



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chicago, Illinois  
June 12, 1964

Jack L. Ruby;  
Lee Harvey Oswald - Victim

Interview with Louis Kopple Concerning Jack L. Ruby

Louis Kopple was interviewed in the vicinity of his wife's place of business, a flower shop at 524 Diversey Avenue, by Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on June 11, 1964. He furnished the following information:

He resides at 2930 North Commonwealth, Chicago, Illinois, and is self-employed as a salesman on a part-time basis. He also works in his wife's flower shop. He is 54 years of age. Kopple has known Jack Ruby for approximately 50 years as they both grew up in the same neighborhood. Ruby lived one-half block from Kopple at 1220 South Morgan Street, Chicago, and Kopple lived at 1214 South Franklin, Chicago. Both attended the John M. Smyth Grammar School located at 13th and Miller, Chicago; however, Ruby was one-half year behind Kopple. Kopple saw Ruby on a daily basis until he was 12 years old at which time the Ruby family moved to the West Side of Chicago in the 600 or 700 block of South Independence Boulevard. One-half year later the Kopple family moved to the West Side of Chicago also and lived about one mile from the Ruby family. After the Ruby family moved to the West Side of Chicago, Kopple rarely saw Jack Ruby and after the Kopple family moved to the West Side he saw Ruby on an average of once or twice a month. These meetings were chance meetings and were not prearranged.

From the period 1930 to 1946 the only time Kopple saw Ruby was an occasional chance meeting in the Loop area of Chicago at sporting events such as basketball and prize fights. On these rare occasions when they ran into one another, they would spend a few minutes discussing sports and any general topic of the day. Kopple cannot

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recall any specific item discussed. He did not notice who Ruby's associates were at this time.

During this 1930 to 1946 period, Kopple saw Ruby on an average of once a month at the Lawndale Poolroom located at Lawndale Avenue and Roosevelt Road. The real name of this poolroom was Lawndale Restaurant and the man in charge was known as Joe Welcome, although this was not his real name. The Lawndale Poolroom was a neighborhood spot where Kopple went on an average of once a week. On the occasions when he saw Ruby at the poolroom, Ruby would be hanging around with a group of individuals, none of whom Kopple knew. He did not on any occasion go to the Lawndale Poolroom with Ruby.

Kopple recalls that Ruby went to California for a year or two in 1937 or 1938.

During the period from 1945 to 1950 Kopple saw Ruby on an average of six times a year at the Clover Bar located at Randolph Street and Clark Street in Chicago's Loop area. These chance meetings were not prearranged and when he saw Ruby he would speak to him as one person speaks when acknowledging he knows another person. Ruby, during this 1945 to 1950 period, appeared to have a great number of friends but Kopple did not know any of them and none were from their old Chicago West Side neighborhood.

From the period 1952 to 1954 Kopple saw Ruby at Ruby's night club, the Silver Spur in Dallas. Kopple's wife, Ann, is from Dallas and when they went there to visit her relatives Kopple dropped by to see Ruby. They talked about old times and old friends, nothing more. Kopple and his wife went to Dallas twice during this 1952 to 1954 period and stayed in Dallas no more than a week on each occasion.

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Kopple last saw Ruby seven to eight years ago when Ruby came to Chicago with a singer whose career he was trying to promote. Kopple ran into Ruby accidentally on Randolph Street in the Loop area of Chicago and talked with him for a few minutes.

Kopple always considered Ruby to be a "sick kid." By "sick" he does not mean physically ill but considered Ruby to act peculiar at times. Ruby had high and low emotional periods and never seemed to have a middle ground. Ruby had a hair-trigger temper and would fight at the drop of a hat. He would take any kind of dare and Kopple has known him to climb to the top of a telegraph pole even though there was a great danger of being electrocuted. Kopple recalls that Ruby's mother was in a mental institution. Kopple found Ruby to be very good hearted and a person who would do anything to help out a friend.

The only business Kopple recalled Ruby being in in Chicago was shortly after World War II in the 1940's at which time Ruby was in some kind of novelty business with Ruby's brother Earl. Kopple had no business activities whatsoever with Ruby.

Kopple does not consider Ruby to be a loner as he appeared to get along in a crowd as well as anybody else. Kopple has no knowledge of any "shady" promotions in which Ruby may have been involved except for the scalping of tickets during the depression years. He never saw Ruby personally scalping tickets but assumed he did this as almost everyone else was doing it.

Regarding the Junk and Waste Material Handlers Union, Kopple heard that Ruby was a member of this union or that he was trying to promote a union of some kind. He cannot recall the year but thinks it was in the 1940's.

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Kopple has no knowledge of whether Ruby was involved in any German-American Bund attacks in the late 1930's and has no knowledge of whether Ruby was active in the Dave Miller gang. Dave Miller was a well-known prize fight referee from the 1920's to the latter part of the 1940's. Miller is now dead. Miller ran a restaurant at the corner of Kedzie Avenue and Roosevelt Road which was known as Davey Miller's Restaurant.

Kopple provided information concerning the following individuals:

- Joe Kellman - He knows Kellman from the old neighborhood. Kellman runs the Globe Glass Company on North Western Avenue in Chicago. He does not know if Ruby was a friend of Kellman's.
- Morrie Kellman - Morrie Kellman is a brother of Joe Kellman and is also from the old neighborhood. Kopple does not know if Morrie and Ruby were friends.
- John Mc Donald - Mc Donald is from the old neighborhood but Kopple does not know if he was a friend of Ruby's.
- Solly Schulman - Schulman was from the old neighborhood and was a prize fighter during 1935 to 1940. He settled in San Francisco, California, and prior to his death five years ago had a "red hot" concession there.

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- Frenchie Medlevine - Medlevine is from the old neighborhood but Kopple does not know if he was a friend of Ruby's.
- Don Medlevine - Don is a brother of Frenchie and is also from the old neighborhood. Kopple does not know if he was a friend of Ruby's.
- Art Wayne - Wayne is from the old neighborhood and before going to Hollywood as a singer had an orchestra in Chicago. Kopple does not know if Wayne was a friend of Ruby's.
- Buzzie Rifkin - Rifkin is from the old neighborhood but Kopple does not know if he was a friend of Ruby's.
- Frank Howard - Howard is from the old neighborhood and used to own the Singapore Restaurant on Rush Street. Howard died about a year ago.
- Jack Howard - Jack is from the old neighborhood; however, Kopple does not know if he was a friend of Ruby's.
- Irwin Berke - Kopple has no knowledge of this individual.
- Seymour Chazin - Kopple has no knowledge of this individual.

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Harry Epstein

- Kopple has no knowledge of this individual.

Maury Kahn

- Kopple has no knowledge of this individual.

Martin Gimple

- Gimple is from the old neighborhood and was a very close friend of Ruby's. Gimple lived in Dallas, Texas, for awhile and helped Ruby in Ruby's night club in Dallas until the time of his death approximately one year ago. Prior to going to Dallas, Gimple was a Post Office employee in Chicago. Gimple probably was Ruby's closest friend and associate.

Ben Epstein

- Epstein is from the old neighborhood; however, Kopple does not know if he was a friend of Ruby's.

Mike Nemezin

- Kopple has no knowledge of this individual.

Alex Gruber

- Gruber is from the old neighborhood and has known Ruby since both were 7 or 8 years old.

Sam Gordon

- Gordon was not from Chicago but used to hang around the Loop area where he was a ticket broker. Kopple does not know if Gordon was a friend of Ruby's.

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Benny-Barrisich

- Barrisich is a Chicago prize fighter who went to California at the same time Solly Schulman went there. He fought at the same time as Solly. Kopple does not know if Barrisich was a friend of Ruby's; however, Kopple heard that while Ruby was in California he sold newspaper subscriptions door to door and thinks he must have known Barrisich in California. Kopple does not know the name of the paper Ruby worked for.

Lou Graverman

- Kopple has no knowledge of this individual.