

(Continued from Page 1A)

Bowers: "Yes, I had worked the same book for some 10 or 12 years, and was there during the time they were renovating the school depository building and had noticed at that time the similarity of sounds occurring in either of those two locations."

**BOWERS' TESTIMONY**

Bowers can't rule out the knoll. It can't rule out the depository. It can help those investigators trying to explain why witnesses to the assassination gave conflicting opinions as to the sound of the shots. If Bowers was helpful in this regard to Lane or Epstein, they didn't mention it.

Start from what witnesses heard or did not hear from the knoll. Lane attaches significance to what they DID there.

"Many officers said that as soon as the shots were fired, they ran directly to the knoll and behind the wooden fence and began to search the area, some passing the book depository on the way."

**WHY DID PEOPLE CONVERGE on the knoll?**

The Hesters ran TOWARD it to seek shelter from the gunfire. Miss Patricia Ann Lawrence, who had been standing at Elm and Houston, ran "along with the crowd" to where the President's car had been when he was hit. So did Mrs. Charles Davis. "I jus ran along with them," said Danny Arce.

Curtis Bishop, on the overpass, saw people "running in every direction." Geneva Hine, on the second floor of the depository, saw people running EAST on Elm, away from the knoll.

Ralph Walters, a deputy sheriff, ran toward the overpass where he had last seen the presidential limousine. "We couldn't get any information."

L.S. Smith, another deputy, ran toward the depository. A woman said the shots came from the knoll. So Smith ran there. John Wiseman, a deputy, ran to the knoll where he saw police having trouble with a motorcycle. Then a woman pointed to the depository. So he ran toward the depository. W. W. Mabry said he was heading toward the overpass when "so I ran that way."

**MOTORCYCLE PATROLMAN  
Cops Suggest Shots Came  
from the Knoll Area**

and at 12:34 p.m., four minutes after the assassination, he radioed the police dispatcher:

"I just talked to a guy up here who was standing close to it and the best he could tell it came from the Texas School Book Depository."

Deputy Allan Sweatt couldn't tell which way to run because one man told him the shots came from toward the knoll and another said the depository. A colleague with him stayed at the depository while he ran on toward the knoll. Deputies Jack Faulkner and A. D. McCurley ran toward the railroad yards behind the knoll because they saw other officers running there. Officer D. V. Harkness went to the railroad yards because he saw "everybody hitting the ground" there.

In other words, people were running in many directions for many reasons. Most of the sheriff's deputies had been in front of their office around the corner when the shots were fired and ran in the directions they did because of what bystanders told them, because they saw others running that way or because of where they thought the sounds came from.

"Everybody was just running around in circles," said Deputy Eddy Raymond Walthers.

**UNDENIABLY, THE KNOLL AREA** was widely searched by officers immediately after the shots. And what was found?

"There wasn't anything over there," said patrolman E. L. Smith.

"We didn't see anything there," said Deputy Luke Mooney who thought the shots came from the knoll.

John and Faye Chism, standing in front of the knoll, had looked around when they heard the shots. They saw no one.

Harold Elkins, another deputy, ran into Bowers in the railroad yard. Bowers said he had seen three out-of-state cars driving around the parking area behind the knoll just before the assassination. Two drove off before the shots. Lane mentions this. And the third? Lane leaves him near the knoll and leaves the reader to conjecture what the driver might or might not have done there.

"THE LAST I SAW OF HIM he was pausing just about in—just above the assassination site." Lane has this quote of Bowers. He doesn't have this one: "He left this area just

about 12:25 p.m." The assassination occurred at 12:30 p.m.

Bowers also said he saw two men watching over the fence about the time of the shots which arouses Lane's suspicions. Not, however, to the extent of mentioning Bowers saw "at least" one of them still there as police began fanning out over the area.

In any event, patrolman Charles Polk Player searched cars in the lot for two hours. He didn't report finding anything. Several hoboes found in freight cars were questioned. Seymour Weitzman found footprints "that didn't make sense because they were going different directions. "Holland saw muddy footprints on a car bumper. Had an assassin stood there?"

**NO ONE HAD SEEN ONE.** If he had, he had been able to gather up any shells from the ground in the brief time before police arrived because none was found. No rifle was found.

Nothing . . . Nothing to add to what some people said they heard and saw around the knoll: some shots and a puff of smoke.

After searching the knoll area for a while, Weitzman went over to help at the depository. On the sixth floor, behind some boxes, the officer found a rifle with a telescopic sight. The gun had been purchased by some one named A. Hidell whose handwriting was identical with Lee Harvey Oswald's.

**TWO PERSONS SAID THEY SAW a rifle being fired from the sixth floor of the depository. One was Howard Brennan. To weaken the case for the depository, it is important for the critics to weaken Brennan's testimony. This they try to do.**

Epstein says Joseph Ball, a commission lawyer who investigated the identity of the assassin, "had several reasons to doubt Brennan's testimony."

Epstein lists them: Brennan's "difficulty seeing a figure" in the depository window during a re-enactment of the assassination; Brennan's failure to identify

Oswald on "prominent points" of his clothing; Brennan's "major error" in testifying the assassin was standing while firing and "the fact that Brennan had lied at the police lineup."

Epstein notes, correctly, that Brennan testified the assassin was standing in the window as he shot. He does not note that Brennan also thought that three onlookers a floor beneath the assassin were also standing. They weren't. They were kneeling. So must the assassin have been to fire through the window. A small point. A small rebuttal—too small, evidently, to include in "Inquest."

**AT A POLICE LINEUP THE DAY** of the assassination, Brennan said he could not positively identify Oswald as the assassin. Four months later, he told the commission he could. He said he hadn't done so earlier because he feared Communist reprisal. Epstein uses this discrepancy to attack Brennan's credibility. He doesn't mention that the commission agrees with him.

Because Brennan declined to make positive identification of Oswald at the lineup, the commission said it "does not have its conclusion concerning the identity of the assassin on

Brennan's subsequent certain identification."

The commission, however, does not question Brennan's credibility that he saw a man firing a rifle from a depository window because near that window were found not only a rifle but shells and fingerprints of Lee Harvey Oswald.

It might also be noted, although Epstein does not, that while on Nov. 22 Brennan said he could not make positive identification, he did then say that man No. 2 in the lineup "most closely resembled" the man he saw in the window. Lee Harvey Oswald was man No. 2.

**THERE IS ALSO MORE** to Epstein's allegation that Ball was "extremely dubious" about Brennan's testimony.

"Epstein says that I told him when we constructed the episode that Brennan 'had difficulty seeing a figure in the window' I never said that. In the first place, we didn't have Brennan at the reconstruction to see whether he could see. We had him there so that he could mark positions on a photo. He quotes me as being 'extremely dubious.' I never said that. It didn't happen."

He spoke Joseph Ball. Finally, as would any good

defense attorney, the critics question Brennan's ability to see anything.

"Perhaps poor eyesight accounted for Brennan's inability to identify the man at the window," says Lane. "Brennan admitted that his eyesight was 'not good' when he testified before the commission."

**BRENNAN, INDEED, SO TESTIFIED.** He said this was so because his eyes had been accidentally sandblasted. That happened two months after the assassination.

In a footnote on Page 90 of the hardcover edition of "Rush to Judgment" Lane mentions the injury. Seemingly, there the matter would rest: that Brennan testified he was farsighted up until an injury two months after the assassination and that thereafter his eyesight was "not good."

Yet by Page 269 Howard Brennan has become "weak-eyed Brennan, who claimed he saw Oswald in a window."

After 170 pages maybe the author has forgotten how—or when—Brennan became "weak-eyed." Or maybe the reader had.

(Associated Press)

In *Thoughtful*  
Oswald, 1963, 220-221