

SF Chron
 FBI Probe Here

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Jack Ruby's Life In S.F. Tenderloin

By Warren Hinckle

Jack Ruby's shadowy Tenderloin past in San Francisco was probed in painstaking detail by Federal authorities here yesterday.

The FBI, The Chronicle learned, called Tenderloin figures to its offices in an attempt to fill in another chapter in the implausible life history of the man who shot the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

It was learned that Ruby was well known in Tenderloin circles. He worked there off and on for six years, from 1935 to 1941.

Federal authorities refused to say whether their San Francisco probe raised any significant new leads in the extensive national investigation of Ruby's past—and his motivations.

But The Chronicle learned that during his short career here Ruby was known as a "drifter."

Ruby's sister, who was with him here, ran a dice game — one of the many games of "21" or "Klondike" that flourished in cigar store back rooms in the pre World War II years.

But Ruby himself was "mostly broke" when he lived in San Francisco, it was learned.

One of the people who remember Jack Ruby is Myer Neff, operator of the "Irisher" and "Chez Paree" clubs on Mason street.

Neff said he believes Ruby was the same man who came to him "many times" in the late 30's, broke and asking for handouts.

"I helped him out with some dough, I gave him a suit and sent him to the Jewish Community Center," Neff said.

"He was pretty much of a character around the bars—he liked to talk tough, like a hood, but he was generally a pretty likable guy," he said.

"Ruby was just kind of around all the time for a few years — then he disappeared," Neff said.

Neff said he doubted that Ruby had any "big time" connections in the Tenderloin—but others remember him as a "tool" for the former "Mayor of Powell street," bar owner Rudy Eichenbaum, who was found guilty with Jimmie Tarantino in a sensational extortion trial in the 1950's.

Ruby also worked, for brief periods, as a bartender and a bouncer in San Francisco. He is remembered by many as a "roughhouse boy" and a "fast man with a gun."