



The New York Times/George Tames

A man and his sons visiting the Kennedy museum center, behind a partition, is the one from which Lee Harvey Oswald shot President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Museum on Kennedy Opens in Dallas

DALLAS, Feb. 20 (Reuters) — The sixth floor of the former Texas School Book Depository, the place from which Lee Harvey Oswald shot President John F. Kennedy, was opened to the public today for the first time since the assassination 25 years ago. It has been made into a Kennedy museum with an emphasis on the events surrounding the assassination.

"The lessons of history found here will be passed, like a torch, to all generations," Judge Lee F. Jackson of Dallas County Court said at the opening ceremony for the museum.

The exhibit, authorized by the Dallas County Commissioners Court in 1987, includes 350 photographs, 30 artifacts and six film clips in the 9,000-square-foot display area. The red brick building, formerly a warehouse and distribution center for public school textbooks, now houses county government offices.

A 60-foot-high elevator tower was built beside the building so visitors can reach the museum without going through the building.

Corner Window and Cartons

Visitors can see the corner window

Visitors can see where Oswald waited for the motorcade.

where Oswald was said to have stood, balancing his \$12 mail-order rifle on a stack of book cartons when he fired the shots that killed Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Plexiglass seals off the window area. The cartons are reproductions, since the originals were taken to the National Archives in Washington.

The exhibit allows visitors to see where Oswald stood and to look for themselves at the grassy knoll, the triple underpass and the street down which the President's motorcade traveled.

Much of the exhibit is a collection of familiar memorabilia: pictures of Kennedy as a shirtless Navy lieutenant in the Pacific aboard the PT 109, John F. Kennedy Jr. saluting his father's

casket and Jack Ruby shooting Oswald.

There is also an examination of the emotionally charged atmosphere in Dallas in the months preceding the assassination.

A film clip shows a Dallas housewife hitting Adlai E. Stevenson Jr., then the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, in the lobby of the Adolphus Hotel. There is also a copy of a newspaper advertisement on the day the President arrived that bitterly attacked his record.

About 100 people attended the dedication ceremony today. Before entering the exhibit, the visitors had to pass through a security checkpoint, similar to metal detectors at airports, because the exhibit's organizers feared that the museum would elicit hostile reactions.

Many visitors described their tour of the exhibit as evoking deep emotional feelings, and one woman cried.

At the end of the tour, visitors were invited to write their comments in loose-leaf notebooks on a table.

One comment in a notebook was, "I wish I had a chance to meet President Kennedy."