

BACK CHANNELS - Vol-1, #3

— SPRING, 1992 —

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

In May, an article written by two doctors who conducted the autopsy on President Kennedy at Bethesda Hospital (James Humes & J. Thornton Boswell) affirmed the original findings of the 1964 Warren Commission. The doctors said that two bullets fired from a high-powered rifle struck the president in the back and behind were the only shots that struck JFK.

Their findings were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, JAMA.

The third attending physician, Dr. Pierre Fink who now lives in Switzerland, refused to take part in the interview.

The JAMA article fails to take into account the scores of witnesses that heard and saw smoke and rifle shots coming from in front of the president's limousine in Dealey Plaza. The doctors dispute medical technician Paul O'Connor's statement that when he took the president out of the coffin he was wrapped in a body bag.

I could go on.

Dr. George Lundberg, editor of JAMA, said he tried to get the Dallas doctors to speak for the past seven years. It is interesting that they decided to speak out now - during the post release period of Oliver Stone's movie, JFK.

The JAMA report will only intensify the current interest in the Kennedy assassination among the American people. Their report, however, is the same tired, outdated version of the Warren Commission's apologists who have failed to study the hard, fresh information that has come to light these past thirty years.

PETER KROSS

DeMOHRENSCHILDT & OSWALD

BY PETER KROSS

When Lee Harvey Oswald returned to the United States with his wife and new baby, they settled in the Dallas-Fort Worth area which had a large Russian-American community. Among the group there was one man, for whatever reasons, befriended the Oswald's and took them under his wing, George DeMohrenschildt.

It was a decision that would change his life.

George DeMohrenschildt came from an aristocratic family, an urbane and well educated man, the opposite of Lee Harvey Oswald. He was born before World War I to a well to do Russian family whose ancestors traced their heritage back to the American Revolution.

Young George got his education at the Polish Cavalry Academy and at the University of Belgium. At age 27, in 1938, he came to the United States.

With a fortune of \$10,000, George was able to live the kind of life he was accustomed to. But as America entered World War II, he turned his attention to other, less obvious areas; intelligence gathering.

During this period, the F.B.I. put a watch on him and had him followed on a regular basis. The Bureau speculated that he did undercover work for the Nazis in the United States. At one point he was spotted sketching a scene that included a U.S. naval installation. George's F.B.I. file contains the following note, "...to determine if the person posed a security threat."

In 1942, George was deported from Mexico carrying a \$6,000 letter of credit issued by Chase Manhattan Bank of New York which was owned by the Rockefeller family.

That same year he applied for a wartime position in the O.S.S. but was denied because of his jaded past.

Before the war, George had started a successful career as a petroleum geologist, meeting the right people in Texas and becoming politically well connected. In 1938, he met and befriended Jack Bouvier, the father of Jacqueline Kennedy. George knew the Bouvier family well, meeting young Jackie often at their East Hampton home.

But it was in the 1950's and early 60's that De Mohrenschildt began a new and sometimes murky part of his life, one, that led certain people to believe that he had some intelligence related connections.

During that time under the guise of a petroleum engineer and stamp collector, he traveled the world, winding up in such hot spots as Yugoslavia, Guatemala, Guam and Cuba.

In 1979, the House Committee on Assassinations said of De Mohrenschildt's possible intelligence connections, "While his name is not on file as an agent-he had contacts with intelligence again and again."

Upon their return to Dallas-Fort Worth, both George and Jeanne resumed their lives and shortly met Lee and Marina Oswald. George and Lee had a father-son relationship despite their vastly different backgrounds. Why would De Mohrenschildt give his friendship and loyalty to Oswald?

De Mohrenschildt's views of Oswald were contradictory at best. He saw two different sides of Oswald, telling different versions about the ex-Marine to anyone who would listen. Yet both George and his wife took care of the Oswald's, even giving Marina money to live.

In his long talks with Oswald, George emphasized his close relationship with the Bouvier-Kennedy family. To Lee, the fact that his best friend knew the wife of the President of the United States was nothing but astounding.

George was Oswald's intellectual mentor and was also able to sway Oswald's mind around to his own political philosophy. He told Lee of Major General Edwin Walker, a member of the John Birch Society. It is believed that Oswald tried to kill General Walker.

The most important question asked by assassination researchers is why DeMohrenschildt befriended Oswald and if he had any connections to U.S. intelligence agencies. The answers are still contradictory yet fascinating.

When De Mohrenschildt first met Oswald he didn't know what to make of

him. He found Oswald most intriguing yet didn't seek out his friendship right away. He didn't want to get involved with Oswald until he checked him out. Interestingly enough, the man whom George turned to in order to find out about Oswald was his friend, J. Walton Moore, a CIA agent stationed in Dallas. Moore reassured him that he wasn't under any F.B.I. surveillance because of his associations with Oswald. DeMohrenschildt asked Moore if Oswald was dangerous in any way. Moore replied that Oswald was a "harmless lunatic" and was of no concern to the CIA. Thus, with Moore's assurance, De Mohrenschildt began to cultivate Lee Harvey Oswald.

As time went on, many writers began to place their own interpretation on the Oswald-DeMohrenschildt connection. Author Michael Eddoes in his book *The Oswald File*, believes that their was a so called Dallas Triangle consisting of Jack Ruby and an impostor Oswald and DeMohrenschildt who plotted to kill Kennedy. He points out that in 1956-58, Ruby and George lived within one hundred yards of each other. Eddoes also says that DeMohrenschildt was told to befriend Oswald, to get him a job at Jagers-Stoval, help him introduce

*"De Mohrenschidt
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Marina to Ruth Paine who made the call to the Texas School Book Depository where Oswald got a job.

George Evica, in his book *And We Are All Mortal*, takes this conspiracy theory one step further. He asks whether De Mohrenschildt was ordered, possibly through his oil or intelligence connections, to spy on Oswald to see if he was on any covert operation on behalf of the U.S. government.

A partial answer to De Mohrenschildt's possible intelligence connections can be found in his relationship with President Duvalier of Haiti.

One of his world-wide contacts was Clemard Charles, President of Banque Commercial d'Haiti. In May, 1963, Colonel Sam Kail, a U.S. Army intelligence officer working out of Miami, contacted Dorothy Mathack of the Office of the Army Chief of Staff for Intelligence. She served as Assistant Director of the Army's human source collection and was its liaison with the CIA. Kail told De Mohrenschildt to meet with Charles to get information on President Duvalier.

In a related development, Joseph Dryer of Palm Beach, Florida, told the H.S.C.A. that he knew De Mohrenschildt in Haiti during the 1950's and 60's. He related that George and Charles met with a woman called Jacqueline Lancelot who owned a restaurant in Haiti. Lancelot is supposed to have given U.S. intelligence agents who worked in the American embassy in Port-Au-Prince information on President Duvalier. Dryer stated that he heard hearsay information from Lancelot that after Kennedy's death, De Mohrenschildt got \$200,000 or \$250,000 which were deposited in his Port-Au-Prince bank account.

If De Mohrenschildt was accused of being an intelligence agent, so was Oswald. De Mohrenschildt gave varying accounts to the Warren Commission and others concerning Oswald's possible links to the CIA.

In his book *I Am A Patry* written for the HSCA, George wrote, "It never occurred to me that he (Oswald) might be an agent of any country, including the US-although he might have been trained in Russia for some ulterior motive."

Whatever the truth about De Mohrenschildt and Oswald can never be known. George De Mohrenschildt, like many other witnesses to the Kennedy assassination died under mysterious circumstances.

Events prior to his suicide are as strange as his life. On March 1, 1977, he went with Dutch writer William Oltmans to Holland where, for one week he disappeared. On March 14 he returned to New York. The next day Oltmans, under questioning from the HSCA told them that Oswald acted with the knowledge of De Mohrenschildt when he killed President Kennedy.

George returned to Palm Beach to visit his daughter, Alexandra. He was to have met with members of the House Committee to discuss his relationship with Oswald but in one, final desperate act, George committed suicide.

Speaking of Oswald, De Mohrenschildt stated that he would have told the truth when he was questioned by the Dallas police after his capture.

It's too bad he never got the chance.

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HITLER'S GOLD

BY PETER KROSS

On the morning of February 3, 1945, a massive allied air attack comprised of 1,000 bombers from the 5th U.S. Army Air Force attacked Berlin. As the unsuspecting American bombardiers let loose their powerful explosives against their targets below, neither they nor anyone else could know that by their actions that winter day, would set in motion one of the greatest conspiracies of World War II.

The prime target of the air raid was the Tempelhof marshaling yards in Berlin where what was left of the German armaments were stored. Other important targets were the Reichstag, the Reich Chancellery, Goering's Air Ministry and the Propaganda Ministry. Another building that was destroyed and the one that is the most important as far as this story goes, is the Reichbank, the depository of the German government.

The Reichbank took twenty-one direct hits but amazingly the 5,000 employees who huddled in the basement survived. The Reichbank was the leading bank in Germany and it held vast amounts of gold and currencies, not only of Germany but of other conquered nations as well.

With the Reichbank in flames and with allied troops on the edge of Berlin, the president of the bank, Dr. Walter Funk, knew he had to take drastic action if he was to save his precious reserves.

At a hastily held meeting in Hitler's bunker it was decided to take as much of the Reich gold as possible out of the city to a safe location high in the Bavarian Alps.

They removed 450 sacks of paper marks but left 550 sacks buried in an abandoned mine shaft in the city of Merkers. This was the first of two trips that would be made to hide Hitler's gold.

On March 22, 1945, the U.S. Third Army led by Lt. Gen. George Patton crossed the Rhine and on April 6, two military policemen from Patton's command received information from two displaced women who told them that certain amounts of gold were hidden in the Kaisers mine.

What Patton's men found left them excited. Located a half mile below ground, and stacked along the walls of the main passageway, were 550 sacks of German paper currency totaling about a billion Reichmarks.

It was decided by General Dwight Eisenhower who came to inspect the treasure that the gold had to be moved to a safer place. On April 14, 1945, the treasury of the Third Reich was taken to the Reichbank in Frankfurt which was now in American hands.

But not all the gold was removed and in that dark pit, a half a mile below ground, the great Reichbank robbery began.

Unknown to the Americans, the job of removing the rest of the gold was given to Frederick Rauch, Hitler's per-

THE JOHN WOOD MURDER CASE

BY PETER KROSS

On May 29, 1979, as Federal Judge John Wood was leaving his home for work, a gunman fired one shot from a .240 caliber rifle, mortally wounding him. He was swiftly taken to Northeast Baptist Hospital where he later died.

What followed was one of the largest manhunts in the history of the F.B.I. During their investigation of the murder of Judge John Wood, authorities would uncover certain leads connecting underworld crimes, drug smuggling and most tantalizing of all, a possible link to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Judge John Wood, called "Maxium John" because of the stiff sentences he handed down, especially in drug related cases, made a lot of enemies on the bench.

On February 26, 1979, Jimmy Chagra, a noted drug dealer was indicted in a Midland, Texas court on narcotics conspiracy charges. His trial date was set for July of that year with Judge Wood presiding.

Shortly before the trial began, an assassination attempt was made on the life of James Kerr, the Assistant U.S. Attorney who was prosecuting Chagra before Judge Wood. He survived.

Chagra was linked to the murder attempt on James Kerr and was accused of hiring a crook named Jimmy Kerns to carry out the hit. It is believed that Chagra paid Kerns \$45,000 for the Kerr contract.

By August, 1979, a new judge, William Sessions (later to become Director of the F.B.I.), took over as the presiding judge in the trial of Jimmy Chagra.

A jury convicted Chagra of "having engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise" (The Insider, pg 100) and handed down a 47 year sentence.

With Jimmy Chagra now behind bars, the F.B.I. mounted a nation-wide manhunt for Judge Wood's killer. The investigation was headed by John

Lawn, who would later serve as the Director of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

While there were no eye-witnesses to the actual slaying of Judge Wood, a number of people in the vicinity of the crime saw a man leave the scene. Later, under hypnosis, they were able to identify a suspect.

The man named as the prime suspect in the death of Judge Wood was an ex-con named Charles Harrelson. Harrelson has also been linked to a secret and violent gang in the South and, more importantly, to the events of November 22, 1963.

Charles Harrelson was born in Huntsville, Texas on July 23, 1938. As an adult, he served in the Navy from 1956-59 and trained for Naval Intelligence. While in the Navy, he served in Key West and learned demolition work.

His first arrest came at age 21 and began his first jail term at 35.

Charles Harrelson was arrested by F.B.I. agents on September 1, 1980 and charged with the murder of Judge Wood. At the time of his arrest he was high on drugs. While in police custody, he admitted to the Wood slaying and, in an unexpected move, said he had a hand in the assassination of President Kennedy.

In the investigation of Harrelson, the F.B.I. uncovered his links to not only the Chagra brothers criminal enterprise, but more importantly, to that of the Louisiana crime boss, Carlos Marcello.

While Harrelson was safely tucked away in prison, the Feds began a wire tap program against Jimmy Chagra, also serving time. They secretly worked with a fellow convict named Jerry Ray James who was in the same jail as Chagra. James befriended Chagra and soon won over his confidence. What Chagra didn't know was that Ray was wired.

Chagra provided details of his past criminal activities to Ray, including the details of the Judge Wood murder. Based upon the wiretaps, the F.B.I., with warrant in hand, searched Chagra's home in El Paso and found a map of an area near Dallas where the murder weapon (in the Wood case) was said to be buried.

With Chagra's admissions on tape, he was indicted and later pleaded guilty of working with Kerns in the plan to kill US Attorney James Kerr.

In an unrelated development, Jimmy's brother Lee was found dead in his office. It has been speculated that Lee Chagra was involved in the drug trade in the Southwest.

As the investigation of Charles Harrelson began, the F.B.I. came up with tenuous links with members of organized crime. They discovered that he had ties to the "Dixie Mafia", an organization whose members ran from Tennessee to New Mexico. Through their informants, the F.B.I. learned that Jimmy Chagra "hired" the Dixie Mafia to kill Judge Wood for \$1 million dollars.

Harrelson has also been associated with an underworld group named "The Company" (also the nickname of the CIA) which was made up of a few hundred mercenaries and outlaws. The Company is said to be the owners of ships, planes and to have participated in drug shipments to South America.

More importantly, the brother of mob boss Carlos Marcello of New Orleans was also indicted along with Harrelson in the murder of Judge Wood.

In 1961, Marcello was deported out of the U.S. to Guatemala on the direct orders of Attorney General Robert Kennedy. He harbored a deep hostility to both Kennedy brothers and is believed, especially by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, that Marcello played a direct role in the president's death.

When he finally got around to discussing the JFK assassination, Harrelson had quite a story to tell. He said that the Warren Commission was wrong in its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the killer of the president. He believes that Oswald was a "scapegoat" and that the shots that killed the president came from the grassy knoll.

Harrelson has been the subject of considerable debate as possibly being one of the three "tramps" arrested in Dealey Plaza following the assassination. Harrelson denies he was one of the tramps even though he admits there is a resemblance (continued on p. 11)

forcement. It amazes me that the IRS can, on the one hand, produce such careless records and, on the other hand, demand accurate records from every taxpayer in America."

One could not be more cruel to the IRS than that; and all that remains to be told is how Project Layoff came to a halt.

The IRS stingmen began running into heat. Dickey situations popped up which could only occur in the mean streets and for which the IRS agents were unprepared. For instance, one of the undercover joint's frequent customers was Tony Spilto, the leading mobster in Las Vegas. Tony once stiffed the undercover bookies for \$20,000. The IRS guys had no retaliation for this. What were they going to do, shake down Tony?

In another instance, Marcus Sports Service was raided by the FBI, which didn't know and was never told ahead of time that this was a bookie operation run by the IRS.

The death knell for the Project Layoff boondoggle came after a couple of angry bettors stormed into the bet shop demanding prompt payment of their wages. The bettors were armed and supposedly made death threats against the bookies.

Hey, things were getting dangerous. The IRS pulled out.

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ROBERTO CALVI

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for the collapse of the Vatican bank and other financial institutions in the United States.

In the aftermath of Calvi's death, Flavio Carboni took a crisscross trip back to Italy from Scotland and Austria via private plane. He was arrested in Lugano in July, 1982 and charged with helping in the escape of a fugitive.

As far as the Calvi death is concerned, the verdict is still out.

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COLD WARRIOR

BY LINDA HUNT

Of all the people involved in CIA assassination plots, one of the most intriguing--yet least-known figures is General Charles Cabell, deputy director of the CIA under Allen Dulles. In 1960, he and Dulles personally approved a plot to kill Fidel Castro that involved the Mob. A four-star Air Force general, Cabell was in charge at the CIA during the failed Bay of Pigs invasion and also helped provide Dominican Republic rebels with weapons they needed to assassinate General Rafael Trujillo. At one point, New Orleans DA Jim Garrison even suspected that he was involved in a plot to kill President Kennedy. In short, Cabell was in the middle of some of the biggest conspiracies, both real and imagined, hatched during his 37-year career in the military and the CIA.

By all rights, Cabell should have been a politician. The craggy Texan's family was a political institution in Dallas. His brother Earle was mayor of Dallas at the time of the JFK assassination, and later became a congressman. Another brother, Ben, was mayor pro-tem for a long time. Cabell's father, Ben E. Cabell, had been both mayor of Dallas and sheriff of Dallas County. His grandfather, General William Lewis Cabell, was mayor of Dallas as well as a commander in the Confederate Army.

Despite his family's history, Cabell chose the military over politics. A West Point graduate, he rose quickly through the ranks during World War II from fighter pilot to high-level positions that included Director of Plans for the U.S. Strategic Air Force. He helped plan the invasion of Normandy and worked with the USSR to coordinate Allied bombing efforts with advancing Soviet ground troops. After the war, Cabell was named director of Air Force intelligence and, in 1951, director of the Joint Staff in the Joint Chiefs

of Staff.

Cabell became CIA Deputy Director in 1953, at the height of the Cold War. His expertise on the USSR was a major consideration in his appointment. He once told students at the Defense Intelligence School that "the terms pilot and co-pilot" best described his relationship with Dulles: "I was his co-pilot for nine years."

Fidel Castro was the main focus of Cabell's attention at the CIA. By 1959, the Cuban leader was seen as a major threat to America's security. Cabell once admitted to a Senate subcommittee that "Castro is not a member of the Communist Party", but added that "Che" Guevara and Fidel's brother Raul Castro "are both strong friends of the Communist Party...and he is committed to defend their policies."

A year later, Cabell and Dulles approved a plot to assassinate Castro that involved the Mafia. They were briefed on the plan in September, 1960, by covert operations chief Richard Bissell and Colonel Sheffield Edwards, director of the CIA's office of security. Edwards told a CIA investigator later that he had done most of the talking, in riddles, to avoid using names or "bad words" like assassination. Dulles only nodded. Yet Edwards was certain that both men clearly understood what was going on: "The plan was approved by Allen W. Dulles and General Cabell."

When it failed, the CIA plowed ahead with a plan to invade Cuba on April 17, 1961. Dulles was scheduled to be out of town on a speaking engagement that day. "At the time, the press was hot on our heels, with rumors flying around that there was about to be some sort of Cuban operation, and that CIA must be at the bottom of it", Cabell later recalled. "We all felt that his cancellation would draw fatal attention to the validity of the rumors, whereas it would be good cover if the proceeded to Puerto Rico. He went

most reluctantly."

Cabell was left in charge. As the guerrillas landed at the Bay of Pigs, Cabell held up a second air strike needed to protect the men until he could get approval from President Kennedy. In *The Night Watch*, CIA agent David Phillips recalled the conversation between Cabell and Kennedy: "Obviously the President was asking a number of questions, which Cabell answered in detail. He presented his case for air cover...but as he did so I thought to myself: if only Dulles were here to sell this one."

Finally, according to Phillips: "The President says no deal," Cabell said, looking at Bissell. Then he turned to the rest of us. "I guess," Cabell said, "we'll just have to be heady-heady about this."

The rest is history. Without air-cover, 1,500 guerrillas found themselves in a bloodbath. Phillips put some of the blame squarely on his superior: "The blame here was not just Kennedy's, but Cabell's, the air force general who allowed 'heady-heady' instead of action."

Dulles returned to face the repercussions in Washington. "He approved what we had done and only complained because he had left me at the controls when the going got rough," Cabell said. As the enormity of the Bay of Pigs disaster grew, Kennedy angrily confided to a colleague that he wanted "to splinter the CIA in a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds."

One month later, on May 9, 1961, Cabell made a speech before a foreign policy group in New Orleans, whose program director was none other than Clay Shaw. It's hard to imagine that was Cabell's only trip to the city, given the CIA's involvement in training anti-Castro Cubans in New Orleans and the fact that Shaw had been involved with the CIA since 1948.

Before his speech, Cabell evaded journalists' questions about Cuba. "This is a sensitive subject, certainly, and one which should be discussed only by President Kennedy and Secretary of State Rusk," he said. "The Central Intelligence Agency is not a policy-making agency; we merely serve the policy makers."

The prevailing view is that Cabell

was instantly fired by Kennedy after the invasion failed; in fact, he stayed on at CIA until January, 1962. Meanwhile, Dominican rebels were pressing the CIA for arms. Cabell had approved sending guns to them in 1960; further shipments were blocked by the State Department. Trujillo was assassinated five months after Cabell left office.

In retirement, Cabell was still paid by the CIA as a consultant and as director of the board of two CIA owned airlines, Air America and Air Asia. He also worked as a consultant for NASA, General Electric and Hughes Aircraft, which was owned by Howard Hughes. The Hughes connection is telling: Robert Maheu, the reclusive millionaire's aide, had been the go-between in the CIA-Mafia plot to kill Castro.

Various conspiracy theories have tried to link Cabell with the JFK assassination, based on press reports that Jim Garrison was going to bring charges against the general. Garrison talked about Cabell in conversations with Perahing Gervais, his chief investigator, recorded in FBI wiretaps and played in court during Garrison's pinball bribery trial. Garrison wanted Gervais to check the records of a motel in New Orleans to see if Cabell was there the day Kennedy was killed.

"If I can put him in the Fountainsblue Motel, then I've got enough to grab in by the (expletive) balls", Garrison was heard saying on the FBI tape. "Wait till the country finds out...the number-two man in the CIA is the man in charge of the Bay of Pigs and the brother of the mayor of Dallas."

There was a major hitch in Garrison's plan—Cabell had died of a heart attack months before the wiretap conversation occurred. Earle Cabell was not disturbed. Of Garrison, he said, "That guy is nuttier than a fruitcake."

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JOHN WOOD MURDER CASE

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between himself and one of them.

When he was arrested, Harrelson had in his possession a business card of Russell Mathews, a close friend. Mathews had ties with Jack Ruby. The HSCA said of Mathews he was "actively engaged in criminal activity since the 1940's" (*Crossfire*, pg. 335).

In 1981, Harrelson gave an interview to a Dallas reporter, Chuck Cook. When talking about the JFK assassination, Harrelson replied, "If and when I get out of here and feel free to talk, I will have something that will be the biggest story you ever had."

When asked what he meant by that statement, Harrelson said, "November 22, 1963. You remember that?"

* * * * *

BEN FRANKLIN

(continued from page 7)

the former Chancellor of the Exchequer via the Hell Fire Club. Some writers have alleged a connection between the Hell Fire Club and the British Secret Service but nothing has been proved.

Franklin did indeed meet at certain times with Lord Le Despencer during his routine travels to England.

Another question that has to be asked is if Franklin did know of Dr. Bancroft's treason did he in fact pass false information to him which would then be given to the British?

With the passage of time, the jury is still out concerning the illegal activities, if any, on Benjamin Franklin.

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RFK: HOW MANY SHOTS?

BY THERESA SEAY

Just after midnight on June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel in L.A. Senator Robert Kennedy was fatally shot after winning the California primary in his quest to be the Democratic Presidential nominee. In the pantry Sirhan Sirhan managed to discharge every bullet from his 8 shot Iver-Johnson .22 caliber revolver. He was convicted of killing RFK and remains in prison. But questions remain. Is there any evidence that other shots were fired that night?

The LAPD's official count of bullets is as follows: one bullet entered Kennedy's head from behind the right ear and was recovered. A second went through his right shoulder pad, not injuring him, and went on to hit Paul Schrade in the forehead. It was recovered. A third entered Kennedy's right shoulder and was recovered. A fourth bullet entered RFK's right back, exited the chest, went through a ceiling tile and was lost in the ceiling interspace. A fifth shot hit Ira Goldstein the left buttock and was recovered. A sixth passed through Goldstein's pant leg, hit the cement floor, and was deflected into Erwin Strol's leg where it was recovered. A seventh bullet hit William Weisel in the left abdomen and was recovered. An eighth bullet struck the ceiling and then hit Elizabeth Evans in the head and was recovered.

Those are the officially recognized shots that were fired that night. Just one more shout means a second gunman because Sirhan never reloaded.

Some problems surfaced regarding the bullet paths, however. Paul Schrade was standing several feet behind Kennedy and wonders how he could have been hit with the bullet that went through RFK's jacket at an upward angle of about 80 degrees, especially since Kennedy was not even facing him. The bullet trajectory appears all wrong for Schrade's wound. Elizabeth Evans was tying her shoe when wounded by the bullet which ricocheted off the ceiling, yet, the bullet entered her hairline traveling upward, making that trajectory also suspect.

A far more serious challenge to the lone assassin scenario is the number of bullets which were apparently recovered at the scene but which have since disappeared. There are pictures extant of LAPD officers pointing to a bullet hole in a door jamb that RFK had just passed through.

Robert Rozzi, of the LAPD, provided an affidavit to Vincent Bugliosi, prosecutor of Charles Manson, which stated that he personally observed the hole and what looked like a small caliber bullet in it. The object was later removed but no one knows by whom. Another picture shows Corner Thomas Noguchi pointing to 2 holes, one above the other, in the door jamb. FBI photographers took pictures of the same holes and called them "bullet holes."

William Turner and John Christian in The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy show pictures that the FBI took of 2

other holes which had been circled and initialed by LAPD personnel. These are also called "bullet holes" by the FBI and a panel which had a piece missing from it was also said to have had a bullet hole. Besides these, there is a picture of a hinge on the pantry door which the FBI said showed the location of "another bullet" mark which struck it. The total number of bullets is now up to 14 and possibly 15-all from Sirhan's eight shot revolver!

Philip Melanson in The Robert F. Kennedy Assassination reports that Kenneth Vogel saw two. 22 bullet fragments on the pantry floor and reported it to the LAPD but they were never entered into evidence, according to released files. These would have to be added to the existing bullet totals, already too high for Sirhan to have fired alone. Many witnesses saw the various bullet holes and said that the police told them that bullets had been removed-never to be seen again.

What happened to the door jambs and panels which held irrefutable evidence of a second gunman? In 1975, it was revealed that the door casement wood, along with the ceiling panels, was destroyed on June 27, 1969. Why?

The official LAPD reason was that the material was too big to fit into a card file! Darryl Gates' subsequent position was that since it contained no bullets, its destruction didn't matter. Evidence, along with the truth, was obliterated by the Los Angeles Police Department. They have yet to be held accountable for their actions.

THERESA SEAY holds a B.A. in History & Government, has been an assassination researcher since 1975, and is a freelance writer.

RFK RESEARCH QUERY

PRIME SOURCES, PERSONNEL MATERIAL
RELATED TO RFK WANTED.

MATERIAL CAN BE ANYTHING FROM A
"THANK YOU" LETTER FROM A FAN TO A
"FINAL NOTICE" FROM A TAILOR.

ALL ASPECTS, GOOD, BAD, PRO/CON, ARE
BEING SOUGHT THAT WOULD ADD TO AN
ACCURATE PROFILE OF RFK.

RESPONSES TO: JACK OWEN
P.O. BOX 447
PALM BEACH, FL. 33408

INTRIGUE AT "NO NAME" KEY

BY TOM DUNKIN

Oliver Stone's *JFK* seems to have achieved a double objective of being a moneymaker and a political activity stimulus, one of the movie's technical directors avers.

Although he denies any spooky associations, it's going to be interesting to see if future release of classified files on the Kennedy assassination pinpoints new intelligence community involvement, Roy Hargraves, a man with some shadowy past connections, acknowledges.

Hargraves denies any "contract CIA agent" links, although he was involved in military training of Cuban exiles in Florida and Louisiana. British author Anthony Summers hung the contract agent tag on members of the International Penetration Force in his book, *Conspiracy*.

Summer's book on the JFK assassination cites an FBI raid and the closing of a training site near Lake Ponchatrain several months before Kennedy's death as a possible contributing factor in the assassination.

Hargraves recalls there are many unanswered questions in the Cuban exile aspect of the Kennedy case. Early in New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe, "Garrison accused us of training the 'triangulation team' of three alleged snipers at No Name Key."

No Name Key was the principal Florida training site for the IPF freelance volunteer instructors.

"We testified before Garrison and convinced him he was wrong," Hargraves recalls, "and we went to work for him for about a month" early in Garrison's late 1966 and early 1967 investigation.

Garrison's, whose two non-fiction books, *A Heritage of Stone*, and *On The Trail of The Assassins*, were the basis of Stone's *JFK* said in them that Kennedy's "ordering an end to the CIA's continued training of anti-Castro guerrillas at the small, scattered camps in Florida and north of Lake Ponchatrain "added to the disenchantment which contributed to the President's murder.

Another interesting aspect of the Garrison investigation, is that, according to Hargraves, a Cuban exile investigator hired by Garrison "ripped off half the budget" to handicap the probe.

Bernardo de Torres, a Bay of Pigs veteran, "was working for the CIA", Hargraves said, during the Garrison investigation.

De Torres, who has since disappeared from his former Miami haunts, also served as a security consultant to local and federal law enforcement units during President Kennedy's visit to Miami after Fidel Castro's release of the prisoners from the Bay of Pigs invasion.

TOM DUNKIN, a WW II Marine Corps combat veteran, is editor of the UDT/SEAL Museum Association newsletter, *FIRE IN THE HOLE*.

OSWALD'S GHOST

BY DAN LISS

Kerry Thornley is a man with a past. For 30 years, he has been haunted by the ghost of the man accused of shooting President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, whom he met while serving in the Marines. Although he and other veterans testified about Oswald before the Warren Commission, Thornley is the only one of the veterans who has written about Oswald. In fact, he holds the distinction of being the only person to write about Oswald before 1963.

There are many different takes on Thornley, and he, in turn, has expressed diverse views on Oswald. We were fortunate to obtain an exclusive interview with this person who witnessed the human side of a pivotal moment in history. In a profound way, the craziness of Kerry Thornley's life mirrors the insanity of the last 30 years in society as a whole.

After Oswald defected to Russia, years before the assassination, Thornley was enough of a writer to recognize a good story when he saw one. He wrote a book about his Marine experiences, which was influenced by a popular book of the time called *The Ugly American*, with a central character a person modeled after Oswald. His novel, *The Idle Warriors*, was considered as evidence by the Warren Commission. Reading it, you get the impression Thornley intended. We see a disillusioned veteran, not a rabid killer. To this reader, this fact contradicts any claim that the book was created solely to smear Oswald.

Thornley failed to find a publisher for *Idle Warriors*, but in 1965 he did write a biography titled *Oswald*, which was published by a small (now defunct) company. By then, he began to believe the things he heard about his old friend. But as more information became available, and the first books challenging the

Warren Report were published, he started having second thoughts. There are people who believe Thornley's credibility has been tarnished in reference to Oswald because he has changed his mind. But who among us hasn't, as we learn more?

What kind of person was Oswald? What kind of person is Thornley? Why is the most famous public murder of this century still unsolved?

For Kerry Thornley, serving in the Marines was "what I felt like I needed to do at the time to prove my manhood. Later on, I changed my mind. I think that's why Oswald was there too. He admired his older brother who was in the service. But once he was in, he became disillusioned."

When he was called to testify before the Warren commission, Thornley expressed surprise that Oswald was suspected of killing Kennedy. According to his testimony, Oswald was sort of a loner and a joker. He liked to read and gave Thornley a copy of his favorite book, 1984, by George Orwell. While in the Marines, Oswald had a subscription to *Pravda* mailed to the base, which caused a lieutenant to blow a gasket. Oswald also spent time in the brig for pouring beer on a Sargent.

"Oswald used to walk around with his cap pulled low over his eyes, like he didn't want to see any more than he had to. He liked to ask questions that would stump the officers during lectures, and talked with a funny Russian accent that earned him a reputation as the company oddball. He reminded me of the comic strip character Beetle Bailey."

An odd sense of humor is one of the characteristics that Thornley and Oswald shared. Before he joined the marines and met Oswald, Thornley had become an avid writer. He would spin off satirical ideas in his own newsletters and magazines, some of which are now available in his book *Principal Discordia*.

Photographs from the early 60's show a striking resemblance between Oswald and Thornley. Given the fact

that they both lived in New Orleans the year before the assassination, some theorists believe that he posed as Oswald's double, creating incriminating evidence used to frame Oswald. Thornley denies that he did this. David Lifton, author of *Best Evidence*, suggests that Thornley was set up as an alternative patsy. Just before he was murdered, Oswald still was insisting that he did not kill Kennedy, that he had been set up, in other words, he was the patsy.

In 1973, Kerry wrote for an alternative Atlanta newspaper, the *Great Speckled Bird*. Shortly after publishing an article entitled "Did The Plumbers Plug JFK too?" he began receiving strange, ominous phone calls. In 1975, he went to the Atlanta police with information he believed connected the JFK and Martin Luther King killings. Twelve days after making his statement to the police, he was pistol whipped by two men in ski masks who stole his identification. How would any person respond to these events? Kerry kept on writing.

During these years, he worked in a variety of odd jobs, such as a doorman, salesman, handyman, waiter or dishwasher, while trying to sell his stories to magazine and book publishers. In this way, his fate mirrors that of many semi-successful writers.

By 1976, Kerry was working as a doorman at a Los Angeles high rise, where he recalls its "most colorful resident, John Roselli." Roselli was a member of the mafia who worked with the CIA. Just days before he was to testify before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Roselli was found hacked to pieces, floating in a steel drum in Miami's Biscayne Bay. Once again, a ghost of the JFK assassination crossed Thornley's path. The number of coincidences in his life would spook any person.

Yet, his writing consistently contains a mixture of sharp insights, humor and haunting occurrences.

Zenarchy, one of his most recent books, contains perhaps the most potent combination of ideas. It presents the stunning alongside the silly, causing the

reader to frequently stop and reconsider. As the title implies, he blends zen with anarchy. Pay close attention to what he has to say:

We have to teach ourselves all over again, in the deepest levels of our being, that we need never apologize for seeking information. In exploring our own sexual natures, we will be called pervers. In probing social mechanisms wherein genuine political and economic power resides, we will be called paranoids. Words like that serve little more purpose than to intimidate curiosity. With most of us, they are quite effective."

Thornley now lives in Atlanta, where he has found a publisher, Illuminet Press., for his work. He is in failing health, although on the days he is feeling better, you might meet him selling copies of his work on the street in Little Five Points. (His books are available at most bookstores through New Leaf Distributors). If you take the time to talk to him, you will still find a sense of humor that has helped him survive difficulties that would have broken the spirits of others long ago. He is haunted by Oswald's ghost, a ghost that has brought him notoriety, good and bad.

Listening to him, it is possible to hear the voice of the fool, the jester, the trickster. In between the jokes and off-beat theories, spring glimpses of truth. As we mark the passing of individuals who knew pieces of the truth about the Kennedy assassination, it is amazing how long these ghosts have lingered. Oswald's ghost will never be exorcised until we are told the truth about that day in Dallas. Oswald's ghost is more personal for Thornley, but it haunts us, too.

DAN LISS is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in *ART PAPERS*, *BLOOMSBURY REVIEW*, *DANCE THOUGHT TRENDS*, *GEORGIA BUSINESS FORUM* and *WRITE MARGIN*.

The Idle Warriors by Kerry W. Thornley



In 1962, Marine Corp. Pvt. Kerry W. Thornley wrote a novel about a fellow marine named Lee Harvey Oswald. Little did he know that Oswald would later be accused of killing Pres. John F. Kennedy. With introduction by David S. Lifton, *The Idle Warriors* is the only book written about Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination.

Quality Paperback, 202 pgs. - \$10.98
ISBN: 0-9626534-0-3

"...a grail for JFK-conspiracy theorists."

—John Strausbaugh, *New York Press*

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The CHRISTIC INSTITUTE

Washington, D.C. is not only the capitol of the United States but the center of intrigue and conspiracy. Along the shady streets where men hold their vast secrets, one institution leads the way in trying to unravel the common threads of deception and lies.

The Christic Institute, a public institute law firm was founded over ten years ago by Sarah Nelson and Father Bill Davis to be a social justice ministry where private citizens could find relief from big government and take on the system. The Christic Institute is named after, and follows the teachings of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit philosopher.

In June, Back Channels spoke with Christic's general counsel, Daniel Sheehan concerning aspects of the Kennedy assassination and other topics of interest.

Over the years, the Christic Institute has taken on such important cases as Three Mile Island, the Karen Silkwood case using the newly created federal RICO laws and represented the family of reporter Tony Avirgan who was killed by a bomb blast while covering a press conference by Eden Pastora, a renegade contra leader.

Sheehan, a Harvard trained lawyer believes in the "secret team" theory of American politics. The government controls, conspires and covers-up in the name of national security.

Mr. Sheehan recently appeared on a television special hosted by James Earl Jones concerning the latest developments in the assassination of President Kennedy.

In a conversation with this editor, Mr. Sheehan covered topics such as the Nixon-Watergate affair and his views on what happened in Dallas and why.

In our discussion, Mr. Sheehan said that Richard Nixon, while serving as Vice President, headed a secret group in the White House that planned covert raids into Cuba and started the ball rolling on the ill fated Bay of Pigs affair. He wasn't

sure if President Eisenhower was fully aware of the magnitude of what Nixon was doing being his back.

According to Mr. Sheehan, there was one and only one reason for the Watergate break in, despite current theories (see *Silent Coup* by Colodny and Gettlin) to the contrary. Mr. Sheehan cites the connection of Howard Hughes to Nixon and the Watergate affair as being one and the same. Nixon, says Sheehan, had the *Plumbers* enter the Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate building specifically to get information held by Democratic Chairman Larry O'Brien that connected the hundreds of thousands of dollars illegally funneled to the Nixon campaign and more importantly, information that could have linked Nixon to the "secret team" of Cubans arrested at the Watergate building and their possible connection to the events of the early 1960's concerning the CIA-Mafia plots against Fidel Castro.

Our discussion turned to the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963 in Dallas and the many unsolved answers that remain.

Dan Sheehan told me that in his opinion, there was a "fifteen man hit squad that planned to kill the president." This hit squad, according to Sheehan, originated out of the the Bay of Pigs invaders and their hatred of Kennedy for the botched attempt to liberate Cuba in 1961. Sheehan postulates that the "hit squad" then contacted certain mid-level members of the C.I.A. to work out the details of the assassination.

The "controllers", said the Christic's counsel, may have been William Pawley, the organizer of the World War II "Flying Tigers" and a man with ties to organized crime in the Caribbean, Bill Harvey, of the CIA and Theodore Shackley, a CIA veteran who played an important part in the JM/WAVE anti-Castro operation located in Miami during the early 60's. The true nature, if any, of these men in connection to the president's death are just speculation.

Mr. Sheehan called Lee Harvey Oswald a "pawn" in the assassination and said that Oswald was a "dangle" a spy term meaning "an operation in which something or someone of interest to an opposition intelligence service is intentionally put into the path of another agent in hopes that he will bite and consequently expose himself or blow his operation" (*Top Secret: A Clandestine Operator's Glossary of Terms*, pg. 53).

He postulates that the assassination planning began as far back as June, 1963 and finally included members of organized crime, including Carlos Marchello, Santos Trafficante and Johnny Rosselli. Lee Harvey Oswald according to Mr. Sheehan, was to be eliminated by the Dallas police after the assassination but when he got away, Marchello ordered Jack Ruby to kill Oswald.

In another facet of the case, Mr. Sheehan said that, in his opinion, the late CIA agent David Atlee Phillips was the real figure know as "Maurice Bishop." "Bishop" was the controller of Antonio Veciana, an anti-Castro Cuban and has been said by JFK researchers to have been seen with a man looking like Oswald in the weeks prior to November 22, 1963.

Mr. Sheehan and everyone else at the Christic Institute eagerly await the release of the secret files on the Kennedy assassination. Their release will surely provide more fuel to the Christic's already large conspiracy file.

Book Reviews

ALL AMERICAN MAFIOSO. The Johnny Rosselli Story. Charles Rappleye and Ed Becker. Doubleday. New York. 1991. \$21.00 328 pg.

On August 7, 1976, three fishermen casting off Miami's Dumbfoundling Bay, reeled in a steel drum attached to a heavy chain. When they brought the canister onto their boat they found the dismembered corpse of a man.

The police were notified and shortly thereafter, an identity was made. The man inside the drum was one of the most influential and deadly members of organized crime in the United States; Johnny Rosselli.

The explosive life of Johnny Rosselli is portrayed for the first time in a powerfully written account by two noted writers, Ed Becker and Charles Rappleye in *All American Mafioso: The Johnny Rosselli Story*.

Rosselli was a man of many talents, most notably his ability to kill people. He was the man the Mafia turned to when they wanted something done, whether it was to turn the heat on an enemy or to provide the brains for an important project.

All American Mafioso brings the life of this most valued hit man into clear light. The authors trace Rosselli's background (his real name was Filippo Sacco) from his roots in Italy, his illegal entry into the United States at a young age and how the mob controlled the daily lives of the people in Italy.

They trace Rosselli's entry into the Chicago mob which was controlled by Al Capone and his later move to Los Angeles where he became the "Mob Ambassador", making friends with the Hollywood moguls while at the same time, shaking them down.

But the meat of the book, as far as this reviewer is concerned, are Rosselli's powerful and secret links to the CIA-Mafia efforts to murder Cuba's Fidel Castro. Rosselli was approached by the CIA to help in the overthrow of Castro and, according to the authors, given free reign after the Bay of Pigs disaster to run his own clandestine war against Castro.

That a man of Rosselli's criminal background was allowed such power by the United States government is mindboggling.

Of equal interest are Rosselli's links with Sam Giancana, Santo Trafficante, Carlos Marchello men, who have been rumored to have played a part in the murder of President John F. Kennedy.

All American Mafioso details Rosselli's ties with Judith Campbell Exner (a mistress of JFK) his own links to the Kennedy assassination, his relationship with Howard Hughes' right hand man, Robert Maheu and their organized crime activities in Las Vegas.

All American Mafioso is a rich, startling and troubling account of one man's life whose actions still reverberate to this day. It is a must read.

SECRET NEW ENGLAND: SPIES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. Edited by Edmund Thompson. David Atlee Phillips New England Chapter Association of Former Intelligence Officers. Kennebunk, Me. 1991 223. pgs.

New England was the birthplace of the American Revolution, the place where the struggle for independence began. But what is lesser known is that a large, secret network of colonial agents and spies operated out of the rocky cliffs of the Atlantic Ocean.

Here for the first time is the intriguing story of the first American clandestine network operating right under British noses. *Secret New England: Spies of the American Revolution* tells the story of the men who became this country's first intelligence agents, their missions and secret background.

The first half of *Secret New England* deals with the men and their operations while the second half recalls the towns of New England and their roles in the clandestine fight against the British.

The writers recount in vivid and interesting fash-

ion the roles of Paul Revere and his Mechanics. British General Gage's spies, including the American traitor, Dr. Benjamin Church and the doomed mission of Nathan Hale. Also included in this section is a fascinating portrait of George Washington's spy network in New York, the secret role of Benjamin Franklin in Paris, Benedict Arnold's treachery and the little known events surrounding the activities of Ethan Allen and Sgt. Daniel Bissell.

Secret New England provides the reader with important information about the covert side of our founding fathers, something not taught in schools today.

It was from the seeds planted by General Washington and his recruits that laid the foundation of our modern intelligence agencies.

Secret New England is an important and penetrating book on the role of covert operations during the American Revolution and the men who carried them out.

Don't miss this one.

THE TEXAS CONNECTION, Craig Zirbel. Texas Connection Company. 1991 300 pg. \$21.95

For years, researchers have debated what role if any, President Lyndon Johnson may have had in the assassination of President Kennedy. The Johnson factor has taken second fiddle to other conspiracies theories such as the Cuban connection, the Mob and the CIA.

Now, the first book to directly tie LBJ to the death of President Kennedy has been (self) published.

The Texas Connection, by Scottsdale, Arizona attorney Craig Zirbel, points the finger of responsibility in leading up to the crossfire in Dealey Plaza right on LBJ's doorstep.

The Texas Connection could not have been published while Johnson was alive for the book is nothing but a political character assassination of the late president.

Mr. Zirbel claims that Johnson, through his Texas cronies, including the Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry, oil man Clint Murchinson and his (Johnson's) total manipulation of the Warren Commission, allowed the events of November 22, 1963, to take place.

Zirbel says that LBJ, as the "right hand man" to JFK had more to gain by the President's death than anyone else. In order to paint a picture of LBJ as a man without any scruples, who would do anything for power, Mr. Zirbel traces Johnson's rise to power in his "stolen election" to the U.S. Senate, his sexual affairs and the fact that he told his mistress before the fact that

Kennedy was going to be killed, the trio of scandals that shook LBJ's last years as Vice President (Bobby Baker, Billie Sol Estes and the TFX Missile scam).

He says that JFK was going to drop LBJ from the 1964 Democratic ticket and that Johnson had to find a way to stop that from happening. The author traces Johnson's control of the motorcade route in Dallas, the faults of the Dallas police in the president's security protection, his hatred of the Kennedy's, especially Bobby.

Mr. Zirbel analyzes the different assassination theories (the Mob, Cuba, Vietnam, Soviet's) and strikes them all down, leaving the LBJ option as the one and only viable alternative.

The author says Oswald was the patsy, a man without an obvious motive to kill Kennedy.

While some parts of The Texas Connection are fair, the majority of the work is a personal attack on Lyndon Johnson. This book should be taken with a rather large grain of salt.

THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. NEW REVELATIONS ON THE CONSPIRACY AND COVER-UP. Philip Melanson. Shapolsky Publishers Inc. New York. 1991. 319 pg. \$19.95

On June 6, 1968, one day after winning the California Democratic Presidential primary, Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot and killed in the pantry area of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. His assailant was a young Palestinian named Sirhan Sirhan who was immediately arrested.

In April 1969, Sirhan was convicted in the murder of Robert Kennedy and is still serving time in prison, having been denied parole on numerous occasions.

A total of 77 people were in the kitchen area when Kennedy was shot, witnessed the capture of Sirhan and saw him being taken into custody.

With Sirhan's conviction, the case was closed.

The assassination of Robert Kennedy has now come under new scrutiny in a new and powerful book called **The Robert F. Kennedy Assassination. New Revelations On The Conspiracy and Cover-Up 1968-1991.** by Professor Philip Melanson, the curator of the Robert Kennedy Assassination Archives at Southeastern Massachusetts University.

Using new material recently made available by the LAPD, Professor Melanson points a new and disturbing picture of the events surrounding RKF's death and the massive cover-up on behalf of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Melanson covers old as well as new information in the aftermath of the Senator's death. He writes that the LAPD's investigation was so sloppy and corrupt that an objective assessment of the murder was never in the cards. Vital evidence was lost, witnesses were intimidated, their stories not believed or totally ignored.

He writes that many eyewitnesses saw Sirhan fire not inches from Kennedy's head as the official conclusion made clear, but several feet away.

Melanson postulates that Sirhan was not in command of his faculties on the day of the shooting and may have been "programmed" to carry out the assassination. Sirhan has stated that he did not remember killing Kennedy.

As far as conspiracies theories go, Melanson tells of numerous witnesses having observed Sirhan in different locations with a young, good looking woman in the days preceding the killing, information ignored by the LAPD.

He also goes into the possibility of a second gun and traces the career of Thane Cesar, a uniformed guard who was in the pantry area with Robert Kennedy when he was shot.

One of the most interesting aspects of *The Robert Kennedy Assassination* is the so called "Iranian enigma" and the part played by Khaiber Khan, a man linked to various intelligence services.

The Robert Kennedy Assassination is a disturbing indictment on the conduct of the LAPD and opens new questions on the role of Sirhan and any possible outside help he may have had in the death of Robert Kennedy. While a new investigation of the case will probably not be forthcoming, Professor Melanson's study of the mysterious and tragic events of June 6, 1968, may be the best evidence we may ever have.

THE OLD BOYS: THE AMERICAN ELITE AND THE ORIGINS OF THE CIA. Burton Hersh. Scribner's. New York. 1992. 457 pg. \$29.95

Since conspiracy theories and close scrutiny of government operations have become in vogue, there has been no shortage of provocative books to satisfy the demand. Quick reads like *Double Cross*, *Mortal Error* and *Silent Coup* all fall comfortably into this category. Then, we have the style of book that forces you to confront huge amounts of researched information.. like, *Plausible Denial*. It is into the latter group that *The Old Boys* falls. Burton Hersh does not deliver sound bites, he delivers massive amounts of information right down to John Foster Dulles' "endemic halitosis." Beginning

with its roots in the post-World War 1 world, *The Old Boys* details America's entry into the Byzantine world of international espionage right up to the infamous Bay of Pigs fiasco. So, consider yourself warned. This is not Hard Copy-style journalism, this is closer to a textbook. However, Hersh does deliver his share of revelations:

*Allen Dulles and the CIA conned JFK into underwriting the Bay of Pigs.

*The CIA proposed to assassinate Stalin.

*A last-minute "no" from President Eisenhower prevented massive involvement in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and just may have prevented World War 111.

* Hersh declares that "remnants of the Third Reich quietly infiltrated our intelligence system."

All the usual suspects are accounted for. The Dulles brothers, "Wild" Bill Donovan, James Angleton and William Casey are all exposed in this unsparing portrait of the Central Intelligence Agency. As Burton Hersh concludes, the CIA "leaked through between the wars and helped root out many societies it touched. Its example provided justification to William Casey and Ollie North, it exchanged the rip-off of the moment for confidence in America's political decency."

REVIEWED BY MICKEY Z

CONSPIRACY OF ONE. Jim Moore. The Summit Group. Fort Worth, Tx. 1990. 217 pp. \$24.95.

Billed as "The Definitive Book on the Kennedy Assassination", it should be bypassed if one wants answers to what really happened in Dallas. Moore's ego is exceeded only by his clever avoidance of any genuine issues in the extremely complicated JFK case.

As can be guessed by the title, Moore sticks to the official "Oswald did it alone" scenario like glue, adding only a novel explanation for the Single Bullet Theory: JFK was simply reacting to the sound of the first (missed) shot as he emerges from behind the sign in the Zapruder film. Only at Z236 does a second bullet actually strike him and then go on to hit Connally, etc., a sort of Son of Single Bullet Theory which no one can credit. Kennedy was in obvious pain before Connally was hit.

Moore nitpicks many critics' works while ignoring their main concerns, and his constant refrain is that they make money from "sensationalizing the assassination." His royalties, in contrast, will be payment for his research and his desire to "set the record strait". Respected researcher Sylvia Meagher who provided an

index to the 26 Warren Commission volumes is one of his targets. Her Accessories After the Fact is a model of logic and analysis that Moore cannot begin to approach. Conspiracy of One, oddly for any "definitive" work, lacks an index.

Some of Moore's conclusions: though there were footprints behind the fence on the knoll, there was "nothing at all" to indicate an assassin; Oswald purchased a Coca Cola instead of his usual Doctor Pepper indicating his guilt about killing the President; Dr. Boswell's autopsy face sheet done with Kennedy's body in front of him was never meant "to accurately represent" the wound locations; and the reason that all the Parkland doctors described the massive wound in the rear of the head is that, since JFK was facing up on a stretcher, "the side of the President's head was the most rearward" part of the skull that they observed. Such absurd explanations are a staple of this lightweight publication.

The only people who could accept Moore's specious arguments are those who know little about this complex case and cannot properly evaluate his assertions. Avoid this book and read one done by an authentic researcher who is hunting answers to the legitimate questions which our government still refuses to address in any meaningful way.

REVIEWED BY THERESA SEAY

ROGUE WARRIOR. Richard Marcinko with John Weisman. Pocket Books. New York. 1992. \$22.00 335 pgs.

If it's been done, he's done it, say many of Navy Commander Richard Marcinko's admiring former shipmates. In this salty auto-biography "Demo Dick" tells how he did it during his 30 years of unconventional Navy service in UDT/SEAL special warfare units.

From enlistment to retirement, through dedication and determination, Marcinko fought unflinchingly and brawled up to the grade of captain and recounts how and why he did it.

Marcinko's memoirs have brought threat of at least one lawsuit from a displeased former comrade in arms whose combat abilities Marcinko criticized. Many of Marcinko's combat comrades, from his first platoon in Vietnam on through commanding SEAL teams Two and Six, swear by his talented, if tactless at time, leadership.

Insights into the Vietnam War, service as chief naval attache in Cambodia, subsequent team commands, Pentagon duty and assignment to create and

command a highly secret counterterrorist unit aren't over complimentary to many people he encountered.

Among the most gripping recollections—aside from a double parachute malfunction in a HALO free fall nighttime counterterrorism mission—is Marcinko's account of helplessly tracking by radio in a Pentagon intelligence facility room as Delta Force monumentally failed in the Desert One hostage rescue debacle.

Marchinko apparently made more high-ranking enemies than friends and he names many in both categories. To the dedication of his enemies he attributes a lengthy investigation which led to the Navy's calling on the Department of Justice, after Marcinko's retirement, to prosecute him on an alleged weapons procurement irregularity.

A conviction and 15-months in prison were closely followed by Rogue Warrior's publication and fifth place entry within two weeks on the non-fiction best-seller list of the New York Times. He's held fourth place consistently since to date (May 1). Now in its third printing, the book also has been published as a Military Book Club main selection.

Marcinko's collaborator, John Weisman, speaks highly of his partner's abilities and character, in conversation as well as a foreword. Weisman is a brilliant, spooky-subect and a former Washington newspaperman. He collaborated several years earlier with Felix Rodriguez, a Cuban exile CIA agent, in a book called Shadow Warrior.

REVIEWED BY TOM DUNKIN

FICTION OF INTEREST

VORTEX. Larry Bond. Warner Books. New York. 1991. 660 pgs. \$21.95

Larry Bond is a former naval officer and warfare analyst who collaborated with Tom Clancy on *Red Storm Rising* and is the author of *Red Phoenix*. His latest work, *Vortex*, is a chillingly plausible technothriller that can be as timely as today's headlines. With a host of realistic, fascinating characters from all over the globe, *Vortex* is centered in South Africa. The stage is immediately set for the possible beginnings of World War III when an extremist organization called the "White South African Defense Force Paratroopers"

stage a raid on the African National Congress (A.N.C.) headquarters in Zimbabwe.

In a brutal raid, they obtain classified A.N.C. information and manipulate A.N.C. guerrillas into slaughtering most of the moderate South African government. As a result, a white supremacist administration is catapulted into power and the scene is set for a climatic struggle over apartheid.

With the world no longer threatened by two antagonistic superpowers, the theater of conflict has shifted to this explosive third world battle of races that utilizes chemical warfare and nuclear power, with all the deadly threats that the cold war held.

American leaders mobilize an operation code named "Brave Fortune" seeing it as a campaign they cannot afford to lose.

Bond's characters are realistic, complex individuals caught in dramatic, life threatening situations. His expertise on weapons, the military and the potentially explosive nature of the issue he has chosen to write about, make *Vortex* a gripping novel.

REVIEWED BY VAL McDOWELL

HENRY LUNT AND THE RANGER. Tom McNamara. Naventures Publishing Co. La Jolla, Ca. 1990. \$18.95. 342pg.

It is the beginning of the American Revolution and Benjamin Franklin, the American Representative to Paris and master of intrigue, has sent John Paul Jones on board his ship *Ranger*, off the coast of Ireland to report on the dispositions of the British fleet at anchor. Jones picks a team of men to rescue Henry Lunt and his crew from a prison.

So begins the adventures of Henry Lunt, American patriot and reluctant spy as he is ordered to scout the Irish coast and report back on his observations.

Henry Lunt and the Ranger is the beginning of a series of planned sea-going/spy tales which take place during the 13 Colonies quest for independence from England.

Lunt and his pal O'Malley discover the secret on board the super-ship of the British navy, the *Drake*. They meet a not-to-be-trusted woman spy who holds her own secrets and escape from one harrowing trap after another as they attempt to bring their newly found information back to John Paul Jones.

History and spy fans will love *Henry Lunt and the Ranger*. It has just the right amount of historical and sea lore, an ample sampling of high adventure and just plain good story telling.

The next segment on the further adventures of Henry Lunt will appear later this year in *Henry Lunt and the Spymaster*. This reviewer eagerly awaits its publication.

CUBAN BLUFF. A DOCUMENTARY NOVEL OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS. By Nigel West. Crown Publishers. New York. 1991. \$28.00 259pgs.

In the past few months new material concerning the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, has come to light, showing just how close the world came to nuclear war, thirty years ago. It has been revealed that the United States gave no assurances that we would not invade Cuba and that the Soviets had indeed placed a few operational nuclear warheads on their missiles, 90 miles from Florida.

In a new "documentary novel" by noted British espionage specialist, Nigel West, the behind the scenes events leading up to the showdown in the Caribbean are brought to life.

Cuban Bluff reads like a fast paced history yarn yet it is all fiction. The author uses the names of real life men and women who played pivotal roles in the crisis. West is best at the behind the scenes espionage game including the role of KGB Colonel Oleg Penkovsky, a Soviet agent-in-place, who first tipped off the United States to the deception going on in Cuba.

Other names of note are Yuri Nosenko, Bill Harvey, the late CIA officer heavily involved in the crisis and John McCone, CIA Director. There is even a cameo appearance by the man accused of killing President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald.

But the best part of *Cuban Bluff* is Mr. West's references to an old World War II submarine located at the bottom of the Caribbean, the frantic hunt for a lone "Juliett" class Russian sub and how they all come together during the missiles of October.

Cuban Bluff is a spy lovers dream, a tour-de-force of the world of deception and secret operations during one of the most dangerous periods of our history.

TYPHOON. By Mark Joseph. Simon & Schuster. New York. 1991. \$22.00. 300 pg.

In this, the second adventure novel by Mark Joseph, the reader is taken behind the present day headlines to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. As the Soviet's move their large and deadly *Typhoon* class nuclear subs into the Barents Sea, the United States sends

one of its best subs, the USS Reno captioned by "Plutonium" Jack Gunner, an old salt if there ever was one, to spy on their old enemy, the Russian navy.

Gunner and Reno are thrust right into the middle of a power play by renegade elements of the Soviet Navy who want to end the breakup of the Union and return the country to its old, Communist values.

The culprit is Soviet Admiral Ivan Deminov who plans Operation White Star, a coup d'etat against the leaders in Moscow. Deminov orders a rocket to be fired from one of his nuclear subs as a warning of what is to come.

Enter Vice-Admiral Stefan Zenko, a man who will have no part in Deminov's treachery. Taking to sea in his own boat called *Typhoon*, Zenko is hunted by the other nukes commanded by Deminov.

Watching all this unfold is Gunner who looks on in fascination as the cream of the Russian navy battles among themselves under the frozen ice of the Barents Sea.

As the drama unfolds, Gunner must make a decision no sub commander wants to make; enter the fray or face the consequences of a nuclear war.

Typhoon is a seat of the pants thriller on par with Tom Clancy's *Hunt For Red October*. The action is swift, the pacing keeps the reader glued to the pages to see what happens next. Mr. Joseph clearly knows his submarines, how they work and the mindset of the men who command them.

Typhoon is one of the best adventure thrillers I've read in a long time.

RIVER OF DARKNESS, James Grady. Warner Books. N.Y. 1991. 406 pgs. \$19.95

James Grady, the author of the bestselling novel *Six Days of the Condor* which was turned into a successful motion picture starring Robert Redford, has once again returned to the world of spies and covert intelligence.

In *River of Darkness*, ex-CIA agent-Secret Serviceman and Army Green Beret, Jud Stuart is a man suddenly on the run. After a call to the CIA's "panic line" in which he leaves a cryptic note, the top brass at Langley headquarters want Stuart's return-immediately.

They tap Marine Major West Chandler to track down Stuart and bring him in.

Using his own contacts plus a friend of Stuart's, Chandler tracks this trained killer turned spy across the heartland of America.

While *River of Darkness* is masterful in retelling Stuart's roles in the secret side of American history

over the past twenty years; Watergate, the war in Vietnam, the secret conflict in Laos, Cuba, Chile, etc, the author's constant flashbacks dull the book's potential.

Grady borrows scenes from *Six Days of the Condor*, among them, a desperate man on the run and a final confrontation with a secret member of the U.S. intelligence community.

Compared to *Six Days of the Condor*, a truly great work, *River of Darkness* fails to live up to its billing.

MOVIE REVIEW

The assassination of John F. Kennedy has come to the screen via a controversial and thrilling movie by director Oliver Stone.

JFK is based on the book *On The Trail of the Assassins* by former New Orleans DA, Jim Garrison who brought Clay Shaw, a prominent businessman in that city to trial for the murder of President Kennedy. A jury found Shaw innocent.

Long before JFK was even released the so called "establishment" media in this country rushed to judgment against Stone and his version of what took place on November 22, 1963. They all criticized Stone for re-writing history as he saw it. Most of the bad press came from the defenders of the Warren Commission including Tom Wicker of the New York Times, David Belin and former president, Gerald Ford.

In JFK, Mr. Stone has cast the blame for the president's murder on a vast government wide conspiracy including the FBI, CIA, LBJ, the military-industrial complex, anti-Castro Cubans, the whole works. He says that one of the reasons Kennedy had to die was that he planned to pull U.S. troops out of Vietnam after the 1964 election. This, the boys in the Pentagon couldn't abide and they sent their "mechanics" to Dealey Plaza to kill the president in a military style "crossfire."

The cast for JFK is impressive with Kevin Costner playing the protagonist, Jim Garrison, seeking his one man crusade to find JFK's killers. Sissy Spacek plays his wife who laments that Jim is spending more time solving the president's murder than taking care of their own family. Other stars include Edward Asner as Guy Bannister, Joe Pesci as the strange David Ferrie, Tommy Lee Jones as Clay Shaw and Gary Oldman as Lee Harvey Oswald.

In one of the most controversial aspects of JFK,

Mr. Stone portrays Lee Harvey Oswald not as the president's slayer but as a member of US intelligence who infiltrated the plotters and was set up as the fall guy.

One of the most powerful parts of the movie is when Garrison-Costner meets a shadowy figure called Colonel X played by Donald Sutherland (Fletcher Prouty) along the Mall in Washington. Colonel X presents the full picture why the president was killed and tells Garrison he is on the right track.

At three hours in length, *JFK* presents more facts than anyone can digest. Stone's version of the Kennedy murder is thrilling in its intensity and powerful in its message.

If anyone but Oliver Stone had produced a movie like this it probably would not be taken seriously. I, however, take exception to Stone's vast conspiracy especially when it concerns the role of LBJ. I doubt Johnson knew anything about the assassination. I also find fault with Stone's reluctance to show the large amount of evidence indicating a mob attempt on the life of the President.

Nevertheless, *JFK* is a compelling and disturbing recreation of the murder of President John Kennedy and should be seen by all Americans who still seek the truth of one of the darkest chapters in our history.

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BOOKS SCHEDULED FOR FALL 1992 RELEASE

FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE - JFK
BY ROBERT MORROW (SHAPOLSKY)

MAFIA CANDIDATE
BY BILL SLOAN (SHAPOLSKY)

**JFK: THE CIA, VIETNAM & THE PLOT TO
ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY**
BY L. FLETCHER PROUTY (CAROL)

THE RENEGADE CIA
BY JOSEPH TRENTO (PUTNAM)

JFK: RECKLESS YOUTH
BY NIGEL HAMILTON (RANDOM HOUSE)

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK
THUNDER MOUTH PRESS

MPI TO RELEASE

"THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK"

Chicago, Illinois - It was one of the most emotionally devastating events in the history of this country, and for almost 30 years, has continued to be shrouded in mystery and controversy. After one year of research and development, MPI's production *THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK* will be released to home video outlets on May 13, 1992.

Those of you who are intrigued by Oliver Stone's *JFK* will find this feature length presentation of the individuals and events surrounding the murder of the president a provocative and chilling experience filled with tragic irony.

THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK leads it's audience through the chronology of events that occurred before, during and after that moment of historic tragedy and brings together a myriad of evidence never before compiled in a single film. The pieces of the puzzle which include FBI, CIA, the mafia, Cuba, the war in Vietnam, the Warren Commission, and more, as well as the fateful decisions made by the Kennedys are painstakingly connected to reveal the possibility of America's first and only coup d'etat to date.

MPI's CEO Waleed B. Ali commented, "The American people have been ready for the truth on this subject for sometime now. Director Denis Mueller and his team have managed to bypass the traditional barriers between us and much of the truth, which has culminated in one of the most important documentaries ever made. *THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK* is a natural supplement for those who want to learn more about President Kennedy's assassination, particularly after having experienced the Oliver Stone film."

SHIPPING THE WEEK OF MAY 13th

THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK
MP6264 Color & B/W Approx. 78 minutes NR
UPC 38386-6264-3
\$79.98 Suggested List

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