

In celebration of Baton Rouge's bicentennial, The Advocate is sharing moments from the past, tapping its 175 years of serving the community. Throughout the year, we are publishing pages from our archives which capture some of the local, national and world happenings -- everything from wars and hurricanes to festivals and social events -- that helped shape our city.

We hope you enjoy them.

# THE ADVOCATE

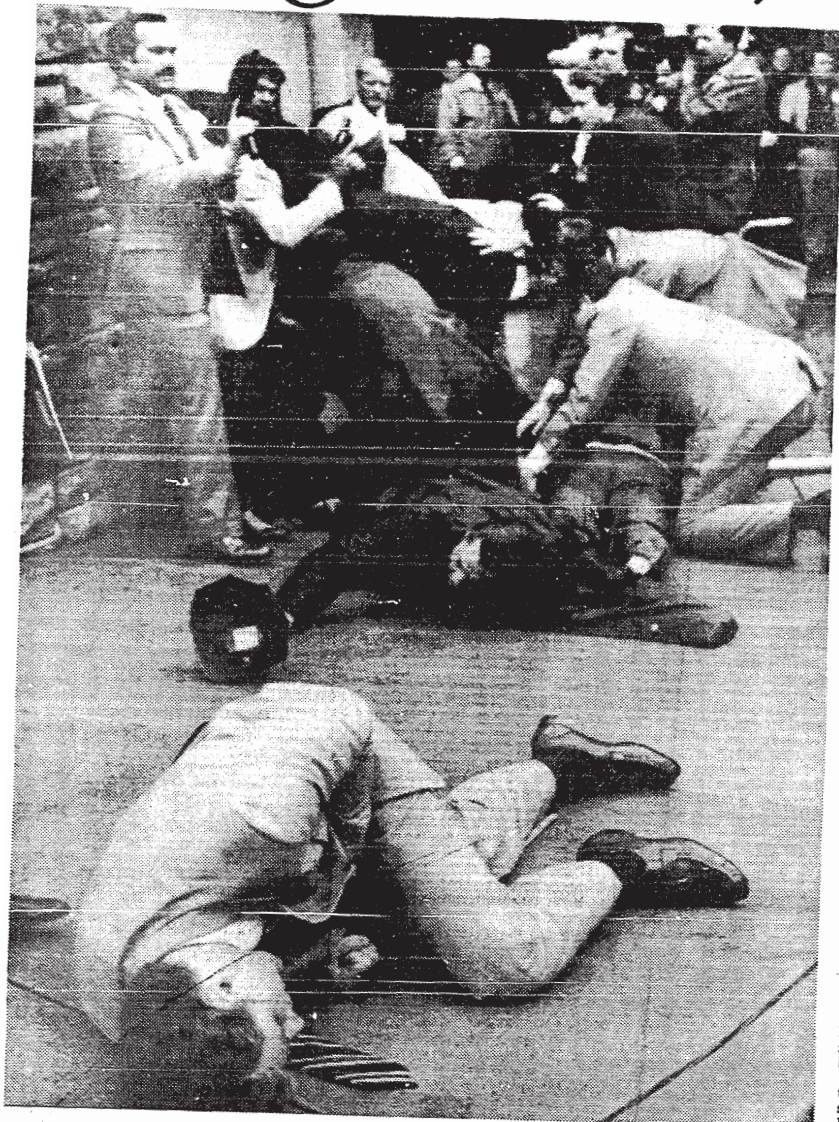
# Telling Louisiana's story for 175 years



## MORNING ADVOCATE

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# Reagan OK; Brady critical



WOUNDED IN ATTACK — A secret service agent, foreground, a Washington policeman, center, and Presidential Press Secretary James Brady, background, lie wounded on a street outside a Washington hotel Monday after shots were fired at President Reagan.

By TERENCE HUNT  
Associated Press writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan was shot in the chest Monday by a youthful gunman who tried to assassinate him with a blaze of .22-caliber pistol fire that critically injured White House Press Secretary James S. Brady and felled two other men.  
Reagan "sailed through surgery" according to doctors who said he'd be ready to make presidential decisions by Tuesday.  
But Brady was said to be fighting for his life, a bullet through his brain.  
A youthful, sandy-haired man from suburban Denver was wrestled into handcuffs moments after the assailant leveled his pistol and fired six times at Reagan from near point-blank range. The Secret Service identified him as John Warnock Hinckley Jr., 25, of Evergreen, Colo.  
Near midnight, Hinckley was led into a federal courtroom and formally charged with attempting to assassinate the



REAGAN SHOT — President Reagan waves and then looks up before being shoved into the Presidential limousine by secret service agents as shots were fired outside a Washington hotel Monday. Reagan was shot once in the chest.

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president, and with assaulting a Secret Service officer. He also faces a charge of assault with intent to kill a policeman.  
The courthouse was cleared hours in advance, and security men stood guard outside as Hinckley came and went. He was in FBI custody, held without bail, but officials would not say where he was being jailed.  
U.S. Magistrate Arthur L. Burnett set a preliminary hearing for Thursday at 10 a.m. EST.  
Dr. Dennis O'Leary said "a really mangled bullet" was removed from Reagan's left lung. He said the 70-year-old president's condition was stable, the prognosis excellent, and that he guessed Reagan probably would be hospitalized for about two weeks.  
"Doney, I forgot to duck," Reagan told his wife as he was wheeled into surgery. Then he told the doctors he hoped they were Republicans.  
A Secret Service agent and a policeman also were wounded in the mid-afternoon incident outside a Washington hotel where Reagan had just addressed a union convention. They were reported in serious condition but apparently not in danger.  
There was no known motive, no explanation for the savage burst of gunfire that erupted as the president stood beside his limousine, ready to step inside for the one-mile ride back to the White House.  
In Evergreen, family attorney Jim Robinson said in a statement from the suspect's parents that young Hinckley has been under recent psychiatric care.  
"His evaluation did not alert anyone to the seriousness of his condition," the statement said. Robinson added that Hinckley's parents were "heartbroken," but would stand by their son.  
Harold Covington, a leader of the neo-Nazi National Socialist Party of America, said early Tuesday that Hinckley was a member of the party, but never active. He said Hinckley quit the party in 1979.  
Roger Young of the FBI described the weapon seized from Hinckley as a "Saturday night special" and said it was purchased at a Dallas gun shop.  
After his arrest, Hinckley was taken to police headquarters, then to the local FBI field office where he was questioned by agents. At his court session, Hinckley did not have to enter a plea.  
Young, the FBI spokesman, said there had been "no problem" with Hinckley's coherence when questioned by authorities.  
Hinckley was arrested last Oct. 9 at the Nashville airport for carrying handguns. The FBI said he was carrying three weapons that day — while then President Carter was making a campaign appearance in the city.  
Monday's shooting occurred suddenly on an overcast Washington afternoon.  
One of Monday's eyewitnesses said the assailant, standing ten feet from the president, "just opened up and continued

## Witnesses describe scene

By LOU CANNON  
WASHINGTON — It was a routine scene that Ronald Reagan as politician and president had played a thousand times.  
Reagan had delivered his basic speech, appealing for support for his economic program and deploring the increase in violent crime which was "making neighborhood streets unsafe and families fearful in their homes."  
He was leaving the Washington Hilton Hotel through a VIP side door onto the street. His armored limousine stood waiting for him in a driveway about 12 feet away. Secret Service agents were all around him. It was 2:25 p.m. on a typically rainy spring day, and Reagan, dressed in a blue suit with a white handkerchief in his pocket, seemed happy to be president.  
Outside the hotel more than 100 persons had gathered. Reagan, as he always does, paused and waved to the crowd. The crowd cheered. Nearby, the president's press secretary, James S. Brady, walked toward a staff car, not looking at the president. To Reagan's left, slightly more than 10 feet away in a roped-off area, members of the crowd and television cameramen were photographing the president's departure.  
Michael Putzel of Associated Press, ready with the inevitable question, called out, "Mr. President."  
Abruptly, the scene changed. Shots rang out, six of them in quick succession, with a slight pause between the second shot and the third. The shots appeared to come from the roped-off press area to the left of and below the president. To those close to the rope restraining the

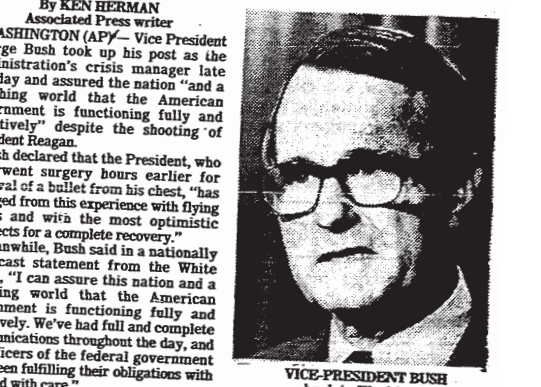
## Suspect was under psychiatric care

By SALLY CARPENTER  
Associated Press writer  
John Warnock Hinckley Jr., arrested Monday in an attempt on the life of President Reagan, recently had been under psychiatric care and had been arrested while carrying handguns in Nashville, Tenn., on a day former President Carter visited the city.  
A former classmate said Hinckley was "not a flamboyant type" when they attended a suburban Dallas high school together and "certainly not the type" to shoot a president.  
But little was known about Hinckley's activities in the years after high school — except sporadic attendance at Texas Tech University — and hints emerged Monday of a troubled man and his weapons.  
The operator of a Denver pawn shop said a man identifying himself as John W. Hinckley Jr. of suburban Lakewood pawned a guitar and a typewriter on March 11 and said he was "going out of town."  
The young man was stably dressed and "looked like a man down on his luck," said Brent Morris, the clerk at G.I. Joe's Pawn Shop.  
In Evergreen, Colo., attorney Jim Robinson said in a statement from the suspect's parents that young Hinckley has been under recent psychiatric care.  
"His evaluation did not alert anyone to the seriousness of his condition," the statement said. Robinson added that Hinckley's parents were "heartbroken," but would stand by their son.  
Hinckley, 25, is a son of Denver, businessman J.W. "Jack" Hinckley, president of Vanderbilt Energy Corp., an oil and gas exploration company. The family moved to Colorado in 1974. Hinckley was born in Ardmore, Okla., according to hospital officials there.  
FBI agents interviewed Hinckley's parents in Evergreen, a bedroom community where they live about 20 miles west of Denver.  
"He just sort of blended into the crowd," said Tom Blackwell, who graduated, along with Hinckley, from Highland Park High School in suburban Dallas in 1972.  
"He wasn't a flamboyant type or anything like that."  
The FBI and police in Evergreen initially said Hinckley had no known criminal record. However, the FBI later confirmed he was arrested Oct. 9 in Nashville, Tenn., while carrying three handguns.  
FBI agent Richard Knudsen, in Nashville, confirmed Hinckley's arrest by airport police, but declined to provide further details. President Carter was visiting Nashville on the day Hinckley was arrested. Then-candidate Reagan was scheduled to stop in Memphis on that day, but canceled his visit.  
Four days after that incident, Hinckley bought a pair of .22-caliber revolvers at Rocky's Pawn Shop in downtown Dallas. Agents of the FBI and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms seized records of the sale Monday, a few hours after Reagan was shot.  
Isaac Goldstein, owner of the shop, said Hinckley used a Labcock address in buying the weapons. The FBI declined to say whether one of them had been used in Monday's shooting.  
Blackwell said the last time he saw Hinckley was at graduation time, when

## Bush reassures nation, world

By KEN HERMAN  
Associated Press writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President George Bush took up his post as the administration's crisis manager late Monday and assured the nation "and a watching world" that the American government is functioning fully and effectively despite the shooting of President Reagan.  
Bush declared that the President, who underwent surgery hours earlier for removal of a bullet from his chest, "has emerged from this experience with flying colors and with the most optimistic prospects for a complete recovery."  
Meanwhile, Bush said in a nationally broadcast statement from the White House, "I can assure this nation and a watching world that the American government is functioning fully and effectively. We've had full and complete communications throughout the day, and the officers of the federal government have been fulfilling their obligations with skill and with care."  
"I know I speak on behalf of the president and his family when I say that we are very grateful to all the many people from across this country who've expressed their concern at this act of violence," Bush said.  
Bush expressed "profound concern" for White House press secretary James S. Brady, who was gravely wounded, and for "two brave law enforcement officers who serve to protect the president." The officers also were wounded.  
Earlier, as Bush hurriedly returned from a trip to Texas, Secretary of State

## Bush reassures nation, world



VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH — back in Washington

Alexander M. Haig Jr. had assumed interim control.  
Haig had declared that "crisis management is in effect" following the wounding of the chief executive, and pronounced himself in charge at the White House while Bush was en route. Bush canceled an address to the Texas legislature and flew directly to the capitol upon learning of the assassination.  
(See \* BUSH, Page 2-A)

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