

OSWALD'S MOTHER RECEIVES THREAT

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F.B.I. Checking the Letter
—Other Mail Abusive

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Mrs. Marguerite Oswald shaken by the first abusive mail since her son was charged with assassinating President Kennedy traced his early life today looking for the seeds of a corrosive bitterness.

Several letters, all postmarked outside of Texas, denounced Mrs. Oswald as having refused psychiatric aid for her son, Lee H., when he was a chronic truant in New York in the early 1950's.

Others attacked her for reports that she planned to ask that he be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Mrs. Oswald, whose son was shot in the Dallas city jail two days after the assassination, had said she had not been advised in New York that her son needed psychiatric treatment.

She said today that she initially thought of seeking an Arlington grave for her son as a way of cutting expenses. Another son, Robert, dissuaded her.

She has no plans for moving Oswald's body from Rose Hill Cemetery here, she said.

Mrs. Oswald received one threatening letter today, postmarked at Jamaica, N. Y., and unsigned. Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation called on her this afternoon to inspect the letter, the first that has threatened her with harm.

Receiving letters that blamed her indirectly for the slaying of the President disturbed Mrs. Oswald. She discussed her early life in detail in an effort to show that "I did my best for my boys."

First Marriage Happy

Mrs. Oswald said her first marriage, to Edward John Pic, a New Orleans stevedore, had been a happy one. They were married in 1929. When she became pregnant in 1931, she said her husband left her, saying he did not want children.

The child, named John Edward Pic, was born in January, 1932. Mr. Pic sent child-support payments until the boy was 18 in 1950, Mrs. Oswald said. She has not heard from her first husband since then and does not

know if he is alive.

After her divorce, she met Robert Edward Lee Oswald, a New Orleans agent for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. He, too, had been married previously, but had no children. At the time of their marriage, Mr. Oswald was 36, 10 years older than his second wife.

"He was a wonderful man," Mrs. Oswald said. "He treated John Edward exactly like his own son and even wanted to adopt him. But since Mr. Pic was paying support, I didn't think that was right."

The Oswalds' first son was born in April, 1934, and named for his father.

The family lived comfortably in New Orleans.

"At Christmas, Mr. Oswald would dress up like Santa Claus for all the children in the neighborhood and pass out little gifts," Mrs. Oswald recalled. "Both Robert, and later Lee, looked quite a bit like their father, except Mr. Oswald was chunkier."

He died of a coronary thrombosis in August, 1939, two months before the birth of Lee Harvey Oswald on Oct. 18. To Mrs. Oswald's knowledge, he had not previously suffered any physical or mental ailments.

Despite her husband's occupation, they had scrimped on insurance because of mortgage and furniture costs, Mrs. Oswald said. He left \$3,500 in life insurance.

When Lee was 2 years old, Mrs. Oswald put the older children in the Bethlehem Lutheran School in New Orleans, a boarding school for children orphaned or with one parent.

"I took the children home on weekends," Mrs. Oswald said. "But I couldn't look after them and work too."

She took a succession of sales jobs. At the age of 3, Lee Oswald

also boarded at the Lutheran school. About two years later, Mrs. Oswald married Edwin A. Ekdahl, an electrical engineer from Boston who was working in the South.

After taking an automobile trip to New England to meet his family, they settled down in 1945 in Fort Worth. Lee came to live with them. The two older boys were sent to the Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, a military school in Port Gibson, Miss.

Within three years, Mr. Ekdahl sued for divorce. Mrs. Oswald says he has since died.

Lee Oswald and his mother stayed on in Fort Worth, and Mrs. Oswald took her former name and resumed working.

"I remember Lee asking me, 'Why don't you come to P. T. A. meetings like other mothers?'" Mrs. Oswald said. "He didn't understand that the other moth-

ers weren't working."

In 1952 they went to New York to live near Mrs. Oswald's son John Pic, by then a 20-year-old serviceman.

After Lee Oswald's truancy in New York, they returned to New Orleans. The boy tried to enlist in the Marines at 16. Rejected because of his age, he took jobs as a messenger. He stayed out of school but visited the public library.

"He brought home books on Marxism and socialism," Mrs. Oswald said. "But I didn't worry. You can't protect children from everything, just try to help them see things in the right way."

"Besides," she added, "if those books are so bad, why are they there where any child can get hold of them?"

Youth Bought a Parakeet

With his first paycheck, Lee Oswald said, her son bought a parakeet and a cage. He named the bird Blackie, the name of his dog, which they had left in Fort Worth when they went to New York.

"He bought a cover for the cage, too, that had printed on it 'Good Night,'" his mother said.

At 17 he enrolled in the Marines, returned home briefly, then defected to Russia in 1959.

Upon his return in 1962, he and his wife, Marina, whom he married in the Soviet Union, and their small daughter lived at first with Robert Oswald in Fort Worth. Then his mother took an apartment at the Rotary Apartments, also in Fort Worth.

Lee and Marina lived there with me for a month in the summer of 1962," Mrs. Oswald said.

"He was out looking for work every day. I'd drive him downtown and say, 'How about that place?' He'd go in and come out and say, 'They didn't need me.'"

He wasn't bitter. He knew he had made a mistake going to Russia and would have to pay for it."

In the evenings, Oswald and his wife would sit at the kitchen

table, playing a Russian game much like tic-tac-toe. At other times they would read to each other from Russian books, Mrs. Oswald said.

When Oswald got a temporary job with the Louv-R-Pac Company, he moved his family to a \$59-a-month, one-bedroom apartment at 2703 Mercedes Avenue in Forth Worth.

The job ended in the fall, and Oswald moved to Dallas. His mother did not see him again for more than a year, until last Nov. 23, one day after the assassination of the President, when she visited him in the Dallas jail.

"They say he had a grudge," Mrs. Oswald said. "I know he felt bad about not having a father.

"I know he felt bad because I had to work and couldn't send him and his brothers to college. I don't consider that a grudge. That's just normal."