

Texas man searches for info on 'missed shot'

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Like most Americans, James T. Tague will never forget what happened in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

But he has a special memory. He was there and he was injured by what many have theorized was a fourth or "missed" shot.

Mr. Tague was in Frederick this weekend to obtain information from the files of Harold Weisberg, an author and expert on the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Dallas resident is working on a book documenting what happened and what he calls "the cover-up or non-investigation" that followed.

Mr. Tague said he went downtown to have lunch with a friend on that fateful November day. He parked his car at the end of Dealy Plaza opposite the Book Depository and was standing on a sidewalk.

The "missed" shot struck the curb, and concrete fragments spattered his cheek. "Within two minutes of the assassination, a police officer radioed that he had an injured person, possibly hit by ricochet from the bullet that hit the concrete," Mr. Tague said.

"I really didn't know I was hit until the officer said there was blood on my cheek," he said. "Then I realized it was stinging."

Despite the witnesses and police reports, Mr. Tague said he was not contacted by the FBI until

December. "Then it took eight months for someone to go and cut out that section of curb," he said. "We're talking about the assassination of a president."

The Warren Commission apparently was not made aware of Mr. Tague until July 1964 and they requested the FBI conduct an investigation. The following month he said the curb was removed.

"They didn't want me or the curb to exist," he said. "... Hoover said it happened one way. I didn't fit those plans."

Mr. Tague said he and the damaged curb were something the FBI couldn't explain. "They had already said Oswald fired three shots," he said. "A fourth would mean it was impossible for it to have been Oswald."

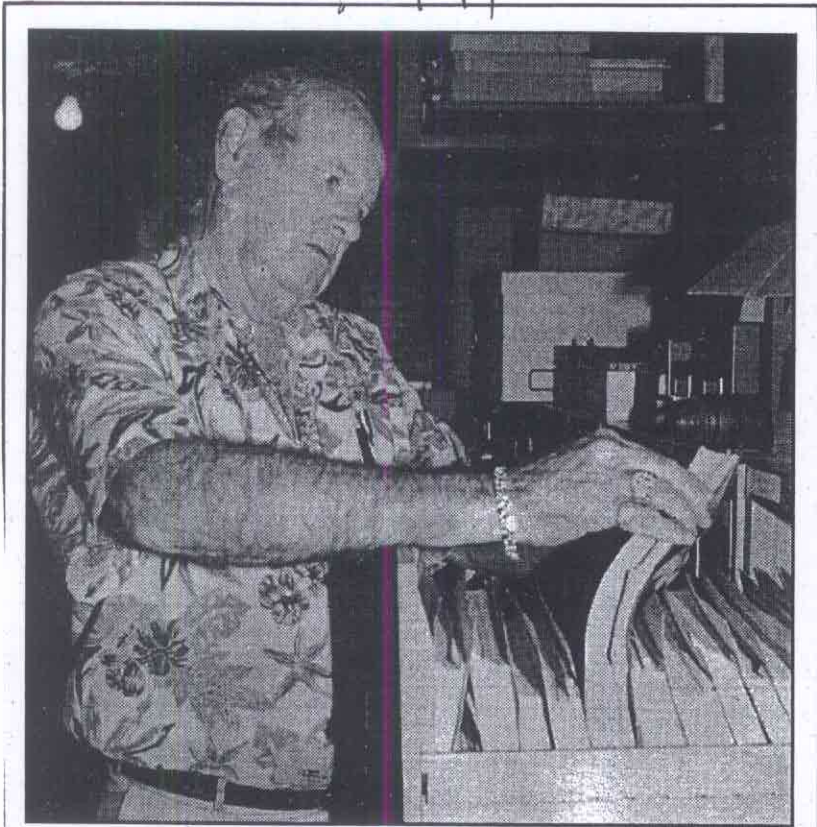
Initial tests showed there was metal on the damaged curb. However, Mr. Weisberg said when an associate went to re-examine it a few years ago he found it had been "patched over."

Mr. Tague said he also hopes to take another look at the curb while he's in town. It's housed in the National Archives with other evidence considered by the Warren Commission.

Although his request was denied by National Archives last week because he failed to meet certain criteria, Mr. Tague is hoping a Texas senator and representative can intervene.

"I was given the OK originally. But I guess that changed after they realized who I was," he said.

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Staff photo by Susan C. Nicol

James Tague looks through files Sunday searching for information about the "missed" shot at the assassination of President Kennedy.