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COVER—JOHN DOMINIS insert ZINTGRAFF 3—MRS. JOHN T. DORMAN 30, 31—IL. JACK FLETCHER from NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 38—TED POLUMBAUM 38A—CORNELL CAPA from MAGNUM—JAMES FORSYTH for the MICHIGAN DAILY 38B—FRANCIS MILLER 41 through 50—DAVID LEES 53, 54, 56, 57—CHARLES BONNAY 61—ALFRED EISENSTAEDT 64—BERT BRANDT 72—ALFRED EISENSTAEDT 75—A.Y. OWEN 76—HENRY GROSINSKY—A.Y. OWEN 78 through 84—(c) 1967 JOHN D. GREEN AND ASSOCIATES LTD. 1967. Reprinted by permission of THE MACMILLAN CO. from THE BIRDS OF BRITAIN 87—(c) PHIL WILLIS drawing by ART ROSSER 88, 89—t. IL. JOE SVACINA (2)—MRS. JOHN T. DORMAN (3); rt. ROBERT J.E. HUGHES drawing by ART ROSSER 90, 91—t. JOE SVACINA (2)—JAMES M. TOWNER; t. rt. TINA TOWNER (3) drawing by ART ROSSER 92, 93—IL. HUGH W. BETZNER JR.; rt. JULIAN WASSER, JOE SVACINA—(c) PHIL WILLIS drawing by ART ROSSER 94, 95—t. IL. MRS. PATSY PASCHALL—F.M. BELL—JAMES M. TOWNER; cen. JOE SVACINA (2); rt. WILMA BOND (3) 104—ARTHUR RICKERBY 106, 107—TERENCE SPENCER 111—BOB WILLOUGHBY from LEE GROSS 112—BOB WILLOUGHBY from LEE GROSS—EMBASSY PICTURES 114—BOB GOMEL 116, 117, 118—NINA LEEN 121—NINA LEEN floor plan by ART ROSSER 124—JEANNE THWAITES

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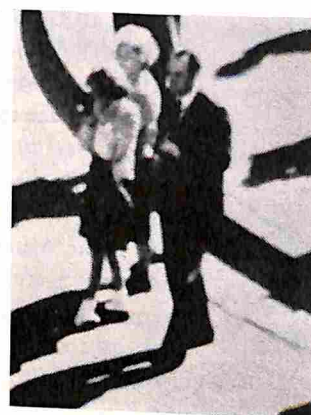
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Finding Pictures of a Moment in History

Whenever a major news event occurs in public we know we can count on amateur photographers who are on the spot—if only we can find them. This issue contains 23 unpublished photographs, taken by amateurs on Nov. 22, 1963, of the last few seconds of President Kennedy's life and of his body's sad return to Washington. We have known the whereabouts of some of them for a long time; others have only recently been found.

Picture collecting began the moment the news was flashed over the radio. In Dallas, Holland McCombs, a veteran correspondent, was called by a reporter friend and told that a local dressmaker named Abraham Zapruder had shot some astonishing movie film. Zapruder turned his film over to us. The definitive visual record of the tragedy, it was studied by the Warren Commission and the FBI and has appeared in LIFE.

The pictures in this issue were found in many ways. Patsy Swank, another Dallas correspondent, was contacted by a Mr. Jim Towner, who said that he and his daughter Tina had been taking pictures just moments before the President was shot. We did not publish them at the time. This summer we learned that a lady named Elsie Dorman, who worked in the Book Depository, had taken a movie from the fourth floor of the building—she had kept it in a closet and never showed it to anyone. When we were studying her pictures (p. 88) in New York, we noticed a man and a girl with cameras. We sent it to Patsy, and she identified the two as Jim and Tina (above).



JIM AND TINA

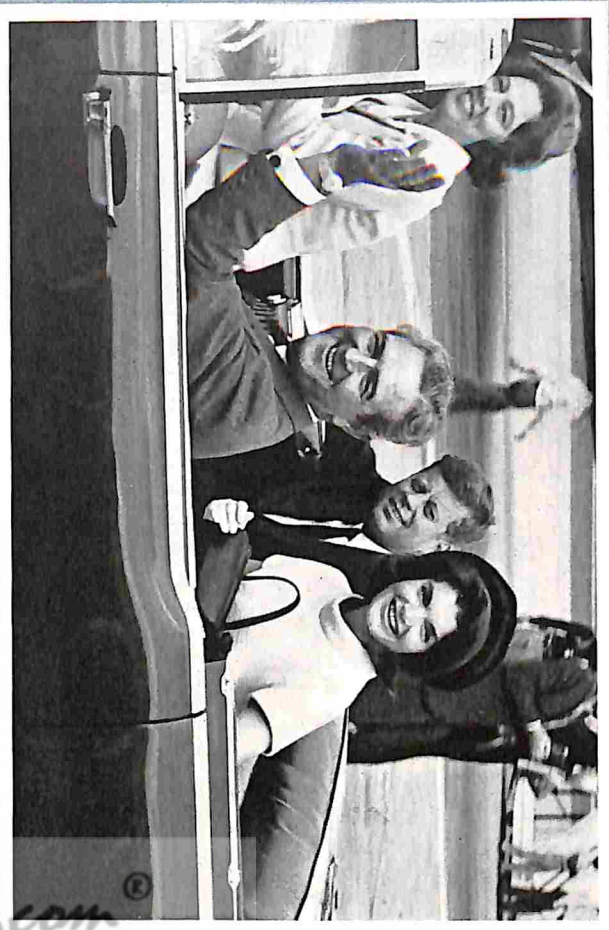
The Zapruder film showed a great many photographers at work, including two, Phil Willis and Hugh Betzner Jr., whose pictures appear in this story. Willis is a sometime Texas politician and was not hard to find in Dallas, but Betzner presented another problem. He had told the FBI about his pictures, and his name was on file in the National Archives in Washington. But his parents had moved from Dallas to Kansas City, and he himself had joined the Navy. We sent a reporter to Kansas City, and his mother showed her the pictures. She would not part with them without her son's consent. Gayle Rosenberg, of our Los Angeles bureau, finally located the young man's ship and he let her have the pictures to add to the record.

Two other photographers, Robert Hughes and Wilma Bond, were also tracked down through the FBI public records, and a third, Postman Mark Bell, who had been making movies just before the assassination, brought his pictures in to Patsy. The pictures of the casket came from Kennedy aides. When no other pictures seemed to be forthcoming, Patsy put an ad in the Dallas papers. It read: "Pictures. Interested in seeing unknown or unpublished photographs or motion picture film taken at or near Elm and Houston streets on November 22, 1963, in connection with research for a national publication." It brought her the movie film shot by Patsy Paschall (p. 94) and—who knows—to the end of the trail.

George P. Hunt
GEORGE P. HUNT,
Managing Editor

LIFE

A CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORY
Governor Connally sets the record
straight on the fateful visit
**WHY KENNEDY
WENT TO TEXAS**



The Kennedys and Connallys in San Antonio, Nov. 21

Together with unpublished pictures
by nine bystanders

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