

## JOHN F. KENNEDY

1917 - 1963

"A  
FRIEND  
OF  
YOUTH"

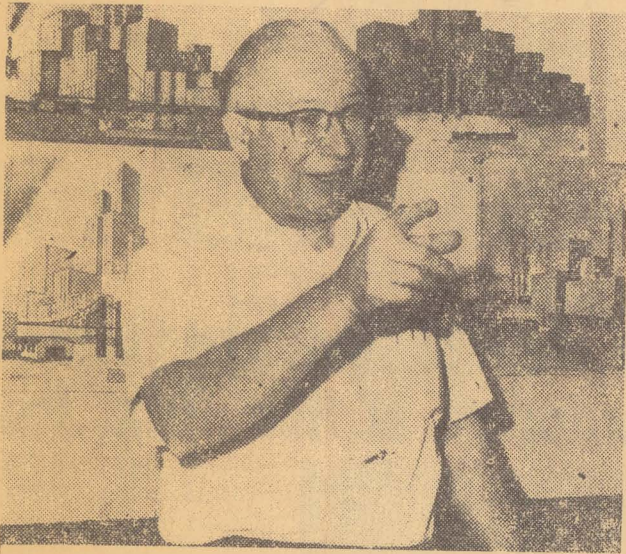
All America has lost a President, but the youth of America have lost more—a great friend and supporter. John Fitzgerald Kennedy's concern for the youth of today crystalized in four major areas: education, employment, juvenile delinquency, and medical care. His legislative program stressed greater progress in all these fields, but especially in education. He believed that "our success in the great world competition between democracy and Communist dictatorship hinges upon the ability of the American people to meet the pressing demands on our schools and colleges."

Thus, in one way, a way directly concerning this nation's youth, did he anticipate the continuing struggle for world peace—"I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it!" In view of his ready acceptance of this great responsibility and his faith in youth, it seems obvious that the most fitting and enduring memorial the youth of today can build to John Fitzgerald Kennedy's memory is to live up to the ambitions, ideals, and goals he set for himself, and to carry them through in the spirit of his characteristic "vigor."

He believed in America's youth. Cannot America's youth, then, believe in him and in what he stood for?

We called him "Pete" . . .

## And mourn the beloved teacher



"I can't get sentimental over Pete. I miss him too much," an art student said quietly. By "Pete" the girl of course meant Edwin W. Myers, head of the art department, who died Wednesday night, December 11, at Deaconess Hospital.

He instructed, but he never dictated, mused another student artist. "He didn't draw a tree and then say, 'This is the way to draw a tree. Now you sketch a tree like this one.' Pete taught us to see the subject through our own eyes."

Students recalled how they gathered so often in Pete's room after school for informal discussions. Pete would sit at his desk in the semi-darkness of his office, they said, and talk animatedly about "tek-nique" and mood, his favorite aspects of painting.

To know his office was to know Pete. The door was literally covered with contemporary greeting cards of every conceivable kind, cartoons that poked fun at him and class cards from school graduates.

His desk was almost covered with paintings, letters, memorabilia, sketches, and art notebooks. One wall of the cramped room was covered with books, which he kept locked in glass-paneled cabinets.

Here also were tucked away stacks of numerous awards won by his students in national as well as local competition. Pete was a recognized artist in his own right as his many works attested to his aesthetic touch.

Pete was an art instructor all the time—after school and during vacations. In the summer he took a busman's holiday to teach Indian lore at Culver-Stockton Military Academy. After school started he did special art work for the Turkey Day programs. In the winter, he worked after school on the Vespers stage sets. Every spring he designed the table decorations for the Board of Education dinner. Herbert W. Schooling, former superintendent of schools, once wrote, "Some of us are amassing quite a collection from your inexhaustible creative mind . . ."

The personal effects found in Pete's desk drawer formed a collage of the lovable, sensitive, creative artist and teacher. There were an Indian drum from his summer school work, paints, brushes, charcoal, and pencils, a library of special books for aesthetic students, and one cigar.

## Choir presents Christmas pageant

It's that time of year again. The time when seventh grade boys start looking angelic, and the Christmas carols we've been hearing all fall begin to sound like music. It's time for Vespers, a tradition in Webster Groves for thirty-two years.

Miss Esther Replogle, A Cappella Choir Director, originated the Vesper Service. She recalls that she was reading about Christmas pageants in European cathedrals and the thought occurred to her that she might effectively stage a program of that nature at the high school.

### First performance

The first performance consisted of four angels behind a curtain of navy blue cheese cloth which Miss Rep sewed herself, and one choir. The superintendent liked it so much that he suggested that the school finance the settings for one additional scene a year. The risers were given for the second program, then came the shepherd scene, the nativity scene, and, finally, the altar for the church.

The organist, Mr. Alfred C. Booth, has been playing for Vespers since it started in 1931. Since he is in the balcony during the ser-



by Carolyn Vesper

The Christmas spirit clutches us all in its death hold and drags us through department stores, grabbing at all the merchandise in sight that isn't nailed down. After a mad stampede toward the cash registers, we emerge bewildered, penniless, and thoroughly disheveled.

Alas! we say, gazing in despair at our bedraggled presents. The parcels are torn, mashed, ruined, and in various states of disrepair. But hold! What sight from yonder package breaks? It is a gift--its wrappings are undone. We tear it open, eager to see clearly the wondrous presents we have bought:

A somber grey tie, for Mr. Shelton.

A new, mink-bound book of puns, for Mr. Fast.

A lost chord, for Miss Rep, and just in time for Vespers, too.

A spike-heel-mending-kit for Mrs. Lanagan.

A gold-plated cover for Kirkwood's basket, for Mr. Yates.

Grammercy! we exclaim, flipping our sterling silver sewer lid into the air. And a very Merry Christmas, too.

## Ambitious students try college boards

Three hundred thirty-four students hopefully blackened a series of tiny boxes for their college entrance examinations Saturday morning, December 7. Because this group was the largest on school record to take the tests, there was an overflow from the cafeteria into the classrooms. A representative of the Educational Testing Service observed the testing procedures.

Beginning at 2:00 p.m., 33 students wrote for an hour on the Writing Sample question, "Do you think that American children receive too much attention and too many privileges, but not enough responsibility?" That afternoon forty-five students took from one to three, hour-long Achievement Tests.



Photo by Dempster

The Shepherds in the Vesper Service are (standing l. to r.): Pete Senseney, Mike Morgan and (kneeling) Denny White.

vice and Miss Rep is always downstairs, he never sees her direction. Nevertheless, he always plays at exactly the right times.

For the first few years of Vespers, Miss Replogle had to rent an organ. However, through contributions made by choir alumni and by people who had seen the service, plus the proceeds from an auction held by the Rotarians for the purpose, the school was soon able to buy the organ that is now used.

### Authentic costumes

The costumes worn by the actors were all made by Miss Ruth Binum, the high school librarian. She made a thorough study of costumes of the period to insure authenticity in style and appearance. Mr. Pete Myers, art teacher, designed the altar, and his classes made the stained glass windows for the church scene.

Vespers, in its present form bears little resemblance to the first modest, unpolished production. It has grown to include scenes of church, shepherd, and the nativity, as well as the original angels. The cast now contains Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, children, and a family. This year Mary will be portrayed

by Beth Buchanan and Joseph by Tom Stuber. The family includes Anne McQuerter, Bill Ward, Jo Ellen Schaeffer and Kit. Mac Greevy. The shepherds are Mike Morgan, Denny White, Mike Jones, Bob Batts, and David Lucks.

The angels, Joan Frederick, Jackie Jones, Penny Mitchell, and Jan Hedrick, appear while the Angel Choir is singing. The cherub is Christie Dunegan.

### Worshipping visitors

Joan Welhoelter is the Queen, while Bob Mabry, Dave Stewart, and Ernest Reeves are the three kings. The Jug and Flower Girls are Rosie Zinzer and Susie Krueger respectively. Suzi Laffler portrays the Lady of Quality, while the "come hither" girls are Bette Tomlinson, Vickie Larason, and Terri Heimbrodt.

Guy Mellor plays the beggar. The singers are Mary Lou Durham and Lou Carosello.

Like the European Christmas services, Vespers ends with the altar scene with which it began. This may leave the mystical impression that the entire pageant was a dream.

## Psychology students visit hospital

"We don't have the psychological background to understand what we'll be seeing, so therefore it will be observation rather than finding out more about the clinic," commented Dave Wirtz before touring the St. Louis State Training Hospital, a school for mentally retarded. He and approximately two-thirds of the members of Mr. Reid's and Mr. Smith's psychology classes attended the one and a half hour after school tour on a voluntary basis. The students divided into two groups, visiting the hospital December 18 and after the

Christmas holidays.

Replying to Dave's statement another student remarked that "although we won't understand everything we see, it should make us realize how we can and should help these people who are as sick as someone with polio or cancer."

A doctor from the hospital, located at 10695 Bellefontaine, in the county, explained that the students saw parts of the school not usually seen by visitors such as the patients' living quarters and the hospital facilities.

## The Webster Echo

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