

13A

hunchback of
Oswald
FBI
Oswald
Sale
Supplier

had another think coming. When Williams testified on 3-24-64 (3H161-184) he stated that the sixth floor crew had quit working at 5 to 12 (his statement on the afternoon of the shooting said 10 to 12) and that he had went back up to the sixth floor looking for others after grabbing his lunch. He testified further that he ate lunch by himself for "5, 10, 12 minutes...no longer than it took me to finish my chicken sandwich" before heading back down to the fifth floor. When pressed further on what time he went down to the fifth floor, he responded "I finished the chicken sandwich maybe 10 or 15 minutes after 12. I could say approximately what time it was." He then told them something no one could expect: "Approximately 12:20, maybe." Later, when asked by Commissioner Dulles if he had heard anything on the sixth floor while he was eating, he responded "I felt like I was all alone. That is one of the reasons I left--because it was so quiet."

As Williams sat but a few yards from the sniper's nest and did not see or hear anyone else at this time, it suggests that, upon leaving Piper, Oswald went up to the second floor break room (where he was discovered within 90 seconds of the shooting) or to the domino room, and did not immediately head back up to the sixth floor, if at all. An 11-26-63 FBI report on Mrs. Caroline Arnold (CD5 p41) relates "As she was standing in front of the building, she stated she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the doorway between the front door and the double doors leading to the warehouse, located on the first floor. She could not be sure that this was Oswald, but said she felt it was and believed the time to be a few minutes before 12:15 pm." Mrs. Arnold was never called to testify.

Man in
the
doorway

Since the only man identifying Oswald as the shooter in the sixth floor window, Howard Brennan, failed to do so while Oswald was still alive, and only did so after prodding by the Secret Service, the statements placing Oswald downstairs in the forty-five minutes before the shooting created a major problem for those seeking to blame him for the shooting. There was no hard evidence suggesting Oswald was the man seen in the window minutes before the shooting. If Oswald had been downstairs, moreover, there was no evidence he went back up. The Commission needed to explain how Oswald was able to build the sniper's nest and re-construct his dismantled rifle in the short time between Williams' departure and the arrival of the motorcade. Incredibly, they decided to argue that Oswald had never come down for lunch.

They didn't get much help from James "Junior" Jarman, the man Oswald purportedly claimed to have seen in the domino room. In his 11-22 Affidavit to Dallas County, Jarman remembered last seeing Oswald "between 11:30 A.M. and 12:00 noon when he was taking the elevator upstairs to go get boxes. At about 11:45 A.M. all of the employees who were working on the sixth floor came downstairs and we were all out on the street about 12:00 noon." (24H213) Hmm... The vagueness of this statement leaves open the possibility that Jarman had seen Oswald take the elevator back up after the others had come down for lunch. In his testimony, however, Jarman made it clear that, although he'd been in the domino room after quitting for lunch at 5 to 12, he didn't remember seeing Oswald at this time. This suggests he last saw Oswald more than just a few minutes earlier than 5 to 12. As he identified Shelley as one of those coming downstairs around 11:45, moreover, and as Shelley repeatedly claimed to have seen Oswald downstairs around 11:50, and Piper had repeatedly claimed to have seen Oswald at 12:00, Jarman's combined statements and testimony suggested Oswald went upstairs between 11:30 and 11:45, and then followed the sixth floor crew downstairs.

The statements and testimony of Harold "Hank" Norman, were even less helpful. In his 3-24-64 testimony, Norman admitted "I ate my lunch in the domino room." When asked if anyone had been in