

40**** The VANCOUVER SUN: Tues., Oct. 25, 1966

10 STRANGE DEATHS

Bizarre JFK Aftermath

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) — Ramparts magazine says at least 10 persons connected with the assassination of President Kennedy have since met violent or unusual deaths.

Formerly a Roman Catholic laymen's publication but now secular-oriented, Ramparts had this to say about the 10:

Jim Koethe:

The young Dallas reporter had been writing a book on the assassination. His body was found wrapped in a blanket in his apartment Sept. 21. Police said cause of death was asphyxiation from a broken bone at the base of the neck, "apparently the result of a karate chop." Notes for the book were missing.

"Within a week a 22-year-old ex-con . . . named Larry Earl Reno, was picked up selling Koethe's personal effects and held on suspicion of murder." However, Reno was never indicted for murder, but sentenced to life imprisonment for robbing a hotel.

Bill Hunter:

A police reporter "with a knack for getting along with cops," he covered the Kennedy assassination.

Hunter was "accidentally" shot by a policeman April 23, 1964, only a few hours after a witness testified before the Warren commission about a meeting in Jack Ruby's apartment attended by Hunter and Koethe.

Detective Creighton Wiggins said he had "been playing cops and robbers when his gun started to slip from his fingers and it went off." Wiggins was



DOROTHY KILGALLEN
... barbiturates, alcohol

given a suspended sentence for involuntary manslaughter.

Tom Howard:

He was Ruby's leading lawyer who arrived at the police station a short time after the night-club owner shot Lee Harvey Oswald, whom the Warren commission concluded killed Kennedy. Howard died of a heart attack "not verified by an autopsy" March 27, 1965.

Earlene Roberts:

She ran the residence where Ruby lived and, say friends, "was worried to death by police" up to the time of her death from another unverified heart attack.



TOM HOWARD
... heart attack

Nancy Jane Mooney:

She was a stripper at Ruby's club who provided an alibi for Darrell Wayne Garner, accused assailant of Warren Reynolds, a witness to the flight of the suspected killer of Patrolman Jefferson Davis Tippit. The Warren commission assumed Oswald to be Tippit's killer. She "hanged herself with her treader pants in her private cell at Dallas County jail."

Hank Killam:

His wife was a cigarette girl at Ruby's club. He "took a deep, unexplained interest in the assassination" and was "hounded to death" by FBI men. He was found dead in

Florida, where he had moved, with his throat cut.

William Whaley:

He took Oswald from the scene of the assassination in his taxi. He was killed in a car crash, but when a reporter tried to interview his boss, he was thrown out of the office and told: "If you're smart you won't be coming round here asking questions."

Dorothy Kilgallen:

A post-mortem said the famous columnist died of acute barbiturate and alcohol poisoning. She was the only reporter allowed a private interview with Ruby, and told friends a few days before her death: "I'm going to bust this case wide open."

Lee Bowers:

Also killed in a car crash, he was a witness to the assassination and testified about the suspicious behavior of two men at the scene.

A doctor who examined him before his death said he was "in a strange state of shock, a different kind of shock than an accident victim experiences — I cannot explain it—I've never seen anything like it."

Edward Benavides:

His brother was a witness to the Tippit killing. The suggestion is that there was a strong possibility that, as he was shot in the back, he was mistaken for his brother.

Ramparts also quotes witnesses as saying Ruby and Oswald knew each other, and that Ruby had gangland connections.