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PAUL M. ROTHERMEL, JR.

2406 LITTLE CREEK DRIVE

Attorney and Counselor
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75080

AREA CODE 214

235-5191
231-6669

Dear Rita,
Am enclosing the articles -
Next week I will get what
I can from the Dallas Police -
Sorry I failed to make contact
with Roger in time -

Best regards
Paul Rothermel

Harold - Will write you
a letter - Many thanks for
your prompt reply
Paul

'Self-inflicted' wound JFK case witness dies of gunshot

By JOE TAYLOR

Staff Writer

Former Dallas County sheriff's deputy Roger Dean Craig, who gave testimony to the Warren Commission which was contrary to the commission's report on the 1963 presidential assassination, is dead of what police say is a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Dallas Police Detective Robert Garza said Craig, 39, was dead on arrival at Parkland Hospital about 4 p.m. Thursday. Garza termed a gunshot to the upper chest "self-inflicted" and said a .22-caliber rifle was found near the body, along with a note at Craig's residence, 10524 Luna. He had been living with his father, K. A. Craig.

The medical examiner's report was pending.

Craig's father told police he found his son lying in a back bedroom when he came in from mowing the lawn. He said he did not hear a gun shot.

Garza said Craig told police his son had been taking pain-killing pills due to injuries received in an auto accident two years ago.

The man's father also said his son had received notice from the Social Security Administration this week that he had been turned down for benefits.

The apparent suicide note, turned over to the Dallas County Medical Examiner's office, said in part, "I am tired of all this pain," according to Garza.

In Vol. 6, page 262 of the Warren Commission report on the assassination of President Kennedy, Craig testified to investigators he was on duty standing in front of the sheriff's office when the presidential motorcade went past.

When he heard the shots fired, Craig testified under oath, he ran toward Dealy Plaza where he said he heard a shrill whistle.

Craig said he saw a light colored station wagon pull up in front of the Texas School Book Depository, where Oswald

was looking up at the hill at the man running down," he said.

Continuing his testimony, Craig said:

"The station wagon stopped almost directly across from me. The man continued down the hill and got in the station wagon. I wanted to talk to both of them. But traffic was so heavy I couldn't get across

the street. And they were gone before I could," he said.

Later, Craig said, he reported what he saw to Dallas Police Capt. Will Fritz and Fritz took him into a room where Oswald was sitting.

"Fritz asked Craig if it was the same man he saw running to the car," Craig answered, "Yes."

The Warren Commission report states Oswald left the depository, got on a bus, rode it several blocks, then transferred to a taxi and traveled to Oak Cliff, where he eventually killed Dallas patrolman J. D. Tippett.

A close friend of Craig's, Penn Jones Jr., former publisher of the Midlothian Mirror and author of four books on assassination conspiracy, said he first met Craig in November, 1967. Jones said in a phone conversation with former New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison that Garrison told him someone was trying to kill Craig.

In October 1967, Craig gave an eye witness deposition in New Orleans to Garrison. After that, Jones said, Craig repeatedly said he thought he was being followed.

Jones said Craig told him he (Craig) narrowly missed being shot in the head when stepping off a street at Columbia and Carroll in Dallas. The incident was not reported to police, Jones said.

Craig was fired from the sheriff's department in July 1967 because of a disturbance growing out of personal matters, according to the department's personnel office.

He since has held numerous jobs, including six months in 1968 as a municipal judge in

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Former Deputy Sheriff, Craig, Found Shot to Death

By JOHN RUTLEDGE
Former Deputy Sheriff Roger Dean Craig, 39, was found shot to death at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in his father's home at 10524 Luna Road. Homicide investigator Robert Garza said a rifle and a note were found near the body. Garza said the wound in Craig's upper right chest apparently was self-inflicted. Craig had been embroiled in controversy surrounding assassination of President Kennedy.

A DEPUTY at the time of the assassination, Craig said he saw Lee Harvey Oswald running west down Elm Street from the Texas School Book Depository about 15 minutes after the assassination. He said Oswald then got into a station wagon that had pulled up alongside of him.

He also said he heard the shots fired at the presidential motorcade and that because of their close proxim-

ity, the shots had to have been fired from two different rifles.

Craig had recently appeared on radio talk shows expressing his views on the assassination and his testimony appears in the Warren Report.

Patrolmen P. L. Anderson and R. W. Wood said Craig's father, Kristel Craig, discovered the body in a back bedroom in their 1-story frame home at 3:30 p.m. The father had talked to the victim 30 minutes earlier, but left the house to work on a lawn mower in the back yard.

POLICE SAID Craig said in the note he was sorry for what he had to do, but that he could not stand the pain.

Anderson and Wood said Craig's father told them Craig had been taking pain-killing medication for injuries in a car wreck two years ago and for a gunshot wound in the shoulder in Waxahachie six months ago.

At that time, Craig reported to Waxahachie police a stranger appeared at the door of a house at which Craig was waiting for a woman friend, and shot him

with a shotgun when Craig answered a knock at the door.

Craig was under the supervision of Sheriff Bill Decker at the time of the assassination. He left the department shortly after the assassination.

Craig was named Man of the Year by the sheriff's office in 1960 for his work in aid in helping to capture an international jewel thief.

Mindszenty Funeral Held

MARIAZELL, Austria (AP)—Some 7,000 persons, many of them exiled Hungarians, attended the funeral of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, who as Hungarian primate stood for years as a symbol against Communist oppression.

Church sources said few if any Hungarian citizens attended the funeral rites at the Basilica of Marian Pilgrimage - for centuries a prominent place of worship for Hungarian Catholics.

Cardinal Mindszenty was buried in the cathedral's Hungarian chapel in accordance with his personal wish.

DEATH and FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BALES

Sam. B., Sr., 6400 Huffig, survived by wife, Mrs. Currie Lee Bales; son, Sam Bales, Jr.; daughter, Mrs. Madlyn Sirelke; seven grandchildren; brothers, John and Douglas Bales; sisters, Mrs. Alma C. Tuttle, Mrs. Mary Saunders, Mrs. Mabel Parke. Chapel services 2 p.m. Saturday with Rev. Richard Chilton officiating. Interment Grove Hill.

DUDLEY M. HUGHES
BUCKNER BLVD. CHAPEL
2615 S. Buckner 388-0444

BROOKS

Mrs. Edna Laura, 5619 Cary. Arrangements pending.

TROY SUGGS FUNERAL HOME
7623 Military Pkwy. 381-1109

BUCHANAN

Ermilite O., age 69, 605 Oulde Drive. Survived by wife, Mrs. Ruth Buchanan; sons, Ronald and Bobby, Dallas, Gerald and Paul, Houston; daughters, Mrs. Deloris Allen, Irving, Mrs. Janice Jovett, Grand Prairie; nine grandchildren; sisters, Mrs. Ferold Schumacher, Amarillo, Mrs. Irene Thorne, Huntington Beach, California, Mrs. Lois Henry, Amarillo. Services 3 p.m. Saturday, Southland Chapel, Dr. J. H. Wright officiating. Interment Restland Memorial Park.

SOUTHLAND FUNERAL HOME
800 SW Third Grand Prairie 282-1372

CARROLL

Willie C., 165 Austin. Survived by wife, Mrs. Ruby Carroll, Dallas; daughters, Mrs. Marjorie Gracey, Dallas, Mrs. Carolyn Schulte, Dallas; sisters, Maffie Lou Hill, Houston, Mrs. Annie Lee Rabe, Edgewood; brother, H. A. McDonald, Houston; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Services 2:30 p.m. Saturday, LAUREL LAND MEMORIAL CHAPEL, S. R. L. Thornton of Laurel Land Road, Dr. Dan G. Kent, Rev. Don Whitmore officiating. Interment Laurel Land Memorial Park. James Ladd Burgess Masonic Lodge Number 1309 will graveside services. Pallbearers: Al Bailey Jr., W. E. (Bill) Harmer, Ronald C. Foster, Hank Gracy, James L. Rabe, Judge Raymond Robinson.

LAUREL LAND-RESTLAND FUNERAL HOME
S. Thornton at Laurel Land Rd. 371-1334

COBERLY

R. C., 807 1/2 Fall River Drive. Survived by wife, Mrs. Nita Coberly; sisters, Mrs. Mildred Cope, Mrs. Opal Bennett, Mrs. Vera Thomas, all of Dallas; brother, Arthur Coberly, Poston, Arizona; several nieces and nephews. Services 10 a.m. Monday, SPARKMAN-HILLCREST GARLAND ROAD CHAPEL, Rev. Ralph Gossett, Pastor of Mesquite Calvary Hill Baptist Church, officiating, assisted by Rev. Orbie Fleth. Interment Grove Hill.

SPARKMAN-HILLCREST GARLAND ROAD
18501 Garland Rd. 327-8291

CRAIG

Roger Dean, 18324 Luna Road, Dallas. Survived by son, Roger Craig, Jr., Coppes Cove; daughter, Deanna Ray Craig, Dallas; brothers, Donald Wood, Dallas, Duane and James Craig, both of Dallas; father, Kristal Craig, Dallas; mother, Doris Craig, Dallas; granddaughters, Joyce Craig, Nita Lynn Craig. Services 2 p.m. Saturday, Anderson-Clayton Chapel, Rev. Bill Stog and Rev. Marshall Southard officiating. Interment Laura Oaks Mausoleum.

ANDERSON-CLAYTON BROS.
22555 Northwest Hwy. 328-2200

DANIEL

Survived by son, Roger Craig, Jr., Coppes Cove; daughter, Deanna Ray Craig, Dallas; brothers, Donald Wood, Dallas, Duane and James Craig, both of Dallas; father, Kristal Craig, Dallas; mother, Doris Craig, Dallas; granddaughters, Joyce Craig, Nita Lynn Craig. Services 2 p.m. Saturday, Anderson-Clayton Chapel, Rev. Bill Stog and Rev. Marshall Southard officiating. Interment Laura Oaks Mausoleum.

MATHESON

Donna, age sixteen, 917 NE Thirty-Six and Sireel, Grand Prairie. Services 2 p.m. Saturday, Meyers Road Baptist Church, Rev. A. W. Watson and Rev. Jack Guthrie officiating. Interment Southland Memorial Park.

SOUTHLAND FUNERAL HOME
800 SW Third Grand Prairie 262-1372

MCGINNIS

Jud R., age 71, Quitman. Survived by wife, Mrs. Irene McGinnis, Quitman; cousin, Rufus McGinnis, Fort Worth. Services 2 p.m. Saturday, First Baptist Church, Quitman. Rev. Allen Rice officiating. Interment Roselawn Memorial Garden.

CAIN FUNERAL HOME
Quitman 763-2242

NIX

Jesse James, 5630 Meadowick. Services 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Restland Wildwood Chapel. Minister, Rev. Doyle Sumrall. Interment Restland Memorial Park.

RESTLAND-LAUREL LAND FUNERAL HOMES
Greenview Ave. at Restland Rd. 238-7111

PERSONETT

Mrs. Margaret M., 2268 Berostrom Drive. Survived by son, Vernon Evans; daughters, Mrs. Martha Seagraves, Mrs. Edna Ragsdale; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Henry Quast; sister, Mrs. Martha Hughes. Chapel services 10 a.m. Saturday, Rev. D. H. Jones officiating. Interment Restland. Pallbearers: James Seagraves, Earl Kearney, Eugene Rogers, Bruce Ragsdale, Charles Wood, Allen.

DUDLEY M. HUGHES
BUCKNER BLVD. CHAPEL
2615 S. Buckner 388-0444

PHILLIPS

Mrs. Carol Lee, 9432 Edgemoor, Survived by husband, Carl A. Phillips; son, Kermit Robert Phillips; mother, Mrs. Ione Hoppe; sister, Mrs. Joann Cudde. Chapel services 1 p.m. Monday, Rev. Ed. Pierce officiating. Interment Grove Hill.

DUDLEY M. HUGHES Funeral Home
BUCKNER BLVD. CHAPEL
2615 S. Buckner 388-0444

PRUETT

Mrs. Elsie E., Rt. 2, Rockwall. Services 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Williams Funeral Chapel. Interment Oak Grove Memorial Park, Irving.

WILLIAMS FUNERAL DIRECTORS
716 W. Garland Ave. Garland 276-0008

SCHAPER

A. G. (Gus), 7078 Briar Meadow Drive. Survived by sister, Mrs. Florence Howe; niece, Mrs. Doris Harms, both of Longmont, Colorado; several grandchildren and nieces. Services 1 p.m. Saturday, SPARKMAN-HILLCREST NORTHWEST HIGHWAY CHAPEL, Rev. Charles E. Cox officiating. Interment Hillcrest Gardens Mausoleum. Pallbearers: Bill Frazier, Ken Bretmann, Austin Clark, Frank Yatz, Bill Garman, Pal Foley.

SPARKMAN-HILLCREST NORTHWEST HIGHWAY
7405 W. Northwest Hwy. 363-5401

SHERRIN

Mrs. Kathryn, 6096 Lehigh. Survived by daughters, Mrs. Patsy Thompson, Dallas, Mrs. Martha Jewell, Garwood, Texas; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sister, Mrs. Gladys Perdue, Dallas. Services 2 p.m. Saturday, LAUREL LAND MEMORIAL CHAPEL, S. R. L. Thornton officiating. Interment Laurel Land Memorial Park.

LAUREL LAND-RESTLAND FUNERAL HOME
S. Thornton at Laurel Land Rd. 371-1334