

Woman Is Arrested In '69 Blasts Here

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By PETER KIHSS

Patricia Elizabeth Swinton, sought since 1969 for conspiracy in eight bombings in New York City, believed set off by radical terrorists, was arrested yesterday in Brattleboro, Vt., by two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and a Brattleboro detective captain.

She is the last to be taken into custody of the four alleged plotters—the three others had all pleaded guilty, with one now dead, another on probation and the most recent captive serving a prison sentence.

Mrs. Swinton, 33 years old, had been working as a sales clerk in a health-food store and living on an isolated communal farm in nearby Guilford. Some of the nine other residents of

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the commune said that when a wood fire broke out during maple-sugaring last week, she had "put it out and saved the sugar house."

In Rutland, Vt., Federal District Judge James S. Holden set bail at \$500,000, and Mrs. Swinton agreed to her removal for trial in the Southern District here.

Mrs. Swinton was one of four persons named in charges involving the planting and setting off of bombs in New York City from July 27, 1969, to Nov. 12, 1969—a period of heightened demonstrations against the war in Vietnam.

She had been a fugitive ever since. Of her co-defendants, Samuel Joseph Melville pleaded guilty as the master bomber, and was killed while a prisoner in the state prison at Attica on Sept. 13, 1971. That was the day the state police stormed the prison, seeking to free hostages held by rioting prisoners.

Another defendant, Jane Lauren Alpert, first pleaded guilty but then jumped bail on May 4, 1970. She was a fugitive until she surrendered last Nov. 14. Miss Alpert said she had repudiated radicalism, but she was sentenced to 27 months in prison last Jan. 13 for the conspiracy and bail-jumping.



Associated Press

Patricia Elizabeth Swinton in a 1969 photograph.

Bombs Injured 21

The other defendant, John David Hughey 3d, underwent Federal Youth Center tests in Ashland, Ky., and on Sept. 30, 1970, he was freed on probation for up to six years.

Twenty-one persons were injured in the bombings here, which included such targets as a Federal office building at 26 Federal Plaza; the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station, 39 Whitehall Street; the Criminal Courts Building; the RCA Building, and the headquarters of General Motors and the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Mrs. Swinton, a former school teacher who was born in Baltimore, had been sought by the F.B.I. in widely scattered parts of the country, according to Robert E. Kent, special agent in charge of the Albany office, who announced her arrest.

Once she was even arrested — by the police in Missoula, Mont., on Aug. 8, 1970, on a charge of stealing two cans of peanut butter from a food market, the F.B.I. announcement said. She was using a fictitious identity and was freed on condition she leave Missoula, the statement added.

In Brattleboro, she was reported as having been living in the area for the last couple of years, supposedly having been previously in Acworth, N.H.

On Farm a Year

For about the last year she had been living on the Packers Corners farm in Guilford, a commune said to have been founded by Raymond Mungo, co-founder of the original Liberation News Service in 1967 but who later became disillusioned and split with the New Left. Mr. Mungo is no longer a resident there.

The farm, worked by men and women living there, has a garden, a goat and cows. Mrs. Swinton told Judge Holden: "I partially own it." Other residents did not want to be named yesterday, but one said: "She was a wonderful lady, a quiet, meditative, beautiful person."

In Brattleboro, Mrs. Swinton was said to have been a

waitress first at Idle Not, a restaurant stressing ice cream, and then ate the Common Ground, a health-food restaurant.

For the last year and a half she had been working for Good Life, a store that sells natural foods and imported wines and cheeses. She told the court she was getting \$53 a week.

Fictitious Name Used

Mrs. Patricia Perry, a co-owner of the store with William Oates, said Mrs. Swinton had been using the name of Suzanne Karen Davis and was also known as Shoshana, a variation of the first name.

She sought the job and Mr. Oates hired her as a mature person, Mrs. Perry said.

"She seemed a very likable person," Mrs. Perry added, "on the quiet side."

About 11 A.M. yesterday, according to Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Swinton was in a back room, packing food, one of her regular tasks. About 10 persons were crowded in the store, when Capt. Gordon Smith, Brattleboro's lone detective, entered with the two Federal agents.

They told Mrs. Perry that her employe's name was "Patricia something-or-other, and we're from the F.B.I., and we're taking her to Rutland," as Mrs. Perry remembered it.

"I am sorry, Patty," her employe calmly told Mrs. Perry.

She Agrees to Return

In court in Rutland, she was wearing a green velvet pullover shirt and blue dungarees. Her medium-length brown hair seemed uncombed. There were two bearded men in the courtroom, apparently friends, to whom she turned reassuringly.

Assistant United States Attorney William Gray asked that bail be set at \$500,000 and that she be transported to New York without a removal hearing.

Mrs. Swinton said she would like to return to New York. Judge Holden told her she ought to have a lawyer.

"I want an attorney in New York, but I don't know that I need one here," she rejoined.

Nevertheless Judge Holden designated the local public defender, Barry Griffith, to represent her. Mrs. Swinton signed an affidavit of poverty, to authorize his representation. Then she signed a waiver to do away with any removal hearing, and she was taken away by a Federal marshal and a matron in a green Ford.

She told the court she was divorced but had no children nearby. Reportedly she has a young daughter and her husband has since remarried.