

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FORMER CHAMP**Ross to Appear
In Ruby's Corner**

Former boxing champ Barney Ross told Sunday night how Celerino Garcia decked him with a bolo punch in the fifth round in San Francisco in 1935 and a Ross fan called Sparky Rubenstein fainted.

"When I got hit, he felt it," said Ross.

And when Rubenstein — now known as Jack Ruby — got hit with a murder charge, Ross felt it.

He wrote letters trying to buck up his old buddy. Then over the weekend he flew to Dallas from New York to testify in Ruby's behalf.

The lightweight champ of 1933 who grabbed the welterweight crown in 1934 and held it off and on until 1938, Ross said it was his own idea to become a sort of character witness for Ruby, the nightspot owner charged with the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Ruby's attorney, Melvin Belli, said Ross likely will be the first man on the witness stand Monday morning.

Ross said his idea of coming to Dallas was partly shaped by a telephone conversation with Ruby's sister, Mrs. Eva Grant of Dallas.

A miniature Dempsey, Ross told in his hotel room Sunday night how he got off the canvas back in 1935 and punched out a decision over Garcia in the 10th round.

"Sparky just blacked out when I got hit. Boom. Like that, I didn't believe I'd been hit so hard myself until I saw the San Francisco Chronicle next day. There I was, laid out like Melancholy Baby."

Ross, 54, has known Ruby since they were teen-agers in Chicago. They went to the same synagogue and belonged to the same group of friends. "Not a gang though. Not a gang," insisted Ross, whose real name is Barnet Rasofski.

"Sparky was pretty bright but strange in a way. He'd disappear for weeks at a time and none of us would know where to find him. Then one day he'd turn up."

Ross said in their 20s, Ruby would often come to him to borrow money to finance quick-turn-over deals in any sort of goods Ruby could find at the right price.

"It might be shirts or socks or shoes or even used tires. He always repaid me and he always tried to get me to take a part of the profits."

The life of Ross was portrayed in a movie, "Monkey on My Back," and in a book, "No Man Stands Alone."

He gave up boxing when Henry Armstrong took the title away from him in 1938. A Marine in World War II, he picked up a Silver Star, leg wounds, malaria and a narcotics addiction on Guadalcanal.

In 1946 he shook the narcotics habit at the federal hospital in Lexington, Ky. "All habits are bad and like all man-made laws, they're made to be broken," he said, smoking at a cigarette in his hand. —KENT BIFFLE.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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