

Author Tells of Dallas Chaos

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WILLIAM MANCHESTER

Book Cites Disunity in Agents Ranks

By ORR KELLY
Star Staff Writer

Secret Service agents were thrown into confusion within seconds after John F. Kennedy was shot, and "anarchy" was the result among the men guarding the President, William Manchester says.

The "split between loyalists and realists began to tear the Secret Service asunder," Manchester writes in his book, "The Death of a President."

"Thus the Secret Service, which should have been a symbol of continuity, was driven by disunion. The agents were as leaderless and perplexed as the rest of the presidential party.

No Over-all Plan

"Most were following personal loyalties. There was no over-all plan, no design, and the inevitable consequence was anarchy."

Manchester's description of the assassination in Dallas is published in the Jan. 24 issue of *Look* magazine, due on newsstands tomorrow. News stories telling of this second installment of *Look's* serialization had been embargoed for press release tomorrow, but the restriction was broken today by a New

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York newspaper, the World Journal-Tribune.

As Manchester describes the gruesome scene at Parkland Hospital in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, the disarray among the Secret Service squad was part of a general pattern of confusion that might have cost the President's life if he had been critically but not mortally wounded.

When the car carrying the dying President and the seriously wounded Gov. John Connally arrived at Parkland, Manchester says, there wasn't a hospital attendant in sight.

Although the Warren Report said the hospital had been alerted, Manchester says the hospital didn't get the word because of a malfunction in the Dallas police radio system.

As the news swept through the hospital that the President had

been shot and brought there, there was an almost total collapse of discipline, according to Manchester. Fourteen doctors crowded into Trauma Room No. 1, when only three were essential, and patients wandered through the halls trying to get a glimpse of the President or his wife.

Manchester's controversial book is to be published in April. The *Look* serialization contains 60,000 words taken from the 300,000-word book.

The second installment begins with the President awakening in his suite in a Fort Worth hotel and Lee Harvey Oswald heading for work with his rifle and telescopic sight and ends with the new president, Lyndon Johnson, ready to leave Parkland for Air Force 1, the presidential plane.

Manchester's account of the assassination itself is excruciatingly vivid.

After the first bullet hit him, a quizzical look came over the President's face — the same expression he had when searching for an answer to a tough question at a news conference, Manchester says.

Starts to Raise Hand

Kennedy started to raise his hand as though to brush back his tousled chestnut hair.

"But the motion faltered. The hand fell back limply. He had been reaching for the top of his head. But it wasn't there any more..."

It was in that moment between the first shot and the fatal one, Manchester implies, that the Secret Service might have saved the President's life.

Of the two Secret Service agents in the presidential limousine, Manchester says, the driver, William Greer was 54, and Roy Kellerman was 48—although the agents themselves consider a man assigned to guard the President old if he's over 40.

"They were in a position to take evasive action after the first shot, but for five terrible seconds, they were immobilized," Manchester says.

In the time they hesitated, Agent Clint Hill sprinted from the car behind and got a foot and a hand onto the Lincoln

limousine.

Agent Called Back

As the car sprang forward, Manchester says, Mrs. Kennedy reached for Hill and their hands locked. It is impossible, he says, to say who saved whom. The Warren Commission credited Hill with saving Mrs. Kennedy from falling from the rapidly accelerating car.

At the very moment that Hill reached the limousine and the bullet tore open the President's head, Manchester says, Agent Emory Roberts, in the backup car, made an instantaneous switch of allegiance from the dying President to Vice President Johnson.

Roberts called back Agent Jack Ready, who was beginning to follow Hill, and ordered two other agents to take over Johnson's protection as soon as the car stopped, Manchester says. According to the Warren Report, Roberts called Ready back because it was obvious he couldn't catch the presidential car.

In describing the assassination, Manchester firmly rejects the theory that there was more than one assassin.

In fact, he describes only two shots: One which went through the President's neck and hit Connally, and a second, which he says caused the massive, fatal head wound. The Warren Commission said three shots had been fired, but only two found their mark.

Manchester says several

bystanders saw Oswald with his rifle at the six-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building, but indicates they apparently thought he was part of the police and Secret Service forces guarding the presidential motorcade.

Manchester also says, however, that a policeman or Secret Service agent could have seen Oswald.

Although it has been told before, the description of Mrs. Kennedy's attempts to shield the shattered head of her husband is heart-wringing.

In the moments after the fatal shot, she crouched over him, cradling his shoulders in her arms and holding his head with her gloved hands. She couldn't bear the thought, Manchester says, that others might see what she had seen.

And when they reached the hospital, Manchester says, she

shielded his head and wouldn't let Secret Service agents take him from the car.

When Agent Hill touched her shoulders, she trembled convulsively and when he told her they had to get him to a doctor, she replied:

"No, Mr. Hill. You know he's

dead. Let me alone."

Hands Coat to Her

Realizing what was troubling her, Hill handed her his suit-coat and she wrapped it around the President's head. But as they started to lift his body from the car, the coat began to slip and Mrs. Kennedy again grasped her husband in what Manchester describes as a "formidable struggle."

The "anarchy" in the Secret Service squad became increasingly apparent at the hospital, Manchester says.

Even though Johnson might have been the next target in a plot against the United States, Manchester says, Johnson was taken to one of the most exposed rooms in the hospital—and the shades were lowered, calling attention to that room.

Agent Kellerman was still technically in charge, Manchester says, but Agent Roberts had already defied him by re-assigning other agents. But few of the agents bothered to tell Kellerman anything, he writes, and that was probably just as well because it avoided a meaningless showdown.

Other Confusion

The Secret Service agents were by no means alone in their confusion, however. Four examples:

1. Manchester says the President's senior military aide, Maj. Gen. Ted Clifton, managed to get through to the White House by phone—and asked that his wife be informed that he was not injured. Only after that message had been passed along did he try to find out if the assassination was part of a plot against the country, Manchester says.

2. Agent Hill, who had given his coat to Mrs. Kennedy, suddenly became acutely conscious of his shirtsleeves and borrowed a coat from the hospital's public relations man.

3. Lawrence F. O'Brien, a key Kennedy aide, walked up to a desk in the hospital, where a woman handed him a form and a ball-point pen. Dutifully, he began to print his name—until the idiocy of what he was doing suddenly struck him.

4. In the hallway between Trauma Room No. 1 and Trauma Room No. 2, Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Connally stood a few feet from each other.



Caroline at play in 1963.



BOBBY KENNEDY

drove through the White House southwest gates, as she regularly did on weekdays, to pick up her daughter and some of the other children attending the Kennedy White House school.

This day was a little different for her car pool because for the first time she was going to take Caroline away too.

"Agatha and Caroline were best friends—they're only a month in age apart—and Agatha was always going to Caroline's house to play, to the White House or Camp David or wherever.

"We could never seem to return the hospitality because on weekends, the President wanted to be with his children. This weekend seemed ideal because the Kennedys were going to be away," Mrs. Pozen said.

She left the White House, she recalls, with six youngsters.

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ON WAY TO CHEVY CHASE

Did Caroline Hear News As Car Radio Blared?

By ROBERTA HORNIG

Star Staff Writer

Caroline Kennedy was riding along Rock Creek Parkway on her way to her first weekend away from home at the moment her father was shot to death in Dallas.

The account of what Caroline, 6, was doing the afternoon of President Kennedy's assassination appears in the second installment of Look Magazine's serialization of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President."

The President's daughter, whose whereabouts at the time of the assassination had never been revealed before, was to have spent the weekend in Chevy Chase with one of her best friends, Agatha Pozen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pozen. Pozen is administrative assistant to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.

Pozen's wife, Liz, who had been interviewed by Manchester at dinner here at the Lawyer's Club last spring, repeated her story to The Star. It differs slightly from Manchester's account.

Around 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 22, 1963, Mrs. Pozen recalls, she

Caroline and Agatha sat in the last seat of her three-seat black Ford station wagon. An unmarked Secret Service car, driven by Agent Tom Wells, followed.

One of the things she planned for entertaining Caroline was to take her and Agatha to Lord & Taylor's for tea after dropping the other youngsters off.

As she was driving up Connecticut Avenue, Mrs. Pozen said, the children, all 5 or 6 years old, were cross and arguing, apparently worn out from a long school day.

"I turned on the radio—WGMS—because I knew there was usually a Broadway show on around that time of day, and I thought it might keep them amused."

After switching the radio on, she heard eight words that made her instinctively switch it off.

The words were "... shot in the head and his wife Jacqueline ..."

Her first thought, Mrs. Pozen said, was that the words were part of a play, like Orson Welles' newslike treatment of "War of the Worlds" which panicked listeners in the 1930s. Her second thought which followed in an instant, was the truth—something, she did not know what, had happened to the President.

The first thing she did, Mrs. Pozen said, was to check Caroline and Agatha through the rear view mirror. They were behaving naturally. She was sure they hadn't heard.

Next she looked in the mirror to see if she could spot any reaction from Agent Wells. She got none. She also tried to spot passing motorists to see if she could glean any reaction from them. None she saw showed any sign of having heard the news.

"So I just kept driving," she recalled. In Chevy Chase she made her first stop, at the home of Washington attorney Mrs. James R. Worsley, to drop off their two daughters, Nelia and Julia.

Mrs. Worsley, Mrs. Pozen said, came outside to greet her girls, and "she made eyes at me. She knew that something was wrong, but we couldn't say anything because of the children."

Mrs. Pozen said she walked back to Wells' car and asked him what was wrong, and what to do. Wells said the President had been shot, that he didn't know how badly and that Mrs. Pozen might as well go on

because he had no orders otherwise.

Mrs. Pozen then drove 12 blocks farther, to drop off another girl, Lissa, the daughter of U.S. Steel executive Philip Wright.

Just as she was about to drive off to the next and last house, Wells came to her car door and said he had orders to take Caroline back to the White House. He reached into the car for Caroline and told her, "Come on Caroline, you have to go back to your house," Mrs. Pozen reports.

"The poor child was standing there looking bewildered, holding a pink stuffed toy. It was the first time she had ever been away from home without some member of her family or her nurse, and she had been excited about it."

"Caroline wanted to know why. Wells—and I—we both told her mother was coming back and that she wanted her home."

Manchester in his account says that Liz Pozen "was even more stubborn" about not returning Caroline to the White House than Wells thought she might be.

Mrs. Pozen acknowledges this. "I was standing there arguing very foolishly with Mr. Wells," she admits. "My feeling was that Caroline would be safer in my house than in the White House, and that until her mother came back, she was better off away from all that confusion."

No Alternative

"It's not my decision. I have no alternative," Mrs. Pozen said Wells told her. So she reluctantly gave in.

Manchester's account says Mrs. Pozen, while driving Caroline around in her car, "recognized one danger: A stranger in a passing car, hearing the news on his own radio, might see Caroline, recognize her from her pictures and act rashly." Manchester says Mrs. Pozen "peered out furtively at ... drivers."

Mrs. Pozen disagrees with this description and also denies Manchester's story that her first confrontation with the Secret Service agent after hearing the radio report was at a green light on Connecticut Avenue where, the author says, both "... flung open their doors and met between the two cars." She also doesn't remember, she said, Caroline telling Wells, "Yes, I know what it's about" when he told her she had to return to the White House.

The Manchester account does make it clear, however, that Wells was worried about passing

cars, and—as it turned out—with reason.

Manchester describes a harrowing chase back to the White House for Wells, when a motorist, "... a burly man in his early 50s, wearing a hat and what appeared to be a lumber jacket ..." spotted Caroline.

The motorist, Manchester says, "... decided to give chase, and the agent immediately began trying to shake him."

Manchester describes the frightening trip through Rock Creek Parkway, with the unknown motorist pursuing Wells, bumper-to-bumper and Wells skillfully weaving in and out of traffic and finally losing the pursuer at the parkway's Virginia Avenue exit.

Manchester speculates that the man might easily have concluded that the President's daughter was being abducted. Wells, on the other hand, had no means of determining the motives of his pursuer, who, he thought during those minutes of confusion, could be part of a coup.

Mrs. Pozen says that after Caroline left the car she still did not turn the radio on because of Agatha. "I made up a vague story of why Caroline had to go home," she reports.

Rejoins Caroline

It was a good thing Agatha had no hint of something being wrong, Mrs. Pozen continues, because shortly after they arrived home in Chevy Chase, the White House called and asked if Agatha couldn't return there to play with Caroline.

Another Secret Service agent came to pick up Agatha, who then went from the White House with Caroline to the Georgetown home of Mrs. Kennedy's mother, Mrs. Hugh Auchincloss. Caroline and Agatha ate supper at the Auchincloss home and, after dinner, Agatha was brought back to her own home, Mrs. Pozen says.

Up to that time, she says, she is sure that Caroline knew nothing of the assassination, despite Manchester's version.

Mrs. Pozen said that she never told the story about Caroline before talking to Manchester, because she tried to be discreet in her White House associations.

Last spring, she said, a member of Mrs. Kennedy's staff telephoned and told her that Mrs. Kennedy had authorized a book on the events of the assassination and asked her to grant Manchester an interview.

Manchester Answered on Book Cuts

NEW YORK (AP) — The first chapter of the book, "The Death of a President," was killed at the insistence of advisers to the Kennedy family because it pictured President Johnson as "a man of violence," a source close to the family said today.

The source made the statement as the controversy over the book about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy flared anew after author William Manchester charged that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy wanted to "shred and emasculate" the book simply for political reasons.

Manchester was not immediately available for comment on the countercharge made by the source close to the Kennedy family. The author was reported on an extended vacation at an undisclosed location.

The Kennedy source said: "The whole first chapter was a deer hunting scene in Texas. It showed Johnson as a man of violence who loved to kill deer and would force others to do the same."

Unfair Overtones

"It seemed to set symbolic overtones which were unjust and inaccurate. It seemed an attempt to make this (the chapter) the symbolic framework for the whole book, which was unjust and disastrous.

"It had nothing to do with the assassination since it occurred three years before the assassination, right after the election of President Kennedy. It pictured President Kennedy as a man reluctant to do this (kill deer), a much more gentle figure."

It was learned that the Kennedy family and other persons close to the family felt so strongly about other passages which Manchester refused to discard that they insisted their names be deleted from the author's list of acknowledgments of persons he had contacted for vital information. This was done.

Manchester's views on the
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controversy came in a series of interviews with the New York Times at his home in Middletown, Conn., and with Newsweek magazine, prior to his leaving on vacation—and prior to publication today of a portion of the book.

Writing in the second installment of Look's magazine's serialization of the book, Manchester tells of the hunting incident:

Eight days after his election, Kennedy visited the Johnson ranch in Texas and was invited to take part in a dawn hunt.

To Kennedy, all killing was senseless, and he tried to decline. But Johnson, intent on showing his guest a good time, insisted.

Haunted by Memory

Kennedy "squinted down the barrel of a high-powered rifle into the face of the life he was about to take . . . fired and quickly turned back to the car." "Yet," Manchester says, "he couldn't rid himself of the recollection. The memory of the creature's death had been haunting, and afterward, he had relived it with his wife, trying to heal the inner scar."

Early in the new administration, Johnson had the deer's head mounted and carried it under his arm to the President's office. Kennedy ordered the head put away and forgotten, Manchester says.

But Johnson, Manchester says, kept asking when the head was going up. Finally, it was hung in the Fish Room.

But despite the painful memories it recalled, Kennedy still saw humor in the situation. Adapting one of his favorite jokes, he used to tell friends:

"The three most overrated things in the world are the state of Texas, the FBI and mounted deer heads," Manchester says.

In the interviews, Manchester said Robert Kennedy "is surrounded by people who have hitched their wagon to his star."

"They all think in terms of another Kennedy administration," he said.

Denies Diatribe

Manchester did not speculate on precisely how his book might affect Robert Kennedy. He denied that it was a diatribe against Johnson.

He said that Theodore C. Sorensen, one of the Kennedy advisers, had advised Sen. Kennedy to file suit to block publication of the book because of Kennedy's own political future. Manchester said he was told this by Kennedy.

"It all finally comes down to the fact that Mr. Manchester gave his word and then broke it," Kennedy's reply said. "No statement or interview, or description of events, however dramatic, can alter that plain fact."

Sees \$500,000 Earnings

Manchester said he had no problems with the Kennedys until they learned Look magazine was paying him \$665,000 for the serialization rights.

He said that when Sen.

Kennedy told Mrs. John F. Kennedy, then vacationing at Hyannis Port, Mass., about the payments she "was concerned over the sum of money and what she felt was commercialization."

Manchester said that his agent predicted that his own share might be "in the area of \$1.5 million." After taxes and legal expenses, Manchester said, "I may come out with something in the range of \$500,000."

Manchester said 3,600 words were deleted from the 360,000-word book—one percent. He said he had a letter from Mrs. Kennedy asking for 27 deletions of material she considered too personal.

"The first six I encountered in the galleys," Manchester said, "involved LBJ and had nothing to do with her or her children. My recollection is that 17 of the 27 changes she asked for were made."

Mrs. Kennedy filed suit last December to block both the serialization of the book in Look magazine and publication of the book next April on grounds that Manchester had invaded her privacy in his use of her personal recollections which she gave him in 10 hours of taped interviews.

Johnson "Was Strong"

She eventually withdrew the suit after reaching agreements with Look, and with Harper & Row on modification of passages she considered too personal.

Manchester said Mrs. Kennedy did not read the book until

after she filed the suit, but did sit up with an adviser, Richard N. Goodwin, until 5:30 a.m. one night to read it.

In denying the book was anti-Johnson, the author said:

"I think he behaved well. We were all slobbs that afternoon. He was trying. He was strong, effective. I am distressed that there have been so many anti-Johnson stories attributed to the book. They are not true and not in the book at all."

Manchester said Goodwin "tried to emasculate the Look galleys."

"At one point," Manchester continued, "nearly 50 percent of the third installment was edited. It would have been un-

printable. He was editing largely for political reasons—material about Bobby and Johnson."

The Times said Manchester wrote to Mrs. Kennedy that he had tried to purge himself of political and personal prejudices while he wrote the book.

"Although I tried desperately to suppress my bias against a certain eminent statesman who always reminded me of someone in a grade D movie of the late show," he wrote, "the prejudice showed through. This was cheap of me, but I suppose there is a little meanness in all of us."

He did not name the "eminent statesman."

Goodwin, an aide to the late President and Mrs. Kennedy's

top adviser on the book, issued a statement in San Francisco last night saying in part:

"Mr. Manchester's account bears no relationship to the actual course of discussion and controversy surrounding his book. Reading it, one is struck by the enormous difficulty of answering statements made in complete disregard of the truth."

Goodwin said that when Manchester delivered his manuscript in March 1965, "the publishers wrote representatives of the Kennedy family that the book is 'in part tasteless and gratuitously insulting to President Johnson and, for that matter, to the memory of the late President Kennedy.'"