

hortly after 2:00 p.m. November 22, 1963, policemen hustled a man into the basement of Dallas's city hall. Told that he could shield his face from the press, the suspect refused: "Why should I hide my face? I haven't done anything to be ashamed of." Upstairs he was interrogated by detectives. One of them had the suspect's wallet. Looking at two cards he found inside, the police officer was puzzled. "One says Lee Harvey Oswald and one says Alek Hidell. Which one are you?"

"You figure it out," smirked the suspect.

For the past 30 years, thousands of people have attempted to answer that question. Although his identity was quickly established, the search for the answer to the much broader

LEE HARVEY MYSTERY OF THE ASSASSINATION LIES THE ENIGMA OF THE KILLER—WHO SEIZED A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO PROPEL HIMSELF INTO HISTORY. auestion of Lee Harvey who Oswald was has never ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL ended. The answer is key in finding out what happened ADEL on that terrible day in Dallas.

OF AN AUTHORITATIVE NEW BOOK,

Thirty years of JFK-assassination conspiracy theories have demolished the Warren Commission report's credibility by creating a widespread public perception that Lee Harvey Oswald was a patsy. The popular view is that he was weak, not very bright, and easily manipulated by sinister forces. The Oswald of Oliver Stone's film JFK is typical, meekly sitting in on a meeting when the murder of the president is discussed, then failing to offer a spirited defense once arrested for a crime he supposedly never committed. But the conspiracy portrait of Oswald is wrong. During several years of research for my book Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK, I have conducted nearly 200 interviews and uncovered key documents about the case. Extended conversations with those who knew him best, as well as disclosures from his still classified K.G.B. file, have helped me unmask the Oswald enigma, and, by so doing, may help us all finally come to terms with one of the most traumatic days of our times.

Lee Harvey Oswald was born into a lower-middle-class family in New Orleans on October 18, 1939, just two months after his father died. His mother, Marguerite, a domineering woman who had trouble holding a

job, pampered Lee, the youngest of her three sons. Although she encouraged him to be a quiet child who stayed home alone, she had trouble controlling him. At various schools he developed a reputation as a bully, leading several small gangs and often getting into fistfights. His bad temper carried over to his family-he chased his stepbrother and later confronted his sister-in-law with a knife, and often struck his mother when she did not comply with his demands. With his few acquaintances, he argued contentiously about the benefits of communism (to which he became attracted through library books at the age of 15), and tried to recruit one to help him rob a pistol from a store, a scheme he aban-ARTICLE BY GERALD POSNER doned only when scared away THE MAFIA MAY HAVE PLOTTED. by an alarm system. "I TO MURDER JFK, BUT, SAYS THE AUTHOR

thought he was a psycho," recalled Julian Evans, a New Orleans neighbor. THEY WERE TOO LATE. AT THE HEART OF THE A psychiatrist

OSWALD viewed him in New York, when Oswald was committed at age 13 to that city's Youth House for truancy, concluded he was "emotionally quite disturbed" and suffered from a "personality pattern disturbance with schizoid features and passive-aggressive tendencies." Oswald confided

to the psychiatrist that he had no friends and did not want any. When asked if he preferred the company of boys or girls, he cavalierly responded, "I dislike everybody." By the time he was 16, Lee and his mother had moved 21 times; he had attended 12 schools before finally dropping out. This

isolated youngster, dominated by a selfindulgent mother and prone to fits of violence, was so dissatisfied with his life that he decided to follow his older brother into the Marine Corps. Oswald joined up a week after his 17th birthday, but soon discovered it was not what he had expected. In school he could bully others since he was a year older, and therefore larger, than his classmates. But in the Marines, he was of average size (five foot nine), and because he was a loner who did