

# CROWDS ARE THIN AT RUBY'S PLACE

## Strippers Carry on Routines in a State of Disbelief

By DONALD JANSON  
Special to The New York Times.

DALLAS, Nov. 29 -- The crowd was thin at the Carousel early this morning. In fact, business has been bad at the strip-tease club in downtown Dallas all week.

The upstairs night club, dark for over the weekend, reopened Monday. Jack Ruby, the operator, had closed it Friday after President Kennedy was assassinated. Now Ruby has been indicted for the murder of the accused assassin, 24-year-old Lee Harvey Oswald, on Sunday.

Since Monday the strippers have been back on the job, what zest they had for their work somewhat muted.

Till 1:30 A.M. today Little Lynn, a shapely and artificially gray Texan of about 20, paraded saucily in pink heels and matching G-string among the customers lining the bar.

Most of the tables in the back of the softly-lighted room were empty.

### Praise From Employees

"We used to have more business than any other place like this in town," Joy Dale said.

The pert redhead had just finished her act by stripping to gold-spangled briefs for a furious version of the twist.

She had nothing but praise for Ruby, a former associate of gangsters in Chicago, as a compassionate friend "who would do anything for you." Several of the other employees agreed.

Miss Dale said she had worked for Ruby for two and a half years, at the Carousel and the Vegas, a rock 'n' roll nightclub he owns in another section of town.

He came to see her when she was sick, she said. He advanced her money. He was solicitous about her 4-year-old daughter. The suggestion that her 52-year-old employe knew Oswald, she said, was "ridiculous." She said he never associated with men that young.

### Denies Oswald Was There

A master of ceremonies who formerly worked at the Carousel has said he thought he saw Oswald at the Carousel "eight or nine" days before the assassination.

Oswald was not in the place then or any other time, Miss Dale asserted. She said she had an excellent memory for faces and would recall him.

She nodded toward Felisa Perell, a long-legged brunette who had just stripped to black gloves and tights and was pirouetting past the noses of beer drinkers along one of the bar's runways.

"She's new," Miss Dale said. "Jack asked me to come in at 3 P.M. last Friday to teach her some dance routines. When we arrived he was sitting in a chair by the door crying. He's an emotional person but I had never seen him cry before."

Mr. Kennedy had died two hours before, shortly after being hit by the assassin's bullets.

"I said, 'What about Mrs. Kennedy and the children?'" the stripteaser continued. "Jack said, 'It's awful just don't talk about it.'"

He told her the club would be closed until further notice.

### Liked Fitness Program

Miss Dale said that, although Ruby paid little attention to politics, he had great praise for Mr. Kennedy's physical fitness program for the youth of the nation. She said he had told her he kept barbells in his bachelor apartment for exercise. He would not let comedians use Kennedy jokes.

Ruby has said he killed Oswald to avenge the murder of the President. Some have speculated that it was to keep the young man from revealing associations.

The trial, which will probably be held in January, may establish the motive. Ruby's attorney, Tom Howard, has indicated that the defense will be temporary insanity.

Ralph Paul, a friend who operates a cafe in nearby Arlington, is running the Carousel. Outside, the club looks the same as ever: flashy neon, gaudy facade and stock pictures of near-nude woman advertising "Dallas' only nonstop burlesque."

Inside, the tinsel-cheap performance goes on, but to smaller houses—and with dancers, musicians, waitresses and bartenders going through the motions in what seems to be a state bordering on disbelief that their generous and boisterous employer had perpetrated such a slaying.

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## Eichenbaum Statement On Ruby

Rudy Eichenbaum, the former "Mayor of Powell street," said yesterday that Jack Ruby never worked for him when Eichenbaum was in the tavern business in the Tenderloin here.

"I never heard of this Ruby until I heard that he shot the guy who killed the President," Eichenbaum said.

Ruby spent six years in the Tenderloin, from 1935 to 1941. He was reported yesterday as working at one time for Eichenbaum.

Eichenbaum went to prison for extortion with scandal magazine publisher Jimmy Tarantino in 1955. He was paroled three years later, and given a pardon by Governor Edmund G. Brown in 1960.

He now lives in retirement in an exclusive section of San Anselmo.