

INGERING SHADOW BERNARD GAVZER and SID MOODY

Knoll Smoke Story Vulnerable

AP Newfeature Writers
Warren Report critics
Edward Jay Epstein and
Mark Lane plug hard for
their theory that a gunman
fired at President John F.
Kennedy from a grassy
knoll overlooking the presi-
dent's motorcade, but they
tip toe past some salient
facts.

There was the question
of smoke, presumably
from a rifle, spotted on the
knoll. Their already shaky
arguments suffer further by
three aspects of the smoke
on which they don't dwell.

1—There was a steam
pipe in the area.
2—FBI tests showed the
alleged assassination rifle
produced only a "small
amount" of smoke when
fired; modern military gun-
powder is smokeless.

3—NONE of the approx-
imately 200 assassination
witnesses questioned other
than the four on the over-
smoke, any where. Lane
says only those on the over-
pass could see smoke
from the knoll because of
its elevation and the bushes
around it. But those per-
son on the south side of
Elm Street should have
seen it, if there was any.
They, not those on the over-
pass, were in a direct line
of fire. None of them men-
tioned smoke.

DOUGRELL was stand-
ing in front of the deposi-
tory, as Lane mentions. He
does NOT mention that at
his elbow stood Mrs. Rob-
ert Reid, a fellow employee.
Lane does NOT mention
that Mrs. Reid testified:

"I turned to Mr. Camp-
bell and I said, 'Oh, my
goodness, I am afraid those
so-and-sos came from our
building' because it sound-
ed like they came just so di-
rectly over my head."

Two witnesses. Two ver-
sions. Both appear in the
Warren report. Only one
does in Lane's "Rush to
Judgment."

"MANP" other persons
scattered throughout De-
aley Plaza (which Elm
Street runs through and the
knoll and epository over-
look) placed the origin of
the shots (on the knoll)."
Lane observes. And so they
did. Jean Hill did. Billie Joe
Lowery did. William

Newman did. John and
Faye Chism did. Roy Truly
did.

At least 34 people did, al-
though it is difficult to pin-
point from some of their
statements. It is also not al-
ways easy to pinpoint the
more than 60 witnesses
who thought the shots
came from the depository.

Such as:
F. Lee Madd — "From
the direction of the deposi-
tory."

Charles Hester — "It ap-
peared to be a building on
the corner of Elm and
Houston streets."

Charles Brehm — "One
of two buildings on Elm
and Houston."

Marion Baker — "High
up, pretty sure from the de-
pository."

T. E. Moore — "From a
high area."

Allan Sweatt — "Vicini-
ty of Elm and Houston."

Or the 15 people of the
motorcade itself who
thought the shots came
from the "right rear."

Since almost none of
such witnesses is men-
tioned in Lane's book, per-
haps that is why he felt no
need to mention such oth-
ers whose testimony is
helpful in locating the
source of the shots.

Such as Mrs. Earle Ca-
bell, the Dallas mayor's
wife, who looked toward
the depository at the sound
of shots and "saw a projec-
tion" in an upper window.
Or Bob Jackson, a press
photographer, who also
looked up at the depository
and told colleagues in a mo-
torcade press car, "There is
the gun!" Or James Craw-
ford, who looked up at the
sound of the third shot,
"saw a movement" in the
southeast window of the
sixth floor of the depository

and told a friend, "H
those were shots, they
came from that window."

Crawford then advised po-
lice to search around some
boxes he saw in the win-
dow. Police did. They found
three rifle shells that were
fired by a rifle also found
on that floor — by that ri-
fle and no other. Bullet
fragments found in Kane-
dy's car also came from
that rifle and no other.

Maybe Lane had the Mrs.
Cabells and Bob Jackson's
in mind when he said there
is "some evidence" shots
came from the depository.
There is "some" evidence.
No one saw a puff of smoke

there — only a rifeman.
* * * * *
EPSTEIN thinks there is
"compelling" evidence
shots were fired from the
depository. But he faults
the commission for not
looking more thoroughly
into the possibility of the
knoll. He asks why the
commission did not call the
10 witnesses who stood be-
tween the knoll and the
president's car because
nine of them "thought the
shots had come from the
knoll directly behind
them."

If the commission did not
call them, it did have their
statements.

This is what they said:
A. J. Millham: He said he
heard three shots from the
depository area, two from
the arcade and three more
from the arcade but further
away.

Charles Hester: He said
"the shots sounded like
they definitely came from
in or around the depository
building."

Abraham Zapruder: "I
thought it (the gunfire)
came from in back of me.
Of course you can't tell
when something is in line
— it could be from any-
where."

"Q: Did you form any
opinion about the direction
from which the shots came
by the sound...?"
"A: No, there was too
much reverberation. There
was an echo which gave me
sound all over."

**Mary Elizabeth Wood-
ward**: She told the FBI the
shots came "from possibly
behind her" or from the over-
pass. However, because
of the loud echo, she could
not say where the shots had
come from other than they
had come from above her
head.

Mrs. Hester: She was
standing near the overpass

approximately in line with Kennedy's car and the depository. She said she could give no position for the shots other than to tell the FBI she believed she and her husband were in the line of fire.

The other four of the nine Epstein said identified the knoll did, indeed, think the shots came from there.

* * * *

EPSTEIN continues: "Eight witnesses were standing across the street from the knoll: all eight said they thought the shots had come from the knoll."

Actually, four of them did. One said she couldn't determine the source. Two thought the shots came possibly from the depository area. One said they came from one of two buildings at the corner of Elm and Houston. There are three buildings there, one the depository.

In the second chapter of his book, Lane writes: "Twenty-five witnesses are known to have given statements or affidavits on Nov. 22 and Nov. 23 — the day of and the day after the assassination — about the origin of the shots. Twenty-two said they believed that the shots came from the knoll."

* * * *

SHOULD one check the commission volumes, he

Bowers: "The sounds came from either from up against the school book depository building or near the mouth of the triple underpass."

Q: "You were not able to tell which?"

Bowers: "No, I could not."

Q: "Well, now, had you

had any experience before being in the tower as to sounds coming from these various places?"

Bowers: "Yes: I had worked this same tower 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 doesn't rule out the depository. It doesn't rule out the depository. It does 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.

Next: Confusion in a time of crisis.

would find that 23 people did give statements to law officials on those two days. Nine cited the knoll. Twelve cited the depository. Two indicated it could have been either.

There is a witness mentioned in another context by Lane whose testimony has some relevance as to the conflicting opinions of where the shots came from. He is Lee E. Bowers. He was working in a signal tower in the railroad area behind the knoll. His testimony is in Volume VI.