

lunch room and were there at 12:15, when Carolyn Arnold claimed Oswald was there, but neither saw him.²⁶ Billy Lovelady went to both lunch rooms after 12:00 and did not see him either.²⁶

There was actually one Book Depository employee on the sixth floor near noon, but since he did not see anyone, arguments have been made that Oswald was not there. Nineteen-year-old Bonnie Ray Williams returned to the sixth floor to eat his lunch and see whether any other workers had gathered to watch the motorcade. He ate some fried chicken and had a bottle of soda, which he said took "5, 10, maybe 12 minutes."²⁷ Williams said that while there, he sat in front of the fourth window, some forty feet from the sniper's nest.²⁸ The books in the southeast corner, however, were "stacked so high" that he "could not possibly see anything . . ."²⁹ The day after the assassination he told the FBI he left by 12:05 and went to the fifth floor, where he found two friends, Junior Jarman and Harold Norman.* They remained there to watch the motorcade.

While reliable testimony from the Depository places Oswald, alone, on the sixth floor by noon, witnesses in Dealey Plaza also confirmed there was a man in the sniper's-nest window. There is some confusion, however, because some witnesses say they saw one, and sometimes two, men before the shooting who did not look like Oswald. *when and how about in other windows?*

Toney Henderson saw two men on the upper floors of the Depository. Summers points out that one of them had dark hair and complexion and might have been Mexican.³⁰ Summers does not inform the reader that in her FBI statement, Henderson said the men could have been "Mexican, but [also] could have been Negro," and she was not certain of what floor they were on.³¹ On the fifth floor, directly below Oswald's sniper's nest, were three young black men—Bonnie Ray Williams, Junior Jarman, and Harold Norman—looking out the windows. Her FBI statement indicates that Henderson saw two of those three young men on a high floor. She was not describing the sixth floor.

*The critics assert Williams did not leave the sixth floor until 12:20. That is because before the Warren Commission, he said it was approximately 12:20 when he left, but when reminded of his original estimate of 12:05, he acknowledged he did not remember the time (WC Vol. III, p. 173).

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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).

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Vol. XXIV, p. 407.

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ackley), CE 1381,
ragoo, p. 645.

23. Testimony of Troy West, WC Vol. VI, p. 361-62.
24. Testimony of Charles Givens, WC Vol. VI, p. 352; testimony of Danny Arce, WC Vol. VI, p. 365; testimony of Jack Dougherty, WC Vol. VI, p. 378.
25. Testimony of Joe Molina, WC Vol. VI, p. 372; testimony of Mrs. Robert Reid, WC Vol. III, p. 271.
26. Testimony of Billy Lovelady, WC Vol. VI, p. 338.
27. Testimony of Bonnie Ray Williams, WC Vol. III, p. 170.
28. Ibid.; diagram of the sixth floor of the Depository, CE 483, WC Vol. XVII, p. 201.
29. Testimony of Bonnie Ray Williams, WC Vol. III, pp. 169-70.
30. Summers, op. cit., p. 43.
31. FBI statement of Toney Henderson, CE 2089, WC Vol. XXIV, p. 524.
32. Sheriff's statement of Julia Ann Mercer, CE 2003, WC Vol. XXIV, p. 216.
33. Marrs, *Crossfire*, p. 19.
34. Statement of Dallas police officer Joe Murphy, December 9, 1963, CD 205.
35. Earl Golz interview with John Powell for the *Dallas Morning News*, December 19, 1978.
36. Summers, op. cit., p. 43.
37. Ibid., p. 44.
38. Memo, SAC Dallas to Director, FBI, December 15, 1964.
39. Ibid., p. 2.
40. FBI memo, ibid.; interview with Dallas sheriff Robert Knowles, March 3, 1992.
41. Memo, SAC Dallas to Director, FBI, December 15, 1964, p. 2.
42. Testimony of Arnold Rowland, WC Vol. II, pp. 169-70.
43. Ibid., p. 176.
44. Ibid., pp. 185-87.
45. Testimony of Mrs. Arnold Rowland, WC Vol. VI, pp. 181-85.
46. Testimony of F. M. Turner, WC Vol. VII, p. 220; testimony of Forrest Sorrels, WC Vol. VII, p. 351.
47. Testimony of Arnold Rowland, WC Vol. II, p. 178.
48. Ibid., pp. 179, 189.
49. Ibid., p. 181.
50. Testimony of Mrs. Arnold Rowland, WC Vol. VI, pp. 177-80.
51. Ibid., p. 185.
52. Ibid., p. 190.
53. FBI statement of Carolyn Walther, CE 2086, WC Vol. XXIV, p. 522.
54. FBI statement of Pearl Springer, CE 2087, WC Vol. XXIV, p. 523.
55. Earl Golz interview notes with Mrs. Eric Walther, November 21, 1978, maintained in the archives of the Assassination Research Center, Washington, D.C.
56. FBI statement of Carolyn Walther, CE 2086, WC Vol. XXIV, p. 522.

SHIRLEY'S DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF DALLAS, TEXAS

Deposition taken on the undersigned authority on this the 22nd day of November, A. D. 1963
at Dallas, Texas, before me, the undersigned authority, on this the 22nd day of November, A. D. 1963
personally appeared William John Lawrence Address 5200 Parkview, No. 200 Dallas, Texas
Dated this 22nd day of November, 1963.

On November 21, 1963, I was driving a rented white Volkswagon automobile on Elm Street and was proceeding to the overpass in a westerly direction and at a point about 45 or 50 feet east of the overhead lights of the right entrance road to the overpass, there was a truck parked on the right hand side of the road. The truck looked like it had 1 or 2 people up on the curb. The hood of the truck had a sign on it which said "Walt's Feedlotting". This was a pickup truck and along the back side of the truck were four people who appeared to be "peering" out of the back of the truck which was a Texas license. I remember seeing the word "Walt's" at the back of the truck.

A man was sitting under the wheel of the car and I don't know who that was. This man had on a light jacket, was a white male and about his 40's and was heavy set. I did not see his face clearly. Another man was at the back of the truck and reached over the tailgate and took out from the trunk what appeared to be a gun case. This case was about 6" wide at its widest spot and tapered down to a width of about 4" or 5". It was brown in color. It had a handle and was about 3/4 to 4 deep long. The man who took this out of the truck then proceeded to walk away from the truck and as he did, the man in the case except in the gun or otherwise and he reached down to the car. He then proceeded to walk across the grass and up the grassy hill which forms part of the overpass. This is the last I saw of this man.

I had been followed because the truck which I described drove so blockading my passage and I had to make until the man to replace drove so I could go by the truck.
Nothing else than that I was at this police and observed the above defendant there were 3 policemen standing talking near a motorcycle on the bridge just west of it.

The man who took that appeared to be the gun case out of the truck was a tall male, who appeared to be in his late 20's or early 30's and he was wearing a light blue shirt and dark pants.
Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 22nd day of November, A. D. 1963
Henry Public, Dallas County, Texas

Commissioner Exhibit No. 2003-Continued

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Starting a group of people, brown pants and a light shirt on back as I can remember, I remember he had on some kind of a hat that looked like a wool, something but with a tunnel in the middle of it. I believe that I can identify this man if I see him again.
The man who reached in the truck had light brown hair and I believe I could identify him also if I were to see him again.
William Lawrence

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 22nd day of November, A. D. 1963
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Commissioner Exhibit No. 2003-Continued

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up to the sixth floor on.

I remember talking to a couple
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Mr. WILLIAMS. It was after I had left the sixth floor, after I had eaten the
chicken sandwich. I finished the chicken sandwich maybe 10 or 15 minutes
after 12. I could say approximately what time it was.

Mr. BALL. Approximately what time was it?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Approximately 12:20, maybe.

Mr. BALL. Well, now, when you talked to the FBI on the 23d day of November,
you said that you went up to the sixth floor about 12 noon with your lunch,
and you stayed only about 3 minutes, and seeing no one you came down to
the fifth floor, using the stairs at the west end of the building.

Now, do you think you stayed longer than 3 minutes up there?

Mr. WILLIAMS. I am sure I stayed longer than 3 minutes.

Mr. BALL. Do you remember telling the FBI you only stayed 3 minutes up
there?

Mr. WILLIAMS. I do not remember telling them I only stayed 3 minutes.

Mr. BALL. And then on this 14th of January 1964, when you talked to Carter
and Griffin, they reported that you told them you went down to the fifth
floor around 12:05 p.m., and that around 12:30 p.m. you were watching the
Presidential parade.

Now, do you remember telling them you went down there about 12:05 p.m.?

Mr. WILLIAMS. I remember telling the fellows that—they asked me first,
they said, "How long did it take you to finish the sandwich?" I said, "Maybe
5 to 10 minutes, maybe 15 minutes." Just like I said here. I don't remember
saying for a definite answer that it was 5 minutes.

Mr. BALL. Well, is it fair to say that you do not remember the exact time
now?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir.

Mr. BALL. You do remember, though, that you ate your lunch and drank your
pop, your Doctor Pepper, before you came down?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir.

Mr. BALL. Were you there any length of time before the Presidential parade
came by?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, sir, on the fifth floor?

Mr. BALL. On the fifth floor, yes, with your two friends, Norman and Jarman.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I was there a while before it came around.

Mr. BALL. You were at what window?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, I believe we was on the east side of the window, and
I think Hank was—I think he was directly under the sixth floor window where
Oswald was supposed to have shot the President from. And I think I was a
window over. And I think James Jarman was two or three windows over.

Mr. BALL. I will show you a picture here, which is 482. Do you see yourself
in that picture?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir; I am right here.

Mr. BALL. All right. Draw a dark line down there towards you and put
an arrow on the end. I will mark that W; the arrow W on 482 points to you,
Bonnie Ray Williams.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir.

Mr. BALL. Is that about the way you were sitting in the window?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir.

Mr. BALL. And you were watching the parade?

Mr. WILLIAMS. I don't remember whether I was watching the parade here
or not. But I was in the window, that window.

Mr. BALL. Do you recognize the man in the window to the right of us as we
look at the picture?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir; that is Harold Norman.

Mr. BALL. Now, here is another photograph which is 480, giving more of the
front of the building. Can you tell us in what window your friend Jarman
was sitting, or watching?

Mr. WILLIAMS. I believe this is James Jarman right here.

Mr. BALL. All right. Draw a line down to that on 480. Draw an arrow to the
window.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir.

Mr. BALL. We will mark that W on 480.