

Withdrawn and Showy

By KENT BIFFLE

He was a moody American at times withdrawn, at times a showoff.

She was a honey-haired Russian druggist who just missed being beautiful.

They met in Moscow at one of those recreation centers designed by the state to help young people meet.

That was April 30, 1961.

He was Lee Harvey Oswald. And he would be in the U.S. on a blood-spattered Friday when a President and a police officer would die.

She was Marina Nicholayevna Prosoakova. She was destined to share a storm of strip-

THE COUPLE dated for six weeks and then, in a state ceremony, they were wed.

The following year, Oswald brought his prize blonde bride with him when he returned to the U.S. after his three years in Russia.

Oswald occupied himself with leftist political activities. His wife spent her time keeping house and caring for their young daughter.

Saturday the 1-year-old Minsk-born wife lived her 24-year-old husband through bullet-proof glass of a visiting room at the city jail in Dallas, where Oswald was held.

She speaks little English. But she muttered, "Go away," as 10 reporters and cameramen converged on her.

The Oswald romance was detailed for The Dallas News by Mrs. Ruth Paine of Irving.

THE RUSSIAN woman had been living with the Ohio-reared Irving woman since Sept. 24. Mrs. Paine, 31, is a former Russian teacher who now devotes her time to rearing two children.

Mrs. Paine studied Russian roughly three years at the University of Pennsylvania and Middlebury College in Vermont.

"I felt I was fortunate to have the opportunity to converse with a native Russian," said Mrs. Paine. The Irving woman said she has been separated from her husband, Michael, a research engineer at Bell Helicopter Co., for a year.

She did not meet the Oswald couple at a party in Dallas last February, Mrs. Paine said she didn't want to mention names because the best might not desire publicity.

"But she's gathering 'round' 'six or seven' people. What kind of people? 'I suppose 'intellectual' is a dirty word, but you might say they were intellectuals."

WAS POLITICS discussed? "Yes, but there was no debate or anything like that. Lee told about his trip to Russia," said Mrs. Paine.

Did he praise the Soviet Union? "Actually, as I recall, he was critical of the Soviet Union in at least one regard. He said that mail he received from his brother had been censored. Some of it, he learned later, he didn't receive at all."

She said, "I knew he had Marxist views. But I couldn't understand his logic. I disagreed with his views, but I felt he had a right to have them."

Mrs. Paine said she had the Oswalds over for dinner in April and later she and the wife visited a couple of times.

The Russian woman was expecting a baby, Mrs. Paine said. "I was sympathetic. There was nobody to help her, and I felt she shouldn't be alone. So I invited her, one woman to another, to stay with me. I felt she could help me as a teacher."

MRS. PAINE said she taught Russian at St. Mark's School of Texas this summer. She had one student, a boy astronomer interested in learning the language in order to study Russian scientific papers. Mrs. Paine no longer teaches at the school but tutors the boy privately.

The Irving woman said Oswald would come to visit his wife and child almost every weekend. He was trying to find work. He got a job with Texas State School Book Depository as a stock clerk on Oct. 15. Mrs. Paine recalled.

She said Oswald was paid about \$1.25 an hour for working in the building from which President Kennedy and Gov.

John Connally were shot.

The Oswald baby was born Oct. 20. She was named Raissa. They have another child, 22 months old.

Mrs. Paine said she and Mrs. Oswald spent most of their time "folding diapers." Mrs. Oswald diapered the baby several times at the police station Saturday.

MRS. PAINE said the Russian woman struck her as a "body sort," mostly interested in the house and the children. She regarded Oswald as a man who wanted to provide for his family but had a hard time doing it.

Mrs. Paine's husband, Michael, 35, said he believes Oswald is "somewhat paranoid." Mrs. Paine said Oswald spent Thursday night at her home with his wife. She said he played with the kids and acted normal.

She said he got up early and caught a ride to Dallas with a neighbor, Wesley B. Francis. Mrs. Paine said that, when police came, they asked about a heavy cotton blanket found on a floor in the house.

"Marina told me she had seen a rifle wrapped in the blanket, which she knew Lee had for hunting. There was no rifle in the blanket then, however."

"I never did see it. I am a Quaker and a pacifist and I would not have permitted a rifle in my house if I had known about it," she said. Mr. and Mrs. Paine moved to Irving from Philadelphia about 10 years ago.

MRS. PAINE said she and her husband are both Democrats. "I'm very sorry about the President's death . . . He was the finest President we could possibly have."

Oswald's wife was accompanied to the police station by Oswald's mother. Neither would talk to reporters at the station.

They were whisked away by detectives in an unmarked car after some questioning and a visit with Oswald.

Mrs. Paine said Oswald's wife has said she likes Russia but wants to stay in the U.S. "very much."

The Irving woman said, "She was afraid this difficulty would lead to her expulsion. That would make her very unhappy."