

# **JFK's assassination: a big new book and a strange memoir**

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*LBJ: the mastermind of JFK's assassination*

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**T**his a 700 page, self-published synthesis of the recent Kennedy assassination literature, inside which is about 100 pages relevant to the book's title. It's a pity the author simply didn't publish those 100 pages, because they contain a good account of LBJ's corruption; the Bobby Baker and Billy Sol Estes cases; the inquiries into both; how they were blocked and derailed; and the extant evidence suggesting, as I currently believe, that those threats to LBJ's political career were the immediate cause of JFK's assassination. I didn't think the author would have any new evidence on the actual assassination (the JFK networks would be humming with it if he had) and he doesn't. But it is a good, detailed summary of what is out there. As a synthesis of where the wider JFK story is, this is not badly done (it may be self-published but the author has had other eyes on the text) but the book's problem is this: if you're not familiar with the literature, it will be all but unintelligible; and if you are familiar with the literature, much of the book will be.....familiar.<sup>1</sup> Still, worth getting for the LBJ material.

Also on the LBJ end of things is a very curious memoir, *The Men That Don't Fit In*, by Roderick A. MacKenzie III.<sup>2</sup> It is difficult to convey how odd this publication is. It purports to be a brief autobiography of a former circus showman, stunt man, carny operator, counterfeiter and thief. Now 77 years

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<sup>1</sup> A very good summary of the 'LBJ dunit' theory is at  
<<http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=565>>

<sup>2</sup> He's also done a long interview – basically a monologue – at  
<[www.radio4all.net/files/conspirazine@yahoo.com/3880-1-discussion\\_with\\_rod\\_mackenzie\\_final.mp3](http://www.radio4all.net/files/conspirazine@yahoo.com/3880-1-discussion_with_rod_mackenzie_final.mp3)>. I've listened to bits of this and if it's a fake, he tells the same story on air as he does in the manuscript.

old, he met some of the mob during his career, and ended up in Dallas in 1963, managing a safe house for them while also working as a nurse. (He had trained as a nurse while in the US Army.) In Dallas he met some of the characters involved in the assassination; and from one of them learned the inside story. Or so he says.

Is the author who he claims to be? He reproduces at the end of the text a couple of photographs from what appear to be some kind of showmen's directory, which purport to show him as Mackenzie and also as an alias, Ward Alexander, which he created for himself after the assassination when he decided to disappear. But he claims to have been an expert counterfeiter, so who knows?

The text is in upper case, apparently written on old bulletin typewriter; except it wasn't. Occasionally for emphasis the type gets a couple of points bigger; typewriters don't do this. A chunk lurches off into italics at one point. He's found a typeface which looks like a bulletin typewriter. No-one has proof-read it and it is littered with spelling errors. The author writes in his introduction that he doesn't care about his spelling and lack of grammatical knowledge.

Mackenzie's version of the events in Dallas can be summarised thus: everybody was involved – mob, military, anti-Castro Cubans, FBI, Oswald and Ruby, LBJ, 'Mac' Wallace....but not, apparently, the CIA. The CIA are almost entirely missing from this story. It's the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) Mackenzie writes about frequently.

For a JFK buff the oddity of Mackenzie's account is the way he brings together a collection of minor trails – many presumed previously to be disinformation – and offers them as true. Here's a quote from the interview cited in footnote 2 above which conveys this better than any single quote in the manuscript. The bits in parenthesis are mine.

'The bunch at the Holland Ave safe house were from Rubenstein [Jack Ruby]. The other Mob people and Jake Miranda, who was in contact daily with me, I got my orders from him. Tippit the cop was in the know and brought money and people to me. I don't think Tippit was a bad cop though. I never thought that Marcello was sending people to the safe house, but that phoney preacher/missionary Bowen [aka Osborne] sure sent a lot of "resters" there for very short times. It all came through Miranda, though Rubenstein tried to get directly involved a time or two, but when I called Miranda he backed off. He did get a couple of sign}s for the Carousel out of me though. The Mob, DISC, FBI-5 through Rev. Bowen, Percy [Chauncey] Holt were my contacts, plus

Tippit a few times. Otherwise I can't say who ran the safe house.'

In this paragraph he offers the Defence Industrial Security Command (DISC) and MI5 Division 5, who were in a version of the assassination story circulating in the 1970s called The Torbitt Memorandum (which originated in the cast of characters thrown up by the Garrison inquiry); plus the late Chauncey Holt who surfaced in the 1990s claiming to have been a part of the conspiracy.<sup>3</sup> In the text he also tells us that 'those Permindex bastards' ('bastards' unexplained) – were involved. Dramatically the most interesting of the cast he gives us is the phoney branch of the American Council of Christian Churches (ACCC) and its putative preacher, the 'Reverend' Osborne, also known as Bowen.<sup>4</sup> ACCC, we were told in Torbitt, was used as cover for an FBI Division 5 assassination gang, based in Mexico and run by a Brit, from Grimsby, Albert Osborne: the Kennedy assassination as envisaged by that great fictional chronicler of the borderlands, the late James Crumley, had he any politics.

Permindex did exist, though what it did isn't clear. If the DISC was a real organisation, no convincing evidence of its existence has yet surfaced. MI5 had a division 5 but nothing elsewhere has ever suggested it did the kinds of things attributed to it in the Torbitt document. The ACCC did and still does exist but there is no evidence of this group of assassins:<sup>5</sup> Mackenzie's is the first reference to it since Torbitt to my knowledge.

Most important to his story, while in Dallas, Mackeunzie claims he met and drank with Malcolm 'Mac' Wallace, a convicted murderer and allegedly LBJ's personal assassin; and it is Wallace who tells him a couple of days after the assassination what had gone down. From Wallace he learns all the details – names and locations of the shooter teams (most of these names are new to me; some of those I recognise are profoundly implausible) – and the personnel who were at a big meeting in Dallas just before the assassination. This account of the meeting is similar though not identical to the material in the memoir of LBJ's putative mistress, the late Madeleine Brown, *Texas in the Morning*<sup>6</sup> and the version attributed to the late 'Loy' Factor in *The Men on the Sixth Floor*, originally a book and now a website.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> There is a long and complicated Wiki entry on the late Holt, the veracity of whose tales I am entirely unable to ascertain.

<sup>4</sup> What little is known about the fascinating Osborne/Bowen is assembled at <<http://hobrad.angelfire.com/osborne.html>>.

<sup>5</sup> See <[www.amcouncilcc.org](http://www.amcouncilcc.org)>. There is also a Wiki entry on the organisation.

<sup>6</sup> Which seems to have been falsified; if there was such a meeting it wasn't that night

<sup>7</sup> <<http://home.earthlink.net/~sixthfloor/>>

So: very odd. Occam's notorious cutting instrument tells us it's all phooey, a piece of nonsense cobbled together from extant material. And, indeed, much of it can be explained that way. But if so, Mackenzie has been rooting about in some of the more obscure corners of the research and has assembled a very strange and ramshackle version.

If this is deliberate disinformation, on the other hand, it is rather subtle. For example, take his comment quoted above in the interview:

'It all came through Miranda, though Rubenstein tried to get directly involved a time or two, but when I called Miranda he backed off. He did get a couple of signs for the Carousel out of me though.'

He just throws away the line that he made some signs for Ruby's strip club. If this is invention, it is rather clever.

For example, one of the shooter teams he describes is that involving 'Loy' Factor and 'Mac' Wallace in the Texas Book Depository. In the version attributed to Factor, also on the 6th floor with them was a young Mexican American woman, named Ruth Anne – no surname. Mackenzie tells us that she was Ruth Anne Martinez, and he introduces her prior to the shooting as a young assassin. Later he tells us that the last time he heard of her she was supposedly the woman in the polka dot dress involved in the killing of Robert Kennedy....

My guess would be that the story up to and including the safe house in Dallas is true or true-ish. But he has added to it material he has got from other sources, notably Torbitt, Madeleine Brown's memoir for the story about the meeting before the shooting and the 'Loy' Factor story.

But even if it is fiction – or part fiction – some of it, the account of the frauds involved in working as a circus carny, and his account of the Dallas crime-politics-law enforcement nexus in 1963, is very interesting.

And there is even an outside chance that he is what he says he is: a living witness to some of these events.