



Photos reproduced from the New York Herald Tribune

LEE OSWALD (LEFT); THE MAN IN THE DOORWAY (CENTER), AND ENLARGEMENT OF CENTER PHOTO
Do the two last photos show a man in a red-and-white sports shirt, buttoned high? See story below.

IF IT WAS OSWALD, THE ASSASSIN LIVES

The face in the Dallas doorway

WAS LEE OSWALD standing on the front entrance steps of the TEXAS Schoolbook Depository in Dallas the moment President Kennedy was assassinated? This question, which, if answered in the affirmative, could prove conclusively that Oswald was not the murderer, is gaining currency both in the United States and Europe on the basis of a photograph of the assassination scene.

Oswald, according to the FBI, fired three shots at the passing presidential motorcade from the sixth floor of the Depository building. The photograph, however—taken a second after Kennedy was shot—contains the visage of a man standing on the Depository steps whose resemblance to Oswald is striking.

This man, the FBI maintains, is Billy Lovelady, who worked in the building with Oswald. Lovelady insists it is he who is in the picture.

The photograph was first circulated by the Associated Press days after the assassination. The FBI immediately produced Lovelady (in name but not in person or even on a photograph) and the picture was consigned to that vast repository of doubt that has plagued concerned Americans since Oswald was shot to death—two days after his apprehen-

sion—in the basement of Dallas police headquarters.

Almost six months later, the photo is again under scrutiny.

THE CLOTHING: Responding to an announcement that the New York Herald Tribune would publish an exclusive article about the picture, including enlarged photographs, in its May 24 issue, newspapers around the world resurrected the photograph and published it in weekend editions, drawing attention to the extraordinary resemblance between Oswald and the man in the center background of the AP photo.

Compounding the mystery, the figure seems to be dressed exactly as Oswald

was dressed when he was captured, but not according to Lovelady's own description of the way he was dressed that day. Both Oswald and the man in the picture wear dark shirts open wide at the neck, exposing a T-shirt down to mid-chest. Lovelady said he was wearing a red-and-white striped shirt buttoned close to the neck.

The Herald Tribune article by Dom Bonafede is based on an interview with Jones Harris, a wealthy New Yorker who became interested in the photograph while browsing through a photographic history of the assassination. Harris purchased the picture from the AP, had it enlarged and then became convinced, wrote Bonafede, "that the question of the man in the doorway deserved to be asked and answered."

COMMISSION VISIT: Harris contacted his lawyer and together they requested and received an appointment with the Warren Commission investigating the assassination.

"They met first with Charles Shaffer, a commission staff member on loan from the Justice Department," the Herald Tribune reported. "Harris recalls that Shaffer was extremely cordial and that he and Krakower [Arnold Krakower, the lawyer] discussed legal matters. 'Then he turned to me,' Harris said, 'and asked if I knew Miles Hirson. I said no, but I had known his brother Roger when we both attended Friends Seminary in New York City.' Harris is still baffled as to how Shaffer knew of his long-ago acquaintanceship with a schoolmate.

"The two showed Shaffer the blown-up assassination picture and the mystery figure in the background. Shaffer simply asked how Harris has gotten the picture and the process used in its enlargement. Afterwards, the three men were called into J. Lee Rankin's office. Perfunctory greetings followed and Rankin inspected the picture. 'He did not say one while we were there,' Krakower said

later. 'He didn't register a thing.'

PLEASE KEEP QUIET: "The three men returned to the other office and Shaffer brought out a huge photograph of the same scene. 'They obviously had been studying this from every angle,' remarked Krakower. Shaffer said he did not know if it was Oswald but that the commission was fascinated by it. [This was several months after the FBI announced it was Lovelady]. I told him my client was thinking of writing an article for publication on the subject. He asked if we would please not write anything or release any publicity about it and to cooperate with the commission. I agreed."

The report continued: "For some two weeks after their Washington meeting, Shaffer and Krakower continued to communicate by mail and phone. In a letter written early in March, Krakower pointedly referred to an article published in Commentary, which raised several provocative questions relative to the assassination and the investigation. He has not since heard from Shaffer or any other staff member of the commission. Because he believes the commission did not act in good faith with him, Krakower no longer feels bound to keep his pledge of silence." He then, presumably, went to the Herald Tribune with his story.

LOVELADY TALKS: In April, Harris hired a young photographer to go to Dallas to take a picture of Lovelady in order to compare the two. Lovelady managed to obscure his face each time the photographer approached. After three weeks of this he called the police.

"Lovelady is flatly unwilling, understandably so, to have his picture published," Bonafede wrote. "As he put it, in a Texas drawl . . . 'Some crazy S.O.B. might take a shot at me because I look like Oswald.' He does, in fact, bear a similarity to Oswald . . . Lovelady maintains it is he standing in the doorway at the moment of the assassination. 'I was

standing on the first step," he told me when I interviewed him two weeks ago in Dallas. "Several people in the picture saw me." . . . Lovelady said that the night following the assassination two FBI agents visited his home. They said they had a blown-up picture they wanted me to see. Right away I pointed to me and they seemed relieved. One had a big smile on his face because it wasn't Oswald. They said they had a big discussion down at the FBI and one guy said it just had to be Oswald."

STILL UNCONVINCED: Harris himself interviewed Lovelady in Dallas early in May. "Lovelady told him, yes, it was he standing in the doorway. Lovelady also

told him that the FBI had taken pictures of him, presumably to compare with the AP picture," Bonafede wrote. When the Herald Tribune contacted the FBI about the pictures, the agency said it had turned "everything it had on the assassination" over to the Warren Commission.

The article concluded: "Harris left Dallas still unconvinced. 'I admit there is a strong resemblance between Lovelady and the blow up of the figure standing in the doorway,' he said. 'But the figure in the picture does not appear to be wearing a striped shirt and it is buttoned very low, showing much of his white T-shirt. Why doesn't the FBI or the Warren Commission have Lovelady pose in the doorway and have Altgens [the AP photographer] take a picture from the same distance and with the same camera as on Nov. 22?'"

It seems doubtful that the Warren Commission can publicly ignore the Herald Tribune article, though it has successfully ignored the matter when questions about the assassination photograph were raised by less influential sources. Attorney Mark Lane has repeatedly referred to the picture during public speaking engagements concerning his own investigation of the assassination. Lane recently recalled that when he interested the San Francisco Chronicle in the

story last December, the newspaper contacted AP asking for pictures of Lovelady. The agency replied that no pictures were available, past or present, because they could not locate him. The AP apparently was informed that Lovelady was no longer working at the Depository, which is untrue.

THE PUZZLE: The whole question of the mystery photograph could possibly be answered if the FBI either released

its pictures or, as Harris suggests, took a picture of the original scene, with Lovelady standing where he says he was standing.

While scores of pictures are available of the obscure Lee Oswald, including pictures of him taken as a child, not one of Lovelady, oddly, is available.

Even more puzzling is this: Lovelady, with apparent FBI agreement, contends that his picture must not be published because someone might take a shot at him.

A picture of Lovelady has been published, however, if Lovelady and the FBI have told the truth. That is the assassination photo taken by the AP.

Thus, the argument against publishing Lovelady's picture falls as flat as the arguments raised to demolish persisting doubts about many other aspects of the strange case of Lee Harvey Oswald.