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NIGHT LEAD JACK RUBY (680)

BY WILBUR MARTIN

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ASSOCIATED PRESS STAFF WRITER

DALLAS, NOV. 25 (AP)-IN SECRET, POLICE TODAY WHISKED JACK RUBY FROM THE CITY TO THE COUNTY JAIL, FOLLOWING THE SAME ROUTE THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

RUBY YESTERDAY CUT SHORT OSWALD'S TRIP WITH A SINGLE SHOT, MORTALLY WOUNDING THE 24-YEAR-OLD SELF-STYLED COMMUNIST.

DOWN THE JAIL ELEVATOR AND OUT THE BASEMENT RAMP THEY TOOK RUBY, WALKING OVER THE SAME CONCRETE ON WHICH OSWALD HAD SLUMPED AS MILLIONS WATCHED HORRIFIED AS TELEVISION CAMERAS RECORDED THE SHOOTING.

A DEPUTY SHERIFF TIMED RUBY'S ARRIVAL AT THE COUNTY JAIL AT 12:03 P.M.

HE WILL BE HELD HERE THROUGH PRELIMINARY TRIAL HEARINGS AND DURING HIS TRIAL, WHICH DIST. ATTY. HENRY WADE SAID WOULD PROBABLY BE IN MID-JANUARY.

"THIS WAS COLD-BLOODED MURDER," SAID WADE. "I'LL ASK THE DEATH PENALTY."

RUBY WAS QUICKLY DRESSED IN THE WHITE COVERALL JAIL UNIFORM OF ALL PRISONERS. THERE WAS ONE REPORT A PSYCHIATRIST OFTEN USED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO DETERMINE THE SANITY OF CRIMINAL SUSPECTS HAD VISITED RUBY.

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TOM HOWARD, RUBY'S ATTORNEY, HAS INDICATED HIS DEFENSE OF THE HOT-TEMPERED, HIGHLY EMOTIONAL SMALL-TIME STRIP TEASE CLUB OPERATOR WOULD BE INSANITY.

"I BELIEVED HIM TO BE OUT OF HIS MIND AT THE TIME OF THE SHOOTING," HOWARD SAID.

RUBY, 52, BORN LEON RUBENSTEIN (CQ), BRAWLED HIS WAY OUT OF POVERTY ON CHICAGO'S WEST SIDE, SHOWING UP IN DALLAS 15 YEARS AGO WITH A NEW NAME AND A NEW PROFESSION: NIGHT CLUB OPERATOR.

HIS FIRST SPOT WAS THE SILVER SPUR, A SWINGING LITTLE PLACE. THEN HE MOVED UP TO OPERATION OF THE CAROUSEL, A STRIP TEASE WALKUP, AND THE VEGAS, A DANCE HALL.

HE MADE QUITE A REPUTATION AS A SMALL FRY OPERATOR IN DALLAS' NIGHT LIFE...A REPUTATION THAT WAS A CUT ABOVE HIS CHICAGO DAYS WHEN HE WAS VARIOUSLY: A PEDDLER OF NOVELTIES, TICKET SCALPER, LABOR ORGANIZER AND WOULD-BE ASSOCIATE OF THE BIG GUYS OF THE SO-CALLED CRIME SYNDICATE.

"MY BROTHER IS A DAMN GOOD AMERICAN," SAID HIS SISTER, EVA GRANT.

SHE AND OTHERS PAINTED HIM AS EXTREMELY PATRIOTIC, HIGHLY EMOTIONAL OVER FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT AND JACK KENNEDY.

A80DN

"I'M CRYING! I CAN'T TAKE IT!" SAID RUBY IN TALKING TO A FRIEND ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION.

"THAT POOR FAMILY. THAT POOR FAMILY."

THERE WERE SOME PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT RUBY HAD BEEN OVERHEARD TO TELL POLICE HE WANTED TO SPARE THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE THE AGONY OF A "LONG TRIAL" FOR OSWALD.

POLICE SAID HE HAD GIVEN NO MOTIVE.

POLITICS WERE RULED OUT AS ANY MOTIVATION BY HIS ATTORNEY AND FRIENDS.

"I DON'T THINK RUBY HAS ANY POLITICAL AFFILIATION," SAID HOWARD. "DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN--OR IF HE EVEN KNEW WHICH HE WAS."

HIS SISTER SAID SHE WAS SURE RUBY DID NOT KNOW OSWALD.

"I'D STAKE MY LIFE ON THAT.

"MY BROTHER AND I SAW OSWALD ON TELEVISION, AND WE BOTH AGREED HE LOOKED LIKE A CREEP. JACK HADN'T EVER SEEN HIM BEFORE."

SOME OF RUBY'S FRIENDS AND FORMER BUSINESS ASSOCIATES SCOFFED AT THEORIES HE MIGHT HAVE SHOT OSWALD BECAUSE OF PATRIOTISM.

"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 KELLY, A 54-YEAR-OLD FORMER VAUDEVILLIAN WHO KNEW RUBY IN CHICAGO.

A81DN

"I THINK RUBY JUST GOT HIMSELF AN IMPULSE AND OPERATED ON HIM (OSWALD)," SAID FORMER BUSINESS ASSOCIATE HERBERT C.D. KELLY IN NEW ORLEANS.

ANOTHER FORMER PARTNER IN PROMOTING DANCES HAD THIS IDEA AS TO WHY RUBY WAS SHOOK UP ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH.

"IT'S THE BUSINESS. YOU LIVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN THIS TOWN. TWO MONTHS OF FREE SPENDING AND IT CARRIES YOU THE REST OF THE YEAR.

"WHO'S GONNA LIVE IT UP NOW?"

ONLY HIS ATTORNEY, SISTER AND OFFICERS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE SEEN RUBY SINCE HIS ARREST. A LOT OF THE FOLKS WHO KNOW HIM IN DALLAS-AFTER-DARK LIFE HAVE TRIED TO SEE HIM.

A HEALTH FADDIST WHO WORKED ON BODY BUILDING EXERCISES EVERY DAY, THE HEAVY-SET, MEDIUM-HEIGHT RUBY HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR ANIMALS. HE KEPT THREE DOGS AND TALKED TO THEM LIKE CHILDREN.

THE "CAUTIOUS CHISELER," AS ONE ACQUAINTANCE DESCRIBED HIM, HAD ONLY A MINOR POLICE RECORD. TWICE HE WAS ARRESTED FOR CARRYING A PISTOL AND ONLY RECENTLY FOR FIGHTING IN A NIGHT CLUB.

A FLASHY DRESSER WHO BOASTED HE KNEW ALL THE POLICE AND REPORTS IN TOWN, RUBY FREQUENTED THE CITY HALL THE DAY AFTER THE PRESIDENT WAS SHOT. HE EVEN CRASHED A NEWS CONFERENCE AS EVIDENCE AGAINST OSWALD WAS BEING DETAILED BY POLICE.

HE DOESN'T DRINK, SMOKE OR USE PROFANITY, BUT HE LIKED TO PLAY THE GALLANT SIR KNIGHT TO THE LADIES.

"HE ALWAYS TREATS THE LADIES REAL NICE," SAID ONE OF HIS STRIPPERS. "A GENTLEMAN."

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