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MR. TAGUE Page 1 of 8

Roll 26 Take 115

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We're here with Mr. James Tague who was slightly scratched when a bullet fired in Dealey Plaza on November 22nd caused some concrete to ricochet and strike his face. He was therefore the only person known to have been injured at all in Dealey Plaza other than the President and Governor Connally.

Q. Mr. Tague, what brought you to Dealey Plaza on that day?

A. It was quite accidental. I had no - I did not have in mind to watch the motorcade. I was on my way downtown to pick up my wife and - uh - as I came under the underpass on Commerce, there were some cars stopped in front of me in the left-hand lane, and I stopped under the bridge with just the nose of my car sticking out, and I realized^{that} the motorcade was just about a minute away fixing to come through. The first motorcycles were turning on Main - or turning off of Main and - uh - so I stopped, got out of my car to watch the motorcade come through Dealey Plaza. And - uh - uh - as I stood there, and just as the Presidential car - uh - turned the corner, I heard a loud explosion which - uh - I ~~was~~ say loud; it was like a fire-cracker to me. And then there was another one, and then, of course, the third one, and I was still looking around - uh - to see/^{just} what was going on when I realized people were

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First two takes out

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Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, USMss, 117AN "Rush to Judgment" Box 60, Folder 1, however page 1 of this interview was missing from the folder, and was replaced with the appropriate page from Box 63, Folder 5.

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throwing themselves on the ground. At this point - uh - I ducked behind the concrete abutment. I say "ducked"; I jumped behind the concrete abutment and peered out just as the Secret Service car was going by. Uh - at this time I -
uh - did not ^{know} ~~notice~~ ^{But} what had happened. /I was thinking there had been some shooting, or some fire-crackers, or actually, ^{I think,} /I thought that some prankster was doing something, I didn't know for sure.

Q. Did you have any impression, at the time that the shots were fired, as to the origin of the sound?

A. I thought the shots were either coming from my left - uh - the reasons I have these thoughts - in recalling this I don't know for sure whether it was something else that influenced this thought or not, but I did think the shots were coming from the left at the time.

Q. This is a picture

Reel 32 Take 116

You want me to go ahead now, or? I came to down-town Dallas - uh - to go to lunch with my wife, and I was actually in Dealey Plaza by accident. I was coming down Commerce Street, under the Triple Underpass when several cars stopped in front of me. I realized that they were stopped to watch the motorcade and I stopped my car with

the nose of it sticking out from underneath the ^elast end of the triple underpass. I got out of my car, and as I stood there, the motorcade came around the corner and - uh - perhaps thirty~~five~~ or forty seconds later, ~~then~~ there was a series of three shots which to me, at the time, sounded like fire-crackers, loud fire-crackers, very loud. I - I was looking around to see the source of the noise. I wasn't sure exactly where the noise did come -

Reel 32 - Take 117

I was going to downtown Dallas to take my wife to lunch. I was coming up Commerce Street, going under the triple underpass, and I noticed several cars stopped in front of me. I stopped my car with the nose sticking out from underneath the underpass, and got out of my car. It wasn't but about thirty seconds till the Presidential motorcade rounded the corner of Main Street to turn over onto Elm. Right after the Presidential car had turned the corner I heard these three loud noises which I thought were fire-crackers. I guess I thought it was a prankster. I was looking around to see the source of the noise, and, as I did this, I took my eyes off the motorcade and, after the third shot, I noticed some people throwing themselves on the ground. At this time I realized that there was something serious going on and

I jumped behind the concrete abutment which is between Main and Commerce. I was standing there for just a second or two. I peeked round the corner, around the abutment just in time to see the Secret Service car go by. At this time I walked out to see - uh - what was going on. There was a motorcycle policeman had just stopped his motorcycle up by the monument, and - uh - had drawn his revolver and was racing up the hill to the left of me. There was a deputy sheriff which I think was stationed under the Underpass - Buddy Walthers. And he walked up - he asked me what had happened. And I said ~~that~~ I didn't know, and so both of us walked up the slight grade to where the motorcycle policeman, who was now back at his motorcycle, was talking to several people. There was one man, in particular, ~~standing~~ standing there who was sobbing that the head - that the President's head had exploded. He said he was standing right on the curb just as the President ~~went past~~ ^{passed} and said that ^{that the -} at the first or second sound, I forget which, /it just ^{like} seemed ~~that~~ the President's head did explode. This was the first that the deputy sheriff and myself knew that there had been something real wrong. Ah - at this time ^{uh - I felt i} I says "You know, /something stung me on the face as i(was) standing down there. (x xx x x x x) and Walthers looked at me and says "Yes, you've got blood on your cheek."

And he says, "Where were you standing?" And I says, "Well, down by the underpass." So we started walking down there, and when Walthers got about, oh, I'd say ten feet away, he says, "Look there on the curb! There was a very visible mark there on the curb where a bullet had struck - either a fragment of the bullet or a piece of the concrete had flew up and scratched my face. At this time - this time - we walked back again to the motorcycle policeman. Walthers told him what had happened; I told him what had happened. He was very busy - uh - very sort of a madhouse - he said go to the City Police Headquarters and make a statement which I did. This was approximately twenty minutes to one, about ten minutes after all this had happened. So I got in my car and left at that time to go to the city police headquarters.

Q. Mr. Tague, this is a picture of Dealey Plaza, as you know. I wonder if you would be good enough to show me where you were standing when you heard the shots.

A. I was standing right here at the east end of the triple underpass, between Commerce and Main, where there's a little concrete divider there - it's about three feet wide.

Q. And sir, could you indicate on the picture where the bullet struck the concrete curb.

A. The bullet struck the curb on the north curbing - ex-

SEE cuse me - on the South curb of Main Street.

Q. Right where?

A. That would be right here.

Q. And, at the time that you first heard the shots, what was your impression as to the origin of those shots?

A. Uh - my first impression was that they had come from the left of me.

Q. Would you indicate on the picture where that would be.

A. Up in this area here, towards the hill.

Q. From where in relation to that wooden fence?

A. Well, from somewhere toward the wooden fence. Now, in thinking this over, I might have been influenced in these thoughts by the fact that the motorcycle policeman drew his revolver and ran towards that area after the shooting. But, to the best of my recollection, this is what I do remember.

Q. Did you speak with Mr. Walthers or any of the other ^{who} officers that at the time were there as to where they thought the shots came from?

A. Uh - nobody knew at that time. If I remember correctly - now - in recalling - yes, I did. uh - we, Walthers and I, after we had found the marking on the curb, we looked up towards the Schoolbook Depository, and we says, "Look there," and we thought, now we were wrong,

but we thought that, due to the way the sun was shining on a certain window, it looked like-uh- bullet marks had come through the window, which was actually, all it was, was the reflection of of the sun. It was not the same window. It was ~~that~~ ^{that} where not the actual window/the shots had come from. In other words, after we walked up there, we discovered it wasn't. But, at that time, yes, we were looking at the Schoolbook Depository.

Reel 32 Take 118

Q. Mr. Tague on the 22nd - just sit down etc.

Q. Mr. Tague on the 22nd when the shots were being fired, your first impression was that they came from the area near the wooden fence.

A. That's correct.

Q. Where do you now think that the shots came from? ^{did come}

A. I believe that they ~~came~~ ^{many?} from the Schoolbook Depository because of the things I've read about, the evidence which has been brought forth in the news-
through
papers and/the Warren Report and so on, and, other than that, I have no other ideas.

Reel 32 Take 119

Q. Mr. Tague, what brought you to Dealey Plaza that day? Did you have any impression, at the time that the shots were fired, as to the origin of the shots?

MR. TAGUE

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At the time you heard the shots, did you have the impression as to where they were coming from? This is a picture of the Dealey Plaza area - I wonder if you might show me on it where you were standing on November 22nd. Can you indicate on the picture - Can you indicate on the picture, Mr. Tague, where the bullet struck the curb. Your first impression, on November 22nd, was that the shots came from the area on the hill near the wooden fence. Where do you now think the shots came from?