

It's Been Five Years Since AP109 At 1:42 Hit The Area

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Five years ago tomorrow was Friday, November 22, 1968. It has been said that those of us alive today remember where we were on only two occasions — December 7, 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked and on November 22, 1963 when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. This is, perhaps, true.

Five years ago, things here in our area of the world were relatively quiet. The autumn had been one of the most beautiful ever. The leaves, late in turning colorful, had ushered in a fall to be remembered. There had been few if any cold days and that Friday was almost shirt-sleeve weather. The sun was bright; the earth was warm and we here moved in our usual tempo our various duties to perform.

The day had passed swiftly and the afternoon had brought the promise of good weekend weather for hunters, campers and a few dedicated fishermen. Then, suddenly, it was 1:42 P.M.

A call came into the local radio station. James Shearin, local department store manager, was calling. He had heard that the President had been shot. "Do you know anything about it?" he asked Mrs. Mollie Evans, Continuity Director. Mrs. Evans rushed to the Associated Press wire machine:

AP 109
BULLETIN

(Dallas)—PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAS BEEN SHOT IN DALLAS, TEXAS. HE WAS SHOT AS HIS MOTORCADE LEFT DOWNTOWN DALLAS. MRS. KENNEDY JUMPED UP AND GRABBED THE PRESIDENT. SHE CRIED "OH, NO" AS THE MOTORCADE SPED ON. AN ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER, JAMES ALTGENS, REPORTS HE SAW BLOOD ON THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD.

THE A-P MAN SAID HE HEARD TWO SHOTS BUT THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS SHOOTING FIREWORKS UNTIL HE SAW THE BLOOD ON THE PRESIDENT. ALTGENS SAID HE SAW NO ONE WITH A GUN.

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Mrs. Evans rushed back to the phone. It was true. The President had been shot. "That's all we know", she said.

It fell our lot to be there at the station at the exact moment. And we took the control room. Mrs. Evans fed us the copy as it came off the wire. It came extremely slow at first. Then it overwhelmed us. A number of people came to the station to confirm or to watch the reports as they came in.

Monitoring other stations in the area, it was found that the Louisburg station had the news on the air some ten minutes before the others. The phone rang. The reports poured in.

It was 2:34 P.M. however before the final word was sent over the wire. TWO PRIESTS SAY KENNEDY DEAD. That's all the FLASH said. There were no numbers, codes or dates. Just the five simple words.

This was followed swiftly by another — better worded — report saying the same thing. The fourth report confirmed what everyone hoped would not be so. Coldly and impersonally it said: PRESIDENT KENNEDY IS DEAD. It went on to say that Texas Governor John Connally was also shot. NO WORD ON HIS FATE. Then there was a report that Vice-President Johnson also had been wounded, BUT THIS WAS DENIED BY MRS. JOHNSON.

CONFIRMATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH CAME QUICKLY FROM WASHINGTON.

At 46, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States was dead. And people everywhere would remember as long as they would live where they were and what they were doing when the news came to

them. It matters not whether it was at 1:42 or 2:34. This is the way it is with history.

The word spread quickly around the Louisburg area and throughout Franklin County. People rushed home to view the happenings on television. Many listened to their radios. And night fell.

By supertime, Lyndon Johnson had been sworn in as the 36th Presi-

dent. John Connally was undergoing an operation and Air Force 1 was winging its way back to Washington. It carried a sad cargo. A newly sworn President, a new first lady, a widow and a slain chief executive.

Few can forget the sight of the coffin as it was unloaded from the plane. The darkness that covered Washington covered the country.

In North Carolina, Dr. I. Beverly Lake, an expected candidate for Governor and one who opposed many of Kennedy's policies said it for many who differed with the young President's politics but nevertheless viewed him with respect. Lake said, "Like every other North Carolinian, regardless of political party or opinion, I am shocked and distressed by this horrible crime. My prayer is that they (Kennedy family) may find the comfort and assurance that only God can give them."

John Church, now Representative from the Franklin, Vance, Warren District, issued a request to the 90,000 business establishments in North Carolina to close their doors for an hour in honor of the slain President. Church was President of the N. C. Merchants Association that November.

Dan K. Moore, then a Judge, said, "I am so profoundly shocked and

grieved that words are inadequate to express my feelings".

But, Friday was not all. Saturday followed with its live coverage of the long lines of people waiting to view the coffin. Millions stay glued to their television screens throughout the day and on into the night. Sunday brought the second shock. Lee Harvey Oswald was shot while TV viewers watched in horror. Jack Ruby was whisked away under arrest. It seemed the horror would never end.

Then came the day of the drums and the riderless horse. And finally, the eternal flame. John Kennedy had said on a visit to the spot where he came to final rest. "It's beautiful here. I could stay here forever".

He had become the seventh President in the past 100 years to be elected in a year divisible by 20 and to die in office. He followed Harrison, 1840; Lincoln, 1860; Garfield, 1880; McKinley, 1900; Harding, 1920 and Roosevelt, 1940. Kennedy was elected in 1960.

He had once said, "I will not live in fear. What will be, must be".

His death and the following three days were perhaps the most monumental in the history of this country. People here will not soon forget. Tomorrow the memory will be five years old.



Over 750 Murray Petitions Are In Circulation

Over 750 copies of a petition addressed to Superior Court Judge Leo Carr asking that he change an active 3 to 5 year sentence in the case of Lee Murray to one of probation, are now in circulation in Franklin and Wake counties. The drive for signatures was launched Tuesday following a meeting here Monday night of around fifty friends of Murray's.

A spokesman for the group reported today that "the response has been simply overwhelming. People are calling and asking where they can sign and still others are asking for copies to distribute themselves." The Zebulon group has requested additional copies twice since receiving their first supply Tuesday.

Murray was convicted on five counts of embezzling here in October and given an active sentence. His case

is now under appeal to the higher court.

The popular former County Accountant, now living in Zebulon and working in Louisburg, resigned his local post to accept the job of Treasurer of Wake County in 1966.

The group, meeting here Monday, expressed its desire to help "a friend" and said that the movement does not concern itself with "the guilt or innocence, correctness or incorrectness of the verdict" but rather is a move to aid "a friend in need."

A committee of around six persons are slated to confer with Judge Carr when he arrives here Monday for a week of civil court. However, Judge Carr is ill this week and has been unable to hold his scheduled session of court in Granville County. A spokesman for the "friends of Lee Murray" said today that the petition would be taken to Judge Carr wherever he might be and whenever he is able to meet with the Committee.

The group also indicated Monday night that if the petition fails to bring some relief, other measures will be taken.

Hal Humphrey Praised By Lions

The Louisburg Lions Club met at The Murphy House last Tuesday evening for the purpose of eating and then visiting Dean Farms.

Several announcements were made. Lion Dean Moon announced the Ladies' night Christmas Party to be held at the Murphy House December 10 at 7:00 p.m. Also, Lion Grady Snyder announced that the White Cane Drive grossed \$209.74. This money will be sent to the North Carolina Association for the Blind. Last, Lion Ed Yarborough praised Lion Hal Humphrey for his dedicated service in Lions, boy scouts, and the church. Lion Humphrey, Sergeant-Major of the regular army, is being transferred soon.

There were three visiting Lions from Oxford: Howard Stallings, President Leonard Creech, and Tom Carver.

Businesses Set Holiday Store Hours

The Franklin County Business Association has announced several of the downtown merchants will observe new store hours for the Christmas Season.

Beginning November 22, they will remain open on Friday nights until 8:30 P.M. Then beginning, December 16 through December 23, stores will remain open week nights until 8:30 P.M. They are offering these additional night hours for the convenience of their customers.

Santa Claus will make his appearance in the stores beginning December 10. The merchants will sponsor Santa and all children are invited to visit with him in their favorite store.

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Louisburg College

Combines Homecoming, Alumni Day This Weekend

Louisburg College will mark Homecoming and Alumni Day here Friday and Saturday with a full schedule of events. The busy weekend gets underway Friday night with the Winter Dance, sponsored by the Sophomore

Sign To Be Moved

The large billboard sign on Bickett Blvd. urging local citizens to Trade in Raleigh is coming down. The sign, subject of an editorial in Tuesday's issue of The Franklin Times, is to be re-located, according to a report from the Franklin County Business Association.

Mrs. Juanita Pleasants, Executive Secretary of the organization, said she has talked with Wesley Williams, Executive Secretary of the Raleigh Merchants Association, and that he has assured her organization that the sign will be moved. She reports that Williams stated it is not the policy of the Raleigh group to have their signs located within the city limits of neighboring towns.

The sign, however, is still in tact today, but Mrs. Pleasants said Williams told her he would contact the billboard company and have it removed.

Class. The dance is open to alumni.

Saturday morning the Alumni Golf Tournament gets underway at Green Hill Country Club beginning at 10:00 A.M. Lunch will be served in the B. N. Duke Cafeteria at noon and registration gets underway in the Main Building lobby at 1 P.M. The Bridge Tournament starts at 2 P.M. followed by a tea from 3 to 5 P.M. in the Main parlor.

At 5 P.M. Saturday, the Second Marine Division Band will give a concert in the Auditorium - Classroom Building, to which the public is invited.

The annual banquet takes place in the cafeteria at 6:15 P.M. and the College basketball squad takes on Southwood at 7:30 P.M. The game pits two Franklin County basketball stars against each other as Louisburg's Larry Paschall goes against Southwood's E. J. Wilder. Both are leading their teams in scoring this year and were teammates on the Youngsville Class A State championship team last season.

At 9 P.M. the Esquires will appear in concert in the auditorium to close out the weekend.

The 2d Marine Division Band, in carrying on an old and time honored tradition of military music, performs regularly in parades and concerts following in the tradition of the very first Marine Corps Band: drummers and fifers of 1798.

In a long history of public performances at civic and festive affairs, the 2d Marine Division Band has performed for the President of the United States; Her Majesty, the Queen of England; governors; and countless dignitaries and high government officials from countries all over the world.

During the past year the Band has made numerous appearances in North and South Carolina, entertaining thousands of Carolinians at parades, concerts, and public functions, including an annual performance at the Azalea Festival in Wilmington, North Carolina, the Illinois State Fair, and the Armed Forces Day parade down Fifth Avenue, New York City.

During a seven-month period, the Band made more than 400 concert and parade appearances. These performances have taken the Band members throughout the eastern United States as they have logged nearly 12,000 air and bus miles while adding an estimated 1,200 marching miles.

The Band has traveled extensively for appearances at the Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Texas; the Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida; the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway; the New York Worlds Fair; and cruises of the Caribbean and Mediterranean. This year will mark the fourth consecutive appearance of the 2d Marine Division Band at the world famous Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

But all is not pomp and ceremony, big cities and bright lights for the 50 man-plus 2d Marine Division Band. In

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Homecoming Contestants

Louisburg College Homecoming Queen contestants are pictured above. From top to bottom, left to right, are shown: Sue Ann Hardwick, Becky Payne, Diane Benton, Linda Rhew, Carol Myrick, Mary Lee Hill, Mary Bess Jones, Judy Hill, Ellen Mustian, Peggy Copeland, Dianne Bobbitt, Diane Schultz and Tony Gupton. Homecoming at the College is slated Friday and Saturday. Photo by Ross Shuping.

Airport Project Under Study

Kenneth Schubart, Industrial Development Director, disclosed today that his office is studying plans for an airport for the area and expressed interest in its being located somewhere between Louisburg and Franklinton.

Schubart emphasized that nothing concrete has yet been done in the matter, but that there is interest in the project and his office is looking into the various possibilities. It was also disclosed that some thought was previously given to a joint venture with Warren County and even Vance County. Since Vance has a project already underway and Warren's location would not be convenient to the Franklinton-Louisburg area, these possibilities are expected to be abandoned.

A news release out of Washington disclosed today that Louisburg is among the towns listed for approval of new airports in North Carolina. Subject to Congressional appropriation,

North Carolina is slated to received \$24.6 million for new and improved airports. The money would come on a matching fund basis with state and local participation.

Schubart joined Joe Shearin, local Civil Air Patrol official, in stressing the need for airport facilities in the area. Shearin estimated it would take between \$120,000 and \$150,000 to build an adequate air field here. The federal government would supply fifty percent of the funds used for land purchase, safety features and runway construction.

Franklin has an Airport Commission, which made some inquiries into an airport project some time ago. No report of the Commission's activities have been made in recent months, however, and the current study of the possibility of such a project is being made as a routine matter by the Development Commission office.



Local Shriners Aid Crippled Children

Representatives of the Franklin County Shrine Club are shown above as the local organization presented its annual check to officials of the Shrine for the benefit of the crippled children projects. Pictured left to right are: N. C. Mullen, Treasurer and H. D. Jeffreys, President of the Franklin group; Frank Jones, Member of the Divan, and Robert L. Sides, Pontentate. The presentation was made at the annual banquet here this week. Photo by Ross Shuping.