

1964 Florida Death Probed For Link to Kennedy Case

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Authorities are investigating the death of a Florida man two years ago at the request of his brother who said he wanted a new 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. He said his brother told him two days before his death:

"I'm a dead man. I've run as far as I'm going to run."

Widow's Doubts

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. She doubted the suicide idea.

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

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

Earl Killam, 38, a car salesman, has asked Escambia County Solicitor Carl Harper 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 immediately. He would not discuss his investigation ex-

cept to say he was seeking concrete evidence, "not suspicions."

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

Ruby, Oswald Links

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 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 John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

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

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 her mother.

Two days later, he was dead. Killam said: "Did you ever hear of a man committing suicide by jumping through a plate glass window?"

The Death

Thomas Killam received a phone call at his mother's home at 4 p.m. March 17, 1964, ac-

ording to his mother. She said he dressed and left the house. (She heard a car pull away, although Killam did not own a car.)

About a half hour later, two street sweepers heard a crash on a city street. Police said they turned their truck around and saw a man staggering in front of a broken display window.

Killam died before he could be hospitalized. The police report said that, based on the presence of blood four feet inside the show window, it was concluded "the expired jumped through the window and then crawled back to the sidewalk."

Coroner A. H. Northup said Killam died of a long, three-inch deep laceration over the lower left side of the neck. The coroner added: "Apparently sustained deep laceration in throat when he fell through plate glass window."