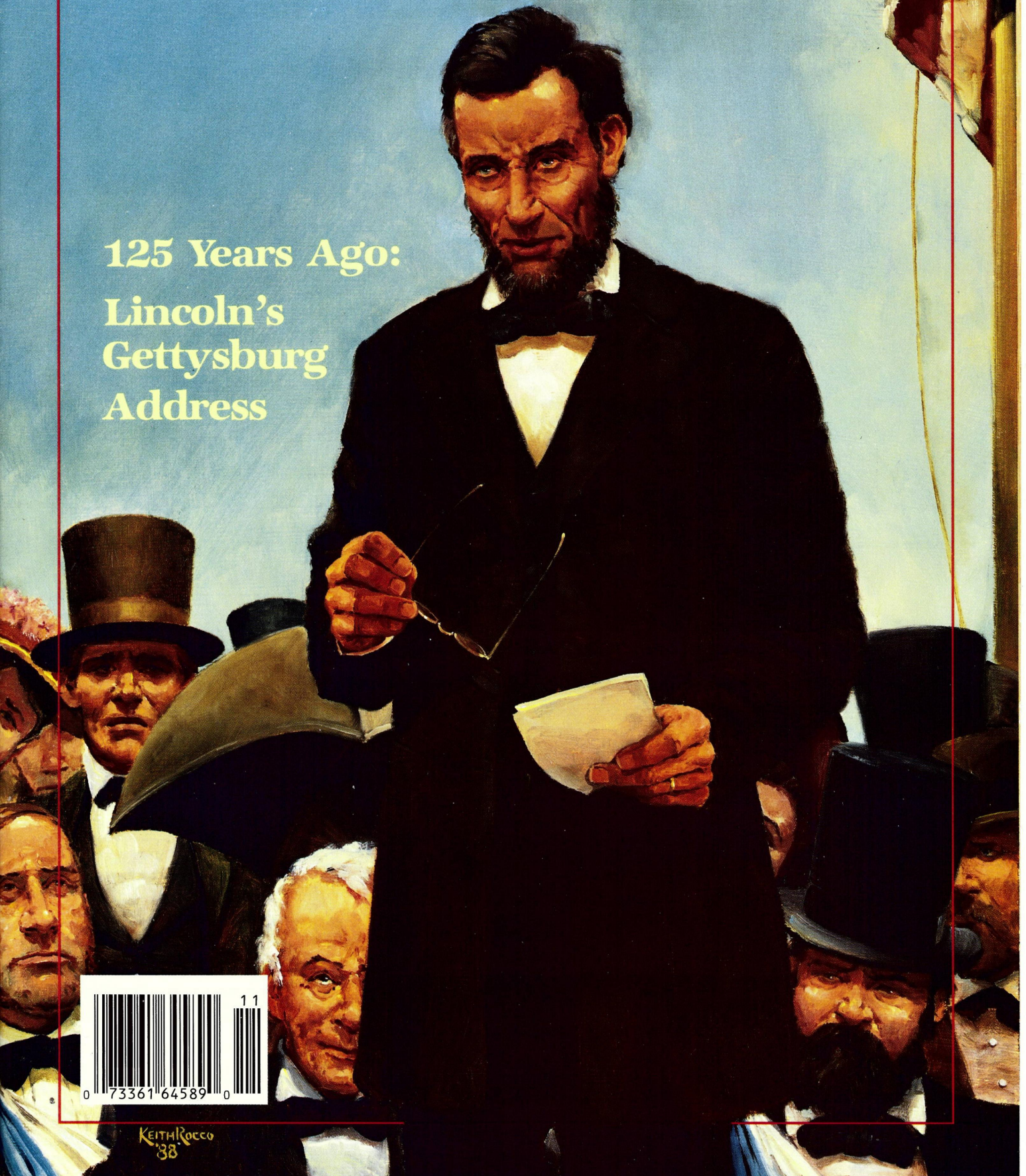


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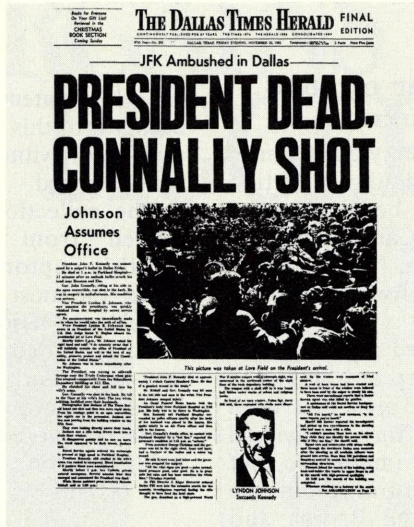
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# Editor's Desk



**N**O ONE OLD ENOUGH to recall November 22, 1963, will ever forget the universal shock and bewilderment that accompanied President John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, Texas, and the events of the days that followed.

For those who were eyewitnesses to various aspects of those tragic days in Texas twenty-five years ago, the memories have persisted with special clarity.

To capture at first-hand what it meant to be at the scene of those events, writer Edward Oxford recently traveled to Dallas for *American History Illustrated*. There he retraced the route of President Kennedy's motorcade, examined the interior of the former Texas School Book Depository, and studied the setting of adjacent Dealey Plaza. He went by taxi and on foot over the escape route supposedly followed by accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, and he stood at the scene where police officer J.D. Tippit was shot.

Oxford sat in the seat in the Texas Theatre where Oswald had been sitting when he was captured, walked down the ramp into the basement of City Hall to the spot where Jack Ruby shot Oswald, and visited Parkland Hospital—where President Kennedy, Oswald, and, in time, Ruby were pronounced dead.

Finally, Oxford patiently sought out and interviewed some thirty witnesses to the events in Dallas. His narrative—and their vivid recollections—describing one of the most significant, tragic, and still-puzzling episodes in American history appears on pages 12-27 of this issue.

A frequent contributor to *American History Illustrated*, New York City-based Ed Oxford retired several years ago from one career as a writer for Bell Telephone publications to begin another as a free-lance writer. Possessed of integrity, curiosity, and a deep interest in the human side of historical events, he has visited the scenes of numerous such events and has met many of the people who experienced them. Oxford's articles in past issues of this magazine have included biographies of Irving Berlin and George Eastman, and narratives of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the sinking of the *Titanic*, the making of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, the Great Blizzard of 1888, and Orson Welles' 1938 radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*. We look forward to sharing more of his fine articles with you in future issues. ★

**Ed Holm**

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Love Field, near Dallas, Texas: at a few minutes before noon on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy, his wife Jacqueline, Texas Governor John Connally, and Connally's wife Nellie (not shown) await the start of the motorcade that will take them through Dallas to the city's Trade Mart, where Kennedy is to deliver a speech. But events beyond the President's knowledge and control are in motion, and he has less than an hour to live.

For an article based on recent interviews with numerous eyewitnesses to the tragic events that changed American history twenty-five years ago this month, turn to page 12.