

Bank Box Mystery Turns Sexy

By George Draper

Intrigue and romance worthy of King Tut's tomb yesterday enveloped a safe deposit box in Wisconsin that may contain a packet of papers belonging to a dead Greyhound bus driver from Hayward.

The box in the First National Bank in the little town of Hudson is held in the name of W.B. Lee, a shadowy figure who reportedly claims the box contains nothing more than his will and some faded love letters from a teenage flame.

Greyhound Bus Lines, on the other hand, is convinced "a thick brown envelope" belonging to the late Douglas Fay Moore was placed in Lee's box on October 4, 1973, a month before Moore and 12 of his passengers died.

They died on November 3, 1973 when Moore's Greyhound "gamblers' special"

crashed into a concrete pillar near Sacramento.

His relatives have insisted that Moore never knew a person named W.B. Lee and a man purporting to be Lee has insisted in numerous telephone conversations from London that he never knew Moore.

In these phone conversations, Lee has also insisted he never received an envelope from Moore and never placed such an envelope in his safe deposit box.

There is no W. B. Lee in Hudson, Wisc.

Contents of two affidavits filed in support of Greyhound's legal fight to have Lee's safe deposit box opened for inspection were made public yesterday.

One is signed by John H. Cummings, assistant secretary and claims manager for General Fire & Casualty Company of Phoenix.

General Fire and Casualty is involved in the odd case because Greyhound faces \$40 million in damage suits resulting from the crash, and General is Greyhound's insurer.

Cummings said in his affidavit that Greyhound received an anonymous phone call last year from a man representing himself as "a long linesman" for something called American Telephone Company.

The caller, according to Cummings, claimed he had tapped into a phone line and had overheard a conversation between Moore and Lee.

The gist of the conversation, according to Cummings, was that a package had been delivered and was safely cached in Lee's safe deposit box.

Cummings also said he received a telephone call on March 4, 1974 from Lee and

that Lee admitted receiving the packet from Moore and placing it in the box.

A second affidavit on file in the superior court of St. Croix county, Wisc., is signed by one A. Wesley Nyholm of the Nyholm Adjustment Service in Minneapolis, 30 miles west of Hudson.

Nyholm claimed that he, too, received a telephone call from Lee on March 4, 1974, Lee, according to Nyholm, told him that he knew Moore and that Moore gave him a sealed envelope.

Details of Lee's reported phone call claiming that the safe deposit box, which will be opened February 7 by the court, contains only love letters and Lee's will came as a surprise to Greyhound officials yesterday.

"To the best of my knowledge," said Louie Raffel, Greyhound's public relations officer, "no one in our or-

ganization ever received any information of that sort, either from Lee or anyone else."

Raffel became indignant at suggestions that Cummings' affidavit about the anonymous tip from the "long linesman" carried an inference that the phones of either Moore or Lee had been tapped.