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The real assassin?

My father shot JFK, says son of Dallas police officer

BY ASHLEY CHESHIRE
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DALLAS — Dressed in bluejeans and a dusty black cap, a former Midland oilfield supply salesman said yesterday that his father — a former Marine sergeant, Dallas police officer and welder who died in 1971 — left clues that indicate he was one of three U.S. intelligence agents who shot and killed President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Roscoe Anthony "Rock" White, his son said, also killed Dallas police Offi-

cer J.D. Tippit — believed shot while attempting to catch suspected assassin Lee Harvey Oswald — when Tippit learned of the plot.

"It was a part of my father I didn't know," said Ricky Don White, 29, who said he still "deeply admires" his father.

The CIA issued an immediate rebuttal to Ricky White's story.

White said he came forward out of concern for his safety and that of his family, apparently from individuals or agencies involved in the alleged plot.

He also said that a publisher was interested in doing a book and that there was the possibility of a movie.

However, the chief source of his story — a diary written by his father saying he was ordered to Dallas "to eliminate a national security threat to worldwide peace" — was stolen in 1988, White said, soon after he was interrogated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to whom he went for help.

White said he later discovered more clues — three faded teletype messages — in a steel cylinder hidden in his

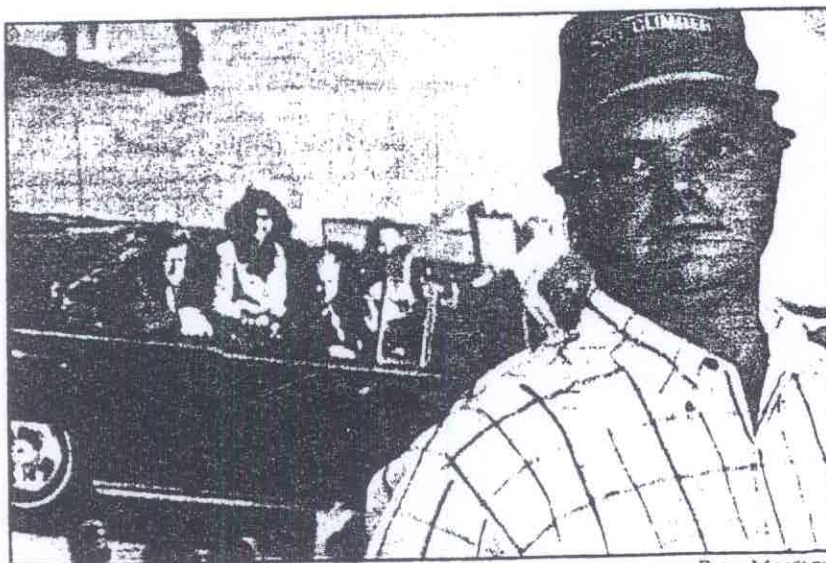
grandfather's house in Paris, Texas.

Another source, Ricky White's mother, Geneva, who White said was ill and unable to appear at a news conference, was represented by a minister and professional counselor who said Geneva White, as an employee at Jack Ruby's Carousal Club, heard Ruby and her husband discussing plans for the assassination.

"She heard the plot, the entire plot of the assassination of the president of the United States," said the Rev. Jack (More on KENNEDY on Page 2)

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Ricky White, standing in front of a motorcade photo of JFK, John Connally, and their wives on Nov. 22, 1963, answers media questions.

Kennedy

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Shaw, executive director of a Dallas-based counseling ministry. "I'm here to tell you that there's a lot of stuff that will blow you away."

Shaw, who refused to give the names of others allegedly involved in the plot, said Geneva White was confronted in 1963 by Ruby, Oswald's murderer, who threatened to kill her and her two sons if she told her story.

"They agreed she should have shock treatments and through shock treatments she was silenced," said Shaw, who contended the treatments clouded Geneva White's memory until the events of 1963 came back to her during a counseling session years later. Shaw said Geneva White confronted her husband about the plot. She said he admitted to having been involved and appeared ready to end his relationship with the undercover group just before he died.

Shaw said Roscoe White told him before dying of burns suffered in a 1971 fire at an equipment company in Dallas that the fire was caused by a severed acetylene line and fed by a fuel can placed at his work position, and that it was no accident.

JFK assassination investigators, led by businessmen J. Gary Shaw of Cleburne and Larry N. Howard of Arlington, co-directors of the JFK Assassination Information Center, whom Ricky White approached for help in investigating his father, also presented documentation indicating:

■ That the Marines sent Roscoe White to Japan in 1957 on the same

ship with Oswald and that they were stationed at Atsugi Air Base, "home of a highly secret CIA operation."

■ That White's words about his father are supported by a polygraph test.

■ That Roscoe and Geneva White knew Ruby.

■ That a photograph of Oswald in an Oak Cliff back yard holding a rifle and Communist propaganda came from the White family.

■ That Roscoe White's diary supports the contention that a uniformed man fired from behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll.

They said, however, that Oswald's widow, Marina, was unable to identify photographs of Roscoe White.

"The information, we think, is quite important and we think it's true," said Bernard Fensterwald, another director of the center.

"But even if everything that's said here today checks out on further investigation, this case is not solved," Fensterwald said. "We still will not know who planned it, who paid for it and, basically, what the shooting was about. The most we can hope to get out of this is an idea of who the actual assassins were."

Asked to respond to the allegations, Midland FBI resident supervisor Tom Kirspel referred calls to Washington, where spokesman Gregory Jones said that the agency did not take Roscoe White's diary.

"In 1988 the FBI received information regarding the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy. At that time the information was thoroughly reviewed and determined to be not credible," said Jones. "That [theft of the diary] did not occur and to go into the litany of remarks at that press conference serves no purpose."

But former New Orleans prosecutor Jim Garrison, who in 1969 tried to convict New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw of involvement in a CIA assassination plot, said the story could be true.

"There is the possibility that this is valid because there are so many points where this kind of statement, coming out of the blue, usually veers off into unbelievability," he said. "This statement continued to ring true."

Ricky White said he discovered the diary in a sea bag when his father's personal effects were being divided up after his funeral.

The diary, he said, related Roscoe White's career as a U.S. intelligence agent but never named the organization for which he worked.

The diary contained the words *RE Rifle*, which White said may be connected to ZR/Rifle, an official, albeit covert, arm of the Central Intelligence Agency, which had been accused of being involved in planning the assassinations of foreign leaders during the 1960s and which had been named in congressional investigations into covert activities.

He said Roscoe White was a good man who was "told by our government" to kill Kennedy.

"You don't question your government," he said.

He said he believes his father eventually regretted his involvement and left the diary and a code written on a brown paper bag to lead him to the cylinder containing what may have been instructions relating to the assassination.

"Rock" White was a five-year veteran of the Marine Corps who resigned in 1962, less than 11 months before Kennedy's assassination, and was hired by the Dallas Police Department about six

weeks before.

He resigned from the police force in 1965, nominally to accept a position at a drug store.

Ricky White said his father, code-named Mandarin, and two other agents fired two shots each at Kennedy's car from three separate positions around Dealey Plaza.

Roscoe White stood behind a picket fence on the grassy knoll in front of the approaching black limousine, the son said. A second agent, code-named Saul, was posing as a janitor in the Records Building on Houston Street. A third, code-named Lebanon, posed as part of an air conditioning crew working in the red-bricked Texas School Book Depository.

Oswald fired no shots, he said. Ricky White said his father wrote that he fired two shots that apparently hit the presi-

dent and then fled in a white Ford Galaxy parked along Interstate 35E.

White said his father later shot and killed Tippit, a friend and fellow officer, who learned of the plot to kill the president during a conversation between White and Oswald, the man the Warren Commission believes killed Kennedy and who Roscoe White indicated was set up to take the blame for the assassination.

Ricky White said that he approached an unnamed Midland oilman with his story and that a company, Matsu Corp., was formed to help him.