

Local Memorial Services Held For President

Nov. 29, 1963 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 3-A

Churches Filled As Worshipers Join in Prayer

By DICK ZEMMIN Staff Writer

Churches in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area revised worship plans and scheduled special services to accommodate the many people who turned to God in memory of the late President.

Ponder Impact Of Tragedy On Holiday

The youngest President in the history of the United States is slain six days before a major national holiday.

REV. KENNETH H. Gass, pastor of St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham: "Briefly, I think the impact is this: I think it makes us realize that we have a great deal to be thankful for despite the possibility of violence and discord."

REV. ROBERT Boley, pastor of the Beverly Hills Methodist Church: "I feel that anything that happens—any great national calamity—always brings local repercussions, especially on a national holiday."

REV. I. L. Mattis, pastor of Franklin Baptist Church: "Thanksgiving always brings the spirit of thanksgiving. At the first Thanksgiving the people had just come through a long, hard winter during which many had died."

ON MONDAY, there was a flag on a pole attached to one of the oaks in front of the house. There were black crepe streamers tied to the top of the pole.

EARL RUBY said he thought the slaying of President Kennedy was "absolutely terrible—I got sick to my stomach."

HE said he also was sickened when he received word that his brother had killed Oswald.

HE said she had not received any threats, but "some curiosity seekers drove by."

RUBY SAID he plans to go to Dallas soon to see his brother.

HE is a very likable, easy-going fellow, Ruby said. "He never drinks or smokes or gambles. But he does have a quick temper, and is an opinionated person."

THE eight children in the Ruby family were born and raised in Chicago. Their father was a Russian immigrant carpenter, who died several years ago. Their mother was a Polish immigrant, also now dead.

IT WAS ALMOST impossible for his countrymen—indeed, the whole world—to accept the fact of this earth's most powerful and exalted public officer.

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AT THIS point, with the ticker (See BHAM, 4-A)

tion sorrowed from the loss of its President.

Dr. Homer J. Armstrong of First Baptist Church of Birmingham changed the televised Sunday morning service from one of Thanksgiving to one of appreciation for the late President.

IN RESPECT to President Kennedy, Dr. Armstrong said: "Let this tragedy and sorrow lift our national life to higher and purer level, and if so, President Kennedy did not die in vain."

Cherches were overcrowded as worshippers listened to sermons that preached the need for national unity and a trust in one another.

MOURNERS filled the Unitarian Church of Birmingham for Monday noon services in memory of President Kennedy.

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Northminster Presbyterian and Beautiful Savior Lutheran held a cooperative service at Beautiful Savior Monday night.

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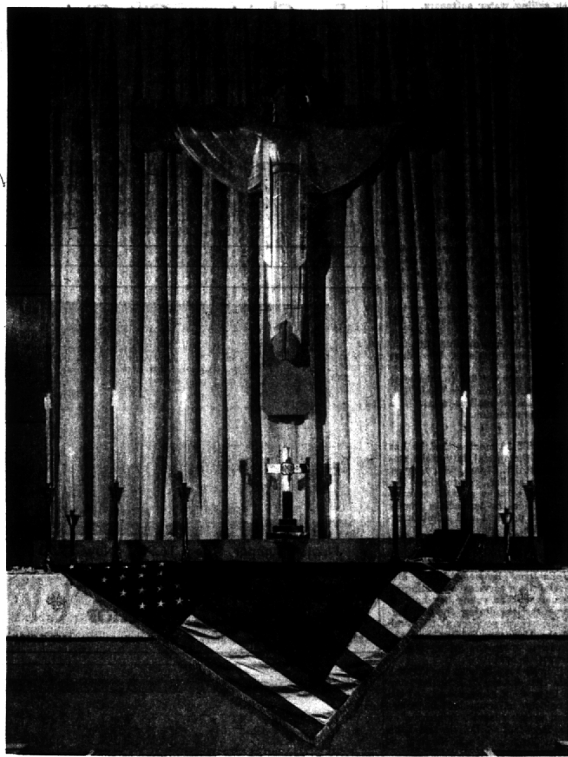
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A FLAG-DRAPED altar symbolizes the respect held by the parish of St. James Episcopal Church for the late John F. Kennedy. The American flag covering the altar was a constant reminder of the tragic event commemorated at memorial services during the weekend and attended by many local residents honoring their late President.



Young Offer Prayers for President

Honoring the memory of the late John F. Kennedy are two young Birmingham students as they prayed Friday for the assassinated President at Holy Name Church in Birmingham. Shortly after hearing about the news of the murder last Friday, many residents joined the girls in churches throughout Birmingham to offer their prayers.



Shoppers Follow Grim Events on TV

Keeping up with the latest developments in the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy even while shopping are Birmingham residents who gathered around the television set at Grinnell's on Maple in downtown Birmingham last Friday.

Brother Says Ruby Motivated 'By Aggressive Patriotism'

Jack Ruby, the slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, has been described by his brother as "driven by aggressive patriotism."

EARL, partner in a Detroit dry-cleaning firm, said he was certain that Jack Ruby killed Oswald, as the accused assassin was being transferred Sunday from the Dal-

has city jail to the county jail, "entirely on his own."

RUBY, WHO held a press conference at his home Monday, said he did not condone his brother's act.

"I believe that Oswald should have come to trial."

Heavy Phone Use Recorded on Friday

Michigan Bell telephone offices in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area reported an "extremely heavy" load Friday on lines immediately after the assassination of President Kennedy.

ROBERT Kilpatrick, Bell Birmingham manager, said the heavy load "resulted in a delayed dial tone in many instances."

"We did, however, notice a drop in the number of calls for information," Kilpatrick said. "This would seem to indicate people were dialing numbers they were familiar with," he said.

BETWEEN 3 and 4 p.m. Friday one local exchange recorded a total of 54,174 calls. Kilpatrick said the normal number of calls would have been about 37,000.



CAPT. MICHAEL GROVES

Former B'ham Student Plays Major Role in Ceremonies

By MARY BAHN Staff Writer

SPECIAL but sobering tasks, all in the line of duty, were accorded Capt. Michael Groves, former Birmingham student, as he played a major role in the rituals and ceremonies in Washington following the death of President John F. Kennedy.

GROVES, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Groves of 501 S. Bates, Birmingham, is commanding officer of the Presidential Honor Guard for the United States Army.

GROVES had been on duty in the East Room of the White House, where he guarded the casket of the President. At this post, he had occasion to speak to Mrs. Kennedy and was with her when she spent private moments with her late husband just before the casket was removed to the Rotunda on Sunday.

GROVES also accompanied the Kennedy family to church during their three-day ordeal. He was seen by his family on television leaving the White House on his mission.

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This and That

by George R. Averill

Martyrdom Claims Another President Of United States

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 46-year-old President of the United States, has entered the historic records of martyrdom. He died in Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 22, the victim of a hating fanatic's rifle bullet.

THIS youngest of all U.S. presidents, this modern counterpart of Sir Galahad, ever in search of his knightly image of the Holy Grail, passed from our earth scene while on a goodwill visit to Texas.

While riding with Mrs. Kennedy and Texas Governor Connally and his wife, in an open limousine, he became the target of a 24-year-old youth, it is alleged, and expired within an hour.

IT WAS ALMOST impossible for his countrymen—indeed, the whole world—to accept the fact of this earth's most powerful and exalted public officer.

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Downtown Birmingham

By MARY BAHN Staff Writer

Birmingham residents running their Friday afternoon errands reacted in stunned silence to the news of the death of President John F. Kennedy.

THIS reporter was talking to F. Doug Campbell, president of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Bank, when the official announcement of his death came over the radio.

EXCEPT for a startled "oh no" from one customer, an eerie stillness swept over the bank moments before deposits and withdrawals continued, with only an "isn't it terrible" kind-of discussion exchanged between customer and teller.

NOW, with the acknowledgement of his death, work stopped and a somber silence settled over the bank. People's faces were etched with a look of grave concern, but they remained silent, thinking.

AT GOODBODY and Co., stock brokerage, there was quite a change in reactions.

GROUPS were running in and out of the office, phones were ringing, while the scene seemed to be one of general confusion.

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City Hall

By DAVE PHILPO Staff Writer

Birmingham walked around in a daze last Friday afternoon...

THE rain came down in a slow drizzle and it was starting to get cold, but no one seemed to notice.

WOMEN walked in and out of the shops along W. Maple, bundles tucked under their arms, trying to shop. It was easy to tell that their hearts weren't in it.

EARLIER, at city hall, when the first news that the President had been shot came over the police radio and teletype, there was disbelief, shock, anger, fear, horror and several combinations of all these emotions.

YET, THERE remained hope... For just about 30 minutes. (See CITY HALL, 6-A)

Dem., Rep. Headquarters

By DICK ZEMMIN Staff Writer

THE sudden death of President Kennedy brought business to a halt in Republican and Democratic county headquarters.

OAKLAND County Democratic Chairman Sander M. Levin said that the President's death was "as unbelievable as it is tragic for all of us."

"IT'S impossible to believe that such greatness and vitality as the President possessed could be snuffed out in a matter of seconds," Levin said.

AT REPUBLICAN headquarters in Birmingham, the same shock and disbelief were prevalent. Executive Secretary Jack Slataker (See PARTIES, 5-A)

Seaholm

By ETHEL SIMMONS Staff Writer

AT Seaholm High School, the first report that the President had been shot came over the telephone to one of the cooks in the kitchen who said later:

"I said to one of the boys, 'This may be history, and I thought the office should know.'"

THE word-of-mouth report was passed from the cook, Mrs. Walter Killing, who had been telephoned by her daughter, Mrs. James MacFarlan, on to kitchen employee Fred Hatley.

HATLEY then told day foreman Jim Stone who went "to tell the assistant principal who wasn't in the office so I told Mr. Wagner's (Principal Ross Wagner's) secretary."

SHE TOLD WAGNER. Then the grim facts of the assassination attempt—that later was to prove less to his horrible purpose—were broadcast by Wagner to the classrooms over the public address system.

Subsequent news bulletins were heard by all the students, as radio was piped into every class.

Wagner said, at the time President Kennedy was in the operating room at Parkland Hospital:

"I think it's a real tragedy. Everyone is shocked by it. This shows the seriousness of feeling that exists throughout the country. It's hard to know what to say."

HIGH MULLENHAGEN, 14, 11th grade, was in charge of the PA broadcast. "If they don't catch him (the assassin)—they better catch him!" he said softly.

Residents from Dallas Saddened, Bewildered

By DAVE PHILPO Staff Writer

Many things had been said about Dallas, Tex., in the last heart-breaking week—most "uncomplimentary" week.

WHAT manner of city is this, where President John F. Kennedy was felled by an assassin's bullet last Friday? What are the people like?

I talked with members of three families who have moved into this area within the last 90 days. All had lived in Dallas for a number of years.

"IT'S TERRIBLE that it happened at all, but to think that it happened in Dallas..."

"Dallas was always a peace-loving center, civilized. I have the feeling that I must go home to see if everything in the city is still the same."

"Before, I was proud to be a Texan; now I'm almost afraid to say where I'm from."

Mr. Lelbow, employed by Ling-Temco-Vought Corp., was transferred from the Dallas plant to Sterling Township.

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