

JUDGES ASKED AID FOR OSWALD AT 13

NY-12-3
4 Here Called for Intensive
Psychiatric Treatment

By MARTIN TOLCHIN

Lee H. Oswald's probation officer said yesterday that four judges in Bronx Children's Court had recommended when Oswald was 13 years old that he receive intensive psychiatric treatment.

John Carro, Oswald's probation officer from April, 1953 until January, 1954, said that he had tried to place him in two residential treatment centers for disturbed and Delinquent Boys. The centers were filled, however, and Oswald was denied admission.

The boy's mother became the biggest stumbling block to her son's treatment, Mr. Carro said. Denying that he was anything more than a "truant," she refused to allow welfare agencies to help the boy, the probation officer asserted. She later refused to comply with a court order that the boy be treated by the court's psychiatric clinic.

The boy's father was dead. Mr. Carro recalled six interviews with Oswald, including a two-hour visit to the boy's home, a three-room furnished apartment in the east Bronx.

The boy's persistent truancy had brought him to the attention of the Bronx Children's Court. He was absent from Junior High School 117 for 47 days, between October, 1952, and January, 1953.

Oswald watched television all day long, Mr. Carro found. His mother, who had a job, was out of the house most of the day. The boy had been taunted by schoolmates for having a Southwestern drawn and for wearing blue jeans.

His mother ignored requests to talk to counselors at the Attendance Bureau at the Board of Education, Mr. Carro said. A warrant was issued for her appearance in March, 1953, before Judge Hubert T. Delany of the Bronx Children's Court. She appeared without her son, and a second hearing was ordered for the following month.

Mr. Carro first interviewed Oswald prior to the boy's court appearance. He found the boy withdrawn, friendless and in need of psychiatric treatment.

He did not regard Oswald as an emergency case, however. The boy was not hostile, Mr. Carro recalled. Oswald had no delusions of grandeur. He was interested in football and stamp collecting and liked to mold clay.

Sent to Youth House

When he finally appeared be-

fore Judge Delany, the boy was sent to Youth House for observation and diagnosis.

Dr. Renatus Hartogs, then as now head psychiatrist at the institution, recalled yesterday that he had examined the boy and found him "dangerous" and in need of psychiatric treatment. Oswald's mother could not control the boy, Dr. Hartogs said.

The boy returned from Youth House after three weeks. He enjoyed his stay in the institution, Mr. Carro said, and was reluctant to return home.

Mr. Carro then tried in vain to place the boy in Children's Village and Berkshire Farms, treatment centers for disturbed and neglected children. Neither institution had a vacancy.

Fearful that her son would be taken from her, Oswald's mother made an appointment with a caseworker at the Community Service Society. The appointment was not kept.

Mr. Carro persuaded Big Brothers, a group of men dedicated to helping troubled boys, to accept the case, but the boy's mother told the agency to "please keep out of family affairs."

Oswald made three appearances in Bronx Children's Court before Judges Patrick J. Fogarty, J. Walter McClancy and Dudley F. Sicher, all of whom recommended psychiatric treatment.

In November, 1953, Judge Sicher referred the boy to the court's psychiatric clinic. Mrs. Oswald failed to get in touch with the clinic, Mr. Carro said.

The boy's mother continually minimized his problems, Mr. Carro recalled. He termed her

"self-involved," weighted down by serious emotional problems as well as making a living. She did not want to admit to herself that she was having problems being a mother, Mr. Carro said.

The probation officer recalled that the boy said of his mother: "She's my mother—I guess I love her."

Mr. Carro said:

"There are a lot of children like Lee Oswald in this city, fatherless children who feel unloved and have to act out."

"He had a lot to overcome," Mr. Carro recalled, "but he was not that far gone that he couldn't be helped."

Mr. Carro is a 36-year-old Puerto-Rican born lawyer who was graduated from Fordham University and Brooklyn Law School.

Superintendent of Schools Calvin E. Gross declined yesterday to make public the details of Oswald's school records here. He said:

"Just as a person is entitled to a fair trial he is also entitled to personal privacy."

It was learned, however, that Oswald had an Intelligence Quotient between 95 and 105, the average range. His personality rating showed him to be withdrawn and belligerent.