

Fla. Death Inquiry Tied To Assassination Probe

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Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 23 (AP) — Authorities are investigating the death of a Florida man two years ago at the request of his brother who said he wanted a fresh probe because of the current investigation in New Orleans of the Kennedy assassination.

The brother, Earl Killam, said the dead man, Thomas Henry Killam, told him he fled Dallas in December, 1963, because he was being harassed by "agents." Killam said his brother didn't specify whether the agents were Federal, State or some other type.

"I'm A Dead Man"

"I'm a dead man," Killam quoted his brother as saying. "I'm run as far as I'm going to run."

Wanda Killam, the dead

man's wife, reached yesterday in Dallas by the Pensacola News-Journal, said her husband had been questioned several times about the assassination by Federal agents.

Killam died beside a broken shop window on a Pensacola street March 17, 1964. His throat had been slashed.

Police said the death was an apparent suicide. The coroner called it accidental.

Seeks Exact Cause

Earl Killam, a 38-year-old car salesman, has asked Carl Harper, Escambia county solicitor, to exhume his brother's body to determine the exact cause of death.

Harper said he took a statement from Earl Killam yesterday morning and would investigate.

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Florida Death Probe Opens

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gate immediately. He would not discuss his investigation except to say he was seeking concrete evidence, "not suspicions."

Harper said he planned to talk to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who is conducting an assassination probe.

Wife Worked For Ruby

Wanda Killam said her husband returned to Florida in early December, 1963, saying he was going to look for a job. She stayed in Dallas, where she had been employed for several years as a hostess in a night club owned by Jack Ruby.

Ruby, who died of cancer while in custody, was charged with the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of killing President Kennedy in Dallas November 22, 1963.

Mr. Killam said she, too, favored an investigation of her husband's death and said of the suicide ruling: "No, Hank wouldn't do that."

House Painter

She said her husband was briefly employed in Dallas as a house painter by a man named Jack Carter. Earl Killam said Carter once roomed in the same Dallas boarding house as Oswald.

Killam said that after his brother returned to Florida he spent four months in Tampa and then returned to Pensacola March 15 to live with their mother.