

RUBY IS REGARDED

AS 'SMALL-TIMER'

NY-11/25

Club Operator Known for Temper and Loyalties— Comes From Chicago

By JOSEPH A. LOFTUS

Special to The New York Times

DALLAS, Nov. 24—Strong emotions and loyalties were long the marks of the man who shot President Kennedy's assassin today.

Jack Rubenstein, who long ago adopted the name of Jack Ruby, was a small-time operator in the night club and gambling world. In petty ways, he had broken the law in Chicago and Dallas many times, but was not on record as having committed a felony.

Ruby, 52 years old, about 5 feet 10 inches tall and heavy-set, talked gruffly and might personally "bounce" an offending patron from his night spot. He learned violence in Chicago's ghetto.

He also had a reputation for kindness and generosity toward anyone who did him a favor. He knew many policemen because of his club operations.

Came From Poverty

Ruby yearned to rise above his background of limited education and poverty. Though not connected with politics, he identified himself emotionally with the New Deal in the nineteen-thirties and with President Kennedy's New Frontier.

As a young man in Chicago he would strike anybody who disparaged President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Ruby and his sister, Mrs. Evelyn Grant, were so devoted to President Kennedy they were arrested by the Dallas police. Mrs. Grant said today "He hates anything done to this country."

Weakened by radical surgery two weeks ago, her grief compounded by her brother's death, she said the thought occurred to her that she had unwittingly driven him to it.

"I'm lying there on the couch," she recalled in her small apartment in a northwestern section. "I said somebody will shoot him [Oswald]. You know what I meant? I meant the Communists would shoot him so he wouldn't talk. That was Friday, the day the President died. Her brother, who lived elsewhere, came to his apartment three times that afternoon and evening, she recalled.

Says He Couldn't Sleep

"He hasn't slept and he hasn't

...the said. Mrs. Grant, a reddish-blond woman of 54, repeatedly referred to her "fancied guilt. She sat slumped in her weakness. Her face was ashen.

"I said the Communists will never let him [Oswald] get the chair," she said. "I don't know if I embedded that in his mind or feel so guilty, I don't know what to think. We talked. He came here three times. He had his mind up. 'We can't open night club.'"

Ruby went to a newspaper and inserted an advertisement saying his two clubs would be closed temporarily in respect for the President, she added. "He was the only one to put an ad in," she said. "He loved every President; that's the whole problem.

"We were more affected by the President getting shot than when my father died," she went on.

Mrs. Grant said she and her brother were among a family of four girls and four boys. Her brother, Earle, operates the Cobalt Cleaners in Detroit. She preferred not to identify the others.

"We were a big, Orthodox Jewish family," she said. "He's such a good Jew. This [the shooting of Oswald] is something we don't believe in. I don't know what possessed him to do it."

Mrs. Grant was divorced 18 years ago.

Calls Him Generous

"He is such a guy," she said affectionately. "If he had money, I had money. You know why we haven't any money? If he had \$300 and met somebody who was in trouble and needed money, he would give him half of it."

Mrs. Grant said her brother had not married. He came here in 1948. He owns the rock 'n' roll Vegas Club in the Oaklawn section, which she manages for him. He operates the Carousel, but does not own it, she said.

The Carousel, a strip-tease spot, occupies the second floor of a building across the Adolphus Hotel on Commerce Street.

The city director lists Ruby's address as the apartment house where his sister lives. But she said he had his own apartment in Oak Cliff, some miles away. Their telephone numbers are not listed.

A taxicab driver said Ruby was a generous tipper who spoke with kindness. If a patron of the Carousel telephoned for a cab, the driver said, Ruby would require the patron to deposit 50 cents to protect the driver in case the patron changed his mind.

Ervin Mazzei, former regional director for the American Guild of Variety Artists, recalled having met Ruby at a party. He described him as "neurotic and excitable at all times." He added that Ruby was in good stand-

ing with the unions. A Carousel girl once told him Ruby had beaten her, Mr. Mazzei said, and later Ruby told him he had the case quashed for \$100.

Police records showed a series of petty charges against Ruby, beginning in 1949. One, in 1953, was marked "investigation of concealed weapon." The others

were disturbing the peace, violating dance hall ordinance, and violating the liquor laws.

The last was the only charge that carried a notation of disposition. It was marked "dismissed."

Tony Zoppi, entertainment reporter for The Dallas Morning News, described Ruby as "a highly emotional man given to flashy dress and a desperate yearning for social acceptance."

"I have suffered long enough and skimped enough all my life," Ruby recently told a friend. "I want to live a little."

With that he told of plans to move into a luxury apartment.

George Senator, who worked at one of Ruby's clubs, was his roommate. He said Ruby had been in a state of shock since the assassination, mourning particularly for the Kennedy children.

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

Ruby's attire often included wide-brim hats and high-collar shirts. He recently went on a diet and dropped from 210 to 190 pounds.

He was known as the "Chicago cowboy" when he first came to Dallas. He frequented the old Plantation Club, dressed in an immaculate Western costume.

The audiences at his clubs usually were made up of convention delegates. The police dropped in every night to check his operation. That contact with detectives made him known around City Hall. Nobody who saw him shoot Oswald today took his appearance seriously until it was too late.