

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. (UPI) —
Three young men from wealthy families, described by police as armed and dangerous, were hunted today in connection with the kidnaping of 26 'children and their driver from a school bus in Chowchilla.

An all-points bulletin was flashed to law enforcement agencies across the country Thursday night, ordering the arrest of the trio "on probable cause" for last week's abduction in the small San Joaquin Valley town of Chowchilla.

Though warrants were not yet issued, Alameda County Sheriff Tom Houchins said "I will seek arrests warrants immediately," adding he would go to court for the warrants this morning.

The three suspects -- identified as Fred Newhall Woods, 25, James L Schoenfeld, also 25, and his brother, Richard, 22 — were described as armed and dangerous.

Houchins, whose department issued the bulletin at its substation in San

Leandro after a search of the Woods' family estate across San Francisco Bay in the fashionable community of Portola Valley, said the alert was a result of 'late developments this afternoon.'" He also said the search was "accelerating."

Woods' father owns the quarry in nearby Livermore where the kidnap victims were held in a buried truck. The kidnaping occurred Thursday, and the victims dug their way to safety Friday night.

Houchins also said law enforcement officers in two counties, "and possibly three," were searching for the suspects. One county was identified as Santa Clara where clothing of

the victims was found off a lonely mountain road.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (UPI) — State police said today they had a citizen's report the three men sought in the California bus kidnaping of 26 children may have been in Jacksonville, Ill., about 8 p.m. Thursday.

A man telephoned state police headquarters at 5 a.m. today to say he saw the three men at a service station in Jacksonville in a 1974 or 1975 blue Chevrolet. He said they appeared to be heading east on U.S. 36 toward Springfield.

Jacksonville is 35 miles due east of Springfield and about 70 miles north of St. Louis.

Trooper Terry Warden said a bulletin was put out on police networks in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio to be on alert for the three men.

Warden said the caller, who was not identified, apparently did not connect the three men he saw Thursday night = the California men until early

y.

Another county was Sierra, north of Sacramento, where the trio was arrested in October, 1974, for joy riding and petty theft. Authorities said all successfully completed probation there.

Houchins, asked the motive of the bizarre kidnap, told newsmen, "I have no idea." He also said it was not known when the three suspects were last seen — by friends or parents.

The APB said Woods is six feet tall, weighs 145 pounds, has brown hair and blue eyes. The elder Schoenfeld also is six feet tall, weighs 170 pounds

and has red hair and blue eyes. His younger brother is 5-feet-11-inches tall, weighs 150 pounds, and has brown hair and blue eyes.

The Schoenfelds are the sons of Dr. John Schoenfeld, a podiatrist with offices in Menlo Park in San Mateo County.