

Witness to JFK death remembers

Leander woman's JFK motorcade film restored

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LEANDER, Texas (KXAN) - Tina Pender will never forget Nov. 22, 1963.

"Mother and dad asked me if i wanted to go down there with them to see the president's motorcade," she recalled. "I was able to get out of school to do that."

On that day, 13-year-old Tina Towner filmed President John F. Kennedy's motorcade enter Dealey Plaza in Dallas.

"When I couldn't see anything but the back of the limo I stopped taking pictures," said Pender, who now lives in Leander. "About that time is when the first gunshot rang out."

"It sounded like firecrackers. That's what I thought was going on."

Pender's film is part of a new documentary by National Geographic, [JFK: The Lost Bullet](#) . The channel called on Austin-based Image Trends to restore several films from that day.

"We know that film captures a lot more than is normally show," said Image Trends CEO Dan Sullivan. The company normally uses a custom machine and software to restore Hollywood features.

The restoration revealed several new details of that day.

"We were able to gather information about images beneath the bridge, the railroad bridge," said Sullivan. "We found out we could capture the film at 10 times the normal exposure and look into the shadows and see there was no shooter on the grassy knoll."

The main coup was determining what happened to a missing third bullet. Witnesses like Pender recall hearing three shots.

"The first bullet was actually shot way before they thought, and it hit the traffic light," said Sullivan. "Consequently, we went back, looked at images of the traffic light, sure enough there was a hole."

Sullivan invited Pender to watch her restored film, as well as the final documentary. She said it brought back memories of that day more than anything before.

"I did what I was asked, Daddy wanted me to take the pictures and I was thrilled to do it. It was never something I didn't think I'd be capable of doing. It was just that we didn't know what we were about to witness," she said.