

Eleven Questions About Oswald

Some Mysteries of Presidential Assassination Are Dispelled, But Others Remain

Jack Langguth in
The New York Times

DALLAS.

Two months after the shooting of President Kennedy, questions about the assassination still await satisfactory public answers. Nevertheless, federal authorities remain convinced that Lee H. Oswald shot the President, and that he acted alone.

Here are 11 questions sometimes asked and the most authoritative answers now available:

Had Oswald served at some period as a paid informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

A spokesman for that agency denied that Oswald was at any time employed by the bureau in any capacity.

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Newspaper and magazine articles have speculated that Oswald was in the service of the FBI, infiltrating leftist organizations at its request. The bureau's denial is categorical.

Agents did meet with Oswald, however, several times after his return from the Soviet Union in mid-1962. The last interview was on Aug. 10, 1963, after he had been arrested in New Orleans for a scuffle with anti-Castroites. The spokesman said that Oswald, as a defector, had been under FBI investigation.

In the fall of 1963, agents called twice at the home of Mrs. Ruth Paine in Irving, Tex., where Oswald's wife and children were staying. Mrs. Paine told them in the first interview that Oswald was living in Dallas and working at the Texas School Book Depository.

It's a sore point with the FBI that the fact that Oswald was employed along the motorcade route was not passed on to the Secret Service or the Dallas police," a Dallas police official said recently.

Did Oswald receive a series of \$10 and \$20 money orders from an unknown sender through the Dallas Western Union office?

This report first appeared in a Dallas newspaper shortly after the shooting of Oswald. An unnamed Western Union clerk was quoted as remembering him as receiving the money orders because he was so unpleasant to deal with.

An extensive check of Western Union records discloses no such transactions. Investigators are now convinced that the clerk confused Oswald with other customers.

Oswald did repay his debt to the



'I Still Can't Believe It'

State Department through Western Union money orders, however. He had borrowed \$435 through the American Embassy in Moscow to bring his family back from the Soviet Union in 1962.

Was a large sum of cash, as much as \$5000, found in Oswald's room?

No, even the figure of \$150 that was first released by Dallas policemen proved to be high. A little more than \$100 was found in the room. Oswald had been working at his \$50 a week job at the textbook depository since Oct. 16. Given his frugal habits and the fact that he was not contributing to the support of his wife and children in Irving, he could have saved that amount.

Was a map found in Oswald's room with the presidential motorcade route and a bullet's trajectory drawn from a window of the textbook depository? The map of Dallas found in Oswald's room was a job-hunting guide, he had prepared. Neither the motorcade route

FBI. So far as possible, they have duplicated conditions on the day of the assassination; they have allowed extra time for the crowds on Nov. 22. The reconstructions had demonstrated that Oswald had ample time for the action ascribed to him.

Did Mrs. Marina Oswald know that her husband had a rifle?

Yes. But Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, Oswald's mother, has said that her daughter-in-law told her on the night of Nov. 22 that the rifle that policemen showed to her did not seem to be the one she remembered her husband as owning.

It is understood that Marina Oswald has since resolved her doubts. Until she testifies before the Warren Commission, this point will remain clouded.

Where Oswald obtained the pistol with which he allegedly shot Patrolman J. D. Tippit has not been established. Evidence now suggests that he ordered the pistol in March, 1963, from a California mail-order concern at about the time he ordered a rifle from Chicago.

Did Oswald know Jack Ruby, the man who shot him, before the killing?

Despite scores of reports from people around the country who say they have found a link between the two men, none has been established.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, the accused assassin's mother, has stated that an FBI agent showed her a photograph of Ruby on the evening of Nov. 23, about 18 hours before Ruby shot her son at the Dallas City Jail. The FBI has denied her statement.

Was Oswald an agent of the Russians or the Cubans?

There has been no evidence uncovered to suggest that he was an agent of either country.

Investigators say that he was turned down by both the Cuban Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Consulate in Mexico City when he tried to get entrance visas for the two countries late last September.

In both cases, he was told that there would be delays before his visa could be issued. He left the Cuban office "visibly displeased," officials said.

Did Oswald have an accomplice?

Every report has been thoroughly checked and discredited — that other figures were seen with weapons at the depository windows; that figures were seen fleeing across the overpass near the site of the assassination; that Oswald arrived in Mexico with two men and a woman. At this time, there is neither evidence nor a promising lead that would indicate an accomplice or conspiracy.

What motive did Oswald have for killing President Kennedy?

He had no known motive. He had told Michael Paine that, although he disagreed with some of the President's policies, he thought that Mr. Kennedy was doing "a pretty good job" on civil rights.

The only explanation now offered is that Oswald was insane.

nor a bullet's trajectory had been added.

Mrs. Ruth Paine, who was shown the map for identification by the FBI, said that the textbook depository was marked with a line of about a quarter of an inch, which may have accounted for the initial confusion about the map's purpose.

Did one bullet strike the President from the front indicating an accomplice?

The number of bullets reported, their direction and damage have been matters of wide dispute.

Investigators are now satisfied that the first of three bullets hit the President in the back of his right shoulder, several inches below the collar line. That bullet lodged in his shoulder. The second bullet wounded Gov. John B. Connally, of Texas.

The third bullet, according to an autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, ripped away a portion of the back of the President's head on the right side. Fragments from the bullets cut a wound in the President's throat and damaged the windshield of the presidential limousine.

Doctors at Parkland Hospital have explained that early and conflicting reports were owing to the fact that they could not make a detailed examination of the President's wounds.

Some reporters on the scene have also questioned whether shots from the rear could have produced the hole they observed in the windshield. Close examination has disclosed, however, that the damage was not the result of a shot fired from in front of the car.

Was it possible for Oswald to shoot three times from the sixth floor of the depository building and run down to the second floor by the time a policeman observed him there?

The entire procedure—firing the rifle, running to the second floor and then out of the building, a bus and taxi trip to Oak Cliff and a chase that ended at the Texas Theater—has been timed by the Secret Service and the