

ASSASSINIATION OF KENNEDY - *told by Sandra Behling*

Oral History

Monica Behling

4th period

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

SANDRA BEHLING

MONICA: HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

SANDRA: I was eleven years old and in the fifth grade.

MONICA: WHERE WERE YOU WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

SANDRA: I was living in Mesa, Arizona and I had just walked home from school for lunch.

MONICA: HOW DID YOU FIND OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS DEAD?

SANDRA: When I walked through the door my older brother, also home from school, told me that the president had been killed in a parade. Then we turned on the television and watched.

MONICA: DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR REACTION TO HIS DEATH?

SANDRA: I couldn't believe that our president had been shot. I really like President Kennedy and it was so sad to have him die.

MONICA: DO YOU REMEMBER THE REACTIONS OF OTHERS AROUND YOU?

SANDRA: I was the first to go back to my school and tell them that our president had been shot. I went and told the principal and he didn't believe me. I asked him to please turn on the radio and listen and he did. Later when we were all back in our classes he announced over the intercom that the president had been shot. And I remember our teacher Mrs. Coons took his picture down and also the flag and she showed us and told us to be quiet because he had been shot that day.

JOHN BEHLING

MONICA: HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

JOHN: I was six years old and in the first grade.

MONICA: WHERE WERE YOU WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

JOHN: I was at school. We had just come in from lunch and I was sitting in the corner of the class room on the front row.

MONICA: HOW DID YOU FIND OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS DEAD?

JOHN: Our teacher was a little bit late coming in from lunch and when she come back she walked right back to the back of the class room where there was a picture of Kennedy and she pointed at him and said that he had been shot in a parade that day.

MONICA: DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR REACTION TO HIS DEATH?

JOHN: Not really, I was only six years old and I doubt I understood what had happened.

MONICA: DO YOU REMEMBER THE REACTIONS OF OTHERS AROUND YOU?

JOHN: I remember my teacher was crying, Mrs Conklin.

GRACE BEHLING

MONICA: HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

GRACE: I was thirty-five.

MONICA: WHERE WERE YOU WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

GRACE: I was at our home down on Molen road.

MONICA: HOW DID YOU FIND OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS DEAD?

GRACE: My next door neighbor came over in tears and told me what had happened.

MONICA: DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR REACTION TO HIS DEATH?

GRACE: I was very sad. Though we were republicans we respected and loved him dearly.

MONICA: DO YOU REMEMBER THE REACTIONS OF OTHERS AROUND YOU?

GRACE: Everyone found it hard to believe that it had happened to such a young president. We had a small get-together that night because our friends and everyone was kind of down about what had happened.

CLYDE BEHLING

MONICA: HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

CLYDE: I was thirty-six years.

MONICA: WHERE WERE YOU WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

CLYDE: I had been out to the field.

MONICA: HOW DID YOU FIND OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS DEAD?

CLYDE: When I came home Grace told me. She'd heard about it and she had the television on.

MONICA: DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR REACTION TO HIS DEATH?

CLYDE: We all felt bad.

MONICA: DO YOU REMEMBER THE REACTIONS OF OTHERS AROUND YOU?

CLYDE: Everyone was all concerned and they felt real bad.