

# President's Assassin Is Shot to Death in Corridor of Jail by a Citizen of Dallas

## KENNEDY ADMIRER FIRES ONE BULLET

### Operator of 2 Night Clubs Lunges at Oswald From a Cluster of Newsmen

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scousness very quickly after the shooting. Whether he was at any point able to speak, if he wanted to, was not known.

The politically eccentric warehouse clerk was taken in a police ambulance to the Parkland Hospital, where President Kennedy died Friday. He died in surgery at 1:07 P.M., less than two hours after the shooting. The exact time Oswald was shot was not definitely established.

Four plainclothes men, from a detail of about 50 police officers carrying out the transfer, pounced on Ruby as he fired the shot and overpowered him.

Ruby, who came to Dallas from Chicago 15 years ago, had a police record here listing six allegations of minor offenses. The disposition of five was not noted. A charge of liquor law violation was dismissed. Two of the entries, in July, 1953, and May, 1954, involved carrying concealed weapons.

The city police, working with the Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said last night that they had the case against Oswald "cracked."

After some 30 hours of intermittent interrogations and confrontations with scores of witnesses, Oswald was ordered transferred to the custody of the Dallas County sheriff.

This was preliminary to the planned presentation of the case, next Wednesday or the following Monday, to the county grand jury by District Attorney Wade.

The transfer involved a trip of about a mile from the uptown municipal building, where the Police Department and jail are. The route went down Main Street to the county jail, overlooking the spot where President Kennedy was killed and Gov. John B. Connally was wounded by shots from the book warehouse where Oswald worked.

### A Change in Plans

The original plan had been for the sheriff to assume custody of Oswald at the city jail and handle the transfer. Late last night, for unspecified reasons, it was decided that the city police would move the prisoner.

Police Chief Jesse Curry declined to comment on suggestions that he had scheduled the transfer of Oswald at an unpropitious time because of pressure from news media.

Chief Curry announced about 9 o'clock last night that the investigation had reached a point where Oswald's presence was no longer needed. He said that Oswald would be turned over to the county sheriff today.

Asked when this would take place, the chief said: "If you fellows are here by 10 A.M., you'll be early enough."

When newsmen assembled at the police administrative offices at 10 o'clock, Chief Curry commented: "We could have done this earlier if I hadn't given you fellows that 10 o'clock time."

### Armored Van Used

This was generally construed as meaning that preparations for the transfer had been in readiness for some hours, rather than implying a complaint from the chief that the press had had any part in setting the time.

Chief Curry disclosed this morning that to thwart an attempt against Oswald, the trip was to be made in an armored van of the kind used to transfer money.

"We're not going to take any chances," he said. "Our squad cars are not bullet-proof. If somebody's going to try to do something, they wouldn't stop him."

A ramp dips through the basement garage of the municipal building, running from Main Street to Commerce Street. Patrol wagons drive down this ramp and discharge prisoners at a basement booking office. The garage ceiling was too low for the armored car, so the van was backed up in the Commerce Street portal of the ramp.

The plan was to lead Oswald out the doorway in the center of the basement and about 75 feet up the ramp to the back of the armored car.

### Prisoner on Fourth Floor

At about 11 o'clock, Chief Curry left his third-floor office, followed by plainclothes detectives and newsmen, to go to the basement. Oswald was still in a fourth-floor jail cell.

As the group with the chief walked through a short corridor past the basement booking office and out the door onto the guarded ramp, uniformed policemen checked the reporters' credentials. But they passed familiar faces, such as those of policemen and collaborating Secret Service and F.B.I. agents.

### Inconspicuous in Group

Neatly dressed in a dark suit and wearing a fedora, he was inconspicuous in a group of perhaps 50 men who for the next 20 minutes waited in a 12-foot-wide vestibule and adjacent portions of the ramp.



THE SUDDEN ATTACK: Jack Ruby closes in on Lee Harvey Oswald, in custody at jail in Dallas. Ruby put the muzzle of the pistol against the assassin, and then fired.

Television cameras, facing about his preliminary remarks

the vestibule, were set up against a metal railing separating the 15-foot-wide ramp from the rest of the garage. Some newsmen clustered along this railing.

Across Commerce Street, in front of a row of bail bondsmen's offices, a crowd of several hundred persons was held back by a police line.

Soon Oswald was taken in an elevator to the basement. He was led through the booking office to the open vestibule between two lines of detectives.

### Walks Behind Captain

Captain Fritz, chief of the police homicide division, walked just ahead of him. Oswald was handcuffed, with a detective holding each arm and another following. On Oswald's right, in a light suit, was J. R. Leavelle and on his left, in a dark suit, L. C. Graves.

As they turned right from the vestibule to start up the ramp, Ruby jumped forward from against the railing. There was a sudden loud noise that sounded like the explosion of a photographer's flashbulb. It was Ruby's revolver firing.

A momentary furor set in as Ruby was seized and hustled into the building. Policemen ran up the ramp in both directions to the street, followed by others with orders to seal off the building.

About five minutes elapsed before an ambulance could be rolled down the ramp to Oswald. The ambulance, its siren sounding, was followed by police and press cars on the four-mile drive to the hospital.

The hospital's emergency department had been on the alert for possible injuries arising out of the projected transfer.

Oswald was moved almost immediately into an operating room, at the other end of the building from the one where President Kennedy was treated.

The bullet had entered Oswald's body just below his heart and had torn into most of the vital organs.

Dr. Tom Shires, the hospital's chief of surgery, who operated on Governor Connally Friday, took over the case. The gamut of emergency procedures—blood transfusion, fluid transfusion, breathing tube—was instituted immediately.

But Dr. Shires quickly reported through a hospital official that Oswald was in "extremely critical condition" and that surgery would take several hours.

Family Put in Custody Oswald's brother, George, a factory worker from Denton, Tex., got to the hospital before the assassin died.

The police took Oswald's mother, wife and two infant daughters into protective custody today. They were escorted to the hospital to view the body, then were taken to an undisclosed lodging place in Dallas.

Governor Connally is still a patient at the Parkland Hospital. The excitement of the Oswald case swirled around the temporary office the Governor had set up there.

Back at the jail, Ruby was taken to the same fourth-floor cellblock where his victim had been the focus of attention the last two days.

Reports that filtered out

last three days in the police headquarters basement assembly room at 1:30 P.M.

His face drawn, he said in a husky voice: "My statement will be very brief. Oswald expired at 1:07 P.M."

"We have arrested the man. He will be charged with murder. The suspect is Jack Ruby. He also goes by the name of Jack Ruby. That's all I have to say."

Sheriff Bill Decker commented that the police "did everything humanly possible" to protect Oswald, as he said they had in the case of President Kennedy.

"I don't think it would have made a bit of difference if Oswald had been transferred at night," he said. "If someone is determined to commit murder, it's almost impossible to stop him."

Ironically, it appeared that Ruby might have had a number of far easier opportunities for killing Oswald than the method he finally used.

He was reported to have circulated repeatedly the last two days among the throng of people that was constantly in the third-floor corridor near the homicided bureau Oswald was led along this corridor a number of times as he was taken down from the fourth-floor jail for interrogation.

Chief Curry called the second formal news conference of the

## DALLAS IS GROPING FOR A REASON WHY

### Some Say 'Crackpots' Have Touched Off Violence

By JOHN HEBBERS. Special to The New York Times

DALLAS, Nov. 24— "We think it's this Western tradition, a minister's wife said. 'They are used to shooting at everything they don't like.'"

This was one explanation for a series of impulsive acts of violence that has occurred in Dallas—the abuse of President Johnson in a hotel lobby during the campaign in 1960; the attack on Adlai E. Stevenson, chief delegate to the United Nations, a few weeks ago; the assassination of President Kennedy, and the slaying today of the president's assassin.

Dallas does have a Western tradition, but it is not predominant. The city is really neither Western nor Southern. A civic leader who has been concerned about the rise of right-wing extremism here explained it like this:

"Dallas has a lot of professional people who are responsibly conservative and individualistic. It has some leaders who are interested in making money under the free and open Texas tradition. These people have attracted a lot of crackpots and the crackpots have inflamed the weak-minded and emotionally unstable."

### Attracted by the West

Jack Ruby, the night-club operator who shot Lee H. Oswald, was described as a Chicagoan who was attracted by the Western tradition in Dallas.

His club in the heart of Dallas is decorated in Western decor, with the picture of a steer's head on a street sign.

A friend of Ruby's said he was an efficient bouncer. "He was tough all right, but you can't run a night club here and be a sissy," he said.

One block from Ruby's club is a similar night club called "The Horseshoe." It is decorated with pictures of scantily clad women, some of them wearing pistols on their hips.

Both night clubs are in the shadow of a partly completed, 50-story office building. Dallas has several skyscrapers going up. A taxi driver was asked if the city needed that much office space. He replied:

"I don't know about that, but you see that new building there. It was built by a bank. Another bank is building that tall structure. They couldn't stand to let the first bank get ahead of them."

### 'Like a Cancer'

"Something has happened here," Dr. Thomas A. Fry, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, told his congregation today in a memorial service for President Kennedy. He continued:

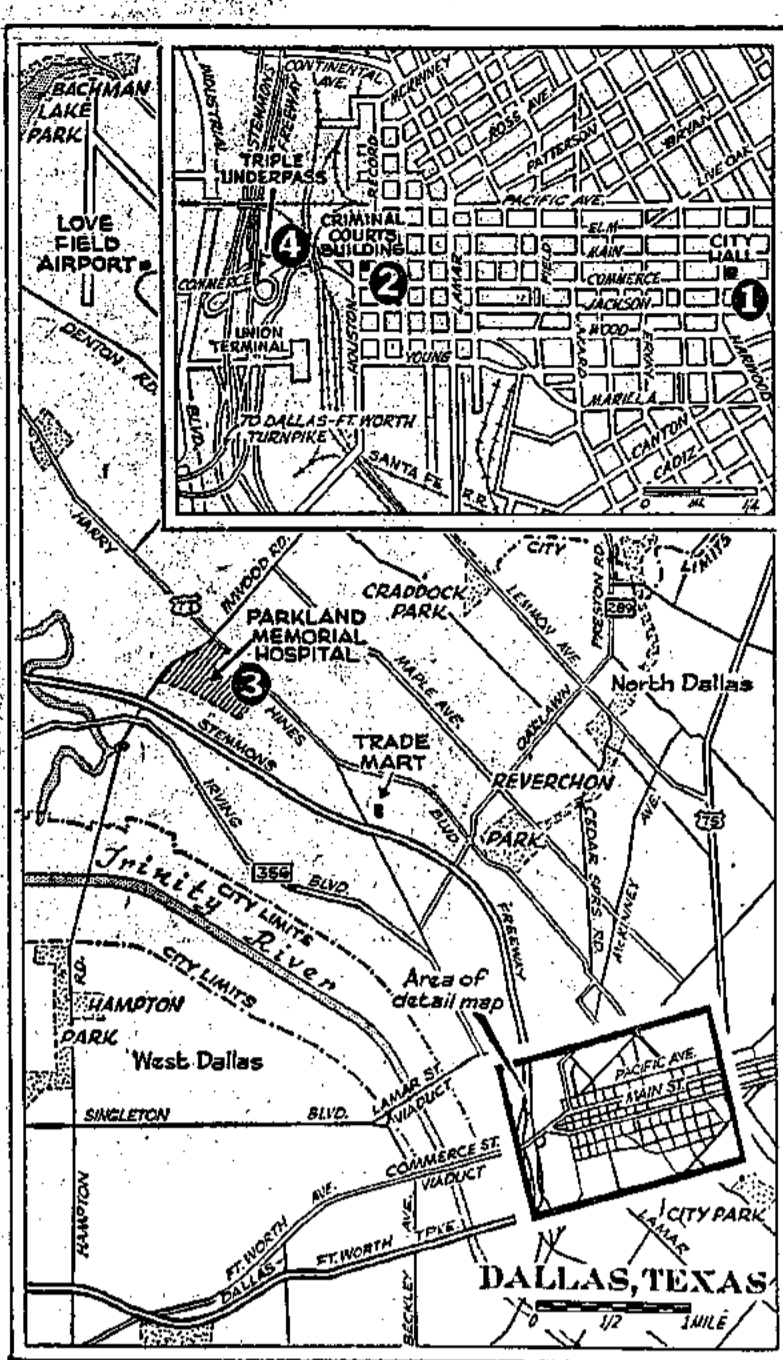
"We are proud of our heritage and our image. But something has happened like a cancer you cannot quite put your finger on.

"We have allowed the apostles of religious bigotry and the purveyors of political pornography to stir up the weak-minded.

"These events should cause us to see to it that never again will we allow persons to brand a President a Communist unless he can back up his charges in court with facts, to call a person an adulterer with nothing more than a picture of a man in front of the house to prove it."

Dr. Fry was referring to literature distributed in the city by extremists. Oswald's slaying today added to the feeling of defensiveness, confusion and hurt that has been evidenced here since the President was killed.

People on the street have felt



THE NEW YORK TIMES. Nov. 25, 1963. SITE OF SLAYING: Kennedy's assassin was fatally shot in municipal building jail (1) as he was to be shifted to the county jail (2). He died at Parkland Hospital (3). President Kennedy was shot on the street (4) in car.

throughout that there was some kind of conspiracy involved in the President's death.

Hundreds of persons gathered under clear skies today at the spot where President Kennedy was shot. They placed scores of floral wreaths in the small park that adjoins the street. Many of them stood in small groups discussing Oswald's death.

"I said all along that there was something else behind this," a woman said. "This shooting proves it. He won't be able to talk now."

A waitress said, "I just don't believe Oswald was acting on his own."

"The people said they found it difficult to believe that the President's assassination was the act of a single demented person.

Extremists here have contended that any left-wing activity was part of a worldwide conspiracy. Oswald has been a defector to the Soviet Union and was a self-proclaimed Marxist.

There was anger against Ruby for shooting Oswald before he could be brought to trial.

"This makes it worse than ever for Dallas," a businessman said. "It seems like the police would have had enough sense to keep out people like that; it will be hard to convince the nation that Dallas people aren't wild-eyed gunmen."

Some residents expressed doubt that the authorities had enough evidence against Oswald to convict him. "I don't believe he did it," a woman said.

Dallas also has a strong Southern tradition, even though most residents claim Western ties first. It is a city of many churches and their members turned out in great numbers today, obviously deeply grieved and disturbed over what had happened.

A minister said "I think it is significant that the President received a warm and genuine reception by thousands of his residents before he was shot by a single emotionally disturbed man. Dallas cannot be explained in a few words. It is a lot of things."

## A British Program Honoring Kennedy Shown Over N.B.C.

A taped British television program entitled "A Tribute to John F. Kennedy" was shown over the National Broadcasting Company television network last night.

The program was a special presentation of the show "That Was the Week That Was," which usually is a humorous and biting program of political satire seen in England on Saturday nights.

The 19-minute show seen here last night contained no politics and no satire. It was made up of seven young persons prominent in British arts, giving short tributes to President Kennedy.

Dame Sybil Thorneike, one of Britain's most famous actresses, also read a short poem dedicated to Mrs. Kennedy. It was entitled, "Dear Jackie."

The British commentator Richard Dimbleby, who is in the United States to broadcast President Kennedy's funeral on the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the regular program had been scrapped when the news of President Kennedy's assassination reached England Friday evening.

Mr. Dimbleby said the program was a good expression of the emotion and the sorrow felt by the British people.

## Irish Cousin of Kennedy Is Asked to Attend Rites

DUBLIN, Nov. 24 (AP)—Mary Ann Ryan, an Irish cousin of President Kennedy, began tonight a journey to attend his funeral.

A request for Miss Ryan, 22-years-old, to be present at the funeral came from the Kennedy family through the United States embassy in Dublin.

A special police escort sped from Dublin to Dunganstown, County Wexford, where Miss Ryan, a nurse, was spending a weekend at home.

## Airlines in Capital Expect Rush of Outbound Traffic

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24— Domestic airlines said today that they expected a rush of outbound patrons at midweek as Thanksgiving travel coincides with the demand for seats from those going home after President Kennedy's funeral.

Most carriers reported they were able to handle the influx of dignitaries over the weekend. But officials at both United Air Lines and Trans World Airlines, for example, said they expected trouble meeting the outbound demand later this week.

Leading Washington hotels said their occupancy rates had risen to 75 to 80 per cent.

## TV Coverage in Capital Starts at 7 A.M. Today

Live television coverage in Washington in connection with the President Kennedy funeral will be provided by the three networks beginning at about 7 A.M. today. An approximate schedule follows:

7-9 A.M.—Scenes from key points in Washington.

9-10:30—The Rotunda of the Capitol, where the President's body lies in state.

10:30-Noon—Funeral procession to St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Noon-1:30—Requiem mass. 1:30-2:30—Procession to Arlington cemetery. 2:30—Burial services. From 4 P.M. until sign-off, programs will consist of broadcasts related to the assassination of President Kennedy. Radio schedules will be substantially in accord with those of television.

## MILLIONS WATCH OSWALD SLAYING

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Tokyo. Tape recordings of this were played back on Japanese TV stations ten minutes later.

The Dallas shooting, easily the most extraordinary moments of TV that a set-owner ever watched, came with such breath-taking suddenness as to beggar description.

It had been a quiet and subdued morning on TV, with emphasis on religious services and plans for the funeral of President Kennedy today. N.B.C. had just done a "remote" from Hyannis Port, Mass., on the condition of the late President's father, Joseph P. Kennedy, C.E.S. was giving a news report from its studio after having carried a sermon in which violence was decried.

Under stand-by arrangements for instant switching to Dallas, the two networks took their audiences to the now familiar overcrowded corridor in the Dallas Police Department. And once again there appeared in view the figure of Oswald with a plainclothes man at each side.

On the home screen all three appeared to be looking toward the left side of the screen. Out of the lower right corner came the back of a man. A shot rang out, and Oswald could be heard gasping as he started to fall.

Tom Pettit, N.B.C. correspondent, said quickly: "He's been shot! He's been shot! Lee Oswald has been shot. There is absolute panic. Pandemonium has broken out."

Robert Huffaker, staff newsman for television station KRLD, the Dallas affiliate of the Columbia network, happened to be at the C.E.S. microphone.

"He's been shot!" Mr. Huffaker exclaimed. "Oswald's been shot!"

On the faces of the police officers there was shock, and then a viewer could see the officers swarming over the back of the assassin, Jack Ruby, a night-club operator.

Hundreds on Duty The television coverage showed Ruby being whisked away and Oswald being sped in an ambulance to Parkland Hospital.

The TV sequence was over almost as soon as it started, and the viewer could not help but respect the composure of the commentators and the cameramen.

The ability of television to cope with the Oswald murder reflected the extent of network preparations since the President's assassination. Hundreds of persons in the networks' news staffs have been on duty almost around the clock, organizing and presenting programs throughout the day and night.

All networks concurred yesterday in a decision not to resume regular commercial programming until tomorrow morning.

One official estimated that the expenses for the special four-day news coverage would run from \$2 million to \$3 million for each network.

But a larger economic consideration pertains to advertising revenue that will not be realized. If both the networks and the hundreds of individual stations are considered, it was said, the total industry loss could amount to \$100 million.

The three networks together realize a total of about \$14 million a night from the sale of prime time. To this must be added the loss of individual station income from the sale of spot announcements.

In today's coverage of the funeral and burial services for President Kennedy, beginning at 7 A.M. and continuing until late afternoon, the networks will pool their picture resources while carrying the commentary of their own reporters.

The same arrangement was followed for the inauguration of President Kennedy.

## Friend Offers to Take Oswald's Family Into Her Home Again

By DONALD JANSON. Special to The New York Times

IRVING, Tex., Nov. 24—"I would be very pleased to have her again if she wants to live with me."

Mrs. Michael R. Paine was speaking today of Mrs. Lee Oswald. She had just heard the news of the shooting of her friend's husband.

Mrs. Oswald and her two baby daughters had lived with Mrs. Paine in this small town near Dallas while Oswald sought to earn enough money to get an apartment.

After President Kennedy was assassinated the police told Mrs. Paine they were bringing Mrs. Oswald and the children back to her two-bedroom home in this quiet residential neighborhood.

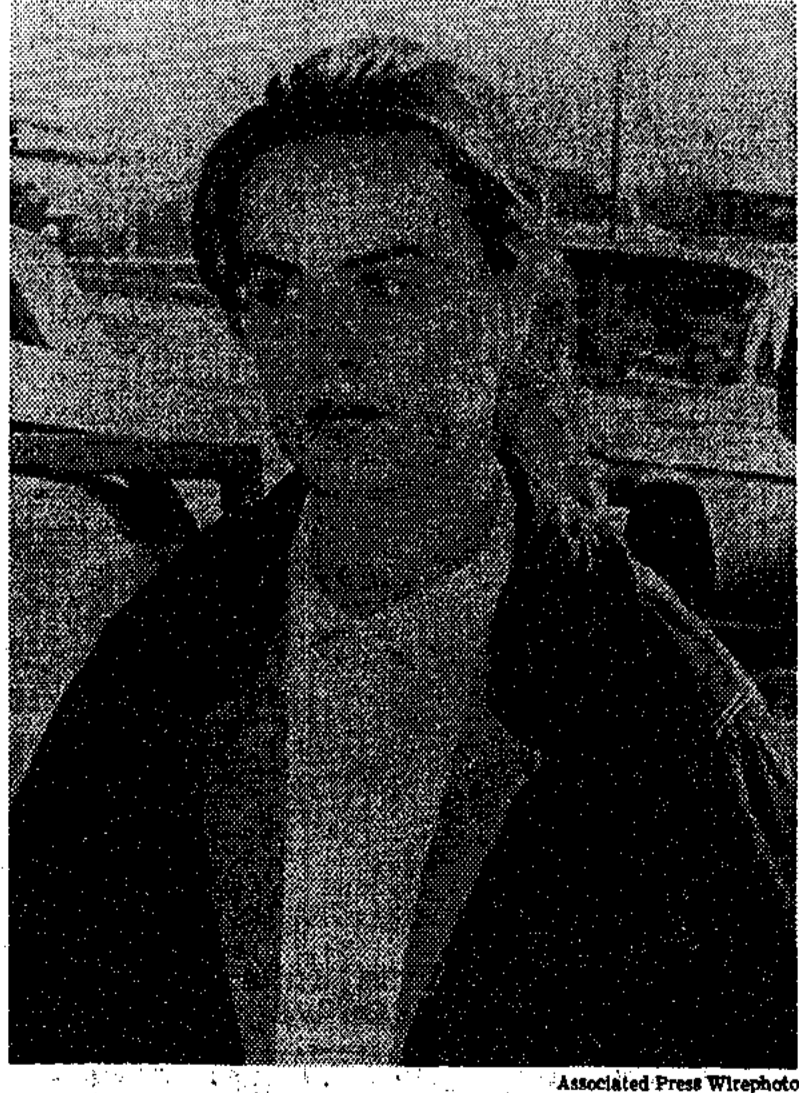
Subsequently, policemen were stationed in the home to insure the protection of the Oswald family.

Then Mrs. Oswald called from Dallas, where she and her children and mother-in-law had spent the night at the Executive Inn in rooms rented by Life magazine. She said the police had decided to keep them in protective custody elsewhere in Dallas.

Speaking in Russian, Mrs. Oswald, who has learned little English during her year and a half in the United States, asked Mrs. Paine to send her things she needed.

Responding in Russian, Mrs. Paine agreed. She also sent toys.

She said Mrs. Oswald did not seem distraught. Her husband died shortly afterward.



Lee H. Oswald's Russian-born wife, Marina, arriving yesterday at the hospital in Dallas where her husband died.

to get John Abt of New York, an attorney, to defend him against charges of assassinating Mr. Kennedy.

Mrs. Paine was not able to reach Mr. Abt, but had planned to try again today.

Mrs. Paine, a tall young brunette, was born in New York. She became Marina Oswald's best friend through her interest in the Russian language.

A Quaker, she worked with the Young Friends Committee of North America in Philadelphia before moving here with her husband four years ago.

She said the object of her work was to improve international relations, and that knowledge of the Russian language would be useful. Last summer she taught Russian at St.

Mark's, an Episcopal school in Dallas.

Mrs. Paine, who wants to do more teaching, said she had met the Oswalds at a small party in the home of a friend in Dallas last February.

At the party, she said, Oswald told of his three-year stay in the Soviet Union and of his preference for Marxism over capitalism.

He said he had met Marina, a pharmacist, in Minsk and married her a month and a half later. Their first child, now 22 months old, was born there. The other child is one month old.

Mrs. Paine said she had never engaged in political or philosophical discussions with Oswald because she did not enjoy argument.

"He had very fixed ideas," she said.

Mrs. Paine's husband, an engineer at Bell Helicopter Company, sometimes debated with him, but also found him inflexibly pro-Marxist.

Mrs. Oswald has stayed with Mrs. Paine twice, for two weeks last May and from Sept. 24 until yesterday. Each time it was because Oswald had lost a job and could not support his family.

His last job was as a \$50-a-week stock clerk at the Texas School Book Depository Building in Dallas, where the assassination was carried out.

Mrs. William Randall, a neighbor, told Mrs. Paine of the opening while having coffee with her and Mrs. Oswald.

She said the first time she had felt any sympathy for Oswald was when he had looked "very bleak" in bidding good-by to his family in New Orleans Sept. 23.

Mrs. Paine had gone there to bring Mrs. Oswald and the baby back here after Oswald had lost a job. Oswald came to the Dallas area a short time later, but never lived full-time with his family again.

Oswald Liked Children While visiting his wife, Mrs. Paine said, Oswald seemed to be a loving father and husband. He liked to play with his babies and Mrs. Paine's children, who are a little older.

Oswald was handy around the house, Mrs. Paine said. He had planned doors to make them fit better and had moved furniture and done other chores.

He liked to watch football and late shows on television. But he never made any friends, she said. Even the party he and his wife had been invited to last February had included them because the group was interested in Russia, and Marina was Russian.

He was never close to his mother, of Fort Worth, or his older brother, of Denton, Tex. He was a loner.

His 22-year-old wife is different, Mrs. Paine said. She says the slight young woman is likeable and "quite intelligent."

Mrs. Oswald is learning English so she can work as a pharmacist. Mrs. Paine said Mrs. Oswald liked the United States "very much."

Of her husband's death, Mrs. Paine said it was probably better for Mrs. Oswald because "it will mean less total strain."