

Nov. 22, 1963

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Nov 22 1963

Readers Recall Day JFK Killed in Dallas

By MICHAEL COUSINEAU
Union Leader Staff

Frank Wilson received the news just as he was leaving a New Mexico Air Force base. During their drive to check on nuclear missile sites, he and a technician "discussed a plan of action if the mushroom clouds started to blossom or if we saw our missiles rising up from the silos."

Bruce MacDougall heard just before he took his driver's test. The 16-year-old was given an easy exam and received his license.

Jane Roberts told the sad news to a high school teacher, who "promptly chastised me, telling me in no uncertain terms what a terrible person I was for making up such a story." But it was no joke.

These three recalled where they were and what they were doing when they heard that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

More than 125 people submitted recollections to The Union Leader, their accounts a mixture of sadness and anguish, fear and anxiety.

Stories, Pages 4 and 5

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The day remains permanently etched in the minds of many New Hampshire residents, whether they were in Antarctica or Japan, Germany or New
JFK REMEMBERED, Page 5

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Hampshire. They might have been attending school, like Roberts of Manchester, or serving in the military, like Wilson of Portsmouth, or trying to grow up, like MacDougall of East Hebron.

For Laura Hayden, it was a day of death and a day of rebirth.

"Although the assassination of John F. Kennedy was a very tragic day in history, it is also the day my life began," she wrote. Born five days earlier, she waited for her adoptive parents to pick her up when they heard the news. "JFK will always be a special man to me," she said.

In 1963, the Cold War still raged and CNN wasn't available in any American homes.

R. Woolsey of Bethlehem was on perimeter watch at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba. He stood with an empty M-14 about 100 yards from Cubans, only a fence separating them. "I'm still surprised that there was no war

with Cuba . . .," he said.

Mrs. Frederick Glaser of Concord remembers that she and her late husband, an attache at the American Embassy in London, were attending a party. Upon the news, "almost immediately, everyone left."

William J. Eachus of Bradford was working for ITT World Communications, monitoring the "Hot Line" — actually a teletype printer channel with transmissions encoded — between Moscow and Washington. "We were accustomed to the normal test transmission but when, for the first time since its installation, messages were exchanged we wondered what was going on in the world," Eachus said.

"The announcement of Kennedy's assassination was withheld from the public for some 20

minutes, and those 20 minutes were the longest 20 minutes in the lives of those of us watching the Hot Line."

Martin Hewson of Pittsburg, then a U.S. Immigrations investigator, remembers driving to Coney Island, N.Y., and a car striking a parked car. The driver jumped out, screaming: "The President has been shot."

George Iverson recalled that at the time he was a state police sergeant and was told to collect some civilian clothes and report to Lamie's Tavern in Hampton. He found out former President Eisenhower and Mrs. Eisenhower were at Lamie's visiting their grandson at Exeter Academy. "Apparently, this action was in the event that the shooting was linked to a possible conspiracy," the Hampton resident said.

Mary Gikas of Bedford was teaching in Alexandria, Va. She rushed to the teacher next door whose husband was a Secret Service agent on duty with Kennedy's motorcade. "Paula and I rushed to her apartment where she received a call from Dallas from her distraught husband," Gikas said.

Scott Hamlin, then a third-grader at a small Maine school, found his principal shedding tears. "The next day I read the daily newspaper for the first time. I've read newspapers every day since then," the Manchester resident said.

Finally, William Cushing Jr. of North Woodstock was at work in West Franklin. "The plant closed at the news," he wrote. Both his children — JoAnne, then 14, and Alan, 6, — were born on Nov. 22. "They did not want a birthday party that night because of the bad news."

"Oh my God, they have shot my husband"

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy



THE
ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT
JOHN
FITZGERALD
KENNEDY

November 22, 1963 CHRONOLOGY

11:40 a.m.: Kennedy arrives Dallas' Love Field.
11:50 a.m.: Motorcade starts.
12:30 p.m.: President's limousine turns onto Elm St. and Kennedy is shot.
12:33 p.m.: Oswald leaves Texas School Book Depository, passes Robert MacNeil of NBC.
1:00 p.m.: Kennedy declared dead at Parkland Hospital.
1:15 p.m.: Oswald murders Officer J.D. Tippit.
1:22 p.m.: Oswald's rifle found.
1:50 p.m.: Oswald seized after scuffle in Texas Theater.
2:15 p.m.: President's casket loaded onto Air Force One.
2:38 p.m.: Lyndon Johnson sworn in as president on plane.
Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963
11:21 p.m.: Jack Ruby shoots Oswald, televised on NBC.
1:07 p.m.: Oswald dies at Parkland Hospital.

AP

Nov. 22, 1963: Where

THE UNION LEADER, Manchester, N.H. -

November 22, 1993

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Were You?

It Was a Tense Ride to the Missile Silos

The news came just as I was leaving my office at Walkers AFB, N.M., to accompany a technician to one of the Atlas F Nuclear Missile sites 35 miles away to monitor maintenance of a critical component of the launch system. Having participated in the deadly serious war preparations the previous year for the Cuban missile crisis, we had no way of knowing if the attack on the President was a prelude to all-out war. The vehicle had no radio so we were "in the dark" all the way to the missile site. We discussed a plan of action if the mushroom clouds started to blossom or if we saw our missiles rising up from their silos. It was a tense afternoon and an extremely sad evening for a young lieutenant and sergeant.

FRANK S. WILSON, Lt. Col.
USAF, Ret.
Portsmouth

'What a Shame About Your President'

My late husband, Frederick an Attachè at the American Embassy in London and I were attending a party on Nov. 22, 1963. The festive occasion had only begun when a waiter came to us and said "What a shame about your President." He told us what had happened. We informed the hosts. An announcement was made. We were all in shock and stood together in disbelief. Almost immediately everyone left.

MRS. FREDERICK E. GLASER
Concord

This Soldier Was on Duty in Ethiopia

I was 20 years old and on military leave in the small village of Cheren, Ethiopia, when word of President Kennedy's assassination reached me at about 9 p.m. (Africa time) on the night of Nov. 22.

Assigned to the Army branch of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service network as a staff announcer for KANU radio and television at Kagnew Station

in Asmara, Ethiopia, I voluntarily returned to my post the following morning, and for the next 36 hours, helped to prepare and broadcast news of this tragic event to U.S. military personnel and to the citizens living in that region of the world.

NORMAN R. ST. HILAIRE
Public Information Office
NH Dept. of Safety
Concord

A German Waitress Came Over, Crying

Having recently arrived in 1963 as an elementary teacher for Army dependents, I was enjoying dinner at a small restaurant in Schwabisch Gmund, Germany, when the waitress came to my table, crying. Not able to understand German very well yet, but

because she was so upset, I quickly went back to base to hear the sad news from fellow-teachers. This small town flew German flags at half-mast for a long time as Germans grieved with us.

GAIL BARKER
Hooksett

Writer Was Born at Plattsburg That Day

Although the assassination of John F. Kennedy was a very tragic day in history, it is also the day my life began. I was born on Plattsburg Air Force Base on Nov. 17, 1963 and put up for adoption. On Nov. 22 as my new parents were en-route to pick me up they heard the news over the car radio. My new dad who directed the NY Bar Association at the

time was quite a fan of John F. Kennedy. I remember when I was young, him remarking to me that I was a JFK baby and he said it was a day where a great life was lost and a great life gained. I'll never forget those words on how much I love my dad for saying them. JFK will always be a special man to me.

LAURA K. HAYDEN

It Was Early in the Morning in Japan

I was in the U.S. Army stationed in the most northern island of Japan. I was with the 1st Cavalry Division.

It was to my memory approximately 5 or 6 a.m. when our 1st Sgt. awoke us and told us President Kennedy was killed. We were immediately placed on full

alert and reported to the pre-arranged location for any type of alert. The location we were at, on a clear day we could see Russian-held islands.

LEO ST. CYR SFC
USA Retired
Derry

Heading for a Troopship Back to the U.S.

A West German civilian train porter, in tears, mumbled, "Ken-dee dead ..." into the doorway of our compartment as we U.S. soldiers traveled towards Bremerharven, Germany to board a troopship back to the U.S. at about 8 p.m. on Nov. 22, 1963. None of us knew what to make of the statement and we had no way of finding out. I didn't sleep well that night. As we gathered to board our ship the

next morning, a U.S. Army major addressed our large group. He lost his composure as he said, "You might not have heard the news ... President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas yesterday ..."

The next 10 days we were at sea and heard no more news. Many of us were worried that the United States had gone to war.

ROGER H. SMALL
Newport

A Car Passed and Struck a Parked Car

On Nov. 22, 1963, my partner and I (we were both US Immigration investigators) were on duty in Brooklyn, N.Y. We were driving out to Coney Island in search of illegal aliens. We had stopped for a red light when a car passed us and struck a parked car. The

driver, a woman jumped out screaming, "The President has been shot." We called in on our radio and the story was acknowledged. This memory in the way it happened will always be with me.

MARTIN HEWSON
Pittsburg

Heard of the Shooting on German Radio

I heard of the shooting on the German Radio while stationed in Berlin, Germany. I had just left the post exchange cafeteria and I drove back and notified a couple of guys that were newscasters on our Armed Forces Radio Television Network. At first they didn't

believe me, but then they rushed out and reported to their station. The Berliners were devastated as he had recently been there and stated "Ich Bein Ein Berliner."

RONALD SHAW
Ashland

Stationed With 'Seabees' at Guantanamo

Nov. 22, 1963 Guantanamo Bay, Naval Base, Cuba. I was stationed there with the "Seabees," Mobile Construction Battalion One. As I stood perimeter watch that night, I could see the Cubans, perhaps only a 100 yards away beyond the fence. I wondered what I would do if they started shooting. I had no bullets for my M14. Then the

sergeant-at-arms came on his nightly rounds and issued me about 100 rounds of live ammo. I'm still surprised that there was no war with Cuba following the assassination, but of course at that time I had hardly even heard of Vietnam.

R. WOOLSEY
Bethlehem

Thought, at First, It Was a Crude Joke

When JFK was shot, I was with my family returning from Navy duty in Hawaii, and traveling to Lattimere Mines, Pa. to visit friends over the weekend. We had just finished lunch, returned to the highway, my husband driving and commented, "when will they stop making such crude re-

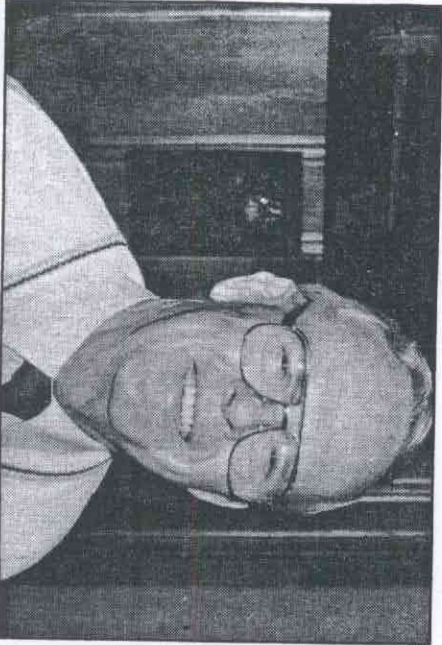
marks about President Kennedy; now the joke is that he's been shot, what next?" Shortly, it was no JOKE; we pulled off the road in total disbelief and cried. We had met him in Hawaii the previous July.

B.S. WALSH
Manchester



George Naum file photo

DOWNTOWN MANCHESTER — Most businesses in the city made Kennedy memorials in their storefronts, remembers Union Leader photographer George Naum. This particular one was made the night of the assassination in the window of Pariseau's, an Elm Street landmark which is now the Atrium, across from City Hall.



CLARENCE "KELLY" O'CONNOR
... piloting a C-119 into Dallas.

A Pilot Circles As JFK Lands

In the morning of Nov. 22, 1963 I was on a mission for the U.S. Air Force piloting a C-119 aircraft from Greiner Field to Dallas AFB, Texas, by way of McCall AFB, Fla.

Upon arriving at McCall, I was instructed to circle and hold for about an hour prior to the landing. On the ground, Operations told us that we were delayed as the President had landed before us.

After a short time we continued our mission to Dallas and upon landing we were escorted by Air Force MPs to the Operations Section which we found to be in an unusual state of security. We were not told of the President's assassination until some time later.

LT. COL. KELLY O'CONNOR, USAF Ret.
Manchester

In School

Freshman at Keene State Goes to St. Bernard's

The afternoon I was told that the President had been shot, I was a freshman at Keene State. Wanting to do something to help, I went to pray privately at St. Bernard's Catholic Church only to find it filled with many other people from many different faiths all doing the same thing.

When I returned to the college I walked down the hall of my dorm and heard on the radio President Kennedy had died. Then they played "Hail to the Chief." Whenever I hear it, I remember that moment.

GAYLE PAIGE
Manchester



GAYLE PAIGE
... found the church was filled

The School Principal Finally Sheds a Tear

Thirty years ago I was a third grader in a small school in Maine. Our principal, a woman whom we had never seen shed tears until that day, sobbed as she told us the news.

The next day I read the daily newspaper for the first time. I've read newspapers every day since then.

SCOTT HAMLIN
Manchester

A Secret Service Agent Calls Home

I was teacher in a classroom in Alexandria, Va. on that terrible day. The teacher next door to me was Paula Rendy, wife of a Secret Service agent on duty with President Kennedy's cavalcade.

School was dismissed. Paula and I rushed to her apartment where she received a call from Dallas, from her distraught husband.

MARY GIKAS
Bedford

The Class Sang 'God Bless America'

I was in sixth grade; music class just started. Mr. Wilson was called out. When he returned he was crying and informed us the President had been killed. He then played the piano as the class

sang "God Bless America." School was then let out — very emotional day as a younger.

M. WHITNEY
Hillsboro

It's the Only Memory From Third Grade

I was in third grade at school, and it's really the only early memory I have.

My teacher was called out of the room, when she came back, she had tears in her eyes, she told us all to get ready to go home early, that our President had been shot.

While walking home alone, I can remember like it was yesterday, no people were out no cars on the road, a very strange lonely feeling. I am still friends today with my third grade teacher, I am 40-something now.

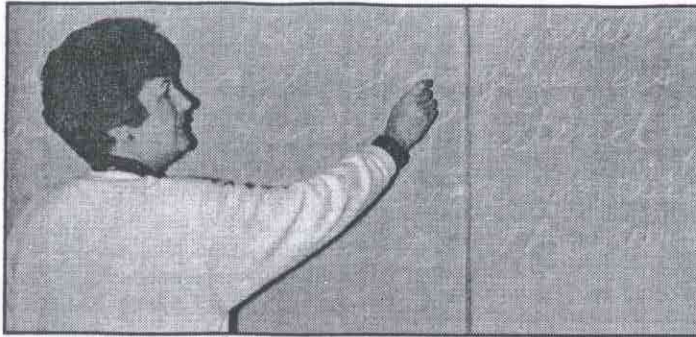
TERRI COBURN
Greenland

Knew Something Terrible Had Happened

I was in Mrs. Boomer's fourth grade class when the principal's voice came over the intercom telling what happened. I remember we kids cried, but I think we cried because we could hear the tears in the principal's voice and

also, Mrs. Boomer was crying. We barely knew what a President was. We only knew something terrible had happened.

PAM JESSURUN
Barrington



ELAINE SENNEVILLE CULLITY
... at St. George High School

The Students All Proceeded to Church

On Nov. 22, 1963, I was in Sister Jeanne Dolores' geometry class when the Principal, Sr. Jeanne Ita, informed us that the President had been shot. As a sophomore at St. George High School, classes were suspended

and we all proceeded to St. George Church to pray for the President and the country.

**ELAINE SENNEVILLE
CULLITY**
Manchester



Dale Vincent/Union Leader Photos

Upon entering the school hallway after French class my junior year, the janitor made the announcement. When I burst into my next class to inform the teacher, she promptly chastised me, telling me in no uncertain terms what a terrible person I was for making up such a story. I'll never forget.

JANE ROBERTS
Manchester

As a Sgt. in the NH State Police, I was in Thornton, NH, became aware of President Kennedy being shot from a citizen. Sometime after, I was advised to call Col. Regan. The colonel told me to go home, get three or four days' civilian clothes and report to Lamie's Tavern in Hampton. Upon reporting to Capt. Marchand, it was learned that former President Eisenhower and Mrs. Eisenhower were at Lamie's visiting their grandson at Exeter Academy. Apparently, this action was in the event that the shooting was linked to a possible conspiracy. I was part of a State Police security detail for two very gracious personalities.

GEORGE L. IVERSON

(Col. Iverson commanded the State Police 1985-1989.)
Hampton



GEORGE IVERSON
... wound up guarding a former President.

Jerry Miller photo

General Recollections

A Bell Rang, Indicating An Important News Item

I was in the newsroom of The Union Leader the day that JFK was shot. The teletype machines were rushing out reports from Dallas, many unedited in the haste of getting out updates. Soon a bell rang, indicating an important news item. JFK was dead. City Editor Walter Healy, his face white with shock and emotion, rushed up to the composing room to change the headlines on the afternoon edition. I still have a copy of that paper reporting the death of President Kennedy. I'll never forget where I was the day JFK was shot.

SHELLA COPELAND
Manchester



SHELLA COPELAND
... In the Union Leader newsroom.

In the Kitchen Kneading Bread Dough

I had just returned from spending a summer in Nova Scotia, where I had learned to make white homemade bread — so — I was in my kitchen, (and lived on

Country Pond in Kingston, N.H. at that time) KNEADING BREAD!

JANET GREEN
Jackson

From the Highest High to Lowest Low

I was taking my driver's exam for my first license! I had turned 16 a few weeks before and was anticipating this moment for years.

As I prepared to take the driving section the examiner informed me that the President had been assassinated. He gave

me an easy test and issued my license.

It is a day that I will always remember — my mood swung from the highest high to the lowest low.

BRUCE MACDOUGALL
East Hebron

A Reporter Was Covering Federal Court

On Nov. 22, 1963 — I was a reporter covering a U.S. Senate hearing on inflation in the old Federal Court House Building in Boston. Coming up in an elevator after a break, I noticed that the only other passenger, a middle-aged woman, was fighting back tears. Had someone in her family

just been convicted? Arriving at the press room, I instantly learned the reason for her distress. Within a half hour Sen. Paul Douglas had cancelled the hearing.

RICHARD H. MILLER
S. Hampton

'I Was Only 16 and Will Never Forget'

I was a nanny in Pelham, N.H. I was standing in the kitchen doing dishes, when they broke in with the news on the radio, I was

shocked and in tears, I was only 16 and will never forget.

BEVERLY WITHAM
Deerfield

Had Just Brought New Born Son Home

I recall the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated; for it was the day I had just brought my new born son, Terrence R. McGovern, home from the old Sacred Heart Hospital.

Today, he is a pressman in one of the mechanical departments of The Union Leader Corporation.

HELENE MCGOVERN
Manchester

Husband Due Home From a Long Tour

I was backing my car out of my brother-in-law's driveway in Bristol on the afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963, when I noticed my brother-in-law rushing down the road waving his arms. I stopped and he told me that President Kennedy had been shot. Later while visiting a friend, I learned the President had died. We all were silent, not believing that such a tragedy could happen. I was espe-

cially upset as my husband was due home on Nov. 23 from a 16-month tour of duty in Okinawa without his family. I was sure he would be detained. Fortunately, he came home, but I really felt guilty to feel so happy to see my husband again when the country was mourning their young President.

LINDA DENNINGHAM
Hill



My memory of that day in 1963. I was taking two of my children to Goffstown to buy shoes. I had my car radio on, and when I heard that JFK was shot, I was so upset I could hardly drive.

MARY J. ANCTIL
Manchester

Wondered Why the 'Hot Line' Was Used

At the time John Kennedy was assassinated I worked for ITT World Communications, who had the contract to install and maintain the "Hot Line" between Moscow and Washington, DC. Despite what the movies and TV show, the Hot Line was a teletype printer channel with all transmission encoded. We were accustomed to the normal test transmission but when, for the first

time since its installation, messages were exchanged we wondered what was going on in the world. The announcement of Kennedy's assassination was withheld from the public for some 20 minutes, and those 20 minutes were the longest 20 minutes in the lives of those of us watching the "Hot Line."

WILLIAM J. EACHUS,
Bradford

The Same Day Twin Sons Were Born

I was returning to my job after visiting my wife, Judi, who gave birth to twin boys, Ken and Keith, at 6:28 & 6:30 a.m. this

morning at Quincy City Hospital, Quincy, Mass.

TONY WYNANDS
New Boston

The Plant Closed at the News

I was at work in West Franklin. The plant closed at the news.

My daughter, JoAnne, was 14 years old on that day. My son Alan was six years old on that

day. They did not want a birthday party that night because of the bad news.

WILLIAM CUSHING JR.
No. Woodstock



The rifle

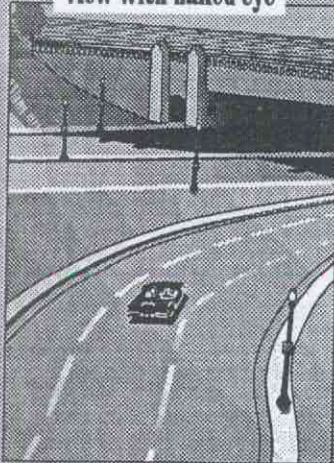
Using the alias "A. Hidell," Oswald purchased a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle and scope by mail order for \$21.45 eight months before the assassination. In April he fired at and missed retired Army Gen. Edwin Walker, a prominent Dallas right-winger. After the assassination, Dallas P. D. found Oswald's print on the gun barrel,

under its wooden stock. The Warren Commission concluded 2.3 seconds were needed to operate the bolt action, or 4.6 seconds to fire three shots. The commission said the time span for shooting was 4.8 to 7-plus seconds. Witnesses one floor below the assassin's perch heard Oswald operating the bolt during the shooting.

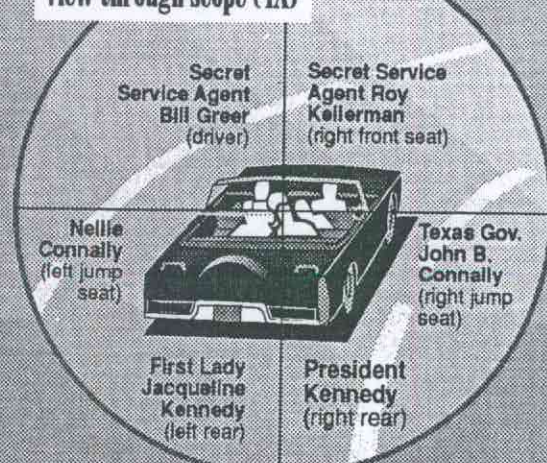


Three ejected cartridges were found on the floor by Oswald's perch. A fourth bullet was found still in the shooting chamber.

View with naked eye



View through scope (4X)



AP / Karl Gude
 THE MODIFIED 1961 Lincoln Continental convertible limousine, DC plate number GG300. Bullet damage to the inside-front windshield helped support arguments that Kennedy was shot from behind. Lack of bullet damage elsewhere in the interior supported the single-bullet theory.