

N.Y. Times

2/23/67

RUBY CASE DEATH SIFTED IN FLORIDA

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 Joyce Killam, worked as a stripper for Jack Ruby.

Mrs. Killam, reached by phone in Dallas where she works as a cigarette girl in the Theatre Lounge, told The Pensacola News-Journal her husband had been questioned several times by Federal agents about the assassination. She was certain her husband would not have committed suicide. "No, Hank wouldn't do that," she 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.

Long a Ruby Employee

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.

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