

'He poked a rifle out that window'

OSWALD

CONTINUED

sponded. "Just send the elevator back up."

Truly was leaving for lunch at 12:20 with O. V. Campbell, depository vice president, when they heard the caravan approaching. They watched the President go by. Instants later Campbell heard a shot. 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.

Campbell heard someone say, "I saw a young white man poke a rifle out of that window right up there and fire and draw back in." 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 staircase 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 Coca-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, "Wasn't that terrible, 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 95-cent ride, and ran to his room.

Mrs. Earlene Roberts, the housekeeper, saw him and said, "My, you're sure in a hurry." He left his room wearing a gray zippered jacket. He ran through the living room and out the front door.

Oswald was next seen on East 10th Street, about seven blocks from his room. Mrs. Helen Markham, 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. Markham 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 he [Oswald] pulled his gun and shot him down." The policeman, J. D. Tippit, died instantly.

A block away a used car salesman heard shots and saw a man trotting along the sidewalk. "He had a pistol in his hand," said

Oswald. "I got a real good look at him. It was Oswald I picked him out of a police lineup that night."

Between Madison and Bishop Avenues on Jefferson Boulevard, Oswald ran into the entranceway of a shoe store and stood gasping for breath. The store manager, John Brewer, noticed that he was breathing hard, and that his shirt was out. "He looked scared," Brewer said. Brewer had just heard of Officer Tippit's murder and so he decided to follow Oswald.

Oswald left the shoe store entrance and dashed a half block to the Texas Theater, where two war movies—*War Is Hell* and *Cry Battle*—were playing. He got into the theater without either the cashier or the usher seeing him. Store manager Brewer watched him enter the theater. Then he told theater usher Butch Burroughs that a possible murderer had entered the theater. They checked the emergency exits to make sure they were closed and asked the cashier, Mrs. Julie Postal, to call police. It was almost 2 o'clock.

Police cars screeched up to the theater. A sergeant ordered the theater lights turned on. Brewer walked onto the stage and pointed out Oswald, sitting in the center section, three rows from the rear. Oswald turned and yelled.

"This is it." He pulled his gun as Officer N. M. McDonald reached him. The hammer of the gun clicked, but it didn't fire.

As Oswald slashed McDonald in



WIFE AND CHILD. Marina dresses June 2, who was born in Russia. Her sister, Rachel, 4 months old, was born at same hospital where President Kennedy and her father died.

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 years, one month and six days, Lee Harvey Oswald was mortally wounded in the basement of the Dallas police station by Jack Ruby.



ASSASSIN-TO-BE AT 23. Full version of photograph which appears on LIFE's cover shows Oswald proudly holding a Trotskyite newspaper, *The Militant*, in one hand and rifle he used to shoot President Kennedy in the other. Dallas police have confirmed that this is the rifle found in the Texas Book Depository. On Os-

wald's hip is revolver which killed Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit. Oswald posed for photograph in spring of 1963 outside his home in Dallas. He set the camera and then, handing it to Marina, directed her to take the picture. Shortly after, Oswald shot at Major General Edwin Walker. Seven months later, he killed the President.