

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Mystery? Me?

## ★ Lee Odom Shakes Garrison Theory

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New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's mysterious "code" which he claims tied in Clay Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby in an assassination conspiracy may not be so mysterious or a code.

A 31-year-old Dallas area resi-

dent, very much a real person, although Jim Garrison strongly implied he didn't really exist, in an interview Tuesday did considerable damage to the latest assassination conspiracy theories of the New Orleans District attorney.

Lee Odom said in an exclusive interview with The Times Herald that "Lee Odom, P. O. Box 19106, Dallas, Texas," in Shaw's address book had no unusual connotations, although Garrison claims it does. Shaw is the New Orleans businessman Garrison has charged with conspiring with Oswald and others to assassinate President Kennedy.

Odom explains that he was only trying to promote a bullfight and Shaw was suggested in 1966 as a "good man to see about finding a place for my bullfight."

And that's why the P.O. Box 19106 and Odom's name were in Shaw's address book, Odom said.

Using a complex decoding system, Garrison claimed this notation actually worked out into Ruby's unlisted Dallas phone number. The same number — 19106—was also found in Oswald's notebook but without Odom's name. But Odom

couldn't explain how the same number was in Oswald's notebook.

There had been a strong inference from Garrison that Odom did not exist.

"As I said, I gave it to him," Odom said of the notation in Shaw's book. "That was my post office box at the time—19106. I rented it—or my wife did for me—in the summer of 1966."

"I asked the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans about who would be a good man to see about finding a place for my bullfight," Odom said Tuesday. "He suggested Mr. Shaw, so I called him—or the manager called him, I don't remember exactly."

"He (Shaw) came over to the hotel, as I recall, and we talked for 15 or 20 minutes. He gave me his business card—I'll bet I still have it around here somewhere—and I gave him my address in Dallas. The bullfight didn't come off and we never communicated again. That's all there was to it."

The box, located in the Medical Center postal substation at Knight and Maple, was rented in the name of a barbecue company he was running at the time, Odom said. (A check with

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1A "The Dallas Times Herald" Dallas, Texas

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Author: Felix R. McKnight

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

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the Post Office Department verified this.)

"I used this address — P.O. Box 19106 — for both the barbecue and the promotion business," he said.

The box was kept until October or November, as Odom recalls it. "We have another box now out here at the post office," he said. "Here" is the Dallas County town in which Odom now lives with his wife and two children.

They reside in a multi-unit apartment complex in the suburban city. For reason of privacy, Odom asked that the name of the city not be mentioned.

Odom said he was not aware that anyone was interested in talking to him until he was located Tuesday by The Times Herald with the help of the New Orleans States-Item.

"I didn't have a chance to read a newspaper or watch television over the weekend," said Odom, a tall, rangy man who was born in Lakeview, Texas.

He said he would be willing to tell his story to Garrison or anybody else. "I have nothing to hide—my goodness," he said. "You can tell Mr. Shaw that I am ready to help him if I can."

ODOM SAID he also felt sure that his story of the trip to New Orleans and his brief meeting with Shaw can be corroborated. "The man at the Roosevelt might remember it all," he said. "The records of the hotel should show I was there."

As he remembered it, Odom was in New Orleans for "two or three days" in the latter

part of November, 1966. With the Times Herald representative, he rummaged through some of his personal papers in his apartment Tuesday and came up with the stub of his airplane ticket he used to return from New Orleans to Dallas. It is dated Nov. 22, 1966.

"I never throw anything away," he said, "and I'll bet I'll eventually find Mr. Shaw's business card somewhere."

ODOM SAID he did not recall any of the specific things said either by him or Shaw in the November New Orleans conversation. "I was trying to find a place for the bullfight and he said he might help me—something like that," he said. "But the bullfight did not come off so that was it.

"That was the only time I have ever talked to Mr. Shaw or had any contact with him whatsoever."

Asked to describe the man he talked to, Odom gave a description as to size—"very tall and big", age—"about 50 or so" and other characteristics which match Shaw's.

LEFT UNANSWERED by Odom's story is the coincidence of the numbers, 19106, being in both Oswald's and Shaw's possession.

In front of the five-digit notations in Oswald's book are two letters which Garrison says are "P" and "O." Others say, however, that they are actually Russian letters.

Usually reliable investigative sources in Dallas say that P.O. Box 19106 did not come into existence here until the middle of 1965 when the Knight and Maple substation was re-modeled. This could not be confirmed definitely, however.

Since Oswald died in November, 1963 after being shot by Ruby, this had given some credence to Garrison's theory that the post office box number along with the name, Lee Odom—were phonies and existed only as part of the Shaw-Oswald-Ruby code.