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70-year-old still trying

By PHILLIP SWANN
Times News Service

WASHINGTON — It was 19 years ago Monday that President John F. Kennedy was gunned down by an assassin's bullets. But the eerie, echoing blast that rang through Dealey Plaza still reverberates in the psyche of Harold Weisburg.

Weisburg, 70, has been obsessed by the JFK assassination since that dismal day in Dallas. He has spent every day investigating the murder, methodically probing for the missing piece that would prove conclusively that Lee Harvey Oswald was not the lone killer.

Although public opinion polls show the majority of Americans believe there was a conspiracy, the federal government has no plans to reopen the case.

But Weisburg cannot rest. He goes on against hope and the bureaucracy. He has a suit pending in federal court here

that would require the FBI to do new tests on the evidence.

"(The assassination) is one of the biggest causes of disenchantment in America," Weisburg says. "When a president can be killed and no one does a real investigation, that's the biggest single danger to society . . . We still have no idea who really killed the president."

Weisburg has written four assassination books in "The Whitewash Series". The former magazine writer and poultry farmer is not your average conspiracy merchant. He has given his life — and his home — to the case. He has not taken a job since he began work on the assassination.

"I'm nobody," says Weisburg. "I have no illusions about that. I have no money . . . but each citizen has his own obligations."

Weisburg supports himself from savings and the meager earnings of his

P. Swann

to show Oswald didn't act alone

books. He and his wife live in a small white bungalow in Frederick, Md. "I couldn't have done this without the patience of my wife," Weisburg remarks.

And what did his friends think when he dropped everything and launched his full-time pursuit of the Kennedy case?

"I didn't have time for friends," he says, without smiling.

His basement is damp and as cold as the trail he is stalking. Boxes bulging with Weisburg's unsold books line the walls. There are dozens of file cabinets stuffed with FBI records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and he has records on such obscure subjects as "Jesse Curry" (a former Dallas police official) and "curbstone" (pavement which was supposedly hit by one of the bullets.)

The living room, which is heated by a woodstove, is decorated with a large picture of Lyndon Johnson's head super-

imposed on Lee Harvey Oswald's body. An adjoining room has more records, tapes and other documents. His car is adorned with a bumper sticker which reads: "Who Killed JFK?"

At the start of the interview, he says he has stopped smoking. But within minutes, he lights up. "This shows how this (subject) gets me worked up," Weisburg explains.

And now there does not seem to be any new evidence, no startling revelation that would force the federal government to reopen the case.

The now-defunct House Assassinations Committee reported in 1979 that there was a 95 percent chance that more than three shots were fired at Kennedy. If true, that would make it impossible for Oswald to be the lone gunman.

But committee-hired ballistics experts later said there was only a 50-50 chance it happened that way, and the

FBI said the odds were even lower.

"Sure, I get angry. I get frustrated," Weisburg says. "But you've got to realize the import of it all to continue."

Weisburg says he was collecting eggs on his poultry farm when he heard that President Kennedy was shot. Like millions of other Americans, he ran to the television.

"I was glued to the TV set, in shock," Weisburg says. "This was the most subversive crime in the society."

Weisburg, whose farm went bankrupt shortly after the assassination, began to "work around the clock" on his investigation.

Weisburg says he doesn't know who pulled the trigger.

"I'm not pursuing the whodunit," he says. "The bottom line is that the institutions didn't work and the way to make them work is to show that they didn't work."