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Barney Ross To Toss Punch For Pal Ruby³

By ANTHONY BURTON and THEO WILSON
 Staff Correspondents of THE NEWS

Dallas, March 8—Barney Ross, former world welterweight champion, will take the stand tomorrow to try to save his longtime pal and worshiper, Jack Ruby, from the chair for the slaying of President Kennedy's accused assassin.

The squat, dark-haired fighter, who kicked the dope habit (acquired during treatment for war wounds), has known "Sparky"—Ruby's nickname since his Chicago slum boyhood—for more than 25 years. Ross is on the defense's witness list along with:

- A jailed strip-teaser, Penny Dollar, 21.
- Assistant District Attorney Bill Alexander, who wants to send Ruby to the chair.
- Dr. Roy Schaffer, Yale psychologist, and Dr. Manfred Guttmacher, Baltimore psychiatrist.

The doctors are being called by attorneys Melvin Belli and Joe Tonahill to give testimony which the defense hopes will convince the jury that Ruby is sick in the head, at times.

Held on Drug Charges

The stripper, awaiting trial in another county on charges of possessing dangerous drugs and marijuana, is expected to testify that her former boss, Ruby, is "sick . . . sick . . . sick," as Belli quoted her today.

He says Penny told him that when she worked for Ruby, "he once beat a taxi driver's head against the concrete. And suddenly, as if he had regained his senses, asked, 'What am I doing?'"

Penny's real name is Patricia Ann Kohs. She was brought from jail in Orange County this weekend and put into a cell in the Criminal Court and Jail Building, where Ruby is in solitary and where his trial goes into its fourth week tomorrow.



(Associated Press Wirefoto)
 Patricia Ann Kohs, who worked as a stripper under name of Penny Dollar at Jack Ruby's club, prancing in Dallas snow last year. She's expected to testify today.

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Insane or Just Mean?

Barney flew in today and said he will testify for Ruby tomorrow as an old friend who can tell the jury about the defendant's unusual personality. The defense says Ruby is subject to

rages and blackouts as a victim of psychomotor epilepsy and that the Nov. 24 shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald occurred during one of these "episodic fugue states" when he was temporarily insane.

District Attorney Henry Wade says that Ruby was just plain

"mean" and that he planned for two days to kill Oswald.

Ruby, a sunken-eyed and withdrawn man these days as compared with his flashy extrovert days as a strippers' stablemaster, used to carry Ross' bags and go in free to the club fights when the ex-champ was still an amateur.

"He was with me the night I won the Golden Gloves in '29," Barney said recently. "I've been his friend ever since."

Why They Called Alexander

Belli and Tonahill want the assistant prosecutor, Alexander, on the stand to ask him about statements he made during a pre-trial bail bond hearing for Ruby. At that time, according to Ruby's attorneys, Alexander said he would change his opinion about Ruby's mental state if an impartial medical report showed Ruby had organic brain damage. The defense contends it has such a report based on brain wave tests.

Talking to reporters at lunch today in the Statler Hilton Hotel, Belli and Tonahill said they do not know when they will call Alexander. Then they said they may call his boss, Wade, too.

Tomorrow the defense will call either Dr. Guttmacher or Dr. Schaffer or both, if there is time. The testimony of these experts is expected to show that Ruby cannot be held legally responsible for the shooting of Oswald.

Ruby's 53d birthday is on Wednesday, and Belli sent a wire today to a restaurant in San Francisco, his home base, saying: "Send birthday cake Wednesday. No file. Dr. Belli will furnish that."

Belli also said today: "The Ruby trial is the biggest railroad job since the Southern Pacific ~~passed~~ through here."