



1 year later, Hoffa mystery unresolved

DETROIT (UPI) — Federal investigators say they have the big piece in the James R. Hoffa mystery and are confident those who abducted and killed the former Teamsters boss will eventually be brought to justice.

Friday is the anniversary of his disappearance.

There have been no indictments in the case. The body has never been found. But numerous sources confirm the existence of a "working theory" of what happened, a theory the FBI and the Justice Departments say has no serious flaw.

The investigation centers on three persons: Anthony Provenzano, an official with Teamsters Local 560 in New Jersey, and Anthony Giacalone, a reputed Detroit mobster and Provenzano associate, and Charles "Chuckie" O'Brien, Hoffa's self-proclaimed foster son.

A federal prosecutor has also named Salvatore and Gabriel Briguglio and Thomas Andretta, all Local 560 officials, as being involved.

Alibis abound, but agents say none of the suspects has removed himself from suspicion.

Provenzano said he was playing cards at the local hall. Giacalone was getting a massage in suburban Southfield, he said.

O'Brien said he was driving a car borrowed from Giacalone's son in the area that day to deliver a salmon to a union associate. Federal authorities still have that car in custody, and court documents allege that it contains hair, blood and a scent that could have been Hoffa's.

"We have good reason to believe that the statements made by some people in the case may not be accurate," said Special Agent Richard Bretzing.

Last July 30, Hoffa told family members and other associates that he was meeting Giacalone and Provenzano at a suburban Bloomfield Hills restaurant.

He went to the restaurant, but nobody showed up. So about 3:30 p.m. he walked out into the parking lot and then vanished. Investigators believe someone he knew approached him in the parking lot, and he got into a car.

Then he was killed, either in a deliberate assassination or during a heated argument.

Hoffa had plenty of enemies. Some of his organized crime associates worried about reports he would trade information on cases against them for federal help to regain office in the 1.2 million member international union.

The possibility of his return reportedly worried his successor, Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons, and others who rose to power when Hoffa went to prison.

Investigators are cautious in statements about the case, some admitting that they're protecting their case.

Masterminds may have planned Calif. kidnaping

OAKLAND, Calif. (UPI) — Authorities said yesterday they are investigating evidence that older "masterminds" may have manipulated three rich young men suspected of kidnaping 26 school children and their bus driver.

A key factor in the search for the possible "brains behind the whole thing" are the great discrepancies between the physical characteristics of the suspected trio and the composite drawings of the kidnapers based on descriptions by the children and driver from Chowchilla, Calif.

The three known suspects, one of whom, Richard Schoenfeld, surrendered Friday, are all in their early 20s. The composite drawings released shortly after the victims dug their way out of a Livermore, Calif., quarry where they were buried described one abductor as about 50 years old with gray hair, another about 45 and a third in his mid-20s.

"We're definitely pursuing the possibility that there are other suspects in the case," a source said. "These others quite conceivably might be the brains behind the whole thing."

A rough draft of a \$5 million ransom note was found on the 100-acre family estate of a second suspect, Fred Newhall Woods, 24, who is still at large, as is Schoenfeld's brother, James, also 24.

A source said there is "a possibility that an older male was involved in the kidnaping, and there are some good leads to back it up." The source said a fifth person is believed part of the gang that abducted the 19 girls and seven boys, aged 5 to 14, as they returned from a swimming outing 11 days ago.

Alameda County Sheriff Tom Houchins said it was true that "when you are four feet tall, everyone looks bigger and older." But an official said, "It is highly unlikely that those kids and the bus driver (Frank Edward Ray, 55) would misjudge men in their early and mid-20s for men 25 to 30 years older."

Schoenfeld, 22, described in an all-points-bulletin as "armed and dangerous," was held Sunday in an Oakland jail under \$1 million bail after surrendering with his attorney and father, a prominent Atherton, Calif., foot doctor, at his side.

Schoenfeld is scheduled to be arraigned on 43 counts of "kidnaping based upon a purpose of robbery or ransom" Thursday in Madera County, where the tiny, middle-class farming community of Chowchilla is located. But one of his attorneys, William Gagen, said he will try to have the proceeding and preliminary hearings switched to Alameda County (Oakland) because "we fear for his safety in Chowchilla."

Gagen, emerging from a two-hour jail conference Saturday night with Schoenfeld, said "emotions are running high" in Chowchilla. "There is not a single chance of Rick obtaining justice there."

The attorney said Schoenfeld does not know the whereabouts of his brother or Woods. The younger Schoenfeld remained in his home area for seven days following the kidnaping, baby-sitting a boy whose parents were on vacation.

Last Wednesday, he called the boy and said he was leaving town. He left Thursday, but turned himself in Friday on advice of attorneys after the all-points-bulletin was issued.

The FBI said it has reason to believe Woods and James Schoenfeld, sons of prominent families on the peninsula south of San Francisco, have fled California.

Hearst's second trial to be set

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Patricia Hearst, already facing a 35-year prison sentence for bank robbery, takes time out from psychiatric testing for a court appearance today to set a date for a second trial for kidnaping, robbery and assault.

Miss Hearst, 22, will appear in the bullet-proof courtroom where her one-time captors William and Emily Harris, who claim she later willingly joined them in the Symbionese Liberation Army, are being tried on the same charges.

A San Francisco judge at her bank robbery trial ordered the newspaper heiress to undergo psychiatric tests at a federal institution in San Diego before being sentenced. The tests have not been concluded and her second trial is expected to be delayed until September at the earliest.

At her San Francisco trial, Miss Hearst said the Harris were among those who abducted her from her Berkeley, Calif., apartment.

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