

# THE STATES-ITEM

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NEW ORLEANS

TWENTY-THREE

## Lagniappe



### Dallas 'Tourist Attraction'

### Distresses Hometown

By THOMAS GRIFFIN

HELLO AGAIN! It's nice to be back. For the next several days Lagniappe will be reporting on my meanderings around Dallas, San Francisco and Los Angeles which occupied my time during the last couple of weeks. I haven't jotted down all my notes for nothing! So bear with me—and I'll be back on the local beat soon.

First of all, Dallas, you know, is called "Big D." How big? Well, the man on the sightseeing bus tour said the population of the city proper is 850,000; and of the Metropolitan area, one-and-a-half million. Among that number are Adelaide Brennan, Teddy Brennan and Maudie Brennan of New Orleans, about whom something will be said later. Also friend Jack Wicker, a Tulane graduate of 1946.

At my request, Jack reluctantly drove me from my hotel (the new Fairmont) to Dealey Plaza where President Kennedy was shot. It distresses Jack that it happened in his home town and even more so that Dealey Plaza has become the No. 1 tourist mecca in Dallas. Armed with cameras of every type, the visitors take snapshots of the window (second floor from the top, second window from the end) from which Oswald shot, and of the grassy knoll, and of the overpass,

and of the points of the descending street at which allegedly the first and second shots struck the President and Gov. Connally in the motorcade. The area also includes a John F. Kennedy Memorial (two square blocks of masonry, nothing inside them); a John F. Kennedy museum (including headlines of the assassination in newspapers all over the U.S., and a film of the assassination itself).

Jack said, "There's also a report an out-of-town millionaire has bought the School Book Depository building with the intention of converting it into a more complete museum of the life and death of John F. Kennedy. I don't like it. I don't think anybody in Dallas likes the idea."

After studying the Dealey Plaza scene myself, my opinion is that considering the angle and the distance the bullets had to travel to hit a moving vehicle, little Lee Harvey Oswald had to be a crack marksman to pull it off.

ON THE second day of my visit, Adelaide arranged a luncheon to meet columnist Dan Fouts of the Dallas Times-Herald. Zimmerman and Zimmerman were present.