

Through It All, Mrs. Oswald Walks Alone

By STERLING F. GREEN .
WASHINGTON (AP) — She walks erect and alone, this widow of 22 who believes her husband was the assassin of John F. Kennedy.

When an overly solicitous escort takes her arm, she shakes his hand off.

When the cameramen run and stumble backward in front of her, she is a little amused, a bit frightened.

"Silly, silly people," she murmured gently in English on Monday.

That's the Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald you see during the rare moments when she is on public display. Walking in a knot of Secret Service men, for instance, toward the hearing room where she answers the questions of the presidential investigating commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

The curious gaze, the reporters trail and the Secret Service men are all around her. But Russian-born Marina Oswald is alone.

She is apparently alertly conscious she is exhibit No. 1 in the search for the truth in Kennedy's assassination.

But when the elevator doors close, shutting off the flashbulbs' glare, Marina Oswald turns to the elevator operator,

smiles a real smile, and says in accented English, "Good morning, how are you today?" Then until the day-long ordeal of questions begins she chats with those around her.

Her demeanor under interrogation is apparently faultless. After each session Warren in describing her appearance has used words like "calm," "composed," "very cooperative."

On leaving, the slender young mother — she weighs no more than 10 pounds, if that much — poses for photographers in the lobby, and back comes the faint, taut smile that masks what is said to be a broken front tooth.

The waiting quarter of Secret Service men closes around her, and all stride to an unmarked government car. It moves away to the seclusion of an undisclosed dwelling.

Much has changed since the assassin's rifle spoke three times in Dallas, and some of the change has happened to Marina Oswald.

For one thing, she has become more attractive.

Pictures made in Dallas in the days following the horror showed the face of a woman at least half again Marina's true age, with stringy hair, blank eyes and heavy, irregular eye-

brows. Now her medium-dark brown hair is short and feathery.

A trace of eye-shadow, it appears, has deepened the color of the bright blue eyes. The brows are arched and regular. High heels and erect carriage make today's Mrs. Oswald look taller than she is. Her modish coat of midnight blue is always buttoned in public.

The voice is soft and pleasant. Her English is good enough for small conversation, not good enough for the witness chair.

She has refused interviews here, though she recently said in a Dallas television interview that "I have too much facts and facts tell me Lee shot Kennedy."

JAMES TOWN (N.D.) SUN 2-5-64 (10:1)

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