

LOUISIANA

Parry and Thrust

Jim Garrison was a difficult man to daunt. Whenever one of the New Orleans District Attorney's theories on the Kennedy assassination "plot" was punctured, Garrison would pop back with another — and proclaim it louder than the last.

Under scrutiny, two of his favorite hypotheses came in for particularly rough treatment last week. A "code," which Garrison claimed linked Clay Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby in an assassination conspiracy, appeared to be nothing more than the post office box number of a bullfight promoter.

For a Bullfight

In a copyrighted article, the Dallas Times Herald reported that promoter Lee Odom had come forward to explain that he was the "Lee Odom, Post Office box 19106, Dallas, Tex.," that Garrison had cited from the address book of Clay Shaw (the re-

tired New Orleans businessman indicted and awaiting trial on a conspiracy charge).

Using a complex "decoding system," Garrison had alleged that this Dallas post office box number found in Shaw's address book matched the number "19106" found in Oswald's notebook, translated into Jack Ruby's 1963 Dallas telephone number (Whitehall 1-5601), thereby linking all three men.

Odom, however, told the Times Herald that "19106" was merely the number of a post office box he rented in the summer of 1966. Recalling a trip to New Orleans last November, Odom explained: "I asked the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans about who would be a good man to see about finding a place for my bullfight.

"He suggested Shaw, so the manager called him in. He (Shaw) came over to the hotel, as I recall, and we talked for 15 or 20 minutes. He gave me his business card and I gave him my address in Dallas. The bullfight didn't come off and we never communicated again. That's all there was to it."

Grassy Knoll Theory

Meanwhile, a more persistent postulate by Garrison and other critics of the Warren Commission report — the grassy knoll theory — also had fared poorly under close examination.

From Lexington, Mass., the United Press International reported that one of the nation's top photographic specialty firms — Itek Corporation — had "demolished" the widely circulated theory that a second gunman was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Itek disclosed that a months-long study of an amateur movie of the shooting had disproved the existence of a rifleman pointing a weapon from the grassy knoll at the Kennedy car in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The film in question was an 8-mm color motion picture shot by Orville Nix, a Government employee who was standing among the parade spectators in Dealy Plaza. It showed the President

hit by the fatal bullet and Mrs. Kennedy climbing onto the back of the convertible.

Shadows and Leaves

In the background was the grassy knoll and atop it a wooden picket fence and a concrete pavilion with a low wall. Enlargement of certain frames revealed what to the unaided eye appeared to be a man with one elbow leaning on the roof of a station wagon behind the wall and sighting down a gun barrel at the approaching limousine.

By utilizing advanced image enhancement techniques, Itek photographic scientists improved the quality of the film content — revealing "the man with the rifle" to be merely shadows of tree branches and leaves on the side of the white pavilion.

Itek reported the analysis showed that the object that appeared to be a station wagon was actually in a parking lot — some 20 feet behind the "shadow gunman." At that location, according to the film laboratory, a rifleman would have had to fire from nine feet above the ground for his trajectory to clear existing vertical obstructions.

Three Feet Back

Itek's findings on the Nix film tended to confirm the Warren Commission's conclusions — with one exception. The company's study indicated that at the moment of fatal ballistic impact the Presidential automobile was about three feet farther back (closer to the Book Depository Building) 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.

Five Gunmen?

Undismayed, Garrison last week ignored the Itek report — and proposed not one, but five grassy knoll gunmen. Delivering his most sensational charges so far, the District Attorney declared that Lee Harvey Oswald did not kill President Kennedy — but that the CIA "knows the name of every man involved and the name of the individuals who pulled the triggers from the grassy knoll and the stone wall area."

Garrison also charged that the CIA "through devious ways, and through intermediaries," was actually paying lawyers to "block the completion" of his investigation.

In spite of them, Garrison insisted, his investigation had been successful:

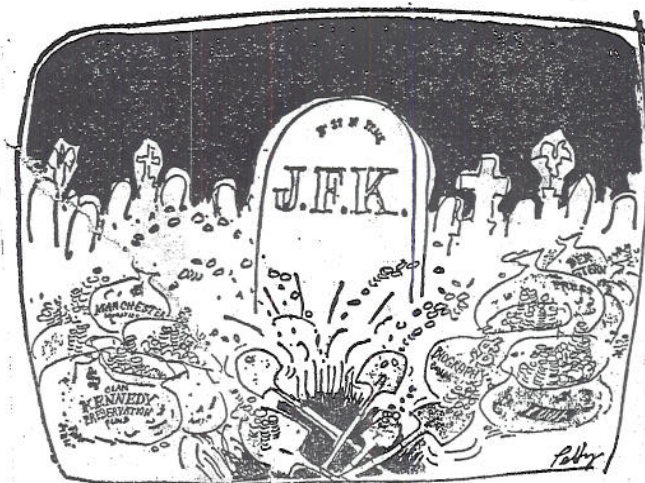
"We have learned what happened. We have even located photographs in which we have found the men behind the grassy knoll and stone wall before they dropped completely out of sight. There were five of them, three behind the stone wall and two behind the grassy knoll."

"Criminal Act"

The Warren commission could find no evidence of any persons behind a grassy knoll or stone wall in Dallas, although several witnesses made such claims.

"The point is," said Garrison, "the Warren Commission said nobody was back there and they had to say nobody was back there because not enough evidence was presented for them to make any other conclusion."

As for the CIA, he observed, "What it's doing, it's a criminal act. And if the director of the CIA and the top officials of the CIA were in the jurisdiction of Louisiana, I would charge them without hesitation."



Uncovering the facts
FROM THE AUSTRALIAN (BRADDON)

Atlas

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