

Haunting Aftermath of the Assassination...

By M. W. Newman
and Henry Hanson
Chicago Daily News

Dallas

At 12:30 p. m. Friday, November 22, a hate-crazed sniper gunned down President Kennedy here, and the world went into shock.

It was the crime of the century — so monstrous as to paralyze humanity.

In the aftermath of horror and bereavement, no one can yet weigh all the effects of this murder. Hardly anyone can say exactly what happened.

It could have been simply the act of a lunatic. It could have been the working out of a carefully concocted conspiracy, perhaps inspired by ultra-leftist plotters, devious far-right-wing fanatics—or incredibly enough, by the sinister kings of the American underworld, the Cosa Nostra.

There are gangland overtones to this martyring of the most powerful ruler on earth. Moscow has cried Nazi-style "right-wing frame-up."

Dallas police say they have gathered massive evidence against accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, an ex-Marine Corps marksman and self-avowed Marxist zealot and \$50-a-week warehouse employee with a grudge against the world. But Oswald himself was shot to death Sunday by Jack Ruby, a moody Dallas police character, in a development almost as mysterious as the slaying of the President.

Many secrets may now lie buried with Lee Oswald in an obscure Fort Worth grave. And for every question that has been answered in this historic mystery, there seem to be ten unanswered ones.

What actually happened on that day when a smiling President was felled by a \$12.78 mail-order rifle?

News reporters, in piecing together the story on the scene, found that much of what happened remains a

Doctor Says Oswald Was Nearly Saved

McAllen, Tex.

Dr. Malcolm Perry, who operated on both President Kennedy and his accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, said yesterday that although there was never a chance to save the President, Oswald nearly survived.

Perry, 34, vacationing here, said the bleeding of Oswald had been controlled and blood pressure restored to normal when his heart suddenly stopped beating.

"Everything was under control when it happened," he said. "We were very close to saving him."

United Press

blur. Only now, after the first frenzy of activity, is the digging taking place. The highly criticized Dallas police, once so talkative, have dropped a curtain over the evidence, which they have turned over to the FBI.

But, as nearly as can be confirmed, here is what happened from the moment that President Kennedy was shot:

H. L. Brennan, one man of many in a panic-stricken downtown crowd, saw a rifle barrel sticking out of a fifth-floor window in a red-brick warehouse building. The man who held the gun was "slender and nice-looking." He crouched in a dusty, cobwebby corner and fired while leaning over crates of textbooks. And then he ran.

Within seconds, amid scenes of unforgettable hysteria, policemen dashed to the building, known as the Texas School Book Depository. There were only a few of its 90 employees in the place.

You can get conflicting reports as to whether Oswald was in the building when police burst in. Some police-

men say he was seen sulking around the first floor, but was identified as an employee — which he had been for two months — and released after brief questioning.

Oswald, who had been interviewed by the FBI only six days before, became important to the police only after he missed an employee roll call soon afterward.

BUS RIDE

Police radios immediately barked out a frantic call to find Lee Oswald — about 24, 5 feet 8, 150 pounds, pallid, dark-haired.

At the moment, as District Attorney Henry Wade of Dallas county reconstructs the crime, the most hunted man in the world was riding one of Dallas' noisy, crowded buses.

A bus driver later told police that a man had hurried aboard, said "the President has been shot," and burst into laughter. That man reportedly has been identified as Lee Oswald.

But the bus went too slowly. And so Oswald, according to Wade, got off, hailed a taxicab, and went to a rooming house about two miles from the murder scene. For unknown reasons, Oswald had rented an \$8-a-week room there under the alias of O. H. Lee, although he had a Russian-born wife and two children living in the nearby suburb of Irving.

RUNNING

If the taxi driver who took Oswald to the rooming house has been found, authorities have not disclosed his name.

"Oswald came in running like the dickens," recalls Earlene Roberts, 68, the housekeeper.

"He got a tan coat and ran out," she said.

The President was pronounced dead at 1:30 p. m. At 1:15 p. m. — several blocks from Oswald's rooming house and not far from the home of his eventual killer, Jack Ruby — a wild street scene ensued.

"A policeman has been shot," a man shouted over



LEE HARVEY OSWALD
Some odd coincidences

the police radio system. "He's lying out here in the street. I think he's dead."

The patrolman was J. D. Tippit. Witnesses — there were plenty of them — said Tippit stopped a bush-haired man about 30, wearing a white cotton jacket rather than a tan coat. This didn't sound like Oswald, but several witnesses later confirmed that he was the man.

"All of a sudden they stopped, looked at each other, and he (the other man) pulled out his gun and shot the officer," said Helen Markham, who was waiting for a bus.

The man in the white shirt raced away (Oswald, when produced after his capture by police, was wearing a plaid shirt over a white t-shirt and dungarees).

Policemen, FBI agents and sheriff's deputies swooped into the area, known as Oak Cliff.

The movies "War Is Hell" and "Cry of Battle" were playing at the turreted Texas Theater, 231 West Jefferson street, a few blocks from where patrolman Tippit lay dead.

"I saw a man run into the movie house," recalls Johnny Brewer, 22, a shoe store manager.

"He was breathing heavily and looked as if he was up to something."

Brewer talked to Julie Postal, cashier at the theater, and they hastily called the police.

CAPTURE

There were only a dozen patrons in the theater when patrolman N. M. McDonald rushed in from a side door. Someone — possibly the theater manager — pointed to a man sitting in a back row.

The man stood up and shouted, "It's all over now," as McDonald, gun in hand, bent inquiringly toward him.

Then he socked the patrolman and came up with a .38 caliber pistol. McDonald said the man squeezed the trigger as they struggled. But the cartridge case was dented and the primer, which detonates the bullet, didn't fire. Other police rushed in. Their prisoner was pallid Lee Oswald.

Even as he was pulled struggling from the theater, he began protesting about police brutality. A crowd had gathered outside screaming, "Kill the son of a bitch." It was about 2 p. m.

The New Orleans-born Oswald was quickly identified as pro-Communist and pro-Castro—possibly by the FBI, because Dallas police said they had no information on him. He had lived in Dallas only since late August. For three years he had lived in Russia and had tried to renounce his U. S. citizenship.

The accused killer of a policeman immediately became the suspected assassin of a President.

Oswald was hustled to the Dallas police headquarters on

the third floor of the city's municipal building.

After a few hours of intensive questioning, Dallas police were hinting broadly that they had their man. He denied killing anyone — quietly and repeatedly.

The prisoner, hustled back and forth between offices before crowds of reporters and TV cameramen, turned out to be a runty, wiry man.

OFFER

He kept talking about his rights and once accused the police of "pummeling me." He refused to take a lie test — it was his right not to do so.

He had no lawyer — but, at some point in the brief life that was to remain to him, representatives of the Dallas bar offered to counsel him. He turned them down and said he wanted the American Civil Liberties Union to protect him.

What happened to Lee Oswald after that is well known. Who he really was — what he stood for — what his associations were — may never be fully known.

All day Saturday — the next day — Dallas police Chief Jesse Curry and District Attorney Wade built up their case against the sweating prisoner.

CHARGES

Murder charges were filed against Lee Oswald. Chief Curry obligingly disclosed that the prisoner would be moved to the county jail, through the heart of downtown Dallas, at about 10 a. m. the next day—Sunday.

Everyone knows what hap-

pened when Lee Oswald, eyes darting nervously, was brought down to the basement for removal. An armored truck waited, but that was only a decoy. It was to speed down one street and he was to be taken in an unmarked car along another route to the jail.

Scores of specially selected policemen, many armed with riot guns, stood guard. Newsmen permitted to watch the transfer had to produce identification. At least most of them did.

How Jack Ruby, girlie show operator and reputed police stool pigeon, got into the basement is not known. He says he just walked in the other way. This could be true, because he is on buddy-buddy terms with many of the police.

It was Ruby who darted out of a cluster of reporters, took policemen by surprise and killed Oswald in efficient gangland manner by pressing a snub-nosed revolver against his side and firing one shot. It started massive bleeding. Lee Oswald, his face gray and his eyes twitching, died in deep shock. He never said a word. If he had any secrets to tell, they died with him.

What is the evidence against Oswald? Here it is, as outlined by District Attorney Wade:

- A Federal crime laboratory in Washington found Oswald's fingerprints on the rifle used to murder the President.

- His fingerprints also were found on two cases of books on which the assassin is believed to have propped the rifle. Wade did not indicate which laboratory made the identification.

- A palm print matching Oswald's was found on one of the boxes. Paraffin tests of Oswald's hands showed he recently had fired a gun. These findings were made by the Dallas city-county crime laboratory.

- A neighbor who drove Oswald to work on the day of the assassination said the young man carried a long, wrapped package. Oswald said these contained window shades, according to this account. The police believe it was the death rifle.

- An elevator operator said Oswald carried the package to the deserted fifth floor storeroom from which the shots were fired.

- Oswald's handwriting, according to the FBI, is on an order for the rifle received by a Chicago firearms firm.

- Police have obtained a photo of Oswald holding a rifle that appears to be the same weapon.

- His blonde wife, Marina, told police she had seen Oswald's rifle at their suburban Irving home the day before the slaying. Police could not find it when they searched the home afterward.

- Police say that cloth fibers attached to the rifle butt match clothing worn by Oswald on the fatal day.

- There are witnesses, still unidentified, to corroborate other parts of the story. Some say they saw Oswald leave the warehouse after the shooting. A woman says she remembers him boarding the bus. Three say they saw him shoot officer Tippit.

BALLISTICS

Neither police nor the FBI have revealed whether ballistics tests, made in Washington, confirm that the bullets that killed the President bore markings similar to others fired from the rifle.

Authorities have promised to eventually make public all the evidence.

As for the many unanswered questions in the murder of President Kennedy, they may be connected to Oswald's death — or they may not.

Was Lee Oswald killed for fear he would talk? There were rumors that wily Detective Captain Will Fritz, a Dallas veteran, was making headway with the tight-lipped prisoner just before Ruby fired his fatal shot.

If Oswald was slain to silence him forever, then Jack Ruby must know a great deal about why President Kennedy was murdered.

MORE QUESTIONS

Who could order Oswald rubbed out? Radicals on the left, pro-Castro fanatics? The crime syndicate, which has suffered at the hands of Attorney General Robert Kennedy? Radicals on the right? Dallas has plenty of them, and they hated the President. Was Marxist Lee Oswald a decoy, hired to allay suspicion of the real motive?

When you ask these questions — and many baffled and disturbed Americans are asking them — the murder

of President Kennedy casts the whole world into darkness.

Ruby himself pictures his motives as blind patriotism. And it is quite possible he is telling the truth—just as it is quite possible that the assassin of President Kennedy was a lone fanatic.

UNDERWORLD

Was Ruby hired, or perhaps forced to carry out the almost suicidal killing of Oswald? "Ruby would do anything for a buck," said Dallas Police Lieutenant George Butler, a former investigator for the Kefauver crime committee. "I don't buy the story he was emotional and did it for his country."

Ruby had contacts in the underworld and he was vulnerable. Members of the Cosa Nostra hung out in the mid-1940s at the Silver Spur, a night club Ruby operated here.

The underworld came here then in an attempt to take control of the lucrative profits from gambling and vice that had sprung up in Dallas after World War II. Among Ruby's patrons were Chicago mobsters Murray (the Camel) Humphreys, Pat Manno, Danny Lardino, Paul (Needle Nose) Labriola, Romeo Jack Knappi, a nephew of Frank (The Enforcer) Nitti, and Ben Friedman, now a respected Dallas businessman.

HOODS

From St. Louis came Paul Roland Jones, who was convicted of attempted bribery in the syndicate take-over attempt and from New York came Frank Costello, then a top leader in Cosa Nostra.

"Whenever I wanted to find someone from the syndicate, I went to Ruby's Silver Spur," former clean-up sheriff Steve Guthrie said at the time.

Was Oswald a patron in

Ruby's Carousel burlesque strip joint a week before the slaying? Bill DeMar, an entertainer in the club, said Oswald was there and participated from the audience in one of DeMar's skits.

DeMar contends he is a memory expert. He puts on a show in which he asks ten patrons to name two objects at random. Then, after some banter, DeMar will repeat, usually correctly, the items named by each patron in reverse order, or singly, at any time the patron asks.

If DeMar is right, then how could Oswald, presumably supporting a wife and two small children on \$50 a week from the Texas School Book Depository job, afford a night club visit? Admission charge to the Carousel is \$2 and beer is 60 cents a bottle.

Through his lawyer, Ruby has denied ever knowing Oswald. The lawyer said, "to his (Ruby's) knowledge, Oswald had never been in his clubs."

Where was Oswald when the \$12.78 mail-order rifle,

believed to be the one that killed the President, was delivered to a Dallas post office box last March? Dallas homicide Captain Fritz and District Attorney Wade said they did not know.

The FBI said a letter ordering the rifle in Oswald's handwriting was sent March 20 to Klein Sporting Goods, Inc., Chicago. The letter was signed "A. Hidell." It has been assumed Oswald was in Fort Worth at the time, not Dallas.

MEXICO

Another mystery — how could Oswald afford a visit from September 2 to October 3 in Mexico City? The Mexico City newspaper Excelsior said Oswald sought a visa from both the Soviet and Cuban consulates there.

Why was Ruby in the ad rooms of the Dallas Morning News laying out an ad for his night club when the President was shot? Was he establishing an alibi?

Why was he the first of half a dozen strip joint operators to shut down that

night? And why did he bounce over to the police station and remain there almost constantly while events developed?

PHOTO

A tell-tale news photo of Oswald moments before he died shows Oswald glancing sideways at the crowd. The picture has led police and scores of Dallasites to wonder: "Was Oswald looking at Ruby?"

Why has a frantic pace developed in the investigation? Why was the Dallas County Grand Jury summoned at 7 a. m. Tuesday to surprise Judge Joe B. Brown in Criminal District Court No. 3 with a 9 a. m. indictment? Is there now someone who feels he must kill Ruby?

Hundreds of mysteries remain. Ultimately, the question — "Was it really Oswald who killed the President?" — will remain unanswered.

A man is not guilty until convicted in court. Oswald can never go to trial.