

STATES-ITEM

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THE SURVIVORS — Five women who might be termed Widows of Violence, all lost their husbands to an assassin's bullet. From left are: MRS. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, whose husband died early today in Los Angeles, Calif.; MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY, widow of President Kennedy, slain in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 22, 1963; MRS. KENNETH POR-

TER, whose first husband, accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, was shot Nov. 24, 1963, in Dallas; MRS. MEDGAR EVERS, whose husband died from a bullet June 11, 1963, in Jackson, Miss., and MRS. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., whose husband was slain April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

—AP WIREPHOTO.

'Widows of Violence' Created By Bullets of U.S. Assassins

By JEAN SPRAIN WILSON
 NEW YORK (AP) — In five years of American history, the assassin's bullet has thrust upon the national scene a new type of woman—the Widow of Violence. The shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who died today in a Los Angeles hospital with his wife Ethel at his side, drew attention anew to the procession of tragedy.

FIRST, shortly after midnight on June 11, 1963, a bullet killed civil rights leader Medgar Evers in the doorway of his Jackson, Miss., home. Lying prone on the floor in-

side the house as they had been taught to do at the sound of gunfire were Evers' wife, Myrlie, and their three children.

Five months later, on Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was shot down during a Dallas, Tex., motorcade with his wife Jacqueline at his side.

And two days later Lee Harvey Oswald who the Warren Commission said killed the President was killed by Jack Ruby, leaving Oswald's Soviet-born wife with their two youngsters in an alien country.

APRIL 4 of this year, Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. was slain while standing on the balcony of a Memphis, Tenn., motel, leaving behind his wife Coretta and their four youngsters.

Of these Widows of Violence, only the wife of Oswald has been able to regain a measure of private life. The two widows of civil rights leaders chose to remain in the spotlight to carry on their husbands' crusades. At the same time Mrs. John F. Kennedy remains in the national limelight.

"When Medgar died, a part of me died. And I have just existed," said his widow a year after the tragedy. Eventually Mrs.

Evers, haunted by memories in Mississippi, moved to Claremont, Calif. where she enrolled at Pomona College. Now 35, she will receive a bachelor's degree on June 8. To help keep her husband's cause alive, Mrs. Evers has written a book, "For Us, the Living." She speaks regularly at NAACP meetings around the country.

A FEW weeks ago Mrs. Evers said of her widowhood, "You learn to adjust and keep going, but you never get over it."

The courage and gallantry that sustained Mrs. Kennedy during the ordeal of her husband's death, her majesty and sense of history in carrying out the President's state funeral, captured the admiration of the world. But the world did not let her retreat into anonymity after leaving the White House. To escape the curious, she gave up her Georgetown home in hope of finding privacy in New York—without success.