

Ref. from P 332

ember 1966 (Life). It is in this region especially that work was required by the editors; this same region is the focus of much discussion below. My best guess is that, unless time permitted, this work was completed in stages, with images first being successively prepared for the two early issues of Life, but with all frames not completed until some time before the first WC showing on 25 February 1994.

- 9. No optical printers existed for copying film to include the intersprocket scenes. (Robert Groden has even recalled an unsuccessful offer of a reward to anyone who could provide such a machine.) It is known that a copy of the "home movie" portion of the film does include intersprocket images. (I have seen these.) Whether the motorcade sequence would also be copied into the intersprocket area seems to be in some doubt. See the discussion of printers below, especially with respect to contact printers and the issue of visualizing edge prints. Also note comments below by Bruce Jamieson. Optical printers are extremely useful for copying huge numbers of frames and long lengths of film. However, when the length of film to be copied is only slightly over 6 feet long and contains fewer than 500 frames, it may be sufficient to construct a custom copier (perhaps operated manually) so that the intersprocket images could be incorporated into the new version. There would almost certainly not be any technical barrier to assembling such a device. The main challenge, as usual, would be resources and time. [Editor's note: See Pincher and Schaeffer, Part IV, for a possible system for copying the film.]

- 10. No film editor inclined to a lone gunman scenario would have left the head snap in. Although no final answer can be given to this objection from common sense, several responses may be offered. The first was actually noted by WC Assistant Counsel, Wesley Liebeler, who admitted that the WC never paid much attention to the head snap—at least not until the critics seized upon it (KTTV, Los Angeles, February 1967). It was, in addition, shown to the WC and that seemed not to cause any concern. And, as I noted above, I do not recall being convinced by it in 1975 either. A second response is that the film's editors worked only with still photographs; they did not concurrently view their work as a movie film. When they did view their final product (as a movie), they may have recognized some problem areas but were unwilling (or unable, given the time constraints) to embark on another round of alterations. It is likely that removal of the head snap would have been technically feasible. The more pertinent question, though, is: at what cost of time and effort? Editing within a fair number of additional frames (a labor intensive task) would most likely have been required. A complete excision of the head snap would have left JFK leaning forward in his slumped position for an exceptionally long time, including many frames before Z-313 and for many afterwards, too. Such an image may have conflicted too much with eyewitnesses who saw something quite different: some saw JFK moving to an erect posture, while others saw JFK hit while sitting erect. Finally, it should be recalled that this film was never intended for wide viewing—nor did that actually occur until 1975, twelve years later, and then only by private efforts, mainly by Robert Groden. By then, whoever had issued the orders for film alteration had no doubt

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