

Study of Dallas Film Disputes Theory of an Assassin on Knoll

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 LEXINGTON, Mass., May 18—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 disclosed today that a months-long study of an amateur movie of the shooting had disproved the existence of a rifleman pointing a 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-mm. color motion picture was shot that day by Orville Nix, a 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 onto 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 unaided 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 Mr. Kennedy was shot. Itek photographic scientists improved the quality of the film content by utilizing advanced image enhancement methods. "The man with the rifle" was found to be shadows of tree branches and leaves on the side of the white pavilion.

Itek said the analysis showed that the object that apparently was a station wagon or some vehicle was in a parking lot behind a 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.

The independent Itek conclusions on the Nix film were in keeping with the Warren Commission report with one exception. The Itek study indicated that at the moment of the impact of the fatal bullet, the Kennedy automobile was about three feet farther back than the spot where the Warren investigation placed it.

That finding, however, would make it even more unlikely—if not impossible—for a second gunman to have hit Mr. Kennedy from the aperture between the picket fence and the pavilion on the knoll.

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JFK Death Theory Refuted

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LEXINGTON (Mass.) — An amateur motion picture of President Kennedy's assassination, showing what bears a resemblance to a second gunman aiming a rifle, has been found by one of the nation's top photographic laboratories to be an illusion.

An analysis released by the Itek Corporation disproved one theory that the Warren Commission erred in finding Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the slaying of the President in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Itek made the months-long study as a public service.

GRASSY KNOLL

Several second-gunner theories have been advanced by proponents of a conspiracy. One was based in part on an 8 mm color motion picture shot that day by Orville Nix, one of the spectators.

It shows the President being hit by the bullet and Mrs. Kennedy climbing onto the back of the convertible.

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

Enlargement of certain frames of the Nix film brings out what to the naked eye resembles 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.

FLASHES REPORTED

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

Itek, one of the major

manufacturers of highly sophisticated aerial reconnaissance cameras. Its equipment cameras, had its scientists improve the quality of the film content by utilizing advanced image enhancement methods.

Several objects on and behind the knoll were unclear in the original films and the Itek scientists were themselves at first struck by the image of a gunman.

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