

FBI Man Returns To San Francisco

By June Muller

Charles W. Bates is back in his old stomping grounds.

"My wife wouldn't talk to me for weeks when we left," he said, "and even my son stayed here to finish high school."

Bates returned this week to again become special agent in charge of the San Francisco FBI office after an almost three year absence.

His Request

And, he said, it was not because of a shuffle in the reorganization of the FBI since the death of J. Edgar Hoover.

"It was at my own request," said Bates, who left Washington as assistant director of the general investigative division.

Robert Gebhardt, who held the post here for two years, took Bates' job in Washington.

The 52 year old Bates is a tall, slender, steely-eyed professional from Louisville, Tex.

Serious Matters

And after the amenities, he turned to the more serious matters facing the FBI — like skyjacking.

"If we had a treaty with Cuba," he said, "we might be able to get back the people for whom we have warrants. We also would remove a haven for them."

In the last year and a half, he said, the purpose of skyjacking has changed.

Main Purpose

"Before, it was just a ride for the passengers and crew (to Cuba)," he said. "But now we have the criminal element — extortion, guns, not for political purposes."

Bates said that all FBI



BACK WHERE HE WANTS TO BE

Charles W. Bates, in charge of San Francisco FBI
—Examiner Photo

field offices have the same plans of attack but the main purpose is to protect the lives of the passengers and crews.

And the FBI comes into the picture, he said, only after the plane has taken off.

Under a federal grant, detection devices are being placed at every on-ramp door but the Federal Aviation Administration is attempting to get uniformity, Bates said.

Education

Bates said that in the last year only one of some 35 skyjackings were not solved,

due to sharper emphasis on the situation.

Bates joined the FBI in 1941 after receiving a bachelor's degree at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He attended George Washington University Law School and later served in Buffalo, Newark, Washington, D.C., London and other points before coming here in June, 1967.

In 1970 he went to Chicago and then to Washington.

He and his wife, Elaine, have four children, Julie, 11; Gene, 20, and Becky, 19, University of Texas students, and Cherie, 26.