

Ruby's Activities In the Bay Area

Jack Ruby, featured prominently in the Warren Report as the slayer of the President's assassin, once sold race track tip sheets here.

Ruby's San Francisco period, 1933-37, is set forth in documented detail.

He came to the West Coast with several friends from his native Chicago during the depression, seeking work. For a while he sold a handicapper's tip sheet for races at the newly opened Santa Anita track, then came on to San Francisco.

His first job here was as a peddler of tip sheets for Bay

Meadows race track, then sold newspaper subscriptions door-to-door.

Ruby's friends here knew him by his old Chicago nickname of "Sparky," a moniker that reportedly derived from his wobbly walk, resembling the gait of the horse called Sparky or Sparkplug in the then popular comic strip, Barney Google.

Ruby did not spend all his time in the Tenderloin, for Virginia Belasco, granddaughter of the famed playwright-producer-actor, David Belasco, recalled meeting him socially several times, the first time at a dance.