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# Services Held at Site of Kennedy's Shooting

## Some Attending Rites Were Present When President Was Fatally Hit 3 Years Ago

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Times Staff Writer

DALLAS—In the shadow of the Texas School Book Depository a privately sponsored memorial service to President John F. Kennedy was conducted near two newly fixed plaques Tuesday on the third anniversary of his assassination here. About 300 persons attended.

Mayor Erik Jonsson placed a wreath of roses near the plaques on behalf of the city earlier in the day, but did not attend the ceremony. However, other public officials were on hand and members of the Dallas City Council led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Among those present were persons who had seen President Kennedy three years ago Tuesday or who played a role in the aftermath of the assassination when the color and fanfare of a tumultuous motorcade changed abruptly to panic and shock.

### Member of Cloth

The priest who administered the last rites to the President was there as was the mayor who greeted Mr. Kennedy when the Presidential party arrived in Dallas. Three members of the Texas Boys Choir who had sung for the President on the morning of his death and an elderly Negro man who had taken a half day off from work to see the President were also present.

Across one street from where two bronze plaques commemorating the assassination were placed only last week is the brick

School Book Depository from which assassin Lee Harvey Oswald mortally wounded the President. Across another street from the plaques is the jail where Jack Ruby, who shot and killed Oswald in the Dallas Police Depart-

ment building, has been held three years.

The weather Tuesday was mostly gloomy, except for an occasional burst of sunshine.

Wreaths and bouquets had been placed in front of the two plaques, located about 25 yards from the spot where Mr. Kennedy was shot. During the simple half-hour ceremony, the crowd listened silently as a Presbyterian minister, a rabbi and a Roman Catholic priest paid tribute to the late President.

Some of the spectators wept. Others snapped pictures of the ceremony and in some buildings near the assassination site spectators viewed the ceremony from windows.

### Sponsored Privately

The ceremony was sponsored by the Committee for a Kennedy Assassination Site Memorial, a pri-



The Rev. Oscar Huber  
UPI Wirephoto

were fired from a sixth-floor window near the southeast corner of the Texas School Book Depository Building, Elm and Houston, a block north of this marker. President Kennedy expired at Parkland Memorial Hospital at 1 p.m. The John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Plaza is nearby, bounded by Main, Record, Market and Commerce Sts."

### Work Started

The Memorial Plaza, to be constructed, still is a barren block and work is just started on building an underground garage there.

One of those who came to pay tribute to the President's memory was the elderly Negro man who said he had taken half a day off

vate organization.

One of the two plaques is a relief map of the buildings and streets, diagramming the assassination. The other states:

"On Nov. 22, 1963, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, visited Dallas. A Presidential parade traveled North on Houston St. to Elm St. As the parade continued on Elm St. at

12:30 p.m., rifle shots wounded the President and Texas Gov. John Connally. Findings of the Warren Commission indicated that the rifle shots

from work three years ago to see the President.

"I was at the Trade Mart waiting for the President and his wife to arrive," he said. "Then we got the news there had been a delay. Then they told us the President had been shot. It hit me pretty hard. Everyone just got up and left

and didn't know what to do."

Many of the bouquets near the two plaques carried inscriptions such as "You are still with us Mr. President" and "In Memory of our loving President John F. Kennedy."

The Rev. Oscar Huber, pastor of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Dallas, who administered the last rites to the President three years ago, said the crowds have been getting bigger at each anniversary.

But Father Huber said he thinks the city should not have waited so long to

place the plaques near the site.

"I think it would have lessened some of the feeling about the assassination if the plaques had been put here right after the assassination," he said.

A spectator at the ceremony, Rep. Earle Cabell (D-Tex.), who was mayor when the late President came to Dallas, said there had been controversy about the plaques.

Some persons did not want the plaques, he said, while others wanted to mention in the inscription something about a certain segment of the

Dallas population" (presumably the extreme right wing) and that others wanted to include some of the city's past history. *SM*