

EB116

WITH RUBY (250)

DALLAS, TEX. JAN. 4 (AP)-DEPUTY SHERIFF RAY ABNER, WHO HELPED GUARD JACK RUBY FOR 53 WEEKS, SAID TODAY THAT ALTHOUGH HE SPENT HOURS TALKING TO RUBY, "I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM."

"HE WAS A PUZZLE TO ME," SAID ABNER ABOUT THE SLAYER OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IDENTIFIED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION AS PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN.

ABNER SAID RUBY, WHO DIED YESTERDAY OF CANCER "WAS ALWAYS NEAT. HE SHAVED REGULARLY AND WANTED FRESH PRISNER COVERALLS EVERY DAY."

ABNER WAS ONE OF FOUR DEPUTIES ASSIGNED TO GUARD RUBY AROUND THE CLOCK.

"WE PASSED MANY OF THE HOURS AT FIRST PLAYING CHECKS, BUT THEN WE STARTED PLAYING CARDS," ABNER SAID. "HE GAVE THOSE NEWSPAPERS A REAL READING.

"HE'D GRAB A COPY WHEN WE BROUGHT IT IN AND BEGIN RUFFLING THROUGH IT LIKE CRAZY TO SEE IF HE COULD FIND ANY STORIES IN IT ABOUT HIM. I THINK HE READ EVERYTHING IN THE PAPERS."

ABNER SAID RUBY WAS FINICKY ABOUT HIS FOOD

"I ATE THE SAME THING THEY WERE SERVING JACK AND I PICKED UP 10 POUNDS," ABNER SAID.

HE SAID RUBY WOULD EAT CANDY BARS IF HE DID NOT LIKE THE FOOD.

THE DEPUTY SAID RUBY LIKED TO EXERCISE AND "STOOD ON HIS HEAD QUITE A BIT. HE TRIMMED MOST OF THE FAT BY EXERCISING."

ABNER SAID RUBY CONSTANTLY WORRIED ABOUT LOSING HIS HAIR.

"HE WAS CONSTANTLY COMBING HIS HAIR," ABNER SAID. "I COULDN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES A DAY HE'D RUN A COMB THROUGH IT."

ABNER SAID RUBY "LIKED TO TALK ABOUT HIS DAYS AS A NIGHTCLUB BOSS AND THINGS LIKE THATM HE BROODED A LOT ABOUT THINGS, PROBABLY THAT DEATH SENTENCE HANGING OVER HIS HEAD."

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