

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Order 'Plot' Probe Woman Returned

Criminal District Judge Bernard J. Bagert today signed an order requiring Sandra Moffett, McMaines, a witness in the probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, to return to New Orleans.

Mrs. McMains was arrested earlier in Omaha, where she now lives, and placed under bond as a material witness. Today's order clears the way for her return under Louisiana's extradition agreement with Nebraska.

THE WOMAN, who lived in New Orleans in the early 1960's when she was named Sandra Moffett, has denied that she attended a party at the apartment of David William Ferrie which is a key point in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's bid to prove that there was a New Orleans-based conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

Garrison contends that the plot was discussed at this party in September, 1963.

In another development in the probe today, arraignment proceedings for Layton Patrick Martens on a perjury charge were set for Friday at the court of Criminal District Judge Oliver P. Schulz.

MILTON BRENER, attorney for Martens, said he will plead his client not guilty and ask for 30 days to file special pleadings.

Martens, a former roommate of Ferrie, testified before the grand jury, which later indicted him for perjury. He has denied making any false statements.

Earlier, Gordon Novel, another witness in the case, asserted he was "nowhere near" a Houma munitions bunker he is charged with burglarizing in 1961.

Novel, in Columbus, Ohio, told this to the States-Item by telephone yesterday.

This morning William Garrison, chief investigator for Garrison, denounced Novel's latest statement and said it contradicted Novel's own earlier remarks.

"MR. NOVEL'S pattern is a very strange one. According to the local newspapers his comments to them have been very conflicting.

"First he said the district attorney probably wanted to talk to him about Sergio Arcacha Smith.

"Second, Mr. Arcacha denied ever hearing of Novel.

"Third, Novel stated to the press that the burglary at Houma was a 'patriotic' one-

"FOURTH, HE wants to return to Louisiana with a guarantee of immunity from prosecution, to which the grand jury and the district attorney have replied 'impossible.'

"Fifth, the latest story given to the press is that he now has witnesses who will testify he was nowhere near the bunker that was burglarized.

"In his press releases, Novel refers only in the Orleans Parish charges and makes no reference to the Terrebonne Parish charge."

NOVEL FACES Orleans Parish charges of conspiracy to commit burglary, and Terrebonne charges of simple burglary of the munitions bunker.

The DA's office, however, primarily wants him as a witness in the Kennedy probe. His exact connection with this investigation has never been disclosed.

FROM COLUMBUS, where he is fighting extradition, the 29-year-old former New Orleans tavern owner told the States-Item:

"I have numerous witnesses who will testify I was nowhere near that bunker on the dates Garrison claims I burglarized it."

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

PAGE 1  
STATES-ITEM  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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Edition: RED FLASH  
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Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY; DALLAS, TEX.  
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 Being Investigated

The DA's office here has accused Novel of conspiring with erstwhile anti-Castro leader Sergio Vincente Arcacha Smith of Dallas to steal munitions from the Schlumberger Wells Service depot. Houma Dist. Atty. Wilmore Broussard has charged Novel and the 44-year-old Arcacha with participating in the actual burglary of the bunker which was broken open and raided in August, 1961.

BOTH WERE arrested on Garrison's earlier charge, Novel in a Columbus suburb and Arcacha at Dallas. Novel is free on \$10,000 bail, Arcacha on \$1,500 bond.

Novel telephoned a States-Item reporter 24 hours after the Orleans Parish Grand Jury rejected his offer to return voluntarily. Novel wanted protection from Garrison's charges and the right to return to Ohio after testifying.

"Conditions impossible," Grand Jury foreman Albert V. LaBiche wired him in reply.

IN HIS LATEST interview, Novel hinted that "things may begin to break" Wednesday. Asked what he meant, the sometime electronics expert replied:

"I can't say now because of our timing. However, you can look for things to happen Wednesday which will make the picture clearer."

Novel said he has "many tape recordings" in his possession which the fugitive witness contends will "prove to be very interesting."

The National Broadcasting Co. has one of the tapes, he said, adding:

"Whenever they decide to use it, Garrison is going down the drain."