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DisplayDate: 01/02/1997
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Subject: "Closed Circuit film"

I talked with one of my sources (a veteran TV news reporter) who said that video tape was in use in 1963. It was the large format 2-inch Ampex video tape. The recorders were large and extremely sensitive to vibration. Sometimes they were deployed in remote trucks, but mostly were kept in stations. Of course, video tape required no processing, unless a video tape was brought back to a studio and filmed (kinescoped). I have to have a 2-inch Ampex reel if you need an example. However, I suspect that my source's memory may have telescoped, since I worked with video tape technology in 1970, but never used it as a source of news video. Microwave distribution was not used by TV stations in 1963, because the equipment was too large. However, according to a publication found by Eric, signal distribution by telephone line was a cheap and efficient technology that was readily available in 1963. I suspect that the "closed circuit film" was a kinescope of a closed circuit feed from the Dallas jail. Since it is possible that KRLD used more than one camera to film Oswald's transfer, the station could have kinescoped the signal from each of the cameras or the signals could have been taped or kinescoped in the remote truck. In those days, directors assigned cameras to positions on the left, right and center of the object they wished to film. In cases where two cameras were used, one was centered and the other roamed as much as it could. Additionally, it was common then, as is today, for the cameraman to shoot crowd shots, that is photograph the crowd viewing an event, to serve as "B" roll later on. I hope this sheds some light on the film or tape you're looking for.

Body:
recstat: Record
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: