OSWALD IN SAN ANTONIO—THE KIRKWOOD CONNECTION

by Jim Marrs

No one whose name has surfaced in connection with the Kennedy assassination fascinates me more than the two Kirkwoods.

The father, W. C. Kirkwood, and the son, Pat, have long been fixtures in Fort Worth, Texas. My fascination with their assassination connections comes not from any hard evidence of Kirkwood involvement, but rather from the intriguing relationships between the Kirkwoods and others involved in the assassination.

In this article I will present what I know about the Kirkwoods and, more importantly, describe the time I was able to sit in as investigators for the now-defunct House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) interviewed Pat Kirkwood. As will be seen, it was an eye-opening experience for this reporter.

My involvement with HSCA investigators began on the morning of February 15, 1978. I was working as a general assignments reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and had just been contacted by the paper's police reporter. She said that Pat Kirkwood had dropped by the press room in the Fort Worth Police station and had asked if someone could check to see if a certain investigator was "on the level." It seems he had been contacted by a Joseph J. Basteri, who said he was an HSCA investigator and wanted to interview Kirkwood.

The police reporter contacted me, knowing of my long-standing interest in the Kennedy case and that I had already been in touch with the HSCA on several occasions. I told him I would check out Kirkwood's story.

Later that morning I was able to confirm that Mr. Basteri indeed was with the House committee. Kirkwood was very open and friendly and invited me to come to his office at 2222 Jacksboro Highway and sit in on the interview. I agreed.

I arrived at Kirkwood's real estate office about 1:30 pm and found that the two investigators had arrived only minutes before. They were sitting with Kirkwood at a large round table near his desk. Pat Kirkwood was smiling when I arrived and said "Hi, sit down." Turning to the investigators, he said simply "He's a friend of mine." Thereafter, the two men took no notice of me and began their interview, which consisted of a page of questions and answers. During the course of the interview, Kirkwood managed to confirm many items that I had heard and learned over a period of years.

He told of his father's gambling operations at the old family homestead, 2222 Jacksboro Highway. It was quite a place in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The Spanish-style home sits on a hill overlooking one of Fort Worth's most famous and disreputable drags. In earlier days it was the scene of many a high-stakes poker game between some of the wealthiest and most powerful men in Texas. Former House Speaker Sam Rayburn, oilman H. L. Hunt, John Connally, Clint Murchison and, from more than one source I consider reliable, even Lyndon B. Johnson were known guests at 2222 Jacksboro Highway, or The Four Deuces as it was then called.

W. C. Kirkwood was known as a "gentleman gambler." One of his house rules was that no one sat in on the big stakes games when he was on a salary. Only men of independent wealth were clients of the Four Deuces.

Interestingly enough, during this time two of the Kirkwood's closest friends were Lewis McWillie and Bennie Binion, both former Dallas-Fort Worth area gamblers.

Binson was owner of the famous Top O' the Hill Club, Dallas' counterpart to the Four Deuces. Today, Binson owns the Horseshoe Club and Casino in Las Vegas and McWillie works there as a pit boss. The Horseshoe Club is also the home of the World Series of Poker, where convicted hitman Charles Harrelson was introduced to the Chagra brothers, Clint Murchison and, from more than one source I consider reliable, even Lyndon B. Johnson. Harrelson's wife, Jo Ann, was a blackjack dealer in Binion's Club for several years in the 1970s and probably worked for McWillie.

It's McWillie where many cross-connections begin to crop up. Jack Ruby told the Warren Commission of his fondness for him. In 1960 McWillie was a gambler in Havana. The Warren Commission established that sometime in 1959 Ruby visited McWillie in Cuba and the pair discussed various smuggling deals, including the possibility of bringing in more than 800 jeeps. It was at about this same time that a close friend of Pat Kirkwood recalls that Kirkwood was talking about smuggling operations and Castro.

An FBI memo dated March 26, 1964 is of great interest in showing McWillie's connections to the organized crime hierarchy. The memo states: "McWillie was a member of the so-called gambling syndicate operating in the Dallas area... As of May 1960, McWillie was... "...nothing was amiss since the Cellar did not have a liquor license and therefore could not sell alcohol.

While this was true, it was also true that Kirkwood had an extensive private stock of liquor which was available to any "friend" who happened to enter. Such friends included policemen, city and county officials, newsmen, attorneys and others.

In a 1978 newspaper interview, Kirkwood stated "...we never sold a hard drink in those 13 years." Reminded by the reporter that hard drinks were given away to friends, Kirkwood laughed and replied "By the millions." This is only one more small instance of the official investigators not carrying their fact-finding far enough.

While open about his relationship with his friend "Chili" McWillie, Pat Kirkwood was less open about his knowledge of Jack Ruby.
He constantly deprecated Ruby, saying he had "no class" and "liked to play with the little girls."

Kirkwood said Ruby was a "pill head" and was always high on amphetamines or uppers. He said he was always too busy to visit Ruby in Dallas and only went to his clubs about four times prior to 1963. But he said Ruby visited the Cellar several times, apparently trying to woo Kirkwood's female employees away.

Kirkwood said Ruby was too disorganized to be mixed up with organized crime and that no one trusted him.

Kirkwood's account of the assassination weekend was this: a few hours after the President's death, three girls whom he did not identify called him to say they were off work because of the events in Dallas. "They had a long weekend," said Kirkwood, "so what do you do with a long weekend but go to Nuevo Laredo?" Kirkwood, the girls and other unidentified friends flew to Mexico.

He said he was sitting in the Cadillac Club on Sunday, November 24, when he saw Jack Ruby shoot Oswald on TV. He said he did not recognize Ruby until after the shooting when he was named by Dallas Police. "I thought he was that dark-skinned victory boy who think he's doing it," said Kirkwood. He said upon returning to Fort Worth late the next day he was contacted by the president of the Press Club of Fort Worth. "He said we needed to get our stories together because talk was already starting about the Secret Service agents getting drunk."

Kirkwood said the security men had started the evening at the Press Club, which served liquor and stayed open a few hours later than the law allowed to accommodate the Secret Service men. Finally the president got cold feet and said they had to close. But before announcing this, a call was made to the Cellar and arrangements were made to continue the party there.

Thus it can be seen that 1) the security men had been drinking even before going to the Cellar and 2) the Cellar management knew who the agents were and undoubtedly extended them the "friendship" of free liquor.

Within a few weeks of the assassination, FBI agents with a stenographer arrived to take Kirkwood's statement about the Secret Service men. Kirkwood told the HSCA investigators he had assured the Press Club of Fort Worth that Reese and the Cellar management knew who the agents were and undoubtedly extended them the "friendship" of free liquor.

Having asked their ten questions, Basteri and Maxwell launched into some "good ole boys" conversation with Kirkwood. They talked about how Oswald was a "nut" and Ruby was a "creep." Maxwell said it was a shame how the critics of the Warren Commission had "distorted" things and gotten information out of context. Kirkwood caught the drift of this quickly and jumped in, saying that the whole assassination was the result of such a simple act and it was so simple that no one wanted to believe the truth.

This was the thrust of their conversation. And it is, because, I had just sat there and listened to someone who knew Jack Ruby well talk about matters such as running to Castro, gambling and the crime ties of Ruby and McWillie and connections to top national leaders. Kirkwood had been told by the FBI that he had "been responsible for several thousand drug arrests" and had worked with several law enforcement agencies, a statement which made me think of rumors that Kirkwood had been not only loyal to his country but also had been a regular attendee at the Cellar Cellar because it was in the early morning hours and it was the only thing open. Oswald asked if he could borrow some money for bus fare back to Dallas and was told he could wash dishes for cash. So, Oswald went to work as a "pearl diver," as Kirkwood called it, but only for "four or five hours." Then, with his earnings in hand, Oswald left.

Kirkwood said no one at the Cellar knew who Oswald was until they saw his face on TV after the assassination. Only then did some of the employees remember the pearl diver.

Neither Basteri nor Maxwell seemed to take notice of this intriguing story, although none of this had ever been made public and Oswald's whereabouts during the so-called Mexican trip have always been the subject of much controversy. There were no followup questions on this. "How come we've never heard that before?"

It was also interesting to me during this interview, as a trained reporter, how Kirkwood would start off answering a question in the negative, but then launch into a lengthy explanation which tended to answer in the positive.

For example, one of the first questions asked was if he knew any organized crime people. Kirkwood answered no, then proceeded to describe his family's closeness with Lewis McWillie. And he admitted that McWillie was a gambler and had lots of friends in Las Vegas. The investigators seemed content to place a simple "no" by the question. They never seemed to get anything from Kirkwood's long soliloquies.

The HSCA investigators had learned by observing the Kirkwood interview that there was no "golden rule" to dealing with witnesses. Some were friendly witnesses. They were neither seeking nor accepting any information not relating to their specific questions. And they had only a cursory knowledge of the assassination. This is, in my opinion, the least likely of the alternatives, but it certainly did not say much for the quality of the House investigation.

3. The entire interview was staged for my benefit because the government knew the direction of my investigations and wanted to conduct a "limited hang-out" of information. It was an attempt to convince me that "this information is now in appropriate hands and we are looking into it. There is no need for further search in this area!" This theory is the least believable, although such methods are not beyond the realm of possibility.

The truth of the Kirkwood connection and the subsequent interview remains as murky as that of the Kennedy assassination.
Kennedy 'confession' was bargain chip, Chagra says

By ANNE REIFENBERG
Star-Telegram Writer

SAN ANTONIO—Charles Harrelson’s ‘confession’ that he killed President Kennedy was to be used as bargaining power in a deal with the federal government over another assassination, Jim Marrs has alleged today.

Chagra told jurors that when he visited Harrelson, accused of murdering U.S. District Judge John H. Wood Jr. in May 1975, at Harris County Jail in September 1969, Harrelson told him about a “will” in which he admitted killing Judge Wood and President Kennedy.

Harrelson’s reported confession was first made public after he was arrested on a freeway near Van Horn on Sept. 1, 1965, when the 44-year-old defendant held off police for several hours by pointing a pistol to his head. Before he was taken into custody on a host of state crimes, the 21-year-old defendant held off police during his arrest near Van Horn on Oct. 30, 1964.

Chagra said Harrelson told him, “He would clear up the Kennedy matter at the same time he cleared up the Wood matter. He said he wanted to bargain power... so he would do federal time instead of state time.”

But Chagra—a star government witness since he pleaded guilty Sept. 17 to a charge he conspired to murder Wood—said, “Not really,” when asked whether he believed Harrelson’s claims, even when Harrelson drew a map of Dealey Plaza to Chagra and where he was standing when Kennedy was shot.

Kennedy conspiracy buffs have given much attention recently to what has been dubbed the Harrelson/Tall Tramp Theory and is based on the arrest of three transients on Nov. 22, 1965, in the railroad yards near the Texas School Book Depository where Kennedy was shot.

Two Fort Worth assassination researchers, Jim Marrs and Jack White, have professed in an article entitled ‘A conspiracy in Texas?’ to believe that one of the transients in a photo published with the article is Harrelson, who would have been 23 at the time.

A Fort Worth photographer, who has compared police mug shots of Charles V. Harrelson with pictures of three so-called ‘tramps’ arrested in Dealey Plaza minutes after President John F. Kennedy was killed, says he is convinced that Harrelson was at the assassination site.

Harrelson, accused of slaying U.S. District Judge John H. Wood Jr. in 1975, was connected to the Kennedy killing during testimony in his trial in San Antonio. Joe Chagra, who has pleaded guilty to murder conspiracy, testified that Harrelson told him he shot Kennedy.

Kennedy was shot 19 years ago today in Dallas.

A Fort Worth photographer and graphics specialist Jack White said he has been studying mug shots of the tall tramp pictures since a fellow Kennedy assassination researcher remarked that he thought Harrelson looked familiar.

White, a consultant to the

FWST 11-19-82

Mulcahy A medical examiner ruled Thursday that former CIA analyst Kevin Mulcahy, the man who blew the whistle on former agent Edwin Wilson’s dealings with Libya, died of natural causes last month. Mulcahy was a heavy smoker and an alcoholic, died of bronchial pneumonia complicated by emphysema and liver problems.

The 45-year-old Mulcahy was found dead Oct. 26 outside the door of a motel cabin he had rented in Shenandoah County, Va., about 15 miles west of Washington. His death was investigated by the FBI.

WHO CONFESSED... Three “tramps” in the photo at left were arrested in Dealey Plaza the day of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The tramp who is considered to look like Charles Harrelson is in center photo, and a mug shot of Harrelson that was taken in 1968 is on the right.

FWST 11-22-82

‘mouth are evident in both pictures.

There is no way that is not Harrelson, unless there are identical twins,” he said.

White asserts that he is “not writing a book” and has “no axe to grind.”

“I wasn’t that crazy about Kennedy,” he said. “But I hated to see him get killed and have it covered up.”

White claims more than 500 spectators were in Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination and “at least 20 of them were suspicious.”

He said he does not believe enough evidence has been put in Harrelson’s alleged ‘confession’ to change public opinion during his arrest near Van Horn in 1963.

“I think somebody should be investigating everything Harrelson says,” White said.

FWST 11-15-82

Slain church leader linked to CIA expose

From Wire Reports

LOS ANGELES — George Peters, 43, the Church of Naturalism founder who was murdered along with a church treasurer in Hollywood Hills a week ago, had been working on a film about a CIA mind-control program called MK ULTRA in which he said he had been involved, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner reported Sunday. “Peters” was supposedly one of the people with whom the CIA was doing a lot of experimentation with drugs, church secretary Susan Shore told the newspaper. “We were going to make a film that was going to expose what the government was doing back in the early 1960s.” Police have made no arrests in the murders.
INFORMANT AYNESWORTH - Before reading this article from the November 21, 1982 Dallas Times Herald, some words of warning. Most JFK researchers are aware of how Hugh Aynesworth has reported the "facts" of the JFK case and why he may be an agent in the disinformation business. He admits to breaking the Oswald diary story but doesn't mention how it was stolen from the D.D. CDS, pages 6-9, includes still-censored reports from an FBI informant about Aynesworth, Bill Alexander, Newsweek and the Dallas Morning News, and a sum as high as $65,000 behind the diary story. A retired Secret Service agent says several pages were withheld from the FBI by the FBI, yet Aynesworth's copy is supposedly complete. Aynesworth later became a Newsweek reporter who, on May 15, 1967, broke a major, negative report on the Garrison investigation. Researchers should be intrigued by the following letter, recently discovered in the IBJ library, addressed to IBJ press Secretary George Christian. Although undated, it is probably May 13, 1967. For legibility and space only, it has been retyped. Ayene's career includes reporting for the DTH and ABC's 20/20, and his daughter reportedly works in the newsroom of Dallas' CBS-TV affiliate. In July 1979, Aynesworth and retired FBI agent Robert Oemberling appeared on Dallas PBS affiliate KERA; said Aynesworth: "I'm not saying there wasn't a conspiracy...I know most people in this country believe that there was a conspiracy. I just refuse to accept it and that's my life's work." You'll notice many omissions in Aynesworth's story, one of which is that the CIA assisted its employee, Clay Shaw, throughout the investigation. This is a major Garrison story in length only - perhaps some truth did get written.

WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

George Christian:

Here is the rough draft copy of the story we discussed this morning. It will be changed in a minor way, but for the most part, will be just this.

The story will break late Sunday via the wire services. Naturally, the strength and seriousness of it will evoke considerable reaction. I thought the President might be interested in this advance version.

I am not offering this for comment of any kind, nor a check of the validity of any part. Simply, its FBI...

Naturally I would expect this to go no further.

My interest in informing governmental officers of each step along the way is because of my intimate knowledge of what Jim Garrison is planning. The subpoena of two FBI agents Saturday (today) is another step in his plan to make it seem that the FBI and CIA are involved in the JFK "plot." He is hell-bent on involving several high officials, is considering embarrassing others. In his deviant scheme he can—and probably will—do untold damage to this nation's image throughout the world.

I am well aware that Garrison wants the government to defra him in some manner or to step in to pressure a halt to his "probe," but, of course, this should not happen—for that is exactly what Garrison wants.

I intend to make a complete report of my knowledge available to the FBI, as I have done in the past.

Regards,

Hugh Aynesworth

THE GARRI

GOOSECH

by Hugh

Aynesworth

THE TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS WAS ANOTHER wasted journey, as useless as the three letters, a dozen or more telephone calls, a telegraph and three personal notes left with subordinates. Jim Garrison just wasn't talking.

The building former Orleans Parish district attorney—one of the most colorful and outspoken politicians of recent history—now is a judge on Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, which handles more than 90 percent of the area's appellate cases.

A few months earlier Garrison had been stubborn over maritalis, eager to share his story, eager to reveal what he claimed was a tremendously important, secret, a secret of vital concern to the American people. "I'm over it and I'll just run it down for you. I know you don't believe what I've found but..."

A few months later he has maintained since 1967 that he had knowledge of secret, information of vital interest, information about "who the real killers were" in the John F. Kennedy assassination. The heavy-jowled "Jolly Green Giant," as he is known by his friends and detractors alike, has accused the FBI, the CIA, Lyndon Johnson, and several Cuban exiles of being "involved" in the November 22, 1963, murder of the president. At one juncture Garrison even suspected JFK's brother, Bobby, of "knowing, and covering it all up." Oh, yes, most segments of the news media had a hand in the conspiracy, too—along with the Dallas police, Dallas County Sheriff's Office and some publicly unnamed Dallas oilmen.

But today, it appears, the judge no longer believes the information he holds is all that important—at least not as vital as his $67,000-a-year job as an appellate judge. Newsmen who have covered Garrison for 15 or 20 years—and he has gotten more ink and TV exposure than anyone else in New Orleans history—claim he feels confident he can live out his life on the appeal bench, working no more than half a day, enjoying the position's power and prestige.

"He's not about to take a chance on anyone scrutinizing him again," says one reporter. "He's set for life and he can still remember when he had some really lean years. I doubt he'll ever mention the Kennedy assassination again publicly."

It was in the long ago that Jim Garrison did nothing BUT mention the Kennedy assassination publicly. He told everyone who would listen, and he told them often, that he was sure that and his investigators had discovered that Lee Harvey Oswald had not acted alone in killing the president, and that they knew who his co-conspirators were.

People listened, and many of them believed. Garrison was able to call on, at various times, the help of the august folks at LIFE magazine, Sen. Russell Long, comedian Mort Sahl, author Mark Lane. Also reporting in were investigators code-named Sam Spade, Bateman and Bugs Bunny, and a safari-style "Jaguar," complete with toga. Johnny Carson provided air time.

What kind of person could command all this attention, could produce such a circus?
Garrison has always stood out. It is physical. He's six-foot-six, quick and gangly. He has his, rather bulging eyes, surrounding the dark circles usually associated with the lack of sleep, had not, deep voices and often beopinions of Shakespeare. He can also dissemble he's interested, with his inborn ears, born Earlings Carothers Garr

The district attorney charged that the judges were mired in the same system of judges retaliated by filing a criminal complaint of defamation and even de

Micah 100,000, he took his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the court affirmed his decision. However

Throughout, Garrison made much of the judges' "refusal to perform their sacred duty."

Garrison's efforts — and notes — resulted in only a half-dozen fines, but he gained much from the large accomplishment. That kind of illusion was to become a hallmark of Garrison projects.

Thanks to his willfulness and a local press corps that was sympathetic to the cause, Garrison's efforts were better than on the ballot the manageable Earlings Carothers in 1961 he fled to run for Or-

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Garrison? "He wanted to shock me like "A" Jackson did."

"Yes, sir." I said. Shady in a black T-shirt, white pants, and a pair of sneakers, he walked toward me and leaned over. "I'm not afraid to hit you any more.

"Then Garrison found another witness. While the press kept bemoaning him with questions about when he was going to make arrests, an LSU student and part-time insurance salesmen wrote Garrison from Baton Rouge that he had known Ferrie and some of his friends, and might be of use. "Moo Moo" Sciambra, an assistant DA, was quickly dispatched to Baton Rouge to interview Perry Lee Russo, the letter writer.

They talked for several hours, and Russo recounted a "plot session" with Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald, and three other individuals, none of whom was present — a meeting in which plans to assassinate President Kennedy were discussed. Russo said the meeting took place in New Orleans by the district attorney's office. He was hypnotized. Suggestions were thrown at him: "You are that man at the meeting, that tall, white-bearded man? Is that his name Shaw?"

Scoot Russo was shaky new was present. Then he put them to the influence of sodium pentothal (truth serum) and added "revisions" refined Shaw's presence.

Later that week, a drug dealer/chronic named Vernon Bundy sent word from his mother in Iowa to "Make sure Shaw is badly hit by others that can add to Garrison's case if only they'd stop to be a part of it."

The intriguing thought that he might be a part of something really important did not stop Garrison from killing him. He was found dead in a dallas-a-year area, he started putting the probe together, spending his days away from his family.

Unfortunately, it quickly became clear that he had been arrested by the FBI and charged with conspiracy. Nothing more than that, "I wasn't close to him, but what I knew I didn't like," Garrison recalled recently.

Finally, the investigation of the "investigation" had begun. There was talk that Bobby Kennedy might invite Garrison to the Orleans grand jury when he came to New Orleans for a speech that year — a ploy Garrison worked against, but then more than more Garrison hoopla, Garrison hopped a plane for New York, where he visited his wife, his mother, his brother, telling them that Garrison had "no case, nothing."

Before Garrison could return to New Orleans, he was asked to drop the "investigation," a Kennedy aide leaked the Garrison visit to the New York newspaper and word got back to Garrison before Gurvich could. Gurvich was locked out of his office, vilified in press conferences as a traitor and later charged with "removal of a movable" (the taking of Garrison's master file). He was never tried. Later, he helped others.

Meanwhile, Garrison pushed forward. Mort Sahl moved to New Orleans to serve as Jack Ruby's desk and quit the "investigation," a Kennedy aide leaked the Garrison visit to the New York newspaper and word got back to Garrison before Gurvich could. Gurvich was locked out of his office, vilified in press conferences as a traitor and later charged with "removal of a movable" (the taking of Garrison's master file). He was never tried. Later, he helped others.

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"I walked to the door and a man emerged, all six-foot-seven-inches of him, wearing a tuxedo. I said 'I'm Mark Farrow.' He made me shake your hand." Garrison said, 'I hope you're available to do a lot more than shake hands.' Then he took me to a corner at the Royal Orleans Hotel and opened up the manila envelope that was the beginning of a compilation of a confession. It contained documents on Pentagon and Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the events that occurred in the Kennedy assassination. That was the first time that I knew more than I would like to know.

At about 2:45 a.m., Garrison opened a New Orleans Times-Picayune, "the most important man in America." He talked producers into inviting Garrison, who was drunk, to a few bars. A few days later, Jimmy Caruso refused an offer from NBC News executives to have some knowledge of reporters on with Garrison; he wanted to do the interview himself. It was another "justification" of the still non-existent case against Shaw.

Though Shaw was the only victim of Garrison's bizarre probe who was tried, at least 20 witnesses were affected in one way or another. Some were indicted, but fought extradition from other states — allowing Garrison to continually delay them as "co-conspirators" and "killers." Some lost jobs, some found their children victimized by public utterances. Still others spent hard-earned savings for legal fees. The media closed in on the real "facts" of his investigation, Garrison always seemed to come up with something new. Usually these quickly conceived counterattacks were forgotten by the next press conference.

One of Garrison's "startling new disclosures" was his "uncovering" of numbers found in Oswald's notebook that proved Oswald knew the people on whose names the three assassins had called. This was taken to the FBI, but after a few months no one could be found.

So Shaw was vindicated. One juror said they would have come in with the not-guilty verdict in 20 minutes if they hadn't been paid to go to the bathroom.

But Garrison wasn't finished. Hours after both New Orleans newspapers had editorialized for Shaw to remain in the country, Garrison charged Shaw again in the New Orleans Times-Picayune. The FBI immediately filed obstruction of justice charges against Shaw, and within a week the New Orleans police were not only keeping an eye on Shaw, but on all other people associated with Shaw. The FBI paid its legal bills, and Shaw was tried in absentia.

A federal judge refused a request to vacate the indictment, but Shaw was back in court on the next day. The FBI had its man, but Shaw was free.

Garrison called the press "a bunch of pinnwiz" and vowed his campaign was not over. In fact, he ran for and won a third term as district attorney, but more than that, he was headlines.

A federal judge refused to declare Shaw's conspiracy charge unconstitutional, and Shaw was convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Connick knew of the incident, but to his credit, refused to make it an issue in the campaign.

Garrison was never asked by the grand jury to appear, nor were the boy's brother and father and club employees who had witnessed the incident.

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"There is an irony in the charges," Anderson wrote. "Garrison has frequently brought the element of perversion and sex into his own cases. In his most famous case, the prosecution of Clay Shaw, he tried to connect Shaw with the sexual stigma. Connick knew of the incident, but to his credit, refused to make it an issue in the campaign. Garrison was never asked by the grand jury to appear, nor were the boy's brother and father and club employees who had witnessed the incident.

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By Christi Harlan
Staff Writer of The News

A 56-year-old Dallas woman said Friday she was the mistress of Lyndon Baines Johnson for almost 20 years, but friends and members of the Johnson family said the woman's claims are groundless.

Madeline Duncan Brown, a retired advertising executive, said the affair began in 1949, the year Johnson was elected to the U.S. Senate, and ended in 1967, a year before Johnson completed his second term as president.

"I feel like I have been part of his life and part of history," Mrs. Brown said at a news conference Friday at the Dallas Press Club. She said she decided to reveal the affair to "clear the record."

Spokesmen for the Johnson family said Mrs. Brown had purchased radio advertising time from the Johnsons' stations in Austin, but they said the woman was otherwise unknown to friends and family members.

Betty Tilson, spokeswoman for Lady Bird Johnson, said the former first lady was on her way to the East Coast Friday and could not be reached for comment.

"I doubt 100 percent that she (Mrs. Johnson) has ever heard of Mrs. Brown," Mrs. Tilson said. "I have talked to other people who worked at the station and friends of the family, and they don't know her."

Mrs. Brown said the affair could be confirmed by Johnson's brother-in-law, O.P. (Bob) Bobbitt of Austin, but Mrs. Tilson said Bobbitt issued a statement saying "the whole thing is absolutely ridiculous."

"I have not read the report of Mrs. Brown's charges apparently made today in Dallas," Bobbitt's statement said. "To my knowledge, these charges are without foundation, and it is absurd to suggest that I might or could confirm them."

"I condemn what seems to be an increasing number of falsehoods regarding President Johnson's career, and I pity those who try to profit by them," Bobbitt said.

Mrs. Brown's statements followed by less than three weeks a published report that Johnson had a love affair with Alice Glass of Austin beginning in 1939 and continuing through the early years of his presidency.

Mrs. Brown said her affair with Johnson began in the fall of 1949 after a party at the Driskill Hotel in Austin. She said she continued to meet Johnson for romantic interludes at the Driskill — sometimes as often as two or three times a week, she said — into the 1960s.

The other two major papers didn't even cover the news conference. At least two TV stations did, and one reported her claim that BJ and Sam Rayburn knew of a conspiracy to kill Kennedy before it happened (Rayburn died 11-16-61). Here's how the relevant part went – A: He (BJ) knew there was a conspiracy, yes, he told me so. Q: He knew that Kennedy was going to be hit in Dallas? A: That's right. Q: So by that information, he was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy, is that what you're saying? A: Yes. She was accompanied by her son whose father, she said, was LBJ. The young man has big ears.

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COVERUPS!
4620 Brandishing Place
Fort Worth, Texas 76133

Harold Weisberg
#100 Route 12
Frederick, MD 21701