

## 'FRUSTRATED ZIEGFELD'

# Club Owner Sought 'Class'

*(By the nature of his work as Night Club Editor of the Dallas News, Tony Zoppi was in frequent contact with Jack Ruby, the night club operator who killed Lee Harvey Oswald. Here are Zoppi's impressions of Ruby.)*

By **TONY ZOPPI**

Jack Ruby, who slew Lee Harvey Oswald, is a highly emotional man given to flashy dress and a desperate yearning for social acceptance.

One of his favorite words is "class." He is far removed from national politics, but he admired someone like Mr. Kennedy, who represented everything which Jack Ruby had hoped to be.

A gruff-speaking, gregarious person with limited education, Ruby has been searching continuously for all the things that represented "class."

"I've suffered enough and skimped enough all my life," he said recently. "I want to live a little." And he told of plans to move into a luxury apartment.

**GEORGE SENATOR**, who worked at Ruby's night club, the Carousel, was also Ruby's roommate. Senator told me that Ruby had been in a state of shock since the President's assassination. He mourned particularly for the Ken-

He's been going around the apartment saying 'those poor kids.' It bothered him tremendously," Senator said.

After the President's death, Ruby quickly announced he was closing his club for three days.

A native of Chicago, Ill., Ruby has been associated with show business for many years.

While he operated a strip tease place, he always was trying to find ways to make his business "classy."

**IN HIS OCCASIONAL** visits to my desk, he would discuss an idea and want to know if it would elevate his place in the eyes of the Dallas public. Ruby's dress often includes wide-brim hats and high collar shirts. He recently went on a diet which melted some 20 pounds off his 210-pound frame. He said he was beginning to look "classy." Even more recently, he started doing physical exercises to eliminate a paunch.

Ruby was known as the Chicago Cowboy when he first came to Dallas some 10 years ago. He hung around the old Plantation club on Industrial, dressed in an immaculate Western costume. He would often dash onstage, take over the "mike" and entertain the crowd with impromptu re-

**RUBY IS** a frustrated Ziegfeld. He is a stickler for "gimmicks." He has stopped his floor show to raffle off turkeys, record albums, razor blades, etc.

His audiences have been made up largely of conventioners, and police detectives dropped in almost nightly to check on his operation. It was this contact with the police, I think, which enabled him to hang around city hall during Lee Oswald's incarceration. Nobody took his appearance there seriously. Certainly, nobody

thought this man would suddenly turn into a Ziegfeld.