

# Reagan

## Former Tech student charged with shooting

# Man grew up in Dallas' Highland Park area

United Press International  
DALLAS — John Warnock Hinkley Jr., charged with the attempted assassination of President Reagan, grew up "likeable and laughing" in a mansion with a swimming pool, but became more and more introverted as he grew older and was described as a "loner" in college.

Hinkley appeared briefly in court Monday night, but was denied bond and was ordered to appear at a preliminary hearing Thursday.

Though few people at Texas Tech University in Lubbock recalled Hinkley, 25, another indication of his reclusiveness, those who remembered him described him as a lonely person.

Don Barrett, who rented Hinkley a television during the Dallas

youth's seven on and off years at the university, said he last saw Hinkley in July of 1980, during Hinkley's last session at Tech.

"He's a loner," Barrett said. "I never saw the guy with anyone. I saw him walking up and down University Street with a white bag under his arm carrying his hamburgers. He didn't appear dangerous."

Hinkley's photograph in La Ventana, the Tech annual for 1974, lists no club memberships. Dr. Bill Freeman, sponsor of the Tech Rodeo Club said, "That boy looks familiar" when shown the picture in the annual, "but whether he was in the club, I can't say."

Kevin Crowley, manager of the Westernair Apartments where Hinkley lived for a time, also said

he recognized the photograph, but did not remember Hinkley.

However, in primary and secondary schools in Highland Park, an incorporated city which with University Park makes up the plush park cities suburb surrounded by Dallas, Hinkley apparently had a number of friends.

"He seemed very cordial, not too outgoing or too overbearing," said Bill Lierman, sponsor of the Rodeo Club at Highland Park High School which Hinkley belonged to. "He was friendly to everyone. He didn't sit off in the corner."

"He was just a typical young fellow. Very personable. Well mannered. Well dressed, but of

course coming from Highland Park you would expect that. He never gave anybody any trouble, as far as I can remember."

"He was likeable and laughing, cutting up all the time. I'm sure he had girl friends, but I never saw any of them. He was a very nice looking young fellow."

Highland Park is the home of Dallas' old money, including the family home of Texas Gov. Bill Clements. Dominated by Southern Methodist University, where Hinkley's sister was a cheerleader, the park cities are lush, with huge oak and magnolia trees, pools and fountains along Turtle Creek which winds through the area, and stunning pink and white azalea bushes.

Hinkley was born May 9, 1955, in Ardmore, Okla., but moved two years later with his family into a two-story tan brick house and the family lived there for over 15 years. In 1974, the Hinkleys moved to the affluent Denver suburb of Evergreen, Colo., taking the family oil business with them, but Hinkley remained in Dallas to graduate and then enrolled in the school of business administration at Tech. Hinkley never received a degree, and after the summer school stint last year rejoined his family in Evergreen.

Highland Park residents who knew the Hinkleys and lived close to them on Beverly Drive discussed the family at length.

"They were atypical, conservative Highland Park family," said one middle-aged woman neighbor who would not let her name be used. "I was hoping it was mistaken identity. His father will age 50 years."

Another friend of the family said: "His mother was always hoping he would have more friends, but he was very much of an individual. John was simply what you would call their loner. They only

## Reporter at shooting sees in slow motion

By DEAN REYNOLDS

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan had just completed his speech, one of his many defenses of his economic program, when he headed as always to his awaiting motorcade.

Outside the Washington Hilton Hotel on Florida Avenue, the president was greeted by the cheers of several hundred bystanders.

Reagan waved in his good-natured fashion and smiled to the crowd as he walked from a service entrance the 25 steps to the presidential limousine. As the president stepped off the curb onto the driveway where his limousine was parked, something attracted his attention and he turned, facing the curb and the hotel wall where his assailant was standing somewhere among the bystanders.

Suddenly there were four or five loud bursts, sounding like firecrackers, and the smell of gun smoke hung in the air. The crowd recoiled in horror. There were screams. Handguns and automatic weapons were suddenly visible in the hands of police and Secret Service agents.

I dropped into a crouch but kept my eyes on the president. He appeared to have a frightened, almost bewildered look, just after the shots rang out.

Secret Service agents spun him around and shoved him head first into the limousine, while the agents kept shouting "Get back! Get back!" to the crowd.

The shots, fired in rapid succession, could not have been fired from more than 10 or 15 feet from the president.

The limousine pulled away seconds after the president was pushed inside.

A scuffle to right of the limousine then caught my attention. A young blond man was being subdued on his back by several agents and policemen. There was a mob of lawmen on the ground and the tops of two legs, clad in dark trousers, were visible, sticking out from the pile.

I saw no one hit and learned only later the president had been wounded along with White House press secretary Jim Brady, a policeman and a Secret Service agent.

The gunman had been on the sidewalk, standing close to the hotel wall. Reporters were on the other side of the limousine, the top of a triangle from the president and the gunman.

It was like being in a vacuum, with everything in slow motion. It took a second or two before anything registered but when I saw the looks of enormous stress and the clenched teeth of the Secret Service agents, I knew it was more than fire crackers.

I took off into the hotel to find a telephone, knocking down maybe eight persons who had just heard the president speak at the National Conference of the Building and Construction Trade Department. There didn't seem to be a pay phone in the place, and I finally found an open telephone in an office.

When I got outside again, blood was mingling with the rain on the sidewalk.

Police roped off the area to hold back hundreds of curious pedestrians.

Across the street, I could see office workers watching on television the scene that had occurred just outside their windows.

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