

Garrison Rebuffed So Army Visiting

Oswald Friend Denies Army Visiting

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WASHINGTON -- A former friend of Lee Harvey Oswald hotly denied today allegations by the New Orleans district attorney that he was with the presidential assassin a few weeks before Nov. 22, 1963.

Kerry M. Thornley, 39, who knew Oswald in the Marines in 1959 and wrote a book about him—"Oswald"—in 1965, was subpoenaed by District Attorney Jim Garrison on Tuesday. The controversial "D.A." said his office has established that Thornley was seen with Oswald in the French Quarter of New Orleans in September, 1963, about the time Garrison says a "plot" against President Kennedy was hatching.

"Garrison is a crackpot," Thornley, now in Tampa, Fla.,

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scuffed in a telephone interview. He said Garrison had tried last October to get him to talk about the case, with "both of them using assumed names, but that he wrote Garrison "to hell with it" after one abortive telephone conversation. Garrison could not be reached for comment.

Thornley said wire service reports that he was not questioned about any New Orleans meeting with Oswald by the Warren Commission were false. A check of the detailed hearing record of the commission confirms Thornley's statement. At least three times he was asked

whether he had seen Oswald after their days at El Toro Marine base, Calif., or in New Orleans. Each time he swore he had not.

"You were never aware that he was in New Orleans when you were there?" Thornley was asked by the commission on one of the occasions.

"No, I wasn't," was Thornley's reply.

The writer said he was told by Warren Commission lawyers that he had originally come under FBI and Secret Service scrutiny when he told a friend shortly after the assassination that he knew Oswald and had

no fondness for President Kennedy. Word spread and he was questioned. Thornley said he spoke freely with the Secret Service, and the Warren Commission.



JAMES HICKS
Says he saw gunman.

Meanwhile in New Orleans Garrison plans to present the grand jury evidence of James Hicks of Edley, Okla., who claims he "saw two men in Dealy Plaza in Dallas the day of the assassination who could have done the firing."

Hicks, an employee for Servair Inc., at Vance Air Force Base, claims he tried to tell Dallas police what he saw the day President Kennedy was killed. He says they did not want the information.

Garrison says he wants Hicks to testify because he did not testify before the Warren Commission.