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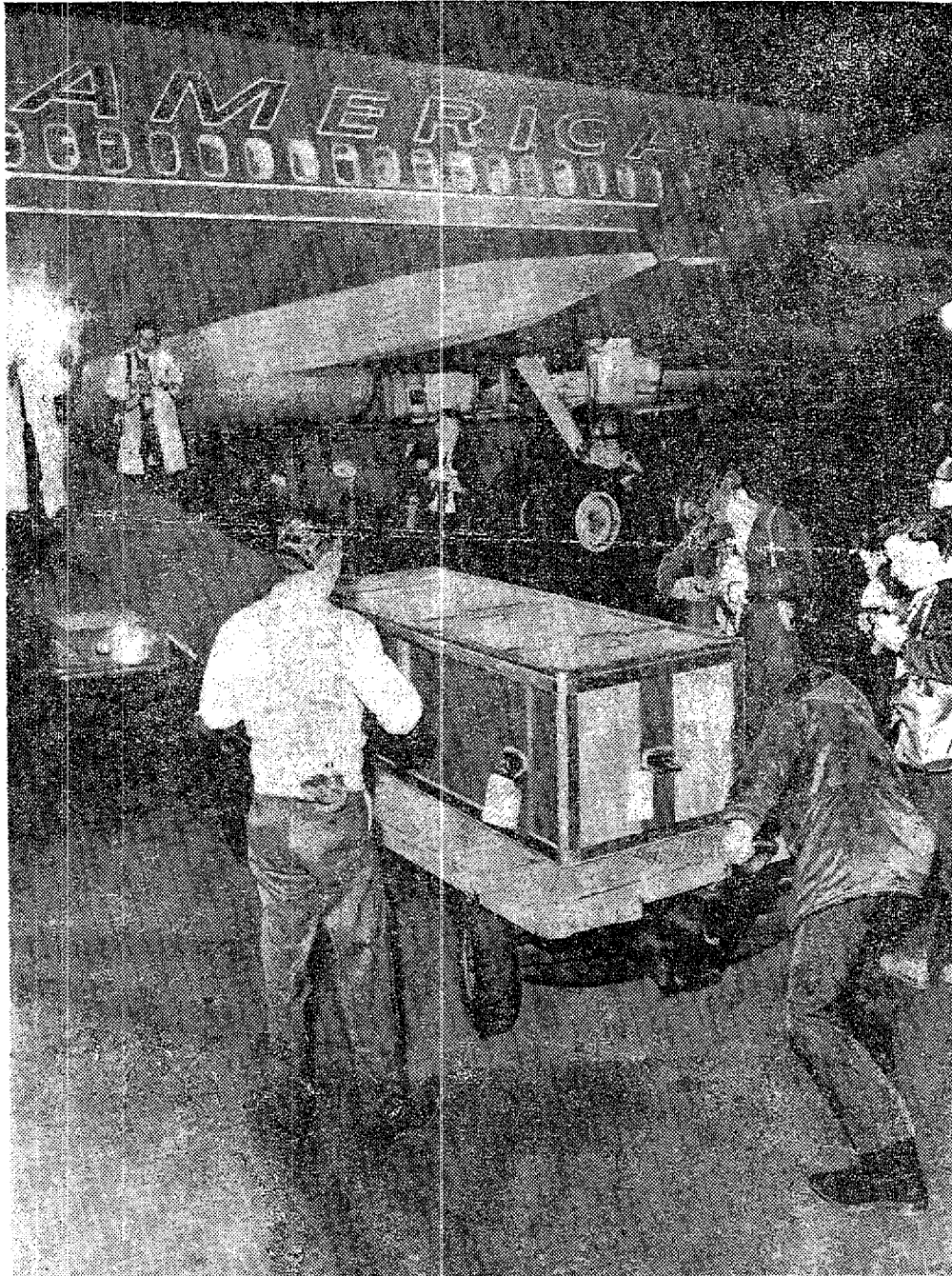
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LAST ACT OF DRAMA

Jack Ruby's Body Flown To Chicago for Interment



—Staff Photo by Bill Beal

Ruby's body is loaded aboard plane at Love Field.

Clot Immediate Cause of Death

By BILL McADA, Staff Writer

Jack Ruby, a roaming tough from Chicago's West Side who shot his way into infamy with a single pistol bullet, was returned home Wednesday to be buried beside his parents.

Thus ended the final act in the drama of history that began on Nov. 22, 1963, with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, and proceeded through Ruby's slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald as he was being transferred to the county jail two days later.

A large blood clot—nature's deadly bullet of the circulatory system—struck Ruby in the right lung Tuesday and killed him as doctors at Parkland Hospital here tried vainly to revive him.

He was pronounced dead in his room at 10:30 a.m. of a

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pulmonary embolus—an obstruction of the respiratory system by a bit of foreign matter such as a blood clot—according to County Medical Examiner Dr. Earl Rose.

DR. ROSE TOLD The Times Herald the primary blood clot jammed the femoral vein of the right leg from "below the knee almost to the area of the navel."

"A portion of the upper part of the clot broke away and moved into the blood stream," he explained.

The autopsy discovered a clot "about as big around as your index finger in the right lung," he said. Other smaller portions flowed into the left lung.

THE MASSIVE CANCER in his body, discovered after he was hospitalized almost a month ago with what was initially thought to be pneumonia, will be listed as a contributing factor in his death, Dr. Rose said.

Ruby's wasted body, some 20 pounds underweight, was flown from Dallas to Chicago late Tuesday night.

Ruby's brother, Earl Ruby of Detroit, and two sisters, Eileen Kaminsky, of Chicago and Eva

Grant of Dallas, accompanied the body on the plane.

They appeared composed as they walked quickly and silently past a waiting crowd of some 50 newsmen in Chicago, the Associated Press reported.

Hershey Weinstein, president of the Original Weinstein & Sons Chapel, said services and burial would be held Friday. He said only Ruby's parents were buried in the large family plot in Westlawn Cemetery.

POLICE POSTED a round-the-clock guard on the Northwest Side Funeral Home immediately after Ruby's body was See **NATURE'S BULLET**, P. 14

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brought by air from Dallas to Chicago.

From four to five officers stood watch at the funeral home. They refused to say what their orders were except to "be sure nothing happens to the body."

Ruby's body lay in a simple pine casket in the rear of the funeral home.

RUBY'S DEATH, though not unexpected, caught the team of doctors attending him by surprise. Breathing difficulties which set in late Monday evening seemed to have cleared when death struck.

Doctors attending the accused killer of Oswald had suspected the existence of a clot in Ruby's system for about 10 hours prior to death, but there was little

they could do.

"We suspected the clot last night (Monday), but there are no drugs to dissolve a clot," Dr. Eugene Frenkel, chief of Ruby's medical team, said in a press conference following an autopsy.

"The anti-cancer drug we were administering is quite good as an agent against clotting," he said.

Though Ruby's difficulty with breathing late Monday was overcome, it gave doctors their first clue of a possible clot. "But we had no indication of a major pulmonary occlusion nor did we know where the clot might be," Dr. Frenkel said.

THE CLOT, which Dr. Rose's autopsy traced to a spot behind Ruby's right knee, moved through the heart and into the right lung about 9:12 a.m. Tuesday.

"Mr. Ruby suffered a convulsive seizure and lapsed into a coma," Dr. Frenkel, a chemotherapist, explained. "He was non-responsive after that."

Only two hours earlier, Ruby had had a breakfast of eggs. Though obviously weakened, he seemed comfortable.

Intensive resuscitation efforts—rhythmic pressure on Ruby's chest—failed to renew life. The chest cavity was not opened, Dr. Frenkel said.

Some 20 members of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School team were in the closely guarded room when Ruby died.

Outside the room, in the long corridor of Parkland's seventh floor, Ruby's family waited. Mrs. Kaminsky and Earl Ruby had been summoned to Dallas over the weekend when Ruby's condition began to weaken.

Death came 26 days after Ruby was rushed to Parkland from the county jail cell he had occupied since he shot Oswald before national television cameras 37 months ago.

LESS THAN 24 HOURS after his hospitalization, doctors had discovered cancer in Ruby's lymph system. Later studies un-



JACK RUBY
Conquered by Cancer

covered malignancy in both lungs, the liver and the pancreas.

The cancer, identified as mucin-forming adenocarcinoma, was too far advanced to be controlled by radiation or surgery.

A regimen of 5-fluorouracil, a highly-toxic, cell-starving drug, was initiated as a hope of retarding the tumor growth.

Doctors never admitted it publicly, but it was apparent that only a miracle could save Ruby. The only real question was how long he could hold out.

Ruby's doctors had completed the first program of drug therapy Christmas Day and he appeared to be responding.

"X-ray studies taken last Friday showed a slight decrease in the size of the tumor nodules in his left lung," Dr. Frenkel said Tuesday. Growths as large as dimes had been found by X-ray earlier.

This did not give physicians any solid hope, however.

"Under the clinical circumstances," Dr. Frenkel said, "it is unlikely that Mr. Ruby would have been cured."

BUT THE DRUG might have kept Ruby alive longer if the deadly clot had not formed and broken free.

According to Dr. Rose, Ruby's

"entire physical condition" led to the formation of the clot. Blood clots, he explained, are not uncommon in patients suffering from wide-spread cancer.

"There was no way for us to detect the blood clot in the leg," Dr. Frenkel said.

In Dr. Frenkel's opinion, Ruby could not have received any better medical attention than he received through the joint efforts of medical school staff specialists and the facilities of Parkland.

Ruby's principal attorney, Phil Burleson, met with reporters shortly after noon Tuesday, moments after he had ushered Ruby's brother and two sisters from seclusion in Parkland's administrative offices to a waiting sedan.

"It's impossible to take death well under any circumstances," Burleson said, "but I thought they (the family) held up as well as possible."

BURLESON SAID he had talked with Ruby about 6:15 p.m. Monday and declared that Ruby looked weak and appeared to have lost a lot of weight. However, he said Ruby talked "fairly strong" as they discussed friends who had sent encouraging messages via Burleson.

"If there is any good to come of this," Burleson said, "it is that Jack died not a convicted man." Ruby, who was awaiting

a new trial on the charge of murdering Oswald, was innocent until proved guilty.

Ruby's death prompted statements from various individuals connected with the case in one way or another.

In New York, William F. Kunstler, one of Ruby's lawyers,

said his death denied him the opportunity "to have a jury decide that he was guilty of nothing more than murder without malice, a crime that carries a maximum of five years imprisonment."

"Such a verdict would have helped to establish that what

Ruby did in Dallas on Nov. 24, 1963, was solely the result of spontaneous reaction to the President's assassination," Kunstler added.

In Los Angeles, Joseph A. Ball, who was a senior staff counsel to the Warren Commission, said he did not see how Ruby's death could have any effect on the validity of the commission's report on Kennedy's assassination.

Ball said he could see no reason to open the inquiry.

Aside from Ruby's immediate family, only reporters and photographers stood by as the pine-

covered casket was placed aboard the airliner in Dallas late Tuesday night.

No others were present to say farewell to the rowdy strip joint operator whose gunfire forever sealed the lips of Oswald.

Ruby died without knowing whether the world believed his story about why he committed the act.

He told his family that he was motivated by an angry passion to save Mrs. Kennedy from having to return to Dallas for the Oswald trial. He also maintained that his path crossed Oswald's only by an accident of timing.