

Oswald Met Offers of Friendship With Surmises

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DALLAS, Dec. 9.—Lee H. Oswald rejected an excellent opportunity to make friends here after he returned from the Soviet Union.

The small Russian-speaking community of immigrants and language students in Dallas and Fort Worth was greatly interested in learning about living conditions in the Soviet Union.

They also took an immediate liking to Oswald's Russian wife, Marina.

Oswald, however, cultivated no friendships.

To a person, the students and immigrants found the man later accused of assassinating President Kennedy unmannerly, unfriendly, rigid in his leftist political interests, unkind to his wife, and penurious to the point of neglecting the health of his family.

Dislike Developed

After a few months most of them developed a strong dislike for Oswald and no longer saw the couple.

Oswald returned to Fort Worth in June, 1962, after 32 months in the Soviet Union. He brought his wife, then 20 years old, and baby daughter. They moved in with his oldest brother, Robert, before taking a \$59-a-month apartment in Fort Worth.

Their introduction to the Russian-speaking community in the area came later in June when Oswald checked at the Fort Worth Library, where a Russian-language class was con-

ducted as a civic project. He sought names of persons he might use as references in trying to find a job as a translator.

A Fort Worth engineer who teaches the class said today that Oswald spoke Russian fluently, but not grammatically.

He became acquainted with the Oswalds and exchanged visits with them. He introduced them to his friends and had them to dinner. Others did, too.

Everyone like Mrs. Oswald, he said, and quickly felt compassion for her.

Although Oswald soon found a job, it was menial and provided little income. His new acquaintances subsequently brought clothing and a baby's play pen for his family.

Oswald curtly rejected the gifts as unwanted "charity," they said.

"He barked at me so many times I withdrew," a Dallas man said today.

He had been enthusiastic about meeting Mrs. Oswald because she had grown up in Leningrad, formerly St. Petersburg, where he had once lived.

As an example of Oswald's rudeness, he told of visiting the Oswald apartments with friends that summer. Oswald came in, he said, brushed brusquely by, ordered his wife to prepare dinner, and ate with her while the guests waited.

The man said he had sought to teach Mrs. Oswald English, but her husband discouraged it, preferring that only Russian be spoken so he could maintain proficiency.

At the apartment, the Dallas man said, he saw books on the

Soviet Union and Marxism from the Fort Worth Library.

Some of his group, he said, tried to convince Oswald of the superiority of the free enterprise system. They said they had no success because Oswald had a closed mind on the subject.

They said Oswald did not seem enthusiastic about life in the Soviet Union, although he did not complain about it. They said his wife, however, seemed overjoyed to have left Minsk for the United States.

They said she had described living conditions there as "hard." The Oswalds lived in an apartment house near the sheet metal factory where Oswald worked. Their quarters were small and crowded. The bathroom was at the end of the hall. The food they could purchase was bland and unappetizing.

The Dallas man said the shoes and boots they brought back were of poor quality. So was their small Russian radio and record player, he said.

While in Fort Worth, Oswald allocated no money to medical care.

Acquaintances said they once found the baby choking and in need of attention. They took her to the hospital, where she was treated. Oswald refused to pay the bill, they said.

Oswald lost his Fort Worth job in September of 1962 and moved to the Y. M. C. A. in nearby Dallas in October to look for work. His wife and child stayed with an acquaintance in Fort Worth for about two weeks.

The acquaintance, a dental

technician, was alarmed by the condition of Mrs. Oswald's teeth. Since her husband did not send her to a dentist, her friends took her to the dental school at Baylor University in Dallas, where students pulled six of her teeth.

Oswald found a job as a developer of photostatic prints at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall, Inc., in downtown Dallas and rented a nearby apartment. His family joined him but left a short time later, acquaintances recall, when he hit Mrs. Oswald.

She stayed with one friend nearly a week and then with another for a week before yielding to Oswald's pleas to return.

It was about then that Mrs. Oswald, with the help of friends, arranged for her daughter to be secretly baptized.

They said her grandmother had taught her Christianity in Leningrad, Oswald, they said, was an atheist.

Mrs. Oswald went to the St. Seraphin Eastern Orthodox Church in Dallas, where Father Dmitri baptized the child. Father Dmitri is Robert Royster, an American who was a Baptist minister. He holds services in the church at irregular intervals, a member said.

The group of Dallas citizens of Russian background last saw the Oswalds at a party Dec. 28. Most of them had ended relations with the couple before this because of their growing dislike for Oswald.

"To him America was no good, Russia was no good, the Marine Corps was no good," one said. "He was all anti."