

Flynt Staff Investigates Shooting

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And TOM CRAWFORD

Mark Lane, the writer hired by Hustler magazine owner Larry Flynt to investigate the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., said his staff is continuing its investigation into the shooting of Flynt.

Earlier reports that he had been fired by the Flynt family after the March 6 assault on Flynt are "entirely untrue," Lane said Tuesday in a telephone interview. Jimmy Flynt, the brother of the wounded magazine publisher, confirmed that Lane was still employed by Flynt publications.

"He's still with the company," Flynt said. "I don't know how the investigations are going."

Flynt said his brother has been unable to talk with police about the incident in which Larry Flynt and Lawrenceville attorney Gene Reeves were wounded by a sniper while walking to the Gwinnett County State Court building for the conclusion of an obscenity trial.

"He hasn't been able to communicate

with people, because he's still confused about what happened," Jimmy Flynt said.

"They're still keeping him under morphine, Valium, antibiotics, stuff like that, so you would get disoriented," Flynt said.

Flynt was shot twice in the stomach with a rifle and has been weakened by abdominal infections.

Doctors at Emory University Hospital are making progress in clearing up these infections, and Flynt is "getting stronger every day," Jimmy Flynt said. Flynt's condition is still listed as serious.

Flynt bought the L.A. Free Press last year, and a special edition of the Los Angeles weekly paper published shortly before his shooting discussed alleged new evidence in the Kennedy assassination. Two other special editions on the Kennedy and King killings were scheduled for publication, but these have been "temporarily suspended," Lane said.

Lane said his seven-member staff is in the process of researching and writing the articles. Publication was halted because Flynt is unable to oversee the project, according to Lane.

"These publications were the most important thing he (Flynt) had ever been associated with. He was editor and publisher of the first special edition. He would want to be part of the publications," Lane said.

Flynt's wife Athes has led the Flynt business operations since her husband was shot, and it was her decision to halt publication of the newspaper, Lane said.

Lane continues to espouse the theory that "government agencies," specifically the FBI, were involved in the attack on Flynt.

"The new thing in Larry's life was deep commitment to making this information available," Lane said. "The week before he was shot, Larry had interviewed James Earl Ray (King's convicted slayer)."

The \$1 million reward offered for information leading to a resolution of the Kennedy and King killings still stands, Lane said.

"The thing we're most concerned about is the threat to a democratic society," he said. "The threat from these two events remains present."

Lane declined to disclose any details of the investigations his staff has conducted into the Flynt shooting.



WRITER MARK LANE
He's Still With the Company