

## Madison Man Saw President's Motorcade

Friday was a day that George E. Holmes will long remember.

Holmes, general manager of Consolidated Rubber Co. and vice-president of Holmes Tire and Supply, Inc., was in Dallas, Tex.

### Saw Motorcade

He watched President John F. Kennedy pass in front of him minutes before an assassin's bullet cut the late President down.

Holmes, who had arrived in Dallas Monday on business, said he watched the Kennedy motorcade pass in front of the branch store where he had gone on business. The store was about 600 yards from where the fatal shots were fired, he said.

After the motorcade passed,

Holmes said he got into a car to go to eat. The restaurant he selected was in a shopping center near Parkland hospital, where the mortally wounded President died.

He said he had driven only about 10 minutes from the parade area when the radio reported the President had been shot.

### 'Dumbfounded'

"I was dumbfounded," he said. Holmes said he went into the restaurant and the announcement that the President had been shot was made over the restaurant's speakers. Later came the announcement the President was dead.

"The whole restaurant cleared

out," he said. "Women became very emotional, broke right down."

He said some waitresses fainted and he felt sick in his stomach.

### 'Even Strong Men'

"It was a shock to see the President right before us and then this," he said.

"Everybody was concerned," he said. "Even strong men. You could see tears on their cheeks."

People in Dallas, Holmes said, blamed themselves for the President's death. He said they were concerned not only because the President had died, but because it had happened in Dallas.

Stores began closing immediately, he said, and by 3 p.m. they

had all closed. He said they had been scheduled to remain open until 9 that night.

Holmes said he cancelled the several business meetings he had scheduled that afternoon. When he tried to arrange transportation back to Madison, he said, there were so many reporters and other persons travelling that all of the seats had been filled.

"There was no question about Dallas being well protected," Holmes said. He added that even retired patrolmen and school crossing guards had been called to duty to protect the President.

"There wasn't one sign, one cat-call, or disrespectful sound made toward him," Holmes said.