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Hunt Housing: Sold and Sought

By Maxine Cheshire

Convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt, recently released from prison has reportedly sold his house, “Witches Island,” in Potomac to an unidentified buyer and made other living arrangements for his children.

Two of the younger Hunts, Lisa, 23, and St. John, 19, were notified of the sale just before Christmas, according to a source close to the family. The children were told by their father’s lawyer, William A. Snyder of Baltimore, that they were being put on an allowance and would need to find a house or apartment to share. St. John, in the meantime, has taken a job loading trucks.

Their younger brother, David, 9, was sent to Miami to live with his godfather, former Cuban freedom fighter Manuel Artime.

Artime is Hunt’s most intriguing Cuban connection. Now in the meat-importing business, Artime includes among his stockholders and backers Edgardo Buttari, who was the national director of Cubans for Nixon in 1968 and is one of Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo’s closest friends.

Artime was one of the captured leaders of the Bay of Pigs invasion which Hunt helped to stage. Artime spent 20 months in a Cuban prison. When he was finally released, he flew to Washington to recuperate at the Hunt’s house.

Hunt, in turn, when he was released from prison on Jan. 2, pending an appeal, flew to Miami to recuperate at Artime’s house.

Artime, father of six, runs a lively household filled with in-laws, several servants and numerous pets.

It was this familiar environment which Hunt wanted for his youngest son, who has suffered great distress since his father’s imprisonment and his mother’s death in a plane crash last year.

Hunt’s presence at Artime’s in Miami has caused a stir among the Cuban community. Hunt has enemies there, including some who feel he duped and betrayed the Cubans he recruited for the Watergate break-in.

Yet Artime has managed to stay friendly with everyone. When one of Hunt’s co-defendants, Miamian Bernard L. Barker, was freed at the same time as Hunt, Artime met him at the airport to welcome him home.