

The Marks of Death

Epilogue to the

Dallas Tragedy

DALLAS—(UPI)—Mr. and Mrs. Michael Paine are together again, their separation of two years ago almost forgotten. Was the assassination of President Kennedy responsible?

"Well, it certainly was the start of it," says Mrs. Paine.

A Quaker, Mrs. Paine sheltered and fed Lee Harvey Oswald's wife, Marina, and the two Oswald babies, June and Rachel, in the weeks before the assassination.

Oswald spent the night of Nov. 21-22, 1963, in Mrs. Paine's suburban home and when he left for work he took with him the assassination rifle.

MRS. PAINE became a central figure in the investigation. Her estranged husband, an engineer, returned the day after the assassination to lend her his support. A reconciliation followed.

Dallas itself has changed and many people think for the better. Here is how Democratic Congressman Earle Cabell, mayor of Dallas at the time of the assassination, sees it:

"Dallas today and its citizens are no different basically than they were before this tragic event but the climate in which they live is much healthier."

Cries that Dallas, with a noisy ultraconservative element, provided a "climate" for assassination, are fainter now.

THE RIGHT WING element is still in Dallas. "It's views are neither accorded the attention nor the respect they once were and therefore the noise has subsided," Cabell said.

President Johnson has not returned to Dallas since he took the oath as President in the presidential jetliner at Love Field 90 minutes after the assassination. He has been invited many times.

But Texas Gov. John Connally, almost killed by the first bullet from Oswald's rifle, has been back several times. He defends the city against charges that its "climate" had something to do with the crime.

THE FEDERAL judge Sarah Hughes who administered the oath of office to Johnson aboard the plane, remains on the bench. She took some bitter cracks at Dallas after the assassination, but said after the last election, the usually Republican city voted Democratic, that things had changed for the better.

Oswald is buried in a \$175 coffin in Rose Hill cemetery, east of Forth Worth.

His mother, Marguerite, visits his grave frequently and it attracts a few tourists. She has applied for a passport and announced that she will ask the Russian embassy for a visa. She plans to visit Russia next spring in the hope of finding out something as a "mother" that her son's acquaintances during the three years he spent in Russia would not tell the authorities.

SHE TAKES the view that her son died innocent and may be a "patsy" for a real assassin.

Oswald's wife, Russian-born Marina, married again last June. Her husband is Kenneth Jess Porter, a foreman at an electronics plant.

Oswald never liked her to use cosmetics or smoke. Now she is well groomed and smokes a lot.

Mrs. J. D. Tippit, widow of the patrolman Oswald killed, lives in a modest home in south Dallas.

Contributions to an income-tax free fund for her totaled between \$600,000 and \$650,000. It is in a trust that probably is returning \$25,000-\$30,000 a year. She also gets a \$225 monthly pension as a policeman's widow. A Philadelphia publisher paid off her \$10,000 mortgage.

JACK RUBY, who killed Oswald, remains under a death sentence.

There are two actions involving Ruby before the Texas court of criminal appeals. A favorable ruling on either one could get him a new trial. He also will get a sanity trial. And Dist. Atty. Henry Wade has offered to recommend a commutation to life imprisonment, which could make him eligible for parole after eight years. Ruby's lawyers have declined Wade's offer.

Almost nobody in Dallas believes Ruby will go to the electric chair.

M. N. McDonald, the police patrolman who grabbed Oswald's gun and collared him in the Texas theater, is now a detective on the vice squad.

Rufus Youngblood, the Secret Service agent who protected then Vice President Johnson when he heard the shots, is now general supervisor of all service protective details.

The Rev. Oscar L. Huber, Catholic priest who gave the last rites to Kennedy is 72 but still active.

Roy Truly, manager of the Texas School Book Depository, still asks himself whether there was anything about Oswald, when he hired him, that should have been a tipoff that he was a potential assassin. He cannot think of a single thing.