

## Witness Tells Of Smoke Ahead of JFK

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — A former Dallas railroad man testified yesterday in the Clay L. Shaw conspiracy trial that he saw what looked like a puff of smoke rise from a grassy knoll area in front of the presidential motorcade moments after President John F. Kennedy was shot.

"I heard three shots, and I looked to see where the shots came from," James L. Simmons of Mesquite, Tex., said. "Underneath the trees I detected what

appeared to be a puff or whiff of smoke."

Kennedy's motorcade was traveling toward the trees when he was slain Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas. The Warren Commission report said Kennedy was shot from the rear by Lee Harvey Oswald, sitting at a sixth-floor window in the Texas School Book Depository, but the prosecution contends the fatal shots came from the front.

Shaw, 55, is charged with conspiring with Oswald and David W. Ferrie to assassinate the president.

Simmons, who worked for the Dallas Union Terminal Railroad

Co. at the time, said he found footprints in the mud in the area where he saw the smoke. Under cross-examination, however, he said the footprints may have been left by persons who had stood there just to watch the motorcade.

Another witness, Mrs. W. E. Newman of Dallas, said she was standing with her husband and children below the knoll and saw the fatal shooting from a distance of about one traffic lane. Asked where the shooting sounded like it was coming from, she said, "It sounded like it was coming from directly behind us."