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New Study In JFK Death

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LEXINGTON, Mass. (UPI) — An analysis by one of the nation's top photographic laboratories has demolished a widely circulated theory that a second gunman was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Itek Corporation revealed today that a months-long study of an amateur movie of the actual shooting had disproved the existence of a rifleman pointing his weapon from a grassy knoll at the Kennedy car in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Itek made the study as a public service.

The 8 millimeter color motion picture was shot that day by Orville Nix, a federal government employe who was standing among the parade spectators in Dealey Plaza. It shows the president hit by the fatal bullet and Mrs. Kennedy climbing upon the back of the convertible.

In the background is the knoll and atop it a wooden picket fence and a white concrete pavilion with a low wall.

Enlargement of certain frames brings out what to the naked eye bears a resemblance to a man with one elbow resting on the roof of a station wagon behind the wall and squinting down a gun barrel at Elm Street where Kennedy was shot.

Proponents of the theory of a conspiracy have sought to use the photographs as evidence that the Warren Commission was wrong in finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted

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alone and that all the shots were fired from the Texas School Book Depository building.

Several persons in Dallas who were eyewitnesses to the assassination have reported seeing smoke or flashes from the knoll area and even more thought they heard shots from that direction.

Nix first turned his film over to the FBI and it was used, among other things, to determine the position of the President's car at the moment the fatal bullet struck his head.

"The man with the rifle," however, was found to be nothing more than the shadows of three branches and leaves on the side of the white pavilion.

Itek said the analysis showed that the object which apparently was a station wagon or some vehicle actually is in a parking lot behind the wooden picket fence and 20 feet behind the "shadow gunman."

A rifleman at that location would have had to fire from nine feet above the ground for his trajectory to clear existing vertical obstructions, it said. No person was visible on the roof of the vehicle. Even assuming a gunman was at sufficient height, the timing of the cavalcade was such that he would have had less than one-thirtieth of a second to get off the fatal shot, Itek said.

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