

Police halt car, find explosives

CDN
1/17/74

By Edmund J. Rooney

Three police investigators making a traffic stop Wednesday night found a car filled with dynamite, blasting caps, fuses and a military training bomb.

The car was pulled over near Fullerton and Damen by three members of the gambling unit, Sgt. Frank Golbeck and Investigators Matthew Povanich and Louis Monaco.

The driver identified himself as Howard C. Gaedt, 45, of 2337 N. Bosworth. He told police he was a self-employed contractor and formerly a bartender.

GAEDT, WHO did not have a driver's license, had a bomb with a short fuse on the front seat, police said. Inside the trunk police found 163 sticks of dynamite, 90 nonelectrical blasting caps, 50 feet of safety fuse and black friction tape. He also was carrying a .22-caliber pistol, O'Donnell said.

Gaedt told investigators he was holding the explosives for Phillip Alpern, a former liquor store owner now in prison after being convicted of setting fire to a competing store.

Gaedt said he once worked as a bartender for Alpern at Phil's Liquors, formerly at 950 W. Armitage. Alpern was convicted of setting fire to Arroyo's Liquors, 1001 W. Armitage, on May 2, 1972.

Gaedt gave no explanation why he was carrying the explosives in his car.

He was charged with felonious possession of explosives, unlawful use of a weapon and two traffic violations.