

BOMB CACHE COTTAGE LOANED
TO NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEE

(Photo caption reads: "Quietly secluded and off the beaten track is this home of William J. McLaney near Mandeville. Inside FBI agents discovered a large cache of bomb-making material, including more than a ton of dynamite. The couple who maintained the residence reportedly loaned it to a Cuban friend. Mrs. McLaney said the friend had been extolled by friends of theirs in Cuba, where they had lived in the pre-Castro era." -- Photo by the Times-Picayune.)

Owners Wife Says Mate
Did Cubans Favor
(additional picture in
Sec. 1, page 3)

The wife of the owner of a cottage on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain where a large quantity of explosives and war materials were seized said Thursday that the house was loaned to a newly-arrived Cuban refugee three weeks ago.

Mrs. William Julius McLaney, 4313 Encampment, said that neither she nor her husband, who operates a race horse feed business, had knowledge that the munitions were stored at the house near Lacombe until agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation questioned her husband Wednesday before making the seizure.

She said the place was loaned to a Cuban they knew only as "Jose Juarez" as a favor to friends of theirs in Cuba. The McLanays had operated a tourist business in Havana but came to New Orleans in 1960 "because Castro made things impossible down there."

Maintain Contact

Mrs. McLaney said that she and her husband continued to maintain contact with friends still in Cuba, and those friends wrote recently that "Juarez" would be arriving for the first time in New Orleans and asked that they help him get located.

She described her husband as "such a good-hearted guy he didn't ask any questions -- and then this happened."

McLaney is a brother of M.J. "Mike" McLaney, a former top New Orleans tennis player who was arrested by the Castro government soon after it took over Cuba. He reportedly operated one of Havana's largest gambling casinos. Later the Castro government freed him and offered an official apology.

More Than Ton

The FBI seized over a ton of dynamite, 20 100-pound bomb casings, fuses and striker assemblies for the bombs, napalm material and other gear for activating bombs.

Federal authorities would not confirm that the material was destined to be used against the Cuban government. H.G. Maynor, special agent in charge of the FBI here, identified McLaney as the owner of the house in the Forest Glen addition to the Lacombe Park subdivision.

United States Attorney Louis C. Lacour said Thursday that the matter is still under investigation, but he would not comment further. No charges have been filed in the case.

The FBI office, in making the announcement, said the dynamite, bomb casings and other materials were seized in connection with an investigation of an effort to "carry out a military operation against a country with which the United States is at peace." This is in violation of Title 18, Section 960, of the U.S. Code.

Maynor said the FBI has been investigating this matter for several days and seized the following materials under a search warrant obtained Wednesday, authorized by U.S. Attorney Louis C. Lacour, and issued by U.S. Commissioner Fritz Windhorst Jr.:

1. 20 empty 100-pound bombs, blue in color.
2. 25 fuses.
3. 26 striker assemblies for the above fuses.
4. 18 locking nuts, which lock fuses in place.
5. 24 firing devices, which fit on nose end of bombs.
6. One pair of non-sparking, crimping pliers.
7. 25 pieces of primer cord, each about two feet long.
8. 24 commercial percussion blasting caps.
9. A 50-pound container of Nuodex, a gasoline thickener, which is used to make a jelly-like substance out of gas, normally known as napalm.

The FBI said the explosives confiscated included 48 cases of 60-per cent dynamite, each case weighing 50 pounds.

The above cache, which could be used in activating bombs, was stored on a locked, screened-in porch of a single story dwelling house, situated in the Forest Glen addition to the Lacombe Park subdivision.

The dynamite was located in a two-wheel trailer parked on the premises adjacent to the residence.

Maynor said that in view of the dangerous nature of this explosive material, it has been removed from the area "to safe storage."

No arrests were reported, and the FBI declined to furnish further details except to say their investigation is continuing.

In Washington, the FBI said the house was owned jointly by two New Orleans men, whom it did not name.

The exact location of the residence where the bomb materials were found was reported by the FBI as follows: "A single-story dwelling house, with a screened-in porch running three-quarters of the length of the south side of the house. The house is the second house on the left side of ~~the street~~ a street, whose municipal name is unknown, which runs perpendicularly north from U.S. Hwy 190, east of the city of Mandeville and west of the city of Lacombe, and which street is located one block to the west of Pontchartrain St."

(Photo caption reads: "EXAMINING BOMB CASINGS is a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent. The cluster of casings are part of 20 seized Wednesday in a frame house near Mandeville. More than a ton of explosives, which investigators said could be used to make the casings deadly, were also found in the home. The FBI said the explosives were to be used against a country "with which the United States is at Peace.")

BOMB CACHE COTTAGE LOANED TO NEWLY-ARRIVED REFUGEE

POST OFFICE LEADS "QUIETLY SECLUDED AND OFF THE BEATEN TRACK" HOME OF WILLIAM J. MCLANEY NEAR MANDEVILLE. FBI AGENTS DISCOVERED A LARGE CACHE OF BOMB-MAKING MATERIAL, INCLUDING MORE THAN A TON OF DYNAMITE. THE COUPLE WHO MAINTAINED THE HOME RECENTLY LOANED IT TO A CUBAN FRIEND, MRS. MCLANEY SAID SHE BELIEVES HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY FRIENDS OF THEIRS IN CUBA, WHERE THEY HAD BEEN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

— PHOTO BY THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

WIFE SAYS MATE DID CUBANS FAVOR

(NATIONAL PICTURE BY SEC. 1, PAGE 3.)

Wife of the owner of a cottage on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain where a large quantity of explosives and other materials were seized said Thursday that the house was loaned to a newly-arrived Cuban refugee three weeks ago.

Mrs. William J. McLaney, 41, Encampment, said that neither she nor her husband, who operated a real-estate business, had knowledge that the munitions were stored at the house near Lacrosse until agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation questioned her husband Wednesday before making the seizure.

She said that the place was loaned to a Cuban they knew only as "Jose Juarez" and favor to friends of theirs in Cuba. The McLaneys had operated a tourist business in Havana but came to New Orleans in 1960 "because Castro made things impossible down there."

MAINTAIN CONTACT

Mrs. McLaney said that she and her husband continued to maintain contact with friends still in Cuba, and those friends wrote recently that "Juarez" would be arriving for the first time in New Orleans and asked that they help him get located.

She described her husband as "such a good-hearted guy he didn't ask any questions — and then this happened."

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1. Two empty 60 pound bombs, blue in color.

2. Two fuses.

3. Two striker assemblies for the above fuses.

4. 16 locking nuts, which lock fuses in place.

5. 20 pins of various sizes, which fit on nose end of bombs.

6. One pair of non-sparking, crimping pliers.

7. 25 pieces of primer cord, each about two feet long.

8. 21 commercial type percussion blasting caps.

9. A 50 pound container of N. ODEX, a granular thickener, which is used to make a jelly like substance out of gum, normally known as napalm.

The FBI said the explosives confiscated included 45 cases of 60 percent dynamite, each case weighing 50 pounds.

The above cache, which could be used in activating bombs, was stored on a locked, screened porch of a single-story dwelling house, situated in the Forest Glen addition to the Lacombe Park subdivision.

The dynamite was located in a two-wheel trailer parked on the premises adjacent to the residence.

Maynor said that in view of the dangerous nature of this explosive material, it has been removed from the area to safe storage.

No arrests were reported, and the FBI declined to furnish further details except to say their investigation is continuing.

In Washington, the FBI said the house was owned jointly by two New Orleans men, whom it did not name.

The exact location of the residence where the bomb materials were found was reported by the FBI as follows: "A single-story pink dwelling house, with a screened porch running three quarters of the length of the south side of the house. The house is the second house on the left side of a street, whose municipal name is unknown, which runs perpendicularly north from U.S. Hwy. 190, east of the City of Mandeville and west of the City of Lacombe, and which street is located one block to the west of Pontchartrain st."

A PHOTO CAPTION READS: "EXAMINING BOMB CASINGS is a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent. The cluster of casings are part of 20 seized Wednesday in a frame house near Mandeville. More than a ton of explosives, which investigators said could be used to make the casings deadly, were also found in the home. The FBI said the explosives were to be used against a country "with which the United States is at peace."

Lacombe raid:

Victor Dominador Espinosa Hernandez
Carlos Eduardo Herndez Sanchez
John Kock Gene
Acelo Pedros Amores
Miguel Alvarez Jimenez
Antonio Soto Vasquez
Sam Benton
Byron Chiverton
Rich Lauchli or Luchli*
Earl J. Wasem Jr.
Ralph Folkerts

*founder of Counter-Insurgency Council (Minutemen), Illinois--
William Turner, Ramparts Jan 67, p. 70.

HURRICAN GARRISON FLATTENS NEW ORLEANS

Jane Wilson

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[p. 18] On July 30 [1963] the FBI seized a cache of more than a ton of ammunition on the estate of an ex-Havana gambler named William McLaney, whose land borders on the area [Lake Pontchartrain] where the smaller group of Cubans trained. The arms seized were heavy, including bomb casings, striker assemblies, and napalm. Several Cubans were seized with the arms, and the whole affair was reported in the local press. But not one of these Cubans was ever arrested, charged, or even booked. (McLaney claimed that the arms were put on his land by a Cuban named Jose Juarez, and that they arrived there when he was out of town).

Garrison knows the names of the Cubans involved, but the FBI will not tell him where they are now, although they must have this information. In particular Garrison wants to talk to a certain Manuel Garcia Gonzales, whom he says was seen by a witness to be standing behind the fence on the grassy knoll just before President Kennedy's motorcade passed in Dallas.