

Red Mag. Bk.

Nov. 16-77 MN

DANIEL, PAUL

## Two novels completed

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# Budding author - at 13

By PAT ZAMPERIN

Paul Daniel's writing career began when he was nine years old. He's 13 now and has already completed two novels.

The Mississauga boy remembers how innocently he conceived the idea of becoming an author.

He noticed a paperback in the local bookstore entitled "Kennedy" and as an avid reader of Mississauga folklore, thought "Kennedy" might possibly be related to T.L. Kennedy, after whom a high school in the city is named.

He bought the book, read about the life and death of John F. Kennedy, and the seeds of curiosity were sown.

What really happened the day of Kennedy's assassination, Daniel asked himself. How could such a good man be killed? Was the real killer caught? What did Kennedy's mother think of losing another son?

Daniel became intrigued with the Kennedy family and the mystery surrounding John Kennedy's death. He kept reading.

He read old newspapers and he read the Warren report and still he wasn't satisfied.

He obtained recordings of Dallas police tapes, ballistics reports, even the results of a lie detector test administered to Lee Harvey Oswald.

Daniel wrote to Edward Kennedy, brother of the slain president, offering him his support. He promptly received a letter in return, thanking him for his sentiments.

The boy wrote to witnesses who had been interviewed by the Dallas police. Some answered, some didn't. Those who did offered their versions of what happened that day.

Daniel collected the tapes, and letters and police reports; he studied all the theories advanced by various factions,

and compiled the information upon which he would conduct his own investigation.

Four years and four rewrites later, Daniel has completed his novel on the 'true story' of the Kennedy assassination.

The grade seven student at St. Martin's School in Mississauga insists his book proves a conspiracy theory involving government agencies of the highest level and Jack Ruby.

His research and writing have been massive efforts. The teenager often rose at 6 a.m. to begin his writing and hurriedly returned to his novel after school.

Weekends, he says were often spent in research at the library or in his room among the hundreds of documents amassed over four years.

But he says the effort has been worth it, because President Carter has now been informed by Daniel of the completed novel.

The Mississauga boy says he is confident if he can visit the president, his book will speak for itself.

Those who don't know Daniel are tempted to dismiss the boy's story as the foolish pipe dreams of an over-exuberant youngster.

But if Daniel's life thus far is any indication, he is headed for eventual triumph. The boy has conquered one adversity after another with amazing resilience.

As a newborn Daniel weighed two and a half pounds and was a victim of spinal bifida. The disease, caused by a lesion in the spine, meant Daniel had no muscles in his legs below the knee.

Daniel was also born with two club feet, and spent much of the first years of his life in a body cast as a result of numerous operations to correct his physical difficulties.

He had his eyes straightened, a pin

inserted through his hips, a rod put inside one of his legs and a pin put on his heel to keep it in place.

As a final blow, Daniel's mother was told when the boy was five years old that he was mentally retarded "and she'd better get used to the idea."

Daniel was consequently enrolled in the Red Oaks School for the mentally retarded in Mississauga.

During all this time his mother was convinced the boy was not retarded.

After Daniel had spent two years at Red Oaks, she persuaded Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board officials to come to the school and witness the boy's behavior.

After their visit, the officials agreed the youngster should be able to get along within the public school system.

Daniel entered grade one and hasn't looked back since. He has not failed a grade in six years of public school.

Once he mastered reading, a subject to which he had never been introduced at Red Oaks, Daniel read voraciously.

Within two years, at nine years of age, he was reading well enough to pick up the paperback "Kennedy" and thereby launch his writing career.

Between the ages of nine and 13 Daniel also wrote a hundred-odd page book entitled "The Beatles of the 60's," complete with index, illustrations, newspaper clippings and a trivia quiz.

But his Kennedy novel, Daniel says, will make him famous.

"I can see it all now," he says. "When President Carter has the time to study my letter, he'll fly me and mom down to Washington. We'll go secretly so I won't get bumped off before I get to see Carter . . . and I know I can convince him my theory is correct."

Somehow the idea doesn't sound absurd for a boy like Daniel.



Manuscripts abound in the Daniel household. Thirteen-year-old Paul Daniel of Mississauga has been writing since he was nine, and has completed two novels; one a study of the Beatles, the other an investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. (Staff photo by Mike Stuparyk)