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30 NOV 1963
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DALLAS-KENNEDY (400)

BY CLAYTON HICKERSON

DALLAS, TEX. NOV.30 (AP)-DALLAS APPEARED TODAY TO BE TRYING, ALMOST FRANTICALLY, TO GET BACK TO NORMAL--EIGHT DAYS AFTER AN ASSASSIN HERE SHOT TO DEATH PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

DOWNTOWN DEPARTMENT STORES AND NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPING CENTERS WERE JAMMED. TRAFFIC WAS BUMPER-TO-BUMPER IN DOWNTOWN BUSINESS SECTIONS AND FREEWAY TRAFFIC WAS HEAVY AND FAST.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY, AFTER A TRIUMPHANT MOTORCADE THROUGH THE CITY, WAS KILLED BY TWO RIFLE SHOTS FIRED BY A SNIPER ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF A BUILDING AT THE EDGE OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT. GOV. JOHN CONNALLY CAUGHT ONE BULLET FROM THE SNIPER'S GUN LAST FRIDAY AND WAS CRITICALLY INJURED. HE IS RECOVERING IN PARKLAND HOSPITAL HERE.

WHERE CROWDS WERE SILENT AND REVERENT FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS AFTER THE TRAGEDY, OPINIONS WERE BEING EXPRESSED MORE FREQUENTLY LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK AFTER THE SHOOTING. AND NOT ALL THE TALK, IN DEPARTMENT STORES, BANK LOBBIES, RESTAURANTS AND TAVERNS, WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE SLAIN PRESIDENT.

OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, MOST DALLAS RESIDENTS WERE SADDENED BY THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT SAW THE PRESIDENT KILLED AND HIS ACCUSED ASSASSIN SHOT TO DEATH BY A STRIP-TEASE OINT OPERATOR ABOUT 48 HOURS LATER.

KENNEDY WAS SHOT WHERE ELM STREET PLUNGES DOWNWARD ON THE WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF THE DOWNTOWN SECTION TOWARD A THREE-STREET UNDERPASS. GREEN GRASS COVERED THE BANKS OF THE STREET ON NORTH AND SOUTH THERE THE DAY OF THE TRAGEDY, BUT TODAY ONLY FLORAL OFFERINGS TO THE LATE PRESIDENT'S MEMORY CAN BE SEEN. FLOWERS ARE STACKED HIGH ON EACH BANK OF THE STREET, AND EACH DAY, THE STACK OF WREATHS GROWS.

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MOTORISTS DRIVE SLOWLY BY THE SITE. MANY TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BANKED FLOWERS. MANY SAY A SILENT PRAYER. SOME STARE AHEAD AS IF THE FLOWERS WERE NOT THERE. AND FREQUENTLY, A WREATH IS THROWN FROM A CAR TO ADD TO THE FLORAL PROFUSION.

FIVE TRAFFIC POLICEMEN, AT MIDAFTERNOON YESTERDAY, WERE TRYING TO KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING BRISKLY PAST THE ASSASSINATION SITE, BUT TO LITTLE AVAIL. FROM CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY TO THE MID-TOWN WAS A HALFHOUR TRIP. USUALLY, EVEN IN RUSH PERIODS, THE DISTANCE CAN BE MADE BY AUTOMOBILE IN 10 MINUTES.

IN DALLAS COUNTY JAIL, MEANWHILE, ONE OF THE LAST LIVING PRINCIPALS OF THE TRAGEDY LANGUISHED. HE IS JACK RUBY, 52, THE NIGHT CLUB OPERATOR WHO GUNNED DOWN LEE HARVEY OSWALD, 24, THE PRESIDENT'S ACCUSED KILLER. OSWALD WAS KILLED AS POLICE ATTEMPTED TO TRANSFER HIM FROM CITY JAIL TO THE COUNTY PRISON, A BLOCK FROM WHERE THE PRESIDENT WAS ASSASSINATED.

SHERIFF BILL DECKER SAID RUBY APPEARS TO BE IN GOOD SPIRITS. "HE REALIZES HE IS IN A JAM," SAID THE VETERAN OFFICER, "BUT I WOULD SAY HIS MORALE IS GOOD. HE APPEARS TO HAVE MADE A GOOD ADJUSTMENT TO JAIL LIFE. HE HAS BEEN EATING HIS MEALS AND APPARENTLY SLEEPING WELL."

DECKER SAID RUBY BEGAN WRITING HIS MEMOIRS AFTER HE WAS JAILED. "I HAVEN'T READ WHAT HE HAS WRITTEN," DECKER SAID. "I UNDERSTAND IT INVOLVES HIS EARLY DAYS IN CHICAGO. I ASSUME THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NOTORIETY WHICH RESULTED FROM THE ASSASSINATION...HE BELIEVES HE CAN SELL THE MEMOIRS FOR A GOOD PRICE."

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GOOD PRICE.

RUBY, HELD IN A CELL WITHOUT OTHER PRISONERS, IS ALLOWED TO RECEIVE NEWSPAPERS AND LETTERS BUT CANNOT WATCH TELEVISION. GUARDS KEEP A CLOSE WATCH OVER HIM. HE GETS A RAZOR EACH DAY, BUT A GUARD STANDS NEARBY WHEN HE WRITES AND SHAVES SO HE CANNOT HARM HIMSELF WITH EITHER BLADE OR PENCIL.

ONE QUESTION HE ASKS OFTEN. DOES THE PUBLIC APPROVE OF HIS DECISION TO SHOOT OSWALD? FRIENDS SAY THE NATIVE CHICAGOAN WHO HAS LIVED HERE AT LEAST 12 YEARS CRAVED PUBLIC APPROVAL. NOW, THEY ADD, HE IS CONCERNED OVER THE REACTION TO HIS DEADLY DEED.

THE DECISION OF THE PUBLIC, OF COURSE, REPRESENTED BY THE 12 JURORS WHO WILL HEAR HIS CASE IN FRONT OF DISTRICT JUDGE JOE B. BROWN, WILL DETERMINE WHETHER HE GOES FREE OR DIES IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY HENRY WADE HAS SAID HE WOULD ASK THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THE 25TH TIME IN RUBY'S TRIAL. ON 23 OTHER OCCASIONS THE DEFENDANT GET DEATH WHEN HE AS

25TH TIME IN RUBY'S TRIAL. ON 23 OTHER OCCASIONS, WADE SAW THE DEFENDANT GET DEATH WHEN HE ASKED IT. THE OTHER ONE RECEIVED A LIFE PRISON TERM.

FOR THE LARGE MAJORITY OF DALLAS RESIDENTS, IT CAN BE SAID--AS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND WANES AND CHRISTMAS APPROACHES--THEY ARE ASHAMED, EMBARRASSED AND CHAGRINED OVER THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FATEFUL WEEK.

BUT, ONCE MORE, THEY ARE BEGINNING TO LOOK INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES AND RAISE THEIR CHINS AND VOICES.

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