

Seek JFK Link In Fla. Mystery

S-1-2/23/67

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—Authorities are investigating the death of a Florida man two years ago at the request of his brother who said he wanted a fresh probe because of the current investigation in New Orleans of the Kennedy assassination.

The brother, Earl Killam, said the dead man, Thomas Henry Killam, told him he fled Dallas in December, 1963, because he was being harassed by "agents." Killam said his brother didn't specify whether the agents were federal, state or some other type.

"I'm a dead man," Killam noted his brother as saying. "I've run as far as I'm going to run."

WANDA KILLAM, the dead man's wife, reached yesterday in Dallas by the Pensacola News-Journal, said her husband had been questioned several times about the assassination by federal agents.

Killam died beside a broken shop window on a Pensacola street March 19, 1964. His throat had been slashed.

Police said the death was an apparent suicide. The coroner called it accidental.

Earl Killam, 38, a car salesman, has asked Escambia County Solicitor Carl Harper to exhume his brother's body to determine the exact cause of death.

HARPER SAID he took a statement from Earl Killam yesterday morning and would investigate immediately. He would not discuss his investigation except to say he was seeking concrete evidence, "not suspicions."

Harper said he planned to talk to New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who is conducting an assassination probe.

Wanda Killam said her husband returned to Florida in early December, 1963, saying he was going to look for a job. She stayed in Dallas, where she had been employed for several years as hostess in a night club owned by Jack Ruby.

RUBY, WHO died of cancer with the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of killing President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Mrs. Killam said she, too, favored an investigation of her husband's death and said of the suicide ruling: "No, Hank wouldn't do that."

She said her husband was briefly employed in Dallas as a house painter by a man named Jack Carter. Earl Killam said Carter once roomed in the same Dallas boarding house as Oswald.

KILLAM SAID that after his brother returned to Florida he spent four months in Tampa and then returned to Pensacola March 15 to live with their mother.

Two days later, he was dead. Killam said: "Did you ever hear of a man committing suicide by jumping through a plate glass window?"

Thomas Killam received a phone call at his mother's home at 4 a.m. March 17, 1963, according to his mother. She said

'SUICIDE' PLAN UNAPPARENT

Ferrie Last Seen 'In Good Spirits'

(Editor's Note—Washington Post newsman George Lardner Jr. was one of the last people to see David Ferrie alive, interviewing him in Ferrie's apartment until 4 a. m. yesterday. Ferrie was found dead at 11:40 a. m. Here is an account of what Ferrie told Lardner.)

WASHINGTON (AP)—A New Orleans pilot who figure in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination predicted shortly before his death that Garrison's inquiry would turn out to be a "witch hunt," the Washington Post said today.

In a copyrighted interview with George Lardner Jr. of the Post, David W. Ferrie was quoted as saying he was waiting for Garrison to fall on his face.

Ferrie, who was found dead in bed seven hours after the four-hour interview with Lardner, told Lardner he was sure that the FBI had investigated thoroughly Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in New Orleans.

"Ferrie told me he felt convinced there was no plot to kill the President, that Lee Harvey Oswald was 'a loner,'" Lardner reported in today's editions.

OSWALD, WHO lived in New Orleans during the summer of 1963, was named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's assassin. The commission said there was no evidence Oswald did not act alone.

Garrison, the New Orleans district attorney who has promised arrests and convictions in connection with his theory that an assassination conspiracy was hatched in New Orleans, said Ferrie's death was an "apparent suicide."

But coroner Nicholas Chetta, who said the pilot's death was due to a ruptured blood vessel in the brain, said further tests were being made.

Lardner said Ferrie "seemed in good spirits, not like a man about to kill himself" during the interview that ended at 4 a. m. yesterday. Ferrie's body was found covered by a sheet at 11

a. m.

"FERRIE said he never knew Oswald and had no recollection of ever having met him," Lardner reported.

Ferrie complained to Lardner that Garrison had him "pegged as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy." He previously called this a "big joke."

Lardner also said Ferrie scoffed at reports that the pilot had flown Oswald to Cuba around 1959. "I've nev-

er even been to Cuba," Lardner quoted Ferrie as saying. "At the time I was supposed to be flying Oswald to Cuba, I understand he was in the Marine Corps."

Within 72 hours after the assassination, Garrison's men picked up Ferrie as a "fugitive from Texas" and questioned him about reports he might have been in Dallas the afternoon of the killing.

"FERRIE said he was sitting on a courthouse bench outside a federal district courtroom in New Orleans, 'shooting the bull with a couple of federal agents'" at the time of the shooting, Lardner reported.

"Ferrie said he did leave for Texas on a trip with several acquaintances after leaving the courthouse but that he went to Galveston and Houston 'hunting geese,' and never set foot in Dallas, Lardner added.

Lardner said Ferrie told him he had been conducting his own investigation of the assassination to counter Garrison's. ew?

Toxicology Report to Shed Light

A toxicological report apparently held the key today to whether David William Ferrie committed suicide, was slain or died a natural death.

Police sources said it might be two or three days before the tests are completed and a report determining the exact cause of death is ready.

Ferrie, found dead shortly before noon yesterday in his apartment at 3330 Louisiana Ave. Pkwy. was described by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison as a key figure in his investigation of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

ORLEANS PARISH Coroner Dr. Nicholas Chetta said anatomical findings showed

(Related stories on Pages 6 and 13.)

that Ferrie suffered a rupture of a blood vessel at the base of the brain, which caused a hemorrhage.

Garrison appeared convinced the death was a suicide. A cryptic note was found at the scene.

A Washington, D. C., physician said it would have been impossible for Ferrie to write the note and then walk back to his bedroom after the blood vessel burst.

Yet it is still unexplained how Ferrie could have known the hemorrhage would occur, unless he took drugs to induce it.

Another figure in Garrison's investigation, being held in Parish Prison, has still asked for no increased security and is getting none.

Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. said he has no plans to increase security for Miguel Torres, a Cuban prisoner reportedly here for questioning about the JFK plot.

Torres, serving a nine-year sentence at Louisiana State Penitentiary, is now locked up at Parish Prison.

Heyd said Torres had asked for no special security and the DA's office had not asked that any be provided. Torres is being held in a regular tier with other prisoners.

GARRISON SAID yesterday his office was on the verge of

arresting Ferrie for involvement in a plot to kill Kennedy, when Ferrie was found dead in his uptown apartment.

Garrison said the decision to move in on Ferrie was made yesterday morning, shortly before Ferrie's nude body was found lying near 15 empty and half-empty medicine bottles.

The district attorney said that "in a meeting in my house this morning, we had reached a decision to arrest him (Ferrie) early next week. Apparently we waited too long."

AS LATE AS Monday, Garrison had stated that, due to premature publicity, no ar-

rests would be made for a period of months in his investigation into a supposed plot to assassinate Kennedy.

In an hour-and-a-half-long press conference at his office yesterday, Garrison unloaded

the first real information he has given out since the States-Item disclosed his investigation last Friday. Previously, Garrison had not publicly mentioned Ferrie's name in connection with the investigation and had only spoken of the investigation itself in roundabout terms.

At about 4:30 p.m. yesterday,

however, the DA tossed out his first bombshell of the day by beginning:

"The apparent suicide of David Ferrie ends the life of a man who, in my judgment, was one of history's most important individuals. Evidence developed by our office had long since confirmed that he was involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy."

Garrison added that he has had "for some time enough evidence to make an arrest."

The district attorney spoke only in generalities of Ferrie's association with a supposed plot to kill the President, but at one point he said, "I have no reason to believe

anybody in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963 (the date of the assassination)."

The 6-foot-6 lawman holed up in his inner office for most of the afternoon with his staff.

WHEN THE conference finally began at 4:30, more than 20 newsmen were led into the office, single file, to face a tired but still energetic-looking Garrison. He answered all questions put to him by the horde of reporters during the session, occasionally punctuating his more positive remarks with a terse "no comment."

The only stipulation the DA made was that no cameras would be allowed in the room in order to "keep it from turning into a circus."

"I can't pose for a photograph when a man has committed suicide," he added. "I'm just not that callous."

Garrison disclosed that members of his staff have been maintaining a nightly stakeout on Ferrie's apartment "for a long period," beginning each evening and ending when Ferrie went to bed. Last night's stakeout, he said, ended at 11, when all the lights in the apartment went out.

HOWEVER, WASHINGTON Post newsman George Lardner, here to cover Garrison's investigation, said he went to Ferrie's residence about midnight to interview him and remained until about 4 a. m.

The reporter said Ferrie appeared to be neither ex-

cessively excited nor depressed, and there was no indication that he might be contemplating suicide.

Dr. Chetta said rigor mortis had set in and the time of Ferrie's death had to be before 4 a. m. Lardner, however, insisted that he had visited with Ferrie until that hour.

GARRISON SAID this time element represents a major inconsistency in the case, and "is one of the mysteries we don't understand."

The stakeout on Ferrie's home, he added, had been "for the purpose of gathering information."

Concerning the circumstances surrounding Ferrie's death, Garrison seemed convinced the death was a suicide.

From the stakeout and from other sources of information, Garrison stated, "we noticed he was becoming increasingly nervous. He became unable to go to the airport (where Ferrie was a flying instructor) on a regular basis, and he was constantly calling members of our staff concerning the progress of the case . . ."

THESE AND OTHER observations, said the district attorney, "had caused us to become increasingly concerned, as our investigation progressed, about the possibility of his killing himself."

Garrison said that Ferrie had made "comments to individuals in the last week or two—an individual—about the possibility of killing himself." Later in the press conference he clarified this by saying Ferrie had "indicated it to someone we had working on the case."

Garrison, who repeatedly referred to Ferrie as "an extremely intelligent man," said that the men conducting the stakeout had reported other signs of a mental breakdown on Ferrie's part, such as "increased endless pacing of the floor."

THE NIGHT before his death, the DA recounted, the doomed man spent the entire evening sitting in a chair staring at the front door.

Garrison said he was not

ruling out the possibility of murder in the Ferrie case, but "for these reasons and for other reasons we can't go into now, we are assuming it is a suicide."

Ferrie, who would have been 49 on March 28, was born and reared in Cleveland, Ohio. He came south in the early 50s, living first in Miami briefly, then coming to New Orleans, according to the district attorney's records. Garrison identified him as a former pilot for Eastern Air Lines and said he was "known as a remarkably competent pilot."

FERRIE WAS KNOWN here as a flying instructor and a private investigator, but the city directory lists him as a psychologist. He has an arrest record, dating back several years, in both Orleans and Jefferson parishes, primarily on morals charges.

Ferrie called The States-Item last Friday night after the story broke and talked to

reporter David Snyder. He told Snyder that the district attorney had become interested in him in connection with the assassination investigation.

"Supposedly," Ferrie said, "I have been pegged as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy."

YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, Garrison said that an airplane did not figure in Ferrie's connection with the supposed assassination plot. Ferrie, he said, did not fly to South Texas, but drove there the night of the assassination with two companions.

Ferrie himself had explained this to the States-Item on Saturday, after earlier reports had said he made the trip by plane.

"The weather at that time between here and Houston and Galveston was so bad, that it was impossible to fly," said Garrison.

HE ADDED that the Texas trip had triggered the investigation into Ferrie's affairs. "We felt it was rather peculiar," said the DA, "that a man would suddenly take a trip to South Texas on the evening of the assassination, when everybody else in the country was home watching television."

Garrison stressed that there

was no question as to whether Ferrie had been directly involved in the shooting of Kennedy.

"Mr. Ferrie was not in Dallas at the time of the assassination. We have known that for years and that is not the point." What the real point of the Ferrie investigation was, Garrison declined to

say. He did reveal that ~~the~~ other two persons on the Texas trip are not suspects.

RELATING THE series of events leading to Ferrie's initial arrest in connection with the assassination, Garrison said that a check of files and other information sources immediately after the fatal shooting turned up Ferrie's name, along with others.

When it was discovered that Ferrie had left town for Houston, he said, an all-night stakeout was placed on Ferrie's apartment "about midnight, Sunday, Nov. 24."

A reporter pointed out that this was the same day that Jack Ruby shot and killed Oswald in Dallas. Asked whether the two incidents were in any way connected, Garrison said, "No comment."

Garrison stated that Ferrie showed up at his apartment some time after midnight Monday morning, was arrested for questioning later that morning and subsequently turned over to the FBI for questioning.

THE DISTRICT attorney said his men found 40 pages of material concerning Ferrie included in the FBI report on the assassination in the National Archives in Washington. However, he said, 36 of these pages were marked "Top Secret" and were unavailable to his investigators.

He said that the 26-volume report of the Warren Commission on the assassination mentions Ferrie only once in passing, and then misspelled his name.

Garrison would not say whether Ferrie's death had materially obstructed the progress of his investigation, but he did say that he was

still confident "beyond a shadow of a doubt" that the investigation would eventually be drawn to a successful

conclusion.

"**WE'VE ALREADY** gone far beyond the point that the Warren Commission ended at," Garrison asserted. He blamed the commission and the FBI for accumulating "mountains and mountains of evidence," but not evaluating it thoroughly.

"This is a problem of analysis and evaluation," he said. "We don't need more fact gathering, we need more evaluators."

Garrison stressed that "I intend to maintain control" of the investigation, and not hand over the reins to a federal agency that might "cause things to delay and bog down." *END*

Tests in Ferrie Death May Take 2, 3 Days



Hermann Deutsch ^{5-1-2/23/67} JFK 'Plot' Theory Probably Immortal

I THINK this "plot" argument over the assassination of President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, is likely to go on and on and on. After all, there are still those who insist that Gov.-Sen. Huey P. Long of Louisiana was selected for murder 32 years ago by a plot or cabal, whose chosen tool was Dr. Weiss, but whose real executioner was a Long body-guard.

I was among those who leaped briefly to an early conclusion that some sort of sinister organization—perhaps a group of Red activists, perhaps not—had plotted JFK's assassination, and had selected Oswald for its tool. My reason for thinking so was the otherwise to me inexplicable act of Jack Ruby in killing Oswald as he stood handcuffed



HERMANN DEUTSCH

between two brawny Dallas policemen or deputy sheriffs, with who knows how many presential eye-witnesses or how many millions of viewers to watch the homicidal act.

★ ★ ★
OSWALD HAD PROVED HIMSELF not only an excellent shot, who certainly merited the Marine Corps marksmanship medal that had been awarded to him, but a compulsive exhibitionist as well,

motivated by an almost pathological desire to be noticed by others. To my mind, this would tend to explain his actions on November 22, quite obviously planned with care only up to the moment of firing the two fatal shots.

If there was a plot, it seems obvious to me that the plotters expected Oswald to be killed at the scene just as have been so many other assassins; either that, or they expected him to try to make good his escape, and if he did so, to disappear. But what does he do? He goes to his home and then comes back to downtown Dallas which is literally swarming with policemen on the lookout for him, and he kills Dallas policeman Tippit in a throng where scores of individuals see and later describe him with such minute fidelity as to appearance and actions that he is arrested in a matter of minutes.

Now, always supposing that there is a ruthless cabal which has selected him as its chosen angel-of-death, does it not seem reasonable that the one thing on which they had not counted was this extreme exhibitionism which made Oswald avid for the limelight on any terms at all? And does it not seem equally obvious that the cabalists agree among themselves: "We've got to shut this talking mynah up before he spills the whole works just to keep himself in the center of the stage."

JUST WHY ANY CALCULATING cabal should select Jack Ruby, a chap who apparently had a number of but tons missing, I don't know, any more than I know what could have been promised him for his part in the grisly development in which he added the traditional third wanton killing to a melange of murder.

The question is moot by now, in the sense that both Oswald and Ruby have been silenced by death. I venture to predict, however, that the talk of a "plot" will go on and on and on, regardless of the outcome of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's current probe. Indeed, the fact the probe was launched, even though it came to naught, will be cited by quasi-historians in the year 2028, as proof positive that there was more to the Kennedy assassination than the mad impulse of a psychopath, had had failed to make a success of his marriage, his service in the Marine Corps, his Russian citizenship (naturalized by his own decision), his status as a propagandist or anything else he undertook, including the effort to provide at least a reasonable facsimile of a bare living for himself and his family.

Are there not still those who hotly contend that a body-guard's bullet, ricocheting wildly about a Louisiana capitol corridor, was the proximate cause of Huey Long's death in 1935, when it has been proved time after time that only one bullet, a small one, passed through Long and left a small blue puncture, barely visible, at its points of exit and entrance.

★ ★ ★
I SHOULD LIKE TO CITE, without rancor, an instance of what I mean in a matter in which individuals think with their emotions rather than with their brains. Four years ago almost to the day (Feb. 22, 1963) my book about the event, The Huey Long Murder Case, was published by Doubleday. It was the first and as far as I know, the only account of what transpired by one of the very few survivors who were present at most of the critical turns of Huey Long's career.

A Mrs. W. went to Tess Crager's Basement Book Shop at this time, and was asked whether she cared to add the new book about Huey's assassination to her collection of Louisiana lore.

"Does it say that a bodyguard killed him?" she inquired.

"On the contrary," replied Mrs. Crager. "It seems to prove that nothing of the sort could have happened."

"In that case," retorted Mrs. W. briskly, "I don't want to read it."

There will always be a number of Mrs. W.'s long after any major crime is committed. The JFK assassination will be no exception. *Eid*