

Carolyn Arnold
Billy Lovelady
see him either.²⁸
see on the sixth
arguments have
year-old Bonnie
is lunch and see
the motorcade.
a, which he said
hat while there,
by feet from the
r, however, were
anything . . ."²⁹
he left by 12:05
friends, Junior
ere to watch the

y places Oswald,
Dealey Plaza also
window. There is
ses say they saw
ting who did not
the windows
floors of the De-
ad dark hair and
ummers does not
enderson said the
could have been
hey were on.³¹ On
s nest, were three
nior Jarman, and
ler FBI statement
ee young men on a
or.

loor until 12:20. That
it was approximately
estimate of 12:05, he
. III, p. 173).

There are other witnesses who claim they not only saw two men, either in the Depository or in Dealey Plaza, but that the men also had a rifle. Julia Ann Mercer said she was caught in a traffic jam at Dealey on the morning of the motorcade and noticed two men in a green Ford pickup. One took a gun case from the rear of the truck and then disappeared into the grassy knoll.³² She later identified the truck's driver as Jack Ruby, and said Oswald was the man with the rifle.³³ However, subsequent investigation revealed that the truck, which had stalled, belonged to a local construction company; it had three men inside, and they did take tools from the rear of the truck to fix it.³⁴ They were under constant surveillance by three Dallas policemen, and all of them left when another truck arrived to push the stalled vehicle away.*

In 1978, a Dallas newspaperman encountered the second witness to claim there were two men connected to a rifle in Dealey Plaza. John Powell said he was a prisoner on the sixth floor of the Dallas County Jail, one of the buildings on Houston Street southeast of the Depository, on November 22, 1963.³⁵ According to Summers, the cell provided "an ideal vantage point for observations of the famous Depository window."³⁶ Powell insisted that "quite a few" prisoners watched two men in the sniper's-nest window "fooling with the scope" on a high-powered rifle. Summers charged that "during the Warren inquiry, an official failed to respond to a specific reminder that observers in the County Jail had had a perfect view and should be questioned."³⁷

But a December 15, 1964, FBI memo reported the results of just such an inquiry. There had been accusations that "seventeen witnesses to the assassination in [the] hospital ward of Dallas County Jail [were] never interviewed."³⁸ There were several large cells that overlooked Dealey Plaza. One was the jail's mental ward. While it provided a view of the motorcade, the FBI's investigation showed the Book Depository "was not visible from this

*The Mercer story was fully discredited by December 9, 1963, just over two weeks after the assassination. However, that did not stop Mark Lane from beginning his book *Rush to Judgment* with an excerpt from Mercer's statement. Recent authors who have also cited the Mercer story, unchallenged, include Garrison (1988), Marrs (1989), and Dr. Charles Crenshaw (1992).

*Did I say she was just
under pass?*