

Bingham Nephew Eludes Hunt on Link to Jackson

By WALLACE TURNER
Special to The New York Times

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., Au. 23 —Stephen Mitchell Bingham, 29 years old, a product of Milton Academy, Yale University, Boalt Hall Law School at the University of California, grandson of a Governor and Senator, nephew of a United States Representative, was sought today for questioning about a gun.

The gun was carried Saturday by George Jackson, a San Quentin convict who spent 11 of his 29 years in prison and whose brother, Jonathan, was shot down as he led an armed attack on a courtroom a year ago.

The gun was used to shoot two San Quentin guards in the back of the head during a dash for freedom that ended when a tower guard's rifle bullet killed Jackson. Within a few minutes after he had returned to his cellblock with the gun, three guards and two other inmates were killed.

says Gun Was in Hair

Jackson, according to the associate warden, James W. L. Parks, had the gun concealed in his hair when he returned to his cellblock after an interview Saturday afternoon with Mr. Bingham.

Prison officials will not say that they believe the young lawyer gave the gun to the prisoner. They will not even identify, for quotation, the visitor as Mr. Bingham.

Instead, they recite the details: Early Saturday afternoon, Jackson was searched and his clothing removed before he was taken by a guard to meet a visitor. He and the visitor were alone in the visiting room. A guard then took Jackson back to his cellblock.

"Another officer discovered the gun in his hair," said Mr. Parks in a news conference at San Quentin today.

A prison official said that the attempted break would result in a stiffening of the already strict rules relating to contacts between lawyers and their prisoner clients.

Jackson had the gun concealed in his long Afro hair style, the associate warden said, and he seized the gun before the officer could get it.

Believed in Tape Recorder

"My speculation at this point is that the gun was in a tape recorder" when brought into the prison, Mr. Parks said.

In his news conference, he cleared up some misunderstandings about time elements and how the guards and two other convicts died. Other misinformation was corrected

by the results of autopsies released by Dr. Donovan O. Cooke, coroner of Marin County.

"It would appear to me that to me that the gun was discovered prematurely, from the standpoint of whatever plan these men had," Mr. Parks said. "They were forced to go into immediate action and they had one of several plans, I believe."

He would not explain what the plans were, but at another point he said that prison officials believed that outside help was expected when the plan was being carried out, but that it was frustrated by early discovery.

The aimlessness of the escape attempt came about because the plan was not carried into effect, he said.

Dr. Cooke said that the two white prisoners, John Lynn and Donald Kane, who worked as tier attendants on the first floor of the Adjustment Center, the toughest security tier in the

state's prisons, had been killed when their throats were slashed. This, he said, was done with a weapon made of a toothbrush handle and half a razor blade.

Officer Frank DeLeon, 44, who escorted Jackson back from the visiting center, about 75 feet from the cellblock door, was choked to death with an electric cord. His ankles were tied together. There were razor cuts on his neck and a gunshot wound on the back of his head.

Sgt. Jere Graham, 39, who had come to the cell area to call Officer DeLeon for another assignment, had four stab wounds in his chest and abdomen and a gunshot wound in the back of his head.

Officer Paul Krasnes, 52, was choked by a cloth around the neck and his neck was cut by the razor.

Jackson was hit on the top

of the head by a rifle bullet that went through the base of his skull, down his back alongside his spine, fracturing a rib and leaving from his lower back. A bullet hit his left ankle, Dr. Cooke said. Mr. Parks said two guards had fired at Jackson.

Mr. Parks predicted trouble between attorneys who represent prisoners and the prison administration.

"Jackson's hair was excessively long by our prison standards," he said. "I would point out that certain groups on the outside, civil liberties groups, want to take us to court to force us to allow any inmate to grow anything he wants in the way of hair. This illustrates one of the things we're concerned about."

After the escape attempt, the guards at the Adjustment Center had long hair cut off any who wore it.

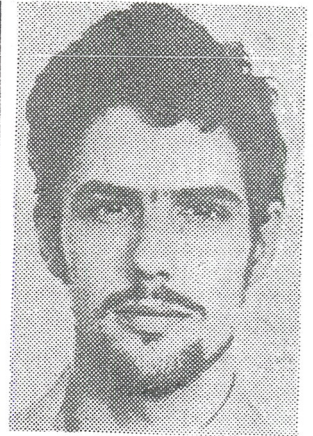
Acquaintances here of Mr. Bingham were unanimous in their insistence that "he just would not do that sort of thing."

His grandfather was Hiram Bingham, Republican Governor and United States Senator from Connecticut. His father, Alfred M. Bingham, is a lawyer in Salem, Conn.

Mr. Bingham's six uncles include a professor, a diplomat, a missionary and Jonathan B. Bingham, Democrat-Liberal Representative in the 23d District in the Bronx.

In 1965, Mr. Bingham married Gretchen Edith Spreckels, a member of a socially prominent family in Northern California. They divorced in May, 1969.

Mr. Bingham enrolled in 1964 in Boalt Hall, the Berkeley campus law school of the University of California. In 1966 he entered the Peace Corps, and went to Sierra Leone.



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Stephen M. Bingham

See SFCh, 25 Aug, Brewer:
"Jackson fired two shots.
No one was hit, however, and
the slugs have since been
recovered."