

Explosives Cache Home Lent To Cuban, Says Owner's Wife

S-1 8/11/63
The wife of the New Orleans owner of a cottage across Lake Pontchartrain where government agents yesterday seized war materials apparently destined for use against Cuba said today the house was lent to a newly-arrived Cuban refugee three weeks ago.

Mrs. William Julius McLaney, of 4213 Encampment, said she and her husband had no knowledge that arms were stored at the house near Lacombe until FBI agents picked up her husband yesterday for questioning.

More than a ton of dynamite, 20 100-pound bomb casings, fuses and striker assemblies for the bombs, napalm material and other gear for activating bombs were seized at the cottage in the Forest Glen addition to the Lacombe Park Subdivision.

Lent Place to 'Jose Juarez'

Mrs. McLaney told the States-Item she and her husband had lent their summer place to a newly-arrived Cuban they knew as "Jose Juarez" as a favor to friends of theirs in Cuba.

She said she and McLaney had operated a tourist business in Havana for about two years, and left Havana for New Orleans in 1960 "because Castro made things impossible down there."

She said her husband had continued to maintain contact with friends still in Cuba, and they wrote recently that "Juarez" would be arriving for the first time in New Orleans, asking the McLaneys to help in getting him located.

'Such a Good-Hearted Guy'

Mrs. McLaney said her husband "is such a good-heart-

ed guy he didn't ask any questions — and then this happened.

McLaney was unavailable. He is an employe of a racetrack feed company.

Mrs. McLaney said she and her husband had not visited the cottage in more than a month.

H. B. Maynor, agent in charge of the New Orleans FBI office, announced the seizure of war materials yesterday, saying the action was taken after an investigation of an effort "to carry out a military operation against a country with which the United States is at peace."

Would Not Confirm Cuba As Goal

Maynor would not say if this country was Cuba. Asked flatly today if the stuff had been assembled for use in Cuba, he replied with a smile, "You said that. I didn't."

There has been previous activity in this area by Cuban refugees hoping to return to the island and overthrow Castro.

Prior to the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in May of 1961, several hundred Cuban refugees secretly trained for the assault at the old Navy ammunition dump below Algiers. Others trained in Florida.

Maynor identified McLaney as the owner of the house where the munitions were seized.

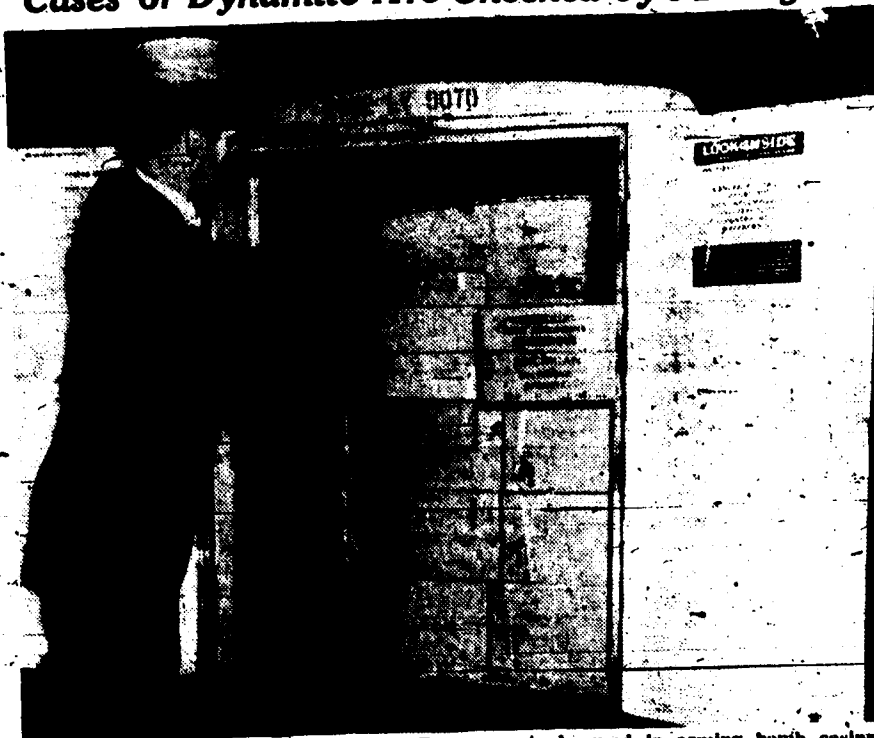
FBI Investigation Is Continuing

He declined to reveal whether any arrests in the case were imminent, but said the FBI investigation was continuing.

The arms cache was stored on a locked, screened porch

(Continued on Page 13)

Cases of Dynamite Are Checked by FBI Agent



HIGH EXPLOSIVES ARE INVENTORIED by an FBI agent following Wednesday's raid on a frame-home in the Mandeville area. Though no arrests were made, the FBI said its intelligence indicated that the explosives

were to be used in arming bomb castles for use against another nation. More than a ton of the explosives were seized, along with 20 empty bombs. (Story on Page 1.)