

5-17-72
NJR



Associated Press

Police think this man, shown in Kalamazoo, Mich., rally is Mr. Bremer, and suspect he "stalked" the candidate.

Suspect, to Neighbors, Was Withdrawn Loner

By AGIS SALPUKAS
Special to The New York Times

MILWAUKEE, May 16 — "Cheer up, Oswald . . . white collar conservative, middle class Republican suburbanite robot . . . a thunder of hooves and out of the western sky comes the colored man."

This is a bit from hundreds of short passages written by Arthur Herman Bremer that were found strewn on the floor of his three-room apartment yesterday. Mr. Bremer is accused of shooting Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama and three other persons at a shopping center in Maryland yesterday.

The confused, hastily scribbled notes filling notebooks, pads and scraps of paper were the only places where Mr. Bremer expressed himself freely. When face to

face with people in the various working class neighborhoods where he grew up, at grammar school and high school, and at technical school where he studied photography last fall with his girl friend, he was withdrawn and said very little.

A grammar school teacher remarked that he did not mix with other children at recess; he never stopped to talk to his math teacher in high school as did other students; his neighbors recalled that they would say hello and get a blank stare.

And the mother of his girl friend, Mrs. Alfred J. Pemrich, recalled that last Christmas he was invited for dinner.

"He just sat in the corner

Continued on Page 29, Column 4

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

for two hours," she said. "And when we opened some Christmas presents he didn't say anything, show any emotion."

The blond, 21-year-old Mr. Bremer intensified his isolation by moving out of his parents' house last October and refusing to see his mother when she tried to visit him.

In January, Joan Pemrich, 16, who said he had told her that she was his first girl friend, stopped seeing him because her mother thought there was too wide an age spread.

"He really needed some kind of love but it wasn't going to be from me," Miss Pemrich explained.

Shortly after the break Mr. Bremer shaved his head, explaining to the head waiter at the Milwaukee Athletic Club where he worked as a bus boy that he had done it to win her back. On Jan. 13, he bought a gun at Casanova Guns, Inc. in Milwaukee.

Withdrawn Entirely

Then he withdrew entirely into himself. According to the managers of the three-story apartment building at 2433 West Michigan Street, where he lived and where he was last seen until about three weeks ago, he was always by himself.

But he continued to write. "I thought of taking my life just the day before that Friday. I never thought of it when I was with you," one note said.

There seems to be no clear political trend in the writings, although he put a Wallace sticker on his 1966 blue Rambler and on the door of his apartment. There were other references to Governor Wallace in the writings such as, "Happiness is hearing George Wallace sing the national anthem, or having him arrested for a hit and run accident."

Neighbors and fellow students recalled that he had made few political statements and when he did they were often contradictory.

Students at the Milwaukee Area Technical College, where he studied photography for two semesters, recalled that in short talks he would say

he would want to help the poor while also advocating a massive increase of bombing of North Vietnam.

A. Joseph Gradian, an assistant dean there, said in an interview that Mr. Bremer was "a quiet guy, alone."

"He wasn't one of the crowd," he said. "An average student. He passed everything. He was full-time for the first semester, part-time the second semester. He was a dropout. He just never came back."

There were other instances in his life when he tried something only to give it up a short time later.

At South Division High School he went out for the football team. But his mother sent a note to the school saying he was too sickly to continue.

Mr. Bremer graduated on Jan. 28, 1969. In the year-book his name is in the index but there is no picture and no other reference to him.

He was unhappy with his family life. He lived with his father, William, 58, his mother, Sylvia, and a brother, Roger, 18.

Until 1968, the family lived for about 10 years on the top floor of a two-story house at 1011 West Pierce Street, a few blocks from Milwaukee's industrial center. The block, inhabited mostly by Mexicans and Slovaks, has three abandoned homes with broken windows.

Wrote About Yelling

In one of his themes in high school in 1968, Mr. Bremer wrote: "I like to think that I was living with a television family and there was no one yelling at home, and no one hit me."

The family was evicted that year by the landlord, Mrs. Catherine Shields. She said in an interview that his mother had turned the apartment into a mess.

His brother Roger was outgoing but got into trouble with juvenile authorities.

Today in an interview he said: "He hated my ma. He never liked her. She'd get on him for not going out. Sometimes I think that made it worse."

"But I think she was glad he didn't go out. I'd get into a little trouble and she'd be

glad he didn't. She liked him but he hated her. No one thing. He just did. He'd walk out of the room if she talked.

"I think he respected my father a lot. But they'd fight, too. Over little things like he'd take something that belonged to me and my father would try to stop him. He'd push my father. When he left, that was it."

Said to Play Horses

Neighbors said that his mother would sometimes take her car to Chicago to play the horses. She also was a frequent patron of a nearby Salvation Army store where she bought clothes for the family.

They said that the mother kept to herself and was much like her son, seldom saying hello. They said she never let anyone into her apartment and kept the shades drawn and the front door shut even on the hottest summer days.

Mrs. Jenny Bondich, who lives in the upstairs apartment, recalled that "Artie," as he was called by the family, also seldom went out.

"One summer," she said, "the only time I saw him was when a fire engine came and he went out on a porch to look at it. He was so white from being inside."

His father, who is a truck driver for the Krohn Cartage Company, still frequents bars in the old neighborhood even though they have since moved.

His friends recalled that the father worked at two jobs, often coming home with his panel truck and having dinner. He would then take Arthur along for his second job, selling beer at County Stadium during ball games.

His brother Roger, slight, with a mop of curly brown hair, said of his brother:

"He always beat up on me. He wouldn't say much. He wanted to be left alone. I can understand that. But he'd leave the room if somebody noticed him. He'd start a fight for strange reasons."

A neighbor said that there was one boy whom Arthur had made friends with while in high school, Thomas Neuman, but that he killed himself while playing Russian roulette.

A report in local newspa-

pers said that Mr. Neuman killed himself on May 22, 1971, when he played with a gun before his sister.

"Do you want to see something?" he told his sister, according to the report, and then shot himself in the head.

In school Arthur was generally well behaved but did poorly in his subjects. On Jan. 23, 1960, on a report card from the Albert E. Kagel Elementary School, a teacher, Helen McGarty, wrote, "He has excellent work habits—fine attitude—encourage him to read orally to bring reading up to grade level. It has been a pleasure to have him in class."

When he was in the third grade another teacher wrote, "Arthur has adjusted quite well in the classroom. He does not make an effort as yet to play with other children at recess."

Mr. Bremer made attempts to put his life into order. In his apartment, filled with scattered clothes, news clippings, dirty dishes and pots and food, there was a note entitled "A Critique of My Life":

"Trying to impress people
"Bicycles clothes hair pimples college co-workers writing myself notes not to wear tee-shirts

"Trying to impress myself
"TV radio the big books more books and more masturbation sex fantasy daydreams of the father reading newspapers looking at my parents."

Mr. Bremer had one serious arrest. He was picked up last Nov. 18. There was a box of bullets on his car seat and a .38-caliber revolver. He was charged with having a concealed weapon. County Court Judge F. Ryan Duffy accepted a reduced plea of disorderly conduct and fined him \$38.

A policeman said at the time that Mr. Bremer "is completely incoherent; he doesn't understand anything we have told him."

However, Dr. Paul Purtell, a county court psychiatrist, examined him and found him sane enough to stand trial. The psychiatrist said that "he did not appear disturbed at that time."



WOULD-BE FOOTBALL PLAYER: Arthur Herman Bremer, center, in picture of squad published in school yearbook. He was dropped from squad at his mother's request.



Associated Press

IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOOTING: Policemen and security agents subduing Arthur Herman Bremer, center, at shopping center at Laurel, Md., Monday. Mr. Bremer was named on charges of shooting Gov. George C. Wallace.