

Portrait of a Psychopath

In fourth grade, at the age of 9, a girl remembers him as a "tease." In the Marines, his CO recalls him as the smirking wise guy who made "Sir" sound like an insult, and a noncom was so affected by his rebelliousness against authority that he wrote him into a novel (unpublished). Thus, glimpses into the life and times of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused killer of President Kennedy, continued to appear last week like flashbacks on a movie screen. But of all the revelations, none was more significant than a psychiatric report on Oswald at the age of 13. It had rested in the files of a New York City juvenile home for a decade. In three single-spaced pages, it reveals a classic study of the making of a dangerous psychopath.

The report was written by Dr. Renatus Hartogs, a veteran psychiatrist at the home, after young Oswald had been brought into Children's Court for truancy. Though Hartogs, who is also medical director of New York's Community Guidance Service, kept the report confidential as required by law, NEWSWEEK learned that the curly-haired Oswald was described as "a schizoid personality with passive aggressive tendencies." On the surface, the report noted, "he is calm, but inside him is much anger."

The schizoid personality is all too familiar to psychiatrists. Unable to be satisfied by ordinary kinds of emotional gratification, the schizoid child fails to develop the capacity for the normal exchange of both love and hate. Although such individuals are not explicitly psychotic—they don't have delusions, for one—they may, under stress, drift into full-blown schizophrenia. In Oswald's case, Hartogs also detected paranoid thinking: the boy was beginning to attribute the hate he felt to those around him, believing it was *they* who hated him.

Father Figures: Much of what Hartogs uncovered of Oswald's seething emotions, he attributed to the fact that his father had died before the boy was born. He was, according to the report, "extremely resentful of people who derive benefits ... from a father." Presciently, the report added, "this will cause him to be extremely vengeful to authority or to father figures."

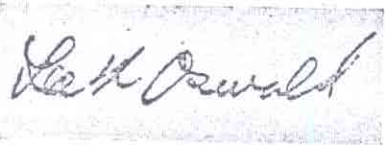
Lee Oswald had moved to New York from Fort Worth in 1952. His classmates at Bronx Junior High School 117 made fun of his blue jeans and Texas drawl, so he stayed home from school and watched TV. John Carro, probation officer in the boy's truancy case, notes that when he asked Oswald how he felt about his mother, he replied: "I've got to live with her, so I guess I love her." To psychiatrists, the reply was a



Lee Oswald: Curly schoolboy ...



... lone young man ...



... and his signature

revealing key to the boy's resentment.

Obviously, the boy needed psychiatric help. But because treatment facilities were not immediately available, and because city officials say Oswald's mother rebelled at the idea of psychotherapy, the youngster didn't get any. In January 1954, she took the boy to New Orleans. "She thought we were going to take the boy away from her," probation officer Carro recalled last week. But in Fort Worth, Marguerite Oswald denied that her son's mental health had been questioned. "He had good friends, he played a lot, and he liked school," she declared.

Many psychiatrists, like Hartogs, stress the lack of a father in Oswald's childhood. But what about his thrice-married mother, whose last husband divorced her for, among other acts of violence, hitting him with a bottle? Dr. Leopold

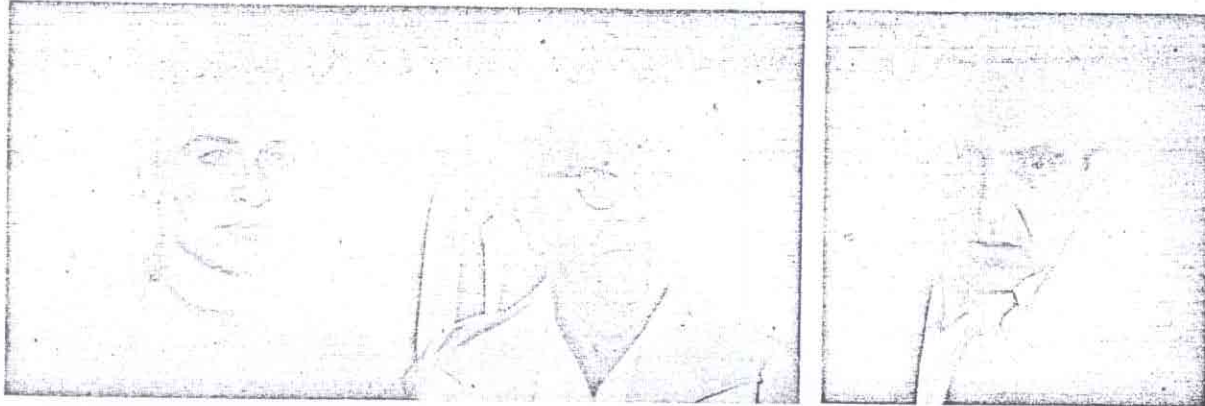
Bellak of New York, an authority on schizophrenia, notes that the "passive aggressive" personality detected by Hartogs is typical of boys who grow up under the solitary influence of a woman. "They tend to adopt a certain female passiveness, a feeling that they are being put upon," Bellak says.

Sometime after moving to New Orleans, Oswald discovered "Das Kapital," the book, he said later, "which set me on the road to Communism." And in the Marine Corps, which he joined in 1956 without finishing high school, he subscribed to Pravda. "He'd study up on some particular world political situation and then say 'Sir, would you please explain the Venezuelan situation, Sir?'" recalls John E. Donovan, one of Oswald's commanding officers and now a physics teacher. "He was just trying to show off." According to one research psychiatrist, Dr. Nathan S. Kline, schizoid individuals are easily drawn to political and religious movements—often without understanding them. "They will privately interpret ideologies to fit their own emotional needs," Kline points out.

Oswald's fascination with guns—a symbol, familiar since Freud, of sex and of aggression—apparently began at this time (one of his courts-martial was for illegal possession of a gun). Oswald was quick to get into fights, other fellow Marines recall, and usually lost. "Paranoid individuals," notes one psychiatrist, "actually provoke persecution."

Disillusioned: Another aspect of paranoid feelings is evident in Oswald's flight to Russia (where he was also in trouble with the authorities over his need to have a gun) and his disillusioned return, as well as in his tendency to drift from job to job. "Paranoid persons build up hostile feelings wherever they go," notes Bellak. "When the tension becomes too great, they have to move on." In this connection, Dr. Robert Morse, an official of the American Psychiatric Association, completely rejects the idea that Oswald was the instrument of a conspiracy to kill the President. "His whole life," says Morse, "is proof of his inability to work with others."

And what of Oswald's relationship with his pretty blond wife and reports of alleged homosexuality? Twenty-two-year-old Marina Oswald is supposed to have complained that he seldom had sexual relations with her—a characteristic of paranoid individuals who may become so preoccupied with their unconscious homosexual conflicts that they lose normal sexual desire. But Mrs. Ruth Paine, the Dallas woman who befriended the Oswalds, points to Oswald's children. In retrospect, Mrs. Paine says that she has the impression Oswald felt cheated of recognition. "I think that he saw an opportunity to do some-



Marina Oswald, Marguerite Oswald, and psychiatrist Hartogs (right): The doctor said the father was missing

thing really remarkable," she concludes.

No one will ever know what was going through Oswald's mind at the time he is supposed to have killed the President. He could have slipped into full-blown delusions in which he was wreaking vengeance on President Kennedy as the ultimate father figure. Simultaneously, on a conscious level Oswald may have viewed the President as a rightist enemy, a possibility reinforced by reports that he fired at Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker.

Nor will anyone know why Oswald left a string of clues to connect him with the murder weapon. Dr. William Offenkrantz of the University of Chicago suggests that Oswald's rational wish to escape may have been in conflict with a need to be caught. "Criminals who unconsciously arrange for their own capture are not rare," Offenkrantz says. "A more bizarre possibility is that by refusing to talk, he was not just waiting for a lawyer, but perhaps enjoying the sadistic pleasure of rendering the police impotent and helpless."

The final picture is of a silent Oswald, lips pursed in a half-smile, thrust into the spotlight of attention he craved, in effect telling the police: "Crawl, crawl, crawl; I won't talk."

But Oswald's life fairly screams out its lesson. "Why must we wait for a Presidential assassination before we become aware of the violence all around us?" asks Dr. Karl Menninger.

Where There's Smoke . . .

Cigarette smoking and lung cancer may, as the statistics show, occur together—but is this true because both are caused by a third factor, such as heredity, job pressure, or diet? This question, one of the most frequent challenges to the statistical studies of smoking, was answered last week by Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond of the American Cancer Society, whose study in the early 1950s was one of the first to link smoking and

cancer. At the American Medical Association meeting in Portland, Ore., Hammond reported on a new survey which absolved an array of "third factors" and left smoking still under indictment.

Hammond's report is part of a long-range study of more than a million American men and women over age 30, living in 25 states. From this group, he matched 36,975 male smokers and 36,975 male nonsmokers on the basis of seventeen different characteristics (including race, height, age, exercise, sleep habits, nervousness, marital status, alcohol consumption, and residence). Right down the line—no matter what the characteristic measured—more smokers (1,385) died during the 35 months of the study than did nonsmokers (662).

"It is hard," said Hammond, "to escape the conclusion that this difference in number of deaths was due to the difference in smoking habits." But a short time later, the AMA's powerful House of Delegates managed to escape drawing that conclusion; they voted to start their own research program to see if a link exists between cigarette smoking and cancer and heart disease.

The move was surprising because only six months ago, the AMA delegates had voted to postpone a condemnation of smoking until after the special committee of experts called by the U.S. Surgeon General had made its report. Due in the next few weeks, the report is expected to implicate smoking, but the AMA's action may provide powerful ammunition for the tobacco men. The AMA resolution, a tobacco scientist said, "may take the sting out of" the Surgeon General's report.

Heart Counterattack

If a research team were suddenly to announce that they had a cure for coronary heart disease, which annually kills a half-million Americans, the excitement generated would be enormous and no prize would be too great for them. Yet

today more and more researchers are convinced that the ways of preventing most heart attacks have already been discovered. To date this knowledge has been used mainly to help patients such as President Johnson, who suffered a moderately severe heart attack in 1955—and has "recovered beautifully," according to Dr. J. Willis Hurst, one of his doctors.

But now in a new book, "Your Heart Has Nine Lives: Nine Steps to Heart Health" (269 pages. Prentice-Hall, Inc. \$4.95), Associated Press medical-science writer Alton L. Blakeslee and cardiology specialist Dr. Jeremiah Stamler of the Chicago Board of Health use the latest heart research to formulate a program of prevention for men and women who have not yet been felled by a heart attack.

Blakeslee and Stamler point out that the underlying cause of coronary heart disease is atherosclerosis, the "biological rust" that accumulates inside the body's vital arteries. This rusting, which develops over a lifetime, may eventually close a coronary artery completely or plug it with a sudden clot of blood. The result is death of part of the heart muscle that is deprived of blood.

Nine factors contribute to atherosclerosis, Blakeslee and Stamler find—a lethal "coronary syndicate"—which, when disregarded, increase the chances of a heart attack. The nine villains are high blood pressure, obesity, overeating, too little exercise, high levels of cholesterol (a waxy substance believed important in the formation of atherosclerotic deposits), excessive smoking, undue tension, diabetes, and heredity. "If you are beset by any one of them," the writers report, "your risk of a premature heart attack is boosted two to six times above the risk of the person free of such a burden. With a combination of factors, your risk is far higher." Blakeslee and Stamler note, for example, that a man with high cholesterol levels as well as high blood pressure has a 50-50 chance