ON A MAY morning in 1967 the telephone rang in the Towson home of Howard Donahue. It was Bill Fitchett, a hunting buddy, with a strange request. Someone was conducting rifle tests, with hunters and target shooters of varied backgrounds, in an effort to prove something. Could he take the day off and help out? Mr. Donahue, suspecting results of the tests might be used later as evidence in a court case, agreed to participate.

Mr. Donahue is a gunsmith. He owns and operates Donahue's Gun Specialties on Dulaney Valley road in Towson. He has developed patentable additions and modifications for firearms, principally with Remington and Winchester. He has worked on guns for United States Olympic team members. He is called into court occasionally to testify as a certified firearms expert.

Half an hour later Bill Fitchett, with his brother, T. Somerset (Sett Fitchett, another hunting buddy, stopped by. The three drove to the Maryland Lava Company, near Bel Air. There they picked up John Dinning, the Fitchetts' brother-in-law, had lunch and headed for the H. P. White Ballistics Laboratory not far away.

This installation has laboratories for incredibly fine testing, plus nearly a hundred acres of partially wooded land with firing ranges. It is the biggest independent ballistics research center in the
Continuing on page 9

Maryland Man Has Doubts About Oswald

Assassination: A Different View
turned out. The Italian army in World War II recognized it as the rifle make and used it. Lee Harvey Oswald is said to have fired at President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Like that rifle, the weapon used was equipped with a telescopic scope sight. But by late, Mr. Donahue and his friends were fired at the target. Many had criticized the Mannlicher-Carcano for its one-assassin theory, arguing it was not possible to fire the Mannlicher-Carcano twice in the 60s. The assassin is thought to have fired at the President. The Columbia Broadcasting System, in a televised program later to be narrated primarily by Walter Cronkite, was trying either to prove or disprove the claim. Like the Oswald rifle, the least weapon was equipped with a telescopic scope. The direaction were told to fire three series of three shots each at a target about 150 feet away, each series as close as possible to five inches. The caliber had hidened him, although shots of the same type Oswald had fired, were not new or significant. He used noticed that some of the range's target lights were not working, leaving the target less visible than he would have. And the tan A itself ... millet holes, which made it impossible to determine his accuracy. No at all, the three markers were told that the testing wasn't being to prove accuracy, but merely to let them familiarize themselves with the Mannlicher—Carean. It was very familiar. It is a six-shot rifle and operates with a bolt action, apparently feeling that if any of them had time to practice with the Mannlicher, the test scores would have been meaningless.

The marksman also learned they were not to be paid for their time and trouble, regardless of what kind of scores they shot, another CBS measure in the interests of impartiality. After firing, the men left the basement range and moved to a hilly, heavily wooded spot on the laboratory grounds. Here they found a partial reconstruction of the building. On the lower level was a small room with a floor-to-ceiling window. On the wall opposite the window was a large mirror, reflecting the room back on itself. The window was a three-panel sliding glass door, which could be opened to reveal the outdoors behind. The door had turned windy and cloudy, and Mr. Donahue felt the tower shudder as wind hit it. At the top level were other members of the test group, three state policemen in uniform, two wearing pistol expert medals, the third with a sharpshooter rating.

"The three of us who comprised the civilian half of the six-man test team represented a varied background. Seth Fitchett is an excellent all-around marksman, highly skilled with pistol, rifle and shotguns. He has been shooting clay pigeons for some years and his NRA rating with the sear gun is expert. However, toward the end of World War II bought a .257 Roberts Bullgun, a target rifle made by Winchester. It is equipped with an eight-power scope, and I have become very familiar with it. With it I have been able to shoot crows and woodchucks, sometimes more than 300 yards away." Atop the tower, Mr. Donahue found the small area crowded with seven other men, plus banks of CBS photographic and recording equipment. He was surprised to see the number of new cameras and microphones, some with three feet of cord and sounders' some with four. The sounders' were connected to the microphone with the same wires used to connect the microphones to the sounders'. It was a very loud and noisy environment in the tower.

"The day had turned windy and cloudy, and Mr. Donahue felt the tower shudder as wind hit it. At the top level were other members of the test group, three state policemen in uniform, two wearing pistol expert medals, the third with a sharpshooter rating." The day had turned windy and cloudy, and Mr. Donahue felt the tower shudder as wind hit it. At the top level were other members of the test group, three state policemen in uniform, two wearing pistol expert medals, the third with a sharpshooter rating. Mr. Donahue had taken off the coat of his business suit and put on a light woolen hunting shirt which allowed freedom of movement. The tower was crowded with seven other men, plus banks of CBS photographic and recording equipment. He was surprised to see the number of new cameras and microphones, some with three feet of cord and sounders' some with four. The sounders' were connected to the microphone with the same wires used to connect the microphones to the sounders'. It was a very loud and noisy environment in the tower.

"The day had turned windy and cloudy, and Mr. Donahue felt the tower shudder as wind hit it. At the top level were other members of the test group, three state policemen in uniform, two wearing pistol expert medals, the third with a sharpshooter rating." The day had turned windy and cloudy, and Mr. Donahue felt the tower shudder as wind hit it. At the top level were other members of the test group, three state policemen in uniform, two wearing pistol expert medals, the third with a sharpshooter rating. Mr. Donahue had taken off the coat of his business suit and put on a light woolen hunting shirt which allowed freedom of movement. The tower was crowded with seven other men, plus banks of CBS photographic and recording equipment. He was surprised to see the number of new cameras and microphones, some with three feet of cord and sounders' some with four. The sounders' were connected to the microphone with the same wires used to connect the microphones to the sounders'. It was a very loud and noisy environment in the tower.

"The day had turned windy and cloudy, and Mr. Donahue felt the tower shudder as wind hit it. At the top level were other members of the test group, three state policemen in uniform, two wearing pistol expert medals, the third with a sharpshooter rating."
9••••••
P. PIMP
- a 3-
0,
- take off the sling and stood up, the target had been returned and was being examined. My three shots were hits, within track 4 - 1.

"By the time I ejected the last shell, I had brought up my right hand, hit the bolt with all the force possible, ejecting the empty."

"It's hard for me to believe Oswald was a professional hit man, as many people say he was."

"Due to a stuck bolt, Mr. Donahue got off only one shot in his first series. (It's hard for me to believe Oswald was a professional hit man, as many people say he was.) Mr. Donahue says he was still working the bolt mechanism, his rifle remained nowhere near on-target, and he had to find the target in his scope sight and aim all three shots at 5.2 seconds."

"The 1444-inch height of the windowsill prohibited the first round from actually passing through the window and landing on the street below."

"The windowsill was higher than the height of the second floor of the Texas School Book Depository, where Lee Harvey Oswald was standing at the time of the assassination."

"Test marksmen were not allowed to fire until the vehicle passed the first stake, and shots squeezed off after it passed the second stake were not recorded in the elaborate set up of cameras, timing devices and other measuring instruments."

"Whey it came my turn to fire, I had decided on the position Oswald might have chosen, because we were about the same size. Oswald was 5-9 and weighed 169 pounds."

"It was his rise of having to eject a bolt to load, slammed it forward to insert the second round, picked up the target in the cross hairs, and fired."

"The rifle was In its slight recoil, and the tower swayed with each gust."

"I felt more than half my time had passed when the second round came my turn to fire."

"Holing a technician at the base of the tower call out 'We've got a good one! Four-point-eight seconds from first to last shot!' "

"Actually, it was more of a squat, with his left leg bent under him, his right knee bent, his buttock resting on the heel of his right foot. It is a position he had earlier found comfortable and effective in field shooting."

"It was his rise of having time to position."

"As the test proceeded rain began to fall, the wind rose and the tower swayed."

"The test proceeded, but the target rose and the tower swayed again."

"Actually, it was more of a squat, with his left leg bent under him, his right knee bent, his buttock resting on the heel of his right foot. It is a position he had earlier found comfortable and effective in field shooting."
After several hours of testing, it was decided to test-fire the rifle. The second man, who fired the first shot, had been shown to be incompetent. The cartridge he used was a Mannlicher-Carcano, the type of gun Oswald might have used. Sometimes, it dent the cartridge as it did this one (attached to the bolt) at point where specified by forward Donahue's thumb. This cartridge came from the same lot as Oswald's cartridges.

Mr. Donahue, holding a Mannlicher-Carcano, demonstrates the position he used during a test-firing conducted in Maryland in an effort to prove or disprove the Warren Report contention that three shots could be fired from a weapon of this type in 6.5 seconds or less.

Continued on Page 11
Kennedy Assassination continued

Continued next week
In his nine-year study Mr. Donahue has sought not to discredit the Warren Report, but to support it. He still believes the report to have been put together by a group of the world's best investigators. He believes, however, that its members did not have evidence which would have changed the report. Mr. Donahue believes today that no premeditated murder was committed in Dealy Plaza in Dallas on November 22, 1963. He believes that, but for a freakish, once-in-a-million turn of events, John F. Kennedy might be alive today, with Lee Harvey Oswald serving a prison sentence for his attempted murder. And he believes he knows how President Kennedy was killed.

To be continued next week.

"Two Secret Service men and a few people in the crowd, turn their attention from the motorcade, in their effort to find the assassin."