

Oswald's Attempts To Drive Recalled

Lee Harvey Oswald had been trying to learn to drive a car during the period just prior to his arrest for killing President John F. Kennedy and Dallas Patrolman J. D. Tippit.

But he never did master the steering wheel. On fatal Nov. 22, he had to resort to a Dallas Transit Co. bus for getaway-car purposes.

Mrs. Ruth Paine, an Irving Russian teacher who befriended Oswald's Russian wife, told The News Tuesday that she gave Oswald a couple of driving lessons on a vacant lot.

"He wasn't familiar with the use of the wheel. When he turned corners, he always turned too far," she said.

She said Oswald phoned the Irving residence to tell his wife that he had gone to a Department of Public Safety station to try to get a learner's permit Nov.

16—six days before the President was slain.

Mrs. Paine said she understood that Oswald failed to get the permit because the station was crowded and closed before he could make his application.

Oswald, who lived at an Oak Cliff rooming house during the week but visited his family in Irving on weekends, failed to come to Irving that particular weekend.

Mrs. Paine said she had the feeling that Oswald's wife had perhaps asked him not to come that weekend. He'd spent a long Veterans Day weekend in Irving the week before.

Mrs. Paine's impression was that the wife feared her husband would wear thin his welcome and requested him not to come.

Mrs. Paine said that it was on two earlier weekends that she had given Oswald driving lessons.

She said he was making normal progress but hadn't learned to drive.

Mrs. Paine's remarks seemed to punctuate with question marks those reports of Oswald being seen several places driving a car.

The Irving woman said she certainly wouldn't have loaned her car to Oswald. And she said she'd never heard him mention any friends who might have provided him with a car.