

Irony Marks JFK's Assassination

Student Reaction Parallels Nation's Grief

Awe, Sorrow Hits Campus

President John F. Kennedy was shot to death by a hidden assassin early last Friday afternoon in a motorcade procession in Dallas, Texas.

As soon as word of the President's assassination was released, grief rolled across the nation like a gigantic shock wave. One news commentator said "This was truly a shot heard around the world."

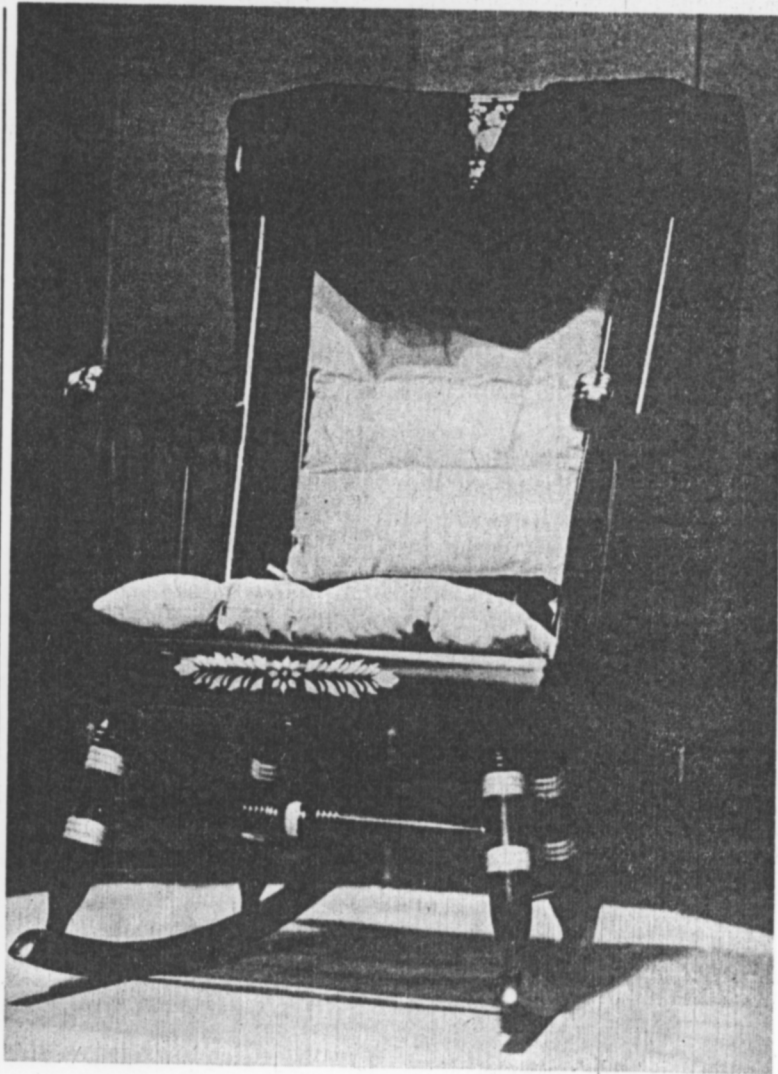
At Youngstown University, as across the nation, there was first stunned disbelief, then emotions of grief and bewilderment. Some expressed hatred and anger at the sniper who shot and killed President Kennedy. After the shock wore off emotions of anguish, tears and prayer became dominant.

Word spread rapidly across the campus. Students and faculty immediately flocked to the nearest radios to hear again and again the announcement they still couldn't believe. Then the word came: President John F. Kennedy has been pronounced dead.

A sudden calm came over the cafeteria as students looked at one another still unable to believe it true. Backstage in the University Theater, Drama Guild members stood stunned with their heads partly bowed. Some sobbed while others sighed in bewilderment. One member crossed herself and mumbled "God help us."

Instructors immediately cancelled classes as they and their students started for home to await further details of the President's assassination.

The student body of Youngstown University, as all Americans in this tragic hour, felt the astonishment and sadness of the country and the pain of the Kennedy family.



PHOTO, BY RON BARNES

Assassin Shot as President Is Mourned at Capitol

by Jack Tucker

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was shot to death Friday afternoon in Dallas, Texas. Dallas police charged Lee Harvey Oswald, an avowed Marxist and a sympathizer of Fidel Castro, with the assassination.

Forty-seven hours later, irony struck as Oswald was shot to death in the basement of the Dallas City Jail. Jack Ruby, a Dallas night-club operator, is charged with that slaying.

Oswald was rushed to Parkland Hospital and surgeons frantically tried to save his life. Again irony was present. The accused assassin died in a hospital room less than 10 feet from the place where Mr. Kennedy had died two days earlier. Oswald was accused of being a murderer and died at the hand of a murderer.

But the plot is more complicated: Dallas Police officer J. D. Tippitt, father of three children, was shot to death and Texas Governor John Connally seriously wounded by the late accused Lee Harvey Oswald. Mrs. Tippitt felt grief at the loss of her country's President: she then learned of the death of her husband.

President Kennedy was buried yesterday in Arlington National Cemetery. Chiefs of state and government from across the globe attended services in the capital's vast St. Matthew Cathedral and the burial.

Declared a national day of mourning by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the nation went into low gear and paused to pray and pay homage to Mr. Kennedy.

His courage was tested often, but never found to be lacking. He perpetuated in his own life and activities that which he asked of the country: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy gave his life for his country.

Lyndon Baines Johnson, Mr. Kennedy's vice president, is now the 36th President of the United States. In his first words to the nation he humbly declared: "I will do my best—that's all I can do. I ask for your help and God's."

But President Johnson gathered up the monumental problems of the presidency and sparked the governmental machine as the world, the nation and his family mourned John F. Kennedy. Top level conferences were held Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Shortly after his arrival in Washington, Johnson conferred with House and Senate leaders and the White House said he had asked for their "united support in the face of the tragedy that has befallen our country."

He said "It is more essential than ever before that this country be united." The legislative leaders of both parties assured President Johnson of their bipartisan support.