

'Q' a Year Later--Where Is

By Larry D. Hatfield

A year later the question still is:

Where is Stephen Bingham? And is he dead or alive?

If he's dead, who killed him — the authorities or "the revolution" — and why?

If he's alive, where is he and who's hiding him?

The FBI and the Marin County District Attorney's office admit frankly they don't know the answers to any of those questions.

But they're assuming he's still alive and they're still looking for him.

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Bingham, 30 year old scion of an influential political family in Connecticut, is wanted for his alleged smuggling of a pistol into San Quentin to inmate George Jackson, then considered by the radical left to be a "hero of the revolution."

Jackson, two other inmates and three prison guards were slain in the bloody escapade — described by prison authorities as an abortive escape attempt and termed by many radicals a set-up to kill Jackson. It took place at the prison a year ago tomorrow.

Two days after that, Marin County District Attorney Bruce Bales said he wanted to talk to Bingham, an attorney involved in a variety of radical causes. There was no response.

Murder Charge

On Aug. 31, Bingham was charged with five counts of murders. A sweeping manhunt since has failed to trace him, and some authorities believe he is dead — the theory being he was shut up to erase evidence of the elaborate escape plot.

Bingham's father, attor-

ney Alfred M. Bingham of Salem, Conn., noted that his son had vanished without a trace hours after the San Quentin bloodshed and suggested he might have met with foul play.

'Live Case'

But the FBI, the California Attorney General's office and Marin authorities are reluctant to agree with that conclusion. They are treating Bingham as a "live case."

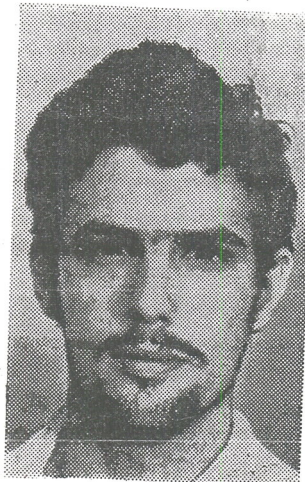
FBI spokesman said, "We have the case under active investigation and are still

Stephen

Bingham?

the case," a spokesman for the Marin District Attorney's office told a reporter.

Some radicals have even suggested that Bingham has been put away by authorities to keep from blowing up their version of what actu-



STEPHEN BINGHAM

Mystery is still open

pursuing all possible leads. We are going on the assumption Bingham is still alive." Bingham had been "sighted" in Wisconsin, Boston and abroad, but none of the leads checked out.

State and local officials say they are bound by a court-ordered gag rule and will not discuss the case except in the most general terms.

'Nothing New'

"But I guess I can say that there is nothing new on

ally happened at San Quentin.

Six inmates, who were in the high-security Adjustment Center with Jackson at the time, have been charged with murder in the case and

lengthy pre-trial proceedings are still going on.

The latest development came Friday when attorneys for former convict Allan Mancino filed a \$450,000 damage suit against the De-

partment of Corrections alleging he was tortured into giving the Marin County Grand Jury and other authorities testimony against fellow inmates.

Mancino was spirited out

of the prison and smuggled into a Carson City prison for safekeeping after the Aug. 21 incident.

Released on parole in May, he is now living in Seattle. It is not clear what

role he will play in the upcoming murder trials, and authorities aren't talking.

Smuggled Gun

Authorities say Jackson pulled a smuggled gun, released the 26 inmates of the center and held the guards hostage. Three guards and

two white inmate tier tenders were slain with their throats slashed or with bullets in the head.

Jackson and another inmate then broke and ran, authorities say, outside the center. A tower guard shot Jackson dead.
