

High Noon in Dallas

A Man With a Rifle

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The cast of characters were all in their appointed places in Dallas, Tex., by high noon.

At almost the precise moment that President Kennedy and his wife were walking along a chain link fence at Love Field, Dallas, Lee Harvey Oswald was seen on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building holding a clipboard for book orders that never got filled.

"Boy are you going downstairs? It's near lunch time," asked Charles Givens, a fellow employe in the building.

"No, sir," replied Oswald. "When you get downstairs, close the gate to the elevator."

RIFLE IN WINDOW

"Okay," agreed Givens. And that, the report of the Warren Commission revealed yesterday, was the last time anyone saw Oswald until the shooting, when an eyewitness saw a man fitting his description pointing a rifle out of the window.

As the Presidential motorcade approached the intersection of Houston and Elm streets, in sight of the Book Depository, Special Agent Rufus Youngblood, riding in Vice President Johnson's car, looked at the electric clock atop the Book Depository. It was 12:30. David Powers, riding with White House Aide Kenneth O'Donnell in the follow-car, also noted that it was 12:30.

Seconds later, "the report said, "shots resounded in rapid succession."

Turning in the direction of the noise, Special Agent Roy Kellerman heard the President say:

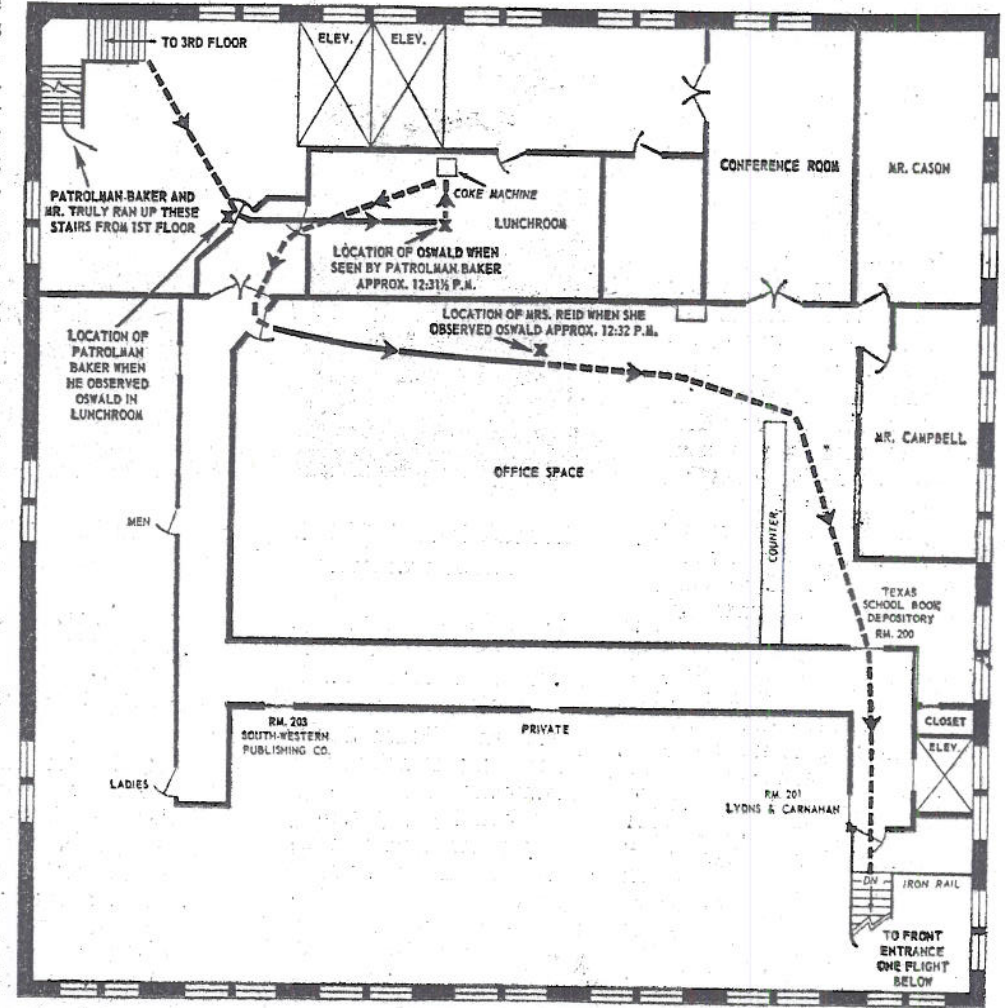
"My god, I am hit."

"WE ARE HIT"

"Let's get out of her, we are hit," Agent Kellerman ordered; Driver William Greer jammed down the accelerator.

In the vicinity of the Book Depository several people saw a rifle or at least something long and metallic protruding from the sixth floor window.

One of them, a 45-year-old



This is a diagram of Oswald's movements in the Texas School Book Depository building after the shooting. The unbroken line traces his known path, with the "X's" marking the places he was seen. The broken line is his assumed route.

steamfitter named Howard Brennan who had been watching the parade across the street, promptly furnished police with a description. That night Brennan picked Oswald out of a police lineup.

While waiting for the motorcade to approach, Brennan had glanced up at the building and seen a man leave the southeast corner window on the sixth floor "a couple of times." When the motorcade turned the corner, he heard an explosion.

'A FIRECRACKER'

"Something just right after this explosion made me think that it was a firecracker being thrown from the Texas Book Store," he testified. "And I glanced up, And this

man that I saw previous was aiming for his last shot. . . ."

Amos Lee Euins, a 15 year old ninth grade student, also had a good vantage point as the motorcade turned the corner.

"I seen this pipe thing sticking out of the window," he testified. "I wasn't paying too much attention to it. Then when the first shots were fired, I started looking around . . . then I looked up at the window, and he shot again."

Photographer Bob Jackson of the Dallas Times Herald, who would win a Pulitzer Prize for his picture of Jack Ruby shooting Oswald two days later, chanced to look up from his seat in a press car,

"Look up in the window," he cried, "there's the rifle."

Television cameraman Malcolm O. Coach also the rifle. Thomas Dillard, chief photographer for the Dallas Morning News, immediately took two pictures of the building. They showed three Negro men in a window on the fifth floor and a partially opened window on the sixth.

RAN DOWNSTAIRS

The three depository employes at the window in the Dillard picture were James Jarman, Bonnie Ray Williams and Harold Norman.

After hearing the shots, the three ran downstairs.

Meanwhile officer M. L. Baker had arrived at the

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book depository after almost being blown off his motorcycle by a strong wind. He, too, had heard the shots and figured they came from the roof of the building.

BUILDING MANAGER

"I'm the building manager, follow me officer, and I will show you," offered Roy Truly as Baker ran into the building.

Both elevators were in use. Baker and Truly rushed to the second floor where they saw a man on the opposite side of the vestibule door heading toward the lunchroom.

"Come here," Baker ordered, with drawn gun.

"So you know this man, does he work here?" the officer asked.

"Yes," said Truly.

Lee Harvey Oswald said nothing. He was permitted to go on his way. Mrs. R. A. Reid, clerical supervisor for the depository, saw him head toward the front stairway.

As he passed, she said, "Oh, the President has been shot. Maybe they didn't hurt him."

Lee Harvey Oswald mumbled something and kept on going.