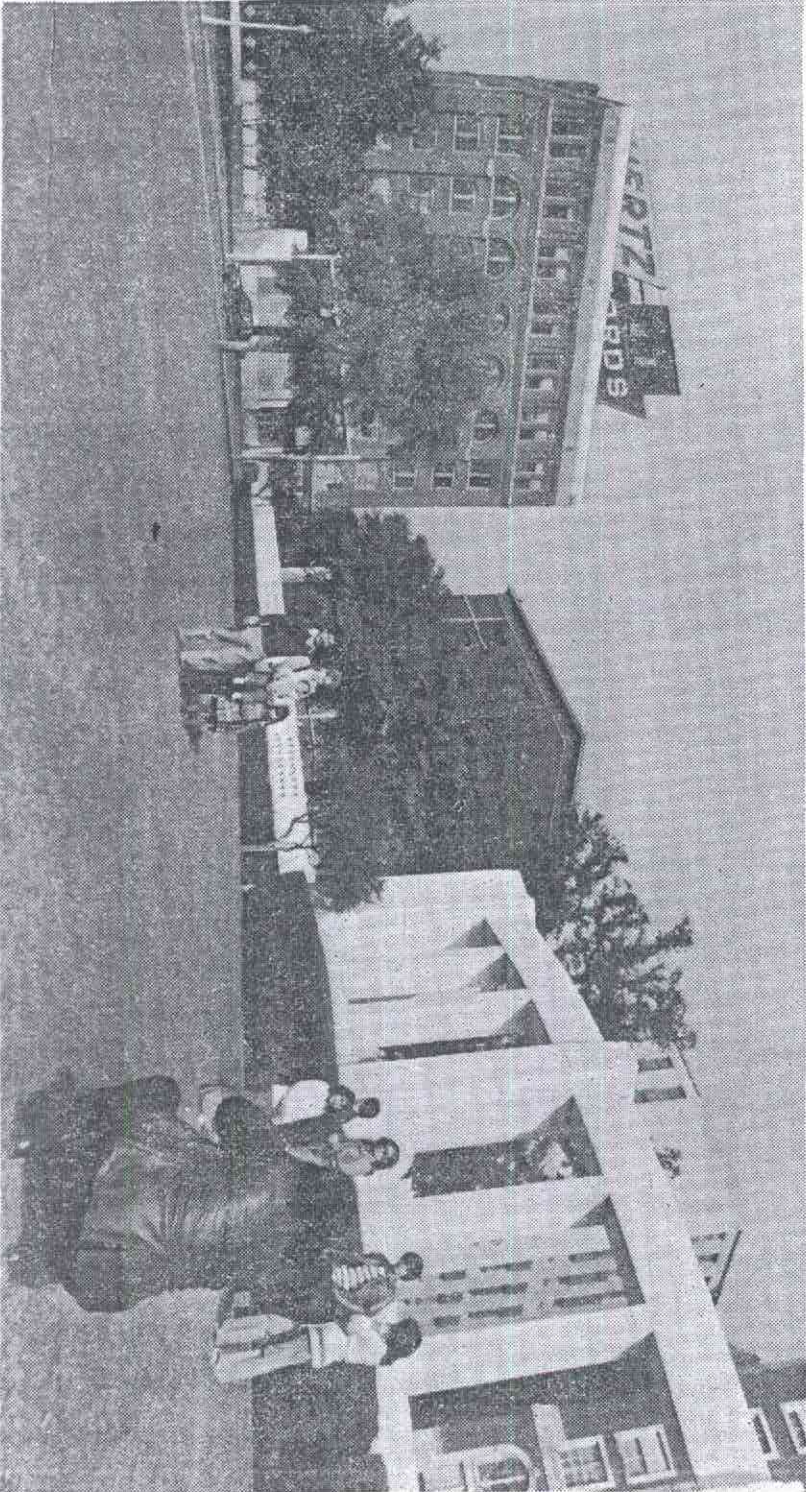

Local

*Editorials / Viewpoint
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Foreign visitors have their picture made at assassination site on eve of 14th anniversary.

Dallas News staff photo by Ed Lallo

Doubters of 'lone-gun theory' to note JFK death

By TOM BELDEN

The winds of a typical pre-Thanksgiving cold front blew down the "grassy knoll" of Dealey Plaza and kicked up bits of trash in the gutter along Elm Street.

The weather was quite similar, and the rifle fire blanked out the cheers of a throng gathered on the same spot 14 years ago.

The wave of tourists that sometimes still flow over the plaza area and stop to gape at the sixth floor window of the old Texas School Book Depository seldom come on a bustling day like Monday.

But a visitor to this infamous street corner, perhaps the most thoroughly studied place in the land, can find individuals troubled yet by the dream-shattering moment of the shooting of President John F. Kennedy.

An official memorial service marking the assassination date will take place at noon Tuesday two blocks

away at the Kennedy Memorial. At that same moment, doubters of the official version of who killed the president will gather in Dealey Plaza.

Among those in the plaza will be three young men who do not accept that Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963, by a lone assassin — Lee Harvey Oswald.

Two of them, 25-year-old Rick Anderson and 26-year-old John Counsell, drove non-stop from their hometown of Minneapolis, using vacation time from their jobs, to be here. They were joined Monday by LARRY HARRIS, 25, of Dallas, a free-lance writer who has studied the evidence and does not believe Oswald acted alone or even was involved deeply.

"My firm belief is that Lee Harvey Oswald is innocent," Harris said. "I think it's the greatest miscarriage of justice in history."

But Harris, who said he had testified before the U.S. House of Representatives committee probing the John and

Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. assassinations, said he is heartened by the committee's work.

"I'm more optimistic than I have ever been," he said. "The investigators (for the committee) are extremely serious and are doing their homework."

An 11-year-old grade school student in Garland at the time of Kennedy's death, Harris said his doubts arose after reading the 26 volumes of the Warren Commission Report, which named Oswald as the killer, and numerous other works on the subject.

"I still come here about once a week," he said. "I talk to tourists frequently and the overwhelming majority believe there was a conspiracy. But they also say, 'What can you do about it, 13-14 years later?'"

Before Monday, Harris did not know Anderson and Counsell, but the two got in touch with the Dallas man because they were familiar with the writing he has done on the assassination.

Anderson is a member of the Minnesota Action Council for Political Assassination Disclosure and said he frequently speaks and presents a slide show on the contradictory evidence of the cases.

"There are scores of witnesses that the Warren Commission never interviewed," he said. "The truth is simply not out."

Anderson believes the House committee investigation could answer many questions about the assassinations, or dispel doubts if it determines Oswald acted alone.

Anderson said his first visit to Dallas was last year, at 6 a.m. on a Sunday, and he was the only person in the plaza.

"It was a very eerie feeling, with the sun just coming up," he said. "After all the years, all of the sudden I'm standing on the grassy knoll. I thought it made sense that this place was chosen for an assassination. It's so compact, it's a perfect site."