

Tough Texas Prosecutor

Henry Menasco Wade

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DALLAS, Tex., Nov. 27—Henry Menasco Wade, who will prosecute the man indicted as the slayer of President Kennedy's accused assassin, was once in law-enforcement work in New York City, as well as in several other states and countries.

The 49-year-old Criminal District Attorney of Dallas County has been wryly amused at rumors in recent days of friction between himself and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in dealing with the case of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin, and Jack Ruby, the man who faces trial.

**Man
in the
News**

Mr. Wade is an alumnus of the F.B.I. As an agent from 1939 to 1943, he served in Boston, Baltimore and Washington, worked on harbor security in New York and did anti-Nazi undercover work in South America, mainly in Colombia. One picture on his office wall is a portrait of Lyndon B. Johnson. Another is of J. Edgar Hoover.

He went from the F.B.I. into the Navy as an ensign. He took part in the Okinawa operation and played poker with Ernie Pyle, a shipmate, before the correspondent was killed. He was also on the U.S.S. Hornet in the Battle of Leyte and the Philippines invasion.

Today, with curly hair recently turned iron-gray, he carries 200 pounds on his solid 5-foot-10 frame. He has piercing eyes and the earnest, authoritative manner of a backfield coach.

He is a member of one of Texas' most prominent legal families. His father, who bore the same name, was a judge in nearby Rockwall County. He has seven brothers, and five of them are lawyers or judges in Texas.

The Latin-sounding middle name of Menasco actually was that of a legendary Indian princess among Mr. Wade's forebears.

His title of Criminal District Attorney signifies, paradoxically, that he handles both criminal and civil cases for the county, in contradistinction to Texas' numerous counties where the District Attorney handles only criminal matters and the County Attorney only civil matters.

Friction between his organization and other law-enforcement agencies is minimal, because his office is not



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An F.B.I. alumnus

investigative; such work is done here, on a county level, by the sheriff.

The Criminal District Attorney concerns himself with everything from murders to defending the county against lawsuits over chuck holes in the paving.

Mr. Wade has 42 assistant district attorneys and a total staff of 80. He has an annual budget of \$400,000—more than offset last year by \$680,000 in fines. His office had 2,348 convictions last year in the Criminal District Court where Ruby will be tried, probably in January.

In 24 capital cases the District Attorney has tried during 13 years in office, he has won 22 convictions.

Mr. Wade was born in Rockwall, Tex., on Feb. 11, 1914. He captained the football team at Rockwall High and was valedictorian of the class of 1933.

He went to the University of Texas at Austin on a football scholarship, roomed with Texas' present Governor, John B. Connally Jr., worked his way through college and was president of his law-school class.

After the war he served as an assistant district attorney, was briefly Rockwall County Attorney and worked in private practice. He was elected to his present \$15,000-a-year job in 1950.

Mr. Wade is married to the former Yvonne Hillman, his onetime secretary. They have three daughters and two sons. He is a Methodist.