

*Destined for St. Francis College*

*Return 2-1*

## 80 Volumes of Documents, Photos In JFK Memorabilia Collection

Fort Wayne — A special room in St. Francis College will be the eventual display place for a Fort Wayne man's collection of Kennedy Memorabilia but parochial schools in this area may borrow part of the collection for their own display in the meantime.

Donald B. Blackwell, who in 1958 started collecting photographs, printed matter and keepsakes concerning the young man who was then Senator John F. Kennedy, explains that several schools and charitable organizations already have made use of his collection.

The Kennedy collection has grown to 80 volumes. Blackwell, who is in the advertising and display business, estimates that he spends three or four nights a week working on the collection and the lengthy correspondence required to compile it.

BESIDES OVER 4,000 original photographs of the late President, the collection includes many doc-

uments which include a letter in Kennedy's handwriting and a photograph autographed by Jacqueline Kennedy. It includes such objects as the patch of the honor guard at Kennedy's funeral, a piece of the black cloth used on the caisson at his funeral, photostatic copies of the indictments for the arrests of Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby.

Blackwell became interested in John F. Kennedy as a public figure of great magnetism when he began to step into the national limelight. He wrote for campaign material and gradually acquired an assortment of it. Through Kennedy's administration as president, Blackwell received correspondence from Pierre Salinger, press secretary; Evelyn Lincoln, JFK's personal secretary, and Mrs. Kennedy's staff.

The president's assassination in Dallas brought personal sadness to Blackwell and many pages to his collection. He has letters and auto-

graphs from many individuals who played some role in Kennedy's last few hours and death. For instance, he has obtained the signatures of Father Oscar L. Huber, C.M., and Father James Thompson, C.M., who were called to administer the last rites to President Kennedy. Fr. Thompson sent Blackwell an autographed copy of his book entitled "Around One O'Clock."

Blackwell's favorite souvenir a PT-109 tie clasp, a gift from the late President's brother, Senator Robert Kennedy after viewing Blackwell's collection with Senator Birch Bayh. (He has corresponded at some length with both Bobby and Ted Kennedy in compiling his collection.)

A SMALL SITTING room in Blackwell's home is piled high with the volumes of the Kennedy collection. His favorite photographs of the late president adorn the wall. He obviously treasures the collection, which represents uncounted hours of work for him, but wants to share it with other Americans, especially boys and girls who may be inspired by the Kennedy legend. Information about his collection may be obtained by writing Donald B. Blackwell at PO Box 2702, Station D, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46808.

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Thank you —*

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