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Vol. 2, Issue 2 SUMMER 1996 Dedicated to the study of President John F. Kennedy

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Jim Garrison

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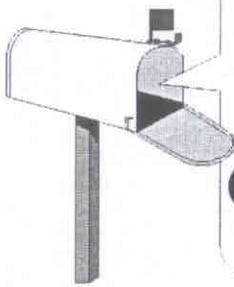
Notes from the Publishers:

Welcome. First, let us say how much we appreciate your patience while waiting for this issue to arrive. With our small staff, we were greatly affected while Debra went through a tough personal time recently. Our sincere thanks to all of you.

While reading, you'll notice there are some added attractions. One is "Our Guest Speaker." This feature is for you, our readers, to send short articles telling us about yourself. Another addition is the "Student Contributor" feature. There are many young people doing exceptional interviews and projects for high school and college. We hope to print their work in each issue. We've also added thoughtful poems written about the assassination that we know you will appreciate. Lastly, the arrangement of articles has been adapted to group related subjects. For example, once you begin the article on the CIA, more CIA-related articles or clippings will follow. The staff of the Chronicles hopes you enjoy of these additions and changes. For research assistance, look at the end of the sections for recommended resources you can order from **JFK Lancer Resource Mail Order**. Look forward to more new features in future issues.

On another note, **JFK Lancer** will be publishing more manuscripts and articles that strengthen the analytical side of the evidence, to be a better balance on the research community's heavy technical collection. While we should all attempt to read the newly-released documents, we reap no benefits unless analysis is made and shared. *Data+Analysis+Action=Results. Never confuse effort with results.*
Debra Conway and Thomas A. Jones

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Letters to the Chronicles

Our Appreciation

Dear Readers,

We received so many letters and email from our readers on the new magazine format and --of course-- the outstanding articles. Our thanks to everyone. We appreciate the feedback and look forward to continued improvement and growth with each issue of the Assassination Chronicles.

The Editors

Our Favorite Letter

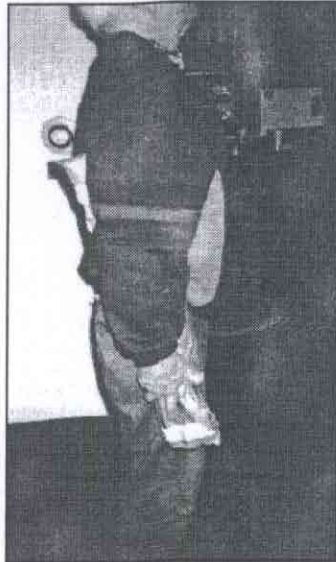
Just wanted to let you know that many people appreciate the great job and effort you put forth!

Thank You,
Pat O'Hara
via the internet

Moyer Wraps Up The Rifle

Thank you for printing my article, "Ordering The Rifle" (March 1996). One other thing: I wonder if anyone has disassembled the carbine, wrapped it in brown paper and tried to carry it as was described by Wesley Frazier? Out of curiosity my husband and I wrapped my 26 3/4" broken-down carbine in heavy brown wrapping paper and secured it tightly with brown 3" wide heavy duty wrapping tape (and mind you, I do not have a scope to contend with). My husband is 5'9" tall and as you can see in the "picture of pain" this was a nightmare of nightmares to try and duplicate what Frazier said he saw. Extremely clumsy, awkward, and we tried at every angle possible.

Thanks again,
Martha Moyer



Curtain rods?

On Blood Spatter Analysis

Once in a while, in our research and investigation into the Kennedy assassination, something happens which is totally different to anything which has gone before. It may be the opening of a new file, the discovery of a hitherto unknown witness or a fresh new angle on something which was thought to have been examined thoroughly already. I believe that I experienced something of this nature at last year's COPA Conference in Washington DC when I was privileged to attend a presentation expertly given by Sherry Pool Gutierrez on the above subject.

Sherry is a court-certified senior crime scene analyst and court-certified expert in the field of blood stain pattern analysis. She heads the Forensic Investigative Unit for the St. Charles Parish, Louisiana Sheriff's Department and works as a consultant to District Attorneys and law enforcement agencies in the field of crime scene investigation and reconstruction. Her particular area of expertise is bloodstain pattern analysis.

Sherry is a member of the International Association for Identification and has served on its subcommittee for bloodstain pattern evidence. Believe me, this lady is at the forefront of her chosen profession!

I have attended and participated in several Kennedy assassination symposia but I have never seen a paper presented in such an unusual - but strikingly effective - manner.

Sherry opened by explaining that whilst she was used to speaking before a class or an audience, she chose to present the evidence as she would when addressing a jury - and she intended to treat us just like one. This took a minute or two to sink in but when she began to use phrases like 'the case before us' and 'the victim' rather than the usual references to 'the assassination' or 'the President' she put the situation on to a different plane. With a few well-chosen phrases, Sherry Pool Gutierrez had successfully converted an audience of 80 researchers into a jury of 12 members of the public who were about to consider her evidence and expert testimony.

A jury of 12 people selected at random must inevitably contain men and women of different age groups, from various backgrounds and of varying degrees of intelligence. The forensic scientist must get his or her message across to these people in the best possible way - but he must avoid talking down to them. If the expert witness antagonizes the jury, they are much less likely to trust, or even to understand, his evidence.

The way in which Sherry introduced the complexities of blood evidence to us was both intelligent and practical. She simply asked us whether we had ever painted a ceiling or a cupboard door. Paint is usually thicker in consistency than blood but it is still a liquid. As such, it is bound by certain laws of physics and it behaves in a uniform way when drops of it fall from heights, are 'thrown' horizontally or strike various objects. She used this paint analogy to demonstrate that when blood is subject to some form of outside interference, it always acts in a uniform way.

By cleverly reducing an exact science to an everyday occurrence in this way, Sherry not only kept us ('the jury') alert and interested, but also boosted our personal confidence that we would be able to understand the complexities of what would surely follow. Above all, it gave her credibility.

In this case in which we were the jury, a man in a car had been killed by being shot in the head. That was not in dispute. There

Letters to the editor may be edited for clarity and space. Please include your address and phone number on all correspondence.



were, however, doubts as to the direction of the shot - and so there were doubts as to the identity of the person responsible. It was never claimed that the accused had been anywhere in front of the victim and Sherry set out to prove that the fatal shot had indeed been fired from that direction. Obviously if her evidence could prove that, then the man in the dock could not be found guilty of being the sole killer.

The principal visual aid which Sherry used was one which is familiar to us all - the Zapruder film. She showed this to demonstrate exactly what had happened to the victim's head when it was struck by the bullet - naturally concentrating on frame 313. Sherry then told us that the blood spatter which we could all see in that frame could be evaluated with sufficient accuracy to show the direction of the bullet. She explained that what was evident in frame 313 was a type of blood pattern consistent with a high velocity forceful impact.

Sherry produced a series of transparencies which showed the action of high-velocity rifle bullets as they pass through various objects. These objects included such diverse things as light bulbs, sheets of cardboard and apples! These showed that when the bullet strikes an object such as an apple, the first reaction created is one of what she called back spatter. In that microsecond of actual impact, as the skin of the apple is pierced, minute quantities of the inside of the apple are ejected backwards - in the direction from which the bullet has come!

The bullet then passes through the apple and exits on the other side - this time creating forward spatter. This forward spatter is always far greater than back spatter and is something with which we are all familiar since it is so obvious. Ask Bobby Hargis!

It is not my objective here to repeat everything which Sherry Pool Gutierrez presented to her 'jury' of researchers that morning. I would not presume to have even a smattering of her specialist knowledge in this field. My aim has been to describe the unique and powerful form of presentation which she adopted. This was, without doubt, the best, most convincing and effectively offered presentation I have ever seen.

I can close this letter of appreciation in only one way - with Sherry Pool Gutierrez' own words as she summed up her conclusions at the end of her testimony:

Based on statements by witnesses in the death of the victim describing blood spatter they observed, and documentation of blood spatter in the Zapruder film, it is my conviction that the head injury to the victim was the result of a single gunshot fired from the front right of the victim.

I would direct anyone interested in learning more about Sherry Pool Gutierrez' work and her opinions in the Kennedy assassination to refer to her own recent article in this journal (*Assassination Chronicles*, Vol. 1, Issue 4 - December 1995). I understand that she is due to present a paper at the JFK-Lancer conference in Dallas in November. If you only attend one event at that conference, make sure it is hers!
Ian Griggs, Secretary, Dealey Plaza UK, 24 Walton Gardens, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1BL, U.K.

(Editor's note: Sherry Gutierrez also spoke this past January at Lancer's Project JFK Student's Symposium, along with Bobby Hargis. Her comments after Mr. Hargis' presentation were the most moving and meaningful we have heard concerning his ex-



How to find out more information in the articles in this issue? Look for the list of books, videos, or CD-ROMS available from JFK Lancer Resource Mail Order at the end of the articles.

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perience being spattered with the president's blood.)

Assassination Chronicles YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS



Corrections to the March 1996 Issue:

Due to conditions beyond our control we have found that the issue printed is not the final version of the magazine and is in fact the final "draft" version. This version contains minor typographical and layout errors that are misleading as to the capabilities of the Lancer staff and the contributing authors.

1. Specifically in the article by Martha Moyer, "Ordering The Rifle," her name is misspelled as "Moyers."
2. Also, in the last paragraph of the article, page 33, the use of the word "illustrate" was meant to "indicate" the advertisement itself and has nothing to do with the actual illustration shown in the ad.
3. Footnote source 14, p.34 Should read 10 H 225
4. Paragraph p.33 should read, (2nd paragraph under Figure 11)

Paul Hoch has informed me that at least two Klein Ordering coupons (Dept. No. 222 and Dept. No. 425) supposedly found in the Paine garage are in the FBI files at the National Archives. Mr. Hoch traced both coupons and found that #222 was from Sports Afield, August 1962 and #425 was from American Rifleman June, 1963 issue."

In "Letters to The Chronicles", the letter from Richard Bartholomew in the eighth paragraph, page 4, the sentence should read:

Mr. Roberts has already explained to Mr. Cahill the proper functioning of the clip release button.

From the original 19th paragraph:

It is the 32 years of bizarre and implausible explanations for why the clip was "stuck" and why the rifle was called a Mauser that give away the conspiracy by exposing the single most grievous error the conspirators made: not being familiar enough with the load-fire-reload cycle of the lesser known of the only two WWII clip systems in military use during their adult lives.

We sincerely apologize to our readers and authors for this situation. All equipment has been updated and we do not foresee problems of this nature in the future.

Jim Garrison in History and Film

By George Michael Evica

This article was originally published in *Cineaste*, the national journal of the art and politics of the cinema, in its special edition of invited articles on Oliver Stone's film *JFK*, Volume XIX, No. 1, 1992, republished here with the express permission of *Cineaste* Editor Gary Crowds. Minor corrections have been made, and the article has an additional four paragraphs not published in its *Cineaste* version. *Assassination Chronicles* readers are reminded that, remembering Stone's film *JFK* and the current allegations about Jim Garrison and the refutations of those allegations, Garrison was a complex human being, a real person in an all-too-real world.

JFK is the cinematic equivalent of a tragic epic of national pride which recalls *The Iliad* and the political myths of the Middle Ages, legends articulating humanity's sense of its own sacred identity. The John F. Kennedy of Oliver Stone's film, neither archetypal king of Camelot nor revisionists' failed chief executive, embodies the best hope of the nation—but he also threatens a dark alliance dedicated to greed and power.

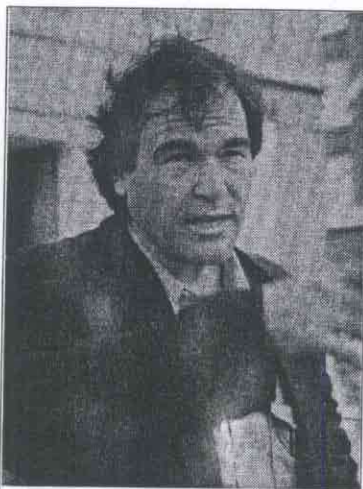
So it becomes necessary to kill him.

Just as the film's Kennedy is the target of malevolent forces and is killed, so Stone's fictional Garrison battles those same forces in a losing but heroic battle. Less a Quest myth (or Search for the Lost Father legend), *JFK* is a Wasteland story: a maimed leader is sacrificed, a land is turned barren and dark, and an all-too-human hero strives to cleanse his stricken country.

In the film, Kennedy and Garrison both function as metaphors, the first embodying the meaning of his own dying, the second embodying the experience of that death through knowledge. As the tragic protagonist of Stone's film, Jim Garrison travels through the three stages of the monomyth: initiation, transformation, and return, ultimately defeated in his greatest conflict but bringing back a boon: the wisdom necessary to face the truth of the assassination. For the viewer, Stone's Garrison becomes both surrogate and guide.

For every reductionist argument of the Warren Commission, Stone (through his fictive Garrison) offers multiplicities: a half-dozen rifle rounds pouring into the unprotected limo; two, three, even four shooters; and sufficient political motivation to implicate everyone who hated JFK. Opposing the official pseudo-myth of the president's death, Stone employs excess, irony, and inversion, the ancient weapons of the social reformer.

Inversion is, in fact, Oliver Stone's key organiz-



Oliver Stone in *Dallas*

ing idea: "Black is white, white is black," says Stone's Garrison (as did the real Garrison), and inversion figures, for example, in the film's casting. The historical Jim Garrison was six-and-a-half feet tall, weighed 220 pounds and, although hampered by eye problems, chose not to wear glasses in public. Played by Kevin Costner, Garrison (Stone's *central inversion*) is a scant one inch over six feet tall, he's trim, and wears his glasses throughout. These eye glasses (plus other reflecting surfaces) are part of another powerful organizing principle in the film, intensifying its theme of knowing through seeing, suggesting the fictional Garrison's (and our own) developing insight into the truth of JFK's death. Both sound and sight are of course relevant to the film's organization, but eyewitnessing is especially significant in *JFK*.

Costner's portrayal of Garrison and the actual Jim Garrison have much in common, sharing (as Stone has said) a "fundamental decency...and integrity." The film's Garrison has the air of a well-organized university lecturer, especially in the crucial and moving courtroom scenes. The historic Garrison is also literate, even scholarly. His two books on the assassination are coherent, well-written, and persuasive, often praising populist values with the same strength and pride as the fictional Garrison. Both Costner's Garrison and the historic Garrison are charming, articulate, meditative, passionate, and outspoken. But Costner's Garrison is almost seamless, a commanding presence whose sense of his own rectitude grows incrementally through the film, despite his familial problems. Not so the historic Garrison, called "contradictory," "unpredictable," and "incautious" by many of the people who knew him when he was district attorney. These complexities of character are only faintly explored by Stone; Kennedy and his death are the critical issues for

the director.

When Clay Shaw was arrested and prosecuted, charges of homophobia and closet anxiety were aired against Garrison. Similar accusations have been made against Stone for his portrayal of gays in *JFK*. The historic Garrison controlled crime and vice in New Orleans using a string of street informers: small-time hoods, prostitutes, and gay men (the latter figuring in Garrison's actual JFK investigation). And though Garrison now admits that Shaw was a minor character in the assassination story, his evidence did suggest Oswald (with the aid of an Oswald double) was being framed by some members of the gay community who, *more importantly*, had ties to the CIA, the Mafia, or both.

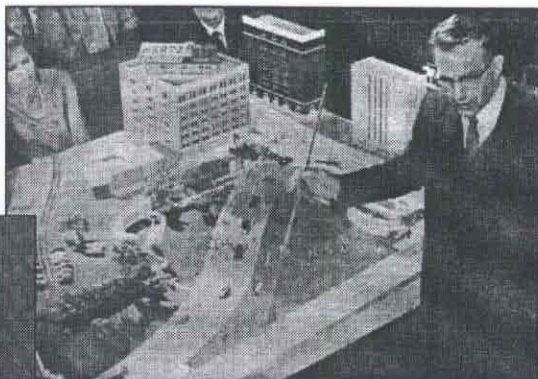
But Garrison was not the first to examine a possible homosexual dimension in the Kennedy murder. The Warren Commission's staff itself, particularly several of its lawyers, explored reputed gay links to Lee Harvey Oswald, to Jack Ruby, and to their associates, questioning a number of witnesses closely on the subject.

Garrison's official staff members were serious, confident, and assured. Only one regular investigator abandoned Garrison, though several researchers and volunteers quit the Garrison team (some stealing files and giving them to the Shaw defense team). Journalists close to Garrison during the JFK inquiry could not believe Garrison would risk self-destruction unless he were absolutely confident of his correctness. And how could an intelligent, able, and dedicated staff be so badly mistaken?

The actual Jim Garrison (who was not so well-prepared for trial as the film's Garrison) believed the government would never allow Clay Shaw (indeed a CIA asset) to be brought before the bench. In fact, both the federal and several state governments deliberately blocked Garrison, committing acts of obstruction of justice. The real Garrison felt strongly that, under pressure, the power structure would either give up vital information and precipitate a new federal investigation, or it would sacrifice Shaw.

Neither happened.

Both the historic and the fictional Garrison presented the same case for conspiracy invalidating the Warren Commission's conclusions: an impossible single-bullet theory; too many wounds to Kennedy and Connally (at least eight); multiple origins for the shots; a controlled and suspect autopsy; Oswald as a U.S. intelligence agent, impersonated in New Orleans (and in Texas and Mexico), and patsied; a subsequent cover-up and suppression of



Costner in court



Garrison

evidence; and political motives for murdering the president (including Kennedy's exploration of peaceful options in U.S. relations with Cuba, Southeast Asia, and the Soviet Union).

It was 1975: a thin October light played across the kitchen table of my Hartford, Connecticut, home just one day before Jim Garrison would deliver the last address at the First National Conference on the Death of John F. Kennedy at the University of Hartford. He was pensive, tired, but stubbornly refusing to give up important ground in our two-day discussion of the JFK assassination. He heard my arguments for Jack Ruby's links to Lansky, Hoffa, Marcello, and Trafficante.

"All right," he said, looking at me with eyes I found profoundly sad. "Organized Crime. But they were just junior partners in the assassination."

Jim Garrison was then and remains convinced that U.S. intelligence and its military-industrial allies (using anti-Castro Cubans and Mafia as hitmen) directed the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Because the real Garrison and the film's hero both minimize Syndicate involvement in the president's murder, the film *JFK* misses a chance to present an additional and significant motive for killing Kennedy. When Castro closed down the Sicilian Mafia's heroin pipeline running through the Syndicate's Cuban casinos, he was targeted for assassination by the CIA, anti-Castro Cubans, organized crime, and corrupt labor, all of whom had profited from the drug trade.

By 1963, this alliance's outrage was diverted to Kennedy after he promised not to invade Cuba, proposed detente with the Soviet Union, and signaled he planned to withdraw from Vietnam. I believe the loss (to the CIA and its allies) of heroin profits was the original catalyst for the attempts against Castro which were then shifted to JFK.

"Stone...re-invented Jim Garrison," Janet Maslin, N.Y. Times cinema critic, has said. On the contrary, Oliver Stone has deconstructed both the Garrison investigation and Garrison himself, ridding them of all the double agents, disinformation sources, competing researchers and intemperate and often contradictory statements issued (sometimes falsely) from Garrison's office.

The essential argument of the film is given in the fic-

TIMES-PICAYUNE APRIL 18, 1996
Letter to the editor

Lyon H. Garrison

Since my father's death in 1992, The Times-Picayune has published several malicious and inaccurate articles about him. Although I am accustomed to The Times-Picayune's biased reporting, the most recent article, "Garrison paid witnesses in Shaw case, records say," April 10, an editorial in the form of a news story on the front page, warrants the following response.

The basis of this article is a 1967 unsworn statement by William Gurvich. David Snyder's article incorrectly state that Mr. Gurvich worked for Jim Garrison as an investigator. Mr. Gurvich was a private investigator who volunteered to help in the investigation, but he disappeared a short time later. (See Jim Garrison, On The Trail Of The Assassins, page 169.)

Mr. Gurvich was never actually employed by the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. To the contrary, he evidently aided defense counsel, based on the fact that he was discussing the case with them in 1967. Additionally, an Assassination Records Review Board release, dated April 9, 1996, reveals that Mr. Gurvich gave many of the district attorney's internal office memoranda and statements to the defense team.

Notwithstanding the ethical considerations of Mr. Gurvich's actions during the pending investigation, his statement is so vague and ambiguous that it is meaningless. As cited in The Times-Picayune, Mr. Gurvich's description of an alleged payment by the district attorney is: "I don't know exactly. He doesn't put out much. He only puts, like 10 or 20 on Clyde Johnson when Clyde comes in and I think the minister is worth a lot more than Dago Garner."

This inconclusive statement is of no moment because Clyde Johnson and Mr. Garner were not witnesses. They never testified in front of the grand jury, which returned an indictment, or at the Shaw trial. Further, the suggestion that witnesses could be bought in a case of this magnitude for a mere \$10 or \$20 is absurd.

Indisputably, Clay Shaw was represented by experienced attorneys. If there was any evidence that Jim Garrison paid potential witnesses, this would have been brought out by the defense attorneys before the trial.

Mr. Snyder wrote that these potential witnesses were coached by Jim Garrison. Mr. Snyder cited the following excerpt from Mr. Gurvich's statement as the basis of this allegation: "Jim probably handled that himself because every time I would see Johnson except the last time, he was always in Garrison's office."

Mr. Gurvich's lack of knowledge regarding the substance of those conversations indicates that his assumption that the district attorney was "coaching" Johnson is nothing more than unsupported conjecture and a boorish effort to impugn my father's character. Without knowing the substance of the alleged conversations, the fact that Jim Garrison spoke to a potential witness at the district attorney's office is, in Mr. Snyder's mind, evidence of coaching.

Finally, and most important, having been well acquainted with my father, I know he was intelligent, honest, and sincere. Frankly, I don't care about David Snyder's opinions. However, when Mr. Snyder's opinions appear on the front page in the form of a news article, I must respond.

In the future, perhaps The Times-Picayune can use better judgement and print its editorials on the editorial page instead of the front page. That way, I can read the news and avoid the newspaper's biased opinions.

Garrison, continued from page 9

tional Garrison's stunning courtroom summation, uniting politics and passion: a recognition of treason in high places, a rejection of the power structure's false history, and a call to populist action.

The ancient myths were sacred stories, but they were also scripts for ritual dramas enacted by the people in cleansing and renewing their community, their nation, and their world. Costner's Garrison urges us to perform such a rite of political renewal, and so he also functions as our tribal shaman, guiding us through a major change in political consciousness.

"Nobody owns history," Barbara T. Roessner has said. Oliver Stone's Jim Garrison challenges us to reject the largest historical lie of the twentieth century: the official version of the JFK assassination.

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The New Orleans Gambit Weekly covers the
Battle of the Documents

Angelico Wins National Honor

WDSU-TV investigative reporter Richard Angelico was honored with the First Amendment Award last week by the national board of the Society of Professional Journalists for his ongoing fight with New Orleans DA Harry Connick Sr. over Kennedy assassination records.

Connick is trying to hold Angelico and his source in contempt of court for sending grand jury records from the Clay Shaw case to the federal Assassination Records Review Board. A congressional act requires the board to gather and preserve all records relating to the Kennedy assassination.

At Connick's urging, Criminal Court Judge Frank Marullo Jr. held Angelico and his source, former DA's investigator Gary Raymond, in contempt earlier this year. Marullo's ruling was based on the notion that Angelico, because he is a veteran investigative reporter, should have known that grand jury records must be kept secret under state law. Attorneys for Angelico are appealing that decision to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

In its notice to Angelico about the First Amendment Award, the national journalists' group commended the veteran investigative reporter for his "continuing efforts on behalf of the First Amendment and...dedication to the public's right to know important information."

In a related matter, U.S. District Judge Marcel Livaudais last week ordered Connick to turn over all remaining records from the Shaw case to the Assassination Records Review Board. The board has subpoenaed the records, which it is authorized to do by federal law, because Connick refused to cooperate with the board. Connick's attorney's had argued that the Shaw case records are not "assassination records" under the federal act. Livaudais disagreed. His ruling is expected to bolster Angelico's appeal in state court.

July 7, 1996

Hero To Truth

To the editor,

The story of district attorney staff worker Gary Raymond has reached Philadelphia, and I find it distressing and shameful. So do the eighth-grade students in my classes. America is nothing if it cannot live by its stated ideals of respect for an informed citizenry. America is nothing if it jails honest men like Mr. Raymond, who had the

heroic courage to refuse to follow the bidding of his employer, District Attorney Harry Connick, and destroy historical records.

The files of Jim Garrison's case against Clay Shaw in the assassination of President John Kennedy are public record funded by tax money and now mandated by Congress to be reviewed by the Assassination Records Board. It is our history and not the private property of any elected individual. America was conceived in order to protect us from private agendas like those of King George and Harry Connick.

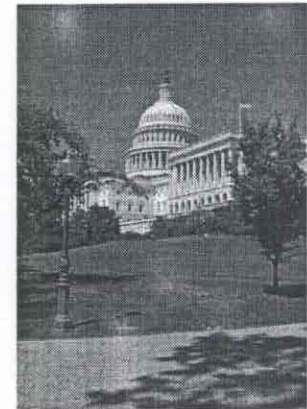
Every student in our schools knows that question and hypothesis must be proved by evidence. That is the basic curriculum and the foundation for civilized progress. Destruction of evidence is a deliberate act of war against the entire process of rational thought. Destruction of evidence is what Harry Connick is advocating. It is sad to witness a judicial process in New Orleans that has acted as an accessory to this reprehensible action that flies in the face of law, of Congress and of constitutional protection.

The public has a right to know what is in files paid for with tax dollars. Elected officials who deny that right should be promptly impeached. A democracy lives only when a rich diet of information is available—then let the people decide. Harry Connick is not the one to decide. He would wipe out valuable source data. That's abuse of power and a failing grade in any classroom in America.

Too many unanswered questions remain about the murder of a president. The evidence has been withheld, and answers have been provided without evidence. That's bad science, bad governing and abuse of power. Gary Raymond is a hero in this story, one of the many who have borne the slings and arrows of official hits simply because they dared to look for evidence, and perhaps for truth.

Pearl Gladstone

June 19, 1996



Editor's Note: Gary Raymond will be a special speaker at the November in Dallas Conference.

TRAPPED BY THEIR OWN WORDS

By Jack White

Back in the 70s I was one of the leading JFK researchers who claimed that the Neely Street Backyard Photos were faked, just as Lee Harvey Oswald had told Will Fritz. Because of my extensive photoanalysis and slide presentation, Mary Ferrell recommended to the HSCA that I present to them my analysis.

I made three presentations of my slides to staff and committee (both pre-Blakey and post-Blakey) and was named one of three "critic" photographic consultants. My testimony of September 14, 1978, is documented in Volumes II and VI, HSCA Report. I also have since produced a video, Fake, on my study of the "Backyard Photos."

Unfortunately, back in 1978 I did not yet own the 26 volumes, so my testimony consisted mostly of my photoanalysis, and did not focus on documents and testimony available in the volumes. Had the Warren Commission volumes been readily available to me at that time, I could have in their own words convicted the Dallas Police of lying about the authenticity of the pictures. Here, I quote the testimony of Detective Richard S. Stovall regarding the alleged finding of the Backyard Photos. (Emphasis in Italics are mine.)

From pages 193, 194, WC Vol. VII:

Mr. Ball. And that day you arrived at the Paine home about what time?

Mr. Stovall. I would judge roughly around 1:30 or 2 o'clock (...skipping a few lines, Stovall continuing...)

...We told her that we returned, we wanted to, to make a further search of the house and we showed her a search warrant at the time...

(...skipping a few lines...)

Mr. Ball. Do you want to take some time to look over your report of your search on the on the 23rd of November?

MR. STOVALL. Yes...It seems like were in that garage 1-1/2 or 2 hours. We might have been there longer than that.

(...skipping a few lines...)

Mr. Ball. Now at that time, did you find any snapshots that appeared to be Oswald in the photograph?

Mr. Stovall. Yes. He was in a standing position just outside of the house holding a rifle in one hand and he was wearing a pistol in a holster on his right hip and he was holding two papers in the other hand....(they were in the garage)...in a brown cardboard box...

Mr. Ball. What time did you leave there that day?

Mr. Stovall. Must have been around 4:30 or 5 [pm], I believe.

So in his testimony, Detective Stovall clearly establishes that the Backyard Photos were:



1. Found in a second search of the Paine house (with warrant; Friday search was without warrant).

2. The search party (Stovall, Moore, Rose, Adamcik, and McCabe) arrived at the Paine House around 1:30 or 2:00 o'clock, Saturday, November 23.

3. Found the pictures in a box in the garage.

4. The search party departed Irving around 4:30 or 5:00 pm.

That is the official story that police are stuck with. Let's now examine the other part of the official story. Captain Will Fritz confronts Oswald with an 8x10 enlargement of the Backyard Photos, as well as the small 3x3 originals. (Again, emphasis are mine.)

From page 226, WC Vol. IV:

Mr. Dulles. Are we now on Saturday noon?

Mr. Ball. Yes, sir. (referring to Fritz's notes) *This is noon about 12:35 pm?*

Mr. Fritz. Yes, sir.

Mr. Ball. In the meantime your officers had brought back from Irving some pictures that they found in the garage, hadn't they?

Mr. Fritz. Yes, sir.

Mr. Ball. And you had them blown up, hadn't you?

Mr. Fritz. That is right.

Mr. Ball. What pictures--and you showed Oswald a picture at this time?

Mr. Fritz. A picture of him holding a rifle and wearing a pistol...I showed him first an enlarged picture.

So there is the other half of the important testimony by the police, again, in their own words! To summarize what Fritz said:

1. Fritz interviewed Oswald Saturday noon, about 12:35 (affirmed three times by Dulles, Ball, and Fritz, as well as Fritz' notes).

2. By that time, the Irving search party had already found the Backyard photos, according to Fritz.

3. By that time, Fritz had already had enlargements made.

4. During this early Saturday afternoon grilling, Oswald was shown enlargements of the snapshots, and he claimed to Fritz they were fabrications (page 226).

Well, what have we here? On Saturday, the Police officially found the photos in the Paine garage, according to Stovall, the detective in charge of the search, and they headed back to town, more than 10 miles away about 4:30 or 5:00 pm, with the photos and a lot of other materials. But, shortly after 12:35 p.m. on the same Saturday, before they were officially found, Fritz was already showing enlargements of the snapshot to Oswald! Incredible!

However, apologists will point to conflicting Fritz testimony on page 227, where he appears confused, this veteran detective who had testified in hundreds of court cases, and was now giving the most important testimony of his

Continued on page 46

updates and bulletins

New advisors and contributors

Gordon Winslow

Gordon is the Historian-Archivist to the Clerk of Court for Dade County, Florida for the last 22 years and is an expert in the Cuban exile community area of the JFK case. Gordon also is a behind-the-scenes, one-man support system to many researchers and authors.

Charlie Browne

Charlie is a copywriter and editorial consultant who has been following the factual developments of the JFK assassination since experiencing it as a 15-year-old. He resides in Newtown, Connecticut. Charlie will be working with Debra on the copywriting and format of the magazine.

Richard Bartholomew

Richard is a graphic artist whose work frequents these pages and is known for his caricatures of famous Texans. He is an active researcher and owner of an automobile suspected to be used in the assassination.

Richard, Gordon and Charles, we welcome you to our staff and appreciate your contributions to the Assassination Chronicles.

Prayers for the sick in our community:

Jean Hill recently sent Lancer a note:

Date: Sat, 15 Jun 1996

As most of you seem to know by now, I had a series of strokes the first week in April. My school kids took me to the ambulance practically carrying me. It got my whole left side (and I'm left handed). Thanks to many prayers and so forth, The doctors said I made a miracle recovery. After therapy I can now write again and there is only small impairment to my arm and leg. I had to retire from teaching in order to get medicare which was imperative because I have to have rather serious surgery. Your EMail and other messages and calls have really kept my spirits up. I'm really not too good on this computer and when EMail came in, I was feeling pretty bad and tried to answer but still don't know what keys I hit. Everything, messages, addresses and all disappeared into the air. Anyway I will do an update for Lancer when the surgery is over and I am hopefully OK. If not then my obit will probably be in the next issue and I will DISSENT no more! Please keep me in your prayers. Love to all, Jean Hill, The Lady in Red

Our own Debra Conway has been very ill the last few weeks (which is why this issue is a little behind). But she is now on the way to recovery and enjoying the California sunshine.

Harold Weisberg has recently had surgery, but is home again and healing well.

There are a few others who wanted to remain anonymous, but we shall say special prayers for them also.

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE POND

Dealey Plaza UK, the national British research group, has enjoyed an exciting few months since the last issue of this journal. Regular monthly meetings have been held at various locations and some diverse aspects of the Kennedy assassination have been the subject of presentations. These have ranged from a comprehensive account of the ARRB and its work (Justin Bowley) to Russell Kent's informative and original work on the Best Evidence against the Single Bullet Theory. It is anticipated that the latter will be published in its entirety -- and that Russell's careful analysis and new approach will provoke considerable comment (hopefully favourable!).

We were pleased to welcome Californian researcher Mark Rowe to these shores and he spent a busy but rewarding two weeks here in May. During that time he took in all the usual London landmarks (plus a few unusual ones!). He attended one of the group's monthly meetings and met over 20 members. He also found time to visit South Wales, the East Midlands and some of the former World War II USAAF bomber bases in East Anglia. A highlight was a conducted tour (by a Woman Police Sergeant) of the old bomber base at Wethersfield, Essex. We wonder how many researchers are aware that it was here that teenager Lillian Helen Harvey first met her future husband, USAAF Staff Sergeant Kennerd Joseph Coleman. This young lady was later to become better-known under her Carousel Club stage name of Kathy Kay!

As was mentioned in the previous Assassination Chronicles, several members of the group will be in Dallas in November for the JFK-Lancer conference. Since some of our American members will also be present, we are making arrangements for our first overseas meeting. With the help of Tom Jones and the JFK-Lancer organisation, this will be held at the Grand Hotel, Commerce Street, Dallas on Sunday 24th November, opening at 2.00pm. All fellow researchers, whether members or not, will be made welcome!



We are delighted to announce the first issue of the Dealey Plaza UK journal - The Dealey Plaza Echo. It contains a wide range of articles, including contributions from Justin Bowley, Mark Bridger, Gene Case, Michael Griffith, Ian Griggs, Greg Jaynes, Russell Kent, Chris Mills, Mark Rowe and Hal Verb. Subjects covered range from Roger Craig, through Ivan Vaganov to the Patsy Paschall film!

One of the newer Dealey Plaza UK members, Jim Riding, somehow contrived a one-day flying visit to Dallas during a short stay in Houston on business at the end of June. Thanks to the generosity and friendship of Tom Jones, Jim was not only met at the airport but also shown the assassination sights and sites in what was a "first visit" to remember! Thanks Tom!

Up-to-date news of the British research scene can be found in the Dealey Plaza UK web page. Visit it via the JFK-Lancer link or direct at the following address:
<http://theo.sihe.ac.uk/~dealeyUK>

As always, we close by offering a warm welcome to any researchers visiting the United Kingdom on business or on pleasure. We can put you in touch with fellow researchers throughout the country. Please contact me via JFK-Lancer or by email at: igriggs@easynet.co.uk

IAN GRIGGS



“Why I joined the research community”

Our Guest Speaker

James P. Sawa

My story is two parts: 1) how I became involved in JFK research and 2) talking with different people today to try to educate them about the history and extent of the JFK conspiracy and how JFK's death affects our lives today. This is a fact few seem to realize with any regularity. First, as I was growing up, my family followed the Kennedys—both as a political dynasty and more on the personal side. My parents collected many different books on the assassination as they came out from 1963 and into the 1980s.

One day I picked up Mark Lane's Plausible Denial and was reading it at work. One of my fellow co-workers saw me sitting there reading the book. He had followed every angle of the case since 1963. His interest in other hobbies became more prevalent, and he put his interest in the assassination on a back burner. One day he asked me if I would be interested in buying all his books (and we're talking about first edition hardcovers of Meagher's Accessories After the Fact, plus Thompson's Six Seconds in Dallas). I was expecting to pay a small fortune for such tomes, however for the princely sum of \$10.00 (that's "ten" dollars), I walked away with more than 50 books, and my library was off and running.

I think most of this guy's motivation in selling me his collection was to educate another generation into what clearly was a conspiracy to kill our president and change the course of events in this country. He no longer had the time to study the topic, but I do. One of the benefits of having all of these books that I have is that I and others who were not yet born in 1963 can study them to get the overall feel for where the case has been studied, the angles it has been studied from, the niches where information was good and bad, and where things still need to be de-

veloped. At that point, I wrote to Harold Weisberg and purchased his books.

On a personal note, I have been reading many of the email posts going back and forth among the participants of a discussion list dealing with different researchers' motivations for getting involved in the assassination research. I'm sure some focus on money, some focus on doing everything they can to ignore certain evidence in favor of other evidence that agrees with their point of view and will sell more books, while some have purer reasons.

I'm not in this for money. I don't expect to write books and articles for financial gain. My greatest hobby is reading and research. In fact, those skills are a large part of my job (but in a different field). I support people who make money at something they enjoy doing, but not at the risk of handing out revisionist history that fits their theory, but which happens to ignore contradictory evidence. [In fact, my dream job would be to be the researcher for someone who wants to write a book about the assassination, as

long as it's a book that looks at ALL of the evidence, not just slant it to their way of thinking!] I'm in this quest for the long haul. If all goes well in life, and I live to make it to eighty-five (my grandma's current age), then I've still got fifty-six years left to keep reading and researching.

Another force that drives me is I don't like to fail at anything I undertake. Before I made the commitment to start this endeavor, I thought it would probably take me about two years to read everything I'd bought from my coworker. That timing was about right, but my collection has kept growing! I'm on year number seven and I've never looked back.

Most recently, I procured a library card from a private library here in Pittsburgh where the HSCA volumes are kept. I've had to find ways to economize my research, which of course doesn't make it easy. But as I said, I'm not in this for the money or the glory and fame. Just the truth.

A few weeks ago, my wife and I were out with friends at one of our favorite watering holes. Somehow, we started talking about the assassination for the next three hours, I was the center of attention in a growing number of people as I went point-by-point over the different aspects of the "case for conspiracy." It's amazing the information you find you've retained when

“But as I said, I'm not in this for money or the glory and fame. Just the truth.”

you start talking about it, and it all starts to flow and connect.

What I've found is that most people believe there was a conspiracy. But their knowledge stops at that point. They don't know what else to say other than, "Oswald had help."

By no means do I enjoy speaking before a group of people, but I know that this is what I'm going to have to do if I want to teach on the assassination one day. That's a goal I have for myself: to put together a lecture for college level students to explain to them to what happened and why. My coworker has told me that this is my next step. It's something I'm seriously considering.

People study this topic for different reasons. People who just think about the "who" and "how" of the issue miss crucial points. They miss the "why" part, which I think will tell us the "who" and "how." People fail overall to realize that JFK's death effects us every bit as much now as it effected people in 1963—perhaps more so. We are the victims of the greatest crime of the century. We are living with people and decisions directly altered as a result of what happened on November 22, 1963. These same people were propelled to power in various ways, and their offspring have now been propelled to power.

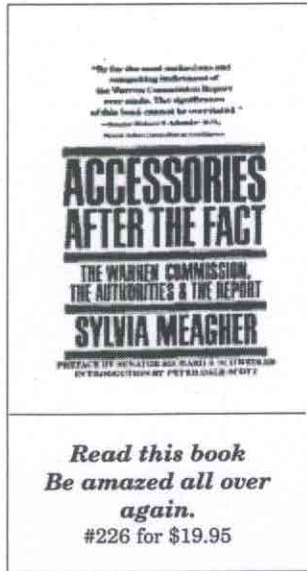
Fighting to preserve the oceans, or fighting to protect wildlife, while important, does not effect us the way we as Americans live. Our Constitution is more than a piece of paper. It is a living, breathing document—and it was fundamentally altered without our consent—and against the Founding Fathers' original intents—the moment John F.

Editor's note: James will be assisting JFK Lancer with the Students' Symposium at the "Dallas In November" Conference, November 21-24, 1996. We look forward to seeing him reach his goal of working with young people.



Visit the JFK Lancer Web Page for easy subscribing, ordering, and registration for the November in Dallas Conference

<http://snni.com/~jfklander/>



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again.
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An Eloquent Dreamer

There is still such a deep grief yet to surface in this country about the loss of John F. Kennedy. I don't know how old you are, but I'm forty-eight now and it's still so incredible to me how much promise there was when JFK was around and he was moving us into a fresh, new global consciousness. Clinton has made his contribution but he's a watered down version of the dynamic leadership this country had then. Global consciousness is finally happening anyway but only after the loss of thousands of lives, billions of dollars, and the sacrifice of the credibility of our leaders — and few people seem to notice. It never seems to occur to them that the Cold War might possibly have been ended 26 years earlier, and why didn't it? We could have used that money now.

At this point in my life, I console myself about our country's decay by repeating something I learned from one of my spiritual teachers: "God has ways that I know not of, and His ways are higher than mine than the heavens are above the earth." Perhaps JFK's destiny was to empower the nation as individuals through his sudden demise.

Still, I am concerned that the government lies continue to affect our Vietnam Vets and drive many of them over the edge ... because I'm entirely convinced that the Vets on a sub-or unconscious level absolutely know they were lied to — for reasons of misguided politics and greed — and realize that they never should have been in Vietnam to begin with. But they were, and the lie is yet to be officially acknowledged. When it is, it will be a great day for this country, and everyone will have a chance to start over with much rejoicing, healing and a clean conscience.

The major unfinished story of the assassination to me is not necessarily "who done it," but instead, the many breaks in the chain of evidence and what might still be done about *that*. The burning question in my mind is—how would the statute of limitations apply? Anyone who could rouse the legal system to take action in this regard *now* would be contributing to the rehabilitation of the justice system in this country. What concerns me is possibly some of these people could be somehow convicted, the chain of command with their superiors established, and sentences handed out, no matter how short. Perhaps under pressures they might "crack," and we can find out just who hated Jack Kennedy was in Dallas and who acted on that hate.

Such a dreamer! Why not ask for the Moon!

Sincerely,
Haizen Paige
via the internet

Stranger in a Strange Land

Jim Hargrove

"The C.I.A.'s growth was likened to a malignancy 'which the very high official was not sure even the White House could control. . . any longer.' 'If the United States ever experiences [an attempt at a coup to overthrow the Government] it will come from the C.I.A. and not the Pentagon. The agency represents a tremendous power and total unaccountability to anyone.' "

Arthur Krock, *The New York Times*
October 3, 1963

"As early as 1961 they knew that Kennedy was not going to go to war in Southeast Asia. Like Caesar, he is surrounded by enemies and something is underway. But it has no face; yet everyone in the loop knows."
"X", *Oliver Stone's JFK*

Kennedy and the CIA

SEVERAL MILITARY HISTORIANS OF THE KENNEDY ERA, NOTABLY JOHN M. NEWMAN AND FLETCHER PROUTY, HAVE WRITTEN THAT JFK WAS TRYING TO REIN IN THE POWER OF THE CIA THROUGHOUT MOST OF HIS ABBREVIATED TERM IN OFFICE. SOME HAVE WONDERED, IN THE CONTEXT OF AN EVOLVING CUBA POLICY AND A PLANNED WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM, BOTH HOT SPOTS FOR CIA HELL-RAISERS, IF THESE POLICIES MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATION FOR HIS MURDER.

Contemporaneous documents suggesting friction between the Agency and JFK are limited but hardly nonexistent. There is, for example, Kennedy's angry remark following the Bay of Pigs fiasco that he would "...tear [the CIA] into a thousand pieces and scatter it to the wind." Although he replaced the Agency's top leadership, clearly he did not follow through completely on his threat. So what did he do?

His first major step, apparently, was to issue NSAM-55 on June 28, 1961. John M. Newman writes, "The crux of NSAM-55, however, was this: Kennedy charged the Joint Chiefs with responsibility for defense of the nation in the Cold War 'and dynamic and imaginative leadership . . . of military and paramilitary aspects of Cold War programs.' This mandate was big news, since cold war paramilitary operations were—up to this moment—the exclusive fiefdom of the CIA." (Newman, *JFK and Vietnam*, 98)

Here (from Edward B. Clafin, *JFK Wants to Know*, 68) is NSAM-55 in its entirety:

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 55
June 28, 1961

TO: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
SUBJECT: Relations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the President in cold war operations

I wish to inform the Joint Chiefs of Staff as follows with regard to my views of their relations

to me in cold war operations: a. I regard the Joint Chiefs of Staff as my principal military adviser responsible both for initiating advice to me and for responding to requests for advice. I expect their advice to come to me direct and unfiltered. b. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have a responsibility for the defense of the nation in the cold war similar to that which they have in conventional hostilities. They should know the military and paramilitary forces and resources available to the Department of Defense, verify their readiness, report on their adequacy, and make appropriate recommendations for their expansion and improvement. I look to the Chiefs to contribute dynamic and imaginative leadership in contributing to the success of the military and paramilitary aspects of cold war programs. c. I expect the Joint Chiefs of Staff to present the military viewpoint in governmental councils in such a way as to assure that the military factors are clearly understood before decisions are reached. When only the chairman or a single chief is present, that officer must represent the Chiefs as a body taking such preliminary and subsequent actions as may be necessary to assure that he does in fact represent the corporate judgment of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. d. While I look to the Chiefs to present the military factor without reserve or hesitation, I regard them to be more than military men and expect their help in fitting military requirements into the overall context of any situation, recognizing that the most difficult problem in government is to combine all aspects in a unified, effective pattern.
(signed) John F. Kennedy

Note that the President took the unusual step of signing this NSAM himself; most others were issued over McGeorge Bundy's signature.

Quoting again from Newman: "NSAM-56 and NSAM-

57 flowed from the requirements generated by NSAM-55. . . NSAM-57, addressed to State, Defense, and the CIA, was entitled 'Responsibility for Paramilitary Operations.' This NSAM was important because it spelled out the ramifications and precise definitions lacking in NSAM-55. NSAM-57 decreed that all paramilitary operations had to be presented to the Strategic Resources Group, which would assign the operation to the department or individual best qualified to carry it out. The Defense Department would normally run overt paramilitary operations." (Newman, 98-99)

For the first time since the inception of the CIA in 1947, approval for all CIA tactical operations was taken out of NSA/CIA control and put into other hands. And part of the fallout from this series of memos, Newman wrote, was to place some of the CIA's larger covert activities under Defense Department control. "Among the most important covert programs that would be affected by these decisions was the activity of the U.S. Special Forces in Vietnam. At the time they were under the operational control of the CIA, but in 1962, under the code name Operation Switchback, control over these paramilitary forces would be switched to the Defense Department." (Newman, 99)

By removing the CIA's high command following the Bay of Pigs—DCI Allen Dulles, Director of Operations Richard Bissell, and Deputy Director Charles Cabell—Kennedy surely won the enmity of many Agency personnel connected to the Old Boys network. Redirecting control of tactical operations to the Strategic Resources Group could hardly have smoothed their ruffled feathers.

But what about the Joint Chiefs and the sprawling armed forces bureaucracies under its control? Was U.S. military leadership basking in the limelight of Kennedy's apparent decision to give them added responsibilities at the expense of the CIA, or were they being cut out of the intelligence loop as well?

Kennedy and the Military

"THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVIL AUTHORITY IS BECOMING A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY AND NEEDS PERSPECTIVE."

GEN. THOMAS D. WHITE, USAF, RET. "WHAT'S WRONG WITH CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS," *NEWSWEEK*, MAY 27, 1963, P. 30

Not surprisingly, friction between the liberal Democratic president and US military leadership is easy to find in the public record. For example, in the late summer of 1962, it was announced that the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, would soon take over as NATO military chief from Gen. Lauris Norstad. Numerous contemporaneous press accounts speculated that President Kennedy, and his secretary of defense, Robert McNamara, pushed Norstad into early retirement because the general demanded NATO access to strategic nuclear weapons. If the speculations are correct, the change in Europe's supreme allied commander did not bring with it the desired effect. As the editors of *Newsweek's* "The Periscope" page noted, Lemnitzer "will make it crystal clear that he plans to follow the basic strategy of his predecessor. . . ." (*Newsweek*, Sept. 3, 1962, p. 7)



**JFK With Secretary of Defense
Robert McNamara
at the Pentagon, 1962**

Retired Air Force chief-of-staff Gen. Thomas White was among those who railed against the "Whiz Kid" civilian control of the military:

Today, controversy stems from the fact that a hard-hitting Secretary of Defense has centralized authority in his office as never before. He is advised by a vast array of professors, scientists, financial and computer experts together with hundreds of civil service employees scattered throughout all echelons of the Pentagon and elsewhere. Thus the role of the military at the top levels of government has become derogated. . . .

There are many in high places who view with alarm the direction of our national strategy; some oppose organizational changes, and there is unhappiness over some weapon systems. The common denominator of it all is the belief that dependence on temporary civilian experts and even computer tapes has overshadowed military advice.

Salt is added to this lesion by resentment over attempts in some quarters to discredit the military. It is alleged that there is no experience of modern war and that military art has now become a mathematical science. Also there have been references to "battleship admirals," "bomber" and "cavalry generals" together with recitations of military sins in developing wasteful and outmoded weapon systems.... (White, "What's Wrong With Civilian-Military Relations," *Newsweek*, May 27, 1963, p. 30)

General White made no direct reference to a new military intelligence group created by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, but the establishment of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) must surely have added to the equation of resentment among military leaders. Joseph M. Knapp, a scholarly contributor to the often raucous and off-topic Internet news group alt.conspiracy.jfk, posted an excerpt from a 1963 article in *The Reporter*, along with several others mentioned herein. The author of *The Reporter* article was Hanson W. Baldwin, military analyst



The president meets with US Air Force officers after authorizing low-level photographic flights over Cuba: from left, Colonel Ralph Steakley, Lt. Col. Joseph O'Grady, Major Richard Hoyser, General Curtis LeMay and General Godfrey T. McHugh (October 30, 1962)

The New York Times, October 3, 1963
 "The Intra-Administration's War in VietNam"
 By Arthur Krock

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—The Central Intelligence Agency is getting a very bad press in dispatches from Vietnam to American newspapers and in articles originating in Washington... This Presidential policy [of protecting CIA secrecy] has not, however, always restrained other executive units from going confidentially to the press with attacks on CIA operations in their common field of responsibility. And usually it has been possible to deduce these operational details from the nature of the attacks. But the peak of the practice has recently been reached in Vietnam and in Washington. This is revealed almost every day now in dispatches from reporters—in close touch with intra-Administration critics of the CIA—with excellent reputations for reliability.

One reporter in this category is Richard Starnes of the Scripps-Howard newspapers. Today, under a Saigon date-line, he related that, "according to a high United States source here, twice the C.I.A. flatly refused to carry out instructions from Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge... [and] in one instance frustrated a plan of action Mr. Lodge brought from Washington because the agency disagreed with it." Among the views attributed to United States officials on the scene, including one described as a "very high American official . . . who has spent much of his life in the service of democracy..." are the following:

The C.I.A.'s growth was "likened to a malignancy" which the "very high official was not sure even the White House could control . . . any longer." "If the United States ever experiences [an attempt at a coup to overthrow the Government] it will come from the C.I.A. and not the Pentagon." The agency "represents a tremendous power and total unaccountability to anyone."

for The New York Times.

[McNamara] and his assistants decided to establish a Defense Intelligence Agency which would take over many of the functions hitherto performed by the three intelligence branches of the armed forces. . . . The establishment of the DIA has a portentous significance in the intelligence community. Military capabilities and the all-important estimates and evaluations of Communist military power are now the primary responsibility of an agency that is above, and therefore not responsible to, the services that use these estimates. In the very recent past the control exercised by the Joint Chiefs of Staff over military intelligence has been further weakened by elimination of its staff section J-2 (intelligence). The functions of J-2 have now been absorbed by the DIA. . . .

The DIA is still in process of growth and change. But it has already become so powerful that some observers view it as a threat to the CIA." [Baldwin, "The Growing Risks of Bureaucratic Intelligence," The Reporter, Aug. 15, 1963]

In the same article, The Times military analyst compared Kennedy-appointed Director of Central Intelligence John McCone's performance with McNamara's. "He is characterized in the CIA as 'another McNamara' . . ." Baldwin wrote. "McCone exercises just enough detailed control to guide and to frustrate. Under McCone's direction, the agency, which one Washington wag has dubbed 'McConey Island,' is probably tidier administratively but is now a less happy organization than it was under Allen Dulles." [Baldwin.]

All this information, including the once-secret NSAMs, is now part of the public record. Reading it leads to the inescapable conclusion that President Kennedy was trying to overhaul the entire US national security apparatus, and that he knew it was a delicate and formidable task. His two-stage strategy seemed to involve transferring some intelligence-gathering functions and all oversight of covert military actions from the CIA to the Joint Chiefs, and then trumping the traditional military intelligence networks of the three armed forces with McNamara's unified and civilian-oriented Defense Intelligence Agency.

Col. Fletcher Prouty, who should have had an up-close view of these moves because he was charged with coordinating activities between the CIA and the Pentagon, has written that the shakeup sent shockwaves through the corridors of Langley and other intelligence circles. The public record seems to add credence to his charge that JFK was "surrounded by enemies."

Kennedy in the Maelstrom

At the time of President Kennedy's murder, US military authorities ostensibly were operating under the concise terms of NSAM-263, which established a timetable for withdrawal of American advisors from South Vietnam.

Criticism of the Kennedy withdrawal thesis, including Noam Chomsky's *Rethinking Camelot*, is based on the President's public remarks, and the wording of the memo itself that always coupled withdrawal with optimistic predictions about anti-Communist battlefield victories. No anti-Communist triumph, no American withdrawal, or so Chomsky and others have suggested. But during a 1995 media tour promoting his book *In Retrospect*, Kennedy's Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara said unequivocally that Kennedy would have withdrawn after the 1964 election regardless of battlefield conditions in Vietnam, a view McNamara supports in the pages of *In Retrospect*.

Economic losses faced by potential profiteers of a vastly expanded war in Southeast Asia are only part of an economic equation that may have sealed President Kennedy's doom.

In *Battling Wall Street*, (Sheridan Square Press, 1994), Donald Gibson traces a long list of Kennedy's executive actions and proposed legislations clearly designed to curtail privileges of the economic elite both in America and abroad. Gibson demonstrates how the president proposed tax policies to slow down corporate investments in Europe and Canada and to increase them in the US and the Third World; how Kennedy planned to eliminate tax havens for fossil fuel producers and foreign investors; and how he hoped to increase taxes on interest and dividends while expanding economic opportunities for the low and middle economic classes. Gibson also shows how these policies were reversed soon after Kennedy's death.

All successful politicians make enemies, but Professor Gibson makes it clear how some of President Kennedy's economic policies were met with outrage in economic circles of the CIA. What is most troubling about all of this is that the friction between the President, the U.S. Military and especially the CIA seemed to be escalating out of control near the time of Kennedy's murder. How else do we explain the famous Arthur Krock piece, probably written at least in part about Administration and CIA squabbles regarding the Diem regime of South Vietnam, which was published in *The New York Times* less than two months before the President's murder?

Disorderly Government

Whatever else these passages disclose, they most certainly establish that representatives of other Executive branches have expanded their war against the C.I.A. from the inner government councils to the American people via the press...

Were the assassinations of JFK, RFK, and Martin Luther King, Jr., the three most charismatic liberal leaders of the 1960s, nothing but a procession of unrelated crimes by unconnected killers? Perhaps, but elements of the Warfare State not only had motives and opportunities to murder all three men, a condition that can be shared by any lone nuts we care to invent, but they also had the means to derail federal investigations, a far rarer ability.



For the President
by George Michael Evica

At the moment of the
violent news,

When they told us she cradled
His wounded head in her lap,
I hated those hated him.
And when he died:

The grim Friday sky was a chilled pearl.
A squirrel snicked at a hoarded nut
On the edges of the crowd.
Above, a gull wheeled greyly, northward.

(first publication, San Francisco State *Golden Gate*,
November 26th, 1963; second publication, University of Hartford *Callboard*, November 29, 1964)

For John F. Kennedy
By George Michael Evica

A rusting leaf stuns us with its
Authenticity, no more no less
Than what it ought to be:
A memorizing of what is said
For the tree in season, speaking
To the jeweled air and mineral
Earth that stirred it to truth.

Tell us that the rusting leaf
Will rest a while in the burnished grass
Below its tree before the wind
Reminds it to crackle and to wisp away,
Preparing, after freezing,
For another green surprise.

(November 6, 1964)

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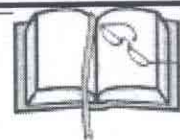
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RICHARD BISSELL

The Man Who Couldn't Kill Castro

by Jane Sitko

This exclusive republication from the magazine *Hartford*, March 1983, of Jane Sitko's revealing portrait of Richard Bissell, has been made possible with the express consent of both the author and Carole Goldberg, the editor of *Hartford*.



Richard Bissell

He appears to be the consummate Connecticut Yankee. Born to well-to-do parents in the landmark Hartford mansion once owned by Mark Twain, Richard Melvin Bissell, Jr., achieved prominence, not in King Arthur's court, but in the Camelot of John F. Kennedy's presidency.

Between 1959 and 1962, Bissell served under Allen Dulles as a deputy director of the CIA. A Democrat and early supporter of Kennedy, he had reputedly been hand-picked to succeed Dulles as director. But in 1962, following the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, Kennedy demanded Bissell's resignation. It wasn't until the mid-seventies, however, that the true story behind Bissell's fall from grace was made public.

In 1975, the story of the plots to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro hit the headlines, and Bissell's role as the head of the CIA's clandestine "dirty tricks" department was revealed.

Today, it is difficult to picture this charming, grandfatherly man as the "spymaster" who hired killers, while sheltering his superiors from knowledge of the activities of his Mafia recruits, and was in charge of the Bay of Pigs invasion. The seventy-three-year-old economics professor now lives quietly in Farmington, Connecticut, serving as a business consultant for the Covenant Group of Insurance Agencies and devoting much of his time to local charitable organizations, such as the Hill-Stead Museum. When questioned about his time with the CIA, Bissell says bluntly, "I accepted the fact that a different morality or a different set of ethics governed that kind of activity. If you go into that kind of activity, you pretty much have to embrace a different set of ethical standards as applied to specific acts."

Photo by Bill Burkhart. Graphic by Peter Lisieski.

From Blue-Blood Academic to "Brilliant" Strategist.

Bissell's patrician origins must have given him scant preparation for his later role as assassination plotter. The son of the president of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, on his mother's side he is the descendant of railroad tycoons. After receiving his Ph.D from Yale in 1939, Bissell taught economics there until the war interrupted his academic career. Two of his students were McGeorge Bundy and Walt Rostow, later top Kennedy administration aides.

Bissell, who worked for a time under diplomat W. Averell Harriman, was considered the chief architect of the European recovery program and was responsible for distributing funds to the ravaged countries. American economic interventionism was fueled by a desire to halt Stalin's drive into Europe, and to check the spread of communism. No scandal ever tainted the disbursement of such unpre-

cedented amounts of financial aid, and the plan has come to be regarded as one of the United States' most successful foreign policy ventures.

Bissell predicted in 1951 that the Marshall Plan would be seen by future historians as "the charge that blasted the first substantial cracks in the centuries-old walls of European nationalism—walls that once destroyed will clear the way for the building of a unified, prosperous and, above all, peaceful continent."

After five years in "autonomous command" of the U-2 surveillance program, Bissell took over as a deputy CIA director from Frank Wisner, whose nervous breakdown later ended in suicide. New Deputy Director Bissell, described by co-worker Robert Amory as a "human computer," was a demanding boss, a perfectionist, and, according to former CIA Director William Colby, an "intense, brilliant, strategist."

Planning strategies was to be an essential part of Bissell's new job. "Covert action"—the use of undercover "dirty tricks" to overthrow unfriendly foreign regimes—became a crucial weapon in the CIA's Cold War arsenal. The CIA-engineered coup that deposed the legally elected Arbenz government of Guatemala in 1954 (and in which Bissell had played a part) provided a blueprint for future political "destabilization."

As a deputy director, Bissell masterminded several plots to kill Castro and the Congo's Patrice Lumumba. The CIA had begun plotting Castro's removal as early as 1959. Sometime in the "early autumn or late summer" of 1960, Bissell later testified, he met with Colonel Sheffield Edwards, director of the CIA's Office of Security, and "requested him to find someone who could assassinate Castro." By killing the Cuban premier, Bissell says, the CIA hoped to "disorganize and weaken the leadership of that regime. We thought that Castro was a very charismatic figure in Cuba, and that his elimination would make

it difficult for the regime to continue in its then form."

Edwards allegedly proposed that the CIA contact members of the crime syndicate. Castro had reportedly double-crossed the mob, and the Mafia high command had retaliated by putting out a million-dollar contract on the Cuban premier.

Whether the CIA plan to recruit an assassin was approved by Bissell's superiors is unclear. Bissell maintains he and Edwards briefed Allen Dulles about the involvement of the Mafia in the Castro assassination plot: "Colonel Edwards outlined in somewhat circumlocutious terms the plan that he had discussed with syndicate representatives." Despite Edwards' roundabout description, Bissell was sure Dulles "knew the nature of the operation" and that the conspiracy extended to murder. "As far as I was concerned," Bissell says, a proposed assassination "would have to be approved by Allen Dulles, and what happened above his level, I never knew precisely and didn't particularly inquire."

Did Eisenhower know the CIA was planning to murder Castro? "In an English, a British tradition, which I think we were in fact following," Bissell says, "the duty of the top security officer is to make sure that nothing is done that the president doesn't want done, but also to make sure that the president doesn't have to approve, himself, personally and explicitly, activities that might be embarrassing to him."

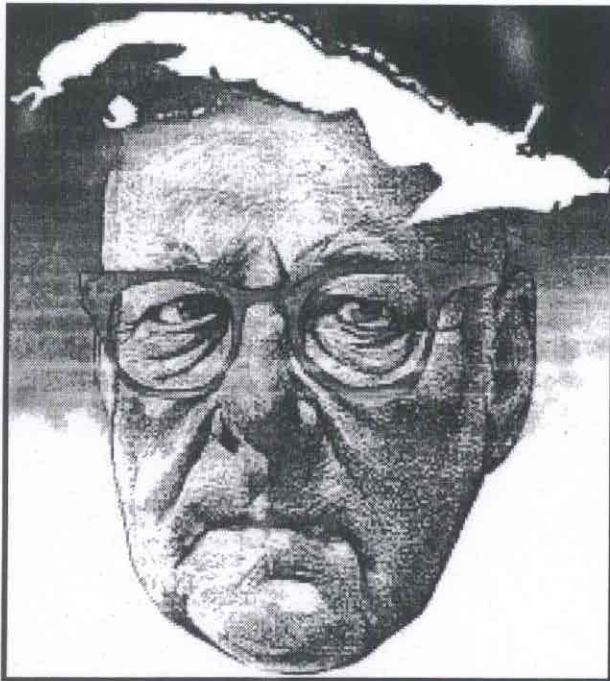
"An example is [Eisenhower's] attitude toward Lumumba," Bissell says. A cable "drafted by Allen Dulles personally...made it clear that the president would like to have Lumumba removed from the scene. Obviously, the president would have preferred to have the objectionable individual removed peaceably. I think that's as far as he would go in signalling his desire to get rid of somebody. And I think he would have said, 'try to discredit, then try to get their enemies to remove them,' and probably that's as far as his instructions would have gone." While Bissell was in the process of recruiting an assassin, however, Lumumba was murdered by his enemies.

Bissell believes, too, Kennedy also knew of the plot to kill Castro, although he can offer no proof. McGeorge Bundy, one of the president's closest advisors, gave his approval to the concept of "executive action" that targeted uncooperative foreign leaders for removal by overthrow or assassination.

However, because a president is so well-insulated from actual covert actions, Bissell says, in the event these activities are exposed, the president can deny responsibility. But someone has to pay the political price.

In Bissell's case, the time to pay came after the attempt to invade the Bay of Pigs.

A "Megalomaniacal Blunder?" The Bay of Pigs invasion was a CIA-funded plan to arm and train Cuban exiles in Florida and Guatemala. The mission grew from a secret amphibious landing into a full-scale onslaught involving 1,400 troops.



"I was in charge of the operation," recalls Bissell.

The mission failed because Castro's air force, which was supposed to have been destroyed on the ground, survived an inept series of clandestine raids by rebel bomber pilots. Planes ran out of fuel or crashed. The one ship carrying all the communications equipment and ammunition was sunk. The aircraft carrier *Essex*, standing by offshore, was ordered to come to the rebels' aid, but Navy jets arrived at the wrong time partly because Bissell failed to consider the time zone differences.

When he realized that the mission was in great danger, and that the CIA's role was

emerging, Bissell appealed to Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Bissell asked Rusk to urge Kennedy to launch massive air strikes against Castro's militia. Rusk called the president on the phone with Bissell waiting in the room. Kennedy, who had publicly stated just one week earlier that no U.S. forces would invade Cuba, said no.

Bissell recalls that "fairly soon" after the disaster at the Bay of Pigs, Kennedy "let it be known that the top leadership in the CIA had to change." In what Bissell calls "a friendly session," the president suggested Bissell "ought to leave fairly quietly." So Bissell began to tie up the loose ends of the snarled assassination scheme, and even kept the new CIA director, John McCone, in the dark about the plots.

Recently, E. Howard Hunt, the famed Watergate burglar, has claimed that the CIA planned to murder the Cuban leader during the invasion to render the government in Havana helpless. Bissell says that's not true. "There was no expectation that it would occur at the time of the landing."

"There'd been at least one effort and it had been a failure," Bissell says of the Castro assassination plot. "Nobody knew quite why, it just hadn't happened."

And in Thomas Power's biography of CIA Director Richard Helms, *The Man Who Kept The Secrets*, Bissell is portrayed as a megalomaniac bungler who schemed to enlarge the small, covert Bay of Pigs operation into "his own private duchy." Bissell denies this, too. He maintains that the administration itself intensified the anti-Castro crusade with clandestine raids and bombings. "The Kennedy brothers were the strongest supporters of covert action," Bissell claimed in a 1976 interview. "There was a brief hostile reaction after the Bay of Pigs, but...their disillusionment was mighty short-lived."

Public Denials, Private Admissions. Bissell left the CIA in February 1962. Kennedy had offered Bissell a lateral move to a position within the agency, but he felt it was off the "fast track" and turned it down. Instead, he accepted another political plum—the presidency of the Institute for Defense Analysis. From there he went to United Aircraft (now known as United Technologies), where he served as director of marketing and economic planning until his retirement in 1974.

In 1975, the plots to assassinate Castro made the news, and Bissell's role as spymaster was revealed—something he had never expected to happen.

Bissell was called before U.S. Senator Frank Church's committee probing covert CIA activities. "I didn't enjoy the Church committee hearings and I didn't like Senator Church," recalls Bissell. He publicly denied his role in the murder conspiracies. But in his closed-door testimony, Bissell admitted authorizing the use of Mafia hitmen to kill Castro and sending automatic weapons and ammunition to rebels in the Dominican Republic and the Congo.

Today, he regrets the CIA-Mafia connection in the plot to assassinate Castro. "That whole operation turned out to be a great mistake," Bissell says ruefully. "The reason, which we should have had enough sense to know but didn't, is that when you deal with people like that, you're placing your security in their hands."



New footage added to "Nixon" video

Twenty minutes of new footage will be on the video of Oliver Stone's Nixon, which is set for release July 9 from Buena Vista Home Video. The ending involves Nixon's relationship with the FBI and CIA. "There were two men Nixon could not get around: J. Edgar Hoover and Richard Helms, so I wanted Helms to treat Nixon . . . as if (he) was just a temporary visitor in power," Stone says.

USA Today 5-9-96

**From Richard Bissell Jr. Obit:
February 7, 1994**

Richard M. Bissell Jr., a former CIA official who was heavily involved in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and the nation's highly successful spy satellite program, died Monday, February 7, 1994.

Mr. Bissell, a member of a prominent Harford-area family, died in his sleep at his home in Farmington. He was 84.

Although unwilling to discuss his feelings about his past CIA activities, Bissell openly expresses his dismay about their disclosure. "I think that ideally covert actions should never be made a matter of public record," Bissell says. "It loses its effectiveness." He believes "people resent it and it has to be shut down. I'm talking about...activities that one doesn't want to have attributed—demonstrably or even by suspicion—to the

U.S. The whole point of having a thing like this done through the CIA is to have this not appear to be something the U.S. Government is doing."

Read About It



Claudia Furiati's ZR RIFLE: THE PLOT TO KILL KENNEDY & CASTO #252 for \$14.95 (softcover)

Fabian Escalante's EYE OF THE STORM #251 for \$16.00 (softcover)

Documents in CIA TARGETS FIDEL. The secret CIA General's report. #270 for \$12.00 (softcover)

Another CIA Official Dies

Ray S. Cline

Sat, 20 Apr 1996

This very short obituary appeared in the Daily Telegraph (a U.K. national newspaper).

Ray S. Cline dies in Arlington, Virginia, aged 77, former chief of the CIA's Intelligence Directorate in the early 60's. He later wrote that it "was not illogical" for the CIA to employ Mafia operatives to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro. Cline joined the CIA in 1949. Chief of Intelligence Directorate, 1962-66. From 1969-73 he headed the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Published an autobiography, Secrets, Spies and Scholars in which he defended the CIA's operations.

Sent by Ian Griggs

Passages



William Colby in 1992

William Colby, controversial ex-CIA chief who may have saved the spy agency by disclosing some of its darkest secrets, was buried among military heroes with gun salutes and the sounding of "Taps." At a simple ceremony attended by family, friends and colleagues from the cloak-and-dagger espionage world, Colby, 76, was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, where America buries its war dead and other distinguished citizens. His remains had been cremated.

Final honors for Colby, who parachuted behind German lines in World War II as a U.S. espionage officer and held the rank of Army major, included a three-volley rifle salute and the bugler's traditional mournful farewell. His body was found May 6 after a nine-day search following discovery of an overturned canoe close to his weekend home on a tributary of the Potomac River south of Washington. Medical examiners said Colby, who headed the Central Intelligence Agency from 1973 to 1976, probably suffered a stroke or heart attack, fell into rough waters and drowned.

Leading the Clinton administration's mourners was John Deutch, the current Director of Central Intelligence, who said last week Colby, as CIA director, had "faced up to severe challenges with openness and integrity." The funeral, on a bright, sunny day chilled by a gusty wind, was chiefly a family affair. His grave was next to that of his parents. His father, U.S. Army Colonel Elbridge Colby, served in the two world wars. More ex-spy colleagues were expected to attend a memorial service Tuesday at Washington's National Cathedral.

Colby led the U.S. Intelligence community through some of its stormiest days at a time when some historians say it was in danger of destroying itself or being dismantled by Congress. After being named CIA chief by President Richard Nixon in May 1973, he elected to cooperate with lawmakers investigating such misdeeds as assassination plots against foreign leaders, illegal domestic spying and



Colby's canoe



Bush and Colby in April 1978, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence heard from the two former Directors of Central Intelligence.

oddball drug experiments. Colby, once director of the agency's covert operations, turned over to Congress the so-called "family jewels" -- a 693-page, single-spaced list of skeletons in the CIA's closet. His cooperation with Congress infuriated some CIA loyalists who held that he had betrayed his colleagues. President Gerald Ford nudged him out of office for refusing to "stonewall" congressional investigators probing CIA wrongdoing, Colby said in his 1978 memoirs *Honorable Men: My Life in the CIA*.

Remembering Colby

Reflecting on his decision to go public with the "skeltons":

"In a typically American way, this was resolved messily and in public. Until this happened it was never clear what was legal and what was illegal. I didn't rush to volunteer anything it had to be dragged out of me. But it did have to be dragged out of

me: there was no other choice. I was teased one time about going to confession. But no; I came to a very deliberate decision. We were under attack. I had to be responsive to the committees on the larger question in order to protect the real secrets. The real secrets are the sources, the people. The fact that we were involved in some adventure in Chile--you wish it did not have to come out, but if it does, the damage isn't that great. I took the position very strongly that we should protect the secrets, the people and some of the technology, and that we should try not to stonewall on anything else. That's the argument, and it's a good argument."

A man with a driving determination to cleanse the agency. "...He had believed in a sunshine world of American victory and a dark night of American defeat. He had discovered it was neither: just a twilight of combat. The remarkable element was that this discovery had not disrupted the integrity of his character. He was Roman Catholic, and after his eldest daughter's death in April 1973 from a combination of epilepsy and anorexia nervosa, he seemed to change, becoming more religious and more reflective...the Colby who had run Phoenix was not the Colby who became the director of Central Intelligence in 1973."

John Ranelagh
in *The Rise And Decline Of The CIA*, 1987

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Eyewitness Account

by Carrie Gallagher

Student
Contributor



As we note the seventy-ninth anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's birth and the second anniversary of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy's death, more people are beginning to look deeper into the mysterious events and unanswered questions that surround Kennedy's assassination. Over the past two months, I have had the opportunity to speak to a few of the primary witnesses to what has become one of the most infamous happenings in American history.

Among the least publicly known of the witnesses is a man by the name of James Tague. He speaks to very few people and chooses to keep his experience to himself the majority of the time. Tague was an ordinary citizen who happened to be driving through downtown Dallas when he got stuck in traffic and chose to get out of his vehicle. He took up a position in front of the triple overpass that overlooks Dealey Plaza and amazingly witnessed the murder as the presidential motorcade came through the plaza. Tague didn't realize it at first, but he had been struck either by a bullet fragment or a piece of cement chipped from the curb by a bullet.

Tague's story is unique because of his location and the fact that his claim is the only evidence that there were more than three shots fired that day. Tague was not questioned by the Warren Commission and his existence was not even announced for seven months following the assassination. "J. Edgar Hoover didn't want me to exist. I was the only proof that there were more shots fired. I didn't see anything to shed any light on the assassination," he recalls. "I was just one man slightly injured. I was ignored."

After November 22, 1963, Tague chose to dig into the assassination for himself to search for the truth about the event that he witnessed that day. He studied the case for thirteen years before he finally set it aside. However, Tague has found what he believes to be the only truth about what he saw.

Tague, a private man, says his life hasn't been dramatically changed by that day in Dallas, but he does discuss the assassination with other witnesses every chance he gets.

All these people [witnesses] are important pieces of history and even taken at face value, they all tell the truth as they saw it. No one knows all the answers, but the witnesses are the only ones who can claim to know any of it. We need to pay close attention to the words of these people and realize the assassination was an event that *can* be repeated -- along with the coverup.

"Eyewitness Accounts" was excerpted from a full page article published in the Hellgate High School paper, *The Hellgate Lance*, issue #16, May 10, 1996, where Ms. Gallagher is a student and the paper's business manager.

The article also contains interviews with Officer Jim Levealle, Madeline Brown, Jean Hill, and Beverly Oliver. At the end of the article, she appeals to her fellow students quoting:

*"Those who do not know the past are
condemned to repeat it."*

Santayana, historian

Dallas

by Carrie Gallagher

The carriage of life drifted down from the horizon,
As it landed,
Cobalt gray smoke lifted toward Heaven.
It released its treasured cargo
And they walked toward the throng of outstretched hands.
Greetings burst through the air,
Hands waved madly as the couple strode past them.
So many people, so little time.
I wonder if they knew just how little of it there was.
Into the car she sailed, and took a seat with her husband.
Waving, waving, waving,
And occasionally shouting something in a whispery voice.
Brushing her chestnut hair from her almond shaped brown
eyes,
And holding her hat in place.
Heat, God it was so hot.
And the pink wool suit didn't help.
Look, a woman in a red coat,
A camera.
She smiled and jumped from the sound.
He was grasping his throat!
Oh, God!
What could she do!
Again, the treacherous sound!
No, his back! His poor back!
More surgery? No.
Again!
His head,
Their life together flashed before her eyes
As his life was spread to the wind
By a thin pink mist.
Protect him she must and protect him she tried!
Collect herself. It's imperative.
A hospital,
Good, they can help him here.
Pretty pink suit,
And brilliant white gloves.
Now stained with hate.
Ruined.
A wedding, a white dress.
She saw it clearly.
Three babies, his smile, flashing before her with lightening
speed.
Why? Why? Why? Why? Why must she hurt so?
Who did it? Why? Why? Why? How?
No, don't tell her.
Death. She's wearing black.
Cover her face and hide it from view.
Babies, in blue coats.
A finely tucked American flag over a bronze casket.
His resting place.
Illuminated forever by a flame she lit herself.
Grief never ends and his memory never dies.
Life goes on but it is never the same
For a lovely young women returning home in good health,
But missing a vital part of her left in a dreary, cursed place
Known to us all as Dallas.

Touching Base

JFK IS EVERYWHERE

by Debra Conway

Mary Ferrell once said she wondered what her postman must have thought of her in the early days of the JFK case because she would subscribe to all sorts of magazines to read about the investigation. Many times the best articles were found in Penthouse, Playboy, Argosy, and Esquire.

Now, since the movie *JFK*, or more recently since the "Auction of the Decade," the media believes that Camelot sells. And even Nixon does, if you mate him with the sexier and more popular JFK. Whatever the reason for this attention, it is we who happily reap the benefits.

The asides and comments concerning the now popular "buff" counter-culture on television are too numerous to mention. Whether watching movies, sit-coms or specials, there seems to be a reference to JFK or the assassination. Even the quietly conservative show "Touched By An Angel" featured a homeless woman who collected JFK assassination documents in her grocery cart. She asked everyone she met, "Where were you on November 22, 1963?" Pity she didn't run into E. Howard Hunt on the street.

It seems to me that time may be on our side as well in this media bonanza. As our elder media talking heads leave us, they will be replaced by younger ones --with younger producers-- who are more loyal to "boomers" advertising dollars than outdated agendas. With the majority of the population believing in conspiracy and laughing openly at the "single bullet theory," we just may need to let the free enterprise system work its magic.

Below is a list of recent JFK appearances:

History Channel, March 1996: Oswald Biography (a lone-nut revival)

A&E, March 1996: Rivals, Oswald and Ruby (an error-filled hour)

The Auction, on every television channel, every night for the duration. (Mr. and Mrs. America buy a piece of history.)

People magazine, April 1, 1996: The auction. Also, People used a photo of the JFK-RMN TV debate to illustrate an article on media and politicians.

TV Guide: The auction.

Time and Newsweek: The auction. (You name it: The auction.)

Vanity Fair, February 1996: "The Unlikely Friendship between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon" by Christopher Matthews from his new book: Kennedy & Nixon: The Rivalry That Shaped Postwar America.

Vanity Fair, June 1996: "Havanas In Camelot" by William Styron (Men and cigars. Trendy but still a touching article)

CBS and C-Span, beginning May 18, 1996: the print media and television begin showing cuts from the so-called "new film," especially on CBS. (Compiled of outtakes from a Dallas television station, kept by a Dallas man and donated to the National Archives. And Dan, thanks. The ARRB needed the publicity.)

Los Angeles Times, June 2, 1966: "Credibility, Dole's Choice," uses a quote by JFK as an example of smart campaigning and image.

Walter Cronkite Remembers, June 1996: Cronkite states that he believes LHO may have had one accomplice, but maybe not.

Los Angeles Times, June 16, 1996: Oliver Stone's review of the book Kennedy & Nixon.

Internet Underground, June 1996: "Conspiracy on the Internet." Interviews and listings of JFK Web pages.

History Channel, June 1996: "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" is repeated.

The Rock, movie released early July. (Don't miss the ending. It's a dream shot.)

The above are, I'm sure, only a small representation of what has been available on the subject of Kennedy, Camelot, or the "60s." As long as the ratings are up, these appearances will surely continue. Stay tuned.

"Someday, after the JFK case is solved and the public knows what happened, the word 'buff' will take on a whole new meaning: 'Someone thought to be a nut-case, who turned out to be right all along.'" Skip Baker, via the internet



"JFK's humidor may have fetched \$574,500 at Sotheby's, but it's impossible to put a price on memory: a young writer's first dazzling glimpse--through fragrant cigar smoke--of Kennedy glamor." From "Havanas In Camelot", by William Styron, Vanity Fair June issue. "The leader of the Free World wreathed in smoke, gently rocking: this was the relaxed and contented image I took away with me..."



Photo Credit: People Magazine

The auction, the aftermath

The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis auction made its 566 buyers feel as if they'd won the lottery. The four-day auction wrapped up April 26 with an impressive \$34.45 million - topping the Andy Warhol sale's \$25 million, but falling short of the \$50 million of the Duchess of Windsor auction.

Jack and Jackie: Portrait of an American Marriage, by Christopher Andersen, is being rushed out by William Morrow to latch onto what remains of Jackie auction fever.

It had been planned for November. Andersen, who has mined Madonna, Mick Jagger, Michael Jackson and Kate Hepburn lore in past books, says he talked to new sources about the Camelot couple's emotional dynamic.



History Deleted

by Ronald Kessler

Some authors who use the Kennedy Library have emerged with less than warm feelings toward it. Nigel Hamilton, Stephen E. Ambrose and John H. Davis have complained that it is a captive of the Kennedy family. But it is rare to catch the Library improperly censoring material because it detracts from the Kennedy image.

While conducting research at the library in Boston I came across two such "smoking guns." In both cases, I was able to find out what the Library did not want the public to see.

First, the Library blanked out about half a page of typescript of the oral history of Patrick Munroe, who knew John Kennedy from his days as the skipper of PT-109. Mr. Monroe gave me the original, uncensored document. What was so sensitive that the public could not see it?

In the excised material, Mr. Munroe related that Kennedy had invited him to a party in Las Vegas given by Frank Sinatra and Peter Lawford. Mr. Munroe didn't go, but he said he heard from a friend that "Sinatra produced Judith Exner, and he [the friend] met her himself." Mr. Munroe did not allege she had had an affair with Kennedy, as she asserted in her book *My Story* (1977). He simply said that she had gone to a party that Kennedy had attended.

Second, the Library blanked out about a quarter of a page from the oral history of Laura Bergquist, a journal-

ist. The same text, unexpurgated, is at the Boston University Library. In it, she said members of the press felt a "great deal of ill will" toward Jacqueline Kennedy because she "wouldn't even recognize their existence."

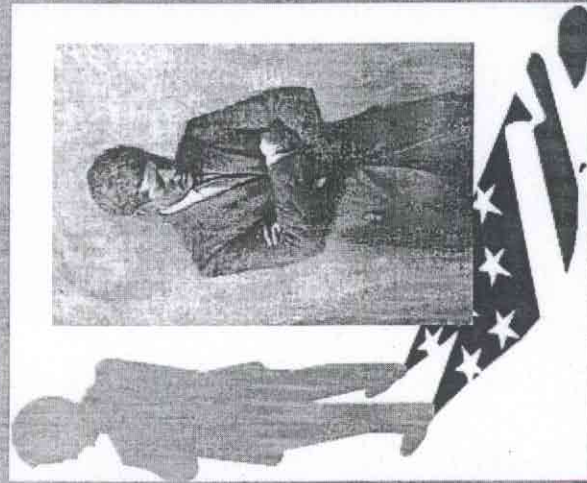
William Johnson, chief archivist, defended both deletions as necessary to protect the privacy of people still alive. "This question of whether the Library is here to protect JFK is a nonissue," he said. He's wrong. If it's off-limits to list the names of partygoers and to criticize how a First Lady deals with the press, the Library distorts our understanding of parts of the Kennedy Presidency.

In researching my book, *The Sins of the Father: Joseph P. Kennedy and the Dynasty He Founded*, I interviewed a number of people with original documents and first-hand knowledge of the Kennedys who were critical of the library. Kerry McCarthy, a grandniece of Joseph Kennedy, said she would not give the Library her material. "We've found that there is an attitude that this is just for us," she said, referring to the family.

The Library is run by the National Archives and Records Administration. The archives is obliged to run the Library impartially. If it cannot, Congress should consider freeing the Library from the family's grip. Censorship has no place in a democracy.

From *The New York Times*, April 30, 1996.

Ronald Kessler is author of *Inside the White House*



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DAVID LIFTON, author of Best Evidence, an exhaustive study of various medical aspects of the Kennedy murder and is now completing work on the forthcoming book, Oswald Led Three Lives.
GARY RAYMOND, former New Orleans DA's investigator who turned over Garrison's Clay Shaw Grand Jury records to the ARRB, defying DA Carnrick's orders to destroy them.
JERRY ROSE, Ph.D., has studied the case for over 20 years, editor and publisher of The Fourth Decade, a highly regarded academic journal of research on the JFK assassination.
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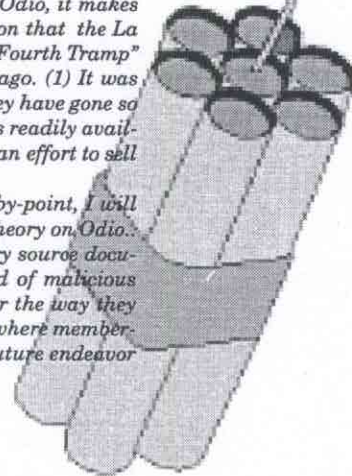
WHAT THE LA FONTAINES DON'T TELL YOU

By Steve N. Bochan

In their long-awaited book, *Oswald Talked*, (Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA, 1996) Ray and Mary La Fontaine devote an entire chapter to Silvia Odio. Unfortunately, there is so much that is misleading and erroneous about their treatment of Odio, it makes one wonder if the rest of the book is as this inaccurate. It has been my opinion that the La Fontaines are good journalists. I read and appreciated their piece titled "The Fourth Tramp" on the Elrod matter that appeared in *The Washington Post* two summers ago. (1) It was original, and it seemed to be backed by startling new evidence. How could they have gone so wrong then on Silvia Odio? So much of the official source documentation was readily available to them -- was journalistic integrity displaced by sensationalism, all in an effort to sell a new book on the assassination by adding a new twist to old evidence?

Rather than dissect the various and sundry errors in the chapter, point-by-point, I will deal with the first one, which also happens to be the linchpin of their entire theory on Odio. My advice is to go back to the drawing board - or at least review the primary source documents - and do some serious research on Silvia Odio, lest they be accused of malicious rumor mongering. They might even try interviewing her in person, but after the way they treated her in the book, I doubt that this living witness (a member of a group where membership is declining with each passing year) will be very cooperative with any future endeavor to shed more light on the JFK assassination.

Steve Bochan



Let's Start at the Beginning:

When I saw Silvia Odio had rated an entire chapter (Chapter 9, "It Takes a Woman to Know") in *Oswald Talked*, I eagerly turned to that chapter. But my heart sank quickly when I read the first sentence: "How do we know that Oswald attended anti-Castro meetings in Dallas during the fall of 1963?"

"How do we know" is a good question. There is no documentation showing Lee Oswald attended such meetings. In all the years since the assassination, whenever this erroneous story about Oswald (and Odio) attending anti-Castro meetings surfaces, no one has ever come forward to substantiate it with any witnesses who had seen them at these alleged meetings, or any other type of corroborative evidence that any such meetings ever occurred with Oswald and Odio present.

The Cast:

That is, however, until the La Fontaines offered their "new evidence" that Oswald attended such meetings by

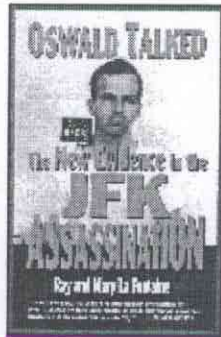
Note: Look for an in-depth interview with Marianne Sullivan, author of *Kennedy Ripples: A True Love Story*, in the Fall issue of the *Assassination Chronicles*.

repeating this uncorroborated (and untrue) story and then, amazingly, claiming it was Silvia Odio who lied:

Well, a female witness -- termed "credible" even by J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the Warren Commission -- let the matter out more than three decades ago. Remarkably, no one has appeared to notice as yet, possibly blinded by the klieg lights of her other, more sensational, assertions. To this day, the latter have comprised an important structural prop for conspiracy arguments, and continue to generate enthusiastic assessments of the witness's reliability. Anthony Summers has called her claims "the strongest human evidence" [of a conspiracy], HSCA investigator Gaeton Fonzi remains "absolutely convinced" she was telling the truth, and --no!-- the angelic Sylvia Meagher, mistress of reason and noblest spirit ever to examine the Kennedy conundrum, titled the exposition of her tale "the proof of the plot." But with both new and overlooked information at hand, the flashy old tale suddenly looks very much like an invention, proving only that even the Divine may (though very seldom) err, like mere human scribblers. (2)

It is important to note that Rankin considered Odio a credible witness --that is true-- as did Wesley Liebeler late in the summer of 1964, when he warned Rankin that:

There are problems. Odio may well be right. The Commission will look bad if it turns out



that she is. There is no need to look foolish by grasping at straws to avoid admitting that there is a problem. (3)

However, it needs to be emphasized that it is absolutely untrue that Silvia Odio told anyone that she knew Oswald because he attended several anti-Castro meetings. The fact is that "credible" Silvia has always denied ever saying this. (4) The La Fontaines have created a straw man by bringing it up, and then they make it worse by accusing her of making it up.

The two people the La Fontaines try to use to corroborate this outrageous tale, always denied by Odio, do exactly the opposite: they refute it -- although you won't read that in the Odio chapter in *Oswald Talked*. (In fact, after reading Chapter 9, you might feel a more appropriate title for the book might have been "Silvia Talked.") Nevertheless, the simple truth is that Dr. Burton Einspruch, Odio's psychiatrist, and her jealous ex-best friend Lucille Connell help destroy the tale that Silvia is alleged to have told, and this is where the confusion begins for some.

As most students of the JFK assassination know, Odio has always denied ever saying she knew Oswald from several anti-Castro meetings in Dallas. She denied telling her ex-best friend Lucille Connell this, and she denied telling her psychiatrist Dr. Burton Einspruch this. Additionally, the evidence on record from these two supports the fact that Silvia Odio never said this, to wit:

- 1). Lucille Connell did not recall Odio telling this tale of Oswald and Odio at several anti-Castro meetings to the FBI when interviewed by Gaeton Fonzi in 1976. In fact when asked if Silvia Odio had told her she had heard Oswald speak at a meeting, Connell replied, "I really don't recall her telling me that. I just recall that Oswald came to her apartment and wanted to get her involved in some way." (5)
- 2). While under oath and answering a question about the Oswald visit to Odio's apartment, Dr. Einspruch expresses his doubt that Odio really saw the person we know as Lee Harvey Oswald, based on her one-time experience at her apartment:

EINSPRUCH: No. I don't think it was something she had just casually fabricated. But I retained just my own, you know, personal doubt, like I would even at this moment, that a mistake could have been made with a one time kind of experience that she had with him [Oswald] under those circumstances. Now, if she had said that she had seen him a couple of times, then I would feel stronger about it. (6)

Dr. Einspruch, under oath, suggests that IF Odio had seen Oswald "a couple of times," then he would feel stron-

ger about her ability to identify Oswald at her apartment. Doesn't this testimony, under oath, coming from someone who probably knew Odio better than anyone else, demolish any notion that Odio saw Oswald at any other time, particularly at anti-Castro rallies where presumably other witnesses could have also seen them there? Why would Dr. Einspruch, under oath, make this statement (that Odio had only seen Oswald once) if he believed she had seen Oswald previously?

Instead of using this evidence, which is on the record and available to the public at the National Archives II at College Park, Maryland, the La Fontaines chose to selectively excerpt

from a memo written by WC investigator Griffin on 4/16/64. In that memo, he asserts that Einspruch related a story of Odio seeing "Oswald at more than one anti-Castro Cuban meeting." This might be interesting except for two things which are immediately apparent from reading the *entire* memo in context:

- 1) the memo never quotes Dr. Einspruch directly and,
- 2) it is obvious that either Einspruch or Griffin (or both) are confusing these alleged meetings, with the "one time kind of experience" at Silvia's house with her sister Annie present. How could this be? Two things come to mind.

First, had the La Fontaines not relied exclusively on only the weakest evidence that, when taken alone, *appears* to support their erroneous theory that Odio is a liar, they would have realized that the two people

Griffin claims told him about Silvia seeing Oswald at the alleged anti-Castro meetings, both later either denied saying or negated the notion entirely as noted above.

The 4/16/64 Griffin memo is entirely secondhand information that never quotes Dr. Einspruch directly. Instead, Griffin paraphrases constantly and worse, he seems confused and "infers" what he thinks his witness really means rather than following-up with a direct question to the witness (Einspruch). In fact, on the very issue of the alleged anti-Castro meetings and a remark about the term "inflammatory" made by Dr. Einspruch, Griffin opines that:

"The term 'inflammatory' is Dr. Einspruch's and he could not clearly indicate what it was that Oswald had said. In fact, I got the impression these comments were pro-Castro." (7)

In other words, WC attorney Griffin is now actually interpreting things rather than simply quoting directly from his witness, and he fails to discuss what it was that gave him "the impression these comments were pro-Castro." (What comments? Einspruch couldn't "clearly indicate what it was that Oswald said.")

Second, and perhaps more importantly, the La Fontaines describe Griffin as one of the WC attorneys who was left out of the loop and not informed on matters such



Odio has always denied ever saying that she knew Oswald

as Jack Ruby. (8) If that is true, then it would follow to ask why the La Fontaines would use a document from someone whom they claim was uninformed, to support their theory that Odio said she knew Oswald from anti-Castro meetings? (It is true they say Griffin was uninformed on Ruby, but Ruby is part of the Silvia Odio matter as we will see in a moment.)

In the same paragraph where they discuss Griffin, the La Fontaines write that Leon D. Hubert, another Warren Commission attorney, resigned from the Warren Commission investigation "in frustration." Hubert and Griffin were the two attorneys who were aggressively looking into Ruby's past and apparently were being kept in the dark about many things. Frustratingly, after reading the La Fontaine book, you never find out just how much in the dark they really were, or how much in the dark the La Fontaines really are about the Silvia Odio incident.

The Fonzi Interview with Lucille Connell

To understand how Odio came to the FBI's attention in the first place and how the reported actions of Jack Ruby led them, albeit circuitously, to her, we must examine the statements of Silvia Odio's ex-best friend, Lucille Connell. From Gaeton Fonzi's April 5, 1976 memo to Dave Marston, the following:

Connell says that she was speaking on the telephone with a friend of hers who was secretary in a law office when Oswald was shot. "We both had our television on," she recalls, "and saw Ruby shoot Oswald. And she said to me, 'Oh my goodness, Ruby was in our office last week and had power of attorney drawn for his sister.'" (9)

Connell was speaking to her friend, Mrs. Sanford Pick, who worked for attorney Graham R.E. Koch in Dallas. (10) The La Fontaines refer to Koch on page 216 in another chapter titled, "You Don't Know Me" and unfortunately miss the connection to Odio, although they do understand the significance of Ruby wanting to set up the power of attorney. However, they write (as does Seth Kantor in his book, *The Ruby Cover-Up*, 1978, Second Printing 1992.) that the power of attorney was to be held by his attorney Koch -- not his sister:

Ruby's chief concern now would be in making the [Oswald] shooting look a spur-of-the-moment matter so he could be back out in the street as soon as possible and reap the rewards of being a popular hero. He already had the perfect

reason for being in the same block as the police station by going on a legitimate errand to the Western Union office there [to wire the money to Little Lynn]. Next he would need a reason for the gun. He stuffed nine \$100 bills, 30 \$10 bills, 40 \$20 bills and a number of smaller bills into a pocket. It was supposed to be the federal

excise tax money Ruby owed. By carrying it with him, he created an understandable reason under Texas law to pack the gun, too, even though he had no license to carry any hidden weapon. But the excise

tax payment story is phony. Only five days earlier he had signed the power-of-attorney in the of-

office of his tax lawyer, Graham Koch, granting Koch the right to negotiate with the IRS for an extended time period to make those federal tax payments. There is no logical reason for Ruby to be carrying all that money, except to establish an alibi. (11)

The La Fontaines use Seth Kantor's material for this Ruby information but, ironically, even though they had spoken with Fonzi over the past few years before writing their book, no mention is made of how this part of Ruby's story led the FBI to Silvia Odio. (12) In fact, the La Fontaines, in describing the deteriorated friendship between Odio and Connell after the assassination, erroneously state that: "Lucille Connell called the FBI on the heels of her conversation with Silvia." (13)

This is false and misleading. It was the FBI that called Connell -- not the other way around -- and it was after they spoke with Connell, and Connell eventually bringing up the Oswald visit to Odio's apartment, that Odio entered the picture.

According to Fonzi's documentary record, later on the same day she spoke to her friend Mrs. Pick, Connell also spoke to another friend, Marcella Insua, the daughter of the man who ran the Cuban Relief Committee:

She mentioned to Insua what her friend said about Ruby being in her law office. Miss Insua happened to have a class of American children to whom she was teaching Spanish. In class, she got into a discussion of the Kennedy assassination and mentioned that she knew some-

"...And she said to me, 'Oh my goodness, Ruby was in our office last week and had power of attorney drawn for his sister.'" Mrs. Pick

"I really don't recall her telling me that. I just recall that Oswald came to her apartment and wanted to get her involved some way. But as I recall Silvia herself didn't tell me that, it was her sister who told me that."

Lucille Connell

one who had dealings with Ruby. It also happened that in Miss Insua's class was the son of FBI agent Hosty, who immediately went home and told his father about the Ruby connection. The FBI contacted Insua who, in turn, put them in contact with Connell. And for some unknown reason, that's where the investigation stopped.

I specifically asked Connell whether she told the FBI about her friend and about Jack Ruby's visit to the law office to get power of attorney drawn for his sister. She said: "Yes. The FBI has that information. I gave it to them at the interview." She said she has been puzzled about why it never came out in the Warren Report. She said: "I was rather surprised that they didn't see fit to mention it myself because I thought it was rather pertinent information. Ruby had never had power of attorney drawn for his sister before."

I think that last sentence is especially significant, in view of my follow-up investigation, because it implies that Connell and her friend did discuss the particular matter of a power of attorney and her friend obviously told her that Ruby had not done that before.

I asked Connell about the FBI reporting that she told them that Silvia Odio told her she had heard Oswald speak at a meeting. She said: "I really don't recall her telling me that. I just recall that Oswald came to her apartment and wanted to get her involved some way. But as I recall Silvia herself didn't tell me that, it was her sister who told me that."

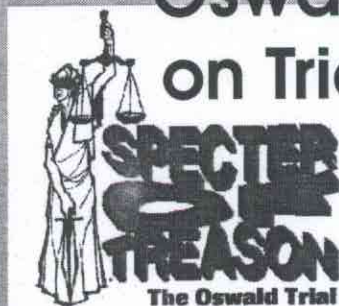
Connell said she couldn't imagine why the FBI didn't put that in their report. "Frankly, I was not impressed with these two FBI investigators," she said. "They were rather new on the job I think. They were not very smart in my opinion and I did more interviewing of them than they did of me. They made no notes at the time, so whatever they wrote down after they left I'm not sure would be a hundred percent correct." (14)

The La Fontaines claim Gaeton Fonzi, "perturbed" by the revelations of Connell's 11/29/63 remarks to the FBI, "now claims that his HSCA investigative notes indicate that the information about prior meetings with Oswald was not told to Mrs. Connell by Silvia, but by one of Silvia's sisters, and that, moreover, the FBI misunderstood what was said." (15)

As anyone can see from reading the excerpt above from Fonzi's 1976 memo to Dave Marstan, that is exactly the case: 1) that Connell didn't recall Silvia telling her about Oswald being at any meetings, it was allegedly Silvia's sister who said this (according to Connell in 1976), and 2) the FBI took no notes when they first interviewed Connell which could certainly explain all the confusion about what was actually said. Even Connell was astute enough to realize she was not sure what they wrote down afterwards would be "a hundred per cent correct."

Continued to page 44

Oswald on Trial



The 33rd Anniversary of the Kennedy assassination will be observed in a major way in Youngstown, Ohio. The event will be marked by the World Premier, on November 22nd, of a major theatrical drama entitled *Specter of Treason*. Produced by Move Over Broadway Productions and written by Youngstown playwright/director and JFK researcher, J.E. Ballantyne, Jr., the three-act drama centers around the idea of Lee Harvey Oswald surviving his wounds and going on trial for the assassination of JFK. What makes the drama unique is that the audience at each performance serves as the jury. So, the audience will actually determine how the play ends at each performance.

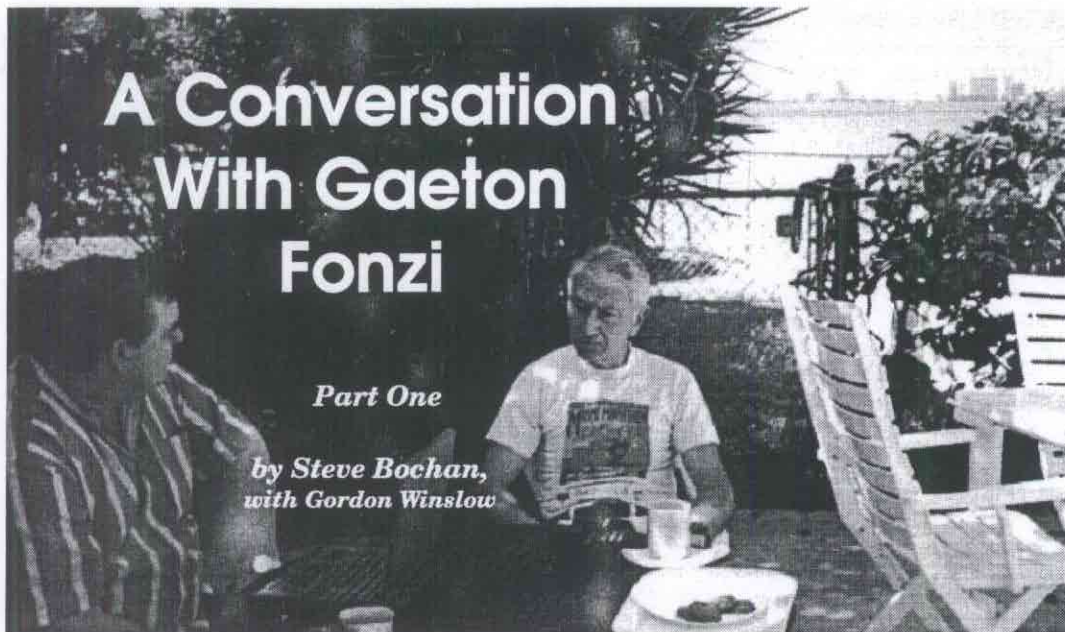
Ballantyne said that since preliminary rehearsals began in June, interest in the production has begun to catch on. "The public is beginning to be aware of what we are doing even in the early stages of production," says Ballantyne. With a cast of fifty-seven actors, the show jumps back and forth between courtroom scenes, TV "live" reports and scenes between key characters. The final outcome of the evening is determined by the audience which serves as the jury in the case. Four possible verdicts are offered to the "audience jury." The final scenes are then played out in accordance with the "jury's" decision. The roles in the show are a mix between fictional characters and authentic characters as they are woven together against a background of researched events and information pertaining to JFK's assassination.

In talking about the cast, Ballantyne says that it is an extremely talented one. Each actor was specifically selected for the role that he or she plays. Although a good number of the actors in the show remember the assassination quite clearly, there are those who were not yet born when the tragedy occurred. Without exception all of the actors have gotten totally involved in the project and are fascinated with what they did not know about the incident.

The cast consists of a total of 57 roles with an additional 20 being added for the scene where the shooting of Oswald is staged. Ballantyne said, "we have done some non-traditional casting and we're very fortunate to have four prominent local reporters and one former reporter in the cast playing cameo roles." He went on to explain that this happened rather by accident and that there was not any specific effort made to involve the members of the news media.

Reporter Aimee Fuller, who anchors the weekend news at NBC affiliate WFMJ-TV, just happened to fit a fictional character role that Ballantyne had written into the script. "When I approached her about doing the role, she was very enthusiastic and it has worked out very well," said Ballantyne. Glenn Stevens, who is also with WFMJ-TV and coanchors the weekday news, was equally enthusiastic about doing the show. Mr. Stevens has been with the station for quite sometime and fit well into the role of Commander James J. Humes who performed the autopsy on JFK.

Specter of Treason is being produced by Move Over Broadway Productions, a local Youngstown, Ohio theatre company. Move Over Broadway, although a new theatre, is known for its professional quality entertainment and Ballantyne says that *Specter* will be no exception.



A Conversation With Gaeton Fonzi

Part One

*by Steve Bochan,
with Gordon Winslow*

Photo Credit: Gordon Winslow

Author's Note: The following conversation with Gaeton Fonzi took place in Fonzi's home in Miami, Florida on 4/26/96. Present were Gaeton Fonzi, Gordon Winslow, and Steve Bochan. No questions or answers were discussed ahead of time and the interview took place as a casual conversation. Speakers are designated as follows: GF = Gaeton Fonzi; GW = Gordon Winslow; SB = Steve Bochan. Some editing has been done to clarify and/or eliminate repetition.

The Conversation Begins

SB: Out of curiosity, and for the benefit of the people who haven't read your book, The Last Investigation, can you describe how you became interested, before the HSCA investigation, in the JFK assassination?

GF: Yes, I wrote about it in the book. I was working for Philadelphia Magazine at the time and Arlen Specter happened to be a Philadelphian. Vince Salandria was a local lawyer who wrote an article in The Legal Intelligencer about the Warren Commission Report, specifically about the shots and trajectories and the head hit, which was the area in which Arlen Specter worked. I remember thinking that Salandria has to be some crackpot, telling everybody that the Warren Commission Report *might be wrong*. So I decided to do an article for Philadelphia Magazine about this crackpot lawyer who said the Warren Commission might be wrong. And that's how I got involved. After I interviewed Salandria and studied the Warren Commission Report I became convinced that Salandria wasn't a crackpot and, then, after interviewing and questioning Arlen Specter, I also became convinced that the Warren Commission Report was in fact, not the truth.

SB: What was it, in particular about Arlen Specter, that you...

GF: His inability to explain the single bullet theory.

SB: I think he admitted to you, you mention it in the book I think, that there were some problems with it, or words to that effect, didn't he?

GF: They had some problems with explaining how come there was a hole in the back of his jacket and shirt, about 6 inches down from the collar...

[On page 27 of The Last Investigation, Fonzi's encounter with Arlen Specter is described as follows:]

The photographs of the shirt worn by the President shows a hole in the back consistent with the one in the jacket, about five-and-three-quarter inches below the top of the collar and one-and-one-eighth inches to the right of the middle. The discrepancy is obvious.

The locations of both these holes are inconsistent with the wound below the back of the right ear described in the Commission's autopsy report.

I'll never forget asking Specter about that as I sat in his City Hall office in Philadelphia. (It was about a year after he had returned from his Warren Commission job; he had recently been elected District Attorney.) "Well," he said, "that difference is accounted for because the President is waving his arm." He got up from his desk and attempted to demonstrate his explanation on me, pulling my arm up high over my head. "Wave your arm a few times," he said, "wave at the crowd." He was standing behind me now, jabbing a finger into the base of my neck. "Well, see, if the bullet goes in here, the jacket gets hunched



Gaeton Fonzi

up. If you take this point right here and then you strip the coat down, it comes out at a lower point."

A lower point?

"Well, not too much lower on your example, but the jacket rides up."

If the jacket were "hunched up," I asked, wouldn't there have been two holes as a result of the doubling over of the cloth?

"No, not necessarily. It ... it wouldn't be doubled over. When you sit in the car it could be doubled over at most any point, but the probabilities are that ... aah ... that it gets ... that ... aah ... this ...



Steve Bocham

this is about the way the jacket rides up. You sit back ... sit back now ... all right now ... if ... usually, as your jacket lies there, the doubling is right up here, but if ... but if you have a bullet hit you right about here, which is where I had it, where your jacket sits ... it's not ... it ordinarily doesn't crease that far back."

What about the shirt?

"Same thing."

Was Specter saying there was no inconsistency between the Commission's location of the wound and the holes in the clothing?

"No, not at all. That gave us a lot of concern. First time we lined up the shirt ... after all, we lined up the shirt... and the hole in the shirt is right about, right about the knot of the tie, came right about here in the slit in the front...."

But where did it go in the back?

"Well, the back hole, when the shirt is laid down, comes ... aah ... well, I forget exactly where it came, but it certainly wasn't higher, enough higher to ... aah ... understand the ... aah ... the angle of decline which ..."

Was it lower? Was it lower than the slit in the front?

"Well, I think that ... that if you took the shirt without allowing for its being pulled up, that it would either have been in line or somewhat lower."

Somewhat lower?

"Perhaps. I...I don't want to say because I don't really remember. I got to take a look at that shirt."

SB: Supposedly that was the so-called "hunched-up" jacket and "hunched-up" shirt theory...

GF: Yeah, so that's what got me interested, really. I did a few articles for the Philadelphia Magazine on the Kennedy assassination. The first one of course was on Arlen Specter. And then when I moved down here, a friend of mine - a reporter -- had stopped in to see a friend of his who was Schweiker's administrative assistant. Schweiker was on the Church Committee at the time and had convinced Church to set up a subcommittee on the Kennedy assassination, which Schweiker headed. (Gary Hart was co-chairman but he didn't take much interest in it.) And my friend and Schweiker's assistant started talking about Schweiker's interest in the Kennedy assassination and the fact that he was getting more interested in the relationship between the CIA and the anti-Castro Cubans, while the Church Committee investigators were concentrating on the pro-Castro angle.

Being that Schweiker's anti-Castro interest effort was focused on Miami, my friend Greg said, "Well, Gaeton's in Miami," and as a result of that I got a call from Schweiker's man, Dave Newhall, a former Philadelphia reporter whom I had known. Newhall called me and said he had a few things to check out in the Miami area and would I have the time to check them out.

I said, "Sure, how long will it take?" and he said, "just a couple of weeks." (laughter)

SB: A couple of weeks?

GF: A couple of weeks turned into three years.

SB: One of the devices you use to both open and close the book which was very powerful, I thought, and probably very powerful for those of us who have been to Dealey Plaza, was your description of your emotions when you went there. You stood in the middle of Elm Street and became overwhelmed with what happened there and, you wrote, "Right here ... is where a man died. ... A man's life ended."

That's very dramatic and anyone who has been to Dealey Plaza knows that feeling and I thought it was both moving and effective to begin and end the book that way.

Is that also what finally made you determined to go into this, after you went there and stood in the middle of Elm Street, contemplating the gravity of that crime?

GF: Well, no. I wrote that in the context of having worked with the Committee. I went to Dealey Plaza back in the

'60s when I first did the article for Philadelphia Magazine, and I really didn't have a full grasp of the whole Kennedy assassination at that point. But it was still a very moving thing to see.

But what really got to me is when I got there, and after having worked with the Committee, having been in Washington, and having been involved in so much of this bureaucratic charade, as it were, and then coming to Dealey Plaza and it made me think, 'My God what are we doing? What have they been doing in Washington playing with all these documents and everything?'

And here they were getting ready to turn out a report that was going to tell the American people that we did a thorough and complete investigation and I knew that wasn't the case.

It just made me realize that they forgot the basic point here that a man was killed. A man was killed....

SB: Some of your critics on the Internet and on CompuServe are very quick to point out that you came into the investigation already determined to prove a conspiracy. In other words, they'll say, 'Well you know, Gaeton Fonzi wasn't really an objective investigator -- he had already made up his mind that there was a conspiracy,' etc. A counter argument, of course, is that Blakey himself was already determined to bring the Mafia into the assassination, and of course, Earl Warren was determined to blame it all on Lee Harvey Oswald. How would you react to that criticism that you had already made up your mind with regard to there being a conspiracy in the JFK assassination?

GF: It's true. I had already made up my mind years ago as a result of the investigation and as a result of the work I had already done on the Kennedy assassination. Especially as a result of the interviews with Arlen Specter; that the single bullet theory didn't hold water. And once that conclusion is reached, there is a conspiracy.

But, as an investigator involving areas that really had nothing to do with whether or not there was a conspiracy -- because we certainly wouldn't have been conducting the investigation on the basis (like the Warren Commission did) that Oswald alone did it. But as long as you don't angle your approach or deliberately attempt to manipulate your questioning or narrow your perspective, it's really irrelevant when you are interviewing people and when you're digging up information.

The other point is that I had nothing to do with controlling the direction of the investigation: I mean that was Blakey's job. And even at that point, I don't think the question of conspiracy or non-conspiracy is relevant here. If we were going to accept the Warren Commission Report as the final word, there would have been no need for an in-

vestigation.

SB: Do you keep in contact with Blakey; do you talk to him ever?

GF: (laughter) No, I haven't talked to ah, Bob Blakey ...

SB: Did you part on good terms?

GF: Yeah, basically I like the guy. You know, we just have a difference of opinion I guess, when it comes to whether or not the investigation was a full and complete investigation as the report claims it was. I don't have any personal animosity towards Blakey or anything.



Stokes and Blakey

SB: Getting into Silvia Odio, in the book, you relate how disappointed you were that they didn't ask her to testify, but, who's ultimate decision was that -- was that Blakey who decided that the time was running out, the budget was running out, etc.? It almost sounded like the Warren Commission's Rankin saying that they were supposed to be closing doors, not opening them....

GF: Yeah, it was Blakey's decision to spend the time in the public hearings on organized crime. Now he will say, 'but we put everything on the record,' and that's true. But the impact that would have had on the

American public, I think, would have been tremendous. And it was his decision to limit the public hearings to those areas that he wanted to cover.

SB: How did Silvia react to that? I remember you described her gaining trust and confidence in you, the time that it took to do that, and so forth, and then when she was finally ready..

GF: Oh, yes, she was terribly disillusioned, and bitter. I mean, because she really had to psyche herself up into coming forward. Jim McDonald and I spent a long afternoon convincing her that this is what she really should do; that the American people should know her story directly. She was an emotional person to begin with; she had arranged to take off work and her husband arranged to take off work because she needed his support; and then all of a sudden the rug is pulled out from under her. She was terribly disillusioned.

SB: Were you the one who had to tell her that it wasn't going to happen?

GF: Oh yeah.

SB: That had to have been difficult, especially after working with her, ...

GW: Why didn't they let her testify?

GF: Because they were going to continue the hearings; they cut out the anti-Castro element of the public hearings. She did testify, you know, took a deposition. But this involved the public hearings which was the public's perception of what the Committee was doing.

SB: Silvia made a remark to you, and you used it in the book:

...and that day (the first interrogation started at 9 a.m.; the second at 6:30 p.m.) he asked her out to dinner. "That surprised me, but I was afraid and I went. We didn't go out alone. We went out with someone who was supposed to be Marina Oswald's lawyer. I don't remember his name, but Mr. Phillips from CBS knew. We went to the Sheraton to eat dinner. I thought perhaps there was something behind it and there was a kind of double talk at the table between the lawyer and him. I wasn't sure they wanted me to hear the conversation or they wanted to convince me of something or wanted me to volunteer something. He (Liebeler) kept threatening me with a lie detector test also, even though he knew I was under tremendous stress at the time. But one thing he said, and this has always bothered me, he said this to this other gentleman, I don't remember his name, he said, 'Well, you know if we do find out that this is a conspiracy you know that we have orders from Chief Justice Warren to cover this thing up.' (I asked: Liebeler said that?) Yes, sir, I could swear on that.

At the time, she said she thought that maybe it was a bait for her because she had the feeling that they thought she was hiding something more, that she was involved with other Cuban groups perhaps or that she knew more than she was saying.

That was the feeling that I got by the time that they took me to dinner, that maybe if I had a few drinks and the conversation became very casual, I would go ahead and volunteer information that he thought I was hiding. I wasn't hiding anything. But what he said struck me. I remember I had a Bloody Mary and thinking to myself, 'My God, I'm not that drunk.' I had one Bloody Mary and that's all I was having. If it was for my sake that he was saying that, or if it

"I wanted to see someone who was carrying on an investigation who was serious about it, but somehow I had the feeling it was a game to them and that I was being used in this game."

Silvia Odio

was a little game they were playing with me, I don't know. That's when I said to myself, 'Silvia, the time has come for you to keep quiet. They don't want to know the truth.'"

But that made me angry. Not only that, he invited me to his room upstairs, to see some pictures. I did go, I went to his room. I wanted to see how far a government investigator would go and what they were trying to do to a witness. Of course nothing happened because I was right in my right senses. He showed me pictures, he made advances, yes, but I told him he was crazy. He even mentioned that they had seen my picture and that they even joked about it at the Warren Commission, saying things like what a pretty girl you are going to see, Jim, and things like that. To me that was all so, I don't know, anti-professional. I wasn't used to this sort of thing and I was expecting the highest respect, you know, and I wasn't expecting any jokes in the investigation of the assassination of a president. So that's why I'm telling you why my feelings changed because I saw something I wasn't expecting to see. I wanted to see someone who was carrying on an investigation who was serious about it but somehow I had the feeling it was a game to them and that I was being used in this game.

SB: You make that point in the book, too, that she has not profited from this experience; she has not gone out on the lecture circuit; she basically wants nothing to do with it. And that probably increased her credibility in your mind, didn't it? I mean,

what was it about her that convinced you that she was a credible person?

GF: It was nothing about her. It was just what she said and the confirmation of what she said by other people. I don't think anyone can really judge anybody's credibility by how they feel about them. Lord knows I've been fooled many, many times. My life as an investigative journalist, basically, has allowed me to meet some of the nicest con men in the world, I mean, you would never believe some of the things that they might have done....

So you don't judge people when you're doing this kind of an investigation by how you feel about them -- you have to judge them by what they say and whether or not the basic elements of what they say can be corroborated in some way.

SB: You talked to Lucille Connell?

GF: It's pronounced "Kin-nell."

SB: She told a story that was basically at variance with what Silvia Odio said. She basically mentioned a story, as did Einspruch apparently, of Odio attending several anti-Castro meetings with Oswald present and supposedly Odio had told her this. Did she mention this to you as well?

GF: What Connell told me when I asked her about that was that she didn't remember telling the FBI that. (referring to his typed transcripts)

Reading from my notes on my interview with Lucille Connell, she was telling me about how the FBI first came to her. This is how the Silvia Odio business first came out because Silvia herself had no intention of telling anyone about it. But of course, her sister Sarita knew about it as well as her younger sister Annie Odio.

So, Lucille Connell tells me,

'and I was talking to another Cuban, the daughter of a Mr. Insua, who is head of the Cuban Relief Committee there in Dallas, ...ah, no, first I talked to Silvia's sister myself who said that Silvia has been taken to a hospital when she heard that Kennedy was shot and that Oswald was responsible. She fell unconscious at her desk and that was the first spell she had in quite a long time.'

'Now, I didn't intend to report anything to the FBI. And it came about quite accidentally. I was speaking on the telephone with a friend of mine, who is a secretary in a law office. We had both had the television on and I saw Ruby shoot

Oswald. And she said, "Oh my Goodness, Ruby was in our office last week and had power of attorney drawn for his sister.'

I tell her: 'I don't have that report, but I suppose I could get it.'

She [Connell] said, 'I was rather surprised that they didn't seem to mention it, myself, as I thought that was rather pertinent information. Ruby had never had power of attorney drawn for his sister before.'

'Later that evening, I was talking to Mr. Insua's daughter, her name was Marcella. But she's married now, and Mr. Insua is dead. And I told her what my friend had said about Ruby. That evening, she taught Spanish to some American children, and in her class was the son of one of the FBI of Dallas. The son went home and told his father, and his father called her (Connell) and she was quite upset as she had given it as an example. He called the teacher, rather, I'm sorry.'

'She had given it as an example to translate into Spanish. So she called me and asked me if she could tell the FBI when she got home, where she got the information. I said of course.' 'So, in about a half an hour, the FBI was knocking on my door. There were two men and I told them everything I told you.'

She had another comment on the FBI. She said, 'Frankly, I was not impressed with these two FBI investigators. They were rather new on the job, I think. They were not very smart, in my opinion, 'Frankly, I was not impressed with these two FBI

Continued on page 45

FROM THE FONZI INTERVIEW WITH SILVIA ODIO, 1976

Silvia specifically remembers that when Leopoldo called her back on the telephone and told her about Oswald talking about killing Kennedy, it was not a weekend day (Sat. the 28th or Sunday the 29th) because she remembers working that day and getting the call after she came home from work, about 7:30 p.m. She is pretty sure it was not the day after their visit, but the following day (which would make it Friday the 27th at the latest; because Monday was the 30th and she was moving by then.)

She says that when the three men came to the door they first asked for Sarita and that they seemed confused, but when she told them she was Silvia and that she was the oldest they said it was she they wanted to talk with.

I asked her about the possibility that it might have been someone who looked identical to Oswald. She said, "When you see someone as close as I'm seeing you now, even closer because we were standing by my door for about 15 minutes and the light was just coming down upon their faces, when I saw him on television I recognized him immediately. And this guy had a special grin, a kind of funny smile. He kept smiling most of the time, he kept trying to be pleasant, but the other guys did all the talking."

The CIA's Cuban Cover-up

Peter Kornbluh

Thirty-five years after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, the Central Intelligence Agency's internal record of the disaster remains hidden in its secret archives—unavailable for historical research and, more importantly, public debate over United States policy toward Cuba.

The CIA's paramilitary landing of Cuban exile forces at the Bay of Pigs on April 17, 1961, was one of America's greatest foreign policy blunders of the cold war. The 2506 Brigade, covertly organized, trained, supplied and led by CIA personnel was quickly defeated by Fidel Castro's superior military. President John F. Kennedy, in an effort to preserve the fig leaf of plausible denial, refused the agency's entreaties to provide air cover for the 1,500-man brigade. He called the defeat "the worst experience, of my life."

The invasion sent America down a long and dangerous path of what Henry Kissinger called "perpetual antagonism" toward Cuba. It led to Mr. Castro's declaring Cuba a socialist state, to Nikita Khrushchev's decision to place nuclear missiles on the island in October 1962 and to the longstanding United States trade embargo.

The invasion continues to reverberate today, Cuba's recent downing of two planes belonging to the exile group Brothers to the Rescue (the pilot of a plane that escaped, Jose Basulto, is a Bay of Pigs veteran) is but a dramatic reminder, to paraphrase William Faulkner, that when it comes to Cuba, the past is neither forgotten nor even past.

Despite the CIA's "openness" campaign, declared by its former Director, Robert M. Gates, the agency has never declassified the operational records of the attack or its critiques on what went wrong. One key document, a post-mortem by the inspector general, Lyman Kirkpatrick—with an attached rebuttal by the architect of the invasion, Richard Bissell—has been kept under wraps despite several efforts to obtain its release through the Freedom of Information Act.

Over the years, the Kirkpatrick report has become one of Washington's biggest "fictional secrets"—a document publicly acknowledged and described (and even examined by one journalist) but still classified top secret and withheld from the public domain. Why have the men who keep the secrets been loath to declassify the report, which after 35 years could hardly threaten national security? Likely

because it could embarrass the CIA's covert operations directorate.

Among other things,



Castro with Khrushchev



Steve Bocham at the former JM Wave station

Photo Credit: Gordon Winslow

the report criticizes agency officials for "playing [the operation] by ear" and setting up an "anarchic and disorganized" command structure. It accuses Mr. Bissell of misleading President Kennedy by failing to inform him before the invasion that "success had be-

come dubious."

Bureaucratic pride does not constitute grounds for withholding documents. Executive Order 12958, signed by President Clinton, holds that almost all documents over 25 years old should be processed for declassification, and that when "the need to protect information may be outweighed by the public interest in disclosure" the information should be declassified. The CIA seems unable to understand, let alone accept, the order. It responded to my request for the Kirkpatrick report this way: "We have determined that the information you seek from agency files would not contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations of the United States Government." Perhaps some in the agency want to sustain this cover-up until after the November elections, when another President might overturn the executive order.

"How could I have been so stupid as to let them proceed," John Kennedy said more than once after the invasion. Until the CIA releases the history it has held hostage all these years, that question will remain unanswered.

Peter Kornbluh directs the Cuba documentation project at the National Security Archive, a foreign policy research library.

New York Times Op-Ed page, 4-16-96

Searching R.I.F.s

Record Identification Forms on the
National Archives online web page



Chris W. Courtwright

Internet Resources

Among other provisions, the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act (PL 102-526) mandated the creation of an electronic index to certain assassination-related material in the National Archives. (This data base is online at www.nara.gov/nara/jfk/jfk_search.html.) Not all material found in the assassination collection at the archives is included in the online index. Material in the custody of the archives that previously was open for research on October 26, 1992, the date the act was signed, was exempted from inclusion in the data base. Thus, many Warren Commission materials have not been included within the electronic index. Agencies that held assassination records were required to record information on Record Identification Forms (RIFs) for input into the master database. A number of the documents in the database are still under review by certain agencies or have been postponed from disclosure, either partially or completely.

The RIFs — Inconsistency and Spelling Errors

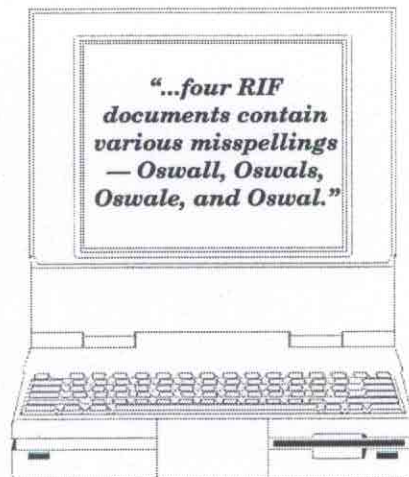
While the RIFs can be a valuable source of information and clues about certain documents, including those still being withheld, their maddening lack of consistency often requires one to do much additional detective work. When users sign on, they should be well advised to heed the warning that "this database is a compilation of entries input by the originating agencies. Although the National Archives and Records Administration provided guidelines for data entry, the master database is inconsistent in the terms used to describe records. Please keep this in mind when planning your database searches." Oswald is referred to on the RIFs in at least two different ways — "Oswald" and "LHO." Ruby turns up usually as "Ruby," but also quite often as "JR." Another researcher tells me Clay Shaw often is referred to as "CS." State names are sometimes spelled out completely, are at other times abbreviated partially, and are at other times referred to by the two-letter designations.

While working on searching for all RIFs for FBI documents referring to a certain individual, I have so far

stumbled upon four different spellings of his last name. (Extremely sloppy data entry, at best, on the part of someone at the FBI. Some may suggest a more sinister interpretation with respect to a perceived lack of cooperation with the spirit of the JFK law.) I found the subsequent spellings only after painstakingly combing through and doing additional searches based solely on certain dates and the relevant data series. In short, you have to do multiple searches for even the most basic inquiries while attempting to play detective and guess how many different ways words could have been misspelled or abbreviated.

The Logic of Searches

The order of operations also tends to matter when performing complex searches. Doing a complex search for "LHO" --or-- "Oswald" --and-- "AZ" yields a hit on 7 RIF records, all of them containing the "AZ" (two-letter designation for the state of Arizona) and either "LHO" or "Oswald". Doing a complex search for "AZ" --and-- "Oswald" --or-- "LHO" yields an entirely different result — 10,750 hits. These hits are for RIFs that contain (1) both "AZ" and "Oswald"; and (2) *All* RIFs containing the term "LHO" (not just those also containing "AZ"). The computer search



apparently does not begin to look down a string until at least five letters have been requested. Doing a search for all documents containing "Oswa" yields only 4 hits, all of them containing exactly that particular abbreviation of Oswald. A search for "Oswal" yields 25,222 hits from RIFs containing the "Oswal" any and all times such letters appear in that sequence. By the way, a search for "Oswald" brings up 22,518 hits — 2704 less than "Oswal." The reason is that four RIF documents contain various misspellings — Oswal, Oswalds, Oswale, and Oswal. These RIFs can be viewed by doing a search for "Oswal" --not-- "Oswald." As another example, a search for "unsubstantiated sighting" brings up hits on 243 RIFs. Doing a search for "unsubstantiated sightings" (plural) yields 37 hits, a subset of the previous 243 hits.

Hopefully, my trials and errors will assist you with your historical research in this new age of internet resources.

The Assassination Records Review Board

Document Releasing History

Notes and Comments by Joe Backes

Dateline: Federal Register Vol 61, No. 108 / Tuesday, June 4, 1996 / Notices p. 28158-28163

The true identity of "John Scelso" will be revealed, "May 1, 2001, or three months after the decease of the individual whose name is postponed, whichever occurs first."

The following have been designated as assassination records:

"protective survey reports for planned Presidential trips to Houston, Ft. Worth, and Austin, Texas on November 21-22, 1963; shift reports of unusual incidents (March 1963-January, 1964); post assassination Secret Service memoranda describing legislation to define penalties for assassination of federal officers and responsibility for investigating such incidents; letters from the public and memoranda on presidential protection (1962-1963); newspaper clippings on the Warren Commission; reports and directories describing internal organization at the Secret Service (1961-1962) [Why not 1963?]; correspondence between the Secret Service and the House Select Committee on Assassinations (1977-1978); and the Richard Case Nagell file.

Offered as some kind of explanation, the ARRB states, "In not designating some USSS shift reports and some post assassination Kennedy detail assignments as assassination records, the Review Board relied upon the advice of its staff, which conducted a thorough review of materials in the above listed categories." *Well, I would like to know exactly what was excluded and why.*

Dateline: Federal Register vol. 61, No. 121 / Friday, June 21, 1996 / Notices p. 31917

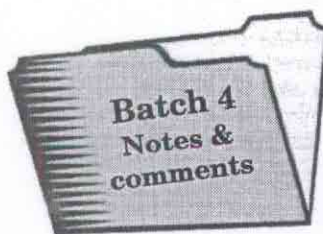
Designation of assassination records:

"USSS correspondence with members of the Warren Commission "(1964); selected documents from the "protective research" file (1962-1964); and the document "Briefing Book: Director's Appearance Before The House Select Committee On Assassinations, December, 1978."

Again, the same excuse is offered as to why some documents were selected and some were not from the "protective research file", "The Review Board relied upon the advice of its staff...".

Well, some good news--some bad. I wish they would let the American people decide the value of a record after its release rather than decide its value and therefore keep it hidden. If you are unhappy with the Board's decision with regard to "John Scelso"'s true identity being protected for 5 more years or until the person dies, please write to them and state your feelings.

ARRB 600E, Street NW Washington, DC 20530



On October 19, 1995 the Review Board released 11 of the 16 FBI documents that the FBI was fighting against releasing. Originally the Review Board voted on July 17 and 18 to release them in their entirety. The Board reconsidered

and agreed to sustain the FBI's objection and did not release the numerical portion of the informant symbol number. These are really part of "The Second Batch." The 11 FBI documents relate to Jack Ruby's shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald, the Communist Party U.S.A.'s reaction to the assassination of President Kennedy and Oswald's trip to Mexico City before the assassination. These documents were given out at the National Archives Public Affairs Office in Room G-6 of the downtown building (Archives 1), between 7th and 9th streets, NW.

On October 3, 1995 the Board gave formal notice to the Federal Register. Number 11 was not included in that list. Where did it come from? Well, anyway it is part of the 11, which were part of the 16 FBI documents that the Board

wanted released in July 17-18 of 1995.

Document # 124-10006-10342 is a three page document. It is a report from the SAC in Cincinnati, Ohio dated December 13, 1963. It refers you to FBI 105-82555-648. Copies were given to Dallas, New York, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Two CI's advised SA Emil E. Hopkins that Arnold Johnson, Public Relations Director, CP USA presided at CP meeting at the home of Gene Kuhn, Chairman, Lower Ohio Valley section CP. Wheeling Island, West Virginia on December 8, 1963. They talked about the assassination of President Kennedy. Arnold Johnson was asking people whether people were blaming assassination on Marxism or right wing activity. At first, Marxism but after Ruby shot Oswald, right wing activity and southern civil rights groups (supposedly those opposed to civil rights). Johnson stated several times that Marxists were not to blame as assassination did not follow Marxist philosophy. Johnson said Oswald was agent of someone. Johnson said Oswald had written to the party and that he, Johnson answered them. He does not recollect the particular letters. Johnson also said he does not sign his letters "Yours Truly" but on a more personal basis. (Is this a clue to more forgery of Oswald documents?) Johnson said that Soviet Russia turned over its files on Oswald but that he

does not know what is in these files. Informants believed that Johnson was trying to get over the point that Oswald was someone's agent when he went to Russia. Johnson said Oswald first tried to train men to fight in Cuba and then turned around and became involved in Fair Play for Cuba organization. Johnson discredited Oswald as a Marxist. Document # 124-10035-10065 is a copy of the above.

Document 3 124-10070-10354 is a two page report CI (confidential informant), had a phone conversation with Mary Ann McCall, hostess of The Batchelor-S Club in Dallas on November 25, 1963. She is reported to be a "fixer" and "pay-off" contact between the Dallas Police and Criminal element. CI asked her if shooting of Oswald was an accident. McCall responded, "No, I don't think so." Asked to elaborate McCall responded, "You know how it works." CI will again contact McCall on Nov. 27 or 28. Houston will follow and report results of contact. "Informant states McCall will not cooperate with Bureau and will deny any knowledge of incident." (*What incident? Is this phone call an incident?*) Document # 124-10108-10142 is a copy of the above.

Document # 124-10119-10078 is a one page memorandum from SA's Charles T. Brown and Arthur E. Carter to SAC, Dallas. During an interview with Carl A. "Pappy" Dolsen, 3930 Shorecrest Drive, Dallas, Texas, on 11/24/63 Dolsen advised on this date he received a long-distance telephone call from the manager of the King's Club in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, whom he did not identify, in which call he was advised that Hubert Gibson, described by Dolsen as an outstanding attorney, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, wants to represent Ruby in his forthcoming trial for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, free of charge. Dolsen was requested to contact relatives of Ruby and advise them of this offer of Gibson's services in representing Ruby.

Document # 124-10170-10064 is a copy of document # 124-10006-1342.

Document # 124-10184-10256 has 6 pages. It has 9 postponements, all informant symbol numbers. The first part is a two page airtel. It is from SAC, Cincinnati to SAC's Dallas, New York, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. It says it encloses 8 copies for the Bureau and for the field offices 2 copies each of an LHM covering visits of Arnold Johnson to the Ohio Valley Area. The field offices will be provided with the informants' reports. This airtel tells us there were three informants. On December 2, 1963 informant advised that on November 20, 1963 Gene Kuhn, stated that Anthony Krchmarek, head of the Communist Party in Ohio and an Arnold, last name not given, [presumably Johnson] had recently visited her. (*This makes no sense. Gene Kuhn is telling the source that people visited her? This is what the document says when you remove a lot of commas. Is Kuhn trying to get an alibi for his friends, "Hey, source, if anybody asks Krchmarek and 'last name not given' if they were at your place last night say okay, okay?", or is the writer of this report an idiot?*) "She did not give the date of this visit." (*Well, how could she if had to be told what happened in her house by Kuhn?*) She stated that Krchmarek and Arnold, last name not given, spoke to a group of students at Bethany College and that after the meeting they were invited to a cocktail party where Socialism was discussed until the small hours of the

morning. Also on December 2, 1963 another source dated the Bethany College event as occurring on November 15, 1963. Johnson and Krchmarek had stopped in Steubenville, Ohio, again on November 18, 1963 to arrange for a meeting "down the river" on December 8, 1963 and to postpone a meeting scheduled for November 22, 1963 to December 13, 1963. The report then repeats the information from document # 124-10006-1342.

Additionally the report states that Arnold Johnson gave an opinion of President Johnson, that LBJ would follow Kennedy's policies but insert many of his own. Also that LBJ would replace many in the cabinet. (*What a completely useless document. Didn't we learn a lot about the assassination from it?*)

Document # 124-10232-10345 is a copy of document # 124-10006-1342.

Document # 124-10243-10367 is another copy of document # 124-10006-1342.

Document # 124-10244-10077 is another copy of document # 124-10006-1342.

Document # 124-10230-10425 is a one page document from M.D. Crawford Jr. Actually, it is received by him. It is a cover sheet for an informant report. The actual report is not included. It is received from Mexi-118. The date of the report is 11/6/63. It states, "No INFO LOCATED RE LEE HARVEY OSWALD-Gobernacion." Under remarks there is listed "1 - 105-3702 L H Oswald (PECK)." End of Batch 4

Review of Batches 5-8 available upon request.



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A touching moment showing the president and First Lady before the

Film Recovered of Kennedy Assassination Day

CBS leads with eleven minutes of new film information bumps "Guilty Whitewater Verdicts"

Reuters New Media

Long-lost television footage of scenes before and after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been unearthed and offers intriguing new evidence in the case, experts said Tuesday.

The 45 minutes of black-and-white film has unique footage of Kennedy's [alleged] killer and poignant images of the president and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy holding hands shortly before his death.

But it does not catch Kennedy's motorcade coming under fire as it drove through downtown Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and does not find a "smoking gun" in the case that has spawned countless conspiracy theories. "Does it point to a second gunman? Not that I know of," said Gary Mack, an expert on the Kennedy assassination and archivist at the Dallas County Historical Foundation. He said he first saw the film about 15 years ago but was unable to get a copy.

He took another look at it Sunday after a Dallas woman came forward with the film clips, which had been buried under a house for years. "It doesn't significantly change history ... but it does give extra insights and new details on what happened that day," Mack told Reuters.

The footage shows police taking several initial suspects and witnesses into custody and [alleged] assassin Lee Harvey Oswald at the Dallas police station after his arrest. In another sec-

tion, police and witnesses are seen running toward a nearby rail yard to search for an assassin immediately after the shooting.

The footage also shows Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby, at a news conference

"... police and witnesses are seen running toward a nearby rail yard to search for an assassin immediately after the shooting."



with Oswald on the night of the assassination. Ruby shot Oswald to death two days later.

The Kennedys are seen holding hands in a rare public show of affection before stepping into the convertible that took them on the fateful ride through the city center.

The 16 mm footage was secretly rescued from a wastebasket at a local TV station hours after the assassination by a news photographer named Roy Cooper, who kept the original and made a copy for his best friend, Eli

Sturges.

They tried unsuccessfully to sell it secretly and the copy was stashed under Sturges' home for years. Sturges died in 1986 and Cooper died this year. Sturges' stepdaughter, Janet Veazey, came forward with the film this month after the Dallas Morning News ran a story about an independent federal board's search for pictures and records related to the assassination. She was 8 years old at the time of the assassination and told the newspaper she remembers being bored when her stepfather and his friend would close the curtains tight and watch the film.

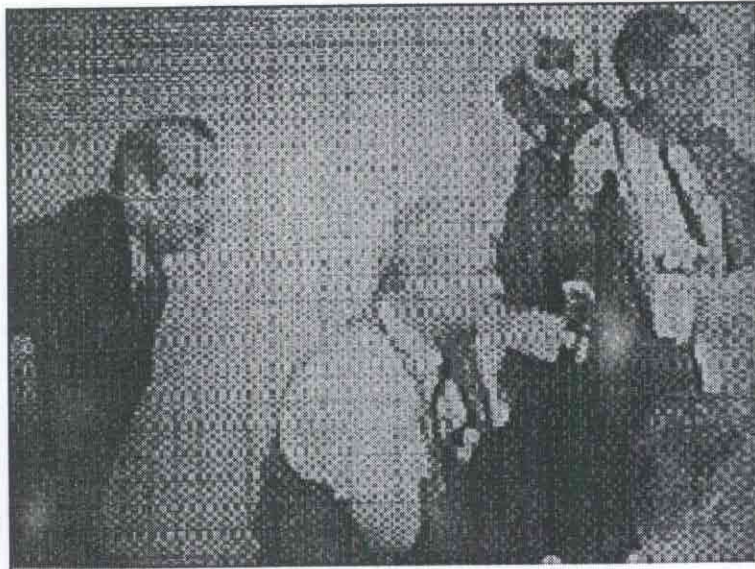
A representative for the Assassination Records Review Board flew from Washington to Dallas last week to pick up the film. The newspaper said the footage has been transferred to videotape at the National Archives, where it will be added to the JFK Collection and made accessible to researchers and the public.

Officials at the review board confirmed that they have the footage but made no further comment on Tuesday. Mack said about two minutes of the clips were used in 1988 in a British conspiracy-oriented television documentary called "The Man Who Killed Kennedy" that suggested the president may have been assassinated by French gangsters.

While the new evidence does not immediately solve the many mysteries of Kennedy's death, it is still very

important, Mack said. "There might be somebody visible who we don't recognize as being important now, but who future historians might identify further down the line."

The footage also shows Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby, at a news conference with Oswald on the night of the assassination.



Dallas Morning News

Jack Ruby at the Friday night press conference.

Tom Samoluk, ARRB Press Officer comments on the "New Film":

"The donation of this film was what we hope will become a model for others who have papers, films, or photos in their private possession. This family did the honorable thing. They essentially donated this film to the American people and to the world.

CBS became aware of the film before the ARRB did by way of Dallas reporter, Mark Wrolstad. Wrolstad, who is married to a CBS producer, wrote a very good article requesting materials from the public. So when Mrs. Veazey (Cooper's daughter) came forward, she contacted Wrolstad. Thus, CBS got the film first.

Dan Rather was the most excited reporter involved. CBS and the Dallas Morning News cooperated with the Board and did not interfere with our efforts to acquire the film for the JFK Collection.

Since then, we have gotten few other leads on other films, but nothing has come through."

Editor's Note:

Archives II does not yet have the film. Conversation and correspondence between Samoluk with both Debra Conway and Joe Backes

Excerpts from the article "Missing Pieces" calling for photos or films

by Dallas Morning News staff writer Mark Wrolstad
5-3-1996

Nearly a third of a century into America's greatest murder mystery and countless conspiracy theories about who killed a president, does a "smoking gun" still lie hidden?

If evidence exists that could finally bring more definitive answers to the questions surrounding John F. Kennedy's 1963 assassination in Dallas, where is it buried?

Members of an independent federal board searching for known and unknown assassination-related records say key evidence could sit in the secret files of some government agency.

More likely, they say, it rests in a dusty shoebox in someone's attic.

Never-seen photographs or films taken in Dealey Plaza within seconds of the fatal shots almost certainly exist, said Judge Jack Tunheim, chairman of the JFK Assassination Records Review Board, who visited Dallas this week.

Photographs taken along the president's motorcade route as his limousine turned in to the downtown plaza show at least eight spectators apparently holding cameras. Any photographs they took before, during or after the Nov. 22 assassination have escaped public notice.

"These photographs that have never come forward might contain very real evidence" and could well be "absolutely critical" to history, Judge Tunheim said. "We think there are plenty more that have not surfaced."

Most intriguingly, as the president's car rounded the corner at Main and Houston streets and headed toward the old Texas School Book Depository, at least three unidentified photographers may have had the assassin's perch in their sights. They may unknowingly have captured images building's sixth floor, from which Harvey Oswald purportedly fired the fatal rifle shots.

"A lot of people have no sense of the importance and value of what [photographs] they might have," said David Marwell, the board's executive director. "I would be surprised if there weren't a number of these things that people have that they don't know they have."

The review board's top two representatives made the trip to Dallas for a goodwill meeting with officials of the Sixth Floor Museum, the exhibit operated by the Dallas County Historical Foundation.

The board, with an evidentiary mission, and the museum, whose interests are cultural and educational, say they have agreed to cooperate in any way possible and plan to exchange materials.

"I don't know if one can ever be completely assured you've gotten everything or that some critical records haven't been destroyed at some point in time," Judge Tunheim said.

Some records suggest the existence of other files, Mr. Marwell said.



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Continued from page 31

Indeed.

But the La Fontaines plunge ahead and include in the chapter notes at the back of the book: "Mrs. Connell herself, however, confirmed to Mary in March 1995 that (as she told the FBI) it was Silvia who told her she had met Oswald more than once prior to the assassination." (16)

Apparently, after selectively excerpting "out of the loop" Griffin's 4/16/64 memo, and after ignoring Dr. Einspruch's sworn testimony in 1978 about Oswald's visit to Odio being only a "one time experience," the La Fontaines now want their readers to believe that their 1995 interview with Lucille Connell has more import than all the earlier evidence. They fail to provide the substance, context or specific question(s) asked of Connell in 1995 - just a short note about "confiding" to Mary. This is supposed to supplant sworn deposition and testimony taken much closer to the actual events in Dallas?

To accord more significance to a whispered confidence (now blatantly betrayed by writing about it in the book) over the evidence on record and taken out of context -- is what the La Fontaines expect their readers and the research community to do? But what's worse, the La Fontaines mislead when they imply that after Odio told Connell her story of Oswald visiting her apartment, that Connell then called the FBI. Remember - it was the FBI that contacted Connell (not the other way around) after they met with Insua.

Although the La Fontaines had access to one of the HSCA investigators (Fonzi), and although they apparently had access to the original source documentation at the Archives (which is also available to the public), they either ignored or somehow missed important evidence that it was the reported actions of Jack Ruby just days before the assassination that actually led the FBI to Silvia Odio (in a roundabout fashion) in the first place; they ignored Dr. Einspruch's sworn testimony, that if Silvia had seen Oswald more than once - contradicting the notion that she knew him previously from several anti-Castro meetings - maybe he would have more confidence that one of the men who visited her was actually Lee Harvey Oswald; and they apparently missed the evidence on record, since 1976, that Connell did not recall Silvia ever telling her about knowing Oswald previously!

Kennedy Ripples

The obvious question that the La Fontaines should have asked themselves is: Where is the evidence that there were any anti-Castro meetings with both Oswald and Odio in attendance? And why doesn't the original source documentation support the notion that Odio lied to Connell and Einspruch about this?

This is crucial for their theory to work, yet, it doesn't seem to matter to them that there is simply not a shred of evidence. Once this house of cards collapses, the remainder of their groundless theory on Silvia Odio collapses as well. But it sadly gets worse, for if we are to ignore all the documentary evidence, what are we to accept and believe? The La Fontaines provide the answer by relying on a love story "with attitude," written by Marianne Sullivan (who surely hated Silvia Odio) to bolster their beliefs and theories that Odio and possibly Father MacChann know more about the assassination than they have revealed.

And just in case relying on this romantic novel - rather than evidence - isn't bad enough, the La Fontaines then proclaim authoritatively that this romantic fantasy *Kennedy Ripples: A True Love Story* (1994, San Clemente Press), is "a memoir despite its title."

Can this be part of the "New Evidence in the JFK Assassination" that the title of their book heralds? At this point you may begin to wonder, as I did, how the La Fontaines lost their way in the case, and how they could have made the serious mistakes they made. Were they on a deadline? Shouldn't they have interviewed Silvia Odio personally - instead of via a phone call - since she was so important to their theory as to rate an entire chapter?

Shouldn't they have used Fonzi's knowledge and original notes on his investigations of Odio, Connell and Einspruch? Where is their proof that Silvia Odio is a liar? Where is the evidence that Odio or Father MacChann know more about the assassination than they've ever revealed?

Are these answers to be found in a romantic novel? Such un-hinged logic is distressing and depressing. There is more distortion, selective use of documentation and sheer speculation in this chapter than I have ever seen from some authors that support the "official version" of the assassination. This kind of "research" hurts us all because it sets us back and confuses issues that were resolved long ago.

A Recap

Some of the resolved issues that still stand despite the efforts by the La Fontaines include:

- 1). Silvia Odio is, without a doubt, a reliable and credible witness, despite the La Fontaines' new spin, 32 plus years after the fact. Her story of the visit by Oswald and the other two strangers was corroborated by both her sister Annie and, perhaps more importantly, by her own psychiatrist, Dr. Einspruch. Under oath, Einspruch testified that he recalled her mentioning the visit of the three men before the assassination.
- 2). There were no other anti-Castro meetings with Oswald and Odio present. Dr. Einspruch's 1978 sworn HSCA deposition of Odio only seeing Oswald once clearly supports this conclusion, as do Connell's remarks to Fonzi that she didn't recall Odio telling her such a tale of knowing Oswald from previous meetings. This is an empty straw man that the La Fontaines have restuffed to support their mistaken notion that Silvia Odio is a liar. They do this to one of the few remaining living witnesses in the case rather than explore the possibility that Griffin could have simply been wrong in his memo, and that since the FBI took no notes while interviewing Lucille Connell, they could have easily gotten a detail or two wrong.
- 3). The two witnesses (Einspruch and Connell) whom the La Fontaines use to bolster their argument that Odio told a tale of knowing Oswald from seeing him at anti-Castro meetings have both either denied or negate the argument by their own comments in interviews, part of the original and primary source documentary record in this case.

In addition to the resolved issues noted above, the tactics used to try to paint Odio a liar fail miserably when the primary source documents are checked against the book. For example, the La Fontaines mischaracterize the very first FBI interview with Dr. Einspruch on 12/19/63, wherein Einspruch tells Hosty unequivocally that "Miss Odio is telling the truth and not exaggerating." They want their readers to believe Einspruch believes Odio is telling the truth about Oswald at anti-Castro meetings -- something that is not mentioned in that memo, but they are inferring what Einspruch meant (not what Hosty wrote), much the way Griffin's memo did. However, after all the Griffin confusion over the tale of Oswald at anti-Castro meetings; after Odio's July WC testimony where she once again, under oath, denied ever telling Connell or Einspruch such a tale; and after Rankin wrote to Hoover about either proving or disproving Odio's story, the FBI interrogated Dr. Einspruch once again on September 11, 1964. In that interview by SA Alphonse J. Sutkus, Sutkus claims Einspruch "expressed the opinion that if subject gave any incorrect testimony, it probably was the result of her misunderstanding the inquiries posed to her rather than a deliberate attempt to prevaricate." (17) So much for disproving Odio's story.

The La Fontaines choose to ignore this -- they need to characterize her as a liar despite the earliest FBI and WC evidence and all subsequent evidence gathered during the HSCA investigations that support her credibility.

Most importantly, however, it seems to me the La Fontaines missed a golden opportunity to tie neatly together some loose ends that many people have either forgotten about, or, could be unaware of since the FBI did not pursue them.

It was the reported actions of Jack Ruby, who, according to Mrs. Sanford Pick, came to the law office where she worked to obtain a power of attorney for his sister just days before the assassination (and days before killing Oswald), that eventually led the FBI to a very reluctant Silvia Odio. That bears repeating: It was the reported actions of Jack Ruby that eventually led the FBI to a very reluctant Silvia Odio. (18)

Odio was a reluctant witness too scared to have ever come forward on her own. So was Connell, albeit to a lesser extent. *The FBI found them.* In the days since the assassination, Silvia Odio has maintained her privacy. She has not profited in any way from the tragic assassination. Always fragile, she simply wants to be left alone. I can only imagine how she will react to the La Fontaines joining others who have called her a liar over the years. Sadly, she may feel confirmation, once again, after all these years, that the American people don't really want to know the truth.

How is Silvia Odio today? According to Gaeton Fonzi, she is living a quiet life in Miami. (19)

NOTES AND SOURCES

(1) Ray and Mary La Fontaine, *The Washington Post*, Outlook, "The Fourth Tramp" Sunday, August 7, 1974.

(2) Ray and Mary LaFontaine, *Oswald Talked*, 237

(3) Leibeler memorandum to Rankin, cited by Fonzi, p. 114: Fonzi comments: "One month later, with the Report already in galleys, the Odio incident was still a critical concern for staffers."

(4) See Odio Warren Commission testimony, July 22, '64. Subsequent to her testifying, the FBI once again questioned her and Silvia, "emphatically denied that she ever told Mrs. C. L. Connell that Lee Harvey Oswald had made talks to small groups of Cuban refugees in Dallas." See FBI Report DL 100-10461, 202 (9/9/64).

(5) Interview with Gaeton Fonzi, 4/26/96. Also, see HSCA Doc. 180-10101-10283, Box 233, Memorandum dated 4/5/76, from Gaeton Fonzi to Dave Marston.

(6) HSCA Sworn Testimony of Dr. Burton C. Einspruch, 7/11/78, p. 28. HSCA Doc. 180-10071-10440.

(7) WC Doc. 179-40002-10171, Griffin memo to Slawson dated 4/16/64, 3 pages; Box 17B.

(8) Ray and Mary La Fontaine, *Oswald Talked*, (Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA, 1996) p. 17, hereafter cited as LaFontaine with page number.

(9) HSCA Doc. 180-10101-10283, Box 233, Memorandum dated 4/5/76, from Gaeton Fonzi to Dave Marston.

(10) *Ibid*.

(11) *Oswald Talked*, 216, citing Seth Kantor: see note 18, 421.

(12) Interview with Gaeton Fonzi, 4/26/96. Fonzi told me that the La Fontaines called him several times over the past few years, though he could not recall any specific questions they had on Odio, which is strange since Fonzi was the HSCA investigator who researched and interviewed Silvia Odio, and certainly could have helped them in their "research" on her.

(13) *Oswald Talked*

(14) HSCA Doc. 180-10101-10283, Box 233, Memorandum dated 4/5/76, from Gaeton Fonzi to Dave Marston.

(15) Since, according to Connell, the FBI "made no notes at the time, so whatever they wrote down after they left I'm not sure would be a hundred percent correct," it is very easy to understand how confusion might have ensued with reporting the story later, from memory, as it were. Even Connell acknowledges this in her interview with Fonzi. See HSCA Doc. 180-10101-10283, Box 233.

(16) La Fontaine, p. 426, endnote 43.

(17) FBI (WC) Doc. 105-9958-164, 9/11/64, Einspruch interview by SA Alphonse J. Sutkus.

(18) See HSCA, Vol. X, p. 34, n. 126.

(19) Interview with Gaeton Fonzi, 4/26/96.

Fonzi, continued from page 36

opinion, and I did more interviewing of them than they did of me. They made no notes at the time, so whatever they wrote down after they left, I'm not sure would be 100% correct.'

SB: Interesting. So, let's see if I've got this right. She has a friend who works in a law firm in Dallas, who said that Ruby came in about a week before killing Oswald to draw up a document, a legal document, to give power of attorney to his sister. That about sums it up?

GF: Right.

SB: And the FBI had this?

GF: That's what she told the FBI.

SB: If what she is saying is true, that the FBI took no notes, this is what they're saying Connell said ...

GF: By the way, this is how, when she was talking to the FBI, she obviously brought up the Odio story. The FBI, according to her, didn't approach her about Odio at all. They approached her about Ruby. Because this is what she had told her friend, the school teacher. This is according to Lucille, right.

SB: And the FBI supposedly has the name of her friend?

GF: Yeah ...

SB: This is the way WC Investigator Griffin wrote to WC attorney David Slawson after interviewing C. L. Connell, on Monday, April 13, 1964. And, apparently, according to this memo which never directly quotes Connell, Griffin claims that Connell reported to him that Odio told her that she had seen Oswald at several anti-Castro rallies.

As I say, he never directly quotes Connell as saying that, but, do you see how far apart that is from what you've just told me?

GF: Yeah. Well, Odio denied that also to the FBI. There's an FBI report, I have it here and I'm reading it now, where she emphatically denied ever having told Mrs. Connell that Lee Harvey Oswald ever made talks to small groups of Cuban refugees in Dallas.

SB: The point that I like to make on this, is that first of all, if that ever happened, there has been no witness that has ever come forward that saw Odio and Oswald present at ANY anti-Castro rallies - and you would think there would have been somebody that would have seen it. There's not one shred of evidence to prove that and I almost thought at one time that that was a red herring put out there, but by whom?

Dr. Einspruch thought, at least according to WC Investigator Griffin again, that he had heard Silvia tell him that she had known Oswald and that she had seen Oswald at several anti-Castro rallies, but then of course by the time you interviewed Dr. Einspruch, that wasn't the case. So, I mean there seems to be a red herring and I'm just trying to figure out who put that red herring out there.

GF: Yeah, that's true. There's so much conflicting evidence there and yet people who supposedly provided this information, denied that they did. You know, so, somehow this gets into the FBI reports. Now how does it get in there - that's a good question.

SB: This bothers me because of course, in the La Fontaine book, they have jumped on this, on this confusion, this red herring, and they're asserting that 'of course Odio is fabricating this whole thing,' 'of course Odio saw Oswald at these anti-Castro rallies,' 'that was an outburst made by Odio otherwise how could both Connell and Einspruch have relayed the same thing unless Odio had really said

that?

And it is an interesting argument to make until you say, well okay, where's the proof of these so-called anti-Castro rallies where both Odio and Oswald were present? Who saw them at these meetings? Where's the proof? Of course there is none.

And yet the La Fontaines use this in their book in Chapter 9, "It Takes a Woman to Know," as a concrete example of Odio telling these lies to Connell and Einspruch. And it just tends to confuse things even more. But they use this to support their theory that Odio had fabricated the entire Oswald episode about visiting her at her front door ... what she really meant was that she had known Oswald all along. Any reaction to that, to they're using this confusion to bolster their theory?

GF: Well, I think it's exactly what you're saying: they're using it to make their point. But to me, they're building strawmen to knock down. And I don't know why they're doing it. The whole point, this doesn't make any sense. And the whole implication that the Kennedy assassination came off as a result of the DRE being upset because Kennedy pulled back support for their new invasion, just a couple weeks before the assassination, and all of a sudden the assassination comes off with just a couple of weeks of planning? I really have to re-read the book, actually, because it's not very clearly written; it's loaded I believe, with a lot of misdirection.

GW: Gordo Salvat?

GF: Yeah, that's the point of the book.

GW: That the DRE killed Kennedy?

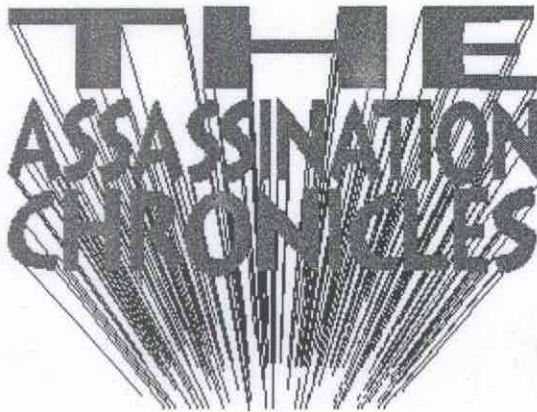
SB: That, and the gun-running operation that they and Silvia Odio were allegedly involved with, yeah, and Odio knows more about the plot than she's telling us ...

GF: And Odio's real affiliation is with the DRE, they say, and not with JURE.

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GW: (laughs) I haven't bought the book yet. I'll probably wait until it goes on discount, now... (laughter) The DRE, ha! The only one on the payroll there was Gordo Salvat.

GF: Funny, how they used all these big fat guys like Hemming, El Gordo, all involved with the assassination ... if they were all on the grassy knoll ...

GW: They were on the grassy knoll. (laughter)

SB: We're getting a little off track, here. (more laughter)

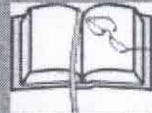
Part 2 in the Fall issue

*(copies of the Fonzi documents
will be included in Part 2.)*

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Photos, continued from page 10

career. Ball is questioning him about the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle:

Mr. Ball. Will you look at page 138B of your notes. Was that the time you asked him about the rifle?

Mr. Fritz. 6 o'clock?

Mr. Ball. Yes.

Mr. Fritz. That is when I showed an enlarged picture, yes, sir...(a nonresponsive answer!)

Was Captain Fritz merely a confused old man, instead of the best homicide investigator of the DPD? Or was his first testimony, using his notes, correct? How could he have shown Oswald the photos before they were officially found?

Even if he was confused, consider the time line. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon rush traffic, the trip from Irving to downtown police headquarters would take at least 30 minutes. After the unloading and sorting and booking of the evidence, a decision is made to send the snapshots to the lab for enlargement, which would take at least 30 to 45 minutes; it probably took even longer than this. Yet Fritz, in his second version, says he showed an enlarged picture to Oswald at 6 o'clock.

Do their own words trap the Dallas police regarding the fake Backyard Photos? Or is it a case of Keystone Kops?



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Submission Guidelines

By George Michael Evica

When submitting a letter or review which refutes or points out errors in another work published in the Assassination Chronicles, please argue the evidence, not the with author and follow the guidelines listed below as they apply.

♦ In submitting original work, a paper copy of the article is required

* in the desired format and on PC floppy

disk**. If applicable, one set of high quality illustrations is required, numbered to correspond with captions***; black and white is preferred. Author's name must be clearly identified on the title page with address and telephone number. Articles must be double-spaced with ample margins (at least one inch on all sides) on standard (8 1/2" x 11") paper.

♦ References are to be numbered sequentially within the text and appear in the order cited at the conclusion of the article. Page numbers must be given in books, cited as references.

Examples:

Book

(1) Josiah Thompson, Six Seconds in Dallas (New York: Berkley, 1976), pp. 62-63, hereafter cited as Thompson with page number.

(2) Thompson, 64

Magazine

(1) Dick Russell, "Three Witnesses," New Times June 24, 1977, p.32; hereafter cited as Russell with page number.

(2) Russell, 32

* Do not use special fonts or layouts in the computer text: use simple text without indents, tabs, lines, or graphics. Formatting will be adopted by following your paper copy. Any graphs, tables, charts, etc. should be supplied as separate files on the disk and on a clean, high quality paper.

** Email submissions are acceptable in place of floppy disk. Please convert files to ASCII, then save as "Text".

*** Captions for all illustrations should be listed in order, double-spaced. Note photos to be returned.

Another Lone Nut?

Confession of an assassin: The murder of JFK

In a voice laced with a thick Chicago accent, James E. Files (a.k.a. James Sutton) very matter-of-factly takes viewers on a tour of the dark world of military special operatives, organized crime, Cuban exiles in training, the CIA and other government agencies. Among other revelations, Files offers new insight into the Lee Harvey Oswald myths, perhaps dispelling them for the first time ever. And he ultimately relates, in graphic detail, the plans for the murder, first conceived in Chicago over six months before the actual assassination.

Files calmly weaves together involved figures from Washington, Chicago and Dallas, along with details about the motorcade routes, fail-safe and getaway plans, Secret Service credentials and high powered weaponry—the triggers that ended America's sense of its own innocence.

The confession is the result of an exhaustive independent investigation to find the true killers of President John F. Kennedy. Launched by Houston private investigator Joe West in 1989, the search yielded three years of disappointments and dead ends, until West received a tip from an FBI agent who asked to remain nameless. The tip led him to Joliet State Penitentiary and James E. Files, who was serving a 50-year sentence for shooting an Illinois police officer. Slowly and meticulously, West established a relationship with Files, and after months of personal visits and detailed correspondence, Files began to reveal his role in the JFK assassination. Files was nearing a full confession when West suddenly passed away in 1993. Although it took 13 months after the investigator's death, on March 22, 1994, West's associates finally videotaped an interview with Files.

FILES SAYS:

- ◆ He was paid \$30,000. dollars to kill the president.
- ◆ He and a Mafia gangster were the true assassins.
- ◆ He was the backup gunman to mobster Charles "Chuck" Nicoletti
- ◆ Lee Oswald was a decoy who never fired a shot.
- ◆ He fired from the grassy knoll.
- ◆ He developed a personal hostility to Kennedy after the Bay of Pigs debacle.
- ◆ He has no idea who ordered the assassination.
- ◆ He says he met with Jack Ruby to pick up fake secret service identification and for a walk to "case" Dealey Plaza.
- ◆ He and Nicoletti were under orders not to hit the First Lady.
- ◆ Nicoletti, Rosselli and Giancana were all murdered between 1975 and 1977 leaving no one to corroborate Files' story.
- ◆ He said one of the plotters is still alive, but refused to name him.

Comments from the Distributor

In what it considers to be the most important video document released in the company's history, Chicago-based MPI Home Video has elected to publish *Confession Of An Assassin: The Murder Of JFK*, a 76-minute video-taped interview with prisoner James E. Files. Never before shown to the public, this chilling document contains the first and only confession made by anyone involved in the killing of President John Kennedy in Dealey Plaza, Nov. 22, 1963.

MPI CEO, Waleed B. Ali remarks, "When I was first told of the confession, my initial reaction was that it couldn't be real. However, 15 minutes into the video, I felt my skin crawl. I didn't know how to react. We agonized over whether or not to release it for over two months, as we had no way of proving or disproving the content. Yet it was so compelling, that we finally felt that America had the right to see it and decide for itself."

On May 27, MPI decided to make the release of *Confession of An Assassin* its top priority, and rush the 76-minute interview to the public, uncut and unedited, with no editorial additions.

Comments From Researcher Tom M. Hudson

Note: On behalf of the internet JFK conspiracy discussion group, JFK Research-Share, Hudson wrote a letter to prisoner James Files asking for more information than was presented on the video. Files' response is printed on the facing page.

This video will be discussed thoroughly by researchers because it contains so many specific explanations of the JFK assassination methods.

James E. Files (born James Sutton January 1942) was recruited by CIA controlling officer David Atlee Philips, who became his controller in working with radical Cuban exiles for clandestine operations. Files was approached by the CIA upon his return from Laos where he had served in the 82nd U. S. Airborne Special Operations.

Files had Mob ties since his childhood, having been raised in Chicago in an Italian neighborhood where he later worked for mobster Charles Nicoletti, becoming his driver or chauffeur.

Contact us for the complete review by Tom Hudson.

Note: The video is available from JFK Lancer Resource Mail Order for \$19.98.

M. Hudson Sunday
3^o June
1996

J.F.K.

Dear Mike,

I just a few lines in regards to your letter. Thank you for taking the time to write me.

I wish that I could be of some help to you and your group. But at this time I'm not able to say a whole lot as of my obligation to the people that produced the Video.

You see, there is to be a second Video interviewing other people that are still alive. Such as the Pilot, "Robert Plunklee..." that for the plane in with a team to about the assassination that morning.

Let me explain, in the Video, I stated that I would give up no one alive in Government or the crime family, as I will put no one in jail. also, I refused to involve the C.I.A.

But on Nov. 18th 1994 in Dallas, TX. Robert Plunklee testified before the Assassination Records Review Board to his part in the Assassination. Robert and other parties were granted immunity to testify. A lot of people have been given immunity on this ~~J.F.K.~~ J.F.K. thing but I am not one of them.

I thank for the offer of protection and wanting to look out for me. But that is not necessary. I have no

as I did inside a long time ago. Now every morning I wake up in just an added bomb.

After they release their second Video, if you wish to write me at that time, then I will try to send you some answers, that you may not have. But until then, I will honor their request.

I thank you,

Sincerely

James Hudson

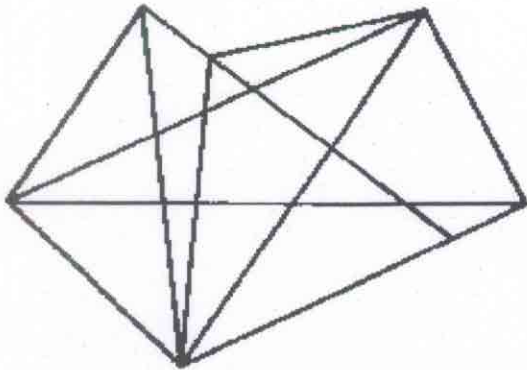
By the way, once I secure my freedom, I have promised to turn over actual proof, such as documents, papers, etc.

The paper will be tested to prove that it's from that era; plus, the handwriting on some will be checked.

Letter to Tom Hudson from James Files, used by permission.

The Chronicles Puzzle

Studying the JFK assassination case takes keen observation. Develop your skills by counting the triangles in this diagram.



Solution to March Puzzle:

This tour is impossible, for:

- at every crossroad but one, an even number of roads meet.
- at one crossroad, seven roads meet. you can use the seventh road to enter or leave, but not both.

Looks like this puzzle was a false trail!!



Colby's Last Goodbye

In the June 3, 1996, edition of *Time* magazine, p.16, is a small article entitled, "Colby's Video Goodbye."

Just days before his fatal canoe accident, the former CIA director gave one of his last interviews to the CD-ROM magazine *Blender*. The June/July issue offers a grainy video, recorded at a sidewalk cafe in Washington, in which Colby ruminates on Oswald-as-Commie-spy stories, bullet trajectories and JFK director Oliver Stone. Colby's conclusion: "You have to look at [the assassination] suspiciously," but there's no definitive proof anyone but Oswald was involved. Afterward, *Blender* reporter James Gordon Meek thanks Colby for his candor: "You talk about the Kennedy thing more than anyone alive."

Hmmmm. Mr. Stone?

Sent by Joe Backes. Graphic by Richard Bartholomew.

The CD-ROM "Spycraft: The Great Game"



A new game created by ex-Director of the CIA, William Colby and KGB Major Oleg Kalugin has some interesting contents. Most games use some sort of rules, tools, or points to win. This one uses actual spy techniques.

An example is the K.A.T., short for Kennedy Assassination Tool. Your first mission is to solve the assassination of a right-wing candidate for the Russian presidency and you are given K.A.T. as your resource. *Very interesting.*

With K.A.T., you find bullet holes and trace them back to the assassin. To familiarize the player with the K.A.T. concept, the game gives a history of the Kennedy assassination. Here are excerpts from the text: "Kennedy Assassination Tool—A History. An unknown sniper takes a life. In the chaos that follows clues disappear. Facts are lost. If only the event could be recreated.

The K.A.T. makes it possible. Following President Kennedy's assassination on November 22, 1963, the CIA's Department of Covert Operations worked with the Warren Commission to solve the case of the "magic bullet."

CIA ballistics experts, together with NASA acousticians mobilized the now primitive surveillance technologies of U-2 spy planes to establish all possible trajectories—from Dealey Plaza, the Grassy Knoll, the School Book Depository. The technological advancements became known as the Kennedy Assassination Tools."

As a player, you are not told what the actual conclusion was when using this K.A.T. in Dealey Plaza. And even more interesting is the demo sequence used which has a two-story building very similar to the Texas School Book Depository.

An assassin is placed in this building. (The similarity to where Robert Groden places a possible assassin in his analysis of the damaged Dillard photograph and where one is placed in this demo sequence is striking. The posture, clothing, and positioning of the assassin is remarkably similar.) But, of course, this is only a game.

This is only the beginning, so there may be more surprises to follow. One item of interest is that the game offers Internet access. You can "hotlink" to authentic intelligence web sites, download real-time news updates, chat live with other players, post and view messages, and participate in live online conferences with intelligence veterans. If you want to know more about the Kennedy assassination you can initialize the weblink connection which will link you to the following web sites:

- 1.) Declassified Documents Page
- 2.) The JFK Assassination Home Page
- 3.) Probe's Page
- 4.) Fair Play Online Magazine Page
- 5.) The Assassination Chronicles Page
- 6.) Case Closed Page

Warning, to those who will buy this: Read the label. Chances are you will have to upgrade your computer software to play. You also must have a "Millions of colors" monitor. Mac owners must have at least System 7.5.1. to play. (Mac system upgrades are available to download from <http://www.info.apple.com>. This will actually bring your Mac operating system up to a 7.5.3.) Game is Windows compatible also.

JFK Lancer Resource Mail Order



SOFTCOVER RESEARCH MANUSCRIPTS:

325. **COMPELLING EVIDENCE: NEW LOOK AT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY**, by Michael Griffith. (1996) 70 pages. Research notes and essays from one of the most respected researchers on the case. \$15.95 2nd Printing

323. **EYE WITNESS**: by Ed Hoffman & Ron Friedrich. (1996) 50 pages plus Hoffman a deaf-mute saw strange happenings behind the fence in Dealey Plaza and had a glimpse of horror in the limousine as it passed underneath him. Ed Hoffman's FBI files are included. \$15.95

DOCUMENTS:



d100. **Batch 4-8** from the Assassination Records Review Board. Over 1000 pages of documents released in December 1995. \$100

d101. **Dallas Police Archives**. Miscellaneous papers released in 1995. Witness statements, Garrison Investigation, Lee Oswald, Evidence, Roscoe White, and Jack Ruby. \$20.00 (Spiral Bound)

d102. **CIA documents on Richard Case Nagell**. Anna Marie Kuhns-Walko has generously donated this collection to be included in the Lancer catalog. Fascinating material on a triple agent who may have had knowledge that Lee Oswald worked for a government agency. \$24.95. (Spiral Bound)

d103. **1994 Gaeton Fonzi interview**. Compliments of Gordon Winslow and Gaeton Fonzi, we offer this extensive interview. Mr Fonzi was an investigator for the House Assassinations Committee and author of the book, The Last Investigation. You will be intrigued by his comments. Great interview. \$5.00

270. **CIA Targets Fidel**. (softback book) It contains the 1967 CIA Inspector General's Report on plots to assassinate Fidel Castro that is reprinted as it was declassified in 1994. \$12.00

d106. **THE DAN SMOOT REPORT**, Dan Smoot, now deceased, was formerly an FBI agent who left the agency to begin a campaign against government corruption and communism. On December 2, 1963, the newsletter was devoted to the Kennedy assassination, becoming the very first publication to address a conspiracy and who might be involved. It has now become a collector's item. Reproduction of the original 12/2/63 issue for \$3.00.

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cd131. **World Encyclopedia of Organized Crime** by Zane Publishing. In 28 volumes covering 4,500 hypertext pages, with more than 600 famous law enforcers and organized crime figures. Movie and over 1,000 photos.

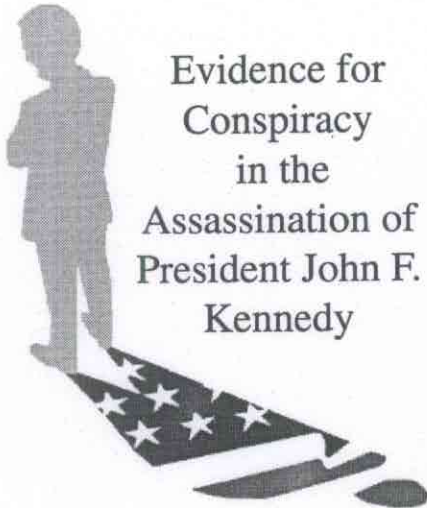
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