

## **CRUCIAL MUCHMORE FRAMES ARE ABSENT FROM THE Z-FILM**

*by*

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Milicent Cranor's interesting article "The Magic Skull" in the July TFD [1] led me to dig out my video copies of the Zapruder, Nix, and Muchmore movies and to painstakingly reappraise them one frame at a time. I am happy to report that I see an anomalous triangular shape (like a shark's fin) on President Kennedy's head, in frames 17 to 22 of the Nix film, that is completely consistent with Milicent's description in "The Magic Skull." In addition, I am shocked to find a two-frame disappearance of President Kennedy on the Muchmore film. It is clearly apparent on freeze-frame and occurs as the limousine passes in front of the Newman family, at approximately Z-280. [2] This disappearance is consistent with JFK having fallen across Jackie's lap, as was described by many eye-witnesses. In the Z-film there is no such movement by the President before the final head shot.

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My copy of the home movie exposed on that fateful day by Marie Muchmore is on the 1993 videotape "JFK: The Case for Conspiracy," produced by Robert Groden. As Mrs. Kennedy's pink jacket and hat initially appear on the right of the picture, camera jiggle causes the images to be blurred—nevertheless Jackie's form is unmistakable. As the limo proceeds, the image clears somewhat, the left front wheel becomes hidden behind the Brehms, Jackie obscures from the camera the child holding Gail Newman's left hand, and the dark form of JFK's head, right shoulder and back are clearly visible. The President has slumped to his left against his wife, his torso at about 35 degrees from vertical. Within a frame he simply disappears [3]: where he had been before, the green grass on the north side of Elm Street is visible. In the next frame, the Newman child can be seen beyond where JFK had been (although this image is very blurred), with Jackie's form coinciding with that of Mrs. Newman. JFK's slouched form returns in the next frame.

The President's reappearance occurs in a frame that is striking in clarity. Within a single frame the image has gone from extremely blurred to sharp, and all visual references show that the limo has moved about 2 feet further down Elm Street—for example, Jackie moves from in front of Mrs. Newman to between Mr. and Mrs. Newman. Moreover, within that single frame, the camera has panned significantly to the left so that the Babushka lady is now fully in the picture. By my reckoning, two M-frames are missing. [4]

The Newmans were not called to testify before the Warren Commission. However, in a recent personal communication with Milicent Cranor, they asserted that JFK was directly in front of them when he was hit on the head. Now that we know that the Z-film was edited to conceal information, we must be on our guard not to rule out any possibility without due cause; eye-witness accounts, such as those in "The Magic Skull", take on renewed importance.

The \$64,000 question is: Why was JFK's collapse over Jackie's lap excised from the Z-film? Perhaps the rapid dynamics of his movements left no doubt that he had taken a glancing shot to the head from the right (as proposed by Milicent Cranor) and not from behind. Of course, even if JFK's movements were consistent with a shot from behind, there would remain the problem of accounting for too many shots when only three shells had been found on the sixth floor of the TSBD. The excision from the Muchmore film may have been an attempt at similar concealment, as much as was feasible

without causing a visible jump in the action.

#### Notes

1. Milicent Cranor, "The Magic Skull," The Fourth Decade 2#5, July, 1995, pp. 32-37. I thank Ms. Cranor for generously sharing data and information, for her encouragement to write this article, and for her thoughtful and constructive criticism of the manuscript.

2. The Z-280 estimate was made from the map of Dealey Plaza in Richard E. Sprague's article "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: The Application of Computers to the Photographic Evidence," Computers and Automation, May 1970, pp. 29-60.

3. My video equipment is old and not of superior quality; accurate counting of freeze-frames is not easy. Assuming that my segment of the Muchmore film runs from M-1, I estimate that JFK's disappearance occurs between M-7 and M-8, he continues hidden in M-9 and reappears at M-10.

4. According to Chuck Marler in "Questioning the Limousine's Speed on Elm Street," The Fourth Decade 1#4, May 1994, the limo had an average speed of 10.4 MPH between Z-161 and Z-185. This is 15.2 ft per second; at 16 frames per second a movement of approximately 2 ft would occupy two frames.

## OSWALD AND THE FBI: PART TWO

by  
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If the statements made by Lee Harvey Oswald in the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City are to be accepted as true, then the FBI was victimizing him unmercifully. In the latter part of September 1963, he twice visited the embassy and spoke to three Soviet officials (all of whom were members of the KGB). He said that he was an American who believed in Communism and belonged to an organization that defended Cuba. A few years before, he had lived in the Soviet Union. He came to the embassy, because he wanted to get a visa and go back to Russia as quickly as possible. Life for him in the United States had become much too unbearable. FBI agents were constantly harassing him. They kept him under continual surveil-

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