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WITH NEW ORLEANS 2ND NL (350)

PENSACOLA, FLA., FEB. 22 (AP)-ESCAMBIA COUNTY AUTHORITIES TODAY BEGAN INVESTIGATING THE 1964 DEATH OF A MAN WHOSE BROTHER SAID FEARED HE WAS BEING PURSUED BY "AGENTS" CONNECTED WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

THOMAS HENRY KILLAM DIED BESIDE A BROKEN SHOP WINDOW ON A PENSACOLA STREET MARCH 19, 1964 WITH A SLASHED THROAT. AUTHORITIES DIFFERED ON THE CAUSE OF DEATH WITH ~~POLICE~~ ^{the coroner} RULING IT ACCIDENTAL AND THE ~~CORONER~~ ^{police} TERMING IT SUICIDE.

EARL KILLAM, THE DEAD MAN'S BROTHER, HAS ASKED COUNTY SOLICITOR CARL HARPER TO EXHUME HIS BROTHER'S BODY TO DETERMINE THE EXACT CAUSE OF DEATH. HE SAID HIS BROTHER KNEW HE WOULD BE KILLED.

KILLAM, A 38-YEAR-OLD AUTO SALESMAN, SAID HIS BROTHER TOLD HIM HE FLED DALLAS IN DECEMBER, 1963, BECAUSE HE WAS BEING HARRASSED BY "AGENTS." KILLAM SAID HIS BROTHER DIDN'T SPECIFY WHETHER THE AGENTS WERE FEDERAL, STATE, OR SOMEONE ELSE.

WHEN THOMAS KILLAM LEFT DALLAS, HIS WIFE, WANDA REMAINED BEHIND. SHE HAD BEEN EMPLOYED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS A HOSTESS IN A DALLAS NIGHT CLUB OWNED BY JACK RUBY, ACCUSED SLAYINER OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, CHARGED WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN NOVEMBER, 1963.

CONTACTED TODAY IN DALLAS WHERE SHE WORKS AS A CIGARETTE GIRL IN THE THEATRE LOUNGE, WANDA KILLAM TOLD THE PENSACOLA NEWS-JOURNAL HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN QUESTIONED SEVERAL TIMES BY FEDERAL AGENTS ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER HER HUSBAND WAS REFERRING TO FEDERAL AGENTS WHEN HE TOLD HIS BROTHER HE WAS BEING PURSUED. SHE SAID HE LEFT DALLAS IN EARLY DECEMBER, 1963, AFTER TELLING HER HE WAS GOING BACK TO FLORIDA TO LOOK FOR A JOB.

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EARL KILLAM SAID ONE OF THE REASONS HE HAD ASKED FOR THE INVESTIGATION TWO YEARS AFTER HIS BROTHER'S DEATH WAS BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT ASSASSINATION PROBE IN NEW ORLEANS.

MRS. KILLAM SAID SHE WAS IN FAVOR OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO HER HUSBAND'S DEATH.

SHE SAID SHE WAS CERTAIN HER HUSBAND WOULDN'T HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE. "NO, HANK (HER HUSBAND) WOULDN'T DO THAT."

SHE SAID KILLAM WAS EMPLOYED FOR A SHORT WHILE IN DALLAS AS A HOUSE PAINTER WITH A MAN NAMED JACK CARTER. CARTER ONCE ROOMED IN THE SAME DALLAS BOARDING HOUSE WITH OSWALD, EARL KILLAM SAID.

KILLAM SAID "AGENTS AND PLOTTERS" DROVE HIS BROTHER OUT OF DALLAS AND BACK TO FLORIDA WHERE HE CAME TO PENSACOLA IN DECEMBER, 1963 AND THEN SPENT THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS WORKING IN TAMPA. HE RETURNED TO PENSACOLA MARCH 17 TO LIVE WITH THEIR MOTHER, KILLAM SAID, AND WAS DEAD TWO DAYS LATER.

THE DAY HE RETURNED HIS BROTHER SAID THOMAS TOLD HIM: "I'M A DEAD MAN. I'VE RUN AS FAR AS I'M GOING TO RUN."

THE NEWS-JOURNAL SAID ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 17, 1963, THOMAS KILLAM RECEIVED A PHONE CALL AT HIS MOTHER'S HOME AT 4 A.M. THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED THE MOTHER AS SAYING HER SON DRESSED AND LEFT THE HOUSE. SHE HEARD A CAR DRIVE OFF, THE MOTHER SAID, ALTHOUGH KILLAM DIDN'T OWN A CAR.

ABOUT A HALF HOUR LATER, TWO STREET SWEEPERS HEARD A CRASH ON A CITY STREET. THEY TURNED THEIR TRUCK AROUND AND SAW A MAN STAGGERING IN FRONT OF A BROKEN DISPLAY WINDOW, POLICE SAID.

KILLAM DIED BEFORE HE GOT TO A HOSPITAL. THE POLICE REPORT SAID BASED ON THE PRESENCE OF BLOOD FOUR FEET INSIDE THE SHOW WINDOW "IT IS MY OPINION THE EXPIRED JUMPED THROUGH THE WINDOW AND THEN CRAWLED BACK TO THE SIDEWALK."

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THE CORONER, A.H. NORTHUP, SAID KILLAM DIED OF "A LONG, THREE-INCH DEEP LACERATION OVER THE LOWER LEFT SIDE OF THE NECK. APPARENTLY SUSTAINED DEEP LACERATION IN THROAT WHEN HE FELL THROUGH PLATE GLASS WINDOW."

EARL KILLAM IS SKEPTICAL. "DID YOU EVER HEAR OF A MAN COMMITTING SUICIDE BY JUMPING THROUGH A PLATE GLASS WINDOW?" HE ASKED.

MEANWHILE, HARPER WOULD NOT DISCUSS HIS INVESTIGATION EXCEPT TO SAY HE WAS SEEKING CONCRETE EVIDENCE "NOT SUSPICIONS." BUT HE ADDED HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE CASE.

HARPER SAID HE PLANNED TO TALK WITH NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTY. JAMES GARRISON WHO IS CONDUCTING AN ASSASSINATION PROBE.

NO PICKUP

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