Black Friday Etched in City's Heart

Yesterday's tragedy, Nov. 22, 1963, is a day that will always be remembered by Greater Cleveland and the whole world.

The principal, Sister Michael Celeste, told us over the public address system that the President was shot. We couldn't believe it.

“The girls and some of the boys were crying. Sister Michael led us in a prayer and then we were allowed to go home.”

Charles Harris, 81, of 831 Paxton Rd., a bricklayer: “We were putting up a wall at the Parme Reservoir and one of the fellows had a transistor radio he keeps on soft. All of a sudden he said the President had been shot and he turned the volume up. We just sat there on the wall and listened. He was a very good man.”

His daughter, Judy, 13, said that she and her classmates were told by the principal at St. Philomena School and then, as many of the girls broke into tears, they all said a rosary together.

Mrs. Thurley Zabor, 231 Stanford Rd., Berea, a teacher at Columbia Station High School: “After the President was shot, the school kept the radio on through the public address system to all the classrooms. We continued to conduct classes but some of the girls were almost hysterical. The principal suggested that it would be a good idea for everyone to say a prayer.”

Her husband, Elmer J., an insurance agent, worked through the afternoon in his office in their home. “About 4 o’clock, a client phoned and when he was through, he asked if I had heard about the President. I didn’t believe him,” he said.

Harry Matturri, 34, 2185 Cunningham Rd., doctorate student in economics at Western Reserve University, “I was at home filling out an application for a job when a neighbor phoned and told us.”

“When our son, Jeff, 6, came home from school he said his first grade teacher had told him the President was assassinated. But he wanted to know the president of what country.”

At Shaker Jr. High School in Euclid, Principal Sporiano DiBiaso announced over the public address system: “This is a grave day. Terrible things happen sometimes, and we have to take them in stride. We have just heard that President Kennedy has been shot.”

The school’s Fun Night, scheduled for last night, was canceled.

In Western Reserve Uni-

W. C. YOUNG, 2960 Kingsley Rd., Shaker Heights: “I think this is one of the worst things I have ever heard. It’s terrible.” Young recalled that this was the second president to be assassinated in his lifetime. “I was alive in 1901 when McKinley was shot,” he said.

RUPERT WILLoughby, 12412 Phillips Ave.: “I’m shocked. This is unbelievable. I think the President was doing all he could in the field of civil rights. He was a good president, considering all the problems facing the country.”

MISS LAURA DEMENT, secretary, of 8216 Avery Rd., Brecksville: “It is a terrible thing that something like this should occur in this country.”

MSGR. RAYMOND GALLagher, executive director of Catholic Charities, visiting here from Washington, D.C.: “It just doesn’t make sense. How very sad that a fine, strong president should be cut down in his youth.”

Verity’s Baker-Hall, housewives from Shaker Heights, Lakewood, Cleveland’s Hough Area and other areas were attending a PTA leadership training class when a school official walked in and announced the President’s death.

For several seconds the women sat in shocked silence and then a number of them unashamedly burst into tears.
The young mother of three children, tears unashamedly spilling off her cheeks, visited The Press editorial office to express regret at the death of President Kennedy.

The young Negro mother identified herself as Mrs. Rebecca Mixon, 23, of 5710 Cobleigh Ct. She is a freshman at Community College.

"The President's death leaves me with a sense of guilt," she explained.

"He fought for civil rights."

"He was our (the Negro's) deliverance. He has done so much for the Negro and what was his reward? A sniper's bullet."

"Why him? Why not me?" the distraught young woman inquired.

"I am the one who wants a better job, more advantages and equal rights."

"Oh, my God, what's next?"

Mrs. Mixon said she wanted to leave with us a prayer she had composed after hearing the tragic news of the assassination. It reads:

"Oh, Father in Heaven, we know that You and You, alone, hold the pattern of life and death in Your hands. It is not for us to say whether a man should live or die. The only thing we can ask is hold him in Your hands; make him a saint among your saints. With you, Father, he will have no other worries or distress. Oh, Father, please give his wife and family the courage to go on. Hold them in Your hands and guide them in their bereavement. Most of all, Father, give us the courage to go on and do the things President Kennedy wanted us to do."
News of Death Jams Telephone Systems Here

Ohio Bell reported the worst tieup of phone facilities in memory.

Quickly after the first reports of the shooting of President Kennedy there was a flood of calls that blocked out most exchanges in Cleveland. As the uncertainty of his fate was prolonged, all exchanges became tied up.

For a period of nearly an hour those who tried to phone got more busy signals than answers, and many could not even get a dial tone. All dial tones were slow in sounding.
Church Leaders Here Mourn for Kennedy

PRESS NOV 22 '63

Cleveland's top religious leaders reacted to President Kennedy's assassination with expressions of sorrow for the loss of a "devoted leader" and with blessings for his successor.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver of the Temple blamed the President's assassination squarely on the civil rights conflict.

"He was victim of all the passions aroused over the past few years in civil rights," said the clergyman.

"He was the sacrifice to those great principles for which he stood and which he championed. He has left a great legacy to his people to carry on this fight.

"HE WAS ONE of the great presidents of our country. I deeply mourn his passing as do all Americans."

Reached at Trinity Cathedral, where a Presidential memorial service was set for 5:15 p.m. today, Bishop Nelson M. Burroughs of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio said:

"The love and sympathy of all our people pour out to Mrs. Kennedy and her children and the Kennedy family. I am sure the whole country shares in this.

"IN JOHN KENNEDY, we have had a man whose complete devotion to his country was strikingly evident. We honor him for all he has done for us.

"The thought and prayers and support of all Americans will surround the new President in the task he assumes."

The Rev. John Bruere, pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79th St and Euclid Ave., said,

"I think it shows one area of failure in our American life and American system. We have tolerated violence on television and in our paperbacks. We have permitted violence in areas of this nation against one race. And now I think we are beginning to pay the price of liberty without responsibility."
Press Scrapped 125,000 Papers to Give Latest News

Your home-delivered Press may have been as much as two hours late in reaching your door last night.

Here is the reason:

Copies of the Home Edition were being trucked to the carrier boys and the newsstands when word of the Presidential assassination was flashed around the world from Dallas, Tex.

In an attempt to supply its readers with the very latest paper, Press Circulation Manager J. Ernest Walker recalled as many of our fleet of trucks as could be contacted.

The drivers were instructed to return their quickly-outdated paper to The Press garage and to reload their trucks with the very latest edition.

In all, more than 125,000 copies were returned to our office and scrapped. This was more than 70 tons of newsprint.

The Press is grateful to its staff of carrier salesmen who waited patiently at their corners last night for the latest papers to distribute to their customers.

To those subscribers who unfortunately received an edition that did not carry the story of the Presidential shooting we offer our regrets but hope you understand the problem of time.

We hope that you will find today’s editions which contain every development of the transition in government a historical document you will retain and treasure.

MORE THAN 125,000 COPIES of yesterday’s Press were recalled after they had been distributed to carrier boys and newsstands. In their place The Press dispatched trucks with the latest editions carrying reports of the President’s tragic death. This is but one of three similar piles of scrapped papers in The Press garage.
Friday Night Joy
Silenced by Shock

Downtown Cleveland was hushed last night; empty of joy and laughter and merriment, that usually accompany a Friday night. Most places of entertainment were dark, with quickly constructed eulogies to President Kennedy hanging in the doors and windows.

Hotel lobbies were people with silent newspaper readers and TV watchers, all absorbing the shock of the nation’s tragedy. Policemen said they had never before seen such a rush, for any reason whatsoever.

Prime display window space in downtown department stores today display photographs of the murdered President, draped in mourning black.

Some people, upset, called The Press with specific proposals. One woman thought the Browns-Dallas game at the Stadium tomorrow would be particularly inappropriate.

Hayden-Miller Co., 650 Union Commerce Bldg., a stock brokerage, has phone number Cherry 2-1111. The Press’ number for so many years, said its board was blocked with lights as soon as word of the assassination got around. People were trying to reach The Press, whose number for many months has been MA 3-1111. The brokerage was in trouble of its own. Dow Jones averages fell more than $80 within minutes after the shooting, almost as much as on black May 19, 1962.

Some distressed people phoned, to ask that all editorial about the President be unqualified by any political reservations.

Few phoned for details about the assassination, but some asked whether the Dallas suspect had confessed.

Max Mink said, movie audiences, usually near capacity on Friday nights, were down half or more and the patrons who came quiet and thoughtful rather than excited.

“We expect a quiet weekend,” Mink said. He said neighborhood theater attendance was off.

When President Lincoln was assassinated, a tradition of mourning began at Oberlin College. The bell at Finney Chapel was tolled. It was tolled again in 1901 when President McKinley was murdered. It is not tolled for presidents who die in natural deaths in office, only those who are killed in office.

Today it tolled again for President Kennedy. Last night a memorial service for him was held in the Chapel.

A testimonial dinner last night in the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel was to have honored Councilman Leo Jackson became instead an hour-long memorial for President Kennedy.

About 600 persons heard the Rev. Emmanus Fitten pray: “Almighty God, we beseech Thee in this hour of upheaval and unrest to comfort...”
Tragedy Cancels Many Social Events in Area

Scores of civic and social events scheduled for the weekend and early next week have been canceled as the city and the nation went into mourning in memory of the dead President.

Among them are:

- Starlight Ball of the Christ Child Society, scheduled for tonight in Hotel Sheraton-Cleveland.
- Louis Armstrong's Sunday appearance at John Carroll University and the Tuesday institute on Soviet-American relations.
- Fenn Players' "Beggar's Opera."
- Carnegie Institute of Technology's dinner dance scheduled for tonight in Statler Hilton Hotel.
- Harvest dinner at the Unitarian Society. Instead a memorial service will be conducted.
- Holy Name Society dance at Our Lady of Peace Church.
- Hathaway-Brown Alumnae dance.
- Sky Divers Indoor Air Meet at Painesville Armory.
- Closed-circuit telecast of the Yale-Harvard football game in the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel.
- Tomorrow night's dance of the Cayomaw Club of Parma.
- The Willoughby Hills Methodist Church's "Dinner of the World."
- Tonight's dance of the St. Basil CYO of Brecksville in Highland Drive Elementary School.

Succession Has Twist of Irony

WASHINGTON—UPID—President Lyndon B. Johnson is the first southerner to hold that office since Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, who served from 1865 to 1869.

Ironically, Andrew Johnson also succeeded an assassinated president, Abraham Lincoln, who died Apr. 15, 1865, the day after being shot by actor John Wilkes Booth.
Crows Weep at Casket of the President

DALLAS — UPI: Huge crowds jammed the area around Parkland Hospital as President Kennedy's body was carried out in a wooden casket this afternoon.

The crowd was almost stunned. Many were weeping.

Mrs. Kennedy accompanied the body. Possibly 50 uniformed policemen surrounded the area, driving back hundreds of spectators.

The casket was placed in a white Cadillac hearse and the drapes were pulled.

A tremendous, all-engulfing wave of grief and shock swept the city today in a matter of minutes. Women, their faces stiff with shock, eyes wet with tears, hurried up the steps of St. John Cathedral to offer swift prayers for President Kennedy.

Near the Union Commerce Bldg. reporters stopped to ask passersby their reaction to the stunning news.

"One of the worst things I ever heard," said W. C. Young, 67, of 2890 Kingsley Rd., Shaker Heights. "I remember 1901 when McKinley was assassinated. It was a terrible, terrible day."

"A terrible tragedy—one we will all regret," said Sven Langmack, 97, of Gates Mills, treasurer of the Empire Print Co. "He was a fine president."

Magr. Raymond Gallagher of Washington, D.C., executive director of National Catholic Charities visiting here, said:

"IT'S HARD to understand how anybody could do a thing like this. It must have been one of the frankest fringe—it doesn't make sense. He was a fine, young, strong president."

"I can't explain the anguish I feel," said Joseph Schwartz, 2990 Bollingbrook Rd., Pepper Pike, president of the Ludlow Steel Co. "While I didn't agree with all of the President's policies I feel he was a fine man."

"I didn't think this could happen in our time," cried Rupert Willoughby, 12412 Phillips Ave.

Back at The Press, the phone bells started pouring in from people seeking news of the President's condition—offering their opinion of anyone who would try to assassinate this country's chief executive.

"I'D LIKE to suggest a headline," one weeping woman said over the phone. "'Shame on Texas — We'll Forget the Alamo Now!'"

And she added: "I'm a Republican, too."

Ohio Bell reported that soon after the story broke its downtown and near-downtown lines were swamped with calls.

In The Press office people clustered around chattering teletype machines so deep it was hard for newsmen to work.

VISITORS in the office joined the reporters, crying out their stunned disbelief, asking each other: "Is he dead or alive? How could it happen? What kind of a country is this anyway?"

One classified ad department employee, Mrs. Catherine Mills, fainted in the City Room when she heard the flash. She was administered oxygen and quickly revived.

Even on the UPI machines the news came with deceptive suddenness. Here is how it came about:

"PRECEDE KENNEDY," the teletype spelled it.

"DALLAS — Three shots were fired at President Ken-