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Clippings

Where They Were when Kennedy was Shot

by Todd Bensman,
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Bobby Hargis still plugs away after all those years in the late-night obscurity of a remote Dallas police building, a greying detective whose dropping shoulders betray no hint of what happened 32 years ago today. He is among a list of a vanishing fraternity of active Dallas officers who were on the force November 22, 1963, the day President John F. Kennedy was slain in Dallas. Today, only 10 of the 966 sworn officers who were on the force in November 1963 remain, and two will retire next month. But for those who have trudged on these past 32 years, the memories of those days have an unshakable resiliency. Bobby Hargis was less than a week into his third year as a Dallas officer on November 22, 1963. His job that day was to ride one of the four motorcycles that flanked the president's car through downtown, 10 feet behind and to the left. Two generations of Americans have seen then-Officer Hargis in the Abraham Zapruder film that recorded the shots that hit and killed the President. What the grainy 8mm film doesn't show is what happened when a sniper's bullet passed to Officer Hargis' right and into Mr. Kennedy's head. "I'm the only one living who was beside the car," said Detective Hargis, now 63. "When he was shot in the head, it splashed up, and I ran into that brain matter and all that. It came up and down, all

10 DALLAS OFFICERS THEN AND NOW

Active-duty Dallas police officers who were with the department on Nov. 22, 1963, the day President John F. Kennedy was slain in Dallas:



William Deen
Hired: Nov. 16, 1956
In Nov. 1963: Patrol officer in South Dallas
Today: Detective, child-abuse unit



Dick Erwin
Hired: April 24, 1963
In Nov. 1963: Patrol officer assigned to guard assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's transfer
Today: Senior corporal, traffic division



Grady C. Ford
Hired: July 16, 1962
In Nov. 1963: Patrol officer who guarded the homicide unit against intruders in the days after the assassination
Today: Detective, child-abuse unit



Marshal Furr
Hired: April 17, 1962
In Nov. 1963: Patrol officer assigned to the security detail at the Trade Mart
Today: Sergeant, burglary unit



Sidney Grosvenor
Hired: July 12, 1963
In Nov. 1963: Academy cadet who watched the president's motorcade speeding to Parkland Memorial Hospital
Today: Lieutenant, northwest operations division



Bobby Hargis
Hired: Nov. 17, 1961
In Nov. 1963: Motorcycle officer who rode behind the president's limousine in the motorcade
Today: Detective, physical-evidence section



Lester L. Huckaby
Hired: July 14, 1963
In Nov. 1963: Academy cadet who prepared with his class to assist regular officers
Today: Senior corporal, northwest operations division



Graham Pierce
Hired: April 29, 1963
In Nov. 1963: Patrol officer assigned to the night shift
Today: Sergeant, southeast operations division



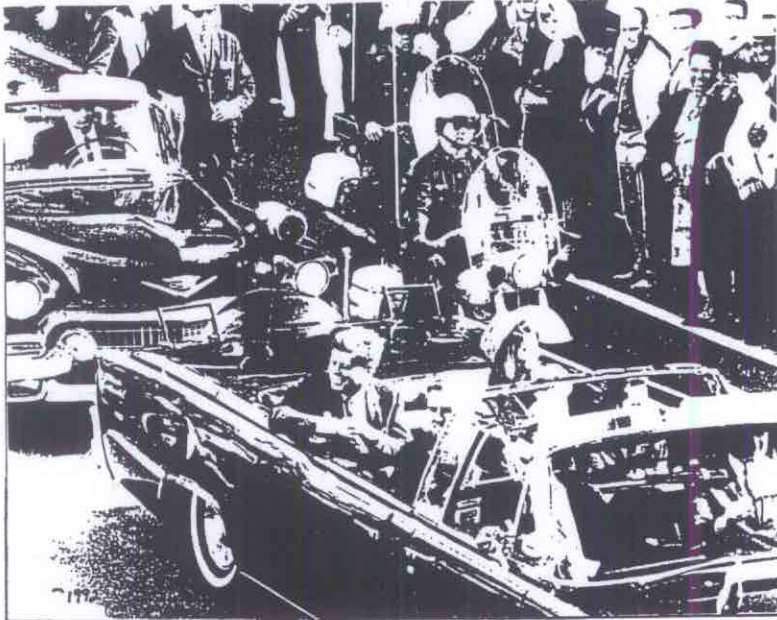
Gerald R. Robinson
Hired: Sept. 4, 1962
In Nov. 1963: Patrol officer on a security detail at the Trade Mart
Today: Detective, crimes against persons division



Herbert A. Steele
Hired: Jan. 2, 1963
In Nov. 1963: Patrol officer assigned to guard Kennedy's luncheon speech
Today: Sergeant, communications division

SOURCE: Dallas Morning News

over my uniform." Later that day, while helping to secure the Texas School Book Depository, another officer flicked something off Officer Hargis' upper lip. "It was a piece of the President," he said, staring intently at something far away through watery grey eyes. These days, Detective Hargis works in a quiet cubicle from

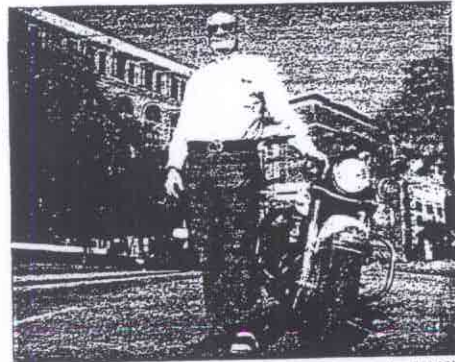


10:30pm to 6:30am, processing stolen cars for the police physical evidence unit. Except for six years spent on disability leave after an on-duty traffic accident, Detective Hargis has manned his post for the past 32 years as his Police Department - much criticized in the wake of the President death and subsequent slaying of assassin Lee Harvey Oswald - has lurched through changes too numerous to remember. In a 1983 book, "Partners in Blue: A 100-Year History of the Dallas Police Department," author Carlton Stowers writes: "The Kennedy assassination ... clearly marks the dividing line between the old Dallas police and the new. "The three tragic days in November of 1963 have become the reference point for all police matters. Even today events are referred to as having occurred before the assassination or after the assassination." Senior Cpl. William Dean, now a 59-year-old school liaison officer at Pinkston High School, as hunting deer in South Texas the day the President was shot. He came home to criticism that still hurts. "Every day you drove down the street or got into some situation, it was 'You killed our President! You were part of the assassination!'" Cpl. Dean said. "The thing went on and on for years, this feeling. Even though you weren't involved at all, you still got criticized." Pausing, he said, "Boy, there's not many of us left, is there?" Cpl. Dean and several others said accountability before the assassination was much more lax, that officers had more freedom to patrol their beats however they saw fit. Duty in a generally police-friendly city seemed less dangerous, they said. "Back then ... you did your thing, and you more or less got away with it," Cpl. Dean said. "But as far as the general public is concerned, it's probably better now. You're held accountable." When asked where they were when the President fell, the 10 remaining officers have well-worn answers ready, like almost anyone else old enough to remember. Most, Like Detective

Hargis, participated in the day's events. The few who were off-duty at the time experienced the post assassination changes that followed. Duty's Call Detective Dick Erwin, now 57-year-old motorcycle officer, said he was off duty getting a haircut when Mr. Kennedy was killed. Two days later, the 25-year-old rookie was assigned to help guard Oswald's transfer from the basement of the old City Hall, now police headquarters at Harwood and Main streets.

Just before a nightclub owner named Jack Ruby shot Oswald in that basement, Detective Erwin said, he was ordered outside to Commerce and Pearl streets to direct traffic along the route the prisoner was to travel. Then he heard an ambulance siren blare into the basement and saw the vehicle emerge with Oswald strapped inside. "I saw Oswald in there, and he was very pale," Detective Erwin said. Detective Erwin, who retires next month, said FBI agents later interviewed him repeatedly in an effort to determine how Mr. Ruby could have gotten past police security into the basement. "I knew I didn't do anything wrong," he said. "I was not able to tell them anything because if he got down there, I wouldn't have known him from any other police detective. I felt bad the Police Department was under such scrutiny, because I was a member of it." Lt.

Sidney Grosvenor was a 22-year-old rookie cadet three months



The Dallas Morning News: ERIC JAHN

"I'm the only one living who was beside the car," says Dallas police Detective Bobby Hargis (at left and above, on motorcycle). On Nov. 22, 1963, he was less than a week into his third year as a Dallas officer when he rode patrol in the Kennedy motorcade"

into training on the day Mr. Kennedy died. Now an administrator in the northwest operations division, Lt. Grosvenor remembers riding with a carload of cadets back to the academy along Industrial Boulevard after touring a home for retarded people. "We were headed away from downtown when the presidential limousine

escorted by four or five motorcycles came by at very, very high rate of speed, and, of course, that drew our attention," he said. "Someone...was up there [on the limousine] holding somebody down. We knew something was wrong, but at the time we didn't even connect it. We knew the President, vaguely, was in town."

History in the Making

Back at the academy, a supervisor ordered cadets to don uniforms in case they were needed. The entire class instead spent the day listening intently to a police radio as regular officers fanned out across the city in a helter-skelter effort to find the assassin. The class heard a civilian shouting into a car radio belonging to Officer J.D. Tippit, who had just been killed, Lt. Grosvenor said. "That's when we witnessed history in the making," he said. "The citizen was screaming, 'Help! Help! I have an officer hurt!'... He was shouting into the radio." The cadets heard a police dispatcher calming the man enough to give proper directions, then reports of their colleagues finding the dead officer and later surrounding the Texas Theater on Jefferson Boulevard in Oak Cliff. "We were ready to do whatever," Lt. Grosvenor said. "Everyone was excited, but we had to follow orders. I mean, we didn't know how to answer a simple call yet, let alone go out and get involved in something like that." Some officers see the President's slaying as just another day in careers long on tragedy and heartbreak. "What's to be sentimental about after this long?" said Sgt. Marshal Furr, who at 58 works in the auto theft unit. In November 1963, then-Officer Furr was guarding the press office at the Trade Mart when he saw the nation's top network anchors literally slugging it out to be first with the news. The President was to have spoken there that day at a luncheon. "I can recall staring down and seeing those major news anchors fighting to get up the escalator to the phones," he said. "One would grab another and pull them back. They were kind of like the Three Stooges. I just got out of their way."

The CIA Sent U.S. Leaders Flawed Reports

WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (Reuter) - By Jim Wolf
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The CIA sent U.S. leaders flawed reports about the former Soviet Union that were known or suspected to have come from enemy agents, CIA director John Deutch said on Tuesday.

In new fallout from the Aldrich Ames spy case, Deutch said two new CIA reports found that U.S. decision makers were not informed that some of the most sensitive intelligence reports came from assets that were known or suspected of being controlled by Soviet security services.

Deutch, in a statement after briefing congressional committees on the reports, said his most urgent task was to "re-establish credibility" with the U.S. government.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said President Bill Clinton was concerned that in some past cases CIA "information going to the president was less than reliable," but was satisfied by steps Deutch was taking to remedy the problem.

Deutch said the CIA watchdog, Inspector General Frederick Hitz, had recommended that 12 CIA officers be held responsible for their roles, all but one of whom had retired.

Former director Robert Gates said the Hitz report explicitly cleared him along with his predecessor, William Webster, and his successor, James Woolsey, of any involvement

in fudging sources on reports to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Ames, a 31-year veteran CIA counterintelligence officer, has confessed to spying for Moscow for nine years, starting in April 1985. He was arrested Feb. 21, 1994, along with his wife, Rosario, and is now serving a life sentence.

The harm done by Ames to U.S. interests was documented in a damage assessment report submitted by Deutch to the House and Senate Intelligence committees.

Deutch, summarizing the damage, said Ames had made it much more difficult to understand what was going on in the Soviet Union at a critical time because he sold out many agents working for U.S. intelligence.

Ames had also made it much more difficult to gather secrets in other countries by telling Moscow how the United States sought intelligence and handled spies, he said.

And "by revealing to the Soviet Union identities of assets and American methods of espionage, he put the Soviet Union in the position to pass carefully selected 'feed' material to this country through controlled assets," Deutch said.

Controlled assets are double agents. To allow for the possibility of deception, CIA reports to policymakers normally specify how reliable their source should be considered.

Gates, in a telephone interview from his home in Seattle, said the Hitz report found CIA managers had fudged their identification of source.

Garrison Family Sues

By JOHN HORN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- November An author's estate is suing seven major movie studios, charging that Hollywood's arcane accounting methods amount to collusion and price fixing.

The class-action antitrust lawsuit was filed Friday by the heirs of Jim Garrison, whose book "On the Trail of the Assassin" was the foundation of the 1991 movie "JFK."

According to the lawsuit, the Kennedy assassination conspiracy film has worldwide grosses in excess of \$150 million, but Warner Bros. says the movie has not earned any money under its "net profits" accounting formula, and Garrison's estate has not received a dollar of net profits income.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of anyone who entered into a net profits contract with the studios after January 1988. It names Warner Bros. and six other studios as defendants, claiming they all use the same accounting methods and nearly identical contracts.

"It is absolutely clear that the studios have joined together to prevent the real talent from getting their fair share of the profits," said attorney Joseph Cotchett, who represents Garrison's estate.

In recent years, the studios behind "Forrest Gump," "Batman," "Indecent Proposal" and "Coming to America" have argued their films have lost money, according to the accounting method.

A judge ruled in a 1988 lawsuit by columnist Art Buchwald against Paramount that the net profits accounting practices are "unconscionable," but there has been no legal action of this scope since.

The accounting method, which varies little from studio to studio, allows a film company to assign costs to a film