

WICK  
MOUNT  
BOOKS  
JOY of  
every day.

and thereafter [he] remained indifferent to me and never again was I able to communicate to him in any way."<sup>54</sup> Pic stayed in contact with his mother but felt helpless as he witnessed her gradual loss of control over Lee.<sup>55</sup>

While he was at the Pics', Lee enrolled in Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School, but was only there several weeks before moving with Marguerite to a one-room basement apartment in the Bronx. There, he entered Public School 117, a junior high. He hated the New York schools, where he was teased by other students for his Southern drawl and shabby clothes, primarily jeans and T-shirts. At P.S. 117, he missed forty-seven of sixty-four school days and was failing most of his courses when his mother pulled him out.<sup>56</sup> In January 1953, they moved again in the Bronx, their third time in five months. Lee was enrolled in a new school, P.S. 44, but refused to attend. Two hearings regarding Oswald's truancy were set, but Marguerite and Lee did not show up. In April, a judge declared him a truant and remanded him to Youth House for three weeks of psychiatric evaluation.<sup>57</sup> Social workers noted he made no effort to mix with the other children while there. The probation officer assigned to the case, John Carro, remembered it because it was unique. "This was not the

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"Testifying before the Warren Commission, Marguerite could still find no fault with her son despite the knife incident. She said, "He did not use the knife—he had an opportunity to use the knife. But it wasn't a kitchen knife, or a big knife. It was a little knife."

People who present Lee as fairly stable overlook the incident when he punched his mother and threatened Pic's wife with a knife. Harold Weisberg, in the first of his six self-published books attacking the Warren Commission, does not even inform the reader that Marguerite and Lee lived with the Pics. He covers the entire period by writing: "In August 1952, Oswald and his mother moved to New York City, where an older, married son by her first marriage also lived" (*Whitewash I*, p. 9). Henry Hurt, in his best-seller *Reasonable Doubt*, not only omits the knife incident but covers all of Oswald's life from birth to New York in one innocuous sentence: "Born in New Orleans in 1939, Oswald and his domineering, eccentric mother lived in various places, including New York City and Fort Worth" (*Reasonable Doubt*, p. 195). Best-selling authors like Anthony Summers, Jim Garrison, Mark Lane, Josiah Thompson, and Robert J. Groden do not mention the New York City period.