



Associated Press

The Porters: Lady with a legacy

AMERICANA:

Love Story

The bride was radiant in pink polka dots, the groom stalwartly handsome. "It's all so wonderful," she said, as they rushed past the waiting newsmen. "I just want to be alone with my husband." Indeed, they might have been a couple carved from the American Dream, but for the bride's previous connections. Nevertheless, she brought her new husband a tidy little dowry—the legacy of her marriage to Lee Harvey Oswald.

"Let's have 'em meet cute," Sam Goldwyn used to say. And that's just the way it happened. Six weeks ago Marina Oswald, 23, stepped out of her new Richardson, Texas, home to visit a next-door neighbor, and who should come riding up on horseback but Kenneth Jess Porter, 27, a twice-divorced electronics technician and drag-racing hobbyist. Introductions followed, so did romance. The courtship was nicely balanced between fishing trips and nightclubbing in Dallas. The happy couple discovered many common interests, not the least of which were two children apiece from previous marriages. Last week, they drove to Oklahoma for a quickie blood test, then, eluding reporters, slipped back to Sherman, Texas, for a marriage license, then scuttled to the office of the Justice of the Peace in nearby Fate.

It has been a fateful road for the little pharmaceutical worker from Minsk. Her marriage to the man who was to assassinate a President, her first years in the U.S., the tragedy that followed brought her considerable anguish—and considerable cash. Donations from sympathetic Americans totaled more than \$70,000. She sold the photograph of Oswald with the murder weapon for \$5,000, the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle for an estimated \$10,000 (to Denver oilman John King), her husband's diary for \$20,000. She got a \$50,000 advance for a book now being ghosted for her. And she bought a new house, pretty clothes, went to the hairdresser, attended an English-language course at the University of Michigan. "A lot of boys fell in love with me," she said, "but I did not fall in love with any of them."

Now she is in love, and another saga of America is complete.