

# Assassination Principals Try to Readjust Lives

Tragedy Involved Oswald's Widow, Mother,  
Slayer; Officer's Widow, Texas Governor

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DALLAS (AP)—Marina Oswald Porter snubbed out her ninth cigaret of the morning and lighted another.

"Have you ever tried to analyze yourself?" she asked. "Its very hard to do. I think about it a lot. I try to forget. It is very difficult. It is like a nightmare. Sometimes I have nightmares."

The former Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald was speaking of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy two years ago. Seated at the dining table in her modern brick home in northeast Dallas, she fussed with her blonde hair and drank coffee.

At first reluctant to admit a reporter—"I am no longer news," she said at the door—she later relaxed and talked easily, with a definite Russian accent. An attractive, slender woman of medium height, she has arresting blue eyes, of an intense turquoise shade. Denied cigarets by Oswald during their marriage, she is a chain smoker.

Now the wife of an electronics technician, Kenneth Porter, she is one of several Texans whose lives were wrenched apart when Oswald killed the President in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

## Ruby in Cell

About five miles away, Jack Ruby, the man condemned to death for killing Oswald, waits in his jail cell in downtown Dallas for exoneration.

In Ft. Worth, 30 miles away by turnpike, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, gray-haired mother of the assassin, continues trying to clear Oswald's name.

A recent pilgrimage took her to Dallas to photograph a waxen image of her slain son.

Across the Trinity River,

in the section of Dallas known as Oak Cliff, Mrs. Marie Tippit, quiet widow of the policeman shot by Oswald, strives to give her children a normal life without using the wealth showered upon her by a sympathetic nation.

In Austin, the state capital, Gov. John Connally, no longer in pain from wounds he suffered from the assassin but unable to use his right wrist properly and weak in the right side of his body, is plagued by memories. He is preparing to run for a third term.

## Speaks Frankly

Marina Oswald Porter's house is in the \$20,000 range, clean and comfortable. She spoke with disarming candor. When told her daughter, Rachel, 2, was a lovely little girl, Marina said, "No, she is not lovely. It is something one must say to a mother, I suppose. Pretty maybe, but she is not a lovely girl."

She displayed a recent magazine article which, interpreting the Warren report, said the Russian-born Marina appeared shallow, adaptable, materialistic and self-centered.

"It is pretty close to the truth, I guess," she said casually. "It made me angry at first—about 10 seconds—but when I cooled off I decided

he (the author) has analyzed as best he could. And he did a good job, I think. He was not against me nor was he for me. I think he came pretty close. But I am not materialistic."

Her life has not been serene lately. Two months after her June marriage to Kenneth Jess Porter, an employe of Texas Instruments, Inc., she charged in a peace bond affidavit that Porter slapped her, frightened her

with a gun and threatened to kill himself. Porter said he slapped his wife because she became hysterical. He took the gun to keep it away from her, he said.

## His Explanation

"Because of all the trouble she's been through, I thought she might try to kill herself," he explained.

Porter spent several hours in jail before the peace bond was dismissed. Then the couple left the courtroom together, and the marital discord diminished.

"I am not a considerate person, which is not good," Marina said in the interview. "I sometimes say things without thinking. We are doing quite well. We would like to start a new life. Just start all over. And forget. You understand me?"

Marina and her mother-in-law have not seen each other since Nov. 28, 1963. "Tell Marguerite hello," Marina

said icily when the name was mentioned. "I hear she intends to go to Russia. Well, they'll never let her go."

A few days earlier, Marguerite Oswald, a plump grandmotherly lady of 58, had chattered excitedly as she drove to Dallas from Ft. Worth to see her son's image at the Southwestern Historical Wax Museum.

## Self-Assigned Task

"I must know everything there is to know of the assassination," she said as she arrived at the museum. "It is something I must do."

Delighted by a small but attentive audience, she made her way through the semi-darkened building toward the eerie waxen image of her son.

She paused to photograph pirate Jean Lafitte, "since I'm from New Orleans." Next came a shot of the Apache chief, Geronimo, "because my boys said 'Geronimo' when they were young."

And on to the discomforting sight of Oswald, poised with rifle in hand.

"That doesn't look like him too much," she told the museum director. "I know you tried to be as authentic as possible, but . . . the hairline is not so perfect."

"They caught his mouth real well. I think it was said that Ruby killed him because of the sneer on his

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face. The police said he acted arrogant, that he sneered. But this was not his way. This is his normal mouth. They have caught his mouth completely."

The mother turned from the image of her son to lecture a cluster of people standing nearby about the "contradictions in the Warren report."

#### Hopes to Reopen Case

Speaking to a reporter, she said: "You can quote me also as saying this case will be reopened. If Lee killed President Kennedy, I'm very sorry. But I didn't teach him to kill."

"I want history to know the facts. If he killed the President, Lee would say: 'Sure, I killed the President.' He never told a lie. If he killed the President, he would have admitted it. He was too proud."

Time has not slackened her personal investigation of the assassination. She spends most of her time in her new, brick home in Ft. Worth, reading and talking about the triple slaying. Her income apparently comes from her lectures and writing efforts. The sale of her son's letters provided the down payment for the new house.

Mrs. Oswald periodically visits her son's grave in Ft. Worth's Rose Hill Cemetery, and travels to Dallas to "interview witnesses."

Jack Ruby disagrees with those who would label him a mental case.

"Do I look insane?" he asked reporters at one of his recent courtroom appearances. "If I'm a person who sounds insane at this moment, then the whole world is crazy."

Twice in the last year Ruby overruled his lawyers and arose in court to talk of the assassination and subsequent events.

"It was the goodness in me and the love for our great President that put me in a position to be used for the purpose . . ." he said once before his voice trailed off.

On another occasion he blurted: "Don't ask me what

took place in my mind. I don't know."

He later wailed: "I am the greatest scapegoat in the history of this world."

#### In Good Health

The former operator of a strip tease club in Dallas, Ruby has been under a death sentence since March 14, 1964. The verdict was appealed but numerous legal actions have delayed a ruling by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Just this month, Dist. Atty. Henry Wade, who prosecuted Ruby, proposed that the death sentence be reduced to life imprisonment.

Ruby's cell is just a stone's throw from the assassination site. The two years he has spent there apparently have not caused much physical deterioration.

"He plays dominoes, he plays checkers, he plays cards and he has puzzles and other diversions," Sheriff Bill Decker said recently. "His weight is normal and his appetite is good. He hasn't had an aspirin tablet



Marina Oswald Porter

in the last year. He's the picture of a perfect health."

More importantly, perhaps, Decker said Ruby has not complained lately of hearing voices or the screams of persecuted Jews as he once did. And he has made no attempts to harm himself since three crude suicide attempts failed more than a year ago.

The widow and children of J. D. Tippitt remain in the familiar surroundings where they lived modestly but comfortably prior to Nov. 22, 1963.

Tippitt was shot to death when he stopped Oswald on a Dallas street shortly after the assassination.

Donations poured in for the Tippitt family. Even now, two years later, a sprinkling of letters and an occasional dollar still arrive at the house.

#### New Automobile

Instant and substantial wealth — nearly \$650,000 — apparently has had little effect on Marie Tippitt, sons Curtis, 6, and Allen, 15, and daughter, Brenda, 9. The only tangible evidence of wealth is a new car and a color television set.

"I wanted the children to grow up just like they would have if J.D. were still with us," explained Mrs. Tippitt, reserved and soft-spoken woman. "I wanted them to learn to earn their way in the world just the way their father had to do. I'm not going to spoil them with unnecessary luxuries that they wouldn't have had otherwise."

"This is the house that J.D. and I picked for our family and we were happy here, and we plan to stay here. We made a lot of plans. I have tried to carry out some of them. Many of them I haven't." The slim brunette widow takes an active part in PTA and church work. She tries to discourage people from linking her family to the assassination. "People don't realize that we are grateful for their help but want to go on living our life and to be left out of all the publicity."

#### Four Wounds

There is little outward

evidence of Connally's wounds in the back, chest, wrist and thigh caused by a single bullet which left him near death that November afternoon. He still is unable to use a fork or spoon properly because of the wrist injury and he lifts weights, seeking to strengthen his right side.

Connally won re-election easily last year, and will seek another term in 1966. Speaking to newsmen about the assassination, Connally said: "It is still something I think about quite often. Unconsciously, there are too many places, too many things, too many incidents that constantly remind me of it."

His wife said she still flinches at sudden noises.

"After it had been a year," said Nellie Connally, "we sort of put it in the back of our heads and stored it with the things that you never forget but that you don't want to belabor." *END*