

# Verdict Temporarily Ends Tense Period Since Nov. 22

A tense period for the City of Dallas, dating back to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, came to a halt—temporarily—Saturday with a conclusion of the Jack Ruby murder trial.

The case of Ruby still is in the courts, through announced appeals by his defense attorneys.

Following is a chronology, as compiled by the Associated Press, leading up to the verdict Saturday afternoon in the murder trial:

**NOV. 22, 1963**—President Kennedy is shot in Doughton Dallas by a sniper at 12:31 p.m. and dies in Parkland Hospital at 1 p.m. Lee Harvey Oswald is arrested in a movie theater 80 minutes later by Officer M. N. McDonald after police say Oswald killed patrolman J. D. Tippit. Oswald was charged about midnight with both slayings.

**Nov. 24**—Jack Ruby shoots Oswald at 11:21 a.m. in basement of City Hall during jail transfer of Oswald. Ruby seized immediately. Oswald dies at 1:07 p.m. Ruby is indicted two days later by the Dallas County grand jury.

**Feb. 17**—Ruby trial begins. Judge Joe B. Brown turns down defense motions for directed verdict of acquittal based on claims that Ruby was temporarily insane when he shot Oswald, that he already had been tried in the compiling of psychiatric information and that he could not receive a fair trial in Dallas.

**FEB. 18**—Four prospective jurors are dismissed and no jurors are selected. Defense loses attempt to bar all persons from the jury who saw the Oswald slaying on television.

**Feb. 19**—Twelve prospective jurors questioned and none approved.

**Feb. 20**—Max E. Causey, 35, electronics worker, selected as first juror. Chief defense attorney Melvin M. Belli causes a small stir by complaining that Ruby's security guards were so close they could overhear conversations at the defense table.

**Feb. 21**—An industrial engineer, Allen W. McCoy, selected as second juror—the 36th person questioned. Justice of the Peace Joe B. Brown Jr., son of the judge, says he received a telephoned bomb threat, possibly intended for his father.

**Feb. 22**—The 48th prospective juror questioned as the Saturday half-day session ends with no more jurors named.

**Feb. 24**—Mrs. Mildred McCollum, mother of six, sworn in as third juror and first woman. The defense asks Texas Supreme Court to rule on whether persons seeing the Oswald slaying on television were witnesses and thus ineligible to be jurors. The court refuses to hear the case. Attorneys questioned 53 persons through this day, seventh of the trial.

**Feb. 25**—Fourth and fifth jurors, Luther E. Dickerson and Douglas J. Sowell, selected.

**Feb. 26**—R. J. Flechner Jr., Mrs. Gwen L. English and J. G. Holton Jr. named as jurors, bringing the total to eight.

**Feb. 27**—James E. Cunningham selected as ninth juror, the 180th prospect questioned.

**Feb. 28**—J. Waymon Rose named as 10th juror and defense uses up all its 15 peremptory challenges. Judge Brown grants three additional peremptories. Defense again appeals to Texas Supreme Court on witness-juror issue and again court refuses to hear the case.

**Feb. 29**—No jurors selected in a Saturday half-day session.

**March 2**—Defense attorney Joe Tonahill fined \$25 for contempt of court for throwing pen to floor in a rage. Defense demands mistrial after Maurice A. Melford, Chicago, director of the National Epilepsy League, Inc., distributes literature bearing on the case in the corridors.

**March 3**—Judge Brown becomes ill with cold and Judge J. Frank Wilson takes over bench. Final two jurors, Mrs. Aileen B. Shields and Mrs. Louise Malone, approved for jury. In all, 163 prospective jurors were questioned in 14 days of the trial.

**March 4**—Ruby pleads innocent by reason of temporary insanity and testimony begins, with Judge Brown back on the bench. Prosecution seeks to show that Ruby talked coherently immediately after he shot Oswald and indicated he may have had plan to kill his victim at least 20 hours before the shooting.

**March 5**—Police Officer T. D. McWhinn quotes Ruby as say-

21

ing. "I intended to shoot him three times" because "you guys couldn't do it."

March 8—Seven prisoners break out of county jail in the courts building, and one with a fake gun made of soap and other materials captures a woman hostage and takes her outside, where he is captured. Police Sgt. P. T. Dean quotes Ruby as saying he plotted two days to kill Oswald to "show the world that Jews do have guts."

March 9—The fourth week of the trial begins. Dr. Roy Schafer, Yale psychologist, testifies Ruby was in a blacked out rage when he shot Oswald and was suffering from organic brain damage. A series of acquaintances say Ruby was emotional and moody, particularly after the Kennedy assassination.

March 10—Dr. Manfred Guttmacher, Baltimore psychiatrist, says Ruby was insane, in his opinion, when he killed Oswald, and did not know right from wrong. Guttmacher says slaying of Oswald had not occurred to Ruby until he saw him in the jail basement. Confronted by his writings saying "temporary in-

sanity is found only in the courtroom," he says he had revised some passages in the book and that others did not apply to specific cases such as Rubys. Dr. Martin Towler, Galveston, says Ruby acted like an automaton during blackout seizures. Under cross-examination, he says he found Ruby normal except in results of the brain wave testing. Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, is sworn in as state witness to keep her out of the courtroom and from possibly upsetting the trial.

MARCH 11—The defense rests in a surprise action, and the state begins its rebuttal testimony. Dr. Robert Stubblefield of University of Tech's Southwestern Medical School says Ruby was sane by the legal definition. Dr. John T. Holbrook of Beverly Hills Sanitarium says, "I felt he did know the difference between right and wrong and did know the nature and consequences of his act at that time." Dr. Holbrook says he does not believe Ruby had psychomotor epilepsy. Dr. Sheff Olinger, Dallas neurologist, says the brain wave test results would not in themselves support a diagnosis of psychomotor epilepsy.

Ira M. Walker, a technician for WBAP-TV, places Ruby in the jail area possibly nearly an hour before Oswald was slain.

March 12—Dr. Walter Bromberg and Rabbi Hillel Silverman testify they believe Ruby was insane. Dr. Bromberg, New York psychiatrist, says Ruby wanted to be a martyr, "he had a definite messianic trend, wanting to rescue the Jewish people from the charge that they didn't have guts."

March 13—Dr. Frederic Gibbs of Chicago, expert on epilepsy, testified Ruby suffers from psychomotor epilepsy but he cannot say whether he knew right from wrong. Dr. Gibbs ends all the testimony. He was the 35th defense witness. The prosecution called 31 witnesses. This was followed by the judge's explanation to the jury of the laws involved and by the summation by attorneys for both sides.

March 14—The jury heard attorneys sum up their cases until 1:07 a.m. in a marathon night session which began at 8:05 p.m. Friday. The jury began deliberations at 9:15 a.m., and two hours and 20 minutes later announced it had reached a verdict. Judge Brown read the verdict at 12:22 p.m.

**THE VERDICT: DEATH.**

22