

Move for Surrender of Threat Suspect Reported

TAOS, N.M., Aug. 21 (AP)—A Taos lawyer said today that he had been attempting to arrange the peaceful surrender of a northern New Mexico commune resident being sought for allegedly threatening the life of President Nixon.

The search began yesterday when the man known to residents of the Morning Star commune as Cat and identified by Secret Service agents as Edwin Michael Gaudet, 29 years old, slipped away from an agent, Ernest Aragon, who was attempting to serve the Federal warrant issued in New Orleans.

John Paul Jones, head of the Secret Service in New Mexico, said the man had identified himself as Mr. Gaudet, a former New Orleans policeman, before fleeing from the agent.

Exchange of Gunfire

About 20 state and local police officers armed with rifles combed the plains and hills surrounding Arroyo Hondo, some 12 miles north of Taos. A brief exchange of gunfire marked the first day of the search.

The lawyer, John Ramming, attorney for the commune owner, Mike Duncan, said he had been "in contact with friends of his [Mr. Gaudet's] and hopefully we can make

contact so a peaceful surrender can be made." He said the friends were not commune residents.

Mr. Ramming said, "I'm holding myself out as an intermediary and the sole interest is to prevent somebody from getting hurt."

A Taos city policeman, José Lucero, said that when he and a Taos County sheriff's deputy, Joe G. Martinez, had approached the hunted man in a thicket yesterday "he fired twice at me and I fired four times at him."

Charges in Warrant

Mr. Lucero said the man's weapon apparently was a 30.06 rifle. He said some military rounds in that caliber had been found in the vicinity from which the shots were fired.

The warrant charges that Mr. Gaudet "knowingly, willfully, unlawfully, made a threat to take the life of the President" on Aug. 15, 1973.

Conviction on the charge carries a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine or five years' imprisonment or both, a Secret Service spokesman in Washington said.

Mr. Gaudet was arrested in 1970 for throwing a burning American flag at the President's car in New Orleans.

The spokesman said today, "At this point the Secret Service has developed no information linking Gaudet" to an alleged conspiracy to kill Mr. Nixon during the President's New Orleans visit yesterday.

Commune residents said Mr. Gaudet had lived at the Morning Star with his wife and three children for about two years.

Commune Closed

After officers, accompanied by television cameramen, roused sleeping commune residents for a fruitless two-hour search at dawn today, Mr. Duncan, the owner, closed the adobe commune to newsmen and the public.

Morning Star residents described the man they knew as Cat as a former prizefighter who, according to Mr. Duncan, "had a little bit of a temper, but it always cools down."

Mr. Duncan said he and Cat "went deer hunting and he had the deer in his sights, but he didn't have the heart to shoot it, even to feed his own family."

An Associated Press reporter, Jurate Kazickas, talked with the man named Cat on Saturday at the commune.

"He was a fringe character," said Miss Kazickas, who recognized him from pictures re-

leased by the authorities. "I was talking for a long time to a 17-year-old youth, and Cat would come up every once in a while, listen or offer rambling comments.

"At one point the teen-ager and I were talking about the demise of revolutionary activities, and Cat came over and said something about being 'a revolutionary anarchist.' But his comments were a bit incoherent and didn't really pertain to the interview."

She said he had been bare-chested and deeply tanned and had long hair that he combed constantly.

Inquiry in New Orleans

By WALTER RUGABER

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 21—The police here said today that there had been "no developments" in the investigation of an alleged conspiracy to assassinate President Nixon and added that arrests were "not forthcoming from this department."

A police spokesman and other officials again declined to discuss the nature of the reported plot.

Albert J. Winters Jr., an assistant United States Attorney here, said that while the Secret

Service investigation was continuing no new arrest warrants had been sought locally nor, so far as he knew, anywhere else in the country.

The authorities said there was no indication so far of a

link between the alleged threats by Mr. Gaudet and the reported conspiracy under investigation by the Secret Service.

Mr. Gaudet's father, Edwin J. Gaudet, asserted in a brief

interview today that his son

had been in New Mexico and not in New Orleans during the time of the alleged threats. The elder Mr. Gaudet is the general manager of the Delta Towers Hotel.

The father refused to explain

the basis for saying his son had not been here, nor would he describe his son's activities since his departure from the Police Department under a disciplinary cloud in 1967.



Law-enforcement officers taking part in the search for a man identified by the Secret Service as Edwin M. Gaudet taking a break yesterday in Arroyo Hondo area near Taos, N. M.

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