

Oswald Nearly Normal at Age 13, Expert Says

Psychologist Recalls Tests in New York Showed Killer Only Slightly Off Norm

BY GEORGE GETZE

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Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, was no sicker emotionally at 13 than millions of other children his age, a Los Angeles psychologist who examined him in 1952 said Wednesday.

There was no way of telling that he would grow up to become a criminal, according to Irving Sokolow, now a counsellor with the State Department of Rehabilitation.

In 1952 Sokolow was a psychologist at New York's Youth House, an institution for the treatment of children who were in trouble with the law.

Oswald was one of the less

disturbed child inmates of Youth House, Sokolow said. in the same boat? There are millions."

Many of the children had been sent there for psychiatric treatment after committing serious crimes like murder and rape.

Oswald was sent to Youth House for truancy.

Sokolow supervised the tests Oswald was given, and said they showed the boy was only "slightly off the norm."

The psychologist and others who examined Oswald agreed he was somewhat withdrawn, that he was given to day-dreaming, that he was shy and that he suffered from the lack of a family life.

"He needed love and didn't get it," Sokolow said.

"But how many children are

Sokolow reported at the time Oswald was examined that the child showed some difficulty in his relationship with his mother.

"He was not happy with her, even though his mother was the only one he had to love and be loved by," Sokolow said.

He said the tests showed Oswald was insecure and that he had a craving for love that was never satisfied.

Other psychologists at Youth House agreed with Sokolow's analysis. One reported that Oswald said his mother "didn't give a damn" about him and that she felt he was a burden she had to bear.

According to the psycho-

logist, Oswald's case shows that the theory of the "bad seed" is questionable.

Most of the children in Youth House, even most of those who had committed serious crimes, have been no further trouble to society, he said.

"But Oswald, who wasn't really much different from many other children, became a criminal."

Sokolow said many persons have emotional problems at least as serious as Oswald's childhood difficulties, but that most grow out of them, learn to live with them, or lose them as the circumstances of their lives change.

Oswald, however, got worse instead of better as he grew up.