

## Queries Son's Surveillance

—Says Before His Death

### She Saw Ruby's Photo

By JACK LANGGUTH

Special to The New York Times

FORT WORTH, Dec. 1—The mother of Lee H. Oswald holds Federal and local security officers responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy and for the killing of her son two days later.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, whose son was accused of shooting the President Nov. 22, has returned to her small house in Fort Worth after being kept in seclusion last week by the Secret Service.

In an interview today, she raised a number of questions about police procedures and suggested that her son be tried posthumously for the assassination as a way of making known all the facts about the two slayings.

"Any guilt I will accept, but I am an American citizen and so was Lee Harvey Oswald," she said.

"These answers I insist upon: Since such precautions were taken before the President's visit to Dallas, why was not this man—a defector—under complete surveillance? I want an answer to that."

Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, at the age of 20, and stayed for two and a half years before returning to the United States in June, 1962. He was shot in the Dallas city jail two days after the President's death by a night club owner, Jack Ruby.

### Queries Ruby's Presence

"I want another question answered," Mrs. Oswald, a 56-year-old practical nurse, continued. "Why would a known underworld character be allowed within a few feet of a prisoner—of any prisoner?"

Ruby had a police record of petty charges, including possession of a concealed weapon, dating to 1949 in Dallas. He was mingling with reporters and policemen when he shot Oswald, who was being transferred to the county jail.

Mrs. Oswald was excited and indignant as she spoke. When she mentioned her son's defection and later death, her eyes filled briefly with tears.

She insisted that on the night of Nov. 23, about 17 hours before Ruby shot her son, an agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigations showed her Ruby's photograph.

Mrs. Oswald contended that the episode, as she described it, indicated that the authorities had advance knowledge that Ruby might attempt to kill Oswald.



Associated Press  
Mrs. Marguerite Oswald

### F.B.I. Silent on Charge

The F. B. I. would officially make no comment on Mrs. Oswald's charge. It was understood, however, that Federal agencies had acknowledged that she had been shown a photograph that night for identification, but spokesmen would not disclose whether it was that of Ruby.

Mrs. Oswald, her son's Russian wife, Marina, and Oswald's two small children, had arrived at a motel in Dallas earlier in the day. She said they were taken by representatives of Life magazine who told her they wanted to keep the family away from other reporters.

This is Mrs. Oswald's account of the incident:

"About 6:30 P.M., Saturday night, an F.B.I. agent, with another man, presumably another agent, came to our door at the Executive Inn in Dallas.

"The agent said, 'May I talk to your daughter-in-law?' I said, 'Not until we have seen a lawyer.'

"Then he took out a photograph and held it in his cupped hand. 'Tell me one thing,' he asked me. 'Have you ever seen this man before?'

"Believe me,' I told him, 'I never have.' It was a big picture, with the corners trimmed off—a man's head and shoulders."

After the shooting, she said, she was taken to another location by the Secret Service. She declined to say where.

### Sees Photograph Again

"I walked into the living room at that location—all the agents were there and my son, Robert—and I picked up a newspaper. There at the bottom was the same picture.

"I said, 'This is the man the agent showed me a picture of.' Then I was told that that was the man who shot my son."

Informed that the F.B.I. would not confirm her account, Mrs. Oswald declared:

"I cannot be mistaken. I will never forget that photograph. I will never forget that face."

"I think it is more likely that the F.B.I. was investigating and heard rumors that he [Ruby] might shoot my son," she said.

Mrs. Oswald, whose bungalow home is being guarded by Secret Service agents, asserted:

"I will insist on seeing the picture they showed me."

### Saw Son in Jail

Mrs. Oswald saw her son once while he was in the Dallas city jail. She said that their interview, on Nov. 23, was brief. She did not ask him whether or not he had shot the President.

She said her son told her, "Don't worry, Mother. Don't interfere. I can handle this. I know my rights."

She answered deliberately when asked if she was convinced that her son had assassinated the President.

"I have no thought on that," she said. "I do know that my



son told his wife, the first thing to buy shoes for his baby. It seems to me any man who was thinking that much of his family would not jeopardize them by planning something that would send him to the electric chair."

"When the true facts are known, my dead son will not have died in vain," Mrs. Oswald said.

She also said she would continue with plans for a book on her son's life in the Soviet Union. It will include letters he wrote to her, she continued.

"When I tell my story of all this," she said, "it will be shocking to people and to our American way of life."

Mrs. Oswald recalled that in the autumn of 1959 her son was discharged from the Marine Corps because of her illness and financial plight. She had been accidentally struck by a box in the retail store in which she was working, and her workman's compensation case had not yet been settled.

"I had sold the furniture and was living on about \$3 a week," she said, "I didn't want to tell Lee and worry him, but finally I wrote.

"I wrote to him in July and he wasn't released until September. Where I was living, they let me have a rollaway bed for him. I had just a room, a small kitchen and a bath.

"Of all my sorrow—even now—I don't think I will ever forget the shame I felt when my boy entered that small place with a sick mother," she said, weeping.

"He came at night," she continued. "In the morning, he said, 'Mother, my mind is made up. I want to get on a ship and travel. I'll see a lot and it's good work.'"

Mrs. Oswald said that two and a half weeks later she got a letter from him postmarked

from New Orleans. He wrote that he had booked passage to Europe. She knew her son had considered being a writer and that he had applied to Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland.

She had moved, in the meantime, to the house of a Fort Worth woman who paid her \$5 a week to cook and take care of her children.

"It was about three weeks after the letter, one Sunday morning, that I read in the paper that a Fort Worth boy had defected to Russia," she said. "I read on in the story, and it was my son—Lee Harvey Oswald."

Shortly afterward, she added, the woman she worked for asked her abruptly to leave and she went to live with Robert.

#### Oswald Applied to Swiss School

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, Dec. 1—Lee H. Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, failed to follow up an application for admission to the Albert Schweitzer College at Churwalden in the Grisons Canton of eastern Switzerland, an official of the college said tonight.

Ernest Cassara, interim director of the school, said that its American admissions committee had accepted the application made by Oswald in 1959.

"He was accepted for the spring term of 1960, but he never showed up," the school official said.

Later, he said, Representative James C. Wright Jr., Democrat of Texas, wrote in an attempt to trace Oswald. The inquiry, he explained, was apparently made at the request of Oswald's mother because she had received no news of her son.

Mr. Cassara said the school had a one-year program for the study of world problems in the light of the writings of Dr. Schweitzer, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The college, founded in 1955, has 28 students and six teachers specializing in philosophy, religion, sociology and languages. American students are granted credits while at the school.