

TOWER SNIPER

THE TERROR
OF AMERICA'S
FIRST ACTIVE
SHOOTER
ON CAMPUS

Monte Akers,
Nathan Akers,
Dr. Roger Friedman, Ph.D.

History/Non-Fiction

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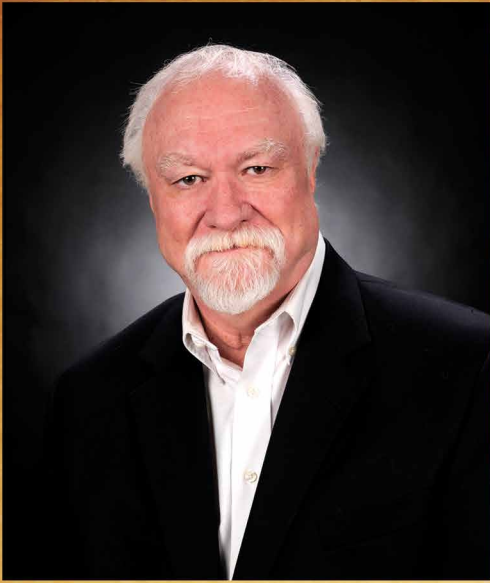
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The heartbreaking currents of August 1, 1966 still ripple through the history of the University of Texas and in the memory of the victims of Charles Whitman. That was the day the engineering student at the University in Austin rode the elevator to the top of the 30 story university tower armed with seven firearms and a foot locker filled with ammunition, food and supplies. His "reverse siege" of the campus and surrounding area lasted 96 minutes, during which he shot 46 persons, 14 fatally. When the murders of his wife and mother, plus the death of a victim in 2001 from wounds sustained that day are included, the total horror was 17 killed and 31 wounded. It was the first of what has become a sorry and sorrowful chain of similar events—campus mass shootings—in the United States.

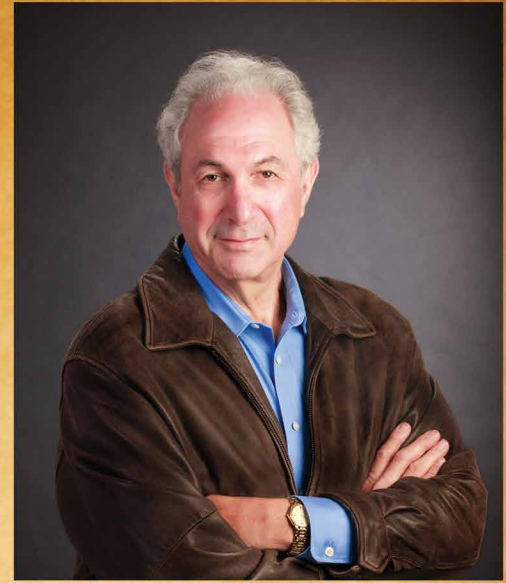
Author, attorney and historian, Monte Akers and his son, Nathan Akers, joined by Dr. Roger Friedman, Ph.D, capture not only the events leading up to and comprising the tragedy, but follow its effects over the next half century. In doing so they present facts never published, dispel myths and misinterpretations, explore the factual and psychological reasons that motivated the shootings, and offer valuable insight into the effect of trauma on people exposed to such events.



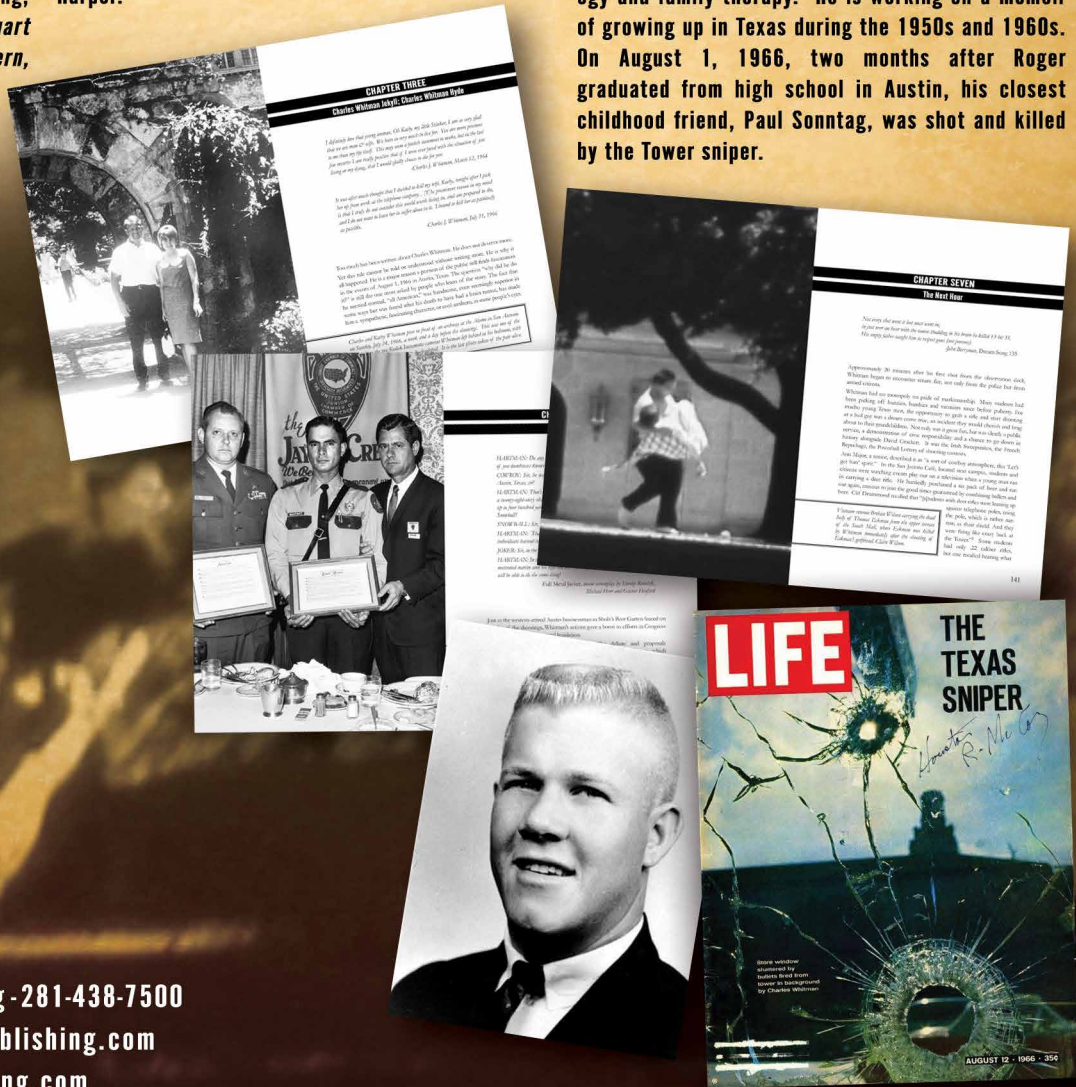
Monte Akers is an attorney practicing in Austin, Texas. He is the author of *Flames After Midnight: Murder, Vengeance, and the Desolation of a Texas Community* (University of Texas Press, 1999 & 2011); *Tales for the Telling: Six Short Stories of the Civil War on CD* (Cold Creek Productions: 2005); *The Accidental Historian: Tales of Trash and Treasure* (Texas Tech University Press, October, 2010), *Year of Glory: The Life and Campaigns of J.E.B. Stuart, June, 1862 to June 1863* (Casemate Publishing, 2012); and *Year of Desperate Struggle: Jeb Stuart and His Cavalry from Gettysburg to Yellow Tavern, 1863-1864* (Casemate Publishing, 2014).



Nathan Akers graduated from Texas State University with a degree in History in 2013. As a 20-year resident of Austin, Nathan developed a passion for state and local history. He has previously assisted in research for a number of historical books and articles but this is the first book in which he has co-authored. He currently works in the field of education and lives in Arlington, Texas with his wife Alexis and two beautiful daughters: Madison and Harper.



Roger Friedman, Ph.D. is a psychologist and social worker in clinical practice for 35 years in the Washington, D.C. area. He has published many professional articles about the lasting effects of trauma on victims and responders, and has served nationally as a clinical consultant to Mental Health and Social Service Programs. Dr. Friedman is on the Adjunct Faculty at the University Of Maryland School Of Social Work where he teaches about psychopathology and family therapy. He is working on a memoir of growing up in Texas during the 1950s and 1960s. On August 1, 1966, two months after Roger graduated from high school in Austin, his closest childhood friend, Paul Sonntag, was shot and killed by the Tower sniper.



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