

T

o celebrate 225 years of Lancaster newspapers, we present this weekly series of 52 front pages from throughout our history. Many feature events that would shape the course of world history. Some feature events of great local importance. Still others simply provide windows into the long-ago lives of Lancaster County residents. Make sure to check in every week, and enjoy this trip through time with LNP.

1981

25-Year-Old Was Under Psychiatric Care

The Accused: 'Troubled, Irresponsible Drifter'

WASHINGTON (AP) — An emotionless John Warnock Hinckley Jr., a wealthy oilman's son described in court as a troubled, irresponsible drifter under psychiatric care, was ordered held without bond today on a charge of attempting to assassinate President Reagan.

Hinckley, 25, of Evergreen, Colo., was held at a Marine facility at Quantico, Va., and was to undergo psychiatric testing later today to help determine his competency to stand trial, U.S. Marshals Charles F.C. Raft said. A preliminary hearing before federal magistrate Arthur Burnett was set for 10 a.m. Thursday.

Custody of Hinckley was formally transferred from the FBI to U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

U.S. Marshals Service

spokesman Bill Dempsey said today that Hinckley is being watched 24 hours a day by at least two U.S. marshals. He is being held in the base brig in a 6-by-10 foot private cell equipped with a sink, toilet and bed.

The base brig is a one-story building isolated from the rest of the Marine installation. It has five cells to a block and Hinckley is in a block by himself segregated from the rest of the prisoners.

Justice Department spokesman Tom DeCaro said Hinckley was examined by a Bureau of Prisons official when he arrived there at 1:30 a.m. today and the physician pronounced Hinckley in good health.

DeCaro said the physician concurred with a prescription given Hinckley for an undisclosed quantity of Valium given by a

doctor who examined Hinckley earlier at the FBI's Washington field office. He has had no visitors.

Dempsey said, "He's alert. Even more so than usual. And there have been no problems this morning." Dempsey said Hinckley was eating normally as well.

There was no immediate indication of a motive for Monday's shooting which wounded Reagan in the chest, left White House press secretary James S. Brady in grave condition with bullet wound to the brain and injured a Secret Service officer and a Washington, D.C., policeman.

The gun believed to have been used in the shootings, FBI spokesman Roger Young said today, is a Rohm Modet RG-14, a six-shot West German-made, 22-caliber handgun. Although the recovered

bullets were mangled, he added, they appeared to be .22 shorts.

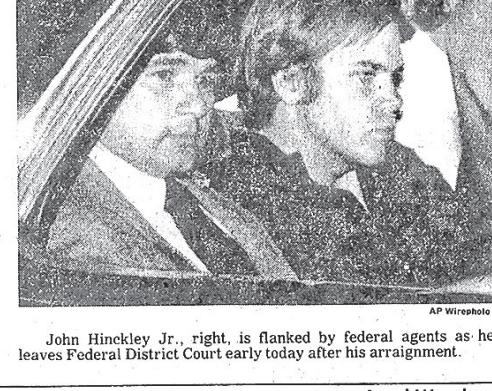
Both the White House and the FBI said there were no evidence of a conspiracy to assassinate the president.

"There's nothing at this point to indicate motive or conspiracy," FBI spokesman Roger Young told reporters.

In Raleigh, N.C., Harold Covington, a leader of the National Socialist Party of America, said Hinckley was once a member of the neo-Nazi group but quit in 1979 because "he felt that we were not sufficiently militant for him."

Wearing a blue prison-type clothing, Hinckley appeared subdued throughout a 45-minute midnight hearing Monday at the federal courthouse two blocks from

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John Hinckley Jr., right, is flanked by federal agents as he leaves Federal District Court early today after his arraignment.

AP Wirephoto

Local Weather
Cloudy, mild to night, low 50 to 55. Mostly cloudy, continued mild, with showers and possibly thundershower Wednesday, highs around 70.

(Details on Page 3.)

Today's Chuckle
The average man's idea of interior decoration is a square meal.

LANCASTER NEW ERA

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METROPOLITAN EDITION

LANCASTER, PA., TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1981

Price 20¢ — Daily Home Delivered \$1.20 A Week

Could Be Walking Around 'In a Couple of Days'

Reagan in 'Exceptionally Good Condition,' Resumes His Duties



Two Secret Service agents shove President Reagan into his limousine after he was shot outside the Washington Hilton hotel Monday.

AP Wirephoto

Death Penalty, More Protection Needed?

Lancastrians Sad But Not Surprised By Reagan Shooting

By JANET KELLEY and TIM MEKEEL
New Era Staff Writers

Tragic but inevitable. That was the reaction here today to Monday's shooting of President Reagan in Washington.

Figures, such as the president, always will be targets of assassins, about 25 persons interviewed at random here this morning agreed.

They felt that mentally ill persons and moral decay in society will provide a steady stream of potential killers. "It's short of living in a war zone state," there is no sound way to control them.

There was little agreement, however, on ways to prevent such attacks.

Strict gun control laws received strong opposition, and only moderate support.

The most common suggestion was that the president should wear bullet-proof clothing for all public appearances. (He was not wearing such a garment Monday.)

A death penalty, with public executions, definitely would be a deterrent to assassins, said one person.

Others advised that Reagan should wear a helmet, walk within a glass shield, or be protected by a more alert security force.

"It's very hard to stop a public figure from an assassination attempt. There will always be a

bullet-proof vest wouldn't stop a shot at the head," he noted, adding that bullet control would be ineffective. Instead, he advocated the death penalty for attempting to slay a president.

Even a death sentence is not a guaranteed safeguard, his wife, Diana Lent, 40, observed. "When someone is committing murder, when they are pulling the trigger, I doubt they are thinking rationally," she said.

"A president will always have enemies. And there will always be a bunch of crazy guys," remarked Neomi Hoffman, 43, of Lancaster.

Mrs. Hoffman and Feenie Jordan, 34, of Lancaster, both were

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Extraordinary Progress

Brady Likely To Live, Doctors Say

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, in "exceptionally good condition" and "excellent spirits," resumed the duties of the presidency today from a hospital bed after an assailant's bullet was removed from his chest.

Less than 24 hours after he was shot outside a Washington hotel, the 70-year-old president was joking with nurses at George Washington University Hospital, impressing his doctors with his physical stamina, seeing visitors and signing legislation.

During the night, Reagan was visited by Vice President George Bush and the president's wife, Nancy, and two of their children, Ron and Patti.

At 7:15 a.m. EST, top White House aides visited Reagan's room and found him sitting up in bed, brushing his teeth after a good night's sleep, White House press secretary Larry Speakes said. Reagan used his breakfast tray to sign a dairy price support bill the aides had given him.

"He could probably put in a full day today, if he gets a nap this afternoon," said Dr. Dennis O'Leary, a hospital spokesman. "I would not be surprised to see him up walking around in a couple of days."

O'Leary said Reagan "is doing extremely well" could be discharged from the hospital in a week or two, "then a couple of months until he's back riding horses."

O'Leary said White House press secretary James Brady, who was shot in the forehead during the assassination attempt, was "much improved" today.

"He's doing as well as any patient who's had an operation in his chest

would do."

The president "had an excellent night" but got little sleep because of the intensive activity around him.

Still, he kept up a running series of one-liners throughout the night.

"If I'd gotten this much attention

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Man Cited for Shooting Out Lights

Brian Dean Roland, 20, Kirkwood R1, has been cited by Lancaster state police for criminal mischief in connection with the shooting of several outdoor lights in Martic Township on March 15-16.

Police allege that Roland shot lights of several businesses in the area.

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