

Oswald's Widow Tells Shaw

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Trial of Life With JFK's Assassin

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The widow of Lee Harvey Oswald came back to this city today and recalled once again the troubled married life she shared here with the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Marina Oswald Porter, Russian-born 27-year-old mother of Oswald's two children, was the lead-off defense witness in the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw.

Speaking almost inaudibly in a thick accent, the frail, pretty witness related many details about Oswald which, if believed by the jury, would clear Shaw of ever conspiring with him.

But by dramatizing once again, as she had in her Warren Commission testimony, how little she really knew her discontented, brooding husband, Marina fell far short of accounting for all of Oswald's time in New Orleans in 1963.

during the summer preceding the murder.

Accompanied here by her second husband, Dallas bartender Kenneth Jess Porter, Marina was called to the witness stand after Judge Edward A. Haggerty denied a defense motion to acquit Shaw at the close of the State's case.

Shaw, 55, is accused by District Attorney Jim Garrison of plotting with Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie to murder the President. There were these other trial developments:

- Shaw's former employer and personal secretary at the International Trade Mart, where the defendant was managing director for 19 years, explained the business reasons for a trip from New Orleans to the West Coast that Garrison contends was taken to conceal Shaw's role in the assassination in Dallas.

- FBI ballistics expert Robert A. Frazier, who had been subpoenaed and dropped as a prosecution witness, began explaining the investigative work he did to help the Warren Commission find that Oswald alone perpetrated the crime with rifle fire from above and behind the Dallas motorcade on Nov. 22, 1963.

Much of Marina Porter's testimony ran sharply counter to that of Garrison's chief witness, book salesman Perry

R. Russo, and other prosecution evidence.

She said her husband was away from home only one night between May and late September, 1963, when they lived together in New Orleans, and on that night he was in jail. This would have given Oswald no time to have been the roommate of Ferrie, a former airline pilot, or to have conspired with Shaw and Ferrie at Ferrie's apartment in mid-September.

She said her husband never used the name "Leon," never went unshaven for very long and never looked like a beatnik. Russo said Ferrie's roommate, "Leon Oswald," was be-whiskered, dirty and shabbily dressed.

Denies Going to Clinton

She said that neither she nor her husband had a car or could drive. She denied that they ever went to Clinton, La. Prosecution witnesses placed Oswald there in late August and early September, sometimes with his wife and child in an automobile, sometimes with Shaw or Ferrie or both.

She testified that, at the moment of the assassination, a Rambler station wagon belonging to her friend Ruth Paine was parked outside Mrs. Paine's home in a Dallas suburb. A former Dallas deputy

sheriff has sworn that Oswald escaped in such a vehicle and that after his capture he told police, "That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Paine. Don't drag her into this."

Marina's testimony, 45 minutes under questioning by defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond and twice that long by Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock, was delivered with weary tones. Her brief answers seemed repeatedly to recall unhappy memories tracked over many times in FBI interviews and three appearances before the Warren Commission.

She began in a relaxed, almost absent-minded manner, occasionally biting her lip and becoming agitated only when Alcock's cross-examination accused her of suddenly changing her testimony and lying to the FBI and the Commission. "I didn't lie," Marina protested. She admitted failing to tell FBI agents at first about her husband's attempts to reach Cuba by way of Mexico, but she insisted that she told the truth when she testified before the Commission.

Dallas Interrogation

She conceded that she had not liked the FBI men who interrogated her in Dallas but she denied that they had threat-

ened her with deportation if she didn't cooperate.

Mazda admitted changing the date of her departure from New Orleans to Dallas from late August to late September after a consultation with Dymond during a recess, but she said her memory was refreshed by the date of birth of her second daughter. She also has a son by her second marriage.

"Do you consider Lee a Communist?" Alcock demanded. "No sir," Marina replied.

Alcock bore down most heavily on Oswald's failure to tell his wife he was out of work, stressing how little Marina knew about what her husband was doing in the daytime. He suggested that Oswald had lost his job a month before telling her about it, not a few days as she had supposed.

"Not Very Friendly"

The witness said she never had seen Shaw and had never heard of a number of people Oswald would have known if he had met Russo or Ferrie. But she had to admit she simply didn't know anybody else her husband knew either.

"He never had many friends," she said. "He was not very friendly. He liked to be alone." They rarely spoke

about anything and Oswald spent long hours at home reading books.

Also called today as defense witnesses were Lloyd J. Cobb, president of the International Trade Mart where Shaw was manager from 1946 until his retirement in 1965, and Goldie Naomi Moore, Shaw's personal secretary during those years.

Both said Shaw's long working hours were consumed by a crash program during the late summer and early fall of 1963 to arrange financing for the new Trade Mart. Their testimony brought out that Shaw's trip to Portland, Ore., for a speech on Nov. 22 was to keep a trade promotion commitment arranged in early September.

(In Washington, General Sessions Court Judge Charles W. Halleck said that a court order directing the National Archivist to appear as a prosecution witness—with pictures and X-rays of the Kennedy autopsy—no longer stands because the prosecution has finished its case.

(Thus, the autopsy materials and other assassination artifacts will remain in the archives.)

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____



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Marina Oswald Porter arriving at New Orleans courthouse with her husband, Kenneth.

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