

*The Lone Star Speaks*  
*Untold Texas Stories about the JFK Assassination*  
Sara Peterson and K. W. Zachry  
Baltimore: Bancroft Press, 2020, \$28.95  
www.bancroftpress.com

**Robin Ramsay**

This is a very interesting and big book (over 500 pages if you include the end notes).<sup>1</sup> The authors' choice of format has determined the book's shape. Each chapter focuses on a 'voice' – an individual experience of the assassination and its aftermath. The result is unavoidably fragmented. There is no central narrative here, no attempt to explain the assassination. However there is an *orientation*. Because almost all of the 'voices' are from Texas, or were in Texas at the time of the assassination, the idea that it was the work of Vice President Johnson and his people is frequently expressed. As is the fact that many people died in mysterious 'accidents' and many more were afraid that they might die if they talked. Threatening phone calls and sudden relocations seem to have been a feature of the lives of many people with even the slightest connection to the events in Dallas – particularly those who knew Jack Ruby. Using the PDF version, I skimmed through it looking for interesting snippets. And there are many.

Take 'The voice of Kyle Brown'. The name rang a faint bell: somewhere in the Billy Sol Estes story Estes recalls that he had conversations with Johnson's chief operator, Cliff Carter. He described Brown as a witness to those conversations. And here he is. I put Kyle Brown into the search box on the Mary Ferrell site, the biggest source of information on the assassination: no hits.<sup>2</sup> So Kyle Brown is *seriously* obscure within the JFK assassination research mainstream.

"I was invited to participate in this conversation at Estes' home in Abilene on September 20, 1971," Brown stated. "Cliff Carter and Billie Sol Estes thought that they did not have long to live." Brown was twenty-two at the time; he speculated later that he was included in the conversation because "I think Cliff Carter wanted to clear his conscience and wanted me to know these things. . . ."

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<sup>1</sup> Praise be, there is also a decent index.

<sup>2</sup> <[https://www.maryferrell.org/pages/Main\\_Page.html](https://www.maryferrell.org/pages/Main_Page.html)>

He [Brown] listened intently as Estes and Carter discussed various murders that had involved President Lyndon Johnson and his "chosen few" . . . "Well, I wasn't shocked," Brown admitted "because I had heard some of those stories from James Norvill already." (p. 104)

James Norvill? Back to the Mary Ferrell site: no hits. Norvill, the authors tell us, was a lawyer who had represented Estes at one time and wrote a novel about the assassination and LBJ's part in it. Amazon lists a 2014 novel, *Treason, Treachery and Deceit: The Murderers of JFK, MLK, & RFK* by Norvell, James D.<sup>3</sup> There are no hits on Mary Ferrell's site for Norvell, either. The authors of *Lone Star Speaks* have mistranscribed Norvell as Norvill.

Brown tells the authors that Estes and Carter believed Malcolm 'Mac' Wallace was a shooter in the JFK assassination and that his death, in a one-car crash, was no accident.

A week or so before this meeting Carter and Estes had visited Texas Ranger Clint Peoples who, 15 years or so later, would persuade Estes to talk about another of the murders committed by 'Mac' Wallace for LBJ. Peoples also subsequently died in a one-car crash and all his papers disappeared.

And so on. The book is a shower of fragments including: hanky-panky with JFK's corpse; Roscoe White and his son; 'abort teams' on Dealey Plaza; the two Oswalds (one of the interviewees says he knew and disliked both of them!); 'Mac' Wallace not really being dead; several sources on how Oswald and Ruby knew each other; the local mafia and its relationship to political power etc.

There's even this on p. 300, the story of a meeting a couple of weeks after the assassination, which involves the actor Audie Murphy.

"John" went on to explain that Oswald was convinced to just fire three shots into the air to draw attention to the Texas School Book Depository. He was then supposed to leave immediately and rendezvous with agents who would help him escape to Mexico while a retaliatory invasion of Cuba was complete. Oswald was also told by [CIA officer Howard] Hunt that President Kennedy did not know anything about the "fake assassination," but high-ranking members of his cabinet did.

Only a few members of Hunt's closest men knew all of the details of the plot. "John" could hardly believe that any one of these men would commit treason by killing the President. However, some group of individuals infiltrated the plot and turned a "fake assassination" into a real one.'

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<sup>3</sup> <<https://tinyurl.com/y5kwaufx>> or <<https://www.amazon.co.uk/TREASON-TREACHERY-DECEIT-Murderers-Paperback/dp/B00ZAT9GQ0>>

One of the comments beneath it has this: 'Then there are 290 endnotes which support the novel, giving its base of factual foundation.'

This is the piggy-back theory of the assassination described by participant Chauncey Holt.<sup>4</sup>

'John' was Republican Senator John Tower who died in a plane crash in 1991. Audie Murphy, who was at the meeting with 'John', died in a plane crash in 1971.

To the more serious 'buffs' this will all be ridiculous piffle. To me it's fascinating stuff.

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<sup>4</sup> Discussed in my 'View from the Bridge' in this issue, under the subheading **Dallas again**.