

## LONG PLANNING?

# Oswald Rented Room Under Alias

By HUGH AYNESWORTH

Lee H. Oswald might have been planning the assassination of President Kennedy for more than a month.

The suspected killer had moved into a rooming house at 1026 N. Beckley on Oct. 14 in the middle of the night. He gave an alias, O. H. Lee.

He seldom spoke to anyone. Never did he take part in the joking among the 16 other roomers. He was termed polite, but never had anything to say.

His landlords, Mr. and Mrs.

A. C. Johnson, who live in the huge old house, said he paid \$8 a week for a plain 5-by-12 foot room.

"He was always polite and a gentleman," Mrs. Johnson said, "but he didn't seem to have any friends, any words for anyone or any interests."

The housekeeper, 58-year-old Mrs. Earlene Roberts, said the thin suspect ran in the front door while she was listening to a television report of the shooting of President Kennedy. The Oak Cliff rooming house is about two miles from the scene of the assassination.

"He came in running like the dickens," she recalled, "and said to him 'You sure are in a hurry' but he didn't say anything. . . . just ran in his room, got a short tan coat and ran back out."

Mrs. Roberts, who cleaned up all the rooms daily, said Oswald was neat and clean, ate a lot of fruit, made coffee and sandwiches in his tiny room and kept no late hours.

"He was always in bed by 8:30 or 10 p.m.," she said. Mr. Johnson said he noted Oswald would retire early and listen to his small radio.

He had no pictures in the room, only a lamp on a small stand, an ancient vanity dresser and a small clothesholder.

Johnson said Oswald "always talked in that foreign language when he talked on the phone." Mrs. Roberts said "He dialed that BL number (Irving) a lot."

Both agreed that Oswald never spent a weekend there. He left after work Friday night and didn't return until Monday night.

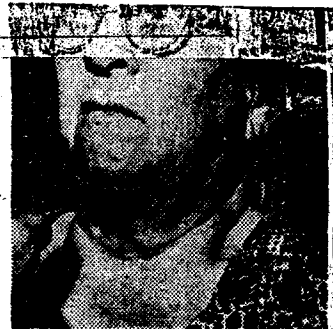
"I didn't know him by name," said another roomer. "I just took it for granted he didn't like people. Everybody left him alone."

Oswald apparently didn't have any clothes in his small room. "Just a few pieces," said the housekeeper, "but he had a big zipper bag he stuffed things into." She said he liked to read West

erns, but she had never noted any mail, pictures, addresses and such when she cleaned up.

FBI and Secret Service men grabbed up his few belongings before the press arrived, but Mrs. Roberts said one thing she noticed was a map of Dallas.

A police officer who helped search the man's apartment said he found "Communist literature, a picture of Red Square and a book believed to contain Russian ration stamps."



—Dallas News Staff Photo

Mrs. Earlene Roberts said she saw him run home to change his coat.