

VOL. 4, NO. 32

METROPOLITAN 15¢

JULY 9, 1969

ASSASSINATIONS IN AMERICA

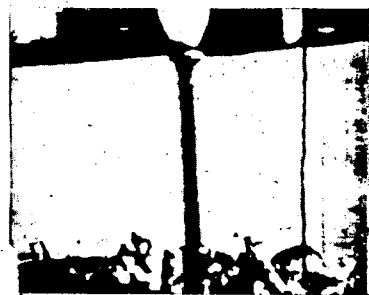




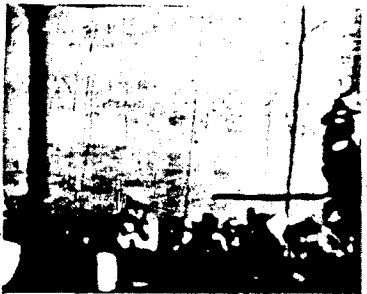
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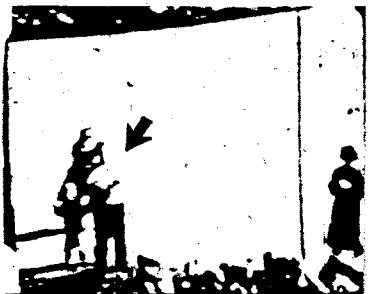
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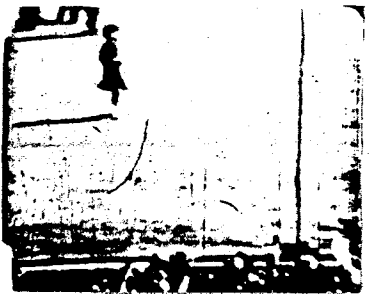
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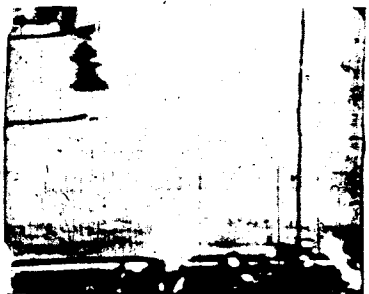
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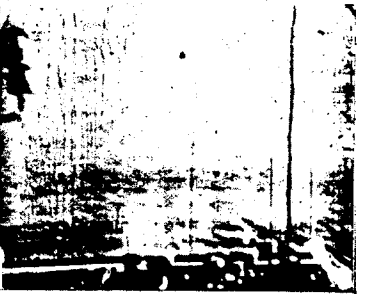
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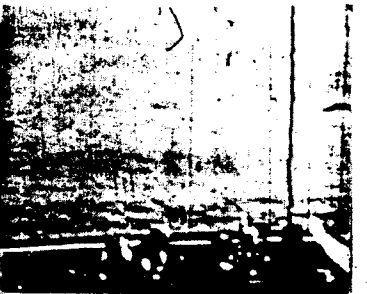
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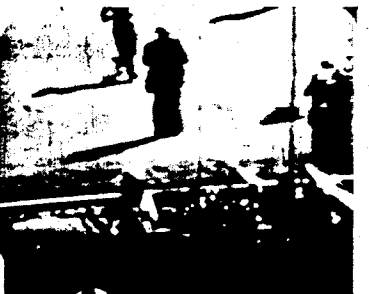
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assassination, u. s. a.

EVO INTERVIEWS MARK LANE
ON AMERICA AND THE
ASSASSINATIONS

by Claudia Dreifus

Since John F. Kennedy was murdered in 1963, three major national figures, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Robert F. Kennedy have been downed by assassins' bullets. And then there have been all those Black Panthers who died, and all those civil rights activists. Political assassination is becoming more American than Andy Hardy.

As if from a recording, each assassination is followed by an official explanation that the act was committed by a lone, crazed individual, and that there was no conspiracy involved. A foreigner must think that the nation is filled with lonely lunatics who do nothing but gun down important public figures for joy, emotional release, and publicity. Few journalists have bothered with any serious investigation of the assassinations -- and even fewer have cared to link them up. We spoke last week to Mark Lane, the author of RUSH TO JUDGEMENT and an associate of New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison. Lane spent the past five years writing about and investigating the murder of John F. Kennedy, and in the process has picked up a good deal of information about the three other assassinations. Though the conversation is lengthy, we thought the subject matter was so important that we would reprint the interview as fully as possible.

CD: Since you began investigating the assassination of John F. Kennedy, there have been several others.

ML: Oh, yes, there have been some others. In fact there have been enough assassinations in the U.S. that if they had taken place in some Latin American country, we would be able to say "that's how they do business down there," and feel quite self-righteous. Fortunately, we Anglo-Saxons North of the Mexican border would never become engaged in any kind of activity like that.

CD: Dr. Edgar Z. Friedenberg, the University of Buffalo sociologist, once said that any nation that can lose two Kennedy brothers is either sloppy or careless.

ML: There were in the US in the past few years four people who had the charisma and ability to develop effective leadership in the areas of ending the war in Vietnam and for Justice for Black people in this country to the point where they had large followings and had become important political forces. WHERE ARE THEY NOW??? John F. Kennedy? Malcolm X? Martin Luther King? Robert F. Kennedy? All dead and all the victims of assassins. And all of these acts, of course, are "completely unrelated." And all we have to do is ask any Attorney General in power at the time and he will assure us that it is so.

CD: Well, nobody believes Attorney Generals. They're "notorious liars," if I may borrow a phrase from J. Edgar Hoover.

ML: I'm not so sure that people are doubtful. One of the things which indicates what has happened to our country in the past five years is a study of the way the alleged "lone" assassin has been treated by our society, Lee Harvey Oswald? The evidence shows conclusively that President Kennedy was killed as a result of a conspiracy. A conspiracy as defined by law is two or more persons acting in concert to effect an illegal end. A LL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOTK AT THE FILM TAKEN BY AN AMATUER PHOTOGRAPHER, Abraham Zapruder, in Dealy Plaza that day and which shows the entire assassination in Dallas. The fatal shot clearly come from the right-front. As the bullet strikes the President in the head from the right front, you see that he is driven backward with shocking suddenness and then to the left. However, the Warren Commission said that Lee Harvey Oswald was directly BEHIND the President. If the fatal shot came from behind, the thrust of the bullet would have pushed him forward.

CD: Where can one see prints of the Zapruder film?
NL: You have to break into the TIME-LIFE building into their vaults -- to see it. Becau e that's where they are keeping it, at the request of the U.S. government. However, I have a copy of the film.
CD: Tell me, Mark, did you break into the vaults of the TIME-LIFE building?

ML: I have a copy of the Zapruder film. In any event, once you come to the conclusion that there was a conspiracy, then you have to say that only one of two things would come from a trial of Oswald: 1) If he was involved in a conspiracy with others, perhaps at his trial he might have given the names of his co-conspirators; 2) If he was not involved and was acquitted, then America might have asked "Who did it?" So, if Oswald was found guilty or not guilty, a trial was a thing to be avoided for the conspirators. That reasoning bore fruit because he was executed in the Dallas Police Station while surrounded by 70 police officers, by a dear friend of the Police, Jack Ruby. The point I make is that Oswald had to be killed

before he spoke to any human being. He had, of course, spoken to FBI agents, Dallas policemen, Secret Servicemen, and CIA agents in the 48 hours he was in custody. But no record of what he said seems to exist. The Dallas police said that no tape recorders or police stenographers were available at the time.

/CD: This sounds rather odd. They had on their hands the most important prisoner in the history of the United States. Why wouldn't they make a record?

/ML: Because what he said was not convenient to the government's purposes, and Oswald was eliminated before he could talk to anyone else.

/ Now we go to five years later and we have James Earl Ray. Ray was either involved in a conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King or he was innocent of the crime. There is no other alternative, since there clearly was a conspiracy, and a successful one at that.

/ There is a very important witness in the Ray case, Charles Q. Stevens, who lived in the apartment right next door to the bathroom from where Dr. King's assassin fired the fatal shot. Right after the murder, I flew to Memphis and talked with all the witnesses. What Stevens had to say was most interesting, as he had seen the assassin twice on the fatal day, once when he went into the bathroom to fire the shot and once when he was fleeing the building with a package under his arms. Stevens gave me a description of the assassin and it was completely contrary to the photographs of James Earl Ray. For one thing, the man whom he described was at the oldest maybe twenty-five years of age. Stevens said that he was likely in his early twenties. Ray, of course, is obviously forty.

/ By the way, as soon as James Earl Ray was arrested in London, Stevens was also arrested, "detained" and kept in jail for a long time until after Ray pleaded guilty.

/CD: I remember right after Dr. King was shot the police were looking for an Eric Starvo Galt, who looked nothing like James Earl Ray. Whatever happened to him?

/ML: The FBI had originally charged Eric Starvo Galt with "conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King." It was probably the first time in the history of the FBI that they've used that phrase when they weren't talking about young people or communists. They said there was a conspiracy and that Eric Starvo Galt entered into a conspiracy with a person allegedly his brother, and with other persons whose identities are unknown at the present time. That was the original charge made by the FBI. The Bureau sent out a description of Galt, the name, his pictures and fingerprints, and sent them all to the southern Bureaus of Investigation -- the local state outfits. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said later, when the FBI sent out James Earl Ray's picture, description and fingerprints, that these were the fingerprints of a different man than Eric Starvo Galt. And, of course, if you look at the pictures you can judge for yourself -- they are completely different. A any rate, the fingerprints were completely different, according to the FBI.

CD: What has always struck me as odd is how James Earl Ray managed to escape the U.S., travel to Europe, and live so well for the two months after Dr. King's murder.

/ML: Somehow James Earl Ray--if he was the murderer--eluded the competent authority, the FBI, got all the way from the Deep South into Canada, where three identities were prepared for him--travel documents in the names of three persons, all of whom looked alike and all of whom looked like James Earl Ray. The identification papers were given to him. He then flew to Europe and travelled around a bit. According to Scotland Yard, who apprehended him, Ray was drawing funds from a numbered Swiss bank account. All of this would indicate that something much greater than James Earl Ray was involved. If indeed James Earl Ray was involved at all. In addition to his, of course, just after the shot was fired that killed Dr. King and when whoever fired that shot was escaping Memphis, someone else remained in town and for three hours infiltrated the



Memphis police radio. The infiltrator spent three hours giving out a description of a chase all around Memphis-- lurid details of a chase that never took place. This is similar to the modus operandi of those who infiltrated the Dallas police radio on November 22, 1963 and who gave a description of Lee Harvey Oswald long before any evidence at all pointed to Oswald. And the Warren Commission was to say in its report that it didn't know how that description of Oswald got onto the Dallas police radio. But it was a similar technique to the one used in Memphis.

/CD: Well, do you think there is a standard technique-- and perhaps a pattern to these assassinations?

/ML: Well, we know that the CIA has an assassination program. It's called an "Executive Disposal Program." It has been used in Vietnam, Africa, and Asia since that organization came into power. A man who held a rather responsible position with the CIA left that organization to work with Jim Garrison in New Orleans for a while, and he described in some detail how the program works. He felt that a number of assassinations outside the U.S. as well as some inside, fell closely within the classic pattern outlined by the CIA.

/ In any event, someone stayed behind in Memphis. The evidence showed clearly that there was a stationary radio, not a moving radio, which was infiltrating the Memphis police radio, while someone else was escaping from the scene. So, you have at least two people involved--and that's a conspiracy!! And if someone was setting up identities for James Earl Ray--whose greatest claim to fame at the time was that of a small-town Southern hood--then one has to consider how these identities were made available, how they were secured, and how this small local Southern hood could get up a numbered Swiss bank account -- something I wouldn't know how to do myself.

/CD: A while ago, Rev. James Bevel, one of Dr. King's associates in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said that he could prove that James Earl Ray was innocent. I've seen Bevel speak on a number of occasions and thought that he was an incredibly together person, which leads me to believe that he wouldn't blabber about a thing like this. Do you have a clue about what he was into?

/ML: Yes, he offered his assistance to Ray's defense. But I think he has pretty much the same information that I have. None of the Black leadership believes that this wasn't a conspiracy. JET ran a very interesting issue

around the time of Ray's mini-trial where they interviewed many important black leaders. Simply no one believed that this whole thing was the singular act of James Earl Ray. And the one who believed it least of all was Ray himself. You may recall at the end of the mini-trial, Ray got up and asked the judge, "I would like to point this out to you. Your Honor. I don't believe Ramsey Clark and I don't believe my lawyer, Percy Foreman, when they say that there was no conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King. There was a conspiracy." And the judge, Judge Battle, said, "Well, that's an incidental matter. Are you still pleading guilty? Yes? Okay. 99 years in seclusion."

/CD: Assassination law has grown a lot more humane with time and experience. We no longer have to kill fall-guys. We've come a long way, huh?

/ML: Yeah. They sent him away. That's how America has changed since 1963. In 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald had to be killed in the police station for fear if he told a somewhat curious American people what he knew, we would be outraged. By 1968, there was no fear of that. The man charged with being the lone assassin of Dr. King could get up and say that there was a conspiracy and America would be completely silent, docile and not react at all.

/CD: Do you intend to do something about waking up the country? RUSH TO JUDGEMENT, your first book on the JFK assassination, had quite an impact. It is said that the book prompted Jim Garrison into reopening his assassination investigation. Perhaps you can do something like this again. Certainly the book that William Bradford Huie will write will be nothing but a mint-julep coated whitewash.

/ML: I don't really know if anything can be done. I think the statistic which is the saddest one is this whole area, if the polls can be trusted, is the poll that said that 75 per cent of the American people said that they did not believe the Warren Report. The poll went on to say that 68 per cent of the same people did not think there should be a new investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. If these polls can be credited, it appears that the posture of the American people is to say to the government, "I know you lied to me about the death of the President and that's okay. The only thing I ask you now is please don't tell me the truth." And if that is the posture of the American people, I don't really know what can be done about the assassinations which have followed, let alone the JFK murder. The country has changed.

/CD: I can see how the average person would not want to know the truth. The terror of knowing that everything you believed in is corrupt and a lie can make a person very insecure. For the average American, it is better to sweep the whole thing under the table and forget it.

/ML: You know, there are people today who say that "he wasn't such a good president anyway—so who cares about who killed him."

/CD: Believe me, we miss him more and more. Even with his faults.

/ML: Cause and effect have become alien doctrines in our country. Kennedy was killed because he was becoming a better President. He was killed because in September of 1963 he said he was withdrawing 1,000 of the 17,000 American "advisors" from Vietnam and that by the end of the following year every American would be out of that country. About a week before he was killed he said the same thing again and he withdrew another 1,000 advisors.

/CD: Don't you think that the Black leaders are interested in finding out who really killed Dr. King? I would think that they'd want to know the truth—if only for their own self-protection. After all, a rifle pointed at Martin Luther King or Malcolm X can be pointed at any Black man who starts proving himself an effective leader of his people.

/ML: Yeah, sure. But how's anyone going to find out? James Earl Ray is incommunicado. His lawyer, Percy Foreman, came out after doing such a brilliant job of defending his client that day, he only secured him 99 years of solitary confinement...

/CD: But Foreman did quite well financially for himself.

/ML: Oh, yes. He did quite well. His fee was in the hundred thousand dollar range and he got lots of blows on television... This is what I mean about how the country has changed in five years. A network reporter said to him, "Well, Mr. Foreman, do you think there was a conspiracy?" And he said, "No, there wasn't. I first came to this case a few months ago and thought there might have been. But I have investigated every single aspect of the case and now I'm absolutely convinced that there was no conspiracy." So the reporter said, "Did you ask your client about that?" And there was this long silence. It was a very tough question, you see — one of the few intelligent questions ever asked on television. So after a long silence Foreman answered, "No, I didn't."

/CD: Foreman sounds as if he's either not very bright or is terribly anxious to wrap the case up.

/ML: Well, you're a lawyer, right. You're one of the only people in the country who can get into to see James Earl Ray. And he tell you, as he's told everybody, that there WAS a conspiracy—as he told William Bradford Huie in letters. Huie wrote two major articles on the subject for LOOK.

/CD: Didn't Huie coincidentally change his mind about the possibility of a conspiracy. At first he said he was convinced that there was one. And later, he decided that Ray was just another megalomaniac who was seeking a lot of publicity.

/ML: Well, everybody changed their mind when the new line came from Washington. The federal government moved into Memphis and the Federal government worked out the deal for 99 years.

/CD: Do you think there was a change in line when the Nixon administration took over?

/ML: I don't know. But all the Attorneys General from the John Kennedy assassination on down to the time of the Robert Kennedy assassination have been saying that there were no conspiracies. It is true that before the Nixon administration took over the FBI had charged Eric Starvo Galt with CONSPIRACY to assassinate Dr. King, and after the administration was in, Ray was tried for murder, not conspiracy. Now it is true that the Memphis authorities officially prosecuted Ray. But even the NEW YORK TIMES conceded that there was a federal presence in Memphis during the mini-trial.

/CD: Why don't we get back to Percy Foreman. Why didn't he respond to Ray's assertion that there was a conspiracy?

/ML: If you're Percy Foreman and you can get in to see your client and he tells you what he told William Bradford Huie: that he was given \$12,000, a white Mustang, told to travel around the country, never knew why he was doing anything, met a guy named Raoul when he was in Canada—in essence, he was telling a story of what really happened to Lee Harvey Oswald.

/CD: What do you think really happened to Oswald?

/ML: I think that Oswald was moved around. I think that he believed that he was an employee of the FBI. And maybe he was an employee of the Bureau. He certainly believed he was. He was present at meetings when the assassination of the President was discussed. And he sent a message on November 18, 1963 to the Washington office of the FBI which said that there was a plan to assassinate the President of the United States on November 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas. The FBI sent a telex message to every other southern regional office informing them of Oswald's information.

/CD: How do you know this?

/ML: Well, one of the messages went to a William Steven Walters, a night security clerk in the New Orleans office of the FBI. As soon as it was received, he called a man named Maynard, the Special Agent in charge of the New Orleans office, and Maynard said, "Call our eleven agents who work with the underworld and let them know. Get back to me in the morning." Walters put down on the back of the message the hour he called Maynard and the names of the eleven men. After Kennedy was assassinated, Walters realized the importance of this document, so he went back to the office and took it home with him. He's no longer working for the FBI and he still must have the message. I met Walters while I was lecturing at Tulane University, where he was studying law. He came forward and gave me the information. When Garrison raised this with the federal government and asked for the original copy of the message. Mr. Walters was contacted by the FBI and told that if he ever discussed this matter again, he would be charged with revealing government secrets. And then he disappeared. And we haven't heard from him since. Garrison tried to call him as a witness for the Clay Shaw trial, but no one

Motion pictures taken on November 22, 1963 and until now suppressed by the government and the media reveal that President Kennedy was killed by a shot which came from his front. The Warren Commission in its official whitewash contended that Oswald, the "lone assassin," was BEHIND the President when the shots were fired.

Both President Kennedy and Governor Connally had been wounded by shots fired from the rear. But EVO is printing suppressed frames which show yet another shot clearly originating from the front of the President.

The Majority of the witnesses in Dealey plaza in Dallas said that the fatal shot came from behind a wooden fence high up on a grassy knoll in front of and to the right of the President's limousine. A number of witnesses saw smoke emanate from behind the fence at the time the shot was fired. These pictures prove that the witnesses were correct. The President is seen going backward and to the left as a result of a shot from the right-front. Though our copies of the film are blurred, we think you can judge the truth for yourself.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

- 1—Arrow No. 1 shows JFK. Arrow No. 2 shows Jacqueline Kennedy
- 2—JFK has already been hit in the back by the first bullet and in the throat by another. Here he is seen clutching his throat with both hands.
- 3—Kennedy falls forward. His wife reaches for him.
- 4—Kennedy has been wounded but not fatally.
- 5—Charles Brehm (arrow) watches. He later said he saw a portion of the President's skull fly backward and to the left.
- 6—Mary morman a Dallas housewife, (arrow) takes pictures. The Warren Commission suppressed her photographs. Her camera was pointed at the window where the Commission said Oswald was stationed.
- 7—JFK falls forward.
- 8—He falls further forward.
- 9—The fatal shot blows the President's head apart. A sizeable portion of his skull flies backward toward Brehm's feet.
- 10—The bullet drives the President back.
- 11—...and further back...
- 12—...and further back...
- 13—until his left shoulder is driven into the back seat.
- 14—Mrs. Kennedy apparently tries to recover the skull portion. She reaches back.
- 15—She climbs onto the limousine's trunk.

could find him anymore. He certainly wasn't in New Orleans.

/CD: The more one talks with you, the more one gets the feeling that the society is doomed. What you are essentially saying is that every time a decent person comes along who is capable of leading a mass movement for human rights or anti-militarism, he is fated to be gunned down by certain rather sinister forces who hold power.

/ML: Who's left? Who's left to talk for the Black people of the country—for the disenfranchised? Who's left to speak eloquently in opposition to the war in Vietnam and in opposition to the control of this country by the Pentagon, by the hardware manufacturers, and by the CIA? Nobody! The four people who could do it best, for whatever reason, are all dead and I don't think it's an accident. I think that they were chosen. And I think if Senator McCarthy had won the Democratic nomination in Chicago that he wouldn't be alive today. And I think maybe that he thinks that, too. And if it is true that he does think that, it would explain a lot about what has happened to him since Chicago.

/NEXT WEEK: Mark Lane will discuss the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy and Malcolm X.

