

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Brother Wants Body Exhumed Did Mystery Death Here Link to JFK?

Hank Killam, 6-3, 210 pounds, an Escambia County native, had waded into what was to become a tidal wave of confusion and controversy by meeting and marrying Wanda Davis.

Either for real or fancied reasons, Hank Killam, whose wife had a 15-year association with Jack Ruby, began to feel their past working relationship was causing persecution.

Too, Killam knew John Cartwright, who had lived with Lee Oswald in Mrs. A. C. Johnson's Dallas rooming house. He pointed a few houses with Cartwright — these two links being the only demonstrable ones connecting Killam to either Ruby or Oswald.

But when he described as "federal agents" visited him repeatedly after the assassination, he lost one job after another and he attributed this to the interrogations. He said the men never showed identification.

So did his wife, Wanda. Killam even left Dallas for Florida.

But the "agents" browbeated his wife into telling them where he was, she said. "Florida," Wanda reportedly told them.

Killam, in reality, had come to Florida, bringing with him complete files on the Kennedy assassination; he had checked in with his mother, 316 W. Romana St., and his brother who lives here.

He then left Pensacola for Tampa. The mating with the hip, fast talking Wanda, a long-time friend and employe of Ruby, slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, alleged killer of Kennedy, took

An autopsy and investigation into the mysterious Pensacola death of a man supposedly frightened and fleeing "agents" or plotters of President John F. Kennedy's assassination was asked here Tuesday night.

Official request will be made Wednesday.

"I'm a dead man," Thomas Henry Killam had cried in anguish to a brother in 1964 after constant questioning and harassment forced him to flee Tampa. "but I've run 85, just as I'm going to run."

Two days later he was dead. The brother, with long-smoldering fires of frustration now

afame over breaking news out of New Orleans involving an alleged plot to kill Kennedy, said Tuesday he had asked County Solicitor Harper for the exhumation of the body of his brother.

District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans has said there was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy and that arrests will be made and convictions obtained.

Hank Killam, whose wife sold cigarettes and stripped for Jack Ruby in Dallas' infamous Carousel Club, was found dead, his jugular vein cut, amidst chattered glass on downtown streets of Pensacola on March 37, 1964.

Police listed the death as "probable suicide."

"Did you ever hear," questioned the relative who will file autopsy request, "of a man committing suicide by jumping through a plate glass window?"

Killam's body showed but one cut — the slash at his neck.

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

The Pensacola Journal
Pensacola, Florida

Date: 2-22-67 P. A-2

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: Henry Thomas Killam

Character: Misc;

or

Classification: 62-922

Submitting Office: Jacksonville

Being Investigated

[Handwritten scribbles and notes in the right margin]

62-1000-4670

ENCLOSURE

the 45-year-old Killam, the edge of reason.

And perhaps to the death on the corner of a and Intendencia Streets, according to a brother, who believes there is reason to doubt the "probable suicide" police finding.

Dr. A. H. Northup, Escambia County coroner, checking records to jog his memory, said there was but a single cut on Killam's body. "A long, 3-inch deep laceration over the lower left side of the neck," was written by Dr. Northup. "... apparently sustained deep laceration in throat when he fell through plate glass window," were other hand-written notes.

The county coroner said he had been investigating deaths for 10 years—that he had seen suicides who died from gunshot wounds and a few even from poisoning; he had even seen a man who blew his head off by putting blasting caps in his mouth and lighting the fuse.

"But I've never heard of a man bent on suicide jumping through a plate glass window," said Dr. Northup.

Killam, according to published reports, is one of 17 persons with special knowledge of the Kennedy assassination who have met violent or strange deaths since that black Nov. 22 day in 1963.

Harassed, according to his brother, run out of Texas and Dallas by constant surveillance, harassment, and interrogation, Hank Killam came to Pensacola and immediately had to face charges of parole violation, which were quashed. (Killam was under threat of a 10-year robbery sentence.)

Free, able to hold his head up and look any man in the eye as the brother put it, Hank Killam went to Tampa and a job at Wheels, Inc., an automotive sales agency.

Killam was under constant harassment in Tampa, he wrote Mrs. E. V. Davis, his mother-in-law who was still in Dallas, with questioning about his wife's activities and what she knew of "Jack Ruby and Oswald... of what he knew of the Kennedy assassination." He lost his job at Wheels, partly due to this constant questioning, moved across town to another lot, but the same calls from the same strange men supposedly cost Killam this job, too.

Hurtack, he headed back home to Pensacola.

"I'm a dead man," he told his brother, "but I've run as far as I'm going to run."

The brother said Hank would never tell him more. "I don't want you involved," he said. Killam had hinted to a friend that his trouble stemmed from something "he knew about that thing in Dallas."

The frightened Killam showed deep concern for the friend who had tried to console him, after being seen on the street with him one day:

"I want you to watch it and not let them stick a knife in your back."

"He seemed to know something," the man who prefers anonymity said, recalling the day in 1964, "but didn't want to talk much about it."

Police arrived at the Linen Department Store, corner of ... across from Ordon's at 4:20 a.m., March 17.

S. N. Reeves, not then long on the police force, arrived about the same time as did patrol car driver Joe Irwin. They found a man, who had bled profusely, lying on the sidewalk.

"The plate glass window of the Linen Dept. Store was shattered," the report read.

"Because of the presence of blood approx. 4 feet inside the show window, it is my opinion expired blood through window," Reeves wrote in his report.

Although police didn't make note of this, Killam's billfold and a diamond ring were said to be missing months after the death.

Dr. Northup said Tuesday his notes showed no cuts on the body other than the long throat laceration.

The brother points up the possibility that Hank Killam could have been cut, if he had thrown through the plate glass.

The man who was to be dead in less than an hour answered a 4 a.m. phone call, walked out of the house at 126 Roman St., a car door was heard to slam. Killam had no automobile.

Two city employees — street sweepers — reported to police John Carter, a house painter they were working on the morning of March 17 at the intersection of Palafox and Romana Streets, "when they heard what they thought was a trash truck picking up beer and whiskey bottles near Palafox and Intendencia."

Then, after they had turned their truck around facing south, they roll of a man staggering from the window of the Linen Dept. Store.

"Investigation of the scene, the police report continued, "failed to turn up anything that would show how the victim managed to get into the window."

As Hank Killam lay dead on McNell Funeral Home his wife Wanda was writing him a letter, talking of "agent" harassment, pledging her love. Postmarked March 17, 1964, and

knowing the husband had used in his own life, the woman tried to find the constant investigator.

"They litigated all the girl's husbands, so baby they've done everyone like that, I'm sorry, Hankie, forgive me."

She also mentioned Ruby — it was about the time of his conviction. "I suppose you heard about Jack. Bless his heart. They will appeal it."

Wanda Davis was having her trials, too.

"Baby, wow! have I had my troubles even finding a job. I wonder if they go around and get to the people so (I) don't get the job."

In this last letter the wife commiserated again for troubles her past was causing her husband.

"... mother told me you called and said you had to go home from Tampa and had lost your job on account of me ... that I had worked up there (the Carousel).

Ruby's conviction gave Wanda hope, as expressed to Hank Killam:

"Baby, now the trial is over we both may get OK and be let alone. I'm going to try to go on."

Last lines of the March letter closed with a wish for happiness and enclosed love. Also there was the overhanging air of hopelessness.

"I hope and pray for your safety."

The Killams — wife and husband — have been mentioned prominently in at least two national publications and numerous newspaper articles.

"Ramparts," a left-wing magazine printed in California, listed Killam's death along with the other 16 who have died mysteriously — some violently — since 1963 and "Cosmopolitan," a widely circulated woman's magazine, cited Wanda's connection with Ruby and The Carousel Club.

It listed her association with John Carter, a house painter who once lived with Lee Oswald, and who was a friend of Killam.

Wanda Davis Killam has denied knowing Oswald, and said her husband didn't know him — the only connection being with Carter, the painter.

"Let's don't explore this any more," the woman said by phone from Texas. "Somebody might catch on."

The Pensacola brother, however, is exploring it further.

"I won't be able to sleep," he said, "until I know once and for all if this boy was robbed, if he only stumbled through the gate, or if, as he thought, someone was trying to kill him and did it."

marked March 17, 1964, and