



TRIBUTE TO A DEAD PRESIDENT: Crowds gather around grave of President John F. Kennedy at Arlington Cemetery on third anniversary of his assassination. Permanent grave, still under construction, is in background. Associated Press Wirephoto

THRONG AT GRAVE SALUTES KENNEDY

Visitors Stream to Site as
Work Proceeds on Tomb

By NAN ROBERTSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 — Today was a working day like any other for Peter Cleland on this, the third anniversary of the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

But while he worked, he thought of that dreadful Friday three years ago and of the day that followed.

Mr. Cleland is a stonemason who has done work on the Jefferson Memorial, the White House, the Capitol and the Washington Cathedral. Now he is the foreman for the Kennedy Memorial, which is being built on the permanent gravesite of the young President in Arlington National Cemetery. The Memorial is to be finished next spring.

Mr. Cleland and his workers went on "plugging away," in his words, while visitors flowed to the temporary gravesite up the hill in a light but steady stream.

Senator First to Arrive

The first to arrive, shortly after sunrise and before the iron gates were opened to the public,

were Senator Robert F. Kennedy and his wife Ethel, who is pregnant with her tenth child.

The heaviest frost of the season still sparkled on the slope as they knelt to pray inside the fenced enclosure where the President lies.

The Senator left one pink rose on the evergreen branches that encircle the eternal flame. Mrs. Kennedy left a bouquet of lilies and white roses, which soon shrank in the morning chill.

The President's widow remained in seclusion today in New York, as she has on the two previous anniversaries of her husband's death. Her son John, who will be 6 years old Friday, and daughter Caroline, whose 9th birthday is Sunday, went to school as usual.

Mrs. John F. Kennedy's mother, Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, came alone to the cemetery about 8 o'clock with sprigs of lilies-of-the-valley as her offering. They looked fresh and springlike all day against the mounds of evergreen.

Shrivers Pay Respects

She was followed to the grave by Sargent Shriver, his wife Eunice, the late President's sister; and three of their four children.

Onlookers clustered around the low, white picket fence and gazed dry-eyed and in silence at the flame and the flowers. Down the hill, bulldozers gouged the raw earth, and air compressors stuttered as the sand-blasters worked on the \$2-million Memorial.

The slope at Arlington, once lush, green and unmarked by a single tombstone, now looks like a battlefield. Granite and marble walks and terraces sprawl all over the three-acre site.

"I don't think people will feel as emotional about this grave as they do about the first one," said Doris Fenneman, secretary to the Army engineer who is project officer. "The first is just the way it was the day he was buried—so little and so homey, with the fence. This is the memory to me. The other is too big."

'Hail to the Chief'

All through the day, groups and individuals toiled up the steep walkways to present their flowers. One wreath read: "Hail to the Chief."

At noon sharp, Lieut. Comdr. F. Worthington Hobbs, naval assistant to President Johnson, brought the largest circle of all, fashioned from red and white carnations and blue cornflowers. On it was a small white card. Two words were engraved there: "The President."

Another wreath bore a quotation—"For one brief shining moment . . ."—from "Camelot," which is reported to have been the late President's favorite Broadway show.

Six Special Forces men from Ft. Bragg, N. C., were led by Sgt. Maj. Francis J. Ruddy of Scranton, Pa. He was a member of the Kennedy funeral honor guard, and he impetuously threw his green beret on the grave following the burial. That

spontaneous gesture started a tradition; now caps from all branches of the armed services decorate the area around the flame.

Sergeant Ruddy left a green beret made of dried chrysanthemums. The six saluted and marched away.

One of the larger groups to come was the "New Frontier Club," now dissolved, with 50 members who had campaigned for John Kennedy in 1960. They were headed by Ralph Horton, a Pentagon official who had attended the Choate School in Wallingford, Conn., with the late President.

Mr. Cleland paused in his work, mallet in hand, to look at them.

"During the coldest, the bitterest days, it was never ended," he said. "The people have never stopped coming here."

Edward Kennedy in Algiers

Special to The New York Times

ALGIERS, Nov. 22—Senator Edward M. Kennedy joined today Algeria's Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in a wreath-laying ceremony in memory of President Kennedy at a palm-shaded square named in his honor.

The Massachusetts Democrat, accompanied by Representative John V. Tunney, Democrat of California, and the two wives, placed a wreath before a new marble plaque at the center of the square, upon which were inscribed the words: "In memory of President John Kennedy."