

= Clint Grant =

Donald Clinton " Clint " Grant (August 17 , 1916 ? April 21 , 2010) was an American photographer and photojournalist based in Dallas , Texas . He was a staff photographer with The Dallas Morning News from 1949 to 1986 . He was particularly known for his " humorous and touching " images of animals and children . Grant 's photographs were published in numerous newspapers and magazines , including Paris Match , Newsweek and Time ; five of his feature photos were published on the back page of issues of Life magazine .

Grant was on assignment in November 1963 to cover President John F. Kennedy 's trip from Washington , D.C. , to Dallas . One of his photographs made the front page of the November 22 edition of the Morning News ; a copy is believed to be the last thing Kennedy ever signed . Grant also would make several pictures at Parkland Memorial Hospital within minutes after Kennedy 's motorcade arrived following the shooting in Dealey Plaza .

Grant was the recipient of multiple photojournalism awards during his career , including the Medallion for Excellence in Photojournalism . He retired from The Dallas Morning News in 1986 , but continued working in a semi @-@ retired capacity for more than a decade thereafter . He died in Dallas of heart failure at age 93 .

= = Early life = =

Clint Grant was born in Nashville , Tennessee . During his time at Vanderbilt University , economic troubles brought on by the Great Depression forced Grant 's family to move from Nashville ; they settled in Dallas , Texas , where his father was asked to lead the Art Department at the Morning News . Grant got a job with the Photo Department , but he was drafted into the United States Army before he could report to work . Grant served during World War II in Europe , where he never used a camera .

Grant married Myrtis Ann Halliburton in 1939 after a brief courtship ; they had known each other for ten months before they walked down the aisle . When they met , he worked behind the dairy counter at the local A & P market where she was a customer .

= = Photography and photojournalism = =

When Grant returned from overseas to Dallas in 1945 , all Morning News staff photographers resumed their duties , leaving him without a job . He ran a photography studio until 1949 , when a position at the newspaper became available .

During his early years with the News , Grant was one of up to ten staff photographers , including Jack Beers , Tom Dillard , Doris Jacoby and Joe Laird . He gained a reputation as a " kind and generous " mentor while with the newspaper , accompanying many young photographers on their early assignments ; one such staffer later recalled that whenever the Morning News needed a feature photograph , they would send " the trusty Clint Grant " to the zoo to work with an animal . His editor said Grant 's knack for putting both people and animals at ease for photographs came largely because he " had the patience of Job . "

Grant 's work also accompanied sports stories . A photograph of a boxing fan and a fallen fighter was named one of the best sports pictures of 1956 .

Grant taught classes in photography in the 1950s and ' 60s at North Texas University , where he served on the journalism advisory board . He was also the official photographer for the Dallas Zoo and the State Fair of Texas .

In an interview , Grant said he had his own tricks for making photos , especially of unwilling subjects at the sites of news stories . He would pre @-@ focus , pretend to not aim the camera , and " shoot from the hip . " He believed that any good photojournalist should have the skills necessary to do the job without needing to use the viewfinder .

One of Grant 's photos was blown up to eight feet and displayed for one year in Grand Central Terminal in New York . He also photographed the culinary creations of some of the best chefs in

Dallas , who all knew Grant and respected his work . A menu item at the Casa Dominguez restaurant in Dallas was named for Grant .

Two collections of Grant 's work have been published : Moments from Life : An Exhibition of Photographs from the Grant Estate in 2000 , and 50 Years of the Best Photos of Clint Grant in 2001 . Moments from Life was published to accompany a traveling exhibit of 55 of Grant 's images . One of his photographs was included in Humor in News Photography , a collection published in 1961 . Grant was assigned to photograph some new cars and laid his hat atop one of the taillights ; the resulting image resembled " a Halloween spook , a Martian or the pilot of a satellite . " A Grant picture published by Life magazine was included in its 1988 compilation Life Smiles Back .

In addition to his feature photographs , Grant was known for his work accompanying hard news stories . Grant photographed every U.S. president and vice president starting with Harry S. Truman and through the administration of George H. W. Bush . He was present for the 1961 funeral for three @-@ time House Speaker Sam Rayburn , where he captured former Presidents Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower , President Kennedy , House Parliamentarian Clarence Cannon , and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson standing together .

= = = John F. Kennedy = = =

= = = Dallas , 1960 = = =

John F. Kennedy and his running mate , Lyndon B. Johnson , were close to securing their spots on the Democrats ' ticket when they took a two @-@ day swing through the Dallas ? Fort Worth area in September 1960 . Landing at Meacham Airport , the candidates rode in a motorcade through Dallas to the Chance Vought Aircraft factory , where Kennedy made an address . Clint Grant accompanied Kennedy and Johnson , making numerous photographs of the trip ; the pictures were developed , but kept in storage until their publication in 2013 .

= = = Dallas , 1963 = = =

Several days before President Kennedy made his November flight to Texas , Grant had been assigned to cover the state 's delegation in Washington , D.C. , then fly back with the White House press corps ; he was the only photographer to make the trip . At Dallas Love Field , Grant made the only published photograph from that visit of the president and Jacqueline Kennedy , Lyndon Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson , and Texas Governor John Connally and Nellie Connally , all in the same image . Another of Grant 's photos , from San Antonio 's Aerospace Medicine Center , was published on the front page of the Dallas Morning News on November 22 ; a copy was signed that morning by President Kennedy ? across the photo , " To Jan White " ? and is believed to be the last item he signed before he climbed aboard the presidential limousine for his intended trip to the Dallas Trade Mart .

Grant tried to find a seat in the third camera car in the motorcade ? the one reserved for local photographers ? but it was full ; he was then given a spot in the second camera car . Too far back to capture the shooting in Dealey Plaza , Grant 's car had just turned onto Houston Street from Main Street " when we heard one shot ? pause ? two shots in rapid succession . " Thinking someone was playing a prank , he gave it no further thought until he saw bystanders " prone on the ground " along Elm Street , where he made a photograph from the moving camera car of Bill and Gayle Newman lying atop their children on the grass .

Afterward , Grant suggested to his colleagues that they should catch up with the presidential limousine . Since he was the only Dallas @-@ based member of the press in camera car two , Grant directed his driver to the Trade Mart , where they saw " no cars , no activity " . A worker across the street said he saw a limousine speed past , accompanied by motorcycles with their sirens blaring ; Grant knew immediately that they were headed to Parkland Memorial Hospital . Once at Parkland , Grant started snapping pictures of anything he could , including Vice President Johnson

's car , and a man and a police officer " delivering a box thought to contain blood plasma . "

Grant later covered the trial of Jack Ruby . On the day the verdict was read , he believed his assignment was to photograph the jurors , but they " were too well shielded " .

Twenty @-@ five years after the assassination , Grant wrote that the events didn 't really sink in until after he 'd finished his work that day . " Then I was stunned , disappointed and embarrassed that it had happened ? especially in my home town . I felt like crawling under a log . Although I wasn 't a great admirer , he was my President and I have great respect for whoever holds the office . "

= = = = Reporters ' panel , 1993 = = = =

Grant took part in " Reporters Remember 11 @-@ 22 @-@ 63 " at Southern Methodist University in Dallas in November 1993 . The panel discussion , broadcast on C @-@ SPAN as Journalists Remember the JFK Assassination , featured members of the press who spoke of their experiences on the day 30 years earlier that Kennedy was killed . From the dais , Grant recalled having asked his boss if he should go back to Washington , D.C. , with Kennedy 's body and being told no . Grant said he returned to Love Field to retrieve his luggage ahead of a planned visit to Vice President Johnson 's ranch nearby ; just as he reached the planes he saw Judge Sarah T. Hughes leaving Air Force One . " I 'd just missed her swearing in the new president . "

= = Later life and death = =

Grant retired his position with The Dallas Morning News in 1986 ; he stayed on in a semi @-@ retired capacity until 1997 . Five years later , Grant was awarded an honorary degree from Knox College in Illinois , which congratulated Grant for " more than 100 state , regional and national honors for photojournalism " . Associate Professor of Art Lynette Lombard lauded Grant for his body of work starting in 1963 and , in particular , his pictures " of world leaders , of children and of everyday life . " In her address , Lombard said , " Clint Grant 's work for the Dallas Morning News made him one of this country 's most important photojournalists . Through his photography , he has helped establish photojournalism as one of our most important forms of documentation of the public record " .

Clint Grant died of heart failure in his Dallas home in 2010 . Myrtis Grant , his wife of nearly 71 years , died in Dallas six months later .