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Oswald's Mother Tells MIDNIGHT Reporter

Why I Believe Lee

Was Lee Harvey Oswald a secret agent for the American government?

His mother thinks so. In fact, Marguerite Oswald believed — **EVEN BEFORE the assassination of President Kennedy — that her son was working for the CIA.**

In a frank, two-day interview with MIDNIGHT, Mrs. Oswald talked at length about Lee, his death, and what her life has been like since those tragic November days, 13 years ago.

Last week in MIDNIGHT, she told her own story. A story she says is fact. A story of a conspiracy of 100 men who voted to kill her son in retaliation for the murder of President Kennedy. Jack Ruby, she said, was only a pawn, hired to do their will.

Lee Harvey Oswald never stood before a judge and jury. He was never tried and convicted. He was only accused.

Yet for years he has been known as "the lone assassin."

Righting this injustice is 69-year-old Marguerite Oswald's reason for living. Almost every waking hour is devoted to that work — reading, researching, gathering information — to clear her son's name and to find his real murderers.

What follows is an exclusive MIDNIGHT interview with Marguerite Oswald.

By

Marguerite C. Oswald

as told to Malcolm Abrams

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What was Lee Harvey Oswald really like?

"Lee was very, very interested in the world and the affairs of the world. He loved to read and he liked to know everything that was going on.

"As a child, he was like any

other boy. He liked to play football and he liked to watch baseball on TV.

"He'd take a pencil and paper and make his score pad and watch the game as though he were right there.

"He loved the movies and he

loved to ride his bicycle. I never saw anything abnormal about him in any way.

"He was the youngest of my three boys and he got along well with John and Robert. The brothers were very close.

"He loved to play chess. He was a very intelligent youngster. He also liked monopoly. And I used to bring him home clay all the time. He used to make model soldiers and other things out of clay.

"We were poor but all the boys were kept busy. They had footballs and all the things that other children had. When birthdays came around, I saved my money so that they always got the things that they wanted — although they didn't have the best quality of everything.

"Of course, Lee didn't have a father — he died shortly before Lee was born.

"Lee was a very, very deep thinker and a very intelligent boy. He could be evasive at times, but I never knew him to tell a lie.

"After the assassination, they tried to make him out a psycho — to make him everything beneath contempt. But now the true Lee Harvey Oswald is coming out."

In many ways he sounds like an ideal recruit for the CIA. Was your son an agent for the American government?

"I testified to the fact that I could not prove Lee was a United States agent, but that I thought he was. That I had as much circumstantial evidence that Lee was an agent for the U.S. government as the Dallas Police had that he killed President Kennedy. And I do, I can build a case on it.

"That's what I said to the Warren Commission. And from that moment on, all the books, all the people working on the assassination case, studies at the universities — they have all come up with Lee Harvey Oswald being an agent, with documentation to prove it."

Prior to Kennedy's assassination, did you ever think your son was an agent?

"Why yes. When Lee went to Russia, this was the very first thing that crossed my mind.

"Lee was a Marine for 3 years

Was A CIA

Agent



HER ONLY FRIEND is her dog Spotty. Since the days after the assassination, Marguerite Oswald has not seen nor spoken to her sons or Lee's wife Marina. Neighbors and former friends will have nothing to do with her.



"LEE COULD BE EVASIVE at times, but I never knew him to tell a lie," says his mother Marguerite Oswald. After his capture, Oswald was photographed with police officers.

and both his brothers were in the service. He came from a military family. Why would he want to go to Russia?

"And I could never understand the circumstance under which Lee got out of the Marines before his hitch was up.

"I had had an accident while working in the candy department at a department store. I reached up to get a carton and it fell on my face, leaving me unconscious.

"I was in great pain and the nerves in my face were numb for six or seven months.

"Lee got out of the Marines on a "dire need" discharge but while he was still in the Marines he got a passport to travel, signed by his commanding officer.

"Now how can you get out of the Marines in order to go home to help your sick mother and at the same time be given permission by the Marines to travel?

"If you're an agent, it can be done.

"When Lee came home, he

stayed with me for three days and we talked about our financial condition.

"He said, 'Mother, I'm going to work on a ship in the export and import business, and therefore I can make enough money and send some home.'

"I told him to 'think it over' and that I didn't think it was 'the right thing to do.'

"We talked about it and then on the third morning, he packed his little suitcase and said, 'Well mother, I'm leaving.'

"That was on the 14th of December and on the 19th of December, I received a letter from New Orleans which ended with the words, 'I will write again as soon as I land, Lee.'

"Wherever my son was going, he ABSOLUTELY thought he was going to be in contact with his family.

"I would like MIDNIGHT readers to know that in the Warren Commission documentation this letter is reproduced, with that last line

missing! On October 31, the news broke in the local Fort Worth paper that Lee was in Russia. He was highly exploited in his hometown papers and called a "defector" and a "turncoat."

"In fact, Lee never renounced his citizenship. I wrote to the State Department and asked if he had and they wrote back in June of 1960 and told me that Lee was still an American citizen.

"There are legalities — rules and regulations — that a person has to follow to renounce his citizenship, according to the State Department. And Lee never took any of those steps.

"I felt quite sure at that time, that he was in Russia working for the American government.

"I then initiated plans to locate my son for the simple reason that Lee had said he would write and I hadn't heard from him.

"I didn't know if he was dead or alive.

"I tried to locate him in Russia and I have many documents from

the State Department — correspondence back and forth — to this effect. But I got no satisfaction. They said they didn't know where he was.

Finally I got tired of this run-around. I packed my suitcase in January of 1961 and went to Washington. I spoke with three men at the State Department and six weeks later, I was sent an address for my son in Russia.

"I can't prove that Lee was an agent. But for more than a year they couldn't find him, yet when I made a personal trip to Washington and gave them my little spiel, six weeks later I'm informed that my son wants to come home and they have his address and know everything about him.

"That was supposed to be coincidence according to Gerald Ford and the Warren Commission. Sorry, but those coincidences go on and on and on, and they add up to me."

You've said that of all the members of the Warren Commission, President Ford was the "toughest" on Lee. In what way?

"I'm not going to go into it. I'm not going to be put on the spot with Gerald Ford, now that he's been renominated.

"But there were many things in his book 'Portrait of The Assassin' that I object to — the title to begin with. I understand that it has now been changed to 'Portrait of An Assassin.'"

"I sued Gerald Ford for \$5 million for that book."

Since the time of the Warren Commission, we've lived through Watergate and revelations about the CIA, Cuba and attempts on Castro's life. All of these events have changed many people's ideas about Kennedy's assassination. Have your ideas changed?

"My ideas haven't changed simply because I knew about the plans to assassinate Castro years and years ago. All of this was common knowledge in the espionage community.

"I've received letters from people all over the country who knew about these plots."

In the investigations of the CIA and FBI, we learned that thousands of telephones are tapped in this country. Do you think your phone is tapped or your house bugged?

"I certainly think there's somebody out there interested in what I do. That's normal. I'm the mother of a tragedy. By that I mean,



IN HER STUDY, surrounded by pictures of her son and books about his death, Marguerite Oswald talked to MIDNIGHT reporter Malcolm Abrams.

my son is the one accused of killing the President.

"I accept the possibility that my phone is tapped and my home bugged. Naturally, because of the people who might contact me. Lee having lived in Russia for over two years and having had a Russian wife, they may have me under surveillance for my own protection.

"If I am being watched, it's probably not because the government wants to know what I know. They know almost everything I know.

"And they know, I know my son was framed."

Are you resentful of the persecution and deprivation you've had to

suffer as a result of the accusations against your son?

"If I were actually the mother of the man proven to be the killer of the President of the United States, I still feel there should be more sympathy for me than hatred.

"And yet, it was never proven in a court of law that my son assassinated the President. There is only circumstantial evidence.

"I know I would be sympathetic to a person who was in trouble. And I think this is the way it should be.

"But instead, when someone is in trouble, the other parties kick that person down further, when it should be just the opposite. People should

help a person in trouble.

"So I don't believe we are a Christian nation. I think we have a lot of churches, but I don't think we have real Christianity."

Have you lost faith in America?

"I haven't lost faith in this country. I haven't lost faith in anything. Because I have something no one can take away from me.

"I know my son was falsely accused and you can't take away that knowledge.

"You can misquote me, you can persecute me, you can deprive me of my livelihood, but you can't take away from me the one thing that I own.

"I know my son was framed,"