

CONFIDENTIAL
SUNDAY, JULY 1, 1979

That elusive little girl in Da

A young man's search for a clue to the JFK assassination

David Lui, now a student at Brown University, was three years old when President John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas. As a 15-year-old at Beverly Hills High School in California, Lui took up the Kennedy assassination as an extra credit project and became engrossed in his studies. Rerunning the famous Zapruder film of the assassination over and over, he one day noticed something that no one, apparently, had noticed before: a little girl who stops suddenly, startled, while chasing the presidential limousine. This is the story of his search for that little girl.

By David Lui

I sat watching the silent Zapruder film for what must have been the 50th time that night. Suddenly, this time, I saw something that startled me: a young girl, running to keep pace with the presidential limousine, stopped abruptly and turned toward the Texas School Book Depository — too early in the film — before any shots were supposed to have been fired.

I turned the film back to make sure that what I thought I had seen was not a product of my own fatigue, but there it was again.

Many assassination investigators have said that the killing was a conspiracy — not because of the existence of a second gun, other bullets or witnesses who saw a second assassin, but because the shots were fired too close together, too quickly for that particular gun's mechanism to fire twice.

But if the first shot had been fired earlier than they thought, that would have left enough time for one assassin to have fired all the shots.

I rolled the film again so I could take a closer look at the girl. She was about 10, wore a red skirt and a white top, and was Caucasian.

I knew that there were many possibilities why a 10-year-old might stop running: maybe her parents called her back, she might simply have become tired, but

If the shot had been fired when she stopped, that would have left enough time for one assassin to have fired all the shots.

just possibly she stopped running in reaction to a rifle shot.

I believed the theory that the President had been the victim of more than one assassin. The most common reason for concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald had not been the sole assassin in the plaza that day was some simple arithmetic applied to the Zapruder film.

I knew from my reading that Oswald's gun could fire only one bullet every 2.3 seconds. The FBI calculated that 18.5 frames of movie film passed through Zapruder's Bell and Howell camera every second. If the Zapruder film revealed a shot striking the car or its occupants more frequently than once every 42 frames (2.3 seconds multiplied by the camera's 18.3

frames per second) the assassination of the President must have been a conspiracy, since Oswald's gun could not have fired fast enough to do the job alone.

Unfortunately, Abraham Zapruder was not a professional cameraman. When he chose his position to film the parade, he did not realize that the limousine and its occupants would be obscured from his lens by a freeway sign. At frame 210, appearing to be unharmed, President Kennedy fell from view behind the sign. He em-

This being the case, I subtracted the frame in which President Kennedy was shot from the frame in which Gov. Connally was hit and found that 28 frames at most elapsed between the two shots (238 - 210 = 28). This was not enough time for Oswald's gun to be the sole firing weapon.

If, as shown, Connally was shot at frame 238, then the earlier shot would have to have hit the President not at frame 210, but before frame 196 for a lone assassin using Oswald's gun to have been responsible for both shots (238 - 42 = 196).

But the little girl stopped running at frame 197 of the Zapruder film. If she stopped running in reaction to a shot, that would mean that the first shot was fired much earlier than any researcher had assumed.

In the Zapruder film, there are two distinct groups of witnesses — those in the foreground, in front of the presidential limousine, and those behind the limousine. It is nearly impossible to distinguish the reaction of any witness to the sound of gunfire in either group because those standing closer to Zapruder all have their backs to us and those in the background fall into a soft blur on the grain of the 8mm film. However, there is one witness who can be seen between the groups — the little girl.

Of all the witnesses in the plaza that day, she was closest to the President when the first shot hit him. I knew that from her vantage point, 15 feet behind the

