

THE MEMORY ENDURES

30 years later, many
still affected by JFK

By Curtis Wilkie
GLOBE STAFF

Three decades after his death, the influence of John F. Kennedy lives on, a triumph of style over an uncompleted presidency.

Preserved, forever in his 40s, by memorable photographs, Kennedy — who was killed on this day in 1963 — remains an inspiration for public service, an icon of political glamour.

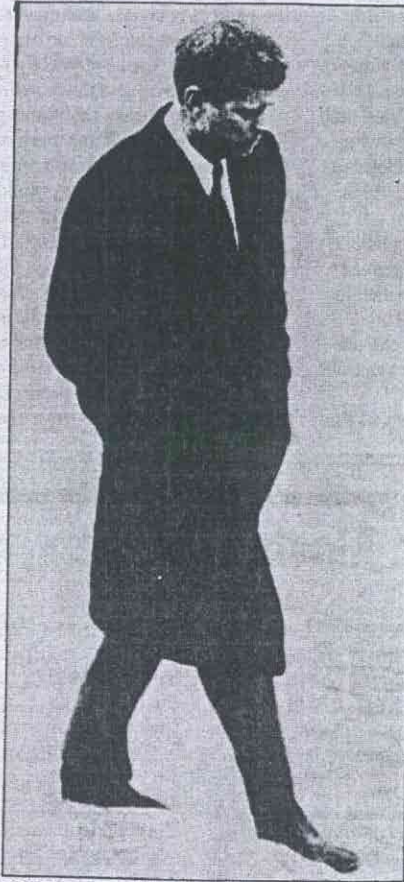
His mannerisms have been perpetuated by new generations of political leaders who emulate his slashing arm gestures when speaking, one hand resting in a coat pocket, the head tilted in an air of insouciance.

But Kennedy's imprint is evident today in more substantive ways. For the first time, the White House is occupied by a man who enthusiastically embraces the legacy after JFK's first six successors either labored under a Kennedy complex (Johnson, Nixon, Carter) or seemed oblivious to him (Ford, Reagan, Bush).

President Clinton acknowledged his direct link when he came to Boston last month for the dedication of a new museum at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library.

"He inspired millions of us to take a very personal responsibility for moving our country forward and for advancing the cause of freedom throughout the world," Clinton said. "He reminded us that our democracy at its best is a bold and daring adventure."

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JOHN F. KENNEDY
An inspiration to the current president

Boston Globe Nov 22 1993 p 1

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One of Clinton's major innovations, the National Service Corps, is patterned after the Peace Corps and based on Kennedy's inaugural call for Americans to "ask what you can do for your country."

To Eli Segal, the head of the National Service Corps, Kennedy represented "vision and energy" when he was president and Segal was in college. "He was identified with the idea that public service was a noble calling," Segal said. "I remember feeling that the Peace Corps was not a government program, but about people, movement and special things to get done."

"That's what I want to make our program feel like."

Although Clinton keeps busts of Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt - the men he considers the greatest presidents - in the Oval Office, he has often talked about how Kennedy's *savoir faire* drew him into politics.

Clinton paid homage to Kennedy in a very private way in the midst of turmoil that threatened his own campaign during the New Hampshire primary nearly two years ago. The Arkansan quietly slipped away one day to go to the Kennedy Library and meet with two former Kennedy aides, David F. Powers, the library's curator, and Charles U. Daly, the director of the library and the Kennedy Foundation.

"He just wanted to talk about Kennedy," Daly recalled. "As he was leaving, he ran into a busload of kids from God knows where, and he began reminiscing with them about how he had met him."

Later in the campaign, Clinton took advantage of film his campaign workers found at the Kennedy Library, a few seconds showing his encounter as a high school senior with Kennedy in the Rose Garden during the 1963 Boys Nation convention. It was like a laying-on of hands.

There are parallels between Kennedy and Clinton: quick-witted, youthful Democrats, elected with less than 50 percent of the vote, taking office with a member of the family as closest counselor and having an ambitious agenda quickly sidetracked by crises overseas that exposed management failures.

Despite his flaws as president,

Kennedy still has a hold on millions of Americans, like Clinton, who were young in the 1960s - and on millions not old enough to remember him.

"There's no question in my mind that something remains that excites young people," said Richard E. Neustadt, a presidential scholar and professor emeritus at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. "To an astonishing degree, considering it was only a three-year presi-

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RICHARD E. NEUSTADT
Kennedy School of Government

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Neustadt, who served as an adviser to Kennedy, feels that his early death contributed to the mystique. "There was so much promise and it was cut off so dramatically, and then the aura of tragedy around his family built and built. It's the stuff of great mythology."

Yet Kennedy was a romantic figure when he was alive, a war hero, wealthy and well-educated. Shortly after he won the 1960 Democratic nomination, Norman Mailer gave JFK a glowing profile in an essay called "Superman Comes to the Supermarket."

"His personal quality had a subtle, not quite describable intensity, a suggestion of dry pent heat perhaps," Mailer wrote. He compared the politician to Marlon Brando. "Kennedy's most characteristic quality is the remote and private air of a man who has traversed some lonely terrain of experience, of loss and gain, of nearness to death, which leaves him isolated from the mass of others."

During his presidency, a word

that had seldom been used in the past - "charisma" - was turned into a cliché by the newsmagazines. He and Jacqueline Kennedy suddenly seemed the embodiment of culture and vigor.

Because he scorned hats, Kennedy single-handedly transformed the way men dressed. The Kennedys lived in Georgetown before moving to the White House; as a result, an uncertain neighborhood became the most fashionable place in the capital.

Although Kennedy has a reputation, growing out of his debates with Richard Nixon, as the first president to exploit TV, Sander Vanocur, a television correspondent who covered the Kennedy campaign and presidency, said candidate Kennedy "was very diffident about TV in the campaign."

JFK eventually studied the use of the medium in the White House, but Vanocur said, "When you think about it, we remember him in still

EXTRA EXTRA
PRESIDENT SLAIN

Assassin's Bullet Fells Kennedy on Dallas Street

Agent, Officer Shot in Head, He Slumped Into Jacqueline's Lap; Texas Governor Also Hit; Lyndon Johnson Escapes

Identity, Number Of Killers Unknown Johnson Guarded, 250,000 at Scene; Car's Top Down

Agent, Officer Also Shot Dead
THE BOSTON GLOBE



DALLAS (UPI)—President Kennedy was assassinated here today.

A single shot through the right temple took the life of the 46-year-old Chief Executive. He was shot as he rode in an open car in downtown Dallas, waving and smiling to a crowd of 250,000.

Vice President Lyndon Johnson—the nation's new President—was in the same car but a number of car lengths behind. He was not hurt.

The terribly shocked Johnson, who has a record of being ill, was whisked off under heavy guard to his room in as quickly as possible as the 36th President of the United States.

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy was riding in the same car as her husband. She was not hurt. She cradled her husband's head in her arms as he was sped, dying, to the hospital.

Mr. Kennedy was shot at approximately 12:30 p.m. CST (11:30 a.m. EST) and died at approximately 1 p.m. CST (12 p.m. EST). He was the fourth U.S. President to be killed in office.

Reverend Mr. Kennedy in the earlier religious ceremony was Texas Gov. John B. Connally. He was shot in the chest. The Governor was required to receive medical aid in great pain.

Mrs. Connally, also in the car, was not hurt.

The Chief Executive, first Roman Catholic President of the United States and a Catholic in a public ceremony for 4 years, was smiling broadly as he rode through downtown streets.

There was a crowd of about 150,000 people in the area at the time of the shooting. The crowd was not completely broken.

There were reports of a man who tried to run toward the car but was stopped by police. He was being held in a police station in the city.

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SPORTS FINAL NEWS
The Boston Globe
THE BOSTON GLOBE—FRIDAY, NOV. 19, 1963

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What Is It?
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Smithwards Paralyzed News Stops City, Nation — Workers Weep Openly
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Catholic Preaches Festival Opening
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Igo's
FRANKENSTEIN DINNER
 \$1.99
ALL YOU CAN EAT
 \$1.99
Walden

The Globe reports President Kennedy's assassination 30 years ago.

pictures. He was really an old-time politician. He stands out in memory as representing the possibility of politics that could effect change."

He was the first 20th-century president with a glamorous young wife. When the Kennedys replaced the grandfatherly Dwight D. Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie, at the White House, it was a striking transition. Told that Eisenhower once professed to have "no great liking" for politics, Kennedy said: "I do have a great liking for the word 'politics.' It's the way a president gets things done."

In "President Kennedy: Profile of Power," Kennedy's newest biographer, Richard Reeves, writes: "Kennedy lived along a line where charm became power. Men and women fell in love with him. And politics, the career he had chosen, was a business that magnified charm and institutionalized personal seduction."

Long after worshipful accounts in the 1960s of his presidency by his aides, Theodore Sorensen and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., revisionist historians have begun dwelling on Kennedy's vigorous sex life and the seedier aspects of decision-making in the Kennedy White House.

Reeves' book, which moves inexorably toward Nov. 22, 1963, uses old CIA and White House cables to demonstrate that the Kennedy administration encouraged a coup in Saigon. It resulted in the assassination of President Diem and left Kennedy with blood on his hands, only three weeks before his own assassi-

nation.

It is important to remember that Kennedy served in a climate of Cold War. Although it was only three decades ago, it was a totally different time, when Americans worried about the menace of nuclear war and invested in fallout shelters. During the Kennedy administration, a Cuban brigade trying to overthrow Fidel Castro was abandoned in the Bay of Pigs, and the Berlin Wall was thrown up.

In 1962, however, Kennedy faced down the Soviet premier, Nikita S. Khrushchev, in the most dramatic event of that age, the Cuban missile crisis.

Yet Kennedy was slow to recognize the coming domestic storm over civil rights. Aware of the political peril of offending Southern Democrats, who controlled Congress in the old seniority system, he moved reluctantly to aid blacks who were denied the right to vote.

Still, most memories of Kennedy are fond ones, those of an activist president who tackled many difficult tasks.

Kennedy grew as president, Neustadt said. "He was a natural executive. He was really learning how to do it. He went in too casual about the big bureaucratic organizations, but he learned how to use them and to reassure them."

Kennedy had relished the prospect of running against Barry Goldwater in 1964 and serving a second term.