

We hope you enjoy revisiting this
Remembering column from November 17, 2010.

Remembering..... By Ed McBride

US President Kennedy's Assassination

As we remember the death of President John Kennedy many things run through our minds. When it happened I was at Lawrence Ratliff's shop office alone, lettering a new piece of equipment. I had my truck radio on and became very excited at what I was hearing. There were no cell phones then, so I hurried back to my shop to share the tragic news. I certainly did not realize what else was in the making - and I will let my son Tommy tell you in his own words, 47 years later:



November 22, 1963, was a Friday. It was afternoon and I was studying at the library at Pfeiffer College and someone came in and said that President Kennedy had been shot. I left the library, and as I walked back to the dorm I passed a convertible that several people had gathered around. They were listening to the news on the car radio. At that time President Kennedy had been pronounced dead. I continued walking back to my dorm and everyone who I met had stunned looks on their faces. When I arrived at the dorm the tv room was jammed - standing room only - everyone just listening to the news.

After supper my buddies and I went back to the dorm and the tv room to listen to the continuing news coverage. Later that evening we were sitting around talking about the historical significance of the assassination of the President of the United States of America. (As background, it had only been a year earlier since the Cuban missile crisis - sandbags in the dorm stairwells, assembly drills, etc.) We talked until early morning.

The next day some of us had classes, but most classes were cancelled or just met long enough to take attendance. Back at the dorm the tv room was still the focal point for news. That evening the details about the funeral were beginning to be released. My buddies and I started talking about this being a once in a lifetime event. We decided that we should witness this in person. We started making plans and packing (clothes as well as food from the cafeteria!) Darnell Duncan (who had a car), Dunlap Burns and I decided to go to Washington DC.

By lunchtime Sunday we were loaded and ready to go. As we were driving out of the parking lot another buddy came running out and said Lee Harvey Oswald had just been shot. We went back to the tv room to listen to the latest news. A few minutes later we were headed to Darnell's home in Roxboro, NC. We picked up his younger brother Rick and their older sister Brenda and headed to Washington DC. By this time we knew that President Kennedy would be lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda and that's where we decided we should go. We arrived that Sunday evening and finally found a place to park the car. As we walked toward the Capitol we saw a long line of people and we stopped and asked a policeman if that was the line to go into the Rotunda. He told us that it was and that it went for 56 blocks, crossed a block and came back 56 blocks on the street behind us. He told us that the line could not move fast enough for us to walk by President Kennedy's casket before the funeral. He suggested that we would probably have a better chance to see the funeral the next day (Monday) at Arlington National Cemetery. (We heard on the news the next morning that the line had been shut down so that President Kennedy's body could be taken to Arlington.)

We went back across the river to Virginia and found a motel close to Arlington National Cemetery. We got up early the next morning and went to the cemetery. We found a good spot near the grave site. Later in the morning the barricade was moved much further back from the grave site because of the huge crowd and security concerns. When the funeral procession came into view the crowd became reverently silent with the realization that the President of the United States had been assassinated. After the funeral service the huge crowd slowly dispersed.

While walking back to the car we passed Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, walking in the crowd. How special it was to see an international figure who we had studied about in class.

After reaching the car we slowly made our way through the heavy traffic to the highway back to North Carolina. We dropped Rick and Brenda off in Roxboro on our way back to Pfeiffer. Everything was going well until we ran out of gas in Gold Hill, NC early Tuesday morning. We pushed the car down the highway until we found a place that we could get the car completely off the road. We estimated that we were probably four or five miles from campus. This was a rural area, and at that time of the morning there was no traffic. We started walking and arrived at the campus as the sun was coming up. Later that day I called mother and daddy and told them about our trip. Needless to say they were quite surprised that their "little boy" had gone all the way to Washington DC without telling them!

Of the many memories over the years this certainly ranks as one of the more memorable. Where were you on November 22, 1963?

Tommy McBride

- Now you know firsthand about the bad news that guided this group of young people to share in our United States/World history. Thanks Tommy, to you and the group for sharing your "Historical Memories." Ed

Faith-Based Center of Hope Announces "Huge Monthly Yard Sale" on December 6

Come for the bargains - stay for the laughs and good company

Faith-Based Center of Hope announces their "HUGE MONTHLY YARD SALE" will take place on Saturday, December 6, in the parking lot across from Papa Joe's Pizzeria, 911 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Expect deals that make you smile and prices that make you double-check your wallet to be sure it's not April Fool's Day. From hidden treasures to the "I can't believe someone's selling this for a dollar" items, you never know what you'll find.

If your attic is overflowing or your closet is groaning under the weight of "someday I'll wear this," the Faith-Based Center of Hope has the perfect excuse to let it all go - and maybe find something even better.

All proceeds will go toward helping our less fortunate brothers and sisters - so you can shop with purpose and brag that your new lamp or cardigan came with a side of compassion.

Donations and contributions are welcome. For more information, contact Vancine Sturdivant, CEO at 704-294-0480 or Linda Richardson at 704-465-0243.

Put a Bow on Your Holiday Plans at These Featured Events

From parading Santas to small-town strolls and lanterns that light up the night, these events bring big energy to NC's holiday calendar. You'll find fire pits and festive floats, ice sculptures and glowing gardens - all in spots that make it easy to turn a day out into something worth remembering.

- See all featured events and more at: ourstate.com/events
- The Polar Express Train Ride at the NC Transportation Museum, Spencer - Now through December 23. nctransportationmuseum.org
 - Rudy Christmas Jubilee, Selma - Now through December 29 rudytheatre.com
 - Meadow Lights, Benson - Now through December 31 meadowlights.com
 - Nutcracker Stroll, Mebane - Now through December 31 downtownmebane.com
 - Speedway Christmas, Concord - Through January 4 charlottemotorspeedway.com
 - Winter Wonderlights at the Greensboro Science Center, Greensboro - Now through January 4 greensboroscience.org
 - NC Chinese Lantern Festival, Cary - Through January 11 boothamphitheatre.com
 - Laurinburg 'Tis the Season Christmas Festival, Laurinburg - Through December 24 tistheseasontolaurinburg.com
 - Winter Glow at the Point, High Point - November 23 - January 4 winterglowhp.com
 - Granville Christmas Farm, Oxford - Nov. 29 - Dec. 31 granvillechristmasfarm.com
 - Sanford Christmas Parade, Sanford - December 1 sanfordnc.net
 - Saxapahaw Holiday Market, Saxapahaw - December 6-7 rivermillvillage.com
 - Yuletide by the Viking Experience, Oxford - December 6-7 thevikingexperience.com
 - Scrooge's Christmas Trolley Tour, Salisbury - December 16-23 visitsalisburync.com
 - Santa Fly-In at the Pik N Pig, Carthage - December 20 pik-n-pig.com
 - NYE Berry Ball Drop, Ellerbe - Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 discoverrichmondcounty.com

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