

The NATIONAL
OBSERVER
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10 questions about

HOW DID THE
BULLET PASS
THROUGH TWO
PEOPLE ALMOST
UNHARMED?



The recovered bullet

HOW WAS JFK
FLIGHT ATTENDANT
BY THE BULLET
KILLED?



Kennedy is hit

WHAT
WAS THE
SOURCE
OF THE
BULLET?



Other bullet found here

WHERE
WAS THE
BULLET
SHOT?



Entrance to sewer

The killer's bullet must

and testimony had was discredited


be answered

THE NATION OF ...

20 ...


on the JFK assassination

1 WHO AND WHERE IS KATHY KAY?




She vanished

2 WHAT LINK DID JACK RUBY AND LEE HARVEY OSWALD HAVE WITH THE FBI?



Ruby Oswald

3 WHAT WAS EUGENE'S LINK WITH THE JFK AND RFK DEATHS?



The brothers

have paused in mid-air

JFK case must be reopened

The case for reopening the investigation into the murder of President John F. Kennedy is now so persuasive as to be compelling.

Three out of every four Americans want it. Congress is leaning toward it. The evidence demands it.

Few have expressed so simply the need to re-examine the events of that traumatic day in Dallas nearly 12 years ago than Rep. Stewart B. McKinney (R.-Conn.) who has called for a Congressional probe.

He said: "There are just too many unanswered questions in the minds of too many people."

The "unanswered questions" have been the substance of many books, magazine articles, television documentaries, campus lectures.

Ten of the most important doubts that arouse public skepticism are explored in the article on these pages. They provide much food for careful thought.

The blue-panel Warren Commission, which studied the assassination for eight months, published 26 volumes of evidence and thousands of documents. It produced 800 items of physical evidence.

Its conclusion, that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing the President, was based on 25,000 interviews and the evidence of 400 eyewitnesses.

Those are impressive figures, yet there is not a responsible legal or political body which does not concede that the Warren report is seriously flawed with dangling questions and puzzling anomalies.

The gathering clamor for a new, conclusive investigation has been sparked by the deceptions and governmental cover-ups emanating from Watergate.

Details of the government's hazy intelligence operations and allegations of plots by anti-Castro



forces who lost their gambling empire, and plots by the CIA for Kennedy's left-turn in foreign affairs have added to the doubts.

Allard Lowenstein, the former New York Congressman, is pushing for a new hearing. Rep. Henry Gonzales (D-Tex.) has sponsored a resolution in the House.

Judge Burt Griffin, a member of the Warren Commission, is also seeking a new investigation.

"It's still an important issue," the judge said. "The case ought to be reopened."

"I don't think some agencies were candid with us. I never thought the Dallas police or the FBI told us the entire truth."

Finally, Senator Edward Kennedy himself said the matter should be reopened if the evidence warranted it.

Most Americans obviously believe that criterion has been met.

An incredible 78 per cent of the American people no longer believe the findings of the Warren Commission on the assassination of John F. Kennedy in Dallas, on November 22, 1963, according to a recent Gallup poll.

As a result, the Star has conducted its own in-depth investigation, and we have concluded that there are still 10 questions which must be answered before the books on the assassination can be closed.

The unanswered questions are:

- 1—How can one bullet pause in mid-air, zig-zag twice, pass through two people and emerge almost unmarked?
- 2—If the fatal bullet, the one that exploded Kennedy's skull, came from the rear, why was the President's body, blood and brain tissue thrown backward by the impact, instead of forward?
- 3—What happened to the "other" bullet?

"Three tramps"

- 4—Why was a sewer system containing potential snipers' nests and underground escape routes left unchecked?
- 5—Who and where is Kathy Kay?
- 6—What connection did Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald have with the FBI?
- 7—Who was "Jim Braden"?
- 8—Who were the "three tramps"?
- 9—Why did cartridges found at the scene of officer J.D. Tippitt's

By BILL SLOAN

... a veteran newspaperman who was in Dallas the day Kennedy was killed. He has covered the story ever since.

slaying fail to match Oswald's gun?

10—What happened at the autopsy?

Here is the Star's detailed analysis of each point:

1 A bullet was found on Texas Gov. John Connally's stretcher at Parkland Hospital. It is the key to the entire "one gun, one assassin" theory which the Warren Commission adopted as fact.

Unfortunately, it is a key that never fit the lock.

The commission ruled that this bullet struck President Kennedy high in the back of the neck, exited through his throat, passed through Gov. Connally's chest, breaking a rib, went through Connally's wrist, breaking it, and finally imbedded itself in Connally's thigh.

After doing all this damage, said the commission, it fell out of the governor's thigh onto the stretcher.

But the bullet is so clean that no ballistics expert could believe it did everything the commission said it did. The commission itself had an identical bullet fired just through the wrist of a cadaver and found it severely blunted by that impact alone.

Dr. Robert Joling, president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, said: "This bullet would have had to pause in mid-flight for a period of at least three-fourths of a second and make two sharp diagonal turns to do all this damage."

Grassy knoll

"And even if it had been able to perform that kind of acrobatics, it could not have emerged as the 'pristine beauty' found on the stretcher.

"Furthermore, there were more fragments left in Connally's body than were missing from that bullet."

2 Oswald allegedly fired from a corner sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository, 100 yards or more behind and to the right of the spot at which the bullet struck.

But the 22-second color movie made by Abraham Zapruder shows Kennedy jerked violently backward by the shot, an incongruity that leads Dr. Joling and other experts to believe the shot came from in front of Kennedy—perhaps from atop the much discussed "grassy knoll" in Dealey Plaza.

Dallasite Charles Brehm was one of many eyewitnesses who thought the same thing at the time. Brehm was quoted in the Dallas Times Herald of Nov. 22, 1963, as saying the shot came from "in front of or beside the President."

His testimony was disregarded.

3 Police officers at the scene watched a sandy-haired man with a cowlick pick up what appeared to be a bullet from the grass 10 minutes after the assassination at a spot just across Elm Street from where the fatal shot hit.

They thought the man was a Secret Service agent, but he was not. Nobody knows to this day who he was, or where the bullet is.

4 Beneath Dealey Plaza lies an extensive storm sewer system with strategically placed drainage inlets and hundreds of yards of subterranean pipes which interconnect the inlets and run into other parts of the city.

One of the most interesting inlets is behind a wooden fence at the top of the "grassy knoll"—the spot where numerous eyewitnesses thought one or more shots were fired on assassination day.

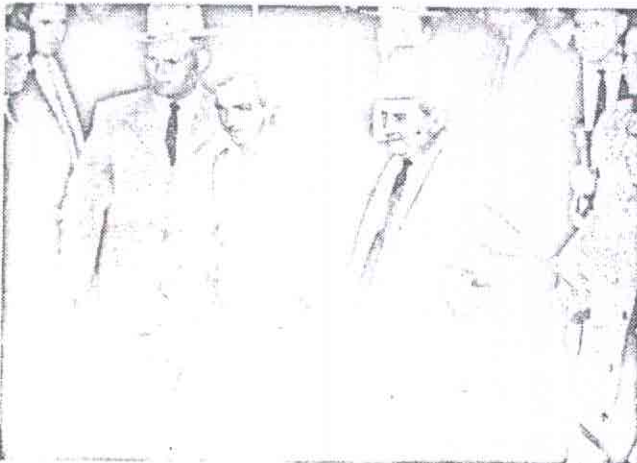
Motorcycle Patrolman Bob Hargis, his uniform soaked with the blood and brains of the President, ran up the knoll that day with a drawn revolver and climbed that fence.

Hiding place

But he didn't see the three-foot-square, six-foot-deep sewer drain just behind the fence. He didn't even know it was there until a few weeks ago, when it was pointed out to him by a reporter.

"No, I didn't check it that day and I'm pretty sure nobody else did, either," Hargis admitted.

Another intriguing sewer inlet is in the north curb on Elm Street, at almost exactly the spot where Kennedy was



Ruby goes forward and shoots Oswald

struck by the second and fatal bullet.

Inside the curb, under a manhole cover, is what amounts to a small concrete room, where a sniper could have waited for hours, in relative comfort, for the right moment.

A clear shot

When the moment came, he would have had a clear shot of the President—from a distance of no more than 12 to 15 feet.

Leading away from the little room under the manhole cover is an 18-inch sewer pipe which connects, after a short distance, with a 30-inch sewer main, offering a built-in escape route for an agile sniper.

The larger inlet at the top of the knoll offers equally enticing possibilities. It is no real wonder police never knew this inlet existed. It is not even shown on official City of Dallas drainage maps of the area.

Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, the Secret Service man who ran from a follow-up car to the presidential limousine when the shooting erupted, thought the first shot he heard sounded "like a firecracker," but the last shot sounded "different."

Vanished

Hill told the Warren Commission: "(It sounded) as though someone was shooting a revolver into a hard object—it seemed to have some type of echo."

The manhole cover on top

of the sewer inlet might have produced just such an echo.

⊕ Kathy Kay was the blonde, statuesque stripper who claimed to have danced the Twist with Oswald at Ruby's Carousel Club shortly before the assassination.

She watched in horror as her boss, Ruby, murdered Oswald on national television, told her co-workers that was the man she had danced with, and promptly vanished—never to be seen again.

FBI informants

She left Dallas that same fateful Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963.

Friends said the British-born stripper with the heavy cockney accent was in the U.S. illegally and feared she would be deported if the FBI questioned her.

Some rumors said she had gone to Australia, but nobody knows for sure. If efforts were ever made to locate her, federal authorities aren't talking about it.

⊕ In 1972, a memorandum from the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to the Warren Commission was quietly declassified along with several other documents from the National Archives.

The memorandum plainly states that Jack Ruby was an FBI informant for a period of almost seven months, from March 11 until Oct. 2, 1959.

During that period he was contacted by FBI agents on nine occasions concerning possible criminal activities in

Dallas. Then the arrangement was terminated.

Some sources have also claimed that Oswald served in a similar capacity for the FBI in the late 50s and early 60s.

Paid operative

W.R. Morris, a Tennessee author, claims to have information that Oswald was a paid operative for the Central Intelligence Agency. He has said he would willingly testify to that effect.

Oswald was arrested in New Orleans while distributing pro-Castro literature in 1963. He demanded "to see the FBI."

After speaking to an agent and paying a \$19 fine for disturbing the peace, he was quickly released.

But proof of Oswald's association with either the FBI or the CIA, if it exists, is still locked away in the archives.

⊕ Police stopped a man in Dealey Plaza on the day of the assassination. He identified himself with a credit card and a California driver's license issued to "Jim Braden."

Real name

But his real name was Eugene Hale Brading. He was on parole at the time and had well-established links to the Mafia on the West Coast. The driver's license had been issued to him just a few weeks before his trip to Dallas.

When asked by the FBI in January, 1964, why he had not given officers his real name on the day of the assassination, Brading's reply was: "They didn't ask me."

As one further irony, Brading was also present in Los Angeles in 1968 when Sen.

'Laws on murder pushed aside'

9 WHO WERE THE TRAMPS?



Dallas, Texas,
Nov. 22, 1963



Dallas, Texas,
Nov. 22, 1963



E. Howard Hunt
Watergate trial, 1973



Frank Sturgis
Watergate trial, 1973

10 WHY DIDN'T THE GUNLETS THAT SHOT TIPPITT MATCH O'DYALD'S GUN?



Officer Tippitt

11 WHAT HAPPENED AT THE AUTOPSY?



Robert Kennedy was assassinated. Surely, Brading is one of the few people alive who can claim such a distinction.

⑧ In the moments following the shots in Dealey Plaza, Dallas police picked up three men on the railroad tracks just north of the assassination site.

Released

Officer Roy Vaughn reportedly flushed them out of a boxcar at shotgun-point and they were taken back to the scene of the crime for questioning.

But all three were quickly released, without even establishing their identities. Because of that, they are still the object of controversy today.

Photos taken of the men at the time show two of them bear a more-than-casual resemblance to Frank Sturgis and E. Howard Hunt, two key figures in the Watergate burglary.

FBI agents recently questioned several Dallas policemen and showed them photos of the "tramps" in an effort to establish or disprove the Hunt-Sturgis connection, at the request of the Rockefeller Commission.

No announcement as to the FBI's conclusions—if any—has been made.

⑨ Officer Tippitt was found lying dead beside his squad car with his own gun unfired when other police units first arrived at the scene.

An excerpt from the official radio log of the Dallas Police Department shows the following transmission from Car 559, the first to arrive at the corner of Tenth and Patton Streets in the Oak Cliff section of the city:

"The shells at the scene indicate the suspect is armed with an automatic, a .38, rather than a pistol."

Revolver

Yet when Oswald was apprehended a few minutes later in the Texas Theatre, his weapon was found to be a .38 caliber revolver—not an automatic.

Because of marked differences in their design, revolver or pistol shells would be instantly recognizable to any police officer.

⑩ Texas law requires that the autopsy on any murder victim be performed within the state, but federal authorities pushed aside protesting doctors at Parkland Hospital and whisked JFK's body back to Washington without complying with the law.

At Bethesda Naval Hospital outside Washington, a Navy surgeon named Dr. Hume performed the post-mortem examination, although he was untrained in forensic pathology, a general requirement for doctors engaged in such work.

Notes destroyed

Following the autopsy, all Dr. Hume's preliminary notes and sketches were destroyed on direct orders from the doctor's superior officers. The final version of the autopsy is still among the secret documents in the archives.

In reaching its conclusions, the Warren Commission was shown erroneous drawings depicting bullet trajectories and entry and exit wounds, according to forensic expert Dr. Joling.

The exit wound from the bullet that supposedly struck Kennedy in the neck is believed to have been distorted by doctors at Parkland who performed a tracheotomy on a man, who was, beyond medical question, dead.

No one can even be certain of the whereabouts of Kennedy's severely damaged brain.

"There's a receipt for the brain in the archives," said Dr. Joling, "but no one can say for sure where the brain is."