

OSWALD'S KILLER EMOTIONAL TYPE

11/25/63

Small-Time Club Operator
Showed Fierce Loyalties

By JOSEPH A. LOFTUS

Special to The New York Times.

DALLAS, Nov. 24 — Volatile emotions and fierce loyalties were long the marks of the man who slew President Kennedy's assassin today.

Jack Rubenstein, who long ago adopted the name of Jack Ruby, was a small-time operator in the night club and gambling world. In petty ways he had broken the law in Chicago and Dallas many times, but was not on record as having committed a felony.

Ruby went to a newspaper and inserted an advertisement saying his two clubs would be closed temporarily in respect for the President, she added.

"He was the only one to put an ad in," she said.

"We were more affected by the President getting shot than when my father died," she went on.

Mrs. Grant said she and her brother were among a family of four girls and four boys. A brother, Earle, operates the Cobalt Cleaners in Detroit. She preferred not to identify the others.

"We were a big, Orthodox Jewish family," she said. "He's such a good Jew. This (the shooting of Oswald) is something we don't believe in. I don't know what possessed him to do it."

Mrs. Grant was divorced 18 years ago. She said Ruby had helped her to raise her son.

Calls Him Generous

"He is such a guy," she said affectionately. "If he had money, I had money. You know why we haven't any money? If he had \$300 and met somebody who was in trouble and needed money, he would give him half of it."

Weakened by radical surgery two weeks ago, her grief compounded by her brother's deed, she said the thought occurred to her that she had unwittingly driven him to it.

"I'm lying there on the couch," she recalled in her small apartment in a northwestern section. "I said somebody will shoot him (Oswald). You know what I meant? I meant the Communists would shoot him so he wouldn't talk."

That was Friday, the day the President died. Her brother, who lived elsewhere, came to her apartment three times that afternoon and evening, she recalled.

Says He Couldn't Sleep

"He hasn't slept and he hasn't ate," she said.

Mrs. Grant, a reddish-blond woman of 54, two years older than her brother, repeatedly referred to her fancied guilt. She sat slumped in her weakness. Her face was ashen.

"I said the Communists will never let him (Oswald) get the chair," she said. "I don't know if I embedded that in his mind. I feel so guilty, I don't know what to think. We talked. He came here three times. He made his mind up. 'We can't open a night club.'"

Ruby, 52 years old, talked gruffly and might personally "bounce" an offending patron from his night spot. He learned violence in Chicago's ghetto.

He also had a reputation for kindness and generosity toward anyone who did him a favor.

Came From Poverty

Ruby yearned to rise above his background of limited education and poverty. Though not connected with politics, he identified himself emotionally with the New Deal in the nineteen-thirties and with President Kennedy's New Frontier.

As a young man in Chicago he would strike anybody who disparaged President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Ruby and his sister, Mrs. Eva L. Grant, were so devoted to President Kennedy they felt devastated by his death.

"Jack must have gone out his head," Mrs. Grant said today.

Mrs. Grant said her brother had not married. He came here in 1948. He owns the Vegas Club in the Oaklawn section, which she manages for him. He operates the Carousel, but does not own it, she said.

The Carousel, a strip-tease spot, occupies the second floor of a building across the Adolphus Hotel on Commerce Street.

The city director lists Ruby's address as the apartment house where his sister lives. But she said he had his own apartment in Oak Cliff, some miles away. Their telephone numbers are not listed.

Cab Driver Praises Him

A taxicab driver said Ruby was a generous tipper who spoke with kindness. If a patron of the Carousel telephoned for a cab, the driver said, Ruby would require the patron to deposit 50 cents to protect the driver in case the patron changed his mind.

Ervin Nazcei, former regional director for the American Guild of Variety Artists, recalled having met Ruby at a party. He described him as "neurotic and excitable at all times." He added that Ruby was in good standing with the unions.

A Carousel girl once told him Ruby had beaten her, Mr. Nazcei said, and later Ruby told him he had the case quashed for \$100.

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."

Local Pal Recalls Ruby in Chicago

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When the face of the man who had just killed President Kennedy's accused assassin flashed on the television screen of a Tenderloin hotel room yesterday, Bill Pokoik blinked and exclaimed:

"I'll be goddamned . . . it's Sparky."

It was, indeed, "Sparky," whom Pokoik said he had grown up with on Chicago's East Side.

"Jack Rubinstein — we called him 'Sparky'—and I were born in the same neighborhood," Pokoik said.

"He was like all the rest of us. He wanted to get away

from the East Side and make a name for himself."

Pokoik, 56, lives in a small room at the Gotham Hotel at 835 Turk street, a few blocks away from the Fun Center arcade at 723 Market street where he works as a coin-changer.

"I ran into Sparky down in Dallas a few years back when I was on the road as a buyer for a discount house."

"He told me he had changed his name to Ruby and was in the nightclub business."

The one-time Chicago chum said he had no idea what might have prompted Jack Ruby to shoot Lee Harvey Oswald.