

JFK researcher accidentally shot

Man is wounded by detective
who was handcuffed to Oswald

By Sylvia Martinez

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Here's another weird one for Kennedy assassination buffs:

A photographer documenting how a Dallas police officer tried to keep Jack Ruby from shooting Lee Harvey Oswald was accidentally shot himself Thursday.

The bullet was fired from a replica of the gun that killed Oswald.

And the man holding the .38-caliber Cobra was the same detective who was handcuffed to Oswald when the assassin was slain in the basement of Dallas police headquarters 29 years ago.

The photographer, Bob Porter, and former Dallas Mayor Wes Wise were at the Garland home of former detective James Leavelle, in-

Please see RESEARCHER on Page 35A.

RUBY INNOCENT!

OSWALD WAS
ACTUALLY SHOT BY
LEAVELLE - PROOF
IS IN THIS ARTICLE!

(I bet this will
spawn new theories)

-AL C.

"DMMAS MORNING NEWS"

12-5-9L

Researcher accidentally wounded

Continued from Page 33A.

ter-viewing him for an oral history project on the Kennedy assassination.

As Mr. Leavelle was demonstrating how to grip the revolver's cylinder to keep it from firing, the gun went off, tearing into Mr. Porter's upper right arm.

"It was strictly an accident," Mr. Leavelle said. "It was a very unfortunate thing. I should have known better."

Mr. Porter, who is director of public programming for The Sixth Floor, the West End exhibit on President Kennedy's assassination, was in fair condition Friday at Parkland Memorial Hospital after reconstructive surgery on his arm. He is expected to regain about 85 percent of the use of the limb, said his niece, Shelly Porter.

At the time of the Oswald slaying, Mr. Porter worked for the *Dallas Times Herald* and Mr. Wise, who said he knew Jack Ruby and was a witness at his trial, worked for what was then KRLD-TV (Channel 4).

The 72-year-old Mr. Leavelle, who is wearing the white hat in the well-known photograph of the Oswald slaying, said he was showing Mr. Porter and Mr. Wise how another police detective, L.C. Graves, grabbed Mr. Ruby's gun in an attempt to stop him from firing.

"I was demonstrating how the gun was held by Detective Graves to keep him from firing," Mr. Leavelle said Friday. "I was show-



© 1963, Bob Jackson

James Leavelle (left) watches as Lee Harvey Oswald is shot by Jack Ruby on Nov. 24, 1963.

ing them how a cylinder turns on a revolver and how if you stop the cylinder from turning, it won't fire. They didn't know that."

Mr. Leavelle said he had an unloaded pistol and a loaded one. "I just picked up the wrong one."

Mr. Leavelle and Mr. Porter's sister-in-law, Donna Kay Porter, said Mr. Porter didn't realize what had happened at first.

"Bob didn't know he'd been shot," said Mrs. Porter, who visited her brother-in-law in the hospital early Friday. "Bob said when the explosion of the shot rang out, he said, 'My God, was that a blank?' and Mr. Leavelle said, 'No, it couldn't have been a blank,' and then Bob was in pain."

Mr. Wise said he also believed that the gun contained a blank.

"Then I heard Bob say, 'Ow!' or

something like that," he said. "Then I saw the blood."

But Mr. Leavelle realized immediately that he had not shot a blank.

"As soon as he jumped, I knew what happened," he said. "I was totally shocked that it was loaded."

As Mr. Wise called 911, Mr. Leavelle wrapped a towel around Mr. Porter's arm. "I was kind of proud how we all hopped to it then," Mr. Wise said. "Everybody remained calm."

Mr. Wise said it was "a blessing" that Mr. Porter was struck in the arm and not in the chest. "Just a few inches made the difference."

Said Mr. Porter's sister-in-law, "I suppose you could say that it's rather odd circumstances. We've never had anybody be shot before, so this is kind of a new thing, and we don't like it."