

Traced to Coast

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DALLAS, Nov. 25—Acquaintances of Jack Ruby gave further insights into his character today. But nothing indicated an association with Lee H. Oswald, whom he shot yesterday apparently to avenge the assassination of President Kennedy.

Ruby was said to have been friendly with a small-time Chicago gang, but not directly tied to it.

A police source remembered him as the operator of a punch-board racket in San Francisco until a death threat forced him back to Chicago, then to Dallas.

"Hothead" best described the trait commonly known to his acquaintances and former employes.

Janet Conforto, an entertainer, recalled Ruby as "completely uncontrollable when he's angry."

"I'm sure when he shot Oswald he thought this would make him a hero to the people in Dallas, that he was righting the wrong that Dallas had done to President Kennedy," she told The Dallas Times Herald. "He gets something in his mind and it just builds up and builds up."

Miss Conforto was a recent headliner at the Carousel Club, which Ruby operated. She was on the way to New Orleans when she heard the word of Oswald's slaying. She called the newspaper to verify it and told her story.

"He threatened to beat me up and burn my wardrobe once when we had an argument over a night's pay he owed me," she related. "I had \$10,000 worth of gowns in that dressing room.

I went to a judge to get a peace bond put on him. Jack finally paid me.

"He got so mad at me one time he cut off the lights right in the middle of my act. He shouted at me right in front of the customers. You should hear what he shouted at me.

"He's used to fighting for everything. He carried everything to extremes. He thrived on it. He's really two people. On the other side, he can be very, very nice, very helpful.

"I remember him as very much for a cause, or against it. He beat up several people of the club and threw them down the stairs. He told me once he got his finger bitten off in a fight.

"I would like to say something good about him. He likes dogs. He used to keep 11 of them in the club kitchen. He gave a lot of them away.

The owner of a Dallas club said:

"Ruby was a hard guy to understand, a big talker, a street brawler. But if Jack liked you, he'd do anything in the world for you.

"He needed love. He had some dogs up at his place and would not allow anybody to mistreat them. He was a vain person and sort of an egomaniac. He thought he was a lady-killer."

A companion and employe, George Senator, said he had known that Ruby had a pistol. "He bought it some time ago for self-protection." Mr. Senator said.