

AT THE BOOK DEPOSITORY - THE SHOTS

Statements of Witnesses - Mrs. Donald BAKER (nee Virgie ~~Ratchley~~ ^{Rachley})
Deposition - July 22, 1964 (7 H 507-15)

The assistant to the bookkeeper, she was employed by the Depository July 16, 1963, and was married February 1, 1964. She had seen Oswald and thought he ~~was~~ "was awful quiet". Other than that, she knew nothing and had no impression about him.

At the time of the motorcade, she saw a shot hit the pavement at a place Liebeler makes it difficult for her to locate. His simple technique is to use a picture which can't show what she's talking about. He used Exhibit 354 and after he and she marked it, it became Baker Exhibit No. 1. (19 H112) As he knew, because she had previously been interviewed, she would locate this ~~by~~ means of signs. So he showed her a picture taken from the wrong angle and from very close to the ground, hence distorting everything, looking toward the Depository instead of away from it. He is polite, almost patronizing, leads her ~~and~~ and testifies a little bit for her, but since she can't see the signs, she can't very well orient anything by the signs. She repeats it was near the first sign.

She also says the first shot came from the area to the west of and behind the Book Depository. In fact, she and others ran there immediately. She said she saw something hit the pavement and saw sparks fly. With the second shot, she became aware that these were shots. She heard three, and thought the first might have been a fire-cracker and that some kids would get in trouble. She also said that at the time of the shots "there was a train that looked like a circus train as well as I can remember now back there ..." meaning in the area to which they ran. ~~As~~ I recall no other reference to a train of this description. Several trains were in the area, some in motion, some stopped. (510)

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In a statement to the FBI on November 24, she referred to a man "who had been sitting on a wall directly across the street" and who "came up and said he saw everything", as Liebeler referred to or quoted from her statement. She agreed and said she didn't know the man's name and never saw him after that. She doesn't remember the man's saying what he had seen; she thinks it was later that afternoon and "he told us he had seen everything".

It does sound like Brennan letting people know just how important he was, doesn't it? (p.511)

After the second shot, she began to smell gunsmoke. (p.512)

It turns out that Liebeler marked the picture for her, saying as he did, "but you think it might have been right along here or somewhere farther down." That's one way to get information from a witness.

Lieberler also admits he doesn't know where Exhibit 354 was taken from, and he says if it was taken from one place, then what they have been testifying to and marking would mean thing, and if it was taken from another place, then the markings and testimony would mean something else. And that's another way to conduct a hearing! (p.513)

Liebeler didn't have to do this for too long, before Mrs. Baker said, "This is confusing." (p.514) It may have been to Mrs. Baker, but it wasn't to Liebeler.

But Liebeler helped make it confusing for other people, too, because he did not use Exhibit 354, an aerial view taken from to the west of the triple overpass and looking east, but an entirely different photograph which I believe is one of a series in the FBI sequence dealing with the "missed" bullet. Baker Exhibit is 19 H 112, and Exhibit 354 is 16 H 949.