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Ex-Stripper Is Trying to Revive Jack Ruby's Club

Diana Hunter

DALLAS (AP) — A tall ex-stripper is trying to breathe new life into the dark and dingy Carousel Club, Jack Ruby's old strip tease emporium in downtown Dallas.

So far customer response has been mediocre. But manager Diana Hunter, a 23-year-old former performer at the club, says: "Give us another month and I think it'll be going good."

The new owners clearly hope to cash in on the notoriety the establishment attained after Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, last November 24. They advertise the entertainment as "the most talked about burlesque show in the world."

A big problem facing the manager is lack of a beer license, which was withdrawn last February. Now the club can serve only ice and mixes for patrons who bring their own bottles of alcoholic cheer.

Mrs. Hunter, whose duties include changing the spotlights on performing dancers, is running the Carousel for an investment firm which apparently took over the mortgage after the place folded several months ago. She, like Ruby, is from Chicago. Her husband is bartender and man-of-all-work at the club.

Strippers who worked for Ruby get preference sor jobs, apparently out of loyalty to the former boss. The show is continuous from 9:30 p.m. to closing.

"I was with Jack from the time he first opened here four years ago," Mrs. Hunter said. "I've done every job there is to do at the club—dancer, waitress, you name it. I may do some dancing again."

Asked if she has discussed the club with Ruby, under death sentence and closely guarded in the county jail seven blocks distant, she said:

"No. I've tried to visit Jack a couple of times at the jail but they wouldn't let me see him. I've kept up with him through his family, though, and when I have a little time I'll try to visit him again."

Without saying so directly, she indicated she anticipates a good crowd of curious customers at the club as the anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination approached.

"One of the television stations has taped how things look now that we're open again, including part of the acts," she said. "They plan to use it as part of an anniversary documentary, I understand."