

RUBY CASE DEATH SIFTED IN FLORIDA

NYT - 2/23/67
Suicide Doubted by Brother
of Stripper's Husband

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 22 (AP) — County Solicitor Carl Harper began an investigation today of the death of a man who left Dallas after President Kennedy's assassination because, his brother contends, he was being constantly questioned by "agents" or "plotters."

The man, Thomas Henry Killam, moved to Pensacola, then Tampa, then back to Pensacola to escape these "agents," according to his brother Earl. His wife, Wanda Killam, worked as a stripper for Jack Ruby, the brother said.

Two days before he was found dead amid the shattered glass of a department store window, March 17, 1964, Mr. Killam said, according to his brother: "I'm a dead man. I've run as far as I'm going to run."

The brother said Mr. Killam had never described the "agents" or "plotters" thoroughly enough to determine whether he was referring to Federal agents, to the police, or to someone else.

Earl Killam asked the solicitor today to exhume his brother's body to find out more about the death, which the police listed as an apparent suicide. "Did you ever hear of a man committing suicide by jumping through a plate glass

window?" the brother asked.

Long a Ruby Employee

Mr. Killam's wife was a long-time employe of Ruby in Dallas, the brother said. Mr. Killam also worked as a house painter with a man named Jack Carter, who had once roomed in a Dallas boarding house with Lee Harry Oswald, the brother said.

At 4 A.M. on the morning of March 17, The Pensacola News-Journal said, Mr. Killam received a phone call at his mother's home. The newspaper quoted the mother as saying that Mr. Killam dressed and left the house. She heard a car drive off, the mother said, although Mr. Killam did not own a car.

About a half hour later, two street sweepers heard a crash on a downtown street, the police report said, and saw a man staggering in front of a broken display window. They called the police, but Mr. Killam died before he got to a hospital.

The police report, signed by Officer S. N. Reeves, said: "Because of the presence of blood approximately four feet inside the show window, it is my opinion the expired jumped through the window."

The coroner, A. H. Northup, said his report showed there was only one cut on Mr. Killam's body: "A long, three-inch deep laceration over the lower left side of the neck. Apparently sustained deep laceration in the throat when he fell through the plate glass window." **END**

Figure in Oswald Inquiry Is Dead in New Orleans

NYT - 2/23/67
Ex-Airline Pilot's Death Laid
to Ruptured Blood Vessel

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (AP)—David W. Ferrie, a former airlines pilot who figured in District Attorney James Garrison's Kennedy Assassination inquiry, was found dead in his bed today. The coroner attributed his death to a ruptured blood vessel in the brain.

The Coroner, Dr. Nicholas Cheeta, said, however, that a complete toxicology report has been ordered because of a report that Mr. Ferrie had told a friend he was depressed and wanted to end his life.

Dr. Cheeta said a note had been found in Mr. Ferrie's apartment, which was cluttered with religious objects. The coroner refused to disclose the note's contents, except to say that it was one of the reasons he wanted to look into the possibility of suicide. The police declined all comment.

Mr. Ferrie had told friends recently that he was suffering from encephalitis (sleeping sickness).

His nude body was found with a sheet pulled up to the chest. There was no sign of violence.

Listed as Psychologist

Mr. Ferrie, who was in his forties, listed himself as a psychologist and has worked as a private investigator.

He complained recently that Mr. Garrison had him "pegged as the get-away pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy." He called it a "big joke."

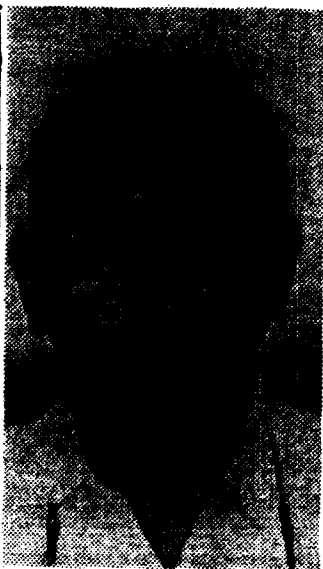
The New Orleans district attorney, in an investigation that started last October, has been trying to prove that a conspiracy hatched here "culminated in the assassination" of President Kennedy, who was slain in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 22, 1963. Mr. Garrison promised arrests and convictions, but kept details secret.

The inquiry has stirred international interest because it supports the Warren Commission critics, who contend that the assassination could hardly have been the work of one man. The Warren report concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald killed Mr. Kennedy, acting alone.

Mr. Ferrie was interrogated by Mr. Garrison's office last November for the second time in connection with the assassination. The first was in 1963.

Turned Over to F.B.I.

"We arrested Ferrie 72 hours after John F. Kennedy was assassinated," Mr. Garrison said today. "The arrest was on the basis of information supplied out of this office. I turned Ferrie



David W. Ferrie. After his eyebrows were burned in an explosion some years ago, Mr. Ferrie wore mascara.

over to the F.B.I. on Nov. 20, 1963. As a matter of record at that time, we suggested the F.B.I. take a detailed statement."

Mr. Garrison said he had never seen a copy of the F.B.I. interrogation.

"There are 40 pages relating to the interrogation and report on Ferrie which are in the National Archives in Washington," he said. "Only four of these pages are unclassified."

Mr. Ferrie repeatedly denied that he ever knew Oswald, a former New Orleans resident.

Mr. Ferrie said that he and two companions went to Texas from New Orleans in the afternoon of the assassination. But he insisted it was a pleasure trip.

Unusual Appearance

"We went to Houston, Galveston and back to Alexandria, La.," he said, adding that he had given a "meticulous" account of the trip during the first interrogation.

Mr. Ferrie said it was fruitless to search for an accomplice to Oswald because "my assessment of Oswald is that he would be incapable of any interpersonal relationship, especially anything as delicate as a conspiracy to kill."

But Coroner Won't Rule Out Suicide—Note Is Found

Mr. Ferrie's appearance was unusual. An explosion cost him his hair and eyebrows years ago. He wore a shaggy toupee and mascara eyebrows.

Police records showed he was dismissed as an airline pilot after having been arrested in Jefferson Parish (County), which adjoins New Orleans, on a morals charge. The case never went to trial.

Mr. Ferrie, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, has lived in New Orleans for the last 15 years.

Mr. Ferrie said the F.B.I. first became interested in him when a New Orleans man identified as Ed Voble reported that he once served with Oswald in a Civil Air Patrol unit under Mr. Ferrie.

Mr. Ferrie said Mr. Voble was in the Moisant squadron and "I was in the Lakefront squadron."

'Want to Be Left Alone'

When it was suggested recently that his connection with the Garrison investigation would make him a national celebrity, Mr. Ferrie replied:

"What will being a national celebrity get me? Thirty-five cents and being a national celebrity will get you a hamburger. I want to be left alone to my flying."

Mr. Ferrie ran a private flying service from a coffee shop at New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

"He was always very nice and never got out of line," a waitress who declined to give her name recalled today. "He was intelligent and real serious about flying, because that's all he ever talked about."

Mr. Garrison called a news conference today after receiving word of Mr. Ferrie's death. He said:

"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.

"Apparently we waited too long."

Says Publicity Delays Arrests

Mr. Garrison, who had said that he was only weeks away from making arrests in the Kennedy assassination case, changed his estimate last Monday in New Orleans to "many

months" away.

The delay, he said, resulted from premature publicity in local newspapers. He insisted, however, that "there is no question there will be arrests, charges and convictions."

Mr. Garrison said that arrests "probably were just a few weeks away until the disclosures by the local newspapers. Now they are most certainly months away."

A member of the Warren

Commission staff has said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had accumulated a "great stack" of data on an alleged New Orleans "suspect." The commission member also said that the information indicated that the "suspect" had not seen Oswald in the months just before the assassination and had not been a part of any conspiracy.

Mr. Garrison also said last Monday that he had been disturbed by an editorial in The States-Item, one of two daily newspapers in New Orleans. The editorial had asked:

"Has the District Attorney uncovered some valuable additional evidence or is he merely saving some interesting new information that will gain for him exposure in a national magazine? Mr. Garrison, it seems, should have some explanation."

Mr. Garrison, who is 46 years old, has frequently made headlines in the five years he has been district attorney of Orleans Parish, which embraces New Orleans. He started a clean-up campaign of what he called prostitution and blackmail along New Orleans's Bourbon Street. His campaign stirred bitter protests from Bourbon Street businessmen.

Checked His Airplane

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (UPI)—Mr. Ferrie is mentioned on pages 14, 29, 30, and 31 of Volume VIII of the Warren report.

Detective Frederick S. O'Sullivan of the New Orleans police testified that he and police Lieut. Paul Dwyer went to the New Orleans airport to look at Mr. Ferrie's airplane. Detective O'Sullivan concluded that the aircraft was not flyable.

"We went there to check it to see if it was flyable and to see possibly whether he had been flying it lately with the thought he may have transported Oswald to Dallas," the detective testified.

Alleged a Sexual Deviate

A reference to the possibility that Mr. Ferrie may have been a sexual deviate is contained in a Secret Service report dated Oswald's activities in New Orleans

Dec. 3, 1963, concerning Os-
and published as Exhibit 3119
by the Warren Commission.

The report quotes Mr. Voebel
as having said that when he
joined the Civil Air Patrol,
"Capt. Dave Ferrie (the spell-
ing in the exhibit), a former
pilot or co-pilot for Delta or
Eastern Airlines, was the com-
mander at the time Oswald
joined. He said he does not
know if Oswald was acquainted
with Ferrie, who is alleged to
be a homosexual."

In his appearance before the
Warren Commission, Detective
O'Sullivan testified that he was
one of nine vice squad detec-
tives covering New Orleans and
that "we handle any vice, gam-
bling, prostitution, homosex-
uals, handbooks."

The detective was asked:
"You have never had any con-
tact with Ferrie in connection
with your activities on the vice
squad? Is that correct?"

Mr. O'Sullivan's reply, as
published on page 31 of Volume
VIII of the report on the com-
mission's hearings, was:

"No; Ferrie lives or he did
live in Jefferson Parish. We
have no authority in Jefferson
Parish [Deletion]."

END

Story of an Oswald-Ferrie Link Shown by Archives to Be False

NYT- 2/21/67
By NAN ROBERTSON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—Documents in the National Archives disclosed today that Jack S. Martin of New Orleans, who linked Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrif, had admitted to the Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that his story had been a lie.

Mr. Ferrif, who was found dead yesterday in his bed, was a major figure in an investigation by the New Orleans district attorney, James Garrison, of an alleged plot to assassinate President Kennedy. The district attorney has promised sensational disclosures and arrests. He insists the alleged plot was hatched in New Orleans.

Mr. Martin told Mr. Garrison shortly after the assassination that Mr. Ferrif had known Oswald, that he had trained him in the use of rifles with telescopic sights and that Mr. Ferrif had visited Dallas about two weeks before the assassination of the President by Oswald on Nov. 22, 1963.

Soon thereafter, Mr. Martin swore in separate statements to F. B. I. and Secret Service agents that his story had been a figment of his imagination.

On the night of Nov. 29, 1963, two Secret Service agents, Anthony E. Garrets and John W. Rice, interviewed Mr. Martin "at length" in his apartment in New Orleans.

Their report states:

"Martin, who has every appearance of being an alcoholic, admitted during the interview that he suffers from 'telephonitis' when drinking and that it was during one of his drinking bouts that he telephoned Assistant District Attorney Herman S. Kohlman and told him this fantastic story about David William Ferrif being involved with Lee Harvey Oswald.

"He said he had heard on television that Oswald had at one time been active in the Civil Air Patrol and had later heard that Ferrif had been his squadron commander. Martin stated that Ferrif was well known to him, that he recalled having seen rifles in Ferrif's home and also recalled that Kohlman [who had been a newspaper reporter previously] had written an article on Ferrif and that Ferrif had been a marine and had been with the Civil Air Patrol.

"Martin stated that after turning all these thoughts over in his mind, he had telephoned

Herman S. Kohlman and had told his story as though it was based on facts rather than on his imagination."

The Secret Service men also reported that they had learned that F.B.I. agents had talked with Mr. Martin three days earlier and that he had admitted that the information he had furnished Assistant District Attorney Kohlman was a figment of his imagination and that he had made up the story after reading the newspapers and watching television."

16 Pages of Data

Their reports and others are contained in 16 pages of information about Mr. Ferrif relating to the Warren Commission investigation into the Kennedy assassination. About 40 more are still classified, but the National Archives has asked the F.B.I. to clear those as well.

The 16 pages that came to light today were declassified by the F.B.I. in September, 1965, but until this month they were scattered through "many thousands of pages" of information, according to Marion Johnson, the archivist in charge of the Warren Commission records.

Mr. Johnson pulled the declassified information about Mr. Ferrif together in response to requests by reporters for New Orleans newspapers.

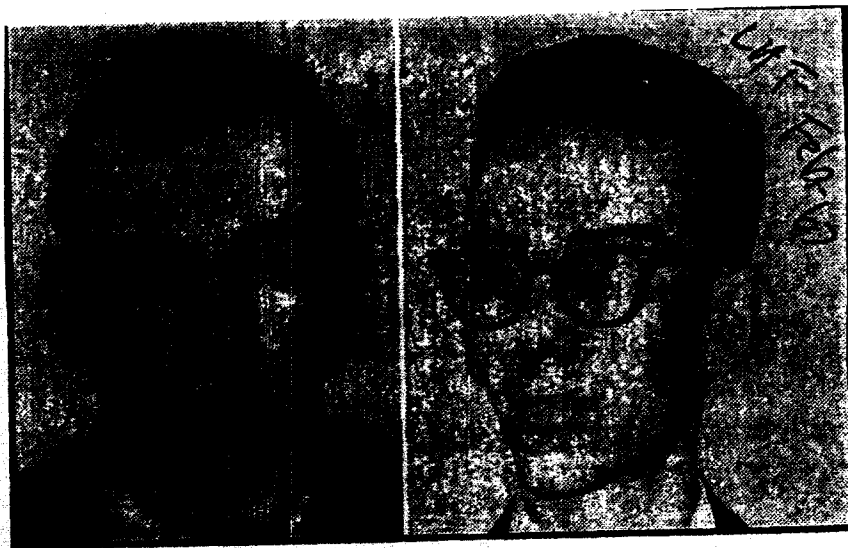
Mr. Ferrif is mentioned on pages 14, 29, 30 and 31 of Volume 8 of the Warren Commission hearings. The last three pages contain testimony by a detective, Frederick S. O'Sullivan, of the New Orleans Police Vice Squad. He was also in the Civil Air Patrol headed by Mr. Ferrif.

Mr. O'Sullivan told the Warren commission that he knew of no connection between Oswald and Mr. Ferrif. He also said that he had inspected Mr. Ferrif's airplane at New Orleans Airport shortly after the assassination and had found it "not in flyable condition" because its tires were flat and instruments were missing.

Mr. Ferrif was once interrogated as a possible "getaway pilot" for a Presidential assassination.

Another member of the air patrol unit, who knew Oswald, told the Warren Commission he knew of no link between the President's killer and Ferrif. It is not clear whether any of their testimony was based on the documents that came to light today.

END



IN 'PLOT' STORY — New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, above, who said several persons plotted the assassination of President Kennedy, and below, at left, David Ferrie, mentioned in the "plot," who died rather mysteriously in New Orleans last week. At right is David Lewis, who said he feared revenge from plotters against his family.

(U) Wirephotos

F.B.I. Declines Comment

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22—An F.B.I. spokesman said today that the bureau would have "no comment" on Mr. Ferrie's death.

END