like those of Popeye the Sailor Man and it took me months to get them healed. I am thinking of a turban and a burnoose like the desert Arabs wear. I was beginning to do some rock-hounding and even discovered a small mountain of blue agate but I have to quit. Agate sells for up to 15 cts. a pound but the market is small. I found about 3 million cubic feet of the stuff...165 pounds per cubic ft.

Best wishes,

Whitney Joy

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P.S. I have calculated the size of an angle from its elements many thousands of times since about 1913 and made virtually no mistakes. It gets to be routine and almost automatic. There are just two additions of two numbers each and two divisions. Then a table of trigonometric functions... a book you don't have but I do. Used one since 1913. Trigonometry is a simple but very powerful tool.

Had some letters from Barnabei some years ago. He was hot for the 1968 Autopsy Report. That Report was just a cover for the original Report. There were errors, though. That Report says the shoulder bullet hole is 2 inches from the midline. Since it was also $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the point of the shoulder, that made Mr. Kennedy 15 inches across the shoulders. Quite a beanpole. Actually he was about $18\frac{1}{4}$ to $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the shoulders. That is a tailor's dimension so I got it from a tailor who is or was a sort of Kennedy fan.

Yes, most are more interested in their own opinions than in the truth. I am not but my position is carefully taken. Few of the writers have studied the site of the crime. I have, several times. Few seem to realize that it is a hole in the ground something like an ancient Greek theater with the stage at the underpass which is over 30 feet down. A number of people heard more shots than were fired. Among them Secret Service Agent in Charge. He heard two shots when the President was hit in the head. Actually one of the shots was the bullet striking, after the strike, he heard the sound of the firing. How many shots were fired I don't know. There were signs where a total of 5 or 6 struck. A platoon of infantry may have been firing for all I know.

The man upstairs fired one shot and got out quick as he had. The man down stairs may have been two men. One fired the shoulder shot, the other the head shot. However, there was probably only one.

Jesse Curry said the truth might never be known. I wrote and told him that, if he doesn't know, he ought to ask his sometime boy, J. Willy Fritz...he knows.

W .J.

No real need from where I am to answer this —

10/13/71

Dear Mr. Joy,

Read your 10/6 when it arrived this a.m. You are correct in saying that enough work has not been done on the ballistics, and I recall your intriguing tracing of the angles. However, the problem with all of this is that we have the most dubious raw material. Every mistake I've made is because I trusted any of the official story. I am absolutely certain that they have lied to us about every wound. If this is the case, how can you project backward?

I am no less certain they lied about the ammo, regardless of the rifle, something I do not recall your addressing with me. I used to have a slight knowledge of such things, and for ~~FRAME-UP~~ I had to do more looking into it, as you will recall if you read it.

Please believe me, if Sprague says high noon is daylight, have a question about it. He is as decent and dedicated as he is usually wrong. He presumes and considers that proof and never checks out anything he likes, fearing disproof. He really knows much less about the subject than his writing would indicate.

Willis' 5th had to have been taken by Z204. You haven't allowed reaction time for the cops. Sprague is, of course, nuts on all those pictures, and each of his contradictory versions, for when one was destroyed he fabricated another, was always wrong. That business of the rubbers is as you say, because it had rained that a.m. As I recall the story, for I dug the reports up in the Spring of 1966, Mrs. Beck could not have been the B lady and was not at that point. I think the FBI did not get her film, as I recall it, for she either was fibbing or had no film or disappeared.

Bernabei is pretty good.

Good luck,