

Marina wondered if he was unbalanced

OSWALD
Continued

returned home, he told her that he had fired a rifle shot at former Major General Edwin A. Walker, a leader of ultraconservative groups. The bullet, fired through a window, barely missed Walker as he sat in his dining room.

Marina asked Lee why he had done it. He said that Walker was an extremist who deserved to die. She secreted the note in a cook book and warned him that she would show it to the police if he ever did anything similar. She was beginning to wonder if her husband was unbalanced.

In mid-April, according to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, an organization sympathetic to Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, Oswald wrote a letter to the organization's headquarters in New York. It read, in part: "Since I am unemployed I stood yesterday for the first time in my life, with a placard [sic] around my neck, passing out Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets, etc. I only had 25 or so. In 40 minutes they were all gone. I was cursed so well as profaned by some. My mama-mama placard said, 'Hands off Cuba, Viva Fidel.' I now ask for 25 or 30 more of the fine basic pamphlets."

Vincent Theodore Lee, national director of the committee, said that someone in the office apparently sent Oswald 50 or more placards of Marlene, because there was a notation on the letter which said, "sent 4/19 63."

About April 24 Mrs. Paine visited the Oswalds. "I discovered that

Lee's bags were packed. Marina, who is nothing more than a simple family girl who believes in family ties, suggested that Lee go to his birthplace, New Orleans, to look for work. Lee had agreed, but he was insisting that Marina go back to Russia.

"I felt sorry for her. She was pregnant. She had no other economic alternative. So I offered to let her stay with me for a few weeks until Lee found work in New Orleans. They agreed on this. As far as I know the idea of returning to Russia never came up between them again."

In New Orleans, Lee was hired as a \$1.50-an-hour machinery officer at William B. Riley & Co., a coffee processing company. He took a \$65-a-month apartment. His landlady, Mrs. J. J. Garner, recalled that Oswald was unpleasant as well as unusual, with a penchant for putting his trash in his neighbors' garbage cans.

She said that twice Oswald put "Leave Cuba Alone" signs on the porch screen in front of the house, and both times she asked him to take them down. The second time she sent her husband, taxi driver Jesse James Garner, to talk to him. "I went over and told him to take the sign down," Garner said, "and Oswald said, 'Who objects to it? I said, 'I object to it,' so he took it down.'"

Mr. Garner regarded Oswald as quiet and intelligent. He also noticed that "he had a military manner about him, walked very erect, looked straight ahead, never paid any attention to anyone."

Oswald obtained a library card

at the Napoleon Branch of the city library. The first book he checked out was *Portrait of a Revolutionary: Mao Tse-tung*. Then *The Berlin Wall, The Huey Long Murder Case*, a biography of President Kennedy entitled *Portrait of a President*. This book was later found to have "Fair Play for Cuba Committee, New Orleans, La." stamped on its flyleaf. The Long book dealt with the assassination of the Louisiana senator.

He also took out *What We Must Know about Communism, Russia under Khrushchev, Brave New World and Ape and Essence* by Aldous Huxley, Ian Fleming's *Goldfinger, Moonraker, Thunderball and From Russia, with Love*.

Lee lost his job at the coffee company on July 19. For the second time in three months, he was fired. One of his superiors explained, "He simply wasn't doing the job."

Oswald had begun collecting \$33 a week in unemployment compensation when he was fired from his Dallas job in April. The checks stopped when he went to work in New Orleans. After he lost his job he reinstated his claim to compensation in Texas, even though he was not living in the state. The payments started again.

On May 26, two weeks and two days after he went to work as a machinery officer, Oswald wrote his second letter to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New York. He was anxious to become more active, and requested "formal membership in your organization."

He decided to stir things up by approaching an anti-Castro Cuban exile leader in New Orleans and offering to help. Carlos Bringuier, New Orleans delegate of the Miami-based Cuban Student Directorate, encountered Oswald about Aug. 5. Bringuier, a lawyer who fled from Cuba in 1961, said Oswald came into the store he manages, introduced himself as an ex-Marine, and said he felt he had the training to fight Castro. He asked for information about the Directorate, and gave Bringuier his *Guide Book for Marines*, which includes instructions in guerrilla tactics.

Bringuier rejected his offer of aid, but kept the guidebook, which had the name "Pat Lee H. Oswald" inside the cover. "I was suspicious of him from the start," he said. "But frankly I thought he might be an agent from the FBI or

CIA trying to find out what we were up to."

On Aug. 9, four days later, Bringuier said he was told by another Cuban that a man was on Canal Street distributing Communist propaganda, which said "Viva Fidel" and "Hands Off Cuba."

"I went down there and found out it was the same guy who had come to see me. He tried to shake hands with me, but I refused and called him a traitor. We started arguing. A crowd gathered to watch us. I told them, 'You see, this fellow is a Communist. He wants to do to your country what he has done to us in Cuba.' The Americans started shouting at him. I grabbed his propaganda and threw it on the sidewalk. I was so angry I wanted to hit him. At first he had his hands up, then he dropped them and said, 'Okay, Carlos, go ahead and hit me.' I knew that he wanted me to attack him so he would be a martyr, so I didn't strike him."

Oswald was arrested on grounds of disturbing the peace and he was eventually fined \$10.

In late September, Oswald left New Orleans for the last time and made a seven-day trip to Mexico City. He applied at the Cuban consulate there for a transit visa to the Soviet Union which would permit him to travel to Cuba en route to Russia. His request was for himself only. When the consulate said it could not grant the visa, Oswald went to the Soviet embassy, which told him his request would have to be submitted to Russia and that a reply might take up to three months. Oswald stayed a few more days, then, on Thursday Oct. 3, returned to Dallas.

"Lee called his wife at my home on Friday," said Mrs. Paine. "We were a little put out with him because Marina hadn't heard from him in two weeks. He said he had left his home in New Orleans, dropped by Houston looking for a job, then returned to Dallas. He said he had been in Dallas a few days before calling." He didn't mention his trip to Mexico.

Lee hitchhiked to Irving, the Dallas suburb where Marina was now staying with Mrs. Paine, and spent the weekend with his family. Before he returned to the city on Monday, Mrs. Paine gave him a map of Dallas. "You need one when you're looking for a job," she said.

On Monday, Oct. 14, he presented himself to Mrs. A.C. Johnson, who ran a rooming house at 3225 N. Beckley Avenue, in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas. She told him she had a room, and the rent was \$8 a week, payable in advance. Mrs. Johnson asked for the name of a relative in case of emergency. The young man told



HUSBAND AT EL. Lee Oswald and his Russian bride Marina pose in front of a house soon after their marriage there. He was working in a Soviet factory and had met her at a dance. He brought her home to Texas the following year.

Continued