

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Friends Shocked At Shaw's Arrest

By WILLIAM U. MADDEN

Few people in New Orleans have a wider circle of friends than Clay Shaw.

To those who know him only casually, he is a man of commanding appearance—well over six feet tall, with distinguished good looks. He dresses expensively, though conservatively, is urbane, witty, and an intelligent conversationalist.

To the smaller—but still sizable—number of closer associates, Clay Shaw is all this and much more, a man intensely interested in the arts, a world traveler fluent in several languages, a man who has the means to live well and does so, a lover of fine music, a builder who took immense pride in the restoration of old French Quarter buildings.

IT IS NATURAL, then, that the friends of Clay Shaw registered shock and astonishment at the news that he had been the first person arrested in District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of an alleged presidential assassination plot.

"Incredible," "ridiculous," "I don't believe it and won't believe it until he tells me himself"—these were some of the reactions from a few of Shaw's friends today.

A woman who has known Shaw for years put it this way: "People who are builders simply are not destroyers."

That he loves luxury is evident not only from his own carriage house at 1313 Dauphine, but also from the results of the many restorations he personally supervised in the Quarter.

He takes obvious pleasure in showing his guests the furnishings in his home. National magazines, such as House and Garden, have hailed him for what

it called "intriguing remodeling projects."

Though this was an avocation with Shaw, it was by no means his sole interest.

AFTER HIS retirement in October of 1965 as managing director of International Trade Mart (he left, he said, when the new Mart became a reality), he turned to the field that had been his first and probably his greatest love—playwriting.

He left for Europe, where he talked with the widow of a Spanish playwright and received permission to translate one of his plays. When he returned to New York, the translation completed, he told several friends how pleased he was with the results. The manuscript was turned over to a literary agent.

At the time of his arrest, he was working on a play. One of his early plays, a one-acter called "The Doctor's Eye," has

been performed in New Orleans several times.

It is a rare opening night in New Orleans—whether it be the theater, symphony, opera—that the tall presence of Clay Shaw is not felt. Friends recall how very active he was at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre as a young man and only recently he was proposed for membership on the board of directors of Repertory Theatre, New Orleans, a prospect that delighted him.

A NATIVE of Kentwood, Shaw moved to New Orleans with his family at the age of five. His grandfather at one time had been sheriff of Tangipahoa Parish.

Shaw attended Warren Easton High School. His mother, Mrs. Alice Shaw, lives in Hammond, where Shaw has been living much of the time for the past three months since the death of his father. Friends say Shaw has seemed very melancholy and worried about his mother since the death.

During World War II, Shaw served as aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. C. O. Thrasher. During the battle of France, he was Thrasher's deputy chief of staff. He was named a Chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Belgium and the French government bestowed on him the "Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Commercial." He was a major when discharged in 1946.

Shaw spent a brief period in New York City, where former high school classmate Harnett Kane, the author, recalls he was engaged in producing plays.

Then he returned to New Orleans and took the post of managing director of ITM. During the 18 years he served, he became the close friend of mayors, politicians, businessmen, socialites and artists.

THOSE close to Shaw identified him as a liberal politically and some say he was an ardent admirer of President Kennedy. "He never talked politics," author Kane recalled. "He was the last person in the world ever to think of assassination in any way."

Jerse Core, who was associated with Shaw at the trade mart, said Shaw "simply could not have been involved in any conscious way."

Friends he has, and friends he will continue to have. Offers of help are pouring in from near and far.

Meanwhile, anxious as they are to help, the friends of Clay Shaw are forced to wait.

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

Page 43

New Orleans States-Item

Date: 3-2-67
Edition: Red Flash

Author:
Editor:

Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY 11/22/63

Character:

Classification: 89-
Submitting Office: N.O.

Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE 67-109060-461