



This Is The Scene, Drawn By Chicago Daily News Artist John Downs. The President's Motorcade, After Leaving The Airport, Had Proceeded Through Downtown Dallas. From Main Street, The Car Bearing Kennedy Turned Right On Houston And Left On Elm, Heading For Stemmons Expressway.

The Assassination Scene

If Oswald Was Plotting, Fate Was Conspirator, Too

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he borrowed a biography of President Kennedy, W. R. Manchester's "Portrait of the President," and Hermann Deutsch's "The Illegitimate Case," the story of an assassination. Oswald read widely, during this period, however, and plowed through at least three books which were unsympathetic to communism.

Once Again She Found Oswald Out Of A Job

He had time to read. When Ruth Paine passed through New Orleans on September 23, at the end of a vacation trip through the Southeastern states, she once again found Oswald out of a job.

Once again, she offered his wife lodging at her home.

"Lee told me he was going to Houston to look for a job and would send for his wife Marina as soon as he found one," said Mrs. Paine.

Mrs. Paine and Marina, now eight months pregnant with her second child, left New Orleans with Mrs. Paine's 1956 Chevrolet station wagon heavily laden with the Oswald possessions.

Among them, Mrs. Paine now believes, was a blue-and-green blanket roll concealing an Italian rifle. "I don't remember seeing the blanket roll when we were loading or unloading the car," she says, "but it must have been there. Later, I noticed it in my garage and I don't know how else it could have gotten there, unless we brought it that day."

Driving back to Dallas, Mrs. Paine found herself feeling sympathy for Lee Oswald for the first time. He had been sad, almost tearful, when he told Marina and June goodbye. She wished him well on his job-hunting expedition to Houston.

He Took Mexican Trip, Leaving Rent Unpaid

Oswald never went to Houston. Government records show he entered Mexico at Laredo on Sept. 26, having left New Orleans before dawn without paying the last installment on his rent.

One witness says he bought \$52 worth of clothing in Laredo before crossing the border on a 15-day tourist visa granted him Sept. 17 at the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans.

On the same day Oswald entered Mexico, newspapers confirmed rumors that President Kennedy was planning a trip to Dallas and to other major Texas cities on Nov. 21-22.

The following day, Oswald applied at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City for a Cuban transit visa to the Soviet Union, only to be turned down by the Cubans because he had no Russian visa.

Later, the Russian Embassy staff told him any visa must come from Moscow, that this could take three months. Sketchy reports indicate he traveled Mexico by bus, living meagerly, before re-entering the United States on Oct. 3.

According to one report, Oswald applied for a job at an Alice, Texas, radio station on Oct. 4, but without success.

That same day, he called his wife for the first time since they left New Orleans, said he was in Dallas and needed a ride to the Paine home in suburban Irving, 12 miles away.

"Marina told him I couldn't go get him because I had just given blood that day in advance to help defray hospital expenses when Marina's baby came," says Mrs. Paine.

Oswald checked into the Dallas YMCA, hitchhiked to the Paine home on the fifth, left on the seventh for Dallas, rented a \$7 a week room.

Before he left the Paine home, Mrs. Paine gave him a map of Dallas.

"One needs one when looking for a job," she said.

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Mrs. William Randall likes to start her week by walking four houses south on Fifth Street in Irving to the home of a friend, Dorothy Roberts. After a couple of cups of coffee with Dorothy, a readhead with an easy laugh, the week ahead begins to brighten.

Monday, Oct. 14, was different, however.

Mrs. Randall went to Dorothy's home as usual but found her friend in a "sorrowful mood." She was worried, she said, about Marina — the Russian girl who was living with her next door neighbor, Ruth Paine. Here she was in a strange country with her second baby due any day and her husband looking for a job and having no luck at all.

Mrs. Randall knew how it was. Her nineteen-year-old kid brother, Wesley Frazier, had just come from Huntsville to live with her and her husband, and he had looked "almost everywhere" before finding a job.

Later, when Marina and Ruth walked into the Roberts' home to join in the coffee, Mrs. Randall offered to help. There had been a couple of companies that might have hired Wesley if he had been a bit older and had his military service behind him.

Texas Gypsum was a good prospect, Mrs. Randall said. So was Manor Bakery — that firm needed truck drivers. They wouldn't hire Wesley, but he ultimately found work with the Texas School Book Depository, a private firm that serves "as sort of a clearing house and distributing center" for several textbook publishers.

Ruth Paine does not recall now that any companies were mentioned other than the school book depository. She walked to her home, phoned the firm, asked for the man in charge of hiring, got R. S. Truly, superintendent and a director of the depository.

His Wife Was Expecting, And He Needed Work

"She said she had a fine young man and his wife living at her home," Truly recalls. "She said the wife was expecting a baby and that the husband really needed the work."

"Tell him to come on in," I said. "Well, as I remember — the FBI has my files — he came in on the 15th and I talked to him and he seemed a quiet, well-mannered young man. He said he spent three years in the Marines and left me with the idea he was just out of service. 'I hired him and told him to report to work the next

day. The pay would be \$1.25 an hour, 40 hours a week. He would work from 8:00 to 4:45, with 45 minutes for lunch."

If, at this time, Lee Oswald was plotting an attempt on the life of President Kennedy, then fate was a conspirator. A sniper, scheming in advance to fire on the President, could pick no better spot than the school book depository building.

Although no route had been announced on Oct. 16 for the President's upcoming visit to Dallas, it was rumored in the city that he might be persuaded to tour the downtown area in a motorcade.

If the downtown tour was made, then the President almost certainly would pass in the shadow of the depository building, which towers above the "Triple Underpass."

The three major traffic arteries of downtown Dallas — Elm, Main and Commerce — blend into the Triple Underpass. It is difficult to enter or leave the western end of the business district without passing under it.

From either of the top two floors of the seven-story depository building, a sniper would have all approaches to the underpass within the range of a highpowered rifle.

When Oswald reported to work at the depository, fate once again came to his aid.

Call It Fate, But Oswald Got Depository

"Call it fate," says Truly, "but I could have sent Oswald to work in a very isolated warehouse two blocks away and out of range of the President's motorcade."

"Oswald and another fellow reported for work on the same day, and I needed one of them for the depository building and another for the warehouse. I picked Oswald for the depository building."

"And another thing," says Truly, "on any other year but this one he might not have been working with us on Nov. 22 (the day the President was shot). Oswald was only hired as an extra employee, and was to work through the rush season."

"The rush in school books is usually over by Nov. 1 — or a little after — but this year we decided to keep the extra workers on and rearrange our stock and do some repair work."

Oswald settled quickly into his work with the textbook firm. "We hired him on as an order filler," Truly says. "And within an hour or two, he caught on to the job."

"He took the book orders from schools and filled them. If a school wanted, say 10 workbooks, 20 practice sets and 10 or 12 textbooks, Oswald would get them all together."

"This might take him all through the building. Stacks of books were stored on the sixth and seventh floors, and when we ran out of supplies downstairs, Oswald would go up and get some more."

"He seemed to be a satisfactory employee. Every time I saw him, he had an order in his hand and was trying to fill it. I often asked him, 'How are you doing? How is your baby?'

"He seemed pleased that anyone was interested. He always answered, 'Very fine, thank you, Mr. Truly.'"

Oswald's second daughter was born during his first week with the depository, on Oct. 20, and he announced the birth to his co-workers.

"The rest of the time, he was quiet," says Truly. "He didn't join the rest of the workers during the smoke breaks or play dominos with them during the 45-minute lunch break. 'He just kept to himself and read papers or something.'"

Oswald also kept to himself at his roominghouse at 1025 N. Beckley, two miles from the depository. He appeared at the roominghouse, a squat, labyrinthine bungalow, with 17 rooms, on the night of Oct. 14 — only hours after Mrs. Paine contacted the depository in his behalf. He gave his name as O. B. Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Johnson, the roominghouse owners, told him the room would be \$8 a week, and he quickly agreed to take it, although it cost \$10.00 a week more than the room he had just vacated.

His room was a cramped, 5-by-12-foot cubicle, just off the living room. An averaged-sized man, standing in the middle of the room, could extend his arms, shoulder high, and brush the walls with his finger-tips.

Despite the room's size, Oswald spent most of his free hours in it. "He was always in there by 9:30 or 10 p.m.," said Johnson. "You could hear him in there listening to a small radio."

Although Johnson doesn't remember them, there were exceptions to Oswald's stay-at-home rule. On Oct. 24, the night before United Nations Ambassador Adlai Stevenson was struck and spat upon in Dallas, Oswald attended a rightwing rally called by Edwin A. Walker, a former major general who was ousted from the Army after indoctrinating his troops with extremist rightwing views.

Walker told the cheering crowd of more than a thousand that Adlai Stevenson would deliver his speech from the same stage. "Tomorrow night," he said, "there will stand here a symbol of the Communist conspiracy and its United Nations."

The crowd applauded as Walker broadened his speech into an attack on every President since Herbert Hoover, including President Kennedy.

Oswald's Wife Said He Said He Shot At Walker

"Oswald told me about the rally later," said Michael Paine, Ruth's estranged husband. "He said he thought the people there were anti-Semitic."

In a document found by FBI agents, Oswald wrote of his attempt to kill Walker. The document was discovered in Oswald's effects.

While federal officials refused to disclose what Oswald had written, they did say Mrs. Oswald had told them her husband came home the night of April 10 and told her excitedly that he had tried to kill Walker.

A rifle shot shattered a window in Walker's Dallas home on See A TAXI DRIVER, Page 7-B, Col. 1