

11/30/76

Dear Art,

While for my rogue's gallery I would prefer the actual pix in Esquire for 12/76 to be confidential, no positive, the unclear xeroxes are enough.

A 10th anniversary even.

It is a spoof. As usual in bad taste.

The short text held advance class so analysis of the pix was easy.

Despite the pretense there is nothing new in the Itak-CIA connection. They pretend it is a revelation.

"...it proved impossible to obtain any of the Zapruder footage for our analysis."

Really? With all the copies kinking around and Groden working within easy walking distance of Esquire's office?

No pix or Muchmore either when UPI has both -an easy walk away.

But you'll find no such thing as any, leave alone the "leading independent image-processing firm." No full name is given, only "P.K.&G. For illustration as in Pretty Klever Gimick.

Some of the Photos were not from an "exceedingly poor original." Two of the three they use are of good quality, professional newspix.

They certainly do "enhance" when the grim-faced dick in the pic of LHO getting it is sharpened into a big smile.

It is not only Hunt and Colson who are dubbed in on the LBJ swearing-in shot. I can't make out on the xerox who has been substituted at the extreme right, below and to the side of Hunt. The hairline, angle of the face and relationship to background are visibly different.

You don't have to depend on hairlines and anatomical evidence to spot that Colson was dubbed in. The image of him is so much larger, perhaps to obscure what had to be hidden, this is quite visible. Or use a ruler.

Just 20 years ago Ramparts had an effective spoof in a straight-faced review of four self published books by one Ulov G. K. Leboeuf, of Leavittown.

^{Ulov}
You love or you do not love. For G. K. try God knows. For LeBoeuf translate from the French and you have the bull. My source on Leavittown standing for Hyattstown is a pretty good one. In need Ed Keating into admitting the spoof was of me when we appeared together in Golden Gate Park mid-December 1966.

Coincidence two of the three initials in P.K. & G. are the same?

Besides, from the record I could not imagine Esquire doing anything good. Or serious.

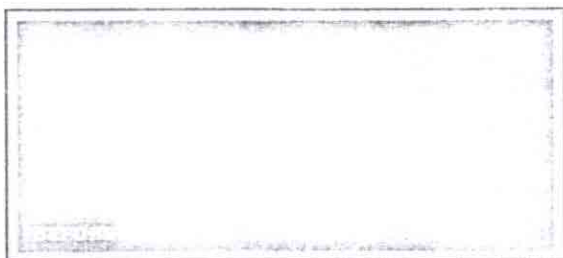
Best,

Harold

Live from Mars: New Light on the Kennedy Case

by Henry Beard and Christopher Cerf

All we needed was Esquire's imaginative use of space-age photography and, presto!, the mysteries were solved



Almost since the beginning of the American space program, we have been dazzled by a series of astonishingly clear photographs, first of the moon, then of Mars, Venus, Mercury and Jupiter, culminating in the extraordinary views of the Martian surface transmitted by the Viking landers. The breathtaking clarity of these pictures is made possible by an arcane technique known as "computer image enhancement and analysis." Developed and perfected for N.A.S.A. by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, this process involves the delicate electronic readjustment of raw pictorial data to bring out every detail in photographs that, before correction, seemed lacking in sharpness.

Why, we wondered, had computer enhancement never been applied to the most famous collection of fuzzy photographs in history, those taken in and around Dealey Plaza in Dallas on November 22, 1963? The answer is, it had—sort of. In 1967, the Itek Corporation, a company specializing in the analysis of aerial reconnaissance photographs, ran through its computers one badly blurred eight-millimeter movie frame containing an ambiguous dark shape—a shape that some critics of the Warren Commission took to be the figure of a second assassin crouching on a grassy knoll overlooking the motorcade route. The results, apparently, were definitive—and disappointing to conspiracy buffs. The Itek specialists concluded that the controversial image was a shadow, not a three-dimensional figure.

We accepted these findings until two rather startling pieces of information were brought to our attention: namely, that the president of Itek at the time of the analysis was alleged to have been a C.I.A. operative with

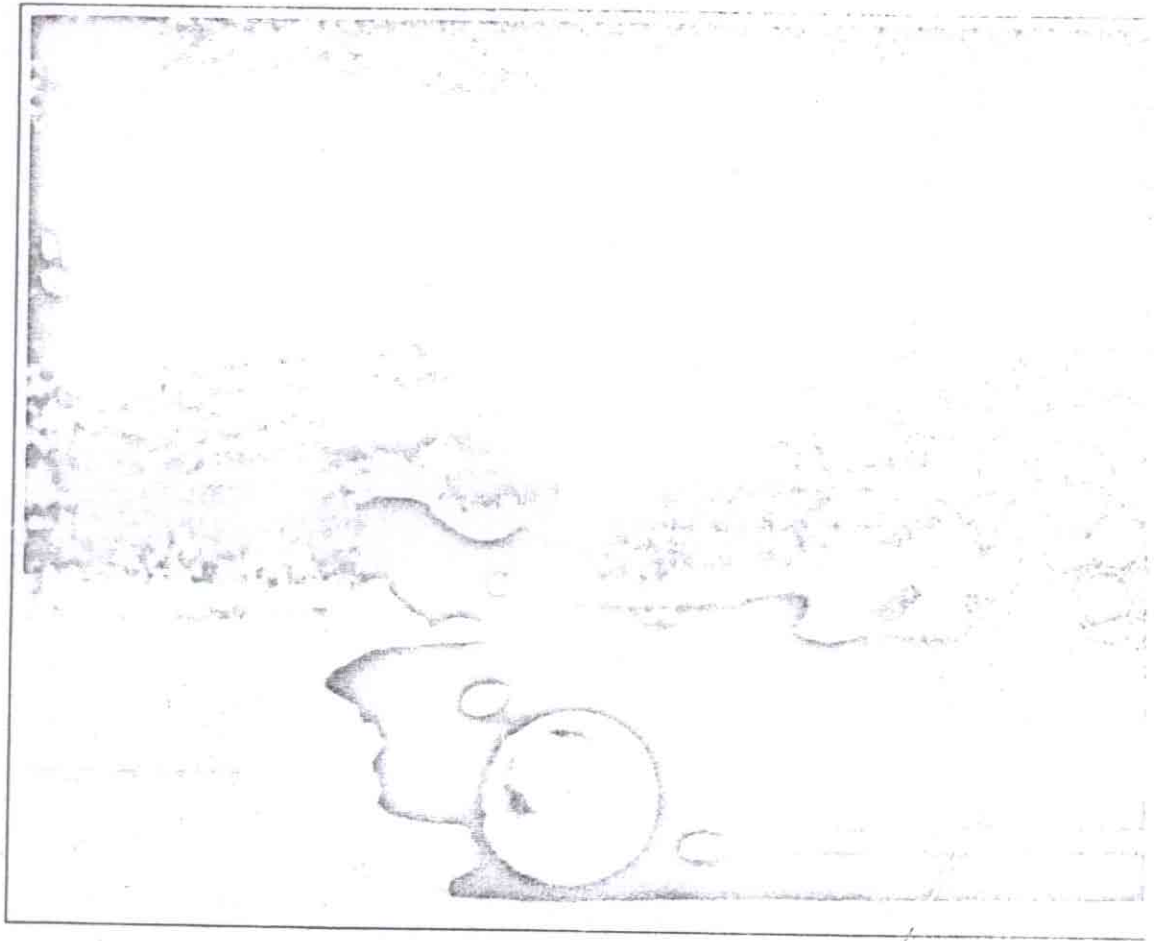
responsibilities in the area of counterrevolutionary intelligence, and that the Itek Corporation itself was reportedly dependent on the U.S. government for almost sixty percent of its business. To us, these facts seemed to render the Itek conclusions somewhat suspect.

Whatever the case, it is certainly true that in the decade since the Itek investigation, computer image-enhancement techniques have become enormously more sophisticated. And, to our knowledge, no one has made further attempts to bring this or any other Kennedy-assassination picture under electronic scrutiny.

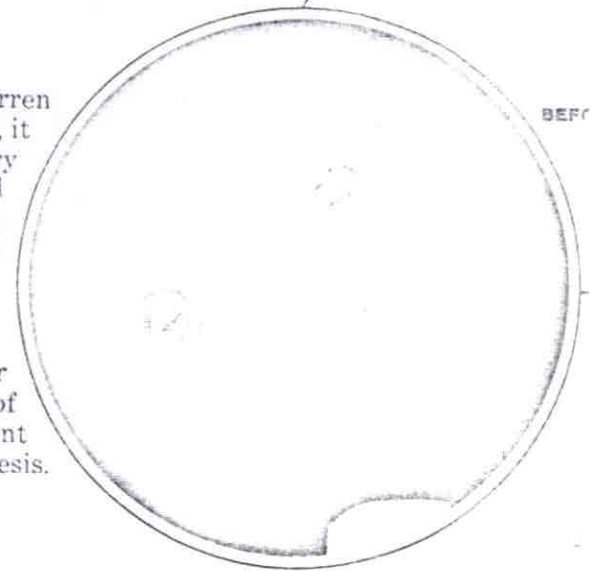
Esquire, therefore, decided to seek out the services of a leading independent image-processing firm, P.K.&G. Inc., of New York City, which agreed to apply its expertise to the entire range of photographic evidence available. (Regrettably, for reasons that are still not entirely clear, it proved impossible to obtain any of the Zapruder footage for our analysis.) Altogether, P.K.&G. succeeded in enhancing thirty-one assassination photos. On the following pages, we have reproduced three of them, each relating to a different aspect of the assassination controversy.

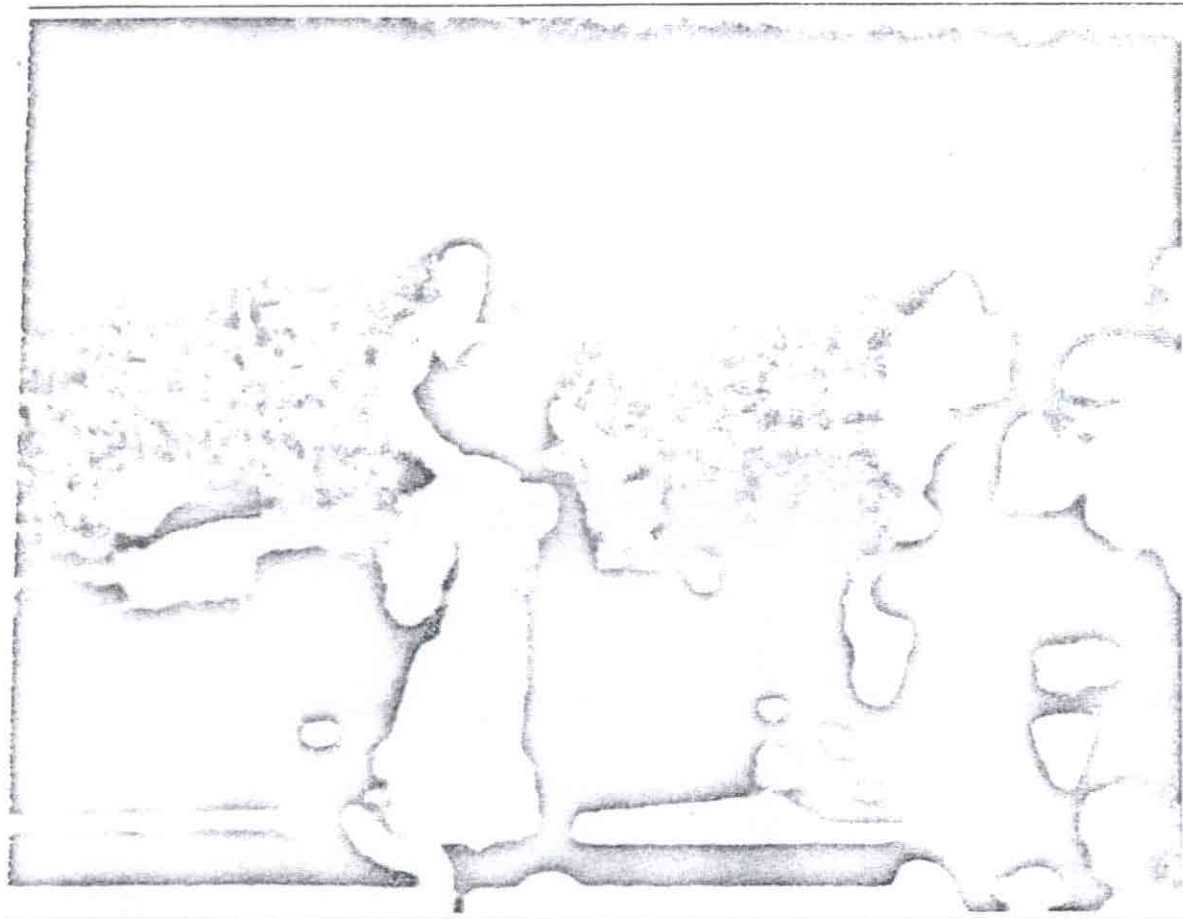
These pictures are indeed remarkable. However, it is essential to bear in mind that they are nothing more than skillful reconstructions of exceedingly poor original photographs. Despite their use of the most advanced electronic means, the P.K.&G. technicians were ultimately dependent upon human judgment and consequently susceptible to human error. Therefore, we urge our readers to exercise the same restraint in examining these pictures as we did in deciding to reproduce them with no commentary other than simple factual identification.

HOW COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT WORKS Above are two versions of the same photograph of a portion of the Martian surface taken by the Viking 1 Orbiter. The picture on the left is reproduced exactly as it was received at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The one on the right shows the results of computer enhancement. In this process, an image is encoded on magnetic tape in the form of several hundred thousand separate picture elements, or pixels. Each pixel describes the brightness of a tiny area of the original scene in terms of a number from 1 to 64. With the aid of a computer, technicians can modify these numerical values to eliminate distortions and to increase contrast and resolution.



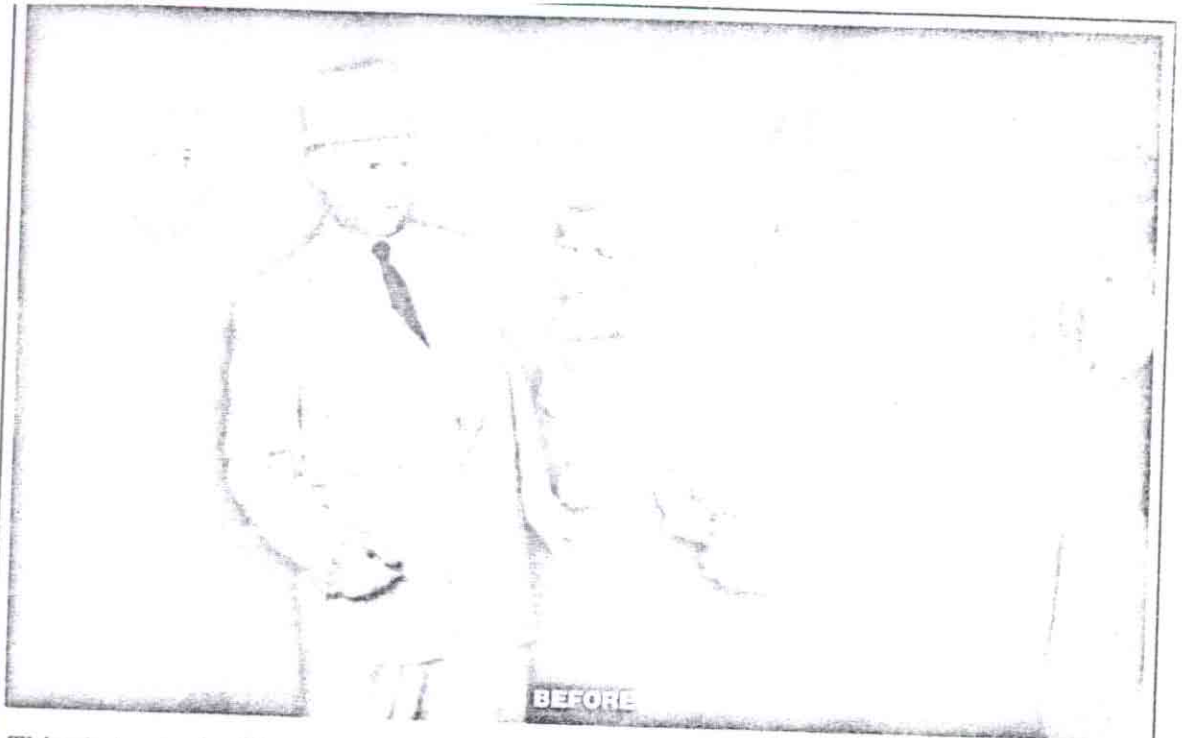
In order to accept the Warren Commission's overall conclusions, it is also necessary to accept its theory that the same bullet that passed through the President's neck eventually lodged, virtually intact, in Governor Connally's leg. P.K.&G. enlarged and then enhanced a very small but relevant section of this movie frame to see if Governor Connally's movements at the time of the bullet's impact were consistent with the commission's hypothesis.



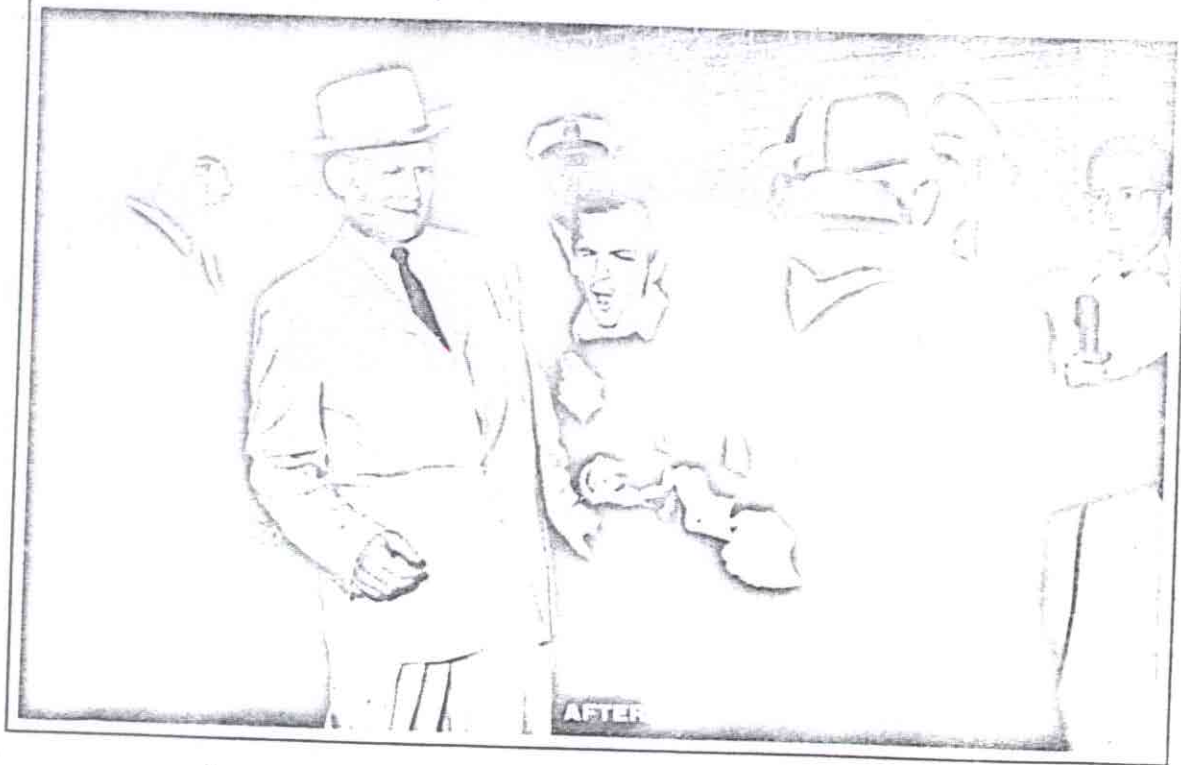


AFTER





This photograph of Oswald being shot by Jack Ruby is one of the most widely seen and best remembered of the pictures of the assassination and its aftermath. Nevertheless, we felt it would be worthwhile to subject the image to a detailed electronic modification and reconstruction to determine if it contained any latent evidence that the Dallas nightclub owner may have had an accomplice.





Richard M. Nixon, then a private citizen, was in Dallas on the morning of November 22, 1963, and that fact, together with allegations that other persons later involved in the Watergate affair were observed in Dallas that day, led us to request that a number of pictures indirectly related to the assassination be reprocessed, including this official White House photograph of the swearing-in of Lyndon B. Johnson.



John Behrend of Esquire phoned me this evening. We talked through both major TV newscasts, so I'm not updated on MG. He is doing a commemorative piece for the November Esquire. I talked frankly with him, but with the specific understanding that anything I said about anyone else would be off the record. I know the hazards, but I felt the alternative, not talking, would assure what the records would seem to indicate is likely anyway, a bad piece. Afterward, I decided to write him the enclosed letter. That is one chapter I would be quite willing to have used and it can't hurt the book's slim prospects. He asked me who was doing current work and I said that responsible work almost nobody. He told me what I'd never heard before, that he coauthored with Tink. I would take this to mean he edited, perhaps rewrote some. I think he is a friend of Jones Harris. We had discussed the Cyrilling in terms of my refusing to be part of a "get-Kennedy" play, hence the suggestion about the chapter. I expect no serious interest. EW 4/24/73

KMPC

Hal...Unfortunately the copy machine doesn't do the Esqy piece justice...but I think its enough to get the idea. I've taken the liberty of darkening up and outlining page 3 for total clarity...I've also arrowed page 5 for clarity. I'll be interested in your reactions...

Garrison wire copy same as the one I read to you...I've yet to find out about the outcome of it all...

Best to you and Lil...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. J. [unclear]', with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature.