

# Suspected Killer

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# Defected to Russia in '59

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| Lee Harvey Oswald, charged with murdering the President and a Dallas policeman, defected to Russia in 1959. | announced plans for a trip to Dallas. A few days later Oswald got a job in the Texas School Book Depository Building, overlooking the motorcade route. | in the book firm building just after a barrage of shots from the sixth floor struck President John Kennedy and Gov. John Connally O. V. Campbell, vice-president of the firm, said he and Truly, superintendent of the firm, were standing in front of the building at 411 Elm when the shooting started. |
| In 1962 he returned to the U.S.   | On Oct. 14 he rented a room in Dallas.   |   |
| In August this year he passed out pro-Castro leaflets on a New Orleans street.                              | Friday Oswald was seen by R. S. Truly and a Dallas policeman   |   |
| On Sept. 26 President Kennedy   |  |   |

Campbell said he ran toward a grassy knoll west of the building where he thought the sniper had hidden. He said Truly and an officer ran into the building. In a storage room on the first floor, the officer, gun drawn, spotted Oswald. "Does this man work here?" the officer reportedly asked Truly.

Truly, who said he had interviewed and hired Oswald a "couple of months earlier," reportedly told the policeman that Oswald was a worker.

The policeman and Truly continued their search. Oswald later failed to report at a 1:15 p.m. roll call of employes. Truly reported this to police.

Truly later said Oswald came to work as a temporary warehouse worker. "He was a pretty quiet individual. His work was fine and I had no reason to believe . . . no idea the man had ever been in Russia."

Truly said so far as he knew, Oswald and a few other workers repairing an old floor were the only persons on the sixth floor of the building Friday morning.

He said most of the building's workers walked out in front to watch the President's motorcade.

In a radio interview in New Orleans last summer, Oswald described himself as "a Marxist" but denied he was a Communist.

**THE 24-YEAR-OLD** ex-Marine, who lived in Russia and married a Russian girl, appeared on a panel called "Conversation Carte Blanche" on Station WDSU on Aug. 21, 1963.

He was interviewed shortly after a melee on Canal Street. He was fined \$10 for disturbing the peace after a fight that broke out when anti-Castro Cubans objected to Oswald's passing out pro-Castro literature on a sidewalk.

Oswald was born in New Orleans Oct. 18, 1939. Twenty years later on Oct. 30, 1959, he appeared at the American Embassy in Moscow, telling officials that he wanted to renounce his Ameri-

can citizenship.

At that time, he told officials, "I am a Marxist."

Oswald grew up in Fort Worth and attended public schools there. He quit Arlington Heights High School in his freshman year to join the Marines.

**HE WAS DISCHARGED** from the Marines just a few weeks before his trip to Russia. It was an "undesirable discharge." In February, 1962, he wrote the U.S. Embassy asking for a passport to return to the U.S.

In the meantime, he had married a Russian woman, Marina Nicholaevna, a hospital employe in the city of Minsk. They have two children.

Since Oswald had never been given Soviet citizenship, the embassy apparently decided to give him a passport. The embassy reportedly advanced him \$435 to help pay for his trip back to the U.S.

Oswald may have had plans for returning to Russia. This year he applied for another passport, telling the State Department he wanted to visit England, France, Ger-

many, Holland, Finland, Italy, Poland and the Soviet Union.

**THE PASSPORT** was issued at New Orleans June 25, 1963. It is not clear, however, whether Oswald had fully repaid the money borrowed from the embassy in 1962. If he did not, a new passport should not properly have been issued.

In Austin, Mrs. Howard Green, wife of a state representative, said she taught Oswald in grammar school and remembered him as "an introvert" with below-average grades.

But he was "bookish," Mrs.

Green indicated he seemed to seek escape in books. He did not apply himself in school. He was a "loner" who had little to do with his classmates.

~~SHE TAUGHT~~ him in the sixth grade at Ridglea Elementary School. Oswald's widowed mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, brought up three sons after her husband died.

In 1959, when Oswald was staying at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow, a newspaper arranged for the mother to phone her son.

Oswald spoke two husky hellos into the state-owned telephone and hung up as his mother pleaded, "Hello... Hello... Leel!" He refused to return to the phone.

Oswald's story in his own words was related by Aline Mosby of the United Press International:

"I was born in New Orleans and lived for two years in New York. I spent most of my life in Fort Worth. My father died before I was born. My mother works in shops, mostly in Fort Worth.

"I PLAYED baseball and football in high school (This is doubtful since he reportedly was in high school only 21 days before joining the Marines). I had a certain amount of friends, but I don't have many attachments now in the U.S. In my childhood, I enjoyed a few benefits of American society. I was a bookworm.

"I joined the Marine Corps when I was 17 and served in Japan and the Philippines and was discharged, as a radar operator private first class, when I was 20 in Santa Ana, Calif. Last Sept. 11 (1958) I won a Good Conduct Medal."

Asked why he wanted to remain in the Soviet Union, he is

quoted as saying: "I'm a Marxist.

"I became interested about the age of 15. An old lady handed me a pamphlet about the Rosenbergs.

"I STILL REMEMBER that pamphlet about the Rosenbergs. I don't know why. Then we moved to North Dakota and I discovered one book in the library, 'Das Kapital.' It was what I'd been Kapital.' It was what I'd been religious man opening the Bible for the first time.

"I started to study Marxist economic theories. I could see the impoverishment of the masses before my own eyes in my own mother. I thought the worker's life could be better. I found some Marxist books on dusty shelves in the New Orleans library and continued to indoctrinate myself for five years.

"I've not just been thinking about this (defecting), I've been waiting to do it for two years, saving my money, just waiting until I got out of the Marine Corps, like waiting to get out of prison. For two years I've had it in my mind not to form any attachments because I knew I was going away.

"My mother doesn't know. She's rather old. I couldn't expect her to understand. It wasn't quite fair of me to go without telling her but it's better that way."

OSWALD SAID he would not care to live in the U.S. "where being a worker means exploitation by the capitalists.

The U.S. has more light bulbs and hot water heaters than Russia but I don't feel that will be the case in 20 or 30 years. I want to go into electronics here and

I'll feel Fair working for all the people and not an individual capitalist making a profit for himself.

"Capitalism has passed its peak. Unemployment is growing. Depression is on the way. Capitalism will disappear as feudalism disappeared. I've seen the luxuries on Park Avenue and seen the workers on the East Side.

"I would like to spend the rest of my life here and get a normal life—if that means marriage and so forth, OK.

"I've seen poor niggers (sic), being a Southern boy, and that was a lesson. People hate because they're told to hate, like school kids. It's the fashion to hate. People in the U.S. are like that in everything."

A NEW ORLEANS Cuban involved in the Canal Street fight said Oswald had earlier attempted to infiltrate the Cuba's anti-Castro organization.

Associated Press quoted Carlos Bringnier, the Cuban, as saying, "He offered himself as a former Marine to train Cubans for an invasion.

"I was suspicious of him from the start. Frankly, I thought he might be an agent from the FBI or the CIA trying to find out what we might be up to.

"Then, a few days later, I encountered him on Canal Street distributing 'Viva Castro' literature. We took all his propaganda away from him. Then the police came and arrested a lot of us. The charges against all of us but Oswald were dismissed."

Oswald is identified in House Un-American Activities Committee

records as secretary of the New Orleans chapter of a group called "Fair Play for Cuba."

THE CUBAN STUDENT Directorate in Miami said Oswald acted as president of the Fair Play Committee in New Orleans until he was "transferred" to Dallas late in August.

The directorate said the move to Dallas followed an attack on Oswald in a debate involving the directorate on Station WDSU.

In Buffalo, N.Y. however, V. J. Lee, national director of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee denied Oswald was a leader.

Lee said Oswald wasn't a leader of any chartered chapter of the committee. "As far as our national office is concerned, we have no such person as a chairman of any of our chartered chapters."

Lee said, "I think the death of the President is a very shocking thing. . . . I deplore this action. . . . I greatly sympathize with the family of the President and with the nation as a whole because of the deplorable thing that has occurred."

The Fair Play Committee, founded in New York in 1960, is a group dedicated to supporting the government and policies of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

The group announced its formation in a full-page ad in a New York newspaper. The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, investigating the financing of the ad, found that the money came from the Cuban mission to the United Nations. —KENT BIFFLE