

Mount Clipping in Space Below

# Pal 'Never Saw Oswald After 1959'

Kerry Thornley, Marine Corps companion of Lee Harvey Oswald, said today he never saw the accused presidential assassin again after July, 1959, when he was mustered out of the service.

Thornley, in a telephone conversation from South Tampa, Fla., said he declined to cooperate in District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy because he "lacks confidence" in the DA.

Garrison has subpoenaed Thornley to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 8 and 9, but Thornley says he will fight extradition.

A spokesman for the district attorney's office, told of Thornley's statement that he never saw Oswald in New Orleans, said

"We have at least six witnesses who saw Thornley and Oswald together in New Orleans during the summer of 1963."

The DA contends that Thornley was associated with Oswald in New Orleans during the summer of 1963 when Thornley was working as a waiter in the French Quarter and Oswald was living on Magazine st. Thornley today denied this.

GARRISON'S subpoena for Thornley was the fifth issued with his probe of the Kennedy assassination.

Garrison's request for the subpoena of Thornley said Thornley was questioned by the Warren Commission "for 33 pages" concerning his Marine Corps life with Oswald.

Garrison said Thornley told an interviewer from the commission that he never saw Oswald after their duty with the Marines.

However, Garrison said he had information that Thornley was one of Oswald's "more consistent companions" in

New Orleans prior to Oswald's departure from New Orleans in late September, 1963.

Garrison added that "the frequency" of Oswald's contacts with Thornley here indicated the latter might have specific information about other associations Oswald had in 1963.

GARRISON'S subpoena asks that Thornley be granted immunity from arrest for any past offenses during his stay in New Orleans, and also asks authorization to pay Thornley \$148 to cover his expenses in coming to New Orleans.

Thornley told newsmen that he knew Oswald about three months when both were stationed at El Toro, Calif., with Marine Air Patrol Squadron No. 9.

But, he said, the friendship ended when they had a short argument one day over a parade starting time.

Thornley said Oswald at that time was the target constantly of his political and religious beliefs.

"Everybody in the outfit put him down as a Communist and an atheist," Thornley said of Oswald.

THORNLEY, 29, who calls himself a freelance writer, said he wrote an unpublished book prior to the assassination of President Kennedy titled "Idle Warriors," in which he mentioned Oswald as one of a number of disenchanted military men who had fled the U. S.

He said Oswald might have been considered his best buddy, "but I don't think Oswald had any close friends in the service."

Thornley said he worked as a waiter while living in New Orleans in 1963. In an interview here Nov. 27, 1963, Thornley described Oswald as "sort of a poor soul."

Meantime, 29-year-old Negro, Vernon W. Bundy, one of the state's major witnesses in the hearing in which three judges ruled that retired businessman Clay Shaw should be held over for trial on a charge of conspiring to kill President

Kennedy, yesterday was charged with armed robbery and theft.

JUDGE FRANK J. Shea, committing magistrate, set Bundy's bond at \$50.00 in the robbery case, and \$750 in the theft case.

Bundy was booked for the armed robbery of Harry Alexander, a 70-year-old Negro of 728 N. Prieur, on Christmas Eve.

He also was booked with theft of \$25 from Elaine Leary, Negro, 32, at her residence at 2226 Dumaine on Christmas morning.

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

PAGE 4-A

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 2-10-68

Edition: RED FLASH

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: ASSASSINATION

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY DALLAS, T.

11-22-63

Character: AFO

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA

Being Investigated

SECRET