

Forgotten Suspect In Assassination

Associated Press

Strawn, Tex.

For four hours last November 22, Donald Wayne House, a dynamite hauler, was a suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy. It was a case of mistaken identity.

By the time word of House's arrest got out, Lee Harvey Oswald had been seized and House's arrest got little if any publicity. He was not booked or "mugged" by Fort Worth police.

House, 23, now can laugh about the mistake.

"It hasn't changed my life but I'll never forget about it," he said.

House hauls dynamite for a construction firm. He lived in Ranger, Tex., last fall and on November 22 came to Dallas to visit an old Army buddy.

While he was in Dallas, he waited until he caught a glimpse of Mr. Kennedy, whom he admired, and started back home by way of Fort Worth.

He did not know Mr. Kennedy had been assassinated

until he turned his car radio on when he was out of Dallas. Halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth, he stopped in the town of Grand Prairie for gasoline.

DESCRIPTION

A woman asked him whether he had heard what the killer looked like. House gave her the description he had heard on the radio without realizing at the time that it also fitted him.

But if House didn't note the similarity, the woman did and telephoned the police.

A bit later House heard a siren and saw a red light flashing and pulled to the side of the road.

A Fort Worth policeman ordered him to get out of his automobile and stand with his hands against it.

POLICEMEN

"I looked up and there were a lot of policemen with shotguns and everything," House said.

"What am I being arrested for?" House asked.

"You are being arrested for the assassination of President Kennedy," a policeman said.

"I was frightened at first," House said. "But after I got to the police station, I wasn't scared any more. I had a clear conscience and I kept repeating, 'I didn't do it.'"

CELL

After three hours of denying he was the assassin, House was put in a cell. Finally a policeman came to the cell door and said:

"They've caught another boy. They are pretty sure he did it."

House was released, and the best apology he got was from a jail matron who ran up, kissed him and said, "I'm glad you didn't do it."

~~Use caption.~~