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**Museum Provides The Plots, No Answer**

By DAVID BARBOZA

DALLAS, May 27 — The voice coming from the television monitor tells of a vast conspiracy to control the White House. It says the Warren Commission Report was "born long before the President was assassinated." And it even asserts that Lee Harvey Oswald is still alive.

The videos are part of the Conspiracy Museum, an exhibit space that opened last month in Dallas, just three blocks from Dealey Plaza, where Kennedy was shot. In highly conspiratorial tones, the museum traces the American history of assassinations back to the Age of Andrew Jackson, who was the target of a failed attempt on his life.

The museum is the pet project of a Harvard-educated architect, R. B. Cutler, a self-proclaimed "assassinologist." Mr. Cutler, 81, who is from a wealthy family that made its money in the fertilizer business, says he has spent about $400,000 on the museum, which promotes and displays his theories.

The museum is in the right place. City officials say about 6 million people visit the Dealey Plaza area each year. More than 1,200 people have visited the museum since it opened on April 4.

"If we could export the Kennedy assassination to Japan," said one of the museum's three staff members, Ron Rice, "we'd be instant millionaires."

In recent years, attendance has nearly doubled at the Sixth Floor, the permanent exhibit on the Kennedy legacy that opened in 1989 in the former Texas School Book Depository, on the floor from which the Warren Commission said Oswald shot Kennedy. And several private companies now offer tours of other assassination sites, like the rooming house where Oswald stayed.

But for hard-core theorists, the Conspiracy Museum is the only place that aggressively examines the plot. Whereas the atmosphere in

‘Seek help,’ a visitor advises a museum of conspiracies.
"We just want people to think," said the director of the Conspiracy Museum, Tom Bowden, in front of a 108-foot-long mural that illustrates several conspiracy theories with abstract bloodstains. The museum is short on artifacts and long on suppositions, which are explained in its art work, diagrams and "video kiosks." Its bookstore is stacked with Kennedy books, as well as titles like "It's a Conspiracy" and "Unsolved Texas Mysteries" and "Paranoid" magazine.

Admission is $7 and includes a walking tour with Mr. Rice, a former police officer who says he has spent 18 years researching the assassination. Apart from the museum's "official" theories, Mr. Rice has a few of his own, and will show some fuzzy pictures as proof of his case.

The director, Tom Bowden, a former information systems analyst, says his goal is to push the museum's conspiracy theories into the mainstream. "We just want people to think," he said. "Maybe that way we can correct the textbooks so that they contain information about the larger conspiracy."

From Mr. Cutler, who claims the "Professional War Machine" is behind just about every political assassination in the past 30 years. He calls the lone gun man theory a fairy tale, and contends that three men shot and poisoned Kennedy, one using a gas-powered umbrella pistol. Oswald was a "patsy," he says. In fact, he insists, Oswald was not even Oswald. He was an Oswald double named Alek Hidell, a C.I.A.-trained spy.

On the museum videos, Mr. Cutler's voice can be heard saying things like, "Clear the Oswald name of all guilt!" and "You must never forget, the Warren report is a lie." Mr. Cutler, who practices Zen, ends each voiceover with the word, "ahimsa," meaning non-forcefulness.

While Mr. Cutler said one purpose of the museum is to help people come to peace with the events of November 1963, some visitors leave more confused than ever or frustrated with the sparse displays. "I can't believe I just paid $7 to hear somebody's opinion," said Henry Thomas of Fort Worth.

More visitors, though, are like Jay Wilson, an oil man from Stephens, Ark., who says that although he does not accept the museum's theory of the Kennedy assassination, he also doubts the Government version. "There's one thing for sure," he said, turning to his wife, Fay, "We know it didn't happen like they said it happened."