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Lee Harvey Oswald's Widow Today: She Leads a New Life Thanks to Fiercely Loyal Neighbors

"I have nothing to say! That part of my life is behind me now! I feel no obligation to talk to reporters!"

That's Marina Oswald Porter talking — the Russian-born woman who married Lee Harvey Oswald — and faced a hideous glare of publicity when her husband killed President Kennedy.

Now Marina, at 35, is trying desperately to build a normal life for herself and her three children in quiet, rural Rockwall, Tex.

There, she has thrown up a wall of silence between her family and the press — so complete she won't even say whether she has remarried her ex-husband, Kenneth Jess Porter, although she's now living with him in Rockwall.

The family is surrounded by a band of fiercely loyal neighbors, anxious to protect their privacy.

"We won't stand for their being harassed," declared Mitchell Brown, a cattleman. "They're good folks — and good neighbors."

Said Vivian Young, who lives nearby: "I was recently injured and sent to the hospital. Marina and my other neighbors cleaned my house and kept it spotless. This is a fine neighborhood — and the Porters fit right in."

Said neighbor Minnie White: "Marina won't read anything about herself. She's had enough suffering." Added Vivian Young: "We don't bring up anything about her past."

The Porters were married in 1965, two years after the fateful events in Dallas. Marina was left with two infant

daughters, now 14 and 13. Astoundingly, she never told the girls who their father was until they were of school age. A neighbor told The ENQUIRER she advised Marina to tell the children before others at school told them cruelly.

Marina's third child, a boy now 10, was fathered by Porter. The relationship between her and Porter has been one of stormy upheaval. Two months after they married, Marina had him arrested "for threat to do bodily harm." In 1974 they were divorced. There is no record at Rockwall County Courthouse of their having been remarried.

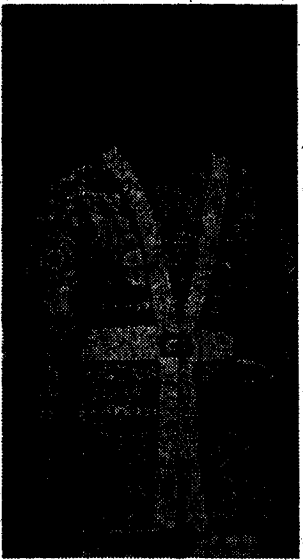
Now, each morning, Ken Porter drives Marina from

their home, 25 miles from Dallas, to her job as a salesclerk in a suburban Dallas department store, on his own way to work as a sewing machine repairman.

"She's very quiet and keeps to herself," said fellow employee Doris Crowell. "Very few people recognize her."

Their home is modest, a single story, yellow brick building on almost five acres of land. There, Marina wistfully hopes the world will just forget about her.

— ERIC MISHARA



SHOPPER: Marina Oswald Porter is shown outside a Dallas supermarket.