

Clyde Johnson Killed, Report

Felled by Shotgun Blast, Sheriff Says

GREENSBURG, La. (AP) — Clyde Johnson, 37, a lay preacher and onetime merchant who announced but never qualified as a gubernatorial and congressional candidate, was fatally shot Wednesday, Sheriff R. G. Bridges said.

Johnson was felled by a 12-gauge shotgun blast and lived about 30 minutes, the sheriff said.

The shooting happened at the home of Ralph McMillan, 10 miles north of Greensburg. Johnson was on the doorstep of the McMillan residence when he was shot, the sheriff said.

Bridges said McMillan was arrested and taken to the St. Helena Parish Jail.

McMillan was booked for homicide investigation, the sheriff said, and will be given a hearing here Thursday.

Johnson's wife is McMillan's second cousin and also a first cousin of McMillan's wife. McMillan is a brother of Fernie E. McMillan, who was Johnson's announced candidate for lieutenant governor in the 1963 campaign.

Johnson, the sheriff said, had been living for the past several weeks in a trailer home several hundred yards away from the McMillan place.

Johnson, at various times, announced he would be a candidate for governor, U.S. representative and U.S. senator. He never filed formal candidacy papers and his name never appeared on a ballot.

In 1963 he said he was running for governor. Several

hours after the filing deadline that year, Johnson, from a hospital bed at West Monroe, claimed his papers had disappeared from his auto after he had been involved in a wreck the previous day.

He said he had instructed his attorney to bring him a new set of papers from Alexandria but the lawyer did not show up.

A year later he said he would run for the 6th Congressional District House seat. Prior to the deadline he said he was withdrawing because a fire had destroyed his Greensburg store and he was financially unable to make the race. Johnson announced in 1966 he would oppose the re-election bid of Sen. Allen J. Ellender, D-La.

He first attracted attention early in 1963 when he was thrown out of the State AFL-CIO convention at Baton Rouge

after attempting to make an impromptu speech.

A native of Hinds County, Miss., Johnson claimed to be a key witness in New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination conspiracy probe. He was subpoenaed by Garrison in 1967 and testified before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

A few days before Clay L.

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Shaw went on trial last January in New Orleans, Johnson held a news conference in New Orleans and said, "I'm the ace-in-the-hole in Garrison's case."

A day later, New Orleans police said Johnson had been arrested and booked on a charge of refusing to pay a \$162.49 bill at the Roosevelt Hotel.

Johnson did not appear as a witness in the trial of Shaw, who was acquitted of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

In March 1965, sheriff's dep-

uties at Baton Rouge said they arrested Johnson after he lined up several persons at a truck stop and tried to search them for a weapon. Booked on charges of disturbing the peace and impersonating an officer, Johnson was quoted as saying he was looking for a gun used in a Baton Rouge murder.

Police at Franklinton said they arrested Johnson in March 1967 on charges of aggravated assault and aggravated battery.

In recent years Johnson listed Kentwood as his home.