

# Film Lab Disproves 2d Assassin Theory

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By JACK V. FOX and  
MAURICE SCHONFELD

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LEXINGTON, Mass. — An amateur motion picture of President Kennedy's assassination showing what appears to be a second gunman has been found by one of the nation's top photographic laboratories to be an illusion.

An analysis released by the Itek Corporation disproved one widely circulated theory that the Warren Commission erred in finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the slaying of the President in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Itek made the months long study as a public service.

Several second-gunman theories have been advanced by proponents of a conspiracy in public lectures and in publications. One had been based in

part on an 8mm color motion picture shot that day by Orville Nix, one of the spectators in Dealey Plaza.

IT shows the President being hit by the fatal bullet and Mrs. Kennedy climbing onto the back of the convertible. In the background is a grassy knoll, and atop it a wooden picket fence and a white concrete pavilion with a low wall. The knoll is below and to the left of the Texas school depository building from which Oswald fired.

Enlargement of certain frames of the Nix film brings out what to the naked eye resembles a man with one elbow resting on the roof of a station wagon behind the wall and squinting down a gun barrel at Elm Street where Kennedy was shot.

Several persons in Dallas who were eyewitnesses to the assassination have reported seeing smoke or flashes from the knoll

area and even more thought they heard shots from that direction.

NIX first turned his film over to the FBI and it was used, among other things, to determine for the Warren Report the position of the President's car at the moment the fatal bullet struck his head.

The Nix film subsequently became the property of United Press International Newsfilm. Last February, the Itek Corporation agreed at the request of UPIN to make an exhaustive scientific study of the 31 feet of film.

Itek is one of the major manufacturers of highly sophisticated aerial reconnaissance cameras and its equipment was used in development of closeup color pictures of the moon made by the Surveyor spacecraft.

ITEK photographic scientists improved the quality of the film

content by utilizing advance image enhancement methods. Itek photogrammetrists and photointerpreters made precise measurements of a number of significant objects in the photographs to insure proper identification of the objects and to determine the feasibility of the fatal shot being fired from certain points.

Several objects on and behind the grassy knoll were unclear in the original films and the Itek scientists were themselves at first struck by the image of a gunman.

"The man with the rifle," however, was found to be nothing more than the shadows of tree branches and leaves in the bright sunshine on the side of the white pavilion.

ITEK said the analysis showed that the object which looks like the rear of a station wagon is a vehicle of some sort but it actually is in a parking lot behind the wooden picket fence and 20 feet behind the "shadow

gunman."

A rifleman at the vehicle's location would have had to fire from nine feet above the ground for his trajectory to clear existing vertical obstructions, it said. No person was visible on the roof of the vehicle. Even assuming a gunman was at sufficient height, the timing of the cavalcade was such that he would have had less than one-thirtieth of a second to get off the fatal shot, Itek said.

The laboratory used a variety of techniques in studying the photographs. A method known as "dodging" produced clarity of light and dark tones. Use of color filters made them even sharper.

NIX, an employe of the U.S. General Services Administration in Dallas, took his first few seconds of film approximately 200 feet from Kennedy's car and

300 feet from the pavilion atop the knoll.

Then he ran through the crowd about 18 feet to his left and zoomed his camera in on the scene again. The resultant triangular pattern permitted stereoscopic analysis of the objects in the background and was fundamental in determining that the apparent rifleman was actually a blend of shadows.

The Nix photos showed no individuals in front of the wooden picket fence in the area up to the concrete wall.

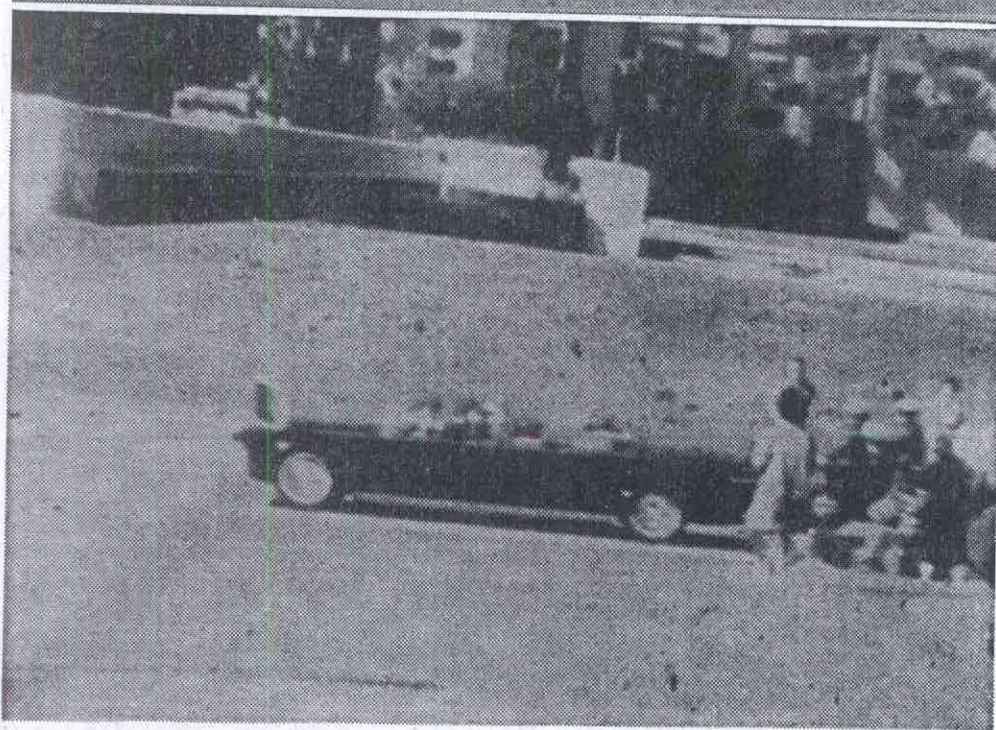
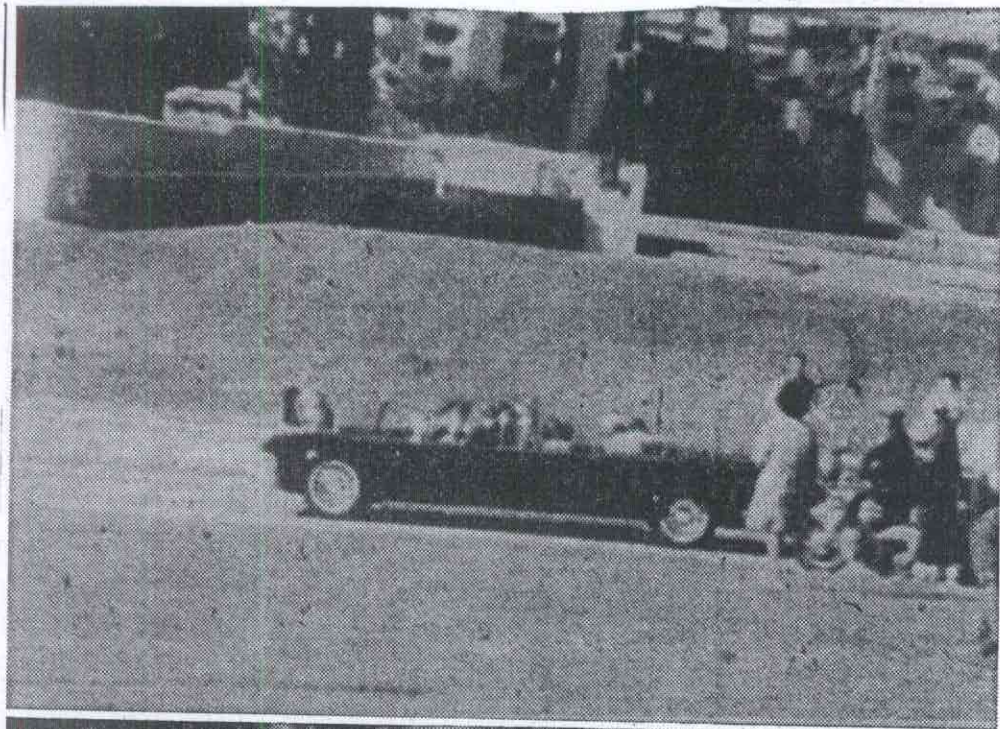
ONE of the persons who saw Kennedy shot and who is convinced that one report came from the knoll area is S. M. Holland, a signal supervisor for the Union Terminal Co. who was standing on the railroad overpass above Elm Street.

Holland told the Warren Commission that he heard four re-

ports and that not only did one of them come from the trees on the knoll but that he also saw a puff of smoke emerge there.

Holland's testimony had been employed by protagonists of the second gunman theory as evidence to back up the Nix film.

The independent Itek conclusions on the Nix film were in keeping with the Warren Report with one exception. The Itek study indicated that at the moment of the impact of the fatal bullet, the Kennedy automobile was about three feet farther back than the spot where the Warren investigation placed it. That finding, however, would make it even more unlikely — if not impossible — for a second gunman to have hit Kennedy from the aperture between the picket fence and the pavilion on the knoll.



UPI Telephoto

**SHADOW GUNMAN**—Analysis of an amateur photographer's movie of President Kennedy's assassination showed that what appears to be a rifleman on the grassy knoll (upper left in both pictures) is really a blend

of shadows. The study by Itek Corporation demolished a widely circulated theory which contradicted the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone assassin.