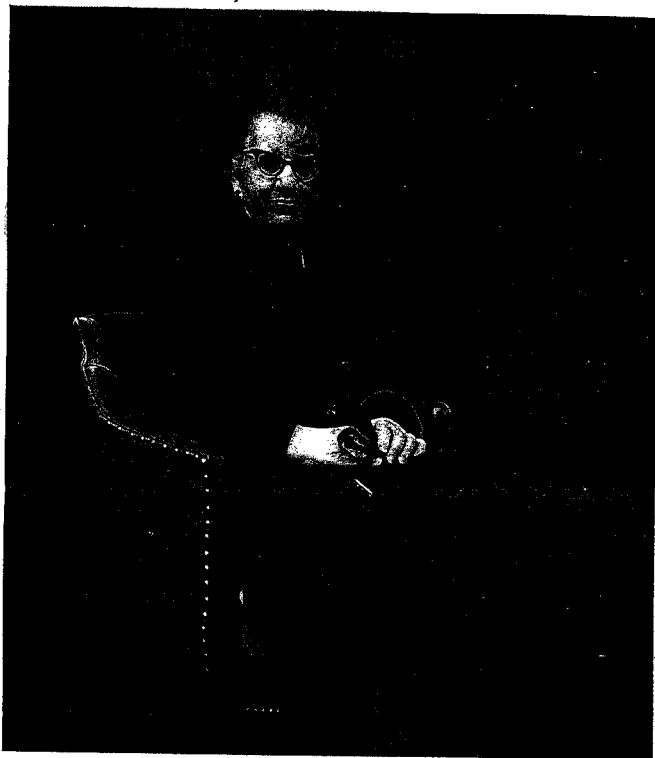


# Lee Oswald's Letters To His Mother

(with footnotes by Mrs. Oswald)



*Lee went to Russia in November of 1959. He was in Russia twenty months before I had the first letter from him.*

*I was in constant touch with the State Department with no result, so I made a personal trip to Washington, D.C., in January, 1961, and approximately in March I received an answer from the State Department informing me of my son's whereabouts. He was in Minsk, Russia, where he was working in a radio factory. When he first went to Russia it was in the paper that he was in the Metropole Hotel in Moscow, and then for twenty months I didn't know whether Lee was alive or dead.*

*Lee joined the Marines at age seventeen, on his birthday. Three years later he got out of the Marines and three days after that went to Russia. Lee wrote continuously while in the Marines, and then stayed with me for three days when coming out of the Marines, and there's much speculation about the three days because he did leave a mother who was partially ill. I had had an accident. But Lee and I discussed this immediately upon his return: I was destitute and matter of fact, Lee got a dire-need discharge because of this accident, but he was only out of the Marines three weeks before his time would have been up. I started through the Red Cross at Lee's insistence, to see if he could help me in July. But it was September before he was released, and I have always said those three months of negotiations meant either that I could have been well and not needed my son, or that I could have been dead and not needed him, also. But someday I hope to do something about this, because I am sure there are very many other mothers who are ill and need their sons, and I would say that they need them immediately, and not go*

*through the Government red tape for three months before they are sent home to help their mother out, however the case may be. So, after the three days—Lee said, "Mother, I have no background of work, and if I stay here the only salary I can demand would be \$30 to \$35 a week." Now we're talking about Texas, and not the Eastern states, because the salaries there are very, very low and actually that is the standard salary. And he said, "You're broke, so we would both be in the situation that you're in, so I've made up my mind that I'm going to work on a ship in the import and export business, where I can demand some money and I'll be able to help you."*

*I agreed with Lee because this is the way you help seventeen-, eighteen-, nineteen-year-olds, and I said, "It's a wonderful idea; but why don't you wait; Mother will settle her claim." It was not a suit, it was a compensation claim, I would be entitled to sixty percent of my salary, and the claim would have to be settled. In the meantime, probably I could baby-sit, and together we could manage. He said, "No, my mind's made up. We'll both be as bad off as you are now if I try to find work here, so I want to work on a ship." This was good thinking, and he was right, because a \$35-to-\$40-a-week job would not take care of a mother and a boy. So I accepted the fact that he has a right to his own mind. And so he left, and one week later I received a letter from Lee from New Orleans, stating that he had passage on a ship to Europe and he didn't expect me to understand, but to please try and understand—"This is something I must do," and so on, so then about a week later I picked up the paper and knew that he was in Russia.*

Dear Marisa

Received your letter today and was surprised that you are working on a ranch. Where in Crowell Texas, anyway? How is it you decided to go there?

I am glad you think Marisa is beautiful and I shall be glad to see her. He won't have a mother and father they are dead. But she has a lot of aunts and uncles here in mind and also in England where she was born. He was living to see aunts place when I met her they are real nice people her uncle is a major in the Soviet army. He work as a divergent. He joined the university two years ago for that occupation.

We are in good health and I'm glad you are with good people also.  
Love  
Lee

P.S. Marisa and Lee love also.

Aug. 2, 1961

Dear Mattie

I received your packet today thanks alot for all the nice things. You really should not have bothered to send those little things its so expensive I really now only need literature and every now and then some shaving gum like you sent me before. In the future please only send very light and necessary things.

I wrote Robert and he was surprised that you are working at Crowell, Texas. Don't you write at all to each other?

We are getting ready to see you all, but it is along process especially for Marisa. Well, that's about all for now.

Love  
Lee

Oct. 22, 1961

Dear Mattie

Sorry too take so long to write but I thought sometimes might have come up but will still writing.

I received your birthday card on the 14th thanks for the thought.

I'll be glad to get my books you send in the future you might include some fashion magazines for Marisa also if you remember it.

Marisa's maiden name was P.P. Proosakava, her aunt and uncle address in Minsk is

Minsk  
Ul. Kshinina 42,  
APT 20  
PROOSAKOVA

They don't speak any English, however, her uncle is a army Colonel, soon to retire.

You needn't worry about my leaving American citizenship I can

only do that if I want, too, and I don't want too.

For my birthday Marisa sent me a gold and silver cup with the inscription "to my Dear Husband on his birthday 10/2/61" very nice don't you think, Marisa is on her vacation now, she is spending it with her aunt in the city of "KHARKOV" about 600 miles South-East of here. She's just relaxing and taking it easy from work and the house work.

We both agreed that she should go to a new environment on her vacation, but she comes back in a few more days on the 29th of October. Her aunt Palina's address is the city of "KHARKOV"

VEZO TREENKERA  
House 5, APT. 7  
Mikhailovich, P.

1 [Letter received July 18, 1961]. At this time, then I decided to devote my life to humanity, and I became a practical nurse, and I did "live-ins," which means living on the place twenty-four hours a day on duty. So I was in Crowell, Texas, on a case on my very first contact with Lee. This was an elderly woman who had a stroke. This was a ranch out of Crowell, Texas.

2. The first letter is lost. He mentions in it that he married a Russian girl, that Marisa is beautiful, and he sent the wedding picture and also asks for some razor blades and a can of shaving cream, and some literature, "I very much miss literature." In my answer to the first letter I said Marisa is beautiful.

3 [Letter received August 10, 1961]. They had just married and

Oct. 2, 1961

Dear Mother,

Received your package of books yesterday, thanks alot for them & am very glad to have them.

I hope you are feeling well and are enjoying your stay in Vernon.

How is the weather in Fort Worth and Vernon now.

I suppose it must be still pretty low there although here it has already turned quiet cold.

Do you ever hear much from John? What is he?

I am receiving a letter from Robert (about once a month now).

In the future if you read me some books you can send me "Time" magazine not

"Good Times" and books like "Close to the Wind" I don't really want, they are too heavy and you could have sent me smaller books instead, but it's not important you made a very good choice in these books and I'm grateful. Well that's about all for now  
Mama sends her love.

Love  
Lee

## The Fifth Letter

Commission No. 184

Nov. 8, 1961

Dear Mother,

I sent a letter a week ago, but I think I put the wrong address on it so in writing again, we almost got your post and it was very interesting for Maria.

Well at the end of October, beginning of March we should have a baby. We want a boy.

There is very little information about the winter, we still have not received them and until we do, we cannot leave the Soviet Union. You can send me a few pennies if you like, alot of my friends are interested in collecting coins from America.

The weather here is cold and rather rainy now, although there still is no snow.

If you have any old photos

Maria, unfortunately, doesn't speak any English at all, I would like her to learn, and she bought some books for her on the subject<sup>11</sup> but for now she doesn't want to learn, she speaks a little French already, (she learned in grammar school), and she doesn't want to study another language for now, she really does not have the time you know, what will her working from 10-5 and then the house-work but it doesn't matter for now.

Well, that's about all for now.

I'll try to write more often.

Love  
Lee

P.S.

Did you receive my letter with some pictures of Maria in it??

I knew that she was a foreign girl—a Russian girl—so I thought probably she would like a little trinket, so I sent her a bracelet and a necklace—sort of a wedding gift—I mean it was something that was new, very unusual. Matter of fact, I'd had the bracelet for about twenty-five years; it was my own bracelet that I sent. And then I sent her the necklace, and a silk scarf.

4. Robert is Lee's brother. Lee has a half-brother that's older. Lee has two brothers, John and Robert, and Robert lived in Fort Worth, Texas.

5. I learned through a letter that he was coming home. I also learned through the very first letter from the State Department giving me Lee's address that Lee had contacted the Embassy in

Commission No. Nov. 23

of myself and if you also, please send them. 12

Do you ever hear anything from Aunt Lillian in New Orleans?

and how about John?

Mamma sends her love and asks do you want to be a grandmother again??

are you still working for those people? you have changed schools again haven't you?

Well that's about all for now. Write soon.

Love  
Mama

Enclosed are some pictures of General when mamma was born (this is not mine)

Dear Mother

Today we received your grand gift. I am very surprised that you guessed my taste in color and fabric.

Now it is already very cold so your wool stole will be very useful. It is very nice to feel that you are so attentive to me, more so, than, than to Lee.

I shall always remember your gift as a mark of our friendship.

I hope you won't be nervous for me, you shouldn't worry about us too much.

I have never seen your export on a photograph but I love it a lot of affection for you already.

I hope you shall be well and thank you again for the fine present.

Mamma

(I wrote it for her but the words are her)

January 27

Commission No. 191 January 20

Dear Mother

Please be me a big favor, go to the nearest office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, fill out the application of support on behalf of my wife, this is a technical point in regards to permission to enter the U.S. for mamma, and want to make as little as possible. you simply fill out a blank (there may be a charge of a few dollars) and that's all.

Please do this now, as they are actually writing for this document in Moscow.

Personal information about mamma which may be included in this blank one: Birth date and date city MoloTSK, USSR

July 17, 1941

Name - Marina Nikolaiyevna Oswald Place of residence, Minsk Kaluzhsk ST 4, apt 24

Thanks  
Love Lee

Dear Mother

I hope you received my last letter of Dec 27th. I then said we shall receive the apt area to leave the country in March or early April. I don't know what we need a money for the tickets maybe you can try the Red Cross in Moscow about that they would notify the American Embassy, Moscow, for confirmation.

We received your package of magazines on about New Years. Thanks alot for them. I hope you also received a post card from you. The weather is very cold and wet here, but not so bad as before.

Mamma is feeling fine and send her love.

Did you receive the tea and candy from us? Oh so how did you like it. That's about all for now. Write soon.

Moscow stating that he wished to return to the United States. This is my first contact with Lee, through the State Department, informing me of Lee's address and of his desire to return to the United States and then after my correspondence with Lee direct making provisions for coming home. 6 [Letter received October 10, 1961]. Then I was on a case in

Vernon, Texas. And this will explain why I have so many addresses, because I am a live-in nurse, and I go anyplace that I have a case. I'm on private duty, and I get my cases by word of mouth. 7. John, Lee's brother, is in the service of our country—he's in the Air Force, and has been since age seventeen. He's now been in fourteen years; this is his career. He moves around a lot.

Commission No. 187

Dec 13, 1961

Dear mother

We received your post card today and also the first package of books which you sent us a month and a half ago. I sure do appreciate your help.

I think we'll get together if we finally get back to the states and maybe will be able to collect on tips. I hope everything is alright with you, why do you change address so often?

I sent you and Robert a Christmas card, and even sent letters in New Orleans, do you write to them at all? or to Aunt Helen. Has John been writing to you lately? 14

I wish you write you can send us that post card with a lot of letters they are cheap and Maria enjoys the pictures of 15

A Christmas Card



Merry Christmas  
The wishes for  
us both  
The day after

Lifes and America

How is on the ground level and will be until April or May.

Maria is feeling fine and everything is ok. Well that Maria laughed when she heard your question about babies born at home or in hospitals.

Of course almost everyone that has their baby in the hospital your choice of books is very good, thanks alot for them.

Maria sends her love and hopes you recieve her. Thank you letter for the beautiful scrap you sent her.

Love Lee

P.S. I wish

the letter in one box but didn't get to send it till today, when I received your second package of books, (comlogs + times) so I shall thank you for them, too. Lee

The Tenth Letter

Commission No. 172

Feb. 1, 1962

Dear Mother

Yesterday received 2 letters from you one from the 12<sup>th</sup> and the other from the 17<sup>th</sup>, as for the gifts we sent you, the car is of course, but it is in good health.

As to your questions about the money problem and don't know if giving the story to the newspaper is too good, maybe you'd better hold off for awhile about that. I'll tell you when the baby is due around March 15.

We will probably fly into the U.S. on a airplane and I see no reason for you to come to New York to meet us. I want you to understand that although you can aid us in certain, small ways this business about our coming to the U.S. is relatively simple don't make it more complicated than it is. 19

about all for now write from Maria sends her love. Lee

The Eleventh Letter

Commission No. 20

Feb. 2, 1962

Dear mother

Well it won't be long now until the baby is born and until we shall be seeing you, in the meantime you can do two things for us, 1<sup>st</sup> on affidavit of support (in behalf of natural (the idea to be done in the U.S.A.) is a technical point regarding U.S. permission to enter the United States and can be done at the office of emigration and naturalization.

2<sup>nd</sup> you can see about sending me some clippings or columns from the Fort Worth paper for the month of Nov. 1959. I want to know just what was said about me in the Fort Worth newspapers so I can be forever safe. If you don't have

8. I had had the books at the ranch and they had Ford Times, a magazine all about automobiles, and then I had a novel, Close to the Wind, and any other material that I could pick up I sent to Lee, because at this particular time I am working for \$25 a week, and the postage alone for books and so on to Russia is very expensive, and I had no idea about the amount of books and postage—if I could

afford it. And besides, since he asked for books, I wanted to immediately send him something, so whatever was around the house I gathered up and sent them the very first package.

9 [Letter received October 30, 1961]. I just don't know what he could have been thinking of, dating this 1959.

10. Lee had married this Russian girl, and I thought possibly he

slipping yourself, you can always  
 get back issues of newspapers  
 by apply to their offices or the  
 public library.  
 I received your package of  
 newspapers and magazines, thanks!!  
 cutting these editorial was  
 also good thinking on your part.  
 It gave me a lot of news.  
 I suppose it is almost spring  
 in Vernon by now, huh?  
 What is the latest news in  
 Vernon?  
 Please write soon, we are getting  
 your letters and so we always  
 wait for more. ha-ha  
 When you write please write  
 March 29. (gone) This helps  
 me get your letters quicker  
 sent from us both  
 He

Commission No. 194 Feb 15, 1962

Dear Mother,  
 Well, I love a little (6 lbs)  
 daughter, June Marina Oswald born  
 at 10:00 P.M. February 15th. How  
 about that?!!  
 Marina feels O.K. she only  
 took on tons and stuff to give  
 birth at the hospital.  
 The possibility of our coming  
 to the United States are very good  
 although, of course, it'll be another  
 couple of months.  
 Marina's first visa to leave  
 the U.S.S.R. is good until Dec 3, 1962  
 so we have no worries about the  
 visa's running out before everything  
 is arranged.  
 The American Embassy in  
 Moscow sent me an application  
 for a loan (which I requested)  
 so they will make the money available

The Thirteenth Letter (Continued)

I don't think it is too absurd to  
 leave earlier than my own  
 visa is good.  
 Was everything at your end  
 all right?  
 The weather is rather cold here yet  
 I guess in Texas it must be  
 pretty hot by now.  
 Did you get those newspapers,  
 slipping I asked you for?  
 I hope you've already  
 made out that affidavit of support  
 for Marina by now, like I asked  
 you.  
 That's about all for now.  
 Love  
 Lee  
 Love from little June and  
 Marina

The Fourteenth Letter

Commission No. 196 March 11

Dear Mother,  
 Today I received the affidavit  
 from Mr. Phillips.  
 You asked whether I'll be  
 staying at your place or Robert  
 the world. I don't think I'll be  
 staying at either but I will be  
 visiting both in my next trip. I  
 won't be here on my next trip. I  
 probably will finally get in  
 the world in next year. We will  
 undoubtedly come by way to the  
 this. Indeed will be a nice  
 visit trip. I'll let you know  
 when we leave the Soviet Union.  
 I still don't know our exact  
 date of departure yet so there are  
 still a few things to be done before  
 we show off.  
 As I said in my last letter  
 we shall be coming probably in April

would want to become a Soviet citizen, because he was working there, and had a wife who was a Russian girl, so I asked him if he had any idea of becoming a Soviet citizen.  
 11. This to me is very important. This is the first time these letters are being released to the public, and I have stated over and over that I have actual documents in black and white to retract some

of the awful statements that have been said against this boy. He's not perfect, but he has some very fine qualities. I think so, and the letters do show so. And so it states in the letter that Lee had brought literature and books for Marina for her to learn English, but she didn't want to, because of her housework and work, and he's gone along with that. However, I also know that Lee and

To us as soon as everything is arranged  
for Marina.<sup>28</sup>

The only thing holding us up now  
is the "affidavit of support" for Marina,  
which I already told you about, and  
that is in, we can leave the USSR  
any other time we want.

How all things are going and  
if you don't have that letter  
from the Marine Corps, telling her  
the discharge window about getting  
a copy. I would like to have  
some material upon which to  
start, before going into this discharge  
matter further with the Marine.

That's about all  
for now love from all  
three of us.

Love  
Marina  
John

P.S. Enclosed 3  
pictures of  
Marina and  
Lara last summer on our balcony

Commission No. 195



Feb. 24

Dear Mother

Well, I suppose you've already  
received our letter about the birth  
of little June Lee Oswald  
(not June Marina)<sup>25</sup> she weighed 7 lbs  
at birth which was in Feb.  
15th, mother and child are doing  
well, she left the hospital on Feb. 24th

We will probably wait for  
a period of two or more months  
while little June gains weight  
for her trip to the U.S.

The Fifteenth Letter

Commission No. 198

May 30, 1962

Dear Mother

Well, here we are in Moscow  
getting ready to leave for the USA,  
I'll be sending a telegram or  
otherwise informing you as to  
where we shall embark and  
no forth, everything is O.K.

so don't worry about us,  
we shall be leaving from  
Holland by ship for the U.S. on  
June 4th. However, I expect to  
stay over in New York for a  
day or so and also <sup>30</sup>  
Washington D.C. for sightseeing  
see you soon.

Love  
John  
Marina

I already told you I received  
this clipping and so forth O.K.

The money situation is pretty  
good although I'd like to have  
enough to fly to the states,  
but that's not too likely at  
this time, still it's not very  
important as regards the matter  
of transportation.

June Lee, Feb. 15th, she  
already weighs 11 lbs. and is  
12 months old. Marina feels  
very well also.

We are in constant touch  
with the Embassy <sup>29</sup> as all is well  
that's about all for now.

Love

P.S.

Marina reads her love.  
P.S. today we also received your  
card, thanks.

Marina returned from Russia to Fort Worth, that Marina im-  
mediately started to take English lessons, also, through a univer-  
sity and Marina speaks broken English quite well. And so this  
will show you what the news media have done with my life and  
Lee's. This is actual proof. One particular story that they have  
exploited is that Lee treated her mean, and would not allow her

to learn English, but we have it in black and white, and I state  
now that also in America that she was learning English. Lee  
wrote and spoke Russian very fluently. In fact Lee has the equiva-  
lent of one year of college education in Russian, and I have this  
in black and white, in the form of an application he made to the  
Albert Schweitzer School in Switzerland. (Continued on page 75)

12 [Letter received November 18, 1961]. I sent the one picture he had taken in New Orleans on Mother's Day, 1955. I sent a few baby pictures of Lee—just regular Kodak pictures.

13 [Received December 12, 1961]. The Christmas card says Merry Christmas, and what I find interesting, it has a pine cone and a clock with the numerals on, 12 o'clock. But the back of the Christmas card is blank, and this is what interests me most. This is a Russian Christmas card. There are no sentiments—you write your own words. All their Christmas cards are blank, which is wonderful—of course we do not have time to write our own words, particularly I would say people that have many, many acquaintances—in the hundreds—they don't even sign their name! But to me, this is ideal, because you have to sit down and write your own sentiments to your folks, and Lee did mention "Merry Christmas, Dear Mother—Lee," and Marina signed her name in Russian. So, see the Russian people are human beings after all, they do have many fine points to their way of life, just as we have to ours, but I believe that either today or tomorrow if we can recognize their fine points along with our fine points, along with their faults and our faults, and if we can nourish them then we will have peace.

14 [Letter received December 26, 1961]. At this time I'm not having contact with any family at all. Matter of fact I've never been close to the family from the time they left home. We, as a family, were a close family, but when the boys married. . . . You have to understand that I'm a widow making my own living, and I am working twenty-four hours a day, and moving from place to place, and they have their own life, so we now have drifted to a certain extent, but I think most families do drift after the boys marry and leave home. And I have three boys, and boys are a little different than I believe a daughter would be. And I'm a very independent person, and I make my own living, and so it's a full-time job for a woman my age to be out in the business world and take care of herself. So lately I don't have time for my family. I may be two hundred miles away.

15. I always did whatever the children asked me to do, because I knew it was very important. I also wrote letters. . . . Lee figured it was very expensive for me to mail letters, and I wrote quite frequently. And also, Marina enjoyed the pictures on the postcards. And he asked me to also write in the letters, and also send postcards, they're much cheaper, matter of fact, I believe he mentions this in a letter. And so he's always thinking: "Mother, don't spend everything you earn on us. We want to hear from you, but do it the easiest way." The same way with the packages; he keeps saying, "Don't send heavy packages." He's worried about the terrific postage that I pay. . . . the expense, and he didn't want me to spend all of my money on things for them.

16 [Letter received January 23, 1962; the date on the letter is the same, undoubtedly an error on his part]. I got the affidavit for him, I wrote first to the naturalization and immigration office. I think now I'm in Vernon, Texas, on a case, or probably Crowell. These sections are all together—probably fifty or seventy-five miles away, bringing me back to Fort Worth all the time. The original place, Crowell, Texas, was two hundred miles away, and then I worked my way back to Fort Worth on cases. . . . So Wichita Falls was the closest place that I could get this information, because I'm in very small towns, Crowell, Vernon, and those towns are very small places, so Wichita Falls was the main place and I wrote and they sent me a form to fill out. Of course, then I would have to have a sponsor for the affidavit of support—an American sponsor, and I was working for a man at this particular time, taking care of his mother, who had had a stroke, and he offered to be the sponsor.

17 [Letter received January 29, 1962]. I don't believe there are any missing letters. What I think he's saying is that the letter following this would have been the one about the affidavit, and he wants to make sure that I receive the letter.

18. Lee needed help now. He's ready to come home. All documents are secured for his wife and himself but he doesn't have the money to come home on so he asks me to contact the Red Cross and to contact several organizations who help people in these particular cases to come back.

19 [Letter received early in February, 1962]. I asked Lee if I should give his story to the newspaper because I am unable to get help. I had gone to several very prominent citizens and explained that this boy was in Russia and an American citizen who wanted to come home but for lack of money he was unable to. I

also went to a very fine citizen who had a citizen award for helping people and I was turned down by him. The attitude was that if he went over to Russia to defect let him stay. Now this is a very fine, fine citizen with this attitude. And so I'm trying to get help for the boy and presenting my case that he is a young boy, he's an American citizen. He has been married and he has all documentation with him. The only thing lacking to bring him back to his native land would be money. And I am unable to get anyone to help in this endeavor. I thought if I would give the story to the newspaper that he wanted to come home, that his visas and everything were there, but it was the money lacking, then maybe some good American would finance his way home because I was not having any luck talking to the ones individually to help him to come home. He said he didn't want me to give the story to the newspaper. He'll tell me that. He didn't want to complicate his coming home any more than was necessary. I think that then he was negotiating with the Embassy about money to come on a loan. 20 [Letter received February 23, 1962]. I'm having trouble getting the affidavit of support out, though, but he will have to have someone sponsor this and I thought that the people I was working for knew my problem and that they should offer and when they didn't I went to other people who had turned me down and then when I was talking about being turned down then my employer offered to help.

21. I had written him and said now I know you always know what you're doing. You have a Russian wife, you have a job. You have been in Russia for the last two years. You have sent me many, many fine gifts and you write all the time and all of this takes money and many, many photographs. Are you sure that this is what you want to do because you are a known defector and you may not be accepted and I have reason to say this because I had already explained how hard it was to get someone to help him to come home, how hard it was to even get an affidavit of support which was just a technicality, and so I'm now realizing that this boy is going to have it very hard here in the United States and so I said to him are you sure that this is what you want to do? And you exploited in the paper, very very much so, as a defector and that is why he is asking me to send the clippings of the papers so he would see what I am talking about.

22. The editorials were letters from people in the newspapers. It had nothing to do with the prior questions he asked. I sent him some books and then I had wrapped the books up with newspaper editorials which are letters from people that I had accumulated that I had thought would be interesting reading. It had nothing to do with the story of his defection. This is just extra reading and I wrapped the books up in many, many of these papers, thinking that he would enjoy the newspapers, and he wrote back and said it was quick thinking on my part. He enjoyed reading them. I sent him a book by Vincent Peale, *The Power of Positive Thinking*, and most of the other books that I sent were books that I had bought in a used-book place where I was—*Time*, *Life*—and just any, you know, everyday books, magazines, not books actually, just magazines. It kept running up into money. The postage was very expensive and I would get these books at half price because they were used magazines, *Reader's Digest*, anything. But they were in good condition and, you know, I would say up-to-date. So it would take two months to get the material. It would cost me anywhere from \$2 to \$5 to send a package. Oh, yes, he said he received them, thank you. But I knew he liked Vincent Peale's work, in fact on his application to Albert Schweitzer College the book that he said he most liked to read, Vincent Peale was one of the authors that he thinks of the most.

23 [Letter received March 1, 1962]. The State Department loaned him the money to come home on. Lee had asked for \$800 and the State Department loaned him, as has been publicized and made public by the State Department, \$400 and some odd dollars, I think \$463. They only brought home a few things, one radio, I might say, jewelry from Russia, clothing and some silverware and personal things.

24. I had written him and told him that I had a letter from the Marine Corps giving him an undesirable discharge. He had an honorable discharge from the Marines, serving three years, and a good-conduct medal, and the undesirable discharge was given because he had defected to Russia.

25 [Letter received March 7, 1962]. (Continued on page 162)



(Continued from page 75) Well, the envelope and the stationery . . . he's announcing the birth of his baby, and since this is the first fancy stationery I had, I'm to assume that possibly it's something special in Russia. I had another one of them—I think it was around Christmastime when another fancy one

came. So I have to assume that that is probably the reason for it. But now he's telling me about the baby's right name and this might be interesting to the people. In Russia even if it's a female the middle name is always the name of the father. So her name is June Lee Oswald, and had it been a male and

he wanted to name the boy Lee, he would have been named Lee Lee Oswald. They always take the middle name of the father. He then found out that it was June Lee Oswald.

26 [Letter received April 9, 1962]. He had always lived with me and I was now working back in Crowell, Texas, and I asked him if he planned to come to Crowell and that's when he answered that he wanted to live on his own.

27. He was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and lived there up until the age of five, when I remarried and left there and part of his life was spent in Fort Worth, Texas, so that was the two places he knew of.

28. Those were the clippings about his defection. I couldn't send him too many because I had to put them in letters, but I did give him the general idea.

29. I was getting a little concerned because it's been almost a year now that Lee is trying to come home. Documentations had been settled for quite a while and I said I was getting a little concerned and worried why they weren't coming home, since he had stated that money was going to be financed through the State Department and he said not to worry about it. I mentioned to him that I was getting a little concerned and upset and worried because I wanted the baby born here in America. It should have been born here in America, but for lack of money Lee didn't come home as fast as he should have. What I'm trying to say is, all of the visas and everything were settled, but the money problem is what kept him over there longer. Otherwise the baby would have been born here in the United States. And it's an awfully long trip, 10,000 miles, for a couple to come with a young baby. It's a very hard thing to do.

30 [Letter received June 6, 1962]. He arrived in New York. Now, I never did ask him about Washington and I have no way of knowing if he went to Washington.

I received a postcard from Lee saying that they were leaving and this would be approximately about June 12 or 13 and later a speed letter from the State Department informing me that my son and his wife had left Moscow and would arrive in New York on June 13.

Well, the case that I'm on now is a very elderly woman and it's just she and I in the house and so I'm unable to leave my patient in order to meet my son. He's going to arrive in Dallas at the airport and Robert and his family are meeting him, but I'm unable to meet him and it's a week later before I can find someone to take care of my patient temporarily so I could go to Fort Worth, which I did for a weekend, to see Lee. Then I had to go back on my case. It was awfully crowded in Robert's house. He has two children and a wife and himself and with another couple and a child. I had then decided that I would terminate my services in Crowell, Texas, and come to Fort Worth where I could help the children as much as possible, which I did. I had exactly \$175 to my name. I had explained before that I was working for \$25 a week. Out of that I had to pay gasoline for my car to go to town because we're in little country towns way on the outskirts, which was approximately \$6 a week, and then I sent all these packages to Lee and postage and my insurance, so I didn't have anything left out of \$25 a week, and I did manage to save \$175 in this year. So I rented a house in Fort

Worth, Texas, at the Rodeo Apartments, and Marina and Lee came to stay with me. I bought all the food and paid the first rent and then Lee got a job, I took him every day for a job, then he got a job and they went on their own. So here I am once again down to my last penny. I had been this way many, many a time and it's enough to say that I have a job and everything works out all right. What I'm trying to say is that the only money I had, I paid rent and bought food for these kids for one month and it took me three weeks to find a job. I took him every day job hunting and the first pay he kept and with his second pay he had enough money to pay a month's rent and they went on their own.

I was never concerned about having a son in Russia. I made this perfectly plain in 1959 at the time of his so-called defection. They said that he had studied communism and that this is what he lived for—the time when he could go over there. Many, many statements. And I said then and was criticized then very severely that if he had studied communism and if he had thought this out thoroughly and if this was what he wanted to do, I believe that as an individual that this was his right to do whichever he thought was the right thing to do, and that I would respect that right and I do—with everyone. And people in Russia are no different than the people here. I didn't know too much about Russia when he did defect, but I have now studied a little bit and feel that I can say, sincerely, that they live and breathe like we do and they think, and I see nothing different in Russia than we in America. I have a Russian daughter-in-law who I'm very proud of and would hope that the people would study other people's foreign ways a little so that we would have a deeper understanding. I will admit that I am very ignorant until Lee defected—I'm still ignorant, I don't mean to say otherwise, but I have no knowledge. I always said Russian people were peasant people and very poor and didn't have anything, and I subscribe to the *USSR*, which is a magazine put out by our government in Russia and we have an agreement with Russia—they put out *America* that goes to Russia, in Russian, and the *USSR* is written about Russia in English for us to read. It's a wonderful magazine and when I started to see the beautiful subways in Moscow then I realized how ignorant I was and that Russian people were normal people just like we. Their way of life is different. When we respect their way of life a little bit, as I said before, then I think we're on the road to peace.

I have never asked Lee why he went to Russia. As I said, I respected his view, I have my own ideas about why he went to Russia. Now it's evident that I'm trying to make it public. At the particular time I didn't question him about all this. This is what he wanted to do. If there was another reason why he went to Russia, I knew he wouldn't tell me. I just wouldn't ask. It wouldn't be the thing to do. Many people have asked since they knew I saw Lee in the jailhouse, if I asked him if he was guilty of killing President Kennedy, and I answered I wouldn't insult him and ask him that question. And the reason for that was I heard him with my own ears and saw him on television say "I didn't do it, I didn't do it," so why should I ask him if he did such a thing? I heard him say he didn't do it so that's enough for me whether it's my son or any other man. #



## Our tires love to run in the rain.

Any good tire can be expected to perform well on a dry, straight road. But Pirelli tires are famous for their performance on the kind of slick, dangerous surfaces that really test a tire's mettle.

We bred them that way... by designing a tread pattern that doesn't become deformed in the critical tire/road contact area. This means that the grooves stay open to wipe away the water. And drain away the rain. Further, this same sophisticated tread assures superior handling qualities under normal road conditions.

Are you searching for a tire that performs superbly in the dry—and also has a penchant for precipitation? See your local Pirelli dealer. His prices begin at \$13.\* See him, or write to: Pirelli, Dept. E12, 60 East 42nd Street, NYC, 17.

**PIRELLI**

\*PLUS F.E.D. TAX