

ROLAND J. ZAVADA
Z-AV
21 Cottonwood Lane
Pittsford, New York 14534
(716) 248-2162
"E" Mail zavadarc@netacc.net

~~Attachment~~
A1-8 6 pages

August 8, 1997

To: Former Management & Production Personnel, Dallas Film Processing Laboratory (Per appended list)

Re: Reconstruction of activity surrounding the processing and handling of photographic films of the JFK Assassination Processed by the Dallas Laboratory in November 1963.


Gentlemen;

By routing my return from vacation through Dallas, I had the good pleasure to have a breakfast meeting with Dick Blair and Phil Chamberlain on Monday 28 July. We reviewed my letter of 29 June, and clarified and added to the background of information and data provided by Phil in the report he developed in the late '70's. Mr. J. Kenny Anderson was not able to attend, but we had an informative conversation on the written comments Ken provided to my letter.

Our goal remains the same: To provide a factual description of the handling and marking of the films processed by Kodak in November 1963. This effort also provides the opportunity - if requested - to re-enforce and descriptively clarify information and data provided to authorities at that time in history.

Your comments, corrections and/or additions are requested.

Sincerely,



Roland J. Zavada
Consultant for Kodak

cc: J. Milch
E. Grizer
W. Lane

Meeting Minutes
Mariott Courtyard, Dallas TX
Monday 28 July

Present: Mssrs: Dick Blair, Phil Chamberlain and Rollie Zavada. Note: Mr. J. Kenny Anderson was invited but unable to attend.

A breakfast meeting was held to review the processing procedures in effect at the time of the Kennedy assassination and the processing of the A. Zapruder 8mm Movie film. Earlier telephone conversations were held with Dick Blair, Phil Chamberlain, J. Kenny Anderson and Tom Nulty to establish or verify processing edge print and film identification perforating. From these discussions, a letter with questions and photographs of 1963 Rochester processing edge print and perforating practice was circulated to all.

Questions for review included:

1. Did the Zapruder films receive perforated and edge print markings consistent with customer practice? Or.....
2. Because of the importance and significance of the films, was special handling and unique identification provided?
3. Were "Dallas" customer films identified in a manner similar to Rochester processed films - except the use of the letter "D" instead of the letter "R"?
4. What was the (simple) organizational structure of the Dallas laboratory personnel who came in contact with assassination film processing?
5. What can you add?

Responses to the questions were interwoven in a general discussion of the events of that fateful day. Phil's written recollection of the day's events contained in his late 1970's document provided the focus for our reconstruction of procedures and practices. (Copy Appended)

In pre-meeting conversations with Kenny by Phil and Rollie, we are confused regarding Kenny's belief that a Secret Service Agent was present and influenced processing and handling of the Zapruder film. (Kenny's remarks are appended) Phil believed that Kenny may have been recollecting an incident of special processing of sensitive material for our armed forces - not an unusual cooperative practice of the lab. In my subsequent discussions with Kenny, he assured me that this was his only experience of having federal agents present at the time of processing and that the incident related to the Kennedy assassination - in summary: *"a federal official was present during processing; that the dry cabinet lights were turned off; that the edge printer may have been turned off at agent's request; and, he did not then view the film in 8mm width - but did see Zapruder's film projected as 8mm- at some time"*.

In searching for a plausible explanation, we find that Charles Bronson left a note at the lab on Sunday Nov. 24th identifying his 8mm and 35mm films as having possible value to the assassination investigation.¹ Walter Bent, Sales Service Manager, called and arranged for FBI Agent Newsom to view the processed films with Mr. Bronson at 3 p.m.. The viewing was in 8mm format. Could this be the incident Kenny Anderson is referring to in his recollection?

Our discussion developed the following sequence of events for the processing of the Zapruder films:

- Mr. Jack Cook, Laboratory Manager, had a day of vacation, placing Mr. Philip Chamberlain, Production Supervisor, in charge of the Laboratory.
- Friday afternoon, a little after one p.m., all processing activity had ceased following news of the assassination.
- When A. Zapruder arrived at the laboratory, he was alone, Phil met him and Dick Blair assisted by running-off the remaining unexposed portion of side two of the film in preparation for processing.
- The film was given to Ms. Kathryn Kirby (now deceased), whose role was to provide service for films requiring special handling. Perforation identification (N^o 0183) was most likely done at this time and then the film was given to the production foreman - J. Kenny Anderson for processing. (See Copy of Kenny's remarks Appended)
- Phil and Dick believe that there would have been no reason for the processing identification edge printer to have been off.

¹ Trask, Richard B., *Pictures of The Pain*, Yoeman Press 1994, p287

³ Processing and Handling of 8mm Movie Film at Dallas

- After processing, Phil reviewed the unslit film (one time) with Mr. A Zapruder on a Kodak processing inspection projector - 16mm width operating at twice normal speed.
- Mr. Zapruder requested copies be made by Kodak but was advised that The Dallas Laboratory did not have the printing equipment required and he was referred to the *JAMIESON film company*.
- Dick Blair provided Mr. Zapruder with three 25ft rolls of Kodachrome IIA (tungsten balance) for duplication by Jamieson. (Note: reproduction on lower contrast Kodachrome duplicating film 7269 would have been preferable if raw stock had been available with double 8mm perforations.) Per Tom Nulty's affidavit, the three rolls of KIIA film were returned to Kodak, provided perforated identification 0185, 0186 and 0187, and processed that same afternoon. In a subsequent conversation, Tom believes that the edge printer lights should have been on during the processing of the three duplicate rolls. (They most likely were - see comment below)
- After the dupes were found satisfactory, the original film was slit to 8mm. Mr. Zapruder, possibly his attorney, Phil and several laboratory personnel viewed the 8mm film on an 8mm projector at least twice. Mr. Zapruder left with his original and three dupes and to the best of anyone's recollection no one at the Dallas lab had contact with the Zapruder film again.

Perforated Identification Numbering

In our discussion we speculated about the skip in numbering from Zapruder's original film 0183 and the first dupe 0185. Was the number 0184 given to another roll? No one recalls any other 8 or 16mm film being processed in the intervening hour or so that Zapruder's original was being duplicated at Jamieson.

In the 1950's, processing velocity was about 20 ft/min.. At that velocity, customer's rolls could have the processing ID card and film perforated simultaneously at the head end of the machine. The individual customer rolls would then be "broken down" following the dry cabinet. When processing velocities increased to 40+ ft/min. in the 60's, this practice was no longer possible and pre-process bulk roll make-up and post-process breakdown areas became standard practice. New perforators were incorporated. The existing perforators remained at the head end of each machine and were used sometimes when special handling was required.

Phil Chamberlain speculated that the perforators at the head end could have been used for the Zapruder films, the perforator "tested" between the original and dupes and because of auto indexing to the next number, 0184 was lost. Sounds good - but its speculation! We still need an example of 1963 Dallas processed 8mm movie film in a standard 50 ft. return box.

Processing Edge Print

The processing edge print for the Dallas Laboratory should have been the same as Rochester's (as shown in the photograph accompanying the June 29 letter) except the letter "D" used in place of the letter "R". The processing edge printer could be turned-off by special request, but normal practice was to have it "ON".

NOTE: THE ZAPRUDER FILM CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY EXAMINATION CONDUCTED AT NARA (National Archives) ON AUGUST 2, 1996 indicated that viewing edge numbers of the original was difficult because of viewing conditions. However, edge print "Processed by Kodak NOV. 63" appears on all three duplicates. Further examination to ascertain if the letter "D" is also present is warranted in further studies.

Organization Chart

Dick Blair corrected the draft Organization Chart. Mr. Walter Bent, was the Sales Service Manager at that time and Dick's role was as a "Customer Correspondent". In addition Ms. Kathryn Kirby was responsible for films requiring "special handling", and Mr. Philip Russell was most likely Jack Cook's contact in Rochester.

Further Studies

We anticipate that future meetings with the ARRB should provide an opportunity to examine the Zapruder original and dupes. This should conform if our recollection of the processing identification methods used November 22 at Dallas are consistent with the physical evidence.

Respectfully Submitted,


Rollie Zavada

encl.: Organization Chart — See Text Study 1 p30

Chamberlain: "The Zapruder Film" Not Incl.

J. K. Anderson: Response to RJZ 29 June Letter — See A1-13



ROLAND J. ZAVADA
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21 Cottonwood Lane
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"E" Mail zavadar@netacc.net

August 10, 1997

Post Script to Dallas 7/28 Breakfast Meeting Minutes

Re: Whether or not a Secret Service Agent influenced edge printer lights - off - during processing of A. Zapruder film.

Dick, Kenny, Phil and Tom

After completing the Minutes of our breakfast meeting July 28th, I was again reviewing Richard Trask's book *Pictures Of The Pain*. (Note: This book is available at the Sixth Floor Museum.)

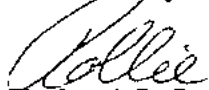
I noted that on p179 (enclosed with minutes), based on a letter - Willis to Trask 6/29/84 and an interview 11/26/85, Willis arrived at the lab before Zapruder, then Zapruder came in with Forrest D. Sorrels, Chief of Dallas Secret Service.

Also on p79 there is reference to Television Station WFAA calling Eastman Kodak regarding the processing of Zapruder's film and that Sorrels accompanied Zapruder to the lab in a police cruiser.

Further reading indicates that Sorrels had to leave while the film was being processed because of the capture of Oswald.

Hope that this may trigger some recollections.

Sincerely,


Roland J. Zavada
Consultant for Kodak