

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Widow Wants to Know 'Club-Girl' May Seek Killam Death Probe

Wanda Killam, the \$300-per-week club-girl widow of Thom- as Henry Killam, 45, who died in his own blood with his throat slit on a downtown Pensacola street, said Wednesday from Dallas: "Sure, I want to find out who killed Hank."

Investigation into the three-year old mystery death was reopened Tuesday night when County Solicitor Carl Harper was asked to exhume the body of Hank Killam who claimed he was being harassed by "agents" following the assassination of President Kennedy.

Hank Killam died March 17, 1964, amid shattered glass on the corner of Palafox and Independence Streets. Police listed the death as "probable suicide," saying the dead man tried to destroy himself by jumping through a department store window.

Dr. A. H. Northrup, county coroner, listed the death as accidental and didn't know until Tuesday that police had signed a report listing "probably suicide" as the cause of death.

Earl Killam, a new car salesman in Pensacola, and brother of Hank, made the autopsy request after reading of alleged assassination plots hatched out in New Orleans.

And from Dallas, Wanda Killam said she would wire Harper asking that all the truth be brought out, if the Killam family wanted it. "I," she said, "would like to know all about

the dead man had married Wanda Davis in Dallas. She was a cigarette girl in the Crousel Club, owned by Jack Ruby, slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged killer of Kennedy.

Following the Nov. 22 assassination, Killam came under heavy investigation and questioning because of his wife's link with Ruby and also because the 6-3, 210-pounder worked several jobs with John Carter, a man who had once roomed with Lee Oswald in a Dallas boarding house. Constant harassment from

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

The Pensacola Journal
Pensacola, Florida

Date: 2-23-67 P. A-2

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: Henry Thomas Killam

Character: Misc;

Classification: 62-922

Submitting Office: Jacksonville

Being Investigated

67-1098-4670

ENCLOSURE

what he called "agents" and "pistons" — although he never testified them — forced Killam to leave his wife in Texas and come home to Pensacola, where he faced a 10-year sentence for probation violation.

He brought with him complete files on the Oswald slaying of President Kennedy.

Killam quit Pensacola for Tampa, worked as an automobile salesman but later claimed "agents" found him there, cost him two jobs, and sent him running back to Pensacola.

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

Two days later he was dead.

The 38-year old widow, who said she didn't even know her husband was dead until after he was buried, then sent flowers which were never delivered, thought it over only seconds Wednesday before saying, "Hank was never real afraid — never talked about anyone being after him, while he was around me."

"And remember, I lived with the man."

Police officer S. N. Reeves, one of the squad car drivers who found Killam bleeding to death, had seen the man earlier on the night he died.

"He was walking on and down in front of his residence," Reeves' report said Killam seemed "depressed" and thought someone was "trying to kill him." Tuesday Reeves stated that he remembered the man "had been afraid, but I don't believe he ever said exactly why."

Reeves' report also said Mary Killam, 316 W. Roman St., told him she was going to sit by his door because "he had had a psychiatric problem for some time." She reportedly told police that her son had an appointment at 1 p.m. on the day of his death. Capsules containing amphetamines and barbiturate were found on Killam's body.

City Police Identification Officer Walter Steinsiek said Wednesday he had put Killam through a polygraph test on another case but threw in questions about the Kennedy assassination and became convinced that the man knew nothing. He said his tests showed this.

Asked if his doctor didn't also tell him Frank Charles DeMotte was innocent of murder, but later confessed to the slaying of Harold Baird in 1962, Steinsiek said, "Yes. But I wasn't running DeMotte on a murder charge. I was questioning him on something else."

"About like you were questioning Killam?" Steinsiek was asked.

"Yes," he said, "you can put it that way if that's the way you feel."

It was not clear why he had questioned Killam about Kennedy's assassination.

County Solicitor Carl Harper said Wednesday that exhuming a body was always a big question.

"But he said he would investigate, from now on, as there's always a possibility."

"I'm not in position to make predictions on any decision I might reach until I'm in possession of all facts and evidence surrounding the death of Mr. Killam."

"I would not disturb his grave until I was convinced this was the proper thing to do, based upon facts and evidence, rather than suspicion."

The county solicitor said the investigation will read him through police records, coroner's notes, in consultation with Tampa sources, as well as those in Dallas.

"I'm trying hard to get in touch with District Attorney Jim Garrison—a man in whom I have the highest confidence—in New Orleans."

Harper also said he would like Wanda Killam to have a say so on any autopsy.

"I could do it without her permission," he said, "but common decency demands that I at least ask her."

Hank Killam was one of 17 persons reportedly having special knowledge of the Kennedy assassination who have met strange or violent deaths.

No. 18 was added Wednesday in New Orleans when David W. Ferris, an important and strange figure in D. A. Jim Garrison's investigation in Kennedy's death was found dead in bed, another "apparent suicide."

Some of the others:

—Jim Koether, killed by a karate chop, as the young Dallas newspaper man was preparing a book on what he knew of the Kennedy assassination.

—Bill Hunter, shot dead, another reporter who had special ties with the Dallas police, and who had been a friend of Jack Ruby.

—Tom Howard, reported heart attack, a lawyer who was a pistol-packer, as was Ruby, and both were friendly with underworld figures. No autopsy was performed.

Marlene Roberts' heart

lacked, a woman who ran a rooming house where Lee Oswald came minutes after the Kennedy assassination. She said a "policeman had knocked the horn for Oswald." There was never an autopsy.

—Nancy Jane Mooney, hanged, an alibi witness for Darrell Wayne Garner a man who shot Warren Reynolds, the used car dealer who witnessed the flight of the gunman who moved down Dallas police officer Davis Tippit.

—William Whaley, head-on collision, the cab-driver who drove Oswald away from the area of assassination, was killed in an auto accident, the first Dallas cabbie to be killed on duty since 1957.

—Edward Benavides, shot dead, a witness to the murder of Tippit, who described the murder as being different from Oswald.

—Lee Fowers, automobile accident, a man who testified before the Warren Commission that he thought shots were fired from a grassy knoll; he was atop a tower Nov. 22. A doctor reported after the accident that Fowers had been in a "strange state of shock."

There was no autopsy.