

F-Post 12/10/66

Jack Ruby Has Pneumonia, Is Listed Serious

Enters Parkland Hospital, Dallas

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—Jack Ruby, the stubby strip joint boss who killed Lee Harvey Oswald, was taken to Parkland Hospital late Friday with an illness described as a serious case of pneumonia.

Ruby, 55, had been under treatment in his jail cell for a bad cold for about three weeks.

Sheriff Bill Decker said he was admitted to the hospital about 2:15 p.m. following a routine examination by Dr. John W. Callahan, assistant county health officer.

Dr. Callahan said he did not order Ruby to the hospital but added that, "The sheriff can act any time he wants to in a case like this."

The physician, who has been practicing medicine for 15 years, said he had been seeing Ruby daily for two weeks because of the cold. He described the illness as "mostly a nervous cough—a throat-tickling kind of cough. He had not had a fever."

He said Ruby had been taking cough medicine for two weeks and for the past three days had been on antibiotics.

"I examined him at 10 a.m. today, and his cold seemed to be subsiding. I thought he was improving. I was surprised to hear tonight that he had gone to the hospital."

Decker had not seen Ruby for about 10 days but visited him routinely Friday, he said.

"Jack said he had a bad cold and wasn't feeling up to par," the sheriff said. "I talked to Dr. Pickard (county health officer J.M. Pickard) and he suggested Jack should be taken to the hospital where he could be X-rayed, examined and tests made."

"Jack will be carried up to isolation and kept in the hospital."

Decker refused to name the floor of the hospital where Ruby will be treated.