

'I AM TIRED OF ALL THIS PAIN...'

Death of Ex-Lawman Craig Who Aided Garrison Probe Brings to 30 Number Of Assassination Figures Who've Died

Another investigator into the assassination of President Kennedy has died violently.

The death of former Dallas County sheriff's deputy Roger Dean Craig brings to at least 30 the number of persons directly connected with the investigation who have died unnatural deaths.

Craig, who died of a gunshot wound May 15, apparently took his own life, authorities said.

The death of Craig, who was featured in a June 8, 1975 TATTLER special report on assassinations, brought a mysterious end to the ex-lawman's decade-long effort to prove through his eye-witness evidence that a conspiracy was involved in the slaying of President Kennedy.

Craig's death follows by six months the latest attempt on his life. Craig said a stranger appeared at a Waxahachie, Texas, home and shot Craig as he answered a knock at the door.

HIS EYE-WITNESS account of the events in Bealey Plaza just after Kennedy was shot and his testimony before the Warren Commission made Craig a controversial national figure.

Because of his contentions and his testimony in New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of a Kennedy assassination conspiracy, Craig said he had been unable to hold a job and his life had been threatened.

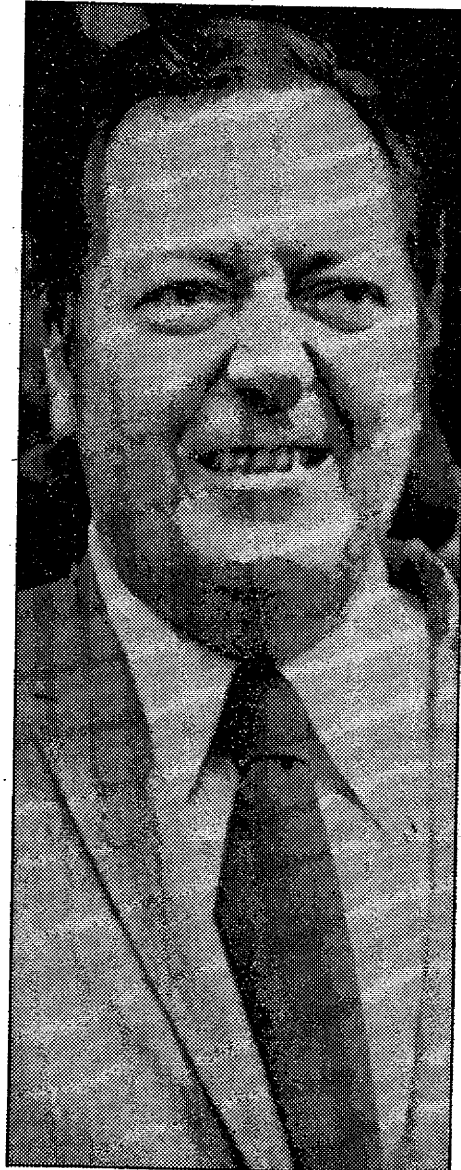
In the years following the assassination, Craig had been wounded and his car had been bombed.

Craig was a sheriff's deputy assigned to Bealey Plaza when President Kennedy's motorcade was fired on in Dallas.

Fifteen minutes after the shots were fired, Craig said, he saw Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin, run from the Texas School Book Depository and get into a Rambler station wagon driven by a man of apparent Latin descent.

THE WARREN Commission claimed that Oswald acted alone in the assassination and that no evidence of a conspiracy was found.

If Craig's testimony had been accepted by the Commission, it would have proved at least



a second person was involved with Oswald that day - therefore, a conspiracy.

Craig's testimony was not given credibility by Commission staffers even though his

BECAUSE ROGER CRAIG (right) former Dallas County sheriff's deputy, became a witness in New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's (left) investigation of a conspiracy in the JFK slaying, he was fired from his lawman's job. Craig, who police say committed suicide earlier this year, says he was also harrassed, threatened and shot at after the Garrison probe.

background as a lawman was distinguished.

The sheriff's office named him "Man of the Year" in 1960 for capturing an international jewel thief.

Craig told the Warren Commission:

"The station wagon stopped almost directly across from me. The man continued down the hill and got in the station wagon. I wanted to talk to both of them. But traffic was so heavy I couldn't get across the street. And they were gone before I could."

LATER, AFTER Oswald was arrested, Craig went to the Dallas police station and identified Oswald as the man he saw entering the station wagon.

The Warren Commission contends Oswald left the book depository, got on a bus, rode a few blocks, transferred to a cab and later ended up in Dallas' Oak Cliff where he shot policeman J.D. Tippett.

Craig was fired from the Dallas Sheriff's Department in 1967 after he became a witness in Garrison's New Orleans investigation.

Craig, 39, was shot in the upper chest. A 22-caliber rifle was found near his body. Police said a suicide note was also found.

Craig's father, K.A. Craig, said he found his son lying in a back bedroom when he came in from mowing the lawn.

THE FATHER said he didn't hear the shot. "I am tired of this pain," police said Craig wrote in the note.

He had been taking pain killing pills since he received injuries in an auto accident two years ago.