

Jack Ruby's old employee plans honor

DALLAS (AP) — A former stripper who worked for Jack Ruby in the Carousel Club in Dallas wants to do something special for her ex-boss, who she says is misunderstood.

"I want to get together some money and have a medal or monument or something for Jack," said Bobbie Louise Meserole. "He was a wonderful man."

Ruby fatally shot Lee Harvey Oswald in the basement of the Dallas City Jail on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Meserole hopes the memorial and the book she hopes to write will help set the record straight on what kind of man Ruby was.

To help gather information for the book on Ruby, Meserole, 52, said she is trying to find some of the exotic dancers who performed with her at Ruby's club.

Ruby was kind of a mother hen to the women in his clubs, she said. She said he often went to dinner with them after closing time. Sometimes they all went bowling, she said.

"He was always so nice to the girls," she said.

She said if she could get a monument to him, "then maybe we could finally lay him to rest."

Ruby died at the age of 55 on Jan. 3, 1967 in Parkland Hospital of a blood clot in the lungs.

Ruby always insisted he acted alone in killing Oswald. He told his family he was motivated by an angry passion to save Mrs. Kennedy from having to return to Dallas for an Oswald trial. He maintained that his path crossed Oswald's only by an accident of timing. Ruby's shooting of Oswald was witnessed by a nationwide television audience.

A jury in Dallas convicted Ruby of murder with malice on March 14, 1964, and sentenced him to death.

But the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals overturned the conviction in late 1966 on grounds that the trial should have been moved out of Dallas. The appeals court also said the trial judge erred in allowing certain police testimony that implied malice.

Ruby died before a new trial could be held.

Special Corps unit trains future Marines

Recon Company stresses fitness

By Paige Hinkle
Reporter

Development of leadership abilities and physical fitness are the two major functions of the Texas A&M Recon Company.

The Recon Company is a special unit of the Corps of Cadets similar to the Ross Volunteers and the Fish Drill Team, said Tom Marble, the company's commanding officer.

Maj. John D. McGuire, an associate professor of naval science and official adviser to Recon Company, said the company is considered an extracurricular activity and receives funds from the University.

"Recon Company is a vehicle for those individuals who have an interest in the professional side of the Marine Corps," McGuire said. "Recon Company gives its members a taste for what they will do as Marines."

Wayne Harrison, first sergeant of the company, said it stresses physical fitness. The year starts with activities designed to get the members in shape.

This part of the program also weeds out the members who aren't motivated enough or capable of enduring the full program, Harrison said.

Harrison said Recon Company has about 10 functions planned for the year. He said the company offers field training exercises in which the members simulate combat scenes to get a feeling for what combat is really like.

Harrison said it also practices hand-to-hand

combat and land navigation exercises. In addition, members run stamina courses and obstacle courses.

"The whole concept of Recon Company is to provide a challenge," Harrison said. "It's a confidence-builder. If you complete the whole semester, you have accomplished something."

But Recon Company is not all physical, McGuire said.

McGuire said Recon Company also tries to promote leadership by giving its members responsibility.

"Everything focuses on the leadership necessary to accomplish a task," he said.

Harrison, a junior, said the members of Recon Company don't receive any direct orders from the advising officers. But the officers usually offer their opinions, he said.

"The things we do are pretty dangerous," Harrison said, "and for us to run them is unique. There is nothing like this at other universities."

Since many of the activities the company plans are dangerous, Harrison said, the members are instructed on safety before every activity begins.

He said Recon Company is safety-conscious, and safety comes before anything.

Marble, a senior, said Recon Company is open to any member of the Corps or the Platoon Leaders Class.

The PLC is an organization for students who are considering joining the Marines but are not in the Corps, Marble said.

Marble said members of Recon Company who aren't in the Corps still must follow the Corps' appearance code and have a regulation haircut.

He said the company also helps to prepare juniors for Officer Candidate School.

OCS is a six-week course that potential Marine officers attend after they complete their junior year in college, Marble said.

Marble said Recon Company was formed in the early 1970s at Texas A&M. He said that until the last few years, the company was very small, with an average turnout of about 40 people for activities.

He said Recon Company has about 70 active members this year. Participation is up because the members like the more challenging program that the staff has made, he said.

According to McGuire, Recon Company at A&M is similar to the Semper Fidelis Society that is present at about 60 places in the nation.

Semper Fidelis, which means "always faithful," is the motto of the Marine Corps, McGuire said.

However, Recon Company is more of a military organization than the Semper Fidelis Society, McGuire said. Recon Company is run by a commanding officer and his staff, whereas the society is run by a president, McGuire said.

Dallas, Fort Worth no longer at odds

DALLAS (AP) — A quarter of a century ago, representatives of Fort Worth and Dallas probably could have put a cock fight to shame if pitted together in public.

For example, if Fort Worth Star-Telegram publisher Amon Carter Sr. had no choice but to go to Dallas, he'd carry a sack lunch with him to avoid spending money in a Dallas restaurant.

But the two cities once known nationally for their intense rivalry are now close chums.

It's no secret that Dallas Mayor Starke Taylor Jr. and Fort Worth Mayor Bob Bolen meet frequently to discuss problems concerning both cities and to lend each other a helping hand.

When Taylor started a task force earlier in the year to write a legislative crime package, Bolen offered statistics gathered in Fort Worth. They announced the resulting crime package in a joint press conference last month.

When Fort Worth battled to raise

funds for a robotics research center, Taylor hosted a fund-raising breakfast in Dallas. After Dallas failed to make the final cut for a currency printing plant, Taylor wrote a letter to the Treasury Department endorsing Fort Worth's proposal.

While no one was looking, the two cities have formed a mutual admiration society.

"I can't say enough good things about Dallas," Bolen said.

Taylor said, "When Bob Bolen calls and asks me to do something, there is no discussion. I do it."

The two mayors recently shared the podium at a Fort Worth Rotary Club where they bragged about cooperation. Taylor said the two cities have "bragging rights" because "together they offer the best opportunities in Texas."

But leaders of the two cities were not always so high on each other.

Fort Worth Rotary Club member Jim Nichols said, "Twenty-five years ago, it would have been impossible

to have the mayors of Fort Worth and Dallas at the same podium."

Some say the Texas Centennial celebration got the spat going when Dallas eclipsed Fort Worth during the World's Fair exposition in 1936. Carter, Fort Worth leaders said, never forgot the defeat of having the event in Dallas, or forgave Dallas for its victory.

During the next 40 years, city leaders worked together only when they absolutely had to, and then usually it was on transportation issues. The turnpike opened in 1957, drawing the cities closer in travel time, if not in spirit.

Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce president Bill Shelton told the Dallas Morning News, "I guess old civic pride fueled the feud. They were strong, independent, entrepreneur types in both cities."

The two cities began to see the need to cooperate in 1968 when bank deposits in Houston pulled ahead of those in Dallas for the first time, Shelton said.

The two cities then convinced the federal government that the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, set up as two reporting units in 1949, should be combined into one. In 1970, the SMSA became one report that included the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"The (federal) government was surprised that we (the two cities) could cooperate that well," Shelton said.

It was a beginning.

Word is slowly spreading that the two cities have buried the hatchet. Shelton said he hasn't received a call from a California or New York reporter in at least two years about the rivalry.

"At one time, reporters tried to stir up a fight because the feud was notorious," Shelton said. "Our reputation now is that we work together. We don't want to be identified as twin cities, but as partners. We cooperate much more than we fight."

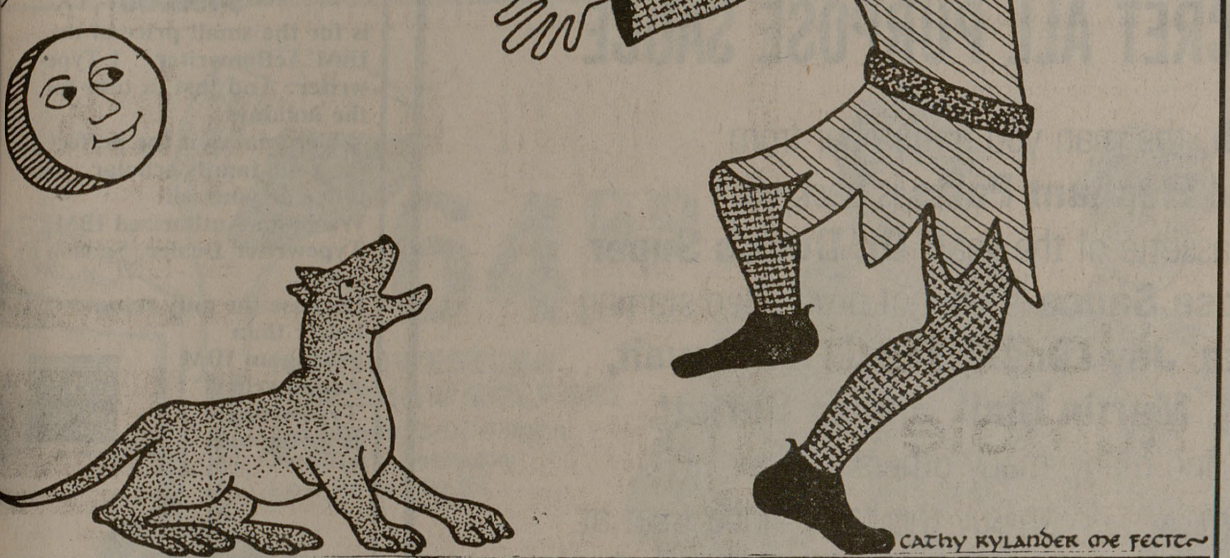
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