

THE CHASER

November 1998

Fort Worth Chapter / Society of Professional Journalists

*"If it happened in Fort Worth ...
it's news to us!"*

JFK

*Thirty-five years after
President Kennedy's death
in Dallas, three men with a
front-row seat to history
still have a lot to say —
and they will Nov. 19
to Fort Worth SPJ*

The aviation and science writer for The Dallas Morning News didn't have an assignment on the morning of Nov. 22, 1963, so he walked over to Elm and Houston for a glimpse of John Kennedy's motorcade. Within 48 hours, Hugh Aynesworth would be the only reporter to have been present at the assassination of the president, present at the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald in the Texas Theatre and present when Jack Ruby shot Oswald.

Aynesworth still has his notes. Boxes of notes. And priceless memories, which he will share in a JFK retrospective at the next Fort Worth SPJ meeting, Nov. 19.

Conspiracy theorist Jim Marrs counts his passion for the subject from essentially the same moment ("since 10 minutes after it happened"). Gary Mack, archivist at the Sixth Floor Museum in Dealey Plaza, was hooked one weekend in '75 when he saw the Abraham Zapruder home movie of the shooting. Both

In keeping with tradition, the new SPJ national president will make her first public appearance at Fort Worth SPJ since taking office. Join us at 6 as the Fort Worth and Dallas chapters give Wendy Myers a robust Texas welcome!

where: Coors Distributing Co., 2550 McMillan Parkway (on I35W just south of Meacham Boulevard)

**when: Thursday, Nov. 19
wine and cheese reception at 6,
dinner at 7, program at 7:45**

**cost: \$10 students, \$15 members,
\$20 non-members**

menu: pizza, spirits

RSVP 877-1171 by Nov. 17

***Special thanks,
Coors Distributing Co.***

men will join Aynesworth in a freewheeling session moderated by veteran AP writer and Fort Worth SPJ president Mike Cochran.

"If we're (SPJ) not the ones to do this, then who is?" Cochran said of the panel. "This will be one dynamite program."

Aynesworth, whom Cochran calls "the newsman's expert on the assassination," covered New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's failed prosecution of Clay Shaw for Newsweek. He has authored or coauthored half a dozen books, including a detailed look at serial killer Ted Bundy.

Marrs has taught a UTA course on the subject since 1976. He wrote "Crossfire: The Plot that Killed Kennedy," which formed a basis for Oliver Stone's movie,

JFK. Mack, a former announcer and producer for KXAS television in Dallas, coordinates a collection of more than 13,000 items, visited by more than 3 million people a year.

From the KXAS-TV archives ...

***Assassination footage compiled for the station's 25th, 40th and 50th anniversaries —
some material not seen in years — will be on view before the program.***

Thanks, Lee Elsesser!

JFK

35 Years
a
look back

***Nov. 22 marks the 35th anniversary of
President John F. Kennedy's death in Dallas.***

Three men with a front-row seat to history — a reporter who was there at Elm and Houston, one of the nation's foremost conspiracy theorists and the archivist of the Sixth Floor Museum in Dealey Plaza — headline the next Fort Worth SPJ meeting.

• **HUGH AYNESWORTH**, *Southwest bureau chief, The Washington Times*

Hugh was the aviation and science writer for The Dallas Morning News in November 1963. He would become the only reporter in the world to have been present at the assassination, present at the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald in the Texas Theatre and present when Jack Ruby shot Oswald. Does Aynesworth think Oswald did it? “Very definitely.” He still has all his notes. Boxes and boxes of notes.

• **JIM MARRS**, *author, “Crossfire: The Plot that Killed Kennedy”*

Jim has been a student of the assassination and its murky twists “since 10 minutes after it happened” and has taught a UTA course on the subject since 1976. “Who killed Kennedy?” he asks. “It was Lyndon Johnson and J. Edgar Hoover, not because we can prove that they ordered the assassination or in some way participated in it, but because we can prove beyond any reasonable shadow of a doubt that they took actions to subvert a truthful investigation.” He’ll tell you what he’s thinking.

• **GARY MACK**, *archivist, Sixth Floor Museum*

A 1969 journalism graduate of Arizona State University and longtime radio man, Gary’s serious interest dates to a weekend in ’75 when he saw the Abraham Zapruder film of the assassination. “Our role at the museum is not to tell people what to think, but to tell the story as it is recounted historically and some of the questions that remain.” Does he have an opinion? “Sure, but I’m supposed to leave it at home.”

That’s Thursday, Nov. 19. This is the meeting you cannot miss.