



Trial Proceedings

Court proceedings in the 23rd day of the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw follow: heard three loud reports that sounded like shots.

THE FIRST witness was James L. Simmons of Mesquite, Tex., who was employed by the Union Terminal Railway in 1963, but now works for the U.S. Post Office.

Simmons said that on Nov. 22, 1963, he was on the triple overpass in Dealey Plaza.

He testified that he had a clear view of President John F. Kennedy's car when he

SIMMONS SAID he saw a halo of blood and brain matter fly up as the president was shot. He said the president threw his hands up and turned to the left and then fell to the left.

Simmons said he looked around to see where the shots came from and saw "a puff or wisp of smoke" on a nearby grassy knoll.

He said the smoke appeared

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ed near a picket fence on the grassy knoll.

"I WENT BEHIND the railing of the overpass to the area behind the picket fence," the tall, lean Texan said. "There was no one on the knoll, but there were several footprints along the fence."

He said that the footprints showed up because it was a muddy day and he noticed the footprints because there were so many of them.

Simmons also said he didn't see any footprints in any other area of the grassy knoll.

QUESTIONED BY Asst. District Attorney Alvin Oser, Simmons also said that "it looked as though one man hit the pavement" after the shot was fired in a location that was in line with the grassy knoll.

Under cross-examination by Defense Atty. F. Irvin Dymond, he said it took him about 15 or 20 minutes to get from the overpass to the grassy knoll and that he would not have particularly noticed any spectators who would have been standing by the picket fence before the shots were fired.

Dymond also brought out that a parking lot is located behind the grassy knoll and Simmons conceded that the footprints in the mud might have been the result of a car

owner standing on the knoll.

SIMMONS SAID the halo of blood flew to the left side of President Kennedy, but that from his angle it was hard to tell if the brain matter and blood were directly over the President's head or in front of him.

Dymond asked Roger Craig, a former Dallas policeman, who testified yesterday that he was on the grassy knoll, to come forward and queried Simmons as to whether he had seen Craig on the knoll.

"No, sir," replied Simmons. "Did you see anyone detained?" asked Dymond.

"NO, SIR," said Simmons.

Craig said yesterday that he detained someone on the grassy knoll.

On the matter of a bullet that might have been fired from the grassy knoll, striking the pavement, Dymond asked Simmons if he actually had seen a bullet land in that area.

Simmons replied he saw what looked like dust particles flying from either the ground or the street surface.

"ARE YOU JUST guessing about that?" asked Dymond.

"Yes," replied Simmons. "Did you check the area?" asked Dymond.

"No, sir," Simmons said.

The next witness was Mrs. Frances Gail Newman of Dallas, Tex., who was in Dealey Plaza the day of the assassination.

Mrs. Newman testified that she heard three noises like

firecrackers.

"The first two noises we heard were real close together," she said.

SHE WAS asked by Alford if she noticed any reaction to the first shot.

"At the time of the first noise President Kennedy threw his hands up like this (putting her hands up on either side of her face)," she said.

She testified that former Gov. John Connally, riding in the same car, "clutched his stomach and slumped in his seat" when she heard the second noise.

Mrs. Newman testified that she heard the third report "when the President's car was directly in front of us. It was about a lane's width away. He was shot in the head."

Mrs. Newman estimated

that she was standing with her husband and children only 10 feet from the presidential limousine when Kennedy was shot.

"The President — his head just seemed to explode. He fell to the side.

"AT THAT TIME we got down on the ground and covered them (the children) with our bodies because we thought we were in a cross-fire."

Dymond objected to Mrs. Newman testifying to "what she thought" but was overruled by judge Edward A. Haggerty.

She testified that to the best of her knowledge the shots came "from directly behind us."

MRS. NEWMAN identified locations on exhibits and on a photograph to indicate where she was standing in Dealey Plaza.

Mrs. Newman testified that she was not interviewed by the Warren Commission.

Under cross-examination by Dymond the witness did say she had given a written statement to the Dallas county sheriff's office.

Mrs. Newman was asked by

Dymond to demonstrate the timing of the three shots by slapping the side of Judge Haggerty's bench. The state had used the same demonstration with an earlier prosecution witness.

THE WITNESS slapped the bench twice in rapid sequence and a third time after a brief pause.

The slaps produced hollow sounds through the courtroom.

In answer to questions from Dymond, Mrs. Newman said it appeared to her that "the president was hit above the ear."

OTHER WITNESSES had testified to seeing a red halo above the president's head after he was shot. Mrs. Newman was asked about this.

She said she did not observe such a halo.

She said, "The bits flew up and white matter came out . . ."

Asked if she observed matter from the president's head fly forward, Mrs. Newman answered, "As far as I can remember it just flew straight up."

The next witness identified herself as Mrs. Mary Moorman, who said she went to Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963, at 11 a. m.

Immediately Mrs. Moorman was asked by Asst. DA William Alford to walk to the plaque map and mark her position at the time. She did this and was advised to go to the mock-up and place her position there—which she did.

MRS. MOORMAN then told the court that as she took up her position she noticed the presidential motorcade first on Elm st., "proceeding to my right coming toward Main." She said there were several cars in front of the

presidential limousine as it approached her.

Mrs. Moorman said she stepped forward to take a picture, which she snapped.

At this time she said she heard several noises—three of them — which sounded like firecrackers. She said she was using an early model instant developing camera and

she had taken the picture when the presidential car was across from her.

She said she produced the picture within minutes.

AT THIS POINT defense attorney Dymond objected to the testimony of Mrs. Moorman, calling it "irrelevant." The judge overruled the objection and the defense took

a bill of exception.

Alford handed her a picture he said had been entered in evidence and asked her to identify it. She said it was the picture she had taken, that it has lightened in color and now has finger prints on it.

She said it was a photo she took in Dealey Plaza.

Mrs. Moorman said that immediately after the photo was taken confusion broke out in the plaza and she crossed the street.

SHE WAS asked if she retained possession of the photograph since that time and she answered that she had not. She said a reporter, a secret service agent and an FBI agent got the picture from her.

She was shown an 8x10 blowup of the picture she had identified and was asked if it was the same as her original picture. She said the blowup showed only one motorcycle and her original picture showed two motorcycle policemen, but what was contained in the blowup was also contained in her photograph.

Mrs. Moorman told the court she was wearing a blue raincoat at the time and was then shown another picture by Alford and asked if she could identify herself in this photograph.

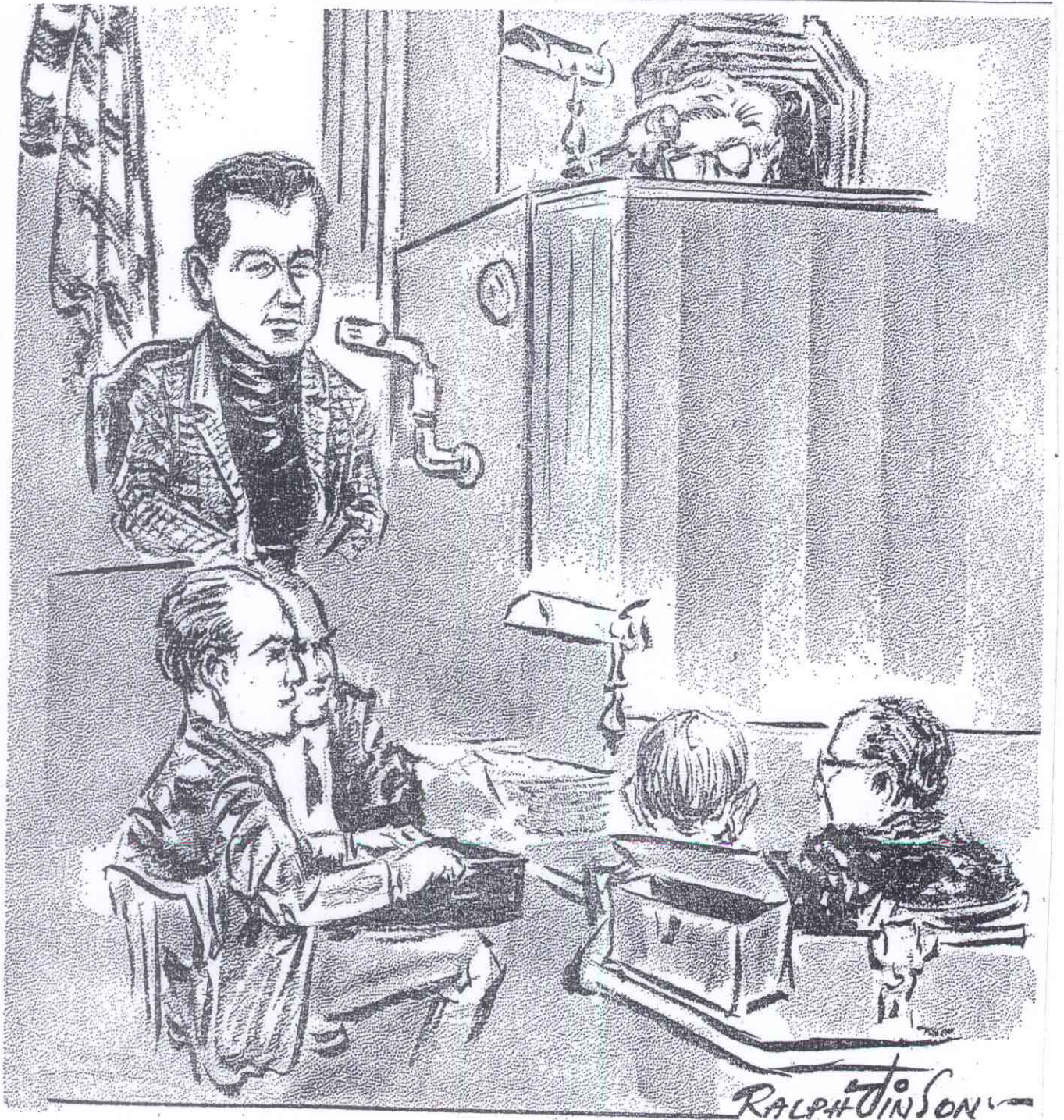
The DA's office said this picture was previously introduced into evidence.

She pointed to herself in the photo.

MRS. MOORMAN then was asked if she could identify herself in the Zapruda motion picture film and she said she could. At this point Dymond again objected to the showing of the film and was again overruled by the judge.

More than a score of persons who were sitting on the right side of the courtroom jumped from their seats into the center aisle to find space on the left side of the courtroom hoping to get a view of the film. Only one slide of the motion picture was projected.

It was an enlarged frame showing two women. Mrs. Moorman walked from the witness stand to the screen, pointed out one of the women and identified the woman as herself.



WITNESS ROGER CRAIG TESTIFIES HE SAW LEE HARVEY OSWALD FLEE BY AUTO —States-Item drawing.