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PMS BUDGET

ASSASSIN'S LAIR (500)

EDITOR'S NOTE: ON NOV. 22, 1963, THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY, A WAREHOUSE ON THE WEST EDGE OF DOWNTOWN DALLAS, BECAME ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS BUILDINGS IN AMERICA. WHAT IS IT LIKE NOW, THREE MONTHS LATER, THIS BUILDING THAT BECAME KNOWN TO THE WORLD NOT AS A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL BOOKS ARE STORED BUT AS AN ASSASSIN'S LAIR?

BY SID MOODY

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DALLAS, FEB. 24 (AP)—AT THE FRONT OF THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY THERE'S A SIGN ON THE GLASS DOORS SAYING NO ONE IS ALLOWED INSIDE EXCEPT THOSE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

A VISITOR RINGS THE BELL AND A MAN SHUFFLES OUT OF THE BACK OF THE BUILDING FROM WHICH A SNIPER ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY LAST NOV. 22.

"MR. TRULY? IN THE OFFICE AROUND THE CORNER."

ROY TRULY, MANAGER OF THE BUILDING, THE MAN WHO HIRED LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IS A SOFT-SPOKEN MAN WITH A WEATHERED, TANNED FACE. HE WAS SWAMPED FOR SOME TIME WITH PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO SEE THE BUILDING, UNTIL HE FINALLY CLOSED IT TO VISITORS. BUT NO ONE'S BEEN BOTHERING HIM LATELY. HE WOULDN'T MIND SHOWING YOU THE ROOM.

HE WALKS TO THE BACK OF THE BUILDING, TO THE FREIGHT ELEVATOR. THE LIFT RISES SLOWLY THROUGH THE QUIET BUILDING AND STOPS AT THE SIXTH FLOOR.

"OVER THIS WAY," HE SAYS. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE TOLD. THE OLD WOODEN FLOOR IS SPLINTERED FROM YEARS OF USE. BROWN CARDBOARD CASES THE SIZE OF BREAD BOXES ARE STACKED NEATLY IN ROWS. IT WAS OSWALD'S JOB TO CARRY THESE CARTONS, FILLING OUT ORDERS FROM THE SCHOOLS THE DEPOSITORY SUPPLIES.

"HE WAS EFFICIENT, ENERGETIC," SAID TRULY. "GOT ALONG WITH EVERYONE, BUT HE WAS QUIET."

THE WINDOW IS OVER IN THE CORNER. THE FRAMES HAD BEEN PAINTED SOME DARK COLOR BUT THE PAINT IS BLACKENED NOW AND CRACKED. THE WINDOW IS ABOUT HEAD TALL WITH EIGHT PANES AND FASTENED BY A RICKETY, RUSTED LATCH.

JUST TO THE LEFT OF THE WINDOW ARE TWO SILVER-COLORED PIPES. RIGHT IN BACK OF YOU IS ANOTHER WINDOW ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CORNER. IT FACES A LOFT-BUILDING WHERE THERE ARE SEVERAL DRESS-MAKING FIRMS. THE ASSASSIN STACKED SOME CARTONS IN FRONT OF THAT WINDOW TO SHIELD HIM FROM SIGHT.

THE OPENED WINDOW LOOKS OUT ACROSS THE FLAT TEXAS HORIZON. IN THE DISTANCE, THE STEEL SKELETON OF A NEW BUILDING IS RISING. IN THE MIDDLE GROUND EXPRESSWAYS CURVE AMONGST THEMSELVES. ON THE OVERPASS ABOVE STEMMONS FREEWAY A SANTA FE DIESEL ENGINE RATTLES FREIGHT CARS INTO LINE. TO THE LEFT, ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY, IS THE BUILDING WHERE JACK RUBY, WHO KILLED OSWALD, IS ON TRIAL. LOOKING DOWN AND TO THE RIGHT IS ELM ST. BENDING UNDER THE OVERPASS BY A BLUE SIGN THAT SAYS "FORT WORTH, KEEP RIGHT." IT'S JUST THIS SIDE OF THE SIGN, ABOUT 75 YARDS AWAY, THAT IT HAPPENED. THE ASSASSIN HAD TO WAIT UNTIL THE PRESIDENTIAL CAR REACHED THERE BECAUSE A TREE'S BRANCHES, LEAFLESS NOW, BLOCK ELM ST. FROM SIGHT BEFORE THAT SPOT.

WINDOWS RUN ALONG THE ENTIRE SIDE OF THE BUILDING. IN THE CORNER ELM ST. CURVES AWAY IN A DIRECT LINE--RIGHT DOWN A RIFLE'S SIGHTS.

"THE BOYS WERE PRETTY SHOOK UP FOR A WHILE," TRULY SAID, "BUT THINGS ARE PRETTY MUCH BACK TO NORMAL NOW."

HE TALKS A BIT ABOUT RUBY'S TRIAL, ABOUT HOW HE THINKS DALLAS IS AS FAIR-MINDED AS ANY CITY, AND, MATTER OF FACTLY, ABOUT OSWALD. YOU THANK HIM FOR HIS TIME AND WALK OUT THROUGH THE LOBBY, DECORATED WITH SMALL PAINTINGS OF INDIAN LIFE, THE SORT OF PICTURE YOU MIGHT FIND IN A CLASS-ROOM.

IN FRONT OF THE DEPOSITORY IS A CONCRETE COLONNADE IN DEALEY PLAZA, BUILT IN HONOR OF THE LATE G.B. DEALEY, A DALLAS NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER. IT HONORS ANOTHER MAN NOW, AS WELL.

A FEW PLASTIC FLORAL DECORATIONS--BLUISH CARNATIONS, LILIES OF THE VALLEY, ROSES, A WHITE PLASTIC FOAM CROSS--ARE ALL THAT REMAIN. THE LIVE FLORAL WREATHS HAVE LONG SINCE GONE.

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