

Sought Love

'He Talked of Revenge' -- Girl

SFXaminer

By Edmund J. Rooney MAY 17 1972

MILWAUKEE — (CDN) — Arthur Herman Bremer yearned for someone to love him, to understand him.

But not even the girl who once dated him found it easy to like him.

"He opened his heart to me," said Joan Pemrich, 16, "But I couldn't love him."

Almost everyone who had contact with Bremer, or might remotely be considered a friend, found him the silent type, a sullen, unsmiling guy until he "warmed up a little."

No Motive

No one could offer an explanation or motive for Bremer in the shooting of Alabama Gov. George Wallace and three others at Laurel, Md., Monday.

On street corners, at service stations, in taverns and stores and schools, they asked the same question: "Why?"

What hatred or prejudices lay behind Bremer's usually stoic features, the mask he maintained through most of his life?

Not even his parents could answer. The William Bremers remained confused and secluded in their white-frame home in a tired old neighborhood on the South Side.

Few persons could offer an insight into the young man who drifted from his family and lived a seemingly drab life on the West Side.

'Talked Crazy'

"He often talked about revenge," said Miss Pemrich. "He talked crazy . . . crazy . . ."

Miss Pemrich met Bremer when he worked as a janitor at the Storey Elementary School in a racially changing area. She was a hall monitor at the school's aft-

er-hours recreation center.

"He talked to me a lot," she said. "I'd try to get away but he'd say he wanted to talk. He didn't talk to others. I don't know why he picked on me."

Miss Pemrich dated the blond youth three times and broke off when she felt he was "becoming emotionally dependent on me."

"He was crazy about me," she said. "I wasn't proud and flattered by his affection. I was annoyed."

Psychology

Miss Pemrich, a tall, blue-eyed brunette, said Bremer often talked about psychology, about how he "could figure out the problems of the world."

"He tried to analyze me. He said he had analyzed himself . . . that he knew himself and he wanted me to know myself."

Although he prided himself about his psychological ability, she said, Bremer "had more hang-ups than he knew."

But she never heard him talk about politics, although Bremer collected Wallace material even to a bumper sticker on his blue Rambler.

When she tried to break off, Bremer persisted in continuing their friendship.

"He kept bugging me and accused me of not loving him," she recalled.

Bremer's Boss

Few persons could recall anyone who actually was a real friend of Bremer.

One who knew him well is Timothy Burns, 33, a father of three who was Bremer's boss at Storey School.

"He was a loner," said Burns. He didn't make friends easily.

"You had to talk to him first. You had to ask a direct question to get him talking.

Differing

Views of

Bremer

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MILWAUKEE — (AP) — Three professional men and a policeman who had close contact with Arthur Bremer late last year each saw the man charged with shooting Gov. George C. Wallace in a different light.

To his lawyer in a misdemeanor case, Bremer was quiet, meticulous and questioning.

To a minister-conciliator, he bottled up anger and bordered on paranoid, a form of mental disease marked by a persecution complex.

To a court psychiatrist, he did not seem dangerous and made little impression in any way.

To the policeman, Bremer was incoherent.

These varying assessments of the 21 year old man jailed in Maryland provided no apparent motive for his alleged wounding of Wallace at a shopping center political rally.

Lawyer

Alvin M. Domnitz, a Milwaukee attorney, represented Bremer late in 1971 after he had been charged with carrying a concealed weapon. Domnitz won a reduction of the charge to disorderly conduct and Bremer was let off with a \$38.50 fine in Circuit Court after he pleaded guilty Dec. 8 to the lesser charge.

"He was very quiet and kind of meticulous. When you told him something he asked a question," the lawyer said yesterday.

"He didn't appear to me to be insane. Certainly I would have done something if he had."

Domnitz, in fact, argued successfully to the court that no supervision of Bremer was necessary.

Policeman

In the same case, however, John Sworske, the arresting officer, said in court of Bremer:

"He's completely incoherent. He doesn't understand anything that we have told him." That led to a 30-minute psychiatric examination for Bremer.

Psychiatrist

Dr. Paul J. Purtell recalled his examination and said Bremer "did not seem to be dangerous. There was no indication he had any mental defect."

"He was perhaps nervous and seemed dull normal," said Purtell. "While he was not mentally deficient he was not the brightest person in the world."

Junior high school intelligence and achievement tests, however, scored Bremer slightly above average.

Minister

The minister, Fred E. Blue Jr., talked with Bremer twice last November after the young man complained of job discrimination to the Milwaukee Commission on Community Relations. Blue is commission program planner.

"While talking to him he appeared outwardly calm," Blue said. "But I could detect his anger by the way he clenched his fist and tightened his mouth when he reiterated he was being persecuted by his employers."