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Jack Ruby Trial Judge Dies



JUDGE JOE BROWN
Heart attack

DALLAS, Tex (AP) — Judge Joe B. Brown, the state district judge who meted out the death sentence for Jack Ruby only to see his verdict overturned, died yesterday of a heart attack at the age of 60.

Funeral arrangements were to be announced today. He leaves his widow and a son.

Ruby shot to death Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, as Oswald was being transferred from the Dallas City Jail to a cell in the county jail.

He refused a change of venue for Ruby, one of the items on which the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals later reversed the original decision and sent it back to Wichita Falls for retrial.

Later, after Ruby died of cancer in 1967 in the Dallas County Jail, Brown told friends he "doubted that Jack Ruby could get a fair trial anywhere." Ruby died while his new trial was pending.

He reached national attention in the Ruby trial and in the narcotics trial of blonde

strip-tease queen Candy Barr.

Brown received wide publicity for stepping down from the bench during a recess, and — after asking her permission — snapped a candid photograph of the blonde stripper. Brown himself thought little of the incident, saying only that "she was a pretty girl."

Miss Barr returned to the Dallas show circuit for the first time since the 1959 trial only last weekend. Brown's court found her guilty and passed out a 15-year prison sentence.

NO States-Item

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Joe B. Brown, Ruby Trial Judge, Dies

DALLAS (AP) — Judge Joe B. Brown, 60, who presided over the stormy murder trial of Jack Ruby, died last night of a heart attack. As a judge of criminal district court since 1957 he tried more than 34,000 cases.

Ruby shot to death Lee Harvey Oswald as Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, was being transferred from the Dallas City Jail. Ruby's conviction was reversed on appeal, but he died before a second trial could be held.

See also Ruby file 20 Feb 68