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By the time his limosine had fled the openness of Dealey Plaza and disappeared into the maw of the Triple Underpass, President John F. & Kennedy was effectively dead and Lyndon B. Johnson was the new chief executive of the United States, As has been made clear by the vivisection of the Warren Report by its critics and by the investigation of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, Johnson was not an accidental president propelled to power by a lone Marxist malcontent. His succession was illegitimate, the product of a coldy calculated, professionally executed ambush of Kennedy.

While there is no solid evidence that Johnson and his staff were involved before the fact, the evidence is incontrovertible that elements of the United States government engaged in a studied conspiracy to cover up what actually happened that bleak day at that forelorn spot ..

The coverup started practically as soon as the echos of gunfire died. Some dozen men were arrested in the Dealey Plaza area by Dallas police and deputy sheriffs. Records exist on three-Larry Florer, Jim Braden and Charles givens --- who were interrogated and released as uninvolved There are no records (Decker Exhibit No. 5323). There are no official records of the arrests of the other nine. Only photographe as several. But Mare are photographs of several

The photographs are among the many snapped by the Halck Star agency's alert James Murray after the shooting. One phiture shows three men being marched from the direction of the Depositivoy Building by two Dallas police officers with toting shotguns; Jim Garrison has tenatively identified two of the suspects. Another picture shows two men, one a Negro, the other a Latin, being led into a police car; The Negro is probably Charles Givens, the Latin, Garrison's investigation indicates, as was gates a member of a paramilitary group that had trained in Florida.

While the secrecy surrounding the anonymous nine is hardly reassuring, the wiker alteration of eyevitness testimony is shocking. The FBI has classified

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the original statements of ninety eyewitnesses as Phase Four, the meaning of which is known only to the Bureau and the effect of which is that the statements are not available for inspection by outside eyes. Two persons whose names appear on the Phase Four list have recently been interviewed by Jim Garrison. One, Julia Ann Mercer; contends that the affidavit published in the Warren Report volumes as her own is a forgery. The Children Mercen Deputy Sheriff Roger D. Craig, claims that the published version of his testimony before an assistant counsel of the Warren Commission has been tampered with at fourteen points.

In a recent statement to Garrison, the comely Miss Mercer recounts that

she was driving west on Elm Street past the Depository Building at about 11:00

a.m. on the morning of the assassination. She was forced to stop by a pickup

truck blocking her traffic lane. The truck was in front of the Grassy Knoll with

its two right wheels up on the curb. "I was delayed by traffic congestion long

enough to observe a man remove from the back of the truck a rifle wrapped in

paper," she says. She also saw the driver quite clearly: "While I was stopped

there he looked at me twice."

The next morning, November 23, Miss Mercer was shown an assortment of photographs by the FBI. "One of the men I picked out was Jack Ruby," she recalls." "When one of the FBI agents turned the pictures over I saw Ruby's name on the back." She also selected three other photographs as "of the same type with regard to facial features." The next morning, Sunday, she was watching television when Ruby shot Oswald. "That's the man I saw in the truck!" she exclaimed to her family. Miss Mercer is positive of her identification. "From the view the television screen gave of Ruby—especially when they showed it again slowly—I recognized him as the man who was at the wheel of the truck on Friday and as the man whose picture the FBI showed me on Saturday."

Julia Ann Mercer was ignored by the Warren Commission. She had volunteered her information about the pickup truck to the sheriff's office on the afterneon of the assassination, and what purports to be her affidavit is published as Decker Exhibit No. 5323, pps. 483-484. It quotes her as saying that "I could not

conditioning on the door (the FBI went through the motions of canvassing air conditioning firms in the Dallas area in quest of the truck). She claims that her signature on the document is a offgery ("I have always u sed a pointed capital "A" and whoever signed my name on those two pages used a round capital "A" each time"), and that the notarization by a Rosemary Allen never took place in her presence ("On no occasion during any of my questioning was a woman present").

The FBI report of Miss Mercer's interview November 23 reposes in the

National Archives. It does not mention the showing of Ruby's picture to her,

and in fact incinuates that she would be unable to identify the driver. But

she insists that the FBI "showed me Jack Ruby and I definitely picked him out

as looking like the driver." The FBI interviewed Miss Mercer again on November

25, the day after Ruby shot Osweld. This report

25, the day after Ruby shot Osweld. This report

at the was shown Ruby's photograph at that time but "could not identify him as the person [at the wheel of the truck]." However, it does repeat the "Air Conditionings" sign fabrication.

Miss Mercer Endospecitordem is adament that she did not see any lettering on the truck door. "Now wouldn't it be silly to put black letters on a dark green background?" she reasons with unassailable logic.

Now the wife of a business executive in a city distant from Dallas, Miss Mercer is resentful of and frightened by the falsificiation of her testimony. If her charges are true—and there is no evident motive for her to make false ones—local and/or federal authorities went to desperate lengths to conceal that they knew of a relationship between Oswald and Ruby and that Ruby had delivered a man with a frifle to the assassimation site. In this light, the belated revelation by a Dallas policeman that he had seen the truck and determined that it had engine trouble in itself becomes suspect.

The Commission's rendition of the testimony of Roger Craig appears in Volume 6, pps. 260-273. The most crucial part of his account concerns his observation of a station wagon, probably a Rambler, some fifteen minutes after the assassination. While interviewing witnesses in Dealey Plaza, he heard A whistle and looked up to see a young man running down the lawn between the Depository Building and Elm Street. Craig said he wanted to question the young man, who got into the station wagon, "but the traffic was so heavy I couldn't get across the street" (The incident was also noticed by a passing motorist, Marvin C. Robinson,

who disclosed that the station wagon "suddenly appeared before him," and then stopped for the passenger [CD 5].)

Later on, when he heard a suspect was in custody, Craig went to the office of Captain Will Frits in police headquarters to take a look at him.

He says he recognized Oswald as the young man who had gotten into the station wagon. When Fritz told the suspect that an officer had seen him entering a car at Dealey Plaza, Oswald jumped up and railed in a loud voice, "That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Paine. Don't try to tie her into this. She had nothing to do with it." Then, as if realizing that he had trapped himself by divulging that he knew the car was a station wagon, Oswald sat down and resignedly announced, "Now everybody will know who I am."

(Mrs. Paine is undoubtedly Ruth Paine, in whose suburban Irving home

Marina Oswald was staying and in whose garage the bulk of Oswald's belongings

were found, including sophisticated optical and camera equipment. Mrs. Paine

did have a Rambler station wagon; Craig says that sheriff's deputies who searched

the Paine premises at mid-afternoon on the 22nd noticed it parked in the driveway.)

Craig alleges that Sheriff Bill Decker subsequently instructed him not to discuss the station wagon incident with anyone. "You did not see Oswald," he quotes his quondam boss. In spite of the warning, Craig included the incident in his lengthly testimony before Assistant Counsel David W. Belin of the Commission.

Of Belin Craig comments, "He acted like the quicker he got it over with the better." Following Craig's testimony, Captain Fritz supplied the Commission with an affidavit asserting that he did not know the deputy sheriff and did not "remember anything about Lee Harvey Oswald jumping up or making any remarks or gestures to this man or to me at this time..." (Vol. 7, p. 404). "He knows me," Orig retorts.

As for the driver of the station wagon, Craig says that he described him
as a "swarthy man, possibly a Cuban." The version published by the Commission
has the deputy saying, "He struck me as a Negro." The distinction is vital, since
Garrison's investigation has implicated anti-Castro Cubans.

Certainly one of the most resourceful officers in Dealey Plaza that day,

Craig went up to the aixth floor of the Depository Building after eyewitness

Arnold Rowland reported that two men had appeared at the aixth floor window

shortly before the shooting (Rowland later failed to identify Cawald as one

The adjust to the first

of the men). Other officers were converging on the sixth floor. Orig heard one of them yell, "Here's the shells." He went over to the southest wintow and saw the shells on the floor. "They were all very close—suspiciously close," he recalls. "The of the shells were touching, the other was known a quarter inch from them." As any rifleman known, the chances are practically nil that ineh from them. As any rifleman knows, the chances are practically nil that bounses of ejected shells would array them in such mear-perfect order. 

When a paiture of Edgar Eugene Bradley, ch arged last December
by Garrison with conspictacy in the assassination, was flashed on
television, Craig claims he recognized him as a man with whom he
conversed briefly on the steps of the Depository Building within
that
minutes of the shooting (Bradley alibis he was in El Paso, Texas
at the time of the shooting). According to Craig, Bradley "reprented
himself as a Secret Service man" as he mingled with Dallas police
officers but "showed no interest whatsoever" when Craig attempted
to pass on to "the Secret Serviceman" information abmost that shooting
that had already come to his attention. "I have always had that
face in mind," Craig declares. "Everything that happened that day is
a picture in my mind. I can remember his smooth complexion and
cleft in the chin. I can remember every word said that day."

Craig's testimony is, to them say the leat, startling. Is he a singularly courageous law officer reporting exactly what he expersioned, or a man prone to illusions and exaggeration? Now a ruggedly handsome 31 and the father of two children, Craig ran away from home at age 12 to make his way in the world. At seventeen, he enlisted in the Army and served with distinction in the Korean war. In 1959 he pestered Sheriff Decker for a deputy's commission, and became the youngest deputy on the staff. In 1960, the sheriff's department honored him as its Man of the Year, an award based on his capture of a badly wanted aximimals fugitive. Significantly,

he was driving home from work and remnantable the fugitive, riding in another car, from a photograph he had seen of the wanted man. Craig had quite a reputation among his colleagues for recognizing faces.

Shortly after testifying before the Warren Commission, Craig summarily was filed by Decker—no specific charges were cited. Taxgeteber Last October he voluntarily went to New Orleans to convey his information to Garrison. Upon his return to Dallas, he realized he was being "tailed." A few days later, as he stepped out of a restaurant, he was shot at. "The shot—it sounded like a pistol—came from behind me and went over my left ear," he said. "I could feel the wind." Then he was fired from his job with a bailbondsman, with Although the Warren Commission forwardswargiaxtarkingance context asserted it "could not accept important elements of Craig's them all it too acceptable.

A majority of the spectators and law enforcement officers in Dealey Plaza thought that acceptance and law enforcement officers in Dealey Plaza thought that acceptance and received formation of the Grassy Knoll and Triple underpass, i.e. from a direction to the right and front of the Presidential limosine. Last December Garrison raised the possibility that a shot rescribed might have been fired from a pillbox-like underground accounts that has an aperature in the curbing on the north side of Elm Street at the approximate point where the steps on the Grassy Knoll meet the street. This accounts is part of the storm drain system that underlies Dealey Plaza; the aperature permits water to flow into the system. Entry can be made through a three-feet square grating directly behind the picket fence on the Knoll.

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artificant a pipe fifteen inches in diameter runs from there to the "pillbox."

Although Carrison calrfully explained that analytic removering he was not flatly stating that shot came from this source but merely pointing out that it was one more possibility overlooked by the Warren Commission, those segments of the media which printed the theory afforded it ill-disguised analytic derision. However, it is not so wild. Los Angeles photographer Stephen Jaffe, who has been assisting the DA, has taken photographs from inside which reveal a surprising field of vision. The explosive head shot recorded at Frame 313 on the Zapruder film took place about 90 feet east of the "pillbox;" Jaffe has calcualted that a gumman in the pillbox; I find the

Photos

The accounts rendered by Secret Service agents riding in
the motorcade, whose ears are attuned to the sounds of gunfire,
strengthens the "pillbox" theory. Elinterstrivitit In a report
prepared only hours after the assassination, Clinton J. Hill
wrote that after hearing the intial shot, he heard a second shot
that had architinaria "a different sound——like the sound of
shooting a revolver into something hard" (CE 1024). Afterwards,
before the Commission, he elaborated that the second shot seemed
to come from the "right, but I cannot say for sure that it was rear...

[It] had almost a double sound——as though you were standing against
something metal and firing into it, and you have both the sound of
the gun going off and the sound of the cartridge hitting the metal
plate...it seemed to have some type of echog (Vol. 2, p. 144).

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Agent Roy Kellerman described a "flurry"—"I am going to say two, and it was like a double bang" (Vol. 2, p. 76). George Hickey also perceived the double phenomenon: "I heard two reports which I thought were shots and that appeared to me completely different in sound than the first report and were in such rapid succession that there seemed to be prectically no time element between them" (CE 1024).

double-thud characteristic of a shot fired in a semi-closed container.

At precisely 12:40 p.m. by the Hertz clock atop the Depository Building, photographer Murray took a picture of a plainclothes officer picking up an object from the grass on Dealey Plaza. The object, is located about two feet from the curb on the south side of thu Elm Street close to where the President received his massive head wound, incocking continuous is the shape and size of a .45 caliber bullet or a bullet of similarly large caliber. The tag line on the photograph disceminated by United Press-International informs that the officer is searching for "a bullet believed to have lodged in par the earth." A subsequent photograph shows the officer walking away from the scene with his hand clenched as if holding a small object. The prit UPI photograph was not widely published in the press; the Dallas Times\*Herald, for example, ran it inchinoculocomic in its first editions the evening of the assassimation but pulled it from later editions. The unnamed officer has now been identified as FBI agent Kyle G. Clark. Neither his name nor the incident appears in the Warren Report or its 26 volumes. If he did in fact recover a bullst of a different caliber than the 6.5 caliber load for the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle allaeged to have been fired by Oswald, the existence of a conspiracy was established ten minutes after the assassination.

As Carrison puts it, "Many men in many places were glancing at their watches at noon on November 22, 1963." It is now evident that some of those men were in Washington, and that they had put in motion the coverup even before the morifund President reached Parkland Hospital.

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