

FORECAST

By U.S. Weather Bureau

Partly cloudy, warm today.
Chance of showers. Low
mid 50s, high mid 70s.

(Weather Data Page 23B)

Columbus

304 Pages

OHIO'S GREATEST

VOL. 96, NO. 276 Phone—461-5000

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43216,

Kennedy Death Plot Probe

MISSING LINK

Sunday Dispatch

HOME NEWSPAPER

14 Sections

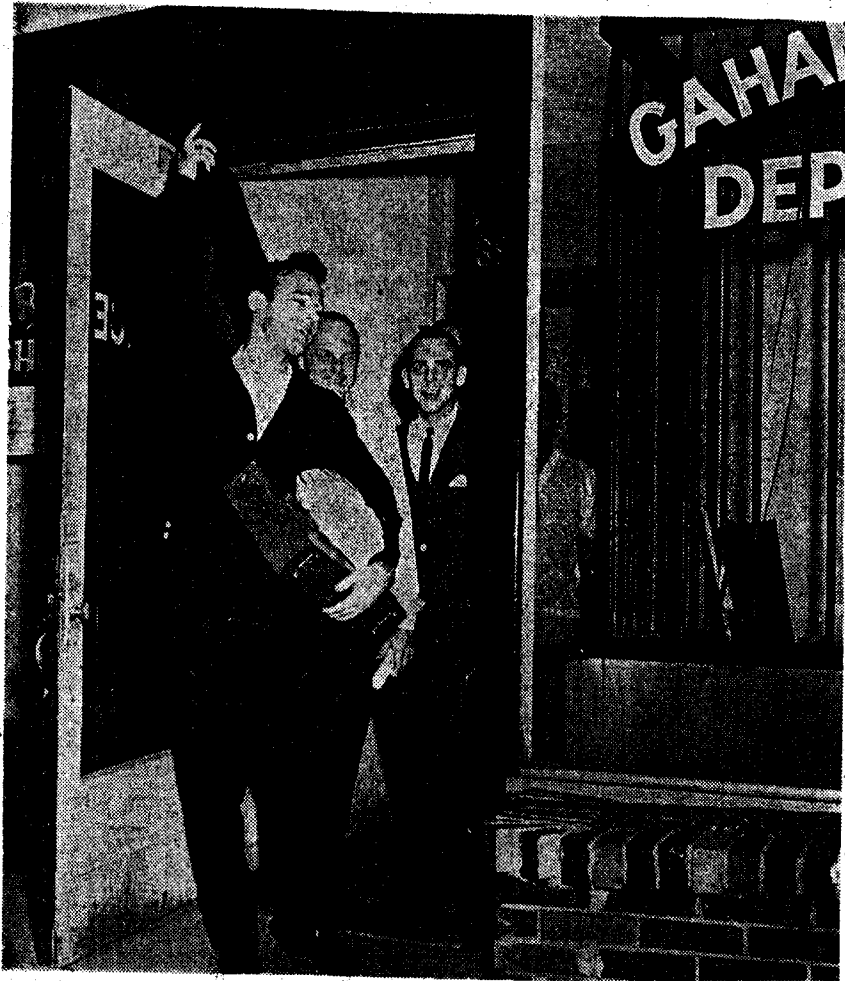
SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1967

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Figure Arrested In Gahanna

WITNESS FOUND

wh & lh. page



APPREHENDED — Gordon Novel, wanted as a witness in the New Orleans probe into the assassination of President Kennedy, and also on a Louisiana burglary charge, performs for the

camera after his arrest in suburban Gahanna Saturday afternoon. He was held in Columbus City Prison as a fugitive from justice. (Dispatch Photo by Joe Pastorek)



LED TO JAIL—Sgt. Robert Kelly, left, and Chief Charles Brandon, the Gahanna police officers who apprehended Gordon Novel Saturday, flank the former New

Orleans nightclub operator as he is led through Columbus Police Department corridors to City Prison. (Dispatch Photo by Bernard Karsko)

The other OSWALD ?
All it needed was Ruby taking a quick shot
 SUSPECTED SINCE WEDNESDAY

Novel Was Watched

By TOM FENNESSY
 Of The Dispatch Staff

Gordon Novel, much-sought witness in the Kennedy assassination probe, had been under surveillance by Gahanna police for three days before his apprehension shortly after 4 p.m. Saturday.

Paul Van Auken, village mayor, said police had suspected since Wednesday that the former New Orleans nightclub owner was staying in Gahanna.

THE MAYOR said, however, it was not until Friday police were able to obtain a picture of Novel and make a positive identification.

Van Auken said Novel was picked up in front of Maverick News Service at 74 Mill St. in Gahanna.

"Novel was apparently preparing to leave by a plane tonight," the mayor said. "He was on his way to the news service office to pick up suitcases he was keeping there."

THE MAYOR believes Novel appeared at the news service office after his disappearance from a Downtown Columbus hotel March 23.

Maverick News Service is operated by Richard L. Paugh, a television newsman and outdoor columnist for the weekly Spectator.

The Gahanna mayor said he knew of no dealings between Novel and Paugh.

VAN AUKEN said Gahanna had no warrant for Novel's apprehension Saturday morning. A warrant was obtained after police contacted District Attorney Jim Garrison's office in New Orleans.

Van Auken said Novel offered no resistance when he was picked up. At the Gahanna police station Novel read a statement he had prepared which called Garrison a "fraud."

Novel was carrying four tear gas pens, the mayor said.

Charged as Fugitive From New Orleans

By JAMES RICHARDS
Of The Dispatch Staff

A missing link in the New Orleans probe of the assassination of President Kennedy was arrested in Gahanna Saturday afternoon as a fugitive from justice.

Clowning and joking with reporters and photographers, Gordon Novel, 29, former New Orleans nightclub owner, was whisked to Columbus City Prison.

Municipal Court Judge Dean Strausbaugh set Novel's bond at \$10,000. Novel's attorney, Jerry Weiner, said Novel would remain in City Prison pending court appearance Monday morning.

WHEN ARRESTED by Gahanna Police Chief Robert Brandon and Patrolman Charles Barnett, Novel whipped out a typewritten statement, congratulating the Gahanna Police and vowing to "fight extradition to the United States Supreme Court."

James Alcock, executive assistant to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, told The Dispatch by telephone that Novel is wanted on a charge of "conspiracy to commit the crime of simple burglary."

Garrison also has sought Novel as a material witness to the assassination probe.

THE NEW charge accused Novel of conspiring with David W. Ferrie to commit bur-

glary of a munitions dump in Houma, about 40 miles southwest of New Orleans, Alcock confirmed.

Ferrie was a mysterious Garrison witness who was found dead before the grand jury investigation into President Kennedy's death began.

Novel was entering the Maverick News Service at 74 Mill St. in Gahanna when he was apprehended Saturday. Police said they were acting on a tip that Novel was associated with the news service, operated by Richard L. Paugh, a Columbus television newsman and weekly newspaper columnist.

Saluting smartly to two Dispatch reporters while en route to city prison, Novel quipped, "It's the nicest town in the whole United States," when asked why he was in Columbus.

Novel was in Columbus about two weeks ago and left mysteriously after being besieged by local reporters. Paugh was one of the reporters who talked to Novel.

NOVEL GAVE NO reason at that time for being in the city. The Dispatch subse-

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MISS ABBY MULLIGAN, *Also used to work at* NOVEL'S FIANCEE W.S.

NOVEL

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quently learned Novel has many business ties here and has been in Columbus several times since last December.

However, a more compelling reason for his trips here may be a woman.

Novel is reportedly engaged to Abby Mulligan, 23, of 226 W. Oakland Ave., a former bunny in the Chicago Playboy Club. She is wearing an engagement ring from Novel.

ACCORDING TO her brother, Miss Mulligan is in Chicago this weekend. He said she began a leave of absence from the Playboy Club about a month ago.

The brother added that Novel and his sister met at the club.

He was booked in Columbus for investigation as a fugitive from Louisiana. He had \$86.50 with him when arrested, police records show.

BRANDON SAID that, in the police cruiser, Novel had asked that he walk in front with another officer behind.

"Don't let this turn into another Dallas," Brandon quoted Novel as saying. It was an obvious reference to the shooting in the Dallas police station of Lee Harvey Oswald, two days after he allegedly shot President Kennedy.

Novel also is involved in wiretapping and "bugging" through his New Orleans firm, International Dynamics Corp.

A BUSINESS acquaintance in Columbus said Novel was developing an "anti-bugging" device in conjunction with a Columbus electronics firm.

The acquaintance, who preferred to remain anonymous, said he did not talk to Novel on his most recent trips here but saw him about a month ago.

Novel reportedly was to confer with representatives of the restaurant and bar business while in Columbus. Novel reportedly is considering opening a new night club in Baton Rouge, La.

NOVEL, UNTIL recently,

owned the Jamaican Inn on Rampart St. in the New Orleans French Quarter.

Novel's statement, given to police at the time of his apprehension here Saturday, follows:

"I would like to congratulate Chief Brandon in his apprehension of myself. His office and men are to be praised for doing what the supposed Crime Solver and Cardiff Giant Garrison with his police state inquisition,

power, intimidation and harassment could not do.

"I WILL FIGHT extradition to the United States Supreme Court. Unless I am kidnaped or killed in New Orleans, I will prove to the perpetrator of this fraud that black is not white. The days of this fraud are numbered. I can expose Garrison."

Two American Civil Liberties Union attorneys, James Kozelek and John Childers of Columbus, appeared at Columbus Police Headquarters on Novel's behalf.

They refused to comment on the case until they talked with Novel.

Garrison's assistant in New Orleans said a representative will be sent to Columbus if Novel fights extradition.

If Novel does not volunteer to return to Louisiana, a requisition for extradition would be filed by Garrison's office, through the Louisiana governor, to Governor Rhodes.

THE CENTRAL figure in the Kennedy assassination probe, Clay L. Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, has been indicted by a grand jury for conspiracy to murder Kennedy.

When Novel left Columbus about 10 days ago, he left a note in his hotel room reading: "Due to pressure from New Orleans, I had to leave. Will prove my statement in Chicago in due course. This is off the record."

It was never determined whether Novel ever arrived in Chicago. However, he told Paugh he went to Virginia before returning to Columbus.

MISS MULLIGAN'S father, also of the Oakland Ave. address, was with Novel when the latter was arrested at 4:45 p.m. Saturday in Ghana.

Novel told newsmen 10 days ago he was afraid to go back to New Orleans. He denied knowledge of any conspiracy and said he knew Clay Shaw, "but not in connection with this."

He told newsmen here he also "indirectly" knew "a David Ferrie."

The New Orleans coroners ruling of natural death in the Ferrie case was disputed by Garrison.

ADMITS INTERVIEWS

TV Newsman Denies Connection with Novel

By DUANE ST. CLAIR
Of The Dispatch Staff

TV newsman and outdoor columnist Richard L. Paugh said reports that the controversial Gordon Novel dealt with Paugh's part-time Gahanna news operation were "hokum."

Paugh confirmed Saturday that he had interviewed Novel nearly two weeks ago and that he had a telephone conversation with the former New Orleans night club operator "about a week ago."

NOVEL IS wanted in New Orleans for questioning in an investigation into President Kennedy's assassination.



Paugh

Paugh, who writes a column for the weekly Spectator denied that through his business, Maverick News Service, 74 Mill St., Gahanna, he had dealings with Novel.

Gahanna officials theorized Novel may have been living in the office which Paugh visits "two or three afternoons a week."

PAUGH SAID that if "any strangers" were around the building, he would know about it.

Paugh doubted anyone was living in the building which has two other businesses—the Rocky Fork Enterprise weekly newspaper and a PTA "trading post" — because there are no apparent living quarters and only one toilet in the building. He was uncertain of the building owner's name.

A WTVN-TV newsman,

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PAUGH

Continued from Page 1

Paugh said that he interviewed Novel after locating him in a Downtown hotel. He located Novel, he said, after a national television network said Novel was in Columbus.

PAUGH described Novel as "a kinda erratic fella" who made no definite statements in the telephone conversation. It was a Columbus area call, he said.

"I didn't really know why he called," Paugh said. At the time, Paugh said, "He told me he had been to Virginia and had come back again."

He admitted, however, that Novel had inquired about selling a news story about his experiences.

PAUGH DENIED that he offered to market the story and suggested Novel contact various magazines. Paugh said Novel "didn't seem anxious to come out with facts."

Novel, he related, inquired if any money could be made selling a story, and Paugh assured him there could be.

When asked about reports that he, Paugh, had agreed to buy or market a story and that Novel was writing it in the news service office, Paugh commented, "That's interesting."

HE LATER said that the reports were "not right."

Paugh said his only recent knowledge of Novel was information that he had been arrested in Gahanna Saturday afternoon.