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# Search for Lawyer Results in Dead End

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP) — Lawyer Stephen Bingham, charged with murder in a bloody outbreak at San Quentin Prison last August, has vanished so completely that the district attorney says, "There's a good possibility he's dead."

The FBI and Marin County authorities say they have chased dozens of leads across the nation, from a New York airport to a Yosemite Park campground.

Results: "Zero," says Dist. Atty. Bruce Bales.

"**THERE** hasn't been a single shred of physical evidence that he is even alive or dead. Nothing. It's weird," Bales said in an interview yesterday.

Bingham 29, a Yale-educated grandson of a former Connecticut governor and son of a well-to-do Salem, Conn., family, disappeared just after 6 p.m. last Aug. 21.

About 2 p.m. that day, the state contends, he smuggled a 9-millimeter automatic pistol to convict George Jackson during a visit at San Quentin.

Less than 40 minutes after Bingham left the prison, Jackson and five other men were dead.

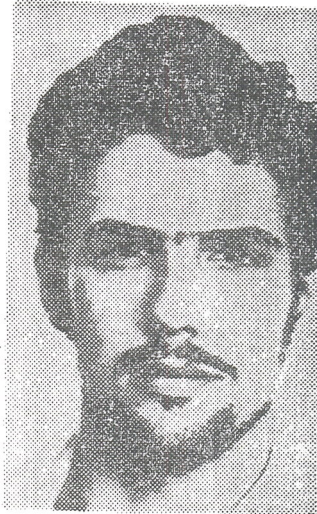
**GUARDS** shot Jackson, one of the "Soledad Brothers," saying he was trying to escape over a wall. In and near Jackson's cell were found the bodies of three guards and two inmates. Six convicts face murder charges in these deaths.

Bingham is accused as an accomplice and is charged with five counts of murder.

When the young attorney's picture was on page one of newspapers across the nation, Bales said, dozens of people telephoned with possible leads.

"With all this publicity, if he were around . . . there was a good likelihood of finding him then," says Bales.

"**THE LONGER** he stays



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
**STEPHEN M. BINGHAM**

away without words to his friends or family, the more this (Bingham's death) is a possibility," he said.

Bingham has been reported seen riding in a car through mountainous camp areas at Yosemite National Park, in a private plane near Portland, Ore., at New York's Kennedy airport, in Chicago and dozens of other places, Bales said.

Nothing panned out. And now Bales says the calls don't come any more.

Bingham's father feared at the outset his son was a victim of foul play or "held by those who do not want him to be free."

"**THERE IS** no reason to judge he is guilty because he has not come forward," says the father.

His son was last seen leaving a Berkeley Hills commune about 6 p.m., the night of the kllg. ii killings.

How could a man vanish? Is he alive? If not, who may have killed him and why? Bales admits there are dozens of questions, then added:

"At this point, your guess is as good as mine."