

Alias Traced Bank Bomber

It was a forwarding address under a phony name that put the FBI on the trail of Ronald Kaufman, the Stanford Ph.D. accused of planting "demonstration" time bombs in banks in New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

The 33-year-old Kaufman, an AWOL soldier, is being sought in both the United States and in Canada.

Meantime, in Turlock, Sonia Kaufman, the suspect's widowed mother, said she cannot accept the idea that her son was involved in such a plot.

"It's all too contradictory," she told a Modesto Bee reporter. "He's too opposite of all this." She described Kaufman as "sweet, lovable and brilliant."

Chicago

In Chicago, a federal source said Kaufman was first identified as the bomb suspect through a mail forwarding address he left at a postal substation in that city.

From there, he was traced to Berkeley, where his true identity was determined.

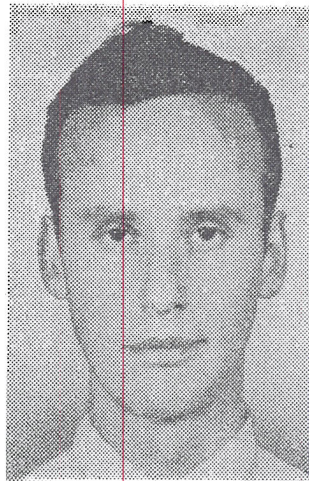
The forwarding address was submitted long before the safe deposit boxes were opened at three Chicago banks under the name of Christopher C. Mohr, with a Chicago address.

The forwarding address was that of a Berkeley rooming house. When investigators arrived there, there was no "Mohr." But they did discover that a Ronald Kaufman had lived there until last July.

Marines

A check of service records showed that Kaufman had served in the Marine Corps from 1956 to 1958, and that he had been routinely fingerprinted.

Fingerprints found on safe deposit boxes rented by "Mohr" were compared with



RONALD KAUFMAN
"Sweet, lovable"

those of Kaufman. They were the same. Handwriting comparisons were made and provided a double-check verification.

The last link in the identification chain was the discovery that Kaufman had enlisted in the Army last August under the name of James Edward Jensen. "Pvt. Jensen failed to report for overseas assignment last weekend at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and he was reported AWOL.

"Jensen's" fingerprints were sent to the FBI, and they also turned out to be Kaufman's.

The Berkeley forwarding address was 1314 Poe St. Leonard Coats, owner of the rooming house, said Kaufman was there about three weeks ago to pick up some belongings.