

Could You Spot an Assassin?

by Fred Blumenthal

LAUREL, MD.

The crowd had been "rougher" earlier that day in nearby Wheaton, the state trooper said, when the Presidential candidate was heckled and his car pelted with eggs. But, it was here in Laurel, mixing with a "friendly" crowd, that on May 15th four bullets cut down the Governor of Alabama, George C. Wallace.

The April 19, 1970, PARADE carried an article on the Secret Service. Featured in that article was a "profile of an archetypal assassin" as described in the report of the President's Commission on Violence. It may have been prophetic, for much of the description seems

to fit Gov. Wallace's alleged assailant, Arthur H. Bremer.

From the profile:

"Comes from a broken home, with the father absent or unresponsive to the child."

Bremer was not the product of a "broken home," but he had rejected his parents and was evidently alone by his own choice. His mother, even when visiting her 21-year-old son's apartment to bring him food, never saw him in person after his estrangement from his family in October, 1971.

Bremer's father, a truck driver for the last 30 years, said only that his son "must have been sick" to try it.

"Withdrawn personality, a loner, no girlfriends, unmarried or a failure at marriage."

Joan Pennrich, a 16-year-old schoolgirl who had a few dates with Bremer in Milwaukee, refers to him only in tones of contempt. . . "If I ever see him again, I'll bust his head."

Those who knew him, and described him as a "loner," seemed surprised that he dated at all. Miss Pennrich said that after a few dates she couldn't stand him anymore, and that he "bored" her.

Bremer was described by a man he used to work for as "a hard worker in jobs where good men are hard to find." Bremer had been unsuccessful first as a janitor's assistant, and then as a busboy.

"Unable to work steadily in the last year or so before the assassination."

When Bremer was brought before U.S. Magistrate Clarence Goetz he testified his net worth was \$2 in cash and a car worth about \$200. He had not worked since he started to stalk Governor Wallace in February.

"A zealot for a political, religious or other cause, but not a member of an organized movement."

It is evident that there was no conspiracy, and that Bremer acted alone.

"Kills in the name of a specific issue related to the principles or philosophy of his cause."

Bremer's motives are still unknown. Sources in the Secret Service indicate they are tracing back on him, trying to find some basis for the tragedy in Laurel.



Although police questioned him as a suspicious person, Arthur Bremer was not held and applauded Wallace in Kalamazoo three days before assassination try.

"Chooses a handgun as his weapon."

A handgun was used in the Robert Kennedy assassination, Bremer chose a .38-caliber revolver with a short barrel. It was easy to conceal, and he may have been worried. He had been picked up by the Milwaukee police in November for carrying a concealed weapon.

Bremer's weapon was registered, and once officials had the serial number they were able to trace it to the retailer in Milwaukee who sold it. The entire tracing process took only ten minutes. The gun was registered at sale under provisions of the 1968 Gun Control Act.

"Selects a moment when his target is appearing amid crowds."

Bremer was heard to shout, "Over here, George, shake my hand" . . . the Governor answered that summons, and moments later was flat on the ground in a pool of his own blood.

Psychiatrists say Bremer was "looking for an identity he didn't have . . . and he wanted to get caught." Bremer's father told reporters that when his son left home "Artie" had said he was going to "find himself."

"Look at their eyes" is a key phrase in Secret Service training. A man's eyes may telegraph his intentions just seconds before he acts, and that could give agents the time to move in . . . but Bremer was wearing sunglasses.



Lee Oswald was captured in Dallas after shooting John Kennedy.



Sirhan Sirhan shot Robert Kennedy after speech in Los Angeles.



James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King in 1968 shooting.



At Maryland campaign stop, Bremer was photographed again—being behind dark glasses. Later, he called out from the crowd to Wallace and fired his shot.

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