

# JFK film may reveal two gunmen

Nov. 24, 1978

## Movie stills enhanced to show 6th-floor site

By EARL GOLZ  
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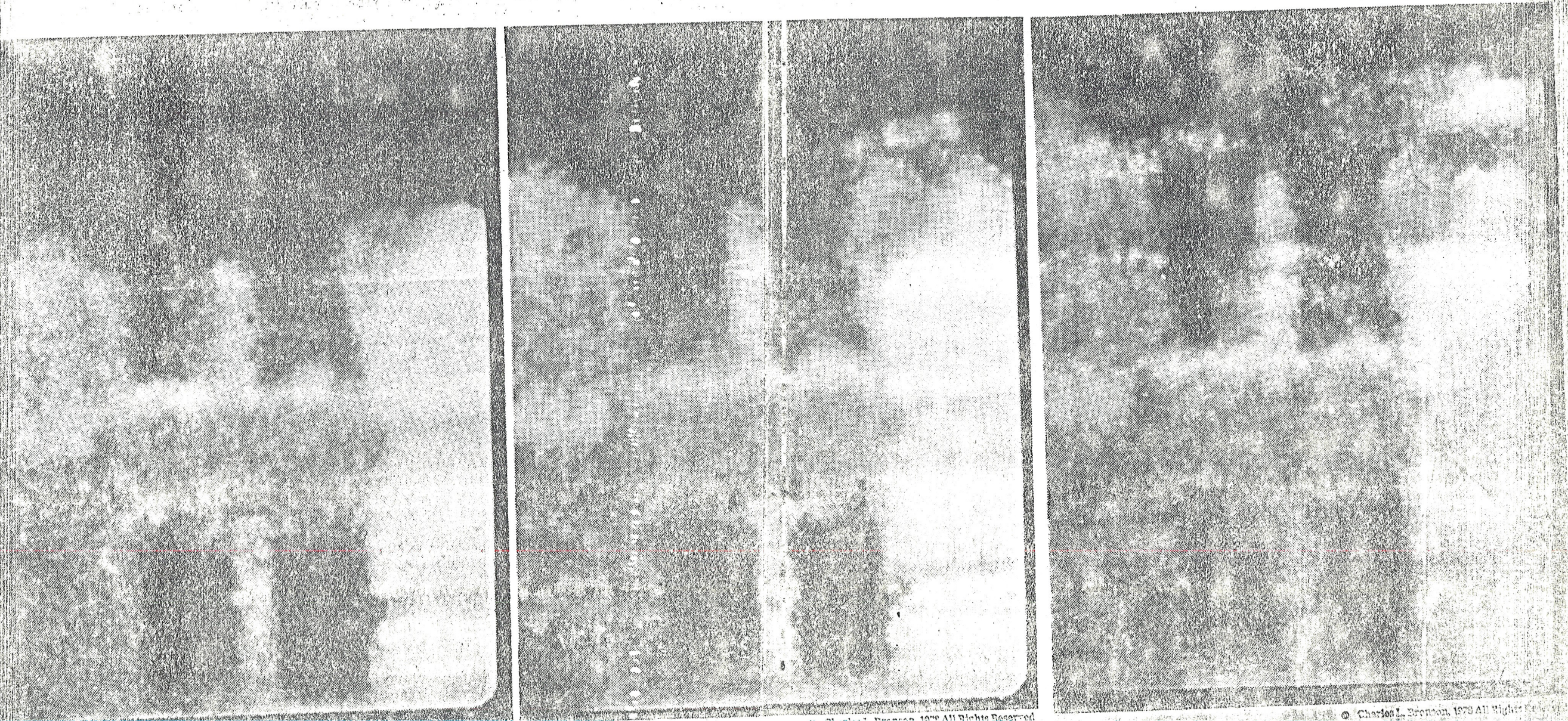
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• Process for enlarging frames from the Bronson film explained, Page 12A.





# Film indicates 2 images in 6th-story windows

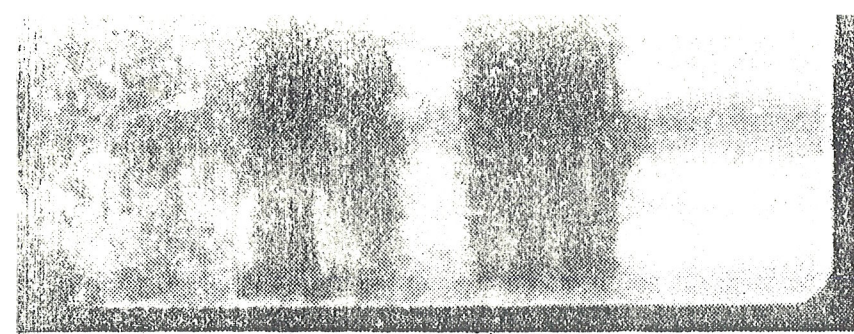


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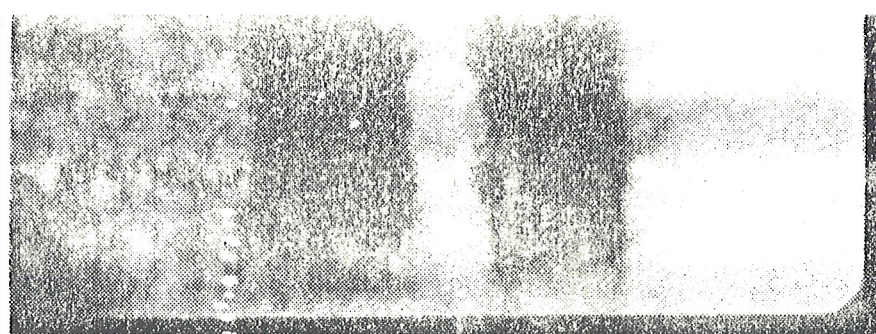
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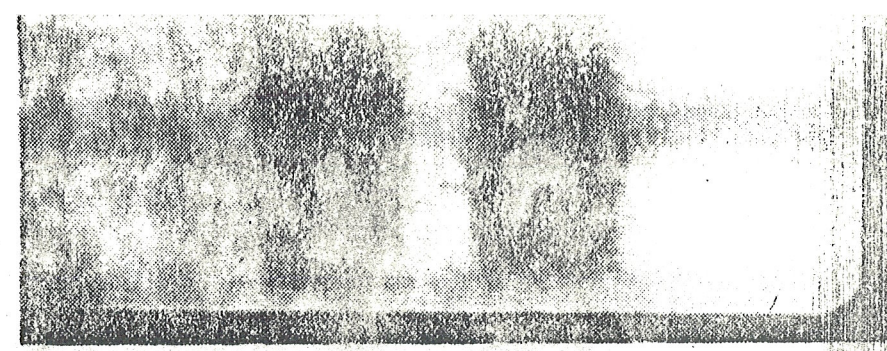




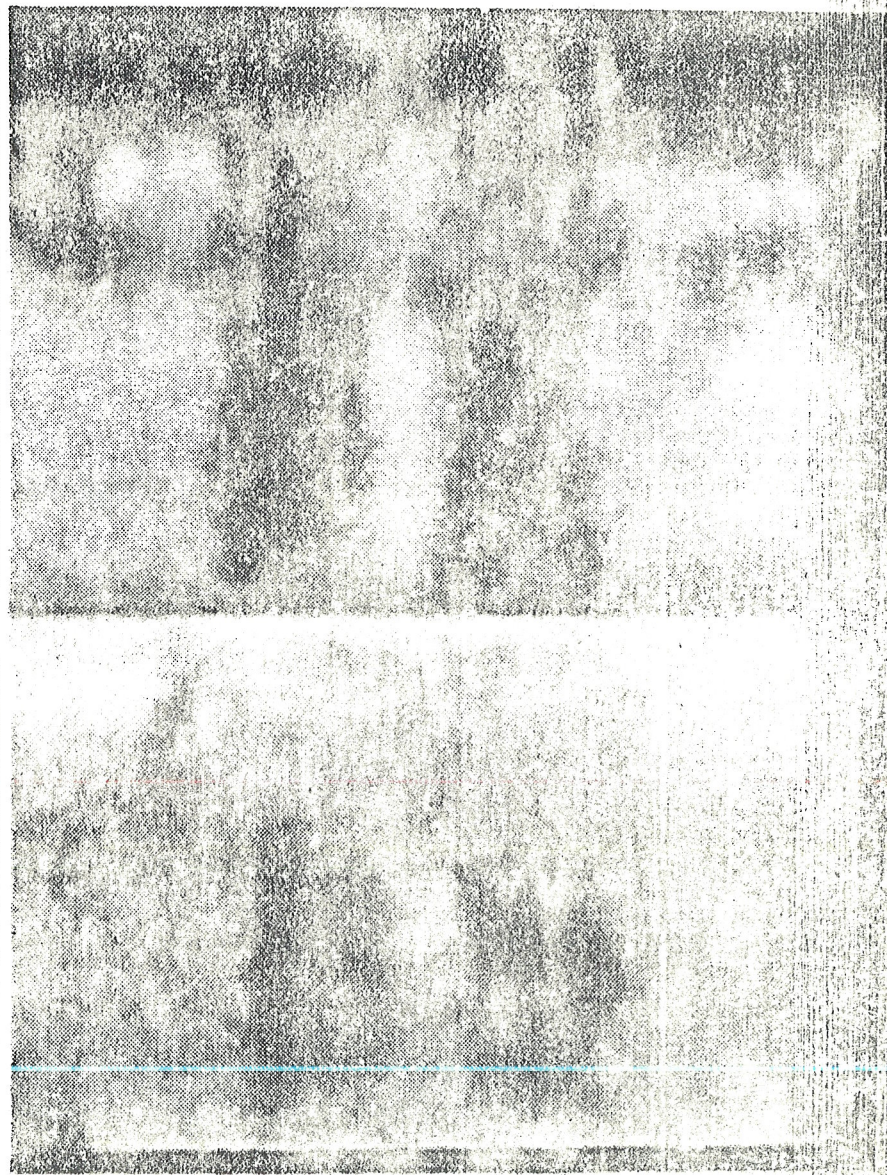
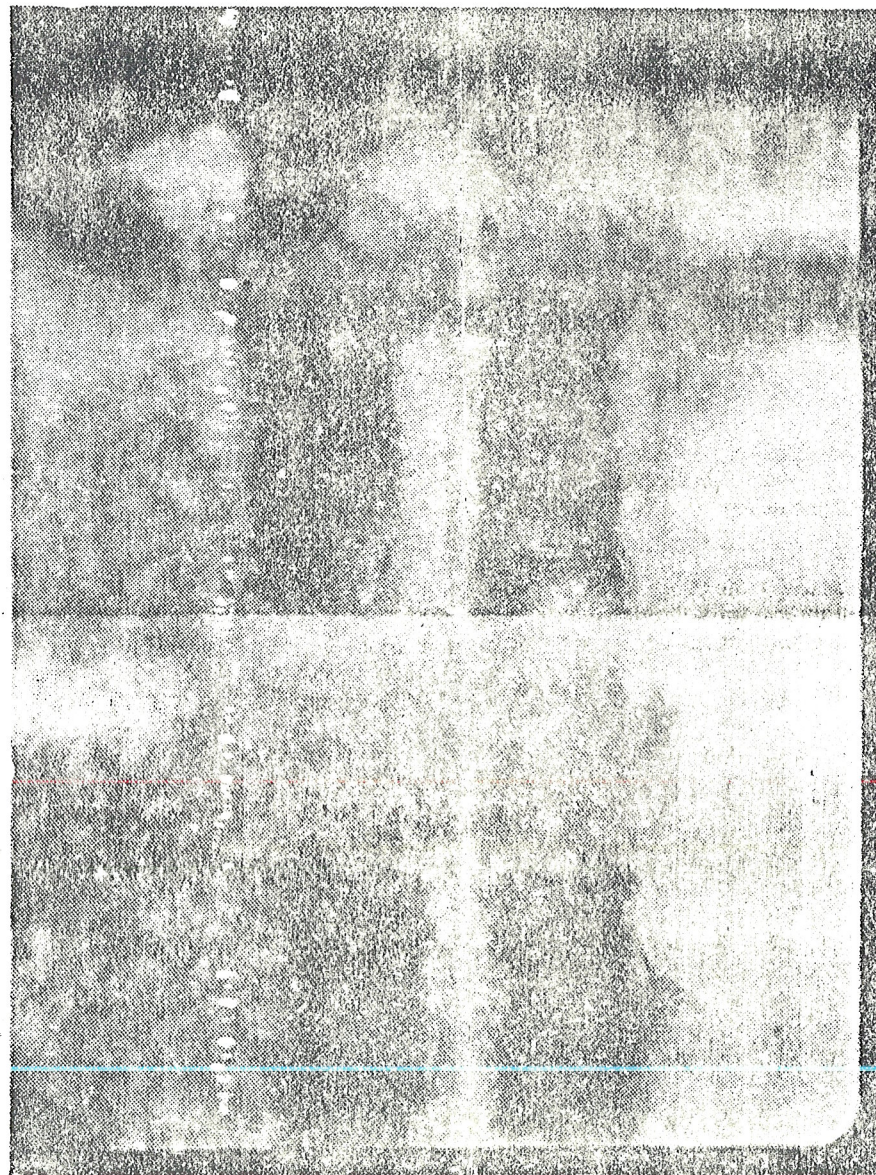
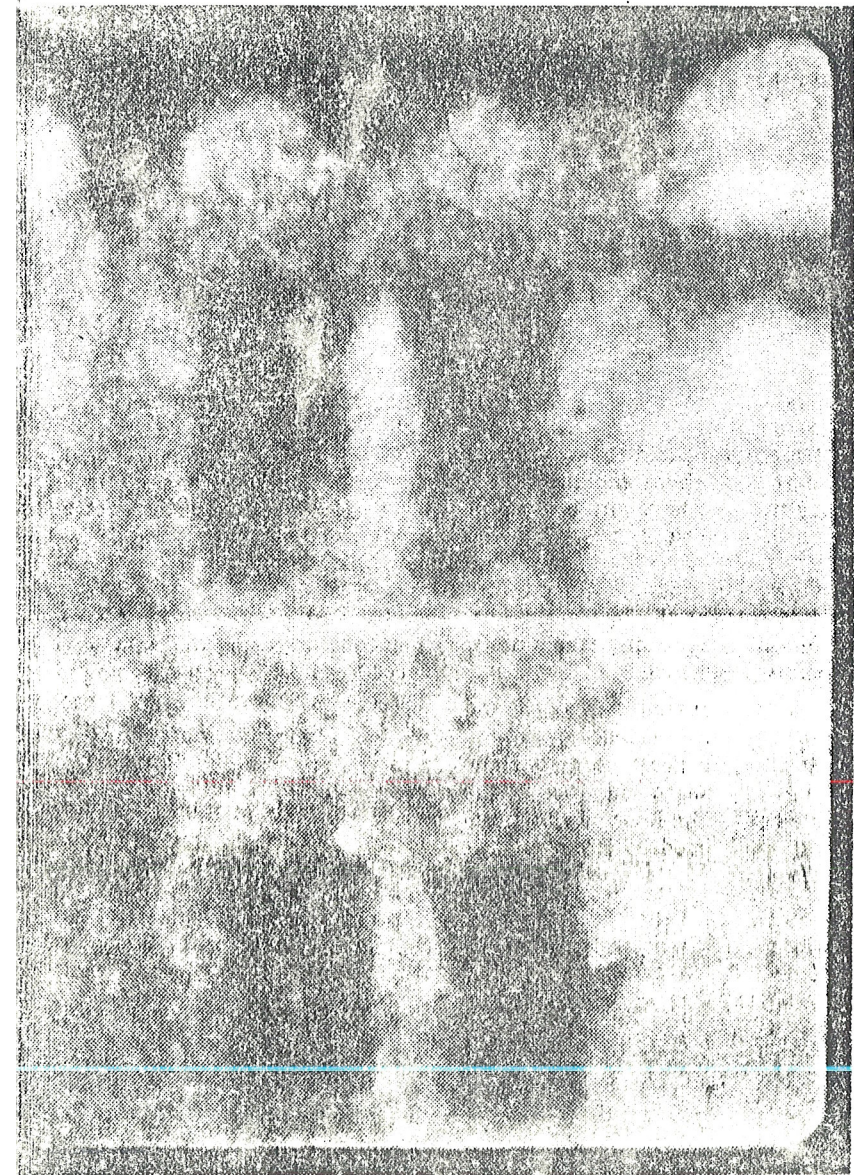
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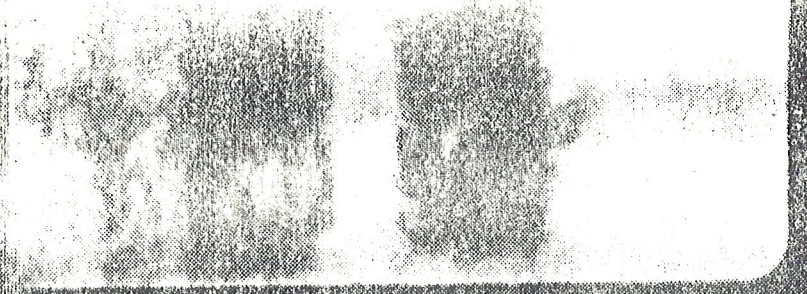
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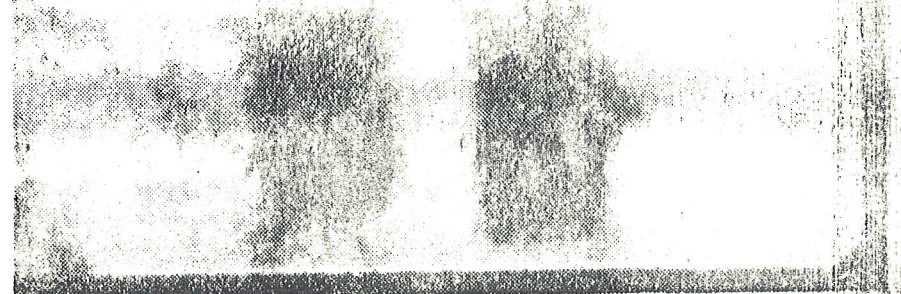




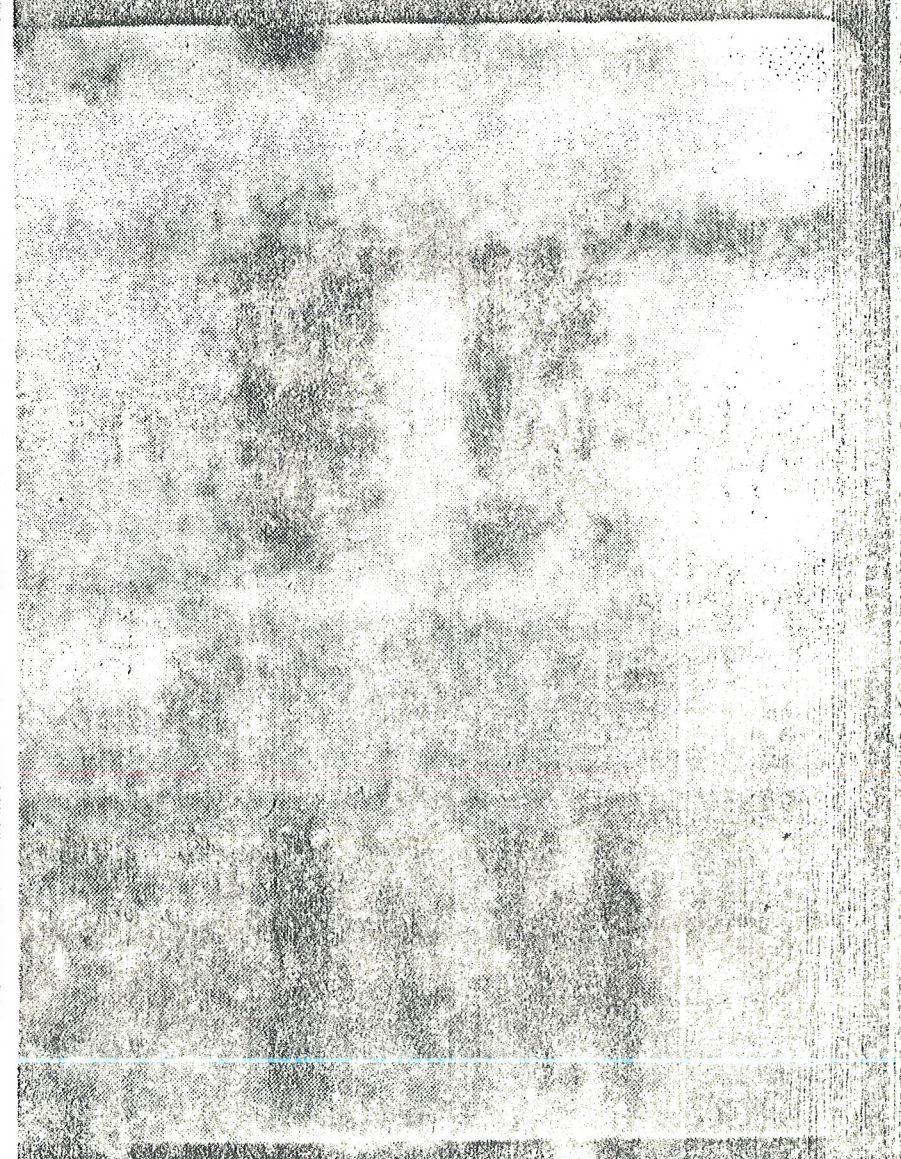
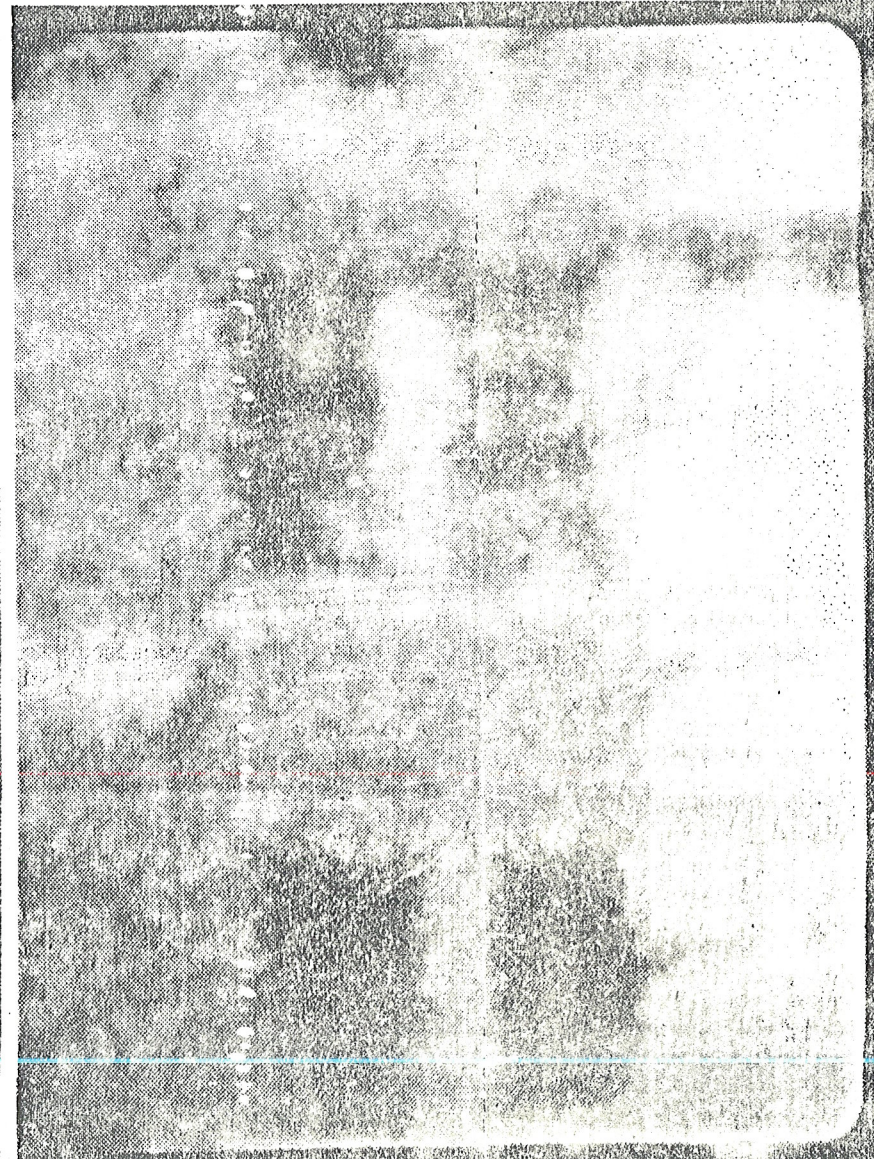
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# Morning News ay

1978

Price 50 Cents

## Jonestown body count rises to 910 cultists

Story on Page 1A

# reveal two gunmen

## Movie stills enhanced to show 6th-floor site

By EARL GOLZ  
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A film of the John F. Kennedy assassination site, brought to light only last week, may show two persons, not one, in the 6th-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building minutes before the fatal shots were fired.

Robert J. Groden, a film technician who has worked for the House Assassinations Committee, "enhanced" a short strip of movie film taken by an amateur photographer that fatal noontime on Nov. 22, 1963.

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If his interpretation is correct, it would disprove the Warren Commission conclusion that Kennedy was shot by a single assassin — Lee Harvey Oswald — working alone.

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The latest film, the third known motion picture of the scene, was taken by amateur photographer Charles L. Bronson, chief metallurgist for an Ada, Okla., oil tool company. It was shot from about a block away from the school book depository building and includes a scene where an ambulance made a sick call at the depository building about 12:24 p.m., six minutes before Kennedy was killed.

That scene, shot with a wide-angle lens, shows the school book depository and the 6th-floor window from where, the Warren Commission concluded, the fatal shots were fired.

Bronson's film was viewed in 1963 by an FBI agent who reported that it

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insisted someone had made him a "patsy" in the assassination.

School book depository employee Bonnie Ray Williams acknowledged he was the last person known to have



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Open windows of the Texas School Book Depository. Enhanced and enlargements of the window area





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the open windows of the Texas School Book Depository. The image has been enhanced and enlargements of the window area are on Page 12A.

## ...sed to 910

...the alleged murders were...  
 ...Wednesday, Larry Layton, 32, of...  
 ...was charged with the...  
 ...Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif.,...  
 ...and a defecting mem...  
 ...ber. They were gunned...  
 ...down on a single airstrip, apparently...  
 ...after visiting the set...  
 ...to investigate reports of abuse...  
 ...there, most of whom came...  
 ...from India. The suicides appar...  
 ...ly occurred about an hour later...  
 ...Sect members were taken...  
 ...for questioning by...  
 ...authorities last week, but no...  
 ...charges have been announced against...  
 ...court appearance for the...  
 ...Beikman, a sect member...  
 ...will be Dec. 4 in George-

town. Layton will appear again Jan. 15 at Mathews Ridge, the court nearest to the site of the airstrip ambush.

Conviction on first-degree murder in Guyana is punishable by hanging, although there have been no hangings since independence from Britain in 1966 and a strong move is afoot to abolish the death penalty.

Thirty-two survivors had emerged from the jungle around the People's Temple agricultural settlement after the bizarre death rite last Saturday, and 46 more were at the temple's Georgetown headquarters at the time.

Searches have produced no indication that any others escaped and remain in the dense jungle around Jonestown, 150 miles northwest of the South American capital city of Georgetown.

## ...es U.S. official

...which will revert to Egypt...  
 ...ty. and sets out mutual...  
 ...agreements...  
 ...line, the Israeli legal...  
 ...peace talks, said negotia...  
 ...ntinuing between mili...  
 ...ns at the Washington...  
 ...er some points in that...  
 ...ond unpublished annex...  
 ...s of the Sinai...  
 ...approved the draft treaty...  
 ...drops its opposition to...  
 ...the treaty supersedes...  
 ...agreements by both sides, a

provision aimed at weakening Egypt's obligations to other Arab states under mutual defense pacts or anti-Israeli boycott agreements.

Rosenne said the *Al Ahrum* version of the draft treaty omitted two key sections. One was the provision giving the treaty priority over previous agreements. The Egyptian text also deleted two words from the treaty preamble that said the Camp David agreements would serve as a basis for peace with Israel's other neighbors "as appropriate," Rosenne said.

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That scene, shot with a wide-angle lens, shows the school book depository and the 6th-floor window from where, the Warren Commission concluded, the fatal shots were fired.

Bronson's film was viewed in 1963 by an FBI agent who reported that it "failed to show the building from which the shots were fired." Agent Milton L. Newsom reported that the film "did depict the president's car at the precise time shots were fired; however, the pictures were not sufficiently clear for identification purposes."

Because of this, the film was never used in any investigation of the assassination. Its existence was discovered when it was listed among 90,000 pages of FBI assassination documents declassified last December and January.

The *Dallas Morning News* recently located Bronson and the original color movie film and commissioned Groden to analyze that portion of it showing the 6th-floor double window of the school book depository.

Groden is continuing to analyze the film, but issued a preliminary opinion that "simultaneous movement" can be seen in the window. At the time the film was taken, there supposedly was no one on the sixth floor of the school book depository building. Not even Oswald admitted to authorities he was then on the sixth floor, and one witness said she saw him in the 2nd-floor lunchroom only minutes earlier.

Before Oswald was shot to death Nov. 24, 1963, by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby in the basement of Dallas police headquarters, he repeatedly denied he shot the president and

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insisted someone had made him a "patsy" in the assassination.

School book depository employee Bonnie Ray Williams acknowledged he was the last person known to have been on the sixth floor before the assassination. He told the Warren Commission he could see no one when he left the sixth floor at about 12:20 p.m. after eating his lunch there. This was about four minutes before Bronson's film was taken.

Two witnesses standing along Houston Street less than one block from the school book depository building told the Warren Commission they saw two men with a gun in different but nearby windows of the building at about the time Bronson was filming. The Warren Commission, however, discounted their stories.

"There is no question that there is movement (in Bronson's window film)," Groden said. "And I'm sure, given time and money, a computer could probably clarify the images a bit more."

One of the persons in the window is wearing a magenta, or purplish red, shirt, Groden said, and "you can actually see one figure walking back and forth hurriedly."

"I think what was happening there is the sniper's nest was actually being completed just prior to the shots being fired."

FBI agent Newsom viewed the movie with Bronson as soon as it was

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## Today

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### Weather

Dallas-Fort Worth area — Partly cloudy. Sunday changing to cloudy and cooler. Monday. High Sunday in low 70s with low early Monday in low 40s. High Monday in low 50s. Saturday's high: 73.



Weather on Page 4A



# Computer work may clarify images

Continued from Page 1A.  
processed at the Eastman Kodak Co. in Dallas in 1963.

"He told me the film was of no value because it didn't show the book depository building," Bronson said. "I didn't realize myself that the building was on there until a couple of weeks ago."

Told last week that the film showed the building and two moving images framed in the alleged assassin's window, Newsom asked whether Bronson was "certain that's the film that we looked at" in 1963.

"Whether or not we actually saw what you are talking about, of course, I have no way of knowing that," Newsom said. "Whatever was reported there in the memo was what we saw."

Bronson's movie camera captured the fatal shot to Kennedy's head as the open-top limousine approached the triple underpass on Elm Street. Jacqu-

line Kennedy, clad in her pink suit, can be seen rising in the rear seat after realizing her husband had been shot.

The Bronson film of the head shot, taken at a greater distance and showing less detail, is not as dramatic as the Zapruder film.

Only seconds earlier Bronson used a 35mm Leica camera to snap a color photo of the first shot that struck Kennedy in the back.

Bronson, who at the time was chief engineer for Varel Manufacturing Co. of Dallas, took all his film of the assassination while perched atop a pedestal at the southwest corner of Main and Houston streets, aiming across Dealey Plaza toward Elm Street.

He said he took that part of the film that shows the school book depository building when an ambulance arrived near Houston and Elm streets in response to a call to aid a man who had

an epileptic seizure.

The revolving red dome light on the ambulance is visible in Bronson's film while the vehicle was parked on Houston, a few feet south of Elm. The police radio log shows the ambulance arrived about 12:23 p.m. and left for Parkland Memorial Hospital at 12:24 p.m.

When he was jolted six minutes later by the sound of the first gun shot, Bronson said, he accidentally triggered the shutter of his Leica. He got a somewhat blurred image of the limousine at about the time the first bullet struck Kennedy in the back, shortly after the vehicle turned onto Elm from Houston Street.

The resulting photo represents the first full view of the presidential limousine during the first hit, 15 years after the fact.

Zapruder, who filmed from the pergola atop the grassy knoll in Dealey

Plaza, missed the film limousine moved behind the north side of Elm filming from the open-top without a sign to block graphed Zapruder at the pergola during the

The photo also shows the so-called "umbrella man" said he was conducting a protest aimed at the president was killed. Witt can be seen in the first shot with his open umbrella above his head on the north side of Plaza.

Witt recently testified before the House Assassination Committee he didn't see the first shot because "as I walked I apparently had this view of me for some few seconds."



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Bronson's still photographs of the motorcade were crisp and clear — except for this picture which was taken as the first shot was fired. The sound made Bronson jump and

blurred the images. The "umbrella man" was in action (arrow) as the bubble-top limousine began to pass by the grassy knoll and Bronson changed positions.

## Lens error caught images

By KENT BIFFLE

©The Dallas Morning News, 1978

ADA, Okla. — Charles L. Bronson, a 60-year-old metallurgist, has been a photographer for as long as he can remember.

But it was a mistake he made with a movie camera on Nov. 22, 1963, that may make him famous.

The chief engineer for Gault Tool Co., a rock drilling bit manufacturing company in Ada, recalls that he had equipped himself with a 35 millimeter Leica Model 3-B still camera and an 8 millimeter Keystone movie camera.

"I thought I was using the telephoto lens on the movie camera. But that camera had both a wide-angle lens and a telephoto lens. They were both long lenses. I hadn't had the camera very long and I wasn't too familiar with the two lenses. So I used the wide-angle lens rather than the telephoto lens I'd intended to use."

Because he used the wide-angle lens, his 6-second footage of an ambulance picking up an epileptic victim an estimated five minutes before the presidential ambush included the top of the frame of the window from which a sniper would fire on President John F. Kennedy. Had he used the telephoto lens, he says, the window wouldn't have been included in the frame.

Bronson says he used to print and enlarge pictures by the hour back in

he moved to Dallas in 1956 and took a position with Varel Manufacturing Co., a rock bit maker, where he rose to vice president of research and development. He moved to Ada in 1970.

Bronson wasn't a JFK fan ("I didn't vote for him") but he recalls seeing the motorcade route published in the newspaper before the president's visit.

"I told Frances (his 55-year-old wife) at the breakfast table that day: 'You know, I've never seen a president. This would be a good opportunity. How about meeting me at noon and we'll go see him.'"

"We met in the parking lot behind the train station about 12:15 p.m. and walked toward Elm and Houston. I stood on an abutment of the colonnade to get a better view. It was an elevation of 55 or 60 inches.

"When I shot the ambulance picking up the patient, I had no idea that I even had the window in the school book depository building."

Bronson switched from movie camera to still camera in recording the motorcade. All his Leica shots are crisp and clear with the exception of one that is blurred because he jumped when the first shot was fired.

Bronson almost immediately resumed filming with his movie camera and caught six or seven seconds of the assassination, including the second shot striking the president's head.

told me he had received the note and the film. He said they'd do everything they could to speed up the processing."

Before the week ended, Bronson was viewing the results at the Eastman processing plant with two FBI agents who studied the pictures.

Bronson's movie film appears a bit jerky because, in an attempt to conserve film, he had reduced the camera's speed from 16 frames to 12 frames per second. He caught about six or seven seconds of the assassination.

Bronson recalls that the FBI agents who sat in on the projection were primarily interested in the assassination sequence and not the earlier sequence on the ambulance call.

"I didn't even notice that window the first time I saw it," he said.

In fact, Bronson thought nothing more about the window in that sequence until he was approached a couple of weeks ago by Earl Golz, reporter for *The News*.

Even after Golz succeeded in having the movie film enlarged and enhanced, Bronson said he's not sure what he's seeing. "I'm not real sure."

Did he see movement in the window in the enlarged version?

"It was pointed out to me." Bronson has since given the 1938 Leica to a daughter as "a sort of heirloom." The movie camera, new in 1963, was given to a brother.

## Was

By EARL GOLZ  
©The Dallas Morning News

Was Lee Harvey Oswald filmed moving in the window about six minutes before President John F. Kennedy was shot?

Or was Oswald in the window at all?

Two witnesses have seen Oswald in or near the 2nd-floor window of the Texas School Depository before and after the assassination. They would have been present on the motorcade run up four flights to the 6th floor and score two direct hits on the president.

A third witness testified that she saw two men — one with a rifle — in the double window of the Texas School Depository about the time the motorcade passed Bronson's movie camera window. She said the men were moving in the window. She said the men were wearing "boxes."

Mrs. Carolyn Johnson, 47, of Dallas, Texas, told *The News* that she saw Oswald in the window of the depository to view the motorcade Nov. 22, 1963.

She left the building at 12:30 p.m., she said, or five minutes after the assassination. This was the same time Bronson was filming the 6th-floor window. The Warren Commission depository employee 11:55 a.m.

Policeman Marriotti, who was in the doorway of the depository at 12:32 p.m., said after the assassination that he was not sure whether Oswald was in the window.

Mrs. Johnson, 47, of Dallas, Texas, was secretary to the vice president O.V. Carr. She never had read the Warren Commission report until she was surprised to learn that Oswald was in the window of the depository.

Mrs. Johnson said she thought she had seen Oswald in the window of the depository "that's the only time I've seen him" on the day of the assassination.

"I do not recall the name of the man who was in the window," Mrs. Johnson said. "I just recall that he was in the window."



# Clarify images in Bronson film

...ed dome light on the  
...ple in Bronson's film  
...was parked on Hous-  
...th of Elm. The police  
...and ambulance arrived  
...and left for Parkland  
...at 12:24 p.m.  
...jolted six minutes  
...of the first gun shot.  
...accidentally triggered  
...Leica. He got a some-  
...e of the limousine at  
...e first bullet struck  
...back, shortly after the  
...to Elm from Houston  
...Plaza.  
...photo represents the  
...of the presidential  
...the first hit, 15 years  
...filmed from the per-  
...ssy knoll in Dealey

Plaza, missed the first shot when the limousine moved behind a road sign on the north side of Elm Street. Bronson, filming from the opposite side of Elm without a sign to block his view, photographed Zapruder and his secretary on the pergola during the first hit.

The photo also shows L. Steven Witt, the so-called "umbrella man" who has said he was conducting a 1-man political protest aimed at Kennedy when the president was killed several feet away. Witt can be seen in Bronson's photo of the first shot with his umbrella fully open and above his head while standing on the north side of Elm in Dealey Plaza.

Witt recently testified before the House Assassinations Committee that he didn't see the first shot strike Kennedy because "as I was moving forward I apparently had this umbrella in front of me for some few steps."

The committee's panel of photography experts has discounted the presence of human figures in the only other known movie film of the 6th-floor window of the school book depository.

Robert Hughes, who was standing only several feet to the east of Bronson, took an 88-frame sequence of 8-mm color film showing both the presidential limousine and the school book depository. His film shows the limousine approaching the corner of Elm and Houston streets and ends about five seconds later as the vehicle completed the turn in front of the depository, about six seconds before the first shot was fired.

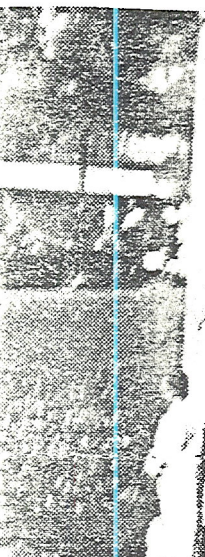
The Hughes film was analyzed by the Itek Corp. of Lexington, Mass., for a special CBS-TV report on the Kennedy assassination in 1975. Itek's preliminary report stated it detected "definite

movement of an object in the 6th-floor corner window" but could not identify it.

Using techniques varying from visual observations to computer processing of the imagery, Itek's final report to CBS concluded no moving objects were visible in the double window.

Groden, however, studied the Hughes film and disagrees with Itek. He also notes that the Bronson film, while underexposed, is "of considerably better quality" than the Hughes film, which is overexposed. He estimated that a "3-stop range" separates the exposures between the two films.

"Being underexposed presents us with a great many problems," Groden said. "But being underexposed also gives us the color saturation that we need and stops the flaring off the white borders of the windows. So we gain a lot that way, too."



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# Was Oswald in window?

By EARL GOLZ  
©The Dallas Morning News, 1978

Was Lee Harvey Oswald one of two images filmed moving in the 6th-floor window about six minutes before President John F. Kennedy was shot?

Or was Oswald up in the sniper's nest at all?

Two witnesses have said Oswald was in or near the 2nd-floor lunchroom of the Texas School Book Depository just before and after the shooting. He would have been pressed for time to run up four flights of stairs, take aim, score two direct hits and run back downstairs.

A third witness told the FBI she saw two men — one with a gun — in the double window of an upper floor of the depository about the time Charles L. Bronson's movie camera filmed two images moving in the 6th-floor window. She said the FBI tried to dissuade her by suggesting she saw only "boxes."

Mrs. Carolyn Johnston of Stephenville, Texas, told *The News* last week that she saw Oswald in the 2nd-floor lunchroom as she was on her way out of the depository to watch the presidential motorcade Nov. 22, 1963.

She left the building at 12:25 p.m., she said, or five minutes before the assassination. This was at the approximate time Bronson was filming two images in the 6th-floor window.

The Warren Commission said no depository employee saw Oswald after 11:55 a.m.

Policeman Marrion Baker and depository manager Roy Truly met Oswald in the doorway of the same 2nd-floor lunchroom at 12:32 p.m., only two minutes after the assassination. The question arises whether Oswald ever left the lunchroom.

Mrs. Johnston, then Mrs. Carolyn Arnold, was secretary to depository vice president O.V. Campbell. She said she never had read the FBI reports of two interviews with her. She was surprised to learn they made no mention of her sighting of Oswald in the lunchroom.

Mrs. Johnson said she "would have thought" she told the FBI during both interviews of her encounter with Oswald in the lunchroom because "that's the only time I remember having seen him" on the day of the assassination.

"I do not recall that he (Oswald) was doing anything," Mrs. Johnston said.

"That is completely foreign to me," Mrs. Johnston told *The News*. "It would have forced me to have been turning back around to the building when, in fact, I was trying to watch the parade. Why would I be looking back inside the building? That doesn't make any sense to me."

Another witness, Arnold Rowland, said he saw a man standing in a 6th-floor window holding a rifle across his chest at 12:15 p.m. He said he also saw, from his vantage point on Houston Street less than a block east of the depository, another man on the same floor but in another window.

Rowland said he spotted both men when no depository employee was supposed to be on the sixth floor. This indicates Rowland saw the two men before Mrs. Johnston saw Oswald four floors below.

His time was accurate because he recalled he saw the men just as a nearby police radio delivered the message that the motorcade was at a Cedar Springs location. The police radio log shows the presidential car passed that point between 12:15 and 12:16 p.m.

Rowland first publicly told his story about seeing a second man on the sixth floor more than three months after the assassination. Testifying before the Warren Commission, he was asked why he hadn't told the same story to the FBI in several interviews.

He said he had.

"At that time I told them I did see the Negro man there and they (FBI) told me it didn't have any bearing or such on the case right then," Rowland said. "In fact, they just the same as told me to forget it now... They didn't seem interested at all. They didn't pursue the point. They didn't take it down in the notation as such."

Rowland's gunman was white and was standing in a partially open window at the southwest corner of the building. The Negro man was at the opposite end of the floor, in the southeast window filmed by Bronson nine minutes later.

Mrs. Carolyn Walter of Dallas was standing along Houston Street near Rowland when she saw two men, one of them holding a gun, in an upper floor

double window of the depository at about the time Bronson was filming images in the 6th-floor window.

One of the windows was partially open and she said she thought it was on either the fourth or fifth floor directly below window noted in Bronson's photos. Bronson's film, however, shows that none of the windows up and down the southeast corner of the building were open at 12:24 p.m. — except the one in which the images were filmed.

"He (the man with the gun) seemed very casual," Mrs. Walter said. "That's why it didn't scare me, I guess. The gun was angled downward toward Houston Street. He was holding it with both hands and, like I say, casually. Not like he was actually aiming or pointing."

The motorcade at that point was about six minutes late and should have been coming down Houston Street toward the depository building.

Both Mrs. Walter and Rowland said they weren't alarmed at seeing a man with a gun because they thought he was either a Secret Service agent guarding the president or a security guard.

Rowland said his gunman wore a light-colored shirt, which could fit the description of the white T-shirt Oswald was believed to be wearing at the time. Mrs. Walter, however, said her gunman was wearing a dark brown suit and the other man in the window had on a light-colored shirt or jacket.

"They (FBI) tried to make me think that what I saw were boxes," Mrs. Walter said. "Now the boxes are much lighter colored. And this was definitely the shape of a person or part of a person."

"I never read their report. I talked to them and it seemed like they weren't very interested. They were going to set out to prove me a liar and I had no intention of arguing with them and being harassed. I felt like I had told them all I knew. And I had relieved myself of the burden of it. And if they didn't want to believe it or had some reason not to, well, then, that was all right with me."

Neither Rowland nor Mrs. Walter could identify either of the men in the window as Oswald. Neither saw the shots being fired.

## Optical system utilized microscope

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An optical system using a micro-

show the 6th-floor window, all taken

during a period of six hours



enlarge pictures by the hour back in his hometown of Centralia, Ill.

"My mother (the late Mrs. Edith Bronson) worked in a photographic studio. She had an old Eastman Brownie and I used to help out around the studio."

The son of a coal miner, the late Albert Bronson, the young Bronson attended Greenville College (where he was photographer for the yearbook), and Bradley University in Peoria, Ill.

Graduating with a double major in chemistry and math, Bronson, a 135-pound, 5-foot-7 man whose blond hair is turning gray, began a series of metallurgical jobs that included work for the LeTourneau Co. in Longview before

shot striking the president's head.

"Sunday I got to thinking that I might have some pictures that would show something. So I just wrote a little note with the film and dropped it all in that slot at Eastman's . . . you know, where you drop it in beside the Eastman processing plant on Manor Way. It wasn't too far from where I worked.

"So, I just dropped the film in the slot to save postage and included a note telling them that I had some pictures of the assassination and thought I might have something. I asked if it might be possible for them to expedite the processing.

"About 5 p.m. Monday, I got a call from FBI Special Agent Walter Bent. He

1963, was given to a brother.

Bronson was so moved by the events of that day that he wrote a letter and copied it for all seven of his sisters. The letter describes the horror of the day's events and his emotional reaction.

Bronson and his wife are deeply religious. In a growth of carefully trimmed shrubs in front of their roomy brick house on a quiet street in Ada is a small sign:

"The kiss of the sun for pardon; the song of the birds for mirth; one is nearer God's heart in a garden — than anywhere else on earth."

Of his shot of the window, Bronson said, "It was providential."

Doing anything," Mrs. Johnston said. "I just recall that he was sitting there . . . in one of the booth seats on the right-hand side of the room as you go in. He was alone as usual and appeared to be having lunch. I did not speak to him but I recognized him clearly."

She knew Oswald because he would come to her desk on the second floor and ask for change, never accepting pennies but only nickels and dimes.

The FBI report of her first interview four days after the assassination stated that after she left the depository and stood about 30 feet in front of the building to watch the motorcade, she "thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the hallway" on the first floor.

An optical system using a microscope was used by film technician Robert J. Groden to study the Bronson film that indicates movement in the 6th-floor "assassination window" of the Texas School Book Depository minutes before President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed Nov. 22, 1963.

The study of the film continues. But in three days of work, Groden used the microscope arrangement to focus in and enlarge minute parts of the 8-millimeter movie film and to make slides of what he saw.

No retouching was done on any of the film; however, Groden was able to draw out the colors involved when making prints off the movie film.

In all, 92 frames of the Bronson film

during a period of seven seconds. When viewed consecutively, Groden said, the images change in a manner consistent with what would be seen if a person walked toward or away from the window.

Of the 92 frames, slides were made of 19 that indicated movement. And of those 19, nine were selected and copied in black and white for use in *The Dallas Morning News*.

These black-and-white photos are enlarged by almost 100 times over the original 8-millimeter film.

Groden said it should be possible to develop much more information from the film if its contents were computerized. But, he said, this takes a great deal of time and money.

# Bronson memory brings pain after seeing 'awful event'

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After filming the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Charles L. Bronson was moved to write the following letter to his seven sisters:

Memory is a most blessed and wonderful thing, but when a world-shaking tragedy of such national and international significance and implications has been indelibly stamped deep within the recesses of the mind by seeing with the eyes that horrible event, then memory haunts you incessantly and robs you of restful sleep.

Frances (Mrs. Bronson) and I were eyewitnesses to that untimely and awful event from a distance of 50 or 60 yards.

That morning at breakfast, I told her of my plans that would see the fulfillment of a dream harbored since boyhood — getting to see the president of the United States and his first lady, waving and smiling.

The newspaper Thursday had given a detailed map of the parade route and the timing of events from the moment the president landed until he was to depart. The parade was to take place during the noon hour and since Frances had to take Alice (a daughter) to church in Oak Cliff to meet a party who were motoring to Bethany, Okla., I

asked her to meet me at the Union Station parking lot at about 12:10 p.m. I left work about five minutes before the noon hour and in about 15 minutes I met Frances and we parked the cars and walked about four blocks to that little park area at the foot of Elm, Main and Commerce streets.

If you will recall, Houston Street intersects Elm, Main and Commerce and also runs parallel to the railroad tracks. Two triangles are formed by the three streets with Houston Street at the base of the triangles and the triple railroad underpass marking the apexes of the two triangles. Stone colonnades and a banister or abutment on either side are across the head of the triangular park areas which slope down towards the triple underpass. On either side of Main Street in the park area are these stone abutments, the highest of which is four and a half or five feet high and about two feet by five feet in area on top.

We chose the one on the left (as viewed from those in the parade) as it not only afforded us a full view of Main Street down which the parade was to come, but we could watch it make the right turn on Houston Street over to Elm and left on Elm Street down to the underpass. For some reason there were

less than a dozen people from the colonnade area on Elm Street down to the underpass which really gave us an unobstructed view of that point.

I suppose that the reason for the scarcity of people at that particular place in the parade route was that for one thing you would be downhill and couldn't see any part of the entourage until it was right in front of you and the other reason was that this spot was just beyond the main downtown area where thousands upon thousands were jammed. So this area marked the end of the parade. And, indeed, "the end of the parade" took on a double meaning at this point.

Frances tore one of her hose climbing on top but it was worth it. She said she was going to save it as a souvenir of that day in history.

There was another couple that we shared this vantage point with as we had plenty of room and an unobstructed view.

We only had 10 or 15 minutes to wait until they were in sight and I took one shot with my Leica and then used my movie camera as they approached and made the turn on Houston Street. Frances had been viewing through the binoculars and as the parade got to the corner she wanted me to take the

binoculars so I could get a good view of Jackie in her bright pink suit highlighted by a brilliant Texas sun. But I told her to keep watching through the binoculars while I took the pictures. I don't know how many I took with my Leica, three, four or, at most, five.

But I was taking one with my Leica as they were about halfway down to the underpass . . . and then it happened! My first impression was parade — celebration — fireworks when I heard the first two shots ring out in rapid succession and a slight pause before the third shot rang out. My next thought was that the Secret Service men had no doubt fired at someone who was about to cause real trouble. I remarked to Frances, "Is that fireworks or is someone shooting?"

As I said, I was looking through the viewfinder all the time the parade was en route so I couldn't see any details. But right after my remark, Frances said, "President Kennedy is bent over and Jackie has her arm around him and Governor Connally is lying down."

Then I looked and saw a few people lay flat on the ground just as the presidential car stopped for a split second and then take off. I told Frances, "Let's get out of here before we get caught in

some crossfire." And we did. We heard someone say, "Oh, President Kennedy is shot."

As we hurried to the cars, we tried to believe that if it really were gunshots that we heard that no one in the presidential car was hit. We turned on our car radios as we headed for home and the plant and it was just a matter of a few minutes that we learned that both the president and the governor were hit. But somehow it was just too unreal to believe that such a thing could happen on such a beautiful day here in our beloved city of Dallas.

Shortly after I got back to work did we learn that President Kennedy was dead and the governor was critically wounded. And what a terrible feeling came over me as I thought that just a few minutes ago I was getting to see the president of the United States and his first lady smiling and waving to cheering Dallasites numbered in the thousands. Three loud shots were still echoing in my ears, and, yes, indeed, the parade was over.

Whether we want to face facts or not, one era in our national history was ended with that first shot of deadly accuracy. Another day is dawning. Just what is in store we all wait in anticipation.

Whatever our political views might be, we all must admit that President Kennedy was one of the world's great men. But that keen mind of his that was able to absorb so much through his eyes and ears and that mind that was capable of generating ideas and plans and making them known by the nib and pen was snuffed out as easily as the flame of a candle is blown out because one man skilled in his art succeeded in his diabolical plan of hate and grudge.

As you study the assassin and the assassinated, you have two men at opposite extremes of society. Both were highly successful in carrying out their plans. But the one was egocentric and what he desired in life and President Kennedy embraced the world. The one had nerves of steel. But the other had heart of brass and our president had heart of flesh. And you could go on and on in pointing out their similarities and contrasts that are brought into such sharp view from this time.

I know you are all praying that God, to His infinite wisdom, mercy and grace will see us through in this time of national and international tension.

Lots of love,  
Charles