

## THE BOOK DEPOSITORY AS A POTEMKIN VILLAGE

By Potemkin Village we mean any structure built to deceive - a false front intending to hide a defective or negative situation.

This metaphor originated as a Russian cultural myth in the late 1700s, and we owe it to the governor of the war-damaged Crimean peninsula, Grigorii Potemkin, who was hoping to impress his visiting empress, Catherine the Great, by propping up hollow facades of villages at her expected stops. These were elaborately decorated and populated with peasantfolk.



The decorations and their love affair were historical facts, but the idea that Potemkin set up portable village facades was not.<sup>1</sup> And so the metaphor has come to signify something that in appearance is elaborate and impressive, but which in actual fact lacks substance.

Let us now look at how the Texas School Book Depository qualifies as a Potemkin Village-populated not by peasantry, but by office workers and warehousemen.

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<sup>1</sup> The Myth of the Soviet Potemkin Village by Michael David-Fox, l'Universite Paris seminaire Pantheon Sorbonne et de l'ENS La Russie aux XIX et XXe siecles

The Sexton Plant at  
**DALLAS**  
Houston and Elm Sts.



The building at 411 Elm Street was owned by oilman David Harold Byrd and in 1940 he leased it to the John Sexton Wholesale Grocers. In 1959 Sexton constructed a distribution facility in a nearby industrial park, and they finally vacated the premises in mid-November 1961.

411 Elm Street remained vacant for at least a solid year. Extensive renovations expanded the office space to the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> floors and installed a passenger elevator near the front entrance. Besides the Texas School Book Depository Company, seven publishers used the building, and we still don't know which specific month they moved in. Roy Truly told the FBI the night of the assassination that they'd been there "only a few months".

This astounded me when I learned it after joining the Lancer forum in 2009. I had spent the previous 6 years writing a book and had followed this case most of my life, and had no reason to believe this wasn't an entrenched business.

Date November 23, 19631

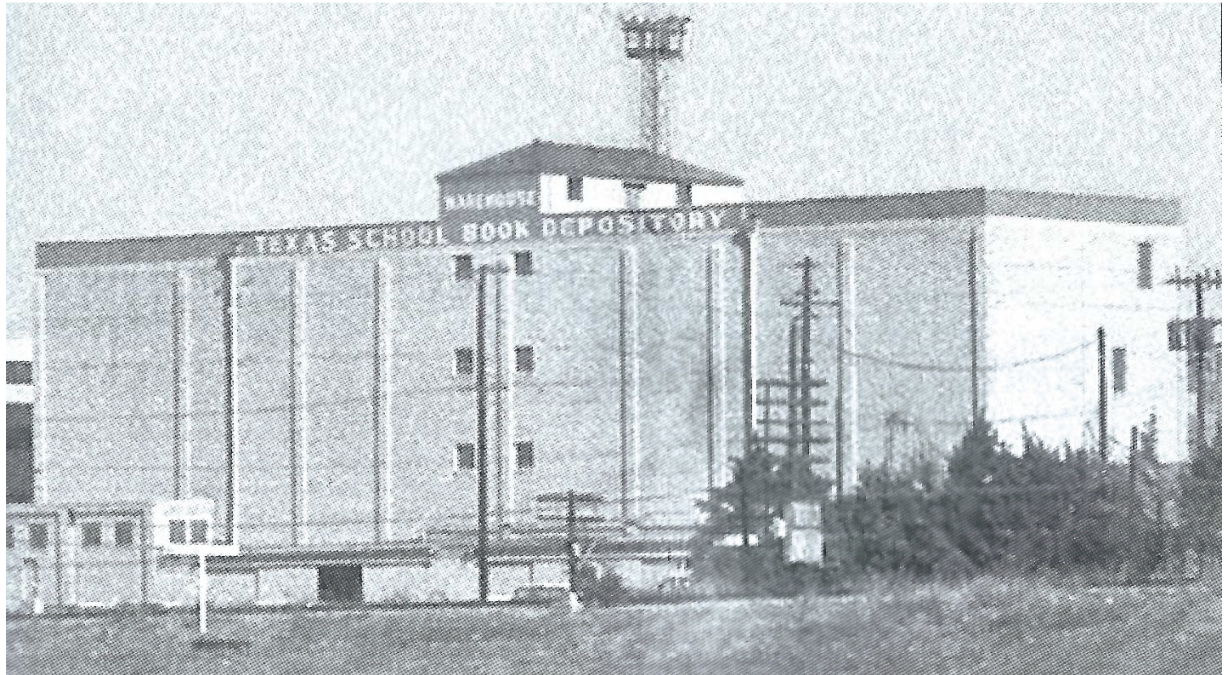
ROY S. TRULY, Warehouse Manager, Texas School Book Depository, advised that the Texas School Book Depository has occupied the building at 411 Elm Street for only a few months. Prior to this time, the building was occupied by a wholesale grocery company engaged in supplying

Many of these publishers had once had offices together on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the old Sante Fe Building on Commerce Street, and during the Second World War they all relocated to Pacific Avenue, and then in 1952 they moved their offices into the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Dal-Tex. It was only natural, and speaks of a trusted business relationship, that they would tag along with the 1963 move into 411 Elm Street.

In 1950 the Depository Company had purchased a 4-story warehouse on Houston Street. We can see it in this clip from the Hughes film. It gave them approximately 70,000 square feet for storage and was still in use on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. 411 Elm Street added another 50,000 square feet.







The Book Depository Company almost cleared out the Houston Street facility to fill up Elm Street. Only a 4-man skeleton crew was left there, compared to 14 or 15 warehouse workers at Elm Street, and everyone got paid in cash.<sup>2</sup>

There has, in fact, been a dubious lack of documentation to surface about this company and none of our Government investigative agencies ever seemed inclined to dig into it or into its employees. Which opens the door to speculation as to whether this sketchy historical record is a signpost of clandestine activities.

The CIA financial analyst James Wilcott wrote a short manuscript about the assassination that suggested, “several different individuals or firms in Dallas had been involved... as cut-outs for arms shipments to Cuban exiles...”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> William Weston, “The Transplantation of the Texas School Book Depository”, *The Third Decade*, Vol. 9 #6, Sept. 1993 and “411 Elm Street”, *The Fourth Decade*, Vol. 1 #4, May 1994

<sup>3</sup> James Wilcott HSCA Secured Classified Testimony, March 22, 1978, RIF 180-10116-10096, p. 25

Among the close circle of friends with which I discussed all this openly, there was no doubt that Ruby was paid by CIA to do away with Oswald, and Oswald was a patsy. Information from other rather tight social circles would occasionally come our way and we would seize upon it and try to fit it into our own version of the scenario. There was no doubt that CIA was in "as thick as thieves" with the Dallas Police. Several different individuals or firms in Dallas had been involved in one way or another with acting as cut-outs for arms shipment to Cuban exiles for the invasion. This we concluded from putting various

Wooden book crates in the 5<sup>th</sup>-floor book bin are seen in this Warren Commission photograph;<sup>4</sup> book crates were photographed 20 years later on the vacated 6<sup>th</sup> floor.<sup>5</sup> These would have been an ideal cover for smuggling weapons to the anti-Castro exiles. But one filament like this does not make a compelling case.

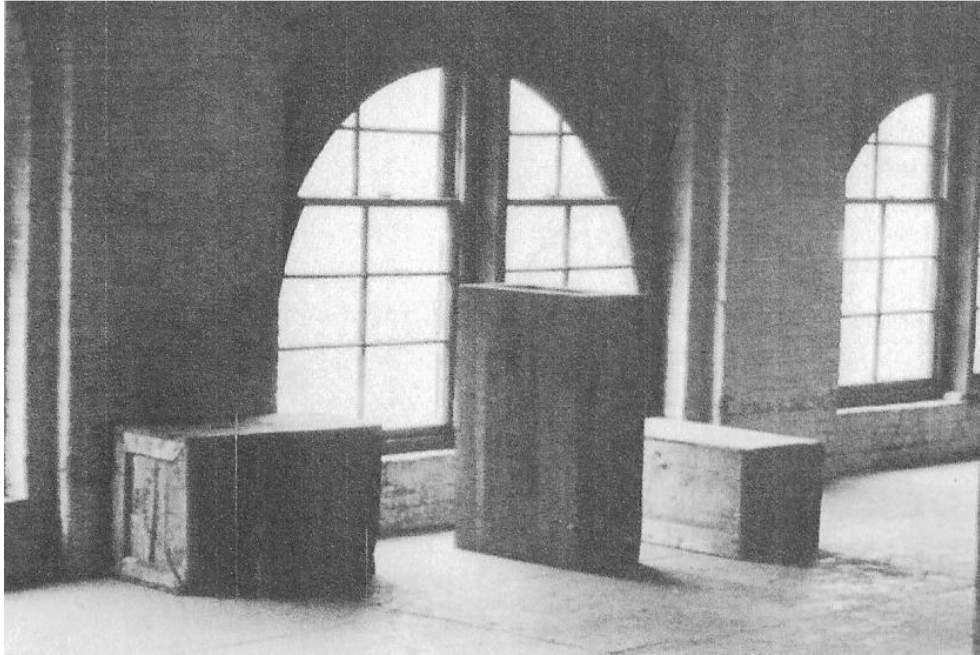


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<sup>4</sup> WCH XVII, WC Exhibit 491, p.

<sup>5</sup> Henry Hurt, Reasonable Doubt: An Investigation into the Assassination of John F. Kennedy (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1985) photo section





We can add an additional thread with William Shelley's claim, to journalist Elzie Glaze in 1975, that he had "been an intelligence officer during WWII and thereafter joined the CIA."<sup>6</sup> Shelley had been a lieutenant in the ROTC and testified that he "worked in defense plants a little bit during the war."<sup>7</sup>

Mr. SHELLEY. I was born at Gunter, Tex.  
Mr. BALL. What is your education?  
Mr. SHELLEY. High school.  
Mr. BALL. What have you been doing since then?  
Mr. SHELLEY. I worked in defense plants a little bit during the war and started working at the Texas School Book Depository October 29, 1945.  
Mr. BALL. (After leaving room for last answer, Mr. Ball returns.) Did you tell her all about yourself?  
Mr. SHELLEY. You wanted to know when I was born.  
Mr. BALL. You told us that, and you had your high school education?  
Mr. SHELLEY. Yes.

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<sup>6</sup> William Weston, "The Glaze Letters," The Fourth Decade, Vol. 6 #4, May 1999 and "The Glaze Letters: An Update," Dealey Plaza Echo, Vol. 5 #2, July 2001

<sup>7</sup> WCH VII p. 390



A logical career step would have been joining the Army CounterIntelligence Corps, which had an extensive domestic surveillance mission rooting out potential subversives.<sup>8</sup> They referred to themselves as “agents” rather than by an officer’s rank<sup>9</sup>- so apparently Shelley puffed himself up a bit for Glaze, back to his ROTC days at Crozier Tech- but his testimony is consistent with having kept tabs on several Dallas-area plants engaged in the war effort. He was only 19 when the war ended, and 19 when he started at the Depository.

A background in wartime surveillance would have appealed to the CIA, which began its existence when he was 21. His claim at age 50 was coupled with an even bigger bombshell- that the Dallas Police had arrested him and formally charged him in JFK’s murder. This unreported arrest is one possible explanation as to why Shelley, unique among the assassination witnesses, produced two DPD affidavits on November 22nd. The bigger question is whether any other CIA operatives worked at the Depository.

Other than Lee Harvey Oswald.

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<sup>8</sup> History of the CounterIntelligence Corps, Vol. 7: CIC in the Zone of the Interior, World War II (Ann Arbor: Michigan Publishing, 1959) p. 1123

<sup>9</sup> Counter Intelligence Corps: History and Mission in World War II (US Army Military Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA) p. 11

# AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME, Mary Patton

a Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared

William H. Shelby w/a/37 of 126 S. Tatum, FE-7-1969. Bus All Elm, RT 3521

Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says: Today approximately 12:30 pm November 22, 1963, I was standing on the front steps at 111 Elm watching the President in the parade. The President's car was about half way from Houston Street to the Tivoli Underpass when I heard what sounded like three shots. I couldn't tell where they were coming from. I ran across the street to the corner of the park and ran into a girl crying and she said the President had been shot. This girl's name is Gloria Calvey who is an employee of this same building. I went back to the building and went inside and called my wife and told her what happened. I was on the first floor then and I stayed at the elevator and was told not to let anyone out of the elevator. I left the elevator and went with the police on up to the other floors. I left Jack Dougherty in charge of the elevator.

William H. Shelby

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 22 DAY OF November A.D. 1963

Mary Patton Mary Patton  
Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

# AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME, Putney Collins

a Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared

William H. Shelby, w/a/37 of 126 S. Tatum, FE-7-1969. Bus All Elm, RT-7-3521

Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says: Approximately October 30th or 12th, 1963 a man by the name of Lee Oswald w/a/521, came to work where I do. I was put in charge of him by Mr. Truly to show him what to do. I have been working close with this man since he has been there. This man stayed by his-self most of the time, and would go for a walk at noon time. Lee would bring his lunch and usually eat with us in the lounge and read the paper. He would usually read about politics. Today I arrived for work about 8 am and went about my usual duties. Lee was already filling some orders just outside my office. I saw him periodically all morning with the exception of when we were on the sixth floor. At noon I started eating my lunch in my office and I went outside to see the President. After the President's accident, I started checking around and I missed Lee. I ask Mr. Truly about him and he told me he had not seen him. I didn't see Lee until the Police brought him in to the Police Homicide Bureau.

William H. Shelby

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 22 DAY OF November A.D. 1963

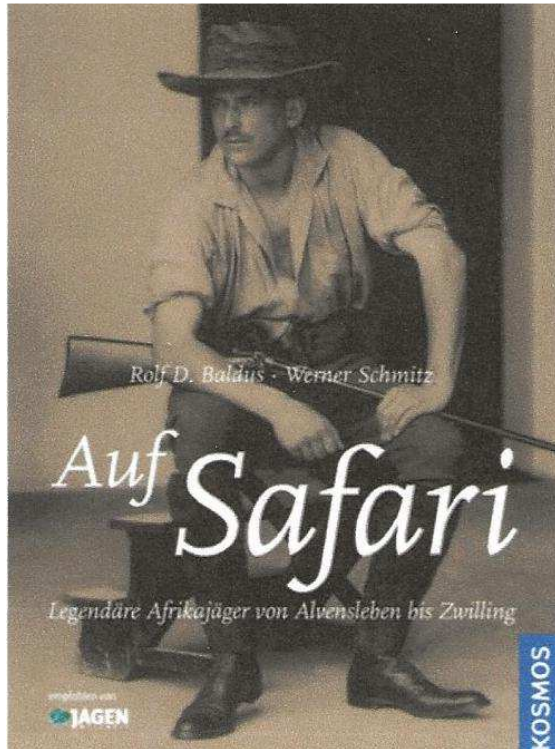
Putney Collins  
Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

EX-104-1





We get a further CIA filament with David Harold Byrd. This is a photo of him in 1963, displaying a rock from the Harold Byrd Mountains in Antarctica. He apparently made several visits, as co-founder of the Civil Air Patrol, to the young squadron at Moisant Airport in New Orleans, run by acknowledged CIA pilot David Ferrie.<sup>10</sup> And his safari trip to Mozambique, during the assassination timeframe, was managed by the German baron Werner von Alvensleben, once an acknowledged double agent for the OSS,<sup>11</sup> apparently involved in uranium mine intrigues.<sup>12</sup>



But these tendrils of evidence do not impel a firm conclusion, as to whether the Depository was one of the Dallas firms alleged to have smuggled weapons to the Cuban exiles. The possibility can't be excluded, but we don't have enough to go on to rightly characterize the Book Depository as a Potemkin Village. Not in this sense: that it was long-used as a front for covert CIA operations.

The sense we are looking for is in its phony portrayal as an upstanding schoolbook business innocently caught up in the malevolent act of a communist assassin. On the contrary, the Book Depository building played a critical role in the execution of the assassination plot.

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<sup>10</sup> William Weston interviews of Tony Atzenhoffer, 7/11 & 8/15/98

<sup>11</sup> Records of the Office of Strategic Services (RG 226): Entry 215, Box 5

<sup>12</sup> Susan Williams, *Spies in the Congo: America's Atomic Mission in WWII* (London: Hurst Publisher, Ltd., 2016)







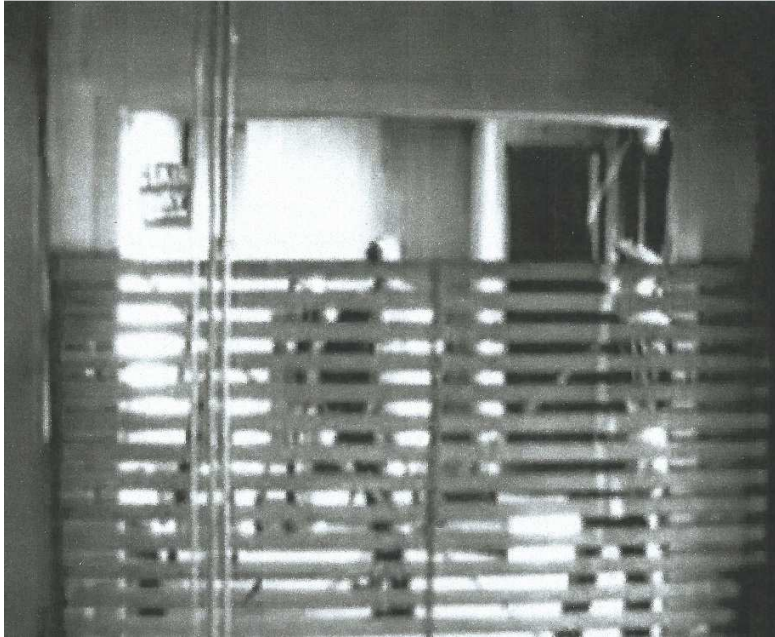


Having a schoolbook company and its companion publishers occupy the premises was a perfect disguise for achieving plans to eliminate Kennedy, plans which had been many months in the making. To understand this, we need to look only at two curious behaviors of the Depository elevators on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Firstly, during the early minutes of the police search, power was cut off to the elevators. Not only was this omitted from the Warren Report- it didn't even make it into any newspapers. Not a single account anywhere, ever, for an event that merited a feature story in any major print media.

This power outage wasn't brought to light until the spring testimonies of deputy sheriff Luke Mooney and secretary Victoria Adams. And its significance escaped the intellectual grasp of just about every researcher who came down the pike the next 50 years. A telltale proof of conspiracy, hiding in plain sight.





To briefly recap, in the early chaos, Victoria Adams was out by the front steps when she heard a 12:40 police radio report saying shots had been fired from a 4<sup>th</sup>-floor window. That was where she worked and she panicked and went inside and, as she described it, “I pushed the button for the passenger elevator, but the power had been cut off on the elevator.”<sup>13</sup> A couple minutes later she went down the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor hallway back to the freight elevator and discovered “it wasn’t operating.”

Luke Mooney had just abandoned this west freight elevator. He had run into the rear of the Depository warehouse and got into the west elevator just as two women came running up and asked to go up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. And as he described it, “when we got there, the power undoubtedly cut off, because we had no more power on the elevator.”<sup>14</sup>

It’s important to realize that this elevator lost power just after Mooney got to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Whoever cut the power was probably well aware of that. And it’s also important to realize that no further information ever got reported about this power outage, or just when elevator service got restored. The Depository was soon swarming with police and this power outage couldn’t have lasted more than a few minutes.

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<sup>13</sup> WCH VI p. 391

<sup>14</sup> WCH III p. 284



Miss ADAMS. There was an officer on the stairs itself, and he was prohibiting people from entering the building, that is correct. But I told him I worked there.

Mr. BELIN. Did he let you come back in?

Miss ADAMS. Yes, sir.

Mr. BELIN. Then what did you do?

Miss ADAMS. Following that, I pushed the button for the passenger elevator, but the power had been cut off on the elevator, so I took the stairs to the second floor.

Mr. BELIN. You then went all the way back to the northwest corner of the building and took the same set of stairs you had previously taken to come down, or did you take the stairs by the passenger elevator?

Miss ADAMS. By the passenger elevator.

Mr. BELIN. Do those stairs go above floor 2?

Miss ADAMS. No, sir; they didn't.

Mr. BELIN. What did you do when you got to the second floor?

Miss ADAMS. I went into the Texas School Book Depository office and just listened for a few minutes to the people that were congregating there, and decided there wasn't anything interesting going on, and went out and walked around the hall to the freight elevator meaning the one on the northwest corner.

Mr. BELIN. Would it have been the west or the east? The one nearest the stairs or the other one?

Miss ADAMS. Yes; the one nearest the stairs.

Mr. BELIN. Then what did you do?

Miss ADAMS. I went into the elevator which was stopped on the second floor, with two men who were dressed in suit and hats, and I assumed they were plainclothesmen.

Mr. BELIN. What did you do then?

Miss ADAMS. I tried to get the elevator to go to the fourth floor, but it wasn't operating, so the gentlemen lifted the elevator gate and we went out and ran up the stairs to the fourth floor.



Mr. BALL. Which elevator did you get on?

Mr. MOONEY. It was the one nearest to the staircase, on the northwest corner of the building.

Mr. BALL. There are two elevators there?

Mr. MOONEY. I found that out later. I didn't know it at that time.

Mr. BALL. You took the west one, or the east one?

Mr. MOONEY. I would say it was the west elevator, the one nearest to the staircase.

Mr. BALL. Did it work with a push button?

Mr. MOONEY. It was a push button affair the best I can remember. I got hold of the controls and it worked. We started up and got to the second. I was going to let them off and go on up. And when we got there, the power undoubtedly cut off, because we had no more power on the elevator. So I looked around their office there, just a short second or two, and then I went up the staircase myself. And I met some other officers coming down, plainclothes, and I believe they were deputy sheriffs. They were coming down the staircase. But I kept going up. And how come I get off the sixth floor, I don't know yet. But, anyway, I stopped on six, and didn't even know what floor I was on.

Mooney filed an after-action report which stated, "As the elevator started up, we went up one floor and the power to the elevator was cut off."<sup>15</sup> But his boss, Sheriff Bill Decker, did not see fit to share this startling information with any news media, nor did it find its way into a report from any other agency investigating the assassination.

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<sup>15</sup> WCH XIX p. 528



COUNTY OF DALLAS  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

Name of Complainant

Serial No.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

Offense

Deputy Sheriff Luke Mooney, Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

DETAILS OF OFFENSE, PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION, ETC.:  
(Investigating Officer must sign)

Date November 23 19 63

I was standing in front of the Sheriff's Office at 505 Main Street, Dallas, when President Kennedy and the motorcade passed by. Within a few seconds after he had passed me and the motorcade had turned the corner I heard a shot and I immediately started running towards the front of the motorcade and within seconds heard a second and a third shot. I started running across Houston Street and down across the lawn to the triple underpass and up the terrace to the railroad yards. I searched, along with many other officers, this area, when Sheriff Bill Dacker came up and told me and Officers Sam Webster and Billy Joe Victory to surround the Texas School Book Depository building. As we approached the two big steel wire gates to the loading dock at the back of the building on Elm Street side, we saw that the loading dock had locks on it and I then pulled the steel gates closed and requested of a citizen standing there to see that no-one came out or went in until I could get a uniformed officer there, which he did. Officers Webster, Victory and myself took to the building. Officers Webster and Victory took the stairs and I told them I would take the freight elevator. At the time I got on the elevator two women who work in the building got on the elevator, saying they wanted to go to their office. As the elevator started up, we went up one floor and the power to the elevator was cut off. I got out on the floor with these women and looked around in their office and I then took to the stairs

The power outages to the passenger elevator and the freight elevators were most likely sequential, not simultaneous. Their emergency kill switches had been installed during the winter renovations,<sup>16</sup> and were located in proximity to their elevator shafts. Somebody in the basement flipped the shut-off switch to the passenger elevator and then walked over to the freight elevators and shut them off.

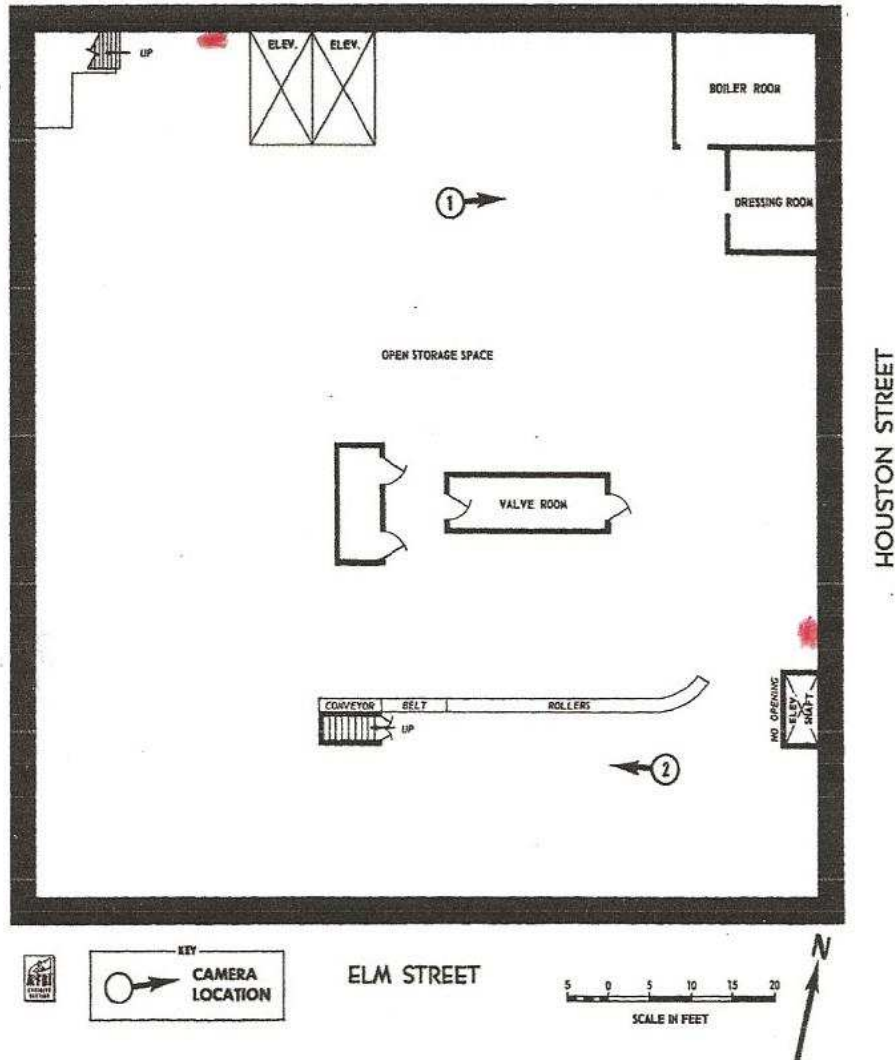


<sup>16</sup> E-mail from Professor Gregory White, Master Electrician, 7/24/15



# TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY DIAGRAM OF BASEMENT

A



This issue singlehandedly indicates that Book Depository employees were complicit in the assassination. It was accomplished by someone familiar with the building. And the timing- right at the beginning of the police search- indicates that this shut-off was part of the assassination planning. And it nearly blew the plot wide open.



It isn't any mystery who cut the elevator power because he admitted in his testimony, and in subsequent interviews, that he was alone in the basement during this timeframe. And never once has this issue been broached with Wesley Frazier.

As a footnote to this particular coverup, a team of 8 Treasury agents ran the quarter-mile to the Depository as soon as they learned that shots had been fired at the President. They were among the earliest responders to arrive. A couple of them went up the passenger elevator with the DPD's Herbert Sawyer for a quick look around the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.<sup>17</sup> Sawyer descended in the passenger elevator a couple of minutes before Victoria Adams tried it.

One of the job responsibilities of a Treasury agent is preparing concise criminal investigative reports. But in this particular case- the assassination of a president- they failed to provide a single after-action account of their search of the Book Depository.

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<sup>17</sup> WCH III p. 261; WCH VI pp. 319-320

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Special Agent in Charge Forrest Sorrells  
United States Secret Service, Dallas

DATE: November 24, 1963

Supervisor in Charge  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax, Dallas

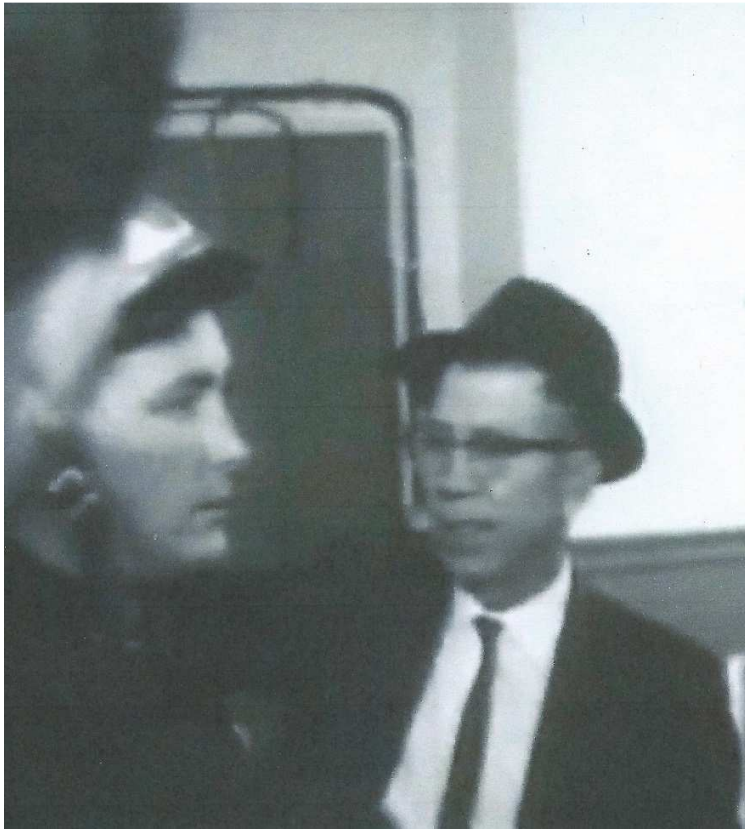
Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

On November 22, 1963, at approximately 12:35 p.m., information was received that President John F. Kennedy had been shot. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax investigators from the Dallas Branch Office ran from our office at 912 Commerce Street to the Texas School Book Depository building. At approximately 12:45 p.m., we arrived at the building and reported to Inspector J. H. Sawyer, Dallas Police Department, who was the senior officer present. We assisted in handling the crowds attempting to enter the building and in monitoring radio and other broadcasts at the scene. At approximately 1:30 Dallas Police Department Assistant Chief G. L. Lumpkin requested that we go in the second search of the building. We searched the building from the top downward to the boiler rooms. At approximately 1:50 p.m., we left the building after advising Chief Lumpkin and Sheriff Bill Parker that our men would be available and on call to render any assistance possible.

A good reason to suppress those reports would be if one of these agents, while searching the building, had happened to call attention to the fact that the elevators had lost their power. Suppression of this incident, and its unrecognized significance- a pair of footprints in a mountain range of evidence- suppressed the core of the conspiracy in Dealey Plaza.

The plot to kill the President resonated from the Texas School Book Depository.





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 hung several floors up so we used the stairs instead, as we reached the third or fourth floor I saw a man walking away from the ~~stairway~~ stairway. I ~~then~~ called to the man and he turned around and come 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.

Our second episode of elevator mischief occurred about 8 minutes earlier, while first responder Marriion Baker was climbing the rear stairs. That's when the west freight elevator came down. Any schoolkid could have figured out that that's when the bad guys escaped the building. But nothing was put in the newspapers about the Depository elevators, certainly nothing about a missing west elevator. And Baker didn't realize it, not at the time. He had never been in the building before and his attention was directed elsewhere.

When he had raced in with Roy Truly to the rear of the warehouse, they looked up the elevator shaft and Baker reported he could see that "the elevator was hung several floors up."

building. I realized he did not know anything about the building. So I ran in with him. The officer and I went through the shipping dept to the freight elevator. We then started up the stair way. We hit the second floor landing, the officer stuck his head into the lunch room area where there are Coke machines and candy machines. Lee Oswald was in there. The officer had his gun on Oswald. And asked if he was an employee? I answered yes. We then went up the stairs to the 5th floor where we found the elevator open. We took the elev to the 7th floor, and out on the roof we

He saw a police officer in uniform approaching the building and realized he probably knew nothing of the building and therefore, TRULY ran into the building with him. They stopped at the freight elevators and observing that these elevators were not on the first floor, they ran up the stairway after he showed the officer where the stairway was. As they reached the second floor landing, the officer opened a door to a small lunch room next to the business office on that floor, and stuck his gun in the door. LEE OSWALD was in the lunch room. The officer asked him if he was an employee, to which OSWALD replied that he was. TRULY and the officer gave this no further consideration, inasmuch as OSWALD was an employee, and they ran up to the fifth floor of the

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on 11/23/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 89-43  
by Special Agent KENNETH B. JACKSON / mac Date dictated 11/23/63



Truly said not one word about the elevators that night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> in his FBI interview. The next day, he told the Dallas police that "The officer and I went through the shipping department to the freight elevator. We then started up the stairway." And he admitted to the FBI that "they stopped at the freight elevators" and observed that they were not on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.<sup>18</sup> In early December Truly told the Secret Service nothing more than that they had "paused momentarily" at the elevator shaft.

Depository Building. Mr. Truly ran inside the building with the patrolman, who asked "Where is the stairway?" and Mr. Truly escorted him to the rear stairway. As they passed the shaft for the two freight elevators, Mr. Truly paused momentarily and, noting that neither of the elevators was available, he directed the way up the back stairway. As Mr. Truly 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. Mr. Truly returned to the second floor and saw the patrolman standing at the doorway leading to the lunch room, with his pistol drawn and pointed at Oswald, who was then just inside the lunch room near the doorway. The patrolman asked Mr. Truly if he worked in the building and Truly replied "Yes".

It wasn't until 4 months after the fact, during his Warren Commission testimony, that Truly admitted he'd tried calling for an elevator- ringing the service bell and yelling up the shaft- and had gotten no response. And he finally revealed the unusual fact that the west elevator was missing when he & Baker got up to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. He immediately directed Baker's attention to the east elevator, which could be seen through the shaft, and they took that up to the 7<sup>th</sup> to get to the roof.

Truly's "best guess" was that it was longtime employee Jack Dougherty who brought the west freight elevator down.<sup>19</sup> Truly had somehow managed to cut off Dougherty's Secret Service interview, claiming he was "mentally retarded" and had "been especially confused since the assassination."

Jack E. Dougherty, 1827 S. Marsalis Street, Dallas, telephone WH 6-7170, has been employed in the shipping department of this firm for 11 years. On November 22, 1963, Dougherty was working with the crew laying the new floor on the sixth floor, and descended in the elevator with them to the first floor a few minutes before noon. When Dougherty was interviewed, he seemed to be very confused about times and places. Mr. Truly furnished the information that, although Dougherty is a very good employee and a hard worker, he is mentally retarded and has difficulty in remembering facts, such as dates, times, places, and has been especially confused since the assassination. Dougherty was therefore not questioned further.

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<sup>18</sup> WCD 5, p. 324

<sup>19</sup> WCH III p. 229



Mr. BELIN. I believe you said when you first saw the elevators, you thought they were both on the same floor, the fifth floor.

Mr. TRULY. Yes, sir.

Mr. BELIN. Then how do you explain that when you got to the fifth floor, one of the elevators was not there?

Mr. TRULY. I don't know, sir. I think one of my boys was getting stock off the fifth floor on the back side, and probably moved the elevator at the time—somewheres between the time we were running upstairs. And I would not have remembered that. I mean I wouldn't have really heard that, with the commotion we were making running up the enclosed stairwell.

Mr. BELIN. Did you see anyone on the fifth floor?

Mr. TRULY. Yes. When coming down I am sure I saw Jack Dougherty getting some books off the fifth floor.

Now, this is so dim in my mind that I could be making a mistake.

But I believe that he was getting some stock, that he had already gone back to work, and that he was getting some stock off the fifth floor.

Mr. BELIN. You really don't know who was operating the elevator, then, is that correct?

Mr. TRULY. That is correct.

Mr. BELIN. What is your best guess?

Mr. TRULY. My best guess is that Jack Dougherty was.

Truly's testimony prompted a junior staff member to privately circulate a memo entitled "The Mystery of the West Elevator". The Warren Commission had been apprised two weeks previously as regards Jack Dougherty's obscure behavior, in a memo entitled "Identity of Assassin".

Two weeks afterward, near the end of his own testimony, Jack Dougherty acknowledged that he was the one who had "used that push button elevator on the west side."<sup>20</sup> He said he'd been "getting some stock" and hadn't heard Truly yelling up the shaft.

Mr. BALL. And what were you doing?

Mr. DOUGHERTY. I was getting some stock.

Mr. BALL. And what did you do then?

Mr. DOUGHERTY. Well, I came on back downstairs.

Mr. BALL. How did you come downstairs?

Mr. DOUGHERTY. I used that push button elevator on the west side.

Mr. BALL. Did you hear Mr. Truly yell anything up the elevator shaft?

Mr. DOUGHERTY. I didn't hear anybody yell.

Mr. BALL. Or did you see Mr. Truly?

Dougherty had flat-out told the Dallas Homicide Bureau- while Oswald was brought in there- that he had been on the upper floors in the minutes just before- and just after- shots had been fired from one of the upper floors. Yet he was never taken back up there to retrace his steps, or even asked if he had witnessed anything out of the ordinary- this despite the suspect in police custody vehemently saying he didn't do it.

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<sup>20</sup> WCH VI p. 381



There is no known record of who took Dougherty down to the police station. It took 50 years before a positive photo ID was made. A portion of Truly's characterization of Dougherty got deleted from his testimony, and the Dictabelt containing that deleted excerpt is still inaccessible at the National Archives.

57 years after a President was gunned down in front of the Book Depository, its superintendent's characterization of an employee who was alone inside the building, who claimed not to watch the motorcade, who freely admitted he was in proximity to the sniper's nest just before and just after the shooting, who begrudgingly admitted he was the one who took that west freight elevator down- an excerpt from that characterization is still a closely-guarded United States secret.

Our suspicions only amplify when we understand that Dougherty gave a prepared alibi to the Dallas police. His story was that after lunch he went back upstairs to "get some stock." He went down to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Then he heard a shot from somewhere inside the building. He claimed he then went down to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and asked janitor Eddie Piper if he'd heard anything.

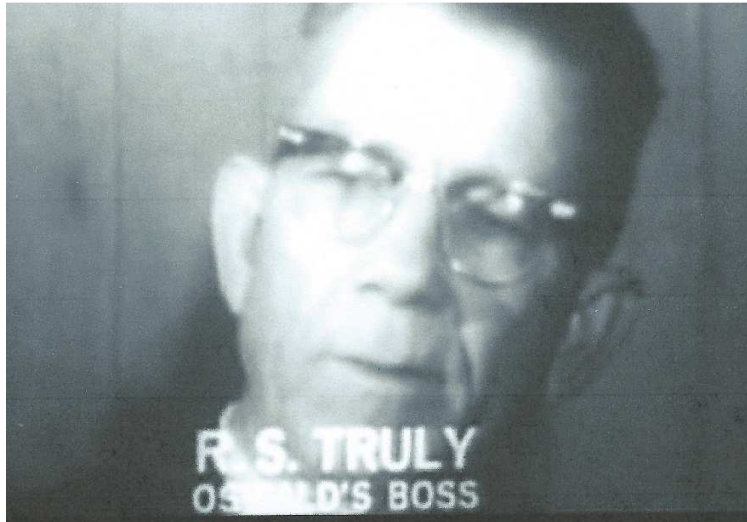


went back ~  
 had already gone back to work and I  
 had gone down on the fifth floor  
 to get some stock when I heard a  
 shot. It sounded like it was  
 coming from inside the building, but  
 I couldn't tell from where. I went  
 down on the first floor, and asked  
 a man named <sup>Eddie</sup> Piper if he had  
 heard anything and he said yes that  
 he had ~~so~~ heard three shots. I  
 then went back on the sixth floor.

But this claim was physically impossible. From the FBI's time trials of possible escape routes from the sniper's nest, we can deduce the speed of the freight elevators. The extra 39 seconds it took to call an elevator up 5 floors works out to 31 seconds for 4 floors. Down, and back up, equals 62 seconds, plus any time Dougherty would have spent talking to Eddie Piper and deciding to return back upstairs. That's pushing 70 seconds, at a bare minimum.

2. Walking from window on sixth floor to freight elevator which was on the sixth floor, riding freight elevator to first floor and walking from freight elevator to front door: 1 minute 54 seconds
3. Walking from window on sixth floor to freight elevator, calling freight elevator from first floor to sixth floor, riding freight elevator from sixth floor to first floor, and walking from freight elevator to front door: 2 minutes 33 seconds
7. Walking from window on sixth floor to freight elevator which was on sixth floor, riding freight elevator to second floor, walking to lunch room, spending 30 seconds in lunch room, and then walking to front stairway, down stairway to first floor, and then walking to front door: 2 minutes 52 seconds
8. Walking from window on sixth floor to freight elevator, calling freight elevator from first floor to sixth floor, riding freight elevator to second floor, walking to lunch room, spending 30 seconds in lunch room, walking from lunch room to front stairs, down front stairs and walking to front door: 3 minutes 31 seconds





Mr. DULLES. You do not think he used any of the elevators at any time to get from the sixth to the second floor?

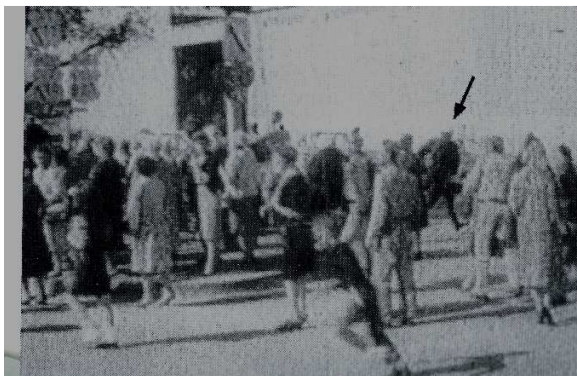
Mr. TRULY. You mean after the shooting? No, sir; he just could not, because those elevators, I saw myself, were both on the fifth floor, they were both even. And I tried to get one of them, and then when we ran up to the second floor—it would have been impossible for him to have come down either one of those elevators after the assassination. He had to use the stairway as his only way of getting down—since we did see the elevators in those positions.

Mr. DULLES. He could not have taken it down and then have somebody else go up to that floor and leave it?

Mr. TRULY. No, sir; I don't believe he would have had time for that.

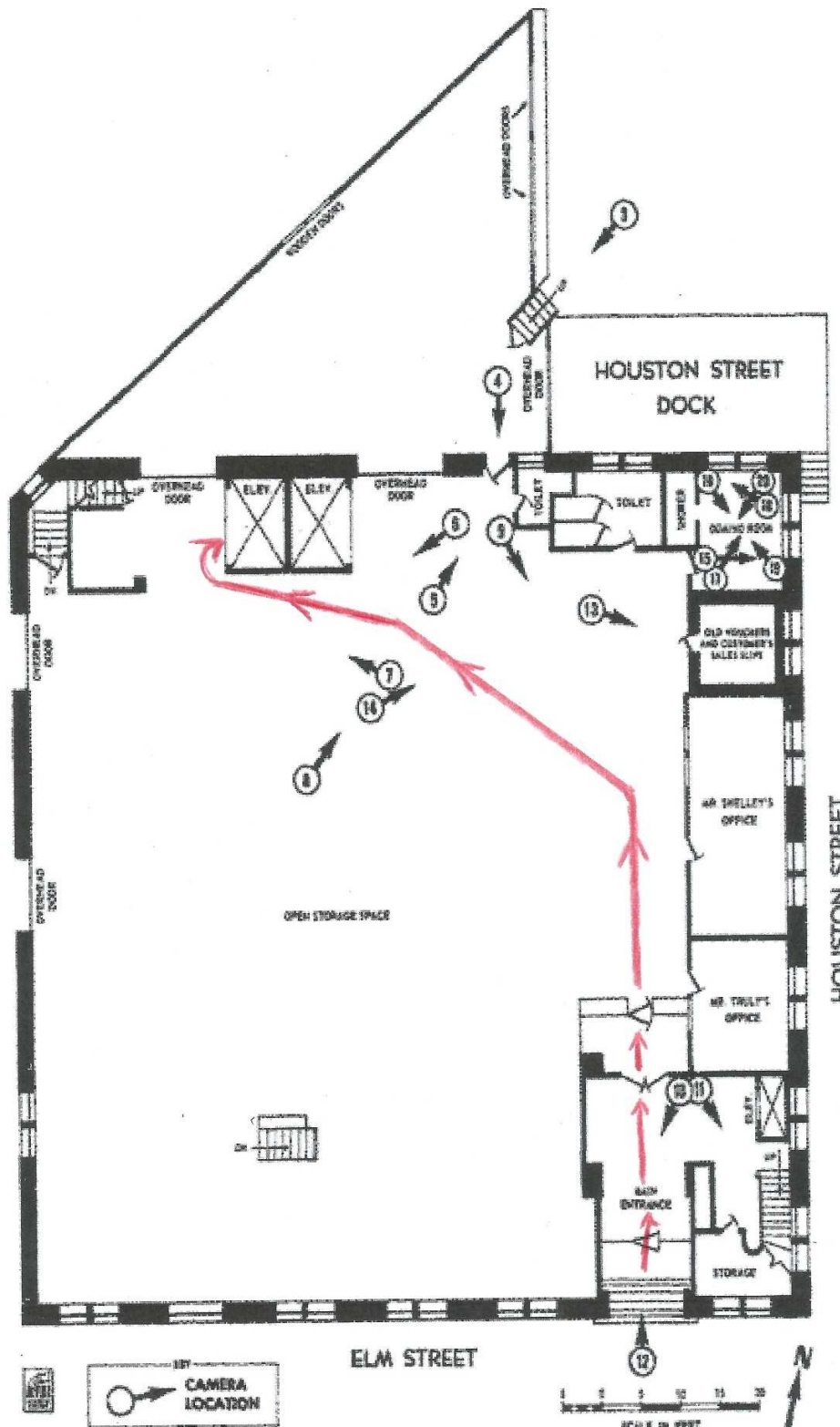
~~Representative Fann. He couldn't have taken an elevator down and then~~

When Truly & Baker raced through the warehouse and looked up the shaft the elevators were “both even”<sup>21</sup> up on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. They’d run about 100 feet inside the warehouse, and precise film studies place Baker reaching the front steps not 23 seconds after the head shot. For all he knew there was a maniac gunman on the loose and he wanted to get upstairs ASAP. They double-timed it through the building and Dougherty could not have descended in the elevator until after Truly & Baker elected to take the stairs.



<sup>21</sup> WCH III p. 240

## B



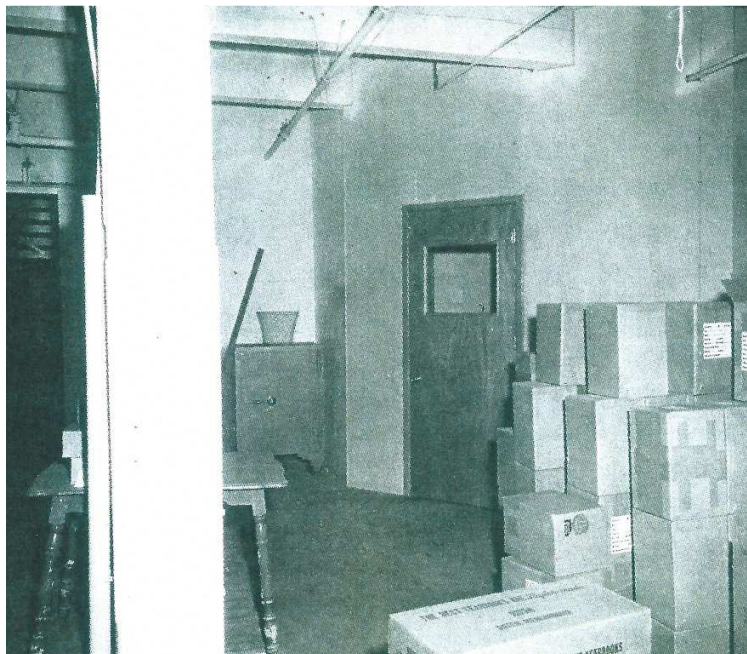
There had been no reaction by him to head downstairs after hearing a shot, as implied in his alibi. Dougherty waited until the first police responder was on the stairwell, and in the lunchroom confronting Oswald, before descending in the west elevator. But his alibi disguised just when he brought this elevator down. Which was staggering.

Why would he need to disguise this descent, unless there was something aboard that elevator that needed to be concealed?

What does it say about the Book Depository, when one of its employees brings a prepared alibi to the police?

We know what needed to be concealed- the truth about what really happened on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

We know what a prepared alibi means- it's an attempt to cover up the truth. This prepared alibi was an attempt to cover up participation in the conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.







The inescapable conclusion is that Jack Dougherty brought the shooters from the 6<sup>th</sup>-floor down in the west elevator. Roy Truly was fully aware of this maneuver. He led first responder Marrion Baker up to the roof on a wild goose chase that avoided the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. The much-debated encounter with Oswald in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom was a ploy that enabled the west freight elevator to begin its descent, to get the shooters to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor so they could escape the building. The lunchroom encounter was a critical facet of the assassination planning.

This analysis about the elevators is completely correct. And it helps further our understanding of several other episodes at the Depository, of which I will only touch on three, without elaboration- due to time constraints.

- 1) The long paper gunsack allegedly used by Oswald to carry his rifle into the building was constructed from the same paper roll that the Dallas Police had used to obtain samples - in fact, the gunsack was constructed that very same afternoon.<sup>22</sup> Roy Truly constructed this, once he learned over the police radio that Oswald had been captured alive.

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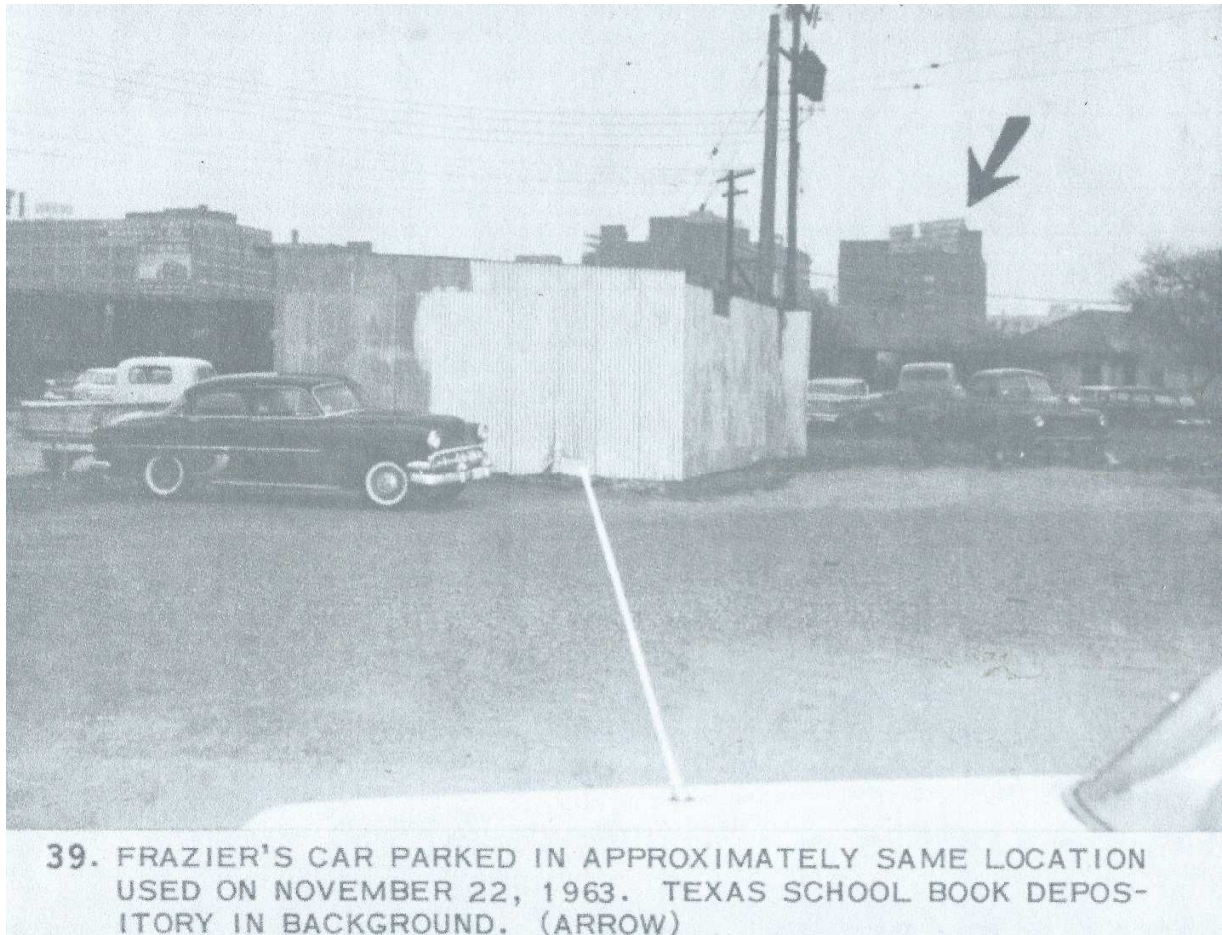
<sup>22</sup> Gil Jesus, "The Bag Job" @giljesus.com



- 2) Approximately 5 minutes after the assassination, law clerk Lillian Mooneyham saw someone in the sniper's nest. She was about 200 feet away, in a 4<sup>th</sup>-story window in the Criminal Courts Building. This someone she saw was Jack Dougherty. What he was doing there was tampering with the evidence.



- 3) The employee parking lot was down by the Houston St. warehouse, and Wesley Frazier would give Lee Oswald a ride to work whenever he stayed out in Irving with his wife Marina. Frazier's incriminating testimony claimed Oswald had walked across the railyard ahead of him, carrying his paper gunsack into the Depository.



But 14 years later, warehouse foreman Eddie Shields instead recalled that someone had hollered out to Frazier "Where's your rider?!" and Frazier had told him, "I dropped him off at the building!"<sup>23</sup>

The reality was that Oswald had been let off at the Depository on the morning of November 22<sup>nd</sup>. He never walked through the railyard that morning. He did not have a gunsack in his hands. And Frazier did not clue him in, to let him know he'd be shutting off the elevators in a few hours.

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<sup>23</sup> HSCA interview of Edward Shields, 10/23/77, pp. 14-15



It is beyond the shadow of doubt that several Book Depository employees were complicit in the assassination plot. They aided and abetted the shooters and played a key role in framing the patsy Lee Harvey Oswald. They thought they could get away with murder and deception, but will instead live in infamy- condemned as scoundrels and liars, as accomplices to assassination.

The work we set out to accomplish today has delivered its promise. We have demonstrated the simple circumstance that the Texas School Book Depository was not an upstanding business, its affairs open to the light in this murder investigation. On the contrary, the elevator anomalies remained hidden in darkness, and other pertinent crime scene evidence remained shrouded in mystery. The schoolbook business was only a charade, a façade of normalcy to disguise a sinister black op. So we are justified in referring to the Book Depository as a Potemkin Village. It is a completely appropriate metaphor.

A lot has been written about John F. Kennedy, his flaws and his heroism. He gave us his genius for the spoken word. He inspired us with a legacy of courage, of overcoming life's painful obstacles. He was a fundamentally good man, a kind man, a man ahead of his time, a charismatic who transformed the human race. We owe to him the Moon landing and the peaceful resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis, a debt on our human history that can never be repaid.

President Kennedy's death has spurred scores of researchers to each devote thousands upon thousands of seemingly thankless hours unraveling the secrets of this dirty crime. These efforts are not empty, nor in vain. They are seeds of hope planted for the generations yet to come. They are remnants of truth.



From our long hard struggle we better understand the inner workings of the deep state. We better understand the colossus JFK was up against, the forces conspiring to retain the monolithic government-media military-industrial complex, the valiant effort required for peace and prosperity, the noble burden he carried on his excellent shoulders. And we better understand the essence of the Scripture verse- “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Richard Gilbride

January 2020





