



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Portland, Oregon

February 7, 1967

FRANK DEBILZEN

It should first be noted that investigation disclosed that the residence of Frank Debilzen, Star Route, Box 275, Forest Grove, Oregon, is located in an isolated rural area approximately 31 miles west of Portland, Oregon, near the tiny community of Gales Creek. Extensive logging operations once were carried on in the area, but now Gales Creek consists of little more than a Post Office (located in a private residence), one general store, and a tavern.

Debilzen's home is a very small structure, possibly of two rooms, located some two miles from Gales Creek.

On February 3, 1967, Warren Barnes, Hillsboro, Oregon, sheriff of Washington County, in which Gales Creek is located, advised that he was well acquainted with the Gales Creek vicinity but that Frank Debilzen was unknown to him.

Charles Sherratt, Chief Deputy Sheriff, said on February 6, 1967, that he also was very well acquainted with the residents of Gales Creek vicinity since he once resided in that area but that he had no knowledge of Frank Debilzen. Sherratt ascertained from the Portland General

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ENCLOSURE

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Electric Company at Hillsboro which provides electrical power to the Gales Creek community that the records of that concern show that Debilzen came to Gales Creek in January, 1965, from Route 1, Box 1040, Maple Valley, Washington. His wife's name is Anna, and he listed his occupation as that of a self-employed logger. Sherratt volunteered the comment that Debilzen undoubtedly would have difficulty making a living as a self-employed logger inasmuch as there is no longer sufficient timber in the area to provide much work.

Gerald Eckhardt, the Washington County deputy sheriff, who covers the area in which Gales Creek is located, said on February 6, 1967, that Debilzen was not well known to him because Debilzen had not lived in the Gales Creek community for any length of time, but that Debilzen is considered to be somewhat "funny" or "odd". Eckhardt was unable to explain specifically what he meant by the terms "funny" or "odd", but said that they apparently stemmed from the fact that Debilzen spends much time to himself. He could not elaborate further nor provide any additional pertinent information.

Mrs. Eva Sargent, Postmaster at the Gales Creek Post Office, which is located in her home, said on February 6, 1967, that she was acquainted with Debilzen since he makes frequent trips to the Post Office. She estimated that he has been living in the Gales Creek community somewhat over a year, but she did not know his previous residence. He had told her that he had sold his former home and then had "looked around" until he had found a residence which he could buy without going into debt. He finally found the small structure outside Gales Creek, which he said he had been able to purchase "cheap".

Mrs. Sargent said further that actually Debilzen currently does nothing in the way of gainful employment, but is living on his Social Security income. She stated

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that he has mentioned his wife, but that in all the time that the Debilzens have resided in the community, Mrs. Sargent has never seen Mrs. Debilzen. The only other members of his family mentioned by Debilzen have been a daughter and a son, neither of whom were named or their residences noted.

Mrs. Sargent said that Debilzen stays to himself and apparently spends most of his time in working on puzzles and contests which he finds in newspapers and other publications. She said that he writes continually in answer to these contests and directs his replies to points all over the country. As a consequence, he makes frequent trips to the Post Office to mail his letters and purchase stamps which he buys in rolls because of his extensive letter writing.

Debilzen has explained to Mrs. Sargent that he is doing everything he can to "win some money". On one occasion, he told her that he was sending away for materials for making baby shoes (apparently an answer to an advertisement) which he intended to make and sell for added income.

Mrs. Sargent volunteered the comment that upon the occasion of his frequent visits to the Post Office, Debilzen is always very dirty in his appearance and dress and unshaven.

Ralph Rhodes, proprietor of the one general store in Gales Creek, advised on February 6, 1967, the Frank Debilzen came to the Gales Creek community between two and three years ago. Debilzen has indicated that he formerly had resided in the area around Tacoma, Washington. He told Rhodes of selling his residence in that area for very little money and consequently had purchased the small home near Gales Creek because it was cheap. The only

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members of his family whom Debilzen has mentioned to Rhodes are his wife and a daughter, who supposedly is employed in Portland. He has upon occasion made reference to a son. Rhodes has never met nor seen Mrs. Debilzen in all the time that the family has lived near Gales Creek.

According to Rhodes, Debilzen currently works at doing odd jobs here and there, whatever he can find, and occasionally does a little logging. Rhodes recalled one occasion on which Debilzen had requested Rhodes to handle in his store for him the sale of some item, possibly soap, to try to "pick up a little money". He was somewhat upset when Rhodes would not agree to do so. Rhodes commented that mostly Debilzen just stays at home, and when he is not there, he usually is frequenting taverns. Rhodes described him as a heavy drinker and said that usually when Debilzen comes into the store, he is so "beered up" that Rhodes endeavors to get him out of the store as soon as possible.

Rhodes went on to say that in his dealings with the man, Debilzen has never shown any interest in governmental affairs or personalities and has made little comment concerning the affairs of the day.

Sheriff Barnes said on February 3, 1967, that the files of his department, which covers the Gales Creek vicinity, contained no information concerning Debilzen.

Similar information was provided on February 7, 1967, by the following law enforcement agencies in Portland, which is the nearest metropolitan area to Gales Creek:

Records Section, Portland Police Department,
Checked by [Miss Ruby White]

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Intelligence Section, Portland Police Department,
Checked by Officer Harold Franklin;

Records Division, Multnomah County Sheriff's
Office, Checked by Deputy Donald Hickman.

[REDACTED] of Credit Bureau
Metro, Portland, which covers the Gales Creek vicinity,
advised on February 7, 1967, that she could locate no
record of a Frank Debilzen or anyone with that last name in
the files of that agency.

[REDACTED] clerk, Retail Credit Association,
which covers the Portland metropolitan area, said on
February 2, 1967, that she could locate no record in
the files of that association concerning Frank Debilzen.