

Nightmare Life of Terror Stalks Lee Harvey Oswald's Daughters

The two daughters of Lee Harvey Oswald — mere babies when their father gunned down President John F. Kennedy in 1963 — have been beaten up by schoolmates, terrorized by obscene phone calls and hate mail . . . and even had their pet dogs poisoned.

June, now 20, and her 18-year-old sister Rachel have paid a high price for their father's vile crime.

"They've been spit at, whispered about, gossiped about. Every move they've made all their lives has been watched by somebody," said Joy Smith, a close family friend for the past dozen years.

Rachel once protested to Smith, "I was 6 weeks old when all of that happened! I don't even remember my father. Yet people are blaming me."

"And that's not fair!" And June asked Smith, "What did we ever do to deserve this curse? We were only babies when it happened!"

June, a slim journalism student at the University of Texas in Austin, has her heart set on clearing her father.

And Rachel, who has a peaches-and-cream complexion, is a high school senior graduating in June.

But friends say she is so traumatized by her childhood experiences that she lives a reclusive life in the home of her mother Marina and her stepfather Kenneth Porter, an electrician who married Marina in 1965.

Before they moved to their rural home in Rockwall County, Tex., the Porters lived in two other Texas towns — Richardson and Plano. But, say sources, they

were driven out by harassment, vandalism and gossip. Even now the Rockwall County Sheriff's Dept. regularly checks the Porter house and street. "We don't want some sick fool burning the house down in the middle of the night," said a deputy.

The Rockwall High School Principal, Joe Miguel, who calls the Porter girls "excellent students," says that there's been no trouble at his school involving either girl. But it was different when they were younger and cruel classmates wreaked revenge on them, say sources.

When June was only 8, classmates beat her so badly that she ended up in the hospital for a week, Smith recalled. "These kids started in on her. 'Your daddy killed the President!'"

"The kids actually stoned her . . . just like in biblical times. They all picked up rocks and stones and threw them at her. Her face was all bloody and swollen. Her whole body had bruises."

Over the years, three of the girls' pet dogs were poisoned, their pitiful bodies dumped on the Porter front lawn. The girls have found refuge

in books and schoolwork. — who is going to come get a "That's why they're straight-haired," said Smith.

The years of persecution have affected every part of their lives.

"I wanted to try out for cheerleading, but I didn't dare," June once confessed to Smith.

Added Smith, "Hell, she didn't even go to the prom."

Rachel once had a dream of becoming a hairstylist and opening her own salon, said Smith. "Then one day it hit her

to dances," said Smith.

Both girls are extremely protective of their mother, she added.

"It's the three of them against the world."

— MARTIN RALLOVSKY



OSWALD was shot to death by Jack Ruby two days after the JFK assassination.



ONLY BABIES when their father killed JFK, June and Rachel are shown at right with their mother a few months after tragedy and at left in recent photos.