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## KNEW KENNEDY, SIRHAN--YOUTH

Student Tells of Contact  
with Bc

LA CANADA, Calif. (AP)—A 22-year-old Californian may be the only man to have known both Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and his accused assassin, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

"It shakes me up whenever I think of it," said John McGrain. "It is eerie, and seems so impossible. But I had personal contact with both and came away with vivid impressions of both."

The same quality which made McGrain befriend Sirhan, a young Jordanian immigrant, also triggered events which opened the way for him to meet and be congratulated by Robert Kennedy, then attorney general of the United States.

"I was introduced to him in Washington in February 1963 because I was president of the California Association of Student Councils. I also met President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Edward Kennedy," McGrain said.

"It's difficult to really say how I feel when I realize that I met the President and he was assassinated. Then that I should know both Sirhan and the man he's accused of assassinating."

### 'OUT OF IT'

Sirhan captured his interest, while both were in school, McGrain said, because he seemed so out of it. Robert Kennedy, he said, excited his interest because he seemed so much a part of everything.

"Robert Kennedy impressed me in a way that I'll never forget, as I'll never forget the way in which Sirhan impressed me," said McGrain.

"Kennedy was young and strong. You could feel that he had things to do, and that he knew what these things were and that he would do them. You could absolutely feel that he had the capacity to do good for our



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
JOHN McGRAIN  
Knew RFK, accused assassin.

society.

"These were the things I've admired and that I've wanted to accomplish myself. I have always wanted to be politically active and do things to shape the society."

As a student at John Muir High School in Pasadena, McGrain was involved in many activities. And it was as president of the junior class council in

1962 that he became involved with Sirhan.

### NOT MIXERS

"The kids from La Canada generally did not mix with the kids from nearby areas of Pasadena," McGrain recalled. "There was this class distinction and I felt and feel that it is wrong. I went out of my way to be friendly with Sirhan, who was a member of the class council. If we were working on some class function, such as a dance, he would be very conscientious about it."

McGrain now is a social worker active in aiding Mexican-Americans. He also is in the Graduate school at the University of Southern California, majoring in political theory.

He said that after the senator was shot June 5 and the accused assassin identified as Sirhan Sirhan, it didn't register at first.

"It seemed so impossible, it just didn't register. Then, when I heard a description of Sirhan, I knew it was him," said McGrain.

In trying to recall some of the things Sirhan accomplished in student council activities, McGrain said there was one thing he remembers which probably made Sirhan feel that he was part of things:

"Sirhan, if I remember correctly, won a prize as one of the best in the candy sale."