

New Orleans States-Item

Dallas, 1963--The Death Shot Is

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By JACK WARDLAW

November 22 . . . remember?

Nine years ago, Nov. 22, 1963. Dealey Plaza, Dallas. A parade, gunfire, tragedy. A president dead. A turning point in history.

It's one of those dates like Dec. 7, 1941. No one likes to remember. But most can recall what he was doing at the moment he heard the news. Kennedy shot. Kennedy dead.

THE REVERBERATIONS continue. Coincidentally, the U.S. Supreme Court chose this week to write the final chapter in the strange case of New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who said he had "solved" the assassination.

The court upheld lower ones in prohibiting Garrison from further prosecution of New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw, whom Garrison accused of being part of a plot to kill Kennedy.

Garrison said the court "drove the

final nail in John Kennedy's coffin."

He released a lengthy statement outlining his version of the assassination, asserting that the Central Intelligence Agency plotted to do away with JFK because he would not approve escalation of the Vietnam war.

SHAW, MEANWHILE, said yesterday the court decision "was a load off my back." He criticized the cumbersome judiciary, saying it took a jury 55 minutes to free him but that it took the judiciary five years and eight months (from the time he was arrested).

No one can say how the history of the past nine years would have unfolded had Kennedy lived. Perhaps he would not have escalated the war. Perhaps we would have been spared the campus riots, the body counts, the inflation at home, the napalming of villages, the whole shock to the nation's

psyche of a seemingly interminable conflict. Perhaps . . .

But it was under Kennedy that the role of American advisers was expanded to fighting, and under Kennedy that President Diem was deposed. The verdict of history is not yet in.

The paths of those who survived the killing in Dealey Plaza have taken some strange turns in the nine years since.

—**John Connally**, then the Democratic governor of Texas, wounded along with Kennedy, was a key figure in the re-election campaign of none other than Richard M. Nixon, the man Kennedy beat in 1960, and may well figure prominently in the second Nixon administration and perhaps even more prominently in the 1976 elections.

—**Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis**, who shared in the Kennedy mystique, is something of an expatriate since her marriage to the Greek shipping magnate.

Still Heard

—**Lyndon B. Johnson** lives in retirement on his Texas ranch, seldom seen in public, his political career a casualty of the Vietnam war.

And a final perhaps. Perhaps if Kennedy had not died, we would also have been spared the spate of political assassinations that followed in the wake of Dealey Plaza, taking the lives of Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and nearly killing George C. Wallace.

Historians differ on the role of the individual in shaping the flow of events. Put briefly, some say men make history, others that history makes men—that the great course of events is too strong for the death of one man to matter much.

However that may be, John F. Kennedy did matter to a whole generation of Americans, and the world that was shattered by his assassination will never be the same again.



D.A. Jim Garrison, left, and Clay Shaw