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CLOSE-UP

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F.B.I. Agent Discloses The Truth Behind Chappaquiddick Tragedy

Mary Jo Kopechne Was Shot To Death



—Autopsy Reveals That Bullet Blasted Her Brain

The Truth Behind Kopechne Tragedy...

MARY JO WAS SHOT TO DEATH

by HUGH WELLS

The dark, cold earth holds the corpse of Mary Jo Kopechne and the mystery of her death at Chappaquiddick Bay last August.

But there is good reason to suspect that the secrets of the soil have blossomed in flowers of evil.

For while Mary Jo lay on a mortuary slab in Massachusetts, a long-distance telephone call kept the head medical examiner busy just long enough for another man to inspect the bloated body.

And this man now claims he has positive proof that Mary Jo was shot to death!

Minutes after the news of an accident involving Ted Kennedy flashed on the teletype in Washington, D.C., an FBI agent was dispatched to the scene of the tragedy.

As William Wescott, 34, a member of the FBI until last October, stated to CLOSE-UP: "I not only tear for my life, I fear for the lives of the innocent!"

"When I was younger and just a rookie agent, my superior told me that silence was golden.

"Well, in the case of Mary Jo and Ted, silence is just plain yellow!

"There was more than foul play involved in the tragedy. It could have been cold-blooded murder!"

Did Ted Kennedy slay the



Ex-F.B.I. agent Wescott claims autopsy proves Mary Jo was shot

young political worker reportedly in love with him?

Was Mary Jo really pregnant? Did friends of the Kennedys quietly do away with the girl for that reason?

"These questions will never be answered," Wescott continued.

"But one thing I can affirm. At the base of Mary Jo's neck was a bullet hole no bigger than the size of a pea.

"And from what I was able to attest the bullet still lies embedded in her brain!"

Wescott, an expert in ballistics and autopsy, was ordered by FBI command to withhold the story until after the trial.

"When the case went behind closed doors," Wescott continued to CLOSE-UP, "I

Autopsy Reveals Bullet Blasted Her Brain

knew money was making justice its slave.

"The political-financial machine in this country is incredible! Nothing is sacred to power and ambition!"

Wescott, in a brave reversal, resigned from the FBI and retired to an isolated cottage in the Appalachians.

"I was under oath to keep to myself all FBI matters," agent Wescott explained, "but in the case of perversion of justice, I resolved to speak out.

"I was working with the medical chief during the examination of Mary Jo's body. It had been previously arranged for someone to call him away from the body while he was inspecting it for signs of foul play.

"When he disappeared



Was Mary Jo murdered or did she commit suicide? Only a proper investigation will reveal

to talk on the phone, I went to work and I made the most astounding find of my career.

"The bullet hole was very neat and hardly observable. The water from the plunge into the water had washed away all traces of blood."

Would Wescott give a

reason for the death? Was there any sign of struggle or violence?

"Not a trace of violence," Wescott stated.

"Do you know my theory? I believe she shot herself to death. Plain and simple suicide in the back seat of Ted Kennedy's sedan!

"When Ted found her there he panicked, as he was known to do on several other occasions.

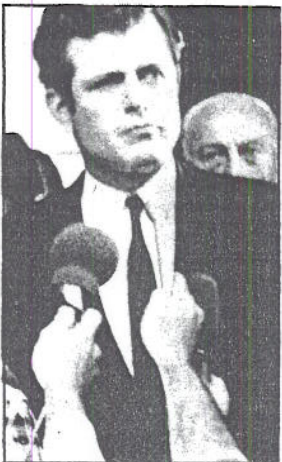
"He feared that he would be blamed for murder, and the accusation would ruin his political career forever."

While the trial goes on behind closed doors, a Kennedy family spokesman heatedly denied Wescott's insinuations.

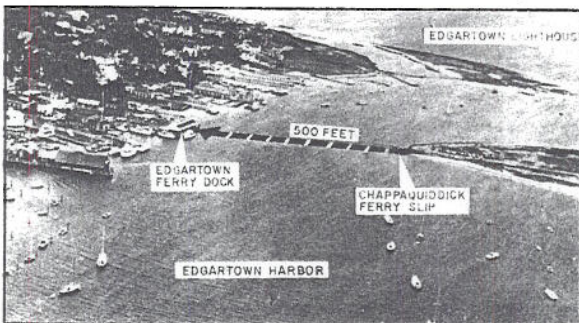
CONT. ON P. 4

CLOSE-UP

3



Ted and his spokesmen deny there is any truth to Wescott's allegations



Map shows Kennedy's path following tragedy. Wescott's theories jive with route Ted chose

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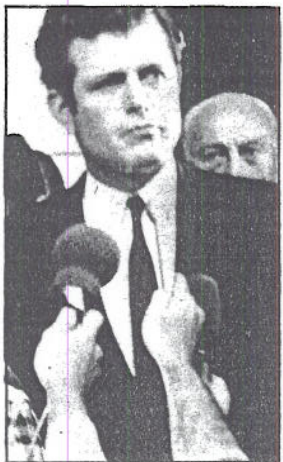
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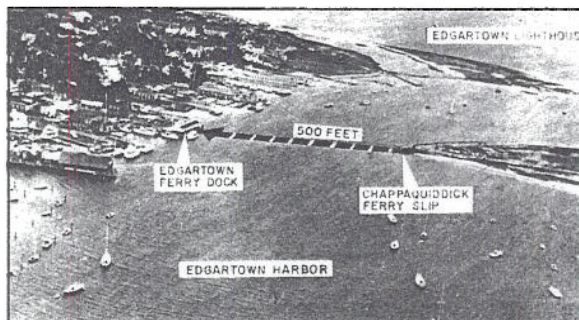
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FROM P.3

"Of course the medical examiner didn't carry out an autopsy. It wasn't necessary! She had died from drowning!"

But Wescott has better evidence to back up his claim. Mary Jo was a confirmed Roman Catholic. Even if she did commit suicide, her parents would never make it known to the public.

Look at her parents' reaction to a post mortem for example. They refused every attempt to dig up the body and discover the real truth behind the mishap.

"That was point one," Wescott stated. "Now, point two. The Kopechne have sued Kennedy for a small fortune. The suit was in the papers, but few people observed it."

"What happens here is either Kennedy pays or the parents reveal the truth to the press. Kennedy couldn't stand the insinuations after all that has gone before!"

"Thirdly, Kennedy is in a bind. When he should have revealed a suicide, he tried to hide a body.

This would forever blackball him from his presidential hopes.

"And that is why the trial is going on behind closed doors!"

As Wescott sees it, his testimony would not only remove guilt from the Kennedy name, but would also clear up a lot of unanswered questions.

On the night of the party, two people confessed that Mary Jo had been ill and had several times gone outside for some air.

One close friend of the

Kopechne girl told reporters that for the past month she had been terribly depressed and nervous. She had even visited a gynecologist for some 'female troubles'. Later, the girl withdrew these statements.

"I saw the bullet hole," Wescott affirms. "One word from me and the whole thing would be blown out into the open."

"As it stands now, both the Kennedys and the FBI have denied my testimony."

"In fact, I am even on

the brink of facing charges of contempt.

"It would be so simple if the truth were just laid out in the open. As it is, in my version, the true version is just written off as an error."

Meanwhile, the trial meets in silence. The Kopechne parents continue their suit, and a body lies in a deserted Pennsylvania cemetery.

To avoid scandal, a very rich family and a pair of confused parents have chosen to pervert justice.

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