

F.B.I. Studying Oswald's Stay in New Orleans

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NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 28—Federal investigators today carried on their painstaking task of re-creating the mind of Lee H. Oswald.

Many pieces of the puzzle still are missing, for it is easy to arrive at, live in, and depart from this informal city without arousing interest.

Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, lived here for 20 weeks last summer.

What he did during the months preceding the President's assassination last Friday is occupying a team of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents.

One of their biggest breaks came yesterday, when they traced some of the library books the 24-year-old New Orleans native read during the summer.

One was a biography of President Kennedy. Another, which he borrowed from the library on the same day, was a chronicle of the assassination of Senator Huey Long, Louisiana politician and demagogue.

Books on Communism

Oswald also read several books on Communism—none of them favorable to the cause—between late May and late July.

To the people who knew him then, he was an undistinguished, sometimes rude, young man who had little to cause him to be remembered.

He showed his apparent political beliefs here in August, when he identified himself with the cause of Castro's Cuba. He left New Orleans in late September, bound for Mexico.

Still missing from the portrait are details of how he supported himself and his Russian wife during the last months of the summer, along with evidence proving or disproving the theory that he planned the President's death long in advance.

Oswald was accused of killing the President with an Italian rifle as Mr. Kennedy rode through the streets of Dallas.

Last Sunday, 48 hours after the assassination, Oswald himself was slain.

Denied Charges

While in custody, he denied taking any part in the deaths of either the President or of Dallas Patrolman J. D. Tippit, according to the Dallas police.

The F. B. I. worked during the Thanksgiving holiday, trying to reconstruct the details of Oswald's stay in New Orleans. President Johnson asked the agency earlier this week to compile a complete report on all aspects of the assassination as quickly as possible.

This chronology of the 20 weeks in New Orleans has been

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Agents Are Piecing Together

Chronology of 20 Weeks

—Many Details Missing

made public:

Early last May, Oswald came to New Orleans, where he was born. He stayed with a maternal aunt, Mrs. Dutz Murret, for a few days.

"He was visiting here until he found an apartment," Mrs. Murret recalled. He found the apartment, part of a white frame house on Magazine Street on May 9.

Got Warehouse Job

On the next day, he started work at a local coffee warehouse. He was an oiler, a man who performs maintenance on machinery.

Although there were about 100 fellow employes who could have met him, he was so quiet that only four remember him now.

"I don't remember the man at all," said the concern's personnel director, "and I interviewed him for the job."

Between May 21 and May 23, Oswald obtained a library card at the Napoleon Branch of the New Orleans Public Library.

The branch library, a collection of about 7,500 books, was six blocks from Oswald's home.

An assistant librarian remembered that he disliked having to present identification in order to get his card, which was numbered N8640.

On May 23 he borrowed "Portrait of a Revolutionary: Mao Tse-tung," by P. S. R. Payna.

Date Is Corrected

(When the books were examined yesterday, it was first believed that Oswald had checked the book out on June 5. Jerome Cushman, librarian of the New Orleans system, said today that June 5 was the due date.)

On June 2 Oswald again visited the library and went home with three books. One was "The Berlin Wall," by Deane and David Heller.

The two others formed a combination that one observer called, in retrospect, "tragically simple."

They were a biography of President Kennedy, "Portrait of a President," by W. R. Manchester, and "The Huey Long Murder Case," by Hermann B. Deutsch.

When the biography of Mr.

Kennedy was examined this week, its fly leaf bore the rubber stamped slogan "Fair Play for Cuba Committee, New Orleans, La."

If it can be assumed that Oswald stamped the phrase into the book in June, this would be the first indication of his self-professed involvement in the pro-Castro organization.

Gets a Geography

On June 18 he borrowed two other books from the library, a geographical text on Russia and "What We Must Know About Communism," by Harry and Bonaro Overstreet.

On June 24, Oswald applied here for an American passport to visit Europe and the Soviet Union.

His application was referred to Washington by teleprinter, where his name was checked against a list of persons who legally may be denied passports.

The records showed Oswald had a reputation of "fuzzy Marxist" thinking, but there was no legal reason to deprive him of the passport. It was issued to him on the following day.

On July 11, Oswald borrowed another book on communism, "Russia Under Khrushchev," by Alexander Werth. This was the last book of political import that the young man is believed to have borrowed.

At other times during the summer he checked out "Ape and Essence" and "Brave New World," by Aldous Huxley, several historical novels, and four spy mysteries by Ian Fleming, "Goldfinger," "Moonraker," "Thunderball," and "From Russia With Love."

He lost his job at the coffee warehouse on July 19. "He was never there when he looked for him," one of his superiors said.

About Aug. 5, according to a Cuban exile leader, Oswald tried to infiltrate the Cuban Student Directorate here, an anti-Castro organization with headquarters in Miami.

Suspicious Aroused

Carlos Bringuier, the leader of the local organization, said his suspicions had been aroused immediately when Oswald offered his aid.

The young man seemed intent on obtaining information about the group Mr. Bringuier said. He was told little during two 45-minute visits to the exile leader.

Four days later, Mr. Brin-

guier was surprised to see Oswald downtown on Canal Street handing out pro-Castro literature.

Oswald said he was the local organizer of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee, a group whose national leaders have since denied any connection with Oswald.

"I walked up to him," said Mr. Bringuier later, "and when he saw me he was surprised — but just for a second — and then he smiled and tried to shake hands with me."

Mr. Bringuier said he was about to punch Oswald when the young man dropped his arms in a gesture of nonviolence.

The argument reached the attention of the police, however, and Oswald was fined \$10 on Aug. 12 on a charge of disturbing the peace.

A few days after this, Mr. Bringuier sent a Cuban friend to Oswald's house to see what he could learn.

The friend, who led Oswald to believe that he favored the Castro regime, later reported that Oswald had acted as an apologist for the dictator. Oswald was quoted as having said he would defend Castro if the United States attacked Cuba.

Debated on Radio

On Aug. 21 Oswald participated in a radio debate. He said he was Marxist. Mr. Bringuier said Oswald had fared so badly in the debate that it became obvious he was not much of a threat to the exile group.

On Sept. 17 Oswald applied at the Mexican consulate here for a 15-day tourist card. He represented himself as a photographer who wanted to visit Mexico by bus. The card was granted.

The consular clerk who issued it handled the documents of at least 18 other people that day, and she did not remember Oswald when questioned about him this week.

At about this time, Oswald described his "business address" as 640 Rampart Street. A check of the buildings at both 640 South Rampart and 640 North Rampart strongly indicates that either Oswald had fabricated the address or that persons at the address, like so many others who had met him in the past, had failed to remember him.

The Louisiana Weekly, a newspaper of the Negro community, is published at 640 South Rampart Street.

C. C. Dejoie Jr., its editor, said that he had no record of Oswald's employment at the building. Mr. Dejoie said he sometimes purchased photographs from white persons, but that they had to be accom-

panied by an invoice. The newspaper has no such invoice from a Lee Oswald, he said.

Rooming House Address

The building at 640 North Rampart Street is a rooming house. None of the residents recalled seeing Oswald there. The rooms contained little more than naked light bulbs and sagging iron beds.

On Sept. 23, Oswald's wife left New Orleans for Texas. She was in the last stages of pregnancy with their second child, and Oswald explained to neighbors that she was going to Dallas and nearby Irving for the birth.

Mrs. Jesse Garner, who lived next door and acted as an agent for the landlord, said that Oswald gave no indication that he was leaving, too.

But he departed in the middle of the same night, she said, owing half a month's rent.

Oswald was next seen crossing the Mexican border at Laredo, Texas, on Sept. 26. Later he went to Dallas, where those persons who knew him were to recall, just as those in New Orleans did, that he was a quiet, withdrawn young man.