

not it to catch a new one!

He stopped his cycle and ran toward the end of the wooden stockade fence on the grassy knoll near the Triple Underpass. Many in the crowd followed him, running—strangely—into the area where the gunman might be instead of away from danger.

Because of the ensuing bedlam, Dealey Plaza produced a mass of contradictory statements from scores of witnesses. In even the simplest auto accident, eyewitnesses almost invariably present different, and sometimes completely conflicting, accounts.* There was ample reason for confusion at Dealey. The crowds had concentrated on the presidential motorcade, a mesmerizing event for many. They were not expecting rifle shots over a few seconds, and to complicate matters, the plaza is an echo chamber. In the turmoil that followed, it is little wonder that witnesses standing next to each other often heard and saw things differently. Resolving every conflicting account is impossible. However, the statements can be sifted for internal inconsistencies and judged for credibility. Testimony closer to the event must be given greater weight than changes or additions made years later, when the witness's own memory is often muddled or influenced by television programs, films, books, and discussions with others. Danny Arce, one of Oswald's co-workers and a witness at Dealey, summarized the difficulty: "I have read and heard so many things, it mixes together. You don't know if it's your own memory or it's somebody else's. We all read a lot of things, and sometimes inadvertently adopt things we hear from others. It's hard to separate the two, and can get real confusing trying to figure out what you remember without having your memory colored by everything that has come out."⁶⁴

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Yet just as any jury must decide which witnesses are most credible, the same can be done with the seemingly intractable morass at Dealey.

*Human observation can be notoriously unreliable. A vivid example of the pitfall of relying exclusively on eyewitness testimony is that when the ocean liner *Titanic* sank in 1912, there were nearly seven hundred people on lifeboats watching it go down. The ship was almost nine hundred feet long, three football fields in size, yet the survivors were split as to whether it sank in one or two pieces. *Source?*

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it was too loud to be ns jerked up into a or Connally pushed into his wife's arms. e Governor shouted, President, strapped bed upright, his head

react, although some the Book Depository. band, looking at him thing was wrong in most a standstill and . As he turned, there grapefruit had been ore off the right-side f blood, brain tissue, t. As he fell partially queline began climb- Service agent Clint rapidly, running to umper and push her d on the accelerator, laza.*

at followed as "pan- lves on the ground to n running. A motor- l limousine, Bobby from, but felt it was s Book Depository."⁶³

ens of witnesses at Dea- film is by far the most der, the 8mm color film e the turn from Houston ssination. Perched on a er had an almost unob- l in detail in Chapter 14.