

SFChronicle
Dead Bus Driver

JAN 7 1975

Hearing Today on Safe Deposit Box

A safe deposit box that might contain property of a dead Greyhound bus driver from Hayward will be the center of attention today at a probate hearing in a small Wisconsin city.

The driver, Douglas Fay Moore, 26, was killed along with 12 of his passengers when his "gamblers' special" bus hit a concrete pillar near Sacramento on November 3, 1973.

The mysterious safe deposit box, which may contain "a thick brown envelope" belonging to Moore, is held in the name of one W. B. Lee.

Attorneys for Greyhound Bus Lines are seeking to have the safe deposit box—Box 495—in the First National Bank at Hudson, Wis., ordered opened by the court.

A man purporting to be Lee, on the other hand, has been making frantic calls from London in the past week trying to block the opening of Box 495.

Last Friday, for instance, he called Willis Miller, editor of the Hudson Star-Observer. Miller quoted Lee as saying, "what I have in there is my own business."

Attorney Richard McDonough, who is defending Greyhound against \$40 million in law suits resulting from the "gamblers' special" accident, said he received three or four calls from Lee last week.

"He was calling from London," McDonough said, "and described himself as a very private person. He said he didn't know Moore."

Superior Court Judge Joseph W. Hughes of St. Croix county, Wis., ordered the controversial safe deposit box sealed last month.

When Miller of the Star-Observer tried to read the legal petition asking for the opening of Box 495 yesterday, the judge snatched it

out of his hands.

Miller had time to determine, however, that the petition alleges that Lee is supposed to have known the dead bus driver and that "a thick brown envelope" possibly containing records pertaining to Moore was sent to Lee before Moore died.

Louis Raffel, a spokesman for Greyhound in Phoenix, said:

"We have reason to suspect that some of Moore's property may be in that box. We feel that it is part of our responsibility to find out what it is," Raffel said.

Attorney Barry Williams of Oakland, who represents Moore's sister Joyce McGowan of Hayward, said he knew of no connection between Moore and Lee.

Williams said he recently received a telephone call from a man using the name of "Fred" and representing himself to be an employee of the bank where the safe deposit box is located.

"He said that someone saying he was from the CIA had called the bank and said he wanted to be present if the box is opened," Williams said.