

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Famous Detective Retiring

By JAMES EWELL

Jim Leavelle is leaving the Dallas police force after 25 years—the last 11 spent trying to step off the center stage of history.

Leavelle is the white-suited detective millions of television viewers saw that Sunday when Jack Ruby rushed onto the screen to shoot Lee Harvey Oswald.

Ever since, Leavelle has had constant questions thrown at him about that November day in 1963, and dozens of souvenir hunters clamoring for his suit, the LBJ hat and the boots he was wearing. He's even been asked for locks of his hair.

The suit ("the only Neiman-Marcus suit I ever owned") has not been worn by Leavelle since that day and remains neatly pressed in a closet.

A California man who owns all of Houdini's irons still wants the pair of handcuffs that locked Leavelle and Oswald together as they stepped into the City Hall basement and into Ruby's path.

None of these possessions was ever sold.

Through it all, the 54-year-old detective insists his life wasn't drastically changed.

"I never think about it, really,



Jim Leavelle ... "It was a Neiman-Marcus suit, the only one I've ever had ... my dress-up suit."

unless someone else brings it up," Leavelle confided.

One thing still vividly recalled by Leavelle was the actions by the other detective, also escorting Oswald. L. C. Graves, shown in the picture on Oswald's left, prevented more bloodshed, Leavelle is certain, by hooking his thumb between the hammer and firing pin of Ruby's revolver.

"In all that confusion, I could see Ruby's hand still pumping the gun but because L. C. had his thumb hooked in front of the ham-

mer it couldn't fire. Ruby was definitely trying to keep firing."

A detective for 20 of his 25 years on the force, and experienced in homicide investigations, Leavelle scoffed at new demands for a re-opening of the investigation of the assassination.

Any new probe, he declared, would waste tax money and benefit the fast-buck artists capitalizing on the nation's emotions.

"Let me tell you this: we have gained convictions on people with less than half the evidence we had in this case."

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

"The Dallas Morning News"  
—Dallas, Texas

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 Being Investigated



—Dallas News Staff Photos.

Leavelle's gray suit made him stand out in this famous picture by the late News photographer Jack Beers.