

THE PIPER OF POTESKIN VILLAGE

Many of the warehouse employees in the Texas School Book Depository participated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The evidence is strong enough to indict 5 further conspirators who were overlooked in “The Elevator Escape Theory”. These include the shooter in the 6th-floor sniper’s nest, janitor Eddie Piper.

DOUGHERTY & THE ELEVATOR RACE

Approximately 10 minutes before noon the floor-laying crew broke for lunch and raced the two freight elevators down to the 1st floor. In the west elevator were Billy Lovelady, Bonnie Ray Williams and Danny Arce. In the east were Charles Givens, Harold Norman and Jack Dougherty.¹

None of the crew ever mentioned riding down with Dougherty. He was an order-filler and not assigned with the floor-layers. Yet when the Secret Service interviewed Depository employees the first week of December, Dougherty flat-out admitted that he’d “descended in the elevator with them to the 1st floor a few minutes before noon.”²

Superintendent Roy Truly chaperoned Dougherty during this interview, and interjected that Jack was “mentally retarded... and has been especially confused since the assassination.” The Secret Service then cut off further questioning. Truly, however, in his Warren Commission testimony, didn’t characterize Dougherty as an imbecile; rather, as “intelligent and smart and a hard worker... what is wrong with him mostly is his emotional makeup... for the work he is doing, he is of average intelligence.”³

We have already seen how Dougherty cleverly camouflaged the fact that he didn’t bring the west freight elevator down until almost two minutes after the assassination, while fostering the impression that he’d brought it down in the immediate aftermath and spoken with Eddie Piper. And he also obscured his activities and observations upstairs during the critical minutes surrounding the shooting sequence.

Two weeks later, for the FBI, “Dougherty stated that *just prior to 12:00 PM* he and five other men were working on the 6th floor”⁴- and then in April Danny Arce made a telltale slip of the tongue when he testified that “Charles Givens and the other guys” (meaning Harold Norman

¹ WCH VI p. 337, 364

² WC Document 87, p. 781

³ WCH III p. 237

⁴ WCH XIX p. 619, Dougherty Exhibit B

and some other guy) raced the east elevator down. For what reason would Dougherty be omitted from the crew's statements about who took part in the elevator race?

There is more to the picture here than a coverup of Dougherty's subsequent escort of snipers to and from the upper floors, via the west elevator. For if we eliminate from our minds the notion that Dougherty took an elevator down *alone*- as he claimed in his testimony- we may deduce that **the snipers most probably rode upstairs only a few minutes after the elevator race.**

The strongest indication that Dougherty was deceptive comes after he'd explained that the last time he saw Lee Harvey Oswald was "about 11 o'clock" on the 6th floor.

BALL: And were there some other workmen up there at the time?

DOUGHERTY: *Not that I know of.*

Q: Well, do you remember Shelley, Dan Arce, Bonnie Williams, Bill Lovelady, and Charlie Givens who were working up there that morning- laying floor on the 6th floor?

A: Oh, yes; they were laying floor- yes, sir.

Q: And were they there at the time you were there?

A: Oh, yes, sir; they were there- yes, sir.

Q: Is that the same time you saw Oswald?

A: Yes, sir; just about that time.

Q: And how long were you on the 6th floor?

A: Well, just long enough to get some stock.

Q: Where did you go then?

A: I went to the 5th floor.

Q: What did you do then?

A: *I went to the 5th floor to get some stock also on the 5th floor.*

Q: Then what did you do?

A: Then, *just about that time- I thought I heard-*

Q: Wait a minute- did you go to lunch?

Ball prevented Dougherty from launching into his assassination alibi- that he'd "heard a loud explosion" (given November 22nd) or "heard a loud noise (given December 18th)- before he'd even gone downstairs for his lunch break, a half-hour before JFK arrived.

BALL: Did you go down for lunch?

DOUGHERTY: Yes.

Q: To what floor?

A: The 1st floor.

Q: How did you get there?

A: Well- used the elevator.

Q: Did you go down alone or with someone?

A: *I went down alone.*

Ball did not even bother to ask whether this occurred before or after the elevator race. It could not have been *before*, because William Shelley had taken an elevator down a few minutes previously (having given the crew permission to break early). Down on the 1st floor Shelley saw Oswald "working at his normal duties... about 11:50 AM",⁵ and Oswald was soon witnessed up on the 6th, calling for an elevator as the race started. Both elevators were upstairs at that point, and Oswald had to have gone up in the one Shelley brought down.

And the possibility it occurred *after* has no evidentiary support. The east elevator operated from the inside only and could not be summoned or sent. The west elevator could not be sent, since the crisscrossed wooden slats on its outer gate made it next to impossible to reach the control panel inside.⁶ For safety reasons it could be summoned only, and only if this outer gate was closed on the floor it was on, and on the floor it was desired.



⁵ WCD 87, p. 780

⁶ WCH III p. 241

The floor-laying crew gave no indication whether or not they closed the west outer gate. Or left it open, after the elevator race. The only pertinent detail came up in the Secret Service interviews the first week of December: Oswald “asked them to send up an elevator. [Bonnie Ray] Williams stated that an elevator was not sent up.”⁷

At face value, Oswald was inclined to close the gate upstairs, having just hollered down for an elevator. *If* they closed the downstairs gate for him, he changed his mind about using an elevator. But if they didn’t cooperate and were being smart alecks- stranding him upstairs- he was unable to use it.

And not only did Dougherty admit to participating in the elevator race; Givens made no mention of seeing him when he rode back upstairs a few minutes later for his forgotten cigarettes; and Arce said that he and Dougherty ate lunch together at the “same time”⁸ in the domino room (where the usual time spent was cut considerably- down to about a dozen minutes- in anticipation of heading outside to watch the motorcade).

This is a seemingly tedious point but must be expressed as rigorously as possible. Because **when Givens returned downstairs in the east elevator, the west elevator rode upwards.** And if Dougherty had confessed in his testimony that he took part in the elevator race, the Commission would have been forced to address the question of whether and why Oswald summoned it, since Dougherty couldn’t have summoned it. But we will soon be virtually certain Oswald didn’t do this. The only alternative remaining is that **someone rode up in the west elevator at about 12:00 PM.**

GIVENS & THE ARRIVAL OF THE SNIPERS

Charles Givens didn’t mention his trip back up to the 6th floor in any DPD, FBI or Secret Service interviews; it wasn’t brought up until his testimony on April 8, 1964.

BELIN: Were you racing the elevators?

GIVENS: That’s right.

Q: Who won?

A: Well, the east elevator beat the other one down, because it stopped quicker, but it had to adjust itself.

Q: What did you do when you got down to the 1st floor before you went back up to the 6th floor again?

⁷ WCD 87, p. 783

⁸ WCH VI p. 365

A: Well, I got a drink of water and reached for my cigarettes and I thought about I left them in my jacket pocket.

Q: Did you go to the rest room at all before you went back up to the 6th floor?

A: *No, sir. Yes, sir, I believe I did. I went in and washed my hands. I sure did.*

But Givens had told the DPD on November 22nd that “I worked up on the 6th floor today until about 11:30 AM. Then I went downstairs and into the bathroom. At twelve o’clock I took my lunch period.”⁹

And he told the FBI that same day that “he used the restroom at about 11:35 AM or 11:40 AM. Givens then walked around on the 1st floor until 12 o’clock noon, at which time he walked onto the sidewalk and stood for several minutes.”¹⁰

After the elevator race Givens had a drink of water and *may have* used the restroom sink to wash his hands. He was back up on the 6th floor about 3 minutes after he’d left. *But he concealed from the authorities his participation in the race and subsequent return upstairs. Givens’ return in the east elevator was not to retrieve his cigarettes.*

After a casual roll call of employees that started about 12:50, both Oswald and Givens were unaccounted for. It wasn’t until a few minutes after 1:00 that Deputy Chief George Lumpkin was notified by Roy Truly that he had “a boy missing over here”.¹¹

BALL: Did you make a check of your employees afterwards?

TRULY: No, no; not complete...¹² I had another one or two out then.

BELIN: Did you ask for the name and addresses of any other employees who might have been missing?

TRULY: No, sir.¹³

Inspector Herbert Sawyer was stationed at the front entrance of the Depository. With Oswald having been singled out as the prime suspect in the assassination, and the 6th floor having been searched, “Somebody came to me with the information... [that Givens] was

⁹ WCH XXIV p. 210

¹⁰ WCD 5, p. 329

¹¹ “The Myth of the Depository Roll Call” by Mark Bridger, Dealey Plaza Echo, Vol. 11 No. 2, July 2007

¹² WCH VII p. 382

¹³ WCH III p. 230

supposed to have been *a witness to Oswald being there.*"¹⁴ Sawyer didn't remember who told him this, but this information can only have originated from the floor-laying crew.



Sawyer sent out a radio alert at 1:46: *"We have a man, that we would like to have you pass this on to CID to see if you can pick this man up. Charles Douglas Givens, G-I-V-E-N-S. He's a colored male, 37, 6'3", 165 lbs. He has an ID number in the Sheriff's Department, 37954. He's a porter that worked on this floor up here. He has a police record, and he left.."*¹⁵



¹⁴ WCH VI p. 321

¹⁵ WCH XXIII p. 873

Givens claimed in his testimony that after the assassination “I stood there for a while” on the corner of Houston & Elm, “[but] when I went over to try to get back in the office at the door [they] wouldn’t let me in.” The building had been sealed and he waited in the parking lot in the rear and eventually saw James Jarman exit, as employees were dismissed for the day.¹⁶ Jarman recalled “it was somewhere between 2:00 and 2:30 when they turned us loose and told us to go home.”¹⁷ So Givens, if he is to be believed, spent a full hour following Truly’s “roll call” in the rear parking lot. As soon as he re-entered to grab his coat he was identified and taken to DPD Headquarters for questioning. But there wasn’t any clue from his statements that he’d been “a witness to Oswald being there” up on the 6th floor.

At 2:27 Detective Marvin Johnson left the Depository with items recovered from the 6th floor. He held a soda bottle in his left hand, and in his right were a lunch bag containing chicken bones and an **empty pack of Viceroy cigarettes**. This cigarette pack is not mentioned anywhere in the 26 Warren Commission volumes, nor in the hundreds of supplementary DPD and FBI documents dealing with the search of the crime scene.¹⁸

Givens, the only known smoker on the crew, maintained that the reason he’d taken the east elevator upstairs after the race was because “I left my cigarettes in my jacket... along about the second window going” from the corner on the west side. But if this was the innocent explanation for his trip back up to the 6th floor, he had no innocent reason for hiding it from the authorities on November 22nd- much less hide the fact that he’d been in the elevator race just minutes previously. *The cigarettes were a ploy-* and the real reason he’d returned upstairs was to double-check on Oswald, who’d just been abandoned by the racers. And the abrupt disappearance of this Viceroy pack is an indication that *the Dallas police learned about Givens’ trip and struck it from the record.*

Givens testified he was “fixing to get on” the east elevator when he noticed Oswald “coming down the aisle... [from] the window up front where the shots were fired from... he had his clipboard in his hand.” Jarman, down on the 1st floor as Oswald headed for the elevator, had also noticed he was carrying his order-filler pad.¹⁹

“Boy, are you going downstairs?” Givens asked. “It’s near lunchtime.”

“No, sir,” Oswald told him. “When you get downstairs, close the gate to the elevator.”

BELIN: Do you know whether or not when you got down to the 1st floor, the west elevator was there?

¹⁶ WCH VI p. 355

¹⁷ WCH III p. 208

¹⁸ “The Curious Testimony of Mr. Givens” by Sylvia Meagher, *The Texas Observer*, 8/13/71

¹⁹ WCD 5, p. 334

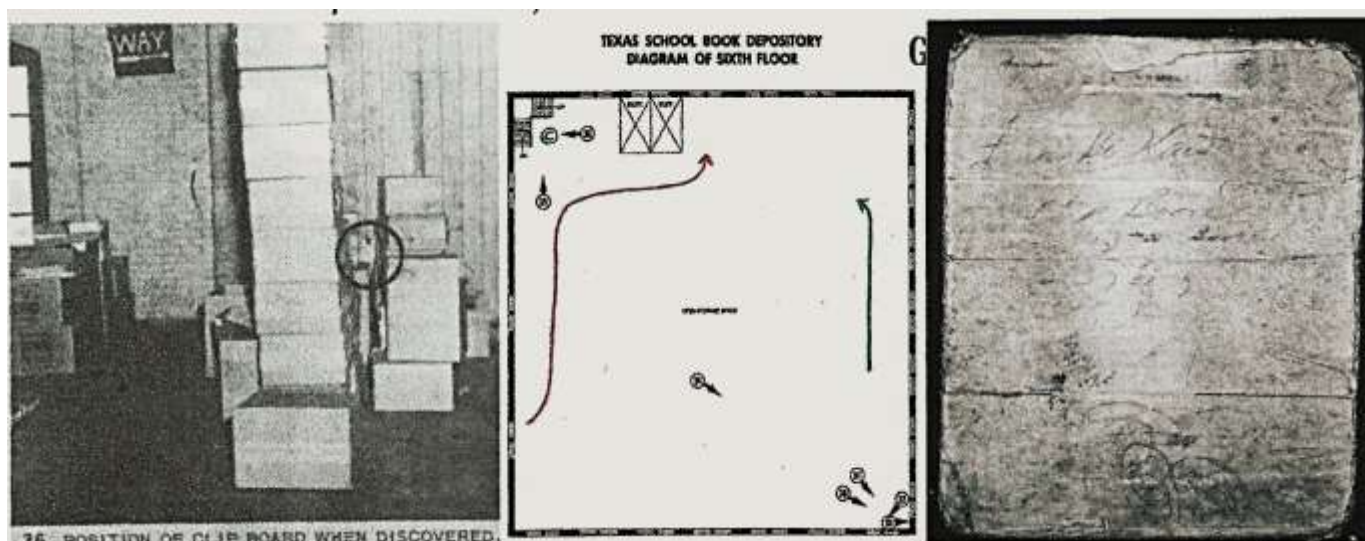
GIVENS: No, sir; it wasn't, because I looked over there to close the gate and it wasn't there.

Q: Do you know where it was?

A: No, sir; I don't.

Q: What time was this?

A: Well, I would say it was about **5 minutes to 12**, then because it was-



David Belin interrupted Givens and glossed over whatever pertinent detail he might have added, directing his attention toward his subsequent actions. There is no conflict between Givens' time estimate and the estimated time of the elevator race (11:50); he returned to the 6th floor at 11:53. When Givens walked around the shaft downstairs to check on the west elevator it had already started upward. *Either somebody got on it, or Oswald summoned it.* But Oswald had been alone on the 6th for a full 5 minutes after he'd called for an elevator at the start of the race. We cannot expect that he was suddenly in a hurry to use one and hastened for the west elevator control button during the 25 seconds it took Givens to descend.

Not only that, the clipboard discovered by the corner stairwell has the earmarks of planted evidence, meaning that Oswald simply didn't toss it away before boarding the west elevator. It wasn't found until December 2nd by warehouseman Frankie Kaiser, who made several clipboards for the workers, and he told the FBI that day that it "had been tossed on the floor behind some boxes of books."²⁰ In his April testimony Kaiser reaffirmed that "it was laying on the floor... just laying there in the plain open."²¹ Yet the FBI's photo of its location when found shows it 3 feet off the floor, between two book-carton stacks. On March 10th Kaiser *reportedly* changed his mind and told the FBI he'd found it "between two rows of stacked boxed books."²² A week later their lab analysed the handwriting but concluded it was "too

²⁰ WCD 7, p. 381

²¹ WCH VI p. 343

²² WCH XXIII p. 816

limited for an adequate comparison with the known writings of Lee Harvey Oswald.”²³ The three fresh order forms attached to the belated clipboard should have alerted the office girls within 3 or 4 days²⁴ that orders were unaccounted for and a search initiated.

But there was no search, because there were no missing orders, because Oswald’s clipboard was never missing. It was planted less than 20 feet from where police had found the rifle, in order to bolster Oswald’s presence on the 6th floor and in the sniper’s nest.

A clipboard was discovered near the same spot during the police search, shortly after the rifle was examined.²⁵ It wasn’t entered into the evidence and in all probability was left behind- unlike the soda bottle, lunch bag, and cigarette pack, which were potentially affiliated with the assassin. This particular clipboard very likely belonged to Harold Norman, who’d set it aside while chatting with the floor crew before lunch.²⁶

We can be virtually certain, after this seemingly tedious analysis, that Oswald did not summon the west elevator while Givens descended in the east- which leads to an astonishing deduction.

We have already seen how the snipers escaped the Depository by way of the west freight elevator. We can be sure that they used the same transport method to arrive upstairs.

The usage of the freight elevators, after the race, must then be regarded as carefully planned and coordinated. During the half-hour before JFK’s arrival the east elevator was effectively locked out of the scenario. Givens took it up and down, then Bonnie Ray Williams took it up to the 6th, and then down to the 5th a few minutes before the assassination. It could only be operated by standing inside and stayed in place on the 5th floor.

We know that the west elevator was on its way up once Givens returned to the 1st floor. We know that it was down on the 1st floor when Jarman and Norman re-entered the warehouse and took it up to the 5th floor a few minutes before the assassination. During the intervening 25 minutes it had to have gone down- with the possibility of an additional up & down cycle.

The most minimal usage would entail a down trip only- a minimalism that would be desirable from the standpoint of the assassination planners. Additional trips might attract the attention- at the time, or in witness statements later- of building employees who aren’t yet in place to watch the motorcade.

²³ WCD 897, p. 279

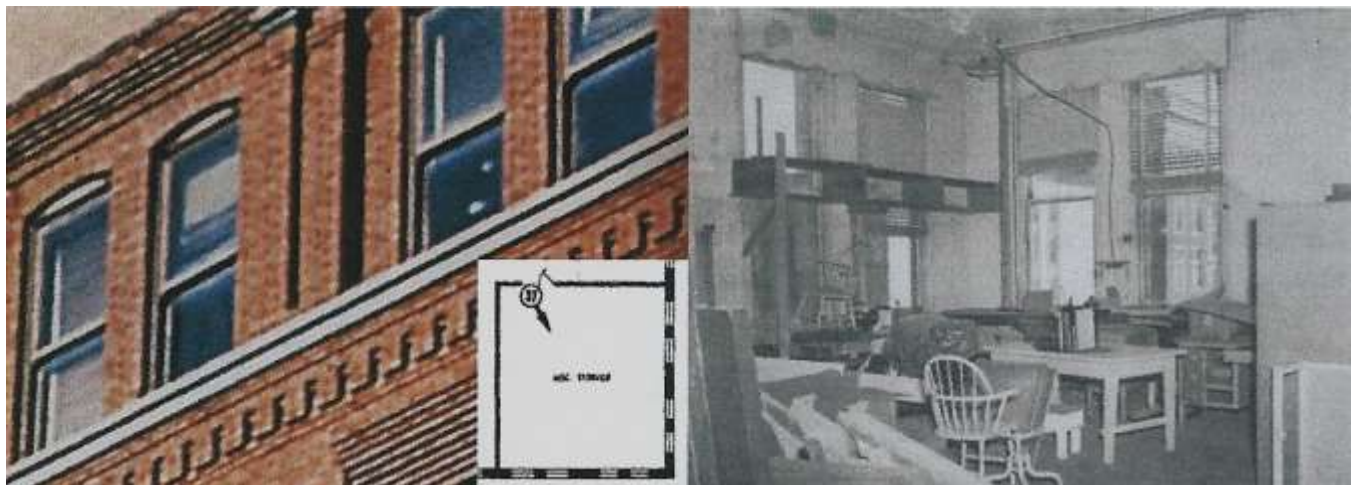
²⁴ WCH III p. 235

²⁵ FBI 62-109060 JFK HQ File, Section 147, p. 5, Letter to Senator Robert F. Kennedy from Richard E. Sprague, 12/8/67

²⁶ Greg Parker, JFK Lancer post #85597, 1/11/10

Minimal use would require that Oswald take the west elevator down, and it remaining down, some minutes before he sighted Jarman and Norman on the 1st floor. It would require that **the snipers ride up while Givens descended.**

We now understand the reason why Givens didn't mention his cigarette trip or even the elevator race until April. He had gone back to the 6th to make sure that Oswald was not miffed, that he was ready and in place. When Givens pressed the hand-pedal to start down in the east it was the signal to the snipers to start up in the west. Through the 2-foot wire mesh at the top of the elevator walls they looked at each other for about 2 seconds as they passed each other by.



Oswald met the snipers as soon as they arrived on the 6th floor. There was a mission at hand and he briefly reviewed the physical layout, pointing out the fire escape on the Houston Street side and the footway along the Elm Street windows where the parallel aisles of book cartons led.

They proceeded up the stairs and walked across the empty 7th floor to the corner storeroom above the sniper's nest. Oswald opened the door and flicked on the lights, went in and fished two long paper packages out from the clutter. He unwrapped one and brought out a rifle with a scope and handed it to one of the snipers, his lookalike. The other rifle, which didn't have a scope, was taken out by the man who escorted the snipers upstairs in the west elevator.

They left the packages in the storeroom and Oswald was the last to leave. He deliberately left the lights on behind him.

The FBI photo taken weeks later misrepresents the storeroom's actual size. It was two double-windows wide and full of paraphernalia- an ideal hiding spot for a rifle on the morning of November 22nd. They were easily tucked away here and conveniently accessed for use on the 6th floor. The Powell photo, taken 30 seconds after the assassination, shows a

table lamp lit as well as a ceiling lamp. These are burning in the midday sun and betray the purpose of the storeroom.

Oswald's assignment did not consume much time. He had a good 10 minutes available to signal a confidant via telephone that the assassination was underway. Something of this nature was attempted, if he was the same unidentified FBI informant "Lee" who had been responsible for derailing the Chicago plot.²⁷

Oswald turned his face from his MK-ULTRA twin and took the west elevator down.

FRAZIER & THE ELEVATOR POWER

The freight elevators had been used since at least the early 1940's by the John Sexton grocery company. They had a load capacity of 6000 lbs²⁸ and required a minimum of 300 amperes of current to operate (a household refrigerator runs on only 4 amps). The power cables carrying this electricity were industrial-strength and required a 440-volt junction box. This was located in the basement, most probably along the wall toward the boiler room. The 220-volt panels that supplied the building's lights and small machinery were located in the rear corner of the 1st floor near the domino room.

Sexton moved out in mid-November of 1961 and the building remained vacant for about a year.²⁹ Renovations during this period included the construction of a passenger elevator in the front lobby, which reached only as high as the 4th-floor offices. It had but half the floor space of a freight elevator, and smaller power needs; it is not certain whether they shared a common 440-volt electrical box.

Buell Wesley Frazier admitted in his testimony that he went down to the basement alone about 12:35, for the last 10 minutes of the lunch break. "**I didn't come back up.**" The 19-year-old order-filler had moved 200 miles up from Huntsville to live with his sister in Irving, Linnie Mae Randle. He had begun working at the Depository on September 13th. Ten days later Marina Oswald moved from New Orleans into the home of Ruth Paine, half a block from the Randles. When her husband Lee was hired in mid-October, Frazier gave him a ride on Fridays out to Irving so he could spend the weekend with Marina and his daughters.

Frazier tried to foster the impression that eating down in the basement was his normal routine:

BALL: When you came in that morning to go to work where did you go first?

²⁷ JFK and the Unspeakable, p. 200; "The Plot to Kill JFK in Chicago November 2, 1963," by Edwin Black, Chicago Independent, November 1975

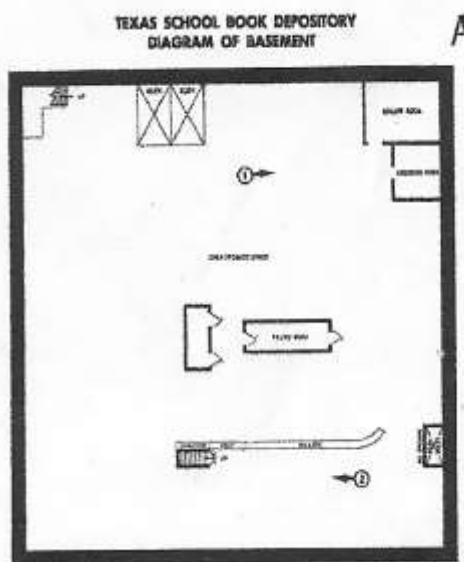
²⁸ Jerry Dealey, JFK Lancer post #85995, 2/2/10

FRAZIER: I went like I did every morning. I went down in the basement there and hung up my coat and put up my lunch.

But an hour earlier, during questioning as to whether Oswald had brought a lunch that day, he was caught off guard and acknowledged he normally ate in the domino room:

BALL: When you get off your job [at lunchtime], do you usually go to the lunchroom on the 2nd floor to eat your lunch?

FRAZIER: No, sir; most of the time I don't. Most of the time you see several of us guys sitting down at our own table and we just sit there. I say we usually go up there to get something to drink and I say I have ate up there several times but **most of the times I eat with the guys I work with. Usually we just sit down and eat**, and we lay on the big tables there and sometimes talk or go to sleep.



He claimed he went out to the front entrance at 12:00 and stood beside Shelley and Lovelady and watched the motorcade from the top of the steps. Once the gunfire erupted "people were running everywhere, and falling down and screaming... so I just stood still... it is always best to stand still because if you run that makes you look guilty sure enough."

"I stood there a few minutes... went back in, and... stayed on the 1st floor there for a few minutes and I hadn't eaten my lunch so I had my lunch down there in the basement and I went down there to get my lunch and eat it... [I had] stood around for several minutes there, you know, and then, you know, eventually the ones who hadn't eaten their lunch, some of them had taken their lunch outside... you know, after we stood and talked with some guys

there, some of them had eaten and some of them didn't, some of them had sandwiches in their hands, so naturally I felt like eating.”³⁰

Frazier apparently felt no inclination to eat while others finished their lunches around him during the half-hour wait for the motorcade; and with at least two further co-workers having already eaten in the domino room, it's unlikely anyone still had “sandwiches in their hands” after the shooting. *But it gave him a convenient excuse to be down in the basement. While he was down there the power was cut to the passenger elevator and then the west freight elevator.*

The passenger elevator was working when Inspector Sawyer boarded it at 12:35 with two police officers and an *unknown warehouse worker*; “their information was that the shots had come from the 5th floor.” It took them up only as high as the 4th, “which was pointed out to me by this other man as being the floor that we were talking about.”

Sawyer “just took a quick look around and made sure there was nobody hiding on that floor. I doubt if it took over a minute at the most... it couldn't have been over 3 minutes at the most from the time we left, got up and back down.” While up on the 4th he spoke briefly with Truly and Baker, who were coming down in the east elevator from the roof. They had “glanced over the 6th floor quickly”³¹ and run part of the back of the 5th to board this elevator, *but that does not explain why Sawyer and the police officers failed to proceed up the rear stairs to search these floors for a hidden gunman.*

Victoria Adams was at the front entrance when a DPD motorcycle reported “the shots came from the 5th or 4th floor... I panicked, as I was at the only open window on the 4th floor.” She went up the steps and explained that she worked in the building and entered the front lobby. The known broadcast time accurately places Adams here **at 12:40/41**. “*I pushed the button for the passenger elevator, but the power had been cut off on the elevator.*”³²

She went up the lobby stairs and “listened for a few minutes” to a radio in the 2nd-floor central office, then “went out and walked around the hall to the freight elevator.” Here she encountered “two men who were dressed in suit and hats, and I assumed they were plainclothesmen.” The three of them got on the *empty west freight elevator*, “*but it wasn't operating.*” The time was approximately 12:45.

Luke Mooney had just abandoned this west elevator. He had run over to the rear of the Depository from the parking lot behind the grassy knoll with fellow deputy sheriffs Billy Joe Victory and Sam Webster. They took the stairs while Mooney jumped on the elevator, just as two women came running up and asked to go up to the 2nd floor. “And when we got there, *the power undoubtedly cut off, because we had no more power on the elevator.*”

³⁰ WCH II pp. 221, 232, 234-236

³¹ WCH III p. 229

³² WCH VI p. 391

The Sports Drome Rifle Range was located 10 miles west of Dealey Plaza. When it opened for the season on October 26th, a man later identified as Oswald had his rifle scope zeroed in there- but Oswald had “spent the day and night at the Paine home,” as it was his first opportunity to be with his newborn daughter Rachel. On November 9th and 10th Oswald was recognized when he returned to the rifle range for target practice-³⁵ but Oswald had spent the entire weekend at Ruth Paine’s, composing a letter to the Soviet embassy and watching television with his family.³⁶

On Sunday, November 17th, Oswald stayed at his rooming house in Oak Cliff and his housekeeper stated, “He didn’t go nowhere.”³⁷ Out at the rifle range, real estate developer Garland Slack recognized the man in the shooting stall next to his, because he’d repeatedly tried to sell him a ticket to a turkey shoot the week before. But Oswald raised Cain and shot up Slack’s target; “he would shoot his rifle 3 or 4 times real fast, wait a little while, and fire 3 or 4 more fast shots.”³⁸

“I mean he was burning up the ammunition... he gave me a look that I would never forget it.” Ten months later Slack insisted that *Oswald had been brought to the rifle range by a man named “Frazier” from Irving, Texas.*³⁹



39. FRAZIER'S CAR PARKED IN APPROXIMATELY SAME LOCATION USED ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963. TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY IN BACKGROUND. (ARROW)

Frazier gave Oswald a ride to Irving on Thursday, November 21st, *allegedly* because Ruth Paine “was going to give him some curtain rods.”⁴⁰ Oswald *allegedly* brought a long brown package to the Randles’ home the next morning and placed it in the back seat of Frazier’s 1954 Chevrolet. He *allegedly* carried it into the Depository, walking 50 feet ahead of Frazier during their quarter-mile walk across the railroad yard to work.

³⁵ WCH X pp. 370-371, 380

³⁶ WCH II p. 515; WCH III p. 13, 125; WCH XXIV p. 694

³⁷ WCH VI p. 437

³⁸ Adamcik and Anderton report to Graves, 12/2/63, Dallas Municipal Archives, Box 2, Folder 5, Item 12

³⁹ WCH XXVI p. 681

⁴⁰ WCH XXIV p. 209; WCD 5, p. 320

But 22-year-old Franklin Wester, who worked on the skeleton crew in the north warehouse beside the employee parking lot,⁴¹ had noticed Frazier and Oswald leaving together after work on Thursday. On Friday morning he was hanging outside the warehouse for the last few minutes before the work day officially started.

“Where’s your rider?” Wester yelled over.

“***I dropped him off at the building,***” Frazier replied.⁴²

Oswald vigorously denied to his interrogators that he’d brought in a long package or that he knew anything about these supposed curtain rods. He said the only thing he’d brought to work was a lunch bag with a cheese sandwich and an apple in it.⁴³ He was telling the truth.

Frazier dropped Oswald at the Depository under the pretense of needing several minutes to rev his engine and charge his battery. Once Wester went inside the north warehouse, Frazier got out of his car and opened the trunk and brought out a long brown package containing one of the assassination rifles.

THE MALICIOUS MYTH OF THE CURTAIN ROD PACKAGE

Lee & Marina rented an apartment at 4905 Magazine Street in New Orleans from May 9th to September 23rd, 1963. On July 27th Ruth Paine drove her two children to the family estate on Naushon Island off of the coast of Woods Hole in Massachusetts. Her estranged husband Michael lived a few miles south of Irving in an apartment in Grand Prairie. When Ruth returned two months later she took Marina into her home. *But the Paines’ home at 2515 West 5th Street was not empty during August and September. It was being used by Oswald’s lookalike.*

Cliff Shasteen ran a barber shop a mile away, and described giving 7 or 8 haircuts to Oswald, “running back into the summertime.”⁴⁴ He told the FBI, only 10 days after the assassination, that Oswald would drive up in a car “belonging to Mrs. Paine, a station wagon which he had seen parked in the Paines’ driveway.”⁴⁵ But Oswald did not even have a learner’s permit and was only beginning supervised lessons behind the wheel.

Lillie Cline lived just around the corner and her daughter babysat for the Paines. That summer she “noticed a pregnant woman in their backyard” and she paid a visit “when her baby was born the latter part of August or the first part of September.”⁴⁶ But Marina did not give birth to Rachel until October 20th.

⁴¹ WCD 87, p. 778

⁴² Harvey and Lee, p. 797; HSCA 180-10107-10132, Numbered Files 003016

⁴³ Warren Report, pp. 604-605, 621-622, 626

⁴⁴ WCH X p. 314

⁴⁵ Ibid, p. 316; WCD 205, p. 634

⁴⁶ WCD 637, p. 4

Before his spring move to New Orleans Oswald received his mail at P.O. Box 2915 in Dallas and lived with Marina in an apartment on West Neely Street. There was no ostensible reason for any of his mail to be sent to 2515 W. 5th St. and Ruth Paine, the day after the assassination, denied receiving any prior to October 5th.⁴⁷ But Irving postman J.G. Davis, only 10 days later, contradicted her and reported he'd been delivering mail for *Oswald* there from July onwards and that somebody emptied her mailbox every few days.⁴⁸

By the beginning of September Wesley Frazier had moved into his sister's house at 2439 West 5th Street. His limited work experience included a job in the shipping section of a Huntsville department store *where he used to unpack curtain rods*.⁴⁹

Linnie Mae Randle claimed she had helped him find a job in the area, and "listed several places that he might go to look for work... [where] someone with, you know, not very much of an education can find work."⁵⁰

But Frazier told it differently, saying he'd gone to several employment agencies, until the Massey Employment Agency in Irving called him up one morning about a job opening at the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas.⁵¹ Massey's records were never substantiated and oddly, at the start of its peak business season, a city warehouse had used a suburban agency for hiring an unskilled laborer.⁵²

When Oswald arrived back in the Dallas area the first week of October he visited both the clerical and industrial offices of the Texas Employment Commission and the JOBCO Employment Agency, applying for several jobs without success. He stayed for a week at a rooming house in Oak Cliff before moving into another one at 1026 North Beckley Avenue. At a coffee get-together in next door neighbor Dorothy Roberts' house in Irving, Linnie Mae, Ruth and Marina discussed Lee's unemployment situation.

According to Mrs. Paine, "Mrs. Randle mentioned that her younger brother Wesley thought they needed another person at the Texas School Book Depository."⁵³

But Mrs. Randle hedged her role in the affair: "I didn't know there was a job opening over there... it was among one of the places that we mentioned. We mentioned several others... Manor Bakeries... Then there was this Texas Gypsum... we mentioned because Wesley had tried those places."⁵⁴

⁴⁷ WCD 87, p. 197

⁴⁸ Harvey and Lee, pp. 558, 712; USPS 169-10001-10137, Field Office Report #157807-X-CC of Inspectors L.L.

Niewoehner and R.L. McCoy

⁴⁹ Ian Lloyd, JFK Lancer posts #64906, 10/28/07 and #860652, 2/06/10; WCH II p. 229

⁵⁰ WCH II p. 246

⁵¹ Ibid, p. 212

⁵² "Buell Wesley Frazier, Linnie Mae and Bill Randle" by Greg Parker at ReopenKennedyCase.com; Education Forum post 5/09/08

⁵³ WCH III p. 34

⁵⁴ WCH II pp. 246-247

BALL: Mrs. Paine told you that Lee didn't have any work?

RANDLE: Well, I suppose. It was just in conversation... it was just general knowledge in the neighborhood that he didn't have a job and she was expecting a baby... In fact, Mrs. Paine asked me if I would call and I told her, no, that I didn't know anybody over there... if she wanted to call over the place she would have to do it...

JENNER: It is your recollection that you did not ask Mrs. Randle to call the Texas School Book Depository?

PAINE: That is my clear recollection.⁵⁵

What is even clearer is that neither woman assumed any responsibility for getting Oswald his job in the Book Depository, and was willing to ensnare the other. The final irony to the job search is that on the morning Oswald applied, the Paine household received a call from the Texas Employment Commission, notifying him of a position available as a cargo handler with Trans-Texas Airlines at Love Field. It paid 50% more than an order-filler made at the Depository, and Ruth Paine never informed Oswald of this. The TEC made a follow-up call the next morning and she told them he was "working".⁵⁶

At 10:30 AM on Wednesday, November 20th, refrigerator repairman Ralph Yates gave a ride to a hitchhiker at the freeway entrance ¾ of a mile from Oswald's rooming house. He carried a 4-4 ½ foot long brown package with him into Yates' pickup and said it contained **curtain rods**.

He asked Yates if he had ever been to the Carousel Club and if he knew Jack Rubenstein, who ran the nightclub. Yates said no and as their conversation turned to JFK's upcoming visit to Dallas, the man wondered whether a person could assassinate the President, if it could be done from a high window or the top of a building. He then pulled out a photo showing a man with a holstered pistol displaying a rifle, and asked if the President could be killed with a gun like that. Did he know whether the parade route would be changed?

The hitchhiker said he was headed to Houston St. and Yates let him off at the Elm St. intersection. "As the man got out of the truck [Yates] recalled him saying something about the Triple Underpass." He last saw him "across Elm St. going north on Houston," walking toward the rear entrance of the Book Depository.

When Yates got back to the shop he shared this incident, and a week later contacted the FBI, because "he believed the man he had in the pickup was the man who shot and killed the President." He made a positive photo identification of Lee Harvey Oswald as the man.⁵⁷

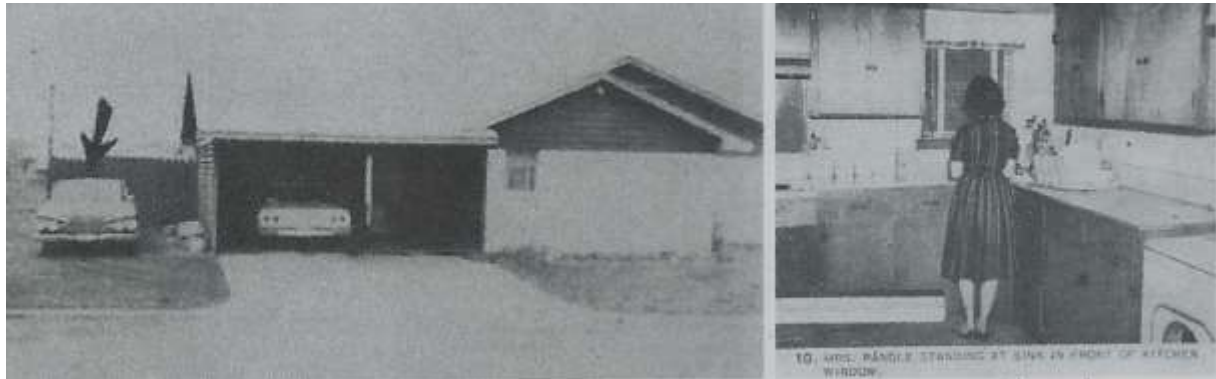
⁵⁵ WCH IX p. 392

⁵⁶ WCH XIX p. 400

⁵⁷ WCD 5, pp. 417-420; WCD 205, pp. 44-47; WCD 329, pp. 127-128

But Oswald was working at the time of Yates' incident. His hitchhiker was the **twin Oswald**, who was using the ruse of a *curtain rod package* as a means for delivering a rifle to the Book Depository. This ruse gave the planners of JFK's assassination a failsafe, in the event that Wesley Frazier and Linnie Mae Randle failed to connect a curtain rod package with Lee Harvey Oswald on the morning of November 22nd.

And this failsafe was soon erased- all but its last traces- when the FBI coerced Yates into committing himself to a mental hospital 6 weeks after the assassination. He would remain institutionalized for the last 11 years of his life.⁵⁸



On Friday night, November 22nd, Frazier told the FBI he had given Oswald a ride to Irving that Thursday, instead of his usual weekend routine, since “he wanted to obtain some curtain rods for his residence in Dallas.” Randle told the FBI that Oswald was “fixing up his apartment and Ruth Paine... was going to give him some curtain rods.” They claimed to have mentioned this in casual conversation Thursday evening after Randle, on her way to the store, noticed Oswald being dropped off up the street.⁵⁹

The owner of the Beckley rooming house, Gladys Johnson, had supplied curtains for Oswald's room and never heard him talking about getting new ones. She did not permit roomers to make changes.⁶⁰ Marina didn't notice any kind of package when she greeted him on Thursday and never heard him say anything about curtain rods.⁶¹ Nor did Ruth hear any talk about him bringing a package with him or needing curtain rods.⁶² Oswald insisted in the DPD Homicide Office on Saturday morning that he was not in the process of fixing up his apartment. He did **not** tell Frazier he wanted to go to Irving Thursday to obtain curtain rods. *Frazier and Randle received no corroboration for this allegation other than from themselves.*

When he walked from the Paines' to the Randles' on Friday morning, Oswald would have risked being sighted by a neighbor who could confirm he was carrying a long brown

⁵⁸ JFK and the Unspeakable, pp. 351-356

⁵⁹ WCH II pp. 224, 248; WCD 5, pp. 316, 320

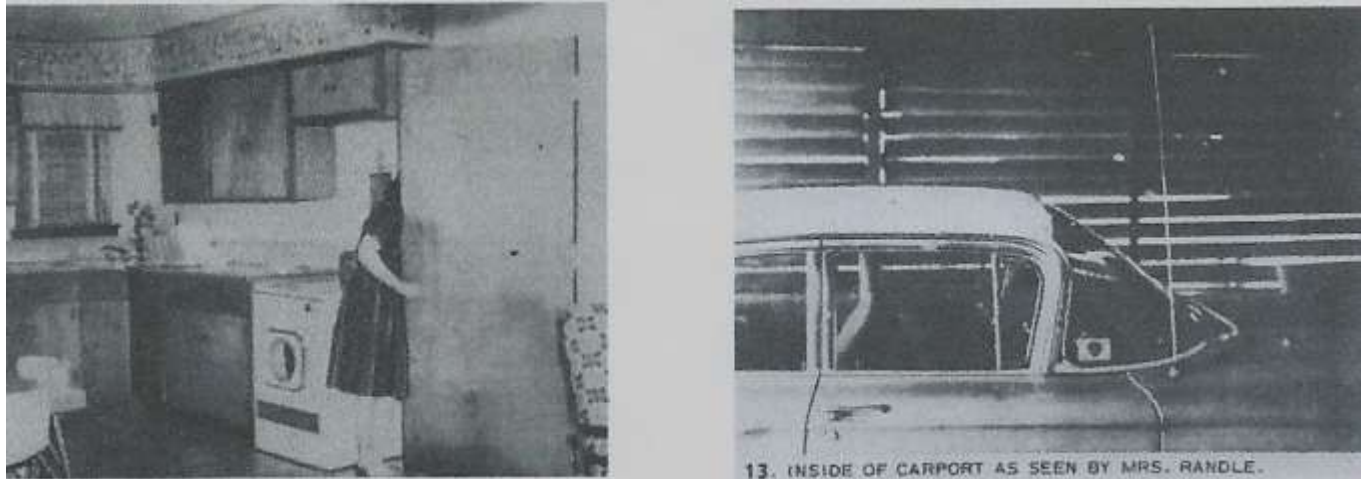
⁶⁰ WCH X p. 297; The Day Kennedy Was Shot, pp. 35, 550

⁶¹ WCH I pp. 68-69; WCH XXII p. 751

⁶² WCH III pp. 67, 122

package. The occupants of 9 nearby homes said they hadn't seen him.⁶³ There would have been no such risk were he carrying only a lunch bag.

Randle testified she was at her kitchen window about 7:15 AM when she saw Oswald coming up her driveway "carrying a package in a sort of **heavy brown bag, heavier than a grocery bag...** it almost touched the ground as he carried it." Yet when she described his clothing she stated, "I just saw him from the waist up."



She said she was curious and opened the door to her garage and claimed she saw him "put it in Wesley's car⁶⁴ ... in the back seat area."⁶⁵ Frazier's car was backed up beside the carport and "she noticed Oswald opened the right rear door."⁶⁶ But she was forced to admit by the end of her testimony that *she had no direct sighting at all- she had heard rather than seen Oswald: "it is hard to close, so that cinched in my mind which door it was."*⁶⁷ With the slats of the carport wall in her way there could be no direct sighting- *if indeed Oswald ever went to the car.*

"Presuming he was getting in the car, she turned back to the sink after hearing the car door shut. She then looked out the window and saw him looking in the window at her from the outside. She was startled and somewhat irritated and called to her brother..."⁶⁸

But she didn't call to her brother. Because their mother, Essie Mae Williams, was at the breakfast table and noticed a man looking in the kitchen window and asked who he was.⁶⁹ Frazier also stated this in his DPD affidavit. *Nowhere in his statements or testimony does he say that Randle went to the door to the carport.*

⁶³ WCD 7, p. 98

⁶⁴ WCH XXIV p. 223, DPD affidavit of Linnie Mae Randle, 11/22/63

⁶⁵ WCD 5, p. 320, FBI interview of Randle, 11/22/63

⁶⁶ WCD 7, p. 298, FBI interview of Randle, 12/1/63

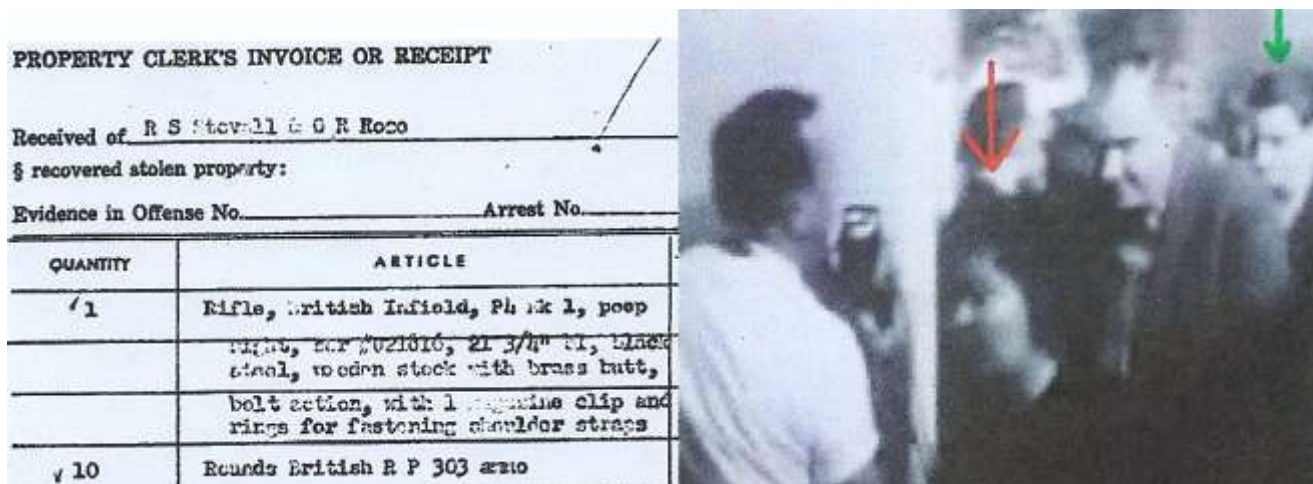
⁶⁷ WCH II p. 251

⁶⁸ WCD 7, p. 298

⁶⁹ WCD 205, p. 147

At approximately 4:00 PM Randle drove up to the Paines' as detectives John Adamcik, Richard Stovall and Gus Rose were finishing up their search. She told Adamcik "she saw Oswald carry something over to her brother's car and put it in the back seat. It was long and wrapped in paper or a box. **She was suspicious.**" *But she had no cause to be suspicious*, because supposedly she had learned the night before he was bringing some curtain rods with him to work. Linnie Mae Randle consistently tailored her facts, and her conscious design from the beginning was to frame Lee Harvey Oswald for the murder of President Kennedy.

She told Adamcik that Frazier was at Parkland Hospital visiting their sick step-father, and it was 6:00 by the time he arrived at the DPD station and found out Frazier was actually back out at the Irving Professional Center. *Frazier had left the Depository no later than 2:00 and had at least 3 hours of missing time.* He was arrested at 6:30 by Irving detective J.A. McCabe. Rose and Stovall drove out to pick him up and after his car was searched they proceeded to the Randle home and found a .303 British Enfield with a scope and a partial box of ammunition.⁷⁰ The first description of the rifle discovered on the 6th floor was broadcast by Fort Worth's WBAP at 1:37 PM: "Crime Lieutenant J.C. Day just came out of that building. Reported British .303 rifle with telescopic lens."⁷¹



Frazier, like Ruth Paine a couple of hours beforehand, described Oswald to Detective Rose as "a real nut".⁷² Randle contacted their Baptist minister, who accompanied them to the DPD station and vouched for their upstanding character. They convinced the police that Oswald had brought a long brown package with him that morning and were sent home. But a radio call interrupted their escort back; Captain Fritz wanted a polygraph of Frazier to see if he was telling the truth. The Crime Lab's R.D. Lewis didn't arrive until 11:20 PM to administer the test.

⁷⁰ DPD JFK Archives, Box 1, Folder 7, Item 47

⁷¹ "Treasure Hunting in the National Archives" by Sylvia Meagher, The Third Decade, Vol. 2 No. 2, Jan. 1986

⁷² No More Silence, p. 341

The examination was over 50 minutes later and *its results disappeared*. Frazier was reportedly very nervous and during the initial standard questions, “judging by the needle, bordered on controlled hysteria.”⁷³ The only known question & answer concerned a **brown heavy paper** gun case that police had recovered from the Depository, which was displayed to him; Frazier said he did not think it resembled the **crinkly brown paper** sack he’d seen Oswald bring with him that morning, which was about 2 feet long.⁷⁴ There is no trace of an examination report by Lewis; witnesses Stovall and Rose reported that it “showed Wesley Frazier was truthful, and that the facts stated by Frazier in his affidavit were true.”

On the contrary, former CIA Problems Analysis chief George O’Toole presented evidence that *Lewis, Stovall, Rose and Frazier all lied about the results of this polygraph exam.*⁷⁵ The tool he developed, the Psychological Stress Evaluator, can measure stress changes in vocal cords; it may be used for tape-recordings and is considered a more reliable lie-detector than the polygraph, which measures blood-pressure changes.

In a recorded interview Frazier gave shortly after November 22nd, he related his *alleged* conversation with Oswald on Thursday at the Depository: “I said, ‘Well, why are you going home this afternoon?’ And he replied that he wanted to go home and pick up some curtain rods so he could put some curtains up in his apartment. And I said, ‘Oh, very well.’” A colleague of O’Toole’s rated the hard stress displayed by this excerpt as **11 on a scale of 10**.

For the participants in this polygraph all to be lying, it can only mean that Captain Fritz ordered the examination conducted *for charade purposes only*.

On assassination night Frazier described the package as 2-foot long and the kind of sack one finds in a five-and-dime store. Randle estimated it was “approximately 3 feet.” Yet one week later she told the Secret Service it was “about 2 feet or over.”⁷⁶ They were each interviewed separately by the FBI on December 1st and Frazier said it was “a cheap, crinkly, thin paper sack... a very light brown as compared with the type of dark brown paper used for heavier grocery sacks.” Randle said it was a “heavy grade of paper... it appeared to contain something heavy.”⁷⁷ She would testify it was “heavier than a grocery bag.” *But Frazier jettisoned his account of a thin crinkly sack and thereby contradicted his polygraph story.*

BALL: What did the package look like?

FRAZIER: Well, I will be frank with you, I would just, it was right as you get out of a grocery store, just more or less out of a package, you have seen some of these brown paper sacks you can obtain from any, most of the stores, some varieties, but it was a package just roughly about 2 feet long...

⁷³ The Day Kennedy Was Shot, p. 610

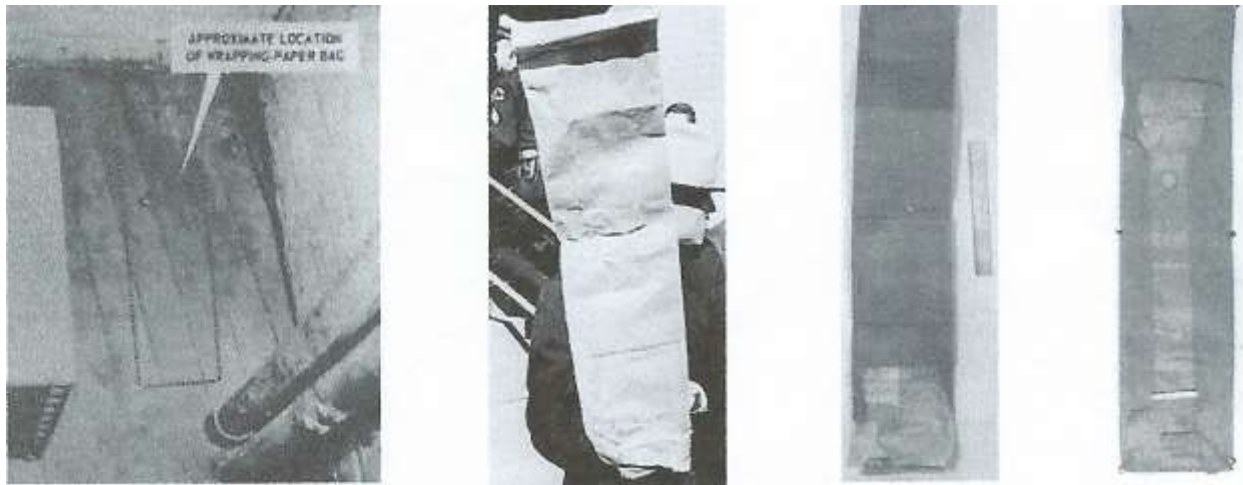
⁷⁴ WCD 7, p. 291

⁷⁵ The Assassination Tapes, pp. 168-206

⁷⁶ WCD 87, p. 185

⁷⁷ WCD 7, pp. 295-298

...You have seen, not a real light color but you know normally, the normal color about the same color, you have seen these kinds of *heavy duty* bags you know like you obtain from the grocery store, something like that, about the same color of that, paper sack you get there.



Frazier was a gun owner and by alleging that the bag was only about 24” long, he distanced himself from any suspicion that he’d known beforehand that Oswald’s package contained a fully-assembled rifle. Or that it could accommodate even a broken-down rifle, since it was 12 inches too short for almost any rifle barrel or stock. The DPD never discovered a 24” package in the Depository, and nobody has ever been able to figure out what might have been inside Frazier’s 24” package, ***because it is a myth.***

The bag the DPD carried out of the Depository was over 3 ½ feet long. It was 10 ¾” wide and was **not** the same bag the FBI submitted to the Warren Commission, which was only 8 ½” wide.⁷⁸ No one on the DPD knew, or would admit, who found the bag, and its imaginary location was represented by a dotted line. Fingerprint tape *allegedly* placed on the bag when it was *allegedly* dusted was not on the bag that the FBI received from the DPD. The FBI found no scratch marks on the bag, nor on the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, to indicate that the bag had carried the rifle or its components.⁷⁹ Witnesses were required to equate the bag they’d seen with a replica, because the “original” was discolored from silver nitrate fingerprint processing. The FBI produced two conflicting documents, both on November 30th, stating the bag paper had “the same observable characteristics” but also was “found not to be identical” with samples of Depository paper-⁸⁰ a classic case of the Orwellian doublethink which abounds in the JFK murder evidence.

These contortions were necessary in order to cover up the simple truth that Oswald brought nothing but a lunch bag with him that morning. And without Frazier’s curtain rod fable there was no possible way that Oswald could have secretly brought a rifle into the Depository.

⁷⁸ “Sack of Lies” by Pat Speer, patspeer.com

⁷⁹ “The Paper Bag That Never Was” by Ian Griggs, Dealey Plaza Echo, Vol. 1 Nos. 1 & 2, July & Nov. 1996

⁸⁰ “The Paper Bag: An FBI Blueprint for Revised Documents” by Ed Tatro, The Third Decade, Vol. 1 No. 2, Jan. 1985



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The following morning, November 23rd, freelance photographer Gene Daniels went out to Oswald's rooming house and asked Gladys Johnson if he could take some pictures. She told him she'd prefer that he didn't until she put "the curtains back up." Daniels took a photo of her husband standing on the bed, using a hammer to get the curtain rods back into position. Mrs. Johnson added that **reporters had disturbed the room the night before.**

An unknown "reporter" had taken down the curtain rods.

PIPER & THE SNIPER'S NEST

Amos Euins stood in the crowd on the corner of Houston Street across from the Book Depository as the motorcade passed. The 14-year-old high school freshman waved to the President and was thrilled when JFK noticed him and waved back. As the limousine completed the turn onto Elm Street, Euins glanced up for a moment in the direction of the Depository and noticed a pipe sticking out from an upper floor window.

He told the Sheriff's Office that day: "*...about the time the car got near the black & white sign I heard a shot. I started looking around and then I looked up in the red brick building. I saw a man in the window with a gun and I saw him shoot twice. He then stepped back behind some boxes. I could tell the gun was a rifle and it sounded like an automatic rifle the way he was shooting.*"⁸²

"I could see his hand, and I could see his other hand on the trigger, and one hand was on the barrel thing," he testified. The sniper was leaning out "enough to get the stock and receiving

⁸¹ Presumed Guilty, p. 160

⁸² WCH XVI p. 963

house and the trigger housing to stick out the window... **I seen a bald spot on this man's head, trying to look out the window...** because he had his head something like this."

Q: Indicating his face down, looking down the rifle?

A: Yes, sir; and I could see the spot on his head... And then I watched, he did fire again. **Then he started looking down towards my way**, and then he fired again." Euins was describing how the sniper momentarily took his eyes off of his target and turned his face toward the crowd below.



Euins joined with the spectators surging the grassy knoll. In the parking lot he told Sergeant David Harkness he saw the shots and they came from the Book Depository. Harkness put him on his three-wheeler and drove to the front entrance, radioing in that he had an eyewitness and was sealing the building. KRLD news director James Underwood was close by and overheard Euins telling Harkness he'd seen a black man with a rifle leaning out of an upstairs window.

"Were they white or black?" Underwood queried.

"It was a colored man," Euins replied.

"Are you sure it was a colored man?"

"Yes, sir."⁸³

HARKNESS: I found a little colored boy, Amos Euins, who told me he saw the shots come from that building.

BELIN: Now you just picked out a little small book, one of those little pocket notebooks?

A: Yes, sir.

⁸³ WCH VI p. 170

Q: Or a notepad from your pocket there. Is that the original notation that you made?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: When did you make that notation?

A: Immediately after the shooting.

Q: Is that your own record that you have kept in your possession since then?

A: Yes, sir. I turned-

Q: *You turned what?*

A: After I took his name and address and put this information on the radio, I then took him on the back of my three-wheeled motorcycle and put him in Inspector Sawyer's car.

Belin thereupon handed Harkness a copy of the radio transcript and steered the testimony away from his personal notebook- which was ignored and has never surfaced.

Euins' eyewitness account became an early news bulletin, broadcast in New York a little over an hour later: "*It is thought that a Negro was involved in the assassination attempt.*"⁸⁴ And he wasn't the only one who saw a black man in the sniper's nest. Arnold Rowland, standing on the other side of Houston Street, watched an elderly Negro "hanging out of that window" between 12:15-12:25. As the motorcade approached Rowland noticed he had left and gave no further attention to that window. Meshing the two youths' accounts, this "elderly Negro" had stepped back to get a rifle and get ready to shoot.



"He was **very slender**, very thin... **bald or practically bald**... 50; **possibly 55 or 60**... not real dark compared to some Negroes, but **fairly dark**. Seemed like his face was either- I can't recall detail but it was either very wrinkled or **marked in some way**."⁸⁵

Not included in Rowland's testimony was his offer "that he might be able to identify the Negro person whom he saw," which prompted the Warren Commission to get the FBI to photograph

⁸⁴ Plausible Denial, p. 13

⁸⁵ WCH II p. 188

and interview Book Depository janitor Eddie Piper. He had changed his address and phone number since the assassination. The Dallas FBI ascertained that Piper was born in 1908, stood 5' 10", and had a slender build at 140 lbs.⁸⁶ Two conspicuous blemishes- either birth marks or age spots- branded the top of his bald head. There is no indication that Rowland was ever shown these photographs.

Piper gave a statement at the Sheriff's Office on November 23rd which said: "I went to a front window on the 1st floor and ate my lunch and waited to see the President's parade go by. I saw the president pass and heard some shots and looked at the clock there **and saw it was 12:25 PM**. The shots seemed to me like they came from up inside the building."⁸⁷

He is the only employee who claimed to have watched the motorcade from the 1st floor, and this visit to Sheriff Bill Decker's is the likely source for a next-day small-town newspaper report that "**A building porter said he took Oswald to the 6th 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.**"⁸⁸

Piper described himself "as a porter" in a February interview with the DPD Criminal Intelligence Division, and told them, "I was standing by a window on the lower floor at the front of the building watching the cars pass by when I heard this shot. *It shook the window and I moved away from the window and looked at the clock. It was exactly 12:25 P.M. Some more shots were fired. I distinctly heard 3 shots in all.*"⁸⁹ His contention that "it was 12:25 P.M." had been reiterated in a Secret Service interview two months previously.⁹⁰

Piper claimed in his testimony that he decided to watch the motorcade from inside the Depository "because the street was so crowded with people... I got my sandwich off of the radiator and [sat] on a box... I could see out the window but I couldn't see anything- too many people... *I didn't see anything.*" No wonder, since it was a terrible viewing spot. The peristyle latticework was about 6" thick⁹¹ and even without people in the way, the best Piper could have hoped for was a fleeting glimpse of the limousine. The obstructed view belies what he told the FBI in March, during their superficial canvassing of building employees: "I could not see the President's car from where I was sitting but I heard 3 shots ring out and **saw people looking up at the building.**"⁹²

During the shooting sequence he claimed he got up and headed for Troy West's coffee counter-*yet West, who said he'd spent his whole lunch break there, didn't mention seeing Piper come back.*⁹³

⁸⁶ FBI 62-109060 JFK HQ File, Section 60

⁸⁷ WCH XXI p. 138

⁸⁸ Victoria Advocate, 11/24/63 p. 7

⁸⁹ DPD JFK Archives, Box 13, Folder 5, Item 26

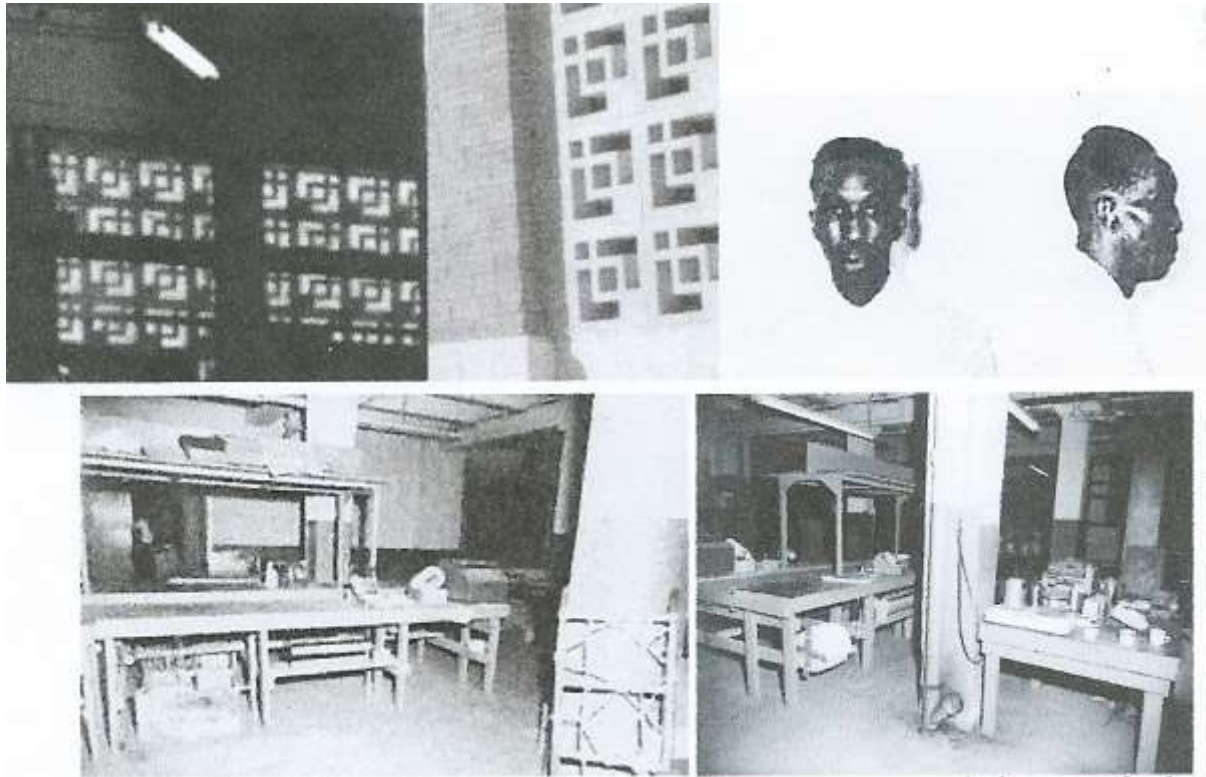
⁹⁰ WCD 87, p. 780

⁹¹ Martin Hinrichs, JFK Lancer post #85583, 1/08/10

⁹² WCH XXII p. 668

⁹³ WCH VI pp. 361-362

There was a clock in the area, about 2/3 of the way back along the west side of the warehouse, that supposedly grabbed Piper's attention.



PIPER: I heard one shot, and then the next shot went off- the one that shot him and I got on up and went on back, back where they make coffee at the end of the counter *where I could see what happened* and before I could get there, the 3rd shot went off...

BALL: You said you did it so you could see out better?

PIPER: No, sir; *I did it to see what time it was*- when all this happened- to see what time it was... It was between 12:30- between 12:27 and 12:30...

Piper had previously fixed this time at 12:25- exactly- for the Sheriff's, Secret Service, and DPD Intelligence; now for the Warren Commission he was placing himself at the coffee station closer to the acknowledged moment of JFK's assassination. For his November 23rd statement, and probably the others, he didn't know that this had occurred at 12:30. The motorcade was running 5 minutes late and it had been expected to pass by the Depository at 12:25. And so Piper, from all appearances, made it seem he was on the 1st floor at the time he thought the President had been shot.⁹⁴

⁹⁴ "Was Eddie Piper on the 6th Floor?" by Greg Parker, ReopenKennedyCase.com

Roy Truly and Marrion Baker never mentioned him, yet Piper testified Truly had yelled over to him about the absent elevator. How was Baker dressed? “Oh, I don’t know.” Did he have a white helmet on? “No, I don’t think so.”⁹⁵



And not only did Piper’s supposed sighting of them lack substantial details, suggesting he’d only learned about them later. He said he “walked over to the back door” once they went up the stairs, yet Vickie Adams used that same rear door when she came down and didn’t mention seeing him; nor did Billy Lovelady. Bill Shelley gave the sole corroboration, but it was altogether impossible- after claiming to re-entered the building’s rear, Shelley allegedly saw Piper “coming back from where he was watching the motorcade.”⁹⁶

All told, Piper’s 1st-floor alibi received zero support from the other building employees who were down there at the time. The window he said he chose for watching the motorcade had an obstructed view. He matched key elements of Euins’ and Rowland’s descriptions of the black man in the sniper’s nest- especially the bald spot, which may have actually been a spot upon a bald head, mistakenly reported. And since Jack Dougherty constructed his own false alibi around seeing Piper- on the 1st floor within a minute of the shots- Piper’s absence downstairs strongly indicates that **he was upstairs as the assassination took place and participated in some facet of Dougherty’s true activities.**

In early December Troy West told the Secret Service he was at his wrapping table area when “*he heard the shots fired [and] before he could leave the building, many people came in, including police officers.*”⁹⁷ For the FBI in March he added that “*I was walking toward the front of the building when people rushed in.*”⁹⁸ The Bureau photographed and interviewed him together with Piper a few days later and West contended that “at the time President Kennedy was shot...

⁹⁵ WCH VI p. 389

⁹⁶ Ibid, p. 330

⁹⁷ WCD 87, p. 785

⁹⁸ WCH XXII p. 679

he was preparing another pot of coffee."⁹⁹ But his April testimony recalled events differently, if at all.

WEST: About 12 o'clock we always quit for lunch...

BELIN: Now, after you quit for lunch, you made the coffee then?

A: Yes, sir... I made the coffee right there close to the wrapping mail table where I wrap mail.

Q: Then what did you do?

A: Well, I sit down to eat my lunch... *But before I got through*, well, all of this was, the police and things was coming in, *and I was just spellbound. I just didn't know what was the matter.* So I didn't get through eating...

Q: Did you hear any shots fired?

A: *I didn't hear a one. Didn't hear a one.*

Q: Did you see Roy Truly coming in at all that time? ...Did you ever see him, do you remember, *while you were eating your lunch*, come in the building?

A: Yes, sir; I think he came in with the police.

Q: Was he one of the first people in, or did other people come in ahead of him, if you remember?

A: Really, I just don't know.

Q: Did you hear anyone yelling to let the elevator loose or anything like that?

A: *I can't remember...*

Q: So you don't know whether anyone was using the elevators?

A: *No, sir; I don't.*

Q: Do you know whether anyone was going up and down the stairs?

A: *No, sir; I don't.*

West had changed his story. He denied hearing shots, omitted his walk to the front of the warehouse, and feigning a memory lapse, deflected any inquiries regarding what had transpired on the 1st floor. He was a strategically-placed **non-witness**, able to cover for the movements of any conspirators after the fact. *It is important to realize that, other than Baker's*

⁹⁹ FBI 62-109060 JFK HQ File, Section 60

dash for the elevator, no law enforcement personnel entered the warehouse for 8 solid minutes after the assassination. Troy West provided little and no detail about what went on during this critical aftermath. He was “spellbound” and thus overlooked Shelley & Lovelady coming in to get back to the elevator shaft, and Adams & Styles heading by them for the rear door, and two snipers escaping from the west freight elevator, and Piper emerging to put himself beside the coffee counter, and Frazier taking the stairs to the basement.

The organizers of the assassination plot had complete control over any component of the Book Depository building that the warehouse employees utilized at lunchtime on November 22, 1963. This included the upper 3 floors, the rear stairs and elevators, and the ground floor and basement. Little or nothing was left to chance.

Had Troy West been merely an innocent bystander who’d been intimidated into remaining silent, he would have been threatened during these first critical minutes to prevent him from possibly betraying the warehousemen to a law officer. But he was stationed at a crucial eyewitness position by his wrapping table and couldn’t be ignored in the assassination plans. For this reason he was recruited to participate in the plot and assigned as cover & watch man for the rear & front of the 1st floor.

Amos Euins was brought to Sheriff Bill Decker’s office at the corner of Main & Houston before 1:00 PM. He did not leave until 8:00 PM.¹⁰⁰ His 7 hours there produced only ½ page of an affidavit.

The Sheriff’s Department processed a total of 28 affidavits on November 22nd, and 4 of them were taken by Deputy Sheriff C.M. Jones. Besides Euins, he handled Howard Brennan- the construction worker who said he saw a slender *white* man shooting a rifle from the sniper’s nest, and went on to become the Warren Commission’s star witness against Oswald; Emmett Hudson- the groundskeeper who stood on the grassy knoll and heard 3 shots from the stockade fence behind him; and Ernest Owens- who’d seen a man openly carrying a rifle the previous day, in a parking lot only a mile from Dealey Plaza. Jones reported that almost immediately after the assassination he returned to the interrogation room, where he “spent the next few hours.”¹⁰¹ Although he may have asked Euins to wait behind the others, there was a special reason why this youngster was detained so late in the night.

The Sheriff’s Office altered what Euins had told David Harkness and James Underwood and recorded that he’d seen a *white* man in the sniper’s nest. Euins then withheld his description and told the FBI a week later that “*he could not tell anything about the man*”; his step-father submitted that maybe it had just been a figment of the boy’s imagination. In a follow-up

¹⁰⁰ WCD 205, p. 13

¹⁰¹ WCH XIX p. 512

interview on December 14th, Euins denied seeing the sniper's face but "was sure this man was white."¹⁰² ***Euins' mother received several threatening calls before he testified.***¹⁰³

He told the Warren Commission, when he was presented with his Sheriff's statement, that "They must have made a mistake, because I told them I could see a white spot on his head... I didn't actually say it was a white man. I said I couldn't tell." *Yet he hadn't mentioned anything about a spot on the head- which he described as a bald spot- until his second FBI interview.* He re-emphasized that "I seen a bald spot on this man's head, trying to look out the window." Euins' gunman was a near-perfect physical match with Arnold Rowland's "elderly Negro"¹⁰⁴- who had been "reworded" out of his own Sheriff's statement.¹⁰⁵

These two youths were not brought to DPD Headquarters to compare what they'd just witnessed in the sniper's nest with the suspect being held in custody. By contrast, Howard Brennan was taken to the City Hall basement to view a police lineup at 6:30 PM- only he refused to confirm Oswald was the white man he'd seen shooting a rifle. A DPD list of lineup attendees duly noted that "Mr. H.L. Brennan... Failed to identify";¹⁰⁶ but the list they submitted to the Warren Commission was missing his name.¹⁰⁷ Brennan contended in his testimony that he could have identified Oswald, but deliberately made a false statement-¹⁰⁸ and he had no more important question to answer honestly for the police.¹⁰⁹



¹⁰² WCD 205, pp. 10-12

¹⁰³ Mark Lane, letter to the New York Times, 11/22/07

¹⁰⁴ "Why the Elderly Negro was the Shooter", www.elderlynegro.freehomepage.com/customs2

¹⁰⁵ WCH II p. 182

¹⁰⁶ DPD JFK Archives, Box 6, Folder 1, Item 73, p. 3

¹⁰⁷ WCH XXIV p. 347

¹⁰⁸ WCH III pp. 148, 155

¹⁰⁹ Rush to Judgment, p. 397

Euins got a look at the sniper's face and eyes. He described how the full length of the rifle barrel, down to at least as far as the trigger, was “sticking out of the window... I could see his hand, and I could see his other hand on the trigger, and one hand was on the barrel thing... *Then he started looking down towards my way, and then he fired again... And after he got through, he just pulled it back in the window.*”

In his December FBI interview he added that “the individual in the window, after firing the 4th shot, *began looking around... he saw this individual withdraw the rifle and step back in the window.*” Also omitted from his testimony was the observation in his Sheriff's statement that the gunman had “*stepped back behind some boxes.*” ***Euins witnessed the sniper's nest for the duration of the 6-second shooting sequence and a few more seconds.*** But while he denied ever saying it was a white man up there, he would not indicate that it was a black.

SPECTER: Of what race was he, Amos?

EUINS: I couldn't tell, *because these boxes were throwing a reflection, shaded...*

Q: Now, could you tell what color hair he had?

A: No, sir.

Q: Could you tell whether his hair was dark or light?

A: No, sir...

Q: Now, did you get a very good look at that man, Amos?

A: No, sir; I did not.

Q: Were you able to tell anything about the clothes he was wearing?

A: No, sir...

Q: Now, is there anything else in this [Sheriff's] statement, Amos, which is different from the way you remember this event, as you are sitting here right now?

Amos, did you understand the last question?

Euins' mind had drifted back to the early evening of November 22nd. He had already given a statement to C.M. Jones and was told he would still have to wait. There was a special reason for this.

Shortly after 5:00 PM Sheriff Bill Decker placed an urgent telephone call to DPD Captain Will Fritz. It was imperative that he speak with him in person immediately. The Homicide chief

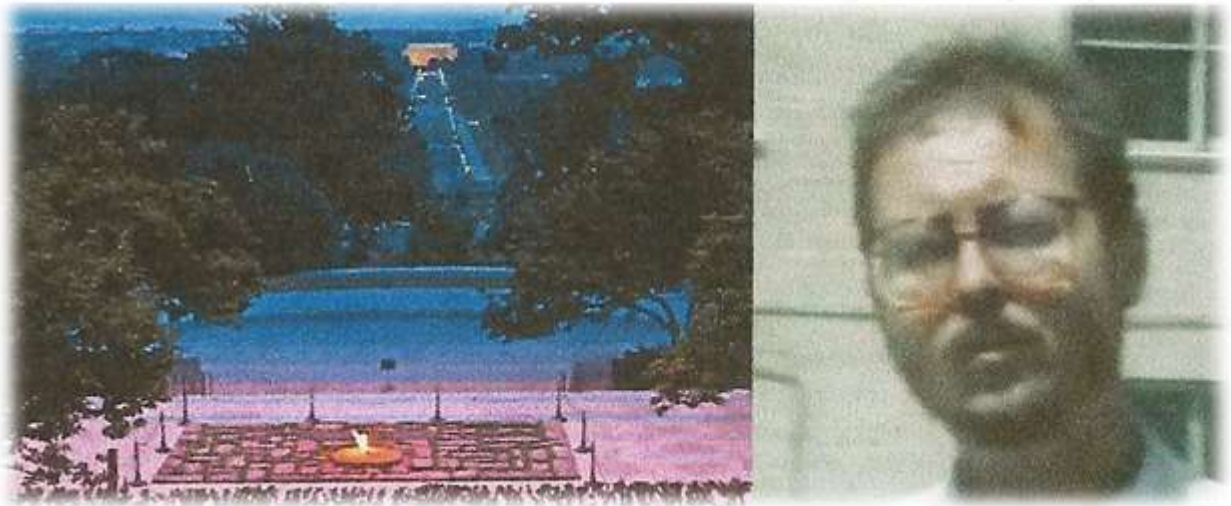
abruptly left his initial interrogation of Oswald and drove a mile down Main Street to Decker's office. There they discussed something unknown, in absolute secrecy.¹¹⁰

Decker informed Fritz that he had two witnesses who could place a black man in the sniper's nest, including Euins, who'd seen him actually shooting. Fritz had already made up his mind that the white man he held in custody had done the shooting. Decker and Fritz agreed it was mandatory to eliminate the black man from any witness statements.

Right then and there they began conspiring to murder Oswald.

Richard Gilbride

in memory of Larry Ray Harris



¹¹⁰ JFK and the Unspeakable, p. 274