

What the Eye-Witnesses Saw

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Among the most telling evidence in the Warren Commission Report were the words of those who actually saw the shooting, the eye-witnesses.

They were a steamfitter, a schoolboy, the wife of Dallas Mayor Earle Cabell and a photographer.

They snapped alert when they heard a noise—it sounded to them like a firecracker or backfire—and looked up to see a man in a sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository shooting a rifle.

Steamfitter Howard L. Brennan, 45 had been lounging on a balustrade directly across the street from the book building. The presidential motorcade was passing in front of him.

"Something just right after this explosion made me think it was a firecracker being thrown from the Texas book store.

"And I glanced up. And this man that I saw previous was aiming for his last shot.

"Well, as it appeared to me he was standing up and resting against the left window sill with gun shouldered to his right shoulder, holding the gun with his left hand and taking positive aim and fired his last shot.

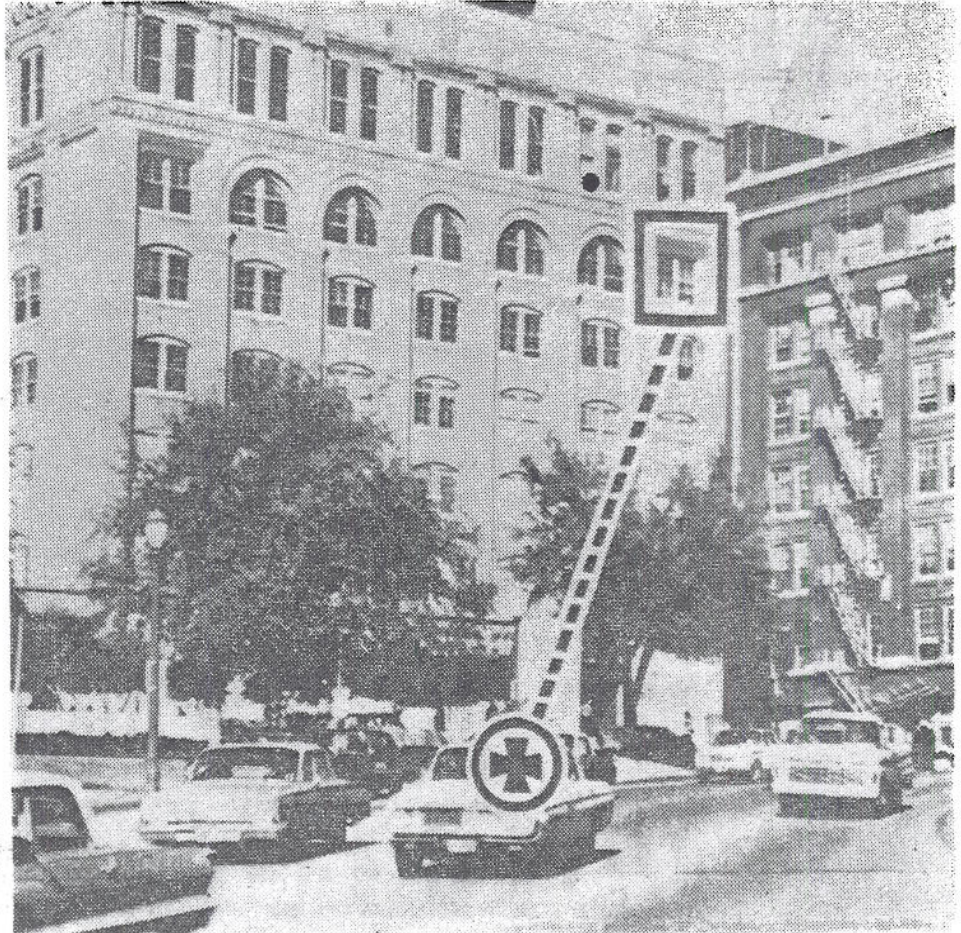
"He drew the gun back from the window . . . and maybe paused for another second as though to assure himself that he hit his mark and then he disappeared."

AMOS LEE Euins, a 15 year old schoolboy, was standing nearby.

"As the motorcade turned the corner, I was facing, looking dead at the building. And so I seen this pipe thing sticking out the window.

"I wasn't paying too much attention to it. Then when the first shot was fired, I started looking around thinking it was a backfire.

"Then I looked up at the window and he shot again."



Police theorized that Oswald fired from window indicated by dotted square

Bob Jackson, photographer of the Dallas Times Herald who was later to take a famous photo of Jack Ruby shooting Lee Oswald, was riding in a car back in the motorcade.

"I noticed the two Negro men in a window (of the depository) straining to see directly above them. . . . I saw the rifle or what looked like a rifle."

MRS. CABELL, also in the motorcade, jerked her head up at the first shot and saw "a rather long-looking thing" sticking out the window.

Watching the President from the fifth floor of the depository building where they worked were James Jarman, 34; Bonnie Ray Williams, 20, and Harold Norman, 26.

"I heard a shot," Norman told the commission, "and then after I heard the shot, well, it seems as though the President, you know, slumped or something.

"I believe Jarman or someone told me, he said, 'I believe someone is shooting at the President' and I think I made a statement 'I believe it came from up above us.'

"I could also hear something which sounded like the shells hitting the floor and the ejecting of a rifle."

THE BLAST sent showers of dirt or dust down on his head, Williams said, "because it shook the windows and everything."

"That shot probably did come from upstairs," said Jarman.

"I know it did because I could hear the action of the bolt," Norman answered.

Later the commission three times gathered on the fifth floor to determine whether they could hear a rifle bolt being worked and shells dropping on the floor above.

They could, all seven members.

AFTER THE shooting, Brennan ran into a policeman and said he saw a man in his early 30s, about 5 feet 10 and slender, shooting from the sixth floor window.

Later, when Lee Oswald had been arrested, Brennan was called to police headquarters to identify him. Yes, Brennan said, that looked like the man.