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JFK Memories
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Stirred In Dallas

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DALLAS — The 31st annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) ended Thursday, but before delegates went home most visited the John F. Kennedy Museum, located across the street from what was formerly the Texas School Book Depository.

Run by a private corporation, the museum features a half-hour presentation of still photographs and monologue depicting Kennedy's life and the series of events which occurred here Nov. 22, 1963.

Apart from some obvious trivia, such as the voice of a secretary who remembers watching the news on her boss' television and says in a respectful voice, "That was the end of work for that day," I found the presentation interesting and in good taste.

Its most striking effect is that it brings to memory incidents which had been forgotten over a period of ten years.

For example, I had forgotten the Texas School Book Depository was not run by the Texas Department of Public Instruction. It is a private business run by a group of publishers.

The depository, which has since moved to a new industrial park, was a warehouse where the publishers stored books purchased by Dallas area school systems.

I had also forgotten that Lee Harvey Oswald, the man most people feel shot Kennedy from a sixth floor window in the building, was an employe of the Depository.

I had forgotten that a police officer named J. D. Tippit was also killed that day as he attempted to question a man in connection with the Kennedy murder. The gun used to kill Tippit was later found on Lee Harvey Oswald.

The short time span between Kennedy's assassination, the killing of Tippit, and Oswald's arrest had also es-

aped me. Kennedy was shot at 12:31, Tippit was killed at 1:15 and Oswald was arrested in the Texas Theater at 1:50.

I was reminded that Kennedy had remarked that day as he rode in an open limousine that "anybody above on a rooftop could assassinate a President."

The presentation ends with a view of Washington from Arlington National Cemetery and a quote from Kennedy, who remarked to an aide as they admired the view, "I could stay here forever."

The visitor then exits into another room containing photos and information about Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, the Dallas nightclub owner who shot Oswald in the basement of the Dallas police station.

A page from a catalog Oswald used to order two guns from Klein's gun shop in Chicago is reproduced on one wall. It shows the pistol he allegedly used to kill Tippit was purchased for \$32.78, a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson "Saturday night special".

Yet the rifle with which he supposedly killed Kennedy, a high-powered Italian carbine with a mounted scope, cost only \$12.78. Today a meal in a Dallas hotel costs about that much.

The depository building is now vacant, and a sign on the door reads "No admittance except for official business."

Across from the depository in Dealy Plaza, a bronze plaque has been erected in Kennedy's memory. Small groups of people gather to read the inscription and trace the route of the motorcade as it turned left onto Elm Street and headed north toward the Trade Mart where 2,500 people were waiting for Kennedy to speak.

Then they turn and stare in the direction of the depository, where a large black "X" has been etched on the glass of the sixth floor window.

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