
Betty Beale: Washington

Another Mystery About Mrs. Hunt

WASHINGTON — One of the mysterious figures in the Watergate scandal is that of the late Mrs. E. Howard Hunt who was carrying \$10,000 in cash, presumably for defendants' fees, when her plane crashed last December.

But if Dorothy Hunt was a mystery in the Watergate involvement, her employment at the Spanish Embassy struck the ambassador as equally mysterious. She had worked at the Spanish Embassy 11 years and was on duty in the mornings only when Ambassador Angel Sagaz arrived in Washington in March, 1972.

"She was a speech writer," said the ambassador at a party the other night. "but when I gave her my first speech in Spanish she said she was sorry she couldn't translate. She could only improve English."

With that as a starter the ambassador thought, "That lady is of no use to me. I really didn't understand why she was hired." But he didn't want to fire her so soon after his own arrival.

"Then she went on a holiday to Europe with one daughter and a son and she was gone for a month. She returned about one week before her husband was caught."

Later that same day he asked her to leave. "You have seen your work is not very necessary, and your husband is involved in a situation that is not very pleasant for an embassy. You should have come to me and resigned," he told her. But he gave her one month's pay anyhow and she left the next day.

"She was a distinguished lady and very fond of riding horses," Sagaz recalled. "I think she owned three or four horses. She had hurt her spine in a fall and was wearing a brace," he said, when he first saw her. Apparently she had had many falls before that fatal fall in December.

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John and Jeanne Ehrlichman set out in their car at 4 a.m. last Sunday to drive to Seattle where John is reportedly going to work for Boeing. By driving 13 or 14 hours a day, taking turns at the wheel, they plan to cross the country in four days.

By Betty Beale, Examiner & Chronicle