

'Some People Stirred Up' Over Our

Stories, He Writes Us

Tattler Source in JFK Probe Found Shot To Death Under Mysterious Circumstances

A private detective who worked closely with TATTLER on the continuing investigation of John Kennedy's assassination has been shot to death under mysterious circumstances in Louisiana.

William H. (Joe) Cooper was shot in the face while lying in bed at his Baton Rouge, La. apartment in the early-morning hours of October 16.

Three months earlier Cooper assisted this reporter in tracking down two pilots who were offered \$25,000 each to fly two mystery men from Dallas to an undisclosed location in Mexico on Nov. 22, 1963 - the day President Kennedy was murdered in Dallas.

The week before he died, Cooper had mailed TATTLER additional evidence he had collected on the assassination.

The material reached TATTLER's office less than 24 hours before Cooper was killed. Included in the package was a letter with the following notation:

"...stories the TATTLER carried has some people stirred up."

COOPER, A WORLD WAR II hero, much-decorated policeman and former FBI informant, devoted the last 10 years of his life to probing the maze of mystery surrounding the John Kennedy assassination.

There had been a number of other attempts

By JOHN MOULDER

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on the life of the tenacious ex-lawman - the most serious one coming in 1968 when the steering post on his car came loose causing a crash that left him near death, his back broken in three places. His wife and daughter were critically injured.

The incident came a week before Cooper was scheduled to testify before a New Orleans grand jury probing the Kennedy assassination. Cooper was certain the steering post had been loosened by someone - "but I could never prove it," he told TATTLER.

Probably the most shocking evidence uncovered by Cooper during his decade-long investigation was material linking persons in U.S. Naval intelligence with key assassination figures.

Cooper had resigned himself to the probability of his own assassination.

"I KNOW I'm taking a chance," the 50-year-old Cooper told TATTLER. "But I love my country. I didn't like Kennedy, but I don't believe killing the President is the way to change the country."

Cooper carried on his probe up until his death. He talked by telephone with this TATTLER reporter four days before he died. He followed up this conversation with a letter detailing his latest findings. TATTLER received the letter Oct. 15.

One day later, at 7:30 a.m., Oct. 16, Cooper's body was found in his bed in his apartment in a modern building on the outskirts of Baton Rouge.

He had been shot once in the right cheek. An autopsy showed the bullet traveled upwards, the slug lodging in the top of his skull. Cooper was right-handed. A 38-caliber pistol was found on the left side of his body.

The weapon, which sheriff's deputies said was owned by Cooper, was partially covered by a cloth.

Cooper's body was covered with bed linen, as if he had been sleeping.

According to Cooper's attorney, Emile Weber, the door of the apartment was unlocked and opened. Weber, summoned by Cooper's family, was present at the death scene and notified sheriff's investigators, the lawyer told TATTLER.

DR. HYPOLITE LANDRY, the Baton Rouge parish coroner, withheld comment on the cause of death pending completion of the sheriff's investigation. Dr. Landry said he is considering murder, suicide or accidental death.

However, Cooper's friends and family are convinced he did not shoot himself - either accidentally or on purpose. He had been an expert with weapons since he received military training while still in his teens.

"We are going to be as thorough about this as we possibly can," Pat Bonanno, sheriff's chief of detectives, told newsmen.

Cooper's wife, Lillian, was in the apartment when the shooting took place. She was in the

kitchen preparing breakfast while Cooper remained in bed.

She heard a shot and went to the bedroom where she found her husband dead. Later she discovered that the front door of the apartment was open. Earlier, it had been locked. Authorities say Mrs. Cooper is not a suspect.

"Joe didn't know when to keep his mouth shut," attorney Weber told TATTLER. "There's something mighty screwy going on somewhere."

COOPER'S ATTORNEY, his friends and relatives told TATTLER that Cooper had been in high spirits and had had no recent domestic problems.

"I was his attorney and I was his friend," Weber said. "We were very close. I can say definitely that Joe did not commit suicide. He was in top spirits."

One of the theories sheriff's deputies said they are exploring was that Cooper accidentally shot himself. But Weber said it would be highly unlikely that Cooper would be cleaning a pistol while covered up in bed. In-

Sketch
Carrier. I have heard through the grape vine in Baton Rouge that both stories the Tattler carried has some people stirred up. John please send me the information requested from you any letters that were received concerning the stories you can give my address

Last Letter Told of Mafia Links

Joe Cooper's most recent correspondence with TATTLER noted that stories recently published in TATTLER "has some people stirred up." A detail of the letter is above.

In less than a week he was dead.

Contained in the letter was information on the activities of a Louisiana Mafia member linked by Cooper's investigation to a

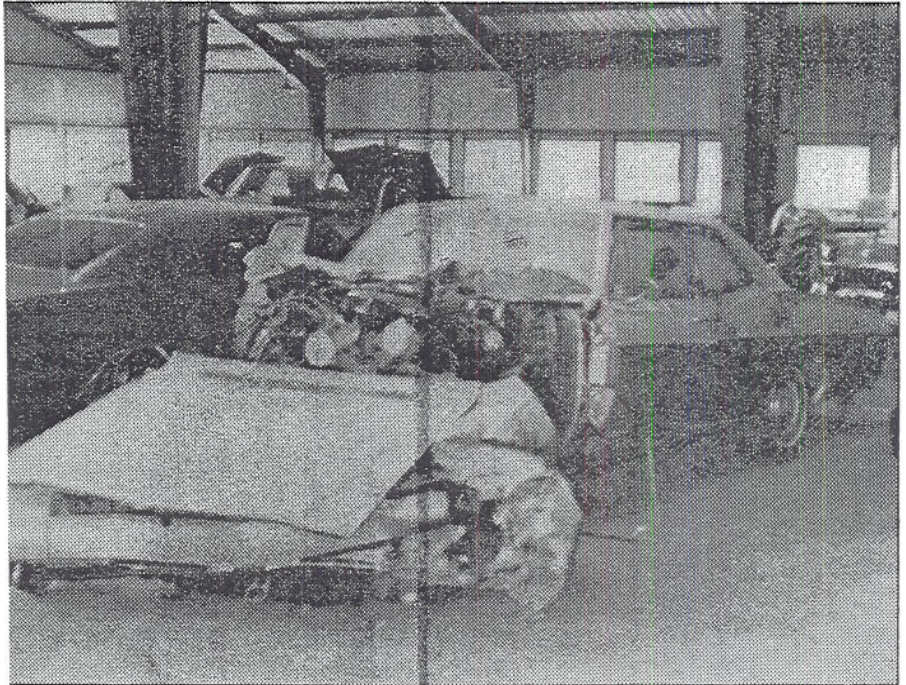
number of key assassination figures.

The letter also gave details on an international gun-runner, likewise associated with a number of assassination figures.

TATTLER reporters are analyzing the information and checking out a number of leads provided by Cooper. Once the investigation is completed the findings will be published.



JOE COOPER in his policeman's uniform.



COOPER NEARLY DIED in the wreckage of this car just before grand jury date.

investigators said heavy gunpowder burns were found on Cooper's face.

Cooper, former veteran policeman in Baton Rouge and in Florida, "was the most thorough investigator I ever knew," his lawyer said.

The investigator, who distinguished himself in naval combat in World War II and received a presidential citation, pursued a theory that the Kennedy assassination was plotted on board a naval aircraft carrier in August 1963, three months before Kennedy was slain in a motorcade in downtown Dallas.

COOPER WAS CONVINCED that Lee Harvey Oswald, whom the Warren Commission named as the sole assassin of President Kennedy, was a naval intelligence agent.

The theory that Oswald was a government agent has been explored by other assassination experts. Former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who conducted his own probe of the Kennedy assassination, believed Oswald was in the employ of the CIA and the assassination was a conspiracy.

Cooper's research into the guests aboard the aircraft carrier Shangri La led to an eventual Navy secrecy clampdown on the August 1963 junket and a visit by a naval intelligence agent. The agent wanted to know why Cooper, then a policeman, was interested in the Shangri La.

Cooper was scheduled to present his information to the Orleans Parish grand jury on July 9, 1968 - in the midst of the Garrison assassination probe. Before he could testify, the steering post came loose on his auto and it crashed into a culvert. Cooper's back was broken in three places. His daughter had a ruptured spleen. His wife suffered a serious head injury.

"I could never prove the steering had been tampered with, but I never believed it was an accident," Cooper told TATTLEER.

He told TATTLEER he felt his life was in danger as a result of his sleuthing.

"BUT I HAVE GOTTEN to the point that I don't care anymore," he said. "Somebody needs to get to the bottom of this."

Tips provided by Cooper led a TATTLEER reporter to two men - one in Baton Rouge and one near Slaughter, La. Both disclosed they had been offered \$25,000 to fly two mysterious passengers from Dallas to Latin America on the day Kennedy was murdered.

Both men, who insisted they turned down the offer, told TATTLEER they are convinced the proposed flight would have been for the escape of Kennedy's assassins.

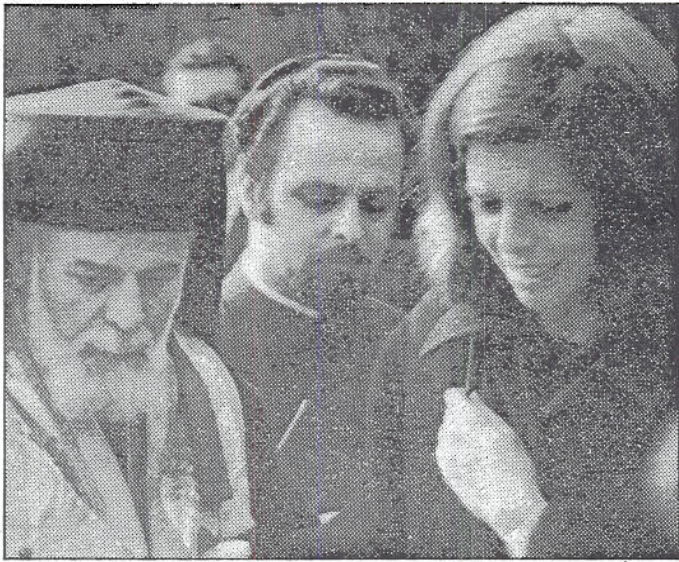
Both men said the flight proposal was made to them by a Garland, Tex., man while all three were employed at Ling-Temco-Vought, the sprawling Dallas defense plant.

One of the men interviewed by TATTLEER was Billy Kemp, 51, a World War II fighter pilot and decorated hero.

Kemp was married at the time to Maxine Kemp, who in 1963 was an employee of the Louisiana State Mental Hospital at Jackson, where she still works. Mrs. Kemp, a witness in Garrison's assassination probe, said that Lee Harvey Oswald came to the hospital and filled out a job application.

The other pilot who received the offer agreed to talk only on the condition that he would not be identified in the story.

He said he feared for his life.



TINA'S DAUGHTER CHRISTINA ONASSIS WEEPS AT HER GRAVESIDE.

Stricken

Niarchos Family

Mourns Tina As

Suspicious Of

Suicide Mount

Suspicion is mounting that tragedy-plagued Tina Niarchos, who was married to Aristotle Onassis before he wed the former Jacqueline Kennedy, took her own life.

Many who knew Mrs. Niarchos are known to believe that an autopsy will reveal she took a drug overdose, just as her sister did a few years ago.

Even the French police doctor who examined Mrs. Niarchos' body and said she died of a heart attack told reporters that the seizure could have been induced by a combination of barbiturates and alcohol.

But if the autopsy proves this to be the case, it may never be determined whether the overdose was an accident or suicide.

"France Dimanche," a Paris journal, said bluntly that Mrs. Niarchos killed herself in a fresh paroxysm of grief over the death of her son in a plane crash.

ALEXANDER ONASSIS, the only male heir to the Onassis business empire, was killed in the crash of a light plane near Athens almost two years ago.

It was Christina Onassis, the 24-year-old daughter of Mrs. Niarchos and Aristotle Onassis, who requested an autopsy to determine cause of death.

While reports of Mrs. Niarchos' dependency on drugs circulated in Paris, it was well known that her life had been filled with tragedy.

Only three months before a maid found Mrs. Niarchos dead in the bedroom of her Paris home, the 45-year-old woman had rushed to London

when her daughter almost died from a drug overdose.

IT WAS A SPOKESMAN for Greek shipping millionaire Stavros Niarchos who revealed that Miss Onassis had attempted suicide. The announcement was made from Paris after reports were given out that it was Mrs. Niarchos who had previously attempted to take her own life.

The announcement by the Niarchos spokesman did not state a reason for Miss Onassis' suicide attempt.

But it has been established that the entire Onassis family suffered deep emotional trauma when Alexander died at the age of 24.

IT IS IRONIC that a drug overdose should be suspected in Mrs. Niarchos' death.

Her sister, Eugenie Niarchos, died of an overdose of barbiturates on May 2, 1970. And she, too, was married to the wealthy Stavros Niarchos at the time.

Tina Livanos Niarchos was buried beside her sister, Eugenie, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The strain of tragedy was etched in the tear-stained faces of the husband and daughter as they said farewell.

Aristotle Onassis was not present for the funeral.

Christina Onassis, who wept as her mother was lowered into the grave, had sent a wreath which bore a simple message: "To my beloved Mamy Your daughter Christina."

As the body of Tina Niarchos, former wife of Aristotle Onassis, is lowered into the earth in Lausanne, Switzerland, her husband, Stavros, left, grieves. With him are his son, Phillippe, and Tina's mother, Arietta Livanos. Man at right is unidentified.





THE KENNEDY FILE

Since TATTLER devoted an entire issue to the continuing doubts about the Presidential assassination, 10 years ago, our readers and Americans everywhere have been flooding us with tips and theories of conspiracy, mystery and cover-up. This is another story keeping you posted on the biggest event of this generation.

Assassination Death Toll Now Stands at 24

William H. (Joe) Cooper is the 24th assassination figure to die since John Kennedy was murdered in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

And the incredible circumstances surrounding many of those deaths has kept alive the possibility that a conspiracy was responsible for the death of John Kennedy and the succession of mysterious murders that have followed.

Among those key assassination figures who have died under mysterious circumstances are the following:

- Newspaper reporters Bill Hunter and Jim Koethe were the only journalists to get inside the apartment of Jack Ruby, the man who gunned down Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's accused assassin.

Shortly after Ruby shot Oswald, they were allowed inside the apartment by George Senator, Ruby's roommate. The reporters spent several hours going through Ruby's personal effects. Within 10 months, both were killed.

Hunter, of the Long Beach Press Telegram, was seated in a chair at the Long Beach police station when he was shot. An officer explained that his pistol accidentally discharged.

Koethe was killed by a karate chop to the throat just six months later. His murderer was never found.

- Little Lynn (real name Karen Bennett Carlin) was the star stripper at Ruby's Carousel Club. She was found shot to death in a Houston hotel.

- Marilyn Moon (Marilyn Magyar), another Ruby stripper, was found

dead in her Omaha, Neb. home two years after the assassination. She had been shot seven times.

- Rose Cherami, another Ruby stripper, was struck and killed by a hit-and-run car in Big Sandy, Tex.

- Two other Ruby women – Nancy Rich and Betty McDonald – died violent and mysterious deaths.

- William Wahley, the taxi driver who picked up Oswald and took him to his apartment minutes after Kennedy was shot, became the first cab driver in almost 40 years to die in a Dallas auto accident.

- Earlene Roberts, Oswald's landlady, testified that shortly after the assassination, a police car pulled up in front of her rooming house. The driver honked twice, waited a few minutes, then drove away. Oswald remained hidden in his room until the car left. She also knew Ruby before the assassination. Mrs. Roberts' death was attributed to natural causes.

- Thomas (Hank) Killam's wife worked for Ruby and his best friend lived in the same four-unit rooming house with Oswald. Killam was found dead on a Pensacola, Fla. sidewalk in the early morning hours of March 17, 1964. Police concluded that he "accidentally" fell through a plate glass window and slit his own throat.

- Harold Russell, who witnessed the shooting of Patrolman J.D. Tippit when the officer attempted to arrest Oswald, was beaten to death by a policeman wielding a revolver on July 23, 1965 in Sulphur, Okla.