Jolly Green Giant

District Atty. Jim Garrison, who had a good thing going until the more alert newsmen of America discovered he was staging the greatest put-on of the 20th Century!

By WILLIAM L. CARTAN

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Staff Correspondent

NEW ORLEANS—Many Americans rubbed their eyes in
disbellef on the morning of March 1, 1967, as they read the
announcement. . Jim Garrison, an obscure district attorney
in New Orleans, had arrested a prominent citizen as a "participant" in "a conspiracy" to murder President John F. Kennedy
on the 22d of November, 1963, in Dallas, Texas.

en the ZZd of November, 1983. The citizens who found it hard to believe that this Jim Garrison was for real were those who had more or less accepted the Warren Commission's Report which had offered the authoritive judgment that Lee Harvey Oswald, the little weirdo native of New Orleans, alone was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy. Kennedy.

Kennedy.

Although some doubts had been raised concerning the adequacy of the Warren Commission's investigation into the national tragedy, it seemed preposterous to believe that a local hick prosecutor had found the answers that had baffled the rich investigative resources of the federal government.

ment.
There were other good citizens, however, who were prepared to believe that this 6 ft. 6 giant, who came to be known here as the Jolly Green Giant, might have some substantial evidence to back up his spectacular rejection of the Warren Report.

Warren Report.

The citizens who almost clapped their hands in giee over this "champion" who was rising among them were largely Americans who had never believed that Lee Oswald had pulled the whole thing off by himself. They felt that the Warren Commission's probe was limited in scope and was mainly an exercise in official whitewashing, or at least in the clarification of superficial evidence.

They felt, too, as the foreign press believed, that President Kennedy was the target of a vast na-

nedy was the target of a vast na-tional or international plot—and

people in high places were cover-ing up the evidence.

It was in such a climate of min-gled faith and doubt over the Warren Report that the career of

JIM GARRISC

The Ugly Truth About

The John F. Kennedy

Conspiracy Fiasco!

one of the most remarkable demagagues in the history of American politics and jurisprudence was born, rising like a shooting star from outer space and then just as abruptly shiking ingloriously into earth, leaving many Americans, including 12 good men and women true (the jury) feeling like damn fools, like they had been led on a blind chase through Fantasyland, or more specifically in this case, Fairyland.

\$5-Million Suit

The career that shot across the world like a meteorite in 1967 was that of Jim Garrison who from the moment he arrested Clay Shaw

moment he arrested Clay Shaw faced the monumental challenge of convincing a jury that the so-cially prominent and highly respected Shaw and the irresponsible punk Lee Oswald plotted on the dark side of the moon, so to speak, to murder the President of the United States!

Sophisticated newsmen, who had picked up on the real character of the D.A. as soon as they hit town, agreed over drinks at the local press club that a guy had to be a real con man to get away with this one. But even the most blasse myrmidons of the Fourth Extate were startled as away with this one. But even the most blase myrmidons of the Fourth Estate we're startled as Garrison reached into the twilight world for homosexuals and weirdos to testify as star witnesses against a man who had spent his lifetime doing good great things for New Orleans.

As a fitting climat to the whole fiasco, the jury took less than an hour to clear Shaw of the ridculous charges. Garrison, like a drowning man grabbing at a last straw—or in this case a last Shaw!
—placed a charge of perjury against his tortured victim hours after the jury had freed him.
As a result of it all, Clay Shaw has sued Garrison for \$5-million

charging the trial was "illegal and useless" and a violation of his civil rights. Not only that, he has obtained a federal court order that forbids the D.A. from prosecuting Shaw any further, on the perjury

forbidd the D.A. from prosecuting Shaw any further, on the perjury charges.

Garrison's persistence in prosecuting (some say "persecuting") Clay Shaw has given credence to strong rumors in high circles in New Orleans that in earlier days, Shaw—an alleged homosexual—had "stolen" the "friendship" of a handsome young Latin American man from Garrison—and Garrison, in reprisal, had been using, or abusing the power of his D.A. office to get even with Shaw.—Exhaustive research on the part of this reporter has uncovered no evidence to support the widely held belief that Garrison and Shaw knew each other in their younger days or were "tivals" of any kind. But, what we have come up with in our revisit to the scene of Garrison's amazing hatchet job is documentary evidence of how a demagogue works in America, the land of free speech, free propaganda and free axe grinding. In this series of articles, I shall give you a blow-by-blow account of how such a demagogue operates, how he panders to the public's ignorance, bias and gull-bility, blurring the issues and polluting communications with a big assist from stupid incompetent or venal newsgatherers, or newsmen with a talent and a predilecor venal newsgatherers, or news-men with a talent and a predilec-tion themselves for slanting the

It is not a pretty story—but neither were the techniques which Garrison employed in his desper-ate efforts to railroad Clay Shaw to prison.

to prison.

Thanks to the American system which old Abe Lincoln summed up by saying you "can't fool all the people all of the time." Shaw was exonerated, but in the process of being put through the wringer, he was crushed financially, physically and spiritually.

Broke Shaw

A cab driver who used to haul Shaw about the city when Shaw headed the International Trade Mart, told this reporter:

Mart, told this reporter:

"It's a damn shame how they broke that man. You wouldn't know him if you saw him on the street. He's just a shell of his old self."

Plagued by the curious and assorted goons and weirdos at his old showplace home in the French Custer. Show proud into prefer

old showplace home in the French Quarter, Shaw moved into modest quarters and went into hiding. Only his attorney, Ed Wegmann knows his new address—and he will permit nobody to talk to his client.

Garrison, ever since he was first elected district attorney, in 1981, has been a controversial public official in New Orleans. One of the first things he did when he took office in 1962 was to launch a drive on harlots and faggots in the French Quarter, as well as the more vulnerable purveyors of

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agogues techniqu implicat evêrv (Garri:

Reveal Garrison Mental Illness

WASHINGTON — Military records here, revealed by some newspapers during the Clay Shaw-John F. Kennedy Conspiracy trial in 1967, show that Jim Garrison, New Orleans district attorney, was under the care of a psychiatrist for four and a half years between the Fall of 1950 to the Spring of 1955.

Detailed medical histories at the Pentagon disclosed that Carrison was discharged from the Army once as totally unfit for military duty, then later al-lowed to enter the National Guard.

An army physical evaluation board in October of 1951 found Garrison totally unfit — and a report to this board from an army medical board at Brooke Army Hospital said:

"This patient (Garrison) has a severe and disabiling psycho-neurosis of long duration. It has interfered with his social and professional adjustme a marked degree."

Explain Therapy

He is considered totally dis-abled from the standpoint of

military duty and moderately incepseitated in civilian adaptability. The report said the psychotherapy for Garrison was lirst begun in October, 1850, by a psychiatrist on the staff of Louisiana State University medical school in New Orleans. At that time, Garrison was a civilian. civilian.

The term psychoneurosis used in the medical report has come to refer to those types of symptoms complexes or syn-dromes in which the disturbaromes in which the distur-ances of behavior do not affect a person with enough severity to terminate completely his chances of making some kind of social adjustment.

Psychoneuroses, as a group, based on emotional conflicts, are to be distinguished from

psychoses. The psychoses are usually intense disorders of the mind that lead to commitment to mental hospitals.

Gartison served five years in the army in World War II. In July, 1951, after a short stim with the FBI, he volunteered for active duty for the Korean war. He stated in his medical record that he became aware that he "just couldn't make it" after the flist day's routine and he reported for sick call.

He was confined to quarters

He was confined to quarters for two weeks, then hospitaliz-ed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was transferred to Brooke Army hospital on Sept. 16, 1951. He was given a medical discharge for physical disability in Octo-

ber.

A physical evaluation board at Brooke recommended 10 per cent permanent disability. It said the cause of the incapacity was "chronic anxiety reaction manifested by hypochon-driasis; chronic exhaustion syndrome . . and psychogenic allergic manifestations."

Lint Allergy

Lint Allergy
Psychogenic means having a mental or emotional origin. In connection with the allergies, the medical board said that Garrison then had "a rather bizarre allergic response to lint, especially wool lint." It said that he could not wear undershirts or rough cloth. It said that if he did he choked up, had air hunger, and sometimes hives.

The medical board detailed Garrison's exhaustion syndrome. It said it started while he was in law school after the war. It said that even after he started to work for a law firm he could work only half a day. As late as 1962, just before he was elected district attorney, he still was known around the Orleans parish courthouse in his saits and district attorney days as a man who liked to come to work at 11 and leave at 2.
Although Garrison had the image of an aggressive man in his assassitation investigation, the army report described him as a shy, introverted individual.

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Demagogue SON: At Work

vice. But, the Metropolitan Crime Commission charged that he had neglected the far more serious problem of organized crime in New Orleans—the kind of hig money crime that makes for cor-rupt alliances between the law and the lawless.

and the lawless.

Garrison always had an answer to the Crime Commission's charges —a kind of anti-Establishment theme to the effect that "people worry about the crime 'syndicate' but the real danger is the political establishment."

Thus, Garrison early had caught the rising mood of the people against burgeoning political in-stitutions in America—and he learned to make the most of citi-

stitutions in America—and he learned to make the most of citilearned to make the most of citi-zen anger and ignorance—the first rule in the book for all good dem-agogues. He employed his clever technique of blurring issues with implications of racial injustice at every embarrassing turn of his bizarre investigation. Garrison's first test of his pol-

itical muscle in New Orleans probably came when the eight criminal court justices in New Orleans exercised their statutory rights to oversee the financing of the D.A.'s crackdown on the prostitutes and gay boys in the French Quarter.

Carrison fought the jurists.

prostitutes and gay boys in the French Quarter.
Garrison fought the jurists, charging that such action as theirs which crippled his campaign financially "raised interesting questions about racketeer influences."
Garrison was subsequently convicted by a court of criminally libeling the eight judges. But the conviction was reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark decision that held that individuals have a right to criticize public officials even though the charges may turn out to be unfounded.

Veteran political observers of

founded.

Veteran political observers of
the New Orleans scene say that
this amazing victory by Garrison
over the eight powerful judges
in New Orleans served to put the

PART

fear . . . not of J. Christ but of J. Garrison into the hearts of the politicians!

He's A Master

A master in the art of reprisal action, Garrison used his growing action, Garrison used his growing political clout to get two of the judges voted off the bench—and the others, like good soldiers, fell into line. It was probably the be-ginning of Garrison's dream for high office—like governor.

nigh office—like governor.

Somebody hung the tag of Jolly Green Giant on the district attorney because of his imposing physical stature and his political glad hand. Almost invariably he made close palsy-walsy ties with some of the top writers of America who had come to New Orleans to cover

the Kennedy "conspiracy" case.
Many sincerely believed Garrison
had "something." But after watching the flamboyant and politically
ambitious prosecutor abuse the
vast powers of his office, they
expressed hope that whatever Garrison had, it wasn't catching.

rison had, it wasn't catching.

One such Garrison-watcher in those hectic days of 1967 was a writer whe had found fault with certain aspects of the Warren Report—Edward Jay Epstein, author of "Inquest." Epstein, who wrote for the New Yorker, recalled his meeting with the man who had dared challenge the findings of the Warren Commission, and who hlasted everybody from LBJ to G-Man Hoover as he developed his ever shifting theories as to how President Kennedy was assessinated.

Epstein quoted Garrison at the time as telling him that it was "the reading of your book that set me to thinking about launching an investigation into President Kennedy's assassination."
Later, Epstein learned that this
was a standard greeting extended by the district attorney to all
critics of the Warren report.

Epstein was curious as to how Garrison discovered his "conspiracy" theory—and at dinner after his arrival in New Orleans, he put the question to Garrison point blank. Garrison explained:

"It's exactly like a chess pro-blem. The Warren Commission moved the same pieces back and forth and got nowhere. I made a



Clay Shaw, the business and civ-ic leader who got off Garrison's hook because the jury was not as guilible as the general public.

new move and solved the prob-

Cite Search

The "move," Garrison meant was the arrest of what came to be described as "the unlikeliest villian since Oscar Wilde." That would be Clay Shaw.

Garrison told newsmen that efter Shaw was arrested, men from the District Assorney's of-fice searched his home in the nos searched his home in the French Quarter and found in it a cache of new evidence, which he suggested they should see be-cause it would give them "a new perspective on the case."

Continued on Page 14

D.A. Accused Of Molesting Boy

By LESLIE WITT

By LESLIE WIII
NEW ORLEANS — District
Atty. Jim Garrison, who almost made a career out of
prosecuting Clay Shaw in the
John F. Kennedy Conspiracy
Trial, was himself today the
target of a possible grand
jury probe on a charge he
sexually molested a 14-yearold boy.

sexually molested a 14-yearold boy.
Garrison, who had paraded
a variety of homosexuals and
weirdos unsuccessfully into
the 1967 trial as state witnesses against Clay Shaw and
who made much of Shaw'
alleged homosexuality, is now
ironically accused of off-beat
missonduct himself by the father of the boy.
Garrison, apprised of the
father's accusations, told a
local newsman:

local newsman:

"They're not worth dignity-ing with an answer. Just an-other smear from my oppon-ents."

The charge, however, comes

The charge, however, comes from a source far removed from the double-dealing politics of New Orleans. The father of the boy is James L. Bezou, a member of one of New Orleans most prominent and respected families. Bezou is a former chancellor of the Belgium Consulceneral's office in New Orleans and recently was appointed executive director of the Louisiana Council for Music and the Performing Arts, which has the support of the city's socialites.

Priest Boy's Uncle

The boy's uncle is Monsignor Henry C. Bezou, for nearly a quarter of a century the su-perintendent of Catholic schools in the New Orleans Archdiocese, and one of the South's most beloved Catholic



boy who allegedly was mo-lested by District Atty. Jim Garrison.

prelates.

The father was reluctant to discuss the case with this reporter because of Garrison's powerful political clout and his facility and agility for striking back with reprisal action against his critics.

action against his critics.

But, he finally admitted he had made the allegations in a statement which was relayed to the foreman of the Orleans parish grand jury, william Krummel, Sr., by the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission's executive director, Aaron Kohn.

Visibly, chaken with out.

Visibly shaken with out-rage and fear, the father said the incident occurred in the New Orleans Athletic Club, where Garrison is known to gravitate.

Both the father and the older son confronted Garri-son outside the door.

Bezou said the older boy was enraged to the point of wanting to slug Garrison on the spot.

Grand jury foreman Krum-mel declined to discuss the case, although he admitted

he had received Kohn's let-ter. Krummel said that he was retiring along with his grand jury and indicated that the matter would be left up to the next grand jury to be appointed this month.

be appointed this month.

Kohn, as head of the privately financed crime commission, has been at sword's point with Garrison ever since crime members charged that the D. A. had become so obsessed with the Clay Shaw conspiracy case that he had allowed organized crime to get a foothold in New Orleans.

Volume too was reluctant to

Kohn, too, was reluctant to discuss the Bezou boy's story, but he confirmed that he had sent the letter to the grand jury. The letter said in part:

Story Blacked Out

"On a Sunday in June, 1989, at the New Orleans Athletic Cub, District Attorney Jim Garrison conducted himself in a manner which, if true, would be in violation of Louisians criminal laws."

The laws in question, he pointed out, "punish indecent behavior with juveniles" and "crime against nature attempts."

The letter went on to say that the father spoke to three men shout the incident and all three had "repeatedly and independently communicated" the father's accusation to Kehn to Kohn.

The letter alleges that the incident involving the boy was witnessed by his older brother who openly denounced Garrison at the club.

Kohn wrote further:



Monsigner Henry Bezou, right, receiving one of France's highest honors — The Legion of Honor.

"It is hoped that your grand jury will see fit to call before it for testimony without the presence of any of Mr. Garrison's staff the three men spoken to by the father, the father himself and the sons."

the sons."
Under Louisians law, an "indecent behavior" count carries a maximum of one year in jail and \$500 fine. A "crime against nature" charge carries a possible \$2,000 fine and five years in prison, but merely an "attempt" cuts the penalty in half.

Several weaks are Val

penaity in half.

Several weeks ago, Jack
Anderson, who has been conducting the syndicated Wash
half son, who has been conducting the syndicated Wash
pearson, carried a brief story
on the father's accusations,
but the local papers kept the
news out of their pages that
day,
it was the same newspaperthe New Orleans States-Item
— which had demanded Garrison's resignation hours at-

ter the jury in the conspiracy trial fiasco had cleared de-fendant Clay Shaw of any plot to murder President Ken-

plot to murder President Kennedy.
One of the editors of this Newhouse chain of newspapers explained why the story was blacked out in New Orleans, even though other newspapers through the country had carried the column:

try had carried the column:

"We had blasted Garrison
so severely that we felt our
publication of the story
would be construed as a malicious action. Besides, we
finn't believe the information was privileged matter."
Other citizens of New Orleans told this reporter that
one of the reasons Garrison
was able to get away with
his vicious prosecution of
Clay Shaw is that New Orleans has been kept in the
dark on many things because leans has been kept in the dark on many things because of a news vacuum created by a lack of competitive news coverage by the local one-chain press.

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\$ \$ will loss 1½ pounds every will loss 1½ pounds every will proper weight. Best of all, there should be no hunger pangs. Now anlarged, this new pounds in 10 days, incre-will no weight loss in the first four days. But you will suddenly drop 5 pounds on the 5th day. There-1½ pounds every two days thereafter until your weight is down to normal. The secret behind this new "Quick weight loss" is not generally known. Fat, it has been theorized, does not form fat. Perhaps fat fights fat. And the grapeact as a catalyst (the "trigger") fruit juice in this new diet might to start the fat burning process. You stuff yourself on the permitted food listed in the diet plan, and still lose unsightly fat and excess body fluids. When the fat and bloat are gone you will cease to chicken, rich gravies, mayonnaise, lobsters swimming in butter, bacon, fals, sausages and scrambled eggs. You can eat until you are full, until you cannot possibly eat any more. And still you should lose 10 pounds in the first ten days, plus after you will lose one pound a day until the 10th day. Then you will the 10th day. Then you will work the 10th day the 10 diet plans lets you stuff yourself with foods that were formerly "forbidden". Such as big steaks trimmed with fat, Southern fried lose weight and your weight will remain controlled. A copy of this new and startling successful diet new and startling successful diet can be obtained by sending \$3

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FRED

Don't They?) get nine nomina-tions including director, actress, best supporting actor and actress Best Picture? Ah, well anything that's been around 43 years is etc. and still not a nomination for bound to have faults.

What will the sound of the explosion in Beverly Hills be like when just completed western in Spain? actress currently publicizing her much married producer J. C. is backing the career of a new BLIND ITEM DEPT. nis wife gets word? Due to some rough editing a few columns ago the name of ROBERT REDFORD was omitted from the item. I want to join Life magazine and his wife in saluting the new star soon-to-be-superstar, Currently he's in "Butch Cassidy" and "Downhill Racer" and soon to be seen in "Here's Willie Boy." He comes closest in stature and appearance to the late ALAN LADD and is a very fine actor to boot. Unless he gets too "arty" should have a long career.

is not shown in the film (good show) but is indicated by wall "I think we have quite a picture, and JOHN HANSEN captured me an-chasing, virile young guy." Well, Chris that's good to know. There GENSEN about the new film based on her life. At 44 and with a shape that boasts at least one "36," Miss Jorgensen is quite attractive. She told me the sex change operation charts. Her evaluation of the film: as I was in those days by constantly asking me questions about my emotions at the time, how I felt, and how I reacted toward a given situation. I was absolutely astonished at his performance. He is in no way faggy. In fact he is a womaren't a hell of a lot of those these Chatted with CHRISTINE JOR

MERMAN has had two songs BITS AND PIECES: ETHEL

GARRISO

and a marvelous supporting cast. a dozen.

Continued from Page 13

The next morning, Epstein and others went to the D.A.'s office and met James Alcock, assistant district attorney, who told him that Garrison had not arrived but that he had left word that the newsmen should "start going through the evidence."

belongings of Clay Shaw: letters, photographs, financial records, blueprints for renovating houses Six cardboard cartons were pers - all of which Shaw said he Shaw's hobbies); the manuscripts brought out containing personal calendars, address books and in in the French Quarter (one of of plays he had written years ago had worn in the 1965 Mardi Gras, net mask and some plastic sli one box was a black costume,

the evidence which they found had Newsmen were left alone with nothing to do with the assassinaThe odd way in which Garrison Shaw's home and designated as treated the "evidence" gave them "a new perspective on the case," fact that they were allowed to of a court order that had forbidden disclosure of any evidence in all right, but it wasn't the kind Garrison had hoped for The very examine objects seized from "evidence" was a direct violation the case.

the evidence? It became clear to the more alert news hound that Garrison was staging the world's ting outsiders go freely through Why would a district attorney risk having his ease thrown out of court on a technicality by let

by Garrison and his staff, especial-ly since Garrison had emphasized arresting Shaw on March 1 was to prevent him from destroying his ready been rigorously scrutinized Moreover it seemed curious that Clay Shaw's papers had not al that one of the main reasons for personal papers.

peen the main suspect in Garri-son's original script but whose Six weeks had passed, and yet sudden death blew the D.A.'s case higher than a kite, forcing him to there still was no real investigation of Clay Shaw going on at all but only a search for characters who had crossed the path of David Ferrie, the homosexual who had cast about for another patsy . . been the main suspect like Clay Shaw.

Question: If Garrison believed that Shaw had openly conspired to kill the President, why was the inquiry into his activities being treated with such apparent nonchalance?

Clay Shaw's address books that lipped off the more astute news hounds as to the ruthless nature of Garrison's investigations - and to the bizarre lengths he would go But it was Garrison's unique exfound in both Lee Oswald's and to make good his promise to "blow off the nation's capitol" planation of five-digit numbers with his "solution" of the Ken nedy assassination, Garrison had to be a superman Ho, Ho, they didn't call him the to make a convincing case - but Giant for nothing! That's a story for next week. folly Green