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 Courage in Journalism.



Inquisition

Raymon Cummings, one time cab driver, held a press conference on Friday to tell of a trip in his cab in which he drove Lee Harvey Oswald, David Ferrie and a third unidentified person to the Carousel Club during early 1963. Our personal opinion was that Cummings was more honest than any reporter present.

Rather than act as objective newsmen seeking truth, the reporters were inquisitors — apparently representing Assistant District Attorney Bill Alexander. Alexander had previously characterized the Cummings story as "garbage", although he had not personally questioned Cummings.

Reporters present were demanding that Cummings take a lie-detector test in Dallas. Cummings attorneys had stated that Cummings would go to New Orleans at the request of District Attorney Jim Garrison and take any reasonable test requested of him.

Hugh Aynesworth of Newsweek Magazine, formerly of The Dallas Morning News, even offered to pass the hat and raise the money for a lie-detector test to be given in Dallas. We could not help but wonder if the test would have the same enlightening results as some tests given during the Warren Commission hearings. Carroll Jarnigan's test was pronounced as fanciful by District Attorney Henry Wade but with absolutely no supporting evidence.

The story of Cummings must now be added to the

evidence given by other witnesses to the effect that Ruby and Oswald knew each other. Carroll Jarnagin, Bill DeMar, and Bob Litchfield are witnesses who stated Oswald and Ruby knew each other. Many of the strippers and waitresses might have so testified had the question been asked of them.

The activities in Miami prove a conspiracy existed to kill President Kennedy. The activities in New Orleans strongly hint at a continuing conspiracy. How much additional evidence must be uncovered in Dallas to make newsmen there act as seekers of truth rather than represent the wishful thinking of the projectors of the Dallas image. Each such performance tarnishes that image just a little more.

Drew Pearson As 'Uncle Tom'

In 1966 this editor wrote himself out of the Democratic Party. Today we print another editorial we never dreamed of writing. For many years we have read and admired the courageous works of Drew Pearson. Today we feel he has reached a journalistic low we cannot tolerate.

On March 3, 1967, Pearson wrote: "President Johnson is sitting on a political H-bomb—an unconfirmed report that Senator Robert Kennedy (Dem.) of New York, may have approved an assassination plot which then possibly backfired against his late brother."

Does Pearson seriously believe this story? Or is he forced to do someone's bidding? Doubters of the Warren Commission are being slandered for presenting hard evidence of a conspiracy. Pearson is printed across the land with "unconfirmed reports!"

Pearson further reported that after the Bay of Pigs, President Kennedy was unhappy with the CIA, and it was during this time the agency as quoted by Pearson: "...the CIA hatched a plot to knock off Castro. It would have been impossible for this to reach the high levels it did—say insiders without being taken up with the younger Kennedy. Indeed, one source insists that Bobby—eager to avenge the Bay of Pigs fiasco—played a key role in the planning."

Does Pearson hate the Kennedys so much he would actually accuse the brothers of plotting an assassination? Please, Pearson, if you have any evidence—print it. If you must do the bidding of others, please tell us while you are still alive.

It is sad to see a once independent newsman have to bow to the demands of others and report rumors and unconfirmed reports of such a Cain and Abel nature.

What do they have on you, Drew?

Pearson further wrote: "Some sources consider Robert Kennedy's behavior after the assassination to be significant. He seemed to be tormented—they say, by more than the natural grief over the murder of his brother."

Surely the conscience of Drew Pearson must be causing him some grief after writing such a column. Stand up again Drew, you were once a great force for good in our country.

FORGIVE MY GRIEF

VOL. II

By PENN JONES, JR and SHIRLEY MARTIN

(Editor's Note: This fifth installment was furnished to us by a worker in Dallas. It deals with the evidence of shots coming from the clump of trees above the grassy knoll. At a later date, we will deal with the "Mauser" and Italian Mannlicher-Carcano which were found in the Texas School Book Depository Building. The position of the third rifle will be revealed in the coming weeks.)

THE JEEP OR THE SHOTS FROM THE GRASSY KNOLL

Bit by bit the pieces of the mosaic of the Kennedy assassination are falling into place and

THE MIDLOTHIAN MIRROR

the pattern is taking shape. In the December, 1966 issue of Esquire and also in the January, 1967 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, a frame of the Nix film on the assassination is reproduced.

Six Nix frames, which give the view from the opposite direction to that of the Zapruder film, are shown in Vol. XVIII, pages 81, 82, and 83, of the proceedings of the Warren Commission. The Esquire article speaks of an object in the picture as a "vehicle" and what appears to be a man "on the roof" of the vehicle aiming a rifle at the President's car. Someone spoke of it as looking like a "white-faced cow." But it would be a tremendous cow with a face as big as the front end of a car.

We believe close study will show it to be a Jeep. Headlights high enough to show above a 33 inch wall, and relatively close together, are characteristic of the Jeep, as is also the baseboard showing back of and above the hood. And we believe it is not a man "on the roof" of the vehicle but a man sitting in the Jeep. This particular Jeep

appears to have a somewhat jutting-out hood, and no top, and the windshield is undistinguishable.

One does not readily recognize this object as a Jeep on first examination. The photo, as many photos do, shows an unnatural telescoping effect --- the baseboard appears to be too close to the front of the hood. However on closer examination it can be seen that the baseboard is further back than it at first appears, and the longer one looks --- comparing it with the picture of a Jeep --- the more it assumes its proper perspective.

This Jeep might have been moved in and out quickly. The location is exactly where it would be expected to be for the shot --- or one of them --- that hit President Kennedy in the head. The location of the Jeep is at the south end of the arcade, under the trees, just in front of the picket fence behind the low concrete wall, on the grassy knoll. Almost indisputable evidence has been produced to show this approximate spot as the source --- or one of them --- of the fatal head shot --- as well as an earlier shot too. The credit for this work largely goes to Attorney Vincent Salandria of Philadelphia.

Enlarged frames of the Zapruder film superimposed upon one after the other shows every movement for each eighteenth of a second. Such work shows positively that President Kennedy's head and body was forced violently back and to the left at the instant of the head shot, which would have been consistent with a shot from the right front location.

There are not too many Jeeps around. Jack Ruby was said to have had, at one time, some war surplus Jeeps to sell to Castro but the deal fell through, and there was some evidence of his having something to do with arms for anti-Castro Cubans.

Possibly the Minutemen have Jeeps as well as gun silencers, along with their other war equipment. The creekbed and railroad embankments just north and west of the assassination site, and running parallel to Stemmons Expressway, which was to have been the President's route to the Trade Mart where he was to speak, would have been suitable only for Jeeps. A Jeep would have made possible more opportunities for another ambush, if needed.

On page 18 of the book "Four Days," and also

on the sixth page of a paperback book called "The Complete Kennedy Saga," is shown another one of what is presumably the Nix series of motion picture frames (although it could be a picture by Muchmore). It shows approximately the same scene as the above mentioned frames --- with one significant addition. To the viewer's left of the picture, near the corner of the picket fence, and above and behind it, can be seen with the naked eye, but better with a magnifying glass, what appears to be a white helmet and dark glasses or goggles, similar to those of the motorcycle officer in the foreground. (Think of Price statement here --- decision later. Re headpiece)

There is also a strange omission in this picture --- for some reason the Jeep is missing from the spot where it had been shown to be. Why the Jeep and the man would be shown alternately in different pictures of the same scene we do not know.

The police motorcade schedule shows no police stationed at or near this spot (XX, page 482,495). Assistant Chief Charles Batchelor, who had overall charge of the motorcade, said, "No, sir; I don't think anyone was stationed below Houston Street." (That is, between the Elm and Houston intersections and the triple underpass.) (XX, page 23).

And yet here is, apparently, a police officer whom the white helmet and goggles, or glasses, would identify as a 2-wheeler, or solo, motorcycle officer standing where no officer was scheduled to be and where no spectators, according to police testimony, were supposed to be allowed. This officer, if such he was, was perhaps no more than

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a dozen or fifteen feet from the Jeep and the man who appeared to be firing from it. He must have seen the man and the Jeep.

Sheriff's department officer W. W. Mabra (201 Athens St., Dallas, CA 5-2682) who said he came to this area immediately after the shooting testified that a "City Officer" whom he encountered there said, "I was stationed in the rail yards and had this entire area in view, nobody came this way." (XIX, page 541). This despite the fact that no officer was supposed to be stationed there.

Of course whether anyone came that way was

not necessarily the question at issue. It will be recalled that two policemen reported that they met a man in this area who claimed to be a Secret Service man and showed what was purported to be credentials to that effect. Documents in the National Archives show that all the Secret Service men continued with the motorcade to Parkland Hospital and none were in this area.

Some think a gunman could have crawled into the trunk of a car, pulled the lid down and later have been driven away, or that he could have hidden his gun in the trunk or elsewhere in a car and then mingled with the crowd. Or he could have been dressed as a policeman, and armed, without arousing suspicion. Some police testified that not all cars were searched.

Three 2-wheel motorcycle officers, Sgt. S. Q. Bellah (2219 Wilbur St., Dallas), J. B. Garrick, (1011 East Hobson St., Dallas) and G. C. McBride (9019 Anaconda Drive, Pleasant Grove) were riding as advance escort three or four blocks ahead of the motorcade. Two of them, Garrick and McBride, were scheduled to wait somewhere in the vicinity of the triple underpass for the motorcade to get ahead of them onto Stemmons in order that they could fall in behind and prevent traffic from the rear from overtaking the motorcade. Officer Thomas A. Hutson testified he thought Garrick was at the entrance of the School Book Depository, nearby, shortly after the shooting.

Many people have believed from the start that shots came from the front and struck the President in the front of the throat, and there is much evidence that bullets were fired from the front and right, from about the location of the picket fence on the grassy knoll. The majority of witnesses thought shots sounded from this area.

If the shot which hit the President in the head was fired by what appears to be a gunman on the Jeep it is logical to assume the same man also fired another shot, though not necessarily so. Much evidence has been adduced by many critics showing that President Kennedy and Governor Connally could not have been hit by the same bullet from the sixth floor window of the depository. The Zapruder films and testimony from Governor and Mrs. Connally and his doctors show that.

Experts demonstrated that Oswald's bolt action rifle could not have been worked fast enough to have fired two shots close enough together --- a little more than a second --- to have wounded both men.

To be concluded next week