

As Ticket Scalper and Chiseler

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CHICAGO, Nov. 24—Jack Ruby, who murdered the President's assassin, was recalled by acquaintances in his native Chicago today as Jack Rubenstein, a fancy dresser, ticket scalper and cautious chiseler.

Ruby, nicknamed "Sparky," peddled cigars, janitor supplies, novelties, and automobile accessories. He also scalped tickets to sporting events and theaters, acquaintances recalled.

He was described as a steady, but small-time, gambler. One Chicagoan remembered him as a "hustler who always had a buck in his pocket and dressed like he owned a mint."

There were also reports that he was a street brawler and had a hot temper.

Ruby was identified as the son of a contractor named Joseph, said to be dead now, and was born and grew up in the West Side Jewish "Ghetto."

Although he apparently had times when he was financially well off, he was often short of money. A preliminary check showed no one meeting his description with a Chicago police record.

The conflicting reports about Ruby's intemperate fighting fitted a picture of many unanswered questions about him.

He left Chicago about 15 years ago to help his sister, Mrs. Eva L. Grant, to run her bar in Dallas. But apparently he returned to Chicago about six years ago to promote a "talent discovery," a 12-year-old Negro boy who sang, danced and played the piano.

However, Ruby was unable to get bookings from New York agents. Friends recall that when they joked that the boy was

Dame football tickets in South Bend, Ind., bars.

Not long before he went to Dallas he became connected with a manufacturer of salt and pepper shakers and peddled them and other items.

He was said to have three brothers and four sisters. The family was described as being Orthodox Jewish.

Carl Anis, who said he knew Ruby about 1941, described him as a "nice guy, the last guy to do anything like this [the murder]."

However, he was described as a toe-to-toe slugger, who boasted that he was a clear fighter because "I got principles."

David Bryon, interviewed on a television show, recalled Ruby as a "loner," not impulsive but with a temper that flared. He also said Ruby always seemed to have money.

Mr. Bryon said he had visited Ruby in Dallas and been told he didn't want it known that he had changed his name from Rubenstein.

Mr. Bryon was reportedly questioned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation about Ruby.

The reports of Ruby's career in Chicago, although colorful, were incomplete. For example, the names of the brothers were not certain, but were believed to be Sam, Hyman and Earle or Earle.

One was reported to be dead.

Ruby was also identified as a former organizer for the West and Material Handlers Union. In 1959, Senate investigator described the union as a firm