

was very unusual. You never saw them display their weapons at all, so I knew something serious had happened. It wasn't just the local high school drill team firing a salute or something. My recollection was hearing four shots. It went something like this, 'Pow' — and we were sort of frozen — didn't know — brought everybody to attention. There was quite a pause and then there was 'Pow, Pow, Pow,' that's the way I remembered it. The last three were in quick succession. Similar noises, echoing around the buildings. After the first shot somebody said, 'What was that — a Texas salute?' or something like that. But then when the other shots rang out — when I saw the Queen Mary [Secret Service follow-up car] taking off with an agent showing his automatic weapon, I knew that something serious had happened."¹⁸

Of the same scene Grant remembers "Driving down Main Street, we had just turned onto Houston Street when we heard one shot — pause — two shots in rapid succession. I thought it was someone playing a prank — maybe a kid's cherry bomb. Consequently, I gave it no more thought until we turned onto Elm Street and saw all the people prone on the ground."¹⁹

Rickerby described the scene to his local Connecticut town newspaper in a telephone interview the next morning. "We heard what sounded like a giant firecracker go off. With that, we saw people diving to the ground, covering up their children, or scurrying up the banks. We saw Secret Service men, running with drawn guns, and thought they were chasing someone. We saw the President's car immediately speed up and take off up a rampway, and figured that something had happened serious enough to get the President out of the area, still not even thinking that he had been shot."²⁰

The camera car had by now turned left onto Elm Street, slowing down to a crawl. Three movie cameramen in the first camera car had jumped out of their vehicle heading in the direction to the right of the road where the four Newman family members, husband, wife, and two children, had sprawled to the grass during the shots. Cancellare followed his instinct, and jumped from his position in the front seat of Camera Car 2, and ran towards the direction of the activity.

Shortly before his death in 1985, Cancellare recounted his instinctive movement: "I did not know what had happened. I knew something had been attempted and the police and Secret Service were doing all they could. People were throwing themselves on top of their children to protect them. Police ran their bikes up the bank towards the railroad overpass. I thought they were chasing the culprit, and I think they thought so also. Training and instinct took over at this time. During something like this no two react the same way. If I had made a shot of the man who I thought had done the shooting, I would have been the only one who had got the picture of him. I would have had a beat and a hero to boot. If the others had gotten to the hospital in time to make [pictures] of Kennedy being carried into the hospital, I would have looked stupid and made a poor decision. As it was, it was a stand-off. I probably would make the same decision again — who knows?"²¹

Burroughs remembers hearing four shots. Stoughton and Grant distinctly recall only three; while Rickerby's widow, Wanda, only recalls that "He often stated his