

# LEE ODOM BACKS SHAW STORY ON P.O. BOX 19106

## Visited N.O. On Business --Texan

Lee Odom, very much a real person, gave Clay L. Shaw his Dallas address—P O. Box 19106—when he was in New Orleans last year trying to promote a bullfight.

Odom's name and box number were found in Shaw's address book by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who said Friday that the number 19106 was part of an ingenious code linking Lee Harvey Oswald and Shaw with Jack Ruby.

"I asked the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel about who would be a good man to see

James C. Lehrer, a reporter for the Dallas Times-Herald, interviewed Lee Odom for the States-Item and the Times-Herald after the States-Item furnished him with information leading to Odom's whereabouts.)

about finding a place for my bullfight," Odom said in an interview.

"HE SUGGESTED Mr. Shaw, so I called him—or the manager called him, I don't remember exactly.

"He (Shaw) came over to the hotel and we talked for 15 or 20 minutes. He gave me his business card—I bet I still have it around here somewhere—and I gave him my address in Dallas.

"The bullfight didn't come off and we never communicated again—that's all there was to it," Odom said.

Garrison said Friday that the same number appeared in Oswald's notebook and that he had worked out a code used by Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy. The code, Garrison said, revealed that P.O. 19106 was actually the unlisted number of Ruby, the man who shot Oswald and later died himself of cancer.

ODOM SAID he could explain how his name and address got into Shaw's address book. "As I said, I gave it to him. That was my post office box at the time—19106. I rented it, or my wife did for me, in the summer of 1966."

The box, located in the Medical Center Postal Substation in Dallas, was rented in the name of a barbecue company, the L. & R. Barbecue Co., he was running at the time, Odom said. "I used this address—P.O. 19106—for the barbecue and the promotion business."

THE BOX WAS kept until October or November, as Odom recalls it, a total of three or four months.

Garrison says the numbers  
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PO 19106 also appeared in Oswald's notebook.

Oswald was killed in 1963. Dallas postal authorities have said the box number there did not come into being until 1965.

During the course of the interview, Odom said that he did not know anything about anyone connected with the assassination of President Kennedy.

"WE NOW HAVE another box out here at the post office," here being the Dallas County suburb in which Odom now lives with his wife and two children.

For reasons of privacy, Odom asked that the city not be named. Odom said that he was not aware that anyone was interested in talking to him until he was located yesterday for the interview.

"I didn't have a chance to read a newspaper over the weekend," said Odom, a tall, rangy man born in Lakeview, Tex., 31 years ago.

HE SAID HE would be willing to tell his story to Garrison or anyone else. "I have nothing to hide—my goodness," he said. "You could tell Mr. Shaw I am ready to help him if I can."

Odom also said he feels sure that his story of the trip to New Orleans and his brief meeting with Shaw can be corroborated. "The man at the Roosevelt might remember it all. The records of the hotel should show I was there, too."

As he remembered it, Odom was in New Orleans for "two or three days" in the latter part of November, 1966. With a reporter present, Odom rummaged through some of his personal papers in his apartment and came up with the stub of his airplane ticket he used to return to Dallas from New Orleans Nov. 22, 1966.

"I NEVER THROW anything away and I'll bet I'll eventually find Mr. Shaw's business card somewhere," Odom said.

Odom says he does not recall any of the specific things said during their brief discussion. "I was trying to find a place for the bullfight and he said he might help me—something like that," he said.

"But the bullfight did not come off, so that was it. That was the only time I've ever talked with Mr. Shaw or had any contact with him whatsoever. Asked to describe the man he talked to in New Orleans, Odom said he was "very tall and big, about 50", and pointed out other characteristics descriptive of Shaw.

Odom had lived in Dallas proper until a month ago in an apartment complex. He and his family were living with his sister and brother-in-law there and he worked with a shoestore.

They now live in a multi-unit apartment complex in the suburban city near Dallas.