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Oswald's Mother Remaining Silent

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FORT WORTH, Texas — Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, 56, might be called the "mystery mother" of the year.

The mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, said several days ago that she hoped to "come forward with some startling facts" Monday—one week after her son was buried at Rose Hill Cemetery.

But Monday she announced through Secret Service agents keeping watch over her here that the planned news conference will be delayed.

Perhaps Wednesday or Thursday, it was suggested.

The reason given was that she was "completely exhausted."

It was known that she had a conference with her attorneys. It was also learned that she talked with a book publisher about a story of her son. It could mean much money for her.

Upon some direct questions about some of her son's activity prior to Kennedy's assassination Nov. 22, Mrs. Oswald only smiled and placed her hands to her ears.

"Earplugs," she said.

When Lee Oswald defected to Russia in 1959, Mrs. Oswald played her same, mysterious self.

"I know why he went to Russia, but I can't say just now," she said then.

It wasn't until a few days ago

that she said why: He wanted to become an American contemporary writer and write a book.

The one who may well be best qualified to tell of Lee Harvey Oswald is his mother. Even so, she is silent about her son after he returned from the Soviet Union.

She admits he never wrote nor came to visit her during that past year, but many feel that she kept close contact since he moved back to Dallas last September.

She only smiles when his trip to Mexico is mentioned.

She does not attempt to answer questions about how he got money to finance his traveling.

All of these questions, she hints, will be answered in due time—when, and if, she is ready.

"I must do this in my own way," she told this reporter. "You see, I am now the key figure in this. I've got to gather all my facts."

Mrs. Oswald did announce she was fired from her job as a practical nurse shortly after the news of the President's death.

She said three nurses at a nursing home here threatened to quit unless she was fired.

"So, there was nothing they could do but let me go," she added.

Mrs. Oswald would not name the nursing home and efforts to substantiate the reported dismissal were not immediately successful.