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*Donald Stanley on Books***Latest Dallas Theory**

"Six Seconds in Dallas" represents, to its author, a "third generation" of books about the Kennedy assassination.

First, says Josiah Thompson, a philosophy professor at Haverford College, came the fanciful pre-Warren Report attacks on the theory that Lee Oswald did it all alone.

Second, there were the books attacking the Warren Report itself — Lane, Weisburg, Sauvage, etc.

The third generation attacks neither the Report nor its critics. Instead, "by original use of the evidence," it proposes "a new conclusion" to the century's most controversial murder case.

The burden of this new conclusion has already been publicized in the press and in the excerpted publishing of Thompson's case in the Saturday Evening Post. It can be summed up quickly:

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THERE WERE NOT THREE shots from Oswald, one of which missed, but four shots from three assassins, all of which hit.

In order: Shot One from the Depository Building hit the President, nonfatally, in the back; Shot Two from the roof of another building struck Gov. Connally; Shot Three from the Depository hit Kennedy in the head nearly simultaneously with Shot Four, fired from the Grassy Knoll, which also struck the President's head.

Thompson arrived at this sequence — as well as several other subplots — by what is without doubt the most thorough examination of the photographic evidence yet made. And by use of new techniques of viewing and measurement, and through access to a much better print of the Zapruder movie film of the assassination than the Warren Commission had access to, he is able to cast serious doubt — if not a death blow — to the single assassin theory.

Thompson worked with the "master" print of the Zapruder film now owned by Life magazine, which paid \$25,000 for it. (The Commission had only a print of the print.)

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WHILE THE AUTHOR worked on his book, he also assisted Life in its examination. But when Thompson routinely requested the magazine's okay to reproduce Zapruder material in his book, Life refused.

As a result what appears in "Six Seconds" are sketches of the movie frames under discussion — accurate sketches, from all appearances — but sketches nonetheless.

From the sketches, one cannot unhesi-

tatingly agree with the conclusions drawn by Thompson.

It is, for example, impossible to tell from them whether Connally really was hit when Thompson says the Life prints prove him to have been hit.

One must, in the end, take the author's word for it — not a wholly satisfactory use of photographic evidence.

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STILL, THE MANNER in which Thompson attacked the problems of visual evidence and melded it with eye-witness and ear-witness reports is a model for how the Warren Commission COULD have approached their mission.

A lengthy appendix to "Six Seconds" details the author's mathematical and logical methodology.

SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS. By Josiah Thompson. Bernard Geis; 323 pages, illus.; \$8.95.

Recommended

NONFICTION

Ring Resounding. By John Culshaw. Viking, \$7.50. The paradoxically absorbing account of the nine year project that resulted in the first complete recording of Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen" written by the man in charge.

Tolstoy. Henri Troyat. Doubleday, \$7.95. A wonderful and definitive study of the life, work and hard times of Count Leo Tolstoy by a French novelist-biographer of Russian extraction.

How Children Learn. By John Holt. Pitman, \$4.95. A great teacher tells the processes by which youngsters really—and quite untheoretically—absorb their education. As valuable to parents as to other teachers.

FICTION

No Laughing Matter. By Angus Wilson. Viking, \$6.95. A richly rewarding Big Book—the family chronicle of a greatly talented menage by one of England's most perceptive novelists.

The Ecstasy Business. By Richard Condon. Dial, \$5.95. The zany doings among the narcissistic inhabitants of international movie making by the author of "The Manchurian Candidate."

Of Love and Dust. By Ernest J. Gaines. Dial, \$4.95. A San Francisco writer's fine short novel about tensions and tragedy on a Louisiana plantation that has changed only peripherally since slave days.