Nation/world

lming 'JFK' replays a painful moment in histor

By Paul Weingarten Chicago Tribune

nedy was assassinated. and the site where John F. Kenempty on Main near Houston convertible, stood motionless and DALLAS—The presidential motorcade, led by the midnight blue 1963 Lincoln Continental Street, seconds away from the Texas School Book Depository

of Dallas again by movie director sidewalk to gawk. It was a surreal scene, a moment plucked out of Oliver Stone. time and deposited on the streets A crowd gathered on the

re-enact the events of Nov. 22, Dallas has been transformed into a movie set, barricaded against square-block section of downtown his latest motion picture, tenta-tively titled "JFK." A four-Dallas history. traffic and tourists so the film This week Stone began filming the most infamous day in

of Stone's recreation of Dallas in cameras and admiring the details snapping pictures, wielding video clustered at several blockaded As cameras and extras were po-sitioned, hundreds of onlookers locations on surrounding streets,

Assignment:

Dallas

agents. There was even a fresh pository because it had rained the parked near the School Book Despattering of ersatz mud on cars ible bristling with Secret Service police motorcycles; the shiny black Cadillac Fleetwood convertstolid Texas School Book Deposination's collective memory: the white images scorched into the day of the assassination. tory; the squat, white-trimmed Here were the vivid black-and

meeting to visit the set. "It's sort of like a bereayement process; people have feelings to work through." Thomas Bryden, a hospital social work director from New York who skipped a convention "It's really eerie, isn't it?" said

also shown that Dallas today is a far different place than "The City of Hate," as it was dubbed after would rather forget, but it has sturred memories some in Dallas the assassination. In those days, The filming has once again

critics charged that right-wing exsphere of hate and violence that led to the assassination. tremists had created an atmo-

sitory, now a Dallas County office of the former School Book Depoafter a decadelong battle, a musewith the trauma. Two years ago, Kennedy. sin, fired the shots that killed tial commission as the lone assas-Oswald, identifiéd by a presidenbuilding. It was from a window on that floor that Lee Harvey um was opened on the sixth floor Now the city has begun to cope

was Dallas film producer Martin Jurow. He called Stone a "provo-cateur" and worried that Dallas prevailed. would once again "be accused" in sioners. One who opposed Stone sixth-floor sniper's perch, he was the-scenes lobbying, Stone finally the film. But after some behindrebuffed twice by county commisget. When director Stone asked for permission to film at the Some would still prefer to for-

were testing their sound effects. Back on the set, shots erupted in the distance. The engineers

plode in two places at the touch of a button. The head stood up-They tested the hydraulics repeatright on the ground, hydraulic rigged an artificial head to exspecial-effects technicians had A block away, in a parking lot,

mous Zapruder film of the assaswounds at the back of the head, edly, blood spurting from two

other asked a few seconds later.

The movie stars Costner as em-

"Is Kevin Costner around?" the

"Look! Ewwww!" one said

Two young women stopped to watch the head explode.

sination.

short-sleeved shirts and short

fedoras and skinny ties,

white

secrecy about the plot, crowded the streets. They wore dark

Hundreds of extras, all sworn to

dy. The script is secret, but Stone has said the film will examine varbans had conspired to kill Kennethe CIA, FBI and anti-Castro Cu-Atty. Jim Garrison, who believed battled New Orleans District

ious assassination theories.

raincoats, beehive hairdos and Aine dresses.

then-mayor's wife, Dearie Cabell. pillbox hat. She was playing the pearls and a matching velvet bronze-colored three-piece suit, Pamela Farrell, dressed in a "It brings back memories," said

moments before he was shot store. Farrell, then 14, had screamed, "Mr. President!" to attract Kenwaved to her, she recalled, floor window of her father's shoe nedy's attention from the second-On the day of the assassination The president smiled