

MAFIA LINKED TO JFK

by BUD THOMAS

The Mafia has been linked to the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Private citizens, unsatisfied with the report of the Warren Commission and with the report's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone assassinated the late president, have uncovered new evidence that proves members of the Mafia were involved in events close to the assassination.

There is still some question as to just how deeply involved the Mafia was. But one thing is certain: The Mafia was there, in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, when John F. Kennedy was shot dead in Dealey Plaza.

Furthermore, the new evidence gathered by private citizens and published for the first time by MIDNIGHT proves that Dallas police picked up a Mafia associate shortly after the assassination — then released him after accepting a phony story!

The man with the phony story is Eugene Hale Brading. He has a record dating back to 1934, is an associate of James (The Weasel) Frattano, a prominent Mafia figure, linked to gangland slayings, and of the



PHOTO TAKEN moments after assassination shows book depository building in background and Eugene Brading (circled) as an onlooker

Harvey Oswald, had something in common.

Many of the facts uncovered by the citizens' group, headed by Dallas pharmaceutical salesman Al Chapman, were not known by the Warren Commission. And the central figure linking

identified a man in a news photo taken at the JFK assassination scene. The man, they learned, was Brading.

They rechecked police reports made on the day of the assassination and learned that Brading, the mystery man, had been picked up for questioning

and even spent time in prison there.

And, according to what he told police and his Los Angeles parole officer, he was a long way from where he should have been at the time of the assassination. He was at Dealey Plaza when John F. Kennedy was shot — not



EUGENE BRADING was identified and placed at the scene of the crime by the large photo at left

these men — or Brading — did from the time they visited Hunt's offices to the time of the assassination the next day.

After he was picked-up and released in Dallas, Brading, alias Jim Braden, went on to Houston before returning to Los Angeles.

A short time after his return home, he was questioned by the FBI — as Jim Braden. The FBI did not know that he was really

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Denver.

Brading was arrested just after the killing of the president, in a building immediately across the street from the Texas School Book Depository which is the building from where Lee Harvey Oswald fired his shots.

He was then questioned and released — despite the facts that he gave the police a false name, that he was in Dallas under false pretenses and that he was on parole at the time.

And more important, he and Jack Ruby, the slayer of Lee

these facts is Brading.

In 1963, he was living in Los Angeles, on parole, claiming to be an oil prospector. On November 20, two days before the assassination, he obtained his parole officer's permission to fly to Dallas, where he said he planned to discuss an oil deal with Lamar Hunt, son of the oil billionaire.

He told the parole officer he would just spend the day in Dallas, then fly on to Houston to keep another business appointment on November 22, the following day. But Brading stayed over in Dallas.

He visited the oil company on November 21, as scheduled. This however, was the same day Jack Ruby visited the same offices.

After killing Oswald, Ruby told the Warren Commission that he also visited the Hunt Oil Company offices on November 21 to try to find a job for a pretty coed named Connie Trammel. This testimony is contained in Exhibit 2270 of the Warren Commission's report.

But the Commission did not link the fact that Brading, too, visited the oil firm's offices the same day. In fact, an FBI report clearing Brading — who also gave the FBI a phony name association with the events surrounding the assassination.

It took Al Chapman and his associates to make the connection — wasting valuable time before they were able to do so. As far as Chapman and his associates were concerned, the break came when they finally

nation and later released when Oswald was arrested. Police did not discover Brading's phony story.

Brading, arrested in the Dallas Building, just across the street from where Oswald fired his bullets, told the Dallas Sheriff's office that his name was Jim Braden, a Los Angeles oil operator. He produced a valid California driver's license to back up his claim.

But he did not mention that he was in Dallas to see members of the Hunt family. He also stated that he was not familiar with Dallas — which was a lie. He had lived there previously

appointment as he should have been.

Furthermore, the day before the assassination, Brading and three underworld associates visited the Hunt Oil Co. offices. The three men accompanying Brading have lengthy criminal records and were known associates of Mafia members.

Brading did not tell his parole officer that he would have company on his trip to Dallas — because the men with him were convicted felons. Association with such people could have resulted in his parole being revoked.

Little is known about what happened to him after he was released with a long record and a close associate of West Coast Mafia members.

The following is the report written by FBI officers after they interviewed Brading:

John Braden, 621 South Barton Drive, Apartment 6, Los Angeles, furnished the following information:

Braden is a crude oil producer. His mailing address is 215 South La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California. He was in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, on business. He had been in Dallas twice before, but that was over 10

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RESEARCH: Ted Greenstade.
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STAFF WRITERS: Geof Gray-Cobb, Krista Lee,
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Steve A. Foster, Jack Walsh,
PHOTOS: Steven Lynch, chief, Chris Gray-
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ASSASSINATION SCENE: It is widely believed that the Warren Commission report did not tell the whole story

MURDER

years ago. He is not familiar with Dallas.

"On November 22, 1963, while on Elm Street trying to get a cab, he heard people say that President John F. Kennedy had been shot. He wanted to telephone his family, so he made inquiry and ascertained there was a telephone on the third floor of the building located directly across the street from a building which was completely surrounded by police with drawn guns, from which building the fatal shots had been fired at President Kennedy.

"Braden entered the building, proceeded to the third floor via elevator, found that the telephone did not work and returned to the street level via the elevator.

"As he left, the elevator operator asked him if he worked in the building and finding that Braden did not, immediately called a police officer who escorted Braden to the Sheriff's Office which was within walking distance. There Braden was held for two or three hours and finally questioned and released.

"Braden has no information concerning the assassination and both Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby are unknown to him."

Whether or not Ruby and Braden knew each other, despite what the FBI believed, is not known. But they were both in the same building, along with three other Mafia associates, the day prior to the assassination.

One police officer also noted that Ruby knew many Mafia people in the U.S. and that a number of Ruby's friends in Chicago were members of the Mafia.

Another potent piece of evidence tying in Braden with the assassination scene was supplied by a Dallas resident named Gary Campbell — an eyewitness to the assassination. Campbell was talking with Chapman about the assassination when Chapman happened



AL CHAPMAN headed citizens' group investigating JFK assassination

to mention that no FBI or Secret Service men were in the plaza at the time of the shooting. Campbell expressed surprise.

"I thought I saw one (Secret Service agent)," he exclaimed. "He was a tall, middle-aged guy standing up near the pagoda."

"What made you believe he was an agent?" Chapman asked.

"Well," Campbell replied, "he was cradling a rifle. I figured he was part of the government security force."

When shown a collection of news photos to identify the man with the rifle, Campbell pointed to Braden — who had long been the mystery man.

"That looks like the man I saw," said Campbell. A final piece of evidence implicating Braden with events surrounding the assassination is contained in a letter to one of the citizen investigators and signed by Lawrence E. Miggins, chief probation officer in Houston. This letter states in part:

"Braden left a note under the door on Nov. 26 (1963) saying that he was fleeing Houston because of the impending storm. 'You are quite right in that Mr. Braden did not inform me of his arrest by the Dallas Sheriff's Office on November 22, 1963. However, this is one of the many loose ends left by the Warren Commission.'"

Al Chapman and his group believe that there are many aspects of the assassination that have been hushed up or ignored by officials. Braden, and his ties with the Mafia, must surely rank as one of the most important.

The reason, of course, is that neither Braden nor his associates have ever satisfactorily explained exactly why