June 18, 1924

At Alumni banquet, June 16, 1924, sat beside Judge Henderson and asked him to tell me what he remembered of Lincoln's assassination.

He was in the office of Ashley, head of the Bureau of . Ashley, I take it, was a Crawford County man. He had gone with Ashley and an army officer to Ford's Theatre. They sat in what we would call, I suppose, the first balcony - parquet circle - two or three rows back and about in the middle of the house. It was at the end of the balcony that the presidential box was located. About five minutes before the assassination, Ashley called his attention to a handsome young man in the corridor back of the parquet row, telling him it was a rising young actor, the son of Junius Booth. A few minutes later they heard the shot and saw a man jump from the box. Ashley slapped him on the leg and said, "It's Booth! He shot the President."

The Judge drew me a little picture of the scene, from which I gathered that Booth did noy advance to the middle of the stage but left from the right, side, that is, Henderson's right. I asked him whether it was true, in his judgment, that Booth turned to the audience and exclaimed, "Sic semper tyrannis!". He said Ashley knew Latin well and he was fresh from college, and they both told the reporters who interviewed them and asked them if they had heard such an exclamation that they did not.

We did not get through the conversation as the toast master took charge at this point.

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