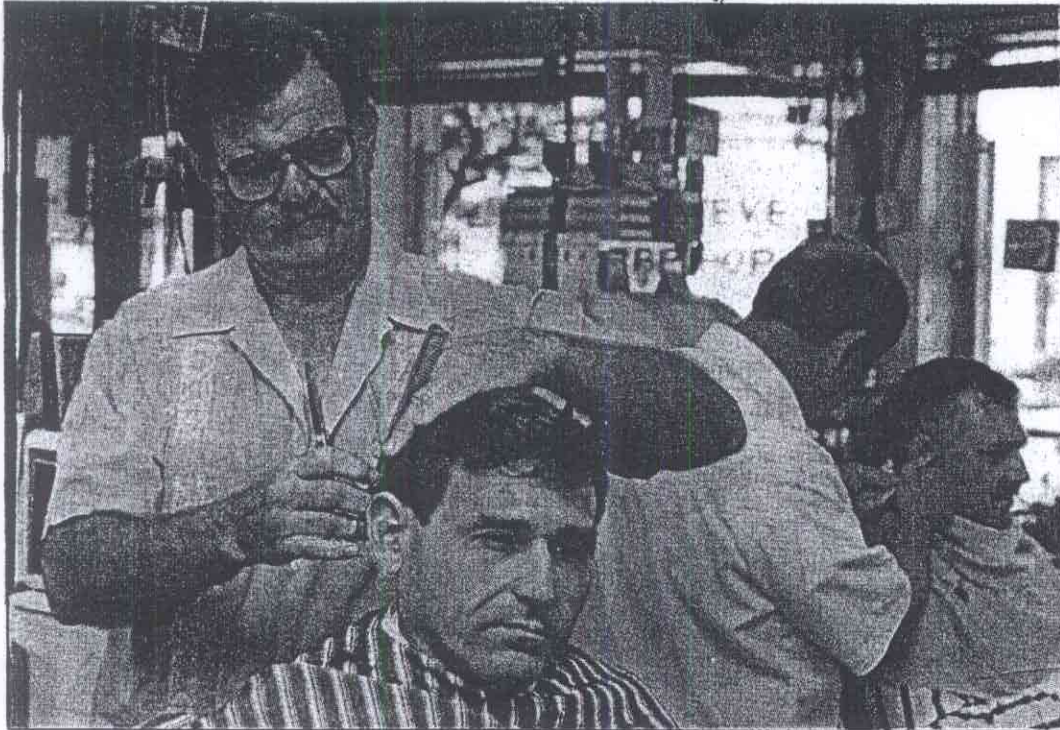


## The plot thickens



Gerald Stovall, working at Steve's barber shop, claims to have the inside story on an alleged Kennedy assassination plot.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN S. BERTEAUX

# Barber cuts path to truth in alleged plot to kill JFK

By **BILL GRADY**  
Staff writer

True, in 1969 Jim Garrison and his host of incredible witnesses — including a heroin addict and a paranoid — couldn't link Clay Shaw with fellow New Orleanian Dave Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald in a plot to kill President Kennedy.

But now comes local barber Gerald Stovall, whose nickname could be "Better-22-Years-Late-Than-Never" Stovall.

"I used to see all three of them guys together in the French Quarter — Ferrie, Oswald and

Shaw," Stovall said matter-of-factly last week, after cleaning redfish and downing a ham sandwich in his Metairie kitchen.

"I cut Oswald's hair all the time. He used to tell me he'd been in Russia and all. He had almost a straight neck. You gotta watch your tapering with long-necked guys like that."

Stovall, 55, launched his tale:

It was in the early 1960s, while he was working in his father's barbershop at Bienville and Chartres streets, that Ferrie — a friend of Stovall's since their days in the Civil Air Patrol — came in for a haircut. He began

talking about dethroning Fidel Castro and avenging the Bay of Pigs debacle by killing Kennedy.

The plan, Ferrie told Stovall, was that Ferrie would fly Oswald to Cuba after Kennedy's death. The United States would take over Cuba upon learning the president's murderer was in Castro's hands. Ferrie and Oswald, both ardent anti-Communists, would be willing sacrificial lambs.

"Ferrie was weird enough," Stovall said, "and I know he knew how to fly through the

See **BARBER**, B-3

From B-1

radar net in the Gulf of Mexico."

Stovall said he listened to Ferrie with fascination and detachment. Ferrie was a shadowy, unstable, charismatic figure. He also was practically hairless. Student pilots said he pasted gleanings from his wall-to-wall carpet on his forehead in lieu of eyebrows.

"Mostly he'd come in to talk to me," Stovall said, "but he had a little hair stringing down in the back and every now and then he'd pay me to cut that."

Oswald was tight-lipped and just as mysterious as Ferrie. Stovall said he was walking past the old International Trade Mart building at Magazine and Common streets in August 1963 and saw Oswald's celebrated arrest during an argument with anti-Communist bystanders over the "Hands Off Cuba" pamphlets he'd been giving out.

"One time Dave Ferrie and Oswald were passing by the shop," Stovall said, "and Dave said to me, 'You know Lee, don't you?' I said, 'Yeah, I cut his hair.'"

"So, outside the Trade Mart, I don't believe what I'm seeing. Here's Oswald, a guy I always see with right-wingers like Ferrie, and now he's giving out pro-Castro literature?"

"I cut Oswald's hair once after that, but I never did ask him what he was doing outside the Trade Mart. I didn't want to know."

Shaw had a head of hair that wouldn't quit, Stovall said. It was long, full of curls, and a real challenge to cut.

"He'd come in, a very quiet individual, very distant and aloof, but he was very adamant about the fact that sooner or later somebody's going to have to kill Kennedy."

When somebody finally did, Stovall assumed that his three customers had played their parts in a conspiracy.

"I couldn't believe it. I said, 'Them bastards actually did it.' Ferrie had told me they were in the process of planning it."

Three years later, with Gar-

rison's investigation in full swing, the hounded Ferrie continued coming to the barbershop.

"The last time I cut his hair, he really dumped on me," Stovall said. "He knew he was being watched, and I wasn't really interested in listening."

Stovall said Ferrie was despondent because he felt he'd been used. Expecting to fly Oswald out of the country, he waited at a Beaumont, Texas, skating rink

for a call that never came from some Texans who had financed the conspiracy, he said.

On Feb. 22, 1967, Ferrie was found dead in his Louisiana Avenue Parkway apartment. Two weeks later, Garrison arrested Shaw.

Stovall said that between the arrest and trial, Garrison came in for a haircut, and Stovall told him about seeing Ferrie, Oswald and Shaw together. But Stovall also told two of Garrison's investigators, Louis Ivon and Pershing Gervais, that he would not testify.

"Gervais told me he'd break both my legs if I didn't," Stovall said.

Neither Gervais, Ivon nor Garrison remember Stovall.

"I never heard of him," Gervais said.

"Geez, you'd think I would remember something like that if it happened," said Ivon, who was in charge of the investigation and is now a state representative.

"I don't remember, but I probably did talk to him," said Garrison, now a state appellate judge.

"He's probably telling the truth. We had so many witnesses that put Ferrie and Shaw together that he was probably just one too many. He says Pershing threatened to break his legs? That sounds like Pershing."

Stovall, who now cuts hair at Steve's barber shop on Baronne Street, said he doesn't care who believes him.

"I'm not b.s.-ing about this," he said.



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

FOIA OFFICER  
MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
Washington D. C.

15 February 1991

RICHARD L. WAYBRIGHT JR.  
7930 St. Bridget Lane  
Baltimore, Maryland 21222

Sir,

I respectfully submit the following request pursuant to the  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT as enumerated in 5 U.S.C. 552 et. seq.

In December of 1979, Mr. David Lifton filed a FOIA request  
to obtain all documents pertaining to the handling of the body of  
President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963.

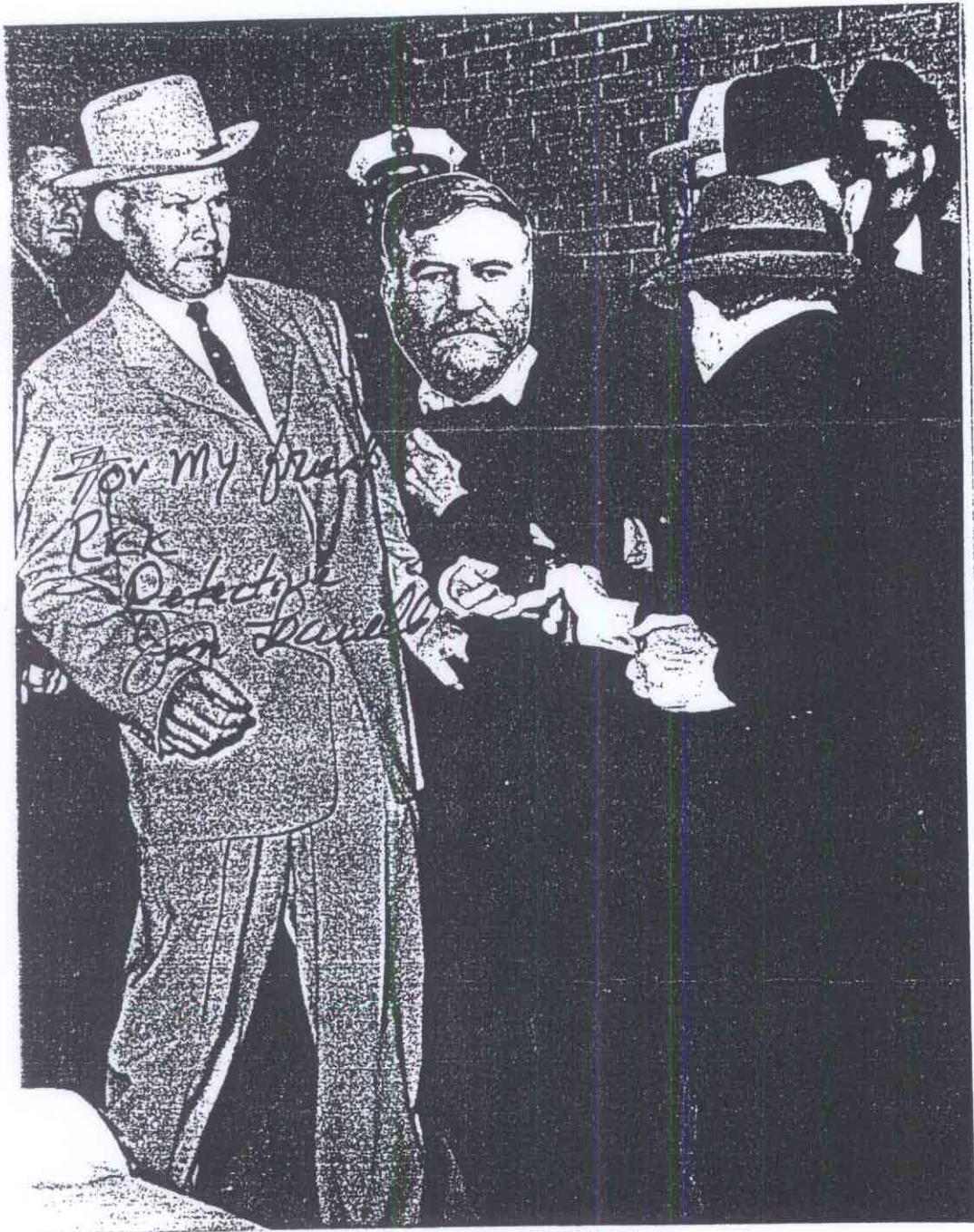
In February 1980 the Military District of Washington  
released the documents to Mr. Lifton.

Therefore, I am requesting a copy of all documents that the  
Military District of Washington released to Mr. Lifton. If you  
are unable to ascertain which documents were released to him then  
please send me any and all documents relating to the handling of  
President Kennedy's body on November 22, 1963.

I thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,

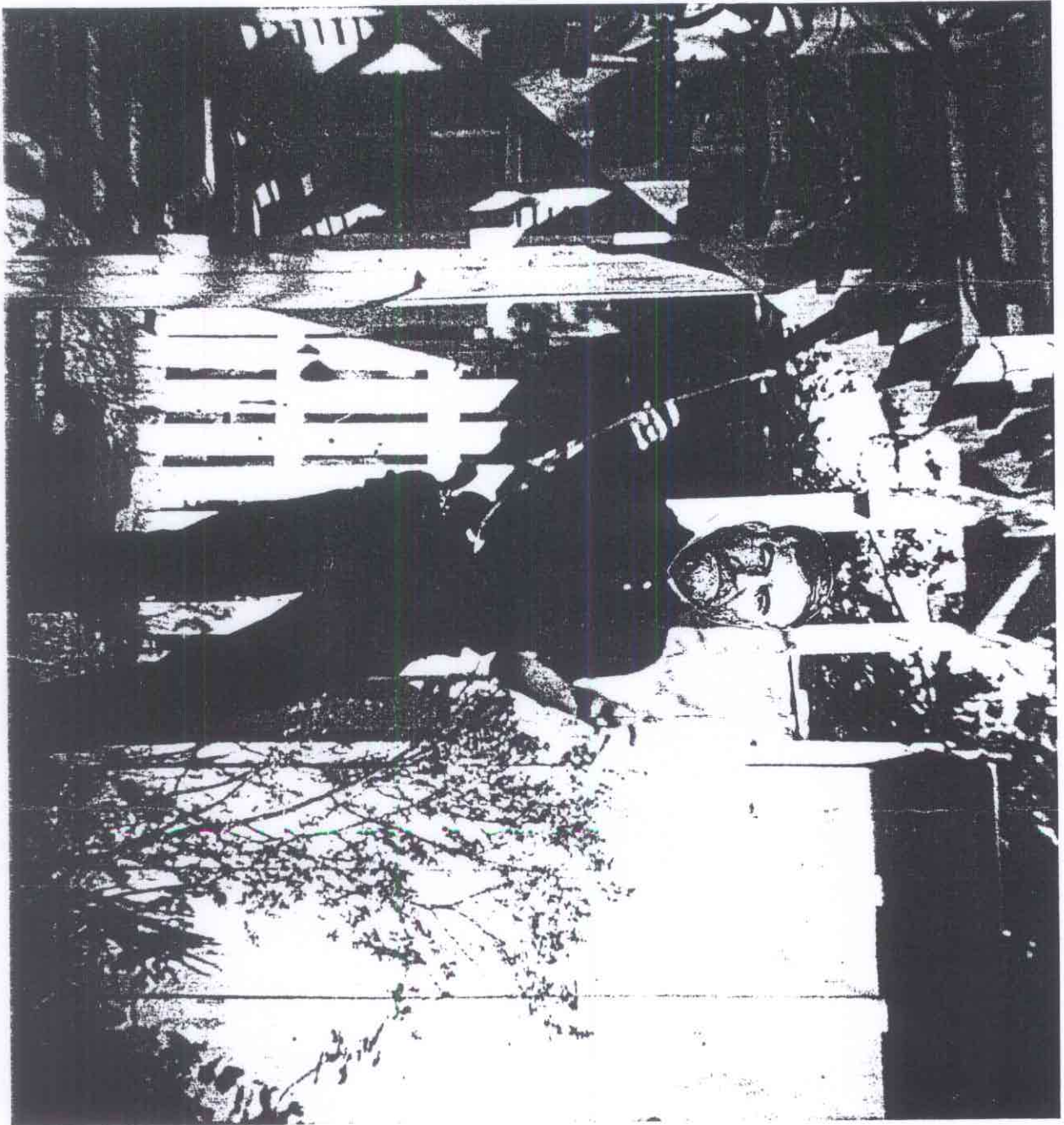
Richard L. Waybright Jr.

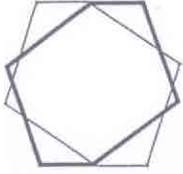


For my friend  
Rick  
Detective  
Jim Daniels

Rick made these  
us - Part of his  
intimidation - I'm sure there in the target practice  
at PD Hq







**The Graduate School and University Center**  
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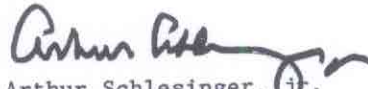
4 June 1991

Mr. Harrison E. Livingstone  
3025 Abell Avenue  
Baltimore MD 21218

Dear Mr. Livingstone:

Thank you for sending the Vietnam documents. As for your questions, I did not know Howard Burrus. I have read some of Colonel Prouty's writing and would use them with caution.

Sincerely yours,

  
Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

ABC News Intercontinental, Inc. 8 Carburton Street London W1P 7DT  
Telephone: 071 637 9222 Fax: 071 631 5084 Telex: 263603

**Pierre Salinger**  
Senior Editor, Europe  
Chief Foreign Correspondent

Mr. Harrison E. Livingston,  
3025 Abell Avenue,  
Baltimore, 21218  
USA

3/6/91

Dear Mr. Livingstone,

Thank you for your letter of May 28th.


McGeorge Bundy was definitely in Honolulu on November 20th and 21st. He was not on the plane going to Japan when the President was assassinated. My recollection is that he may have left Honolulu sometime on November 21st. and could have been back in the White House at the time of JFK's death.

This draft is a result of a two-day meeting we had in Honolulu on the Vietnam situation. I made the first announcement on October 2nd 1963, that there would be a withdrawal of some of the U.S. military personnel from Vietnam.

On page 3 the word fertiliser is not a code. It is linked to the phrase "economic assistance" in paragraph 6 on page 2.

I hope this will be of some assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Pierre Salinger.



# Picture not of Oswald, widow, mortician say

DALLAS (UPI) — The widow of Lee Harvey Oswald and the mortician who embalmed the body said Sunday a purported photograph of the accused presidential assassin in a casket depicted someone else. They said the grave should be opened quickly to learn the truth.

Marina Oswald Porter said she would go to court this week to seek permission to have the grave opened.

The controversy over the photograph, released publicly Saturday, deepened the mystery over who, if anyone, is buried in the grave at Rose Hill Burial Park in Fort Worth, Texas.

The photograph, previously published in a book about the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, showed a man who appeared to be in his late 30s, dressed in a dark suit and tie. The man's neck appeared puffy and his hair dark and relatively thick.

Mrs. Porter and Paul Grady, the mortician who prepared the body for burial, both said the photograph did not depict the man they buried on Nov. 25, 1963.

"I cannot believe that's him," Grady said from his home in Fort Worth, referring to the picture. "It doesn't look like the body that I put in the casket. It does not look like the man I embalmed and that I used cosmetic cover on

to conceal a black eye. I think the picture is of someone else, sold by someone looking for a little glory.

"The picture shows such a thick neck—that's not the embalming job I did. When you embalm someone, there is a lack of circulation and their neck swells. But in an autopsy case, which this was, you couldn't possibly get that kind of look."

Mrs. Porter, from her home in the Dallas suburb of Rockwall, said: "It's not Lee. I don't know who it is. It's a strange man in a casket. I saw Lee buried in the casket. He was just 24. The man in the picture looks between 35 and 40 — just look at the forehead. Lee was balding and this man had a very heavy thick head of dark hair."

The photograph, reportedly taken by an unidentified Fort Worth intelligence officer after Oswald's body was prepared for burial, was sold by the Associated Press for \$500 to Jim Meyer, a former reporter for the Fort Worth Star Telegram. Although the photograph — the best of four taken at the time — was published in 1964, it attracted virtually no public attention because of relatively limited distribution of the book, "Conspiracy," by Anthony Summers.



AP Photo  
Disputed photograph purported to be of Oswald