

The Death of 'A Nobody'

Ruby Had to Be Tough

DALLAS, Jan. 4 (UPI) — Jack Ruby grew up a tough guy with a burning ambition to make it big some day.

As a Jewish boy in a Southside Chicago slum called Little Sicily, he had to be tough. He spent his youth fighting in the streets, scalping tickets and guarding parked cars at athletic stadiums.

He and his six brothers and sisters were put in an orphanage when their parents were divorced.

When he moved to Dallas, Ruby ran a series of striptease joints. In an atmosphere of Ivy League suits, the uniform of downtown Dallas, Ruby's dress was strictly Broadway.

He served as his own bouncer at the nightspots. He once hit a man so hard he broke his right hand.

WARNED AGAINST JOKES

He solemnly warned his comedians against jokes about his idols — Presidents Kennedy and Roosevelt.

Thru it all, he was obsessed with the idea, by his own admission, that he was a "nobody."

He changed all that Nov. 24, 1963.

He walked into the basement of the Dallas police station and pulled the .38 caliber pistol he always carried — "I have to handle large sums of money" — and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President Kennedy.

Ruby, 55, died of a blood clot of the lungs yesterday, less than a month after he was found to have cancer.

His body was flown to Chicago early today. Funeral services will be Friday.

COMPLAINED OF PAINS

Ruby was taken from his Dallas County jail cell Dec. 9 when he complained of a bad cold and chest pains. Widespread cancer was discovered and his condition became worse day by day. His weight had fallen from 167 to 147 pounds in the hospital.

It was Parkland Hospital,



—UPI Photo
Jack Ruby in a 1966 file photo taken in Dallas during a sanity hearing.



—UPI Photo
The slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 24, 1963.

where both President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald were pronounced dead a little over three years ago.

Ruby insisted to the end there was no conspiracy in the slaying of Oswald. He also disclaimed he was part of a plot to kill Mr. Kennedy.

He made a three-minute tape recording in the hospital in which he denied he was helped or influenced before or during the slaying.

The denial became part of an album by Capitol Records entitled "The Assassination."

The recording was made without the knowledge of authorities.

"Well, it happened in such a blur that before I knew it, I was down on the ground," Ruby said in the recording. "The police had me on the ground."

"I don't recall what happened."

between the time I walked down the ramp (to the police station basement) and was on the floor."

Oswald was shot as he was led out of the basement by two deputies who were transferring him to the county jail.

A jury convicted Ruby of murder and sentenced him to the electric chair on March 14, 1964.

Last Oct. 5, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed the conviction and ordered a second trial for Ruby, specifying it be held somewhere other than Dallas.

The appeals court said, among other things, that Ruby's first trial was in a poor atmosphere for justice because, in a sense, the City of Dallas felt it was on trial and the jurors had to walk past the site of the President's assassination on the way to the court.

Doctors said a blood clot

detached itself from Ruby's leg and traveled into his lungs and elsewhere in his body. They said it was extremely doubtful they could have saved Ruby from cancer even without the blood clot.

"Did cancer cause the blood clot?" a doctor was asked.

"Yes and no," he replied.

Here are some of the comments on Ruby's death by some of the people involved in the case:

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of the assassin: "I won't say I'm sorry or glad. I am the mother of the boy that man shot."

Judge Joe B. Brown, who presided at Ruby's trial: "I am sorry he died. What else can I say?"

Melvin Belli, the lawyer who defended Ruby: Ruby's death was "the ultimate shame of the city of Dallas."

District Attorney Henry Wade, who prosecuted Ruby for murder: "I have no comment and do not expect to."

Phil Bruleson, Ruby's current attorney: "It is a very tragic

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—UPI Photo
Earl Ruby, left, and Mrs. Eva Grant, at Dallas' Parkland Hospital after the death yesterday of their brother Jack Ruby.

ending to a long chapter. I have not fully recovered."

Texas Atty. Gen. Crawford Martin, asked about a new investigation: "Unless someone has some new facts to be

presented, I certainly see no need for another investigation."

And the New York Times expressed the editorial opinion of most newspapers:

"He was a nobody."