



A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion

Bobby Johnson

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion

Bobby Johnson

A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion Bobby Johnson

Seventy-five years after the New London, Texas, school explosion instantaneously ended life for three hundred students, haunted memories of all who knew them, and hushed a community's discussion of an unspeakable event, the detailed story is now told. On March 18, 1937, Bobby H. Johnson was an infant in New London destined to become the scribe, oral historian, and dramatist for the tragedy.

His first-grade brother became a member of the exclusive circle of "survivors" by fluke: Forgetting that his mother had given him permission to stay after school and play with a friend, he took an early bus home to safety. But his mind never erased the image of a cloud of dust in the direction of the school that he saw from his bus window a mile away. Dr. Johnson's parents found their rock-solid faith threatened by the questions raised on March 18, 1937, comforted somewhat by the preacher who comforted them with the wisdom of Tennyson's "There lives more faith in honest doubt . . . than in half the creeds" and in the scriptural promise that "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

For the past forty years, Dr. Johnson has recorded hundreds of oral history interviews with New Londoners and East Texans and filed mental notes as he heard conversations about things that happened on that that day when infancy protected his awareness of the horror in New London. I was in first grade in Leonard, Texas, 125 miles away, never conscious of the tragedy, probably because my parents wanted to shelter me. It was not until six years later when I was in elementary school in Hooks, Texas, that one of my teachers told my class the harrowing story of New London. After her dramatic tale, we unnerved students cautiously walked the hallways sniffing the air for scents of odorized gas.

As an insider, Dr. Johnson was prepared for his role as the future New London dramatist by studies in history and journalism leading to a Ph.D. degree at the University of Oklahoma and the beginning of his career teaching history at Stephen F. Austin University, where he retired as a Regents Professor of History. He enrolled in a playwriting course taught at SFA by Jack Heffner, a Corsicana native and author of "Vanities," the most frequently performed American play of the 1970s. From the course on crafting a play, Dr. Johnson mastered the final elements he needed to complete "A Texas Tragedy": characterization, themes, and staging. From his appreciation of American literature, he understood how the stage manager in Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" orchestrated the themes and how poet Edgar Lee Masters handled ordinary people struggling with life in *Spoon River Anthology*. With a stage set of several acting areas anchored by a porch reminiscent of his parents' home, the acting area also accommodates a circle of truth platform where the preacher holds forth and witnesses enact a variety of personal encounters with the disaster. Hymn-singing groups set the tone for a grief-stricken community whose strong faith seeks resilience.

 [Download A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosio ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion Bobby Johnson

From reader reviews:

Walter Gagne:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. That's why, by reading an e-book your ability to survive enhances then having a chance to endure than other is high. In your case who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion book as a beginner and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Brian Pena:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always try and must have the time or they will get a lot of stress from both everyday life and work. So, when we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely of course. People are human not really a huge robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time comes to you of course your answer will certainly be unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is actually A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion.

Clyde Connell:

This A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion is a great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who always deal with the world and still have to make a decision every minute. This kind of book reveals its information accurately using great management words or we can say no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are reading the idea hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straightforward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offers you the world with ten or fifteen moments right but this reserve already does that. So, this can be a good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt in which?

Katrice Fredericksen:

Do you like reading a book? Confused to looking for your preferred book? Or your book seemed to be rare? Why so many issues for the book? But virtually any people feel that they enjoy reading. Some people like looking at, not only science books but in addition novels and A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion or maybe other sources were given information for you. After you know how the truly great a book, you feel would like to read more and more. Science reserves were created for teachers or maybe students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to put their knowledge. In various other cases, besides science e-books, any other book like A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion to make your spare time

far more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

Download and Read Online A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion Bobby Johnson #MEOH4Q8X7DK

Read A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson for online ebook

A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson books to read online.

Online A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson ebook PDF download

A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson Doc

A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson Mobipocket

A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson EPub