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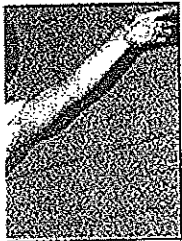
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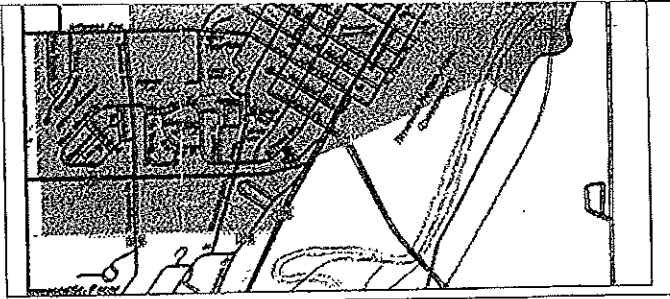
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Republicans
The Republican Party of

City of St. Peter - all
precincts, Traverse Township,
Oshawa Township at St. Peter
High School.

City of North Mankato - all
precincts and Belgrade Town-
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See letters on page 4A.

JFK's death: single bullet or conspiracy?

Graduate of SPHS, GA examines public's curiosity 40 years later

By Faith Kammerdiener
Staff Writer

ST. PETER — David Jones is one of those who is quick to admit he doesn't remember where he was when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. He was 3 at the time.

While Jones believes Lee Harvey Oswald killed JFK, the assassination isn't what interests Jones. What is more intriguing is why do people still talk about the JFK assassination 40 years after his death.

Here's why.

In 40 years, our outlook on security measures and leaders have changed, said Jones, who resides in Minneapolis. We tend to be more security conscious and more skeptical of what leaders tell us. Also, television doesn't have the allure it did back then. The JFK assassination is one of the first major events people viewed on the tube.

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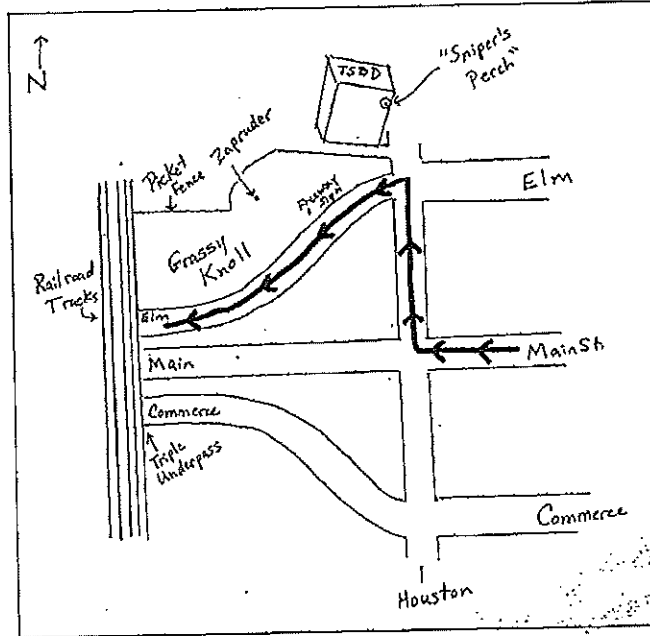


David Jones

the truth, rather why do we talk about this," Jones said.

Jones, a St. Peter native, started gathering information on JFK in the 1970s after graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College. The discussion used to be a hot topic at work about what happened Nov. 21, 1963 at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas. The discussions later extended to presentations Jones gives to high school students and anyone else interested in the JFK assassination.

He prepared for Thursday night's speech at the St. Peter Community Center using items he collected over the years, such as newspapers, film



Submitted

The illustration shows Dealey Plaza in Dallas, where former President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

footage and 200 books on JFK.

Every piece of evidence and fact found in the JFK assassination has been disputed since 1963. Jones said when the Warren Commission, a government panel that looked into the JFK assassination, presented its findings, people accepted the conclusion. But that acceptance has eroded as peo-

ple study the evidence themselves. Today, 80 percent of the public doesn't believe the findings. Instead, they believe in a conspiracy theory.

Doubts started forming when people saw a released government demonstrating that investigators must prove beyond a doubt Oswald killed Kennedy. Many feel that since

the Warren Commission started with a conclusion, they didn't do an adequate job of looking at all the evidence. This conclusion plays into the conspiracy theory, Jones said.

The Warren Commission did in fact conclude that Oswald acted alone and Jack Ruby acted alone when he assassinated Oswald. They found no evidence of a conspiracy. However, many people still believe someone hired Ruby to kill Oswald before he could be brought to trial. Ruby shot Oswald in the stomach when police decided to transfer Oswald from the city jail to the county jail. People claim the government didn't want Oswald talking about the conspiracy during the trial, so he was assassinated, Jones said.

Controversy also arises as to whether Oswald acted alone shooting JFK from a sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository. Eye witnesses claimed they also saw shooters positioned in the grassy knoll nearby.

Other disputed facts include the single bullet theory. The Warren Commission said three bullets were fired. One missed

Please turn to JFK, page 3A

SAINT PETER HERALD 2/26/04

JFK: Life Magazine photo raises eyebrows

Continued from page 1A

the car. Another struck the president from behind, went through his body and struck the Texas governor sitting in the car's front seat. A third bullet hit the president in the head.

Many security measures have changed drastically since the assassination of JFK. Before JFK, Americans could line the streets, catch a glimpse of the president and maybe shake his hand as the motorcade drove by. Today, security is much stricter. Jones said he remembers when Vice-president Al Gore visited Minneapolis. The secret service closed off the streets. The motorcade came by with four limousines. The smoke tinted windows didn't give anyone a view inside. Jones said he couldn't tell which limousine the vice-president was riding in.

Also, the president and vice president no longer travel together. JFK and Johnson traveled to Texas together. Johnson was sworn in on Air Force One before it left for Washington D.C. The coffin with Kennedy's body was in the back. Jones said during 9/11, Vice president Dick Cheney was taken to a secure location different from the one President Bush was taken to during the acts of terrorism.

Police never took any notes on what Oswald said when he was in custody. Today, police keep notes of what happens during interviews with suspects. The police also scheduled regular public appearances so everyone could see Oswald was treated well. They would parade him out in front of the media lining the hallway of the jail. Today, Jones said, police would not have allowed the media in the hallway. Instead, they would have called press conferences and have a public relations person address the media.

Later, police decided to move Oswald from the city jail to the county jail. During the move, Jack Ruby darted out of the crowd and shot Oswald in the stomach severing his aorta. The media caught it on television. The killing was the first televised homicide.

Why did Ruby shoot Oswald? Some conspiracy theorists believe Ruby, a nightclub

owner, was loosely connected to the mafia. Others believe he was hired to cover up something. The Warren Commission said Ruby told interviewers he got caught up in the emotions of the moment. He also didn't want the First Lady to have to face Oswald in a courtroom.

The most controversial piece of evidence is a photo Life Magazine published. The photo is of Oswald holding a rifle in one hand and Communist leaflets in

another. A pistol hung from his hip. The magazine claimed the rifle had been used in the assassination.

"The photo in a lot of people's minds convicted Oswald," Jones said.

Oswald had been reported as saying the photo is not of him. He said his face was grafted onto the body of someone else.

David Jones works as a community relations specialist with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.