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LAST MINUTE CHANGE IN THE MOTORCADE ROUTE?

By DAVE PERRY

Jim Files, languishing away in an Illinois prison for killing two police officers started the ball rolling again. A while back his friend and promoter, Bob Vernon, taped Jim's confession. Files a.k.a. Sutton claims he WAS the Grassy Knoll assassin. Additionally, to prove his contention that he was a Chicago mob insider he makes the following assertion:

"Johnny Rosselli got in the car with me and we started back to Dallas. He opened the envelope up and there was identification in there for Secret Service people and we had a map in there of the exact motorcade route that would take it through Dealey Plaza. Johnny Rosselli said well they only made one change. That was when he informed me they was coming off of Main Street on to Elm or on to Houston there...they made the zig-zag, the little turn that they should have never made. But when they made that, it was the only change in it."

For years there has been talk about the "last minute" change in the motorcade route. Unfortunately for some "researchers" such change never happened, and ANYONE who claims it did happen is either guilty of poor fact checking at best or fraud at worst.

So where did it all start? I'd have to put my money on Jim Garrison. If you check the index of Garrison's book *On The Trail Of The Assassins* you discover the following:

Motorcade, President's
Last-minute changes in route of,
101-103, 176, 221, 280, 288, 318

Furthermore on page 101 we find "I (Garrison) turned the paper (Dallas Morning News) around facing his (Frank Klein's) way so that he could read the diagram of the motorcade. It covered almost five-sixths of the front page."

Five-sixths of the front page represents 83% of the page leaving little room for anything but the masthead. This is a clear over exaggeration on Garrison's part as will be shown later.

Actually the detail of the motorcade route was discussed in both *The Dallas Morning News* and *Dallas Times Herald* starting Tuesday, November 19th. Unfortunately for the likes of Garrison and later Files, they relied solely on The Dallas Morning News diagram. The News most likely became a victim of over reporting. They created an error which lead to confusion. Confusion that

is for those who lack research ability. The Warren Commission disseminated some of the facts in their report, but since they often got many things wrong, I will leave material portions of that report to the end. I will limit consideration to the actual newspaper articles and maps.

Dallas Morning News Tuesday, November 19, 1963 ~ page 1:
Luncheon Sponsors Ponder Where To Seat Yarborough
by Carl Freund

"The route of the President's motorcade between Love Field and Downtown Dallas had not been decided late Monday*, but the motorcade appeared certain to move west down Main Street between noon and 12:15 p.m."

* Freund was wrong as the route had been decided late Monday. It was too late for The Dallas Morning News to include in their Monday edition. This I call Freund mistake #1.

Dallas Morning News, Tuesday, November 19, 1963 ~ page 1:
Yarborough Seating Pondered by Dallas Morning News staff

"The News learned Monday evening that the presidential motorcade will travel 10 miles to the Trade Mart using this route: From Love Field to Mockingbird Lane, along Mockingbird Lane to Lemmon, then Lemmon to Turtle Creek, Turtle Creek to Cedar Springs, Cedar Springs to Harwood, Harwood to Main, Main to Houston, Houston to Elm, Elm* under the Triple Underpass to Stemmons Expressway and on to the Trade Mart."

* Here The Dallas Morning News staff got it right.

Now let's look at how The Dallas Times Herald handled the situation.

Dallas Times Herald Tuesday, November 19, 1963 ~ pages 1 & 13

Yarborough Gets JFK Table Spot
by Jim Lehrer

"Route Revealed:

While the formal announcement of the details of the President's Texas and Dallas trip was to be made in Washington at 4 p.m., a White House representative in (See TABLE on Page 13) Dallas released the motorcade route. From the airport, the President's party will proceed to Mockingbird Lane to Lemmon and then to Turtle Creek, turning south to Cedar Springs. The motorcade will then pass through downtown on Harwood and the west on Main, turning back to Elm at Houston* and then out Stemmons Freeway to the Trade Mart."

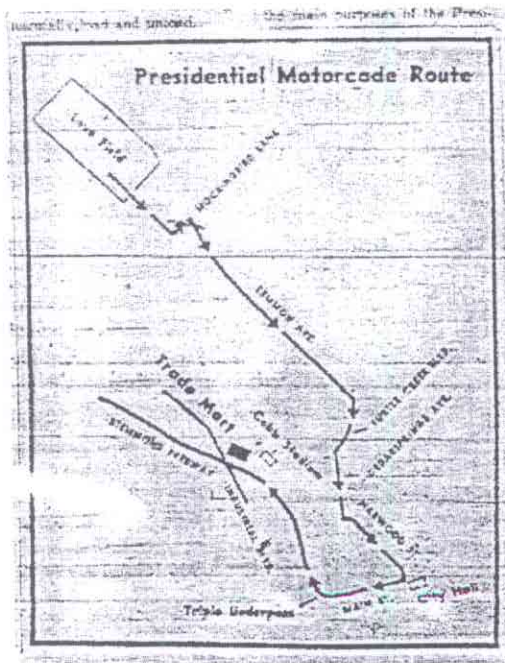
* The Herald got the correct sequence also. So as of Tuesday morning both papers had it right! But wait - look what happened at The Dallas Morning News the next day, Wednesday November 20th.

Dallas Morning News Wednesday, November 20, 1963 ~ page 1
Yarborough Invited To Travel With JFK
 by Carl Freund

"A security car will lead the motorcade which will travel on Mockingbird Lane, Lemmon Avenue, Turtle Creek Boulevard, Cedar Springs, Harwood, Main and Stemmons Freeway."

So the following day Freund got it wrong again. He completely left out the jog down Elm ~ mistake #2. The end result was the Dallas Morning News staff artist probably used Freund's report to create the motorcade route diagram. While the News' unnamed artist had a total of three reports, two of them inaccurate, to deal with, The Dallas Times Herald's artist Pat Uthoff had only one report, and a correct one at that, upon which to base her drawing.

From The Dallas Morning News, Friday November 22, 1963:



Note the unnamed artist forgot to include the "jog" onto Houston and then to Elm. I've included a portion of the area around the diagram to refute Garrison's assertion on page 101 of *On The Trail Of The Assassins* that the "... diagram of the motorcade. [It] covered almost five-sixths (or 83%) of the front page."

From The Dallas Times Herald, Thursday November 21, 1963:
 Here the artist, Pat Uthoff, has plainly included the Houston to Elm section.

President D Economic D

By **BUS HOLLINGSWORTH**, Washington C

EN ROUTE WITH THE PRESIDE
Kennedy launched his "nonpolitical" Thursday with a strong bid for bipart the Administration's scientific an space

The President defended his space marks prepared for delivery at San Ant stop on the Texas trip that will include ton, Fort Worth, Austin and Dallas.

Despite the nonpolitical label placed the White House, the President has two — to refurbish his own image and make gluing together a badly splintered Demc Texas.

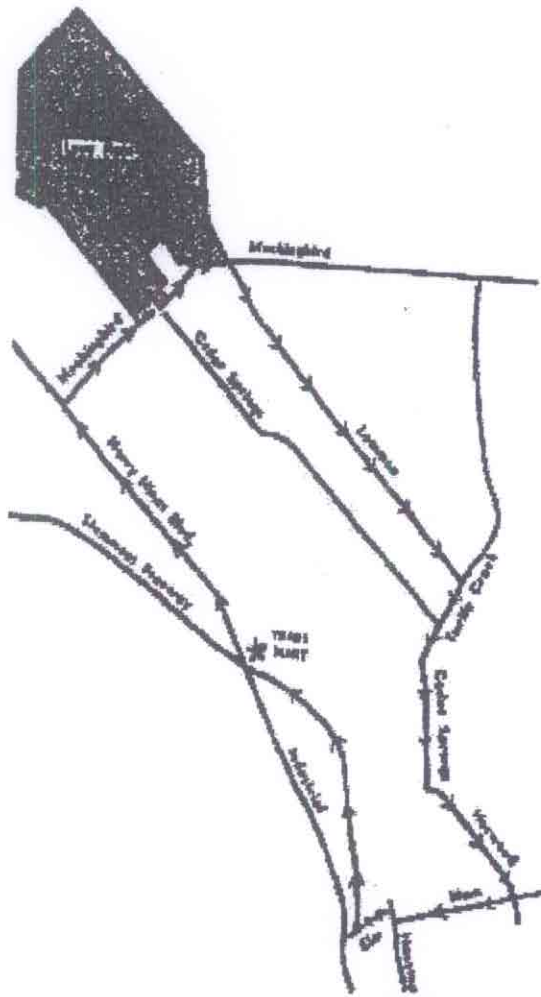
In a speech prepared for delivery ceremony at the Aerospace Medical C Antonio, the President defended the nat foet against critics of both parties.

The Chief Executive said the space not drain off national resources need American living standards.

"For our effort in space is not, as some have suggested, a competition for the national resources needed to improve our living

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See related stories on Pages 2-A and 2-B.



JFK motorcade route in Dallas.

Garrison mentions The Dallas Morning News map while completely avoiding any reference to both papers' print articles of the route or the Times Herald's map reproduced above and shown in greater detail below. If Files was the mob's "advance man" why did he sit idly by while Rosselli told him "they only made one change." Files should have displayed the articles the minute Rosselli arrived in Dallas. Are we expected to believe both mobsters missed the map in the Times Herald? These two assassins, representing the Chicago mob and in Texas for their most important assignment both figuratively and historically, show up and check one source of information on their primary target's route through town! Please give me a break.