

**STARTLING NEW EVIDENCE**

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**Cuban Agent Secretly Held by U.S. Told of Plot 8 Days Before JFK Assassination**

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**Officials Blast Theory Of Suicide in Death of Man Who Claimed He Knew Too Much**

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**Exclusive Interview: Widow of Mystery Suicide Links 4 Key Figures in Plot**

By STANLEY ROSS

In a lonely cell at Creedmore State Hospital for the Insane in Queens, New York, broods a 45-year-old Cuban who may hold the key to one of the great mysteries of our time: The answer to the question of who planned the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 22, 1963.

But Pascual Enrique Ruedolo Gongora, at the moment, is not talking. He refuses to say another word about his knowledge of the assassination plot.

The last time he talked, 40 months ago, he was hidden away from the world in a series of maneuvers that could theoretically occur only behind the Iron Curtain, or in Cuba.

On Nov. 14, 1963, a week before the assassination in Dallas, Tex., Gongora was arrested by Federal agents in Manhattan on suspicion of being an agent of dictator Fidel Castro's government.

At the New York office of Department of Immigration and Naturalization, 20 West Broadway, a top official who refused to be named said that Gongora admitted that he was a Castro



WRITER  
Stanley Ross



IMMIGRATION  
OFFICIAL  
P.A. Esperdy



CASTRO AGENT: Lee Harvey Oswald.

spy — and then, startled his questioners by boasting:

"We are going to kill your President. I am only one of three in my assassination cell. But there are six to eight other groups sent by Fidel to kill Kennedy. One of us will get him — and soon.

"You'll see!"

A week later, John F. Kennedy lay on a slab in a Dallas hospital, and 48 hours afterwards, JFK's killer, Lee Harvey Oswald, whom Gongora says was a member of another of Castro's assassination teams, had been silenced forever.

Gongora had claimed — a full week before the Kennedy tragedy — that the six to eight Castro teams of assassins were lying in wait — and had been ready for the kill since shortly after the Bay of Pigs invasion.

"Fidel is certain," Gongora had said when he was arrested, "that the CIA and Kennedy sent agents to assassinate Dictator Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, and Premier Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam.

"Fidel is convinced his is the next name on Kennedy's liquidation list. He is going to get Kennedy before Kennedy gets him."

# Find Cuban Agent Secretly Held by U.S. for 3 Years Who...

## Told of Plot 8 Days Before JFK's Assassination



CARRYING DYING JFK: Blurred photo shows car racing through street with wounded President Kennedy, on way to hospital, in a vain effort to save his life. Secret Service man is on trunk.



TRUJILLO  
Slain by CIA agents?



PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Teams of assassins lay in wait for him

Mexican and Spanish governments if Gongora could be shipped back to Cuba through their countries. Mexico shied off, and Canada refused point-blank.

Gongora, with Cuban effervescence, cheerfully suggested to authorities that he be set free in Key West, Fla., where he offered to "steal a boat and get back to Cuba myself."

On November 24, the Spanish government cabled it would ship Gongora to Cuba providing the U.S. guaranteed to take him back if Castro disowned him. Two (Continued on the next page)



DIEM  
Another CIA victim?

If Gongora sounded like a nut, the impression was compounded when he produced a hunting knife from a brown paper bag and lunged at an immigration inspector, wounding him.

He was disarmed of the knife — and three long, sharp and deadly-looking spikes he had concealed under his shirt.

But, when asked why Gongora had not simply been arrested for carrying the inspector, P.A. Esperdy, director of the New York regional office of Immigration and Naturalization, gave the incredible explanation that since the police knew Gongora was crazy, he could not have been convicted for those crimes.

Instead, Federal authorities went to such tremendous lengths to conceal Gongora's very existence, that he became a man without a country and he remained hidden until March 5, of this year, when his whereabouts were learned by "El Tiempo" (a New York Spanish-language daily newspaper). The day the President was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald, Gongora had been in the immigration jail for eight days. But on November 22, while the President's body was still bleeding, frantic efforts were started to get Pascual Enrique Ruedolo Gongora out of the way.

Thus, on the day of the assassination, the Department of Immigration asked the Canadian,

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(Continued from preceding page)

days later, Joseph Dernetz, writing for the Department of Immigration and Naturalization gave the guarantee. On November 28 — six days after the President's death — Gongora was escorted to Spain where he was jailed incommunicado to await Fidel Castro's okay — and tacit admission — that he was a hired killer. Castro, however, wasn't ready to admit anything.

The Cuban dictator refused to let Gongora return home — the first time a Cuban had been denied reentry to his homeland even by a bathless dictator.

Finally, on Feb. 25, 1964, a U.S. agent escorted Gongora back to New York and the Cuban was held in the Federal House of Detention at 427 West Street.

A man in this free country cannot be jailed indefinitely without trial or counsel. But the authorities weren't going to let anyone know they'd been tipped off to



**JAMES EGAN**  
Secured habeas corpus

Castro's assassination plans and had ignored them, so Gongora was silently transferred to Bellevue Hospital on March 11.

Twelve days later, on March 23, 1964, the doors of Creedmore closed on the man who knew too much.

Pascual Enrique Ruedolo Gongora was committed "voluntarily," according to the records.

But later Gongora's records were changed to "involuntarily"

and for the next three years the Cuban saw only fellow inmates and the attendants who brought him his three meals a day. There was no shock treatment, no visitors, no correspondence in or out with the prisoner.

"El Tiempo" had learned of the case when Gongora reached Spain — and the newspaper published the story that he had claimed to be a member of a Castro assassination squad. Immediately I was contacted by someone in the Department of Justice who carefully explained that though there is freedom of press in this country, it was not in the national interest to follow up on this case.

Washington, I was told, was then trying to learn if the Cuban or Russian governments were implicated in the assassination. The stakes could be global war — or they might be the lives and safety of innocent Cuban refugees who could become the victims of American mob fury, if it were known in those days of national sorrow that an agent of Castro was Kennedy's killer. The argument was logical; we desisted.

However, when the recent sensational stories broke out of DA Jim Garrison's office in New Orleans, I learned, through a tip, that Gongora was not in Cuba, nor even in Spain, but had been salted away in Creedmore State Hospital in New York City, and that he is no more crazy than his paranoid boss, Fidel Castro, or his ex-colleague, Lee Harvey Oswald.

And, as we felt the national interest was no longer at stake, we decided that the time had finally come to reveal what "El Tiempo" knew about Gongora.



**DONNELLY**  
Public-spirited citizen

Together with Edward Donnelly, a public-spirited citizen, and young attorney James Egan, "El Tiempo" secured a writ of habeas corpus, and served it on a startled staff of doctors at Creedmore, on Sunday, March 5, 1967.

When we did so, one of the doctors in charge protested strongly, saying: "You can't touch that man."

"He is here at the hospital under the jurisdiction of the FBI."

Nevertheless, on Tuesday, March 7, in the presence of N.Y. State Supreme Court Justice



**DICTATOR FIDEL CASTRO**  
Behind JFK's assassination

James J. Crisona, in the library of Building Number 40 in the giant Creedmore complex, Pascual Gongora for the first time in 3½ years, met people from the outside world, including a reporter from "El Tiempo."

The meeting was authorized by the Supreme Court and took place after Eagan told Judge Crisona that Gongora was being held incommunicado and without legal advice, in violation of the law.

He requested that Gongora be transferred from Creedmore State Hospital to the jurisdiction of Queens County DA Thomas Mackell.

At first the medical aspects of the case were examined.

Dr. John McKnight, the supervisor of the Psychiatric Division at Creedmore, said that Gongora's condition did not suggest that he should be released from the institution as cured.

Judge Crisona then authorized another hearing at the hospital for March 21 so that Gongora's medical records could be studied and an independent psychiatric examination set up to see if the Cuban should stay in Creedmore. On March 21, the case was put off until April 18 so that further independent psychiatric studies could be made.

A hospital spokesman, when asked when Gongora's commitment status had been changed to involuntarily, said:

"We have been instructed by the Supreme Court to reveal nothing whatsoever about the facts surrounding this case."

After the March 7 hearing, Gongora was interviewed by "El Tiempo." He is about 45, has white hair, and his expression is serene. He expressed a strong desire to be released. He spoke coherently and showed no sign of mental unbalance.

"I had long ago given up any hope of ever seeing anyone but my jailors," he said.

"I am glad this meeting took place for it could finally mean my release from this place. I have a heart ailment and have been afraid I would die



**MENTAL HOSPITAL:** Talk with Pascual Gongora was held in this building at Creedmore.

before I could clarify the facts of this case.

"I think I am being held because of certain statements I made about the liquidation of the former President. I am ready to subject myself to any examination to prove that I am sane."

We asked him what he knew about a Castro plot to assassinate Kennedy and he replied: "Something . . . something — but I will not tell anything more of what I know about Castro's plot to kill Kennedy until I am released from here."

"The last time I talked, I was put away and I have not spoken Spanish for three years."

Gongora appeared anxious to furnish information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy but refuses to discuss it with anyone while he is in Creedmore.

If the petition to have Gongora transferred from Creedmore is granted — possibly by mid-April — the nation may have one of the missing pieces of the jigsaw puzzle surrounding the death of JFK.

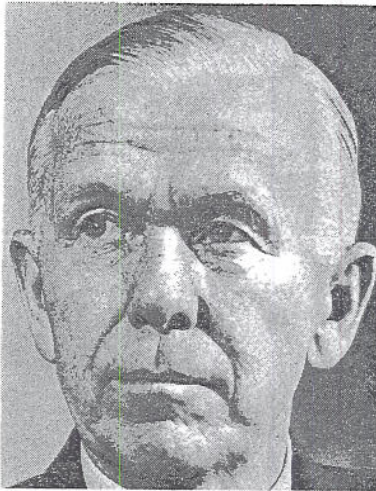
Jim Garrison, the New Orleans DA who claims that Kennedy's assassination was the result of a plot, is watching the Gongora case very closely.

James Alcock, DA Garrison's executive assistant, told me that they had been looking for Gongora for a long time, but — until we broke the story about him — had been unable to find him.

But Alcock would not say if the Gongora case had any bearing on Garrison's case against New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw who was accused of plotting with Lee Harvey Oswald and former airlines pilot David Ferrie to kill President Kennedy.

After a four-day hearing, a panel of three judges ruled on March 17 that Garrison had enough evidence to bring Shaw to trial. There was no indication when the trial would begin.

A day earlier, Richard Cardinal Cushing — the



**GENERAL GEORGE MARSHALL**  
Almost assassinated by Castro-inspired mob

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston and a close friend and advisor of the Kennedy family — said that he never believed President Kennedy's assassination was the deed of one man.

He said Garrison's investigation should be continued and "followed through."

Whether or not Lee Harvey Oswald was an agent of Fidel Castro when he fired one or all of the fatal bullets that November 22, the pattern is typically Castroite.

On April 9, 1948, during the Pan American Conference in Bogota, irate mobs destroyed much of Colombia's capital city and came close to assassinating U.S. Secretary of State Gen. George Marshall who was there during the three days of rioting.

The "Bogotazo," as Latins call it, was sparked by the murder of Joyce Eliecer Gaitan, a Colombian politician who was worshipped as a hero by the impoverished millions of Colombian Indians. His assassin was an illiterate Indian called Roa Sierra.

But, for three hours just before Roa Sierra walked up to Gaitan and shot him dead, the killer was seen in intense conversation with three Cuban Communists — later arrested by Colombian secret police as Soviet agents. Their names: Alfredo Guevara, Rafael del Pino — and Fidel Castro.

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# 3 Officials Blast Police Theory of Suicide In Death of Man Who Claimed He Knew Too Much About JFK's Assassination

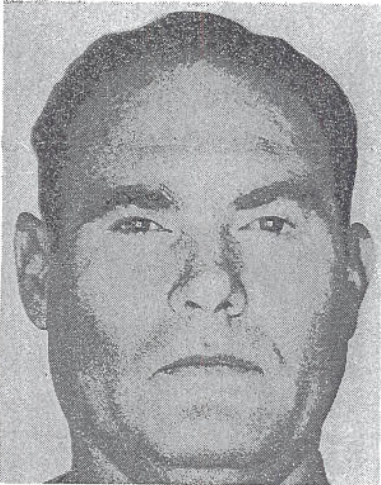
By THOMAS PORTER

Three key figures have ripped apart the police theory of "probable suicide" in the death of a man who claimed that he knew too much about the Kennedy assassination — and was afraid that he would be killed because of it.

Hank Killam supposedly killed himself three years ago by jumping through a plate-glass window in Pensacola, Escambia County, Fla. His jugular vein was severed and he bled to death. But now three top investigators are disputing the police theory.

County Coroner Dr. A.H. Northup told this ENQUIRER reporter: "I didn't know until now that police had listed the death as a probable suicide. In 10 years as a medical examiner, I've never heard of a man trying to kill himself this way."

Insurance company investigator Jim Harper who made a report on the death said: "That is no sure way to commit suicide. If he had been



**HANK KILLAM**

His "probable suicide" three years ago is being investigated again

cut anywhere else except the jugular vein he would never have bled to death."

And County Solicitor Carl Harper, who has reopened the file of the death, said: "I want to know if Killam jumped or was pushed into that window."

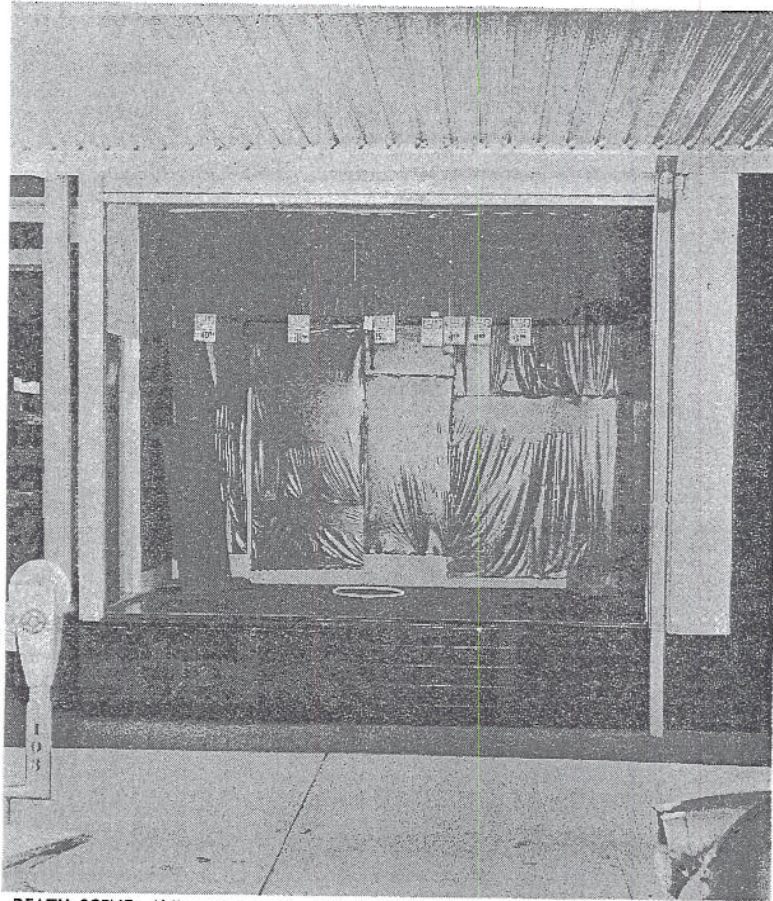
Did he jump?

Or was he pushed?

Could Killam have fallen through plate glass and fatally ripped his jugular vein or was he thrown through the window after his throat was cut?

It gets down to that — the death of Hank Killam — a man running for his life and who died amid shattered glass and mystery. His throat cut, life ebbing from a three-inch slash in the neck, Killam died on March 17, 1964, alone on a deserted street in a pool of his own blood.

And the voice of another person — one of 11 who have met strange deaths since the death of a President — was stilled forever.



**DEATH SCENE:** Killam supposedly killed himself by jumping through storefront window. Blood on floor (circled) was about 4 feet behind the plate-glass window, indicating that Killam went through the window with tremendous force.

"I'm a dead man," Killam had claimed after fear forced him to flee from Dallas where he was linked with both Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald.

Threats in Tampa, Fla., where he later fled, then sent Killam hurrying home to Pensacola, and to his appointment with death.

He cried in anguish to his brother Earl Killam: "They're going to get me — but I've run as far as I'm going to run."

The statement proved prophetic. And soon, Pensacola — a Gulf Coast city of 185,000 — was stunned by the way the prophecy was fulfilled.

Because two days later Killam, 45, was found dead, lying near the shattered glass of a storefront window on the city's main street. Police listed the death as "probable suicide" — "but did you ever hear," questioned his brother, "of a man committing suicide by jumping through a plate-glass window?"

With this 3-year-old question burning in his mind, the long-smoldering fires of frustration burst into flame when the investigation in New Orleans into a plot to assassinate Kennedy began. And Earl Killam requested an investigation into his brother's death.

Like millions of others anxious to know

more about the mystery, this ENQUIRER reporter traced Hank Killam's flight from fear and found that the route crossed two principals: his wife, Wanda Davis Killam, a swinging hostess who used to hustle drinks and cigarettes for Jack Ruby in Dallas' Carousel stripjoint; and John Carter, a fellow boarder of Lee Harvey Oswald, and a man with whom Killam worked as a part-time painter.

According to his wife, Killam came home the night of the assassination "as white as a sheet." She said he stayed up all night watching television reports. Later, Killam began to keep a file of newspaper clippings on the Kennedy and Oswald slayings.

After the assassination, agents — identified as "federal" by his wife and as "plotters" by Killam — began to hound her husband, Wanda said. They quizzed him about Ruby and Carter — and when one crew stopped, another began.

Finally Killam ran. "Then they browbeat me into telling where he had gone," Wanda said. And again the "agents" and "plotters" tracked him down in Tampa where he was working as a used car salesman. They chased him

(Continued on next page)

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from one lot to another, then to his home and death.

If the men who hounded Killam were FBI agents, there is no record of the investigation in the 26 volumes of the Warren Report.

Said brother Earl Killam: "He may not have been important to the Warren Commission, but he sure was important to someone -- maybe 'plotters' like he claimed."

Hank Killam may have been important to someone, but certainly not to the Pensacola policemen who answered the 4:29 a.m. call that March 17, three years ago.

Nor to insurance company investigator Jim Harper whose complete set of records now give the best restaging of the mysterious death.

Nor to Coroner Northup who examined the body and found that it was unmarked except for the throat opening. The death was listed by the coroner as "accidental." Cause: "Hemorrhage from a cut jugular and carotid artery."

Dr. Northup said: "I've seen a suicide where a man put blasting caps in his mouth and lit the fuse -- but I've never heard of a man trying to commit suicide by jumping through a plate glass window." Insurance investigator Harper's records follow the same tack.

Said Harper: "I was working the case as a claim against liability and didn't think too much about the mystery aspects of it at the time. The window of the store was broken. Blood went way back inside -- 4 or 5 feet. To me, this means that Hank Killam went through the window with tremendous force.

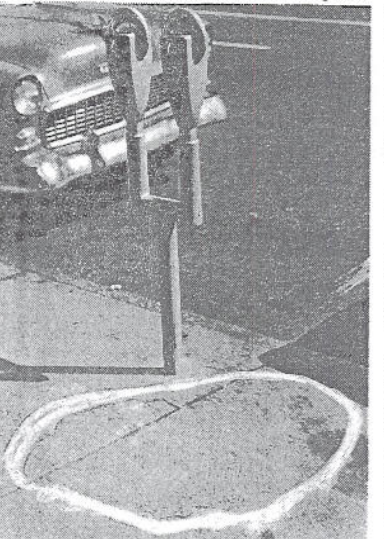
"Because if he had slipped or staggered into the glass, the blood would have been right at the window. And if he had fallen through he would have landed real close to the edge."

Hank Killam would also have had to jump up and over a 2-foot-high section of brick wall even to get into the plate-glass window. And the mystery is deepened by the fact that his body was discovered

on the pavement -- 50 feet from the window. "That is sure no way to commit suicide." The insurance investigator theorized. "If he had been cut anywhere else except on the jugular vein, he would never have bled to death.

"There were no other marks, no bruises, in any shape or form, on Killam's body."

This, too, pushed brother Earl Killam even deeper into speculation. He remembered the weekend his brother died; how Hank had seen a strange man wearing the collar of a priest, several times near 316 West Romana St., where Killam was staying with his mother, Mary. No Catholic priests



DEATH SPOT: Circle indicates where Killam died on a Pensacola sidewalk.



TRAIL OF BLOOD: Killam dragged down the street dripping blood (circled) after, according to police, he jumped through window. He got as far as parking meter, where he died.

or Episcopal clergymen ever visited that area.

Hank Killam was frightened of the stranger who seemed to be shadowing him and told his own Baptist minister: "Be careful they don't put a knife in your back after being seen talking to me."

The minister, the Reverend George Blue, also said Killam hinted in those last days of his life that his special knowledge of "that thing in Dallas" would lead to his death.

"I don't know if it did or not," said Earl Killam. "But I know this: My brother was scared. I know my mother said he got a phone call at 4 a.m. the night he died, went out of the house, and a car door was heard to slam.

"I know he didn't have a car. And I know that less than 30 minutes later he was found dead.

"I know, too, that it is possible that someone picked him up, slit his jugular vein, threw him into the window to make it look like an accident."

Then, as has everyone else who comes in close contact with the case, Earl Killam popped the poser: "Who would have thought of suicide? You don't commit suicide by jumping through a ground floor window."

Nobody, as far as The ENQUIRER could find, even considered suicide a possibility except the Pensacola police.

The "probable suicide" is listed on the report of officer S.N. Reeves, then a rookie cop, who was first on the scene. It read: "The plate-glass window of Linen Department Store was shattered. Because of the presence of blood approximately 4 feet inside the show window, it is my opinion Killam jumped through the window."

But earlier that same evening, officer Reeves had answered another call concerning Killam. Reeves was summoned to 316 West Romana Street, where he had found Killam walking in front of the house. There was fear showing in Killam's eyes and he claimed then that he was going to be killed.

Reeves chalked it up to mental condition, because Killam's mother had told him she was going to see about getting her son to see a psy-



CORONER: Dr. A.H. Northup, in his 10 years' experience, never heard of a man trying to kill himself the way Killam supposedly did.

chiatrist (he actually had an appointment for 1 p.m. on the day he died) or into a hospital (Killam had a police record of drug addiction.)

Other policemen arrived minutes after Reeves. "We saw it was Killam," said a detective, "and let it go."

For Killam was well known by the police. He was a fringe area hoodlum with a string of arrests starting from a fifth-grade reform school lock-up -- but he had never been jailed for anything big.

He sometimes worked with the officers, fingering and informing. He was questioned once about a murder, but later released.

And Killam has been traced to New Orleans where DA Jim Garrison contended that three men, including Lee Harvey Oswald, planned the Kennedy killing.

Hank Killam was in and out of New Orleans during September, October and November of 1963. He is also listed in police files there.

But did his death link to JFK?

"I don't know," says County Solicitor Harper, who has open lines to investigating officials in Tampa and the DA in New Orleans. "But I want to resolve it to my own and to everyone else's satisfaction. But most of all I want to know if Killam jumped or was pushed into that glass window."

**See Next Page**

# Widow of Mystery Suicide Links 4 Key Figures in JFK Assassination Plot

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Wanda Killam, whose husband Hank claimed to have inside information on the Kennedy assassination before he died mysteriously in 1964, has roped together the lives of four prime assassination figures: Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, Oswald's fellow roomer, John Carter, and her husband.

Wanda, who worked in Ruby's nightclub, gave this ENQUIRER reporter an exclusive interview in which she detailed the startling links as she discussed the events surrounding her husband's weird death.

By GENE BELL

The mysterious death of Hank Killam may have been caused by his wife. For just shortly after "federal" agents asked Wanda Killam where her husband was hiding, he was found dead on the street.

Killam, who had claimed to have information about the assassination of President Kennedy, was found lifeless outside of a Pensacola, Fla., department store.

And police listed the death as "probable suicide."

But Wanda is sure her husband would never take his own life. She said that "federal agents browbeat me into telling where Hank had gone."

And on March 17, 1964, Hank Killam was dead.

"Hank would never have killed himself," insisted Wanda, the hip, honey-talking \$300-per-week nightclub hostess. She doesn't believe "agents" or Kennedy assassination "plotters" could have driven her husband to suicide.

"No, not Hank," she told this ENQUIRER reporter in an exclusive interview in Dallas. "Hankie wouldn't have done that."

"He wouldn't have killed himself."

But the shapely, man-pleasing Wanda, who hustled drinks and cigarettes for Jack Ruby in his Dallas Carousel Club, wants to know how her husband died.

"I didn't even know he was dead until after he was buried," the winsome widow admitted. "I wrote him a letter on March 18, 1964, and he died on the 17th, I later learned."

"Sure, I want to find out who killed Hank."

"I know he wouldn't have jumped through any window."

Killam, who claimed special knowledge of the Kennedy assassination plot and fear of "agents" who planned it, was found dead in Pensacola, his throat cut.

Police reported that he jumped through a plate glass window, killing himself, and listed the death as "probable suicide."

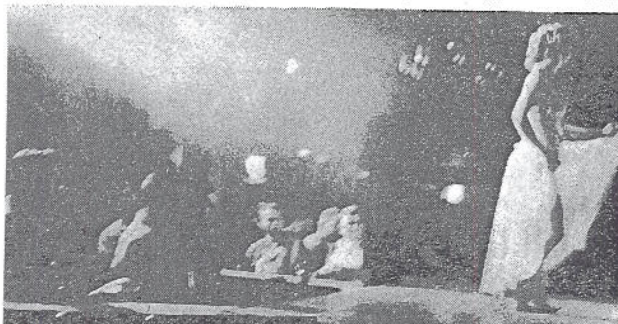
Wanda Killam has said she wanted a full investigation and autopsy. "I want to know all



**WIDOW:** Mrs. Wanda Killam doesn't believe her husband committed suicide. (Sketched at Carousel Club).

about his death. After all, the man was my husband."

But Mrs. Wanda Killam, who calls everybody "Honey," and who sweet-talked customers out of as much as \$300 weekly in tips with her Southern drawl, turns tiger when the Killam



**JACK RUBY'S NIGHTCLUB:** A male audience watches dancer perform at Ruby's Carousel Club in Dallas shortly before Ruby killed Oswald.



**KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN,** Lee Harvey Oswald, is flanked by Dallas police after being arrested for killing President John F. Kennedy.

link to three other figures in the JFK assassination is traced to her.

"He didn't hardly know Ruby, honey, except from the club. Then Jack ran him out and said he would fire me every time Hank came in. Jack didn't like husbands around."

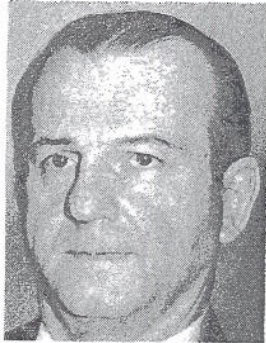
But, nonetheless, Wanda Joyce Davis Killam not only put Hank with Ruby, but also with John Carter, a man who had roomed at the same boarding house (1026 North Beckley Ave.) with Lee Harvey Oswald.

"John Carter, honey, was a friend of Hank. He came to our house — mine and Hank's — after we were married. But we constantly sat around and talked about Jack Ruby or Lee Oswald back then." (Carter told the FBI that he had never heard of Ruby but knew Oswald slightly. His statement was reported to the Warren Commission.)

But it was Carter, who had spoken to Oswald around Mrs. A.S. Johnson's rooming house, that got Hank Killam in the house painting business.

"It was around Carter, working those house painting jobs that my husband was constantly hounded by 'agents' after the assassination."

"They would go to the jobs and cause Hank to get in trouble — always stopping his work. He lost job after job. Finally, he couldn't take



**JACK RUBY**  
Wanda worked for him

it, and just pulled out for Florida."

She said he appeared nervous, frightened. He was also taking pills; amphetamines and/or barbiturates, investigators later said.

But why? That was the question this reporter asked Wanda Killam.

"Well, honey, I worked for Ruby, and had known John Carter who knew Oswald a little and, too, they were investigating all the girls' husbands who worked at the Carousel."

This hung heavy on Wanda Killam's head. She remembers writing — even as her husband lay dead — in abject apology:

"They've investigated all the girls' husbands. so baby, they've done everyone like that. I'm sorry, Hankie, forgive me . . . mother told me you called and said you had to go home from Tampa and had lost your job on account of me . . . that I had worked up there (the Carousel)."

The last lines of her last letter she was ever to write to Hank Killam showed the constant face of fear. "I hope and pray for your safety," Wanda wrote.

There was no safety for Hank Killam, a man somebody thought knew too much, and who was already dead when the words of his wife were written.