

By Bob Johnson, © 1963 Dallas Times Herald; most photos of Jack Ruby by Associated Press



Wain Post Magazine 1/24/78 **Jack Ruby** By Rudy Maxa

Did Dallas Cops Help?

When Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald in the basement of the Dallas City Jail, one question loomed: how did he and his gun get there? In a book later this year, Seth Kantor, 52-year-old investigative reporter in Washington for the Detroit News, will name several members of the Dallas police force he alleges aided Ruby in his dark mission.

For Kantor, *The Secret of Jack Ruby* is a project fourteen years in the making. A Dallas Times Herald reporter in the late Fifties and early Sixties, Kantor knew Ruby as a character around town. And when John Kennedy was assassinated, Kantor was there, traveling with the White House press corps for Scripps-Howard. At Parkland Hospital, waiting for word of the President's death, Kantor felt a tug on his jacket. It was Ruby, who expressed shock at the shooting and asked Kantor if he should close his burlesque houses for a few days as a gesture of respect. Ruby later denied to Warren Commission member Gerald Ford that he was at the hospital that day and the commission took his word

over Kantor's testimony to the contrary, a conclusion that still riles the reporter.

In 1974 Kantor decided to learn more about the man who killed Oswald. His 101,000-word manuscript offers no basis for the theory that Oswald and Ruby were acquainted, a favorite opinion of assassination conspiracy buffs.

"Ruby was not involved in a plan to kill JFK," Kantor says, "but he became involved in a plot [to kill Oswald] over the weekend after Oswald's arrest. My contention is that Ruby was led to the Dallas City Jail, helped in. He didn't come in the Main Street ramp as he claimed, he came in an unguarded stairway that led right into the basement. My thesis is that Dallas cops had two strong reasons for revenge: first, they considered Oswald a cop killer because he shot J. D. Tippit, and, second, he was an avowed Marxist so they felt he was clearly representing a foreign country such as Cuba or Russia. Among 1100 Dallas police, there were a few who felt Oswald didn't deserve a trial at all. If someone would come in and do it for them . . .

"The Warren Commission didn't say it, but Ruby had ready access to the police station that weekend. He made frequent trips there after Oswald was arrested Friday and all day Saturday," Kantor says. "And he managed to station himself [with a gun] outside the Dallas County Jail at 4 p.m. on Saturday when there was a preliminary plan to move Oswald from the city jail. He posed as a reporter for a local radio station, but the police changed their plan because of heavy traffic—they feared Oswald would get trapped in a traffic jam."

Footnote: Conspiracy buffs point to four possible groups that might have arranged Kennedy's death: Cuba's Castro, anti-Castroites, organized crime or right-leaning financiers. Kantor dismisses Castro's involvement but notes a history of contact between the Dallas police and the underworld. *The Secret of Jack Ruby*, due out by mid-year, suggests if organized crime had reasons to want Oswald dead, they could have easily worked through the police; and Ruby was well-known in both mob and cop circles.

SUSPICIONS?

Is it true that the Democratic leaders of the House don't get along with the press from their hometowns?

Partly. House Speaker Tip O'Neill wouldn't talk to the Washington reporter for the Boston Herald-American late last year—he resented articles written by the paper's staffers in Boston that incorrectly linked him with a corporation that received an HUD-guaranteed loan. But a favorable piece three weeks ago assessing his year as speaker may thaw relations. O'Neill's helpmate, Majority Leader Jim Wright of Texas, spent last summer ignoring D. C. reporters for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, who he felt wrote too critically about both his campaign accounting methods and his legislative skill; the newspaper's publisher, ironically, heads Wright's fund-raising "Congressional Club" back home.



What happened to the former staff of the AM radio station WWDC?

When the station decided to change from a middle-of-the-road and talk format to a Top 40 sound, the old talent went to other jobs. Captain Dan, the traffic helicopter man, is now self-employed. Fred Fiske is with WAMU, and Johnny Holiday is with WJMD. The shift is not unusual in the fickle disc jockey business.

Whatever happened to one of the founders and head of the popular Emerson's steakhouse chain?

John Radnay was fired and profits plunged as the SEC alleged he was involved in accepting kickbacks from beer distributors and misrepresenting profits. A corporate spokesman says local authorities will decide if prosecution is warranted. Meanwhile, the company that made it big offering a salad bar with meals is on the comeback trail with a new chief officer. Bill Jackson, formerly with a California restaurant chain. A new thirteen-week print ad campaign by Stanley Cotton will take on the snooty French restaurants next month.

Why won't Elizabeth Taylor Warner be able to vote for her husband for a Senate seat when he appears on the Virginia ballot?



John Warner enjoys his wife's support, but when she married Richard Burton in 1969 she renounced her American citizenship and she must wait several years before she can vote here again. When Wall Street Journal reporter Karen Elliot House asked Virginia's most famous resident why she wanted her husband to serve in the Senate, Liz answered dreamily, "We're all just little grains of sand. But if all of us tiny pieces of sand can come together, we can make a stone; that stone can become a boulder and that boulder can become a huge body . . ."

Have a Suspicion? Write *Suspicious*, The Washington Post Magazine, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington, D. C. 20071.

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