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Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 11 (AP)- Marina Oswald, the widow of presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, is staying in Arizona's scenic Oak Creek Canyon where she is working on her biography with a Dallas writer.

In a copyrighted story, the Arizona Republic reports Mrs. Oswald has been in the state the past week.

The newspaper said she is living in a \$150 a month apartment in Sedona, about 125 miles north of Phoenix.

With her, the Republic says, are a friend, Jermme Hastings, and Priscilla Johnson, a writer.

The newspaper said the primary purpose of the secret visit is to allow Miss Johnson to complete personal interviews for a book which is soon to be published by Harper and Row of New York.

Attempts to interview, talk with or photograph Mrs. Oswald are being rejected, the newspaper said.

It reported, however, that Mrs. Oswald frequently shops in the small community at the entrance to Oak Creek Canyon.

They also said she came to Phoenix yesterday to do some night shopping at one of the state's most expensive women's stores, Saks Fifth Avenue. She reportedly purchased clothes and perfumed soap for herself and her children, spending about \$200.

The Republic said Mrs. Oswald is spending most of the daytime hours in interviews with Miss Johnson.

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