

PEOPLE HOME ENTERTAINMENT AND LIVING

# EAST SIDE

## WEEKEND NEWSMAGAZINE

HOME DELIVERED TO 187,500 EASTSIDE READERS

• Vol. 3, No. 35, Week of September 24 - 30, 1992 •



**HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY**  
EastSide Weekend's Fall Dining Guide is stuffed with great places to eat and delicious details on all.  
**DINING OUT**  
Begins on page 12



**IMAGES**  
Capturing the wonder of growing up isn't as easy as photographer Wendy Saunders makes it look. No wonder she's poised to win top honors in her field.  
**PEOPLE**  
Page 3

**THANKS, MOM**  
She shops for freeze-dried crickets... dispatches underwear... and does it with a smile?  
**INCIDENTALLY, IRIS**  
Page 2

# Is anybody else going to question this man?

By Douglas E. Sandhage  
Publisher

Cincinnatian Robert Morrow says he knows who really killed President John F. Kennedy and that he, Morrow, was a participant in his murder.

Morrow's third book, *First Hand Knowledge: How I Participated in the CIA-Mafia Murder of President Kennedy*, has been in select bookstores nationwide since September 1.

"This (the book) is a confession. I did it. Come and get me," says Gus Russo, a research consultant to Oliver Stone's JFK, and a freelance reporter hired by PBS-TV's *Frontline* to investigate Morrow and other "hot leads" on the Kennedy assassination.

"He's inviting an investigation," says Russo.

But does anybody

Continued on page 18



## Isn't anybody going to question this man?

Continued from page one

want to investigate him? The Hamilton County Prosecutor's office says that since the crime was committed outside of their jurisdiction, it's out of their control. They suggested the matter be referred to the FBI.

A spokesperson in the Cincinnati FBI office said no, it was a case for the Secret Service.

But the Secret Service said to call the U.S. District Attorney's office. A Cincinnati spokesperson said it was all in the hands of the Dallas County Prosecutor's office.

Howard Wilson, who said he is a supervisor in the Dallas office, said he was unaware of Morrow's allegations but that he found the title of his book of much interest. He promised to look into it and get back to me. Fifteen minutes later I received a call from Bob Whitney, also of the Dallas office, wanting to know how he could get a copy of Morrow's book. I suggested he call the publisher in New York City.

He said he would. He, and Wilson, took the time to listen to me, despite the fact I am sure they've heard from more than one reporter or author claiming to know something "new" about the Kennedy assassination.

Ever since I met Morrow nearly three years ago, I have been haunted by him. Some of his tales seem far-fetched, others cannot be confirmed. Barely a conversation ever ends without Morrow's suspicion our phones are tapped, or we are under surveillance by the CIA.

But I have looked Morrow in the eye and he does not flinch when I question his sincerity. On the February 20 cover of *EastSide Weekend*, my headline was: Is Bob Morrow telling the truth? It didn't bother him. We suggested he take a lie detector test, the basis of that particular story.

I have done what I can to check Morrow's story, which is to say, I have at least checked some of his background to be sure he is who he says he is (see related story). I cannot confirm his employment with the CIA, since, as you might guess, the secret agency would no longer be secret if it named names.

Perhaps now, with Morrow's new book (especially with such a compelling title), someone will be willing to step forward and investigate his claims. Be it the Dallas County Prosecutor's office, or PBS-TV's Frontline show.

Next year will be the 30th anniversary of Kennedy's death. As much as those of us who are 40 years or older remember exactly where we were when Kennedy was killed, the majority of us also question the details of the case. Too many things still don't add up.

# IS BOB MORROW TELLING THE TRUTH?



"It is the opinion of the Polygraphist, based upon Robert Morrow's polygraph examination, that he told the truth to the...test questions."

employee of the CIA? (2) was he in Cuba monitoring nuclear missile radio transmissions during the Bay of Pigs invasion? (3) does he know who really killed JFK? (4) was he told, before it happened, that JFK would be assassinated in Dallas? In Monahan's written reply to *EastSide Weekend*, he states: "It is the opinion of the Polygraphist, based upon the Robert Morrow's polygraph examination, that he told the truth to the...test questions."

"Is Bob Morrow Telling the Truth," was the title of our cover piece in the February 20 issue of *EastSide Weekend*.

The following, which outlines what we did to check Morrow's background, is reprinted from that issue:

I had asked Morrow nearly a year ago if he would be willing to take a lie detector test. Without hesitation, he said yes.

In January I arranged for a polygraph test (at our expense) to be taken by Morrow. The Hamilton County Sheriff's office recommended it be administered by Edward D. Monahan, a respected certified polygraphist.

Thirteen questions were asked of Morrow, including: (1) was he a contract

employee of the CIA? (2) was he in Cuba monitoring nuclear missile radio transmissions during the Bay of Pigs invasion? (3) does he know who really killed JFK? (4) was he told, before it happened, that JFK would be assassinated in Dallas? In Monahan's written reply to *EastSide Weekend*, he states: "It is the opinion of the Polygraphist, based upon the Robert Morrow's polygraph examination, that he told the truth to the...test questions."

However, Monahan said that lie-detector tests are not full-proof. If Morrow "really believes" what he is saying is truthful, he could pass the test. (Other things checked by *EastSide Weekend*)

• **The Washington Post.** I talked with George Lardner, the reporter at the *Post* who still covers the Kennedy assassination story for the capital newspaper. Lardner said he has had several phone conversations with Morrow.

Lardner would not say why he has not used Morrow as a source, but said he had no reason to disbelieve Morrow's theories.

• **Congressman Thomas N. Downing.** In his book, *The Senator Must Die*,

Morrow includes a letter he received from Congressman Downing. Downing was chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. This is the committee that re-opened the Kennedy assassination in the mid-70s. They came to the conclusion that more than one gunman was involved in the killing of Kennedy, though nothing became of it.

In the letter, Downing calls Morrow's first book, *Betrayer*, a "fascinating account of events leading up to that assassination, which concludes with the remarkably plausible reconstruction of what could have happened on that dreadful day in Dallas."

He goes on to credit the book and additional information given to him by Morrow as helping make the creation of the Assassinations Committee possible.

I called and talked with Downing last week (early February 1992). He called his association with Morrow "fringy," but said he and Morrow had maintained letter and phone contact. Downing is now retired after 18 years in Congress and now practices law in Virginia.

• **The Counterfeiting Scheme.** There is no doubt, as we obtained evidence from the daily newspapers in Baltimore, Maryland, that Morrow was arrested in 1963 by Secret Service agents in a plot to print counterfeit Cuban pesos and smuggle them into Cuba. The idea was to imbalance the economy of the Communist-led island.

The October 2, 1963 headline in the now-defunct *Baltimore News-Post* read: Nab 3 in Plot to Smuggle Bogus Money into Cuba.

Morrow was caught with the printing plates and a stash of counterfeit money.

*EastSide Weekend* was able to obtain copies of the criminal indictments against Morrow, one being for conspiracy, the other for unlawful possession of plates for counterfeiting foreign obligations.

• **Contract Agent for CIA.** This we were not able to confirm, as we suspected. We called the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia and were told to send a letter requesting information about Morrow. The personnel representative who answered said they might respond, and they might not.

• **Politics.** After winning the primary election, Morrow was selected in 1972 as the Republican Party's candidate for Maryland's third district congressional seat. He lost.



## SEILER'S LANDSCAPING Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC.

Winner "Favorite Landscaping" Homearama 1992

- Landscape Design
- Landscape Installation
- Hardscape Walls
- Patios
- Walls

- Landscape Lighting
- Water Features
- Irrigation Systems
- Turf Fertilization Program
- Spring & Fall Clean-up
- Grounds Maintenance

• Landscape architects on staff

For your own award winning landscape call us

• (513) 791-2820 •

4035 Deer Park • Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

## Pick Your Price Package.

Cottages at *The Lodge* are beautiful, large and private. Perfect for independent retirement living. And best of all, you pick the price package that suits your needs. Choose how many meals and which services you want, and pay only for those. Availability is limited, so come soon and see the Cottages for yourself.



At Montgomery and Union Cemetery Roads

Learn more about Condo-Like Cottages at *The Lodge*, Cincinnati's Preferred Retirement Community. Call 683-9966.

# Enquirer / Post Ignore Morrow

By Rose Huber  
Features Writer, *EastSide Weekend*

During his stint as a reporter for WLWT Channel 5, Marty Pieratt has covered some big stories — the Carrollton, Kentucky school bus crash, Pete Rose, etc.

In all his 17 years in the business, the story that's garnered him the most response is the segmented piece he did a few months ago on Bob Morrow, the Mariemont man who claims (among other things) to have purchased the guns used to kill John F. Kennedy.

"I got more calls and letters on that story than on any other single story I've ever done, including Pete Rose," Pieratt says. "Was it because the movie *JFK* was hot then? Or was it because of what he said? I don't know."

What Pieratt does know is that "very few of the people thought Morrow was a quack. Most seemed to think that he knows something."

Pieratt himself agrees. "When you sit down with Bob Morrow and take some time to get to know him, you come away with the definite impression that he knows something, that he was close to some people who knew things. There's something striking about Morrow. I think there's some credibility there. But how much? I don't know."

But as the veteran TV reporter emphasizes, "It's not for us to make a judgment call. We interview, we research, we report and we let the people decide. He's an interesting person; and he's right here in Cincinnati. That gives him and his story some media value."

"I don't get it!"  
So why have Cincinnati's major publications virtually ignored Bob Morrow?

"I don't know. I don't get it," Pieratt says.

Neither does *Cincinnati Magazine* publisher Laura Puffer. Like Pieratt, her first exposure to the Morrow story was *EastSide Weekend's* coverage. "We didn't know about him before you did your story," she says. "I thought the (daily) newspapers would pick up on him."

Partly because of the fairly extensive coverage given Morrow by Jerry Springer and TV 5 (as well as by a number of local radio talk shows, including those hosted by WLW's Mike McConnell and WKYC's Bill Wamsley), Puffer and her staff decided not to pursue what would be an "old" story by the time the monthly magazine could publish it.

"Our readers are very pretty well informed. They watch TV news. They read the papers," she explained. "So unless we can come up with an interesting, new angle on a story, we don't pursue it. With Morrow, the story was pretty straight on. And like I said, I thought the other newspapers would pick up on it."

But they didn't.  
"Never heard of him!"  
After numerous phone calls to local editors and reporters alike, we're still not sure why. After all, here's a man who (if he's telling the truth) could answer one of the country's most haunting questions: Who killed JFK?

Even if he's been feeding us a bunch of bullhonky all along, it's hard to deny that plenty of what he's told us does check out (we've made numerous calls to Washington, D.C. and other areas) and that, if nothing else, he is a colorful character. And, as Pieratt points out, he's right here!

So why hasn't the *Cincinnati Enquirer* run anything on him? In an attempt to find out, we started at the top — with editor George Blake. It was a brief interview.

"I've never heard of him," he curtly claimed.  
Even though he's been on local TV and radio! And certainly you must have seen or heard about at least one of the pieces we've done on Morrow in the last couple years! He's made a lot of waves in the Cincinnati area.

"Well, apparently those waves haven't reached my office," Blake insisted. The *Enquirer's* Metro editor was more talkative.

"Oh, sure. I've heard of him. In fact, I found the TV coverage rather provocative," Ron Liebau admitted. "I think we may have talked to him. I'm not sure. I've only been in this particular position for about a month. But, yes, I think we sent a reporter out and we did some checking."

"But, apparently, the decision was made not to publish the story," the Metro editor surmised. "It just never became a big issue here. You know, there've been — what? — 20, 30, 100 books written about JFK's assassination. And, of course, the movie generated new interest. But the point is, unless there's some way to check out the elements of this story... well, it's just not something we're going to go after too hard. At this point, I have no interest in going to talk to him. But, yes, I believe we did send someone to check him out."

That someone (we learned from Morrow himself) was veteran *Enquirer* staffer Alice Hornbaker.

"Oh, yes. We had several telephone conversations," she acknowledged. "And I went out to his Blue Ash office to talk with him. There were some things that were verified. He, for instance, is in the Congressional records."

But apparently the *Enquirer's* powers that be (excluding editor Blake who claims no knowledge of any of this) didn't buy into it.

"They killed the story," Hornbaker says. "They didn't think it could be verified. It was an editorial decision."

As for the *Cincinnati Post*...  
None of the numerous phone calls were ever returned.

While the local print media haven't jumped at the chance to give Morrow himself any coverage, *Cincinnati Magazine's* Felix Winternitz says he'd consider a piece on Morrow's new book, *Firsthand Knowledge*.

"We don't do author reviews, but we talk about books," Winternitz explained. "We could be interested in Morrow from the book angle."

Cool reception in Dallas  
While local TV and radio have been more interested in Morrow than have the print media, Pieratt found that such was not the case down in Dallas.

In researching the Channel 5 Morrow piece, Pieratt and photographer Mark Hausa traveled to Texas where they talked with some members of their NBC affiliate who were actually working for the media in Dallas in 1963. They even scoured up LBJ's alleged mistress, and attended a class at the University of Texas at Arlington dedicated solely to the assassination.

"It was jammed to the gills," Pieratt says of the course. "We couldn't believe it. It blows your mind how the town is still haunted by the assassination. Maybe it's because the movie was hot when we were down there. I don't know."

Pieratt is also at a loss to explain the cool reception he and Hausa received from the Dallas media. "We were not treated kindly by the media people who have been handling assassination theories," he says. "I'm not sure why. I got the impression they are not impressed with Bob."

"Most of the people who are really into this assassination thing appeared to have some knowledge of Morrow. Lots of them connect him with the CIA," he explained. "And most feel, like many, that Morrow knows something."

While Dallas TV was cool to Channel 5's investigative reporting, NBC did take the local piece and sent it out to its affiliates. "NBC did want it," Pieratt says. "But we have no idea of knowing how many stations used it."

And for all his efforts, Pieratt, of course, still hasn't answered THE question in his own mind.  
"You know something?" he says. "When I die, as soon as I get to heaven, the first thing I'm gonna ask God is, 'Who shot JFK?'"

# The book

SPI Books, New York City, is the publisher of Robert Morrow's third book, *First Hand Knowledge: How I Participated in the CIA-Mafia Murder of President Kennedy*.

Publisher Ian Shapolsky told *EastSide Weekend* that the first hardback printing was 37,000 copies and that they were shipped to bookstores nationwide beginning September 1. A second printing of 20,000 is in the works, he said. The book is priced at \$22.95.

Shapolsky said his book publishing company is seven years old and primarily publishes "controversial books...truthful...that present important revelations...and (which are) possible to promote through the media." He said his editors did extensive work with Morrow and that they investigated some of his data.

"We trust what he gave us is accurate." A draft of the book was given to John H. Davis, author of *The Kennedys: Dynasty & Disaster, Mafia Kingfish: Caspary, Marcellino and The Assassination of JFK, The Guggenheims and The Bouviers*.

Davis, in the introduction to Morrow's new book, says Morrow's "book presents the only believable first hand knowledge we have of the involvement of the CIA and the Cuban exile community in the tragic



assassination of President Kennedy."

The book is full of typographical errors. Shapolsky says they are the result of rushing to get the book out before Labor Day. And he noted, Morrow's fax machine kept jamming during the final editing process, causing more problems.

Shapolsky said he doesn't believe, as Morrow does, that CIA sabotage played a role in the errors.

# An Excerpt

The following is the author's note and preface Robert Morrow wrote for his new book, *First Hand Knowledge: How I Participated in the CIA-Mafia Murder of President Kennedy*:

**Author's Note**  
I have always been a person with a strong sense of patriotism. So much so, that I unwittingly placed myself in the eyes of some, in the position of committing treason.

Whether I can be indicted for it so many years later is a matter of conjecture. But I am willing to take that chance.

One month before his predestined death, President John F. Kennedy said, "The highest duty of the writer is to remain true to himself and to let the chips fall where they may. In serving his vision of the truth, the artist best serves his nation."

I devoted several years of my life to the nation's clandestine intelligence operations, and even committed two major felonious acts because I believed them to be essential to the preservation of a free society here at home and elsewhere in the world. My view and my values have remained unchanged.

Today, I cannot undo what I have done, nor can I continue to rationalize the reasons I was given so long ago as to why the President had to be killed.

I wanted to speak out when the Warren Commission was in session in 1964, but my connection at the CIA told me — using the following words which I will never forget — "You have signed a secrecy agreement with your government. It is your government that is responsible for what has transpired. You are part of that government, and you have a solemn commitment to it and its national security. I agree, the act of murder can never be justified...unless it's done for the good of the country. This was one of those instances."

Marshall Diggs, a prominent Washington attorney, told me this. It was the same rationale used by the people responsible for the murder of the President. Diggs may not have believed his own words, but I clearly understood his meaning for me to keep my mouth shut, or I could end up dead too.

Today, most of these people who got me involved in the CIA conspiracy have passed away. I hope the surviving participants in the assassination plot will now see their way clear to come out of hiding and join me in telling the truth.

**Preface**  
More than half the characters about to come to life on these pages have already been put to death, tortured, exiled or silenced in strange and horrible ways. They knew too much about the corruption, deception and Mafia connections that led to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

I was one of the first people to obtain first hand evidence of Soviet missiles in Cuba (evidence that was presented to President Kennedy in 1961 and ignored for political reasons).

I made the counterfeit money for the Cuban underground resistance which was trying to put an end to Castro's communist regime in Cuba.

I bought the three Manlicher rifles that would be used to shoot Kennedy.

I supplied Kennedy's three hit squads with communications devices more sophisticated than any previously designed.

I knew that the Mob, the leaders of our nation, and our government's intelligence agencies conspired to assassinate very important people, including the President.

I was there, and now you will be too, as the deadly truth is uncovered here. You may initially not believe what you are reading, but by the end of the book the overwhelming facts leave no room for doubt.

I realize how impossible and illogical it sounds to assert that the CIA would orchestrate the assassination of the president of the United States. After all, the CIA is supposed to protect our nation and its leaders from their enemies. To comprehend why the CIA found it necessary to commit the seemingly treasonous act of murdering the country's Commander-in-Chief, one must understand the political climate of that age. The circumstances that led up to the assassination were set in motion prior to Kennedy's election.

As a CIA operative, I witnessed first hand the events that led to the murder. Although the assassination may seem outrageous when considered in isolation, at the time, it really did not come as such a surprise. I do not mean to defend or condemn the murder of President Kennedy, I just hope to explain how and why it happened. The assassination made some sense to me at the time, and it still does to this day. My goal in this book is to put you in my shoes so that you too can make sense of the events that transpired in November 1963.