

# Was Oswald in window?

NOV 26 1963  
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The Dallas Morning News

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. Johnston 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. "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.

"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.