

Jack Ruby Draws and Colors To While Away Time in Jail

Slayer of Oswald Is Reported To Be Much Calmer Than After Conviction in '64

By MARTIN WALDRON
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DALLAS, Feb. 22—While a Federal judge was deciding this week that the United States Government owned the rifle that Lee Harvey Oswald had used in the assassination of President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, the man who killed Oswald sat quietly on the sixth floor of the Dallas County Jail, drawing and coloring.

Jack L. Ruby, sentenced to death for shooting Oswald two days after Mr. Kennedy's assassination, was reported to be much calmer now than he was shortly after his conviction in March, 1964, when, on occasion, he had rammed his head against the jailhouse walls.

Ruby, now almost 55 years old, lives in a 10-foot-wide, 20-foot-long corridor in the jail where he is under the constant eye of a guard. His makeshift cell is kept lighted at all times.

He shares the floor with three or four other men condemned to die, jail officials said.

Most of the time, Ruby sits drawing pictures of women or making intricate geometric designs. Sometimes he colors drawings, or plays dominoes.

Because he lives in a corridor, Ruby has a number of visitors in his cell each day—officers going to another cell or trustees mopping the floor. He gets many letters and cards, and his sister who lives in Dallas, is a frequent visitor.

Fight Is Calmer

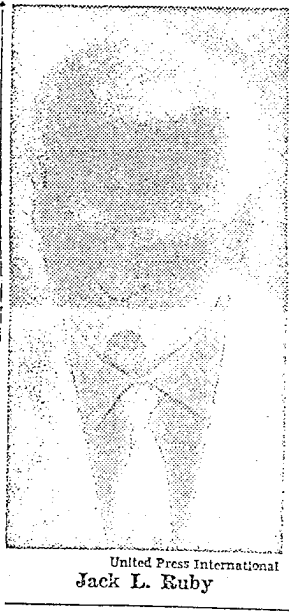
The legal fight in Ruby's behalf has become considerably calmer than it was in 1964 and 1965 when several court scenes were described by the participants as "circuses."

Judge Joe B. Brown, who presided at Ruby's trial, has disqualified himself after several bitter attacks from Ruby's lawyers, who said that a book Judge Brown is writing about the case had prejudiced him.

Melvin Belli, the San Francisco attorney who was Ruby's chief counsel, has long since departed the scene although he did file a long brief with the Texas Appeals Courts as a friend of the court in behalf of Ruby.

Ruby now has an almost entirely new set of lawyers representing him in three appeals, two of which now are before the State Appeals Court in Austin and the other being held in abeyance.

Of five sets of lawyers who have been in the Ruby case at one time or another, only Phil Burleson of Dallas has been kept on the case the entire way. Others have been dismissed by Ruby or by his family.



United Press International
Jack L. Ruby

One, Percy Foreman of Houston, dismissed himself after only 16 hours.

Lawyers now listed as active in behalf of Ruby are Sol Dann of Detroit, Elmer Gertz of Chicago, William Kunstler of New York City, Sam Houston Clinton Jr., of Austin, and Mr. Burleson.

New Team of Lawyers

The new judge, called in from Montague, 400 miles away, to bring some order out of the threatened chaos in 1965, is Louis T. Holland. Judge Holland permitted Ruby to dismiss the lawyers he said he was dissatisfied with and allowed him to accept the new team.

A legal move to have Ruby declared insane is being held in abeyance while the Texas Court of Appeals in Austin ponders whether Ruby should be granted a new trial. There has been no indication when the court will rule on the 18-month-old appeal.

Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry, whose department arrested Oswald for the Presidential assassination only to have him shot down in the police station before a nationwide television audience, resigned his job last week amid what the Dallas newspapers called "growing criticism" of the Police Department because of the city's crime rate.

Mr. Curry had viewed the Oswald slaying by Ruby as a terrible blow to the reputation of Dallas.

J. R. Leavelle, the detective who was holding Oswald when Ruby shot him, still is on the Dallas police force.

The detective exclaimed, "Jack, you son of a bitch!" and wrestled Ruby to the floor after the shot had been fired. Since then, Mr. Leavelle has been transferred to the detail on burglary and theft.

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