

Ft. Worth Man Asks Red Citizenship

Passport Turned in At Moscow

BY JACK O'NEILL

Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President John F. Kennedy, is in Moscow, seeking to become a Soviet citizen, according to the American embassy, according to the Dallas Telegram.

Oswald, whose mother and brother-in-law, John Lee Oswald, are in Dallas, arrived in the American embassy and asked for Soviet citizenship yesterday morning.

His mother is Mrs. Margaret Oswald, a widow who lived in Dallas until about 1958, when she moved to New Orleans, La. She is now in Dallas, and her brother, John Lee Oswald, is in New Orleans.

Mr. J. L. Oswald said he had been in Dallas for about 10 years, and he had been in the U. S. since 1958.

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PASSPORT

Continued From Page 1

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Fort Worth Star Telegram - October 31st 1959



SHOCKED BY NEWS—E. L. Oswald, with his wife, Vada, and his son, Lee Harvey Oswald, who turned to the U. S. passport in Moscow Saturday and announced he wanted to become a Soviet citizen, said he doesn't believe the younger knows what he is doing.

Brother's Turn to Reds Puzzles Ft. Worth Man

BY JACK O'NEILL

E. L. Oswald, 38, of 7215 Danforth, older brother of assassin Lee Harvey Oswald of Fort Worth, who turned to the U. S. passport in Moscow Saturday and announced he wanted to become a Soviet citizen, said he doesn't believe the younger knows what he is doing.

"I'm young," the brother said, "and I'm not a Communist. I hope I will not be before I am old enough to be."

He said he had been in the U. S. since 1958, and he had been in the U. S. since 1958. He said he had been in the U. S. since 1958, and he had been in the U. S. since 1958.

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MORE ABOUT CITY YOUTH DEFECTS

Continued From Page 1

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD

... seeks Red citizenship.

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Fort Worth Star Telegram – November 1st 1959



The Kilgore News Herald (Kilgore, Texas) - November 3rd 1959

City Youth in Moscow Says He Won't Return

BY LES STROTHER.

Lee Harvey Oswald, 20, the ex-Marine from Fort Worth who turned in his U. S. passport Saturday in Moscow and assertedly seeks to become a Soviet citizen, was quoted as saying he "never would return to the United States for any reason."

United Press International quoted young Oswald after interviewing him in his Metropol Hotel room in Moscow. The young Texan declined to give any details of the exact reason for his decision.

In Fort Worth, the boy's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, went into seclusion. Efforts of reporters to contact her through another son, R. L. Oswald of 2313 Davenport, were unavailing.

R. L. Oswald, a dairy deliveryman, parried all questions about his mother with "no comment." He said he could not understand his brother, but hoped Lee Harvey would contact him.

Oswald — whose address was given by a U. S. embassy official in Moscow as 4006 Collinwood, Fort Worth — was the third American to have defected to Russia in recent months.

Statement Declined.

The first, sheetmetal worker Nicholas Patrikin, of Valley Stream, N. Y., changed his mind after applying for Soviet citizenship and returned home to Long Island.

The other, Robert Edward Webster, a plastics technician of Cleveland, Ohio, was granted Soviet citizenship and now is reported to be working in Leningrad. He was in Moscow with the U. S. Fair.

Lee Harvey Oswald said Saturday he hoped to hear from the Soviet authorities "within a few



LEE HARVEY OSWALD
... seeks Red citizenship.

days," UPI reported. He declined to make a statement "until after I receive my Soviet citizenship."

"It might jeopardize my position," he was quoted as saying.

"I mean, the Soviet authorities might not want me to say anything."

He said he spoke Russian. Asked if he had studied political economy in the United States, he laughed and replied, "Absolutely not." His brother said in Fort Worth that Lee Harvey attended one year at Arlington Heights High School.

A U. S. embassy official in Moscow said that he had advised Oswald to wait for the Soviet reply to his application for citizenship before giving up his American passport. He reported Oswald said nothing would change his mind.

The official said Oswald would retain his full U. S. citizenship until he formally signed a document of renunciation and before he officially accepted Soviet citizenship.

He said the Texan had informed the embassy he had written to City Youth on Page 2.

MORE ABOUT CITY YOUTH

Continued From Page 1.

ten a letter to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Oct. 16, three days after arriving in Moscow as a tourist, to apply for citizenship.

The Presidium is legally the only body having jurisdiction in such matters. Asked about this, Oswald refused to say anything because he was afraid "it would be distorted in the newspapers."

Oswald arrived home five weeks ago after spending three years in the Marine Corps. He served 14 months in Japan near Tokyo as a radar technician.

His sister-in-law, Mrs. R. L. Oswald, quoted him as saying he wanted to travel a lot and talked of going to Cuba. His brother called him a "young man in search of adventure."

'No Friends.'

In addition to R. L., young Oswald has a halfbrother, John Pic, 27, with the Air Force in Japan. R. L. also served a hitch with the Marines. All three served in Japan.

An acquaintance, Mrs. James E. Taylor, said Oswald was a

youth who would rather stay in his room than make friends. She said she always pitied him "because he was such a nice young man but didn't seem to have any friends." She is his former landlady.

A dispatch from Moscow described Oswald as being a slender, good-looking youth, dressed in an Ivy League-type button-down shirt with round collar, a sports jacket, and slacks.

Here Last Month.

Oswald created a stir at the U. S. embassy in Moscow when he put in an appearance there. He walked in, placed his passport on the consul's desk, and said:

"I have made up my mind. I'm through."

It was then he was advised to wait awhile to see if the Soviets would accept his citizenship application before he went so far as to renounce his U. S. citizenship.

His father died before he was born. After he visited Fort Worth last month, he went on to New Orleans. His brother thought he went to work for a shipping firm.

V 15 Flight Delayed



LEE HARVEY OSWALD
... seeks Red citizenship.

'Stupid Thing'

Texan Wants To Be Soviet

Moscow. (AP) — An ex-Marine from Texas told the U. S. Embassy Saturday he has applied for Soviet citizenship.

"I have made up my mind, I'm through," said Lee Harvey Oswald, 20, of Fort Worth, slapping his passport on the desk.

The Embassy suggested he withhold signing papers renouncing his U. S. citizenship until he is sure the Soviet Union will accept him.

Oswald's decision on this suggestion was not known. He has been staying at the Metropole Hotel, but he was unavailable when reporters tried to get in touch with him.

Oswald is the third American in recent months to apply for Soviet citizenship upon arriving in Moscow.

Nicholas Petrulli of Valley Stream, N. Y., filed a renunciation form, then changed his mind and decided to keep his U. S. citizenship. Robert Webster of Cleveland, Ohio, completed formalities for taking Soviet citizenship 10 days ago.

Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, lives in Fort Worth. He went into the Marines Oct. 24, 1956.

His sister-in-law, Mrs. R. L. Oswald of Fort Worth, said he got out of the Marines about a month ago and returned to Fort Worth for a visit.



LEE HARVEY OSWALD



LEE HARVEY OSWALD

El Paso Times — November 2nd 1959

FACES IN THE NEWS



APPLIES FOR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP — Lee Harvey Oswald (left), of Fort Worth, Texas, was a smiling U. S. Marine when this photo was snapped in Japan about a year ago. Oswald is renouncing his country and is applying for Soviet citizenship in Moscow. His brother, R. L. Oswald (right), a Fort Worth dairy salesman, could only say "Why?" when advised of his brother's action.



Corpus Christi Caller-Times — November 3rd 1959



APPLIES FOR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP—Lee Harvey Oswald, left, of Fort Worth, was a smiling U.S. Marine when this photo was snapped in Japan about a year ago. Oswald is renouncing his country and is applying for Soviet citizenship in Moscow. His brother, R. L. Oswald, right, a Fort Worth dairy salesman, could only say "Why?" when advised of his brother's action.



Waxahachie Daily Light – November 3rd 1959

Ex-Resident 'Fed Up' in Russia; May Be Back

Former U. S. Marine Lee Harvey Oswald of Fort Worth, who denounced his American citizenship to become a Russian, was reported Friday to be en route home.

The 22-year-old Oswald turned in his American passport Oct. 31, 1959, at the embassy in Moscow, saying he would "never return to the United States for any reason."

Later he told American newspapermen that leaving the United

States "was just like getting out of prison."

Oswald's sister-in-law, Mrs. R. L. Oswald of 7313 Davenport, said her husband had received frequent letters from his brother indicating he was anxious to return to this country.

She said she and members of the family hadn't learned that Lee was en route home.

Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald of Boyd, could not be reached for comment.

Oswald, who was 20 at the time, went to Moscow about five

weeks after his discharge from the Marine Corps. He had served three years with the Marines.

His appearance at the American embassy in Moscow came as a shock to his mother and brother. He had left here after his discharge from the Marines telling his family he was going to New Orleans in search for a job.

The brother said the younger Oswald attended Stripling Junior High School and Arlington Heights High School about a year before he enlisted in the Marines.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram – June 8th 1962

Last day of Camelot

Fort Worth

Gray, rainy skies and the absence of the glamorous first lady do not dampen Fort Worth's enthusiasm for President John F. Kennedy during his last public speech the morning of Nov. 22. "There are no faint hearts here in Fort Worth," says the president, who wears no raincoat despite a cold drizzle during his brief remarks in front of the Hotel Texas.

Kennedy's Texas visit, soon to mark a dark turn in American history, evokes a Fort Worth greeting typical of America's fascination with the Kennedys. On the night of Nov. 21, a Thursday, about 5,000 well-wishers wait four hours for Air Force One to land at Carswell Air Force Base. At 11:07 p.m., the president, to the delight of the crowd, lets his wife, Jacqueline, precede him down the aircraft ramp. More people line the West Freeway from Carswell to downtown, despite the late hour.

The president begins Nov. 22 with the address outside the hotel at 3:50 a.m. He speaks to about 5,000 people, including college students and other early birds who staked out spots at 3:30 a.m. He then goes inside for a breakfast speech, joined by Jackie. Usually reserved members of Fort Worth society "let their furs go and stood in their stocking feet on chairs to greet the Washington visitors," writes Carol Taylor in the *Star-Telegram*. In his speech to the Chamber of Commerce, Kennedy praises the defense work of General Dynamics in Fort Worth and lauds U.S. Rep. Jim Wright, calling Fort Worth "Jim Wright's city."

Shortly after 11 a.m., the Kennedys fly out of Carswell to Dallas.



"Don't let it be forgot

That once there was a spot

For one brief shining moment that was known

As Camelot."

—Alan Jay Lerner, from the musical *Camelot*, invoked by Jacqueline Kennedy to describe her husband's presidency

Dallas

Afternoon newspapers carry the first printed news of that heartbreaking Friday in Dallas. "Bullet Strikes President's Head," says the headline on a grim bulletin inserted atop Page One of the *Star-Telegram*. Ed Johnson, one of 19 *Star-Telegram* reporters assigned to cover the Kennedy visit, writes: "We in the bus did not know immediately what had happened. We could see spectators lining the route fall to the ground as the shots rang out. A woman roughly knocked her two children to the ground. A man, apparently her husband, lay beside them, pounding his fist into the earth."

The ensuing hours are filled with confusion and panic. The shooting occurs at 12:15 p.m. as the president's black Lincoln convertible swoops down Elm Street in front of the Texas School Book Depository. The president is pronounced dead at 1 p.m. at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Gov. John Connally, riding in the presidential limousine, is wounded. By 1:45, Dallas police arrest a 24-year-old school book depository employee named Lee Harvey Oswald in an Oak Cliff movie theater, where he has fled after the shooting of police officer J.D. Tippit.

Oswald, a Marine veteran who has spent time in the Soviet Union, has Fort Worth ties, including awkward teen-age years at Stripling Junior High School and Arlington Heights High School.

Two days later, on Sunday morning, Oswald is fatally shot by nightclub owner Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas city jail as police are moving Oswald to safer quarters. Millions watch on television. Oswald's body is taken back to Fort Worth for burial.

In Dallas, officials receive thousands of calls from around the world berating the city and ultraconservatives who protested JFK's visit. A *Star-Telegram* editorial urges faith in the new president, Lyndon Johnson, and expresses the sentiments of a multitude of Americans: "It is as if we all stood in a bad dream, watching the hand of fate write out one of the blackest chapters in our history."

Oswald Kept To Himself; Friends Few

By Dave Karger

Lee Harvey Oswald, the Dallas schoolboy who shot President John F. Kennedy, lived a life of isolation. He kept to himself, and his friends were few.

Oswald was born in New Orleans, La., on Oct. 10, 1939. He moved to Dallas with his family when he was 10. He was a quiet, reserved boy, and his friends were few. He was a member of the Boy Scouts and the Future Teachers of America.

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Fort Worth Star-Telegram — November 24th 1963

LEE HARVEY OSWALD—The accused slayer of President John F. Kennedy lived here and attended Ridglea West Elementary School, Stripling Junior High and Arlington Heights High School before leaving to join the Marines.

MARGUERITE OSWALD—Lee Harvey Oswald's mother, a figure in world news ever since 1963, still makes her home here in the Arlington Heights area.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram — October 4th 1980

Last day of Camelot

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Kennedy's Texas visit, soon to mark a dark turn in American history, evokes a Fort Worth greeting typical of America's fascination with the Kennedys. On the night of Nov. 21, a Thursday, about 5,000 well-wishers wait four hours for Air Force One to land at Carswell Air Force Base. At 11:57 p.m., the president, to the delight of the crowd, lets his wife, Jacqueline, precede him down the aircraft ramp. More people line the West Freeway from Carswell to downtown, despite the late hour.

The president begins Nov. 22 with the address outside the hotel at 8:50 a.m. He speaks to about 5,000 people, including college students and other early birds who staked out spots at 3:30 a.m. He then goes inside for a breakfast speech, joined by Jackie. Usually reserved members of Fort Worth society "let their fur go and stood in their stocking feet on chairs to greet the Washington visitors," writes Carol Taylor in the *Star-Telegram*. In his speech to the Chamber of Commerce, Kennedy praises the defense work of General Dynamics in Fort Worth and lauds U.S. Rep. Jim Wright, calling Fort Worth "Jim Wright's city."

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Two days later, on Sunday morning, Oswald is fatally shot by nightclub owner Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas city jail as police are moving Oswald to safer quarters. Millions watch on television. Oswald's body is taken back to Fort Worth for burial.

In Dallas, officials receive thousands of calls from around the world honoring the city and ultraconservatives who protested JFK's visit. A *Star-Telegram* editorial urges faith in the new president, Lyndon Johnson, and expresses the sentiments of a multitude of Americans: "It is as if we all stood in a bad dream, watching the hand of fate write out one of the blackest chapters in our history."

Fort Worth Star-Telegram – April 18th 1999

ASSASSINATIONS

John F. Kennedy

The crime: At 12:15 p.m. Nov. 22, 1963, President Kennedy is hit by a sniper's bullets while traveling in a motorcade in downtown Dallas. He dies 45 minutes later at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Texas Gov.



John F. Kennedy

John Connally is seriously wounded in the attack. Kennedy's last public speech was delivered earlier in the morning, in Fort Worth.

The assassin: Lee Harvey Oswald, a 24-year-old employee at the Texas School Book Depository, where the sniper fire is believed to have originated. He is arrested in an Oak Cliff movie theater, where he fled after killing police officer J.D. Tippit. Oswald had attended Stripling Junior High School and Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth.

The aftermath: Some observers mark Kennedy's assassination as "the day America's innocence died." Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as president, and will lead the country through some of its most turbulent post-World War II years, marked by the Vietnam War, anti-war protests and civil rights unrest, and more assassinations.

Two days after JFK is assassinated, Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby fatally shoots Oswald on national television as Dallas police are moving Oswald to safer quarters. On March 14, 1964, Ruby is sentenced to death for killing Oswald; he dies of cancer on Jan. 3, 1967.

Although the Warren Commission reports in 1964 that Oswald acted alone, evidence indicates that the bullets came from two directions, leading to conspiracy theories. The truth may have been buried with Oswald.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram – December 19th 1999



President Kennedy and first lady Jackie Kennedy prepare to leave Fort Worth for Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

A Fort Worth welcome

Before day's horrors, JFK got warm greeting

Gray, rainy skies and the absence of the glamorous first lady did not dampen Fort Worth's enthusiasm for President Kennedy during his last public speech, on the evening of Nov. 22, 1963. "There are no fairer hosts here in Fort Worth," said the president, who wore no raincoat despite a cold drizzle during his brief remarks in front of the Hood Tower.

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Shortly after 11 a.m., the Kennedys flew out of Carswell to Dallas.

Afternoon newspapers carried the first printed news of that heartbreaking Friday in Dallas. "Bullet Strikes President's Head," said the headline on a grim bulletin atop Page One of the *Star-Telegram*.

The ensuing hours were filled with confusion and panic. The shooting occurred at 12:57 p.m., as the president's black Lincoln convertible moved down Elm Street in front of the Texas School Book Depository. The president was pronounced dead at 1 p.m. at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Gov. John Connally, also riding in the presidential limousine, was wounded.

By 2:45, Dallas police arrested a 24-year-old school book depository employee, Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald, a Marine veteran who had spent time in the Soviet Union, had Fort Worth ties, including awkward teenage years at Stripling Junior High School and Arlington Heights High School.

Two days later Oswald was fatally shot by Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas jail as police were moving him to safer quarters. Millions watched on television. Oswald's body was taken back to Fort Worth for burial.

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TALES OF OLD WESTSIDE

Teacher recalls famous students

BY BILL FAIRLEY
Special to the Star-Telegram

The late author Tommy Thompson was a student of Beulah Bratton, who taught English and journalism at Stripling Junior High School from the 1940s to the 1970s. He once complained that she made him "work too darned hard."

But after the writer achieved fame in 1976 with his best-selling non-fiction crime book, *Blood and Money*, Thompson gave B.B., as he called her, a lot of credit for his success.

Bratton, an energetic, active, red-haired octogenarian who fires words at you as fast as an Uzi machine gun spits out bullets, has taught four Bass sons, five Leonard children, Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry and hundreds of others, most of whom she remembers well.

After graduating from North Texas State University and attending the University of Texas and Texas Wesleyan University, Bratton began her teaching career in a three-room Benbrook elementary schoolhouse. That far west side community then boasted only 50 residents. She taught there 10 years.

She was teaching in Benbrook in 1935 when Eleanor Roosevelt complimented her on her

everyday apparel during the first lady's visit to the Benbrook school.

"A Roosevelt son, Elliott, and his wife at the time, the former Ruth Googins of Fort Worth, then lived on some acreage near Benbrook called Dutch Branch," Bratton said. "Mrs. Roosevelt was visiting them and it was arranged for her to come to our school one day. We prepared a program in her honor and the teachers were advised to really dress up and look our best for the occasion."

"I had a beautiful black dress I had bought for Sunday church wear and for the Stock Show. I bought a new pair of high-heeled shoes, too. Mrs. Roosevelt was to visit our school on a Monday. I was dressed in my new finery, but she didn't show up."

"Someone advised us that she would be at our school on Tuesday. Again, I wore my new dress and shoes. No show."

"On Wednesday, I wore my usual old school smock, its huge pockets bulging with chalk, erasers, pencils and notes. I also wore my old, comfortable flat-heel shoes."

"Naturally, Mrs. Roosevelt and Ruth showed up that day. They were in golfing clothes. When they came to my classroom, my students gave them a rhythm band demonstration, which we had rehearsed for the occasion. Mrs. Roosevelt applauded them, said a few kind words to them, then turned to me. She said, 'I love your beautiful smock with its bright greens and yellows. They remind me of the wonderful Texas prairies.'"

In 1940, while teaching English at Stripling,

Beulah was asked to supervise the school newspaper, the *Hornet Herald*.

In a short time, the *Herald* was named the best junior high school newspaper in Texas three times. Later, while still under her supervision, it won many other state and national awards.

In the mid-'40s, the *Herald* won the Gold Key award from the Columbia University School of Journalism, an award that had previously been bestowed on Eleanor Roosevelt for her nationally syndicated column, "My Day."

After President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in 1963, Bratton was asked to do research on Lee Harvey Oswald's family for *The New York Times*.

"That was Tommy Thompson's doing," Beulah said, "because I had made him work so hard when he was my student."

Widowed, Beulah Bratton still lives in her Arlington Heights home. She is active at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church. Her only daughter is married to former Tarrant County Judge and state Rep. Howard Green. She and another Texas teacher wrote a book a few years ago on the state's educational system.

"I think I can still write a pretty good news story lead," she said.



Bill Fairley has been a west side resident for about six decades. He grew up in Arlington Heights. These are his memories.

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