JFK Probe Suspect: Respected Citizen

NEW ORLEANS — (AP) — The first man arrested in the district attorney's Kennedy assassination investigation is a tall, rugged-looking man of means who has lived quietly in a luxurious home in the Vieux Carre — the French Quarter.

A high white wall shields the residence at 1313 Dauphine St., where Clay Shaw, 54, has lived for years. Owner of two buildings in the French Quarter, Shaw has been called a "one-man restoration society" for his numerous projects in the old section of New Orleans.

A former decorated Army major who is said to speak four languages fluently, Shaw was managing director of New Orleans' International Trade Mart for 18 years until his retirement in 1965.

A handsome man with tight curling silver hair, Shaw is a man who obviously loves luxury. He is credited with having installed the first swimming pool in the Vieux Carre. The pool, edged with a brick coping and ornamented with statuary, created a local sensation and started a trend.

His remodeled carriage house on Dauphine St. once was littered with rubble. Shaw transformed it into a beautiful place to live. A small fountain bubbles in its enclosed patio, and two walls of the large living room are covered in pale green silk.

—Associated Press Wirephoto

Clay Shaw, Right, On Way to Jail
. . . with District Attorney Garrison

A fellow resident of the Vieux Carre described Shaw as a "quiet, interesting, intelligent person."

Shaw recently traveled to **Mexico and Spain, friends said, and he was in the process of translating a Spanish playright's drama from Spanish to English at the time of his arrest. Shaw himself was a sometime playwright.**

Shaw detested violence, the associate said and was said [illegible] have one (gun) in the house. If they got rid of all the guns in the world, the world would be a better place in which to live."

Shaw was born in Kentwood, La., a small town just below the Mississippi border. His grandfather, Clay Shaw, was sheriff of Tangipahoa Parish (county), which was known as "Bloody Tangipahoa," because of the violence that was commonplace there.

The Shaw family moved to New Orleans when Clay Shaw was five years old.

During World War II, Shaw served as aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. C. O. Thrasher in England, and during the Battle of France was Thrasher's deputy chief of staff.

He was named a Chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Belgium and the French government bestowed on him the distinction of "Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Commercial." He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of major. After working for a short time in New York City, he returned to New Orleans.

At a testimonial dinner late in September, 1965, Shaw was honored for his work as director of the trade mart starting in 1947. Shaw had submitted his resignation to pursue personal interests and manage his real estate holdings.

At the dinner, sponsored by trade mart President Lloyd J. Cobb, former Councilman Joseph Diross presented Shaw with the International Order of Merit of the City of New Orleans.

The March issue of Town and Country Magazine lists Shaw — along with District Attorney Jim Garrison — as one of the 35 most important men in New Orleans.