

Excerpts from Fifty-one Witnesses: The Grassy Knoll
by Harold Feldman. Minority of One, March 1965.

What follows is the result of a survey of the 121 witnesses to the assassination of President Kennedy whose statements are registered in the twenty-six volumes appended to the Warren Report. On the question of where the shots that killed the President came from, 38 could give no clear opinion and 32 thought they came from the Texas School Book Depository Building. Fifty-one /author's emphasis/ held the shots sounded as if they came from west of the Depository, the area of the grassy knoll on Elm Street, the area directly on the right of the President's car when the bullets struck.

..... Let us repeat, we believe that a rifleman was posted on the TSBDB sixth floor and that he fired at least one shot, perhaps more. But who can fail to be impressed with the indications from every group of witnesses that some shots were fired from the vicinity of the grassy knoll. This is not the impression of panicky onlookers but of trained policemen, deputy sheriffs, Secret Service agents, and most of the bystanders. Of twenty /deputy sheriffs/, only one decided the shots came from the TSBDB, three gave no opinion, and sixteen thought the assassin had fired from the area of the grassy knoll.

Danny Arce, TSBDB employee, standing in front of the building: "I thought /the shots/ came from the railroad tracks to the west of the Texas School Book Depository." VI, 365.

Wesley Frazier, TSBDB employee, standing on steps of building: "Well, to be frank with you, I thought it come from down there, you know, where that underpass is." II, 234.

Billy Lovelady, TSBDB employee, standing on steps of building, was sure the shots sounded "right there around that concrete little deal on the knoll." VI, 338.

Bill Shelley, TSBDB employee, also standing on TSBDB steps: the sound of the shots "came from the west." VI, 329.

Joe R. Molina, TSBDB employee, standing on the steps of the building, also thought the shots came from the west. VI, 371.

Mrs. Donald Baker, TSBDB employee, standing in front of the building at the curb on Elm Street, said she thought the shots came from somewhere near the Triple Underpass. VII, 509-11.

Roy Truly, superintendent, TSBDB, standing at curb in front of the building, heard the explosions "from west of the building." III, 221.
/O.V. Campbell, vice-president, TSBDB, standing with Roy Truly, was not asked to testify./

Unmentioned and unquestioned by the Commission were four newspaper women, Mary Woodward, Maggie Brown, Aurelia Lorenzo and Ann Donaldson, who were on

from Fifty-one Witnesses, p. 2

the grassy knoll watching the motorcade and heard "a horrible, ear-shattering noise coming from behind us and a little to the right" (Dallas Morning News, 11/23/63). Perhaps there were many others in this category. Because the Commission took no official notice of them, we have not included such persons in our accounting.

William Newman /standing at curb on Elm Street, apparently near the knoll/ fell on the grass when he heard the shots. "as it seemed that we were in the direct path of fire ... I thought the shots had come from the garden directly behind me." XIX, 490. He swore to an affidavit but was never questioned by the Commission or its counsel.

Abraham Zapruder was standing on a concrete abutment on the grassy knoll when the shots exploded. "I also thought it came from back of me," he told the Commission. VII, 572.

Austin Miller, watching from Triple Underpass when he heard shots. He immediately looked "toward the - there is a little plaza sitting on the hill. I looked over there to see if anything was there, who threw the firecracker or whatever it was ... " VI, 225. In his affidavit of 11/22/63, he also swore that "I saw something which I thought was smoke or steam coming from a group of trees north of Elm off the railroad tracks." XIX, 485.

S.M. Holland, who also thought the shots came from the same place: "A puff of smoke came out about 6 or 8 feet above the ground right out from under those trees. ... I definitely saw the puff of smoke and heard the report from under those trees. ... The puff of smoke I saw definitely came from behind the arcade to the trees." VI, 243-4.

Jean Hill, standing on the south side of Elm Street: "I frankly thought /the shots/ were coming from the knoll." VI, 211-2.

Frank Reilly, standing on the overpass: "It seemed to me like /the shots/ come out of the trees ... on the north side of Elm Street at the corner up there ... Well, it's at that park where all the shrubs is up there - it's to the north of Elm Street - up the slope." VI, 230.

Emmett Hudson, sitting half-way down the steps that climb the grassy knoll: "The shots that I heard definitely came from behind and above me." Sworn affidavit, 22/11/63, XIX, 481.

"No credible evidence," says /the/ Report, "suggests that the shots were fired from the railroad bridge over the Triple Underpass, the nearby railroad yards or any place other than the Texas School Book Depository."

No credible evidence! In what other murder case would the testimony of 51 sworn and many other unheard witnesses be dismissed so cavalierly as "no credible evidence"? We submit, on the contrary, that the ear-witness evidence is quite credible. Taken together with the ballistic and medical

from Fifty-one Witnesses, p. 3

evidence analyzed by Mr. Salandria, it is not only credible; it is convincing. There was at least one other assassin firing at President Kennedy from the vicinity of the grassy knoll.