

Suit Filed In Federal Court Claims:



MEMBERS of Warren Commission (from left): Rep. Gerald Ford, Rep. Hale Boggs, Sen. Richard Russell, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Sen. John Cooper, John McCloy, Allen Dulles and counsel J. Lee Rankin.

Warren Commission Covered Up Plot to Kill JFK in Chicago 20 Days Before His Death in Dallas

Twenty days before President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, four men planned to kill the President at a football game in Chicago — according to charges made in a lawsuit filed in a federal court. The plotters, the suit claims, included Lee Harvey Oswald, a man who was an amazing double of Oswald, and possibly a member of the U.S. Secret Service.

But evidence of this earlier plot and all the stunning implications growing out of it have been deliberately covered up by the Warren Commission, says Sherman H. Skolnick in his suit.

Skolnick, a 39-year-old invalid who has become widely known over the past 12 years for his legal battles in Chicago area courts, is demanding that the National Archives in Washington reveal the details of the plan to murder JFK in Chicago.

Skolnick's suit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, claims the full story is known to certain federal authorities, but that the National Archives is suppressing all facts relating to the Chicago death plot of Nov. 2, 1963.

"This is the best-documented suit I've ever filed," Skolnick said. "I believe it is the first legal action ever taken to open up the Warren Commission files to the public."

Some of Skolnick's past legal actions have been thrown out of court.

But others have been highly successful — often to the embarrassment of high public officials.

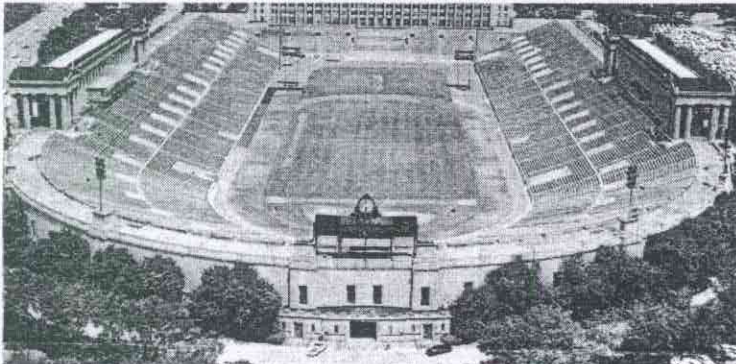
One Skolnick suit forced re-apportionment of Chicago's 50 alderman wards. Other actions by the Chicago man turned up several conflict-of-interest situations involving federal judges — including Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In his suit against the National Archives, which preserves valuable public documents, he claims the support of ex-Secret Service agent Abraham Bolden, one of the agents assigned to guard President Kennedy on his visit to Chicago.

After JFK's assassination, Bolden, the first Negro Secret Service man ever to guard a President, was convicted of trying to sell a government document to a counterfeiter and sent to prison.

Skolnick claims the charge was trumped-up merely to keep Bolden, now free on parole, from testifying to the Warren Commission about "Secret Service laxity, insobriety and other matters in respect to the assassination."

In his suit, Skolnick quotes Bolden as saying: "I have evidence that a member of the Secret Service had a part in the planning of the assassina-



PLANNED MURDER SITE: Skolnick claims the plotters intended to kill JFK at the Army-Air Force football game at Chicago's Soldier Field.



CRUSADING CITIZEN: Sherman Skolnick has filed suit to make the National Archives reveal details of plot to murder JFK in Chicago.

tion. Someone — an agent — could be indicted for it."

He promised to bring out more data at the trial, a date for which has not yet been set.

Skolnick contends that both the Chicago police and the Secret Service were fully aware that an assassination plot existed in Chicago during President Kennedy's visit.

"All Secret Service agents in Chicago were shown four photos of the men allegedly involved in the plot or plots," Skolnick's suit says.

"As a result of surveillance, the plot

or plots, was thought to be genuine."

Among those involved, the suit claims, "were a person known as Thomas Arthur Vallee, a possible double for a person known as Lee Harvey Oswald, and three or four others including Lee Harvey Oswald, or a person using such name . . ."

Skolnick says the plotters, who intended to kill the President at the Army-Air Force football game at Chicago's Soldier Field on November 2, were thwarted by the activities of a man named Daniel Groth.

Groth, whom the suit describes as a man known to "hang around" the Chicago Secret Service office, served as a key witness against Vallee, the alleged Oswald double, when Vallee was arrested on November 2 on an "unlawful use of weapon" charge.

Vallee was stopped by Chicago police on a traffic violation and officers found a large knife in his car.

The illegal weapon charge was ultimately dropped and Vallee paid only a \$5 fine for the traffic violation.

But Skolnick's suit maintains that Vallee's timely arrest broke up the planned attempt on JFK's life. The suit claims that, on November 3, the day after his arrest, Vallee was interrogated by a federal official about his relationship with Lee Harvey Oswald.

Skolnick alleges that certain docu-

ments in the National Archives reveal that Vallee drove a car to Chicago which was registered to Oswald and that Vallee may have been the actual recipient of the rifle used by Oswald in the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas. The gun was ordered from a Chicago mail-order firm.

The Chicago crusader also wants former Secret Service agent Bolden's story told in full.

Bolden was arrested by fellow Secret Service operatives on May 18, 1964, just as he was attempting to contact J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the Warren Commission.

Bolden was subsequently hustled off to prison and was not allowed to testify.

Skolnick alleges that Bolden's testimony might show that the Secret Service was not only lax and careless in protecting the President's life, but that one of its own agents might actually have been a conspirator in the assassination plot.

Skolnick demands that the entire Warren Commission report "be declared void" and that the National Archives be forced by law to release "all suppressed documents, papers and exhibits in relation to the Chicago plot or plots to assassinate President Kennedy."

As chairman of a group called the Citizens' Committee to Clean Up the Courts, Skolnick insists he will push his legal action all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary.

"I never give up until I exhaust all possible legal remedies," Skolnick said.



SECRET SERVICE AGENT Abraham Bolden was assigned to guard President Kennedy on his Chicago visit.

New Evidence In JFK Assassination Debunks Findings of The Warren Commission

Alfred A. (Al) Chapman first met Lee Harvey Oswald six months before President Kennedy's assassination when Oswald was registered as "O.H. Lee" at the Dallas motel where Chapman was a clerk.

Only after JFK's death did Chapman realize who the mysterious "Mr. Lee" was and recall how friendly he had been with certain militant Cubans embittered by the President's role in the Bay of Pigs disaster.

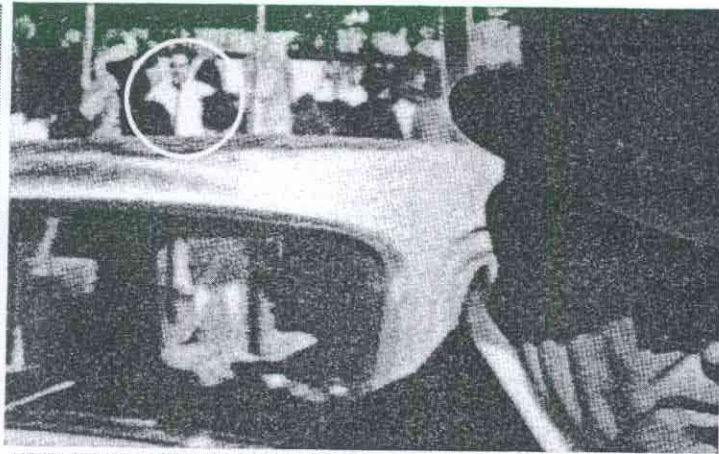
Chapman felt strongly that a conspiracy might have been involved in the assassination. Dissatisfied with the findings of the Warren Commission, he decided to launch his own fact-finding inquiry into the case as a private citizen.

Chapman's lingering doubts have been bolstered by former President Johnson's newly expressed doubts concerning official findings on the "motivations and connections" of Lee Harvey Oswald. Johnson has expressed strong reservations about the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald was a "single assassin" acting alone.

For six years, Chapman has questioned scores of people, sifted hundreds of pieces of evidence, and heard dozens of theories about "what really happened" in Dallas on that tragic day — Nov. 22, 1963.

Out of all this research and investigation, Chapman located three people whose evidence and testimony cast grave doubt on the Commission's report.

Here, for the first time, Chapman tells his story — the shocking story of his three witnesses — exclusively for ENQUIRER readers.



NEVER-BEFORE-PUBLISHED PHOTO: This picture, an enlargement of a section of the photo at right, shows white-shirted young man (circled) who the author and the accused assassin's mother believe is Oswald.

By AL CHAPMAN

Lee Harvey Oswald was not the "lone, unaided" assassin of President John F. Kennedy — and the Warren Commission Report which describes Oswald that way is a giant, unforgivable hoax.

Oswald did not assassinate President Kennedy by himself. And he was not the killer of Dallas policeman J.D. Tippitt at all.

Although he was almost certainly a co-conspirator in the tragic events of Nov. 22, 1963, Oswald was probably just a dupe — a handy, obvious scapegoat for somebody else.

These are startling assertions, I know. But after six years of exhaustive investigation as a private citizen, I am convinced that I have learned the truth.

And I believe I have gathered enough solid evidence to prove what I say — evidence that the Warren Commission totally ignored, including:

- A bullet mark at the assassination site that could not have been made by a shot from the Texas School Book Depository, where Oswald allegedly lurked as a lone assassin.

- A photograph supporting a police officer's claim — shoved aside by the Warren Commission — that Oswald was picked up by a station wagon in Dealey Plaza minutes after JFK was shot, and that he did not flee on foot, by bus and by taxi as the Commission concluded.

- A witness to the slaying of Officer Tippitt who says the slayer was definitely not Oswald, and whose conflicting testimony has long been hushed-up by the Warren Commission.

These are facts, not fiction. And they prove conclusively that, at best, the report of the Warren Commission is a blundering document filled with glaring errors. At worst, it is an outrageously deliberate distortion of the truth — and perhaps a more shocking black mark on our history than the assassination itself.

The Commission insists that just three shots were fired — all by Oswald and all from the sixth floor of the School Book Depository — and that two of these struck the distant, moving target at which he aimed. The third bullet, although never found, was assumed to have struck a nearby street curb, a flying concrete fragment of which caused minor injuries to one bystander.

But the identification of Oswald as the lone assassin and the School Book Depository as the origin of all the shots rests largely on the testimony before the Commission



ASSASSINATED: President John F. Kennedy's tragic death on Nov. 22, 1963, shocked the world.

of just one witness — Howard L. Brennan, a bespectacled man with an admitted visual defect who was unable to pick Oswald out of a police lineup and who even had trouble seeing an Oswald stand-in in a sixth-floor window from street level.

It should be remembered, however, that there were hundreds of other eyewitnesses to the fatal shooting of the President and the wounding of Texas Governor John Connally, many of whom thought there were more than three shots and many of whom disagreed as to the direction from which the shots came.

One expert eyewitness was Dallas Police Officer J.W. Foster, whose post along the railroad tracks at the top of the Triple Underpass gave him an unexcelled vantage point from which to view the assassination and the panorama of confusion that followed.

Foster is certain that at least four shots — not three — were fired. He is equally certain that one of those shots could not have come from the School Book Depository.

He told the Warren Commission about the fourth bullet, but his testimony was completely discounted.

When Foster found out about my interest in the assassination, he agreed to take me to Dealey Plaza, retrace his steps of that tragic November day and show me what he had found.

We went to the spot where a bullet



LEE OSWALD
Warren Report names him as assassin who killed JFK.



MRS. M. OSWALD
Says man circled in photo above, left, is her son.

had slammed into a concrete curb on the south side of Main Street, one of the three major roadways bisecting Dealey Plaza, leaving a white gash in the curb. It was near here that James Tague, a Dallas auto salesman, had been struck in the cheek by a concrete splinter from the curb. His story was told in an April 1968 issue of *The ENQUIRER* in which he recounted the trouble he had getting the Warren Commission to look at the damaged curb in the first place.

A short distance to the east where Tague had been standing when he became the "third victim" of the shooting that day, Foster paused again.

He pointed to an apron of concrete surrounding a metal manhole cover at our feet. Etched into the surface of the concrete was an oblong hole.

"That hole was fresh when I came upon it the day of the assassination," Foster told me. "It seems obvious to me that it was made by a bullet."

Photos I had taken of the hole last month were confirmed by Foster as showing the same groove he first saw on the day of the assassination. Reproduced at top right of this page, they show the hole in the concrete was not a mere nick, as a bullet might have made if it had descended at a steep angle and bounced. It was more of a long, narrow groove, suggesting a firing trajectory much more parallel to the ground.

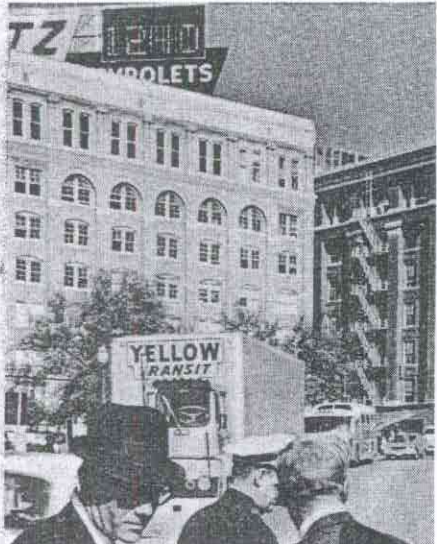
Even more startling was the fact that, by sighting down the groove toward the direction from which the bullet had come, there was no way the eye could line up the School Book Depository with the mark.

Like an accusing finger, the gash pointed well to the right of the depository, toward the intersection of Elm and Houston Streets, where three other buildings overlook the scene.

In official testimony on April 9, 1964,



STATION W
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AGON, beside bus at right, approaches to pick up Osceup of this photo at left), Chapman claims. In this view also, the clock atop the Texas School Book Depository is 12:40 p.m., just 10 minutes after JFK was shot.

Foster told the Warren Commission of moving down from his vantage point on the railroad tracks a few moments after the shots were fired, to see if he could find where any of them hit.

Warren Commission assistant counsel Joseph A. Ball asked Foster if he found anything and Foster replied: "Yes sir."

"Did you see any marks on the street in any place?" Ball asked.

"No, a manhole cover," Foster responded. "It was hit. They (whoever was shooting) caught the manhole cover right at the corner and . . ."

"You saw a mark on a manhole cover, did you?" Ball interrupted.

"Yes sir," said Foster. Despite all this, however, Foster told me: "This mark was ignored by the Warren Commission."

If a fourth shot was fired, and if it came from somewhere other than Oswald's sixth-floor perch in the depository building, as Foster's evidence shows, then there was somebody else shooting at the JFK motorcade that day.

Foster's ignored evidence proves, in short, that Oswald had at least one accomplice.

And the next key piece of evidence I uncovered offers further proof that Oswald did not carry out his dirty work "alone and unaided." It also shows that Foster was not the only trained police officer whose expert eyewitness testimony was brushed off by the Warren Commission.

In an official statement to Commission assistant counsel David W. Belin on April 1, 1964, Dallas County Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig told of seeing a man fitting Oswald's description get into a light-colored Rambler station wagon and ride away from the assassination site some 14 minutes after the shooting.

Craig said he wanted to question both the slender young man who got hurriedly into the car and the man who was driving it.

Unfortunately, he never got the chance. Before he could reach the station wagon, it pulled away and was quickly swallowed up in the westbound Elm Street traffic — heading toward the Oak Cliff area, where Oswald was later captured.

But Craig got a good look at the slender young man — good enough to recognize him later that day when he saw him being interrogated as an assassination suspect



IMPORTANT EVIDENCE: Chapman (left) and James Tague, third man injured in the JFK slaying, examine mark on concrete apron of manhole believed to have been made by a bullet.

at police headquarters.

Craig told me that at 5:30 p.m. on November 22, he went to the office of Dallas Homicide Captain Will Fritz and found him questioning a slender young man named Lee Harvey Oswald.

Craig recalled Fritz asking Oswald about "this station wagon." Oswald told Fritz that Mrs. Ruth Paine, a friend of Oswald's wife, owned a Rambler station wagon, then snapped: "Don't try to tie her into this. She had nothing to do with it."

"All we're trying to do is find out what happened," Fritz told Oswald, "and this man saw you leave from the scene."

Although Fritz later denied that such an exchange took place between himself and Oswald, Craig insisted to the Warren Commission that it did. He also insisted, and still does, that the man he saw in Fritz' office was the same man he saw getting into the station wagon.

"I identified the suspect as the same person I had seen earlier," Craig said.

And yet, in what I consider one of its most brazen outrages, the Commission completely disregarded Craig's testimony. For reasons I cannot imagine, it chose to believe that Oswald first walked away from the depository, fleeing six blocks on foot to a bus stop, then catching a bus that carried him right back past the depository, then leaving the bus after riding three more blocks, walking another three blocks and getting a taxi.

The Commission subscribes to this illogical, unsupported route largely be-

cause there was no visual proof to support Deputy Craig's story about the station wagon.

Well, I have news for the Commission. I have found such visual proof.

My proof is a previously unpublished photograph, one of many I collected. The photograph (above, left) was part of a set taken by a local newspaper photographer shortly after the shooting. The set also contained a picture of the law officers searching for bullet fragments, and this was printed in newspapers. But no importance was attached to the other pictures, until I searched through them and realized the significance of this particular photograph.

It shows Dealey Plaza with Elm Street in the foreground and the School Book Depository in the background. The clock atop the building shows 12:40 p.m. — or 10 minutes after the fatal shot struck President Kennedy.

Standing in front of the depository, beside the traffic-jammed street, is a slender young man. I believe he could well be Lee Harvey Oswald.

In the same photo, a half-block up the busy street, a Rambler station wagon is plainly visible. It is approaching the spot where the slender young man is waiting.

The accused assassin's own mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, is certain — just as Craig is — that the slender young man in the picture is Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I would have to say this man in the white shirt is Lee . . ."

she said. Although it does nothing to clear her son's name, Mrs. Oswald is convinced that the photograph is conclusive evidence that the full truth is not yet known about Nov. 22, 1963.

On the basis of the photograph, she petitioned President Nixon in early 1969 to have the federal government reopen the investigation of the assassination. It seems unlikely that any such step will be taken, and Mrs. Oswald has not been informed that it will.

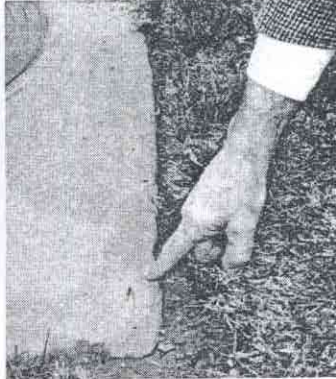
But if Lee Harvey Oswald was still outside the depository at 12:40, and if he was picked up by the station wagon, the Warren Commission is guilty of a disastrous error.

These two long-observed fragments of evidence — a bullet mark and a photograph — thus throw doubt on the whole Warren Commission reconstruction of the fateful events of Dealey Plaza.

And now a third fragment, again supported by an eyewitness account, emerges to discredit another major portion of the Commission report, the slaying of Patrolman J.D. Tippitt and the conclusion that the slayer was the desperate, fleeing Lee Harvey Oswald.

One eyewitness, William Arthur Smith, is quoted by the Warren Commission as positively identifying Oswald as the patrolman's killer.

But in his sworn statement of April 2, 1964, Smith also pointed out that there was a second eyewitness on hand that afternoon near the intersection of Patton and Tenth Streets in Oak Cliff when



BULLET MARK in the concrete is pointed out by author, who claims angle of groove made by bullet proves it couldn't have been fired from book depository.

Officer Tippitt was shot down beside his patrol car.

This second witness — Jimmy Earl Burt, then a young soldier home on leave from the Army — was blatantly disregarded by the Commission. His very existence seemed to have been forgotten by all concerned, until I sought him out in 1967.

Burt recalled that he and his friend, Smith, were sitting on the front porch of Burt's home at 565 East Tenth shortly after 1 p.m. that afternoon when they noticed a young man pass the house, walking toward the corner of Patton and Tenth.

A moment later, they saw a police car jerk to a stop at the corner. They saw an officer get out of the car and start toward the young man on the curb. Then they heard a shot and the officer fell.

Smith said the killer walked south on Patton, at a leisurely pace, toward heavily traveled Jefferson Boulevard. Burt insists that the man ducked into an alley and claims, in fact, that he even trailed the suspect for a short distance before losing him.

But the most startling difference of all in the testimony of the two eyewitnesses is in their impression of the man who killed Patrolman Tippitt.

Burt is blunt and positive when he says: "The man I saw kill Tippitt was not Lee Harvey Oswald."

"I got as good a look at him as Smith did, and I'm sure it wasn't Oswald. It just didn't look like him."

I thought enough of Jimmy Burt's startling revelations to take them, in 1968, to my congressman, Rep. Joe Pool (D.-Tex.), along with the other new evidence I had gathered.

Rep. Pool told me he wanted to help get the facts before the public.

"Tragically, Pool died soon after of a heart attack — and another frail hope died with him."

As the years pass, more and more of those who might have helped uncover the facts have shared Rep. Pool's fate.

Deputy Sheriff E.R. (Buddy) Walthers, who cooperated closely with me and who may have had valuable information about a bullet found at the Kennedy death scene and picked up by a passerby, was fatally wounded by a hijacker in January 1969.

Jack Ruby, the man who killed Oswald in front of millions of television viewers two days after JFK's death and who might have held many of the answers to the lingering riddles, died of cancer three years ago.

Many others who were closely associated with the case have died. Others have drifted away. Memories grow dim. Details are lost and forgotten. Will the full truth ever be told?

TURN PAGE for story of lawsuit in federal court that claims the Warren Commission covered up a plot to kill President Kennedy in Chicago, 20 days before his death in Dallas.



EYEWITNESS Jimmy Earl Burt



INVESTIGATOR Al Chapman (left) chats in Dealey Plaza with Dallas Police Officer J.W. Foster, who was an expert eyewitness to the assassination.