

CLEAVER, ZODIAC, COOPER, DOHRN - THEY'RE ALL WANTED

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Where Did All Those Fugitives Go?

By Dick Alexander

Will Eldridge Cleaver ever come back to his homeland? Whatever became of Ted "Red" Nelson? Remember the Bay Area? Who valued out of an Oakland bank with \$107,500 in cash almost nine years ago?

And where is D. B. Cooper? These are among at least 12 "celebrated fugitives" who have grabbed headlines in recent years. Ironically, many all have Bay Area roots. Their alleged crimes range from bank robbery to bombing, skyjacking to cop killing.

Weatherman Three are members of the violently radical Weatherman group and three are part of the Black Liberation Army, a nationwide operation said to be dedicated to killing police officers.

To list the 12 chronologically, it is necessary to go back to June 23, 1964, when the baby-faced Nelson, then 30, made his big bank haul and vanished.

Nelson, perhaps the least violent and most romantic of the "disappearing" ones, probably plotted his crime alone.

A curly-haired, clean-cut youth, in a year and a half he worked his way up from messenger to change clerk at the Oakland Bank of Commerce, 16th Street and Telegraph Avenue. He was entrusted to handle large sums of money.

On this particular morning he left his sunny Nob Hill apartment carrying a shopping bag. In it, apparently, was his pet rabbit, Matilda. He gave the animal to a female employee because his landlord told him to get rid of it, the story goes.

About an hour later, Nelson presented himself at the vault with a voucher for \$140,000, which he was to handle and send to supermarketers. He put the money into the bag, along with \$47,400 he had pilfered earlier from cash drawers and sauntered out of the bank, smiling at the guard before disappearing into infinity.

Trigger Man On Nov. 10, 1968, William Lee Brent, 31, a Black Panther captain and a two-time hero to San Quentin, was the alleged trigger man in a shootout between police and Black Panthers near the Hall of Justice. Three policemen were wounded in the exchange, which followed a service station hold-up.

When Brent was apprehended, Cleaver — in what seemed to be standard procedure for Panthers caught in the act — announced Brent was being expelled from the party.

"He loves the program is not robbing filling stations,"

said Cleaver, "not going to the enemy's fortress to shoot policemen."

But on June 17, 1969, six days before he was to go on trial, Brent hijacked a TWA jet and forced the pilot at gunpoint to land in Cuba, joining Cleaver, who had already fled the country.

At Large

Although still at large, Brent is listed by San Francisco police as a member of the Black Liberation Army and a follower of Cleaver.

On March 9, 1970, an explosion in a Greenwich Village townhouse bomb factory in New York City killed three members of an underground collective of the Weathermen, a guerrilla faction of the Students for a Democratic Society responsible for numerous bombings in the U.S.

The explosion "forever destroyed" the "red" that armed struggle is the only real revolutionary struggle," said Bernadine Dohrn, Weatherman leader who made the FBI's ten most wanted list.

Well Known

Sought in the investigation of the bombing then and now is Kathy Boudin, 29, an S.D.S. leader, Bryn Mawr graduate and leftist who had several brushes with the police in Chicago. She was arrested on Oct. 9, 1969, on



THE ZODIAC

charges of "aggravated battery" after allegedly striking a policeman during a demonstration in Chicago's Grant Park.

Free on \$10,000 bail, she disappeared after the townhouse bombing.

In April, 1970, 12 members of the Weatherman faction were named in conspiracy indictments in Chicago. These included Miss Dohrn and Mark Rudd, 25, who was head of the S.D.S. chapter at Columbia University in April, 1968, and led the takeover of the administration building. Both were well known to Bay Area law enforcement officers.

Rudd disappeared in the summer of 1970 after he and 12 other persons were indicted in Detroit for conspiracy to bomb and kill there. Questions asked of his par-

ents and former Columbia associates only led investigators to conclude he was out of the country or was part of the radical underground.

But he was remembered at Stanford University where he spoke in October, 1968, and showed films of the Columbia disturbance, saying "more Columbias will generate themselves."

Miss Dohrn, 31, was a principal speaker at the Memorial Day People's Park rally in 1969. When she failed to appear for trial in Chicago in March, 1970, a federal warrant was issued charging her with unlawful interstate flight to avoid prosecution for mob action.

Most Wanted

Holder of a doctor of laws degree from the University of Chicago, she was last heard from with a story in January, 1971, in an underground newspaper distributed by the Liberation News Service.

Probably the person to cause the most alarm in the Bay Area and northern California in recent years was a man who claimed 17 murders and was definitely connected with at least six.

Unknown to law enforcement agencies by name, he identified himself through letters and postcards to newspapers as "Zodiac."

First of the famous letters was sent to three newspa-

pers in July, 1969, claiming three murders in lovers lanes beginning in December, 1968.

On Dec. 20, 1969, anniversary of the first of the three murders, he wrote to attorney Mel Bell, saying, "Please help me, I cannot remain in control much longer." Enclosed were two pieces of the shirt of taxi driver Paul Steine, who had been slain in San Francisco the previous Oct. 11.

Wrote Bell

The last communication from Zodiac was on March 22, 1971, a picture postcard from Lake Tahoe with the lettering "Victim number 12."

His file, filling six drawers at the San Francisco police headquarters, is still marked "active."

One of the most baffling disappearances is that involving Stephen Mitchell Bingham, 26, of Oakland, a radical storefront lawyer, son of distinguished Connecticut families, Yale '64.

On Aug. 31, 1971, Bingham was charged with five counts of murder, stemming from a San Quentin escape attempt, 10 days earlier, when George Jackson, two other inmates and three guards were slain.

Believed Dead

The state says Bingham managed on Aug. 21 to deliver an automatic pistol to

Jackson before disappearing. Bingham's father, a Salem, Conn., attorney, noted that his son had vanished hours after the San Quentin bloodbath and suggested he might have met with foul play. Authorities disagree and are treating Bingham as a "live case."

Already a living legend — or possibly a dead one — is the man known as "D. B. Cooper," who forever will be listed as the first of the ransom skyjackers.

On Nov. 24, 1971, a Thanksgiving weekend, with \$300,000 strapped to his chest, he leaped from the rear exit of a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 into the murky night and hasn't been seen again.

Brandishing what appeared to be a homemade bomb in a carrying case, he hijacked the plane shortly after it took off from Portland for Seattle.

The FBI is convinced he bailed out over southwestern Washington between 867-foot Mt. St. Helens and the Columbia River.

Two Black Liberation Army members believed involved in police killing cases in San Francisco and New York are fugitives. They are Herman Bell, who allegedly led the fatal Ingleside police station ambush of August, 1971, and former Black Panther Field Marshal Donald

Lee Cox, who police say has admitted the fatal shooting of Patrolman Herman George in a 1967 ambush at Hunters Point housing office.

He also has been identified from pictures taken by a hidden camera as one of five blacks who staged a well-executed \$15,000 robbery of the Bernal Heights Branch of the Bank of America on Cortland Avenue on Sept. 20, 1971.

Key Suspect

Bell was a key suspect in the hijacking of a San Francisco in Los Angeles for a year ago last month.

Cox, 35, was arrested in April, 1969, in a raid on San Francisco Panther headquarters and charged with having a shotgun. In April, 1972, his \$2000 bail was forfeited when he failed to appear for trial.

Another "celebrated fugitive" is a gentle, sensitive man known to his friends as Ronald Kaufman. But to the FBI he is a suspect in the planting of bombs in safe deposit boxes in San Francisco, New York and Chicago.

On Jan. 7, 1972, he vanished without a trace. It found, he faces indictments

with a total maximum penalties of several hundred years in prison.

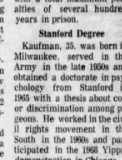
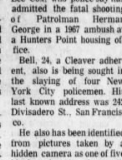
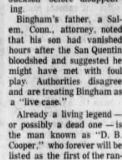
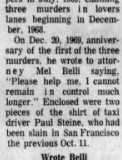
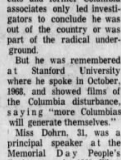
Stanford Degree

Kaufman, 35, was born in Milwaukee, served in the Army in the late 1950s and obtained a doctorate in psychology from Stanford in 1965 with a thesis about color discrimination among primates. He worked in the South in the 1960s and participated in the 1968 Vietnam demonstration in Chicago.

A year ago, handwritten letters to newspapers announced that "prototype" time bombs would be found in specific deposit boxes. The low charge bombs had been placed six months previously and were set to explode a week after the letters were received. One went off prematurely, causing minor damage.

Renegade

Which brings us back to Cleaver, who had lived in Algeria since 1960 after fleeing the U.S. rather than go back to San Quentin as a parole violator. He set up the International Section of the Black Panther Party in Algeria, but that collapsed in 1970 when he openly criticized American Panther leaders for not engaging in violent guerrilla activities.



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