

Chino Trigger Suspect

By Ed Montgomery

A man believed to be an escaped convict and triggerman in the bloody Chino prison ambush Oct. 7 has been arrested by Berkeley police. The Examiner learned yesterday.

Although he was carrying several different identification cards when apprehended, authorities believe he is Roberto Solis, 21, also known as Pancho Agila.

In the ambush in San Bernardino County, one Chino

prison guard was killed and another seriously wounded.

Ronald W. Beaty, 35, a convicted armed robber and kidnaper, was freed in the ambush. He was arrested on the Bay Bridge on Dec. 11.

So far, a dozen persons have been arrested on charges in connection with the escape itself or for harboring the fugitive. More arrests are likely.

Solis, who was serving terms of life and five years to life for the fatal armored car stickup at the Powell

and Market Woolworth's store four years ago, apparently inadvertently stumbled into his arrest Wednesday night. Authorities said he escaped from Soledad Prison July 5.

He had been living in a Berkeley commune, according to authorities, and he drove up as police, armed with a search warrant, were making a raid for suspected narcotics.

Spotting police, he fled,

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and a high-speed chase ranged throughout Berkeley from Grizzly Peak Boulevard down to Hearst and 7th street. There, he abandoned his car and fled on foot but was quickly found hiding in a parked car.

Weapons Found

Police were led to suspect his real identity and involvement in the ambush, they said, after they found a Smith & Wesson 357 magnum pistol and an Armalite automatic rifle (AR-180) in his room at the commune. Both were loaded.

The pistol was among weapons taken in a burglary in Portola Valley on the Peninsula. When Beaty was arrested, his car contained several weapons stolen in the same burglary.

That burglary continued to have a key significance in the case authorities are building to show the Chino escape was masterminded by the revolutionary Venceremos organization.

Authorities told The Examiner yesterday that they believed Venceremos was behind the Portola Valley burglary because it happened during a time when a female Venceremos member was "house-sitting" the burgled home.

Stanford Prof

Additionally, these sources said, the woman is living in Palo Alto with a Stanford University professor who is a member of the Venceremos central committee.

Various other members of Venceremos have been arrested, including former Stanford Prof. H. Bruce Franklin. Franklin and seven others have been charged with allegedly helping Beaty in his two-month flight from justice.

Besides Solis, three others have been arrested and charged with actual participation in the ambush-escape. They are:

Andrea Holman, 18, daughter of a Stanford University medical professor, Benton Burt, 30, a former cellmate of Beaty, and Robert A. Seabock, a Palo Alto engineering company employe.

Authorities said Solis fits the description issued by

San Bernardino County of the "third man" in the ambush killing "right down to the steel-rimmed oval glasses." San Bernardino authorities went to Berkeley to interrogate him yesterday.

According to authorities, Solis has been using the name Dominquez since his escape from Soledad. Both the surviving guard and Beaty, in a lengthy interview with the FBI, said that one of the men in the ambush was called "Dom."

When arrested, Solis, a native of Nicaragua, claimed he was the son of a prominent Nicaraguan politician. The Nicaraguan consul here denied the claim as did the U.S. State Department.

Among other things found in Solis' commune room were detailed engineering

drawings of Soledad Prison's layout, including detailed descriptions of underground utilities conduits.

Authorities declined to speculate for the record whether the plans might indicate an escape plot was being developed for inmates at Soledad.