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Garrison Aide's Checkup Of Dallas Airports Bared

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An investigator from the New Orleans district attorney's office checked airports in the Dallas area last month to determine whether the late pilot David Ferrie had been in Dallas near the time of the assassination of President Kennedy. The Times Herald learned Saturday.

A mechanic at White Rock Airport said he told the investigator that he recalled seeing the New Orleans pilot in Dallas but "couldn't be sure of the date."

"I've seen him somewhere," mechanic Fred Lenz told The Times Herald. "It could have been at the Dallas - Garland Airport. I can't be sure, but it could have been at the time the investigator specified."

ACCORDING TO persons who were interviewed by the New Orleans investigator, they were asked specifically if they recalled seeing Ferrie in Dallas in November of 1963.

Bobby Pike, another mechanic at White Rock Airport, said, "I thought at the time I was shown a picture of Ferrie (by the investigator) that I had seen the man. I couldn't remember when or where, but it has been some time ago."

The investigator's checks at Dallas area airfields apparently were made in connection with New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim

Garrison's probe into a possible conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy.

DETAILS OF the New Orleans investigator's visit to Dallas began unraveling when a student pilot revealed to The Times Herald that he had accompanied the man on a fact-finding tour to three airfields in the immediate area.

The student pilot, Nelson Knight of 2394 St. Francis, said he accompanied the investigator on tours of White Rock, Dallas - Garland and Highland Park airports on an afternoon in late January.

KNIGHT SAID the investigator apparently took him along on the trips as a guide. "He wasn't familiar with the locations of the airports in this area," the student pilot explained.

Knight said the investigator carefully explained to each person he interviewed that he had three pictures of a man, and he was "trying to establish if the man was in Dallas on a certain date."

The dates mentioned were Nov. 20-30, 1963, Knight recalled.

The student pilot, who is employed as a sales representative for a manufacturing company, said the investigator interviewed about 30 people at the airfields and was "very thorough."

Knight said the investigator

was flying a Cessna 172, which he said he had rented at Redbird Airport, and upon landing at each airport, the New Orleans man "would get out a camera and take four pictures of the airfield, aiming the camera in all four directions."

THE INVESTIGATOR would then proceed with the interviews, Knight said, before checking the airport's records for November of 1963.

Of the persons interviewed, only Pike and Lenz indicated that they recognized Ferrie from his picture, Knight said.

Lenz said he was working at Dallas - Garland Airport in November 1963 and added that it was possible that he could have seen Ferrie at the airport.

"I've seen him somewhere," he said. "You don't forget a face like that."

Pike, meanwhile, said that he thought he had seen Ferrie "some time ago" in Dallas but didn't think it was at an airport.

Officials at Redbird, White Rock and Highland Park airports confirmed that the New Orleans investigator had visited their airfields in late January and had interviewed a number of their employees.

Wayne McWhorter, manager of White Rock Airport, reported, "He really went over this place with a fine tooth comb."

Assassination Probe Figure In Seclusion

NEW ORLEANS (UPD)—J. S. Martin, a man believed to have given Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison much of the information on which his investigation of the Kennedy assassination is based, said Saturday he is in seclusion "for reasons of security."

Martin is a publishing agent in a book-writing venture. Raymond J. Berg released Martin's remarks in the form of a news release, dated Feb. 22.

He echoed the tone of Garrison's statements Friday that he fears more people may die before the investigation is over.

Martin's release said he heard about David W. Ferrie's death and thought the circumstances sounded similar to those in the death of the late W. Guy Banister, a private investigator. Banister once was head of the local FBI office and for a time was police superintendent.

"Therefore, for my own protection, I deem it feasible to enter seclusion at this time for reasons of security," Martin's release said.

"I think the only way they can get away is to kill themselves," said Garrison. The district attorney said in answer to a question he feels there might be more suicides.

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