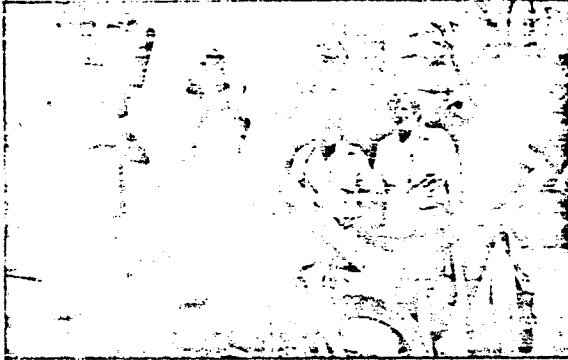


Media Notes From All Over



Teaming up: King and Romero (standing, left and center).

STANLEY KUBRICK'S version of *The Shining* is lighting up the cash registers, but author Stephen King seems happier with ace schlock director George Romero (*Night of the Living Dead*). King will do the screenplays for two forthcoming Romero features (*Creepshow* and *The Stand*). Last week, on the western-Pennsylvania set where Romero is shooting *KnightRiders*, King explained: "Kubrick will do 300 takes, put an actor through all that until he's satisfied. George will do as many as he needs and no more. George is the only film di-

rector I've ever met to have the personal confidence and professional ability to make movies as he sees them." . . . If you thought the salary cited by *The Gallagher Report* for *Playboy* editorial director Arthur Kretchmer seemed high ["Intelligencer," May 19], you were right. "It's flattering to be known as a half-million-dollar executive," he said last week, "but like most fantasies, it was unfulfilling. My actual salary can be said to be in six figures in the way some agents would describe an \$11 sale as having been 'somewhere between \$10 and a thousand.'" . . .

Free Shows in Park to Go On

DESPITE CITY BUDGET CUTS of more than \$1 million, summer lively-arts programs will go on as scheduled. When funds for park performances by the Met, the Philharmonic, Shakespeare in the Park, and 50 other smaller groups were dropped earlier this year, the New York Community Trust moved in to take up the slack.

So far, the Trust has lined up \$200,000 from Gulf & Western, \$100,000 from Warner Communications, contributions from other sources for a total of \$800,000. In addition, the Trust has \$200,000. Says

Richard Mittenthal of the Trust, "That means we're about \$100,000 short. I think we'll get the rest, but if not there may have to be cutbacks in some of the smaller borough art groups. In any case, it is absolutely not our intention to do this year after year. Someone has to make the case to the city that these programs are a real investment for New York." Benefits of the Trust are Met performances in the parks beginning June 17, eleven Philharmonic concerts, and 48 performances in Central Park of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

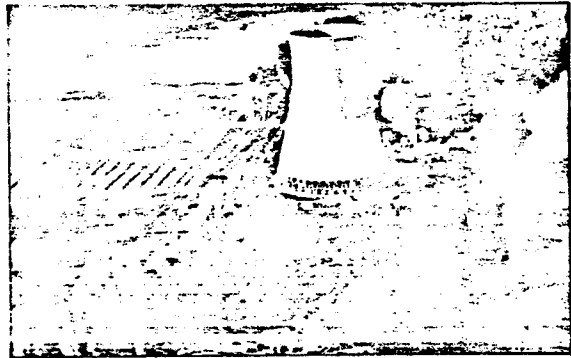
Did Oswald Pull the Trigger?

KENNEDY-ASSASSINATION buffs will have something else to argue about when McGraw-Hill publishes *Conspiracy*, by BBC reporter Anthony Summers, later this month. Among Summers's conclusions: It is highly unlikely that Lee Harvey Oswald actually pulled the trigger. "I've been able to pin it down even more since writing the book," says Summers. "A secretary at the School Book Depository named Mrs. Carolyn Arnold reported to the FBI at the time—in testimony that was entirely overlooked—that she saw Oswald having lunch at 12:25 P.M. on

the day of the assassination. The motorcade was a few minutes late, but given that it was scheduled to pass the Depository at exactly 12:25, it doesn't make sense that a man planning to assassinate the president would be sitting calmly in the lunchroom at that time."

The Justice Department is reviewing findings from the Congressional Select Committee on Assassinations report. Says G. Robert Blakey, former chief counsel for the committee: "There's no question there was a conspiracy. It's possible that Summers's book could help speed things up at the Justice Department."

Nuclear Plant Near Mt. St. Helens



Trouble spot: Trojan plant is only 35 miles from volcano.

THOUGH THE ERUPTION OF Mt. St. Helens made headlines nationwide, reporters failed to check out a nearby installation that could have produced a much bigger bang—the Portland General Electric Trojan Nuclear Power Plant, just 35 miles from the volcano.

According to plant spokesman Bill Babcock, the only change there was the addition of temporary air filters for protection from falling volcanic ash. But MIT physics professor Henry Kendall of the Union of Concerned Scientists said

PGE was lucky. "Any earthquakes associated with volcanic activity pose a very real risk," he said. "Any sizable earthquake could easily disable the safety systems." A UCS nuclear-safety engineer who worked for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said, "It was found that the Trojan plant had never been constructed in accordance with design criteria for earthquakes."

At the Trojan plant, Babcock confirmed that such design specifications had not been met, and added that modifications were now under way to help the plant withstand earthquakes.

BY CRAIG UNGER