He poked a rifle out that window'

OSWALD CONTINUED

He poked a rifle out that window. At first he thought it was a firecracker, but then he heard the second and third shots and knew it was gunfire. He saw the President's car swerve to the left and slow, then speed away.

Oswald heard someone say, "I saw a young white man poke a rifle out of that window right up there in front of the balcony." The man pointed to a sixth-floor corner window in the Depository building.

Truly and a policeman ran into the building to the elevators but found they were not running. (Later it was determined that an elevator gate had been left open on a floor above.) Truly shouted, "Turn loose the elevators," but there was no response. He led the officer to a stair-case and they ran up to the second floor, coming out on a landing with a door leading to the main office of the Depository. Truly started up the steps to the third floor, but soon realized the officer was not behind him. He ran back to the Depository office and found the policeman in the adjacent lunchroom, a small area with several drink machines, a stove and a sink. The officer had his gun drawn on Oswald, who stood with his back to a Coke-Cola machine. The officer turned to Truly and said, "This boy work here?" Truly said, "Yes." The officer wheeled and ran back onto the second-floor landing. Truly followed him.

Oswald came out of the lunchroom a few moments later with a Coke in his hand. A woman switchboard operator saw him and said, "Where's the President being shot?" Oswald muttered something which she didn't understand. He walked through the office, down the steps to the first floor and out the front door. It was about 12:35. At 12:40, Oswald knocked on the door of a bus on Elm Street. The driver allowed him to get on. But the bus was unable to make any headway in the congestion. Oswald got up and asked for a transfer. He got off the bus and ran two blocks to a Greyhound bus terminal, where William Whaley was parked in his taxi at the curb.

"Can I take this cab?" Oswald asked. Whaley motioned for him to get in.

"Take me to 500 North Beckley," Oswald said. The ride took about five minutes. It was now a few moments after one o'clock.

Oswald jumped out of the taxi, five blocks from his rooming house, gave Whaley a dollar for the 85-cent ride, and ran to his room.

Mrs. Earnie Roberts, the housekeeper, saw him and said, "My, you're sure in a hurry." He left his room wearing a gray zipped jacket. He ran through the living room and out the front door. Oswald was next seen on East 16th Street, about seven blocks from his room. Mrs. Helen Marrham, who was waiting for a bus, said she saw a police car stop and the policeman beckon to the slender man in the gray jacket. (A description of Oswald had been sent out over the police radio after a count of employees at the schoolbook building revealed he was missing.)

Mrs. Marrham said, "Oswald walked to the patrol car, leaned down and spoke to the officer through the window. Then, she said, the officer got out. "All of a sudden they stopped," she said, "looked at each other and got [Oswald] pulled his gun and shot him down." The policeman, J. O. Tippit, died instantly.

A block away a used car salesman heard shots and saw a man running along the sidewalk. "He had a pistol in his hand," said the face with the pistol, three more policemen jumped into the fight. One punched Oswald in the eye. He was subdued and dragged from the theater. A crowd had gathered on the street, drawn by the police cars. The country had been told an hour earlier that President Kennedy was dead. The crowd shouted, "Kill him! Kill him!" as Oswald was led past them.

Two days later, at the age of 24, one month and six days, Lee Harvey Oswald was mortally wounded in the basement of the Dallas police station by Jack Ruby.