

Young mechanic, wife held in bungled kidnap attempt against Leon Ames' wife

STUDIO CITY, Calif. (UPI)—A bungled scheme to kidnap the wife of actor Leon Ames ended in failure Wednesday with a dramatic rescue of the hostage by police.

A young mechanic and his wife—parents of three young children—were held today on suspicion of kidnap for the purpose of robbery. The woman had the couple's 3-year-old daughter with her when she was picked up near the scene of her husband's arrest.

Detectives, working closely with officers hovering overhead in a helicopter, moved in quickly to rescue Mrs. Christine Ames at an intersection within two blocks of her fashionable hillside home in the San Fernando Valley.

Only a short time before, a gunman had taken \$50,000 from Ames under threat of death and then fled with the actor's wife.

Even as this drama was developing, the story of another Hollywood abduction was unfolding in a federal courtroom not far away in downtown Los Angeles. Three men are on trial there for the Dec. 8 abduction of young Frank Sinatra Jr.

Suspect Lynn Wayne Benner, 21, was taken into custody as he stepped from the car in which he had been riding with Mrs. Ames. His wife, Patricia, 25, was in a car parked nearby.

Investigators said the couple came to Southern California about 18 months ago from St. Paul, Minn.

The attractive Mrs. Benner tearfully denied any knowledge of the kidnap plot, detectives said. But officers quoted her husband as admitting that "he went to this location for the specific purpose of doing what he was apprehended for."

Ames, 61, star of television's "Life with Father" series and many movies, told newsmen the gunman "was cool as a cucumber."

Carrying out instructions by the intruder, Ames, who operates a large auto agency in nearby Encino, called Ralph Williams, manager of the agency, and had him come to the house for a "conference." Williams later went to a bank to pick up the \$50,000 the gunman demanded.

Williams tipped off the bank manager when he drew out the money in \$20 bills, and police immediately staked out the Ames' residence. Detectives followed the kidnap car which the suspect forced Mrs. Ames to drive.

"We drove down the hill," Mrs. Ames said, "and he said 'turn right.' I started to, but I stopped at a stop light.

"As we came around, I saw this car," she continued. "I kind of had a feeling when I saw this one man in a blue car.

"That's when everyone closed in, and he (the suspect) moved toward me with a gun. I said, 'please don't do that,' and he dropped it, and put his hands up.

"There were people all over the place."

Williams and a house guest at the Ames home had been ordered to accompany the gunman to the garage and climb into the trunk of a car. Mrs. Ames, still in her night-clothes, then was forced into another of her husband's cars and they drove off. Ames was left bound with adhesive tape inside the home.

The suspect had a revolver tucked in his waistband, but made no attempt to reach for it when detectives surrounded him at the intersection where the arrest took place. The satchel containing the \$50,000 dropped to the ground as he raised his hands.

College upholds Bircher's right to attack JFK

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (UPI)—The right of a University of Illinois classicist to attack the late President John F. Kennedy in a John Birch Society periodical was upheld Wednesday by a top school official.

Dr. Jack W. Peltason, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and acting provost of the university, said he considered the attack by Prof. Revilo P. Oliver "in bad taste and offensive."

But Peltason said his own reaction was "irrelevant."

The editor of the student newspaper, an Illinois congressman and the president of the university board of trustees all defended Oliver's right to make the attack on Kennedy, which appeared in the current issue of the Birch Society magazine, American Opinion.

"Cherished With Distaste"

Oliver, a professor of the classics, a member of the Birch Society's National Council and a frequent book reviewer for the Birch magazine, said in his article that Kennedy was assassinated because he fell behind in a Communist timetable for turning over the United States to the Russians.

Oliver said Kennedy's memory would be "cherished with distaste."

Howard W. Clement, president of the university's board of trustees, said he disagreed with Oliver "head on" but added that Oliver "has the right as a private citizen to express himself and is so guaranteed those rights by the statutes of the university."

Says Ideas Regrettable

Representative Melvin Price, D-Ill., said Oliver's ideas were "regrettable" but that as long as the professor's political views did not color his teaching, his job should not be in jeopardy.

Robert Ebert, editor of the Daily Illini, said Oliver's article was a "base and unwarranted attack" against Kennedy but said he saw "nothing wrong with his speaking out."

"Only a strong and free society could permit Prof. Oliver his own freedom," Ebert said in an editorial.

Peltason said he had been assured Oliver "does not use his classroom to promote his own political views."

4 young boys unarm bomb

TITUSVILLE, Fla. (UPI)—Four young boys coolly disarmed a dynamite bomb planted on tracks of the Florida East Coast Railway Wednesday night just seconds before a freight train it was set to destroy flashed by.

The boys, returning from a fishing trip in nearby Indian River, spotted the bomb as they walked along the main line of the strike-plagued railway about two miles north of Cape Kennedy.

FEC Vice President Winfred L. Thornton credited the "heroic feat" of the youngsters with saving the lives of the two-man crew aboard the Miami-bound train and preventing "another effort to murder our workers and wreck our trains."

The bomb was the second directed at the rail line this week. A dynamite blast destroyed an FEC trestle and blew up 32 freight cars in Miami Sunday.

Deputy Leif Larsen refused to identify the boys, all from Titusville and ranging in age from 8 to 13, to prevent possible reprisals.

"Anybody that would do something like this is liable to do anything," an officer explained.

Wilson quashes subpoenas by Hoffa's lawyers

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (UPI)—U.S. District Court Judge Frank Wilson today quashed two subpoenas which defense lawyers issued in an effort to prove their claim that Teamster Edward Partin lied when he testified that his local approved of trips he made while serving as a government informer.

The defense subpoenas were for the appearance of Donice Bennett, president of Teamster Local 5 Baton Rouge, La., and for the local records.

Partin, business agent for the local, testified last week that Teamsters President James P. Hoffa took part in alleged attempts to tamper with jurors in the Teamster president's 1962 conspiracy trial in Nashville, Tenn.

Wilson said that attempts to bring the affairs of Partin's local into the trial were not relevant by any "stretch of the imagination." He announced his ruling as the government prepared to recall a previous witness whose testimony was a temporarily overruled by a defense motion.

U.S. attorney James Neal said he hoped to recall James Tippens, a Nashville insurance man and prospective juror in Hoffa's 1962 conspiracy trial.

Tippens, who told federal authorities he was offered \$10,000 to vote for acquittal, was sworn in earlier as the government's third witness but was blocked from testifying by defense motions that the prosecution would first have to show "order of proof" linking Tippens to the six defendants.

Tippens said he was offered the alleged bribe by Nashville sandwich shop operator Lawrence Medlin, whose trial has since been separated and transferred to Nashville.

Hoffa and the others are charged with attempting to bribe and influence jurors in the 1962 case at Nashville, which ended in a mistrial with a deadlocked jury.

Hoffa could be sentenced to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Mrs. Ford takes on new life after divorce

FAIRFIELD, Idaho (UPI)—Mrs. Anne Ford took on a new life today as one of the nation's richest divorcees while her ex-husband, auto tycoon Henry Ford II, contemplated an Austin in his future.

Mrs. Ford, 44, obtained a divorce Wednesday on the ground of mental cruelty and received what friends described as a "whopping" settlement, reportedly about \$18 million. They quote Mrs. Ford as saying even she was "surprised" by her husband's generosity.

Ford, currently in Detroit where he is chief executive officer of the Ford Motor Co. was expected to marry Mrs. Cristina Vettore Austin, a statuesque blonde, sometime this year. Mrs. Austin, 34, told reporters in New York Wednesday night that she had no advance notice of Mrs. Ford's divorce and would make no statement on marriage plans.

"It's not for me to say," she said. "It's for Mr. Ford to say."

Mrs. Ford returned to the privacy of an apartment at nearby Sun Valley, the famed ski resort, following the divorce from her 46-year-old husband. She came here Dec. 27 to begin divorce proceedings after 23 years of marriage.

Evans purchases Indiana firm

PORTLAND (UPI)—Purchase of an Indiana firm by Evans Products Co. was announced today by Monford A. Orloff, Evans president.

Purchased was Plastiwell, Inc., of Auburn, Ind., which manufactures a fiberglass-covered plywood and a prefinished paneling used in the mobile home and travel trailer manufacturing industry.

Purchase price was not disclosed.

Plastiwell will operate as part of Evans Products' Plyall division, Corona, Calif.

ONE AND ONLY

DULUTH, Minn. (UPI)—Mrs. Dorothy Mitcheski won \$75 and other prizes at the annual Ice Fishing Derby for catching the largest fish, smallest fish, most fish, first prize, second prize and third prize.

She hooked a 5½ pound perch the only fish caught during the contest.

IU students seek to lift kissing ban

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (UPI)—Frustrated Indiana University students planned a Valentine eve appeal to the student Senate tonight to help get rid of a ban against kissing in a women's lounge.

Three Senate members, including student body Vice President Jim Godfrey, will introduce a resolution condemning what they call a "dictation of students' morals."

The rule has touched off indignant protests on the campus since last week when the counseling staff of Sycamore Hall, a women's dormitory, said that no romance would be permitted in the lounge beyond "holding hands and conversing verbally."

One angry student called it "an attempt to deny young people one of their greatest joys" in a letter to the Indiana Daily Student, the campus newspaper. The newspaper complained in an editorial that student government had been bypassed in establishing the rule.

NEW YORK (UPI)—Bach, Beethoven and Brahms will never sound the same again in Carnegie Hall, music lovers. The Beatles were there Wednesday night and they broke the acoustics.

Yop. Yes. Uh-huh.

The shrieks that met these four Englishmen piled higher and higher until they wormed their way into the plaster. Probably next time music is played in Carnegie a leftover howl will be jarred loose and strike a first violinist.

Their damage done, the Beatles leave for Miami, Fla. today to tape one television show and prepare for a live one Sunday in living noise.

Carnegie Hall, which opened on May 5, 1891, has never heard anything like it and neither had a pert usherette in a green uniform who selected her occupation because she likes classical music. She said she thought the Beatles "are funny," but she wasn't laughing.

The Beatles performed twice, each time before audiences of 2,600 which spilled onto the stage. The first audience came with love offerings of jellybeans.

Some of the jellybeans bopped a policeman who stood at the footlights.

The second audience was older and included some ladies in miniskirt, accompanied by husbands in frowns.

Also there was Mrs. Happy Rockefeller, wife of the New York governor who, in April of 1960, joining the fight to save Carnegie from progress, had declared: "The historic and cultural value of Carnegie Hall is such that it should not be permitted to be torn down merely to make way for another office building."

Mrs. Rockefeller, accompanied by a bevy of children, said she came because Wendy, her daughter by a previous marriage, was "just as excited as any child."

Youngsters in tow, she left before the Beatles could finish. Diplomatic, she said the evening had been enjoyable.

Carnegie Hall will never be same again—Beatles have been there

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