

Ruby, 1963

11/24/63 Policeman P. T. Dean, who was present at the shooting, said Oswald was shot in his lowest left abdomen.

... Officer Dean said, "The man was standing among newsmen in front of one of the police patrol cars parked in the basement to escort the armored car [which was to transfer Oswald from the city to the county jail]."

Dean said, "I saw the man crouch down and then jump up and fire one shot."

... Oswald was shot from about five feet. Add to bulletin on Oswald shooting which moved at 11:24 a.m. CST, 2nd add to bulletin on Oswald shooting which moved at 11:24 a.m. *AP*, 11:45 a.m. CST

12/24/63 Dallas - Witnesses said Ruby got out of an automobile, quietly slipped into the crowd, jumped a three foot railing and went about six more feet before firing.

"It looked just like he was going to stake hands with him - but he jammed the gun up close," said Anthony Ripley of *the Detroit News*. "Those persons close by saw a bit of flash but then all we could see was Stetson hats [worn by some officers] and dust."

Oswald was handcuffed at the time and his wrists were crossed over each other. *AP*, 12:26 p.m. CST, 7th add 1st lead Oswald shooting.

11/24/63 Dallas -- The only motive police could think of for the shooting of Oswald was smoldering resentment over the President's assassination. *AP*, 12:49 a.m. CST, 1st add 2nd lead Oswald shooting. Arthur Everett

12/24/63 ... Oswald's assailant crouched amid a crowd of onlookers outside the Dallas city hall and sent a single bullet into Oswald's abdomen at such close range that the sound [of] the shot was partly muffled by the victim's body. *AP*, 1:09 p.m. CST. 1st add Oswald heart massaged.

11/24/63 ... The black-haired accused assassin of the President had walked out of city hall and to his death handcuffed and with a tiny smile on his lips. However, he may have spotted his killer and instant before he was shot.

Francois Pelou, a reporter for *France Press*, who watched the drama from very close by, said:

"I'm sure he saw the man. It's my feeling he knew the gun was going to fire because he jerked his hands toward his stomach in sort of a reflex action even before I heard the shot." *AP*, 1:45 p.m. CST, 2nd add 4th lead Oswald shooting.

11/24/63 Ruby, held as Oswald's assailant, was known as a man with a quick temper. His lawyer, C. A. Droby, said about a month ago

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Ruby was acquitted in court of badly beating a man involved in a fight at his club. *AP*, 1:03 p.m. CST, 2nd add 2nd lead Oswald shooting.

11/24/63 Dallas - ... Wade said Ruby had ready access to city hall, and had approached the district attorney during a Friday night news conference.

"I'm Jack Ruby. I own the *Carousel Club* here."

Wade said he replied that he thought a press conference was just for newsmen but that Ruby said:

"Oh, I know all the policemen and all the newsmen too. I just came down to listen in." *AP*, 3:51 p.m. CST, 1st add 4th lead Oswald shooting.

11/24/63 Dallas – He's a tough guy, this Jack Ruby.

He's a loner; too.

... "I can take care of myself, Ruby always boasted.

"Yeah, he could do that," said a close personal friend, a guy who used, to run public social dances with the stocky health faddist.

"Yeah, man. He's always after it. He lives for that business. ... to make a buck," said his one time business associate.

... The cops know Ruby, too.

"I know all the policemen," Ruby breezily told Wade at the press conference." And the newsmen, I just came down to listen in."

That's why it didn't seem strange to have Jack Ruby pop up among the crowd of newsmen, photographers and Stetson-hatted detectives forming an almost human barrier that Oswald had to cross in his transfer from one jail to another.

He was used to being around.

The police had had him around for other reasons. Like two arrests for carrying a concealed weapon, ones in July of this year; once in May of 1954. For violating a dance hall ordinance in 1959. And just a few days ago for aggravated assault. He had a fight in another night spot. A guy heckled him.

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"He's a little odd," said Bill DeMarr, the MC who was master of ceremonies who brings on the Strippers at the *Carousel Club*.

"But tremendously patriotic."

"For a buck," said his ex-partner.

"You know, this just about would have killed him. Not the President's death. But the business. You live for the holidays in this town. Two months of the free-spending and it carries you the rest of the year.

"The business is shot for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's. Man, who's gonna live it up now?" *AP*, 4:22 p.m. CST. Jack Ruby profile, Wilburn Martin

11/24/63 Dallas - ... "Why did you do it," newsmen shouted at Ruby, who was charged with murder. "His expression betrayed no flicker of emotion as he ignored the question.

His sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, said he had; talked incessantly of the Kennedy assassination, grieving more that he did for his own dead father. The sister said she had predicted Oswald would never go to trial, that the Communists would kill him first. *AP*, 6:26 p.m. CST. 5th lead Oswald shooting.

11/24/63 Dallas - I was standing at a corner of the ramp as they led Lee Oswald out of the building, and then I saw Jack Ruby and I knew what he was going to do.

I yelled, "Jack, you son-of-a-bitch."

I tried to reach him but I couldn't get to him. He rushed right up to Oswald and put the gun just flat against his chest. And I saw a flash of fire.

I think Ruby did what he was planning on doing all this time since the President was killed. He didn't say anything as he was carried out --- I think he'd already accomplished his purpose.

One of his employees had called me earlier and told me Ruby felt a sense of shame for Dallas. A lot of us knew him because of the business he was in -- running a strip joint.

I helped carry Oswald to the jail basement office. Someone said, "What do you want to do with him?" and I heard someone answer, "well, let's get him out of here fast."

I think the city jail physician said the bullet went in at a slant but did not come out the other side ---that it entered his left side and

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you could feel it under the skin on the opposite side.

I think the gun was a .38 caliber blue steel snub-nose. Ruby pushed it right up against him.

Ruby must have climbed over the railing to get into the crowd. I didn't see him go over the railing --the first. I saw was when he rushed forward.

Oswald had a powder burn as big as a fist on his sweater. *Oswald Eyewitness*, Detective B. H. Combest, *AP*, A62dn uh121pcs

11/24/63 Evansville, IN. -- Entertainer Bill Demar of Evansville told the *Associated Press* by telephone today he was positive Lee Harvey Oswald was a patron about nine days ago [11/15] in the Dallas night club of Jack Ruby. ...

Demar, Bill Crowe in private life, had completed two weeks of a five week engagement at Ruby's *Carousel Club* when it was closed indefinitely Friday.

"I have a memory act," the magician-ventriloquist said, "in which I have 20 customers call out various objects in rapid order. Then I tell them at random what they called out. I am positive Oswald was one of the men that called out an object about nine days ago." *AP*, 9:24 p.m. CST

[See Weissman 2/9/64]

11/24/63 Dallas -- story on Ruby's sister, Mrs. Eva Grant.

... "He called me six times yesterday and kept asking me, " Do you need anything?"

He -said he was going to one of the radio stations in town and take them some sandwiched because the boys were working so hard on the Kennedy death. He even brought coffee yesterday and took it to the policemen who were working such long hours at City Hall.

"He called me for the last time about 12:30. Today in the jail he told me 'take care of yourself and don't worry. I'm in good health. The FBI and the officers are treating me well. I've got friends.'

"We didn't discuss the shooting. It s sort of an old fashioned Code of ethics. He didn't mention it to me so I didn't mention it to him."

... A reporter from Long Beach, CA, said Mrs. Grant told him she may have inadvertently planted the thought of killing Oswald in

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Ruby's mind. The *Long Beach Independent* and *Long Beach Press-Telegram* said reporter Bill Hunter quoted her as saying:

"I told him [Ruby], 'don't worry. Someone will shoot Oswald,'" she said.

"He told me, 'look at the logic of this. Oswald got to the President, but no one can get to Oswald.'" *AP*, 9:30 p.m. CST

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Evansville, IN - Entertainer Bill DeMarr of Evansville told the *Associated Press* by telephone today he was positive Lee Harvey Oswald was a patron, about nine days ago in the Dallas night club of Jack Ruby.

... "I have a memory act," the magician, ventriloquist said, "in which I have 20 customers call out various objects in rapid order. Then I tell them at random what they called out. I am positive Oswald was one of the men that called out an object about nine days ago.

... DeMarr described Ruby as "a little odd," and "tremendously patriotic" in an earlier call today to an old friend in Evansville.

Dave Hoy said Crowe [DeMarr] told him Ruby was at "rather a quiet guy, but nice. He was intensely patriotic. He seemed upset when Kennedy was killed, but not more than other people. I surprised at this." *AP*, 11:11 p.m. CST.

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Oswald arrested about 90 minutes after the assassination [Janson, *New York Times*].

11/24/63?

[On tape, side II at 599] I want it known by everyone that I do not blame the Dallas Police Department for what happened Sunday morning. Chief Curry and his men did not neglect their duty. I honestly believe my brother had gotten hold of a press pass which got him into the police headquarters. This criticism of the Police Department is uncalled for and they must not be held in blame. My brother was grieving so, and I feel it got the best of him. I know; he was with me a great deal Friday and Saturday. He had been very upset about the death of the President. When he came face to face with Oswald, he must have felt this man had one him some personal harm, and I believe my brother become insane suddenly, otherwise this never could have been done. Please, please, don't blame the Police Department!

Exclusive statement obtained by *KTIF News* from Ruby's sister, Mrs. Eva Grant. No date given, but from context probably 11/24 or 11/25/63.

KLIF, Dallas, *The Fateful Hours*, a *Capitol Custom* record RB-2278, issued early 1964. Notes taken 4/64.

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Dallas - The man who shot the accused assassin of President Kennedy was constantly seeking and apparently enjoying the company of policemen.

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He had a press pass on his windshield. *San Francisco Chronicle*

11/25/63 Dallas, [11/24] - ... The shooting occurred in the basement of the municipal building at 11:26 a.m. CST ..

... At 11:25 Oswald was taken in an elevator to the basement. He was led through the booking office to the open vestibule between two lines of detectives.

As they turned right from the vestibule to start up the ramp, Ruby jumped forward from against the railing. *New York Times*, Gladwin Hill

11/25/63 Dallas - ... Live network television cameras had been trained on the scene and the shooting was broadcast as it occurred.

That was at 11:20 a.m. *San Francisco Chronicle*, *AP* and *UPI*

[See Ruby, 3/3/64, *AP*, 3:28 pcs]

11/25/63 Dallas - [Ruby] had an arrest record in Dallas for carrying concealed weapons. He was acquitted of aggravated assault just recently after a fight with a heckler 'in another night spot.

"I can take care of myself," was his proudest boast.

... Ruby drove up to City Hall in his car shortly before the Oswald shooting. His background had given him an extensive acquaintance among Dallas policemen and there seemed no apparent reason why his presence amidst newsmen and officials should be restricted. *AP*, 12:23 a.m. CST, Arthur Everett

11/25/63 Dallas - His roommate, George Senator, said Ruby appeared to go into a state of shock after the assassination and grieved particularly for "those poor [Kennedy] children." Senator, also an employe at Ruby's night spot, was questioned by police and dismissed. *AP*, 3:56 a.m. CST

11/25/63 Dallas -- Personality sketch on Ruby, quoting C. D. Kelley of New Orleans, a business associate of Ruby's two years ago, as figuring Ruby was more upset over the killing of a Dallas policeman [by Oswald] than over the President's death.

"Patriotic, he wasn't. A police buff, he was." *AP*, 4:50 a.m. CST. Wilbur Martin

11/25/63 Dallas - Ruby had been in City Hall police press facilities often since the President was assassinated.

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City Manager Elgin Crull said "We now have good evidence that Ruby got into the basement by helping to move one of the heavy television cameras." *AP*, 10:50 am CST

11/25/63 Chicago - Luis Kutner, Chicago lawyer ... said Ruby boasted he was well acquainted with members of the Chicago Crime Syndicate.

"I got the impression he liked to hang around with those fellows," Kutner said. *AP*, 1:23 p.m. CST

11/25/63 Chicago - Luis Kutner, Chicago lawyer, told the *AP* that Ruby was an organizer for the *Waste Handlers* for about three or four months in 1947 or 1948. Kutner said Ruby got interested in the labor movement and was employed by [secretary-treasurer Paul] Dorfman as an organizer for a brief period. The lawyer said he learned later that Dorfman became dissatisfied with the rough methods employed by Ruby in his organizing efforts and fired him.

Kutner said the FBI questioned him yesterday about his relationship with Ruby. The lawyer said Ruby in 1950 told him he had certain information he wanted to deliver to the Senate Rackets Investigating Committee and asked Kutner to arrange a meeting with Rudolph Halley, committee investigator. Kutner said he phoned Halley and told him where to reach Ruby. Kutner said he doesn't know whether Halley ever talked with Ruby. *AP*, 1:23 p.m. CST

11/25/63 Chicago - One man who said he knew Ruby from 1944 on, and visited with him as recently as three years ago in Dallas, scoffed at the idea that a patriotic motive was involved in the slaying of Oswald.

"I can't see the guy as pushing through a thing like this out of patriotism. He might for publicity, yes. He might for money," said Jack Kelley, 54, former vaudevillian and nightclub master of ceremonies.

Kelley, now manager of a Pekin, IL, drive-in restaurant, said he knew Ruby during World War II, and that Ruby wore a false hearing aid. "He wasn't deaf. His friends all said it was to duck the draft board," Kelly said. *AP*, 1:23 p.m. CST

11/25/63 Dallas -- Night Lead Ruby, transferred from city to county jail.

... His sister [Mrs. Eva Grant] said she was sure Ruby did not know Oswald.

"I would stake my life on that.

"My brother and I saw Oswald on television, and we both agreed he looked like a creep. Hack hadn't ever seen him before." *AP*, 4:23 p.m. CST, Wilbur Martin

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11/25/63 Detroit - Earl R. Ruby, a 48-year-old brother of Lee Harvey Oswald's slayer, told a news conference today his brother, Jack, is a highly emotional man with a quick temper and "almost aggressively patriotic."

... Jack also was pictured by his brother as "tremendously in favor of President Kennedy" and an admirer of American presidents, regardless of their political ties. *AP*, 6:06 p.m. CST

11/25/63 Dallas - ... Mr. Senator talked with reporters inside ... police headquarters. ... He had gone there voluntarily with James Martin, a lawyer, after hearing the stunning news.

... It is interesting that after he [Ruby] was arrested no less than six lawyers appeared at the police station, ready to represent him if he indicated he wanted them. *New York Herald Tribune*

11/25/63 Dallas - Ruby went out of his way to make friends with policemen.

Once, said an attorney, he rushed to the side of a patrolman being beaten by a group of thugs and fought them off "like a tiger." *News CB, UPI*

11/25/63 Dallas, [11/24] - [Shooting of Oswald]:

The group with the chief walked through a short corridor past the basement booking office and out the door onto the guarded ramp. Uniformed policemen checked the reporters' credentials. But they passed familiar faces, such as those of policemen and collaborating Secret Service and FBI agents.

Ruby's face was familiar to many policemen who had encountered him at his two nightclubs and in his frequent visits to the municipal building. *New York Times*, Gladwin Hill

11/25/63 Dallas - ... Ruby was taken to the same fourth-floor cellblock where his victim had been the focus of attention the last two days. ...

A half-dozen lawyers who have worked for Ruby converged on police headquarters in the next hour or two. They said they had been directed there by relatives and friends of Ruby and had not been called by Ruby himself.

One lawyer said that he had arranged for a hearing before a justice of the peace tomorrow morning to ask for Ruby's release on bail. ...

"He is a great admirer of President Kennedy," the lawyer said, "and police officers." *New York Times*, Gladwin Hill

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- 11/25/63** Dallas - ... The first reaction of Dallas police to Oswald's murder was to mark the assassination case closed, and concentrate on trying to convict Ruby. *News CB [AP]*, p. 1
- 11/25/63** Dallas, [11/24] - Police records showed a series of petty charges against Ruby, beginning in 1949. One, in 1953, was marked "investigation of concealed weapon." The others were disturbing the peace, violating dance hall ordinance and violating the liquor laws.
- The last was the only charge that carried a notation of disposition. It was marked "dismissed." *New York Times*, Joseph A. Loftus
- 11/25/63** Exclusive statement obtained by *KLIF News* from Ruby's sister, Mrs. Eva Grant. No date given. On tape, side II, 599 feet.
- "I want it known by everyone that I do not blame the Dallas Police Department for what happened Sunday morning. Chief Curry and his men did not neglect their duty. I honestly believe my brother had gotten hold of a press pass which got him into the police headquarters. This criticism of the Police Department is uncalled for and they must not be held in blame. My brother was grieving so, and I feel it got the best of him. I know; he was with me a great deal Friday and Saturday. He had been very upset about the death of the President. When he came face to face with Oswald, he must have felt this man had done him some personal harm, and I believe my brother become insane suddenly, otherwise this never could have been done. Please, please don't blame the Police Department!" *KLIF* tape, *The Fateful Hours*
- 11/25/63** Dallas - In Dallas in 1949, he was picked up for disturbing the peace.
- In 1953 and 1954 he was picked up for investigation. Somebody said he had a concealed weapon. There were charges of violating the dance hall ordinance and the state liquor laws. Ruby rode through them all. *San Francisco Examiner*, *AP* and *UPI*, p. 2
- 11/26/63** Story on Ruby indictment
-"I got in my car and drove toward town," the attorney [Tom Howard] quoted Ruby as saying.
- "I took my dachshund, Sheba, with me," Howard quoted Ruby, adding that Ruby drove out of his normal route to pass by the place where Kennedy was shot.
- "I had driven to the place three or four times before and at one time had gotten out," Ruby was quoted by Howard. "I had not put flowers on the spot but I intended to." *AP*, 11:04 a.m. CST

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11/26/63 Dallas, roundup on burial of Oswald and Tippit.

... Some said Ruby, a brawler from Chicago, killed Oswald out of grief over the President's death. Others said the cause of his grief was fear the city's sadness would cost him holiday business.

Ruby closed his club, the *Carousel*, Friday night. It was reported last [Monday] night at 7 p.m. - with was the owner held in jail without bond -- the *Carousel* swinging. *AP*, 1:11 a.m. CST, Robert H. Johnson, Jr.

11/26/63 Dallas -- In response to questions by newsmen, [attorney Tom] Howard declared:

"I can state unqualifiedly, as far as I know there is no connection between Ruby and Oswald. Ruby salt the first time he saw Oswald was when Oswald was brought into the press conference the night of the killing of President Kennedy."

Ruby, with a wide acquaintance among Dallas police officers, had no difficulty gaining entry to city hall with newsmen, and it was from their hanks that he stepped forward Sunday to shoot Oswald.

Questions have been raised in this country and abroad as to whether Ruby killed Oswald because the accused assassin knew too much.

Federal and state inquiries already have been ordered into both the Kennedy assassination and the Oswald slaying in an effort to eventually provide the world with all known facts. *AP*, 1:38 p.m. CST, NL

11/26/63 Dallas - *Ruby Put Under Wraps*. Remarks by Risby's attorney, Tom Howard: Ruby was "in a state of emotional collapse" when they had their first interview an hour after the Sunday morning slaying [of Oswald.] "He was out of his mind." *San Francisco Examiner*, p. 2, *Herald Tribune News Service*

11/26/63 Chicago – Ruby background. *New York Times*, Austin C. Wehrwein, p. 7

11/26/63 No dateline - *The Many Faces of Ruby*. [Personal background] *San Francisco Examiner*, p. 12, *AP* and *UPI*

11/26/63 Dallas -- *Ruby indicted*.

... He carried a .38 caliber revolver, the lawyer [Tom Howard] contended, because he often carried one while transporting large amounts of money. On Sunday morning, the lawyer said, Ruby had several thousand dollars in his car. *New York Times*, Gladwin Hill

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[Why on Sunday, with no banks open?]

11/26/63 Dallas. [11/25] - A Police Department spokesman said today no evidence had been found that Ruby had had previous contact with the 24-year-old warehouse clerk. Ruby's chief lawyer, Tom Howard, said: "I am absolutely certain in my own mind that there never had been any contact between the two." *New York Times*, Gladwin Hill

11/26/63 [No dateline] - The wildly disparate assessments of what makes Jack Ruby tick were among many clashing views expressed by relatives, friends and enemies from San Francisco to Chicago and on to Dallas.

Practically every person who ever knew [him] was offering an assessment yesterday. The one exception was the Dallas police force.

Apparently, he had been something of a hanger-on and devotee of crime detection. He had crashed a news conference in Dallas Saturday night [11/ 23?], telling District Attorney Henry Wade, "I know all the policemen and all the newsmen."

A former band leader at his *Carousel* strippey, Robert Shorman, said in Long Beach that the joint was a hangout for policemen, who seldom had to pay for their drinks. *San Francisco Examiner*, *AP* and *UPI*, p. 12

11/26/63 Chicago - Jack Ruby was an admitted associate of gangsters but never made the "big time," acquaintances said today. As [his] background was pieced together, it was apparent that he had been linked to several Chicagoans who were murdered. He was said to have boasted of having known such hoodlums.

... Earl Ruby, a brother, said in Detroit that reports about Jack Ruby's criminal connections were incorrect.

... Luis Kutner, a lawyer, said that when the Senate [rackets] committee was at work in 1949, Ruby apparently wanted to become the crime syndicate's "pipeline" into the committee. *New York Times*, Austin C. Wehrwein, p. 7

11/29/63 Dallas - 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.

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

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said at the time. *Chicago Daily News*, M.W. Newman and Henry Hanson

11/30/63 Dallas - One question [Ruby] asks often. Does the public approve of his decision to shoot Oswald? Friends say [he] craved public approval. Now, they add, he is concerned over the reaction to his deadly deed. *AP*, Clayton Dickerson, 2:15 am CST

12/1/63 Dallas, [11/30] - ... A performer at the *Carousel*, Ruby's strip club, thought he recalled seeing Oswald "eight or nine days" before the assassination. A dancer, who claims a good memory for faces, said he was wrong. *New York Times*, Donald Janson

12/1/63 ... ate a leisurely breakfast i n midmorning ...

After breakfast he discussed advertising with a newspaper salesman. The business conference at the newspaper was interrupted by reports of the assassination. ... Ruby was only five blocks away from the slaying site.

He did not see the President at any part of his tour of the city. ...

... After placing the ads, he called his sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, who manages his club. "He was absolutely shaken ... he was crying," his middle-aged sister recalled.

He placed other call, too. Friday, and conveyed the impression he was utterly heartsick over the death of the President and its effect on Mrs. Kennedy.

But he went about his business Friday night in the usual manner. ...

... Saturday, Jack Ruby was seen in his usual haunts . An acquaintance from Warsaw chatted with him briefly and recalled, "He gave the impression of a man who had arrived at a decision and was trying to figure how to accomplish it," said the Pole. ...

... Ruby, and millions of others, know Oswald would be transferred from city jail to county jail, where more stringent security could be enforced, at 10 a.m. Sunday. The transfer had been announced Saturday night. ...

... Ruby waited until a policeman on the sidewalk entrance to the tunnel warned a passing motorist to move on. He then ducked into a crowd, grabbed a heavy television camera and posed a member of the working news people. ...

... Within minutes of Ruby's execution of Oswald before the eyes of millions watching television, at least two Dallas attorneys appeared to tally with him.

"He didn't tell us anything, "one of the attorneys told the press after the first brief meeting. "He just listened. He paid for advice."

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Sunday afternoon, police and federal official investigated reports that Ruby and Oswald had been acquainted. Ruby denied the reports and claimed he had seen Oswald for the first time on a televised press conference. ...

... As reports persisted that Oswald was seen in Ruby's *Vegas Club*, Dallas police tried to squelch the reports with statements that in their opinion Oswald was the assassin, that he was without confederates and that he and Ruby were not acquainted. *Long Beach Independent-Press Telegram, Three Days in Dallas*, Bill Hunter.

12/1/63 Dallas, [11/30] - If Ruby was so patriotic that he could not bear the outrage of the President's slaying, why did he skip the opportunity to join the crowd that cheered Mr. Kennedy as he rode through downtown Dallas in the ill-fated motorcade?

... [Ruby] said he never had heard of Oswald before the assassination. A stripper at his burlesque club said she found him crying at the club two hours after the President's death.

12/6/63 ... On the very afternoon of the assassination, when the press was battling and snapping for news -- any news -- in the city hall corridors, Ruby was already there. Said one policeman, "Jack, What the hell are you doing up here?" He was back again that night. He appears to have been free to come and go --and eventually to shoot -- and the question is, why? ... *Life, End to Nagging Rumors*, by Paul Mandel

12/7/63 Dallas -- A Dallas police officer was quoted today as saying he saw Jack Ruby ... go into the city hall basement minutes before the fatal shot was fired.

... The *Dallas Times Herald* said the officer, stationed near the armored car at the Commerce Street exit from the basement, said:

"Jack Ruby, Oswald's assassin, came from the north [Main Street] entrance down the ramp. There were many police officers and press representatives in the area.

"Ruby jumped out of the crowd as Oswald passed and fired one shot point-blank at Oswald."

The newspaper did not name the policeman who made the statement.

No official explanation has been made on how Ruby got into the basement. *AP*, 11:17 p.m. CST

12/7/63 Long feature about President Kennedy, Oswald and Ruby

Dallas - ... It was 12:10 p.m.

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Jack Ruby walked into the display ad department of the *Dallas News* and asked for John Newnam, who handled his account. Newnam wasn't in. Ruby sat down at his desk to wait.

... [No further mention of Ruby until]

It was 1 p.m.

At the *Dallas News* someone rushed into the display ad department with the news. Jack Ruby scurried into a nearby office where a television set was on. He heard the bulletin: "President Kennedy is dead."

After a few moments Ruby returned to Newnam's desk and phoned his sister, Eva Grant. He was plainly upset.

"Don't worry," she told him.

Ruby told Newnam to cancel his ad. He got in his car and drove to Field and Commerce Streets and scrawled "Closed" across the door of the *Carousel Club*. *AP*, Jules Loh, 9:39 p.m. CST

12/7/63 Mount Vernon, NY - ... Bernard Weissman ... said he never knew Lee Harvey Oswald ... or Jack Ruby. *AP* 950 pes

12/12/63 The [FBI] report contains information collected from the Dallas Police force, U.S. Secret Service, Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI itself. Each of these agencies may have reason to be circumspect about particular aspects of the case against Oswald as they relate to their own organization. ...

If the Secret Service were lax in protecting the President, would this appear in the official report?

If Jack Ruby ... was allowed in proximity of the accused assassin because of past services rendered, would the Dallas police reveal this to the public?

If the FBI had, enlisted Oswald as an agent, would this appear in the official report?

If Oswald had been involved in espionage activities for the U.S., would the CIA allow this to become known? *National Guardian*, Jack A. Smith

12/8/63 [No dateline] - ... Jack Ruby ... slipped through the police guard as two officers turned aside in conversation. Oswald was killed only a few feet and 48 hours from the place and time of the President's death. "I blacked out," Ruby told his lawyer. *AP*, Sid

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Moody, 10:24 p.m. CST

12/17/63 Dallas, [12/16] - ... Ruby's attorneys today filed a writ asking that he be released on bail so he could be given a psychiatric examination in a hospital.

District Judge Joe B. Brown set 12/23 for a hearing on the question.

Under Texas law, anyone charged with a crime is entitled to bond except in capital cases where the court feels there is probably cause for the death penalty.

District attorney Henry Wade has said he opposed bond in this case and would ask for the death sentence. *New York Times*, Donald Janson

12/21/63 Dallas - Immediately after the psychiatrists left Ruby's cell today, two FBI agents visited him for about three hours. Ruby's lawyers remained in the cell with the agents. *AP*

12/21/63 ... The south end of the viaduct is four short blocks from the office of the *Dallas Morning News*, where Jack Ruby was seen before and after the shooting. He had gone to the *News* office to make up an advertisement for his strip-tease place. An employee remembered the time as 12:10 p.m., because the ad deadline was noon and Ruby often was late. The advertising man Ruby wanted to see had gone out to watch the motorcade; he returned at 12:54, unaware that the President had been shot. No one remembered for sure seeing Ruby between 12:15 and 12:45. The shooting was at 12:30. ... *The New Republic, Commentary of an Eyewitness*, by Richard Dudman , p. 2 of typed copy.

[See Ruby, 3/4/64]

12/23/63 How did Ruby get into the Dallas jail basement to kill Oswald? Volume Two [of the FBI report] tells in exhaustive detail how he slipped past a guard at the west entrance - but doesn't name the guard. *Newsweek, Ruby Report from the FBI*, p. 20

12/23/63 And what about the commonest rumor - speculation that Oswald and Ruby were somehow linked? No evidence, says the FBI report, dropping the matter. *Newsweek, Ruby Report from the FBI*, p. 20

12/24/63 Dallas, [12/23] - [Story on bail bond hearing] During the search, a pistol was found in the handbag of a defense witness, Karen Lynn Bennett, a 19-year-old striptease dancer at the *Carousel Club*, which Ruby managed.

Miss Bennett was carrying no ammunition for her pistol, a 6.35-caliber Italian model with a pearl handle, Sheriff's deputies said. Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker filed a misdemeanor complaint against her for carrying a concealed weapon and she was

Ruby, 1963

released in \$1,000 bail.

An investigator for the defense, R. B. Denson, reported that Miss Bennett, who dances under the name "Little Lynn," said that she had not been aware that her pistol was in the handbag she was taking to court. *New York Times*, Jack Langguth

[See Ruby, 3/7/64]

[See Ruby, 9/3/64]

12/24/63

Chicago -- The *Chicago Sun-Times* said in a story that Ruby was known as a habitual street brawler and hustler who had a fierce admiration for the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He had a nickname "Sparky" because of his violent temper, the *Sun-Times* said.

For the most part, he led a hand-to-mouth existence interspersed with periods of brief prosperity.

He was, at various times, a ticket scalper, a salesman, a smalltime promoter, and program seller at sports events.

The *Sun-Times* said he once tried to sneak into a major prize fight in Chicago and was stopped by a policeman who hit Ruby with his nightstick when Ruby tried to resist. Ruby spent time in a hospital as a result and reportedly had to have a metal plate grafted onto his skull.

Ruby was a dapper dresser and rather vain. Although he liked to fight he prided himself on being a "clean fighter," the *Sun-Times* said. "I go principles," was one of his favorite phrases.

Chicago police said they had no police file on either a Jack Ruby or Rubenstein. *AP*, 7:09 p.m. CST, add to earlier story.

12/27/63

[Includes discussion of Ruby as a creature of the society which produced him.] *The New America, JFK's Murder Discloses Strong Current of Violence, Hatred*, by Irving Howe.