

Oh, My God---He's Dead'

By JOE THORNTON

Did Lee H. Oswald murder the President of the United States? If so, did he have an accomplice?

The persistent uncertainty was voiced repeatedly Sunday around the site where the President was slain.

"Oh, my God," a well-dressed woman said when she first heard of Oswald's death over a portable radio. "He's dead and they didn't get anything out of him."

An old man with a bent back shuffled to the wreathes lying on the ground at the assassination scene near the Triple Underpass and placed a handful of home-grown roses at the site.

"I'm an old man," said Perry Miller of 6334 Belgrade, "and this is all I can do. I prayed. And I thought I should bring the best flowers I had. I will still pray. I'm so confused."

The site is bounded by Elm and Main and directly in front of the County Courthouse where Oswald was to have been transferred from his maximum security City jail cell. The hundreds of people there Sunday were quiet—almost prayerful—as they milled around listening to portable radios scattered throughout the crowd.

"Is he dead yet?" someone asked.

When the radio flashed word that Oswald had died, the word spread quickly among the crowds.

"Lord, have mercy," a Negro mother prayed aloud. "He was bad, but don't let him die."

A man mumbled "Sure hope he doesn't die so he can tell his story."

"Way I see it," said a Grand Prairie man, "that man (who shot Oswald) either hated him so bad that he had to shoot him

or he didn't want him to talk."

"Yeah, ain't nobody gonna convict him."

James Frazer of 3237 Moon Drive, Mesquite, said he "wished Oswald could have given more information" so that "we could know once and for all. His death, like the others, is so in vain."

An Ohio man on his first business trip to Dallas said he blamed the police for publicizing the move.

"Why couldn't they have moved him in secret, and late at night?" he asked. "It would have been so much safer. I didn't blame the police for the President's death, because I think they did all they could, but I'm not sure about this."

People took pictures of their families standing behind the white-flowered cross erected in memory of President Kennedy by

the men of St. Bernard's Catholic Church.

A vendor sold copies of Friday's and Saturday's newspapers for a quarter apiece.

And little children played in the grassy park unaware of the third death in a violent weekend.

"This death, like the others, is so sad," said an Army sergeant, returning to his duty station in Sondrestrom, Greenland.

"It seems unbelievable," he said, "but at the same time it's so final."

The television service trucks parked in front of the County Courthouse served as tragic reminders that Oswald had not been transferred from one jail to another.

Instead, he was transferred from a jail to a hospital to a morgue, even as the man he was accused of murdering lay in state in the nation's Capitol.