

EXCLUSIVE!

A New Book ... New Findings

ECHOES OF THE

ASSASSINATION

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Americans are doubters.

A Herald-Examiner survey last November, three years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, indicated that 68 per cent of the respondents found reason to dispute the findings of the Warren Commission Report.

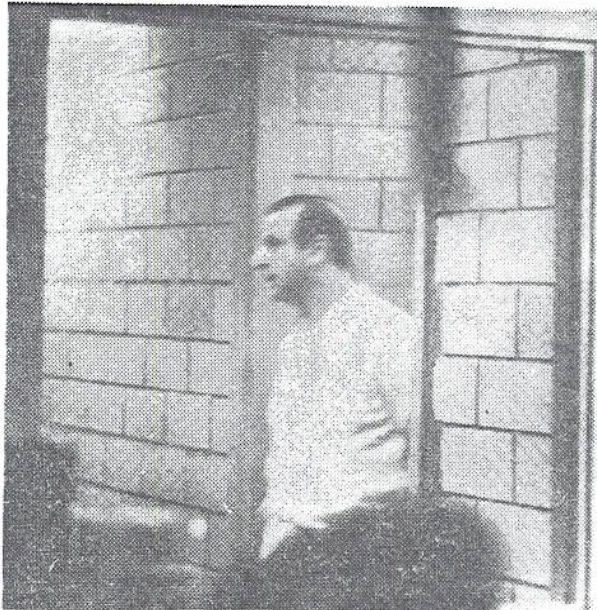
Many of these people had read the report's critics—Edward J. Epstein, the collegian who turned an innocent master's thesis into a best selling volume; Mark Lane, the attorney who continues to charge conspiracy; Penn Jones Jr., the Midlothian, Tex., editor who boosted his weekly local newspaper to national prominence; Harold Weisberg, the retired Maryland journalist whose only previous rise from obscurity involved the National Barbecuing Championships.

And there were others: the numerous housewives who formed an underground communications network, the assassination buffs who came from every strata of our society to publish, holler and whisper their doubts about the Warren Commission Report to an eager public.

Now, the pendulum may be swinging the other way. The critics have become fair game for scrutiny. The first of these anti-critic critics is a Los Angeles photojournalist, Lawrence J. Schiller, who, with the help of writer Richard Lewis, has compiled as a book a series of rebuttals to the critics.

Schiller chose his title, "The Scavengers and Critics of the Warren Report," from a statement in which Texas Gov. John Connally assailed Commission critics as "scavengers" making profit from the sensationalism of the assassination. His book will be published next Wednesday. *APR. 5'*

The book's first point of investigation involved the notion that a conspiracy was responsible for President Kennedy's death.



And perhaps the most damning intelligence that the volume uncovers involves a conspiratorial meeting that attorney Mark Lane contends took place Nov. 14, 1963, among Dallas conservative Bernard Weissman, Jack Ruby, and officer J. D. Tippit.

Lane's source of the information, Dallas advertising man Paul Bridewell, denied to the authors that anyone named Weissman was introduced during the evening in question.

Lane, incidentally, refused to disclose Bridewell's name to the Warren Commission, annoying the Chief Justice greatly.

Bridewell Is Found

Bridewell has been located only once since that time, and by Schiller. Recently the authors have been contacted on three occasions by FBI agents searching for Bridewell. Schiller said Bridewell was located through a former Dallas newsman, Thayer Waldo, who now lives in Mexico City. Bridewell resides in Oregon near a large university, Schiller said.

"More thorough investigations," wrote Schiller and Lewis, "reveal that there were actually three Tippits listed on the Dallas Police Force roster at the time—Gayle M. Tippit, W. W. "Woody" Tippett and the deceased J. D. Tippit (who was killed by Oswald following the assassination)."

Schiller said Gayle Tippit stated he met Ruby soon after he began working for the Dallas police in 1950. Further, Eva Grant, Ruby's sister, confirmed that Ruby knew someone named "Woody" Tippett.

The "Scavengers" book concludes: "Therefore, Lane's mystery meeting, an inference of a conspiracy between Ruby and J. D. Tippit, could quite well have involved Ruby and Tippit, although there is no assurance which Tippit was present."

One piece of Warren Commission evidence that has stirred much controversy is Exhibit 133-A, a photograph taken March 31, 1963, of Lee Harvey Oswald holding a rifle at 214 Neely St., Dallas.

Picture in Question

Many of the critics, led by Mark Lane, contend that the picture is fraudulent because the shadow under the nose goes directly downward while Oswald's body casts a diagonal shadow. (Lane suggests that either the head was superimposed or the picture was taken with a "dual solar system." Oswald questioned the picture, asserting to Dallas police that someone else used his face and put a different body on it.)

Last Wednesday, at 214 Neely St., Schiller duplicated the photograph under similar geographical, weather, and date conditions. As a subject, he used a man having similar physical specifications to Oswald.

By taking a series of pictures beginning at 11 a.m., Schiller finally discovered that Marina Oswald took the original photograph at 3:02 p.m. (CST). (She did not recall the time in her testimony to the Commission.)

Schiller's explanation for the shadow phenomenon: "The sun at different times of the year will produce different shadow effects on the same subject. Consequently, painstaking care must be given in recreating a picture, not only as to weather, but also as to corresponding date to the initial picture.

"The critics," he added, "were not this careful. The Commission's investigators also were careless."

Can Pictures Lie?

Another doubt about the photo has been raised by Sylvia Meagher, a Greenwich Village widow, who has published an index of the Warren Report.

By measuring the rifle in relation to Oswald in the photograph, said Schiller, she deduced that it was not the assassination rifle, that the rifle was superimposed on the picture, or that Oswald would have stood only five feet-four inches tall.

What Mrs. Meagher failed to acknowledge in her study, Schiller suggests, is that the rifle would appear larger in the picture because it is held closer to the camera by Oswald. He said Mrs. Meagher admitted this possibility. Nevertheless, she will express her suspicion in a book to be published next autumn, Schiller said.

In their book, Schiller and Lewis explain one of the reasons the Commission disagreed with Texas Gov. John Connally, who still maintains he was the victim of a different bullet from that which struck the President.

Connally testified before the Commission first and said, in part: . . . "I immediately, when I was hit, I said, 'Oh, no, no, no.' And then I said, 'My God, they are going to kill us all.'"

"Immediately following her husband," the authors point out, "Mrs. Connally pinpointed the exact moments Gov. Connally screamed out:

"As the first shot was hit, and I turned to look at the same time, I recall John saying, 'Oh, no, no, no.' Then there was a second shot, and it hit John, and as he recoiled to the right, just crumpled like a wounded animal to the right, he said, 'My God, they are going to kill us all' . . ."

"Although Mrs. Connally stated that the second shot hit her husband," conclude Schiller and Lewis in their book, "it is plain from her testimony that he said, 'Oh, no, no, no,' at the same time the first shot was heard.

"This is a strong indication that he was, indeed, hit by the first shot, despite his belief he was hit by the second shot."

Schiller and Lewis observe that "discernible suspicion" between the FBI and Secret Service led to both organizations being represented at the presidential autopsy at Bethesda Hospital.

Later, in an interview with The Herald-Examiner, Schiller said Internal Revenue men working for the Commission investigated both organizations, pursuing a rumor that Oswald was a paid agent of the FBI.

A Matter of Seconds

Schiller interviewed BBC officials who confirmed that a rifle demonstration was held on television Jan. 29, 1967; its purpose was to test the Commission's contention that Oswald could have fired three shots within 4.6 seconds.

Before 7 million television viewers, according to the Schiller book, "a British Royal Marine was handed a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano weapon similar to the type used by Oswald.

"He was instructed to fire two series of three rounds apiece, aiming at a target. The Marine took 2.6 seconds to fire all three shots

the first time. (The Commission experts took 2.3 seconds for only two shots.) On the second series, he required only 3.8 seconds, even though the rifle bolt jammed.

"The test," the book concludes, "for the first time, proved that Oswald indeed could have fired all the shots in less than 4.6 seconds and the first two shots in less than 1.6 seconds, thereby dispelling doubts on both (a) the existence of a second assassin and (b) the single-bullet theory."

For his own edification, Schiller fired a similar Mannlicher-Carcano rifle last week. His three shots took 3.7 seconds.

"I'm not a marksman," was Schiller's comment, "but it seems to be an easy rifle to fire."

Summarizing his discoveries, Schiller in an interview this week, was as critical of some aspects of the Commission's operations as he

was of its critics:

"I think the Warren Commission told the story to the American people the wrong way. They didn't admit publicly that there could always be the possibility of a conspiracy.

"I spoke to one Commission member who told me, 'In the end result not everything that was written or known could be written into the report. And no one individual was responsible for the writing of the entire report.'"

One report omission cited by Schiller is a set of two memoranda that Schiller believes might have eliminated any question about the autopsy report.

The memoranda were written by assistant commission counsel, Arlen Specter, and cover informal interviews of the FBI men in attendance and the doctors who performed the autopsy.

Continued on Page 9



SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE DIAGONAL SHADOW

Photojournalist Lawrence Schiller successfully duplicates the conditions that existed when Marina Oswald took controversial photo of Lee Harvey Oswald in

March, 1963! Schiller found that at 3:02 p.m. (CST), the sun cast similar shadows to the 1963 Oswald photo. Posing is John E. Cappell.

Continued from Page 7

In Schiller and Lewis' book, the memos are published in full, and suggest that the autopsy report was not changed by the Warren Commission or anyone else.

Since the interviews were informal and not sworn statements, Schiller quotes Specter, they were not included in the Commission testimony.

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, on the other hand "... managed to tap new tools of investigation beyond the scope of the Warren Commission," according to the authors.

"He explored, for example, hitherto silent forces in the homosexual underground. In Las Vegas, Nevada, Garrison met with a close friend of (Clay) Shaw, James Dondson, who was with Shaw at the moment Kennedy was assassinated. He also interviewed former Ruby associate, Bret Hall.

"Garrison attempted to verify statements made by his key witnesses through the use of hypnosis and sodium pentathol, although it seemed doubtful whether such unproven methods would be reliable enough to obtain convictions."

Schiller's reservations

about Garrison's ultimate success lie in a statement to him by Dr. Joel Fort, a noted criminology expert on drugs: "It is much easier to lead a witness under sodium pentathol than it would be in a witness box."

Why Didn't . . . ?

The book asks a series of questions to the Commission that would have eliminated many of the critic's charges:

● Why, it asks, didn't the Commission restage the assassination at 12:30 p.m., the time of the actual event (instead of beginning at 6:30 a.m.), thereby simulating weather and other conditions properly?

● In the restaging, why didn't the Commission use the original Lincoln (which was being remodeled at the factory) instead of renting a Cadillac, thereby having to make allowances for differences in size and structure?

● Why was Billy Lovelady (the man standing before the book depository and confused by many as Oswald) not photographed during the restaging?

● Why did the Commission fail to fire the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle from the sixth floor window dur-

ing the restaging, allowing an opportunity to check the acoustics and aural direction of the shots?

● Why did Specter not interview the two FBI autopsy witnesses under oath, eliminating that suspicion?

● How was Lee Harvey Oswald assured that no one else was on the sixth floor while he was firing his shots?

● Four cartridges were in Oswald's rifle. Where are the remaining bullets? Why were no fingerprints found on the shell casings?

Voice of Reason

Hearst columnist Bob Co-sidine, in a forward to the book, calls the volume "a steady voice of reason demanding careful attention in a wilderness of doubt and conjecture . . ."

Schiller, however, admits that "no book can answer all the questions that have been raised. Some of these questions are unanswerable."

Schiller also concedes that his book probably will not silence the critics. Still to be published are Mrs. Meagher's volume next fall and "Whitewash III," by Weisberg.

Esquire Magazine will publish a new expose in July, Schiller and Lewis'

book discloses. This tale concerns a man named Igor Vaganov who resembles Oswald. Vaganov, it is reported, moved to Oak Cliff (Dallas) on Nov. 7, 1963, to an apartment within walking distance of the spot where Tippit was shot.

In his possession Vaganov had a rifle with a telescopic sight. Vaganov, Schiller said, was despondent and on Nov. 21, 1963, told his wife that he was going to do something dreadful to himself or someone else.

After the assassination, the FBI was contacted and within hours had cleared Vaganov of any participation in the assassination.

Earlier this year, however, Esquire introduced Vaganov to a man who had witnessed the Tippit slaying, according to Schiller and Lewis. The witness, Domingo Benavides, thought he recognized Vaganov.

Subsequently, Esquire had Vaganov flown to Dallas, where photographs were taken. For this, Vaganov was paid \$1500, Schiller disclosed in an interview.

"The story will be entitled 'Second Assassin?' or something like that," Schiller added.

"And Esquire is serious."



A fatal motorcade in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963, and the controversies that followed took photojournalist Lawrence Schiller, his camera and writer Richard Lewis to the scene. Their investigations, soon to be in book form, refute many critics of the Warren Report.