

10/17/77

Dear George,

Enclosed is a copy of an account of a Mark Lane appearance almost as far away from Washington as the continent permits. Rather continental limits. If you should at any time quote it be sure he'll be adding to it that the CIA supplies you with accounts. It was sent to me by a young friend.

I found the Lee Lescaze account of Marina Oswald Porter beginning the lecture circuit interesting because I also caught her on CBS news the other night. As a matter of historical interest, is Lescaze taped it or if Harper's can provide a tape, I'd be interested in hearing it and then adding it to the archive at the college.

Marina comes from a long line of Scheherazadas. In fact, I used this as a chapter title in 1966. Her new accounts differs radically from what the late Senator Russell got from her when at the end he had deep doubts. From his abdications he was ill prepared to question her. His little questioning did turn her around. My recollection is that she then said Oswald was out to get Connally.

While Priscilla had Marina off for the original work on the book NBC and CBS, between them, paid Marina \$15,000 to be taped in endorsement of the Warren Report not yet out.

As you see there are people of high principle on both sides, the Lanes and the Marinas/

Both McMillans practise amateur shrinkery. The oped page of the Times has loved them for it. Fact becomes immaterial. You sleep too long with your ma, you have motive, and imputed motive solves all.

How did your desk editors manage to live so long?

There is a Warren Commission record that says Priscilla worked for the "State Dept." when she was in Moscow for NANA. Carl Bernstein missed that one.

If it interests, as I'm sure it will not, the book supporting the official mythology, another question on money Harper's will not answer is how much they have in this book. They would not tell Lescaze what Marina's royalties are to be. I'm certain they have much in the book because it was over six figures in 6/66 when the project director asked me if I had any idea how he could kill it because they had that much in it then.

None of the hardnosed reporters ever wonder aloud why it took this book 13 years to birth or George's was almost 8 years late when he had contracts for appearance in 8 other countries in 1969. Or why such books appear at the times they do after not coming out for so long. Ditto for Eddowes, treated seriously and respectfully and at great length by the L.A. Times.

For some reason I would not expect to be indicative of there not being news values in them the CIA is stonewalling me on the latest batches of releases on their mind-bending records. My request may be older than that of Marks. To the time of Turner's appearance, first one, before the Senate subcommittee they had sent me all and I'd sent them checks. They did not even ask ~~advance~~ advance payment. Now they claim I've made no request and go to the bottom of the list. I'm not loved there, either. I could go to court and get an automatic victory ~~for~~ but that means nothing but trouble. Do you suppose the Post would lend me the copies it bought long enough for me to copy them? I'd pots band, etc. I also have a good source on that subject, although it is a source of the past in experience. If your colleague on that story wants a lead to follow the colleges doing work with the hallucigens paid students to be guineapigs and students needing money took the trips, as easy money. I know one who, being a respected college professor today, requires protection. He might also want to know that there is much more to come out, at least one place where they had one of their earlier and more sordid operations. Not a word has been mentioned yet. They then went long on sexual deviates, male and female both.

Best,

# Marina Oswald Porter: To Forget Is Not To Forgive

By Lee Lescare



Photo above by United Press International, at right by Associated Press

*Marina Oswald Porter, left, and Priscilla Johnson McMillan, right, at the press conference. Right, Lee Harvey Oswald, believed to be in April, 1963.*

NEW YORK—Marina Oswald Porter, hesitant and almost expressionless, held a press conference yesterday to boost sales of a book about her life and her first husband, Lee Harvey Oswald. The book, "Marina and Lee," has a photograph of the couple inside a heart-shaped frame on the cover. It is, the jacket copy says, "A fascinating and richly detailed portrait of a man who was driven to kill and a woman who was determined to survive."

"My regret through the years has . . . been immense," Porter told the assembled reporters as photographers took picture after picture of the short, slim woman who is thinner now than she was when her husband assassinated President Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. "I can never forget or forgive what he (Oswald) did, to me and to my children, to the President and his family, to the whole world," she said.

She stood behind a lectern bristling with microphones and answered patiently as reporters probed for a bit of news or new psychosexual theory about the assassination that troubles Americans' memories as perhaps no other event has done.

"It was a sad life," she said when

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asked to characterize her more than two years of marriage to Oswald. "A quite difficult marriage . . . and problems from a financial point of view that didn't make things easier."

"How do you feel about Oswald?", reporters asked again and again.

"You forget with the years about the bad and troublesome times," she replied. But, when she read "Marina and Lee" for the first time two weeks ago it made her angry at him.

A reporter remarked that she seemed to know more about Oswald from reading the book than from her life with him.

Porter, who spent nearly seven months with the book's author Priscilla Johnson McMillan in 1964, explained again that she had forgotten

many of the bad times until she read the book.

Reporters pressed her to say she feels hatred for Oswald. She agreed that some of what she feels could be called hate.

A questioner reminded her that at one time during her marriage to Oswald she had felt a sexual aversion to him. Perhaps, he suggested, Oswald had killed Kennedy as a result of sexual frustration.

Porter rejected the suggestion.

Another reporter wondered whether Oswald had been jealous of Kennedy because his wife admired the President. He proposed that it had been a triangle in Oswald's mind with the two men competing for her love. She did not take that theory seriously.

Marina Porter rarely changed ex-

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pression as she turned her head and stared at each questioner. Employees of Harper & Row, the publisher of "Marina and Lee", groaned at some of the questions.

When McMillan was responding in a circuitous manner to a question about Oswald's mental health, Oswald's widow broke in: "Nobody in his right mind would kill someone."

"Of course," Porter responded when asked whether she ever thought of Kennedy's widow. "I always feel sorry for a woman who loses her husband." She explained that it is difficult for a woman alone to earn money and raise children.

But, she was asked, didn't she feel a special grief for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis?

"For her and for me, too," Marina

Porter replied levelly. "I'm sorry, but sometimes I do feel sorry for myself."

Her two children ask questions about their father, she told the press conference, and only then does she speak of him. "They ask, 'Did he ever play with me? Did he love me?' and things like that," she said.

A reporter said that the children must face a lot of questions from their schoolmates.

"What questions can they ask a child about a father he doesn't remember?" she replied.

In a prepared statement, Porter said that anyone who reads "Marina and Lee" "Will see that the events of Nov. 22, 1963, had to happen. It was the final act of a slow, painful tragedy that was our life together."

She was unable to clarify at the

press conference why the assassination "had to happen." Her husband had a violent temper and was a loner who acted alone in killing Kennedy, she said. But the 36-year-old woman, who will share in the book's royalties, made it clear that many of the details of her life with Oswald no longer stand out in her memory. A Harper & Row spokesman refused to say what percentage of the royalties she will get.

After 30 minutes of questioning, with the reporters' zeal to find fresh news or just to hear Marina Porter continue talking apparently undiminished, Harper & Row editor-in-chief Buz Wyeth cut the press conference off. A couple of the reporters and photographers asked Porter for her autograph before Wyeth could escort her from the room.