

Editorial by Penn Jones, Jr.

EDITORIALS

TWO OF A KIND

Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker, 72, died on Saturday. Abraham Zapruder, 65, died on Sunday. We have previously published what we thought of both these men. Their obituary information is most important.

Abraham Zapruder filmed the killing of President Kennedy in 8mm color film and sold the film rights to LIFE magazine for \$1,000,000 to be paid at the rate of \$100,000 a year for ten years. We had thought Zapruder sold exclusive rights to his famous film simply for money.

In his obituary, however, we learn for the first time that Zapruder came to the United States from Russia in 1920. Another White Russian in the assassination picture! This further complicates matters for historians. Zapruder refused an interview to this writer, and we know of no one who had the information that he had come from Russia.

Bill Decker has been eulogized by most of the City, County and State officials as well as the Dallas newspapers. It is difficult to continue to print counter information, but we must do so.

Decker is not a hero to those who love democracy. We feel he was deeply involved in the assassination, and President Kennedy was killed less than 75 yards from Decker's private office.

It is known that Decker had been irrational for several weeks. Certainly Decker did not write the resignation letter read to the County Commissioners by W. O. Bankston.

The list of those named as being present with Decker at the time of his death appears to have significance. And the irrational condition may explain why Harry Weatherford, Clarence Jones, and Jack Faulkner were at his side when the Sheriff died.

We have previously printed the activities of Harry Weatherford at the time of the shooting of President Kennedy. Now, we have re-read the statements of Faulkner and Sheriff Clarence Jones which now takes on additional meaning for us.

The last two sentences of Jack W. Faulkner's half-page unsigned statement read: "It was apparent that the assassin (sic) had run from the window after the shots were fired, had hidden the rifle, then ran down the stairway.

I then went up on the sixth floor where (sic) I helped search out the attic for the assassin. Jack W. Faulkner"

It appears to us that either Faulkner did not mean what he said, or he sure did not want to participate in a real search for the assassin.

C. M. Jones had an even shorter unsigned one paragraph statement with these curious last sentences.

"I immediately came back into the office, going on through to the back of the building and out onto the street and seeing the area swarming with officers, I mingled in the crowd in an effort see what I could learn. I then returned to this office and went immediately to the interrogation room where I spent the next few hours interrogating four witnesses and taking affidavits from them. At the conclusion of this process, I remained in the office for further instructions. C. M. Jones"

We have pondered for hours why Jones went back into the building after hearing the shots which killed President Kennedy. Certainly he spent a lot of time in the building before ". . . going on through to the back of the building and out onto the street and seeing the area swarming with officers, . . ." It was at least fifteen minutes before this area was swarming with officers.

It is strictly speculation, but we feel Jones had an assignment. That assignment might well have been to obtain a first hand report from Harry Weatherford as soon as Weatherford got down from the roof of the jail. It was very important that all reports get to headquarters as soon as possible.