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'This is what I remember from that fateful American day'



That Day

Texas Gov. John Connally waves as the Connallys and Kennedys set off on what would be the president's final ride on Nov. 22, 1963. One of the modifications to the stock 1961 Lincoln Continental convertible was the addition of a middle row of jump seats.



R. MALLISON/FT. WORTH STAR-TELE./MCT
Members of the U.S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club sing at the "The 50th: Honoring the Memory of President John F. Kennedy" event in Dallas on the 50th anniversary of the president's assassination, Friday.

**Readers Remember
A Tragic Day In 1963**

For anyone old enough to remember President John F. Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, the memory of the day is like a wound that never completely heals. There is always the echo of that moment of shattering realization and the empty sadness it created haunting you. It never truly goes away; the moment can never be eradicated or exorcised.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination, we asked readers to share their memories of the day. Here are stories:

FRED HORNSTRA, YANKTON

On 22 November 1963, I was teaching in downtown Chicago at the Western Electric Graduate Engineering School which occupied the fifth (and top) floor of the former Sun Times building adjacent to the Wrigley building on Michigan Ave. My office window overlooked the Michigan Avenue Bridge and Lake Michigan.

On that particular morning everything looked calm and peaceful with no hint of impending disaster. Shortly after lunch, word was received that President Kennedy had been shot. As if on command, the sky darkened as an unseasonably late thunderstorm moved into the

area. Not long after that came the announcement that the president was dead! Almost immediately, the sky opened up, rain poured down in buckets accompanied by flashes of lightning, and sharp clashes of thunder reverberated among the tall buildings of the city. The scene presented all the foreboding appearances of a cosmic cataclysm, a true apocalypse.

The entire faculty and students appeared stunned and morose — except for one notable and very visible exception. In response to the announcement that the president was dead, a young instructor was walking up and down the aisles waving his hands high in the air and loudly proclaiming: "WE HAVE JUST ELECTED A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT!"

This is what I remember from that fateful American day.

ALDINE ORTON MAYER, GAYVILLE

On Nov. 22, 1963, my husband, Gene Orton and our two sons, Doug and Greg, were living in Sidney, Neb. I was preparing noon lunch for my family and I was making an apple, banana, walnut salad when the news came over the TV that President Kennedy had died in a Dallas hospital from



JFK REMEMBERED

**50 Years
Later, Dallas
Honors JFK**

BY ANNA M. TINSLEY

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DALLAS — For a moment Friday, it was as if time had stopped.

Fifty years to the minute after President John F. Kennedy was shot to death while his motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza — as gray skies loomed overhead and drizzle steadily fell from the sky — thousands of people gathered at that very spot fell silent.

Some bowed their heads. Others tilted their heads back, eyes closed, heavenward.

And some cautiously turned their eyes toward the Texas School Book Depository, where government officials have said the shots came from years ago.

Then church bells tolled. "A new era dawned and another waned half a century ago, when hope and hatred collided right here in Dallas," Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings said of the assassination that threw the city of Dallas under national scrutiny — and negativity — for decades. "In our front yard, our president had been taken from us.

"It seems that we all grew up that day," he said. "Our collective hearts were broken."

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Holiday Shades



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

These Hartington Cedar Catholic students were ready for any kind of lighting during the annual Candlelight Christmas Parade, held Friday night in Hartington. The event was one of a series of community activities to help residents kick off the holiday season. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

**Mo. River Basin Still
In Drought Mode**

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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Despite record figures for October runoff, the Missouri River basin remains in a drought mode, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"We are still going into spring in a little bit of a drought situation, and they still plan on doing water conservation measures," said Dave Becker, project operations manager for Gavins Point Dam near Yankton.

"We are about 4.5 million acre-feet below the level of water that we would like to be this spring."

Last month's runoff above Sioux City was 2.8 million acre-feet (maf), more than twice the normal level and the second-highest October runoff since record-keeping began in 1898, according to a Corps



Becker

news release.

In addition, October runoff in the Oahe and Fort Randall reaches were the highest and second highest on record, respectively.

As a result, the updated forecast for 2013 runoff in the basin stands at 25.9 maf, or 102 percent of the normal annual runoff of 25.2 maf.

However, the impact of last year's drought is still felt. The three largest reservoirs — Fort Peck, Garrison and Oahe — are drawn down 3 to 10 feet below their desired levels. And the Corps

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