

# DEATH OF THE LUNCHROOM HOAX



*“For the great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie-  
deliberate, contrived, and dishonest- but the myth- persistent,  
persuasive, and unrealistic.”*

John F. Kennedy

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# DEATH OF THE LUNCHROOM HOAX

This essay establishes beyond any rational doubt that the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom encounter between Lee Harvey Oswald, Marrion Baker and Roy Truly actually happened. The timing of this incident, roughly 60 seconds after the assassination, strongly suggests that Oswald was in the lunchroom during the shooting of President Kennedy.

## INTRODUCTION

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. the Sophists rose to prominence in the fledgling democracy of Classical Greece. Itinerant intellectuals skilled in rhetoric, oration and debate, they were masters of persuasion in a culture that placed a premium on speaking well. Continuous rhetorical training gave aspiring citizens the ability to create opportunities by means of persuasive speech. And excellence in the spoken word determined one's economic status and the outcomes of political and legal disputes. The Sophists were notorious, until the time of Socrates, for commanding high fees for the teaching of their verbal artistry.

His apprentice Plato condemned these merchants of knowledge as mere wordsmiths, who specialized in opinions but not truth. Theirs was only a shadow play of words. They manipulated commonly-held beliefs ("doxa") and did not aim to discover true knowledge and understanding ("episteme"). Rather, they used the ambiguities of language in order to support a deceptive argument. And this has led to the modern connotation of sophistry as clever but fallacious reasoning.

In our contemporary JFK research community a similar mindset has risen to prominence, namely the Murphyites. These are the followers of the ideas of Sean Murphy, specifically his hypotheses that the lunchroom incident was hoaxed, and that Oswald was in the Depository entranceway when the presidential motorcade passed. These views have become so prevalent that upwards of 90% of today's forum posters favor them. And they are demonstrable falsehoods.

They attained popularity through a Bolshevik politicization of the truth- censoring the opposition, ostracizing dissent, and relentlessly propagandizing a sophomoric analysis that confabulates the evidentiary record to fit it to a predetermined conclusion. While they claim to be pushing the envelope and postulating progressively, they ignore basic precepts of geometry and Aristotelean logic. And their zealotry has engendered a mob mentality that gangthinks Murphy's fantasies into a pretended reality, by sheer force of collective wishful thinking. They have successfully challenged the orthodox views about Oswald's whereabouts, but failed to deliver the requisite epistemology- to find answers that will sustain.

The Murphyites' widespread and pernicious beliefs have metastasized into the highest echelons of so-called assassination experts, many of whom are so entrenched from so many years in their misbegotten position, that they have grown constitutionally incapable of admitting their error, of even processing the information that shows their mistake. This stems from their emotional and intellectual immaturity, common character defects in a community that is rife with epic stupidity.

This is my third essay on the reality of the lunchroom encounter. The first, written in 2014, is titled ***The Lunchroom Incident: A Short Proof and Long Explanation***. The second, written in 2015 and included in pp. 26-36 of my mega-essay ***Inside Job***, is titled ***Eternal Return: The Lunchroom Encounter Re-examined***. From time to time I may refer to these and for brevity's sake will call them Essay #1 and Essay #2.

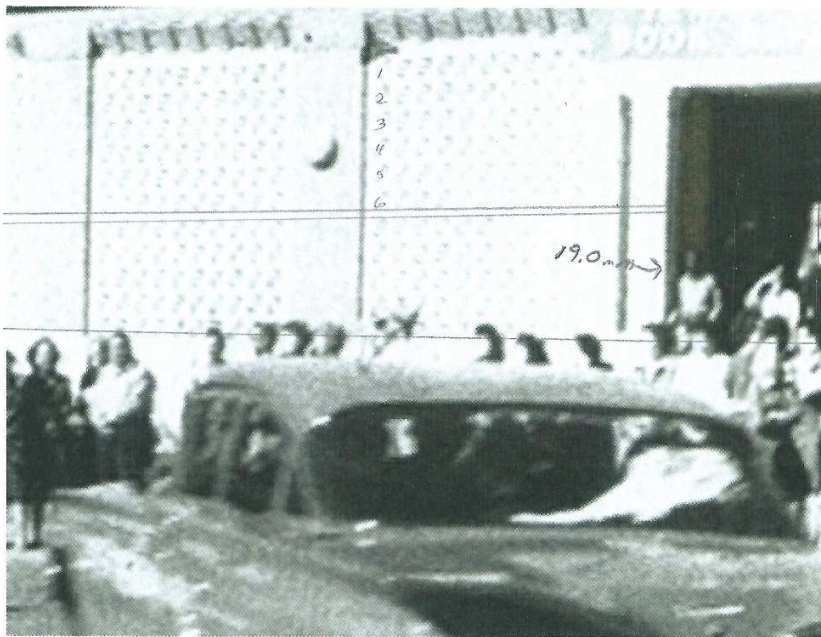
This third essay is essentially divided into two parts. It starts off with a long list of proofs that the lunchroom incident really did happen. This material should be familiar to readers of my posts in the JFK forums, and the goal is not to be always fresh or never repetitive but to get the point across, to elaborate as much as needed but not overmuch. That is the writer's art. The second part is a definitive critique of Bart Kamp's 2016 mega-essay ***Anatomy of the Second Floor Lunchroom Encounter***. This is the only viable position paper produced by the hoaxers.

## PART I- PROOF AND REASONING

### PRAYERMAN

When Sean Murphy proposed that PrayerMan was Oswald, he neglected to make a height analysis. And when eliminating other building employees as possible candidates, he failed to consider that the witnesses could have been mistaken, or forgotten- about where they stood, about whether any strangers were there. Or that nobody ever mentioned seeing Oswald on the Depository landing. This contingency didn't stop Murphy- in a textbook example of self-will run riot- from using employees' recollections of their whereabouts to conclude that PrayerMan couldn't have been anyone but Oswald.

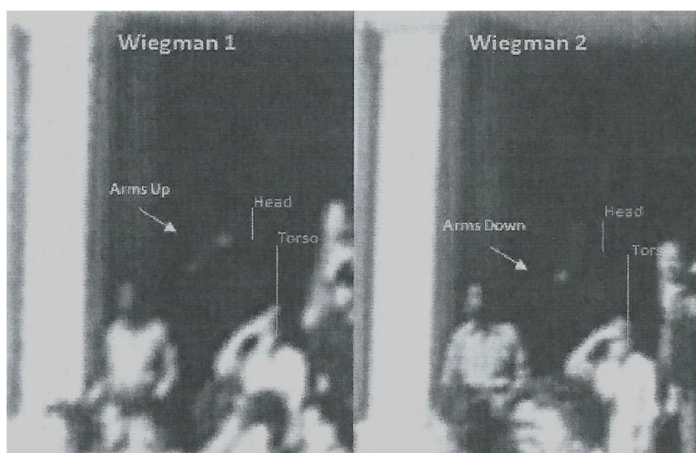
There is a simple method for ascertaining the height of the PrayerMan figure, but this has been distorted or ignored by the Murphyites. We need to dovetail three film forensics from the Wiegman and Darnell images of the Texas School Book Depository entranceway.





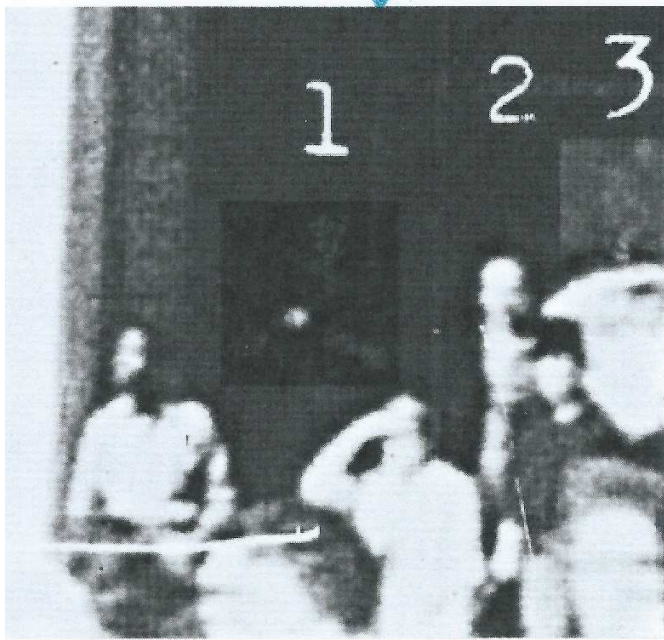
The first is that PrayerMan stood in the same spot in Wiegman as he did in Darnell, taken about 20 seconds later. In Wiegman we notice that he seems almost as tall as the 5'8" Billy Lovelady, who was standing just behind the center rail. In the enlargement above they measured 19.0 and 20.2 mm above the Depository landing. But those numbers cannot be used to determine PrayerMan's height, because Lovelady was leaning, craning his neck to get a better view of the motorcade. He lost a few inches off of his standardized height. And later in the Wiegman sequence Lovelady goes down a step to follow the limousine as it heads for the Triple Underpass. So from the Wiegman frame above we can conclude nothing better than that PrayerMan is within a couple of inches of Lovelady's height-when-leaning.

The second empirical fact is that PrayerMan's west arm moves downward, resembling a drinking motion, as Lovelady goes down a step. This is nicely illustrated below in the photo-enhancement from Kamp's essay. Importantly, we can see that the distance from his elbow to the west wall is roughly the same in both Wiegman and Darnell. So he didn't retreat into the corner during the intervening 20 seconds between the two films.

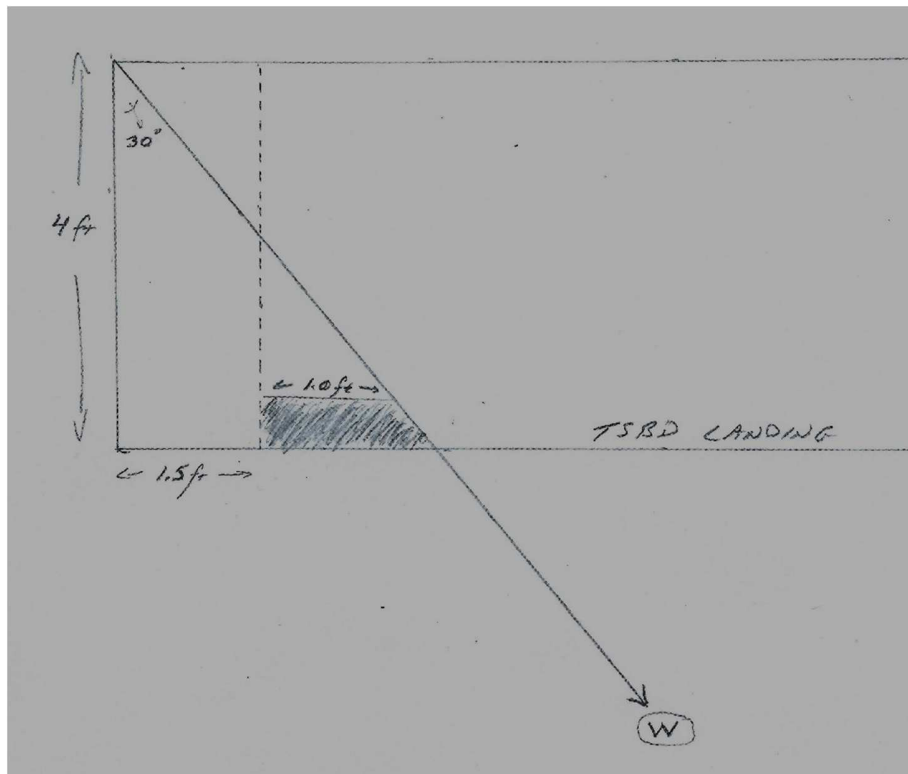


*Arm movement*

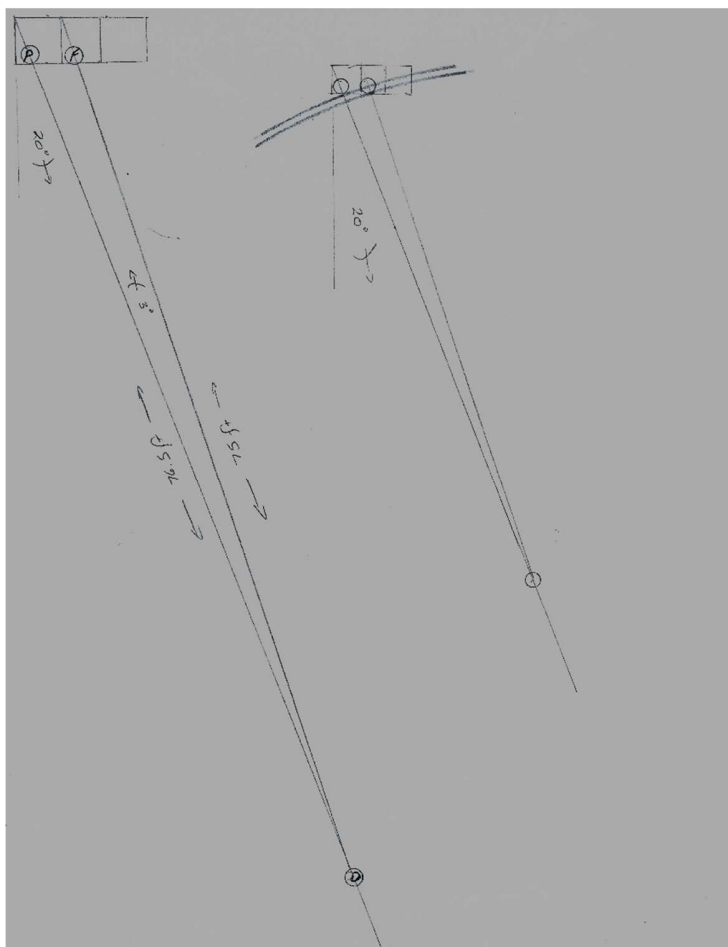
The third- and most critical- evidentiary fact is that the vertical border-strip of the entranceway's glass partition is seen just behind PrayerMan's east shoulder (the viewer's right). This is obvious in another Kamp photo-enhancement below, and is plainly-seen in most computer images that deal with the PrayerMan topic. Any person's shoulders are a minimum of one foot in width. So the natural body proportion sets a constraint as to where PrayerMan can possibly be standing- he absolutely has to be situated well forward on the Depository landing.



*Border-strip at right-side of PrayerMan*



*Location in Wiegman*



*Darnell camera position*

During the 20 seconds after Wiegman's footage, Lovelady began walking down the Elm St. Extension and Wesley Frazier took up Lovelady's spot behind the center railing. With PrayerMan situated at the front- and not in the corner- we get a near one-to-one correspondence between his and Frazier's heights in the Darnell footage. They are nearly equidistant from the camera, and only a 1% correction needs to be made for perspective. Notably, we cannot place PrayerMan down on the 1<sup>st</sup> step, as that would require preposterously-long legs.

Darnell filmed at almost exactly 20 degrees to the TSBD landing (Wiegman filmed at approximately 30 degrees). Darnell's Camera Car 3 was about "70 feet from the closest point of the building",<sup>1</sup> and so about 75 feet from Frazier, and about 76.5 feet from PrayerMan. Their respective heights, above the Depository landing, were measured on my Darnell blowup as 5.2 and 4.4 cm. Since Frazier was 72.25 inches tall,

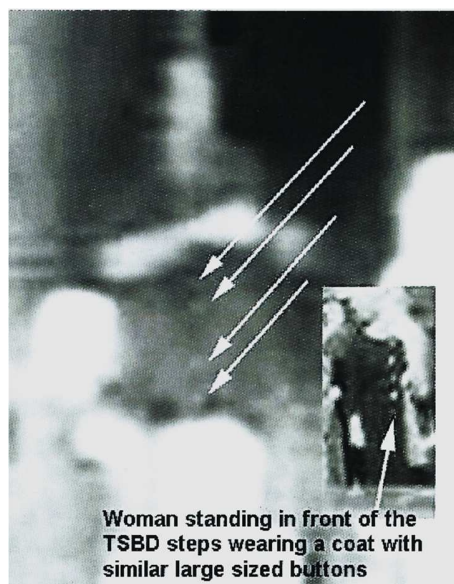
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<sup>1</sup> Pictures of the Pain by Richard Trask, p. 424



PrayerMan calculates to  $(4.4/5.2)(76.5/75)(72.25) = 5' 2 \frac{1}{2}"$ , to a reasonable approximation. This is a good 6 inches shorter than Oswald, and typical of the height of a woman.

Based on the height analysis alone, it can be stated unequivocally that PrayerMan is not Lee Harvey Oswald.



*Button Lady*

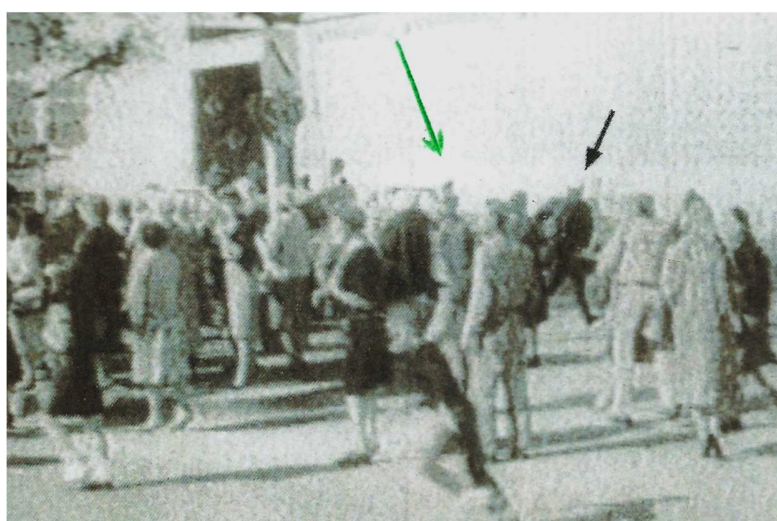


*Davidson enhancement*

And there is further evidence supporting the contention that PrayerMan is actually a woman, and might be more appropriately referred to as Button Lady. When the contrast is boosted in the Darnell image, a vertical alignment of large buttons appears, as if the figure was wearing a coat of 1960s vintage. And a strong suggestion of a woman's face is elicited in an enhancement of the Wiegman image made by photo-researcher Chris Davidson. She seems to be

looking downward, as if into a purse. But these images are dismissed as artificial computer contrivances by the Murphyites, who would be praising this photo-work if it even remotely supported their hypothesis.

There is an indication this woman possibly was Sarah Stanton, a clerk for the TSBD Company who, in the FBI canvassing of employees, had placed herself “on the front steps” during the shooting, standing with Shelley, Lovelady, Otis Williams and Pauline Sanders. Sanders, a fellow clerk, had specifically placed herself on the east side of the landing, and recalled Sarah Stanton stood next to her.<sup>2</sup> But the PrayerMan figure was on the west side.



*Running Woman and Officer Baker*

In a GIF made of the Darnell footage, a “Running Woman” has been extracted who arrives at the entranceway steps a moment after Officer Marrion Baker. Her arrival is within a few seconds of when Darnell’s PrayerMan footage was filmed. And according to Frazier, who was facing in the general direction of both PrayerMan and the Running Woman:

*“The lady I was standing next to- now, some of the people- Bill Shelley and Mr. Billy Lovelady- they went down toward the Triple Underpass. Because- before they went down there, a lady came by- a woman came by- and she was crying and she said, ‘Somebody had shot the President’.*

*And so, we looked bewildered. And I turned to Sarah, she said- she said, ‘Somebody shot the President’. I said, ‘I thought that’s what she said’. She said, ‘That’s what- she did say that’.”<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>2</sup> WCH XXII pp. 672, 675

<sup>3</sup> Sixth Floor Museum interview of Buell Wesley Frazier, 7/13/13 @ 34:51

Thus, when Frazier's "*turned to Sarah*" is interpreted colloquially- as "looked at Sarah and commenced speaking with her"- we find support for the idea that PrayerMan is actually Sarah Stanton. In which case Pauline Sanders' FBI recollection, given 4 months after the assassination, is mistaken- as regards Stanton being next to her during the shooting.

A digital scan of an early copy of either Wiegman or Darnell will help clarify this question. Concerted efforts are being made to achieve that as of this writing. Based upon the height determination and photo-enhancements, it is almost a certainty that PrayerMan is a woman. What is a certainty is that the figure is not Lee Harvey Oswald.

This PrayerMan issue has been covered because Kamp uses it in his essay to bolster the claim that Oswald was on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor immediately after the assassination- hence the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lunchroom incident never happened. Relying upon a falsehood to establish the legitimacy of a tangent proposition does not verify the proposed theorem. But reasoned arguments will not dissuade the Murphyites from their tenacious belief that PrayerMan is Oswald. Theirs is a fashionable cult that targets naysayers with scorn and ridicule.

Welcome to the 2018 JFK research community. Where to assert that the emperor has no clothes invites more disdain than what's given the grassy knoll gunman. Contempt prior to investigation- this is a hallmark trait of substance-abuse, which is rampant among the Murphy dogmatists. And they need a digital scan to show them what their critical thinking skills cannot.

## **HOLMES' TESTIMONY**

Postal Inspector Harry Holmes attended the last of Oswald's interrogations on Sunday morning November 24<sup>th</sup>. He took notes and arranged these into a 4-page memorandum on December 17<sup>th</sup>.<sup>4</sup> Holmes often referred to this memorandum to help refresh his memory when he testified before the Warren Commission that April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Holmes' memorandum and his testimony established, in Oswald's own words, that Oswald was upstairs in the building when the shooting took place. And shortly thereafter, as he went downstairs, he gave directions to a newsman looking for a telephone. That newsman's independent corroboration eliminates any possibility that Oswald was lying about his whereabouts.

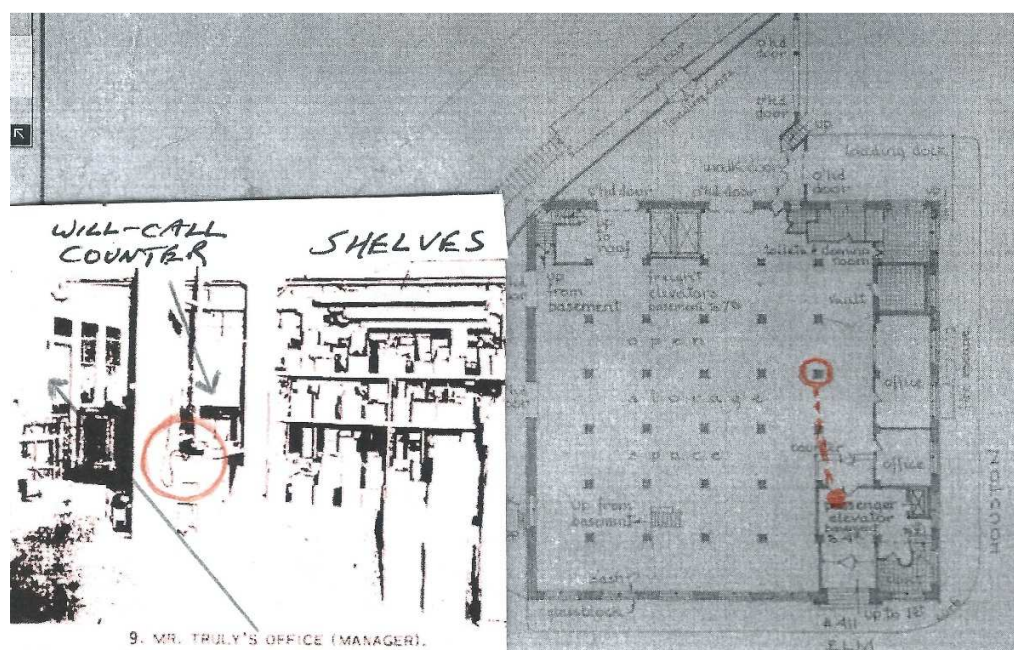
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<sup>4</sup> Warren Report pp. 633-636

As the memorandum notes:

When asked as to his whereabouts at the time of the shooting, he stated that when lunchtime came, and he didn't say which floor he was on, he said one of the Negro employees invited him to eat lunch with him and he stated, "You go on down and send the elevator back up and I will join you in a few minutes." Before he could finish whatever he was doing, he stated, **the commotion surrounding the assassination took place and when he went downstairs**, a policeman questioned him as to his identification and his boss stated that "he is one of our employees" whereupon the policeman told him to step aside momentarily. Following this, he simply walked out the front door of the building.

Inspector Thomas Kelley of the Secret Service also attended the Sunday morning interrogation and noted an additional incident in his report: [Oswald] said when he was standing in front of the Textbook Building and about to leave it, a young crew-cut man rushed up to him and said he was from the Secret Service, showed a book of identification, and asked him where the phone was. Oswald said he pointed toward the pay phone in the building and that he saw the man actually go to the phone before he left.<sup>5</sup>



Phone visible from front lobby

<sup>5</sup> Warren Report p. 629

The phone inside was on a pillar beside Roy Truly's office; Oswald had to have stood inside the front lobby at the plate glass partition leading into the warehouse to watch this young crew-cut man go to this phone. The Secret Service investigated this incident and determined that Oswald was mistaken- the crew-cut man was actually WFAA news director Pierce Allman. Agent Roger Warner interviewed him on January 29<sup>th</sup>:

*After the shots Allman had run from the corner of Houston & Elm down to the Newman family, who had thrown themselves to the ground near the grassy knoll. He soon "ran full speed into the Texas School Book Depository Building with the intention of locating a phone and calling his television station WFAA. Mr. Allman stated that after he had entered the front door of the building, he had emerged into a hallway and there he met a white male he could not further identify. He asked the white male for the location of a telephone... the person pointed out a phone to him which was located in an open area on the first floor...*

*During the above interview it was noted that Mr. Allman carries his press pass in a leather case similar to cases carried by Federal agents and police officers."*<sup>6</sup> And at 12:34 Allman gave the world the first news broadcast from Dealey Plaza.

Holmes' testimony expanded on his memorandum and corroborated the encounter with Allman:

HOLMES: *Then he said **when all this commotion started, "I just went on downstairs."** And he didn't say whether he took the elevator or not. He said, **"I went down,** and as I started to go out and see what it was all about, a police officer stopped me just before I got to the front door and started to ask me some questions, and my superintendent of the place stepped up and told the officers that I am one of the employees of the building, so he told me to step aside for a little bit and we will get to you later. Then I just went on out in the crowd to see what it was all about."* And he wouldn't say what happened then.

BELIN: *Did he say where he was at the time of the shooting?*

HOLMES: *He just said he was still up in the building when the commotion- he kind of-*

...BELIN: *Did Oswald say anything about seeing a man with a crewcut in front of the building as he was about to leave it? Do you remember anything about that?*

HOLMES: No.

BELIN: *You don't remember anything about that. Did he say anything about telling a man about going to a pay phone in the building?*

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<sup>6</sup> WCD 354 pp. 5-6



HOLMES: Policeman rushed- I take it back- I don't know whether he said a policeman or not- a man came rushing by and said, "Where's your telephone?"

And the man showed him some kind of credential and I don't know that he identified the credential, so he might not have been a police officer, and said I am so and so, and shoved something at me which I didn't look at and said, "Where is the telephone?"

And I said, "Right there" and just pointed in to the phone, and I went on out.

...And he didn't say what he was doing. **There was a commotion outside, which he later rushed downstairs to go out and see what was going on.** He didn't say whether he took the stairs down. He didn't say whether he took the elevator down. But he went downstairs, and as he went out the front, **it seems as though he did have a coke with him,** or stopped at the coke machine, or somebody else was trying to get a coke, but there was a coke involved.

He mentioned something about a coke. But a police officer asked him who he was, and just as he started to identify himself, his superintendent came up and said, "He is one of our men." And the policeman said, "Well, you step aside for a little bit."

Then another man rushed in past him as he started out the door, in this vestibule part of it, and flashed some kind of credential and he said, "Where is your telephone, where is your telephone, and said I am so and so, where is your telephone."

And he said, "I didn't look at the credential. I don't know who he said he was, and I just pointed to the phone and said, 'there it is,' and went on out the door."

If Holmes' testimony in any way supported the PrayerMan theory it would be shouted from the rooftops. But it directly contradicts that idea, and flatly suggests that Oswald had just been at the Coke machine in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom, sullyng Murphy's theory that the lunchroom encounter was a hoax.

And so Holmes gets ignored by the Murphyites, because they have no legitimate answer for him. The best they can construe is that he was a government disinformation agent who lied about any detail pertinent to Murphy's theories. And even more convenient is that Allman was given a cover story to support Holmes' confabulations.

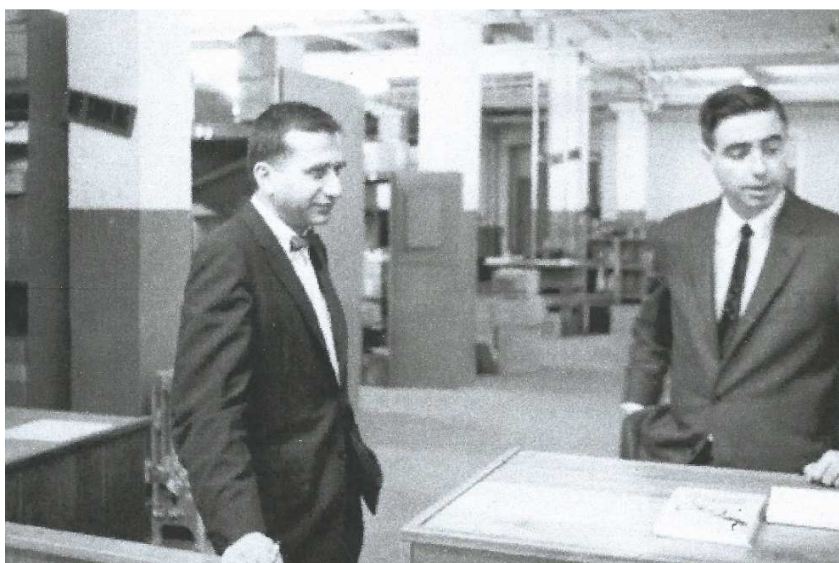
This Holmes testimony alone damns PrayerMan and the lunchroom hoax as hack experiments in criminology. But please do not get the impression that this is a hit piece on Sean Murphy. This is a hit piece on you, the reader, who abandoned your own better judgment and joined the mob that fell for his mullarkey.

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<sup>7</sup> WCH VII pp. 302, 306

## THE WILL-CALL COUNTER BUMP

Only a few feet beyond the front lobby, just inside the Depository warehouse, was a waist-high counter where the general public could obtain schoolbooks. Two weeks before the assassination 6<sup>th</sup>-floor gunman witness Arnold Rowland had stopped in here to buy a physics notebook. In the photo below Commission counsel David Belin rests his hand on a swinging gate which could be latched shut at its bottom. Later in this essay it will be important to appreciate that one can see clear across the warehouse floor to the rear exit door from here.



As Officer Marrion Baker sprinted into the Book Depository he actually brushed past building superintendent Roy Truly, who was standing about 10 feet in front of the entranceway. And Truly ran after Baker, caught up with him in the front lobby, and said he'd show him the way upstairs. They ran to the freight elevators at the back of the warehouse, then went up the corner stairs and encountered Oswald in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom. Big chunks of each man's Warren Commission testimony, 5-7 pages, were expended recounting this race for the rear and this lunchroom encounter. But a hoaxer takes the position that much of these accounts are completely fictional.

This storytelling fest is all the more remarkable once their mutual coordination is recognized- because a comparison of these parts of their testimonies shows 13 points of correspondence. Assuming each man actually spoke the words that are written- which were dutifully transcribed by the court stenographer- such coordination would have required many long hours of mutual preparation and a near-flawless delivery of their scripts.



*Baker brushes past Truly*

Those 13 points of correspondence strongly suggest that they witnessed the same car crash- i.e. that they are describing an event that they each experienced.

- 1- While inside the front lobby, Baker asked Truly where the stairs were (WCH III pp. 221, 249)
- 2- Truly ran into the swinging door at the will-call counter and Baker bumped into him (222, 249)
- 3- Truly pressed the call button and the freight elevator did not come down (223, 254)
- 4- Truly & Baker looked up the elevator shaft (223, 254)
- 5- They saw that the elevators were stuck upstairs (240, 254)
- 6- Truly yelled up the shaft twice (223, 249)
- 7- Truly led the way up the stairs (224, 250)
- 8- Baker & Oswald were just inside the lunchroom door area (225, 250)
- 9- Baker was facing Oswald (225, 250)
- 10- Baker asked "Does he work here?" and Truly said "Yes" (225, 251)
- 11- Baker left immediately (225, 251)
- 12- Oswald was calm and collected (225, 252)
- 13- Oswald had no change of expression as Baker's gun was pointed close to him (225, 252)

The second item stands out like a sore thumb, because it serves no purpose in a contrived hoax narrative. When they began their dash out of the lobby and into the

warehouse, Truly unexpectedly found that the will-call gate was latched shut, and Baker bumped right into him. This little incident was superfluous to the main line of action, which was about getting to the rear corner to access the freight elevator or stairwell. Its being superfluous is a very strong indicator that it actually happened.

If this little incident was added into a contrived hoax narrative, what purpose would that serve? Dramatic effect, for added realism? I scoff at that notion. It would be only one more little lie to remember, to help prop up the bigger lie that the whole lunchroom episode was a hoax. Isn't there enough to remember already, for Truly and Baker to prop up, to hit their marks like a pair of seasoned actors and pass off a hoax?

The will-call counter bump is a telltale piece of evidence which validates the other points of correspondence in Truly & Baker's accountings of their rush to access a freight elevator. And that validation infers that the related correspondence in the subsequent accountings of their rush upstairs- the lunchroom encounter- are also based on a mutual experience. In those 5-7 pages of testimony they were describing something that actually happened. And the hoaxers' complaint that the bump was not a component of the early reports neglects the fact that numerous details about the elevator area and the lunchroom were refreshed with the help of the re-enactments that took place a week before the testimonies.

The machinations required to pull off a hoaxing of Truly & Baker's testimonies begin to rival the production of an off-Broadway play. And the hoaxers have never presented one scintilla of evidence to support any claim that such shenanigans ever occurred.

Alternatively, one could postulate that the invisible hand of David Belin crafted Truly & Baker's itineraries to the lunchroom, since he took their testimonies, and it was he who thought up the will-call bump. But if those itineraries were largely false, every single person who had been present in those hearing rooms would now be complicit in a lunchroom hoax coverup. And if any inkling that there was a hoax or coverup was sensed by the historians of the day- Mark Lane, Sylvia Meagher, et al.- Belin's sleight-of-hand risked bringing down the whole monstrous edifice of the JFK conspiracy.

The lunchroom incident was a prominent feature of the Warren Report and it got a lot of attention. Why would an arch-conspirator risk being exposed due to a slip-up by some lackey like Truly or Baker, or an admission by Commission member Hale Boggs?

## YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS

A school of thought may be likened to a tree, which when it matures brings forth fruit- the yield from this tree of knowledge. There is a substantive, tangible gain that is eventually produced from any well-grounded school of thought. And the same analogy holds for any true principle, or theorem, or kernel of knowledge- it leads to something else true, a solid result, an answer that may not have been initially expected.

In physics we have the example of Werner Heisenberg, who secluded himself in a cabin on the German coast and deduced the eloquently simple mathematics that comprise the Uncertainty Principle. This is the bedrock equation of quantum mechanics- which has produced lasers, semiconductors, microchips and more. But Heisenberg's conclusion would only be another footnote in scientific history had it dead-ended.

In literature we have the example of Silver Blaze, a great racehorse who was stolen in the night, whose trainer was found dead from a blow to the skull. What unraveled this mystery for Sherlock Holmes was "the curious incident of the dog in the night-time." Because the stable dog had been silent, therefore it knew the nocturnal visitor. Since "one true inference invariably suggests others," Holmes eventually discovered that the trainer himself had led the animal out of its stall, attempted to harm it, and was kicked in the head.



*UFO over Dealey Plaza*





*Jack White enlargement*

Yet when we look for a substantive, tangible result for the lunchroom hoax hypothesis it yields nothing. As a school of thought it is a fruitless tree. The “*third or fourth floor*” man mentioned in Baker’s affidavit vanished into thin air. This construct- this idea that the lunchroom encounter was actually with someone a floor or two higher- does not give a solution that leads anywhere. It gives the same result as the hypothesis that Space Aliens Abducted the Assassin. And this is a strong hint that the lunchroom hoax is an artificial idea, precisely because it has been barren. It is a plastic tree of a hypothesis, constitutionally incapable of producing fruit.

All the voluminous searches through the Mary Ferrell Archives, in the 10+ years of the lunchroom hoax’s existence, have produced only one document that even remotely correlates to this hypothesis. This was Ira Trantham’s 1978 HSCA interview, where he recalled parking near the rear of the Depository and heading to the front and reporting to DPD Inspector Herbert Sawyer.

*“By this time they were joined by Jerry Hill and he and Hill went inside. Hill continued upstairs and an officer W.H. Desham (#7140 DPD) approached him with a prisoner. Advised this subject had been observed “acting suspiciously” on the third floor without a reasonable explanation for being up there.”<sup>8</sup>*

There is no evidence that Trantham and Hill went inside of anywhere together that afternoon. Hill was filmed entering the Depository with a group that included Captain Will Fritz at approximately 12:59 PM. There is no sign that Trantham, who was wearing a darkish rainjacket, was among them. Hill was photographed at 1:05 yelling out of a 6<sup>th</sup>-floor window, and returned downstairs shortly thereafter, in time to hear the dispatcher’s alert about an officer shot in Oak Cliff. And he then hopped in a squad car and sped over to help investigate that murder.

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<sup>8</sup> HSCA 180-10113-10274, interview of Ira Trantham by Jack Moriarty, 8/25/78

It is entirely possible that Trantham saw and even interacted with Hill once he'd returned downstairs. But what this Sheriff's Deputy was struggling unsuccessfully to remember was his participation in the arrest of Larry Florer.<sup>9</sup> After the assassination Florer had gone into the Dal-Tex building, neighboring the Depository, and attempted to make a phone call from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor there. At approximately 1:13 he was arrested by William Denham, and momentarily handed over to Trantham, who was captured in news footage beginning to escort this wobbly-walking suspect to the Sheriff's Office.



*Officer Denham, in raincoat, arresting Larry Florer*



*On the left. Escorting Larry Florer out of Dealey Plaza.*

*Trantham wearing darkish rainjacket<sup>10</sup>*

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<sup>9</sup> WCH XIX p. 517

<sup>10</sup> Denis Morissette's JFK Assassination Investigation Identification Project

Trantham had interviewed Florer down there and filed a report about it and it is apparent that his memory of this event 15 years later was a completely mangled mess. Yet no other document even loosely correlates the existence of a “3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor” man, and do not wait up nights hoping that something supportive will turn up among the documents-yet-to-be-released. The chances are nil.

“3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor” man has been utterly useless as a tool to help decipher what went on, just after the assassination, inside the Texas School Book Depository. All we can infer is- if he ever existed at all- he vanished into thin air. This empty result adds nothing contributory to the crime scene investigation, certainly nothing better than what the commonly-held assertion gives us- that Baker was simply confused about the TSBD floor layout when he composed his affidavit.

It has been claimed that “3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor” man, who was described in Baker’s affidavit as “*wearing a light brown jacket*”, was the man seen by James Worrell running out of the back of the Depository a couple of minutes after the shots. But Worrell’s own affidavit described a “*dark shirt or jacket*” which in his testimony was further related as “*Sports jacket... It was dark in color. I don’t know whether it was blue, black or brown, but it was dark.*”<sup>11</sup>

The antithetical descriptions light and dark do not even begin any kind of color correlation between the two reports. Further, “3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor” man is merely a sophist derivation from Baker’s affidavit- it can be cogently argued that he never existed at all, that Baker was simply confused about the floor layout. So this claim attempts to connect the man sighted by Worrell with a man whose actuality isn’t necessarily true.

It would be more natural to connect Worrell’s man with a person who fled out the back once the west freight elevator arrived downstairs at 12:32. Because this is an empirically-derived fact; there isn’t a contrary argument to its 12:32 descent. It is necessarily true that the elevator arrived downstairs then. And since Worrell estimated he was at the rear about “*three minutes*” after the shooting sequence, the villain Worrell saw may have just been on the elevator.

And we are still safe in the observation that never once has the lunchroom hoax hypothesis produced a substantive, tangible result. It remains a fruitless tree, precisely because it is artificial.

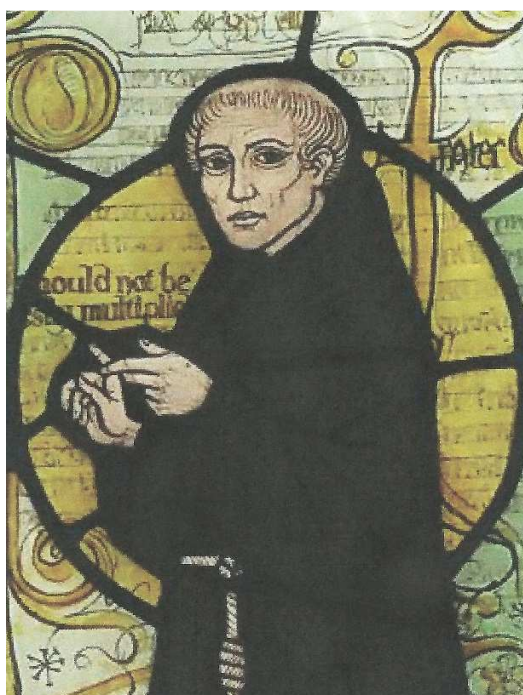
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<sup>11</sup> WCH II p. 196

## A SIZEABLE MINI-CONSPIRACY

For a contrived, artificial theory that yields nothing, the lunchroom hoax requires a fairly sizeable mini-conspiracy in order to sustain it. We start, of course, with the delivery men Roy Truly and Marrion Baker. And quickly add those attending the Oswald interrogations who reported on this 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor encounter- Captain Will Fritz and the FBI's James Bookhout.<sup>12</sup> And the FBI men, Doyle Williams and Nat Pinkerton, who took Truly's statement that night of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, when he first spoke of the incident between Oswald and the officer in a "snack bar" on the second floor.<sup>13</sup>

We can't exclude David Belin, who took the testimonies. But let's not overlook others who were present during the hearings, who were now participants in a hoax coverup. There's the usual suspects Allen Dulles, John McCloy, Gerald Ford and Earl Warren, and Commission members Hale Boggs and John Cooper were also in attendance, along with attorneys Lee Rankin, Joseph Ball, Norman Redlich and Waggoner Carr. Charles Murray was there as an observer, and an unknown court stenographer typed up the depositions.



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<sup>12</sup> Warren Report pp. 600, 619

<sup>13</sup> WCD 5 p. 322

Adjunct coverup support was provided by Jeraldean Reid, who claimed she'd run into Oswald, Coca-Cola in hand, when she returned to her 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor office. And by TSBD VP Ochus Campbell, who allegedly told a newsman that afternoon that Oswald had been seen in a 1<sup>st</sup>-floor storage room. And by DPD Detective James Leavelle, who took the affidavits of Truly and Reid.

That tallies to 7 active hoax participants and 15 associates in the hoax coverup, and we may never unearth the full extent of those "in the know" at the TSBD, DPD, FBI and Warren Commission. One can only marvel at the seamlessness of the hoax plot- its execution and perpetuation of secrecy- which threatens to surpass that of its parent conspiracy, namely, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The 14<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher William of Ockham is best known for a methodology of reasoning commonly referred to as Occam's Razor, or the principle of parsimony. He wrote:

*"Pluralitas non est ponenda sine neccitate."*

which translates as "Plurality is not to be posited without necessity." Another way to phrase that is that "Entities are not to be multiplied without necessity." So the simpler solution tends to be the correct one, all other things being equal.

In the case of the lunchroom incident, one can choose to believe that it actually happened. Or one can choose to believe that it was a hoax- a make-believe event- perpetuated by a half-dozen individuals and covered up by a dozen more, carefully refined and sealed over ever since. But which has not produced a single substantive lead or result in more than a decade of active theorizing.

From the standpoint of Occam's Razor, the lunchroom hoax hypothesis fails miserably.

## THE STROUD DOCUMENT

This was covered in depth in Essay #1 and discussed, along with an Adams timeline, in Essay #2. This document, an Assistant U.S. Attorney's letter to J. Lee Rankin, was written in the context of Victoria Adams' testimony regarding her estimate of arriving downstairs "*no longer than a minute at the most*" after the shots. The Commission had little choice but to construe her as mistaken, and maintain that she'd actually gone down the stairs several minutes later. Because if her time estimate was correct, she should have encountered Lee Harvey Oswald fleeing from the sniper's nest. An Adams re-enactment was never conducted, since it would have been disastrous to the Commission's case against Oswald.



Dorothy Garner, Adams' boss at Scott-Foresman publishers, contacted Martha Joe Stroud's office to support Adams' contention. Garner had gone out into the 4<sup>th</sup>-floor storage area herself shortly after Adams & Sandra Styles, and heard them going down the noisy wooden stairwell. She soon saw Truly & Baker come up onto the 4<sup>th</sup>-floor landing. Yet Styles never testified, and the Commission completely ignored Stroud's June 1964 letter.

The key point to recognize, as it relates to the lunchroom incident, is that Adams & Styles couldn't have made it across the warehouse floor without being seen by Truly & Baker. Not even Wilma Rudolph & Wyomia Tyus, the Olympic sprint champions of that day, could have managed this in 3-inch high heels. By the time the men got past the will-call counter they had a clear view to the rear exit door. A micro-assessment of their actions off-film, for the hoax hypothesis to be successful, requires at least 20 seconds lingering in the front lobby. Yet no witnesses have ever been offered who could substantiate this requirement, counterintuitive to the adrenalized situation, nor was there any indication from their testimonies that they spent any extra time deliberating on a course of action.

There is an offshoot branch of thought which maintains that Baker, off-film, actually ran for the Dal-Tex. But again, no witnesses are ever produced to defend this counterintuitive postulate. And no legitimate explanation is ever offered to account for the November 24<sup>th</sup> FBI interview of clerk Pauline Sanders; she stood on the Depository landing and said that, after the shots, *"within a matter of ten seconds a uniform police officer in a white helmet ran into the building."*<sup>14</sup>

Adams only left her observation window about 10 seconds after the head shots,<sup>15</sup> and would have used an additional 15-20 seconds to reach the corner stairs. She had to negotiate 6 half-flights of 9 steps each, and the intervening landings, in her 3-inch high heels. Even though her Warren Commission estimate is quite reasonable, it is not humanly possible that she reached the exit door before Truly & Baker got a look across the warehouse. What the hoaxers fail to address, in their intention to have Adams escape the building unnoticed, is that the men were engaged in a mad dash, in frantic pursuit of an active gunman. These were circumstances in which they were double-timing it to get to the freight elevators and get upstairs.

Besides these time constraints, there is an independent existential component to their timelines that corroborates the non-hoax conclusion. Baker had noticed *"an older, large black man sitting toward the back of the stairs, near the elevators"* when he arrived there with Truly. This in all likelihood was wrapper Troy West, whose work table was in

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<sup>14</sup> WCH XXII p. 844, WCE 1434

<sup>15</sup> The Girl on the Stairs by Barry Ernest, p. 329

the rear corner and who habitually spent his lunch break, including the 22<sup>nd</sup>, seated next to his coffee station there. West was 56, 5' 9 ½", and 155 lbs- not particularly imposing, but taller than Baker. He wore a beret that made him seem a bit taller. The alternative candidate, Eddie Piper, had gone to the rear corner after the shots and testified that, when Truly was at the elevator, he was "*standing right there where they make coffee.*"<sup>16</sup> Piper was 55, 5' 10", only 140 lbs and practically bald. Piper was not sitting, and was not the man remembered by Baker. He had noticed West.



*Troy West at work*

Victoria Adams had run into someone similar on her way out the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. "*I remember saying to a fairly big black man inside the building right near the loading dock after I got down the stairs that I thought the President may have been shot. I don't know what his name is. I do know that he worked for the Depository and I think he was a warehouse worker.*"<sup>17</sup> It hardly matters whether Adams was describing West or Piper, because her description placed one of them near the rear exit door, as he'd apparently walked from the corner across the back of the warehouse. Her encounter clearly occurred after Baker's encounter.

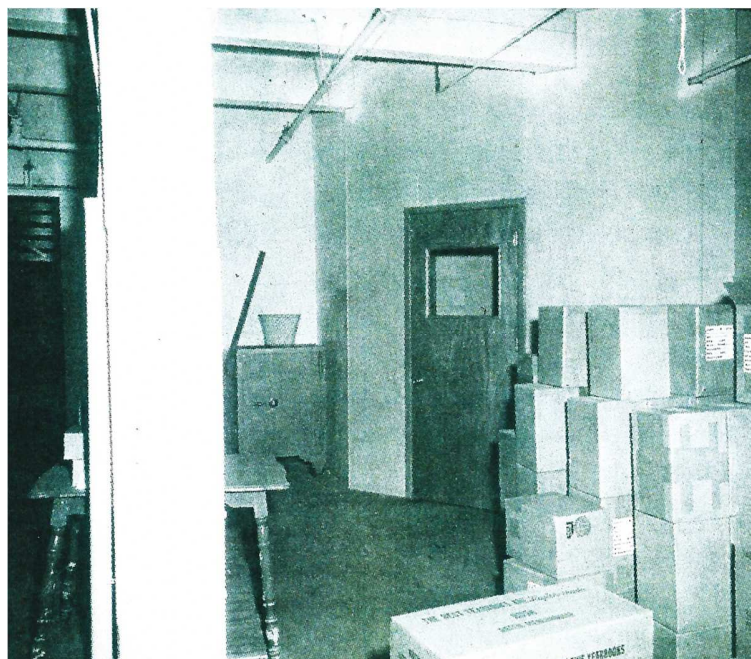
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<sup>16</sup> WCH VI p. 385

<sup>17</sup> The Girl on the Stairs pp. 347, 417



shooting sequence that the encounter took place. Nevermind the re-enactment times, which were lackadaisical, of 90 and 75 seconds. Baker first caught a glimpse of Oswald somewhere between 50-60 seconds after the head shots.



*Newly-installed vestibule door*

The fresh grain pattern on the vestibule door indicates it was new, very likely installed during the late 1962 renovations to accommodate the building's new tenant, the Texas School Book Depository Company. It helped muffle the noise from the landing and stairwell so that people could eat their lunch in relative peace and quiet. It was equipped with an automatic, anti-slam closing device. The November 27<sup>th</sup> Secret Service re-enactment film, at the 23 ½ minute mark, shows it closing unaided in only 1.8 seconds. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> Adams & Styles skittered by on the landing during the 15-20 seconds it was closed during the lunchroom encounter.

Hoaxers whine loudly about this deduction but fail to consider that Belin had never bothered to specifically ask whether the door had closed because it was an inconsequential detail to the testimony, which was about Baker confronting Oswald. Nor that Baker- in an intense, gun-in-the-belly situation with Oswald- would be unlikely to remember the muffled, irrelevant sound of high heels outside on the landing. They cite Truly's testimony with skepticism- that he "*opened the [vestibule] door back and leaned in*"- but fail to include that he added "*When I reached there*"<sup>19</sup>-

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<sup>19</sup> WCH III p. 225





## THE FILMED INTERVIEWS

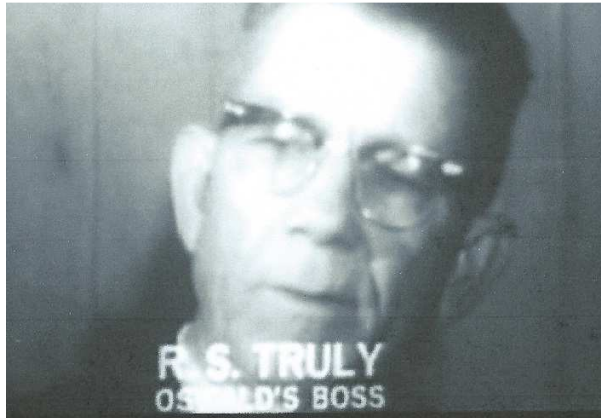
When we examine the filmed interviews we need to bear in mind that the hoaxers are not contending that the lunchroom incident was misreported or misinterpreted. The suspect timing of the incident is not the question here. Because the hoaxers are contending that the lunchroom incident was completely make-believe, like Bambi and Tinkerbell.

When Baker and Truly rendered their accounts on 1964's CBS Warren Report, the tale they imparted was of Disneyesque proportions. And they managed this without any detectable trace that they were engaged in a whopper of a lie- fabricating an event which had never occurred- deeply pertinent to the murder of the recently-slain President. They did this with deadpan delivery for a national television audience without one day of professional actor's training.



BAKER: As I entered the building there, I asked, uh, some of the people that were standing around there where the stairs or elevator was. And, uh, there was a man that spoke up and said he was the building manager and he'd show me. We couldn't get the service elevator working and, uh, he said, 'Well, we'll use the stairs' and he turned around and lead me on up the stairs. And, uh, as we approached the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, he- uh, continued on around towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. And I kinda- I kinda looked off to my right over through a doorway and saw a image of a man walking away through that doorway.

Uh, and when I got to the doorway- he was on down there a little bit- and I hollered at him, and asked him to come back. And, uh- so as he approached me- uh, this building manager who was Mr. Truly- later I found out his name- and, uh, I turned around and asked him if the man worked for him. And if he knew him. And he said, 'Yes, he worked for me. And I know him.' And, uh, at that time- uh, the man never did say anything- I never did say anything further to him. Uh, I turned around and went on up the stairs to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.



TRULY: *I realized that he didn't know the layout of the building, so I ran in with him. It was just a matter of a few seconds after the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot. And we ran across the shipping room floor, stopped at the elevator.*

*We ran on up the 1<sup>st</sup> flight to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. And the officer looked in the snack bar adjacent to our office.*

*The officer with me had a gun in his hand and, uh, he drew the gun, uh, towards the, uh, middle of Oswald. And he looked probably a little startled like anybody else would if you just put a gun in your stomach all at once, which I thought was natural.*

In 1986 Baker had to refresh his fairytale in front of a packed courtroom and seasoned trial attorney Vincent Bugliosi. This performance was for the TV documentary ***On Trial: Lee Harvey Oswald***, and once again Baker rendered his monstrous lies without a hitch. Not even a bead of nervous sweat was palpable, and it is a shame this promising star of stage and screen squandered his talents in policework.

BUGLIOSI: *All right. Exhibit H. Mr. Baker, now on the easel, Mr. Baker, is a floor plan of purportedly the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Book Depository building. Do you recognize this floor plan as being the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor?*

BAKER: *Yes, I do.*

BUGLIOSI: *With your pointer would you indicate to the jury what happened when you reached the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor landing?*

BAKER: *Right here, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor landing, as I came out of the stairways, there was a door facing. And through this window in the door, I saw a movement. And then I went over and opened the door and I saw this man walking away from me.*

BUGLIOSI: *What did you say to him, if anything?*

BAKER: *I called to him and said, 'Come here.' He turned around and started walking back towards me.*

BUGLIOSI: *OK. With Mr. Truly at your side?*

BAKER: *Yes, sir. Mr. Truly was at my side.*

BUGLIOSI: *That's the superintendent of the building?*

BAKER: *Yes, sir, it is.*

BUGLIOSI: *Did you ask him who the man was?*

BAKER: *Yes, sir, I did.*

BUGLIOSI: *And he told you it was Lee Oswald?*

BAKER: *Yes, sir.*

BUGLIOSI: *Did he appear out of breath?*

BAKER: *No, sir.*

BUGLIOSI: *Do you recall how he was dressed?*

BAKER: *No, sir.*

BUGLIOSI: *Mr. Baker, other than Lee Harvey Oswald, did you see anyone else at all on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor?*

BAKER: *No, sir.*



Three years later Baker recounted his yarn for the British documentary ***The Men Who Killed Kennedy***. It took place on the Texas ranchland that he loved, and it must have been a relief to finally tell the tale in just blue jeans and a cowboy hat.

BAKER: *I rode my motorcycle over to the corner of the intersection, parked it, and then ran in the building, which took me a very few seconds to do this. When I got through the front door, then the lobby of the building, I asked where the elevators or the stairs would be. And one man spoke up and said, 'I'm Mr. Truly, I'm the building manager.' So he said, 'Come on, officer, I'll show you.'*

*So he and I continued on to the back of the building, and up some stairs at the back of the building to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. As we came out of the 2<sup>nd</sup>- on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, I saw a- through a doorway, a window in this doorway, uh, a man- a movement. So I went over and opened up the door, and this man was walking away from it, and, uh- the next room- I later found out was the coffee room.*

NARRATOR: *As seen earlier by his fellow workers, Oswald was still alone in the lunchroom.*

BAKER: *I called to the man, and he turned around, and Mr. Truly was there beside of me, and I asked him if he knew this man or if he worked there. He said, 'Yes, he does.' He was calm, ordinary, you know- he didn't look excited, or anything like that.*

One of the consequences of believing the hoax is that one has to believe that the accounts given above were epic fables. One has to believe that Baker & Truly confabulated, on camera, an explicit encounter with the alleged assassin- that they lied about this investigative focal point, and did so flawlessly. Plus the hoaxer has to remain in denial about the arguments thus far presented that establish the reality of the lunchroom incident.

This deranged assessment of character, 180 degrees off the mark, is reminiscent of the drug casualties of the Woodstock era. For the hippies then indulged in a narcissistic grandiosity which pretended that their collective fantasizing could alter the world around them, as in "Maybe if we think real hard, maybe we can stop this rain." Only in our case we know that the substance being abused isn't the brown acid, is it?

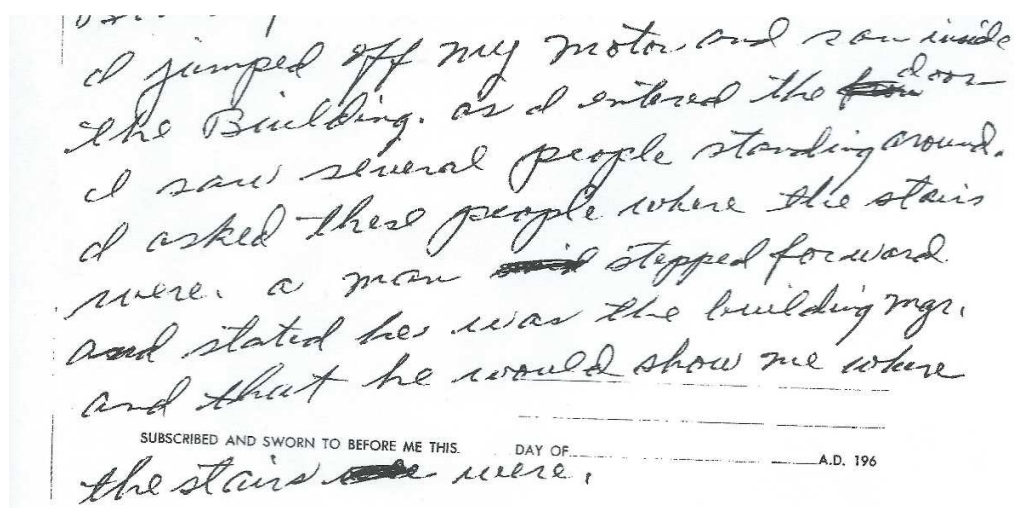
While the hoaxers comport themselves with pomposity amongst themselves, never once have they presented this film evidence to one of Baker's children or even a city police detective for a chance to expose his chimerical story- to emphasize the portions where Baker goes make-believe. Isn't that because a sober assessment of Baker's character reveals a man who radiates integrity? A courageous man- who raced into a building to confront a maniacal gunman- who downplayed that label?

The filmed interviews are superstrong evidence that the lunchroom incident actually happened. And the hoaxers' misdiagnosis is going to sting them for the remainder of their research careers.

## EVERY SINGLE ITEM OF EVIDENCE HAS A MUNDANE EXPLANATION

Every single item of lunchroom-related evidence has a rational, prosaic explanation that supports the incident's reality. For to make an extraordinary claim such as the perpetration of a hoax, extraordinary proof is required- not merely a laundry list of ambiguous items of evidence. Because in every instance there is a commonplace explanation for that ambiguity- which in general arose due to the human tendency to misreport details when describing second-hand information, so clearly demonstrable in the childrens' game of Chinese whispers. And the Murphyites have never offered a shred of extraordinary proof.

This encounter with Oswald was the talk of the town. It got distorted in the chaos of those early days in Dallas, through being passed along amongst the DPD, by over-excited newspaper reporters hungry for details, and even remembered incorrectly by the protagonists. But we're not concerned here with whether or not Truly had led the way upstairs, whether Oswald was standing up or sitting down, whether he already had a Coke in his hand. These are ancillary items to the question being addressed in this essay. We want to establish only that the incident took place in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom. The lunchroom incident either happened, or it did not happen. It's that simple.



A handwritten affidavit in cursive script. The text reads: "I jumped off my motor and ran inside the Building. as I entered the ~~front~~ door I saw several people standing around. I asked these people where the stairs were. a man ~~and~~ stepped forward and stated he was the building mgr. and that he would show me where the stairs ~~were~~ were." Below the text is a printed line: "SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS. DAY OF. A.D. 196". The word "were" is crossed out and replaced with "were,".

We'll start with Baker's affidavit, probably the major item that hoaxers cherry-pick and whine about to demonstrate their complaint. It was made out at approximately 4:00 PM in a back room at the Homicide Office, after he'd returned from a trip out to Parkland Hospital and Love Field. I have reproduced the handwritten version to show a detail that hoaxers avoid mentioning- Baker's cross-outs are consistent with his official account, which is an indication that he was telling the truth.

Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:

I followed the man to the rear of the building and he said let's take the elevator. The elevator was being served, floor up so we used the stairs instead, as we reached the third or fourth floor I saw a man walking away from the stairway. I ~~then~~ called to the man and he turned around and came back towards me. The manager said I know that man he works here. I then turned the man loose and went on up to the top floor.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_

A.D. 196

The man I saw was ~~approx 30 yrs old~~ <sup>a white man</sup> approx 30 yrs old - 5-9-165" - dk hair and wearing a lt brown jacket.

CPS-GF-413

Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

"as I entered the (fron)" becomes "as I entered the door;" "a man (said)" becomes "a man stepped forward and stated;" "third or fourth floor (a m)(man)" becomes "third or fourth floor I saw a man;" "I (look)" becomes "I called to;" and "(approx 5-9-165)" becomes "a white man approx 30 years old 5-9-165."

We don't get this kind of analysis from the Murphyites. Instead they prattle on about how details from the affidavit do not accurately mesh with known details about the Depository and the suspect. And with a sophomoric disregard for Baker's circumstances they spin the seeds of their hoax theory around this affidavit. Ignoring the fact that it was police protocol to provide only the details required- terse like military reportage. Baker wasn't writing a piece for the **Dallas Morning News**.

It was a building he had never been in before, and for all he knew the entranceway steps took him up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the split-level stairwell took him up to the "third or fourth." He didn't describe the man as walking toward the stairway, did he? Oswald, with his thinning hair, did not look 30 years old? Was he not 5' 9"? Could not an untucked brown shirt be misrecalled as a jacket, and tend to make him look 25 lbs heavier, particularly after Baker's rather busy afternoon? Baker's crummy description of his whereabouts inside the Depository- made without the benefit of a building diagram- does not definitively indicate he was referring to anyplace but the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor landing and lunchroom.



Had they not forsaken their detective instincts, the hoaxers would recognize that the key detail in the phrase *"I saw a man walking away from the stairway"* tells us that Oswald walked away from the plate-glass window once Baker spotted him. Oswald flinched. Had he stayed put, Baker's reaction might have been quite different. Researchers could be investing their energy into exploring what clues Oswald's behavior gives us, rather than jumping on the regressive bandwagon which proclaims the lunchroom encounter was make-believe.

A companion complaint is that Oswald was brought into the back room at Homicide while Baker was writing up his affidavit, yet Baker failed to mention this. But he did mention this 20 minutes later when he handed his affidavit to Detective Marvin Johnson, did he not? Baker was mindful of his omission and the hoaxers have nothing to carp about here. It was not just another typical day at DPD Headquarters. The President of the United States had just been murdered on a Dallas street, and a police officer had just been murdered in Oak Cliff- apparently by the guy they just brought into the back interrogation room. If it turned out this guy was guilty Baker would have a lot of explaining to do. And in that back room he chose to keep his cards close to his chest.

When we look at Marvin Johnson's report we find- contrary to the claim that it supports the hoax- support that the lunchroom incident actually took place.

*"While in the office from 3:00 pm until 2:00 am I answered the phone and took an affidavit from Patrolman M.L. Baker. Patrolman Baker stated in his affidavit that he was riding escort...*

*...After determining the origin of the shots, he jumped from his motor and ran into the building. He found a man that said he was the building manager. Officer Baker and the building manager then went to a stairway and started up the stairs to search the building...*

[Note: Johnson does not mention that Baker had written that Truly "said let's take the elevator. The elevator was hung several floors up so..."]

*...On about the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Baker apprehended a man walking away from the stairway on that floor. Officer Baker started to search the man, but the building manager stated that the man was an employee of the company and was known to him. Officer Baker later identified Lee Harvey Oswald as the man he had seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Texas Book Depository."*<sup>20</sup>

Chinese whispers has already begun. Johnson lazily-mindedly included only the latter half of Baker's guess. And we get a detail here- Baker's search of the man- that wasn't included in the testimony 4 months later. This report corroborates Baker's interaction with Oswald, and supports the contention that they were in the lunchroom long enough for Adams & Styles to pass by outside.

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<sup>20</sup> WCH XXIV p. 307

Our next item is a favorite among hoaxers. This is Officer E's account in *First Day Evidence*, which was from an interview conducted in the latter 70s by Jim Bowles, the DPD communications supervisor who had prepared the radio transcripts for the Warren Commission.

*"The man who said he was the building superintendent was outside and met me at the door and went in with me. Shortly after I entered the building I confronted Oswald. The man who identified himself as the superintendent said that Oswald was all right, that he was employed there. We left Oswald there, and the supervisor showed me the way upstairs. We couldn't get anyone to send the freight elevator down. In giving the place a quick check, I found nothing that seemed out of the ordinary, so I started back to see what had happened. Not knowing for sure what had happened, I was limited in what I could legally do.*

*The investigator from Washington contacted me for my recollection of what happened, but I guess they weren't interested in what I said."*<sup>21</sup>

Baker gave an interview for the HSCA but was not called to testify. The hoaxers want to infer from Officer E that Baker met Oswald somewhere near the front lobby, but to do so they need to ignore Baker's obvious haphazard recounting of his itinerary inside. It was a story he'd told numerous times in the intervening years and he knew that Bowles was familiar with it anyways. And he interjected the statement about the freight elevator as an afterthought, realizing he'd forgotten to include it when he began this condensed retelling of his pursuit inside the Depository. This Bowles interview, upon analysis, turns into a nothing-burger.

And don't look for any meat in the argument that in an FBI time-survey of 10 possible escape routes from the sniper's nest, 5 of them omitted the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom-<sup>22</sup> implying that the FBI was aware that a hoax may have been perpetrated. These agents may have been ordered specifically to pace through every possible escape route- half of which involved using the passenger elevator at the 4<sup>th</sup> floor- or they may even have taken it on themselves to take nothing for granted. It's not required of the hoax skeptic to be historically correct in every counter-argument, only to be reasonable about it. The burden of proof is on the hoaxers.

They complain that Truly did not know, until just before his March 24<sup>th</sup> testimony, that Baker had seen "a movement" in the vestibule-door window- as if that meant somehow that the hoax story was scripted. But they fail to consider that Truly hadn't even seen Baker again until the March 20<sup>th</sup> re-enactments, and that during their few minutes together in the Depository, Truly never asked, nor did Baker explain, what had motivated the officer to head for the lunchroom.

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<sup>21</sup> JFK: First Day Evidence by Gary Savage, p. 365

<sup>22</sup> FBI 105-82555 Oswald HQ File Section 21 pp.129-131, November 29, 1963

And they wail, like a housewife chasing a beetle with a frying pan, that Baker's testimony went off the record 5 times- insinuating that Belin must have been feverishly trying to keep the hoax story straight. But when we examine the context of these interruptions to the testimony, we do not find one firm foot for our understanding to stand on. All we do is bring our own suspicions to the testimony, which may or may not have been innocent. But there is nothing substantive we can conclude- that disputes the official lunchroom story- that has even a small measure of certainty. Our suspicions do not automatically transmute into truth.

The 1<sup>st</sup> break in Baker's testimony (III p. 244) occurs during a discussion about the motorcycle escorts and does not apply to the lunchroom incident. The 2<sup>nd</sup> (p. 254) occurs just after the re-enactment timings to the lunchroom from Baker's motorcade position and from Oswald's sniper's nest have been discussed. After the break Baker elaborated about what went on at the elevator shaft. This also does not apply to the lunchroom incident. The 3<sup>rd</sup> break (p. 255) occurs right after this elevator shaft discussion, and shows that Baker was still confused about the Depository layout:

BELIN: *At the time you got up there was there any elevator on floor number two that you can remember, if you can remember? Maybe you cannot remember, I don't know.*

BAKER: *Evidently- now, I didn't look, evidently it wasn't because it seemed to me like the next floor up Mr. Truly said let's take the elevator.*

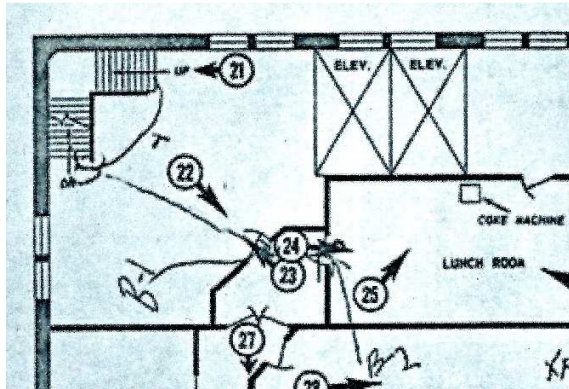
BELIN: *At some higher floor after that?*

BAKER: *Yes, sir.*

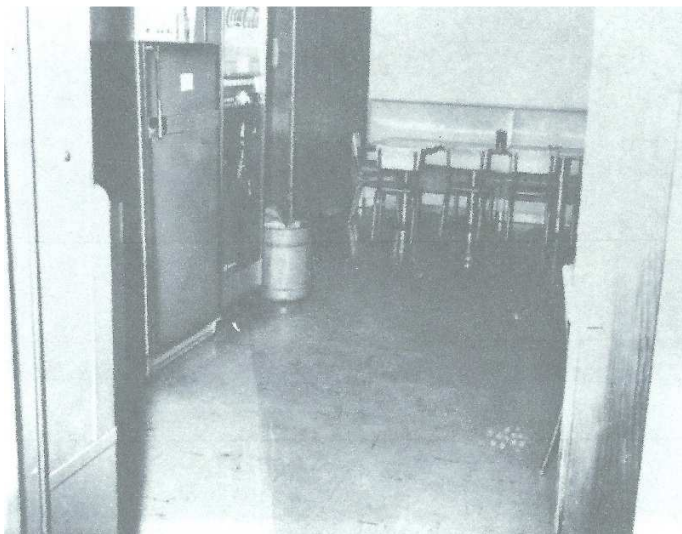
BELIN: *All right, if we can go off the record for a moment here.*

Hoaxers make hay here, suspecting that since Truly had said, "Let's take the elevator" when they were up on the 5<sup>th</sup>, that Baker had just met "4<sup>th</sup> floor man." But to cherry-pick his statement out of context imbues it with a meaning it does not normally have. What we have evidence for here is that Baker's memory was not perfect. And the testimony now segued into Baker's glimpse of the movement of Oswald, a perfectly natural shift of the witness' attention onto the major impetus of the testimony- the first post-assassination sighting of the alleged assassin.

The 4<sup>th</sup> break (p. 256) occurs after Dulles exhibited apparent confusion as to whether the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor diagram indicated that a downstairs or upstairs course brought a person to the same point outside the lunchroom. Baker had just written a B at the head of the stairs to indicate where he was when he first glimpsed Oswald. After the break Belin drew a B-1 and B-2 to signify Baker's position when he looked through the vestibule door and when he stood in the lunchroom doorframe confronting Oswald. Nothing of a conspiratorial nature can be firmly concluded here.



*Commission Exhibit 497*



*Baker confronts Oswald*

The 5<sup>th</sup> break (p. 262) occurs after Baker recounted the tail-end of his time at the Depository; Belin then shifted gears and asked about Oswald's clothing while at the police station. Baker noted that "*he looked like he didn't have the same thing on*" but Oswald himself had admitted, during his first interrogation, that he'd changed clothes at his rooming house. Nothing here detracts from the lunchroom incident's reality.

When all is said and done, Baker's testimony going off the record 5 times is just another fun fact. Not one iota is taken away from our knowledge that an encounter between Baker, Truly & Oswald took place in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom. Any suspicions we bring to this aspect of the testimonies slip away like a handful of sand.

There will be plenty more Chinese whispers with mundane explanations when we examine Bart Kamp's essay. The cornucopia of ambiguous evidence brings hoaxers to lament about "the elephant in the room," yet they can't see that it's pink.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1964

September 23, 1964

Dallas, Texas

I, Marvion L. Baker, do hereby furnish this voluntary signed statement to Richard J. Burnett who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I am employed as an officer with the Dallas Police Department and was so employed as of November 22, 1963.

On the early afternoon of that day after hearing what amounted to me to be bullet shots, I entered the Texas School Book Depository Building on the northwest corner of Elm and Houston Streets in downtown Dallas.

I had entered this building in an effort to determine if the shot might have come from this building.

On the second ~~floor~~ <sup>floor M&B</sup>, where the lunch room is located, I saw a man standing in the lunch room. ~~standing in the~~ <sup>M&B</sup> ~~lunch room~~. He was alone in the lunch room at this time.

I saw no one else in the vicinity of the lunch room at this time.

M. L. Baker

(2)

I have read this statement consisting of this page and one other page and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have initialled each page and each correction.

x Marvion L. Baker

Witnesses

Richard J. Burnett Special Agent, F.B.I., 9/23/64, Dallas  
Bobby W. Dargis 1082 Dallas Police Dept.

On September 23, 1964 Alfred Goldberg, a USAF historian who co-authored the Warren Report, telephoned FBI Inspector James Malley and requested signed statements be obtained from Roy Truly and Marvion Baker.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> WCD 1526

Goldberg wanted clarification regarding a rumor that had been going on since November 23<sup>rd</sup>, when DPD Chief Jesse Curry told reporters in the hallway that a policeman had found Oswald "among other persons" in a lunchroom. Goldberg wanted specific conformation, which had not yet been obtained, that no one else was in the lunchroom at that time. And he needed it fast because a hard-bound copy of the Report was going to be delivered to President Lyndon Johnson the next day.

Special Agent Richard Burnett was dispatched immediately to write up statements for Baker and then Truly and get these men to sign them. And what many researchers don't realize is that these statements made it into the Warren Report as an already-drafted footnote of an already-drafted Commission finding- "Baker and Truly have both stated that there was no one in the lunchroom other than Oswald at the time they entered. No other witness to this incident has been found."<sup>24</sup>

Dallas, Texas  
September 23, 1964

② I, Roy S. TRULY, do hereby furnish this voluntary statement to Richard J. Burnett who has identified himself to me to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I am the Superintendent of the Texas School Book Depository located at 411 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, and was so employed as of November 22, 1963.

On the above date and just as President Kennedy's motorcade passed in front of my building, I reentered the building with a Dallas Police officer after some shots had been heard coming from their general vicinity.

The officer and I proceeded to the stairway located in the northwest corner of the Texas School Book Depository building in order to proceed to the upper part of the building to see if we could see who had fired the shots.

I was leading the way up the stairs and the police officer was following me. After I was starting to ascend the stairs towards the third floor from the second floor I noticed that the police

— Commission No. 1526 —

<sup>24</sup> Warren Report pp. 648, 857



2.  
officer was talking to someone in the lunch room located on the second floor.

I then went to the lunch room where I saw the officer facing Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald was by himself in the lunch room. There was no one else in the vicinity of the lunch room on the second floor other than Oswald, the police officer and myself.

I identified Oswald to the police officer as an employee of the Texas School Book Depository.

I have read this statement consisting of this page and one other page and it is true and correct to the best of my recollection.

\* *Ray & Truly*

Witnesses

Richard J. Burnett, Special Agent, F.B.I., Dallas, Texas, 9/23/64.

William H. Shelby 126 S. Tatum Dallas 11, Tex 9-224

Burnett's statements had been slotted as Commission exhibits in the last volume when the full set was finally published in December. Besides the identical handwriting, what confirms that he wrote up both statements for Baker and Truly to sign is that the same formal phrase- "no one else in the vicinity of the lunchroom"- is written into each to use for denying the rumor. They wouldn't have each spoken this same stilted phrase.

So the cross-outs in Baker's statement came about as a result of Burnett's imprecise understanding that the lunchroom was on the "second or third floor" and that Oswald was "drinking a Coke" when Baker first encountered him. Baker corrected these upon reading them. I misinterpreted that in Essay #2.

Now ask yourself- why would Goldberg make this request if the lunchroom incident had not actually happened? Did the brilliant collaborators of the hoax ruse slip up, and forget to specify that nobody else was in the vicinity? Or- the mundane truth- was this lacuna innocently overlooked, because it seemed self-evident to everyone involved?

These last-minute FBI statements are more superstrong evidence that the lunchroom encounter really took place. And they serve as a great example of how badly the hoaxers have fooled themselves.

## PART II- ANATOMY OF A RUNAWAY CHERRY-PICKER

In his mega-essay Bart Kamp failed to address my counter-arguments against the lunchroom hoax hypothesis, even though he was well aware of them. We had debated these head-to-head in February 2016 in the Education Forum thread *One Last Thing Before Xmas Eve: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lunchroom Encounter*. Kamp could not provide any substantive answers to my complaints. And he has adopted a strategy of ignoring them in his present work, *Anatomy of the Second Floor Lunchroom Encounter*, which is a rigged investigation to conform to a pre-determined answer.

A careful examination of Kamp's claims exposes his shoddy analysis and sycophantic scholarship, which might be better phrased as pseudo-scholarship. He plays to his fellow Murphyites, and not to Episteme.

### A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY INTO THE DEPOSITORY

In his opening remarks Kamp brings attention to the deleted portion of Roy Truly's testimony, secreted away on a Dictabelt in the National Archives. Since the one deletion in his testimony<sup>25</sup> occurs in the middle his characterization of order-filler Jack Dougherty (who was suspiciously absent during the motorcade) we can place a high degree of confidence in presuming that the content of that Dictabelt concerns Truly's characterization of Dougherty, *exclusively*. And *that* remains a state secret.

At the end of his initial and introductory section Kamp poses a couple of police procedure questions: 1) *Why did Baker not call this in?* implying that he was disobeying a direct order from Chief Curry by racing into the Depository. But there were plenty of officers ahead of Baker who could check behind the picket fence. Baker's hunting instincts told him something Curry, in the lead car, could not have known- there was an active shooter somewhere near the roof of that building. Every second counted. Baker had to get through that crowded intersection and find a parking spot somewhere close and get into that building. Police procedure is to prevent that active shooter from doing further harm. There was no time for such niceties as calling the dispatcher. 2) *Why did Baker not seal off the building?* With whom? No other officers were in the vicinity of the entrance during the brief seconds Baker was there. The three cops stationed at the intersection- Welcome Barnett, Joe Smith and E.L. Smith- had run for the rear, run down the Elm St. Extension and run toward the Dealey Plaza infield. This wasn't the movies. Time was of the essence.

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<sup>25</sup> WCH III p. 237

A second major blunder, as many here see it, came immediately after the shooting of the President. Dallas police raced to the warehouse building and began a quick look for the killer. At one point they had Oswald in their hands, but let him go when the manager of the textbook company said the man was an employee.

**Building Not Sealed**

The question here is why did police not seal the building immediately when they thought the killer of the President was inside? One explanation has been that the first search had to be a quick one and that any employee of the place could easily be traced afterward if necessary.

Another, which seemed to some to be the only explanation, was that the officers were so unsettled by the shooting that they neglected to follow normal police practice.

*St. Louis Dispatch Nov. 26, 1963*

*Medicine Hat News May 3, 1967*

a white T-shirt.

Only moments after James Altgens had taken the picture, Motorcycle Officer Marrión Baker and Depository Superintendent Roy Truly entered the Depository and ran up one flight of stairs to the second floor lunchroom where they saw Oswald standing calmly.

This confrontation raises one of the most crucial questions in the entire Kennedy assassination controversy: could Oswald have run from the southeast corner window on the sixth floor to the lunchroom on the second floor in time for the meeting with Baker and Truly?

The Warren Commission con-

Kamp also includes articles from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *Medicine Hat News*, but they add historical flavor only and do little to advance his case. Journalism is an unreliable source for truth as it is replete with misinformation and disinformation. And very susceptible to the Chinese whispers phenomenon mentioned earlier- it is riddled with the mistakes of second-hand sources. These only get magnified in a maelstrom like the Kennedy assassination.

Here are the pertinent items from my own recent search at newspapers.com, to add further historical flavor:

The first person suspicious of Oswald was a policeman who saw him in the building lunchroom. The officer pulled a gun on Oswald, but when the manager said Oswald worked there he was allowed to go.

A building porter said he took Oswald earlier to the sixth floor in an elevator. When he got out, Oswald asked the porter to send the car back up for him. The porter went to the ground floor to watch the Kennedy motorcade.

*Baltimore Sun Nov. 24, 1963*

**Released at Building**

After the three sniper shots, Oswald was found by a policeman in a lunchroom of the book depository building. He was released after a building supervisor told the officer he was an employee and "all right." He then left the building.

*Los Angeles Times Nov. 25, 1963*



After the shooting police were posted at exits to the warehouse. Police officials said a man, whom they identified as Oswald, walked out

through the door of the warehouse and was stopped by a policeman.

Oswald, they added, told the policeman, "I work here," and when another employee confirmed that he did, the policeman let Oswald walk away.

*London Observer Nov. 24, 1963*

The 1<sup>st</sup>-generation researchers that Kamp next reviews- Leo Sauvage, Harold Weisberg, Sylvia Meagher and Howard Roffman- were keenly aware that Oswald's guilt depended upon the faulty Commission timing of his flight to the lunchroom vis-à-vis Baker's. Particularly suspect were Baker's re-enactments of 90 and then 75 seconds, which seemed overly lackadaisical. Even Truly privately admitted, in 1968, that they "were moving fast. Much faster than the time tests we did for the Warren Commission."<sup>26</sup>

The presence of Baker's cycle, parked and abandoned, in the Couch film some 10 seconds after the last shot has great significance. In spite of unreliable or contradictory witness accounts, this is the incontrovertible proof that Baker did immediately rev up his cycle, park it, and leave it, all under 10 seconds. It leaves no room for possible excuses as to how he may have delayed.

Support for this is found in a previously unnoticed portion of Bob Jackson's testimony in which he says he saw an officer run up the TSD steps toward the front door after the last shot as his car

(camera car 3) was turning the corner of Houston and Elm(2H164).

Of course, Baker arrived at this position prior to camera car 3 because he revved up his cycle while the car, according to its occupants, hesitated as 2 men jumped out.

So, it is photographically proven that Baker took between 5 and 8 seconds to get to a place the WC says took 15 seconds. Combining this with the other efforts to slow him and Truly down, he could have gotten (and probably did get) to the second floor in about a minute and 10 seconds. Even with its almost comical "reconstruction" of the assassin's movements, the WC could not get a 6th floor gunman down to the second floor that fast. In fact, adding to the 6th floor reconstruction what the WC left out, it would have taken the "gunman" at least a minute and 40 seconds to get down there.

Thus, all quibbling and speculation can be put to rest. We can be 100% sure that Baker got to the front entrance immediately and that LEO could not have been on the 6th floor.

*Roffman's letter to Weisberg*

<sup>26</sup> The Girl on the Stairs p. 62

And Kamp unearths a fascinating letter from Roffman to Weisberg that underscored this timing quandary. Yet he regards these early studies as only stepping stones for the “progressive” conclusion he has committed to- that the lunchroom incident was make-believe. Nevermind that proof of faulty timing alone would exonerate Oswald.

And in this letter Kamp overlooks a detail that Roffman himself stresses. As Camera Car 3 was turning the hairpin corner, Bob Jackson recalled seeing “*an officer run up the TSBD steps toward the front door.*” But Kamp blunders by citing the subsequent testimony, which seemingly helps confirm his argument that Baker didn’t go right up the steps:

FORD: Was this separate from the policeman on the motorcycle?

JACKSON: Yes, sir. Yes, I should have said that a while ago.

Two pages earlier Jackson informed us that, while he was back up on Houston Street:

JACKSON: I saw a motorcycle policeman jump off his motorcycle, in fact, he just hit the curb and he just let it fall, and he went down on his knees on the grass, on the lawn of that parkway.<sup>27</sup>



Jackson was referring to Bobby Hargis, who had ridden escort at the President’s left. Hargis immediately jumped off his motorbike, left it running, and this Bell film clip captured him poised for sprint up the knoll. From Jackson’s perspective across the parkway it seemed like he’d ditched his bike on the lawn.

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<sup>27</sup> WCH II pp. 162, 164



This is a sterling example of a typical bad habit among the Murphyites. In their research they blindly recognize only the things they are wishing for. They read without rigorous comprehension, and do not process information that contradicts their desired conclusion. They're more interested in fortifying the influence of their Sophist clique, and its sexy solutions, rather than the scholastic grind required by Episteme.

Kamp's next tactic, in the section *Baker's Actions Before He Got Off His Bike*, is to hint to the reader that Baker's memory may not be the truth, about seeing pigeons flying off of the roof of the Book Depository. But his logic is hare-brained, since he observes that Baker was corroborated by Rosemary Willis- who was on the hairpin corner- motorcycle escort H.B. McLain- who was also on Houston- and George Rackley- who was on Houston a block north of the Depository. The person who didn't recall any pigeons there, Officer Earle Brown, had been assigned to a catwalk on the Texas & Pacific Railroad overpass clear across the Stemmons Freeway, north of Elm Street.<sup>28</sup> Brown estimated he was about 100 yards from the Triple Underpass.<sup>29</sup> Baker's memory didn't have anything to do with Brown's uncertainty.

He proceeds to tell us he's "outright suspicious" of David Belin's "way of questioning" Malcolm Couch; Belin is "eager... in ascertaining any info regarding the front steps of the TSBD." But Kamp never specifies just what it is that gives him cause to be suspicious. When we look through the pages of testimony cited, we find that Couch first describes how he started filming as he came around the hairpin turn. "*As I recall, there's a quick glance at the front entrance of the Texas Depository Book Building.*" After he describes going down to the Triple Underpass and finally jumping out of Camera Car 3, Belin asks:

BELIN: Did you take any pictures of the Depository Building entrance?

COUCH: No- uh-

BELIN: When you came back up there?

Clearly, considering the time elapsed, Belin is interested in the possibility that Oswald was filmed leaving the building. And he continues this line of questioning, asking whether wide angle lens shots would be able to identify someone. And he wonders whether Couch knows anyone that might have photographed the front entrance area shortly after the assassination.<sup>30</sup> But a Murphyite, filled with the PrayerMan nonsense, will interpret the trigger words "front entrance" as indicative of plot to help conceal Oswald's true whereabouts as well as the lunchroom hoax.

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<sup>28</sup> WCH XX p. 493

<sup>29</sup> WCH VI p. 232

<sup>30</sup> WCH VI pp. 158-160

In his assessment of Baker's run up the entranceway steps Kamp exposes his prejudicial nature. This begins with Chris Davidson's GIF of the Darnell film, which shows Baker veering laterally like a running back 10 feet in front of the bottom step. This GIF shows the west side of the entranceway filled with people ascending the steps. But the film cuts off then and we don't ever see the east side and we last see Baker in mid-stride 10 feet in front of the steps.

And Kamp assures us that "the logical route for someone to go up those steps would be on the left hand side (West) of the steps"- like all those people cluttering up the west side in the GIF. He then uses obtuse language to attempt to tell us that people on the east side (which we don't see, since the film cuts off) were "standing still and blocking entry." And we have to take Bart's word for it:

"As people were making their way up there on the right hand side of the West area on those stairs, as on the right hand side of the handrail, which was positioned in the centre, the people on those steps were standing still and blocking entry through the East side, for anyone wishing to go up."

So that Baker, a cop in a white helmet, couldn't have created or spied a temporary path up the east side of the steps, having veered that direction because of the crowd on the west? And Truly even acknowledged that he and Baker "were actually pushing people out of the way."<sup>31</sup> Yet Kamp won't accept this, because Truly seems to have exaggerated in his testimony about Baker pushing people out of the way as he raced toward the steps- we don't see him pushing anybody in the Darnell film. So in Kamp's tinfoil hat world Truly is lying about Baker's ascent of the entranceway steps.



He closes this episode by asking the dreck rhetorical question- "But a photo interpretation is just not good enough, is it?"

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<sup>31</sup> The Girl on the Stairs p. 67

Nope. Not yours, Bart, which is wishful thinking only, and not a sober judgment. Nothing is impossible for those who abandon right-angled thinking. That's how East Podunk U. becomes national champion, since they beat Alligator State, who beat North Merrimac Tech, and on and on, and they beat Auburn, who beat Alabama.

The cherry-picking fest continues with Carolyn Walther. Her 1963 FBI report mentioned only that after the shots she ran across the Elm/Houston intersection and *"heard someone yell that the President had been hit. She stopped for a moment and listened to the police radio on a motorcycle."*<sup>32</sup> But a few years later she privately added that *"right after the last shot I saw this police officer drop his motorcycle and immediately run into the Depository."*<sup>33</sup> Walther was mistaken- his bike was left standing. Does Kamp want us to believe she was also mistaken that he immediately ran into the Depository?

And then Peggy Hawkins. Kamp doesn't tell the reader that her FBI interview wasn't until March 26<sup>th</sup>. In it she states that she *"took her small child behind the retaining wall in front of the TSBD Building for shelter."* When she realized there would be no more shots, she and her small child *"walked back to the front of the TSBD Building. She said a motorcycle police officer was in front of the building at this time and that she heard over his radio some remarks about the railroad yards near the building."*<sup>34</sup>

There's nothing on film that shows a woman and her small child in the general area "at the front of the TSBD" when Baker was filmed running toward the entrance. We don't know, from her statement, whether she heard the "railroad yards" remark over the radio at the same time that she saw this police officer. Or whether she remembered it as the same time, when she was interviewed 4 months later. Baker's sprint was easy to notice and Hawkins could have been, and probably still was, nearer to the retaining wall than the entrance when she saw him. She wasn't on film anywhere closer.

Kamp's next gaffe is his claim that Chief Curry made the "railroad yards" transmission- *"According to the radio transcript at 12:31."* But if he actually checked the transcripts he'd find that it was Sheriff Bill Decker- whose office was a block from the ambush- who made this call: *"Have my office move all available men out of my office into the railroad yard to try to determine what happened in there."* At 12:30.<sup>35</sup> Don't you just hate it when facts get in the way of wishful thinking? And clever little lies?

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<sup>32</sup> WCH XXIV p. 522

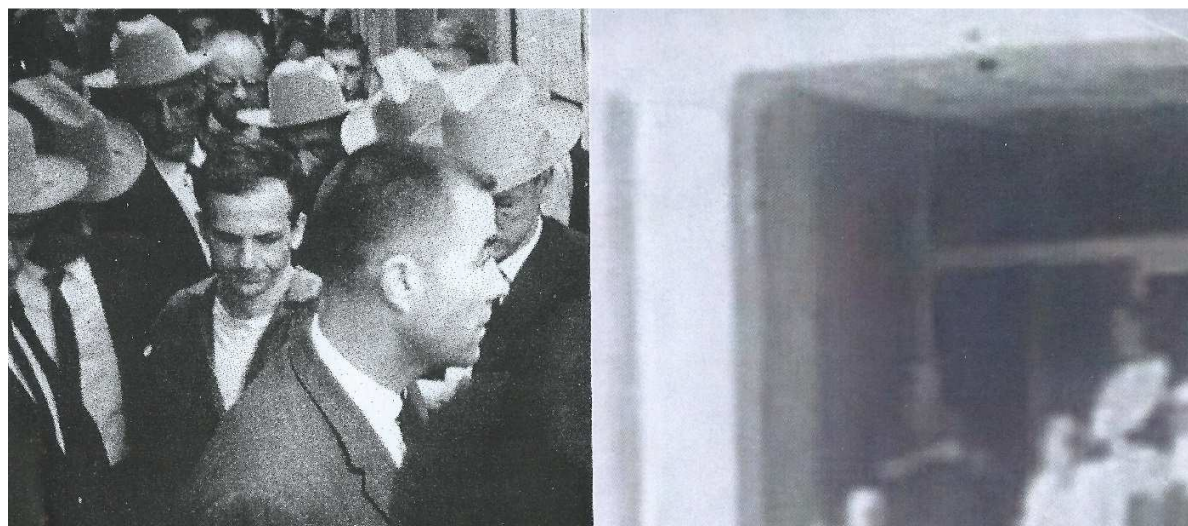
<sup>33</sup> The Girl on the Stairs p. 84

<sup>34</sup> WCD 897 p. 35

<sup>35</sup> WCH XXIII p. 913

Bart correctly discerns that Shelley & Lovelady's testimonies- regarding their actions immediately after the shots- are directly contradicted by Gerda Dunckel's discovery in the Couch film. They were captured walking down the Elm St. Extension completely unaware that Baker was sprinting for the front steps. Yet they claimed to have seen him and Truly enter the building. Shelley & Lovelady discombobulated their own time estimates because the Commission wanted them re-entering the building several minutes later than they actually did, in order to prop up the fiction that they saw Vicki Adams then- thereby slowing her up and getting Oswald unnoticed into the lunchroom.

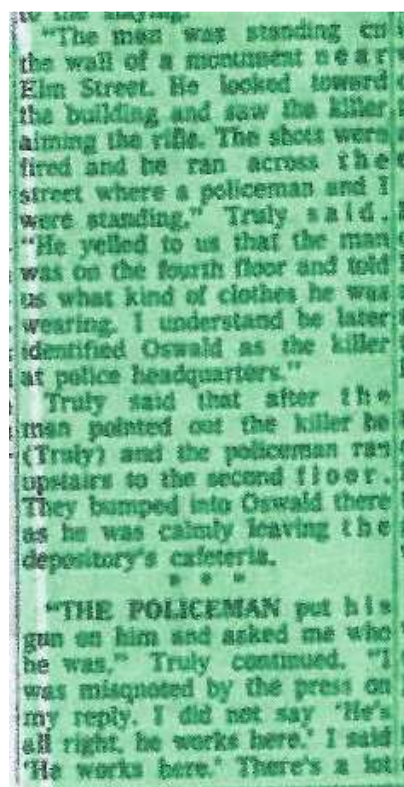
And then Bart lowers the boom, commenting on the picture that is back on page 5: "In case you were wondering who is below No. 1, that is Prayer Man who is Lee Oswald."



Kamp asserts that Oswald was on the landing during the shooting. In defiance of geometric proof that shows that PrayerMan is 6 inches too short. In defiance of film enhancements that show a woman's face and a big-buttoned coat. And there will be no further discussion regarding Oswald's whereabouts during the shooting. And this PrayerMan fallacy will now be used to feed the lunchroom hoax fallacy.

What is he going to do when the digital scan of Darnell shows a woman clerk? Does he realize that Sean Murphy would be acclaimed in Ireland if there was even a remote chance that his theory was true? But it's a clunker, and he quit the research community because he can't handle failure. He can't handle the disappointment of seeing his precious theory take a nosedive. Yet he was transformed into a mythological visionary by ROKC because they don't champion their own argument. They require sycophants to justify their position because they lack the courage of their convictions. And they use this quitter to pretend they're after truth. But truth is invulnerable. And winners never quit.

Our next treat is an article in the *Odessa American* from April 1964. This is high school student Roy Boyd's interview with Roy Truly, the month after he testified. Kamp doesn't share with the reader that, after describing Marguerite Oswald's effort to identify her son to him in Altgens 6, Truly had added, "*Besides we ran into Oswald upstairs only about a minute after the picture was taken.*" Altgens 6 captures the throat shot to JFK.



Truly had ridden on the plane to Washington with construction worker Howard Brennan and they testified the same day. And the account he relates to Boyd combines his own with some hearsay he had picked up about Brennan.

Truly claimed that Brennan ran up to him and Baker and "*pointed out the killer*" on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. It was then that they ran to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and bumped into Oswald "*calmly leaving the depository's cafeteria.*"

The truth was that Brennan didn't leave his wall perch until nearly 2 ½ minutes after the shooting. Welcome Barnett had returned to the front and he'd told him then about a sniper upstairs.<sup>36</sup> Radio reports in the next few minutes mentioned the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. And Brennan wouldn't identify Oswald at DPD Headquarters.

<sup>36</sup> WCH III p. 145, WCH pp. 542-543



Truly tried to account himself in bravery and knew full well he was taking large liberties with the facts for this 16-year-old reporter. It's anyone's guess as to the reason for this strange behavior. His fictions don't find a grain of support from any outside source, and he wrapped his story around the rock of the lunchroom encounter. The art of disinformation is crafting lies into the truth.

Kamp then notes that Wesley Frazier and Joe Molina, who were on the landing, failed to remember Baker entering the building. But he does admit that Molina remembered Truly entering "20 or 30 seconds" after the shots. In the chaos they shouldn't have missed a thing, right? They should have been more concerned with what nitpickers might think 54 years later.

And his next tack is to attempt to undermine the credibility of Pauline Sanders by tying her in with Jeraldean Reid. Because Sanders told the FBI on November 24<sup>th</sup> that a white-helmeted police officer ran into the Depository 10 seconds after the shots. It's tough to get around a hard witness statement like that, and we've already seen how badly Kamp flubbed up Bob Jackson's testimony about seeing an officer run up the TSBD steps toward the front door.

So Kamp alerts us, with a link to his private blog, asking, "What are the odds that both of Truly's secretaries have the same conversation with the TSBD's vice president just after the shooting?" But when we check on this conversation, we find that what they said was, "I think the shots came from our building." What an unbelievable coincidence- right up there with two people both saying, "I think they shot the President." I mean, what are the chances?

But there's a second component to these conversations. Sanders had heard VP Ochus Campbell reply that "*the shots came from the embankment.*" But Reid, in her Nov. 23 DPD affidavit, stated she'd "*heard someone else say no, I think it was further down the street.*" Yet in her testimony 4 months later, Reid stated it was Campbell, not someone else, who'd replied "*no, it came from the grassy area down this way.*"<sup>37</sup> The possibilities here are mind-boggling- whose memory was mistaken, or not mistaken, and when? Talk about a solid lead.

And Kamp warns us "Sanders does have a telephone conversation with Reid and a truckload of hearsay is being relayed (with regards Oswald's so called encounter with Reid in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office)." He's referring to the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>, when Sanders was under the impression that "*the police officer who had first entered the building ran into the lunch room where MR. TRULY, the warehouse manager, and OSWALD were evidently lunching.*"<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> WCH III p. 274

<sup>38</sup> WCH XXII p. 845

Unless Sanders was the mastermind of the lunchroom hoax plot, and was spinning disinformation to the FBI on November 24<sup>th</sup>, a person in their right mind would have to conclude that Chinese whispers was rampant in the early chaotic days of the Kennedy assassination. But because of her association with Reid, and the Murphyites' m.o. of guilt-by-association, Sanders' eyewitness account of seeing Baker run into the Depository has to be called into question- after all, it helps refute the teachings of Sean Murphy.

This is how East Podunk U. becomes national champion. But it is not the hard-nosed scientific detective work required when reconstructing a crime scene.

## FROM THE VESTIBULE TO THE VESTIBULE

We rejoin our heroes at the front door and will follow them here as they navigate their way to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom. Kamp introduces this journey with one of the nothing-burger teachings of Sean Murphy, lifted straight from Truly's first FBI statement the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup>:

*“[Truly] accompanied the officer into the front of the building. **They saw no one there** and he accompanied the officer immediately up the stairs to the second floor of the building...”*<sup>39</sup>

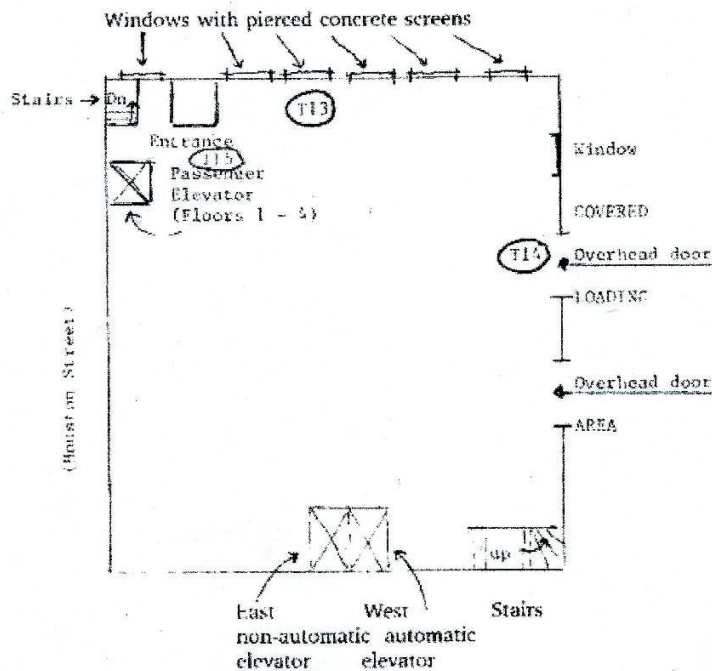
One might infer that Truly and Baker actually went into the front, and that subsequently they saw no one- i.e. no one who could be regarded as suspicious, as a possible accomplice to the shooter upstairs. But the Murphyites want us to interpret this redundant observation as indicating that Truly was covering up for PrayerMan on the landing- he had PrayerMan on his mind and blurted out that “they saw no one there” on the landing while they were entering the front. So a Murphyite has to contend that Truly didn't mean to give the impression that he actually went into the front and saw no one in the lobby, which was teeming with employees. What Truly really meant was that, as he and Baker were *entering* the front, “they saw no one there” over on the west end of the landing, where PrayerMan was standing.

In the introduction I mentioned that the Sophists used the ambiguities of language in order to support a deceptive argument. And this is one of the better examples of the Murphyites' sophistry. It is rather redundant to insert that “they saw no one there” but it was probably what Truly said and it was in relation to the possibility of accomplices. And isn't redundancy a common part of any criminal investigation?

But Kamp uses the vaunted Mary Ferrell Chronologies to help hammer home this PrayerMan coverup, since her 1<sup>st</sup>-floor witnesses weren't incorporated into the mix.

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<sup>39</sup> WCD 5 p. 322



Eddie Piper (T13) was correctly placed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> window to the right of the front door. But as seen on page 24, Troy West's (T14) coffee station was nearly at the overhead door that was closer to the corner stairwell. And as for Roy Lewis (T15), who was "standing by himself just inside the front entrance"- well, he was, but he was actually outside in the fresh air.

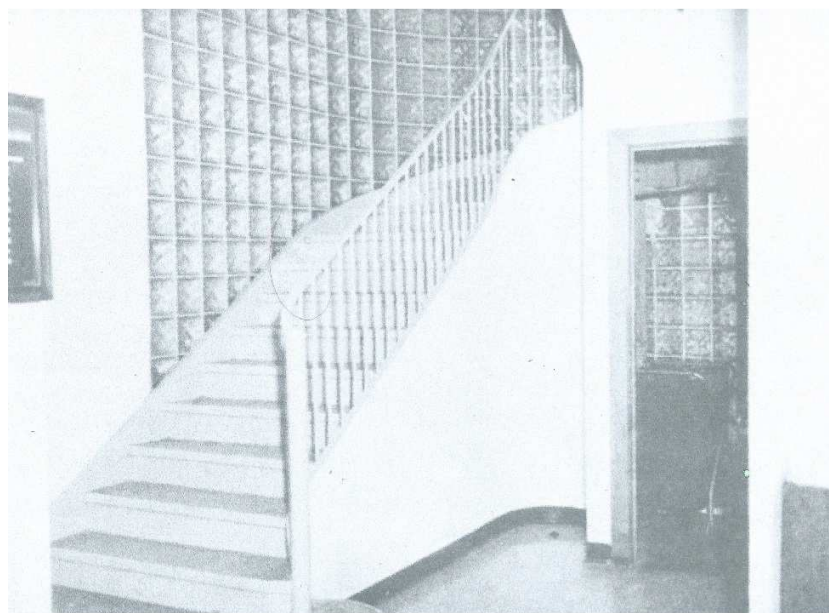
*"I was about the last one to come out of the building, all the rest of them was out in front. And I was at- at the top of the steps when you come out the front door... when I, uh, came out of the building- I was there, a few seconds- and I heard- I heard the shots rang out... when the shots rang out, a lot of people ran for- including me- went toward the grassy knoll."*<sup>40</sup>

Yet Kamp would have us believe that this error-laden Chronologies diagram leads one "to wonder why Truly tried to make it look like nothing special was happening in that vestibule." And he persists in referring to the front lobby as the vestibule- this serves his agenda by obfuscating that the real vestibule is the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor foyer outside the lunchroom. If he can sow confusion as to the vestibule's location he can transplant an event near the foyer to an event near the lobby, where PrayerMan hangs out.

Harry Holmes was the only witness who referred to the recessed entranceway alcove as "the vestibule". He wasn't referring to the front lobby. Holmes was relating that a

<sup>40</sup> JFK Conference Dallas 2016 Larry Rivera & Roy Lewis @ 6:25

policeman stopped Oswald from leaving as he was coming down the stairs and “approaching the door to the vestibule. He was just coming, apparently, and I have never been in there myself.”<sup>41</sup>



Bart pretends that Truly, inside the front lobby with Baker, would have gone through some kind of long-winded explanation regarding how the lobby stairs only went up as far as the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and the passenger elevator only as far as the 4<sup>th</sup>.

“Meaning he would have been longer inside that vestibule instead of making everyone believe they were storming through.”

But Truly was with a cop in pursuit of an active gunman. His mind instantly flashed through the different alternatives to get to the upper floors and roof. There was no need to belabor them with Baker. He knew the quickest route and immediately volunteered that “I’ll show you the way” and led him through the doors into the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor warehouse. There isn’t a single witness to them lingering in the lobby, because they were gone almost as soon as they got there.

Yet Bart is correct in his discernment that the accounts of Piper and West were essentially squelched. They saw more than they could let on. These were menial blacks with only a junior-high education and they were easily intimidated, especially Troy West. He only divulged to the Secret Service that “he heard the shots fired and that before he could leave the building many people came in, including many police officers.

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<sup>41</sup> WCH VII p. 306

*He was not able to furnish further information.*<sup>42</sup> And West had a near-total memory lapse when he testified, since he couldn't remember just when Truly came in, or if anyone yelled for the elevators, or used them, or used the stairs, and he even denied hearing any shots.

Piper should have been asked especially whether he talked to Dougherty upon his arrival downstairs in the west elevator, since that was a key component of Dougherty's alibi. The following exchange from his second round of testimony hints that he may have been pressured to forget he ever saw Adams & Styles run across the back of the warehouse:

BALL: [Truly and this officer] They were the first ones to go up the steps?

PIPER: That's right.

BALL: Had anybody come down the steps before they went up the steps?

PIPER: No, sir.

BALL: They weren't the first ones to come down?

PIPER: Yes; and when the elevators come down- I really don't know who brought the elevators down, but I know nobody ever come down the steps.

BALL: Did you ever see Vicki Adams come down the steps?

PIPER: No, sir; I don't know about that, if she said she did, it was after I got over here and walked over to the back door.

BALL: Did Vicki Adams come down before Truly and the man went up the steps?

PIPER: No, sir, no, sir; she didn't do it.<sup>43</sup>

It is puzzling that Baker didn't mention seeing a black man in that rear corner until his 2004 phone interview with Barry Ernest. He did mention seeing "two white men" in his testimony, and I have expressed my opinion as to their identity in *Inside Job*, pp. 63-67. They may well have been the same phony Secret Service agents that David Harkness ran into behind the Depository at 12:36. Baker avoided elaborating on them when specifically asked about them 20 minutes later in his testimony.<sup>44</sup>

In his section *The Stairs and the Elevators* Kamp again commits a woeful gaffe:

"As mentioned earlier some employees stated that the power to the elevators was cut while the motorcade passed and right after the assassination."

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<sup>42</sup> WCD 87 p. 785

<sup>43</sup> WCH VII p. 389

<sup>44</sup> WCH III p. 267

This is not accurate and is downright deceptive. Vicki Adams was the only employee to mention that the power had been cut to the passenger elevator when she returned inside the building at approximately 12:40. Yet this same elevator had been working when Inspector Herbert Sawyer descended to the front landing about 12:38. And it was Deputy Sheriff Luke Mooney who noticed the power went out on the freight elevator he'd been using about 12:41.<sup>45</sup>



Truly studiously avoided mentioning any problems summoning the elevators when he talked with the FBI, DPD and Secret Service. He said nothing about the elevators to the press. It wasn't until his March 24<sup>th</sup> testimony that he revealed that the west freight elevator was missing when he and Baker arrived on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

And Kamp keeps pushing the frontiers of knuckleheadedness when tells us that Truly's September 23, 1964 FBI statement "becomes mega generic, one wonders whether Truly is showing fatigue rehashing the same ol' story over and over again... The steps, vestibule and the elevator elements are absent." Small wonder, since in all probability Agent Richard Burnett wrote this statement up for Truly to sign.

He follows up this gaffe with a misquote of Earl Golz in a 1978 *Dallas Morning News* article. Golz had written: "Truly contends that no one could have ridden down from the sixth floor after the assassination in one of the two freight elevators because they were both up on the fifth floor with the gates up when we (Truly and Baker) passed them up there..."<sup>46</sup> and this metamorphoses into "Truly now contends that no one couldn't have ridden..."

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<sup>45</sup> Inside Job, pp. 40-41

<sup>46</sup> "Depository chief disputes evidence of filmed images," by Earl Golz, Dallas Morning News, 11/2/78



Instead of wondering why Truly would falsely claim to Golz that both elevators were up on the 5<sup>th</sup> when he and Baker went by them, Kamp contends that “This contradicts Jack Dougherty’s movements after the shooting.” If he had even bothered to look through *Inside Job*, pp. 12-19, he might have learned that Dougherty’s claimed movements after the shooting are physically impossible. Dougherty didn’t actually bring the west freight elevator down until after Truly & Baker had started climbing the stairs.

And then another of Bart’s howlers, where he analyses a testimony excerpt:

BAKER: I said let’s take the stairs... and later:

(Discussion off the record)

BK: This obviously contradicts his Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> affidavit where he stated that Truly said that. It is rather peculiar that the discussion goes off the record at this specific moment.

But if BK had only checked that affidavit, he’d find it states that Truly “*said, ‘Let’s take the elevator’. The elevator was hung several floors up so we used the stairs instead.*” And not only is there no specification as to who recommended taking the stairs. **The next discussion off the record actually takes place 4 ¼ pages after this excerpt.**

Oh, what a wicked web we weave when first we practice to deceive...

Baker’s faux pas at III p. 254 about how “*the next floor up*” after the lunchroom Truly had said, “*Let’s take the elevator*” has already been covered on page 35. Don’t you think there’s a good chance Baker had a fatigue glitch at this point in the testimony, having repeatedly described in detail a building he wasn’t all that familiar with? But Kamp want us to believe that “Baker gives the game away.”

Baker’s claim that he was the one who said “*Let’s take the stairs*” is simply a memory glitch. Truly testified that “*I went on a run up the stairway*”<sup>47</sup> and Baker recalled him saying, “*Come on, we’ll take the stairway!*”<sup>48</sup>

Kamp has recently added the Norman Redlich brief “The Mystery of the West Elevator” to his mega-essay and muddledly offers the reader some further muddled testimony from Jack Dougherty. I was the researcher who obtained that document from the Archives in 2013 and Bart might get up to speed on that by reading p. 18 of *Inside Job*. The major problem with Dougherty’s alibi is that if he actually reacted to the shots and went downstairs in the west elevator as fast as he claimed, the elapsed time required to talk to Eddie Piper, process that 3 shots had been fired and

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<sup>47</sup> WCH III p. 223

<sup>48</sup> No More Silence by Larry Sneed, p. 124

decide to return back upstairs, and actually return to the 5<sup>th</sup>- all of that takes a bare minimum of 62 seconds. When Truly & Baker looked up the elevator shaft they would have seen the west elevator moving. But they didn't. So Dougherty did not take it down immediately upon hearing shots. In fact, he commenced to do this one minute later- when Adams heard the cables moving. Kamp would have us believe that she saw the cables moving, misquoting Sean Murphy himself:

“Sandra Styles told me in an e-mail that she recalled Vicki Adams telling co-workers that she had heard the sound of elevator cables when she and Sandra were running down the stairs.”<sup>49</sup>

He is correct to point out that the 4<sup>th</sup>-floor office girls Sandra Styles, Dorothy Garner and Elsie Dorman all should have been deposed. And a timed re-enactment of Adams & Styles' would have been mandatory, were the Warren Commission interested in a scientific reconstruction of Oswald's alleged flight.

But Otis Williams cannot be used to accurately gauge the timing of others on that corner stairwell. He was a portly man, 64, and had stated the day after the assassination that he *“immediately went back into the building into his office on the second floor.”*<sup>50</sup> Geneva Hine remembered him coming in as part of a group of people.<sup>51</sup> But by the time that Larry Sneed interviewed him, Williams would say that he *“entered the building immediately, climbed up the stairs where the warehouse elevator was which led to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and went up to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, which was the first one I could see from to see the underpass. After I got up there and saw that nothing was going on on the underpass, I turned around and came back down to the office and called my wife.”*<sup>52</sup> He'd skipped his first office visit. Otis was a couple minutes too late to have seen any of our main protagonists on the rear stairwell.

We don't find out until Truly's December Secret Service interview that he led the way upstairs. First we'll look at Bart's version, then at the real version.

Bart claims that on December 8<sup>th</sup> Truly stated: “I had started to go up the stairway to the third floor when I noticed that the officer was not following, and I heard him say something. I then went back and found that he was standing near the entrance of the lunchroom.”

The date 12-7-63 is printed in the top right-hand corner. Truly had reportedly stated that as he *“started up the stairway from the second to the third floor, he noticed that the patrolman was not with him and, at the same time, he heard the patrolman say something.*

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<sup>49</sup> Sean Murphy in “Oswald Leaving TSBD?” p. 81 @ Education Forum

<sup>50</sup> WCD 5 p. 64

<sup>51</sup> WCH VI p. 397

<sup>52</sup> No More Silence pp. 117-118

[He] returned to the second floor and saw the patrolman standing at the doorway leading to the lunch room.”<sup>53</sup>

Truly had gone up “two or three” steps, realized Baker wasn’t following, and since he’s most concerned about the policeman with him (rather than Adams & Styles, whom he may well have heard up ahead on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor landing), he returns to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor landing. The vestibule door had closed behind Baker after only 1.8 seconds. So Truly opened it, leaned in, and saw Baker “standing at the doorway leading to the lunch room.” Which is just how he described it to the Warren Commission.



Detroit Free Press Dec. 7, 1963

But he told an alternative version to the newspapers, in this same December timeframe. He claimed to a Detroit reporter that Baker was ahead of him and “when I arrived on the second floor he had his pistol out and was confronting Lee Oswald.” Notice that he adds in the little fiction that on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor they “waited for an elevator to the seventh floor.” And he claimed to Leo Sauvage that “we took the stairs, the officer ahead of me. When I reached the second-floor landing, the officer was already at the door of the lunchroom, some twenty or twenty-five feet away.” Kamp unfortunately renders this as “open door of the lunchroom”, but exaggeration is no help for a proper evaluation. Truly is telling one thing to the authorities but another thing to the news reporters.

<sup>53</sup> WCD 87 p. 778

right away after the shots. I knew they were shots, but had no idea they were fired from the building. I thought the officer wanted to get to the roof for a better look and I immediately offered to show him how. We ran to the freight elevators in the back of the building because the front elevators do not go beyond the fourth floor, but the two freight cars had both been left somewhere on the top floors and we took the stairs, the officer ahead of me. When I reached the second-floor landing, the officer was already at the door of the lunchroom, some twenty or twenty-five feet away. No, I couldn't tell you exactly how much time it took, all this, but it wasn't long . . ."

*National Guardian Mar. 21, 1964*

This is where we run into a fundamental problem with the hoaxers, who regressively maintain that the lunchroom incident was make-believe. They don't apply any further thought into what the evidence tells us.

Truly led the way from the elevators up the stairs. There was a fair amount of separation between himself and Baker. He was almost starting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor when Baker set foot on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor landing. There is a strong likelihood that creating this sizeable gap was intentional. And almost without question he noticed Oswald in the plate-glass window.

Oswald recognized Truly and remained relaxed, but he had no idea a cop was behind him. He flinched away instinctively, and that is what drew Baker's attention.

It looked too cavalier for Truly to be leading the charge upstairs to confront an armed gunman, and that is why he spun this differently for the newspapers. He of course did not fear such a confrontation in reality.

The lunchroom incident was a set-up, and that is probably why Oswald was instructed to keep watch right behind the plate-glass window. The first responder, Officer Baker, was guided inside to the rear elevator shaft. Truly looked up and could be dead sure they were up on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Escorting him then up the stairs, he had expected a reaction from Oswald and a subsequent encounter inside the lunchroom. While that was beginning the cables began moving and the west elevator descended to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor undetected.



## THE SECOND FLOOR LUNCHROOM ENCOUNTER

After presenting a sequence of photos of the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor landing and lunchroom, Bart notes that, since the vestibule door was set at roughly 45 degrees, it would have been physically impossible for someone out on the landing to see anyone inside the lunchroom. But Baker clarified this very point in his testimony: *“when I got to where I could see him, he was walking away from me about 20 feet away from me in the lunchroom.”*<sup>54</sup>



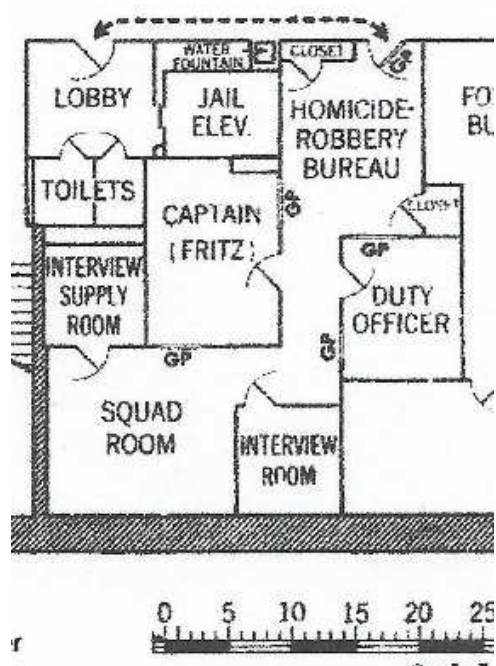
22. ENTRANCE TO OFFICE SPACE AND LUNCH ROOM.

And the Murphyites want to crucify him for saying in his affidavit that *“I saw a man walking away from the stairway.”* Might not Oswald have been right at the plate-glass window, and begun walking away as soon as he saw Baker, who happened to be on the stairway in this unfamiliar building? We looked at his affidavit back on page 32. Baker, 3 ½ hours later, concerned with getting the facts down, obviously skipped any mention of glimpsing Oswald in the window. The detail that stuck out to him was that this man walked away, suspiciously enough to justify chasing after him.

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<sup>54</sup> WCH III p. 250

Kamp also wants us to believe that “Lee Oswald is in full view of Baker while Marvin Johnson takes his statement,” yet it is unlikely that Johnson was even in that small back interrogation room that Baker used to compose his affidavit. Johnson wasn’t mentioned in any police reports as having attended Oswald’s 1<sup>st</sup> interrogation. Oswald was brought back there, from Fritz’s personal office, so that Forrest Sorrels could question him. Sorrels was joined by Thomas Kelley and homicide detectives Richard Sims and Elmer Boyd.<sup>55</sup> Sorrels wasn’t sure whether there weren’t also some FBI agents in there.<sup>56</sup> And Baker complained that “I couldn’t get out by him while they were questioning him.”<sup>57</sup>



As described on page 33, Johnson reported a detail not heard elsewhere- that Baker had started searching Oswald while in the lunchroom. And he added that “Officer Baker later identified Lee Harvey Oswald as the man he had seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Texas Book Depository.” Yet he piled on at the very end of this same report that “When Baker saw Oswald he stated, ‘That is the man I stopped on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the School Book Depository’.”<sup>58</sup>

<sup>55</sup> WCH VII p. 165

<sup>56</sup> WCH VII p. 353, WCH XIII p. 57

<sup>57</sup> WCH III p. 258

<sup>58</sup> WCH XXIV p. 308

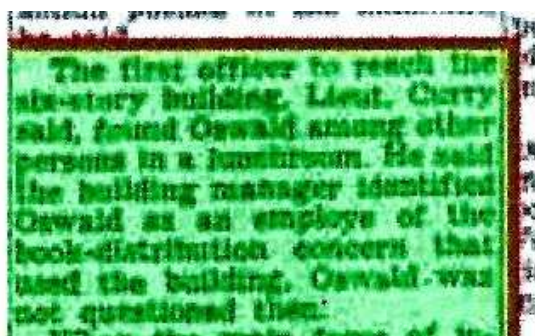


Johnson appears to have been attempting to railroad the suspect, because this wasn't how Baker remembered identifying Oswald in a 1977 HSCA interview. He recalled then that he "returned to hdq. and put his bike away. He gave a statement and found out from the officer who had also taken a statement from Mr. Truly that the man he accosted on the second floor of the TSBD was Oswald,"<sup>59</sup> which suggests he found out from Jim Leavelle. Baker had testified in 1964 that he recognized Oswald in that back room but wasn't asked then whether he had said anything about it. In front of all those other law enforcement personnel? And none of them ever mentioned it? There is a better likelihood that Baker told whatever he told to Marvin Johnson in private, when he handed him his typed affidavit.

And Chinese whispers is already infiltrating the DPD on the first day. Because the Homicide Office's November 22<sup>nd</sup> Case Report tells us that Baker identified Oswald in a line-up.<sup>60</sup> Yet he wasn't on the DPD's show-up list<sup>61</sup> and Baker assured the Warren Commission that *"I never did have a chance to see him in the lineup."*<sup>62</sup>

Truly testified that as he backtracked from the stairwell he heard *"a voice, coming from the area of the lunchroom... I think I opened the door."*<sup>63</sup> In the Secret Service re-enactment film, from the moment Agent Talmadge Bailey first touches the doorknob, only 4.7 seconds elapses until the door closes behind him (1.8 seconds after he loses contact with it). On November 22<sup>nd</sup> Baker was probably slightly faster.

And Kamp frets that Baker's "glimpse" of Oswald in the window seems somehow contrived, but this was an expression which didn't crystallize until the aid of the re-enactments. Or that "Belin not once asked Baker during his W.C. testimony, if the person he caught a "glimpse" of through the window of the door on the second floor landing was the same person (Oswald) he stopped and questioned in the lunchroom seconds later." But this was confirmed by *"when I got to where I could see him."*



New York Times Nov. 24, 1963

<sup>59</sup> HSCA interview of Marrion Baker by James Kelly & Harold Rose, 10/25/77

<sup>60</sup> WCH XXIV p. 249

<sup>61</sup> WCH XXIV p. 347

<sup>62</sup> WCH III p. 257

<sup>63</sup> WCH III p. 224

And he uses this glimpse to try to sell us more PrayerMan mullarkey: “If the door was closed and Baker saw a glimpse, then Oswald must have come from the first floor!” Baker did further refine this “glimpse” into a “movement,” which was a movement away (since the man glimpsed was subsequently witnessed walking away in the lunchroom), which suggests that this man was right at the plate-glass window and flinched away.

Howard Roffman & Bill Kelly effectively disproved the Commission allegation that Oswald had arrived down from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor just ahead of Baker. The door had to be closed for Baker to have seen Oswald in the window. But Truly, according to the timings used, should have seen Oswald entering the vestibule. He didn’t, and Oswald couldn’t have been in the sniper’s nest.<sup>64</sup>



As mentioned on pages 38-39, Chief Curry’s casual comment to reporters that Oswald had been found “among other persons in a lunchroom” eventually resulted in Agent Richard Burnett making a hurried visit to get Baker & Truly to sign affidavits that they saw “*no one else in the vicinity of the lunchroom.*” And Bart reproduces an FBI telex requesting specifically that “Mr. TRULY and Officer BAKER were to be questioned as to whether either had seen any individuals except OSWALD in the lunchroom.”

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<sup>64</sup> Howard Roffman’s “Presumed Guilty” & The Doors of Perception- Why Oswald Is Not Guilty by Bill Kelly @ JFKcountercoup, 7/9/13 & 7/14/13

Yet Bart correctly dismisses Stavis Ellis, the motorcycle commander, as unreliable. Several years later Ellis would claim that Baker “and the supervisor encountered someone on either the third or fourth floor. This person was drinking water from the water cooler- he did not stop because the supervisor advised the officer that the man was an employee. MAJOR ELLIS stated this officer later identified the man by the water cooler as LEE HARVEY OSWALD!”<sup>66</sup>

With even more hindsight Ellis told Larry Sneed that “they encountered Oswald drinking a Coke on the second floor. Baker was told that he was all right, that he worked there. That’s where Baker messed up! He should have sealed off the building and not let anybody out till it was ascertained that nobody there had anything to do with it... On the other hand, Baker wasn’t real bright either. Before he went to Washington to testify to the Warren Commission he went into Captain Lawrence’s office and said, ‘Captain, I’ve got to go to Washington. Don’t you think the city ought to buy me a suit?’ Ain’t that some bull crap? I don’t know why, but the boys called him ‘Momma Son’. But he was always slow.”<sup>67</sup>

6. While we were still searching the building, Mr. Roy W. Truly, 4932 Wade Drive, reported to us that one of his men was missing, a Lee Harvey Oswald, whose address was 2515 W. 5th Street, Irving, Texas. We also found that this man had been stopped by Officer M. L. Baker while coming down the stairs. Mr. Baker says that he stopped this man on the third or fourth floor on the stairway, but as Mr. Truly identified him as one of the employees, he was released. After seeing that

*Fritz's note to Curry*

<sup>65</sup> Lee Harvey Oswald, Marrion Baker, Roy Truly, and the Coke @ David Von Pein's JFK Archives

<sup>66</sup> Harold Weisberg file memo

<sup>67</sup> No More Silence, p. 151.

And now we get to the Peyton Place of Chinese whispers, Fritz's December 23<sup>rd</sup> report to Chief Curry, a 5-page 23-item synopsis of "*the more important pieces of evidence.*" Despite Kamp's false claim- "This very same report falsely claims that Oswald's working area was mostly on the second floor!"- nowhere in this report is there any mention of Oswald's working area.

Captain Fritz more than likely first found out about the lunchroom encounter from Marvin Johnson. And more than likely referred to Baker's affidavit- with its notorious line "*when we reached the third or fourth floor I saw a man walking away from the stairway*"- when he compiled this report. There is no indication that Fritz ever spoke directly with Baker. He was more interested in wrapping up the investigation than in unraveling its intricacies.

And so he accepts Baker's written description that the encounter was on "*the third or fourth floor*" at the "*stairway.*" In fact, Fritz elaborates that "*this man had been stopped... while coming down the stairs.*" This ties in with the case he is making that this man ran down from the sniper's nest. But it does not mean that Fritz is giving an accurate description of where the encounter took place. He's giving a description that suits his purposes. Because a meeting "*while coming down the stairs*" is not corroborated by any other evidence and is almost certainly hearsay, introduced by Fritz himself or Marvin Johnson- besides being claustrophobic.

Fritz's Friday afternoon interrogation summary goes on to state that "I asked him what part of the building he was in at the time the President was shot, and he said that he was having his lunch about this time on the first floor."<sup>68</sup>

And we get corroboration that this is indeed what Oswald said from the FBI report of James Hosty & James Bookhout: "[OSWALD] claimed he ate his lunch on the first floor in the lunchroom; however he went to the second floor where the Coca-Cola machine is located and obtained a bottle of Coca-Cola for his lunch. OSWALD claimed to be on the first floor when President JOHN F. KENNEDY passed this building."<sup>69</sup>

On Saturday morning Oswald reportedly said "he ate his lunch with the colored boys who work with him"- Junior and "a little short negro boy"<sup>70</sup>, referring to James Jarman and Harold Norman. But Bookhout recorded in better detail that Oswald had said he'd eaten in the lunch room alone, "but recalled possibly two Negro employees walking through the room during this period."<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Warren Report p. 600

<sup>69</sup> Ibid p. 613

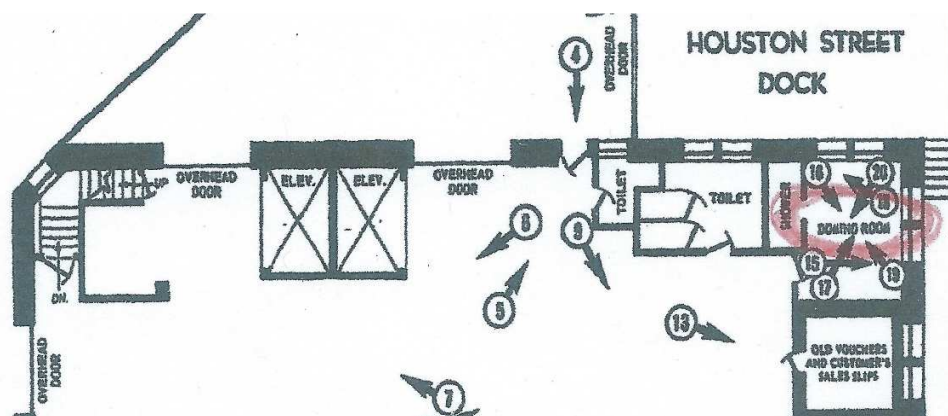
<sup>70</sup> Ibid p. 626

<sup>71</sup> Ibid p. 622



Oswald was describing being in the employees' domino room, which looked out to the rear of the warehouse, and seeing Jarman & Norman make their way across the rear floor to access the west freight elevator. They had been standing out in front of the Depository but decided to head upstairs to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor "between 12:20 and 12:25,"<sup>72</sup> according to Jarman, and Norman recalled hearing a radio report then that the presidential motorcade was coming down Main.<sup>73</sup>

That radio report was either Deputy Chief George Lumpkin, in the pilot car, telling the lead car at 12:20: "Crowd on Main Street in real good shape. Got them all back on the curb"- to which Curry replied, "Good shape, about to cross Live Oak," a quarter-mile behind him. Or it was Curry's 12:22 command: "Escort drop back, go real slow speed now approaching Main."<sup>74</sup> Jarman & Norman crossed the rear floor in the approximate 12:22-24 timeframe and Oswald was in the domino room at this time.



But if Oswald was in the domino room having his lunch at the time the President was shot, at 12:30, and he was encountered in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom about 60 seconds after the shots, he would have raced upstairs almost immediately upon hearing gunfire. But neither Piper nor West reported seeing him then.

If Oswald had actually been in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom during the shooting, and it was his assignment to be there, he would not have revealed who his assignees were- at least not during that initial weekend. He would not have let on that he was on any kind of assignment and used an alibi that he was elsewhere, such as the domino room.

<sup>72</sup> WCH III p. 202

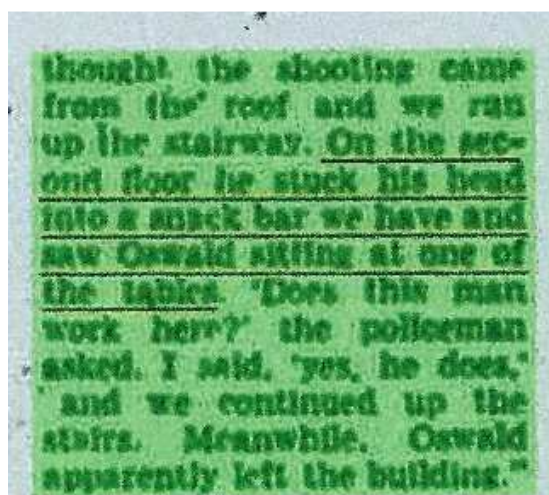
<sup>73</sup> WCH III p. 190

<sup>74</sup> Harold Weisberg Archives, DPD radio transmissions, December 3, 1963



## MRS. REID AND THE COKE PROBLEM

As I emphasized on page 31, there are ancillary items which have nothing to do with whether or not the lunchroom incident occurred. Whether or not Oswald was first seen by Truly standing or sitting, or drinking a Coke or not drinking a Coke are questions that do not in the least detract from the incident's reality. They only fortify the argument that there was indeed a lunchroom encounter.



*New York Herald Tribune Nov. 27, 1963*

As noted earlier, Truly would give the newspaper people cavalier details that didn't quite mesh with the version he consistently gave to law enforcement investigators. And he didn't bluff the Secret Service when he stated that "*he saw the patrolman standing at the doorway leading to the lunchroom, with his pistol drawn and pointing at Oswald, who was then just inside the lunch room near the doorway.*"<sup>75</sup>

Yet Bart cavalierly quotes Truly here stating that "just inside the lunch room door, Lee Oswald was standing and the officer was facing him." And then claims "This contradicts Baker's WC testimony," without specifying just what is contradicted. When we check the testimony, we find that Baker precisely indicated that "*I moved on to this position 24 right here in this doorway... As I called [to the man], I remember moving forward a little bit and meeting him right here in this doorway.*"<sup>76</sup> Position 24 is shown on the diagram back on page 36, along with an arrow indicating Baker's position was exactly in the lunchroom doorframe, facing Oswald.

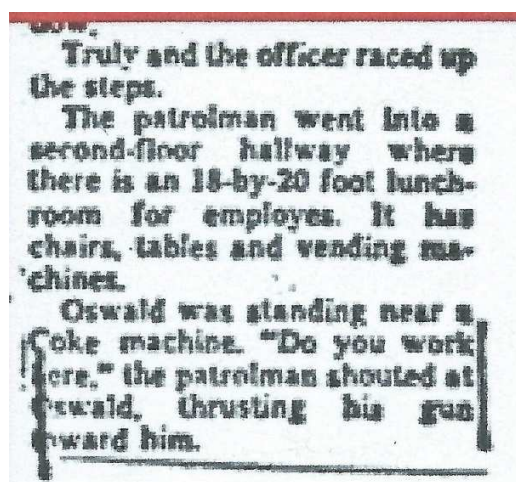
Similarly, he quotes Baker's HSCA statement that he saw "an old boy walking away," when Baker had actually said, "*this old boy was walking away.*"

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<sup>75</sup> WCD 87 p. 778

<sup>76</sup> WCH III pp. 256-257

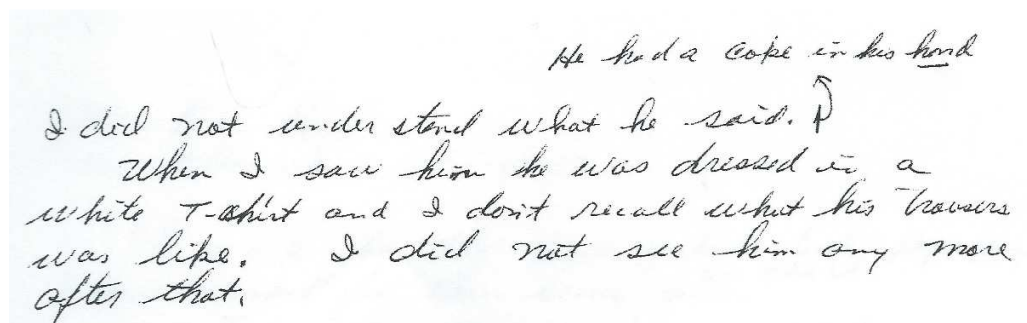
Similarly, Bart tells us that in the 1986 London trial Baker related that "He opened the door, went in and called back Oswald with 'Come Here'. Mr. Truly was at his side!" But prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi was not looking to establish the protagonists' precise whereabouts, since that had been done exhaustively in the Warren hearings. Bugliosi was looking for an overview of Baker's pertinent recollections. So that Truly's micro-actions from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor landing into the vestibule were condensed into an appearance "at his side!" The transcript may be reviewed on pages 28-29.



*Philadelphia Sunday Bulletin Dec. 1, 1963*

And the inundation of journalistic Chinese whispers continues. That same spin of Baker popping the magic question was in the November 29<sup>th</sup> **Washington Evening Star**: "Mr. Truly said that the policeman had his gun on Oswald as the youth leaned against the counter and said does this man work here?" And the December 1<sup>st</sup> **Washington Post** added a report about the Coke: "As they made their way to a back stairway, the policeman saw Oswald standing beside a drinks machine sipping from a Coke bottle."

But whether in truth Oswald was encountered drinking a Coke in the lunchroom, or not drinking a Coke in the lunchroom, this Coke problem only leads us straight back to the idea that there really was a lunchroom encounter. It wasn't make-believe!



Oswald's Coke was mentioned at his first interrogation. It was inserted as an afterthought the next morning by Jeraldean Reid, when she gave an affidavit describing her alleged encounter with Oswald in the central office, after he left the lunchroom. She kept referring to it in her subsequent statements, but Kamp blunders again when he claims "it is absent in the Secret Service report from January 8, 1964."

If he had only read, with comprehension, the next page of that December 7th report, he would have learned that Reid recalled that Oswald "was carrying a coke bottle in his hand."<sup>77</sup> Kamp's technique of writing without footnotes lets him say whatever he thinks he can get away with to push his hack theory on unsuspecting readers.



*Carolyn Arnold, Jeraldean Reid, Victoria Adams*

Mrs. Reid was captured in this frame from the Roy Cooper film at the southeast corner of the Depository sometime before 12:40, when Vicki Adams returned inside. I am not aware of a more precise timestamp. Even if it were rigorously proven that Reid didn't return outside- so that her Oswald encounter was fictitious- it doesn't necessarily follow that the lunchroom encounter was also fictitious. The Murphyites blindly extrapolate a lunchroom encounter hoax out of an office encounter hoax, with their wishful thinking dead-ending at its desired solution, without considering how a Reid hoax meshes with a lunchroom reality.

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<sup>77</sup> WCD 87 p. 786

Firstly that means that Oswald most probably used the hallway to get to the lobby stairs. This agrees with Geneva Hine's observation that nobody entered the empty office when she returned by the back door and answered the phones. Oswald's best bet to get outside with a minimum of fuss would have been to avoid the central office and instead use the corridor.

*I talked with Lee and liked his  
appearance so I hired him.*

*Mr. Reid*

And secondly, we have to recognize that Truly was the one who would have put Reid up to this. He suspiciously added her name at the bottom of his affidavit, which they each gave that Saturday morning for Homicide Detective James Leavelle. Truly was further micro-managing the conviction of the patsy, a process he had started when the long paper bag- allegedly used to carry the alleged murder weapon- was constructed at the Depository on Friday afternoon. That gunsack bag and the sample paper the DPD brought back were cut from the same roll.<sup>78</sup> And it was fabricated shortly after Oswald's arrest was reported, and shortly before it was carried out the front by Homicide's Leslie Montgomery at 3:00 PM.

Oswald's route to get outside was a mystery to Truly, since he had gone up with Baker to search the roof. But Shelley- even though he denied this- had seen Oswald leave the building via the front landing.<sup>79</sup> Oswald himself had admitted, at his first interrogation, that just before he left he was outside with Bill Shelley.<sup>80</sup> So Truly would have realized, from speaking with Shelley, that Oswald had gone to the front of the building after the lunchroom. He probably was unaware that Geneva Hine had stayed behind alone in the central office. And he used Reid as a corroborative witness to Oswald's "escape" from the Book Depository.

<sup>78</sup> The Bag Job by Gil Jesus @ giljesus.com

<sup>79</sup> Inside Job pp. 8-11

<sup>80</sup> Warren Report p. 619

Captain Fritz's testimony actually indicated that Oswald was in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom "having his lunch" when Baker & Truly came upon him:

BALL: *At that time didn't you know that one of your officers, Baker, had seen Oswald on the second floor?*

FRITZ: *They told me about that down at the bookstore; I believe Mr. Truly or someone told me about it, told me they had met him- I think he told me, person who told me about, I believe told me that they met him on the stairway, but our investigation shows that he actually saw him in a lunchroom, a little lunchroom where they were eating, and he held his gun on this man and Mr. Truly told him that he worked there, and the officer let him go.*

BALL: *Did you question Oswald about that?*

FRITZ: *Yes, sir; I asked him about that and he knew that the officer stopped him all right.*

BALL: *Did you ask him what he was doing in the lunchroom?*

FRITZ: *He said he was having his lunch. He had a cheese sandwich and a Coca-Cola.*

BALL: *Did he tell you he was up there to get a Coca-Cola?*

FRITZ: *He said he had a Coca-Cola.*<sup>81</sup>

Yet Kamp, in another Sophist maneuver, wants to sow ambiguity by blending Holmes' confusion about the location of the vestibule- which he understood as the entranceway alcove- with Holmes' mixed-up facts about Oswald's encounter on the landing with Welcome Barnett. At that Sunday morning interrogation, the one which Holmes attended, Oswald didn't even mention his encounter with Marrion Baker.

BELIN: *By the way, where did this policeman stop him when he was coming down the stairs at the Book Depository on the day of the shooting?*

HOLMES: *He said it was in the vestibule.*

BELIN: *He said he was in the vestibule?*

HOLMES: *Or approaching the door to the vestibule. He was just coming, apparently, **and I have never been in there myself.** Apparently, there is two sets of doors, and he had come out to this front part.*

BELIN: *Did he state it was on what floor?*

HOLMES: *First floor. Front entrance to the first floor.*

BELIN: *Did he say anything about a Coca-Cola or anything like that, if you remember?*

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<sup>81</sup> WCH IV p. 213



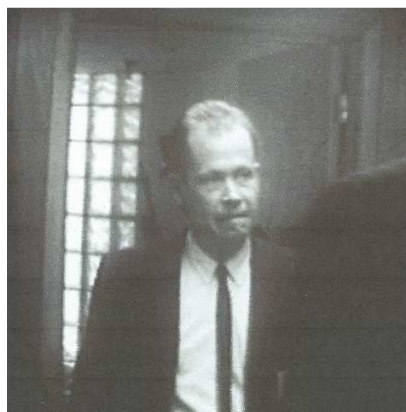
HOLMES: *Seems like he said he was drinking a Coca-Cola, **standing there by the Coca-Cola machine** drinking a Coca-Cola...*

*... But **he went downstairs**, and as he went out the front, it seems as though he did have a coke with him, **or stopped at the coke machine**, or somebody else was trying to get a coke, but there was a coke involved.*<sup>82</sup>

So Holmes describes Oswald's second encounter with a policeman as both standing by the coke machine and having stopped at the coke machine. The crucial detail is that he went downstairs, after "*the commotion surrounding the assassination took place.*" Holmes' account is consistent with Oswald having been upstairs in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom during the shooting sequence.

## BIFFLE'S ERROR AND THE CLOAKING OF CAROLYN ARNOLD

Kent Biffle hid his press badge and went in with the first wave of police into the Book Depository, joining Tom Alyea as the only newsmen inside the building while it was being searched. He was on the 6<sup>th</sup> when Truly came upstairs and mentioned to Captain Fritz that he "*had a boy missing*" and overheard the name "*Oswald.*" Truly told him as he was followed back downstairs that "*You must have ears like a bird.*"<sup>83</sup>



*Biffle at the TSBD*

Biffle had interviewed Oswald's mother back in 1959 and wrote up a story for the next day's *Dallas Morning News* headlined ***Suspected Killer Defected to Russia in '59.*** It began with an account from Ochus Campbell about Oswald being confronted "*In a storage room on the first floor.*"

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<sup>82</sup> WCH VII pp. 305-306

<sup>83</sup> WCH III p. 230

<p>announced plans for a trip to Dallas.</p> <p>A few days later Oswald got a job in the Texas School Book Depository Building, overlooking the motorcade route.</p> <p>On Oct. 14 he rented a room in Dallas.</p> <p>Friday Oswald was seen by R. S. Truly and a Dallas policeman</p>	<p>in the book firm building just after a barrage of shots from the sixth floor struck President John Kennedy and Gov. John Connally.</p> <p>O. V. Campbell, vice-president of the firm, said he and Truly, superintendent of the firm, were standing in front of the building at 411 Elm when the shooting started.</p>	<p>Campbell said he ran toward a grassy knoll west of the building where he thought the sniper had hidden. He said Truly and an officer ran into the building.</p> <p>In a storage room on the first floor, the officer, gun drawn, spotted Oswald. "Does this man work here?" the officer reportedly asked Truly.</p>	<p>Truly, who said he had interviewed and hired Oswald a "couple of months earlier," reportedly told the policeman that Oswald was a worker.</p> <p>The policeman and Truly continued their search. Oswald later failed to report at a 1:15 p.m. roll call of employees. Truly reported this to police.</p>
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*Dallas Morning News, Nov. 23, 1963*



*Baker, Truly, Campbell near domino room about 12:38*

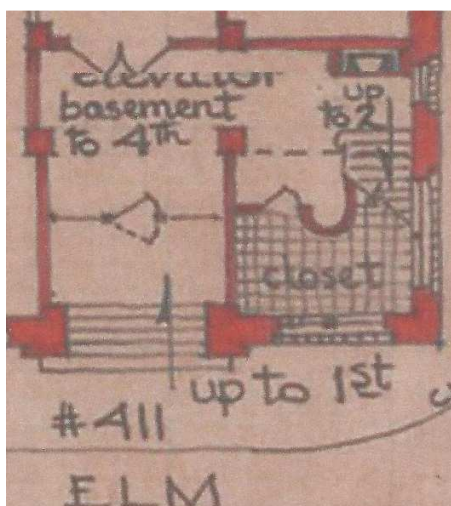
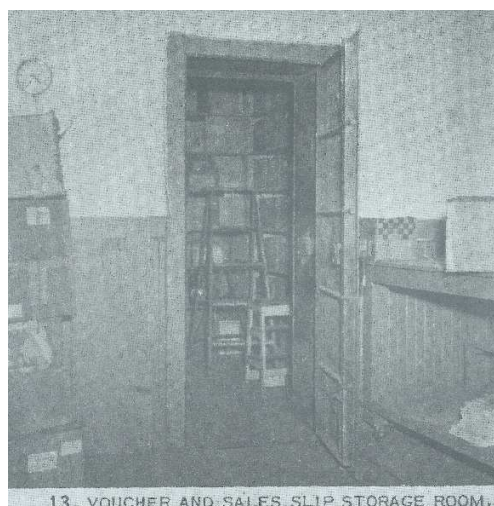
This same account by Campbell, using the phrasing that Oswald had been confronted "in a small storage room on the ground floor," was reported in the previous evening's edition of the *New York Herald Tribune*. This article's author was anonymous, as it had no by-line. It also detailed Oswald's 1959 defection.

Ochus V. Campbell, vice-president of the textbook firm, said Oswald's duties were to fill orders and wrap books, and that the sixth floor of the 7-story building would have been easily accessible to Oswald.

Mr. Campbell said, "Shortly after the shooting we raced back into the building. We had been outside watching the parade. We saw him (Oswald) in a small storage room on the ground floor. Then we noticed he was gone."

Mr. Campbell added: "Of course Oswald and the others were on their lunch hour but he did not have permission to leave the building and we haven't seen him since."

Campbell remained at the Depository until about 2:45 when he left to keep a medical appointment. He did not return that day.<sup>84</sup> This means almost certainly that Biffle was the source for the *New York Herald Tribune* account. Whatever he had learned from Campbell was printed up in newspapers in Dallas and New York, and those two newspapers cannot be regarded as independently corroborating one another.



Was Biffle's account of Campbell's description accurate? When we examine the building diagrams we find only two candidates for a 1<sup>st</sup>-floor storage room. A room for old vouchers and customers' sales slips was adjacent to the domino room, as seen on page 66. And a closet for the office workers was next to the lobby stairs; the door into that is seen on page 53. There is nothing resembling a storage room in the West Annex, which wasn't incorporated into the FBI building diagram.

Not only are there no witness accounts of a confrontation at these two areas; not only does it make no sense that Baker would look for an upper-floors gunman in one of these two cluttered areas on the ground floor; not only does it make no sense that Oswald would draw attention to himself enough to divert an officer hellbent on getting upstairs. We are overwhelmed with all of the early law enforcement reports that agree that Baker did indeed go upstairs and thereupon confronted Oswald.

Biffle, whatever he heard Campbell actually say, had made a mistake. He was unfamiliar with the building, and when he returned back to his news desk "*and began trying to read the 150 pages of notes I had furiously scrawled*"<sup>85</sup> that chaotic afternoon, he typed up a piece of misinformation. Journalism is susceptible to Chinese whispers and does not necessarily equate to gospel truth, especially on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

<sup>84</sup> WCH XXII p. 639

<sup>85</sup> JFK: News remembers by Kent Biffle, Dallas Morning News, 11/21/00



Oswald had two police encounters, with Marrion Baker and with Welcome Barnett, and each time a supervisor vouched that he was an employee- Truly in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom and Shelley on the front landing.

Auto theft Detective Ed Hicks, who had heard about this second-hand, was referring to Barnett when he was quoted in the November 23<sup>rd</sup> **London Free Press** that “Oswald apparently came out the front door of the red-bricked warehouse. A policeman asked him where he was going. He said he wanted to see what the excitement was about.”

That same day the **Sydney Morning Herald** printed another snippet about this Barnett encounter. But the **Washington Post** version showed that Chief Curry was already confusing the two encounters:



*Sydney Morning Herald*

Nov. 23, 1963

*Washington Post*

The Chinese whispers continued at Henry Wade’s Sunday night press conference, an attempt to lay out the DPD’s case against the now-dead Oswald, which was little more than “a hodge-podge of facts and misinformation.”<sup>86</sup> Wade contended that “A police officer, immediately after the assassination, ran in the building and saw this man in a corner and tried to arrest him; but the manager of the building said he was an employee and it was all right.” He was obviously referring to Baker but, since no one from the DPD would come forward, had jotted down beforehand what few details he could recall.

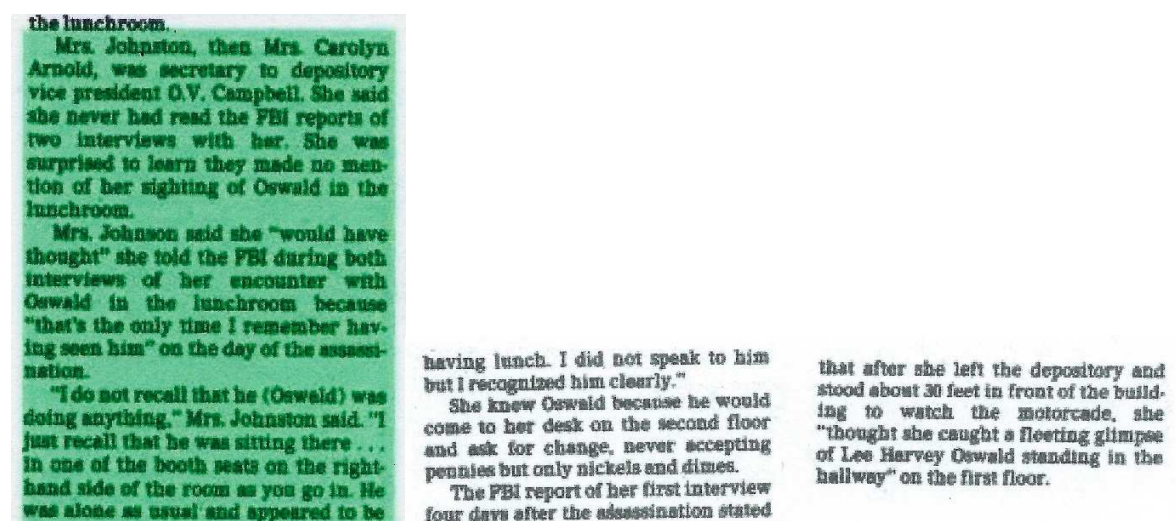
Kamp also cites a telephone call from J. Edgar Hoover to LBJ, but doesn’t tell the reader that at the beginning of this same excerpt Hoover informs him that Oswald’s gun was found “on the fifth floor of that building.” This call, on November 29<sup>th</sup>, includes an obvious account of the Barnett encounter: “at entrance of the building.. he was stopped by police officers and some manager in the building told the police officers, ‘well, he’s all right.. he works there.. you needn’t hold him.’ They let him go. That is how he got out.”<sup>87</sup>

<sup>86</sup> Reclaiming History by Vincent Bugliosi, p. 305

<sup>87</sup> LBJ Phone Calls, November 1963, 11/29/63 p. 5 @ historymatters.com

Carolyn Arnold was the only witness to Oswald between noon and the assassination. She stated in a November 26<sup>th</sup> FBI report, which was not signed, that “*she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse*” of him standing in the front lobby. She “*believed the time to be a few minutes before 12:15 PM.*”<sup>88</sup> She was not re-interviewed by the FBI, nor was her account published in the Warren Commission’s 26 volumes of hearings and exhibits!!!

In November 1978 she was interviewed by newsman Earl Golz and complained, “*That is completely foreign to me. It would have forced me to be turning back around to the building when, in fact, I was trying to watch the parade. Why would I be looking back inside the building? That doesn’t make any sense to me.*”<sup>89</sup> And she insisted to Anthony Summers that she never told that to the FBI.<sup>90</sup>



*Dallas Morning News, Nov. 26, 1978*

Where she had actually seen Oswald was **in the lunchroom**, which helps explain why the only known witness to Oswald’s whereabouts during the half-hour prior to his alleged murder of President Kennedy from the 6<sup>th</sup>-floor sniper’s nest was completely suppressed by the Commission. She told Golz she saw him “*as she was on her way out... She left the building at 12:25 p.m.*” She told Summers she saw him “*about 12:15. It may have been slightly later.*” She was pregnant at the time and had a craving for a glass of water.

Arnold had even stated in March of 1964 that she left the Depository “*about 12:25*”<sup>91</sup> when the FBI canvassed the building employees with a set of blanket questions. She

<sup>88</sup> WCD 5 p. 41

<sup>89</sup> Was Oswald in window? by Earl Golz, Dallas Morning News, 11/26/78

<sup>90</sup> Conspiracy by Anthony Summers, p. 77

<sup>91</sup> WCH XXII p. 635



stood in front of the front steps with several co-workers and their own time estimates of leaving the building at 12:15 or 12:20 should not be interpreted as contradicting Arnold. We can't be certain, from this survey 4 months after the fact, who left with whom at what exact time. The most precise picture was drawn by Judy Johnson who recalled leaving their central office with Jeannie Holt and Stella Jacob, and being joined on the street by Bonnie Richey, Carolyn Arnold and Betty Dragoo; Virgie Rackley was also recalled there by the latter three.<sup>92</sup>

Nor is she contradicted by Pauline Sanders, who in that same survey estimated she'd left the lunchroom at approximately 12:20 to head out to the front landing.<sup>93</sup> Arnold's sighting came a few minutes later. And these two data points indicate that, if Oswald saw Jarman & Norman in the 12:22-12:24 timeframe, he left the domino room shortly after they used the west elevator. This is probably the time he decided to get a Coke. Troy West, who habitually ate his lunch with his back to the elevators,<sup>94</sup> may not have even noticed Oswald walking for the corner stairwell.

Thus, I hope you appreciate that I have serious research purposes in obtaining the handwritten version of Mrs. Arnold's statement, and I would also think the FBI has an interest in making such public records freely available when the integrity of the FBI is in question as it is in all instances relating to its relationship with the Warren Commission. Again, I request a copy of the handwritten statement. I'd like this request treated as made under the FOIA.

Sincerely,

Howard Roffman

Kamp doesn't find the timing of Arnold's sighting credible, despite presenting a 1975 letter from Roffman to the FBI Director Clarence Kelley requesting the original handwritten version of her November 26<sup>th</sup> report. They had altered her 12:25- which she repeated on March 18<sup>th</sup>- to instead state that she left "between 12:00 and 12:15." So he's compelled to align himself with the lone-nutters, who similarly disparage Carolyn Arnold, because she blows his lunchroom hoax right out of the water.

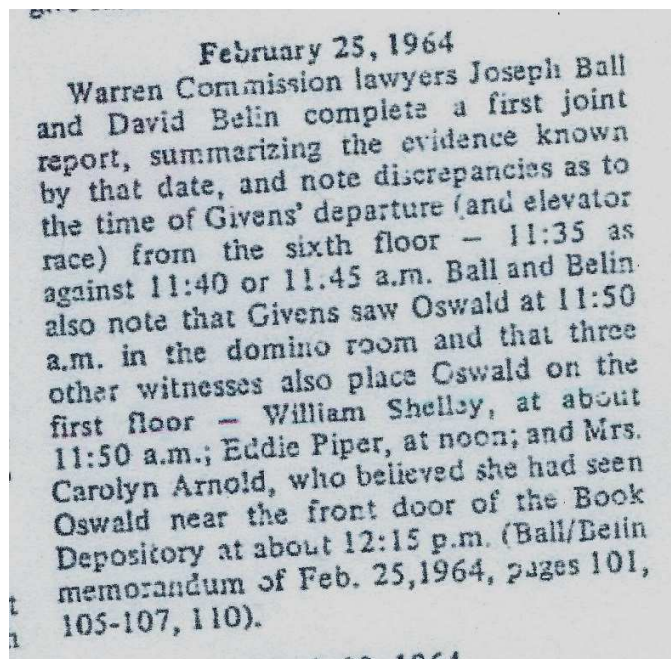
He tells us the "second floor lunchroom was for office staff and management only. The laborers only had access to this lunch room to grab a drink quickly." Which ignores the fact that the building had cleared out on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and no one was going to chide Oswald if he felt like staying there after getting his Coke. Nor does it give consideration to the possibility that Oswald's very assignment in the deserted Depository was to be in the lunchroom once it had emptied.

<sup>92</sup> WCH XXII pp. 645, 656, 671-672; WCD 87 p. 786

<sup>93</sup> WCH XXII p. 672

<sup>94</sup> WCH VI p. 362

And he tells us further that “In all honesty, I reckon that Carolyn Arnold wanted nothing to do with her primary observation once her suppressed statement got into the limelight, after being mentioned in Sylvia Meagher’s article *“The curious testimony of Mr. Givens.”*”



*Texas Monthly*, Aug. 13, 1971

Kamp here is reassuring his readers that Arnold’s account doesn’t contradict the Murphyite dogma. He thinks she actually lied to Earl Golz- made up a doozy about a 12:25 sighting in the lunchroom- because she wanted nothing to do with her “*fleeting glimpse*” anymore. Kamp alters the account of a major witness in order to make it fit the hoax and pretends he’s being honest.

## OSWALD’S ALIBI

We have to accept the fact that Oswald lied during his first interrogation as to his whereabouts during the shooting. He lied because he needed to protect his assignment to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom. He did not want even to begin to expose the plot he had participated in. He knew full well that the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Depository was a key sniping position in the ambush of Kennedy. Saying he was on the ground floor at the time would buffer him from any suggestion that he was anywhere near being “upstairs in the building.” And it had a grain of truth to it so it would be easy to maintain. After all, he had been in the domino room until about 12:24, when Jarman and Norman used the west elevator.



Oswald arrived at police headquarters shortly after 2:00 PM and was escorted immediately up to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor Homicide Office. He was brought into the back interrogation room and Officer Charles Walker and Detective Gus Rose looked through his wallet and asked him some preliminary questions. At 2:20 detectives Richard Sims and Elmer Boyd took him into Captain Fritz's office for further questioning. But Fritz did not begin taking notes until FBI agents James Hosty and James Bookhout arrived at 3:15.

Fritz's notes reflect that the interrogation was interrupted for a 4:15 line-up. Somewhere around 3:45- before Baker ever set foot in Homicide to give his affidavit- Oswald described his encounter on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with an officer:

claims 2nd Floor Coke when  
off came in  
to 1st fl had lunch  
out with Bill Shelley in  
front  
left wk opinion nothing be  
done that day etc  
? punch clock  
8-445 wre not  
rigid abt time  
wked reg 1st Fl  
but all over  
speaks Russian

claims 2nd Floor Coke when  
off came in  
to 1st fl had lunch  
out with Bill Shelley in  
front  
left wk opinion nothing be  
done that day etc  
? punch clock  
8-445 wre not  
rigid abt time  
wked reg 1st Fl  
but all over  
speaks Russian



Sean Murphy contends that Fritz's broken-up rendition, producing distinct thoughts in run-on lines, should be interpreted as follows:

*claims 2nd Floor Coke  
when off came in to 1st fl  
had lunch out with Bill Shelley in front*

But we can see in the above excerpt that Fritz began a distinct thought on the next line. There were run-on lines produced if he ran out of room to finish a thought. He didn't start a new distinct thought in mid-line, but instead started a fresh thought on the subsequent line. And Sean's interpretation only gives a random accounting of Oswald's actions.

But these actions, as they were told to Fritz, were sequential in time: 1) Oswald claimed to be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor having a Coke when the officer came in; 2) he then went to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and had lunch; 3) then he was out with Bill Shelley in front; and 4) he left work because in his opinion nothing more would be done that day. And this time sequence was reflected in the Fritz, Hosty & Bookhout, and solo Bookhout interrogation summaries. **But they couldn't have known then that Oswald didn't have time for lunch on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor after the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom encounter.**



*Captain Fritz and Chief Curry*

As Fritz reported: “I asked him what part of the building he was in at the time the President was shot, and he said he was having his lunch about that time on the first floor. Mr. Truly had told me that one of the police officers had stopped this man somewhere near the back stairway, so I asked Oswald where he was when the police officer stopped him. He said he was on the second floor drinking a coca cola when the officer came in. I asked him why he left the building, and he said there was so much excitement he didn’t think there would be any more work done that day.”<sup>95</sup> Oswald’s alibi was that during the shooting he was having lunch on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. And the officer “came in” implicitly into some sort of room “near the back stairway.” But we have no firm answer as to whether Oswald was “having” a coca cola when Baker came in; it possibly was on one of the tables. The testimonies told of nothing in his hands and he couldn’t have been drinking one when he was spotted at the vestibule window and hurriedly walked away.

In Hosty & Bookhout’s joint report, submitted that Saturday, the story was the same: Oswald “claimed he ate his lunch on the first floor in the lunchroom; however he went to the second floor where the Coca-Cola machine was located and obtained a bottle of Coca-Cola for his lunch. OSWALD claimed to be on the first floor when President JOHN F. KENNEDY passed this building. After hearing what had happened, he said that because of all the confusion there would be no work performed that afternoon so he decided to go home.”<sup>96</sup>



DA William Alexander and James Hosty

James Bookhout’s solo report on the first Friday interrogation, not submitted until that Monday, is the one which gives us details about being “out with Bill Shelley in front.” This occurred **after the shooting**. It was just before he left. But Kamp has it all backwards, contending “that is before the shooting, not after! As Shelley had departed almost immediately after the shooting from the TSBD steps.” But what Bart forgets is that Shelley returned to the landing in time to vouch to Officer Welcome Barnett that Oswald was all right, that he worked there.

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<sup>95</sup> Warren Report p. 600

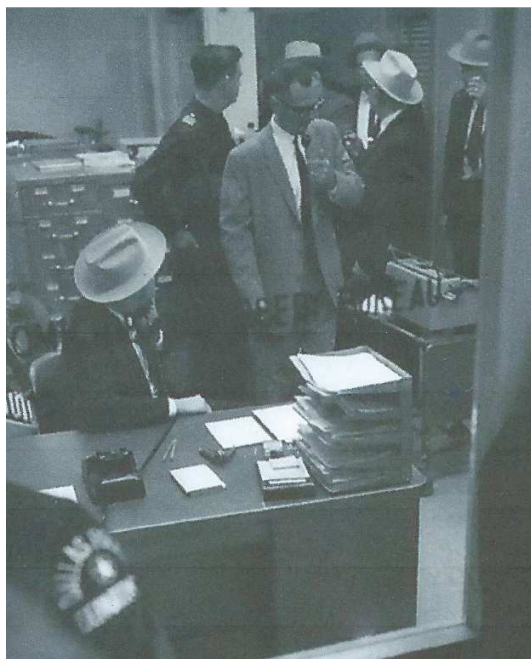
<sup>96</sup> Ibid p. 613



In this report Oswald is credited with stating “at the time of the search of the Texas School Book Depository building by Dallas police officers,” but he had no idea whether Baker was part of a group that had stormed the building.

*“...he was on the second floor of said building, having just purchased a Coca-Cola from the soft-drink machine, at which time a police officer came into the room with pistol drawn and asked him if he worked there. MR. TRULY was present and verified that he was an employee and the police officer thereafter left the room and continued through the building.*

*OSWALD stated that he took this Coke down to the first floor and stood around and had lunch in the employees lunch room. He thereafter went outside and stood around for five or ten minutes with foreman BILL SHELLEY, and thereafter went home. He stated that he left work because, in his opinion, based upon remarks of BILL SHELLEY, he did not believe there was going to be any more work that day due to the confusion in the building.”<sup>97</sup>*



*James Bookhout*

Oswald told Fritz, Hosty & Bookhout that he was having lunch on the first floor when JFK rode passed. That was his alibi. Only Bookhout mentioned Shelley, who was in Fritz’s notes after “to 1st fl had lunch”, which was after the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor encounter- and that was after the shooting, during which Oswald had placed himself on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

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<sup>97</sup> Warren Report p. 619

Oswald was claiming to have returned to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor after the Baker encounter; he brought the Coke he bought back down and “stood around and had lunch” in the domino room- essentially finishing his lunch then. That would give the impression that he’d only stopped up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for a Coke, and Baker happened to run into him then. But Oswald had no time to stand around in the domino room and finish his lunch, and he knew that these law officers didn’t know that.

They didn’t know that in short order he would bump into Pierce Allman in the front lobby, and deal with Welcome Barnett on the front landing. After the lunchroom incident was finished, about 12:31:30, Oswald had about 90 seconds to get to the front of the Depository for his 12:33 encounter with Allman.

Kamp tells us that “Shelley left [the landing] immediately after the shooting and did not come back until at least 5 minutes after leaving,” basing this on his March FBI survey statement. In reality, Shelley walked to the first railroad track in the parking lot with Lovelady and when they testified a few weeks later they each estimated their time spent there as only a minute or minute and a half.<sup>98</sup>

Further ado about time estimates is made regarding Oswald’s description that he “stood around for five or ten minutes with foreman BILL SHELLEY,” as casting doubt on the time required to board the city bus a few blocks up on Elm Street, or Oswald’s subsequent taxi ride. But Bookhout’s language was just a colloquial expression for time that meant the same as “a little while.”

In a nutshell, 17 people at his interrogations heard Oswald say that he’d taken a bus after leaving the Depository. Driver Cecil McWatters’ transfer #4459, with his distinctive punchmark, was found in Oswald’s shirt pocket prior to his first lineup. McWatters and passengers Mary Bledsoe and Roy Milton Jones all remembered a blond lady getting on and off the bus the same time as Oswald. There is no rational reason to doubt that Oswald got on the Marsalis 1213 at approximately 12:40 PM.

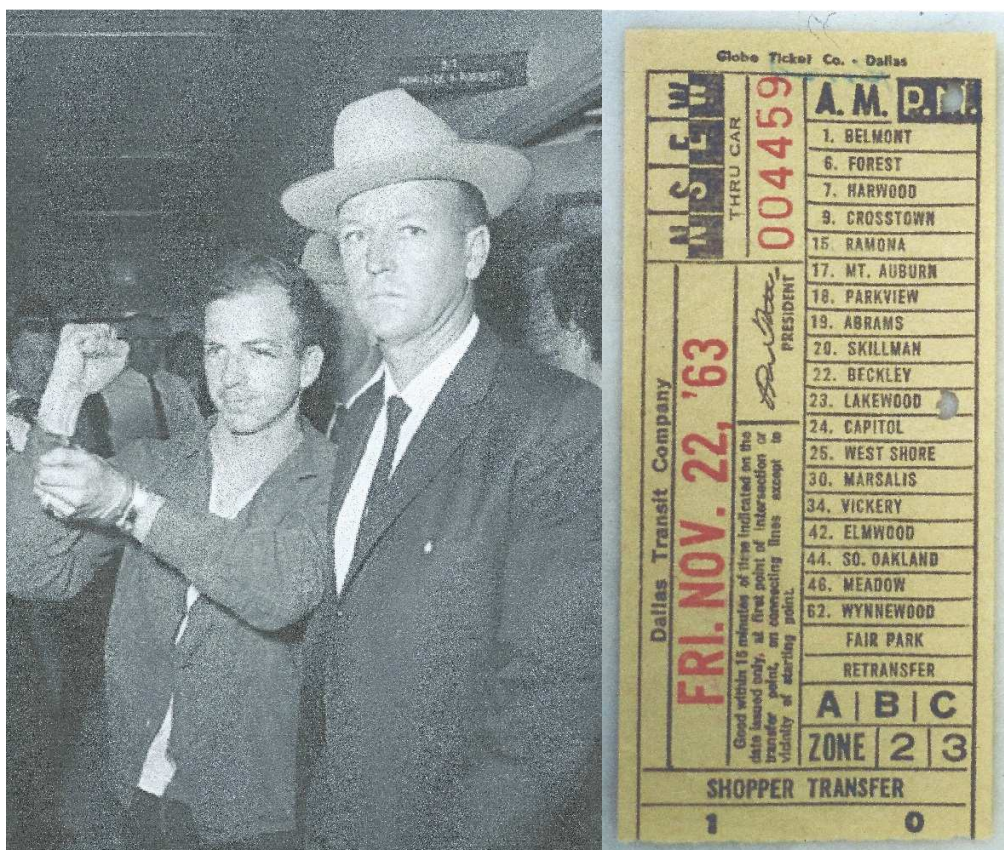
Cab driver William Whaley recognized Oswald from a newspaper photograph on Saturday morning as one of his Friday customers. He filled out an affidavit that included the sharp-eyed detail that “He had a bracelet on his left wrist.”<sup>99</sup> That bracelet had been removed and inventoried by the DPD on Friday afternoon, but Oswald was photographed in the hallway wearing it. Oswald told Fritz that “when he got in the cab a lady came up who also wanted a cab.”<sup>100</sup> This matched Whaley’s statement that “a lady came up to the cab and ask if she could get this cab.” There is no rational reason to doubt that Oswald rode in a City Transportation taxi after he got off the bus.

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<sup>98</sup> WCH VII pp. 331, 339

<sup>99</sup> WCH XXIV p. 228

<sup>100</sup> Warren Report p. 604



Bart proceeds to inform us that nobody not named Fritz, Hosty, Bookhout or Holmes can back up Thomas Kelley's statement, from the Saturday morning interrogation, that *"I asked him if he viewed the parade and he said he had not."*<sup>101</sup> This is astounding, since these were the only law officers to file any kind of interrogation report. This is akin to claiming that nobody inside the TSBD was outside the TSBD.

And he takes this even further: "According to Vince Palamara, Kelley perjured himself during the HSCA hearings." Regarding what? we ask, but Bart doesn't tell us. It was regarding "threat knowledge" prior to November 22<sup>nd</sup>. So in Kamp's merry-go-round, if a Secret Service man lies to cover for his Agency's negligence, he's probably lying about Oswald's denial of watching the motorcade. Kelley is another member of that elite PrayerMan coverup squad sent in to bury that secret before it destroyed the archconspirators.

Another major Duh? follows, as Kamp reminds us that squad member Holmes, in both his December 17<sup>th</sup> memorandum and in his April 2<sup>nd</sup> testimony, describes a policeman telling Oswald to *"step aside, which does not point to a second floor encounter."* Correct, it points to a front landing encounter, with Barnett. But Holmes' labeling of the entranceway alcove as vestibule enables all kinds of PrayerMan permutations.

<sup>101</sup> Warren Report p. 627

Bart wraps up this section with the following whopper: “Lee Oswald did not lie when he claimed he was on the first floor when the President passed by the TSBD, not only did Holmes relay this, so did Fritz in his interrogation notes and so did Bookhout and Hosty in their joint report.”

There is nothing in Fritz’s notes that refers to Oswald’s whereabouts when the motorcade passed. Holmes, as previously explained, relayed in his memorandum that Oswald went downstairs upon hearing the commotion, and following questioning by a policeman “*simply walked out the front door.*” Holmes reiterated this sequence in his testimony. At least he got the Hosty-Bookhout report correct, since it was spelled out that “*OSWALD claimed to be on the first floor when President JOHN F. KENNEDY passed this building.*”

## JOHN BARLEYCORN AND THE HOAXERS

Kamp’s essay reeks of the barroom. The ghosts of every hour spent indulging in casual but uneven pub conversation haunt his work. How else can you explain two dozen egregious errors, where he failed to even doublecheck the facts? Or misquoted people in order to tailor their statements to advance his thesis? A delusional mind, so in love with its hoax conclusion that it refuses to process information to the contrary. That confuses misguided analysis for scientific evaluation, and spins the misshapen result into an incubus of pseudo-truth. And he is one among many.

What is it about JFK research that makes people think they can get away with this kind of substance abuse and the slop it produces? In what other academic discipline can you take a seat in the classroom, crack open a good strong Guinness, and demand to be taken seriously at the discussion table? As though being anesthetized with a gasoline additive- ethanol- is going to give anything more than illusory insights into the subject matter? The John Barleycorn brigade uses the assassination as a cop-out so they don’t have to face their alcohol addiction. And they band together like pirates insisting on having their way, with little regard for the damage they may leave in their wake.

That damage is done upon the collective psyche of the research community, as more and more are propagandized into following the sexy solutions of the Murphyites- which in actuality are regressive dogma clothed in sophistry. They encourage progressive thinking, as long as you agree that: Oswald is PrayerMan; the lunchroom episode was a hoax; the bus & taxi rides were a hoax; and Oswald did not have a doppelganger. But woe to the man who dares to express skepticism about their belief system.

Researchers need to remember that they weren't there on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. None of the witnesses had perfect recall of what they saw, or what they did, or what they were thinking, or what someone else said. And they did not relate it in the same way in each successive recollection. Nor were details perfectly transmitted each time another person was told second-hand about what some witness had seen, done, thought or said.

Any newspaper reader is fully aware that any article potentially contains misinformation, from the journalist or the interviewee. It is only an adjunct source for arriving at the historical truth- particularly in this instance when there are so many other sources of information available. And in this case the newspapers contained actual disinformation- provided by Truly- that conflicted with what he was simultaneously telling authorities in December and in March. Yet where are the hypotheses that explore Truly's motive for doing this?

On the very first day the DPD was misreporting details, and that human tendency tended to snowball in the coming months. Baker was mistakenly listed as attending a lineup. And his spotty affidavit description left the impression that the suspect was encountered near the stairway. Couple that with a crummy floor-layout description and you'd think this was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Yet who gives consideration that he was writing this- i.e. recalling spottily and crummily at the end of his affidavit- while at least 6 other law officers were engaging Oswald in that small interrogation room?

The lunchroom encounter was the first post-assassination sighting of the accused assassin and there was bound to be a lot of reports generated about it, and hence a lot of mistakes written about it, with a lot of ambiguous interpretations. That's all there is to it, and the hoaxers need to wake up and grow up and accept this fact.

A hypothesis is only an educated guess about the relationship between variables, which here are the ambiguous interpretations. It must be testable- it is a matter of science, not an article of faith. It must be proven by the evidence. And the reality that the lunchroom encounter actually happened is proven by the evidence.

No amount of wishful thinking can change the fact that every item of evidence in this event has a mundane, phenomenon-supportive explanation. No amount of naysaying can detract from the integrity of Marrion Baker in his filmed interviews. No amount of ridicule can affect Johnson's report that he "*started to search the man*"- and that would be for a weapon- thereby confirming that Baker had an interaction with Oswald. No amount of sophistry can change the fact that Alfred Goldberg's September 23<sup>rd</sup> request to get signed statements that no one else was in the lunchroom indicates the incident actually happened- right in the lunchroom. And no amount of Guinness stout can change the fact that, shortly before 12:25, Carolyn Arnold saw Oswald sitting "*in one of the booth seats on the right-hand side of the room.*"



Bart Kamp does deserve credit for finally putting together a formal presentation of the lunchroom hoax hypothesis. Sean Murphy never did this, and for years this school of thought existed only in his posts, or in ROKC posts, or what they wish they had posted, or what they intended to post next- and a formal opinion kept shifting with the ever-changing sands of further thought and investigation. And the reader can now appreciate that his thesis is full of faulty data and faulty explanations. But it is the hoax hypothesis itself that was faulty, for it always failed when fire-tested by the evidence. It is mortally wounded now and will never recover.

The hoaxers grouse and grumble among themselves, but never once have they presented their case to a Dallas police detective or one of Baker's children- to anyone that could make a difference- or to anyone who could cause them to lose face. Never once have they cogently defended their argument in a public forum where the opposing view is tolerated. They resemble what they are- which is barstoolers resentful of the world outside, who see too well the defects of the doer of deeds but won't set foot into the arena of sweat and blood and dust and failure.

Why does Barleycorn lead researchers to believe that the official stories are hoaxes? And I am referring specifically to the stories that involve numerous participants- the lunchroom encounter and the bus & taxi rides. What transforms a collection of ambiguous reports & testimony & anecdotes & articles into a sizeable mini-conspiracy perpetrating a hoax? This is delusional thinking brought on by excessive cherry-picking, looking through the wrong end of the spyglass. When ambiguity surrounding an event can be adequately explained by conventional reasons, nothing justifies an explanation that requires the event be make-believe.

John Armstrong's landmark essay *Harvey and Lee Depart the TSBD* eviscerates the bus/taxi hoax hypothesis, and the tail-end of his bullet-points are worth reproducing here. They shine a light on a parallel situation with the Murphyites' delusional thinking:

"Naysayers ignore the fact that Capt. Fritz and many law enforcement officers heard Oswald say that he rode a bus, got a bus transfer, got into a taxi, offered to let a blond-haired lady have his taxi, and paid an 85 cent fare. *The facts are that Bledsoe and Jones testified that Oswald was on McWatters bus, transfer #004459 was found in Oswald's shirt pocket, Whaley testified that Oswald rode in his taxi, that Oswald offered to let a blond-haired lady have his taxi, and that Oswald paid 95 cents in taxi fare. Witness testimony and evidence match up pretty well with what Oswald told his interrogators.*

Naysayers criticize, criticize, and criticize these witnesses for not having perfect memories. *Yet the naysayers never produce a single document or a single witness by which to prove the taxi and bus ride never happened. Nor can they offer an ounce of PROOF as to what they think COULD HAVE happened- only speculation, fantasies, and daydreams.*

To the naysayers, I would ask them to simply identify the person or persons who came up with the idea to fabricate a story in which the bus and taxi rider never happened. I would ask them to name the person or persons who had the knowledge, presence, and ability to fabricate such a hoax **within hours of Oswald's arrest**.

I would remind naysayers that Oswald himself said during his first and second interrogations that he rode a bus, *long before the police knew about Cecil McWatters*. And Oswald made these statements in the presence of Capt. Fritz, James Hosty, Thomas Kelley, James Bookhout, and numerous officers. These people took notes, made reports, and/or gave WC testimony about statements made by Oswald. These naysayers would have us believe that a person or persons unknown convinced all of these people...

...to lie and go along with a fabricated story that the bus and taxi ride never happened. But no matter how much evidence researchers produce to prove Oswald rode on a bus and in a taxi on 11/22/63, we can be sure that *irresponsible naysayers can and will find the most trivial, superficial, and inconsequential reasons to continue their criticism.*"<sup>102</sup>

And the parallax view we face with the lunchroom encounter hoax cannot be better stated. We can be sure, no matter how much evidence is laid at their doorstep, that *immature* Murphyites will find any inane excuse to continue their sophistry. They will not admit they've been fooled, that they've been promoting a falsehood for years that was only a red herring- an illusion disguised as a profound criminological diagnosis.

Unprecedented obstinacy has hereby produced a Tower of Babel within the research community, and we can see now that it has been based upon an error-riddled understanding of the error-riddled evidence pertaining to the lunchroom. It is falling simply because it was not built upon a foundation of Reason and Sober Judgment. And its demise will bring painful embarrassment to everyone who endorsed this fantasy explanation, this pernicious hoax belief. They have exposed their ineptitude.

But its proponents were not playing with a full deck. Do you think Sean Murphy didn't fall madly in love with his idea, and fail to concede it might not be a true idea? If that's not narcissistic, how about quitting the community without notice on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary- a drama queen never having to answer if he's found out wrong? Who irresponsibly pretends to remain ignorant over the havoc he's wrought?

The barstool has busted far too many dreams and it begins at a young age in Ireland and that narcissism abides and dead-ends inside the bottle. It would be naïve to deny that delusions of alcoholic insanity have produced the unruly popularity of the lunchroom hoax. And as long as they persist, the healing won't begin.

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<sup>102</sup> "Harvey and Lee Depart the TSBD" by John Armstrong @ harveyandlee.net

## CONCLUSION

Sean Murphy's defective scholarship appealed to the gullible, who formed their judgments based on only a partial presentation of the available information. It grew into mob rule because opinions are shaped by tribal allegiances. And those judgments become a matter of personal identity and are not held rationally. But when discernment of objective truth hinges upon what others think, and not upon independent science, we abandon the basic critical thinking skills needed for sound evaluation of the evidence.

A bunch of people believing the lunchroom hoax is true doesn't make it true, any more than a million people believing Oswald was in the sniper's nest makes that true. But the wispy logic of Sophism eventually unravels. You can't fool all of the people all of the time. The extensive counter-argument presented in this essay would not even be possible if there was a remote chance that the hoax was true. Every last *doxa* has been refuted.

This is not just "Gilbride's opinion." I am simply the person who took the trouble to show the Murphyites that their opinion is dead-wrong. The fundamental resolution here- which the hoaxers never bothered to try and find- is that every item of lunchroom evidence has a mundane interpretation that speaks for the incident's reality. Everyday common sense gives us an explanation that may not have been apparent at first- and most of the ambiguity tied to this incident arose due to the mistakes of second-hand information. There was a lot of ambiguity simply because there was a lot of reportage.

A hoaxer has to contort Carolyn Arnold's witnessing, Baker's filmed interviews and the September 23<sup>rd</sup> affidavits *in extremis* in order to construe them as speaking for a hoax. He has to postulate a fairly sizeable mini-conspiracy in order to sustain a hypothesis that has never produced a single substantive, tangible result in over a decade of existence. He has never produced a scintilla of documentary evidence to help prove his assertion- only speculation, fantasies and daydreams.

Probability theory tells us that the chances of the hoax being correct are ultramicroscopic. It is not and never was a realistic possibility. Proof of the existence of fairies & elves was based on photographs shown to be shoddy double exposures. Making better double exposures is not going to make fairies & elves any more real. And the person who happens upon some double-exposures (i.e. ambiguity in the lunchroom evidence) and sees in them proof of the existence of fairies & elves, is no visionary. So put, believers in the hoax are quite delusional.

The major benefit of this years-long debate is that we have run through the gamut as to Oswald's whereabouts during the shooting of President Kennedy. We have examined this question exhaustively.

This part of the battle has been won. For we can now state, with a very high degree of certainty, that during the shooting Oswald was in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom. This is perhaps the most critical puzzle piece to that House of Mystery we know as the Texas School Book Depository. What a remarkable achievement if the research community could all get on the same page about this and unite around this one simple fact.

The losers in this long struggle should take consolation in the knowledge that their role in opposition has helped hew this selfsame cornerstone that we lay into the foundation of the conspiracy community.



Richard Gilbride

February 2018

in memory of Marrion Baker