

Attitude of Mike Crouchet toward Captain Ferrie during 1961, can be best described as Captain Ferrie being in Mike's way. Here is the reason. First Mike was not part of the independent squadron Captain Ferrie had. He resented this. Second, Captain Ferrie had a bad experience with Mike when he was trying to tutor Mike in mathematics and English.

Mrs. Landryh called Mike and asked him to talk with her about Captain Ferrie. She said she wanted to "get" him. She asked Mike to help her "throw a scare into Captain Ferrie". She said she was going to call the police and have them scare him. She wanted Mike's help. Mike was not too keen on this idea. Mrs. Landry said there would be no real involvement. She just wanted a little help from Mike and to have Mike talk to the police. Mike tentatively agreed.

Then, on a Monday, Mrs. Landry called Mike and said some police would come and see Mike where he worked at Puglia's food store. She said she had provided them with some information. She said all Mike would have to do is agree that the information was correct. Mike had some doubts about this and called his father. His father said to leave it strictly alone. However, a little later the police walked into the store to talk. Mike then told the police he wanted to talk to his father first. So the police said they would come by his house at 8:00 A.M. the next morning.

That night Mike talked to his father. His father said he wanted to talk to the policemen himself.

At 7:00 A.M. the next morning the policeman, Fournier and Jonau came to the door. Mike answered the door. He told the police his father wanted to talk to them. They said never mind they would talk to the father later. Then Mike was carted off to the East Bank jail. There they let him sit for a long time worrying. Then they called him in to an office. They had a typewritten paper and started talking from that. Mike said he would agree to anything they wanted provided they were not going to hold him or arrest him or make any trouble for him. They said o.k. just sign the paper and you can go. Mike signed and left. He was told that would be the end to the whole matter.

*H. Mrs. Depole Landry*  
In January 1962 Mike suddenly realized that there was no end to the matter. He was picked up and taken to the office of an Assistant D.A. named Thalheim. Here he and Jimmie Landry were present. All Thalheim seemed interested in was a date on which certain "acts" were committed. Then Thalheim suddenly stopped and said, that he needed Captain Ferrie flight schedule because he might pick out a date when Ferrie was out of town. So he sent Landry and Crouchet home. A few days later he picked them up again. Then he told the boys what dates they would have to testify to and let them go.

Then came the first trial. Ferrie was found Not Guilty. Mrs. Landry immediately called a meeting of Landry and Mike and told that everybody would have to act fast now. It looked to

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her as though Ferrie was about to be reinstated. In that case he would get his back pay and then be able to sue everybody and take away their cars, houses and everything. So she said everybody would have to agree to stick together and prevent him from getting his job back. So everybody agreed that we would have to protect themselves.

Mike then left for service still worrying about a lawsuit. A Mr. Scheuering came to see him while in camp in Arkansas. He asked Mike if he would withdraw the charges. Mike said he could not. He felt if he did withdraw them that Fournier and Jonau would hurt him, Mrs. Landry would hurt him and finally he would be involved in a lawsuit. So he stuck to his guns.

Then he was transferred to Georgia. While there a Mr. Brownlee came to see him. Again Mike declined to do anything fearing the police, Mrs. Landry and Captain Ferrie. After Brownlee left he telephoned his father who telephoned Thalheim. Since this conversation was unsatisfactory the father advised that Mike could do whatever he ~~pld~~. Then Mike told his story to an officer who said that the cops could not get him for perjury since he had signed no affidavit. He doubted Captain Ferrie would sue. He felt the best thing was to come forward and tell the story.

On returning to New Orleans in September 1962 Mrs. Landry again advised him to stick to his guns otherwise everybody would be sued and lose their homes. Mike thought differently and went to the District Attorney and told his story. On the strength of that the charges were dismissed.

Then Mike tried to tell the straight story to Eastern Air Lines in the persons of George Griener, Bill Bell and Don Landry. They did not listen and would not listen.

Later he was approached by someone representing themselves as agents of Eastern Air Lines offering help in getting a job and other benefits if he would stick to his original story and try to hang Captain Ferrie. He was told it would go hard with him if he continued to exonerate Captain Ferrie. He was also told that he was liable to a lawsuit if he told the truth and as a result Captain Ferrie were exonerated.