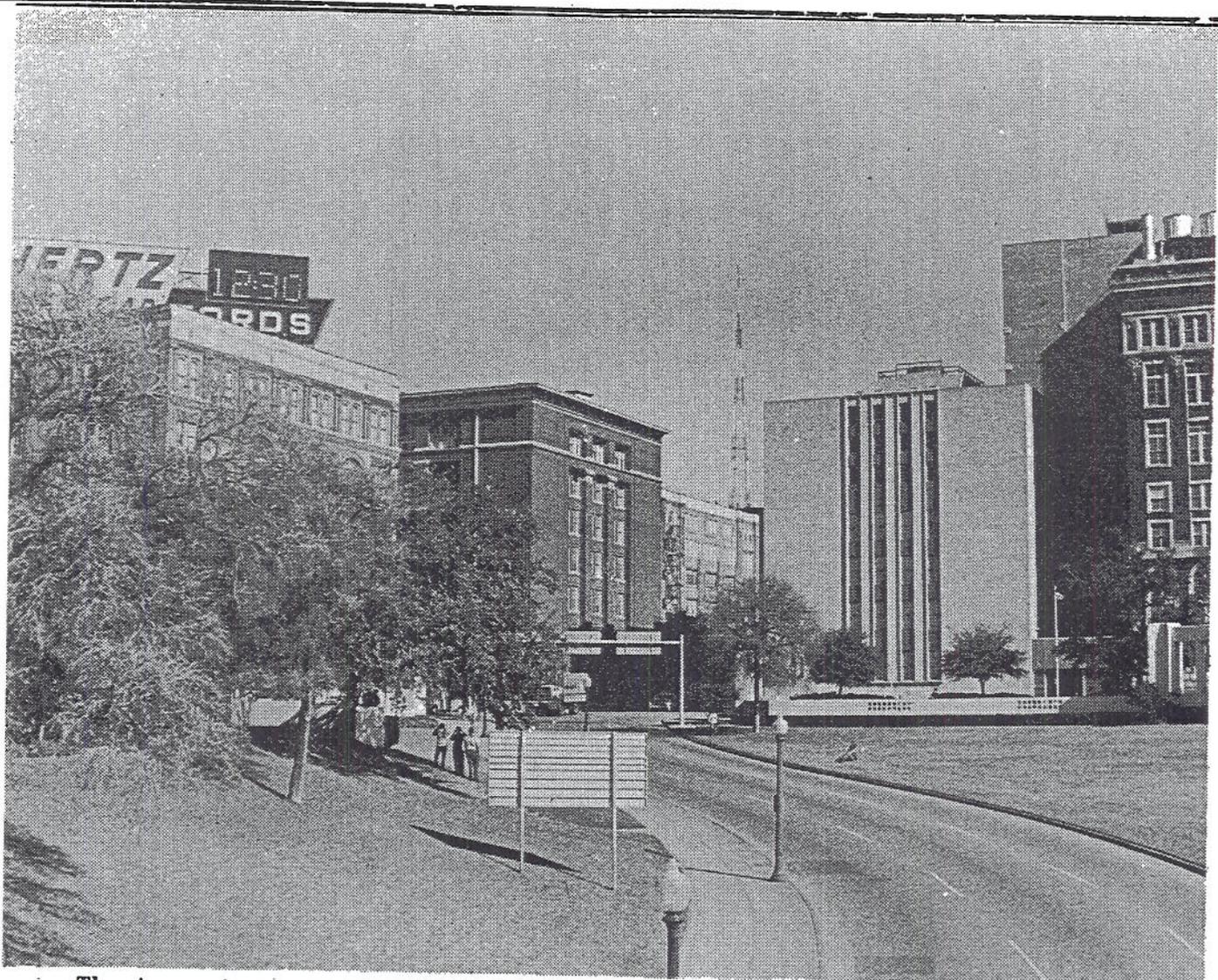


**THE MIDLOTHIAN MIRROR**  
 A TRUE REFLECTION OF LOCAL EVENTS



The Assassination Site Six Years After

Photograph by Penn Jones, Jr.

# Orders From Headquarters

Lorrie Brooks had an interesting paragraph in The Dallas Morning News of Sunday, November 23, 1969:

Dallas wants to forget, but they dare not ignore the date completely. So last minute orders are issued for an early and unannounced ceremony--9:25 a.m. Thus crowds are avoided.

Special ceremonies here Saturday marking the

sixth anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination were prepared at the last minute after the Greater Council of Churches received word from city officials to do so. Sources said it was the second straight year that the council has been given 11th hour orders from city hall to hold a memorial service on November 22.

Our picture taken from the spot where M. S. Holland stood shows the deserted area at the exact moment the President was killed six years ago.

One of the most historic spots on earth, all of it will be gone as soon as Dallas can rebuild the entire area.

Editor  
Midlothian Mirror  
Midlothian, Texas

Sir:

The picture of the house in the Midlothian Mirror, November 13, 1969, is located on East Avenue F., across the tracks from the business district of Midlothian. Tragic as is the plight of your "unfortunates" - who drive new cars and watch color television, yet not nearly as tragic as the life of one who wanders aimlessly through the bloodied corridors of a yesterday's assassination, intent either on keeping a deceased dream alive, or, finding that virtue flees the selfish, hopes for prominence tomorrow as a Scotland Yard hero.

Several glaring errors have been made.

1. You have incorrectly assumed that the availability of funds will automatically change the culture or social status of individuals. The error of this concept is obvious by the outward appearance of your office - as well as the unkempt appearance internally.
2. Wealth, social standing, intentions or the house you live in is not and cannot be equated with virtue. Certainly there is a lack of conformity to a standard of right when one initiates unilateral action that tramples others and only stops short of slander while completely violating their civil rights.
3. Certainly you must realize that a house is not a home and it takes more than money and a house to make a home and life that is happy and virtuous.
4. Your assumption that it takes Federal money to better a community is equivalent to aggrandizement of Federal powers. Is this not socialistic? I for one am a free American, proud to be so, and choose to progress as progress may be on the basis of individual merit and initiative. If there are those that feel otherwise, it is their privilege to so express themselves - but progress that is virtuous has never been accomplished through sacrificing human dignity and individual worth through collectivist ridicule and scorn. No thanks to any program motivated by such tactics.
5. Your obvious insult to the citizens of Midlothian in stating that work, dedication and a will to improve the town had not been found among them, is beneath contempt. This

sounds rather like the mother who was watching her son march during basic training and upon noticing that he was out of step, remarked to a friend, "I'm so proud of my son. Just look there - all those boys are out of step but him!"

6. The statement, "Federal funds could be made available for Midlothian to make it possible for residents to live in better homes," could be applied to any house - even yours. The taking of pictures to be utilized in this manner involves the setting of standards. It happens that no one at the Mirror, that I'm aware of, has been appointed as a "standard setter." I unequivocally reject the lurid implications of this entire scheme and call on the ownership and staff of the Midlothian Mirror to help make this community a better place in which to live by a positive approach that will unite the city instead of taking action that sows discord and division.

Sincerely,

*Vernon E. Lawrence*

Vernon E. Lawrence

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## Letters To The Editor

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Nov. 11, 1969

Mr. Penn Jones, Jr.  
Midlothian Mirror  
Midlothian, Texas

Dear Mr. Jones,

A few weeks ago I read your editorial about Roger Craig and Richard Carr. I agree that they are two of the most valuable men in the country.

The enclosed is for their use. I would like to be able to send more, and hope to do so next month.

Sincerely yours,  
Madeline Goddard

Editor's Note: Enclosed was a check for \$100.