

Shaw Dabbled in Restoration

Plot Suspect Once War
Honored. Here

By PAUL ATKINSON

Clay L. Shaw, arrested Wednesday on a charge of participating in a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy, when not making a speech as International Trade Mart managing director, dabbled in restoring French Quarter names.

In fact, Shaw, the tall, greying Kentwood, La., native, has been called a "one-man French Quarter restoration society." He remodeled his present home, 1313 Dauphine, converting it from a carriage house.

By May of 1964, Shaw reported he had restored 13 places in the Quarter. He said in an interview that he began in 1950 by buying a six-room house at 557 Barracks for \$9,500. After spending \$1,500 on improvements on the dwelling, Shaw said he sold it for \$15,000. Some years later the house reportedly sold for \$30,000.

He created a stir when he installed the first swimming pool in the historic section. The Vieux Carre Commission feared there was a lack of historical precedent for such a thing.

Shaw told a reporter what he considered to be one of the irrevocable rules of remodeling: "Whatever you figure it will cost, it's too little."

DATA IN FILES

Files of The Times-Picayune contain varied information on Shaw's background. In March, 1961, he was asked for his view of the late President Kennedy's 10-year plan for the Americas. Shaw nailed it, calling it a tremendous step forward.

Shaw noted that the plan's application will be a cooperative effort in which "The United States will not be doing it all."

Shaw added that hundreds of millions of dollars in heavy equipment, railroads and machinery would have to be shipped to Latin America.

"This will mean a tremendous amount of business for those ports that are ready to provide the facilities for handling this," he explained.

Appointment of Shaw to the post of the International Trade Mart was announced March 8,

1964. He assumed the title of promotional director.

Shaw was discharged from the Army in January, 1946, with the rank of major. He served as ~~commander of the 1st Gen. C. Co.~~ Thrasher in England.

GIVEN AWARDS

Following the invasion of Normandy, Gen. Thrasher was put in charge of communications and supply for Northern France and Belgium, and Shaw became his deputy chief of staff. Both countries were later to present awards to Shaw. He was named a Chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Belgium, and the French government gave him the title of "Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Commercial."

Shaw was honored at a testimonial dinner late in September, 1965, following his resignation as managing director of the ITM. Shaw said he submitted his voluntary resignation to pursue his personal interests and manage his real estate holdings.

At the dinner, sponsored by officers of the Trade Mart,

national Order of Merit of the City of New Orleans medal and scroll. Former Councilman Joseph V. DiRosa did the honors on behalf of Mayor Victor H. Schiro.

Shaw saw two major ITM buildings take form during his 18-year association with the organization. He got in on the beginning of the first ITM building on Camp st. in the late 1940s and stayed nearly long enough for dedication of the second, now a landmark at the head of Canal st.

OTHER DUTIES

He took on other duties, besides that of ITM coordinator. In 1953 he planned and coordinated activities of the Louisiana Purchase Sesquicentennial Commission.

Shaw, in his duties at ITM, traveled extensively. Twice he went to Cuba, once in March of

1949 and again in January of 1957. Both trips were to promote trade.

Shaw, in 1956, labeled economic differences, largely over tariff barriers, a major fundamental source of the world's political troubles. Speaking to delegations from 21 New Orleans and Jefferson parish high schools to the Junior United Nations, Shaw claimed a tariff-free world would bring about an unprecedented rise in the world's living standards.

"Speaking only as a dreaming idealist, since no such situation is foreseeable, I believe tariff barriers cut production off into national blocks," he said. "What is going on throughout the world is comparable to the production of automobiles in Louisiana with a \$5,000 tax on Detroit automobiles to enable the producer to profit."

Shaw pleaded for the United

States to help in improving a lot of the world's underprivileged people, especially in Asia, Africa and South America. "To convince them to turn to free enterprise instead of communism, we must enable them to develop instead of trying to limit them to production of raw materials for our own industry," he once said.

MADE TRIPS

Fitting in the pieces of what Shaw has been doing since he left the ITM, it has been learned that Shaw has taken trips to Mexico and Spain. He was recently in the process of translating a Spanish playwright's play from Spanish to English.

A former associate of Shaw said that Shaw told him he voted for the late President Kennedy in 1960. The associate called him "a great admirer of Kennedy."

Shaw's grandfather, Clay Shaw, was sheriff of Tangipahoa Parish in the early 1900s when

as known as "Blood Ties" in Tangipahoa.

Shaw wrote a play about men trapped at the bottom of the sea in a submarine and received royalties on it for a few years, the former associate said. It is often staged by Little Theater groups. The idea was made into a play titled, "Men Without Women." The title was obtained from a story by Ernest Hemingway but the story was

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