

vengeance. But there she is on Jones' list, with the familiar note "no autopsy was performed." Actually an autopsy was performed, at Parkland. It determined that she died of an acute myocardial infarction—a heart attack.

Hank Killam makes Jones' list because his wife, Wanda, once sold cigarettes at the Carousel. Killam, a housepainter, left town after the assassination—a portentous occurrence to Jones—moved to Pensacola, Fla., and planned to send for his wife. Before he did he was killed in a street incident, in which a plate glass window was shattered and his throat was cut. Since his wallet and diamond ring were missing, police decided he had been robbed. But Jones figured the long arm of the conspiracy had reached out to Florida.

William Whaley, 51, the cab driver who picked up Oswald near the School Book Depository and later identified him in a police line-up, died in December, 1965. To make this one mysterious was a little difficult, since Whaley was killed in a head-on collision with an 83-year-old driver who was driving northbound in a southbound lane. The 83-year-old, an unlikely conspirator, was also killed. But Jones managed to come up with something: Whaley had a 30-year perfect driving record and was the first Dallas cabbie to be killed in line of duty since 1937.

Then there was the "strange" death of Edward Benavides, 29-year-old brother of Domingo Benavides, who stopped his pick-up truck just a few feet from where Oswald shot Tippit. Eddy was shot to death in a Dallas tavern in February, 1965. *Ramparts* magazine, reviewing Jones' list, reported that Eddy was shot with a pistol, and that his brother Domingo was probably "the intended victim," implying the case was unsolved. Actually Eddy was blasted with a shotgun and a 41-year-old drinking companion who confessed the crime served 20 months for manslaughter.

Another victim of the conspiracy was Lee Bowers, the railroad towerman who observed "something out of the ordinary" at the top of the grassy knoll. Bowers was killed in August, 1966, when his car veered from the highway and hit a bridge abutment, two miles from Midlothian, Jones' home town. Jones' suspicions were aroused this time because (a) there was no autopsy and (b) Bowers was cremated "soon afterward."

The *pièce de résistance* of Jones' potpourri of coincidental natural and violent deaths, however, is his listing of Dorothy

Kilgallen, the Hearst columnist who died of "acute barbiturate and alcohol intoxication" in her New York home in November, 1965. What's the connection? Miss Kilgallen, Jones remembered, was once allowed an interview with Jack Ruby in his jail cell! This one was a little far-fetched even for *Ramparts*, which admitted it knew of "no serious person who really believes that the death of Dorothy Kilgallen, the gossip columnist, was related to the Kennedy assassination." But then *Ramparts* couldn't resist speculating a little anyway: "Was it suicide? Accident? Murder? Dr. (James) Luke (a New York City medical examiner) said there was no way of determining that."

Actually, if Jones has kept an accurate count of what he calls "Kennedy-related" deaths—counting newsmen, husbands, wives, brothers, and friends of witnesses as "related"—what he has proved is that the Kennedy case has given added longevity to many who were touched by it. If by Jones' reckoning 1,000 adult persons were "related" to the Kennedy case (the Commission heard 552 witnesses) and only 18 have died since, then many others are defying the actuarial tables and cheating death. According to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which keeps track of such things, in a group of 1,000 persons 20 years of age and older in the U.S. population at large a total of 43—more than twice Jones' figure—should have died in the three-year period following Kennedy's death.

Neither Jones, nor Lane, nor *Ramparts* has explained why the conspirators have picked away at fringe witnesses, killing them off with such weapons as cancer, hearts attacks, alcohol, and barbiturates while sparing key witnesses, such as Howard Brennan, who saw Oswald shoot Kennedy; William Scoggins and Helen Markham, who saw him shoot Tippit; or surviving members of the Oswald, Ruby, and Tippit families.

To remedy this deficiency Lane has a theory that some key witnesses—or relatives of key witnesses, anyway—have been harrassed by the police. As an example, in succinct *Dragnet* fashion he recounts a case involving his old adversary, Helen Markham:

On June 27, 1964, Helen Markham was visited by independent interviewers. She declined to talk to them, but her son, William Markham, consented to an interview. He later told the FBI that he had informed these interviewers that