

'Appointment in Dallas' author of best selling JFK a European,

By EARL GOLZ

President John F. Kennedy's assassin was not Lee Harvey Oswald but a program who probably received his instructions from a Dallas businessman, the author of a best selling book on the assassination, said here this week.

The instructions weren't easy, however. Two large live oak trees that have since been removed would have required a rifle that shoots bullets capable of turning sharply in midair.

Hugh C. McDonald's paperback book, "Appointment in Dallas," now for a second printing after selling 60,000 in less than three months, places the assassin in either the second or third floor of the Dallas County Records Annex Building.

The other trees on Nov. 22, 1963, when the Dealey Plaza reflecting pool would have blocked the alleged assassin's view of the presidential car moving down Elm Street, according to occupants of the court, then, located on the second floor. Even the two smaller trees since planted in their places would make a hard shot to

McDonald, former chief of detective for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, said during an interview here that he had not visited the al-

leged sniper's perch before he wrote the book.

CRIMINAL DIST. Judge John Mead, whose court was on the second floor in 1963, said he wasn't in the building at the time of the assassination. He couldn't remember if he had locked his door.

Mead said, however, that an assassin shooting from his window probably couldn't have put Kennedy in his sights because "there were huge bushy trees that are not there now and they were there at the time. That would go a long way to knock his theory out, I'll tell you that."

McDonald, a former contract agent for the Central Intelligence Agency and security chief for Sen. Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign, asserted "some element in the CIA had to be responsible for Kennedy's killing."

The professional assassin who was hired to do the job, known to McDonald as "Saul," told him how he fired the fatal shots, the author contends.

Saul told McDonald his story in 1972 in a London hotel after McDonald had pursued him across several continents, according to the author.

Saul said he got his instructions from a man whom he had known earlier to be "primarily involved in a type of industrial sabotage" when Saul was training in Guatemala with

other mercenaries for the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, McDonald said.

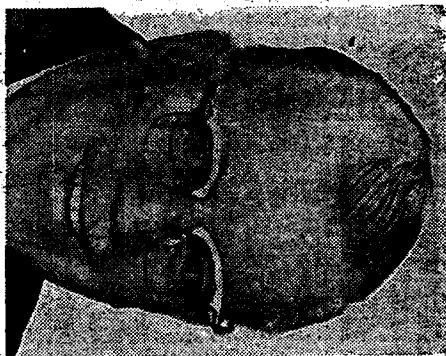
Later, Saul was contacted by the man in the spring of 1963 for the Dallas job the following November. Saul's contact supposedly "represented a group with unlimited finances, who wanted John F. Kennedy out of the way."

Saul, McDonald claims is the "mystery man" photographed by hidden CIA cameras leaving the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City almost two months before the assassination. The CIA at the time identified the man as Oswald but said it was mistaken shortly after the assassination.

McDonald in his book identifies the payoff man as "Troit," a name allegedly supplied by Saul. Saul was to get \$50,000 for the assassination, with a \$25,000 down payment.

Oswald was described by Troit as a "friend" who would fire several "shots" from a rifle at Kennedy "only to demonstrate to the President how vulnerable he was when he was not using protective equipment, or paying no attention to the instructions of the Secret Service." McDonald's book states.

OSWALD WOULD BE SAUL'S 'COVER' without realizing beforehand that the President would actually be assassinated, Saul allegedly told McDonald. Saul said he fired two fatal shots into Kennedy from his Records Building perch, coinciding with two of Oswald's three wild shots, the book stated.



Dallas News staff photo.

Hugh McDonald, assassin not Lee Harvey Oswald.

President's car moving toward the triple underpass on Elm Street. Neither did Saul tell McDonald how he got out of the building with his rifle. Building superintendent B. J. Loyd said he ordered all doors locked almost immediately after the shooting and certainly before Saul would have had time to leave.

Saul also recalled to McDonald that he ordered a vodka and tonic with his steak meal in the restaurant of a small downtown hotel the night before the assassination. Only Dallas' larger hotels had private clubs that served mixed drinks to guests in 1963.