

JFK Case P.O. Box Puzzles

DALLAS (UPI) — A mysterious code which New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison says connects Clay Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby in an assassination conspiracy may be nothing more than the postoffice box number of a bullfight promoter, a Dallas newspaper said yesterday.

James Lehrer, a reporter and writer for the Dallas Times Herald, said in a copyrighted story today that he interviewed Lee Odom, 31, who says he is the "Lee Odom, post office box 19106, Dallas, Tex.," that Garrison cited from the address book of Shaw.

Shaw, 54, a retired New Orleans businessman, has been indicted on a conspiracy charge and is awaiting trial. Post office box 19106 did not come into being until the middle of 1965, when a substation in Dallas was remodeled.

Although Garrison hinted strongly Odom does not exist, he lives in an apartment in a Dallas suburb, Lehrer said. Lehrer said Odom made him promise to give his address to nobody but Shaw's lawyer.

Odom went to New Orleans late last November. He showed Lehrer an airline return ticket to Dallas, dated Nov. 22, 1966.

"I asked the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans about who would be a good man to see about finding a place for my bullfight," Odom said.

"He suggested Mr. Shaw, so the manager called him. He (Shaw) came over to the hotel, as I recall, and we talked for 15 or 20 minutes. He gave me his business card 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."

Using a complex decoding system, Garrison said the Dallas postoffice box number translated into Ruby's 1963 Dallas telephone number — Whitehall 1-5601.

The same number — 19106 — was found in Oswald's notebook but without Odom's name. Garrison said the letters "P O" are in front of the figures in Oswald's notebook. There have been suggestions that what Garrison took for "P O" actually are Russian letters.

"That was my post office box at the time — 19106," Odom said. "I rented it in the summer of 1966. The box, located in the medical center postal substation, was rented in the name of a barbecue company I was running at the time.

"I used this address for both the barbecue and the promotion business."

Odom said he has another box number now.

"I have nothing to hide. You can tell Mr. Shaw that I am ready to help him if I can," Odom said.

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