



John F. Kennedy (left) begins his fatal ride through Dallas in 1963.

Stone's 'J.F.K.' opens

By JOHN CHAMBLESS
Staff Writer

WEST CHESTER — After a year of extensive media attacks and counter-attacks, Oliver Stone's "J.F.K." arrives today in theaters nationwide.

Mark Crouch, general manager of WCHE-AM in West Chester, will finally get a chance to see the film he has been following for months as it struggled to come to the screen.

Crouch, a part-time investigator of the John F. Kennedy assassination, recently got a chance to interview Stone by telephone. The interview will air on WCHE (1520 AM) today at 8:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

"I called him the first week of November, when he was still editing the film," Crouch said.

In the interview, Stone calls the film "an epic canvas, involving about 25 characters. We trace them from 1963 to 1969.

"I always loved Kennedy, in the sense of him being the godfather of my generation," Stone says. "I think the (assassination) signaled a subconscious loss of faith in our government and led in many ways

to the Vietnam quagmire.

"It was not just a tragic accident with one angry, lone nut shooting from a window. It had much more sinister forces at work."

In the film, Kevin Costner plays District Attorney Jim Garrison,

who unsuccessfully challenged the findings of the Warren Commission, which had concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in assassinating Kennedy.

Garrison lost his case, but Stone has gone back and rearranged some details to give the character of Garrison some of the evidence that has slowly come to light since the trial.

It's this kind of dramatic license that has angered so many members of the media. The Washington Post, the New York Times and Time magazine have devoted extensive amounts of space to debunking Stone's film.

In the WCHE interview, Stone says the film "reexamines the facts... We sort of pieced together a mosaic of all the interesting facts to show where it led to. We offer an introductory map to this thing in three hours."

Stone also says he was surprised by the problems that plagued the film — from an early script being leaked to the press to the angry accounts published nationwide before the film was finished.

"The degree of fear and protection surrounding the Kennedy-Warren Commission mythology surprises me," he tells Crouch. "If you can get under the floorboards into the viper nest, it's a real mess down there. It's real ugly."



JOHN F. KENNEDY

Death of JFK gets long look

Conspiracy buffs gather for symposium

By **MIKE COCHRAN**

Of The Associated Press

DALLAS — Who killed JFK?

The question has been around since the president was assassinated on that November afternoon in Dallas nearly 28 years ago. This week, a three-day symposium principally of those who reject the official explanation is being held in a hotel just down the street from the old Texas School Book Depository.

The Assassination Symposium on John F. Kennedy, dubbed ASK, is largely a gathering of conspiracy buffs dedicated to "solving" the Nov. 22, 1963, murder.

For the most part, participants reject the Warren Commission conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed the president.

The commission said Oswald was the lone assassin who fired three shots into the presidential motorcade from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

And they insist that Jack Ruby, who murdered Oswald two days later, was a co-conspirator.

The goals of ASK, sponsors say, "are to present and disseminate information about the assassination, and ultimately prompt the United States government to open all files and archives pertaining to the assassination in order to resolve questions that remain unanswered 28 years after the fact."

Among the panelists and speakers are authors and researchers who for years have advanced often novel theories on the events that occurred that day.