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The Paschall Film: Movement Behind the Fence

by Greg Jaynes, from the Witnesses Panel

Thirty three years ago Patsy Paschall filmed President Kennedy's motorcade as it passed by the old red court house at Main and Houston in downtown Dallas. At the time, Patsy feared that someone may harm her if she came forward with the film. As a precaution, she gave the undeveloped film to her attorney to hold on her behalf. Dallas attorney Fred Bruner contacted the FBI and reported the existence of the film. FBI Special Agent Robert Barret met Mr. Bruner at Dynacolor Corporation near Love Field in Dallas. According to Mr. Bruner, the film was developed and only one copy was made. SA Barret viewed the film in his presence and even commented that he saw himself in the film. Mr. Bruner claims that he kept both the original and the copy and that the FBI did not take a copy of the film. The film was not made available to the Warren Commission.

Patsy's film was subpoenaed in 1978 by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Mr. Bruner said he sent the original film to the Committee. The Committee had copies made and distributed them to the various experts for analysis.

Mr. Bruner produced a document signed by HSCA member Louis Stokes, assuring him that the film and any copies made would be returned to Mrs. Paschall. This document also assured Mr. Bruner that the film would be used for official purposes only. At least one bootleg copy of the film was made and used in a commercial publication. The bootleg copy is incomplete and poor quality.

This film may offer answer's to questions about the "Grassy Knoll" that have persisted for three decades. It definitely poses new questions.

Mark Oakes interviewed Patsy on video before ever seeing her film. He knew of her film because it had been subpoenaed by the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. Prior to Mark's interview, no one had ever spoken to Patsy about what she saw or heard. Not the Warren Commission, not the House Select Committee not the FBI. It should be noted that Patsy Paschall is not a woman seeking an audience.

After poor results with available equipment, we took the film to a professional editing studio. We then produced a video tape that was clear enough to study details. The Patsy Paschall film offers much to be studied, while the following discussion is not the complete story of all the secrets the film holds, it is the most complete examination and report on the film to date.

November 22, 1963, Patsy worked as a clerk in the old red courthouse. That day she brought her Bell and Howell 8mm color movie camera to work so she could film President Kennedy's motorcade as it passed through Dallas. She filmed from a third floor tower of the courthouse as the motorcade turned right onto Houston street. With the President's limousine out of sight, blocked from her view by the corner of the Criminal Courts building, she began filming the other

cars in the motorcade as they proceeded west on Main street toward the intersection of Main and Houston streets.

Hearing what she thought were three fire cracker's, first a single pop then two pop's closely spaced. She commented to her co-workers "some nut's popping fire cracker's!"

Patsy said she saw smoke coming from the grassy knoll. She described it as looking like what "two or three" fire crackers would produce. She went on to add that the smoke was in the area between the retaining wall and the corner of the picket fence.

By now, the President's car had come back into her view on Elm street, she began to film again. When the camera started recording, it captured the president's limousine as it passed beneath the triple underpass. Also visible is the white Ford that held Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry and Sheriff Bill Decker, this car had been just ahead of the president's limousine but had pulled to the left and allowed the presidential limousine to pass. Next, we see the black 1956 secret service car, Vice President Johnson's limo, and Johnson's white Ford secret service car all pass beneath the triple underpass. At this point there is a cut in the film because she stopped filming. Naturally, her interest was in filming the president and he had already passed out of sight.

The cut at this point is very interesting because before the cut she had filmed the first five cars in the motorcade. We know that the sixth car in the motorcade was a gray 1959 Chevrolet sedan. When she started filming again, she had changed to a narrower angle lens aimed at the corners of the picket fence and the white retaining wall. In the foreground, we see what we know to be the sixth car in the motorcade, the 1959 Chevrolet sedan. The interesting thing at this point is the timing. How long did Patsy wait before she started filming again to begin the next segment after the cut? When you watch the film, you see the first five cars of the motorcade go beneath the underpass then you notice the cut and see the sixth car as it passes the grassy knoll. This is deceptive because it appears that all six cars file by in regular intervals.

But they did not!

The 1959 sedan stopped for a few seconds before proceeding past the grassy knoll. We know this because the car behind the 1959 sedan was a convertible that NBC cameraman Dave Weigman¹ was riding in. Of course Weigman's car had to stop when the 1959 sedan stopped in front of it. When the car stopped Weigman got out and ran over to the grass on north side of Elm street and filmed from there then as his car had made it's way down Elm toward the triple underpass he ran to get back in.

Dave Weigman began filming when the car he was riding in was on Houston street. In his film, you can see the gray 1959 Chevrolet sedan in front of his car as it turns left onto Elm street. While his camera is filming, the car he is riding in turns onto Elm street. His camera shakes and

slashes until the car stops then he films what appears to be smoke on the grassy knoll.

The segment of the Weigman film that shows President Kennedy's car going beneath the underpass and the 1959 Chevrolet sedan and the smoke on the grassy knoll corresponds with the segment of the Patsy Paschall film that begins with the the president's car going beneath the underpass.

MOVEMENT BEHIND THE FENCE

The timing of these events is important because in Patsy's film there is some type of movement behind the corner of the picket fence. The time of this movement is just as the gray 1959 sedan passes the knoll in the foreground. The main question is: "Is the movement that we see, the movement of a person or persons who may have fired at the president from behind the picket fence?"

It is important to determine how many seconds or minutes after the headshot it is when we see this movement behind the picket fence. If it was too long after the headshot then the movements we see may be the movements of people rushing behind the fence to see what happened. If only a few seconds have elapsed, possibly these are the movements of gunmen escaping.

First let us look at the Paschall 6-second and 3-second segment versions where we see the movement of light and shadow behind the fence. Then review this movement of the Paschall segment in slow motion. Then we can compare this same time event with the Bell film.

CONCLUSION: Matching objects, people, and their activity in both films shows us that the movement behind the picket fence occurs approximately 7 seconds after the Presidential limo reached the triple underpass.

HOW LONG TILL THE LIMO GETS TO THE UNDERPASS AFTER THE HEADSHOT?:

There are 486 frames in the Zapruder film. The Presidential limousine reaches the triple underpass as the Zapruder film ends. The headshot reaction occurs at Z-313. Subtract 313 from 486 and the result is 173. There are 173 frames between the headshot and the point where the limo reaches the underpass. We know Zapruder's camera ran approximately 18.3 frames per second. If we divide the total number of frames between the headshot and the limo reaching the triple underpass we can determine how many seconds elapsed between the headshot and the presidential limo reaching the underpass. $173 \text{ frames} \div 18.3 = 9.453552$ seconds

Conclusion: It took the Presidential limo 9.45 seconds to go from the point where the headshot struck to the triple underpass.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

If we add the 9.45 seconds that it took the limo to get to the triple underpass in the Z-film to the 7 seconds in the Bell film when we see Zapruder already off the pedestal, and we know from the Paschall film that the movement behind the fence occurs immediately after Zapruder gets off the pedestal, we have 16.45 seconds.

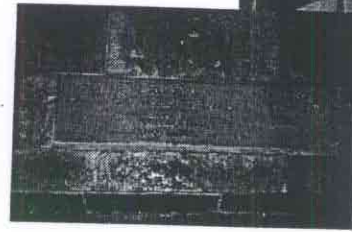
CONCLUSION: So, at a point in time slightly less than 16.45 seconds after the headshot, we can see what has to be the movement of at least two people behind the picket fence.

Sources:

1. The Dave Weigman film is available for public viewing. It is included in Robert Groden's video production: Case For Conspiracy. Also, a frame of the Dave Weigman film that shows the smoke on the grassy knoll is published in Robert Groden's book: *The Killing Of A President*. (page 204)

NOTE: The Patsy Paschall film as yet is unavailable for public viewing. Read Greg's entire article on the Paschall film on our web page. <http://snni.com/~jfklandcr/Articles.html>

The Undelivered Speech



These were President Kennedy's last official words—the conclusion of the speech he was to have delivered in Dallas.

America today is stronger than ever before. Our adversaries have not abandoned their ambitions—our dangers have not diminished—our vigilance cannot be relaxed. But now we have the military, the scientific and the economic strength to do whatever must be done for the preservation and promotion of freedom.

That strength will never be used in pursuit of aggressive ambitions—it will always be used in pursuit of peace. It will never be used to promote provocations—it will always be used to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes.

We in this country, in this generation, are—by destiny rather than choice—the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility—that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint—and that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of peace on earth, good will toward men. That must always be our goal—and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. For as was written long ago: "except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."