

MINUTE OF PRAYER HUSHES DALLAS

Traffic Halts as City Recalls
Assassination of Kennedy

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DALLAS, Nov. 22—The large time - and - temperature sign flashed 45 degrees, then 1:00.

A man removed his big gray Western hat, held it to his chest and bowed his head. Another followed suit, then another.

A great silence came to the city. Its citizens had been requested by their Mayor to observe a minute of prayer at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

City officials did not go to the plaza. Mayor Erik Jonsson attended a memorial service later in the day at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The Roman Catholic church was filled with hundreds of persons of various faiths. A solemn requiem mass was offered for the memory of the President.

Cars Stop in Underpass

The physicians who labored in vain over the body of John F. Kennedy had pronounced him dead, of an assassin's bullets, at 1 P. M. here a year ago today.

As that—our approached today, about 200 persons gathered in Dealey Plaza, the scene of the assassination. Some had been there for hours. Others came from church services, where their ministers had recalled the memory of Mr. Kennedy in sermons and prayers. They watched the time-and-temperature sign on the roof of the seven-story Texas School Book Depository, from which the bullets were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald.

At 1 o'clock, automobiles stopped on their way through the Triple Underpass, where the President's motorcade was headed when the assassination occurred. A truck driver tapped his horn to get the traffic going again, then apparently saw what was happening and stopped.

On the grass triangle that separates two of the streets that feed into the underpass, a small girl in a red beret knelt and clasped her hands in prayer, her eyes shut tightly. Another small girl burst into tears and buried her face in the arms of her mother.

Bob Ferrell, a 19-year-old youth from Fort Worth, had promised himself a year ago that he would come back today and write down his impressions in a notebook for his children and grandchildren.

'A Lot Like America'

"I felt," he wrote, "like the President was shot in a nice and peaceful spot — a place that is surrounded all around by crime and industry and noise and everything — but that he was shot right here, on nice clean ground, under open skies and pretty trees, and that this was a lot like America, not just Dallas, but America."

A middle-aged man from New York City paused. He had been at the plaza since early this morning. He said that he wanted to "give of myself for a moment."

Miss Alice Aparicio, a resident of Dallas, crossed herself.

"Everybody feels," she said, "that they had an obligation to come here today."

Many persons gathered in a little colonnade, built 25 years ago to mark the place where Dallas was founded, on one side of the plaza. It contained about 50 floral tributes from persons near and far.

One wreath was four feet high and made of nine white and nine red carnations on a background of green leaves. A blue sash across it repeated the words President Kennedy had spoken at his inauguration:

"Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

Across the street from Dealey Plaza, the 1,042 inmates of the Dallas County Jail were eating their lunch as 1 o'clock approached. Among them was Jack L. Ruby, the man who killed Oswald.

Sheriff Bill Decker said that more than half the inmates had paused to pray or stare into space. He said he did not know what Ruby, who is appealing his conviction for murder, had done at that hour.