

Marguerite Oswald

1/18/81

dies in Texas at 73

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Marguerite C. Oswald, mother of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, died yesterday of cancer in a Fort Worth hospital. She was 73.

Mrs. Oswald, who lived in near-seclusion in suburban Fort Worth, always insisted there was no proof that her son killed President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

"There was a conspiracy," she said 10 years after the death of Kennedy and her son. "Lee was framed. He was then murdered by Jack Ruby before millions watching on TV as he was walking handcuffed at police headquarters that awful morning (Nov. 24) 10 years ago."

Dr. John Johnson of Fort Worth said Mrs. Oswald had been in and out of Harris Hospital-Methodist for over a year in her losing battle against cancer. He said she had been in the hospital for two months before her death at 5:45 a.m. yesterday.

Lee was Mrs. Oswald's second son by her second husband, Robert Edward Lee Oswald, who died two months after Lee was born in 1939.

Mrs. Oswald was divorced from a third husband, Edward K. Eckdahl.

Mrs. Oswald said in 1977 that she

had not spoken with either of her surviving sons or with Lee's widow, Marina Oswald Porter, since 1963.

Mrs. Oswald had refused to tell reporters if she wanted to be buried alongside her son in Fort Worth's Rose Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Oswald fought recent attempts by an English assassination theorist to exhume the body in Oswald's body to determine if it was Oswald or a Soviet imposter buried in the grave.

She said she believed Oswald, who went to the Soviet Union in 1959, was a spy for the CIA and the FBI. She said she believed conspirators in the U.S. government had plotted Kennedy's death, and that her son was framed because he informed the FBI of their plans.

In 1977, on her 70th birthday, Mrs. Oswald told The Associated Press she remained unwavering in defense of her son, named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin in the Kennedy death.

"The Warren Commission was wrong," said the self-styled "mother of history."

Mrs. Oswald was bitter because publishers had rejected a manuscript she wrote, claiming it "revealed something of great importance to unraveling the assassination mystery."