

HAROLD

I COPIED ENTIRE NEWS
LETTER FOR YOU - I
WAS WRONG LITTON'S
BOOK WAS UP WITH
WHITEWASH

Bill

Ahimsa News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 15, 1998

Ahimsa News is published four times per year by Ahimsa Archives.

Ahimsa Archives is a division of American Anthropological Research Foundation (AARF).

AARF holds a 501 3(c) ruling from the IRS. This ruling has been in effect since 1974.

Ahimsa Archives' mission is to provide a repository for information related to the assassinations of American Presidents. The Archives will collect and disseminate information in a non-discriminatory fashion.

Membership in the archives are open to anyone wishing to pay the membership fee.

*Publisher/Editor
Tommy H. Bowden
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Dallas, TX 75202*

RFK Assassination Update

THE GUNS OF THE RFK ASSASSINATION

The State's case against Sirhan B. Sirhan details only one gun as being in the pantry on June 5, 1968. The Los Angeles Police Department has now acknowledged the presence of at least two more guns. One belonging to Jack Merritt and the other to Thane

"The Cesar Gun is available for testing. But first the evidence in the State Archives must be authenticated."

Eugene Cesar. Both were private security guards hired by the hotel's Security chief William Gardner. Merritt was not in position to fire the fatal shots that night. Thane

Cesar was guiding Kennedy through the pantry with his left hand on Kennedy's el-



President John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy during Cuban Missile Crisis

bow. This article is not intended to detail the Cesar account for it is thoroughly covered in Ted Charach's video, "The Second Gun." Cesar is documented as owning a Harrington

(Continued on page 2)

Lincoln Assassination Update

By Tommy H. Bowden

Immediately, after the assassination of Lincoln and the alleged death of John Wilkes Booth, rumors were rampant with sighting of Booth in all corners of the world. By the 1870's, over twenty people

claimed to be Booth. He had children from a family in Kentucky (the heirs are still claiming their heritage). He was in South America. The most creditable story of that era was the claim of a barkeep, John St.

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Guns of the RFK Assassination

(Continued from page 1)

and Richardson Model 900 .22 caliber nine shot revolver serial number Y13332. This gun was thrown into an Arkansas Pond in 1971 by a teenage thief.

Sirhan's alleged gun was a .22 caliber, eight shot Iver Johnson Cadet serial number H53725. At the Sirhan Trial, the bullet evidence was entered from a test firing document listing the serial number as H18602 and dated June 6, 1968. H18602 had been in the possession of LAPD for almost a year. It had been taken from a person named Jake Williams. At the trial, DeWayne Wolfer, LAPD Criminalist, explained the incorrect serial number as a clerical error. H18602 had been used as a test gun to determine firing distance and sound tests. He stated that he had obtained H18602 from the property room on June 10, 1968. H18602 was an Iver Johnson Cadet pistol taken from Jake Williams for a crime committed in 1967. It was listed as being destroyed in 1968 by LAPD.

Sirhan's Writ for an Evidentiary Hearing filed on May 1, 1997 details information obtained from the State Archives, where the Sirhan files are now housed. Sirhan's Research Team have uncovered many discrepancies and the complete writ is over 200 pages long. A copy of this writ may be examined in the Ahimsa archives. This article is only concerned with the gun issue.

According to documents in Sacramento, the alleged Sirhan gun, H53725, was test fired on June 5, 1968. This is in conflict with the test firing introduced at the trial. Additional documents in Sacramento shows that Wolfer had H18602 in his possession as early as June 6, 1968. Why wasn't the June 5th bullets entered into evidence. *Did they match the evidence?* The writ states that the bullets entered into evidence were from H18602. Further, the writ states that the Kennedy neck bullet (Peoples Exhibit 47) was changed between the Sirhan Trial and the Wenke Hearing in 1976. Dr. Thomas Noguichi marked Exhibit 47 as TN31 during the autopsy. He later testified under oath and identified the evidence on

three separate occasions. Exhibit 47 in the State Archives is marked DWTN. This means the evidence in Sacramento has been changed. The writ further states that current Exhibit 47 is probably from H18602.

The court has not acted on the Sirhan Writ as of January 31, 1998. **What can we do?**

The Museum has proposed to fund an evidentiary hearing with a panel of three experts. The experts would be selected by the Sirhan Family, The State Archives, and a third to be selected by the Conspiracy Museum with the approval of the first two. The cost for this panel is Approximately \$45,000.00 **May we have your support?**

Status: The Cesar Gun (Y13332) is available for testing. We must first determine the status of the evidence in Sacramento. H18602 was listed as destroyed by LAPD. The Museum is negotiating with a group of people who claim to have the gun. Apparently, LAPD personnel took souvenirs from the property room. It is time for conspiracy believers to stop the rhetoric and book writing and support efforts to prove the conspiracy by impartial testing of evidence. **May we have your support?**

Information for this article came from the Ted Charach Archives, The Sirhan Writ, and The Conspiracy Museum Exhibit.

Portions of this publication are edited and printed as JFK Deep Politics Quarterly by Jan Stevens and Walt Brown.

The Grassy Knoll Gazette is edited and written by R. B. Cutler.

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VICTIM: KENNEDY, ROBERT

and different gun number

note test date 6-5-68

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPT.
CRIME LAB TEST SHOT

NAME DOE, JOHN DATE 6-5-68

ADDRESS _____

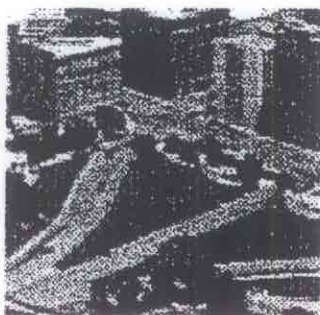
MAKE IVER JHNS CAL. 22 TYPE REV.

NO. H53725 DR 68-521466

CRIME 217CG OFFICER MELENDEZ

DeWayne A. Wolfer

This test firing was not entered into evidence at the trial



JFK

Deep Politics

QUARTERLY



Volume3 Number2

"Let the word go forth"

January 1998

REVIEW BOARD RELEASES FRITZ'S OSWALD NOTES, ALYEA FILM; HERSH BOOK STIRS CONTROVERSY

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JFK

Deep Politics

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In The News

The one major JFK story overpowering all others this anniversary was, of course, the Seymour Hersh book, *The Dark Side of Camelot*. As much as JFK/DPQ is tempted to delve into this nefarious book's content itself, and do an analysis of its main points, space will simply not permit it. On that score, we would recommend Jim DiEugenio's excellent piece "The Posthumous Assassination of JFK" in the Sept.-Oct. 1997 *PROBE*, (and the issue which followed) and the recent coverage in the *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, and *The Nation*. The latter's reviewer commented "[E]ven the sex parts are often written in that painful yes-but-perhaps-if style that investigative reporters use when their cobbling up a case out of rather shaky bits and pieces."

Suffice it to say that Hersh has reportedly said he was in this to "make a killing" and retire, and that, according to many sources, the book is filled with unreliable tidbits of gossip, innuendo, and questionable accounts. Most of the ground covered is nothing new, like tales of JFK's womanizing and the Judith Exner-Sam Giancana material -- and some of that has been effectively debunked in several aspects by various researchers and Kennedy contemporaries.

The controversy over the ostensibly fraudulent JFK-Marilyn documents served as effective pre-publicity for Sy Hersh, who according to Robert Sam Anson in *Vanity Fair* "believed in these documents for a long, long time--over two years--despite clear warnings from first-hand sources that they were frauds." Of course, the material on the documents was deleted before publication of the book -- as well as excised from the related ABC-TV's special "Dangerous World: The Kennedy Years." (Many investors/collectors were taken in by the papers -- supposedly in JFK's hand -- which were said to consist of an agreement to pay Marilyn Monroe about \$600,000 in return for her silence about her affair with the president.

They were obtained by one Lawrence Cusack, who said they were in the possession of his late father, an attorney. ABC produced experts attesting to the fraud and lawsuits from both directions currently abound)

Hersh's media appearances have produced some interesting but strange comments. On MSNBC, he credited "former CIA officials" as sources for some allegations in the book. In his recent online interview for the Barnes & Noble website, Hersh was challenged regarding his claims that JFK's wild private life had direct effect on his administration's policies. He replied "It's my belief that the dark side may be more important than the other side." [!] His apparent misunderstanding of the importance of historical accuracy vs. journalism-for-the bucks was exhibited by his statement: "Historians hate this book. Journalists and historians are like oil and water."

Where Hersh has gotten into the deepest trouble seems to be his claims that a) JFK himself authorized the murder of South Vietnam's President Diem, and b) JFK was obsessed and involved with having Castro assassinated. Both assertions have drawn heavy fire by such historians as Arthur Schlesinger and John Newman -- who both have published documented material proving the absurdity of such claims. According to DiEugenio, even the Church Committee Report and the CIA's 1967 Inspector General's Report show blatant contradictions with Hersh's allegations. This would not be the first time the deconstruction of Camelot has been attempted. But it may certainly be the sleaziest of all.

So as not to leave Sy Hersh alone in the JFK-bashing bandwagon, Martin Shackelford reports on new revelations since the publication of Hersh's book; 1) Columnist Liz Smith pointed out that Tina Sinatra broke with family tradition when she admitted (on the ABC special) that her father had been associated with mobsters. Not only did she admit association, but accepted as natural that Kennedy would use her father as a go-between with mob boss Sam Giancana. Miss Smith, who befriended alleged JFK paramour and mob courier Judith Exner, supports her story 100%. Of course! It's trashy old standard tabloid journalism at its finest.

The Hersh book cannot be said to have garnered "critical acclaim" by any means, and we think, justifiably so.

In other stories, five pages of "notes" made by Dallas Homicide and Robbery Captain John W. "Will" Fritz were made public by the ARRB on Nov. 20, 1997. They were received by the Board from an "anonymous donor." In a November 22, 1997 article, Mark Wrolstad of the *Dallas Morning News* reported that the five pages of notes were prepared several days after the tragedy in Dallas, but that clearly does *not* seem to be the case when one carefully inspects the notes.

The notes are hasty scribbles, fragments of sentences or thoughts, and are obviously raw data. No police rookie would compile material such as this several days after a major crime, nor would the notes at that point be so abbreviated, contain errors ("Mrs. Payne"), nor would they begin with naming those present -- that is something done contemporaneously, and clearly *for* the immediate record.

The notes tell us precious little that is earth-shattering, although, as we shall see, as a composite, they may tell us a great deal. The first page is clear that the date is 11-22 (quotes will be avoided--all references will be as in the original), and reminds us of our conception(s) of events as they may or may not have transpired: *claims 2nd floor Coke when off came in; 8-4:45 were not rigid abt time* (an overlap to the book review of Moscovit elsewhere in this issue); *says supports Castro Rev.; ? why live O.H. Lee says landlady did that*. So this first note page is not yet about the crime of the century, but rather about background, as may be considered standard in investigative technique. But there certainly should be some notation that the suspect knows what he is being questioned about, and there is no hint of that. Of note is that Oswald offered, (or Fritz, et al dummied it up), that Oswald supported the Castro revolution. Was he supporting it in the company of Banister, Ferrie, Shaw, et al, or was Oswald clever enough to infiltrate their apparatus, and if so, what was his role and what were his results?

The second page is slightly more evidentiary, but only barely so: *denied bringing*

package to wk...denied curtain rod. got off bus after seeing jam got cab etc.; ...at apt. Changed shirts+tr. Put in dirt clothes--long sleeve red sh + gray tr. As noted, not much, except Oswald is insisting on a change of clothes, either because he did for some reason and wanted it known, or because he didn't but feared being identified in the garments he was wearing.

On the third page: *says doesn't pay cash for wife staying with Mrs. Payne denies owning rifle in garage or elsewhere... Arv. July 62 from U.S.S.R. Int. by F.B.I. Ft.W. says Hard + Soft meth etc Buddy.* The concern regarding monies paid or not paid to Ruth Paine seems to have no relevance; but then the denial of owning a rifle in the garage or elsewhere is unusual, without more data. Primarily, there was no rifle in any garage for Oswald to deny. Elsewhere, certainly, but not in the garage, and given his ability to disseminate, it is unlikely that he told the police, "Hey, I don't own the rifle in the garage." The only possible scenario is that either Marina or Ruth Paine (or the visiting blues) reported the "there was supposed to be a rifle in the garage" story and Oswald was braced with that story and would have none of it. It is also instructive that he mentioned the hard and soft interrogation technique he believed was being used on him by the FBI.

Note sheet number four is a mixed bag: *Desires to talk to Mr. Abt...says Smith act att.; No pahy [ed. note: no polyg as in polygraph?] at time in past has refused; denies shooting Pres says didn't know Gov. shot.* Oswald has pointedly asked for an attorney and somehow identified him as a lawyer who deals in cases involving the Smith Act, which makes it illegal to advocate the violent overthrow of the US government. A brief mention is then added that Oswald denied shooting the President, but done in shorthand, again arguing that these notes were contemporaneous, and points out that he had no knowledge [until it was referenced by others, most likely Secret Service Inspector Kelley] about the shooting of the Governor. It has always been maintained that if Oswald had been looking down the barrel, he would have known about Connally.

The final page is another denial of rifle

ownership, plus a denial that the "backyard photo" was taken of him: *says I made picture super imposed.* Old wine in old bottles, period.

What is noteworthy is that the official version reflects a total ignorance of these notes. The Warren Report stated, "Captain Fritz of the homicide and robbery bureau did most of the questioning, but he kept no notes..." [US Govt. volume of Report, p. 180]. As noted in *The Warren Omission*, these are weasel words: Fritz kept no notes. Now it is obvious that he took some, he just didn't keep them.

But why would the Commission think that Fritz kept no notes, and why would it require 34 years to discover this one slight error on their part?

Because Fritz lied to the WC, and they knew he was lying and they let him. In 4H 203-204, in introductory questioning, Fritz indicates that the books in front of him (which are already Commission Document 81B, and will never become a Commission Exhibit, and therefore not published) were prepared after the tragedy, which they no doubt were. Later, in 4H 209, we read, "Mr. BALL: Do you remember what you said to Oswald and what he said to you? Mr. FRITZ: I can remember the thing that I said to him and what he said to me but I will have trouble telling you which period of questioning those questions were in *because I kept no notes at the time*, and these notes and things that I have made I have to make several days later..." Yet the notes released are clear that each session *is* identified, session, time, and those present.

There are names for these kinds of things: one is perjury; a second is suborning of perjury. That is why these notes remained hidden for so long. Yes, there are things in there that the world could not see in 1964: the "supporter of Castro Rev." is clearly one, as we know that the "Commie" label was rapidly peeled away from Oswald as the weekend of the tragedy unfolded.

One can only wonder how many other, more serious perjuries will be revealed as no documents find their way to daylight.

The film taken on November 22, 1963 by WFAA cameraman Tom Alvey has also been

donated to the Review Board. Although not available for viewing as we go to press, it will be available under normal National Archives policy in 1998.

The John F. Kennedy Library has released almost 24 hours of tape recordings of "meetings and conversations that took place in the Oval Office and Cabinet Room at the White House from August - October 1963. The conversations between the president and his advisors concern U.S. policy toward Vietnam, Laos, Korea, Portuguese Africa, Berlin, China and the USSR.

For anyone interested, The recordings and finding guide are available for purchase at the JFK Library, Columbia Point, Boston, MA 02125, or by calling (617) 929- 4529. *[Some of these materials are also available online -- see JFK INTERNET column, this issue]*

In other personal memoirs released, Ladybird Johnson was a guest on ABC's Nightline with Ted Koppel and some of her long-held diary recollections were made public. If it was not so tragic to see Mrs. Johnson so staunchly defend the work and integrity of the Warren Commission, it might well have been beyond hysterical. Her credibility, to say the very least, sank lower than her husband's.

The Review Board has also undergone an organizational facelift, as Executive Director Dr. David G. Marwell has left and been replaced by Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn.

The assassination anniversary also witnessed a broadcast of the original WBAP-Dallas radio feeds from the motorcade, featuring the ever-so familiar voices, telling of the warm crowds, and then suddenly, the shock that "something is terribly wrong here." Those who heard the recordings found they were still chilling, all these years later.

We also learn (from Ian Griggs in the U.K.) that there is now apparently another grave adjacent to that of Lee Oswald in Rose Hill Cemetery in Fort Worth, Texas. The formerly isolated plot is now adjoined by an otherwise unmarked headstone labeled simply, "Nick Beef." Very strange! [JFK/DPQ will be following up on this if at all possible]

News from another grave site: The final resting place of President Kennedy in Arlington

was disturbed in the days before Christmas. Vandals were attempting to extract stones from the site, but were unsuccessful. CNN reported no damage done.

AMNESTY? Just Say, "No."

by the Editors, JFK/DPQ

A recent Dallas conference concluded with a call for federal legislation creating an "amnesty" for anyone who would voluntarily come forward and provide information regarding the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

While no doubt done with the purest of motives, such a proposal seems to have far more factors militating against it than those which would convince the editors of the JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly to endorse it.

The "Amnesty Task Force," made up of a half a dozen prominent and reasonable researchers and a JFK/Lancer spokesperson, noted in the post announcing their desire to petition federal lawmakers for amnesty that it was hoped that such legislative protection would bring forward not necessarily the shooters, but perhaps material witnesses who hold keys that could unlock many doors that still seem locked thirty-four years after the murder of John F. Kennedy. The goal also seemed to hint that such legislative action would force the US government to once again become involved, and actively so, in the pursuit of truth.

If only it were that easy. This proposal, however, is wrong for the very reasons it is being proposed, and many other, equally reasonable researchers have argued against it, piecemeal on the net, so let's examine the downside of such a legislative concept.

First of all, it is misnamed. Amnesty, from the Greek "amnestia," is "a general pardon for offenses against the government." [source:

CONTINUED ON PAGE

The Untimely Death of Lt. Cmdr. William Pitzer

by Allan R.J. Eaglesham
and R. Robin Palmer

THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE [1]

The Pitzers rose a little earlier than usual that fall Saturday morning, 29 October 1966. Bill made breakfast while Joyce made preparations in anticipation of a visit from her mother for a few days. Late morning saw them raking leaves in the yard as their 14-year-old son Robert washed the car. When, around noon, a neighbor dropped by to invite the boy to join her in a couple of rounds of golf, Bill finished polishing the automobile. After lunch, he dropped Joyce off at the beauty salon for a 1:00 p.m. appointment, drove over to the golf course to remind Robert to have a haircut, then stopped in at work to prepare a lecture he was to deliver at Montgomery Junior College the following Wednesday. Joyce missed the 3:07 bus, but caught it at 4:07 p.m., and was surprised that Bill was not already home when she arrived there. She called his office, and, getting no reply, assumed that he was on his way. As time passed, feeling increasingly uneasy, she called the office again, and again, as well as his club and the hospital emergency room. At 7:20 p.m., she called the main switchboard at Bill's place of work: the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), Bethesda, Maryland. The duty officer was alerted. Ensign J.M6. Quarles and Security Patrol Officer T.E. Blue opened the locked door to Pitzer's television-studio office at 7:50 and found a body on the floor, the head resting in a pool of coagulated blood, a revolver lying close by. Death was pronounced by Medical Officer Lieutenant Commander R.W. Steyn at 8:10 p.m., and identification was made by Captain J.H. Stover and Lt. Cdr. J.G. Harmeling; the corpse was that of Lt. Cmdr. William B. Pitzer of the US Navy Medical Service Corps.

Captain Stover, Bill's superior officer, went immediately to the Pitzer residence with Lt. Cmdr. C.A. Holston to impart the devastating news. In view of the personality and life philosophy of her husband, Mrs. Pitzer found it impossible to accept that he could have taken his own life. In due course, however, investigations by the FBI, the Naval Investigative Service and an NNMC Informal Board of Investigation would all reach the same conclusion: the wound to Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer's head was self-inflicted.

Over the years, the family and friends of Bill Pitzer continued to doubt the official conclusion on the nature of his demise. And for Mrs. Pitzer there was the nagging thought that if, unbeknownst to her, her husband were to have reached the point of suicide, he would not have committed the act on US Navy property, thus embarrassing the institution that he so loved. As stated in the Informal Board of Investigation's Report:

"Mrs. Pitzer could offer no explanation as to why Subject would take his own life and although appearing somewhat resigned to this fact, she still exhibited doubt that suicide was the true cause of death."

LINKS WITH THE JFK AUTOPSY

William Bruce Pitzer was in the US Navy for over 28 years. He served his country in World War II and in the Korean conflict, and looked forward to a well deserved retirement in 1967. He began his naval career as an X-ray technician and was Assistant Head of the Graphic Arts

Department and Chief of the Educational Television Division of the Naval Medical School, and had a top-secret clearance at the time of his death. His specialty was the then-new field of closed-circuit TV.

Greatly respected and highly regarded by all who knew him, he was the "perfect image of a Naval officer" in the words of a colleague. In private life he was community-oriented: a member of the Board of Directors of Help for Retarded Children, Inc. and treasurer of the Takoma Park PTA. He was active also in the Masonic Order.

Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer was a mentor and friend to Petty Officer First Class Dennis D. David; they played bridge together regularly. On the evening of 22 November 1963, Dennis was Chief-of-the-Day at Bethesda Naval Hospital, part of the National Naval Medical Center, and it was his duty to supervise the unloading of the casket that contained the body of President Kennedy prior to postmortem examination.[2] Early in the following week, Dennis dropped by Bill's office with questions on the professional exam for the Medical Service Corps. He found Pitzer working on a 16-mm film, slides, and black and white photos of the Kennedy autopsy.[3] Vivid in his memory is his agreement with Bill Pitzer that those materials showed what appeared to be an entry wound in the right frontal area with a corresponding exit wound in the lower rear of the skull. Thereafter, on occasion, Dennis heard Bill refer to contacts he'd had with "agents" about the Kennedy autopsy materials on which he had worked. These references, made in the company of others and thus precluding further discussion with Dennis, were couched in matter-of-fact terms without hint of threat or intimidation.[4]

Although Petty Officer David assumed that Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer personally had filmed the Kennedy autopsy, Pitzer's name does not appear on any list of personnel involved in the autopsy or present in the morgue at that time.[5] On the other hand, Jerrol F. Custer, X-ray technician for the Kennedy autopsy, recently stated that Pitzer was present in the morgue and had photographed the military men occupying the benches.[6]

In December 1965, Dennis David was sworn in as an Ensign in the Medical Service Corps. He left the National Naval Medical Center immediately thereafter and had no further contact with Bill Pitzer; he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander before retiring. He recently told us that he is "certain" that Bill Pitzer had the Kennedy autopsy photographs, and such related materials, in his possession at the time of his death.

A curious coincidence is noteworthy. During the weekend on which Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer died, the Kennedy family transferred formal possession of the materials relating to the late president's autopsy to the National Archives. A check of the inventory revealed that some items, tissue sections, as well as a stainless-steel container that presumably held the brain were missing.[7] Six years later, Dr. Cyril Wecht discovered that the brain was indeed missing from the National Archives.[8]

ITEMS OF EVIDENCE

On 1 November 1966, Commander H.H. Rumble II of the Naval Investigative Service Office Washington signed a covering letter listing the following items of physical evidence that had been gathered from the TV studio and sent to the FBI for analysis:

1. A .38 caliber Smith & Wesson (S&W) revolver, military issue, serial #311456, found near the body.
2. A .38 caliber S&W, Western cartridge case found in the weapon (Item 1) in the cylinder positioned under the hammer.
3. A .38 caliber S&W, Western bullet found in the cylinder of Item 1 in the next firing position.
4. A .38 caliber S&W, (R-P) blank cartridge found in the cylinder of Item 1 in the second firing

position.

5. A spent projectile found at the scene.
6. An envelope containing three .38 caliber S&W blank cartridges found on the deceased's desk.
7. A pair of eyeglasses found in the vicinity of the body.
8. A dented section of blackboard located near the body.
9. Four notes containing apparent work notations found near the body.
10. An 8x10 1/2" lined note pad found on a chair near the body
11. A blue grease pencil found on a chair next to Item 10.
12. Fourteen latent prints lifted from two chairs and three beer cans at the scene.
13. Work note on the desk of the deceased's assistant.
14. Same as Item 13 above.
15. Half of a paraffin cast of the deceased's right hand prepared at the time of the autopsy.
16. The other half of the paraffin cast (see Item 15 above).
17. Samples of paraffin used in obtaining Items 15 and 16 above.
18. Twenty-one cards containing finger and palm prints taken from the body.

FINGERPRINTS

Commander Rumble's covering letter requested the FBI to process Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 for latent fingerprints. This is the single and only place in the 140 FOIA-released pages in which reference can be found to fingerprints on the revolver (Item 1). None of the fingerprint lifts in Item 12 matched those of Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer (Item 18). On 12 January 1967, Cmdr. Rumble sent to the FBI fingerprint cards of eight individuals, presumably naval personnel, who might have left the prints on the chairs and beer cans (Item 12). The paper work dealing with these other people's prints refers to Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer as "Victim" (rather than as "Deceased" in other documentation) and the eight individuals are listed as "Suspects." The suspects names are redacted - in any case, none of their prints matched those found at the scene.

To repeat: there is nothing in the FBI files in our possession, in the FBI Report, nor in the NNMC Informal Board of Investigation Report, that states that Pitzer's fingerprints were on the revolver (Item 1), on the spent cartridge (Item 2), the live round (Item 3) or on the blank cartridge (Item 4).

THE REVOLVER

A revolver was found on the floor of the TV studio, about twelve inches from the deceased's left knee. On 12 October 1966, a .38 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver and six blank cartridges had been signed out by enlisted man L.R. Andre, on behalf of his superior officer Lt. Cmdr. W.B. Pitzer. A photocopy of a hand-written note to this effect, signed by Supervisory Guard R.L. Bray, is part of the NNMC Informal Board of Investigation Report; no serial number is included in that note:

"To the best of my recollection, at about 1400 on 12 Oct. 1966 I issued a S&W 38 caliber revolver and six (6) rounds of blank ammunition to L.R. Andre HM2. This weapon was issued after a telephone call from Lt CDR W.B. Pitzer, stating that same would be used for instruction purposes.

Russel L. Bray
Supervisory guard"

The FBI documents include the following as their proof of origin of the weapon found beside the body:

"The Firearms Logbook contained in the Security Office, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, was examined and in the front of the book was located an undated notation that a .38 caliber revolver, serial number 311546, had been checked out for Lieutenant Commander WILLIAM B. PITZER. The signature under this notation was illegible."

It would be reasonable to conclude that the illegible signature was that of Mr. Bray, except that his signature on the hand-written note is of exemplary clarity. We wonder why a photocopy of the weapon-release entry in the firearms logbook, showing the serial number and Mr. Andre's signature, is not part of the FBI record. Certainly it is surprising that the official record of release of the weapon was, according to the FBI, undated.

The weapon assigned to Pitzer is defined as a .38 caliber Smith & Wesson (see above), whereas a hand-written note by the FBI ballistics investigator reveals that the weapon found at the scene was actually a S&W .38 Special. On advice from colleagues knowledgeable of firearms, we believe that there is not necessarily a discrepancy here; the .38 caliber S&W was obsolete by 1966, therefore, it is likely that in military and law-enforcement parlance the qualifier "Special" was routinely dropped. Surely, however, the notation in the logbook documented that the weapon released to Mr. Andre was a .38 Special.

The serial number of the weapon found in the TV studio (see Item 1) was the same as that described in the above-quoted FBI document. It was impossible for the FBI ballistics expert to determine with certainty that the slug found on the floor of the studio, about six feet to the right of the body, had been fired from that particular .38 S&W:

"Specimen Q2 (i.e. Item 5) is a caliber .38 S&W copper-coated lead bullet. The few remaining rifling impressions on specimen Q2 are the same width as those found on test bullets fired from specimen K1 (i.e. Item 1). However, due to the mutilation of specimen Q2, the microscopic markings remaining on its surface are insufficient to permit identification of the particular weapon from which it was fired."

Ballistics tests showed that the spent cartridge in the cylinder had been discharged in that weapon. Neither that cartridge nor the live round in the revolver were Special ammunition, and must have been loaded with "extreme difficulty," according to the FBI lab report. Pitzer obtained only blanks with the revolver; there is no record of his acquiring live ammunition at the NNMC or anywhere else.

EYEGASSES

An intact pair of eyeglasses was found on the floor of the TV studio, a couple of yards from the body (Item 7). The lens prescription was determined by the FBI, but no link is made in the FBI files to suggest that they belonged to Bill Pitzer. Neither did they carry his fingerprints. When asked about it, Dennis David told us: "I do not recall ever seeing Bill wearing glasses."

Of course, it is possible that Mr. David's memory of 30 years ago is faulty. Unfortunately, our efforts have been fruitless to determine from Pitzer-family sources if Bill used eyeglasses. It may be significant that the FBI assigned the eyeglasses a "Q" ("questioned") notation, rather than "K" ("known") as for the revolver and the blue crayon pencil.

A DAMAGED BLACKBOARD

There was a blackboard in the TV studio "located near the body." Unfortunately its precise

location is not shown in a hand-drawn sketch of the scene that is in the FBI Report. Dennis David remembers a mobile, wheeled blackboard in the studio, not wall-mounted. It was struck by a bullet, as revealed by analysis of residual metal particles in the indentation (Item 8):

"possible (sic) by the projectile after passage through the skull of the deceased."

Apparently, this was a source of puzzlement for the investigating officers; given the locations of the corpse, revolver, spent bullet, and blackboard, there had to have been another point of ricochet:

"Extensive examination of the scene failed to determine what the projectile struck resulting in the extensive indentation."

The metallic residues within the indentation were in insufficient amounts to match them conclusively with the slug found on the floor. Referring to the spent bullet, Cmdr. Rumble requested the FBI to:

"Examine for all foreign matter on the surface with particular attention to determine as to what the projectile struck and if it struck Item 8"

Nothing in the FBI Report addresses this request; however, copies of hand-written notes by the FBI ballistics expert include the following:

"Bone fragments on bullet. One side of bullet split open. However, no other material found to assoc. w. any other object bullet may have struck."

And there is no mention of bone fragments on the blackboard indentation.

REMINDERS

According to his wife, Bill was an inveterate note-maker, and this was evident when his body was discovered. Sheets of paper were scattered around, bearing the names of colleagues (even these are redacted from the FOIA-released photocopies) to whom messages were to be conveyed, written with a blue-crayon pencil found on a chair near the body. Therefore, if he took his own life, we must deduce that in his final hours and minutes he jotted down work-related items lest he forget them, but did not take a few seconds to explain his final act. The following note was found on an assistant's desk:

"Remind me to return gun to the sec. (sic: security) office."

If Bill Pitzer committed suicide, certainly it was without premeditation. One of the note pages lying on the floor bore a partial heel print that was not linked with the deceased - described as a style used by the Goodyear Rubber Company. The print was photographed by the FBI "for possible future reference."

PARAFFIN TEST

The paraffin tests of Pitzer's right palm and back of hand were negative, indicating the absence of nitrate, therefore no exposure to gunpowder. While false positives are not uncommon with this test due to contact with tobacco, cosmetics, certain foodstuffs etc., a negative result is usually accepted as evidence of no recent contact with a discharged firearm:

"Examination of (the) paraffin cast reflected no substance characteristic of, or which could be associated with, gunpowder or gunshot residue."

If Bill Pitzer committed suicide, could he have held the revolver in the other hand, consistent with Dennis David's observation of him dealing cards with his left? Not so: the autopsy report is definite that the bullet entered on the right side of the head and exited on the left.

THE WOUNDS

When interviewed by an FBI agent on 30 October 1966 after completion of the postmortem examination, the prosecutor, Lt. Cmdr. J.G. Harmeling, stated that the muzzle of the revolver had not been in contact with the skin at discharge, nor did he find powder burns around, or powder particles embedded in, the entry wound in the right temple.[9] However, he stated:

"... the gun could have been very close to the head, but not touching it but so close there would have been no time for the powder to have spread out after leaving the muzzle and thereby leaving no outside indicating (sic) of splatter burn or embed powder particles around the wound."

There was an area of "charring" around the wound that may be interpreted as a margin of soot deposit, yet the autopsy report describes the skin around the entry wound as having "no deposits of foreign material." And there is no mention in the autopsy report of soot deposit around the defect in the skull bone, which would indicate a shot from very close range. Lt. Cmdr. H.B. Lowsma, who assisted in the autopsy, is reported by the FBI to have stated on 1 November 1966 that:

"(T)here was no evidence of powder burns on the right side of the head where entry was made... (He) explained that he could not say how far from the head the gun was held as he was no expert in this field."

Subsequent FBI laboratory tests of the .38 Special showed that the gun would have to have been held at a distance of 3 feet or more to preclude powder burning of the skin. In the 30 October interview, Lt. Cmdr. Harmeling stated:

"(T)he death was caused by a gun shot wound in the head from the right temple, exiting near the left temple..."

This seems peculiarly vague, "...exiting near the left temple." In the autopsy report, Lt. Cmdr. Harmeling was precise: bullet entry was in the right temporal area, and exit was in the left parietal area, "5 cm. posteriorly in a diagonal from the attachment of the anterior helix." In layman's terms, the exit wound was behind the left ear. But the autopsy report further states that internal examination revealed a defect in the left sphenoid bone and supra-orbital plate, i.e. at the left temple:

"After removal of the brain a third defect in the bony skull is encountered. This consists of a large defect in the left supra-orbital plate measuring 3.0 x 1.0 cm."

Apparently, the autopsy doctors were unaware of this third head wound until the brain was removed - no corresponding wound is described as part of the external examination of the body.

And yet, as stated on the Naval Certificate of Death, dated 1 February 1967 (why the three-month delay?), Naval Medical Officer Lt. Cmdr. Steyn, while viewing the body in the TV studio twenty minutes after its discovery, observed a wound in the left temple:

"A left temple wound was visible, the right side of the head being hidden, lying against the floor..."

Why did the autopsy doctors fail to describe the external wound in the left temple that was seen by Steyn, but did describe a large internal defect in the skull bone at the same location? The path of the bullet through the brain is described in detail in the autopsy report, and there is nothing to suggest that the projectile fragmented, causing part of it to exit at the left temple. As verbalized by Lt. Cmdr. Lowmsma:

"The bullet went on a straight line from one side of the head to the other."

How, then, did Bill Pitzer come to sustain the third defect in the skull? Dr. John G. Ball, the local Deputy Medical Examiner, stated on the Montgomery County Death Certificate, dated 30 October 1966, that the deceased "shot self in head with 38 cal. pistol." In an interview with the FBI on 2 November, Dr. Ball confirmed this:

"It was (Dr. Ball's) opinion that death was caused by self-inflicted gun shot wound because when he examined the body on the night of November (sic) 29, 1966 in the TV Studio at the National Naval Medical Center, he observed powder burns on the head. From his observations on the situation in the room at the time he first observed it, and after having been advised that things were in the same condition as when the body was found, he concluded that PITZER was probably sitting in a chair and shot himself in the head... When he observed the wound in the head on the night of November (sic) 29, 1966, he observed muzzle marks around the wound and powder burns."

Strangely, these descriptions of powder burns and muzzle marks are at odds with the autopsy report and the statements of the autopsy doctors. We are submitting an FOIA-release request for the autopsy photographs in the hope of resolving this issue and of understanding the nature of the wound in the left temple and its relationship, if any, with the third defect in the skull. When Mrs. Pitzer requested the return of her husband's wedding band, she was informed that his left hand was so mutilated that removal of the ring was impossible. She never did receive it. Yet the autopsy report states that there were no wounds on the body other than those to the head:

"The upper and lower extremities are bilateral (sic) symmetrical and exhibit no remarkable gross lesions... No evidence of abrasions, contusions, or lacerations are noted in any other part of the body with the exception of the head wounds."

Why did the US Navy apparently lie to a grieving widow, and deny her most reasonable request?

UNDER HIS WING

The FBI Report is structured in eight sections, as follows:

- I. Crime scene investigation
- II. Interview with family members

- III. Medical examination and autopsy
- IV. Interview of associates and co-workers
- V. Deceased's activities on October 29, 1966
- VI. Psychiatric treatment of [name redacted]
- VII. Miscellaneous
- VIII. Investigation of deceased's activities in Pensacola, Florida

The most heavily redacted section is VI, which deals with an enlisted man who had been under psychiatric treatment. When interviewed by the FBI on 1 November, 1966, a NNMC psychiatrist stated:

"In connection with the patient's rehabilitation, he was placed under the supervision of WILLIAM PITZER at the National Naval Medical Center and with the cooperation of Mr. PITZER the rehabilitation of this patient worked out very well. During the late summer of 1965, WILLIAM PITZER told [name redacted] that he was having a problem" [approximately 50 lines redacted].

The following one and half pages are redacted except for three and half lines in which the psychiatrist states that Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer had never received psychiatric treatment nor had he ever shown any indication of mental disorder. The final page of this section has been withheld in its entirety, not only for protection of personal privacy, the rationale for the large majority of the many many redactions in the FOIA release, but also because it is:

"material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enhancement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals." (authors' emphasis)

On the day before he died, Bill Pitzer telephoned the NNMC psychiatric unit, to make arrangements for this enlisted man to be seen by a doctor early in the following week. Apparently, the FBI investigators saw this coincidence as significant, and suspected this individual of playing a role in the death of his benefactor.

THE LETTER

Given the amount of physical evidence that seems to point away from suicide towards homicide, the reader must be curious as to how the FBI, the Naval Investigative Service Office and the NNMC Informal Board of Investigation reached verdicts of suicide.

The Informal Board of Investigation apparently failed to take into account the physical evidence generated by the FBI - none of it is mentioned in its report. There is no reference to the third defect in the skull nor to whether the revolver was close to the head at discharge; the autopsy protocol was appended to the Informal Board's Report, but it is referred to only in the following terms:

"(A)n autopsy was performed on 30 October 1966, at the Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland, which disclosed the cause of death to be a gunshot wound in the head."

The NNMC Informal Board of Investigation gave weight to the declaration of the Montgomery County Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Ball, that the deceased had "shot self in head with 38 cal. 'pistol.'" It seems strange that they accepted this opinion without commenting on Dr. Ball's other assertions vis-à-vis muzzle marks and powder burns that conflict with the autopsy report.

The FBI Report presented the physical evidence, but placed no emphasis on it, instead using reasoning similar to that in the NNMC Informal Investigation Report for the verdict of suicide: Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer had been so weighed down by overwork and personal problems that he reached a point at which he could tolerate no further burden. A difficulty with this theory is that none of the witnesses who attested to Bill Pitzer's stress were of the opinion that he was likely to take his own life as a result. His troubles were no worse than those shouldered by huge numbers of Americans at one time or another. He attended the funerals of two colleagues in the last week of his life, and commented to Mrs. Pitzer: "That's two this week, I wonder who the third will be."

He then stated a wish for a military funeral. Certainly, such utterances may be made by those considering self-destruction. But then, who has attended a funeral and not contemplated personal mortality? And the popular notion that untoward occurrences run in threes may also explain the remark.

It was pointed out above that although Bill Pitzer (a habitual note-maker) had the opportunity and the wherewithal to write a suicide note, he did not do so. However, according to the FBI and the Informal Investigation Board, he did write a letter that afternoon. Apparently, he put it into the mail at the NNMC, and it was received in due course by an associate in Florida, with whom he had visited during a recent trip to Pensacola to provide audiovisual support at a lecture course at the US Naval Aerospace Medical Institute. Although the general tone of that short letter is positive with reference to his returning to Florida a few months later, there are two passages that give cause for thought, particularly since it appears that they were written within an hour or so of his death:

"I am in deep trouble at home"

"Until you hear from or of me, I am etc."

It is understandable that the Informal Board of Investigation and the FBI Reports put emphasis on these phrases. On the other hand, the term "deep trouble" may be mere hyperbole to get a point across, and "until you hear of me" could be a reference to the fact that the associate moved in navy circles in Pensacola. Again, such statements might be made by someone contemplating suicide, but do they constitute proof in the absence of supporting physical evidence? Although the FBI and Informal Board of Investigation Reports include various photocopied items, this putatively last letter by Bill Pitzer's hand is included not as a photocopy of the original, but, instead, retyped. Given the importance of this item of evidence, this is surprising [10]. Pitzer began his letter by acknowledging receipt of a letter "yesterday," i.e. on Friday 28 October. However, that letter "should have arrived in Bethesda about 24 or 25 October," i.e. on the Monday or the Tuesday, according to the associate in Pensacola. Pitzer's letter, supposedly written on Saturday 29 October, was received in Florida on Monday 31 October. We suggest that he actually received the letter from Pensacola on Tuesday 25 October (the date on the postmark is stated to be illegible), wrote the reply on Wednesday 26 October and mailed it on Thursday 27. If not written during the last minutes of his life, this letter loses significance as a possible suicide note.

CONCLUSION

The evidence that Lt. Cmdr. W.B. Pitzer committed suicide is purely circumstantial. The physical evidence is inconsistent with suicide and indicates homicide. But, this conclusion is of little consequence - our obligation now is to bring the recently released information to the attention of the appropriate authorities, with requests that the case be reopened. There is no statute of limitations on the crime of murder. The good name and exemplary reputation of a fine US Naval

officer have been besmirched for 31 years. The time for redress is long overdue.

If the soon-to-retire Pitzer had in his possession photographs and slides of John Kennedy on arrival at the Bethesda Naval Hospital morgue, and, perhaps more importantly, that he had in his possession a movie film of the autopsy procedures (or lack thereof), these materials might yet be in existence somewhere. And, the possibility remains that covert forces would, at any cost, have blocked the dissemination of such materials at a time of mounting controversy over the conclusions of the Warren Report and, in particular, its coverage of the president's autopsy [11]. Of potential significance is the inclusion in the FBI Report of a whole section on a man in Pitzer's command who had been under psychiatric treatment. Moreover, there is the coincidence of Pitzer's phone call on the day before his death to an NNMC psychiatrist regarding this individual. Therefore, it is possible that the death had nothing to do with possession of photographs and film of the Kennedy autopsy. But why would the US Navy and the FBI cover up such an incident?

Notes:

1. This article is based on new information on the FBI's investigation of the death of Lieutenant Commander William B. Pitzer at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, on 29 October 1966. The FBI Report and ancillary documents were obtained by a request made under the auspices of the Freedom of Information Act by ex-Special Forces Colonel Daniel Marvin (Retired). The article also draws on the report of the National Naval Medical Center Informal Board of Investigation into Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer's death, provided to Col. Marvin by Mr. Harrison E. Livingstone, author of several books on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that highlight the potential importance of Pitzer's death, e.g. *High Treason 2* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1992) pp. 556-559, and *Killing Kennedy* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1995) pp. 336, 340. We are grateful to Col. Marvin for sharing this information.
2. David Lifton, *Best Evidence* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1988 Paperback) p. 572.
3. Dennis David interview on *The Men Who Killed Kennedy VI. The Truth Shall Set You Free*, produced by Nigel Turner (A&E History Channel, 1995).
4. Dennis David, audiotaped responses to written questions from Colonel D. Marvin, 16 December 1996.
5. *New Developments on Previous Articles*: Colonel. D. Marvin, September 1997 *The Fourth Decade*, p. 27.
6. Walt Brown, *An Interview with Jerrol Custer*, Oct, 1995 *JFK Deep Politics Quarterly*.
7. Harrison E. Livingstone, *High Treason 2* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1992) pp. 556-557.
8. Cyril Wecht M.D., J.D., *Cause of Death* (New York: Dutton, 1993) p. 37.
9. This was reported by Harrison E. Livingstone in *High Treason 2* (New York, Carroll & Graf, 1992) p. 558. Mr. Livingstone was in possession of excerpts from the autopsy report that deal with the appearance of the entry wound.
10. Our skepticism in this regard is similar to our doubt vis-à-vis the release of a .38 S&W to Mr. Andre; a photocopy of Supervisory Guard Bray's hand-written statement, detailed herein, is included in the Informal Board of Investigation Report in lieu of a photocopy of the official logbook entry, and in the FBI Report there is a typed statement, also detailed herein, again in lieu of a photocopy of the logbook entry.
11. Colonel Daniel Marvin claimed that the CIA had a contract out on Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer's life in "Bits & Pieces: A Green Beret on the Periphery of the JFK Assassination", May 1995 *The Fourth Decade*, pp. 14-18, and (II), and on *The Men Who Killed Kennedy VI. The Truth Shall Set You Free*, produced by Nigel Turner (A&E History Channel, 1995). We are skeptical of his claims - see [5] above.

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Readers' Survey

Results

For our July, 1997 issue, JFK/DPQ mailed out a questionnaire which we hoped would generate a random sampler of what our readers were thinking, as well as to give us an idea of what their perceptions of the case were. We also threw in a few "expert" questions, and were pleasantly surprised that our readers understood and responded to the intent, and our book question also gave us some good insights into the depths and sophistication of our survey group.

The issue was mailed on July 2, bulk mail as always, with the hope that they would arrive by the 20th, as we schedule (not counting the dozen or so that the USPS *loses* every issue). Imagine the surprise when we started getting responses prior to July 20, and that the responses were steady throughout July, and on into both August and September. This presented something of a quandary, as the survey loomed as "a project" of some dimension in terms of all those questions, "yes's," "no's," and a smattering of "maybe's," as well as collating the responses which involved answers from 1-10, and favorite as well as least favorite books. Because of the high number of responses and the fact that they continued to arrive into September (and, as it happened, beyond), we held off on the results until this issue.

So what did the survey tell us?*

Our first question, "Did Oswald act alone?" brought a unanimous response that he DID NOT. Not one respondent answered with a "yes," or with any qualifying comments regarding the massive number of "no's." In the following question, Was Oswald part of a conspiracy or a patsy, there were 250 "patsy" answers and just about 100 "conspiracy" answers, as some readers felt Oswald fit into *both* categories. As to whether or not Beverly Oliver was the "Babushka Lady" or not, the votes favored her contention by about two to one. That question did bring forth some marginal editorials as well, as readers either felt strongly that Beverly was being honest, or equally strongly that she was not what she claimed to be.

Regarding the credibility of witnesses, Howard Brennan (not surprisingly) was the clear loser. On a scale of 1-10, he received one "0" as well as one "10" and 2 "9's." His average however, was a mere 3.48, as some kind folks gave 8's, 9's, or 10's to the other choices but bumped Brennan down to 4 or 5. The remaining witnesses were bunched with a "credibility co-efficient" between 6 and 7. Malcolm Summers scored 6.5, while knoll spectator Gordon Arnold achieved a 6.73. Carolyn Arnold earned a 7.24, and everyone's "Mr. Affable," Ed Hoffman, garnered a 7.66 score. Tops was Arnold Rowland, (surprisingly NOT believed by the Warren Commission), who testified to seeing a rifleman at the western end of the depository, and who scored a 7.72. Again, readers provided occasional comments, mostly about their personal experiences with one or more of the witnesses, the most common one being Ed Hoffman.

Readers found the Ricky Don White story of his father, Roscoe White's, involvement believable but only barely so, by about a ten vote margin. There were about nine times as many "yes" votes for fake Secret Service men on the knoll, and an equally strong "yes" vote that the Paines were somehow involved in the events of November 22. Finally, by about thirty votes, there was a "rejection" of the body alteration theory as espoused by researcher David Lifton. (The irony in those numbers would be that almost 50 people reported *Best Evidence* as one of their five favor-

ite books.) Our next question provided the names of 21 of the most common folks recently thought of as possibly involved in the assassination. The two most commonly cited individuals, in order, were David Ferrie and Guy Banister, who each received better than a 90% affirmation. Just beneath them, in the 80% category, were Jack Ruby, Clay Shaw, and Carlos Marcello, respectively. Dropping dramatically to the 50-33% "guilty" rating, one notes Frank Sturgis tied with George DeMohrenschildt, then Allen Dulles, Sergio Arcacha Smith and Eladio del Valle tied, followed by LBJ, Hoover, Ed Landsdale, Jimmy Hoffa, Charles Harrelson, "Saul," and Richard Helms. About 20% of those surveyed felt Richard Case Nagell was involved, and only *one* reader felt James Files was involved.** (One respondent boldly wrote "fraud" in the "no" space). Of even greater surprise is that no-one voted for the involvement of either Fidel Castro or Nikita Khrushchev, two of the most common suspects, particularly in early US government pronouncements when it seemed that a conspiracy was still somehow possible.

Returning to questions regarding issues, there was a 55-45 split in agreement that the Zapruder film had been altered, although there were comments that suggested that the four missing frames, Z-207-211, amounted to the alteration. By the thinnest of margins, it was felt that the Secret Service was *not* involved, but it turned around to near unanimity that there were Oswald doubles active in the weeks preceding November 22. There was also virtually the same unanimity that the Dallas cops aided Ruby, and there was total, 100% unanimity that the magic bullet was a figment of the imagination. Despite the privacy of the survey, nobody reported believing *that one*.

On the question of the number of shots, our responses ranged from 4 to 12, with an aggregate average of 5.71. On the number of shooters, the responses ranged from 2 to 8, with the average at 3.42. The knoll was the most common site where shots were believed to have come from, although the comments suggested that the knoll was a large area; from there, it was the TSBD, the Dal Tex Building, the sewer drain (about 25%), the Records building, the Triple Overpass, and one vote for "not the TSBD."

The CIA led all groups as the planners of the assassination, with other respectable vote totals going to organized crime, "military intelligence," (a blur of sorts with the CIA votes...), anti-Castro forces and, specifically, E. Howard Hunt, Richard Helms, and David A. Phillips. The Dallas right wing received about twenty votes. The cover up was orchestrated by, in order, J. Edgar Hoover (we counted Hoover and the FBI as the same thing, since it was...), LBJ, the CIA, the Warren Commission, Earl Warren personally, the Dallas police, the mob, the Secret Service, and surprisingly, one forlorn but highly significant vote went to "the media."

Our readers have gained a familiarity with the literature, as our survey made clear. The category of "5 favorite books" yielded a high proportion of responses citing books published *prior* to the release of Oliver Stone's *JFK*. Weisberg's *Whitewash* series, along with Lane's *Rush to Judgment*, Marrs' *Crossfire*, Lifton's *Best Evidence*, and Garrison's *On the Trail of the Assassins* each garnered between 40 and 90 votes. At the top were Sylvia Meagher's *Accessories After the Fact*, Thompson's *Six Seconds in Dallas*, and a tie between Summers' *Conspiracy* and co-editor Walt Brown's *Treachery in Dallas*, the only post-Stone book, besides his other works and Peter Dale Scott's *Deep Politics and the Death of JFK* and Fonzi's *The Last Investigation* to gather any notice. (Walt was particularly grateful for the response, particularly to *Warren Omission* and the *Referenced Index to the Warren Commission****). Beyond that, virtually every title imaginable received one or more votes, as tastes dictate.

In the worst book category, Gerald Posner was the clear winner, but he got a good run from *Conspiracy of One*, as well as the *Warren Report* and *Mortal Error*. One reader insisted, quite vocally, that Ford's *Portrait of the Assassin* was the worst, and another reader lamented, quite correctly, "there are so many." It should be added that on the favorite book side of the ledger, Richard Trask's *Pictures of the Pain*, a lone assassin work, earned the respect of a few readers.

Finally, by a vote of about three to one, readers indicated a belief that the Moorman photo

showed "the badgeman."

We at the *JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly* are thankful to all those who took the time to answer this survey, and on occasion, to go well beyond the questions and provide some excellent insights.

*Please recall that out of the almost 300 responses, not all were complete, so the data will not always create a perfect 1 on 1 correlation everywhere.

** This seemed in sharp counterpoise to the e-mails we have received from Mr. Vernon, the proponent of the "James Files did it" merchandising apparatus, who continues to criticize an earlier article here.

*** inasmuch as retailers such as JFK/ Lancer refuse to carry those two titles.



by Jan Stevens

Payne, Darwin and Laura Havlich, Eds: *REPORTING THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION* (Dallas: Three Forks Press, 1996)

Once upon a time, before the era of high tech, journalists worked on news stories using big old heavy typewriters called Underwoods and Royals, terms like "slug lines" and "copy boy," "Linotype machines" and blue pencils, and had great camaraderie with their local police departments and officials. Photographers used big clunky cameras which needed their filters changed for indoor and outdoor work. The print medium was king in November, 1963, as television was just about to become the dominant media for the future *that very weekend*. It was a very different world, and unprecedented events were unfolding in Dallas as a political visit by the President of the United States was certainly a more local than a national event -- but soon became a cataclysmic worldwide tragedy that changed the sociopolitical and cultural fabric of a nation.

Students of the JFK case will recall some of the more famous folks who populated that world in 1963 -- names like Hugh Aynesworth,

James Altgens, Merriman Smith, Tom Alyea, Ike Pappas and Tom Dillard. Some, of course, have passed away, but many were able to be at a one-day Southern Methodist University conference on November 20, 1993, called "Reporters Remember 11/22/63." The conference, subsequently televised on C-SPAN, brought together many of the television, radio and print reporters and photographers -- mostly regional -- who covered the assassination story.¹

This book is a complete transcript of that gathering, and is a fascinating (if not often incomplete and unsettling) account from these men² and the memories of their incredible experiences on that incredible and tragic weekend.

If there's one impression that permeated the demeanor of all participants, it was how unprepared they all were for the stunning and complex events of those terrible Dallas days. Logistics and standard methods and ways and means of news gathering were either improvised, changed at the last minute or thrown out altogether. Many key members of

the press were stationed at the Trade Mart, where prominent Texans awaited President Kennedy's luncheon address. They heard of the "hit"³ on JFK, but had no idea of its seriousness, or the events that had just occurred a few miles away. Most of the newsmen and cameramen who were traveling in the motorcade with JFK were seven or eight cars behind, and too late to know exactly what took place on Elm Street and how -- and ended up frantically capturing its immediate aftermath on film or else hitching rides to Parkland Hospital. Cameras malfunctioned, contacts or associates disappeared, editors and hard-bitten news veterans frenetically scrambled for specifics and confirmations, assignments were changed, days off were canceled, gun-toting officials were encountered at the hospital, notes were lost, tempers flared and crucial decisions were often made on the spot.

Readers should keep in mind the following axioms in order to best appreciate this work:

1) It has often been repeated that a reporter's priority is one thing and one thing only -- "getting the story." The recollections recorded for posterity in this book, with very few exceptions, amply illustrate that these people were fully engaged in that one professional capacity. It was such a staggering event that most just could not afford, or did not even have time to consider, until days later, their emotional response to the tragedy of the president's death and the subsequent killing of Oswald.⁴ The "story" was all that mattered and the adrenaline was pumping; these guys were on "automatic pilot".

2) In 1963, the press was definitely not as cynical as it would become years later. The flow of information was often controlled and generally, journalistic practice did not emphasize the hard questioning of official dictums. It was a more innocent era in which there were no "investigative reporters" a la Woodward and Bernstein. In short, these reporters come off as having reputations to protect and were not prone at the time to otherwise dispute the official verdict of a

breaking story. It is most unfortunate that they were not, but such was the case in the early 60s.

3) These media folks *lived* these events *as they happened* in Dallas, and were subject to intense pressures and unheard of twists and turns as events unfolded. As JFK researchers have demonstrated, the press in the sixties was quite trusting of its government and many enjoyed the mutual "favors" and cooperation that the relationship afforded both institutions -- whether on a national level or a local one in a major city like Dallas. Consequently, they remember some facts inaccurately, memory-merge others and are predisposed, more often than not, to Oswald's guilt.⁵ (This topic is too extensive to be covered further here, but has been discussed by Jerry Policoff, Mark Lane, Barbie Zelizer and others.)

The conference was divided into several panels such as "The Search for Details," "Jack Ruby: A Shocking Turn," and four others. These form the chapters of the book.

The camaraderie of these news people, often acknowledged at this conference even after all these years, reminds the reader that they were all there to discourse on the assassination events *in light of their journalistic experiences* -- not from the ostensible viewpoints of those who have studied the ins and outs of the JFK assassination. This makes for matter-of-fact personal recollections that bring us a real sense of those times and what these guys were doing when all hell broke loose, allowing us to filter these specific details through what we know from the investigations and research which began soon after. In addition, each speaker had precious little time, thus any retrospective analyses or interpretation was kept at a minimum.⁶

Since the conference itself was covered in some depth by researcher Sheldon Inkol in *The Fourth Decade* (January 1994), only a few of the more memorable highlights are offered here:

Dallas Morning News photographer **Tom Dillard** (and others) spoke of how surprised the reporters in the motorcade were when the expected flatbed truck was not there, and they had to ride in Chevy convertibles -- six

or seven cars *behind* the president's. Associate editor Vince Palamara has video footage of other routine Kennedy motorcades in which reporters rode *in front of his limousine* and were, of course able to photograph the president from this vantage point.⁷

Tom Alyea of WFAA-TV recounted how he was on his way back to their studios when the shots were fired and did not hear them. A few moments later, as one of two reporters allowed into the Depository as the investigation ensued, he says he saw chicken bones on the *fifth floor*, a fact he reiterated several times. Both Alyea and reporter Kent Biffle spoke of their fear, what with the Dallas Police all running around with guns drawn ("They were very nervous"). Sheldon Inkol, who was *there*, states that Alyea suggested that audience members question him later, but adds that Alyea nonetheless quietly left the conference in haste upon its conclusion.⁸

Jim Featherston of the Dallas Times Herald (DTH) contradicted witness Jean Hill's statements -- calling them "nonsense" -- that she was strong armed into giving him her Mary Moorman photo, which was in her pocket. As many readers know, Mrs. Hill's observations later grew to mammoth proportions, as she said she was confronted by two nefarious officials of some sort who "put some kind of a hurt on me."⁹

The late **James Altgens**, who took the three famous photos we've all seen, offered some interesting, but familiar details. He said fragments landed at his feet (p.57) and that as JFK was falling into Jackie's lap, "there was no blood on the right side of his face. But there was a tremendous amount of blood on his left hand side and at the back of his head, which suggests to me if someone was shooting from another position, there would be evidence in that particular area because they didn't find any body blows from bullets or shrapnel that could have been somewhere else, that could have come from that direction." (?) Altgens derided any possibility of conspiracy more adamantly than almost all the others and spoke of strange people later calling him and asking strange questions.

Veteran anti-conspiracy reporter **Hugh Aynesworth**, whose anti-conspiracy track-record regarding this case should be familiar to most readers, spoke several times at the conference and was true to form. Here are two notable segments:

He tells a story this writer has heard nowhere else, in which he states that the day after he was hired by *Newsweek* magazine in January 1967, he went to Texas for the funeral of Jack Ruby. He ended up assisting in the handling of the funeral arrangements for Ruby's relatives, since they were too "distracted." He explained: "there [were] conspiracy people out there who were making up stories, who would do anything to get a story, and I figured if indeed Jack Ruby is buried without somebody looking at him that they're going to put pressure and say that's not really Jack Ruby that died. Already I figured they'd do it to Oswald, but it didn't happen till a long time later, so I talked to the family that day ... and I said you've got to let someone in the press just before you close the casket to examine that body." (p.129)

Two Chicago reporters and, according to Aynesworth, CBS' Nelson Benton did the honors, as it were. Odd. (Has anyone heard this story elsewhere? If so, let us know.)

A fitting closing to the Aynesworth portion of this review is to say that when he was asked what was the best book on the JFK assassination he answered with Posner's *Case Closed*. He said *U.S. News & World Report* called him to read it "before they bought it." Aynesworth went on to claim "It's a good book, it's a honest book [!], and I agree with 95% of it."

Mary Woodward (Pillsworth) who was on Elm Street and witnessed the shooting, gave her story, and supported the lone nut version. Unfortunately, this time she told a rather different story than the one she told Nigel Turner in the "Men Who Killed Kennedy" documentary. Long-time JFK/DPQ readers may recall this writer's article on Ms. Woodward's contradictory accounts in our very first issue. (Others can view it online at <http://www.njmetronet.com/jfkdpq/woodward.html>)

Burt Shipp, then of WFAA-TV, added

what I think is a most important and most curious quote he attributed to Sheriff Decker, whom he saw at Parkland Hospital. He recalled asking "What's it look like, Sheriff?" and Decker replied, "Did you ever see as deer hit in the back of the head? There's *nothing* back there". [emphasis mine] Decker was not, of course, asked anything about his time at Parkland by the Warren Commission, or his observations of the president's head wound.¹⁰

KLIF Radio reporter Gary DuLaune said that it was he who suggested that Jack Ruby, who was hanging out at the station bothering everyone there, should run out for some sandwiches. DuLaune also confirmed that Ruby had right-wing pamphlets about H.L. Hunt's radio show "Lifeline," in his car. "[But] Jack was a big listener to that show, the H.L. Hunt show." (p.82)¹¹

Some of the most curious recollections of all were those of Tony Zoppi, who wrote a nightclub column for the Dallas Morning News in 1963 and had known Jack Ruby since 1951.

Zoppi supported Ruby's alibi by stating that Jack called him from jail to say he shot Oswald to save Mrs. Kennedy from having to appear at the trial -- *and* that he felt sorry for her kids -- *and* -- as if that weren't enough, to show that "a Jew has guts." The latter remark has been attributed to Ruby via other sources from the start, notably DPD Sgt. Patrick Dean and SS agent Forrest Sorrels.¹² It would appear quite convenient that Zoppi would use *all three* of the Ruby alibi explanations.

Zoppi spent some time talking about an author he refused to name who accused Zoppi of covering up for Ruby and having Mob ties.

(Inkol stated that the author is David Scheim¹³)

The illustrious Mr. Zoppi spoke of Ruby's invitation to take a trip to Cuba in 1959 and his associations with Las Vegas entrepreneurs, as well as other Ruby stories. It is among the more engrossing sections of the book.

Ike Pappas -- the WNEW radio reporter noted for the "anything to say in your defense?" question seconds before Oswald was shot -- gave an intriguing recap of his activities that weekend, including a harrowing trip from New York rife with detail. He points out that Captain

Fritz was adamant about his "no questions" policy when the media was permitted to see LHO at the Friday night "press conference."¹⁴

Pappas' personal account of Ruby offering him an exclusive interview with DA Henry Wade while at police headquarters fills in some minor gaps in the oft-told story as well.

There are many first-hand insights into the media zeitgeist in *Reporting the Kennedy Assassination* and fresh tidbits of detail from other notables and witnesses such as Bob Jackson, Wes Wise, conference organizer Darwin Payne, CBS' Eddie Barker, Jimmy Darnell, Bob Huffaker, and others. The most exasperating thing about this book is they kept getting "the hook" and running out of time -- often in the midst of very revealing comments.

Tom Alyea, for example, who can be long-winded as it is, was just getting to the discovery of the rifle when Aynesworth pulled the plug! These reporters, most who are or were



Jack Ruby in the crowded halls of Dallas Police Headquarters -- stalking Lee Harvey Oswald.

Texans, all represent a kind of "old boys" network, and thus certainly have their biases, even after all these years. Their remembrances cannot always be taken as gospel, (as was admitted in so many words by some of them) and sometimes conflict with other interpretations and witness testimonies -- but from the perspective of how these men performed their duties and what was running through *their* minds as the unprecedented was happening around them -- it is highly readable and most noteworthy to consider.

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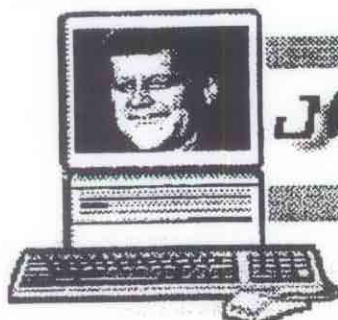
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complaint about the Warren Commission
(since corrected...) as he's feeding his
dog from a fork at the dinner table?

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 39)



by Jan Stevens

In recent months the internet as an entity has reflected the current interest in examining some of the important policy issues of the JFK administration (as opposed to the assassination events), seen in the light of newly released tapes and documents. These developments and the recent round of Camelot-bashing due in part to the Seymour Hersh book, (see "In the News") have added up to much reading material (and sound files) readily available on the web.

As is representational in a democracy, one of the best things about the internet is that for every point of view expressed either in newsgroups or websites them-selves, a contrary viewpoint can be found elsewhere. As has often been stated, the net is a great equalizer, if you will: the qualified and the unqualified, the educated and the non-educated, great thinkers and small minds alike all can have their say. This is instantly evident in the most heavily trafficked JFK newsgroup, alt.conspiracy.jfk, where the fur often flies and theories of all kinds are bandied about in passionate--and occasionally dispassionate --- discourse. A careful daily reading of the posts reveals the polarities, similitudes, and attitudes of the body politic who venture there. Experienced researchers and ill-informed "buffs" all go at it, neck-and-neck on topics of great merit as well as minutiae-- like Jean Hill's "little white dog" in the limousine observation. Ideally, some of the interpretive disagreements can be helpful and often contribute to a deeper awareness, if you have a strong personal constitution. But just as often, some of the more argumentative "regulars" fall into abusiveness and hurl assaults on personal character. Cries of "CIA disinformationalist" are sometimes aimed if the

slightest difference of viewpoint is detected. As in other fields of study, cyberspace offers the anonymity and safety net which makes free speech even more free and less encumbered by personal encounter. Thus, besides the valuable information offered and exchanged, personal attacks are commonplace. these attacks are most often from those of the lone-nut persuasion ("LNutters" in newsgroup-speak) towards conspiracy believers and vice versa, but also are prominent among those of us on the latter side. Virulent disagreements on fundamental areas such as body alteration and the medical evidence, Zapruder film tampering, multiple "Oswalds" (and now, Marguerite Oswald doubles...) witness credibility, ballistics and photographic evidence are certainly nothing new. The internet has simply been a powerful vehicle, and often either a catalyst or a dividing line, in experiencing these differences on a regular basis--if one is so inclined.

Besides the intricacies of the case, many of the usenet groups' exchanges have, of course, mirrored much of the media focus on President Kennedy in three basic areas in the time frame surrounding the 34th anniversary of the assassination:

1. Seymour Hersh's book *The Dark Side of Camelot*;
2. The release of the LBJ White House tapes, and the Michael Beschloss book about them.
3. The release of the JFK tapes of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the 35th anniversary of the event in October past.

New websites have proliferated with an

emphasis on these topics. Here is a look at some of them and a few others of interest:

<http://oyez.nwu.edu/history-out-loud/lbj/warren>
The *Challenge of Democracy* (History-Out-Loud) website features audio files of the LBJ White House tapes. For those who haven't yet heard Johnson, during the week after the JFK assassination, discussing the idea of a special commission to investigate the case--this is a website that can't miss [ed. note: co-editor Walt used these tapes in 1996 in preparing *Warren Omission*, and his text will flesh out what you will hear]. It's amazing to hear the 36th President exhibit his highly persuasive powers with officials and cronies like influential columnist Joseph Alsop, Abe Fortas, Dean Rusk, Hale Boggs, and Allen Dulles. The conversations with J. Edgar Hoover, in which Hoover talks about evidence from the FIFTH floor and other oddities, is by itself worth the price of admission. Downloads are in the *Real Audio* format, available for free (from this site) for both PC and Macintosh operating systems.

<http://oyez.nwu.edu/history-out-loud/jfk/cuban/>

The same website, but here you can hear JFK himself, often with the Joint Chiefs and Bobby, during those tense days of October 1962 -- discussing strategy in the Cuban Missile Crisis. This is one of those places on the web that lives up to the net's potential. A must!

<http://www.c-span.org/emc/cuba.htm>

The newspaper *The Washington Journal* taped discussions on the anniversary of the Missile Crisis. Recollections and discussions include the thoughts of Senator Bob Graham, Ted Kennedy, JFK advisor Ted Sorenson, Harvard professors Ernest May and Philip Zelikow, co-authors of the book *The Kennedy Tapes*, and others. This is a valuable resource for historians and those interested in the JFK administration's inner workings during those tumultuous "thirteen days" when the world held its collective breath.

http://www.abcnews.com/onair/nightline/html_files/transcripts/ntl1008.html

This is the "Lady Bird Diaries" transcript from ABC's NIGHTLINE television program. The diary was excerpted from the aforementioned Michael Beschloss book, *Taking Charge: The Johnson White House Tapes*. Portions of Lady Bird's assassination recollections were read and Beschloss discusses her observations with host Ted Koppel.

<http://www.lawmall.com/jfk.mm/>

A legally-oriented site, the subject of which is the JFK/Marilyn papers hoax. This is by no-means a presentation of sleazy details, but rather a site which presents various legal documents on the lawsuits and carefully worded allegations floating around between Lawrence Cusack, Jr., ABC-TV, handwriting experts, and other parties. The website is a page from LawMall, and was done by Carl E. Person. Here is a quoted excerpt, which speaks for itself, from one of the pages you may download: "13.OK Cop of Complaint Alleging Fraud, Breach of Contract, Libel, Property Disparagement, Ambush Journalism, and interference with Advantageous Relationships Filed 11/21/97 by Lawrence and Jennifer Cusack and Thomas Cloud against ABC, Inc., Boone Arledge, Peter Jennings, Lancer Productions, Inc., Mark Obenhaus, Vanity Fair, the New Yorker, Seymour Hersh and Others--150K"

<http://www.thesmokinggun.com/jfk/jfk.html>

The Smoking Gun website--Actual FBI documents are featured here on the Bureau's snooping into JFK's private life, both before he became president and after. A small but fascinating collection, showing that Hoover indeed had plenty of damaging material on JFK's personal sexual adventures locked away, making the possibility of blackmail far more imaginable. Once can just imagine old J. Edgar taking off his red dress after a long hard day's night, getting into bed with Mr. Tolson and lasciviously diving into these reports. ("Clyde, did you see *this* one?")

<http://www.worldmedia.com/archive/articles/z9209-vain-hopes.html>

A page from Z Magazine devoted to an

article by intellectual media commentator Noam Chomsky called "Vain Hopes, Failed Dreams." Written in September, 1992, this piece argues, among other things, that JFK was not seeking to pull out of Vietnam, and thus postulating that Vietnam withdrawal as a reason for the assassination is not valid. Chomsky does not believe there was a conspiracy to kill the president and has long represented to many in academia a prime example of the failure of some of those on the political Left to deal with the complexities of the assassination conspiracy. Heated debates on this, with such notables as Alexander Cockburn, Peter Dale Scott, and Chomsky himself, took place in *The Nation* in the post-Oliver Stone climate of 1992.

<http://www.crocker.com/~acacia/article.html> From Acacia Press--an article that claims to address Chomsky's rhetoric on the conspiracy view as presented in his *Rethinking Camelot* (Boston: South End Press, 1993). Problems are evident from the get-go, as the writer does not so much as directly challenge Chomsky's allegations, other than reproduce a few of his quotes, but rather goes headlong into a polemic on the Freemasons theory of the Kennedy assassination. A most unsatisfying and intellectually deceptive webpage.

http://www.mungopark.com/container.asp?page=chattranscripts/trans_stone.asp&issue=199710

Mungo Park, a Microsoft site, offers a June, 1997 interview with film director Oliver Stone. There is a lot here, what with Stone's articulate views on the Vietnam War and its origins, which show a savvy and first-hand insight from his own Vietnam experiences. He speaks on the *Nixon* film as well, with some references here and there to *JFK* and our notions of what

constitutes history. Definitely worth your time to take another look at the mind of a man who has studied (and experienced some of) the subjects his films deal with.

A few other newer websites, not necessarily recommended:

<http://ww3.ns.sympatico.ca/jojoan/groden.html> Lone nut theorist Jerry Organ's site trying to sell his "book" on Robert Groden's work. Regardless of your opinion of Groden's involvement in and contributions to the JFK case, it is hard for this writer to believe someone would spend such time and expense to self-publish a these pages for the sole purpose of trashing another researcher.

<http://members.aol.com/guptaneel1/AmStud/JackRuby.htm> An amateurish page serving as an overview of Jack Ruby done by a student at Arkansas School for Math and Sciences.

<http://genie.arsc.k12.ar.us/oswald.html> A site advertising the former residence of Lee Oswald at 214 W. Neely Street in Oak Cliff. The small house is up for sale; see our last issue's back cover. The site has the "backyard photos" and briefly explains to the uninitiated the house's significance. It concludes: "Zoning is residential, certain deed restrictions will apply. The price is \$41,500, which includes \$18,000 in renovation work. Financing not available." Enough said?

<http://sunsite.oit.unc.edu/stayfree/4/jfk.htm> A rather brief but yet formidable introduction to the case for conspiracy from a UCLA school graduate. A good overview that touches many bases. Till next time, see you on the net.

The "Official Final Version" (A SATIRE)

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE -- OFFICIAL FINAL VERSION OF THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

(v. 97.012.11.6)

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963 by Lee Harvey Oswald, an ex-U.S. Marine Communist who lived simultaneously in the Soviet Union and the United States from 1959 to 1962. Oswald was NOT a U.S. agent. He was born in New Orleans and New York City on October 18 and 19, 1939, and at several other times. He had a disturbed youth, principally because his mother often forgot the name of his father as well as the various days her disturbed child was born. Adding to his confusion were frequent changes in his mother's height, from 5'1" to 5'7" and back again. Oswald simultaneously attended Beauregard Junior High School in New Orleans and Public School #44 in New York City during the fall of 1953.

Oswald was given the intensive training usually afforded young Communists by the U.S. Marine Corps, performing such vigorous tasks as simultaneously attending Radar School in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Aviation Electronics School in Memphis, Tennessee.

Oswald, who was NOT a U.S. agent, fired three shots from a Mannlicher- Carcano rifle from a "sniper's nest" near the Coke machine in the second floor lunch room of the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. A window overlooking Elm St. was immediately removed by a group of maladjusted writers known as the "TSBD Window Critics."

One of Oswald's three shots entered the President's head near the EOP, and also four inches higher, and exited above the right ear, which was near the front of President Kennedy's head. (For technical details, see "All the President's Ears" by Seymour Hersh.)

A second shot entered the base of the President's neck, and also several inches lower in his back, exited an entrance wound in his throat, struck Governor Connally's back, broke a rib bone, exited his chest, broke two bones in his right wrist, became embedded in thigh bone, and finally fell out onto the gurney of a little boy in Parkland Memorial Hospital. The bullet was ENORMOUSLY slightly DAMAGED, principally as appearing to be from a six-land-and-groove rifle, whereas Oswald's rifle had only four such rifling patterns. Fortunately, by the time the bullet was in the capable hands of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, it once again had four sets of lands and grooves. And it was ENORMOUSLY slightly FLATTENED, even in the Warren Commission version.

A third bullet missed entirely, striking a tree limb which separated the jacket from the lead core, and the core traveled on to strike pavement near James Tague, a motorcade bystander who was slightly wounded by concrete splatter. (We really are a little uneasy with this explanation, but we're trying to boost flagging interest in Gerald Posner.)

Another third bullet hit the turf along the south side of Elm St. near a manhole cover.

A *second* third bullet hit the pavement on Elm Street just to the right and behind the Presidential limousine near the Book Depository.

A *third* third bullet grew in size and then evaporated while in FBI evidence envelope 89-43-1A-122. (For technical details, see "Growth and evaporation of full metal jacketed bullets in Southern U.S. climates" by Luis Alvarez and also "Urinary Tricks and Evidence Envelopes" by

Dr. John Lattimer.) Americans with paranoid tendencies are cautioned to "trust the experts" on this one!

Although the physical evidence connecting Oswald with the assassination kind of sucks, consider this: Oswald immediately fled the scene by taking a bus going toward the scene of the crime, got off and then rushed to the bus depot where he tried to give away his getaway cab to the first lady who asked, proof positive that he was deranged enough to have committed the Crime of the Century.

At 1:16 PM, Oswald shot Dallas policeman J.D. Tippit, dropped his wallet, and then rushed the eight blocks to the Texas Theatre, and we mean RUSHED, where he bought popcorn one minute before killing Tippit and then entered the building without paying 20 minutes later. Aware that murderers are known to draw attention to themselves by entering theaters without first purchasing tickets, at least 15 Dallas police officers rushed to the Texas Theatre, where they arrested Oswald on the balcony and on the main floor.

Oswald, who was NOT a U.S. agent, was interrogated for hours at Dallas Police Headquarters, but recording equipment from the "Recording Room" was already being used to document a pre-confession practice session for Jean "Public Enemy #1" Hill.

Surrounded by Dallas policemen, Oswald, who was NOT a U.S. agent, was shot and killed at 11:20 AM on November 24 by Jack Ruby (Jacob Rubenstein), an organized crime figure with no ties to organized crime.

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Your Government would like to thank Michael T. Griffith, John Armstrong and Bruce Schuck, without whose research this Final Version would not have been possible. This Final Version supersedes all other Final Versions, and future amendments are hereby incorporated into this Final Version.

(Oswald was NOT a U.S. agent)

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A D D E N D U M:

OFFICIAL GPO CORRECTION: THE ** OFFICIAL ** FINAL VERSION
OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

(v 97.012.11.6.1)

IMPORTANT CORRECTION:

Due to a harmless printing error, several of the third shots taken by non-U.S. agent Lee Harvey Oswald were mislabeled in the previous FINAL VERSION of this report. For clarification, here is the correct sequence of third shots:

The shot that wounded Tague was the FIRST third bullet.

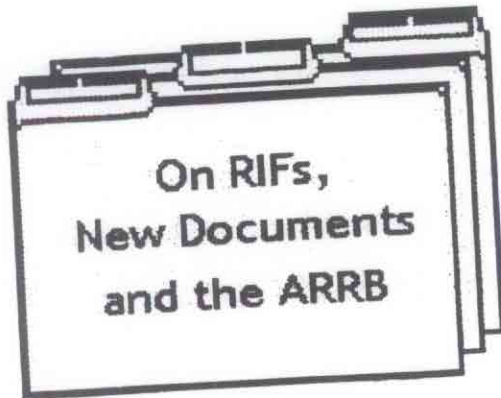
The bullet that hit the grass along the south side of Elm St. near the manhole cover was the SECOND third bullet.

The bullet that hit the pavement on Elm Street just to the right and behind the Presidential limousine as it passed the Book Depository was the THIRD third bullet.

The bullet that grew in and then evaporated from FBI evidence envelope 89-43-1A-122 was the FOURTH third bullet.

The Government Printing Office regrets the understandable confusion these printing errors may have caused. This office trusts that maladjusted assassination critics will not leap on these inconsequential errors by claiming some sort of deliberate effort to mislead readers about the three shots taken by Lee Harvey Oswald, who was NOT a U.S. agent.

The GPO would also like to thank every bureau of the United States Government for providing only slightly conflicting, but assuring conclusions on which agency Oswald was *not* a part of.



By Joe Buckles

There is a fear I have had about the ARRB and the National Archives and how they treat the latest releases, especially to those who order the latest releases through the mail. People who order documents from the National Archives through the mail have to pay meticulous attention to exactly what they ordered and what they got. You will almost always get ripped off! You have to be extremely careful with each individual document making sure you got all the pages that are supposed to be there. Double check the RIF# for how many pages the document is supposed to be then check what you've received. The number of pages the RIF# says the document should be is almost always at variance with how much there really is.

The above is just reflective of horrific record keeping. Someone could in addition be deliberately out to cheat you of pages or documents too! The above is how things are when ordering documents separate from the latest releases or from ARRB releases. Now, when the ARRB orders the release of a document, say one document that is 100 pages long, and let's assume the RIF says it's 100

pages and it is *indeed* 100 pages long, (Sometimes they count the RIF page as part of the pages of the document, they shouldn't, sometimes they count the ARRB' Formal Determination Notification page or pages, and sometimes they count the ARRB's FDN plus the RIF, they shouldn't, neither should be counted as pages of the actual document.) you oftentimes don't get the whole 100 pages. WHY?

Only a portion of that document might have been withheld prior to a decision by the ARRB. So let's say 97 pages were available. Only the three pages the ARRB looked at and okayed for release will be in the "latest release"

and in the ARRB release only the material on the ARRB release boxes gets copied and mailed out. So you don't get the whole document, you don't get the 100 pages, you get three.

The Archives made a decision to save space and reduce duplication and decided not to have that document full and complete, in this hypothetical case 100 pages, in both the ARRB releases and in the JFK Records Collection. I first noticed this problem with the December

20, 1995 release. All the HSCA documents were missing from the ARRB release box. That's 198 documents. There was no ARRB FDN, no RIF, nothing. If people ordered this release through the mail and then received this material, please contact me. Lately, I've noticed that when in the ARRB notice and Federal Register notice when documents are released by "consent release", also "additional releases", meaning the ARRB didn't have to decide anything because the agencies knew the material would be released by the ARRB anyway, that that material is not appearing in the ARRB release boxes and you have to search them out of the Collection, as if it wasn't time consuming enough just getting the ARRB release boxes and copying them with the friendly faces at the Archives and the limited number of copying machines.

Now when this stuff gets added to the Collection there isn't any notice. And, researchers who decide to go through the Collection based on various subjects that interest them are finding out that the box they just went through and copied or read the entire contents of, yesterday, a few days ago, last week, month, year, now has new material in there. And these types of researchers are now being blamed for the "sloppy" condition of the boxes.

Malcolm Blunt, a researcher from England, living in the U.S. near Archives II while attending University College, which is on the grounds of the University of Maryland though a separate academic institution has been so accused. In a letter written to him by Archives staff he was accused of sloppiness in reference to material he went through months prior. Malcolm really the new Anna Marie Kuhns-Walko, by that I mean a researcher who lives near the archives and spends many hours every day going through the material. And now like with Anna Marie, the Archives is out to get him. They had a long time to bring any charge of sloppiness to his attention. He's there nearly every day. But they write to him, in reference to material he probably doesn't even remember going through. They threatened to take away his researcher privileges.

And this "sloppiness" which they have created

is also being used to create an excuse to restrict access to the documents in the name of "preservation", though this is being discussed behind the scenes.

This kind of monkey business is going on while *there is* a Review Board. How bad will they get when the Review Board is no more? Is that when these "new restrictions" will be put in place?



In Memoriam

Editors Jan Stevens and Walt Brown would like to take this opportunity to extend our sympathies and prayers to a friend and fellow researcher Jerry D. Rose, publisher of *The Fourth Decade*, on the loss of his beloved wife, Barbara, in September. She was the "sustaining force" in Professor Rose's life and in his formidable research efforts, as he commented in the November 1997 issue of TFD. As Dr. Rose has mentioned, we would suggest that those so inclined may consider a contribution to the Barbara Rose Scholarship Fund at SUNY, Fredonia, NY 14063.

Our best wishes go out to Dr. Rose and his family at this difficult time.

Deep Quotes

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

-- Ephesians 6:12 (The Bible)

"Nowhere are prejudices more mistaken for truth, passion for reason, and invective for documentation than in politics."

-- John Mason Brown

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts."

-- Sherlock Holmes
in Doyle's "A Scandal in Bohemia"

"Truth will come to sight; murder cannot be hid long."

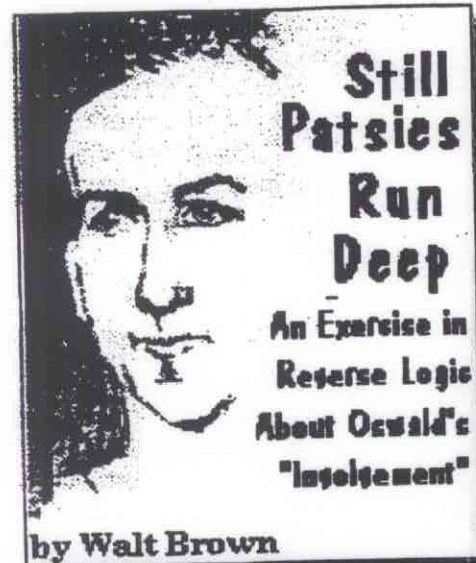
--- William Shakespeare
(from "The Merchant of Venice")

"All statecraft is founded on the indifference of most of those concerned. Otherwise, no statecraft is possible"

-- Disraeli

"Opinion is a fleeting thing, but truth outlasts the sun. If then we cannot own them both, possess the oldest one."

-- Emily Dickinson



Our recent *JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly* survey (see elsewhere in this issue) demonstrated almost virtually unanimous support for the belief that Lee Oswald was a "patsy" in the assassination of President Kennedy. Considering that the survey was mailed to a "control group," if you will, of "conspiracy theorists," such results should not surprise us. It should also be noted however, that a large segment of the population, not just we of the conspiracy persuasion, hold such beliefs. "Maybe he was just what he said he was--a patsy," as Kevin Costner noted testily to his legal staff in *JFK*.

After all, even Oswald himself admitted he was a patsy. That is the first fact that should concern us. In the midst of a massive police and media presence--Oswald didn't whisper his patsy statement to Will Fritz; recall: the most significant prisoner of the twentieth century announces to the collective media and thus the world, in essence, that he is taking the fall for a crime committed by others, and nobody--not the cops, not the federales, and not the omnipresent media, takes the least bit of interest in the statement. The Warren Commission never asked one question to anyone they interviewed who was present when Oswald made the statement, and while they did probe such areas of vital importance as his childhood, his

orphanage experiences, school tardiness, and bus habits, they never concerned themselves with this "confession." Also, while they published 62 meaningless pages of polygraph belts showing squiggles indicating Jack Ruby was either telling the truth or lying about a series of unknown questions, the WC did not publish a transcript of the totality of Oswald's post-arrest public comments, and they clearly should have. They also had the ability, as the police corridor tape recordings, with the exception of a Sunday, 11:21 a.m. groan, were all pressed onto phonograph records and were available, cheaply in 1963, at both record shops as well as the all-night doughnut joints. But what they did publish was [Seth] Kantor Exhibit #3, a notebook Kantor carried through the weekend of the tragedy. There, in clear hand, is "7:55 - I'm just a patsy." On the other hand, we must weigh the source, for Seth Kantor was seen as unreliable by the Warren Commission for having had the audacity to testify that he spoke with a former acquaintance, Jack Ruby, at Parkland Hospital at approximately 1:30 p.m. C.S.T., on November 22, just prior to the official press announcement of the President's passing. Since it would have suggested conspiratorial overtones if Ruby, who became a player two days later (if not well before....), were to have been at Parkland, Kantor was seen as "mistaken" -- he didn't talk to an old acquaintance named Jack Ruby at Parkland; he just thought he did, or he dreamed it up, or it was a good story to file when Ruby became good copy on Sunday.

Let's assume for the sake of this exercise that Oswald was telling the truth, and that Seth Kantor was not manufacturing exact quotes in his notebook. If Oswald was indeed a patsy, it raises some serious questions AND allows us to work from Oswald toward the perpetrators of the crime.

Of concern: at what point in time did Oswald become aware of his patsy status? Did he know in advance, or did it dawn on him when Marrion Baker and Roy Truly interrupted his soda break?

For whom was Oswald serving as a patsy, and therein lies the answer to the eternal

question. If he was taking the fall, he was doing it for those who fired the genuine bullets and for those who deserved to stop Jack Ruby's bullets.

Lastly, and most difficult to conjecture without engaging in bizarre speculation (and there has been some in the literature...), how was Oswald manipulated to be the patsy, and how were any necessary contacts made?

What can a patois of fact and logic tell us? First, it can be hypothesized that Oswald knew *something* out of the ordinary was going to occur on November 22, 1963. After unpleasanties with Marina the prior evening, an unusual event in itself, as it was a Thursday visit, he left behind his wedding ring and approximately \$170, which amounted to the vast majority of Lee Oswald's wealth on that day. Did this mean his marriage was in disarray, or that he intended to commit an assassination? Both interpretations are possible, although the more sinister scenario is somewhat vitiated by the fact that when captured, Oswald had \$13.87 on his person, and we know he spent money on the famous coke, \$0.23 on bus fare, and \$1 on cab fare.

The postulate of an assassin leaving behind the vast portion of his getaway money for a wife he is angry with and who is being well cared for (by a quite well-to-do Ruth Paine, cracker box house to the contrary notwithstanding), is difficult to accept. Equally difficult to accept is the notion that the assassin would have contemplated his crime and allowed himself the luxury of planning to return to his boarding house, some distance from the kill zone, to retrieve the pistol he would need so desperately for any kind of escape. It's not unreasonable to think that if Oswald was planning presidential mayhem for Friday, he could have arrived at the TSBD on Thursday with his pistol, secreted it somewhere in the maze of the building (particularly on floor number seven), and retrieved it the following day. This becomes plausible when we realize that we are asked--if not commanded--to believe that on the day when a presidential motorcade was to pass the TSBD, Oswald carried in, secreted, and subsequently assembled a 40+ inch long sniper rifle.

Compared to that, a pistol would have been a mere bag of shells.

The last paragraph should also serve as a reminder to us: Oswald *did* take something with him to work that morning that was not his lunch, and while we can and do debate sizes, lack of photographs of bags or oil marks on the non-photographed bags, difficulty of sighting in the weapon believed to have been carried in the bag, as well as the quality of weapon, the fact remains: Oswald did take *something* to work that morning, and subsequently, a gun he openly (perhaps too much so) ordered and used for photo-ops was deemed to be the murder weapon of the President.

Oswald would leave the TSBD a few minutes after the shooting (at a time when normal police procedure would have guaranteed that the building be sealed tighter than the CIA's secret cache of documents) and then board, of all things, a municipal bus heading back to the scene of the crime. Oswald's swift departure from the Depository is strongly suggestive of at least conspiratorial status, for if Oswald had been totally unaware of any anti-JFK events on that day's agenda, why the hasty retreat? From there, Oswald did not clearly evince an escape pattern, but rather demonstrated survivalist tendencies. He went back to the boarding house, changed a garment or two, collected the pistol that should have been the fall-back option for anyone seriously contemplating any kind of rifle-related crime, and then what did he do? -- He went for a walk, and, after another interlude with a law-enforcement officer, took in part of a show.

This combination of facts--the abandonment of escape funds, the fall-back pistol, the lack of reaction to Marrion Baker's weapon, the lack of anything involving an assassin's escape plan--all tend to suggest that Oswald was NOT an assassin. Yet the leaving behind of funds, the transporting of a package to his workplace, and the beating of a far too hasty (or perhaps Hosty?) retreat are indicative that he was part of something that he knew would alter his reality, at least temporarily.

And "temporarily" may be the key to it, at least in Oswald's mind. In custody, he did two extremely odd things, amidst the stories we

know of him castigating James Hosty, of his denials that the pictures were of him, of his denials that he shot anyone, of his stories that he carried the pistol because that was "a guy thing," to use the modern idiom. The two odd things were legal in scope: he requested John Abt to represent him, to the exclusion of all other attorneys known to exist on the planet at that time. Oswald's choice of Abt is extremely instructive: Abt's fame was derived from defending people accused of violating the Smith Act, which made it a crime to bespeak the use of violence to overthrow the U.S. government. Translation: he defended Communists wrongly accused of omnibus, usually trumped-up charges. How and why did Oswald randomly or deliberately select John Abt?

Or did he? No *real* assassin would go within the width of Russia to select John Abt. It was like an advertisement that you were direct progeny from Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. Yet someone who felt wrongly accused and possessing--or posing as someone possessing leftist sympathies would find Abt a natural. Perhaps the selection of Abt was no more than the completion of Oswald's "pinko legend," a trail which began with Russian bleatings in US Marine barracks, included a "defection" to Russia, and culminated in the Fair Play for Cuba leaflet "campaign." Revisit the media presentation of Lee Oswald in the last 48 hours of his life: he was portrayed as a "Castroite," a "Red," a defector, a sharpshooter, and a lone malcontent. The perfect resume was created to allow a conspiracy of others to kill the President, allow for a defendant to be shot dead a couple days later and "take the fall," literally and figuratively, and tar our two worst enemies, Cuba and Russia, in the process. But where the media portrayal and reality part company is in the "patsy" confession. In the media, Oswald was as stated above; in reality, he was a mediocre shot; he played some odd head games in Marine barracks; he visited Russia, where he threatened to renounce his citizenship and give the Soviets data, although we know for a fact he did not renounce his citizenship, and he requested a Communist-affiliated attorney whom he had never met and who had never met

him. Oswald didn't dream up John Abt--he had help.

Beyond that, Oswald's other legal decision is equally curious. Visited by both the Dallas Bar Association and the local ACLU to guarantee that his rights were safeguarded, Oswald showed no interest in receiving free legal assistance while being charged, mind you, with two murder counts (a President and a cop), and one attempted murder count (the Governor of Texas), telling his visitors that he wanted to see how things shook out for the next few days, and after that, well, he

would see what was needed. It is almost impossible to imagine yourself charged with the murder of the President of the United States and a local, southern police officer, and have the resume that Oswald had, and not jump--hurl yourself--at the chance for any kind of legal help offered. Was Oswald waiting for "his handlers" to come forward and help him? It seems highly unlikely that an assassin would behave that way, although a patsy would have no way of knowing that at the time, and might still believe that the real case would be shaken to its roots.

What did happen was partly as Oswald expected, but certainly not entirely. Someone did come forward to absolve Oswald of all sins; unfortunately, it was Jack Ruby, and he was packing. Thus ended Oswald's worries, the search for truth, and the need to find the answer to Oswald's patsy assertion.

The data thus far suggest that Oswald did not know he had been set up as the lone-assassin fall guy, but rather that he knew he was part of something--exactly "what" is unclear--as of Friday morning when he left for work without his wedding ring, his life savings, and with a package.

So who were "his handlers"?
And who "handled" him?

One solution available is the omnipresent

Oswald did not clearly evince an escape pattern, but rather demonstrated survivalist tendencies.

"Manchurian Candidate" scenario. In this thinking, mind-control was employed to create a trigger mechanism within Oswald, and either the Soviets or US intelligence "brainwashed" (talk about small jobs...) Oswald, sent him back, and then virtually anyone could have walked past Oswald on the street, said some inane phrase like "Frank Burns eats worms," and Lyndon Johnson becomes President. The problems with such a theory are that the Russians had nothing to gain by it, and US intel, a far more likely "sponsor," would probably have chosen someone far more faceless than the Lee Oswald of defector fame. That is, unless the whole plan was, in fact, to kill JFK and have the Commies blamed for it. In that sense, it is doable; I only hope they get either Tom Cruise or Nicholas Cage for the movie version of Return of Minskurian Candidate.

Other possibilities exist as well. There can be no doubt that Oswald's time spent at--or away from--the William B. Reilly Coffee Company raises serious questions about the hours he was spending with folks ranging from David Ferrie to Guy Banister to Sergio Arcacha Smith. In this scenario, Oswald expands his "defector" resume by a leafletting campaign at, of all places, a US warship, and is constantly photographed in this operation despite the fact that there were less leaflets involved than the local boy scouts would use to promote a car wash or cookie sale. The leaflets were not to gain converts, but rather publicity, and make no mistake--they worked. So did the event in which Oswald was pushed and then arrested for causing his own pushing. All of these things were done seemingly under the watchful eye of Guy Banister, pictured in many dictionaries next to the entry for "right wing fanatic." Ditto Ferrie. How does a "defector," who had his way home paid for by the government he spurned and possibly committed treason against, followed by a no-questions asked return and a job at a classified photo outfit, turn

up in the presence of fanatics who hire types like Oswald to infiltrate the very causes he was espousing?

The data strongly suggest that someone was babysitting Oswald for a good while after his return from the land of cabbage and collectives. First, George DeMohrenschildt, who was as different from Lee Oswald as Katherine Hepburn is from Michael Jackson. And as DeMohrenschildt went on his merry intelligence way, --to Haiti, after a stint in Ghana as a U.S. stamp collector -- Oswald conveniently goes to New Orleans where the entire *apparatus* seems tailored for --and by--Clay Laverne Shaw, also of CIA fame.

Yet all of that was New Orleans, and the crime, as we know, happened in Dallas, with all the New Orleans players, and some of the Dallas ones, well alibied at midday on November 22. So how was Oswald maintained in that final seven week period, and where were the contacts?

Jack Ruby has always been a suspicion, but an unproven one. Sightings abound, but proof eludes us. Some of Ruby's employees insist, three decades plus after the fact, that Oswald was in the club.

Yet Oswald's time, from his return from Mexico until his arrest in the Texas Theatre, is by and large accounted for. His Mondays through Fridays were spent at the TSBD, and are clearly accounted for; there was only one holiday during his employment there, and that was Monday, November 11, an extended weekend that Oswald spent at the Paines' home, with that Saturday being a day that saw an unsuccessful attempt at Oswald gaining a Texas driver's permit (while across town, someone claiming to be "Lee Oswald" demonstrated his already existing driving prowess for Albert G. Bogard). His time at the Paine residence is alibied, with Ruth Paine able to account for all but 15 minutes, which, as it developed, Oswald had used to walk to purchase ice cream for the children. Oswald's boardinghouse keeper, Mrs. Earlene Roberts, gave similar indication that Oswald's whereabouts were known while he was at the boardinghouse.

Such clear-cut data, on face, would

suggest that Oswald did not have either the time or the luxury to attend conspiratorial meetings or--equally crucially, take rifle practice --and if that is accurate data, we are left with the possibility that Oswald had limited contact with his handlers, further proving the patsy theory, as serious, regular contact would be maintained with the "mechanics," yet a patsy is oh-so maintenance free. Three possibilities seem to exist: casual street contact; phone contact, or mail contact. If casual street contact happened, we will know about it when the people who made the contact tell us about it, as there is not a hint of it anywhere. It also is suggestive of a high level intelligence involvement in the assassination, to go to such lengths to build an Oswald resume and frame him so effectively. Phone contacts are more difficult, as there is no testimony--nor the suggestion of any, that Oswald received phone calls either at the TSBD, at the Paine home, or at the boarding house, excepting the November 18 call in which Marina and Lee exchanged heated words in what was perceived by the landlady as a foreign language. We cannot rule out lunch time pay phone use, but we have no proof of it, and phone records of the TSBD, available to the WC, were not even a curiosity.

This tends to rule out, or at least diminish the prospects of street contacts or phone calls. But that still leaves the US Mail--and serious, unresolved questions. Oswald, as we know from Postal Inspector, FBI snitch and trained suspicioner Harry Holmes, had a post office box in Dallas. The question then should have been obvious: Why?? Oswald, a man of such penury that he tipped cabbies who may have saved his life five cents, and stayed in \$1.28 per night Mexican haciendas, allowed himself the luxury of a post office box. Again: Why? Contemporary analysis has always suggested that he was receiving Russian magazines like *Krokodil*, but that misses the point. Such reading fare could have been delivered to Mrs. Paine's house, as she had the Oswalds there (among other, more covert reasons), overtly because of their Russian language skills. Further, Mrs. Paine gave indication that there were Russian periodicals, which had come in the mail, awaiting Lee

Oswald at the time of the assassination. There is no evidence that Oswald got any mail at 1026 N. Beckley, suggesting it was a transient residence where Oswald had no plans to linger any longer than necessary. There is certainly no suggestion that Oswald was getting mail at the TSBD, and the address they (and the local cops, as well as Military Intelligence) had on file was the old Elsbeth Street address from the pre-New Orleans days, and it was the wrong address, as 602 and 605 were juxtaposed.

The issue then becomes focused: why did cheapskate Oswald spend his textbook induced wealth on a post office box, and what was being delivered there? He paid no bills, except his \$7-8 boarding house rent at that time; it's unlikely he was a devotee of junk mail, or that he got the customary 40 credit card applications per week. His Russian junk was going to the Paine's.

What was going to the post office box? And who was sending it?

When we have those answers, we'll know a whole lot more about what happened in mid-day, in mid-street, in mid-Camelot. Until then, we have to ask ourselves why the Warren Commission asked dozens of questions to Western Union employees, to pin down one telegram sent by Jack Ruby, yet did not ask one postal clerk one question as simple as, "What mail was being delivered to Oswald's post office box?"

Maybe the answer is that such mail was sent in care of someone code named "Patsy." If so, was Oswald a patsy for Khrushchev or Castro? This seems highly unlikely, given his checkered history; he makes a great stalking horse for a national policy of hatred against them, but certainly not *their* patsy. What about the mob? Before you rule out the Dutz Murret connection, (which deserves ruling out, as it is horribly overrated), keep in mind that the Mafia does not need patsies. They do their own dirty laundry and want you to know they did it. This trims the list of suspects down to the standard "rich and powerful" blended with the intelligence community. Clearly many in that collective cartel, from bankers, to arms brokers, to those who opposed detente, to LBJ, had reason to seek an end to JFK's term in office

and to do it in such a way that their interests were not equally sacrificed. To them, a patsy was a mandate.

Think it through: we need someone with a history of pro-Soviet and pro-Cuban activities; someone on record as opposing the status of his USMC discharge; someone with, albeit ancient, rifle capability. If the cartel can get him to believe in some future event, purchase a weapon and be photographed with it, then get it anywhere near the proposed motorcade, all that remains is to bring the target within range of the patsy--and within range of c. 1963 American gullibility.

And they succeeded--and did so with such *panache* that they would take their success on the road two more times, once in Memphis, and later in the same awful year of 1968, in Los Angeles, two cities like Dallas where the death of a political figure would not automatically guarantee serious police work and where the arrest of someone with the slightest suggestion of either motive, means, or opportunity would be the end of the hunt for justice.

Except in the eyes of those who still care.

NOTES:

1) Researchers, myself included, have dwelled on this fact for years; while an extremely interesting comment, it should be borne in mind that Oswald had a flair for creating statements to suit the occasion and not always within the bounds of what might be called "truth." It is sad that we do not have complete records of his interrogation, as they would tell us much, including, perhaps, his "honesty co-efficient."

2) See 20H 366 for the entry, and the notepad as a whole makes quite interesting reading, particularly in judging Kantor's honesty. In the original, there are quotations around "I'm just a patsy," which I take to mean Kantor was quoting *exactly*.

3) A sinister speculation arises here, as it is possible that the ring and money could have been retroactively planted, to further incriminate Oswald; there is, however, no proof of this--like so much else within the wilderness of mirrors that is the JFK assassination.

4) Contrary to common belief, no witness testified to the Warren Commission that Oswald carried a package into the building. Wesley Frazier did not tell the WC that, although he did indicate that Oswald carried in the

package, in his, Frazier's, deposition to the Sheriff's Dept. [see 24H 209: "I saw him go in the back door...and he still had the package under his arm."] Eddie piper, of truly limited intellect, indicated Oswald's hands were empty when he entered the building, but recall that this is the same man who testified he thoughts shot-like sounds came from an upper floor, but they might also have been backfires--on an upper floor of a textbook warehouse--odd.

5)Note the careful wording of that sentence: it does not say, "Killed the President," or even "Was Fired";

6)For a more detailed discussion of police apathy, the reader is directed to a chapter entitled "Apathy" in *Treachery in Dallas*, by the author of this article.

7)In a typical irony, John Abt, not his wanna-be client, would appear before the Warren Commission; in addition, Abt served as attorney of record for a couple "reds" called before the WC to be asked what they knew about Oswald.

8)Recall the worldwide perception of Oswald at the time he was visited by the two lawyers: Red, pro-Castro, former defector, Marine sharpshooter turned traitor... not a pretty picture, yet the world did not know then that it could have been nothing more than a resume, which had also been enhanced by a trip to Red embassies in September, plus some "Oswald sightings"; all that was needed to complete the image was the successful completion of Oswald's mission in Jackson and Clinton, Louisiana, during the summer of 1963, and he would have been all of the above and been linked to a mental hospital.

9)It should be noted in this connection that when Oswald learned, on Saturday, that Governor Connally had also been shot, he showed surprise; this could be acting, and good acting at that, if you subscribe to the "Oswald was aiming at Connally while someone else killed JFK" theory of history. If, on the other hand, the surprise may was as genuine as Oswald's patsy disclaimer, it was obviously not Oswald who pulled the trigger that changed America.

10)Sergio Arcacha Smith has got to be one of the most serious "omissions" of the "Warren Omission"; the man knew what happened on November 22, 1963--bet on it.

11)General Edwin Walker, for instance.

12)Unless, of course, the meetings Oswald was known to have attended with Michael Paine were fraudulent; this is rendered difficult, however, when it is recalled that Oswald spoke on at least one of these occasions.

13)The rifle practice concern is equally of value in determining Oswald's time constraints, and what is

possible within those time constraints; for him to have engaged in rifle practice, he would have had to take the gun away, "practice," and, as noted, Ruth Paine accounted for all of Oswald's time; the only other possibility is that he snuck back to the Paine house, got the gun out secretly, took his practice, then returned it in equal secrecy--to a greasy blanket on the floor covered with sawdust--an unlikely prospect.

14)Proving, of course, that the Mexico trip was pure "resume"; he could not have afforded to return to the USSR or even get to Cuba on the economic resources he was dealing with in Sept-Oct., 1963.

15)Containing somewhere in excess of 20 cubicle bedrooms in 1963.

16)Curiously, when Oswald went back there at 1 p.m. on 11/22, he took only the gun and a jacket--as if he planned, routinely, to be back there again; turned out, he never was.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. John Newman, Robert Groden and Jim Garrison
2. Ruth and Michael Paine
3. "Bill and Janet Williams"
4. David Lifton, Gus Russo, Cyril Wecht
5. Napoleon's
6. "Willie O'Keefe", "Bill Broussard"
7. Harrison Ford (he turned it down)
8. Easter Sunday
9. He discussed the case with Sen. Huey Long during a plane trip.
10. It had no index!

Readers: Please feel free to suggest "QUIZ" ideas!!

Did Castro Kill Kennedy? A Book Review

BY
WALT
BROWN

Moscovit, Andrei: *Did Castro Kill Kennedy?* (Miami, Cuban American National Foundation, 1996); The original manuscript was translated from the Russian edition of the book *Ktoubil prezidenta Kennedy?* (Moscow, USSR 1991, translated by V. Klimenko)

Edward Bell, an occasional contributor to the *Quarterly* and an extremely well-read assassinologist, recently received a promotion in the book store where he is employed. Among the "perks" that went with the position was the opportunity to chat more freely with people who arrive looking for the latest "JFK book," and in this case, a stranger presented himself in search of Hersh's *The Dark Side of Camelot*. Ed immediately struck up a conversation on the subject only to discover that the customer "made a living" writing about JFK. Imagine his greater surprise when he learned that the customer, "Andrei Moscovit" had published a book in Russia in 1987, and it was a book Ed did NOT have in his truly prestigious collection of assassination literature.

Before two hours had passed, Ed put the author in touch with me, and he was kind enough to send me a review copy of the book, plus a copy of the original Russian work, *KEHHEDN, OCBALbD, KACTPO, XPYIIIEB*, which is as close as I can get on this keyboard, in Anglicized cyrillic, to "Kennedy, Oswald, Castro, Khrushchev, by an author named Yuri Efimov, who took a different name when he freed himself of Iron Curtain shackles a few years back. The

Russian book was great, and served to remind me how truly limited my Russian skills are, being last used in a very one-sided conversation with Marina Oswald Porter in 1995.

Be that as it may, this book was a major pleasant surprise. It would be a mistake to treat the topic sentence above as meaning "it's the greatest JFK book yet" or anything close. But it clearly is worth a look, as it is the Russian/Soviet (not the official Soviet version, thank God, but sort of a Soviet hybrid of a work like *Cover-Up* by Shaw and Harris: a lot of meat without a whole lot of ideological baggage) thinking on the case, and as such, brings along scrutiny of a kind that we are not always used to in America. It also has commentary regarding items that were either new to me or forgotten--and which need further scrutiny:

"At the beginning of September 1963, Oswald and Ferrie were seen among a group of Cubans undergoing military training." (p. 269--citation to Michael Kurtz);

Ferrie's trip to Texas was not to aid Oswald's escape, but rather to eliminate the suspect, and the phone calls that Ferrie got at the ice rink in Houston assured him that co-conspirator Ruby would do the job; Ferrie only left when the job was done (page 247);

Oswald was as frequently absent from the TSBD as he was from other places of employ (p. 239);

The Nosenko trail "meant that Oswald really was a Soviet agent, trained at the Minsk KGB school (located two blocks from his house) and

sent to the US" (p. 227-228; citation to Epstein);

Those are but a few examples of the shockers. There are numerous errors as well, and some, but not all, may be placed at the doorway of language: references to Dale Ryder, Ellen Markham, Glenwell Slack, and others get a bit tedious. There are also errors of fact, as the author has borrowed heavily from American authors as if our writings were holy writ. An example of this sort is an almost final thought about how Earl Warren put together "his Commission" to follow LBJ's edict to avoid a war, and anyone who knows about the Warren Commission knows that LBJ, not Warren, dictated its membership.

As one reads, (and a clear clue is the Jack Ruby phone bill homily), the impression is created that it was clearly a mob hit, even though Oswald is fingered as a Soviet agent. This idea is strengthened (despite the title, which seemed to point in another direction, as one would not title a book, "Did the Drexel Vacuum Cleaner Company Kill Kennedy?" unless the answer was going to be, "yes, they did....") by early references to the accommodations being reached by the US and its circa 1963 Cold War enemies, and by extremely boorish characterizations of Khrushchev (and since I was rereading Norman Mailer's JFK book at the time, I could appreciate boorish), who was Castro's mentor at the time. Then, suddenly, on page 255: "Cuban agents managed the conspiracy. It was they who initially set up Oswald as the sacrificial lamb." After a page break that leads to "Part Four: The Conspirators," we read, "The entire first part of the book is essentially aimed at proving the Mafia's participation in the President's assassination. But the final, twelfth chapter lists several factors showing the syndicate was unable to carry out this assassination on its own initiative."

Did the Mafia and Castro do it? I figured this would be the crux of the story where the unfolding flow of events would collapse, but the author brought it all together with some deep, thoughtful analysis which, to belabor a point, is worth a close look.

The mob *and* Castro? Before now it has always been the Mafia and the CIA, plus or minus a gaggle of disenchanted anti-Castro fringe fanatics.

So here's my translation: the CIA, as we know, did recruit gangsters to "whack The Beard." But Moscovit insists that by the time that linkage was cemented, Castro the Communist was too well entrenched to allow the Mafia dons to believe they could change things and reclaim their casinos and bordellos in Havana, so they nodded a bunch of polite "yes's" at US intelligence, took the satchels of cash and did nothing.

Enter Rolando Cubela, a/k/a "AM/LASH." Cubela, seen as a Castro agent, took the CIA's money with about as much desire to harm Castro as the mob had, but he was the living link that the US was playing naughty on the international front--and with gangsters, yet.

The Cubans, for their part, felt betrayed by both Khrushchev and JFK after the missile crisis of 1962, and felt that by striking at Kennedy, they would send a message to *his* successor Lyndon Johnson that they were a power *not* to be trifled with. The Cuban proof--their hole card was Cubela (in a manner not unlike that which Khrushchev had once used Gary Powers, making the accusation and then dusting off the proof), who could, and would, be later tried for treason, and he would, if needed, reveal that the US was actively using mobsters to kill foreign heads of state. Because the US government could never allow its citizens to know that we did our business in that way and that such shenanigans cost us a much loved President, a cover up was needed, one that pointed to a lone nut. So Oswald, whose resume had been completed in Mexico (and not to get a visa, as Moscovit notes, as Oswald's first USSR jaunt proved he knew how to get a visa quite easily...), stops his pro-Castro militancy, is linked to anti-Castro types (Banister, Ferrie, Sergio Arcacha Smith, et al), and is brought within the orbit of the event as an avenger against Connally, while mob torpedoes (Jim Braden and Morgan Brown are strongly hinted at) did the shooting of the President. The mob's reward would be unstated recompense

from Castro. (That last thread is a tough one, but it logically follows the rest.) Castro, meanwhile, orchestrated a detente, even to the point of having a journalist, Jean Daniel, handy when the assassination news broke, so as to appear deeply troubled (just as Ruby would "use" journalists for alibis at virtually the same minutes).

The Warren Commission was then put together to prevent the American people from learning that the CIA and Hoover's non-existent organized crime had conspired to kill Castro. Hoover had no choice but to go along, for the revelation that there really were crime families would have been his undoing, and covering up the truth of JFK's death and RFK's loss of power was no problem for him either way.

Tangled as this web of intrigue is, there are gems of analysis just waiting to be mined. The first lode (no pun intended) deals with Ruby's behavior during that weekend, and Efimov/Moscovitch here would make the KGB blush. In what has always been a confusing scenario, a sense of clarity emerges, as it is pointed out that the apolitical Ruby suddenly became political to create alibis for key times. He went to the newspaper office for virtually the duration of the motorcade, and complained at length of the attacks against JFK (the questions posed in the paper, and the "Wanted for Treason" circular), to make himself a JFK champion AND to be clearly alibied. Yet he became ashen when he learned of the "hit" on JFK, as perhaps his data had only run as far as a hit on Connally, seen as opposing the wide-open, rough and tumble gambling interests running wild in Texas. An hour later, Ruby purposefully sought out Seth Kantor *again* to make himself highly visible and to have an alibi, at a time when he expected the suspect to be killed. He would purchase the ubiquitous sandwiches in the late afternoon and use them as a ploy to get himself wherever he needed to be for the next twelve hours, as he was stalker, media manipulator, and "corrector" of Henry Wade--a correction Ruby should not have had a clue about. He even spent time in his grief at the residence of a sister he had recently injured by throwing down stairs, as well as at a house

of worship--what an alibi collection!

That the suspect was not killed is perhaps the best part of the work and dissects the Tippit killing in ways that I have not seen done heretofore. One comment I always hear from concerned parties who call or "E-mail," or whom I meet at conferences (when I am able to attend, unlike this past 11/22) is "When is there going to be more material on Tippit? That is one of the keys to the case." Of course it is, and it is extremely well-handled here, and while I became a little bogged down trying to figure out how the author was going to explain the machinery used in allowing the Mafia and Castro to put the Kennedy hit together, the Tippit event was extremely well handled here, and is enough for me to go back to that opening gambit and say, "You need to read this one." Not all Tippit related questions are answered, but most of the valid questions are put on the table and addressed insofar as they can be addressed, and a lot of loose ends are tidied up in the process--but you'll have to see for yourself.

The work ends cleverly with the creation of the "Moscovitch Commission," in which all conclusions are clearly stated.

I'm going to need a good bit of time to run down a lot of the leads and citations contained in this book--but I'll do it.... the author has earned that much, and more. This one was hard to put down.

And there is *much* food for thought.....



As we go to press: having forwarded a copy of the review to the author, an agreement was reached whereby DPQ would offer copies of his book, a large size trade paperback, at \$18 (includes S&H; please forward orders with checks/money orders to Walt Brown, c/o JFK/DPQ., Post Office Box 174, Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642; the books are in stock, unlike the collection of CD's still on hold.....

Amnesty? *continued from page 5*

Random House Dictionary, and who would know better?] Also, there is a connotation to amnesty that suggests it is used to defuse a potential conflict that has within it the power to create a national crisis. In case anyone noticed, there is no need to give any general pardons for offenses against the government, as the JFK assassination *involved* the US government, most likely *apriori* and damn sure *ex post facto*.

Secondly, it is highly unlikely that a civil war is going to erupt across the American landscape because of a sudden groundswell of popular emotion growing out of frustration with the government's failure to follow up leads in the JFK case.

Beyond that, who will come forward because they are promised amnesty? The answer is "certainly nobody that was truly involved in the assassination." Those people could confess on the steps of the White House at high noon on the Fourth of July and the worst that would happen is that they would be cited for loitering. The US government *does not want* the guilty to come forward; the US government has done everything it could possibly do to prevent the guilty from being prosecuted. They gave us the Warren Commission, which even by Norman Mailer's calm standards, amounted to a horribly flawed FBI fiasco which was aimed at proving Oswald's guilt and avoiding all leads that went in any other direction. The Clark Panel was an equal charade; the Shaw prosecution, flimsy or otherwise, received no help and only stonewalling from the US government, whose head of state was the victim in the Clay Shaw trial. The House Select Committee found "probable conspiracy," and requested that the US Department of Justice reopen the case. They did; they then did nothing for ten years and closed the case in 1988.

A material witness would have to badger the government to take a statement. And the worry that material witnesses have is the literature

which suggests that any and every JFK witness who died in the last 34 years was the victim of a roving "hit squad"—not US government prosecution.

So who would seek amnesty? *Every nut in town*, that's who. The Washington Mall would need extra police units to have the shooters line up in one area, the plotters in another, and those who admit to covering up, (and perhaps having had a hand in Caesar's killing also), will line up elsewhere. People have already come forward, without amnesty, and confessed, and they have been ignored. With the mass confessions that amnesty would generate, three

decades of serious research would be undone in an instant. The real search for truth in the JFK case would become a comic book/tabloid charade worse than it already is, and, in the final analysis, the truth, not to mention justice, will never be served.

If there was a case in which amnesty would help us approach the truth, we would be all for it. Has the US government, the Justice Department, the FBI, (anyone?) gone to those who have confessed, and offered a deal to get more? No. If the government wanted to ferret out the truth, they have the power to cut deals that resemble this amnesty. This proposal for amnesty would have every researcher stop all work and spend eons contacting legislators who could not care less. It's the "laboratory principle" at its worst—all oratory and no labor.

The hard way—work—may take a little longer, but it will be worth it, even if those of us who started at the beginning don't see it. Amnesty for JFK's killers? I'd sooner see them in hell.

Just say "no."

(Besides the writers, we'd also like to thank to Dave Perry, Michael Griffith, Russ McLean, Martin Shackelford, Joe Backes and Andrei Moskovit for various contributions to this issue.)

1st 11-22 B.O. + James P. Hosty ①
 Bookout

3:15 p.m.
 Didn't own rifle saw
 one at Bldg M. True + 2 others
 home by bus changed britches
 Ans Hosty adm going to Russia
 adm wrighting Russian
 Embassy + to Hosty
 says lived Russia 3 yrs.
 Does write over then now
 school in Ft W. - to Marines
 says got usual medals
 claims no political belief
 belongs Fair PI
 Hdqts NY off N.O.
 says supports Castro Rev.
 claims 2nd floor Coke when
 off came in
 to 1st floor had lunch
 out with Bill Shelley in
 front
 Ift wk opinion nothing be
 done that day etc.
 ? punch clock
 8-4:45 wre not
 rigid abt time
 wked reg 1st Fl
 but all over
 speaks Russian
 ? Why live O.H. Lee
 says landlady did that
 Terminate interview
 with line up
 4:15

(1)

1st 11-22

B.O. + James P. Hosty
 Jane W Bookout

3:15 p.m.

Didn't own rifle saw
 one at Bldg M. True + 2 others
 home by bus changed britches

Ans Hosty adm going to Russia
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? Why live O.H. Lee
 says landlady did that

Terminate interview
 with line up
 4:15

GKG CHANGES HORSES ... far side of midstream

In the hiatus of acquiring Cesar's pistol, coping with surgery and rehab while writing a sad adieu, The Conspiracy Museum's AHIMSA announcement, sent to its mailing list, was to be included in GKG X-XII/97 For our faithful subscribers we will fight for two more pages for the sketches worth their squillion words .

The Conspiracy Museum is pleased to announce the formation of Ahimsa Archives. Ahimsa Archives is a 501 (3)(c) non-profit corporation with full tax exempt status. The Museum is sponsoring Ahimsa during 1998 and will provide space and utilities during that year. Ahimsa Archives has been organized to provide a non-partisan resource for conspiracy related information, artifacts and personal papers.

We are pleased to open the Archives with over 500 items in inventory. This includes one of the most complete video archives on assassinations. The archives will cover all the Presidential assassinations as well as those related to The Conspiracy beginning in 1960. In addition to the Presidents, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy will be covered in depth.

Ahimsa Archives will publish a quarterly publication entitled "Ahimsa". Ahimsa is a word used by both Ghandi and The Dalai Lama which means "...may the world be in a state of non-forcefulness..."

The Publication will consist of three parts.

Part I. 6 pages
Part II. 40 pages
Part III. 2 pages

News from the Archives
JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly
Grassy Knoll Gazette

Editor: Tom Bowden
Editors: Walt Brown and Jan Stevens.
Editor: R. B. Cutler

News from the Archives will cover the activities of Ahimsa and provide project status reports on approved projects. The January edition will include announcements of contributions to the archives including an alleged assassin's personal papers, a gun or guns, and personal papers of a major conspiracy player. Guess Who???? What???

JFK/Deep Politics Quarterly has been published for the last three quarters and has been critically acclaimed on the Internet and at conferences as one of the best publications available. Walt Brown Ph.D. is the author of four books and many articles. Jan Stevens has been active for many years and has written excellent articles on the assassinations. This Part will cover all the assassinations with original articles by various members of the research community and new book reviews.

The Grassy Knoll Gazette has been published for over twenty years. R. B. Cutler has decided to reduce it to two pages and only cover The Conspiracy beginning in 1960.

You will find a separate membership application in this packet with pricing and other information as it relates to Ahimsa Archives. Also find attached The Conspiracy Museum's Mail order products. You may order by FAX, 800 number or the Internet.

Sincerely,



Tommy H. Bowden
President, The Conspiracy Museum, Inc.
Chairman, Ahimsa Archives

Thursday, December 04, 1997

The Conspiracy Museum, Inc. 110 South Market Street Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 741-3040 (800) 535-8044 Fax (214) 741-9339 ahimsa@altinet.net

GKG
XII/98

2. THE Conspiracy 1960 thru Tomorrow

Knowing the establishment historians, unable to stomach "conspiracy" will prevail short-term, the Reader-Boards for TCM's first-floor exhibits are couched in a story which embodies THE Conspiracy before and well after JFK infact through tomorrow.

During WWII total mobilization puts the Military (Industrial Complex) inside on every FDR-Oval Office decision. Continuation of this cozi-ness may have been in the minds of those who move the excess war materiel from Okinawa to Indo-China in 1945. There is no doubt that Conspiracy to Control the Oval Office bubbles over in the mind of J E Hoover when as SOG Seat of Government he black-balls General Wild-Bill Donovan's nomination as first DCI CIA in 1947. The Korean Conflict moves a few more into Conspiracy Corner.

When the designated candidate is upset by JFK in 1960, CIA anti-Commie ops are set at risk. The smart money behind a land war in Indo-China moves to block the whipper-snapper at the polls in 1964.

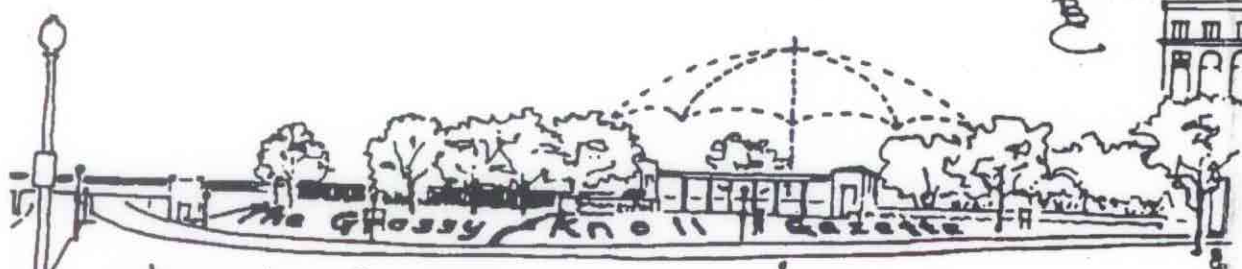
The President's political assassination, effected by short-circuiting his Bay of Pigs air-cover order, backfires in IV/61. One month later an OAS officer, advised by his superiors to take the front money and run, short-circuits the CIA bribe to kill JFK during his visit with President DeGaulle. THE Conspiracy is in bloom.

During the ensuing 900 days doubting anti-Commie idiotologues are convinced the President is selling the country down the river to the enemy . Public execution is considered too good for him.

Death, the only sure way out of the military box, has haunted THE Conspirators ever since. Realizing We the People have not been fooled by the Lone Assassin Myth PBBT, the Power Behind The Throne controlled by PWM the Professional War Machine, has turned in desperation to domestic terrorism as the only way to stay in business.

For starters ASU, TCM's Anonymous Search Unit is certain the Ryder truck's OK City bomb did not collapse the Murrah Building by itself.

▼ The brightest spot in our last quarter of '97 was Tom Mooney's proof of One Shot to the President's Head : THANK YOU/more in April.



when you have eliminated the impossible,
whatever remains, no matter how improbable,
must be the Truth. Sherlock Holmes

R B Cutler,
assassinologist

GKG IV/98

Ahimsa to all, and to all a goodnight...

Ahimsa Archives Project List

| Project Title | Project Number | Funding Required |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Conspiracy Information Archives (CIA) | 98-1 | \$ 50,000 |
| James Earl Ray Archives | 98-2 | \$ 20,000 |
| Sirhan Appeal | 98-3 | \$ 45,000 |
| Conspiracy Player | 98-4 | \$150,000 |

Please join Ahimsa Archives and support our projects. Support may take the form of money or research time. A copy of the project descriptions are available by calling the office.

Lincoln Assassination Update

(Continued from page 1)

Helen. St. Helen first declared his identity in the early 70's in Grandbury, Texas. When he thought he was dying, he confessed to being Booth and told his witnesses the location of the gun used to kill Lincoln. The gun was retrieved from its hiding place wrapped in chamois with bullets and a newspaper about the assassination. St. Helen recovered and told his story to Finis Bates, an attorney. Finis Bates would later write a book entitled "The First True Account of Lincoln's Assassination." This story was detailed in a play produced by the Grandbury Opera House and available on the video, "John Wilkes Booth, The Myth and The Mummy."

The Mummy segment began in 1903 with the suicide of David E. George in Enid, Oklahoma. George had also confessed to being Booth. He died by taking an enormous quantity of arsenic. When he was embalmed, the body was mummified. Finis Bates upon reading of the suicide went to Enid and declared that George was St. Helen was John Wilkes Booth. He would later take possession of the Mummy and store it in his home in Nashville, TN. Finis Bates at that time was Attorney General of Tennessee. Upon Bates' death, his widow sold the mummy and it would be exhibited around the country as the John Wilkes Booth Mummy. Over a period of years the mummy was sold and leased to various people. In the 30's it was taken to Chicago for x-rays. Its owners hoped to collect a reward for Booth as the entire sum offered in 1865 has not never been paid. The X-rays and examination confirmed that the mummy has a deformed right

thumb, a broken ankle, a cut in the eyebrow, and the crowning blow--his stomach contained a signet ring with the letter "B" on it. This is just a summary of the story, if you wish to get more details then check the references at the conclusion of this article.

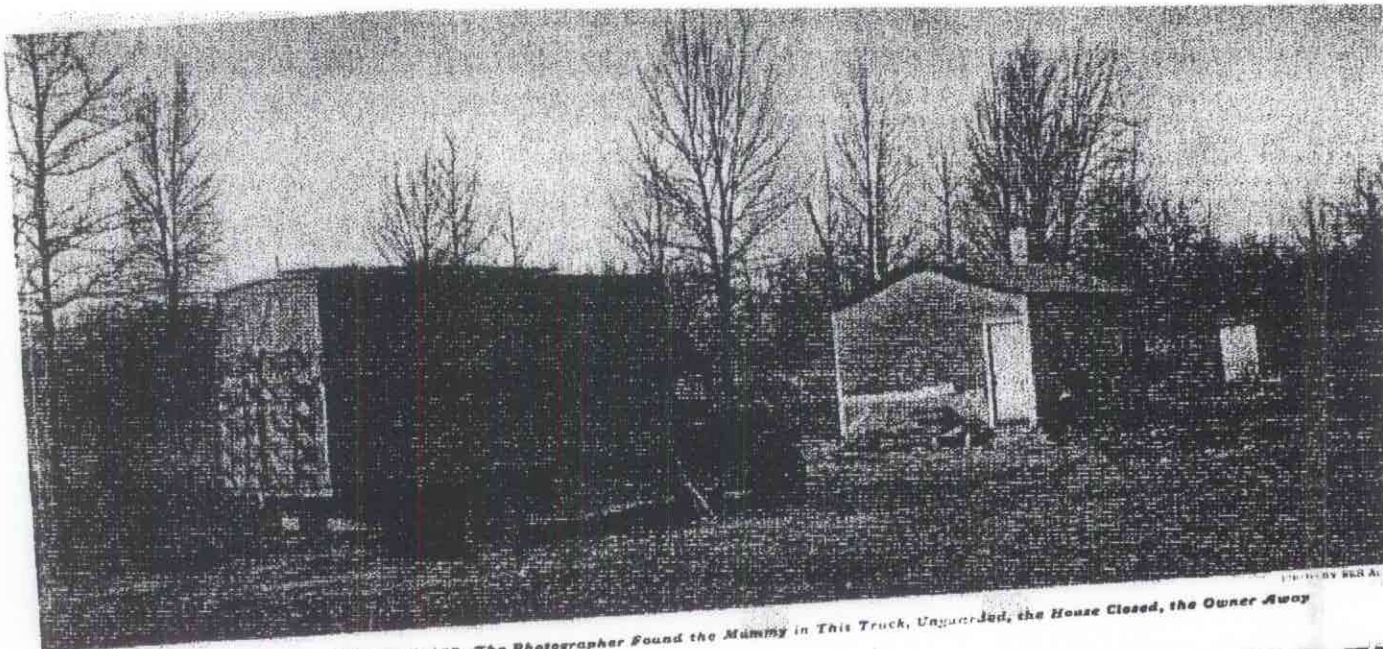
Now for the update... The gun found in Grandbury is currently in a safe deposit box owned by a descendent of a Grandbury witness. The Mummy was last located in Philadelphia in the 1970's. The Booth heirs have attempted to have the body in the Booth family plot in Baltimore disinterred for DNA tests. Their attempt was successfully rebuffed by the cemetery. A search is still underway to locate the Mummy for DNA tests. The X-rays have been located in the library of Northwestern Medical School in Chicago. They are fragile and the ankle X-ray has deteriorated and can not be read.

Now for the action..... If you are aware of anyone claiming to have a mummy in their possession, then please call. Ahimsa has located a possible source of hard physical evidence to prove whether or not the body in the Barn was Booth. In the next edition of Ahimsa News, we will detail the physical evidence.

See next page for photographs.....

References:

"The First True Account of the Lincoln Assassination" by Finis Bates. Published 1907. J.C. Nichols and Company.
 "John Wilkes Booth, The Myth and the Mummy" Video by Grandbury Opera, Written and Produced by Joann Miller and John Sims.
 Information Contributed by Ken Hawkes.



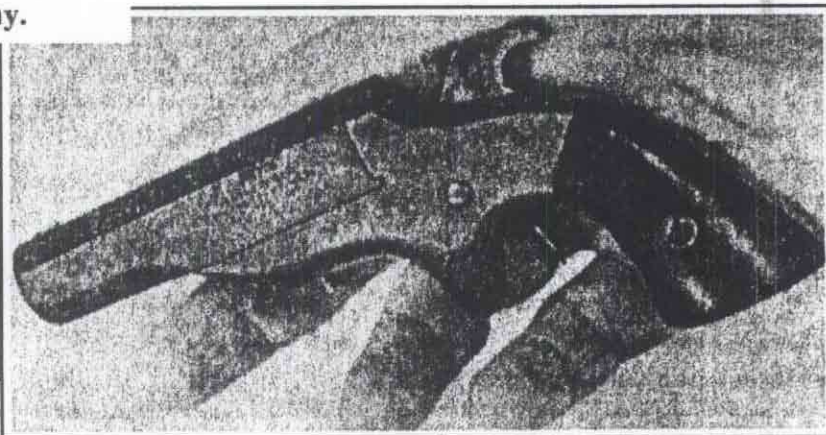
Winter Quarters of "Booth," 1935. The Photographer found the Mummy in This Truck, Unguarded, the House Closed, the Owner Away

"JOHN WILKES BOOTH" ON TOUR

By ALVA JOHNSTON

Saturday Evening Post, February 19, 1938
Article about the Booth/St. Helen/George
Mummy as America's leading mummy.

This is the gun that St. Helen
claimed was used in the assassi-
nation of Lincoln. It is a .41 rim-
fire pistol. Brown Mfg. Company
Patented Apr 9, 1857.
Serial Number 3449

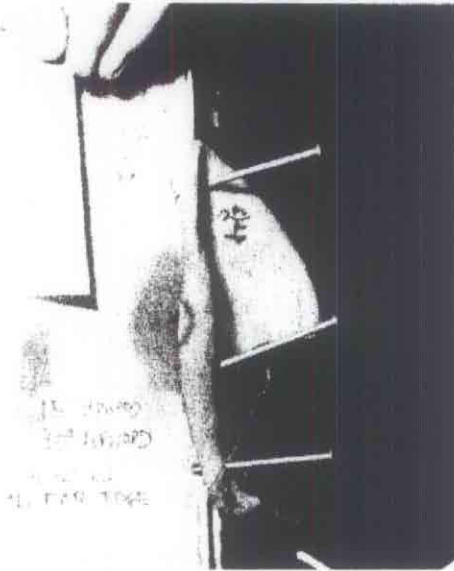


Is the mummy to the right really Booth?

The Museum may have a way to prove whether
Booth died in the barn. We still must find the
mummy to determine if it is Booth.

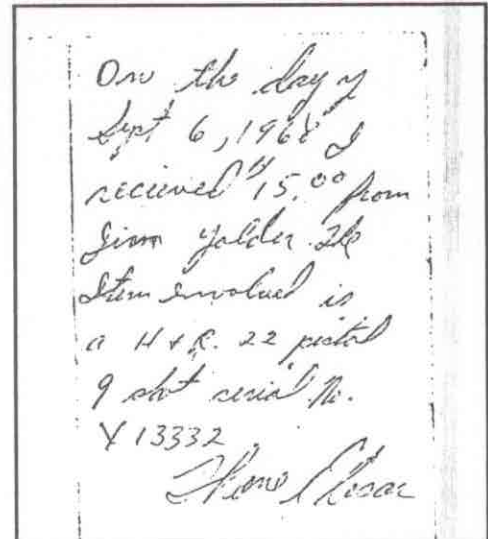


Guns of the RFK Assassination



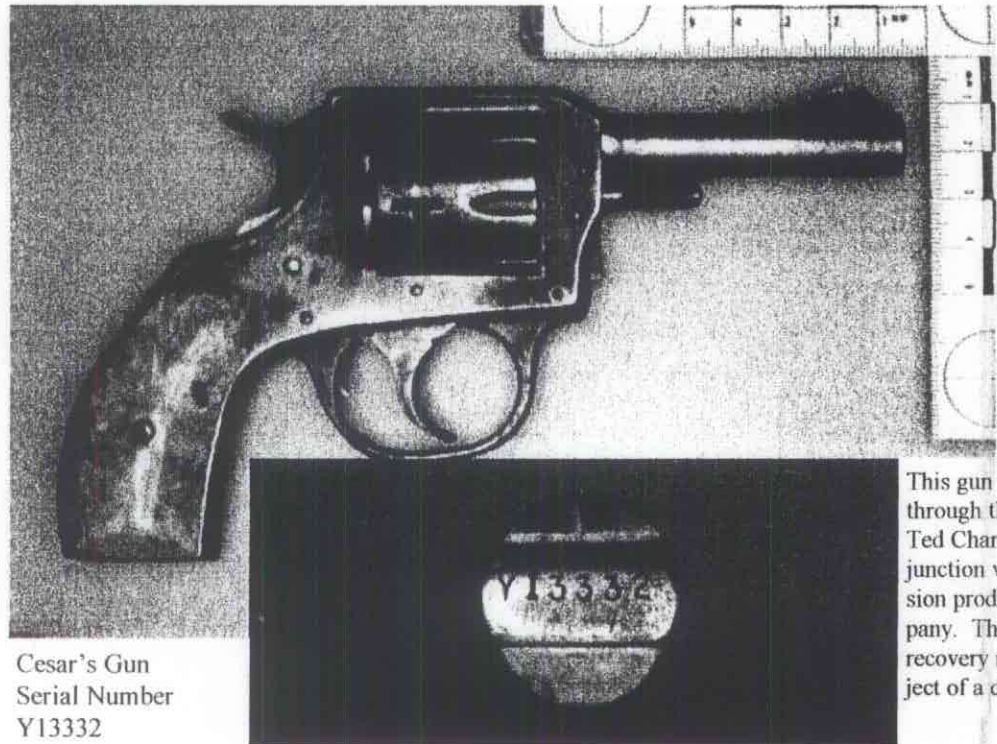
Autopsy Photograph—RFK

Using a pig's ear, H18602 was fired to determine the actual distance from Kennedy's ear. Noguichi concluded, "there was an abundance of a powder deposit on the edge of the right ear, and after firing the similar weapon we came to the conclusion that the muzzle distance would be...uh...one inch from the right ear and no more than three inches "



Bill of Sale

From Thane Cesar to Jim Yolder. Note the Serial Number —Y13332



Cesar's Gun
Serial Number
Y13332

This gun was recovered through the efforts of Ted Charach in conjunction with a television production company. The story of its recovery may be the subject of a documentary.



The Conspiracy Museum, Incorporated

The Conspiracy Museum is pleased to assist Ahimsa Archives during its start up phase. This Publication, Rent and Utilities are being underwritten by the Museum. We would welcome your visit to the museum and hope that you would agree with our message. The Museum has a book store and mail order business as well. If you are looking for old or new books, please don't hesitate to call. Many books referenced in Ahimsa News may be purchased by calling (800) 535-8044 or (214) 741-3040, 110 South Market Street, Dallas, Tx 75202

This we believe

For one hundred and sixty years, the Federal Government was a close reflection of the founding fathers vision. In 1940, America's mobilization for World War II precipitated an unprecedented third presidential term...then a fourth. This affront to George Washington planted the seeds for the Military-Industrial Complex's control of the Executive Branch.

In 1960, the Central Intelligence Agency, spawned by the cold war, changed United States Foreign Policy from Peace to War by sabotaging its own spy operation in the downing of the U2 spy plane over Russia. Three years later, the CIA with the assistance of the Mafia and the FBI publicly murdered President John Fitzgerald Kennedy in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas. This coup d'etat of the executive branch established the Professional War Machine (PWM), which even today controls the Presidency by political assassination. The Conspiracy Museum's first floor introduces you to two historical eras. From 1789 to 1940, there were two conspiracies and four individual lone assassins. From 1940 to the present, there is one conspiracy to control the presidency, which has spawned eight lone assassins.

The Great Coalbin Exhibit "Evidence of Conspiracy" details these two different eras as The Conspiracy Museum believed they chronicle history. If you find yourself in agreement with the Museum's evidence, please consider the next generation of children.

Correct the Textbooks

Opinion

Government secrecy did not start with the assassinations of the 60's. Did you know the official release of the contents of Lincoln's pocket occurred in the 1970's, he had a Confederate five dollar bill in his pocket. How damaging... the public would never understand.

Today, the population must be protected from the truth by Big Brother. After all, they may misunderstand and place blame where it really belongs. Release the files...let the truth be known....the public has a right to know what the government does and knows. Every government employee from the President to the person sweeping the floor in the local IRS office works for you and me. Lets hold them accountable....make them tell the truth. Government Secrets are not a matter of national security....they are actions taken by our employees on our behalf and we have a right to know both what they are and why they were taken.

Tommy H. Bowden

President

MLK Assassination

The next edition of Ahimsa will have coverage of the relationships between the Martin Luther King Assassination and the John F. Kennedy Assassination. This report will be based on current investigative efforts being coordinated through researchers in Memphis, Houston and Los Angeles. Coverage will include the relationship of Jack Ruby and Raoul Malcom X

An upcoming edition will cover the relationship of the Malcom X Assassination to The Conspiracy of the 60's.

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