

San Francisco Chronicle ☆☆ Thurs., Dec. 14, 1967

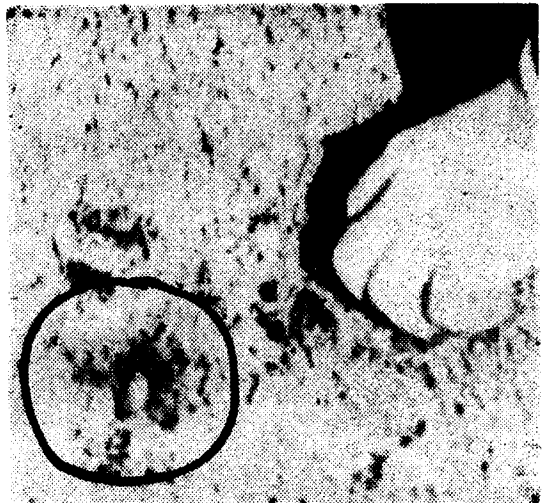
Deputy Talks of Photos

Garrison 'Evidence' Discounted



UPI Telephoto

Garrison says this photo shows the man picking up the bullet.



UPI Telephoto

Dallas

A deputy sheriff who appears in a picture which New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison claims shows a Federal agent picking up a bullet near the Kennedy assassination site said yesterday that he doubted the object was anything of the kind.

"It was nothing significant," said Dallas Deputy Buddy Walthers. "If it had been a bullet, it would have been significant."

Walthers appears in the picture, standing alongside a uniformed Dallas policeman and watching another man in civilian clothes picking something up from the grass near the assassination site.

Garrison produced the picture on a television program in Dallas last week, along with the unidentified man holding something in his hand and walking away. The New Orleans district attorney said the man was picking up a .45-caliber bullet.

Garrison said the bullet proved that someone was shooting at the President other than Lee Harvey Oswald, who is believed to have used a smaller caliber rifle from the top of the Texas Schoolbook Depository building.

Garrison said the pistol bullet was never introduced into evidence before the Warren Commission or referred to in the commission testimony and exhibits by which the commission concluded Oswald was the sole assassin.

"This city officer and I were standing by watching this man pick up something," Walthers said.

"It was what appeared to be blood. You've seen blood that has hit grass. If it was anything it was a piece of skull. It was nothing significant.

If it had been a bullet, it would have been significant."

Walthers said the photograph was taken about ten minutes after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination.

Immediately after the three shots and the President's car had roared off, Walthers started looking for whoever fired the shots. It occurred to him that a man who had just shot at the President would not walk around carrying a rifle, so he started looking for evidence.

"If he (the man in the photograph) had found a bullet, he certainly would have yelled, 'Look, a bullet!' or something like that," Walthers said. "Because a bullet was what were looking for."

United Press