

Thousands gather at *Impromptu ceremonies in Dallas mark 25th*

By MARK GODICH
Associated Press

DALLAS — Thousands of people gathered in Dealey Plaza on Tuesday, bringing flowers, silently praying and remembering the day 25 years ago when President John F. Kennedy was killed as his limousine passed the spot.

"We are here because this is an important place in Dallas, an important place in history, what happened here 25 years ago," said schoolteacher Jean Hill, who was also at the site on Nov. 22, 1963.

"Although this was a traumatic event, I want them to feel they are a part of America's history," said

Hill, who brought about 50 youngsters to the scene. "Also, I want my kids to know it does not take violence of any kind to bring about change and that they themselves can be instruments of change and it can be good."

Dallas held no official ceremony to mark the anniversary of Kennedy's death at 12:30 p.m., but 2,500 people filled the downtown plaza where the president was shot as he waved to crowds from the back of an open limousine.

About 20 people clasped hands in a loose chain along the motorcade route. Someone put a crucifix and two bouquets on Elm Street at the approximate point where Ken-

nedy was hit. A note on one said, "We still miss you — Nov. 22." Another said, "After 25 years, we still love you, John." Traffic backed up as cars pulled into different lanes on the one-way, three-lane street to avoid hitting the impromptu memorial.

Alvin Marin, 52, said the cross he placed in the street was the same one he grasped upon hearing of Kennedy's death 25 years ago.

"It's just something to remember him by," Marin said. "This is very emotional."

A few knelt in prayer in the stone memorial to Kennedy a few blocks away, while others snapped pictures of the memorial and the

assassination site

anniversary of Kennedy's death

Texas School Book Depository Building, where police found Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle.

Members of the Kennedy family observed the anniversary in mostly private services. They have asked people to mark his birthday on May 29 instead of his assassination.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis attended a private Mass in New York City along with her son, John, and daughter, Caroline. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., put a white rose on a monument honoring his brother in Runnymede, England.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the late

president's sister, visited his grave and that of her brother Robert, at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and said she hopes people remember "the high points of his life, the laughter and the vision."

While people walked in the plaza below, reporters got a rare glimpse through the window on the sixth floor of the book depository building where Oswald was believed to have fired the fatal shots.

That floor, now in a county office building, rarely has been opened. It is being converted to a museum by the Dallas County Historical Foundation and is expected to open Feb. 20, President's Day.