

New Orleans Investigator Checked Dallas Airfields

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Times Herald said in Sunday's editions that an investigator from the New Orleans district attorney's office was in Dallas last month to find out whether pilot David Ferrie was in Dallas when President Kennedy was assassinated.

Ferrie, found dead in his apartment Wednesday, was identified by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jan Garrison as a "key man" in his probe of the assassination.

Ferrie had reportedly said that Garrison believed he was to be the getaway pilot in an alleged conspiracy hatched in New Orleans that took Kennedy's life in Dallas Nov. 24, 1963.

The Warren Commission said it found no credible evidence of a conspiracy and that the assassination was the work of one man, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Thought He Recognized Him
Fred Lenz, a mechanic at White Rock airport in Dallas said he told Garrison's investigator that he recalled having seen Ferrie in Dallas but added that he "couldn't be sure of the date."

Another mechanic at the same airport, **Hebby Pike**, said, "I thought at one time I was shown a picture of Ferrie by the investigators. But I had seen the man. I couldn't remember when or where, but I had seen some time ago."

Nolan Knight, a student pilot, told the Times Herald he accompanied the New Orleans investigator to several Dallas airports because the officer did not know his way around.

Knight and the investigator carefully explained to each person he interviewed that he had three pictures of a man, and that he

was looking for a certain man who was in Dallas on a certain date.

Acted as Guide
Knight and the dates mentioned were Nov. 29-30, 1963.

Knight said he stayed with the New Orleans man as a guide. He said the man interviewed about 30 persons at airports and was "very tactful," and took various pictures of the different fields.

Knight added that of the people questioned, only Pike and Lenz indicated that they recognized Ferrie from the pictures.

"I've seen him somewhere," Lenz said. "You don't forget a face like that."

Ferrie had been described as an "odd-looking" man who wore

an ill-fitting hairpiece and false eyebrows as a result of having been burned in an airfield explosion.

Officials at Redbird White Rock and Highland Park airports confirmed that the New Orleans investigator had visited their fields in late January and questioned employees.

Public Documents Closed
"He really went over this place with a fine tooth comb," said Wayne McWhorter, manager of White Rock airport.

In another development, it was disclosed over the weekend that the Dallas Bureau of Vital Statistics has denied access to the public of routine public records concerning the deaths of President Kennedy, Oswald, and Jack Ruby. Ruby shot Oswald to death Nov. 24, 1963, in the Dallas police station and himself died of cancer in Dallas Jan. 3 of this year.

Dr. J. E. Peavy, state health commissioner, said that the records have been inaccessible to the general public since about a month after each man died. The vital statistics bureau comes under the jurisdiction of the State health department.

Little Difference Seen
"If a person has a legitimate reason, he can see the documents," Peavy told the Associated Press Sunday. "It's presumed that newsmen would have legitimate reasons."

Peavy added that the records of Kennedy, Oswald and Ruby

are not handled much differently from all such records.

"None of our records are open to the general public," he said. "A person has to show cause, regardless of what he's checking on."

But he said the restrictions on these three are tighter than on the rest, "so that the unscrupulous won't be able to exploit these records for personal gain."

Peavy said the Secret Service asked him to tighten the restrictions on the Kennedy, Oswald and Ruby documents after several certified copies were found to be in circulation.

"We think it's just a matter of good taste," he said.

Peavy said the original documents are on file in Austin, the state capital, and duplicates are on file in the Dallas branch office.

Dallas City Atty. Alex Bickley said the ban prohibits the copying of the documents on file in Dallas.

Fortune Hunters Foiled
"There have been letters, telephone calls from all over the country from fortune hunters, investigators and those little people just trying to make a buck off his (President Kennedy's) death," Bickley said.

The Times Herald said the ban is being interpreted by clerks in the Dallas office to cover persons now dead but only indirectly involved in the events of the assassination.

Peavy said, however, that his office had requested that only the documents pertaining to Kennedy, Oswald and Ruby be restricted.

He cautioned that while newsmen and others with legitimate reasons could see the records, "I doubt that we would release a certified copy without a court order."