

Oswald's Mother Talks About Money and 'Class'

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By JACK LANGGUTH
Special to The New York Times

FORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 2—

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, by her own account, is a hard-working, patriotic, religious woman whose son inexplicably became an avowed Marxist and an accused assassin.

As she reminisced today about the early years of Lee Harvey Oswald, her conversation turned to money, to questions of class distinctions and to resentment toward authority.

Small and slightly stout, the 56-year-old Mrs. Oswald wore her gray-white hair pulled back into a knot. She paced the small living room of her apartment as she spoke and tried to smile often, even when her eyes filled with tears behind her dark-rimmed bifocals.

On Nov. 22, according to evidence gathered by the Dallas police, her son fatally shot President Kennedy. Two days later, he was shot and killed by a Dallas night-club owner, Jack Ruby.

Was Rushed Into Hiding

The enormity of those 48 hours had begun to reach Mrs. Oswald. She was rushed into hiding by Government security officers Nov. 24 and returned to her apartment late last week.

"I have been told," she said, explaining why she would not answer all questions put to her, "that I'm an important person now. I understand that I will go down in history, too."

"I'm a good woman, a good, honest woman and I have to be careful that I have my facts straight."

She spoke again of the period that her son had spent in jail without the aid of an attorney.

"I believe my son should have had legal counsel from the beginning," she said. I know when Mr. Ruby entered the courthouse he had legal counsel with him.

Then she sighed and said:

"That's the way we've lived, my son and I, for lack of money and prestige. Even at that critical time I feel that he was denied that right for lack of money."

'I Have Principles'

Mrs. Oswald earns \$10 a day as a practical nurse. She finds patients through friends, rather than through a nurses' registry, which requires her to pay 10 per cent of her earnings.

She recalled having quit a job at a nursing home because she said the manager had roughly handled an aged patient.

"I didn't know where my next meal was coming from," she said. "But I have principles. I've learned not to worry,

F.B.I. Denies Showing Mrs. Oswald Ruby Photo

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Dec. 2—A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation denied tonight that Mrs. Marguerite Oswald was shown a picture of Jack Ruby, who shot and killed her son, at any time prior to the shooting.

Mrs. Oswald, in a report in The New York Times this morning, insisted that on the night of Nov. 23, about 17 hours before Ruby shot and killed her son, Lee H. Oswald, an agent from the F.B.I. showed her a photograph of Ruby.

Oswald, who is accused of firing the shots that fatally wounded President Kennedy as Dallas, was killed by Ruby in the Dallas city jail Nov. 24.

MOSCOW, Dec. 2 (AP)—Izvestia suggested today that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was implicated in the shooting of President Kennedy's accused assassin, Lee H. Oswald.

something will turn up."

Two French reporters, who called her after she returned home last weekend, refused when she suggested that she be paid \$500 to \$1,000 to speak with them.

Since then, however, she has spoken readily and at length with reporters. She resists an-

The Government newspaper published a front-page report on Mrs. Oswald's charge yesterday that F.B.I. agents showed her a photograph of her son's swerving questions, preferring to chose an incident and recount it without interruptions.

Mrs. Oswald sought to prove today, for example, that her son had not been an atheist who had refused to allow his children to be baptized.

She said he had agreed to the ceremony for his daughter, June, who was born in Russia during his defection from 1959 to 1962.

"I have the piece of paper on which he wrote out for me his wife's full Russian name, so that I could take it to the minister," she said. I'll get that

paper as proof this really happened.

"I do not want to appear to making up stories that make my son appear what he is not. I am his mother, and I am only human. But I fully realize the importance of what I am saying."

Baptism Called Off

The baptism was called off only when her son learned that a donation to the church was customary, she said.

"He didn't have any money," Mrs. Oswald explained. "That was the only reason. I know my son."

She frequently repeated, "I know my son," although she rarely saw him in the last eight years. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at 17 and was on his way to Russia less than one week after his discharge.

The church selected for the baptism was St. Paul's Lutheran here. Mrs. Oswald explained that she was a Lutheran and because her mother had been German.

killer before the Dallas night club operator shot Oswald.

Is St. Paul's her church?

"I go to any church," she replied "The work I do [nursing] is my church."

Later, she said, Oswald's wife Marina told her that the child was baptized in a subsequent ceremony.

Mrs. Oswald frequently uses such terms as "elite," "upper class" and "nice class of people." She chose a restaurant for Sunday dinner because "a higher class of people go there and they won't give me any trouble if they do recognize me."

The records on her divorce in 1948 suggest that money was a source of contention between her and her third husband, Edwin A. Eckdahl.

They were married in 1945, when Lee, the youngest of her three sons, was 5½. Filing for divorce on March 23, 1948, Mr. Eckdahl was represented by the firm of Wallace & Korth. A partner, Fred Korth, recently resigned under criticism as Navy Secretary.

In his complaint Mr. Eckdahl said his wife had nagged him and argued about money. Although she knew of his severe heart ailment, the complaint said, she fought with him regularly.

According to the records at the Tarrant County Courthouse, Mr. Eckdahl testified that in February, 1947, she threw a bottle at his head; in March she scratched and struck him, and in April she threw a cookie jar at him.

In May, his complaint said, while ducking a glass thrown by her he twisted so violently that his right arm became paralyzed.

On Jan. 10, 1948, the complaint continued, Mrs. Oswald ordered him from the house, keeping his diaries and personal papers.

A jury upheld Mr. Eckdahl and granted a divorce. He paid her \$1,500 as a settlement. Mrs. Oswald then returned to the name of her second husband.

When Mrs. Oswald tells an anecdote it usually includes an example of an injustice or an error she has witnessed. She says she intends to correct the abuse by writing a reprimand or an exposé.

Mrs. Oswald was born in New Orleans July 19, 1907, a child of Mr. and Mrs. John Claverie. Her mother, who died when she was 2½, was the former Dora Stucks.

The details of Mrs. Oswald's early life are sketchy. In 1929 she married a man named Pie, and in January, 1932, had a son, John Edward Pie, now an Air Force sergeant.

In mid-1933, she married Robert Edward Lee Oswald, salesman for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

They had a son, Robert Edward Lee Jr., in April, 1934. A second son, Lee Harvey, was born in New Orleans Oct. 18, 1939. Mr. Oswald died of a heart attack two months before.