

Oswald Followed Lonely Path During Recent Visit to Mexico

Inquiry Finds \$30 Could Have Covered All Expenses of Month-Long Trip — His Travels Are Detailed

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MEXICO CITY, Dec. 2—More lonely steps along the trail of Lee H. Oswald in the last autumn of his life came to light today.

Evidence turned up concerning the trip that Oswald made here in late September and early October presented a picture consistent with that pertaining to other periods in the life of the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

The Mexican Ministry of the Interior disclosed that the results of its intensive police investigation had indicated that Oswald was alone here. The ministry's findings have been transmitted to United States authorities.

Indeed few mysteries remained as to Oswald's trip here, following painstaking inquiry. The investigation disclosed that the often impecunious Oswald could have financed his entire trip to Mexico Sept. 26 to Oct. 23 with less than \$30—thus apparently disposing of the question of where he could have obtained substantial funds for the trip.

Newsmen identified the bus line on which Oswald traveled from Nuevo Laredo, across the border to this capital and back. It was Transportes Fronteras.

At its office on Susana Street, a clerk, Lucio Lopez, said the Mexican police had been given the lists of passengers on that run that the line keeps.

Investigators were understood also to have checked a number of the guests who were at the Hotel Comercio, the hotel where Oswald stayed. He was the only American among a clientele composed mostly of Mexicans and a few Cubans, the latter apparently exiles.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Oswald, while in Mexico City, sought a Cuban visa on Sept. 27 as a transit traveler to the Soviet Union. The ministry said that when Oswald was told the consulate could not issue him a visa without Havana authorization, he left "visibly displeased." The ministry also said such a visa would not be granted unless a visa had been previously issued by the country of origin.

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Met Delay on Soviet Visa

The Mexican Interior Ministry said Oswald's effort later to get a Soviet visa had also been met with a consular statement that there would have to be a delay. A Mexican official said Oswald told the Cubans and the Russians he was a Communist who had lived two years in the Soviet Union and had married a Russian woman.

The police investigation was reported to have found no indication that Oswald had visited anyone else of political interest.

Cuban exiles opposed to the regime of Premier Fidel Castro have been trying to check on Oswald's activities here. So far they have not turned up anything of consequence. This is a sprawling city of nearly five million inhabitants but even in this multitude Oswald's tracks have been uncovered.

Oswald took a 2:30 P.M. bus Thursday, Sept. 26, from Nueva Laredo for the 750-mile trip scheduled to end here Friday, Sept. 27, at 8:30 P.M. The one-way fare on the Frontera line is \$5.71 at the exchange rate of 12½ Mexican pesos a dollar. There are at least two-score

of what Mexicans call humble hotels within a radius of five blocks of the bus terminal. Oswald appears to have been fortunate to have found the well-kept Comercio on block-long Bernardo de Sahaguan Street, named for a Spanish colonial missionary who befriended Indians.

For 16 pesos a day—\$1.28—he got room No. 12, with private bath, in the four-story glazed red brick hotel.

Sebastian Perez Hernandez, desk clerk, said Oswald had arrived alone and had left early in the mornings and come back late at night. He had no visitors.

The hotel proprietor, Guillermo Garcia, was shocked when investigators found Oswald's signature on the registry. Mr. Garcia admired President Kennedy as a friend of Mexico and a Roman Catholic. He had never connected the name of his guest with the assassination.

Oswald had one leather suitcase, about two feet long. He wore short-sleeved shirts. He talked only briefly with the night watchman and the chambermaid, in Spanish.

Next to the hotel is the anchroom La Esperanza. Mrs. Mercedes Ramirez de Barrero, a widow who has run the neat eating place for six months, remembered having seen Oswald three or four days. She said he had eaten there only once.

A Chop for 21 Cents

He had a lunch of steak and rice, which came to about 26 cents. The costliest item on the bill of fare is a chop, cooked to taste, for about 21 cents.

Mrs. Barrero said Oswald's Spanish had been hard to understand and he had eaten alone, in silence.

Newsmen calculated that Oswald could have stayed within \$8 for meals in Mexico for eight days. He paid \$11.42 for bus fare, \$6.40 for five days' rent and 50 cents for a special 15-day tourist card he got in New Orleans Sept. 17. These figures add up to \$26.32.

On the same block with the hotel are a number of modest apartment houses. Across the way is a parking lot. At the end of the street is a typical little park, with stone benches. The neighborhood is the Guerrero District, largely commercial.

Oswald left Mexico City on Wednesday, Oct. 2, on a Frontera bus that was scheduled to depart at 1 P.M. and arrive at Nueva Laredo at 6:30 A.M. Thursday, Oct. 3.

A Mexican Interior Ministry official suggested that Oswald might have spent most of his time here, which included a weekend, as a tourist, perhaps also taking in some movies.

It is believed Oswald left New Orleans on Sept. 24, after having sent his wife to Dallas the previous day with a friend. He vanished from his cheap apartment there on that day without having paid his rent.

He is believed to have hitchhiked to Laredo on the American side of the border, where he arrived Sept. 26. It was his custom to travel by hitchhiking wherever possible.

It was presumed that he probably hitchhiked north to Dallas from Laredo on his return from Mexico City. He arrived in Dallas the evening of Oct. 3 and checked into the Dallas YMCA. The distance from Laredo to Dallas is 475 miles.