

Nov. 22, 1963 - AP, James W. Altgens, 7:49 pm CST

(Editor's note -- James W. Altgens, an Associated Press photographer, was near the President's car when he was shot today.)

Dallas, Nov. 22 - There was a burst of noise -- the second one I heard -- and pieces of flesh appeared to fly from President Kennedy's car.

Blood covered the whole left side of his head.

Mrs. Kennedy saw what had happened to her husband. She grabbed him exclaiming, "Oh, No!"

The car's driver realized what had happened and almost as if by reflex speeded up toward the Stemmons expressway. There seemed to be utter confusion.

One motorcycle officer ran his cycle into the curb, almost falling off.

Police came from everywhere as the President's car disappeared from sight.

At first I thought the shots came from the opposite side of the street. I ran over there to see if I could get some pictures. But it turned out to be just more confusion. Police ran in all directions in search of the assassin.

I did not know until later where the shots came from. I was on the opposite side of the President's car from the gunman. He might have hit me.

The motorcade was moving along in routine fashion until there was a noise like fireworks popping. I snapped a picture of the motorcade at just about that time, still unaware of what was happening.

I cranked my camera for another shot. The procession still moved along slowly. Then came the second burst of noise.

Originally I had planned to be on top of a triple overpass to make a scenic picture of the Dallas skyline when the motorcade passed. But police wouldn't let me stay there -- the overpass belongs to a railroad.

So I moved to the corner of Houston and Main Streets, made a couple of pictures and ran downhill to get in front of the motorcade again. This put me in place for the pictures of the President being struck down.