

Moore Went To Buy Gun With T-Man

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By Stephen D. Isaacs

Washington Post Staff Writer

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—The man accompanying Sara Jane Moore on her visit to a gun collector last Sunday was an agent for the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau of the Treasury Department, it was confirmed here today.

Moore, officials said, returned alone to the collector the following day, bought a .38-cal. Smith & Wesson revolver and, several hours later, fired it at President Ford.

The Danville, Calif., collector, Mark Fernwood, 26, said yesterday that Moore brought a man with her Sunday, whom she introduced as "Chuck." Fernwood said he could not recall Chuck's last name.

The two talked to him for about 15 minutes, Fernwood said.

San Francisco police sources said today that Chuck is an ATF agent and that they had arranged for him to accompany Moore because Fernwood was suspected of dealing in illegal weapons.

According to the sources, the agent asked Fernwood to see another type of gun than the .38, hoping to see if Fernwood "would show him another stockpile of guns. He thought Fernwood might have some automatic weapons." But Fernwood didn't show him anything, they said.

San Francisco police detective Joe O'Sullivan, who was one of Moore's two regular contacts on a special detail in

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Associated Press

Ruth Kahn and her grandson, Sydney Kahn.

Moore Gun-Hunted With Federal Agent

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investigating gun trafficking, said today that Moore had told him several weeks ago that she had purchased a gun, "but she wouldn't give us any information about where she'd bought it. We knew it was a guy named Mark, but she wouldn't tell us the last name, and we didn't know what he had."

O'Sullivan, who said Moore used to pester him with calls at home frequently, "vacillated all this time" over revealing Fernwood's identity.

On Friday night, he said, "she finally was willing to come across."

He had gone fishing for the weekend, he said, so she called his partner, Sgt. Jack O'Shea, Saturday.

"He acted on it right away," said O'Sullivan, and called ATF agents, who had been cooperating with them on the gun investigation.

"O'Shea did just as we had planned," O'Sullivan said, "once she came through with the information."

O'Sullivan said that Moore had been relatively untested as an informer and had "only been working with us for a couple of months."

O'Shea has said that Moore not only agreed to help during her Saturday call, she also mentioned going to Stanford University Sunday, where President Ford was due to speak, to "test the system."

O'Shea notified the AFT of the offer to help investigate Fernwood, and also notified the FBI and Secret Service of her veiled threat against the President.

While she was still in Danville Sunday, O'Shea took steps to have her arrested to keep her from going to Stanford, and had the gun she had bought from Fernwood three weeks earlier confiscated.

Neither the AFT nor the San Francisco police knew that Moore went back to Fernwood's Monday to buy the .38, officials said.

Woman Has Doubts Moore Is Daughter

By Joel D. Weisman

Special to The Washington Post

CINCINNATI, Sept. 25—Ruth Kahn today refused to accept that she is the mother of Sara Jane Moore, who is accused of firing a shot at President Ford, "until I have definite proof such as fingerprints or a statement from her."

Kahn, whom neighbors described as being in her 70s, told a press conference, however, that "circumstances indicate" that Moore "is my daughter."

Kahn was introduced by Sydney Kahn, 24, one of three children apparently abandoned by Moore when she left West Virginia, the state where she grew up.

Mrs. Kahn read the following statement:

"I had a daughter named Sara Jane Kahn, born Feb. 15, 1930. She was living somewhere in California. I have not seen her in 20 years and she has broken all ties with the family.

"Until I have definite proof such as fingerprints or a statement from her, I cannot say Sara Jane Moore is my daughter — even though circumstances seem to indicate she is my daughter, I must be sure."

Records in Kanawha County, West Virginia, show that Mrs. Ruth Kahn gave

birth to Sara Jane Kahn. County records also show that Mrs. Kahn and her husband, Olaf Kahn, adopted three of Moore's children, Mrs. Kahn's grandchildren, after her daughter, still using the name Sara Jane Kahn, divorced Sydney Lewis Manning, her second husband, for the second time in 1957.

It was after her divorce from Manning that Sara Jane Kahn went to California, where she is known as Sara Jane Moore. Moore was the maiden name of Ruth Kahn.

One of her classmates at the Stonewall Jackson High School in Charleston, W.Va., had the name Sara Jane Moore. The classmate now works for the state, and told a reporter that she recently learned that her high school records had been forwarded to California.

Mrs. Kahn moved here with her grandchildren in 1967, shortly after the death of her husband in Charleston.

She first lived 10 blocks from her present four-family, two-story building, which she purchased two years ago, neighbors said. She apparently is supported by rents from the other apartments, said Larry Bushman, 38, a neighbor.