

official parade lineup.

The Cleburne Junior High School PTA will host an open house for parents, today, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the school. Parents will follow their children's schedules and will meet teachers as they travel around the building.

The first event scheduled for the 4th Annual Texas Wild West Showdown in Cleburne is a stick horse rodeo for the youngsters. It is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, at the Johnson County Sheriff's Posee Arena.

The stick horse rodeo is open to kids between the ages of two and six who will be riding their own stick horses. Events include bareback riding, bull riding, barrel racing, pole bending and calf roping.

Prizes will be awarded, and word has it that KDEW Channel 4 will be on hand to film segments of the stick horse rodeo and the open rodeo which will follow at 7:30 p.m.

The entry fee is \$5 per youngster.

Stick horse rodeo organizer Ann Maak said, "We want to do something positive for the kids." She went on to say it seems like we don't hear much about the good things kids are doing these days. This activity will be a good way for our young buckaroos to spend a little time and have some fun.

To enter the stick horse rodeo, or for more information, contact Mrs. Maak at 645-6475.

The Wild West Showdown will continue with an open rodeo and dance on Friday night. On Saturday, Oct. 9, the parade begins at 10 a.m. in downtown Cleburne, and the day is packed with a variety of activities celebrating the western spirit of our area. The showdown concludes on Saturday night with a talent show at the Esquire Theatre.

Proceeds from the showdown will benefit the Johnson County Committee on Aging Meals-on-Wheels Program.

"It was a privilege to have been a student during the years Mr. Smith served as superintendent," said Justin Hewitt, president of the CISD Board of Trustees, following the unanimous vote of approval to rename the PAC. "And now it is a pleasure to be able to honor him for all the dedication and hard work he devoted to this district."

"He is most deserving of this honor after his many years of dedicated service during Smith's years with Cleburne schools. "We are very pleased to have the high school's Performing Arts Center named after Mr. Smith," said CISD Superintendent Jim Gramert. "He was very instrumental in making the district's dream of a facility such as the PAC a reality."



Don Smith

During Smith's tenure the Gerard See SMITH, page 7A

SOLVED MYSTERY

Death notice of stripper was concocted by Penn Jones

By PETE KENDALL

Three-Paw Paw Staff

The story began with Penn Jones Jr. some 27 years ago at a crusading weekly newspaper in Midlothian. The story ended with wife Elaine Jones on Sept. 26, 1993, in a quaint farm cottage near the Ellis County community of Palmer.

With the 79-year-old Jones at her side, slipping from a mug of coffee at the dining room table, Mrs. Jones didn't die at all. She was killed off by Mr. Jones in his first book, Vol. I of "Forgive My Grief," to help her disappear and avoid those who might want to do her harm.

It was with "Forgive My Grief," published in 1966, that Mr. Jones emerged as the guiding light of assassination researchers with a no-holds-barred critique of the Warren Commission Report.

The Warren Commission stated that Oswald acted alone in assassinating Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, legendary former publisher of the *Midlothian Mirror*, stated otherwise.

He favored a conspiracy theory from the very beginning and advocated his position in newspaper editorials and books, in part by reporting mysterious deaths of figures who played some part, however large or small, in the deaths of Kennedy and Oswald.

One was Karen Lynn Bennett Carlin, aka "Little Lynn," a stripper for three months at Ruby's Cruised Club on Commerce St.

Some researchers believe Ruby manipulated Little Lynn — via several telephone calls and a Western Union money order — into providing him with an "alibi" for a spand-the-moment shooting of Oswald at Dallas Police Headquarters.

Some researchers believe Ruby plotted the abducting to occur minutes after he wind Little Lynn money in Fort Worth.

Little Lynn was interviewed in Fort Worth that fateful weekend by a Secret Service agent. She testified at Ruby's two trials. She revealed nothing of significance.

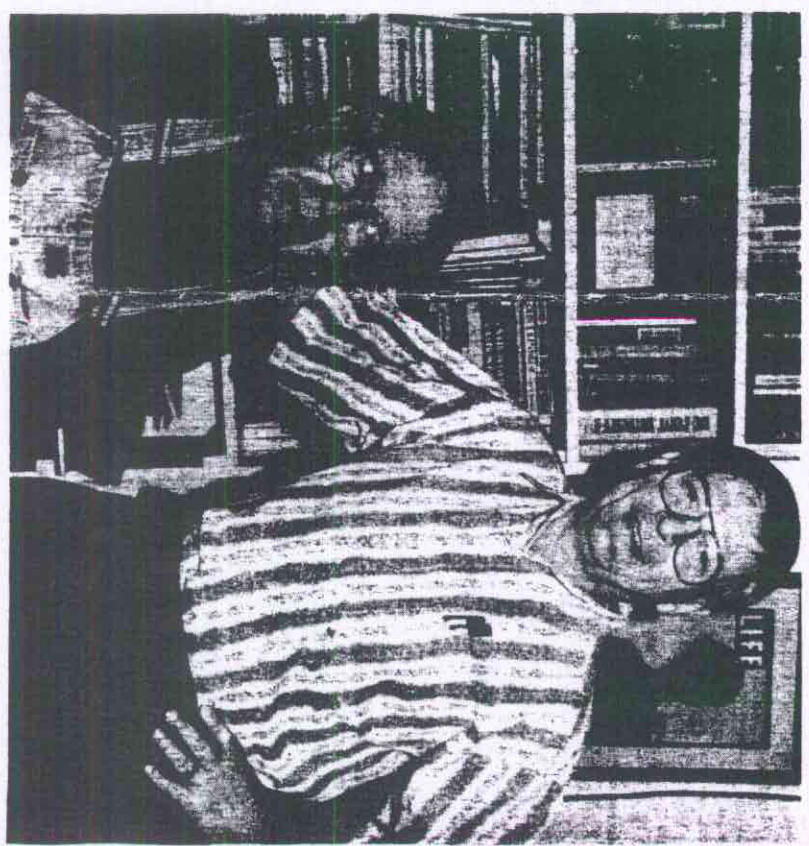
The *Times-Review* reported recently that she spent most of 1964 changing residences in Fort Worth, that she appeared a final time as an exotic dancer at the Skyliner Ballroom on the Jackson Highway, and that she was arrested by Fort Worth police for indecent exposure on Labor Day.

Then she dropped out of sight. Published her two years later, Jones published her obit in "Forgive My Grief."

"The story has been printed," he said. "See DEATH, page 7A"

but we can pull it on the super collider." Backers countered that loss of the collider would deal a devastating setback to future scientific and technological development. Scientists hope to discover new particles and learn more about the origin of matter by colliding beams of subatomic particles at near-light speeds in the collider's 54-mile underground tunnel.

Cleburne TX
Times Review 9/30/93



Penn Jones Jr., 79, and Cleburne resident Gary Shaw pictured Tuesday at Jones' Ellis County home near Palmer. (Photo: Pete Kendall)

DEATH

Continued from page 1A

...that Karen Lynn Bennett, 'Little Lynn,' died of gunshot wounds in the head in Houston. She died under the name of Teresa Norton. 'Little Lynn' is the last known person to talk to Ruby before he shot Oswald. Numerous authors repeated, and occasionally embellished, the death notice. One, the late Sylvia Meagher, added the more specific date of August 19, 1964, in her authoritative work, "Accessories after the Fact," in 1967.

Only in the last year did any published assassination researcher bring up the possibility that she might be alive. Cleburne resident Gary Shaw was the first and only one to say he had spoken with her by telephone and corresponded with her through the mail. Several authors printed Shaw's claim.

Until Tuesday, though, Jones' 27-year-old death notice was the fly in the ointment. His information had to have come from somewhere. He had to have had a reason for printing that Little Lynn was dead. He did have a reason, Shaw and a Times-Review reporter learned.

According to Mrs. Jones, whose husband was recently hospitalized and suffers memory lapses, Mr. Jones spoke with Little Lynn and an unknown man in Houston in either 1965 or 1966 and was asked to report her death.

What follows is the pertinent portion of a 40-minute taped interview conducted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Neither had read the recent Times-Review story concerning Little Lynn before Tuesday's interview, and neither was made aware before the interview that

Shaw had been in contact with Little Lynn.

SHAW — What do you remember about what Penn told you about Little Lynn and the trip to Houston?
ELAINE JONES — Whenever it was told Penn that for her sake he was to say she was dead. She was going into the government protection plan. I don't remember much else besides that he was supposed to say she was dead. He did see her. He did talk with her. He knew she was alive, but the story was she was supposed to be dead.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Little Lynn's mid-'60s disappearance would preclude the government's official witness protection program.

T-R — Penn did see her in Houston?
ELAINE JONES — Yes, that's what he always told me. And there was some man he talked to. I don't know the man's name, but he was a government official. The story was to be released that she was dead for her protection.

T-R — When did that take place in Houston?
ELAINE JONES — 1965 or 1966, along in there.

SHAW — So Penn actually released that story.

ELAINE JONES — Yeah. He probably saved her life. **SHAW** — Well, I've been talking to her and writing her for a little over a year. She wants to tell what she knows now. So, hopefully by the 30th anniversary (of the assassination), we'll have her story out.
PENN JONES — Great, great.

Mr. Jones' personal file on Little Lynn isn't particularly revealing, though there are some interesting items,

ses, what he holds most dear from his years in Cleburne are the people, in the schools and in the community, with whom he worked.

"The rapport with and the support of the community in those 15 years and the good feelings about the schools and the family feeling of the school staff is the greatest memory I have," he says. "We were all in it together."

Today, Smith is a consultant and marketing representative with DSA, Inc. of Cleburne, a position he has held since September of 1986.

He still maintains close ties with many local and state educators and is a past president of the Texas Re-

tired School Administrators Association.

Smith spent 37 years of his life in public education, starting out as an eighth-grade teacher and coach in Granbury. He spent five years with Granbury ISD and was serving as a principal when he accepted the post of high school principal with Jack-

He served nine years in that position before assuming the responsibilities of superintendent of the Jackboro district. Smith oversaw many projects in JISD and was also a very active participant in community service, serving as Chamber of Commerce president and director, president of the Jackboro Lions

such as the original letter to her from Warren Commission chief counsel J. Lee Rankin.

There are also several fan letters to her, one in the form of a Christmas card, and Little Lynn's unmailed response. One can only conjecture how Mr. Jones might have obtained them.

From the December, 1963, Christmas card, sent by an admirer in Chicago, Ill.: "Several years back, did you at one time live in San Francisco in a walk-up one-flight furnished apartment? And were you employed at a basement bar where light was provided for by candles? If this is correct, please contact me. If you are who I think you are, I would like to help you."

Little Lynn's unmailed Jan. 7, 1964, response, using the Carousel Club as a return address: "Sir, I am not the girl you are interested in, although I appreciate your letter and the lovely Christmas card. Thank you. Sincerely, Little Lynn, P.S., feel free to write again."

Another admirer in Greenville, Miss., wrote to request a picture. Little Lynn's unmailed response: "Sir, I appreciate your card but do not have any pictures. Little Lynn, P.S., feel free to write again." It's a slim file composed mostly of newspaper clippings, a magazine picture page of Carousel photos, and business cards.

"It looks like it's been stripped down," Mrs. Jones said. "That's the sad part. It looks like at one time there was probably a lot more in the file."

Other researchers have examined the file, according to Mrs. Jones. Authors Harrison Edward Livingstone and Robert J. Groden visited Mr. and Mrs. Jones in the last year.

Club and the Jack County Teacher's Unit.

Smith is a native to Elbert, Texas, and a graduate of Newcastle High School. He is a veteran and served as a staff sergeant assigned to a B-24 Bomb Wing with the 11th Air Force in Alcatraz Island.

Following his term in the service he enrolled in Weatherford Junior College on a football scholarship and received an Associate of Arts degree. He then attended TCU and Texas Wesleyan where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He holds a Master's Degree from TCU and completed 39 hours at the doctoral level at North Texas University.
Don and Wanda Smith, who is

Times-Review, Thursday, September 30, 1993, 7A

Livingstone and Groden co-wrote "High Treason." Livingstone wrote "High Treason 2," in which he delves into the subject of Little Lynn's supposed death and her resurrection by Shaw.
But neither Livingstone nor Groden, Mrs. Jones said, were informed that Mr. Jones' long-ago, oft-repeated death notice on Little Lynn was erroneous and planned.
From Tuesday's interview:

T-R — Has anybody else asked you about Little Lynn?
ELAINE JONES — Only Harry Livingstone and Robert Groden.

T-R — Do you recall what you told them?
ELAINE JONES — We didn't tell them that. We didn't tell them anything. I didn't tell them anything because I didn't know them at all. I just let them look at this file, and they wanted to take it to town and make copies of everything.

Mrs. Jones acknowledges her facts are sketchy. On the subject of Little Lynn, she relies on the file and on her memory of what her husband told her about meeting Little Lynn in Houston in the mid-'60s.

"If he (Penn) wouldn't have kept so many mental notes, that (written research) would have helped," she said.

Nonetheless, the 27-year-old question of Little Lynn's bogus death notice now appears answered. "Everybody and his dog has printed it since then, including yours truly," said Shaw, who said he hopes Little Lynn will soon step forward to fill in all the remaining blanks.

been sent to out-of-town guests, Cleburne ISD wishes to extend an invitation to all friends, associates, employees and school patrons of Don Smith and CISD to this very special event.

PEACE

Continued from page 6A

of the stage for the events that will ultimately unfold in the end times," he told Baptist Press.

Speculation about the end of the world is only expected to heighten with the approach of the Third Millennium.

Evangelist Billy Graham said he has never had so many people asking him if the end of the world is

near. Not only the upheavals in the Middle East, but floods, famines and wars in recent years have helped reinforce such speculation.

"I can't tell you how the events are going to take place....Nor would I say that we are at the end of the age," Graham said. "But I can't help but believe in my heart we are moving toward some climax in history."

SMITH

Continued from page 1A

Elementary School and the CHS Career Center were also constructed and major improvements to all campuses including the air conditioning and relighting of all buildings were initiated.

And construction is only the beginning of what took place during his 15 years at Cleburne, which turned out to be his final stop in public education. Under Smith's leadership, the district's programs were expanded to include Community Education, Adult Education, Volunteers in Public Schools and the Adopt-A-School program. And while he is proud of these facilities and the many programs which continue to the great success,

Edward D. Jones & Co.

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Fool Me Once Shame On You - Fool Me Twice Shame On Me A Follow-up

After completing **Fool Me Once Shame On You - Fool Me Twice Shame On Me** I was still perplexed by the "Penn Jones' story" inconsistencies. For a second time I reviewed the two Cleburne **Times-Review** articles. The first **RESURRECTION JFK researcher Shaw believes he's unearthed 'late' Ruby link** appeared in the September 5, 1993 issue and covered the discovery of Karen Carlin. The second, **Solved Mystery - Death notice of stripper concocted by Penn Jones** of September 30, 1993 detailed the admission of Jones, through his wife, that he "concocted" Carlin's death. Trying to resolve the issues these articles advanced, I decided to call the author, Pete Kendall.

I contacted Pete by telephone on October 15, 1993. Pete is an affable, forty seven year old sports writer for the paper. I quickly formed the opinion he wished he never became involved in the Kennedy assassination. Our conversation was most revealing but I still have to admit there are more questions than answers.

At the time of my call, Pete had received two letters concerning his narratives. One from me, actually a copy of my report on the subject. The other letter was from Penn Jones' wife. It appeared she had problems with her statement that "Whoever it was told Penn that for her (Karen Carlin's) sake he was to say she was dead. She was going into the government protection plan." Evidently Elaine Jones felt Kendall misquoted her. To settle this I asked Pete how he conducted the interview.

The discussion took place at Jones' home. Present were Pete Kendall, Penn Jones Jr., Elaine Jones and J. Gary Shaw. Elaine was the primary subject as Penn is elderly and does suffer from memory lapses. I assumed Gary Shaw was there as a friend of the Jones'. However Shaw handled that portion of the interview in which Elaine Jones revealed the "concocted" death notice!

Pete Kendall sees nothing inaccurate with what he wrote. As it is with most good reporters he records his interviews. He has the forty minute meeting on tape. Additionally, if Elaine's comments were inaccurate why did Gary Shaw continue his questioning without requesting a clarification? Incidentally, Kendall did respond to Elaine's letter with an apology of sorts but remains steadfast that he did nothing improper.

I can understand why Mrs. Jones, upon reflection, would be upset with her quotation but Gary Shaw's inaction while Elaine communicated the story mystifies me. The whole scenario they created is not logical.

[1] First, let's look at Penn Jones' stance with respect to the government at the time the Carlin incident unfolded.

In his **Forgive My Grief I** summation Penn states "It would be presumptuous for a weekly newspaper (He was owner/editor of the **Midlothian Mirror**) to think it could solve such a heinous crime. So heinous, in fact, that every branch of the government involved assisted in covering and obfuscating the evidence left after that terrible day in Dallas." **Forgive My Grief I** also contains the Carlin "death notice."

[2] Mrs. Jones claims someone from the government met with her husband and Karen Carlin aka "Little Lynn" in Houston sometime in 1965 or 1966. An agent of the government requested Penn publish Carlin's death notice. This was to assist her entry "into the government protection plan." Let's take a minute and look at the witness protection program.

The "Witness Protection and Management Program" was part of The Crime Control Act of 1970 under Title 91-452. The purpose was to protect individuals who observed criminal activity. Before testifying these people were placed in protective custody. Only AFTER they testified did they enter

the program. These witnesses ended up safeguarded, given new identities and relocated by the United States' government in exchange for their damaging revelations.

Elaine admitted to Kendall and Shaw that Penn went to Houston and met " . . . some man he talked to. I don't know the man's name but he was a government official."

Now we have Jones helping the very government he tells us "assisted in covering and obfuscating the evidence. . ." He is supporting the government in protecting a person who may testify against the government. Furthermore, Mrs. Jones has Penn helping Carlin enter a protection program at least four years before the procedure was implemented.

But wait - Carlin did give an affidavit to law enforcement shortly after the assassination and the Warren Commission deposed her. If "Little Lynn" had or has anything of value to add to her story, wouldn't she be a candidate for Penn's mysterious death list? After all the government knew where she was for they had her in the program.

[3] Next - why would the government want to reveal Carlin's death through Jones' publication?

As of September, 1966, the self published *Forgive My Grief I* had a total print run of 22,500 copies. To protect Carlin I think any governmental body would find a major newspaper with an extensive circulation a better outlet for their purpose.

[4] Can we deduce Penn Jones Jr. was working with or for the government?

The article concludes "Everybody and his dogs have printed it (Carlin's death notice) including yours truly. said Shaw, who said he hopes Little Lynn will soon step forward to fill in all the remaining blanks."

Remaining blanks? The only blanks are in the story. Shaw has missed the point completely. Never mind Jones' concocted death story. If this story is not a fabrication then Jones **WAS** helping the government to the extent of having clandestine meetings with an agent!

Look, I admit I have never been keen on Penn's research abilities. Even so, I can't believe he ever worked in concert with the government with respect to any facet of the assassination. I would like to chalk this up to a misunderstanding of his wife. But remember some of this stuff came out during Gary Shaw's questioning of Elaine Jones.

I think, a major shortcoming of Gary Shaw and his "assassination research" associates are the trail of unresolved issues they leave in their wake. We can add "Little Lynn" to a list that includes Roscoe White, "Bill X" potentially the "Mexico City Man," The "Black Ace," Chauncey Holt and the assassination "scenario writer." They have listened to, believed, exaggerated and retold so many coincidence and conspiracy stories they can't distinguish fact from fancy.

Unfortunately, for Penn Jones Jr., this one is very different. With an absurd anecdote the image of a "first generation" assassination investigator has been tarnished. I never thought I would be placed in the position of rushing to Penn Jones' defense, but Penn is old and his memory is failing. He couldn't be aware of what was transpiring around him during that interview. No one should be placed in that position. No one deserves that.

Dave Perry
4601 Ainsworth Circle
Grapevine, TX 76051 October 20, 1993

Fool Me Once Shame On You - Fool Me Twice Shame On Me

Each year within the research community there is great interest in who will appear at the ASK symposium in Dallas. While reading the September 5, 1993 Cleburne, Texas **Times-Review** I concluded ASK representative J. Gary Shaw had discovered a blockbuster guest. The newspaper article revealed, in October of 1992 while Shaw was at the JFK Assassination Information Center in Dallas, he had been contacted by Karen Carlin, aka Little Lynn. Carlin, one of Jack Ruby's strippers, was not only employed by Ruby the week of the assassination but was the recipient of Ruby's infamous Western Union money order. Ruby transmitted the money to Carlin shortly before he shot and killed Oswald. This event has been used by anti-conspiracy theorists as proof Ruby's act was not premeditated.

There was a problem, however. Many years ago, 1966 to be exact, Shaw's close personal friend and fellow assassination researcher Penn Jones Jr. declared Ms. Carlin dead. On page 174 of his self published **Forgive My Grief I** Jones maintained Carlin was killed by "gunshot wounds in the head in Houston." I wondered how Mr. Shaw was going to resolve this inconsistency.

During my research into the Kennedy assassination I have been baffled by some of the stories put forward by Penn Jones Jr. A man the Cleburne **Times-Review** proclaims "the guiding light of assassination researchers." In tracing his narratives concerning Lee Bowers' mysterious death, Buell Frazier's relationship with John Crawford and the revelations of Roger Craig there were, in my view, many dilemmas. Additionally, as the Ricky White episode unfolded I developed doubts about the abilities of his chief protege and ASK emissary, J. Gary Shaw. In the case at hand was Carlin alive and Jones wrong or was Shaw contacted by an imposter?

To me, a weak and disturbing attempt to resolve these issues appeared in the Cleburne **Times-Review** of September 30, 1993. That publication contained an article by staff reporter Pete Kendall. The title of the piece was "**Solved Mystery - Death notice of stripper concocted by Penn Jones.**" It seems Mr. Jones revealed to his wife that he invented the Karen Carlin death notice in **Forgive My Grief I**. Jones' wife claimed "Whoever it was told Penn that for her (Carlin's) sake he was to say she was dead. She was going into the government protection plan."

Even the editor of the **Times-Review** found this new revelation hard to swallow. The paper immediately points out the government had no witness protection plan in place at the time Jones faked Carlin's death. I also found it curious Jones exhibited a touching concern for Carlin's safety when, without proof, he labeled her a "Ruby prostitute" on page 102 of **Forgive My Grief III**.

Kendall professes Jones "was recently hospitalized and suffers from memory lapses." This is not a contemporary event. In earlier years, a healthy Mr. Jones was unable to remember the name of the ambulance driver (Noel Coward) who removed the severely injured Lee Bowers from the scene of his accident. Jones was incapable of recalling the name of the doctor (R.H. Bohl) who treated Bowers at Waxahachie Hospital. He failed to reveal how preposterous his story of a one year old Buell Frazier meeting with his twenty two year old "lifelong friend" John Crawford was.

The **Times-Review** article does not give the date Jones confessed this current distortion of the facts to his wife. However, even then he was silent as to the name of the government "whoever" that

requested the death notice be published. His continual forgetfulness makes it difficult to verify the accuracy of his anecdotes.

Additionally Mr. and Mrs. Jones expose the researchers Mr. Jones has deceived. Included in the list are Sylvia Meagher, Robert Groden and Harrison Livingstone.

I believe it is time for researchers attending the ASK symposium to interrogate Mr. Shaw carefully. If Ms. Carlin appears Shaw should be required to provide proof positive his witness is just who he claims she is. Why? This is not the first time Jones or Shaw have created problems for serious investigators of the assassination.

In 1992 when I was working on my **Third Decade** article on the Lee Bowers' story, I interviewed Noel Coward's wife as well as Doctor Ray Bohl. Both indicated Jones had misrepresented Coward's and Bohl's roles in the Bowers' case. Sadly but somewhat fortuitously, Jones has admitted he is not above fabrication. As for J. Gary Shaw, in the **Times-Review** article of September 5, 1993 he distances himself from the JFK Assassination Information Center.

"I was not the director of the JFK Assassination Information Center at that time. I had resigned from that position in February, 1991."

Many of you will remember he **WAS** director when the Roscoe White story broke through the Center's August 6, 1990 press conference. In Oliver Stone's book **JFK The Documented Screenplay** on page 19, Stone declares:

"In what appears to be nothing more than a publicity seeking hoax, a Texas group that included White's son and widow presented 'evidence' in 1990 that White was the real assassin behind the picket fence."

The JFK Assassination Information Center turned much of that "evidence" over to the Texas attorney general's office. On February 2, 1991 through the **Austin American-Statesman** the attorney general officially closed the Roscoe White case and issued the following statement::

"So far everything we have looked at has not given any credibility to anything these people have been trying to say about the documents and that whole affair."

It is ironic that the JFK Assassination Information Center is a sponsor of Mr. Shaw's ASK symposium. The research community makes some strange bedfellows indeed.

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