

Memories and Scars

Dallas Five Years After JFK's Death

DALLAS—(UPI)—The double window from which the fatal shots were fired, now with one venetian blind open and one shut, looks out like a good eye and a bad eye over the San Augustine grass sloping down toward the triple underpass.

If you search, you can still find a hole in the curb of Elm Street, where the concrete was chiseled out and taken off to a laboratory to be examined for bullet marks.

The grass is green. Five years ago, it was ripped and trampled by police trying to find out where the bullets came from that killed President John F. Kennedy.

The throngs of tourists to the assassination site have dropped sharply. So have the bitter outbursts against Dallas as a "City of Hate."

"I'm sure the public now feels it can happen somewhere else," Sheriff Bill Decker says.

Events that revive memories of the assassination are becoming fewer and fewer. As long as Jack Ruby, the night club owner who killed alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, was alive, the assassination was mentioned almost weekly and sometimes daily in newspapers and on television and radio.

Ruby died of cancer in January, 1967, in Parkland Hospital — the hospital where Kennedy was pronounced dead and where Oswald died Nov. 24, 1963.

OTHERS WHO DIED

Three other men touched by the assassination have

died this year. Dist. Judge A. D. Jim Bowie, chief assistant prosecutor at Ruby's murder trial, died in January of cancer.

Dist. Judge Joe B. Brown, who presided at Ruby's trial, died in February of a heart attack. Dist. Judge J. Frank Wilson, who took over for Brown one day when Brown was sick and completed the Ruby trial jury, died in September, also of a heart attack.

Marina Oswald, Oswald's widow, now is Mrs. Kenneth Jess Porter of Richardson, Tex., a suburb of Dallas. She had two children by Oswald and now has a child by her second husband.

Porter operated a barroom until recently. He has sold it.

Marina attended Oswald's funeral in Rose Hill Burial Park near Fort Worth without makeup and in a pair of borrowed shoes. She now is an exceptionally attractive woman.

But if there is anyone harder to talk to than Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter, it is the former Marie Tippit, widow of police patrolman J. D. Tippit, killed by Oswald soon after the slaying of Kennedy.

People over the country sent Mrs. Tippit a total of more than \$600,000 after her husband was killed. Congress let her have it without in-

come tax, though she is taxed on the interest. A couple of years ago, she moved into a \$30,000 house with a swimming pool.

The widow's second husband, police Lt. Harry Dean Thomas, 46, almost died earlier this month of a ballooning blood vessel in the brain, but is now recovering.

SELLS MEMENTOS

Marguerite Oswald, Oswald's mother, still lives in Fort Worth and supports herself by selling mementos of

her son. Mrs. Oswald is bitter.

"I believe in my son's innocence. I heard him say he was innocent and no one has shown me any evidence otherwise," she says.

Mrs. Oswald recently exhibited a photograph of a man standing in the doorway of the Texas schoolbook depository 10 minutes, she says, after Kennedy was shot.

She has called upon President-elect Richard Nixon to re-open the Kennedy assassination investigation. She hasn't heard from Nixon.

Gov. John Connally, gravely wounded when Kennedy was killed, is almost completely recovered from effects of the bullet which went through his lung, broke his right wrist and lodged in his thigh. Connally, after three terms, did not run for reelection this year. He said he would join a Houston law firm in January.

Connolly does not like to talk about the assassination. He agrees with the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald shot him and Kennedy and that Oswald acted alone.

SHOTS

But Connally does not agree with the Commission that the same bullet hit both him and Kennedy. He believes it was another shot.

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade, who prosecuted Ruby, is still bothered by people who want to write books about the assassination.

"Of course, some of (New Orleans Dist. Atty.) Jim Garrison's people come in here,"

he said. "I had somebody call me week before last and said he had been subpoenaed to New Orleans.

"I never did think Oswald acted alone, but I never had any proof. I always thought he was in the window and fired the shots. But I just couldn't see someone like Oswald getting up some morning and deciding to murder the president without some encouragement. But I have no evidence as to that."

Wade's former chief assistant, William F. Alexander, is more outspoken.

"I have no doubt that some of (them) in New Orleans were sitting around and talking about killing the president but I haven't seen any evidence they had any part in the actual crime," he said.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Alexander is now in private practice. He left the district attorney in August.

"I have sat quietly by and listened to the new theories, new discoveries, books and various kooks crawling out of the woodwork — but I have not seen or heard of one scrap of new evidence that would shed light on the assassination," Alexander says.

Jesse Curry, police chief during the assassination, took full responsibility for every police department action, including the decision to move Oswald the day he was shot.

Curry resigned in 1966 because of high blood pressure. A couple of weeks ago he went to work as chief of security for the Texas Bank and Trust Co. here.

"I don't want to discuss the assassination," Curry says.

"I accepted the Warren Report."

Retired Army Col. E. T. Seltzer, who manages Rose Hill Burial Park where Oswald is buried, feared that having Oswald in his cemetery would give it a bad name. But that didn't happen.

"We are running 500 to 600 interments a year, which is about average," Seltzer says. "The memories of the American people are quite short."



Governor Connally (partially hidden) with wife in front seat and JFK and

Jackie in rear of car moments before assassin's gun opened up.