

Witness in JFK slaying

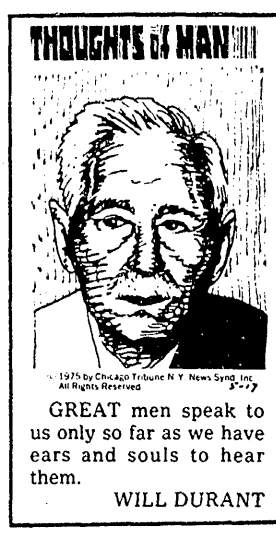
Ex-deputy's troubled life ends at 39

By LEONARD SANDERS
The death Thursday of former Dallas County Deputy Sheriff Roger Dean Craig, reportedly by self-inflicted gunshot, ended a troubled life that up until the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 seemed happy and successful. In the dark days after the assassination, I visited Craig in his Dallas apartment, in company with Penn Jones Jr., author of "Forgive My Grief," of Midlothian. Craig, who was named Man of the Year by the sheriff's office in 1960, had just fallen from grace.

he feared for his life, and for that of his family, and moved to Midlothian, where he worked at a refinery. He became star witness for New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in the attorney's 1966 investigation of the Kennedy assassination. Craig said in a sworn statement that he met a man he later identified as Edgar Eugene Bradley of North Hollywood, Calif., at the site of the assassination, and that this man identified himself as a Secret Service agent. The Secret Service said

they had no men in the Book Depository Building immediately after the assassination. Garrison termed Craig "the most important live witness" in his investigation. IN 1968, CRAIG again was in the news after his son, Roger Craig Jr., 14, disappeared. The son later was found safe. Two years ago, Craig was injured in a car wreck. His father reportedly told officers in Dallas Thursday that Craig was taking pain-killing medication for those injuries.

Six months ago, Craig was shot in Waxahachie. Officers reported that Craig said a stranger appeared at the door of a house at which he was waiting for a woman friend, and shot him with a shotgun when he answered a knock at the door. Thursday, Craig's body was found in a back bedroom in his father's home at 10524 Luna Road in Dallas. Police said he left a note saying he was sorry for what he had to do, but that he could not stand the pain. He was 39 years old.



Mrs. Maddox, 73, will be buried in rites today
Funeral for Mrs. Mary Maddox, 73, of 3215 McLean, a former Stripling's Department Store employee, will be at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Greenwood Chapel with burial in Greenwood.
Mrs. Maddox, a Fort Worth resident 60 years, died Thursday in a Fort Worth hospital. She had been employed by Stripling's about 30 years before retiring from the store's candy department five years ago. Survivors include three brothers, Carl L. Turner and Eric G. Turner of Fort Worth and H. L. Turner of Dallas.

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HIS TESTIMONY that he saw Lee Harvey Oswald running west down Elm Street from the Texas School Book Depository 15 minutes after the assassination, and that he later identified Oswald in Sheriff Bill Decker's office, conflicted with the account offered by Decker. His service with the sheriff's office had just been terminated. He said testimony he gave to Warren Commission investigators had been altered. He also said that at least one attempt had been made to kill him. All that saved him, he told me, was that he stepped off a curb just before a bullet passed by his right ear. He had, and named, witnesses to the incident. Police were called, he said, and the shooting was dismissed as a "stray bullet" from an unknown source. On arrival at Craig's apartment, I noticed a car that seemed to pause in passing mine as I parked. As we waited for Craig to answer the bell, it passed again. From his second-floor window, I watched the car pass again.

I MENTIONED the car to Craig. He laughed. "I can describe it to you," he said, and did. He also provided a license number and said "the car" had been watching his movements about a month. "It's registered to a company that doesn't exist," he said. "It's a bad (erroneous) address." Craig was open, direct, straight-forward, an impressive and likable person. In an interview that lasted more than an hour, he made some startling allegations against the sheriff's department. Unsupported, these allegations could not be published. Later, news stories centered on the Dallas sheriff's office tended to support Craig's contentions. CRAIG MADE other allegations against deputies then in the sheriff's office that remain unsupported. Craig said DEVOUT DOVE The Arabs believe that if one listens carefully to the coo of a dove you can hear "Uzkuru Rabbakum" which in Arabic means, "Remember Your God."

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