



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

June 5, 1964

Jack L. Ruby;
Lee Harvey Oswald - Victim

Interview With Barney Ross Concerning Jack L. Ruby

Barney Ross was interviewed at the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on June 4, 1964. He furnished the following information:

He resides at 301 East 86th Street, Apartment 10E, New York, New York, and is employed by the Milton Blackstone Advertising Agency, 221 West 57th Street, New York, New York, where he is engaged principally in public relations work. He is 54 years of age. His true name is Barney Rasofsky, and in his early boxing days, he also used the name Barney Rasof. He never has had his name legally changed to Barney Ross.

Ross pointed out that in his autobiography although he stated that he had at one time worked for Al Capone, he never did actually work for Capone.

When he began his boxing career as an amateur about 1926 in the 24th Ward of Chicago, Illinois, he associated with a group of about twelve youths, among whom was Jack Ruby who had the nickname "Sparky". One of the people with whom Ross and others of this group became acquainted with was Al Capone. Ross did not realize at the time that Capone was a big time racketeer and he is sure that others of the group also did not realize Capone was a big time racketeer. Later about 1927 when Capone began receiving a great deal of publicity, Ross did realize that Capone was a big time racketeer and had very little association with Capone after that.

When Ross first began his career in boxing, he trained and boxed at the Kit Howard Gymnasium located in the "loop" area of Chicago, Illinois. When Ross fought, tickets for the fight were sold for about 25 cents each and Capone, on several occasions would buy all the seats in the gym and then give the tickets away to fans who supported Ross. He estimated the seating capacity of the gym was about 125.

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He recalled that occasionally Capone would give Ross or one of the members of the group with whom he associated a dollar to run innocuous errands. He mentioned that on several occasions Capone would give one of them a dollar to deliver an envelope to someone in the downtown section of Chicago. Ross believed that these envelopes, which were sealed, did not contain any messages or anything of value. He believed that Capone did this in order to make them think they were earning a dollar and in order to keep them from hanging around the streets. Ross observed that when he would run such an errand for Capone, the envelope he carried did not appear to contain anything.

Ross never had any financial support from Al Capone or any business dealings with Capone other than indicated above. He furnished the names of the following as associates of Al Capone who were fans of Ross, but Ross said he would not describe them as close followers:

Ralph Capone
Matty Capone (who are brothers of Al Capone)
Murray Humphries
Frank Nitty
"Tough Tony" Capezio
"Machine Gun Sam" Hunt

The only persons whom Ross could recall as being friends of Jack Ruby, who followed and supported Ross, were Ira Colitz, who he believes has an interest in the furniture mart in Chicago, and Lou Koppel who still resides in Chicago, Illinois. Ross described Lou Koppel as one of his closest friends who has known Ruby since Ruby was about five years of age and, in fact, knew Ruby before Ross did.

Ross knew that Eva Grant was a sister of Jack Ruby, but he hardly knew her. He would have recognized Eva Grant if he had seen her in the street, but he was never closely associated with her or any other members of the Rubinstein family. He knew that Jack Ruby had two other brothers, but he had very little contact with them and did not even know their first names. Ross could not recall ever being in the Rubinstein home.



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JACK L. RUBY

Ross believed that Ruby might have seen Capone at the Kit Howard Gymnasium in Chicago, Illinois, about 1926 and might have run innocuous errands for Capone, but he had no knowledge of any other relationship between Al Capone and Jack Ruby.

He did not know of any criminal activities ever engaged in by Jack Ruby, and he pointed out that among the group that he and Ruby associated with, none of them had ever carried a knife, gun or other dangerous weapon.

Ross had no knowledge that Jack Ruby was ever involved in the illegal sale, possession or use of narcotics.

Ira Colitz advised as follows on June 5, 1964:

He was born on September 27, 1915, in Chicago, Illinois. He is a bachelor and resides at 1000 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. His brothers Ivan and Jerome Colitz are bachelors and reside at 4950 Marine Drive, Chicago. Ivan has been employed by United Auto Parts for the past 25 years. He recently quit that position and is considering new employment. He is a writer and writes under the pen name of Ivan Bunny which appears frequently in Irv Kupcinet's column which appears in the "Chicago Sun Times" newspaper. Jerome is employed by the Continental Illinois National Bank. His sisters are Mrs. Viola Stein, 443 North Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills, California, Mrs. Elaine Hanock, 8710 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, Illinois, and Mrs. Clarice Bochan, 6458 North Richmond, Chicago. His father Benjamin Colitz is 85 years of age, is a retired scrap iron dealer and resides at 6301 North Sheridan Road, Chicago. His mother Rose Colitz is deceased.

He attended three years of high school in Chicago. Following his leaving school in the early 1930's, he commenced work with his father in the scrap iron business.

In 1941 he became manager of Barnes Ross' Cocktail Lounge, Madison and Clark Streets, Chicago. In the latter part of 1941 and until he entered the military service, he managed the Hollywood Lounge, Randolph and Clark Streets, Chicago. He was in the United States Army from May 5, 1942, until January 10, 1946. He served in the European theatre and had service serial number 36335482.

On his return from service, he operated the Realto Rail Lounge at Clark and Randolph Streets, Chicago, with a partner Martin Brin. They were in business at that location from 1946 until 1948 when their building was razed for the bus station which currently occupies that location.

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