

ONE SULLEN, ONE EMOTIONAL

Contrasting Characters Share Lead in Tragedy

By KENT BIFFLE and
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Sunday's tragedy was played by men of opposite characters.

Lee Harvey Oswald killed from a hiding place.

Jack Ruby stepped before the cameras of a nation to cut down Oswald.

Ruby was known as a loud-mouthed, good-natured heavy-weight with many friends.

Oswald was a sullen figure with a narrow circle of acquaintances.

Oswald dripped with political venom.

Ruby would rather talk about baseball.

BOTH RESORTED to violence. Oswald had long favored violent overthrow of capitalistic governments. He was pro-Russia and pro-Castro.

Ruby was known as a fighter. He was fast with his hands and worked out with the big bag at the YMCA. He developed skills he could use in ejecting tough guys from his nightspots.

But those who've seen Ruby in brawls say he only resorted to violence when greatly provoked.

Perhaps the murder of his President was provocation enough.

Ruby, who changed his name from Rubenstein during World War II, was distraught when President John F. Kennedy was murdered.

Ruby, manager of the Carousel, a downtown strip joint, phoned showman Breck Wail who was in Galveston, Saturday night and spoke of his sadness.

HE COMPLAINED that few other nightspots were closing like the Carousel in observance

of the President's death. He was shot down while no one could get at Joe Valachi, the mobster, to kill him.

One of the girls Ruby had been dating lately described him as a "very emotional man."

"HE WAS A MAN with the highest morals. Surprising, isn't it, considering the business he was in? He was also very devoted to his Jewish faith," said the girl, who asked to remain unidentified.

Ruby did not smoke or drink. "He was on some type of morals kick," the girl said. "He was on a diet. He was always taking some kind of pills."

"Jack talked of trouble with one of his strip teasers and he really showed a temper when he talked about her," the girl said.

"Once he got so angry and upset that he began to shake his hand violently — sorta flopping it around," she said.

"ONCE HE ALSO got extremely upset when he forgot to say Kaddish (Jewish prayer for the dead) for his dead father," she said.

Neighbors at the apartment house where he lived at 222

South Ewing said he likes to brag about his trips to Las Vegas and Hollywood.

"He seems to be a very conceited man, but at the same time he was always a gentleman," said Mrs. Curtis L. Warner, the manager of the luxury apartments overlooking Thornton Expressway.

Her husband, the caretaker of the apartment units, said Ruby liked to brag also of his many influential contacts in Dallas.

"HE SAID he knew most of the Dallas press guys and a lot of policemen," Warner said.

He likes to entertain some of the girls who worked for him at his nightclub, "The Carousel," a strip-tease niter.

Bad Diner, who lived below Ruby's apartment, which he shared with a man identified as George Senator, said Ruby often threw parties, but "never these furniture-wrecking types."

Neighbors say that Ruby was "devoted" to his Dochsunds, Sheba and Clipper.

He gave a puppy from one of the litters to Candy Barr, another well-known Dallas

stripper who worked a few doors away from Ruby's night club. She was recently released from prison after serving a term for possession of marijuana.

MRS. WARNER SAID he likes to flash a big wad of bills around. Ruby rented a 2-bedroom apartment for \$125 a month.

"He always paid me in cash — a \$100 bill, a \$20 and a \$5," Mrs. Warner said. "He was pretty consistent about it."

Dallas detectives found two large wads of bills and silver when they searched his apartment Sunday afternoon. One was in a closet and the other was found in a chest drawer. The amount was not disclosed.

Ruby had risen early Sunday morning to do some washing in the apartment laundry room.

Ruby lived according to routine, neighbors said. He awoke around noon and during the summer swam alone in the swimming pool. He would then climb on top of the apartment unit roof to sunbathe. Around 4 p.m., he would leave in his 1960 automobile for the club.

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