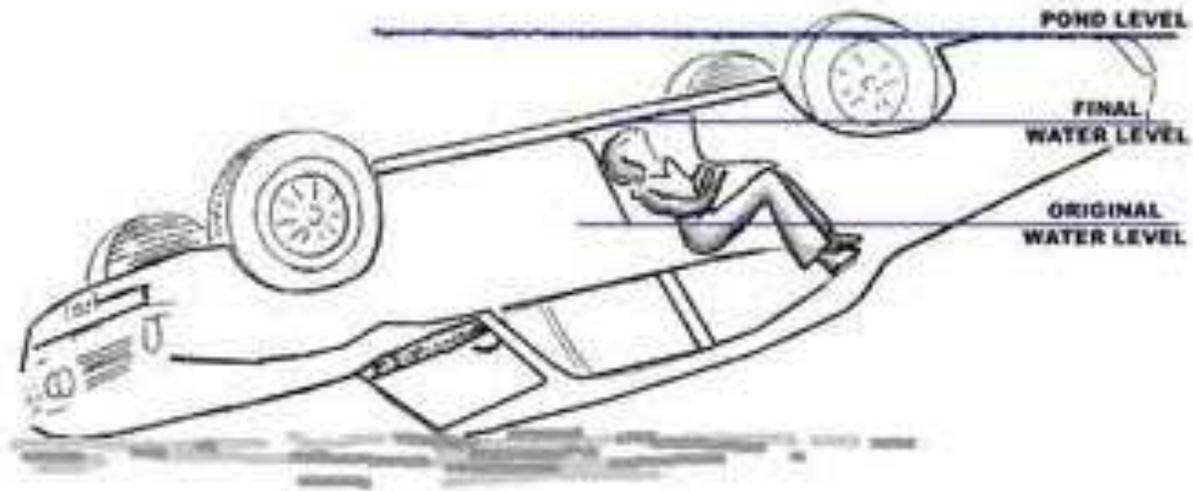


## Dean T. Hartwell's Non 9/11 Theories

### **CHAPPAQUIDDICK**

Local residents discover a car turned upside down in a lake. The residents summon the authorities, who get to the car and find the body of a woman in the back seat of the car, passenger side. Both passenger side windows are blown out. The authorities check the license plate of the car and determine the identity of the owner, a man who serves in the United States Senate, Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy.





These are the basic facts of an event known as Chappaquiddick which took place almost 50 years ago. A young woman, Mary Jo Kopechne, lost her life and a possible presidential campaign was derailed.

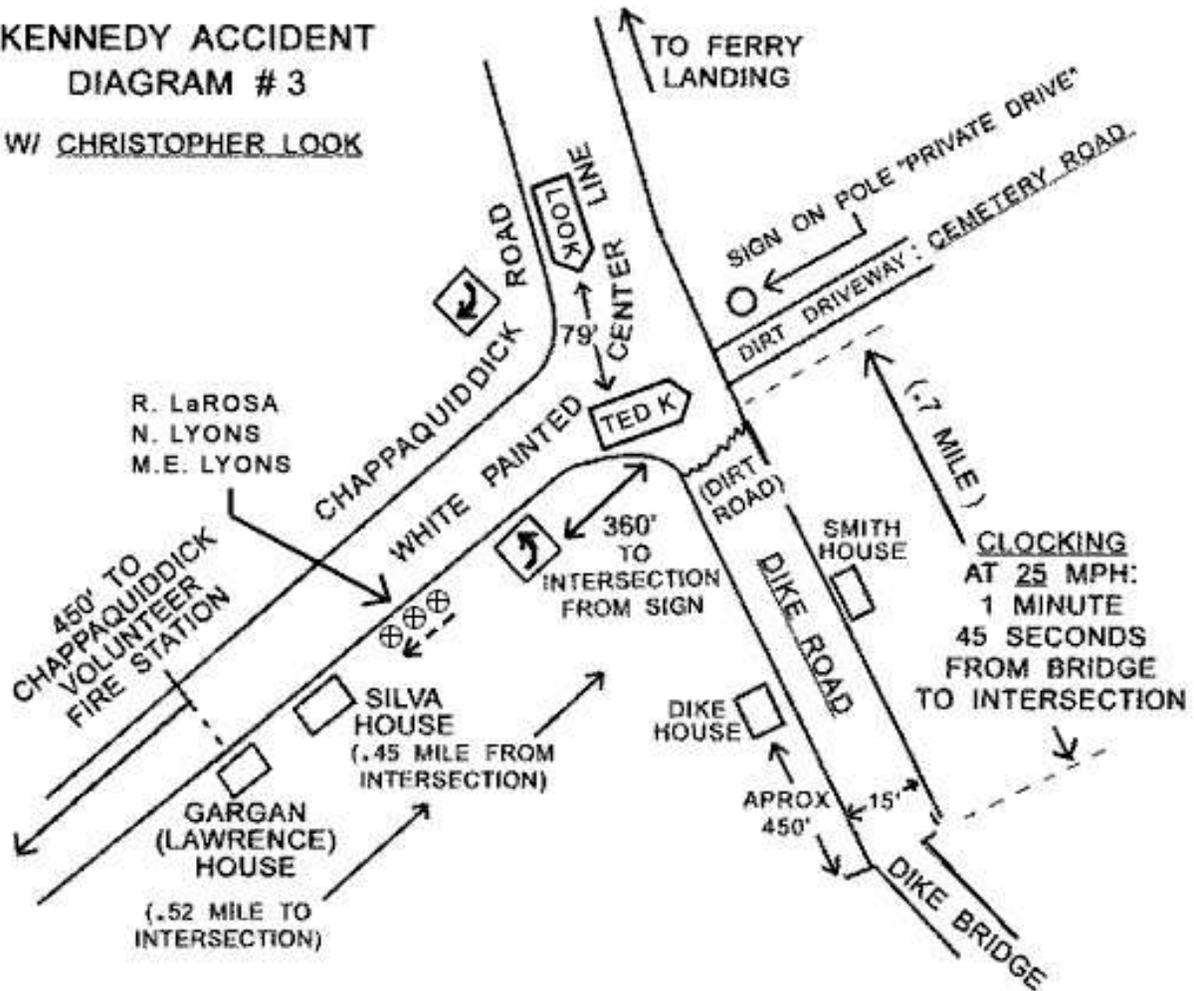
Historically, the event, full of inconsistent accounts and mysteries, provides us with a mirror to understand how we interpret facts and how we fill in the blanks of what we do not know.

For starters, we might reason that Kennedy drove the car, but that is not the only possibility. So, we move on in search of more facts.

The authorities talk amongst themselves and one of them, a police officer named Christopher Look, says he saw a car just like the car in the lake the previous night between 12:30 and 12:45 AM. He had written down the license plate, which matches the license plate of the car. He also provides a map (below):

**KENNEDY ACCIDENT  
DIAGRAM # 3**

W/ CHRISTOPHER LOOK



The officer relates that he saw a man and a woman in the front seat and possibly another person in the back seat. The driver had perhaps gotten lost, but when the officer approached the car, the man sped out of the area.

The authorities find Kennedy, who states that he drove the car and that no one besides he and Kopechne were in the car.

By this time, it is 10:00 AM, approximately nine hours after Kopechne's death. Serious questions emerge, among them:

Why had Kennedy not reported the accident to the authorities?

Why did he take the road to the bridge?

How did he alone escape the car?

Had he tried to rescue Mary Jo Kopechne?

Kennedy responds that he was not familiar with the road and had no recollection of how we managed to get out of the car to safety. He also says that he made repeated dives to attempt to rescue Kopechne and eventually got “someone” to take him back to the mainland, where he would eventually talk to the police.

Effectively, Kennedy confesses to leaving the scene of an accident, a misdemeanor.

But we may have trouble taking his account seriously. There were plenty of houses nearby and even a fire station where Kennedy could have gone to report the accident and call for help (see map).

Kennedy had also been to this road on a number of occasions previously and could hardly be said to be unfamiliar with the road.

He also has had back injuries and would have had a difficult time escaping the car and also diving to attempt a rescue. Also, the diver who found the car stated that the driver side door was closed and locked.

We may well conclude Kennedy’s account is false.

Of course, the false account acknowledges criminal conduct. If a person is going to lie, why not exculpate themselves?

Or, is he admitting to a lesser offense to cover up a greater one? Under the facts, it is possible he killed Kopechne with great recklessness or with intent, far greater crimes than leaving the scene of an accident.

What about his state of mind? Was he intoxicated, for example? What was his relationship with Kopechne? How did he get back from the island to the mainland?

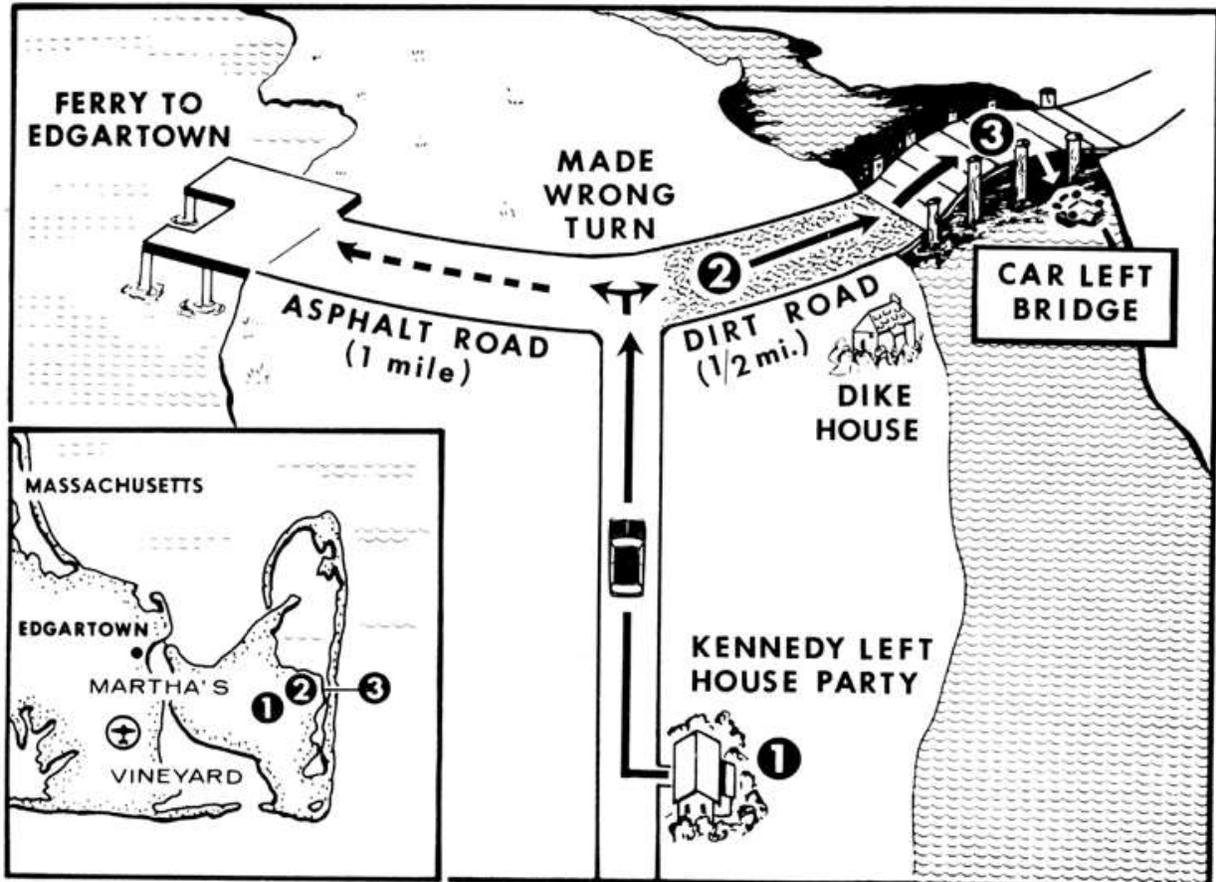
Kennedy makes a second statement: (Admittedly, with the first account full of flaws, is there much reason to believe the second one?)

He was not under the influence of alcohol.

He suffered a cerebral concussion and shock. This is why he could not alert the authorities.

He and Kopechne were not having an affair.

He also added two new assertions – two friends of his had helped him attempt to rescue Kopechne and that he had swum across the water to the mainland.



*Route taken by Sen. Kennedy and Mary Jo that July night.*

The new account appears to self-serve. Driving under the influence is, of course, a crime in itself. The concussion and shock mitigate his failure to tell the authorities. An affair would not only make him look bad, but also unsympathetic to a potential jury. And the help of friends, while not the same as the help of authorities, makes his attempt to rescue Kopechne appear to be more sincere.

But swimming across the water to the mainland? This statement makes little sense for the aforementioned reason of his bad back.

Kennedy is lying. We may assume the lies cover a greater crime, but we should first ask another question:

## **Why is he lying?**

We can run a hypothesis, or a number of hypotheses, and start to determine which one fits these facts the best:

Hypothesis #1 – Kennedy deliberately killed Kopechne.

It would be difficult for him to drive her off the bridge and somehow escape, for reasons already mentioned. But he could have knocked her out and shoved the car in the lake. But the fact that the car was found about forty feet from the bridge makes that seem highly unlikely. Also, why would he use his own car for this crime, knowing the authorities would come straight to him?

This hypothesis appears weak.

Hypothesis #2 – Kennedy unintentionally killed Kopechne.

Perhaps under the influence, he could have taken the wrong turn and driven both himself and Kopechne off the bridge. But he would have had to engineer his escape with water pouring into the car. He would have had to somehow, and without explanation, close and lock the driver side door after exiting. Unless he used the passenger side.

This escape scenario is hard to believe, especially if he was drunk.

Whatever our thoughts are of this man, and the fact that another person has died, we should not be content only with these possibilities. In cases where facts are few, we must think outside the box.

Hypothesis #3 – Kennedy was not present at the accident

Did Kopechne drive herself off the bridge?

It sounds far-fetched at first. But, she could have been inexperienced with the car and with the area. And, perhaps after the encounter with the police officer she might have taken the wrong turn and sped off the bridge.

Kennedy, perhaps leaving her to drive the car after seeing the officer, would have learned later about her death. He would not have borne the onus of reporting the accident if he learned of it from another person.

But what would be his reason to concoct a story?

To cover for another person? Why, if this were an accident? If another person killed Kopechne, Kennedy would be an accomplice for lying for the other person. This possibility appears unlikely.

Unless the other person forced him to make up a story.

This possibility involves at least one other party who knew of the whereabouts of Kennedy and Kopechne so as to carry out the crime (murder of Kopechne) and to prevent Kennedy from having an alibi.

A perpetrator. Or a group of perpetrators. Conspirators.

One may be tempted to ask where the evidence of conspiracy is. But the perpetrators have time to think ahead and make sure their tracks are covered.

Perhaps a conspirator was at the party attended by Kennedy and Kopechne. Or he was lying in wait when the two left the party. Perhaps he threatens Kennedy ahead of time and persuades him to leave the party at a designated time.

Kennedy and Kennedy leave the party at the set time, perhaps 11:15 PM. This apparently hasty exit may account for the lack of explanation from Kennedy as to why he was leaving his own party!

At least three conspirators ambush Kennedy and woman. Two of them grab Kennedy, take his car keys and knock him unconscious. They give the keys to another conspirator and take Kennedy away, eventually placing him at his hotel on the mainland.

The other conspirator, who resembles Kennedy physically, seizes Kopechne and gags her. He may have a female accomplice. He forces Kopechne into Kennedy's car on the passenger side and starts the car and drives toward the bridge. It is this man, the female accomplice and Kopechne whom the police officer sees.

Skilled in car stunts, the perpetrators drive the car off the bridge and extricate themselves from the car, leaving Kopechne to die.

Too far out? Too many ifs? Maybe. Let's run this scenario through the facts one by one. This method provides a "slow motion" with which we can detect a theory's flaws:

11:15 PM - Kennedy and Kopechne leave the party without telling anyone.

Explanation: Someone had threatened Kennedy and ordered him not to tell anyone.

11:15 – 12:30 – This time gap has no account.

Explanation: Conspirators carried out the plot.

12:30 – 12:45 – Officer Look sees Kennedy car and approaches it. Car speeds away.

Explanation: Kennedy/Kopechne impersonators (with Kopechne in rear seat of car) drive away to avoid being caught.

Circa 12:45 – Car goes over the bridge.

Explanation: Murder with Kennedy framed for it.

2:25 AM – Kennedy at his hotel, complains of noise.

Explanation: Kennedy still unaware of Kopechne death. He learns of her death several hours later and must make up a story so as not to implicate conspirators.

In that the theory answers to each of the facts in a reasonable manner, the theory has plausibility. I have gone over these facts and studied a wide range of theories on this subject. I doubt that I will ever come to a “final” answer.

But where I stand now has to do with my own experience.

As humans, we sometimes lie. We lie for different reasons. I found myself years ago in a situation where I felt the need to lie in order to preserve my life.

I volunteered to work at a local Congressman’s office shortly after I graduated from high school. The employees gave me a date to come in and I arrived that day on time.

I had hardly taken a step into the office when a woman there made eye contact with me and promptly fainted. Others there carried her away to revive her.

I was led over to a different room where I was asked to stuff flyers with information about the Congressman in envelopes. Several other people were around the table.

As I stuffed the envelopes, a man brought to my attention that the flyers described the Congressman’s connections to the late Robert Kennedy. The man also appeared to turn on a radio, although I never heard anything sounding like a radio

show, music or news. There was some conversation about truth telling and how someone hated the Los Angeles Dodgers.

My recollection of time fails me. I have other recollections of this incident of which I am not so sure, like being offered a Coke. Somehow, it was time to go and I left with the man and some other people to the parking garage. I remember thinking we were going to be “scattered” to the winds and that I should say something that I would recall later.

So, I said a catch phrase to the man. He smiled. I will never reveal this phrase in the hopes of catching this man and asking him what really happened.

After this incident, I went home to my parents’ house. Something in my mind told me not to discuss what had happened. I felt as though I had learned something I was not supposed to know.

The people at the Congressman’s office knew my name, where I had gone to high school, my phone number and very likely, my address. I did not feel safe and hardly slept that night.

For reasons unclear – my lack of sleep, something that happened at the office, another issue, or some combination of the above – I felt trapped.

I twice “escaped” my parents’ house and sought out people I thought I could speak to. Not directly about what happened. But I wanted to reach out and find someone to understand me.

Still feeling as though I knew something I should not know, I began to lie to people about my age, my marital status, my career and just about everything else. In lying, I felt safe that anyone threatened by my knowledge would know that no one believed me.

Far out? Yes, but it happened.

I cannot tell you what happened at Chappaquiddick. But I can tell you that people, perhaps like Kennedy, face situations where they feel unable to tell the truth. And, ultimately, that fact settles this case for me.

## JESUS IS NOT COMING BACK. HE WAS NEVER HERE TO BEGIN WITH.



Here comes Easter again. And here comes the Christian story of a savior, Jesus of Nazareth, or Jesus Christ, who was crucified and comes back to life.

The Apostle Paul stated, “But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.” (1 Corinthians 15)

I have news for you, Paul: Faith is in vain. A few simple questions make this fact easy to discern.

For instance, where was Nazareth? According to [Nazarethgate](#), scholars have been unable to find a place by this name in the part of the world that Jesus allegedly lived during that period of time. But scholars do agree that some people were then known as Nazarene.

And the editions of the Bible reflect this consensus on the issue of Nazareth. The King James edition of the Bible, published in 1611, mentions “Jesus of Nazareth,” whereas the New International Version of the Bible, published in 1978, speaks of “Jesus the Nazarene.”

All four [Gospels](#), Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, describe Jesus carrying or receiving help carrying his cross to its destination. But the Romans, who governed the area in question, did not have many trees from which to make crosses. According to [Crucifixion's a Doodle](#), “Trees were, clearly, a scarce and valuable commodity in Jerusalem at the time.”

As for the cross, the Christian religion did not widely use it as a symbol of the religion until the fourth century, according to [Creating Christ](#). Prior to then, the church used the anchor and the dolphin.

There are no eyewitnesses to the resurrection mentioned in the Bible. And according to the Gospel of Mark, of which the other three gospels are based, no one could have reported the empty tomb or the resurrection. Mark 16 states that

a young man dressed in a white robe who tells three women, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome, that Jesus had risen and that they should go to Galilee to see him.

But in the last verse in the original manuscript, verse 8, the women became scared and said nothing to anyone. One must wonder how this story was ever told.

Why should we believe that Jesus will return? Here are his words according the Gospel of Matthew: *“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are **some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**”* (Matthew 16: 27, 28)

Two thousand years have gone by since Jesus supposedly uttered these words. The people who lived during that time are long gone. I hope that faith will someday be buried as well.

## **THE IMMACULATE RECEPTION**

Pittsburgh Steelers 13 Oakland Raiders 7

December 23, 1972

Three Rivers Stadium Pittsburgh, PA

I would never actually see this game but would read about it not too long afterwards. At the age of four, I was wandering around the local shopping mall helping my older brother and my mom get last minute Christmas gifts while my dad, suffering a case of the flu, tuned into the game. He would relate to me years later that he couldn't figure out what happened, so I went to YouTube and reviewed the play myself hundreds of times to find the truth of who touched the ball. One of the most famous games in the history of professional football has given football fans its biggest mystery. Just say the words “Immaculate Reception” to anyone who has followed the game and listen to them try to explain it. The Pittsburgh Steelers hosted the Oakland Raiders in the first round of the playoffs at Three Rivers Stadium. The two teams had met in the first game of the season, with

the Steelers winning 34-28. The Steelers won the American Football Conference Central Division with an 11-3 record while the Raiders won 10, lost 3 and tied one.

As I would learn through reading NFL Prolog, an annual review of each year's football season, this game marked the first appearance in the playoffs for Pittsburgh in twenty-five years. A crowd of 50,327 showed up to see them play the Raiders in person, but the game was "blacked out" locally.

The teams played to a scoreless tie in the first half. Roy Gerela kicked two field goals in the second half to give the Steelers a 6-0 lead. But with 1:13 left in the game, Raider quarterback Ken Stabler avoided several Steeler defenders and ran with two bad knees down the left sideline for a very unlikely touchdown of thirty yards. George Blanda's extra point gave the Raiders the lead.

Quarterback Terry Bradshaw moved his team from their 20-yard line to their 40-yard line with passes to his running backs, Franco Harris and John "Frenchy" Fuqua. But Bradshaw misfired on his next three passes, two of which were knocked down by Raider safety Jack Tatum. Tatum reached over the shoulder of a Steeler receiver to bat one of the balls to the turf.

On fourth down and with 22 seconds left in the game, Bradshaw went back to pass and eluded a fierce Raider rush. Realizing that his initial pass target Barry Pearson was not open, he threw the ball in the direction of Fuqua near the Raider 35-yard line. The ball, Tatum and Fuqua all appeared to arrive at the same time. Tatum came running toward the ball, while Fuqua arrived from the side.

Because of the collision, the ball rebounded about seven yards to the other Steeler running back, Franco Harris, who caught it and ran all the way into the end zone. Some have disputed that he caught the ball before it hit the ground, but no camera angle answers this question conclusively.

Where is the controversy?

Back then, NFL rules (the Official Rules for Professional Football 1971), stated that once an offensive player touches a pass, he is the only offensive player eligible to catch the pass. There was an exception: if a defensive player touches the pass "first, or simultaneously with or subsequent to its having been touched by only one [offensive] player, then all [offensive] players become and remain eligible" to catch the pass.<sup>1</sup>



The legality of the play comes down to who touched the ball. If Tatum touched the ball, the play was legal, and the referees would have done the right thing by upholding the touchdown. If Tatum did not touch the ball and Fuqua did touch it, the play would not have been legal. The referees should have ruled the pass incomplete and returned the ball to the Raiders to run out the clock. The two angles on the play available on film do not conclusively show the answer to the question of who touched the ball.

So, I will try a different tack to get the answer: First, I will identify the facts not in dispute. 1. Tatum and Fuqua collided right when the ball arrived. The ball traveled backwards about seven yards to Harris, who caught it right at ground level. Then, I will make several guesses as to what happened and choose the hypothesis that fits the facts best.

Hypothesis #1: Tatum alone touched the ball. It makes sense for Tatum to knock the ball down for an incomplete pass as the game would effectively be over and the Raiders would win. The problem with this hypothesis is that Fuqua was

between Tatum and the ball. Fuqua has stated, "I knew he [Bradshaw] was going to throw to me. I could see Tatum was heading toward the middle of the field, and that the location of the pass would bring me on a collision course with him. I'm thinking that I just want to get my body between him and the ball."<sup>2</sup>

And how did Fuqua, who HAD to catch the ball for his team to have a chance to win, somehow miss it completely? How did Tatum hit the ball and not Fuqua if all three arrived at the same time?

Hypothesis #2: Tatum touched the ball first, and then Fuqua touched it. The same guess as above except that the ball also nicked Fuqua. The ball could have only made slight contact with Fuqua because had the ball bounced off Tatum and struck Fuqua with any kind of force, it would have slowed down and would not likely have flown seven yards back. While Tatum could have hit the ball right before hitting Fuqua, the other question from Hypothesis #1, how Fuqua could miss the ball completely, remains valid.

Hypothesis #3: Fuqua touched the ball first, and then Tatum touched it.

This hypothesis could explain the distance of the ball's flight to Harris. Fuqua could have touched the ball on the ball's path to Tatum. Tatum could then have knocked the ball to Harris. But how did Tatum contact Fuqua AND knock the ball seven yards AT THE SAME TIME?

Hypothesis #4: Fuqua alone touched the ball. Tatum was a hard-hitting safety who had a knack for hitting a player just as the ball arrived. He would have to hit Fuqua in such a manner that the hit would carry the ball hitting Fuqua back with enough force to propel it seven yards. But how did the hit Tatum applied to Fuqua cause the ball to project seven yards?

Selecting a Hypothesis

The hypothesis that appears to answer the facts best is number 4. Tatum's ability to hit Fuqua with enough force to cause the ball to go seven yards can be answered sufficiently. Tatum hit players with intensity, paralyzing New England Patriot wide receiver Darryl Stingley with a (legal) hit. He hit Minnesota Viking wide receiver Sammy White so hard in Super Bowl XI that White's helmet came off. (Interestingly, White held on to the ball!)

And he dislodged the football from Denver Bronco running back Rob Lytle in the 1977 AFC Championship game with a precise strike on the ball. If anyone could hit another player hard enough to make a football fly back seven yards, it would be Jack Tatum.



Another test to apply is to note the reactions of the players around him, some of whom likely had an idea as to who touched the ball. Three of the closest players to the action were Raider defense back Jimmy Warren, defensive tackle Art Thoms and linebacker Gerald Irons. Warren and Thoms, behind Tatum, can be seen starting to clap after Tatum made the hit. Irons ran in front of Tatum and slowed down after the hit. Tatum himself appears to come to almost a complete stop after the hit.

His reaction is not consistent with a player who could see the ball on its way to Harris UNLESS he was convinced that he (Tatum) had not touched the ball. All the Raiders gave chase to Harris. Some would say that this reaction is consistent with a belief that the play was legal. However, with no referees having given any

indication that the play was illegal (i.e. a flag or a whistle), the Raiders had no choice but to play on and contest the call later.

Fuqua's reaction is telling. After hitting the ground in response to the contact with Tatum, he appears to look into the ground. He only looks up after Harris has caught the ball and the crowd has responded. Tatum, who passed away in July 2010, said that he did not touch the ball. He told author John Lombardo, "I've watched films and still have never seen a film that showed I actually touched the ball."<sup>3</sup>

But Fuqua will not publicly say what happened. If he knew he did not touch the ball or if he knew that Tatum did, it would make sense for him to come out and say it to lift the cloud that hangs over the integrity of this game. I learned the power of proximity. It helps to hold the big game on your home turf where the fans' approval or disapproval of a call is certainly enough to make referees feel uncomfortable.

Though I did not see this game personally, I have seen replays of this play hundreds of times thanks to YouTube and replays sometimes shown on football games. I have also seen still pictures, read about this play and debated it with other football fans on the Internet. From all of this, I got a sense of what really happened.

After Harris ran in for the touchdown, fans started to pour onto the field. It took fifteen minutes for order to be restored so that Roy Gerela could kick the extra point. What would these fans have done had the call been made the other way?

A person's first instincts are for self-preservation. With the thought of angry fans on their hands, the referees, no more aware of who touched the ball than we are forty years later, took the safe option of calling a touchdown for the home team.

Look at the official story: The head official, Fred Swearingen, went to the baseball dugout and phoned the head of NFL referees, Art McNally. According to McNally, Swearingen "never asked me about the rule, and never asked what I saw. All he said was, 'Two of my men say that opposing players touched the ball.' And I said, 'everything's fine then, go ahead.'"<sup>4</sup>

At face value, McNally's recollection of Swearingen's comment makes little sense. If Swearingen knew the rule on players touching the ball and he knew opposing players touched the ball, then he already knew what call needed to be made. If he already had the result in mind, then why bother getting on the phone with the head

of referees? If he was not certain of the rule, there was no need for Swearingen to talk to McNally. Swearingen could simply have consulted the rule book to confirm he had the rule correctly. That would have taken away the appearance of impropriety that he made by contacting McNally.

If he was not certain of what happened on the play, then again Swearingen should have had no use for McNally. His fellow referees had already reported that “opposing players touched the ball.” The head of referees had no authority to rule as to the facts of the play. Reading about this game makes me read into statements that people make.

The facts are clear that Swearingen got on the phone with someone. Whether he talked to McNally or not, the conversation was not about the facts of the play or the applicable rule. Most likely, a serious question came over him as to what had really happened. He probably leaned toward the explanation that only Fuqua had touched the ball and did what many do when confronting an unpleasant truth: he looked for someone to talk him out of the truth or to at least give him a little encouragement.

The deepest truth of this game is that home field advantage covers a lot of ground.

This essay on the “Immaculate Reception” may be found in Dean T. Hartwell’s book, [\*A Fan’s Folklore: Six Seasons of Triumph, Tragedy and Tough Luck\*](#).

## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immaculate\\_Reception](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immaculate_Reception)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.profootballhof.com/history/release.aspx?release\\_id=436](http://www.profootballhof.com/history/release.aspx?release_id=436)

<sup>3</sup> Lombardo, John. Raiders Forever: Stars of the NFL’s Most Colorful Team Recall Their Glory Days; McGraw Hill, New York, 2001 (page 97)

<sup>4</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immaculate\\_Reception](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immaculate_Reception)