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Oswald Taxi Link To Ferrie

DALLAS (UPI)—A former parttime Dallas taxi driver told newsmen Friday he once took presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and another man mentioned in the assassination investigation, David Ferrie, in his cab. But his memory faltered on details.

The former taxi driver, Raymon Cummings, 34, also a former policeman, told a news conference at a lawyer's office that he was certain it was Oswald and Ferrie. Ferrie died in New Orleans Feb. 22 and New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison said Ferrie was an important man to his investigation.

Cummings said the taxi ride was back in early 1963, the year Kennedy was killed. He said he picked up three men—one he recognized as being Oswald because he had him months before as a passenger.

Another, he said he decided just this year, was Ferrie. He said the basis for that feeling is that Ferrie was "a very strange looking man. He had his eyebrows painted. He had auburn, reddish, maroon - type hair." But Cummings said there was a third man he could not describe in detail.

He said he remembered Oswald had exactly \$1.45 in his pocket the first time he had

him for a fare. But he could not remember the street he took him to—or whether his taxi company record showed it.

He said Oswald asked him the first time to let him get out of the fare, as a favor to a fellow ex-Marine. Cummings said he did not recall discussing the fact he had been a Marine and Oswald had been a Marine, but he figured Oswald knew because Cummings wore a short-sleeved shirt in his taxi with the Marine insignia on it.

Cummings said he may have carried 20 or 25 people a day in his cab, and it was several months between meetings with Oswald. But he said he was sure it was Oswald both times. But he could not recall what month either trip occurred.

He said he took the three men in his cab to the Carousel Club on Commerce Street, the club owned by Jack Ruby, the man who killed Oswald after the assassination.

Cummings said he is sure of the identities of Oswald and Ferrie, but cannot remember anything about the third man except he was in his 40 or 50s and wore a sports coat.

"That is all I can really remember about him," Cummings said.

He said he did not come out with the story sooner, because he feared for the safety of his family. But he said he is not afraid now because, "I am very capable of taking care of myself. I have become much more capable."

Cummings was told a source in the district attorney's office said Cummings' story appeared to have no foundation in fact. "I have no idea what this organization in Dallas has in mind," he said.

One of his lawyers, Frank Wright, said Cummings would go to New Orleans Monday to tell his story to investigators there.

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