

Police probe shooting of JFK witness

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — Police detectives are continuing their probe of the reported shooting of Gordon Novel, an elusive witness in New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination investigation.

Police, however, insisted no formal complaint was filed and said they were acting only on "second hand" information that Novel was nicked in the shoulder by one of several bullets reported fired into a news van belonging to Radio Station WKDA.

Gary Edwards, WKDA news director, said the shooting occurred early Sunday as he and Novel parked the van outside Edwards' apartment.

"WE have had no official complaint" that an attempt was made on Novel's life, Lt. Noble Brymer said, but police began investigating after news media contacted police headquarters requesting information about the shooting.

"There appeared to be several bullet holes in the truck," Brymer said, "and there was a little blood on the door handle."

Dick Buckley, program director of WKDA, said Edwards and Novel left the city immediately after the shooting in a car they borrowed from a friend.

Novel was said to have been treated for the gunshot wound in Kentucky and the pair then reportedly split up with Novel going to Columbus, Ohio, and Edwards going to Washington, D.C.

WKDA station manager Charles F. Walker said Novel has given Edwards "exclusive interviews" concerning the Garrison investigation.

Edwards has said he will soon release the tape recorded interviews, which he claims will seriously damage Garrison's investigation.

Walker said Novel had been staying at a local hotel under an assumed name, and had with him taped recordings, films and "documented evidence" compiled while working as an investigator for Garrison.