

# Ex-Secret Service Man Blabs Secret

## It Seems Roosevelt's Backup Car Was Capone's 1937 Lincoln

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FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Sept. 12—Morgan L. Gies, a veteran Secret Service agent who drove for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was recalling how a 1937 armored Lincoln that originally had been owned by gangster Al Capone had ended up as Roosevelt's back-up limousine when he suddenly stopped.

"I don't think that's come out yet," he snapped. "Don't print that."

That's the way it went at this weekend's gathering of the Association of Former Agents of the U.S. Secret Service. Those who hoped to catch revealing glimpses of the presidents from the men who guard them while the former secret servicemen sipped cocktails had another thing coming.

"Most of us consider what we've seen privileged information," explained Frank G. Stoner of Bethesda, president of the association that was holding its annual convention at the Sheraton Inn here.

"We've got some terrific stories to tell. But we're saving them for the book," he added.

The book, according to its author, Harry E. Neal, of Culpeper, will be called 'Secret Service Secrets—if it ever gets written. Neal, author of 28 books and a 31-year veteran of the service, told a visitor after Saturday night's banquet that he, too, was having trouble getting his colleagues to part with all those memories.

"These men have all kinds of dangerous, humorous, exciting experiences," Neal said. "It's a matter of getting them to put things down. So far we haven't done all that well."

Proceeds from the book would go to a foundation

started by the association to finance annual awards for scholarship and bravery.

Among this year's recipients were the families of two Montgomery County policemen, Capt. James E. Daly and Cpl. John M. Frontczak, who were killed in the line of duty last March. Their widows were presented with \$250 each by the association.

More than 50 former agents and their wives gathered at the Fredericksburg Sheraton Inn over the weekend for golf, a business meeting and banquet, and a chance to reminisce.

Among themselves they did talk some about the old days. About how Harry Truman was the friendliest of the presidents they walked with. About how Franklin Roosevelt refused to consider using a tunnel from the White House to the Treasury Department vaults in case of a bomb attack.

But when a visitor tried to join in, the conversation would drift and stall.

The gathering was really a chance to renew old friendships. Most of those present live in the Washington area and several said they have worked as some of security consultants since retiring.

Others went into different fields. Joe DeRaad, who came from Amarillo, Tex., for the conference, said he left the service after a few years and made the Air Force a career. More recently, he also was a juvenile court judge in Iowa.

The Secret Service was formed as part of the Treasury Department after the Civil War to combat a wave of counterfeiting. Its more publicly known mission, presidential protection, did not begin until after President William McKinley was assassinated in 1901.