

# Man With Loaded Rifle *Miami Herald 8/20/72* Found at Flamingo Park

By EDNA BUCHANAN  
Herald Staff Writer

A man carrying a loaded rifle was taken into custody at Flamingo Park on Saturday and was sent to a hospital for mental evaluation.

Richard J. Ascott, 25, of 1337 Euclid Ave., Miami Beach, was released soon afterward by a psychiatrist who later told police the man wasn't dangerous.

He was taken back into custody later in the day.

Ascott had surrendered two other guns, a 12-gauge pump action shotgun and a .22-caliber pistol and ammunition to federal and state agents at his apartment Friday, police said.

ASCOTT, who is unemployed, came to the attention of Secret Service men Friday when he called their Convention Hall command post and complained someone was trying to kill him.

Secret Service agent George Shieks and Florida Department of Law Enforcement agent Robert Miley went to Ascott's address attempting to learn how he knew their classified telephone number.

They said he was wearing four shotgun shells in his belt and the weapons were in plain view. Ascott voluntarily surrendered the guns and they gave him a receipt. They never learned how he acquired their telephone number.

At 1:50 a.m. Saturday a

FDLE agent reported Ascott was in the east area of the park, walking around with a rifle. Miami Beach Police said Ascott had gone to a Miami discount store after surrendering the other weapons and bought a new .30-30 lever-action rifle.

WHEN ASCOTT was picked up Saturday, the rifle was placed in the police property bureau and he was sent to Jackson Memorial Hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

He left the hospital at 7 a.m. in a taxi cab. Miami Beach police were startled to learn from a reporter that Ascott had been released, but on checking said a psychiatrist told them that, at present, Ascott "is not a menace to society or himself."

Ascott's landlady told police Saturday afternoon that

he had returned and taken medication to sleep.

EMERGENCY room administrator Louis Di Domenico said that the night nurse "was quite concerned" that police simply delivered the patient and left.

"He was not arrested, he was not on police hold," said Di Domenico. "They brought him over, said they wanted a psychiatric evaluation and that was it. After the evaluation he was released."

Di Domenico said he became aware of the case when day nurse Linda Vick viewed the records at 1 p.m. "and

became concerned that the patient had been discharged without notifying anyone."

Di Domenico called the police command post in Miami and they notified Beach officers.

MIAMI BEACH Police Maj. Walter Philbin said police did not place a hold on Ascott when he was taken to the hospital because officers expected that he would be committed or admitted.

Philbin sent men to Ascott's apartment late Saturday with instructions to arrest him on charges of failing to register the .22 pistol

(which he described as "a Saturday night special") confiscated by the Secret Service.

"He was a bit outlandish. I think he's too dangerous to be out on the street at this time," said Philbin.

About 6:30 p.m. Ascott was arrested by Beach police and charged with failure to register a firearm. He was taken to an institution in the care of a private physician. But this time the institution has been issued a "hold order" which requests his return to police authority.