

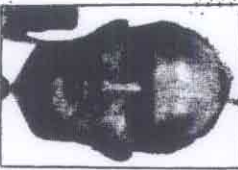
ANOTHER KENNEDY ASSASSIN?

Midland man says father was part of CIA hit squad

By Scott Baradell
OF THE TIMES HERALD STAFF

It began in Midland, when the handyman was painting an oilman's house.

The handyman, Ricky Don White, mentioned that his father was the one who killed John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. And suddenly the chase was on. The intrigued oilman, John Houghton, formed a corporation to finance White's search for proof — and in return reap 25 percent of the profits from hoped-for book and movie deals.

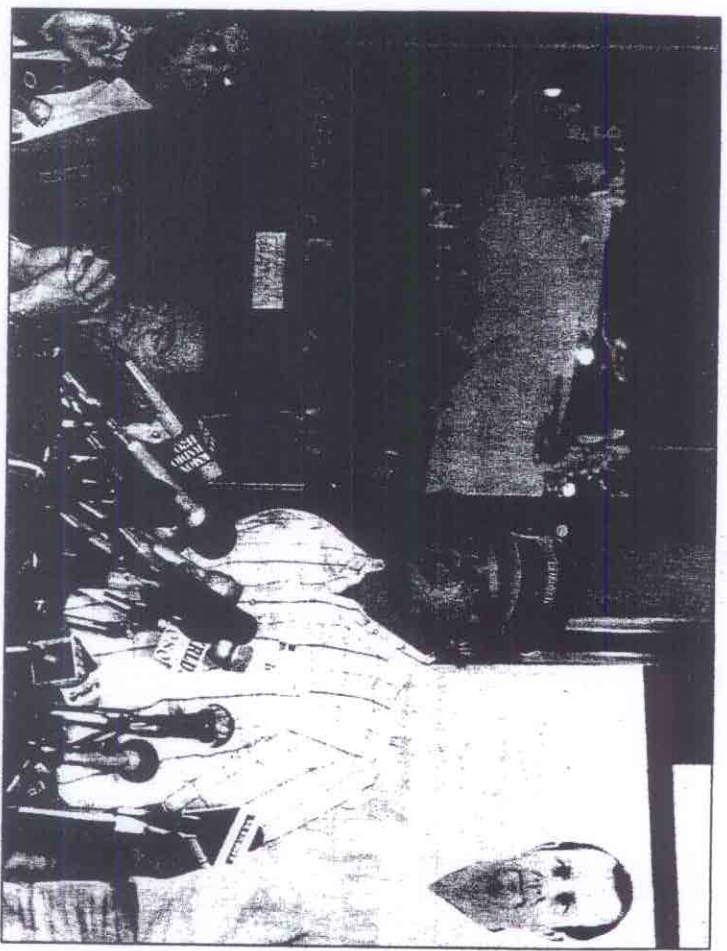


Roscoe White research at a cost of \$100,000 supplied by the Matsui Corp. of seven Midland oilmen, White still has no book contract — or proof that his father, former Dallas police officer Roscoe "Rock" White, killed JFK.

But at a Monday news conference at the West End MarketPlace, he presented an ingenious conspiracy theory with enough enigmatic evidence to stir worldwide interest.

His theory: that Roscoe White, part of a three-man CIA hit squad, fired two bullets into the president from the grassy knoll; that he was using Lee Harvey Oswald and

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Ricky White said Monday the diary that proves his father shot President John F. Kennedy was stolen.

Experts: Latest JFK claim 'fairy tale'

By Mark Potok
OF THE TIMES HERALD STAFF

It's a tale of CIA assassins, mysterious fires, overheard conversations and the worst of crimes — the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The story unveiled by Ricky Don White on Monday caught the attention of a conspiracy-minded world, but proving it won't be easy.

The diary that told all has disappeared. White says the FBI stole it. The rookie policeman that supposedly did the assassinating —

White's father, Roscoe — died in what his son described as a suspicious fire and explosion in 1971.

And the officer's wife is too sick to be interviewed.

"It's a fairy tale," said David Berlin, counsel to the Warren Commission, which concluded in 1964 that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, shooting the president from the old Texas School Book Depository. "And it's a fairy tale that's an outgrowth of hallucinatory drugs."

G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations of the late 1970s

and an early partisan of conspiracy theories, was equally unenthused.

"This sort of thing occurs about every two or three months and has done so for about 20 years. Even if this is the truth, I probably won't believe it because at this stage of the history of the assassination virtually anyone can fabricate a story by going to the historical record. In a sense, it's too late to confess and be believable."

Especially, said author Jim Moore, when so many details are

Please see TALE, A-6

Wanted

ASSASSIN

From A-1

Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit as "paties" in the scheme and fatally shot Tippit when he became suspicious, and that White forced his wife to undergo shock treatments and killed others to cover up the conspiracy before dying in a mysterious 1971 fire.

His evidence, three faded messages, he says he found in his grandparents' attic, directing his father to "eliminate a national security threat to worldwide peace", embarkation slips that show White and Oswald left on the same ship for Marine duty in Japan in 1957; polygraph results backing his claim that in 1982 he found his father's diary, which detailed the plot.

The missing diary is the key to White's story. It was stolen, he said, by an FBI agent who interrogated him in 1988. Until then when he began to fear that the government might have him killed because he knew too much — he kept the story to himself.

The diary "was the most shocking, incredible thing that

anyone in this room could ever find," he told a horde of reporters in front of the JFK Assassination Information Center, which has been assisting White since March.

White, 29, appeared with a panel of conspiracy-theory veterans. The Rev. Jack Shaw of Dallas, Roscoe White's former pastor who says White confessed to the assassination on his deathbed, also was on the panel.

"There's a lot of stuff here that'll blow your mind," said Shaw.

Roscoe White joined the Dallas Police Department in October 1963, working as a clerk in the Identification Division. White — code name "Mandrath" — took the job as a cover while working for a CIA assassination team, said his son.

On Nov. 22, White stood behind a picket fence on the grassy knoll, his son said. Two other CIA operatives — "Labanon" and "Saul" — were stationed at the old Texas School Book Depository and the County Records Building overlooking Dealey Plaza, he said.

The three men fired six shots, three hit the president, he said. Two of the hits came from White's 7.65mm Mauser, his son said.

Oswald, he said, was a conspirator but did not fire shots. The unwitting Tippit, a friend of White, was to drive Oswald to Redbird Airport. When Oswald panicked, Tippit caught on and White had to kill him, Ricky White said.

The Warren Commission concluded in 1964 that Oswald was the lone assassin, shooting Kennedy from the book depository.

White also claimed Jack Ruby — the man who killed Oswald — had an unspecified role in the plot, Shaw said. Geneva White, Roscoe White's wife, worked at Ruby's nightclub and overheard Ruby and her husband discussing the assassination. "That's when White forced his wife to undergo the first of four shock treatments, Ricky White said.

White said his mother is too ill to talk to reporters.

Roscoe White left the Dallas Police in 1965 and was killed in a fire while working as a welder at M & M Equipment Co. in Dallas. His son claims he was murdered by a CIA witness elimination team because he wanted to drop out of the organization.

White said he does not condemn his father for killing the president because he was under government orders and would have been killed if he had disobeyed.

"What would you do?" he said. "He had no options. None."

Sgt. Don Young, a field training coordinator with the Dallas Police Department who attended the police academy with White, said he finds the theory difficult to believe. He said White had been elected a class officer by the 30 students in the academy.

"I can't believe someone could do this and be as nice as Roscoe," he said.

The CIA issued a statement Monday rebutting White's claims.

TALE

From A-1

Ricky White told reporters at a packed news conference that two Central Intelligence Agency operatives, one of whom was code-named "Saul," also fired at the president. One was stationed in the book depository, one in the nearby County Records Building.

Moore, whose forthcoming "Conspiracy of One" deals with the assassination, said a 1975 book by Hugh MacDonald, "Appointment in Dallas," purported to explain the killing based on an account from a former intelligence operative. The book never divulged the real name of the supposed agent. Instead, Moore said, the author used an imaginary code name — "Saul."

One of the assassins described by MacDonald fired from the County Records Building — a building where Moore said the relevant windows cannot and never could be opened.

White claimed his father fired from the so-called grassy knoll, striking Kennedy from front-to-back. But Belin, who said he has had more contact with witnesses and pathologists involved than anyone alive, insists the forensic evidence proves the bullets came from behind. And Moore, who testified before the House committee, agreed.

"It would not matter to me if Jesus Christ came down and

said, 'I did it,'" Moore said. "If he were firing from the grassy knoll, I would have some hard questions for him."

Not everyone was so skeptical. "I think that in order to understand the assassination of JFK, one has to be willing to look down avenues that at first seem preposterous, even impossible," said Carl Henry, who has researched the assassination extensively. But, bemoaning the lack of evidence, he added, "If you've got a tiger by the tail, let's see the tiger."

Belin reeled off objections to the White account: Roscoe White

couldn't also have killed officer J.D. Tippit — eyewitnesses saw Oswald do it. White said his father fired the fatal shots with a 7.65mm Mauser — but Belin says experts proved conclusively that the only bullets ever found came from Oswald's rifle.

"This is going to be a footnote to a footnote to a footnote," concluded Blakey. "I would recommend to everybody to visit the museum in Dallas, enjoy it as a piece of history and go on to the real problems that are facing us, like the Iraq-Kuwait war, the savings and loan debacle, and life and love today."

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