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THE BATTALION

Monday, November 22, 1993

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Remembering John F. Kennedy

Agents voice concern about pages missing from Oswald's blue book

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH - The instructions from Lyndon Johnson to Secret Service Agent Mike Howard and his partner were clear and concise.

"Don't let anything happen to these people. Protect them as you would the president of the United States.

That is why it was not sur-prising that television accounts of President John F. Kennedy's funeral were interrupted at a secluded suburban motel that evening by the agents' cries of "Don't shoot! Don't shoot!"

After all, they had to catch but not harm their quarry, a middle-aged woman dressed in white who abruptly flung herself through the door. She was attempting to race through a gantlet of armed guards hidden in the shadows.

The other agent, Charles Kunkel, tackled the woman and the two tumbled to the base of a tree. From the darkness, a third man appeared, holding a submachine gun. "Don't shoot!" Kunkel

hollered again. The gunman, a police detective named Bob, returned to his guardpost

As Howard and Kunkel marched Marguerite Oswald back to her room, she cursed the agents and demanded to know why her son was not buried in Arlington National Cemetery with Kennedy.

Her son was an ex-Marine, she said. Her son also was accused of killing the president.

Mike Howard's Texas assignment began predictably enough. Two weeks before President Kennedy's fence-mending trip to the state, Howard arrived in Fort Worth to arrange back-ground checks for Kennedy's stop there.

He stayed until Kennedy de-parted for Dallas on the morn-ing of November 22. What had unwound as a flawless political performance at Fort Worth's Texas Hotel would be shattered by gunfire 30 miles away.

Now retired and living on a ranch north of Dallas, Howard remains frustrated that the president was persuaded not to follow the Secret Service's advice to use a bubble-top limousine in the parade through downtown. Dallas

And, as an observer of Lee Harvey Oswald in custody and an interrogator of Oswald's family Howard is convinced Oswald acted alone. The whole Secret Service would have felt better if the KGB and Cuban underground and all those people from Mexi-co and Russia and the U.S., the CIA and the FBI and the Boy Scouts, if all those people got together and conspired the kill the president," he said in a recent interview Oswald's act "made us look like fools," he says. "And, of

course, we were."

His president dead and Oswald under arrest, Mike Howard and his partner's assignment was to locate Oswald's family. They had been holed up with a journalist named Thomas Thompson, who would later write best-selling books such as "Blood and Money" and "Celebrity.

After daylight on Sunday, the two agents descended on a motel near the airport. They walked in, picked up the Oswalds, loaded them into their car and took off for the house where the family lived.

While Oswald's Russian wife Marina gathered clothes and difor her daughters, apers Howard retrieved a "little blue memo book" that he and Kunkel, and later the Warren Commission, found most interesting

But the actions of a Dallas nightclub operator named Jack Ruby precluded a quick assess-ment of the book's contents.

The Oswald family was in Howard's car when the twoway radio crackled with news of Oswald being shot at Dallas po-lice headquarters. "Is that my son they're talking about?" asked an alarmed Marguerite Oswald.

As Howard and Kunkel marched Marguerite Oswald back to her room, she cursed the agents and demanded to know why her son was not buried in Arlington **National Cemetery** with Kennedy.

Her son was an ex-Marine, she said. Her son also was accused of killing the president.

"Yes, ma'am," Kunkel replied, as she began to wail. At Parkland Hospital, Howard found the emergency room where a doctor was working feverishly on Oswald. "I had saved the son of a bitch,



President John F. Kennedy is slumped down in the backseat of this car after being shot on Nov. 22, 1963. Jacqueline Kennedy leans over the president as an unidentified Secret Service agent clings to the rear of the car.

The group would settle at the Inn of the Six Flags, a motel halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth near an amusement bark by the same name. They had a vow of secrecy from the motel's operator.

And there, with the addition of Oswald's brother, the agents would begin what would be five days of questions and at least one frightful incident when Marguerite attempted an escape

Kunkel and Howard were amazed at how Marina, through a translator, fully answered all questions - how she met Oswald, how they became romantically involved and how they decided to marry. And, later, what she had to tell them about the little blue memo book.

As Howard would recall years later, the book contained notations by Oswald that he intended to kill right-wing activist Gen. Edwin Walker, Gov. John Connally and Vice President Johnson.

Oswald had drawn a dagger with blood dripping from it under the reference to Connally, who would be wounded when Kennedy was killed. And, Marina confirmed that Oswald had tried to kill Walker in a failed sniper attack

Oswald's blue book also contained the name of an FBI agent and a printed notation: "I will kill this S.O.B.

Marina said the agent was assigned to conduct a routine investigation of Oswald, presumably ecause of his de tion to

emerged without a tear in her Oswald's blue memo book, but not before he and Kunkel secretly read every page into a tape recorder.

> After Dallas, Howard was assigned to President Johnson and his family, even accompanying him to the LBJ Ranch after he left office.

One day as he sat with Johnson at the ranch swimming pool, Howard told him about Oswald's little blue memo book and the vow to kill the FBI agent who investigated him.

That wasn't in there," he recalls LBJ replying.

"It was when we saw it,' Howard said. "It's on the tape." And, LBJ noted, the page about Oswald's scheme to kill Connally was missing when the book got to the Warren Commission.

The pair speculated that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover could have had those pages removed Or that they might have disap peared somehow between the FBI and the commission.

"I just don't know," Howard said. Neither did the ex-president.

JFK

Continued from Page 1

encor Mladenka skipped classes curbs when he was a sophomore in 50 ar college to attend the funeral of on Re Kennedy and has since become cynical of him because of revelations of the former president's shut

private life. East Time has done a lot to polwill o ish hi utation," he said Although it is very unlikely camp that we will ever know the Bonf whole truth about what happened, Mladenkasaid, it is possible that some startling new evidence may come forward, and until that time, people will continue to write books and make movies about it for years to come After all, people are still fascinated with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, he said.

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saved him, but he died of shock," the doctor shouted angrily.

Entering the room, Marina quietly studied her husband's corpse, then noticed the bruise over his eye. She ran her hand over it and asked what happened.

"That's where the policeman hit him when he was arrested," Howard said. That seemed to satisfy her and, despite her mother-in-law's screams, she

the Soviet Union and later his 'Fair Play For Cuba'' connection in New Orleans.

She would also disclose Oswald thought the agent made sexual advances toward her.

As the weekend approached, the agents were told the FBI would assume the investigation, and a displeased Howard dismantled the Six Flags command post.

He reluctantly surrendered

PAID ADVERTISEMENT "Community bicycle support overwhelming," says Hard

Aggies, TBC and Freebirds help bike plan pass unanimous vote

By Kevin Cochran

With over 3000 Aggie signatures and support from the Texas Bicycle Coalition, Freebirds World Burrito, the Mayor of College Station, and city planners, the Bikeway Master Plan passed the City Council vote 7-0 on October 28. Ed Hard, the foremost bikeway planner for the City of College Station, said the "community bicycle support at the hearing was overwhelming." The standing room only City Council session was the most attended in recent memory. Texas Bicycle Coalition spokes-

person Danise Hauser and Freebirds spokesperson Mike Moses made statements and presented the book of signatures at City Hall Council Chambers. The City Council then pledged its support for cleaner air and cafe support for cleaner air and safer roadways by approving the Bikeway Master Plan.

The first step has been taken. On 319 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, NORTHGATE

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

November 6, the City of College Station formally applied for \$1.2 million in federal funding for bikeways. This transaction should occur over the next six to twelve months. However, funding is not guaranteed due to the competitiveness of the application process. In response to the chance of non-funding, Hard said, "continued bicycle support is therefore important for bikeway enhancements according to the Bikeway Master Plan.'

The Texas Bicycle Coalition and Freebirds World Burrito will keep you informed on the status of the federal funding process and on other bikeway developments. If future petitions are necessary to insure action on bicycle issues, the Aggie grass roots movement will be used again to rally support.



THE BATTALION

The following Spring 1994 Editorial Board Positions are open:

> Managing Editor News Editor (2) **City Editor** Sports Editor Lifestyles Editor **Opinion Editor** Photo Editor

Application forms available at the front desk in room 013 Reed McDonald Building. All majors encouraged to apply.

Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday, November 29.

Applicants must be Texas A&M students in good standing at the time of employment and remain in good standing while employed.

For more information, telephone 845-3313.

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