

Jury indicts five Indians on gun charges

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted five American Indians yesterday on charges of possession and interstate transportation of illegal firearms and explosives.

The grand jury returned a 10-count indictment affirming previous charges against the accused, who were arrested Sept. 10 when a station wagon caught fire and exploded on the Kansas Turnpike near Wellington.

Indicted were Darlene P. Nichols, 20, Shawnee, Okla.; Bernadine Nichols, 21, Pine Ridge, S.D.; Keith DeMarrias, 22, no permanent address; Norman Charles, 19, Rosebud, S.D., and Robert Eugene Rodibeau, 28, Pine Ridge.

Bond was set at \$75,000 for Robideau and Charles; \$25,000 for DeMarrais, and \$7,500 each for the two women.

Darlene Nichols, the common-law wife of American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks, had posted bond on the earlier charges and remained free.

Federal agents said the station wagon carrying the Indians from Rosebud to Shawnee contained hand grenades and firearms with obliterated serial numbers.

The station wagon caught fire after its muffler fell off and heat finally ignited its flooring or some of the explosives.

Por Vernon A. GUIDRY JR.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10. (NYT) — El Servicio Secreto todavía no ha podido localizar a un ex-convicto armado que el mes pasado, en relación con un grupo disidente indígena, posiblemente trató de organizar un atentado contra el Presidente Gerald Ford durante una gira de éste al Estado de Oklahoma.

La información fue suministrada por Rex D. Davis, director de la Oficina de Ta-

baco, Alcohol y Armas de Fuego del Departamento de Hacienda.

En las últimas semanas, Davis ha informado al Servicio Secreto — también dependiente de Hacienda — de dos aparentes intentos de magnicidio.

En el caso de Oklahoma, no se dio a conocer el nombre del ex-recluso; un soplón del bajo mundo informó a Davis que un hombre que ha estado dos veces en prisión viajó a Oklahoma para establecer contacto con el Movimiento Indio Norteamericano — un grupo impugnador — con el aparente propósito de provocar disturbios durante la gira del Presidente.

Davis dijo que se sabe que el delincuente iba armado con dos fusiles de alto poder y una metralleta.

James Burke, funcionario del Servicio Secreto, dijo que hay indicios que la presencia del ex-recluso tiene relación con un incidente ocurrido cerca de Oklahoma City, a principios de septiembre pasado y en vísperas de una visita de Ford.

En aquella ocasión, al investigar el incendio y explosión de una camioneta guayín estacionada cerca de una autopista, hallaron en los restos del vehículo fusiles, bombas de mano, pistolas y armas automáticas.

Una investigación condujo al arresto de Darlene Nichols, de veinte años amiga de Dennis Banks, líder del Movimiento Indio Norteamericano.

El otro caso es menos importante: se refiere a un alcohólico y enfermo mental, Ralph Bates, de treinta y siete años, vecino de Belleville, Illinois, quien ofreció a un agente del Servicio Secreto infiltrado en círculos del bajo mundo veinticuatro mil dólares (trescientos mil pesos) por matar a Ford.

El agente arrestó a Bates; éste aceptó someterse voluntariamente a tratamiento en instituciones del gobierno.

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One woman believed to be Dennis Banks' wife

Arsenal explodes on KTA, Six Indians being held

By DAVE BARTEL
Associated Press Writer
WELLINGTON, Kan. (AP) —
Six South Dakota Indians were
in federal custody today await-

ing arraignment on federal
charges in connection with an
explosion that destroyed a car
loaded with weapons and am-
munition Wednesday.

Three persons were injured
in the explosion, which resulted
from explosives and ammuni-
tion being carried in the station
wagon en route from Pine

Ridge, S.D., to the Shawnee,
Okla., area, federal agents
said. The explosion occurred on
the Kansas Turnpike 10 miles
north of Wellington.

One of the injured, Darlene
Nichols, 20, of Pine Ridge, was
believed to be the common law
wife of Dennis Banks, an Amer-
ican Indian Movement leader.
The woman is wanted on a bur-
glary charge at Custer, S.D.

Special Agent Charles Harvey
of the Alcohol, Tobacco and
Firearms Division of the Treas-
ury Department, said the
Nichols woman had told one
person she was Banks' wife
but the woman later gave the
Nichols name and denied any
connection with Banks, who is a
fugitive from South Dakota
following conviction on charges
of riot and assault.

Federal agents recovered 10
firearms, including some auto-
matic weapons, and 10 hand
grenades from the auto which
may have been destined for po-
tentially disruptive activity
against the federal government
in Oklahoma, Harvey said.

"We have received rumors of
activity planned in Oklahoma
but we cannot say there is any-
thing concrete about this at this

time," Harvey said.

"But any time you have an
incident such as this, where
people are carrying weapons,
you want to find out what is go-
ing on," he said.

Harvey added that federal
agents are investigating the
connection between the auto
and disruptive groups who have
participated in activities such
as the Wounded Knee takeover
in South Dakota.

He said the adults would be
arraigned later today on feder-
al charges of possession of de-
structive devices. The investi-
gation was continuing in an ef-
fort to trace weapons recovered
from the car and to determine
the exact identities of all per-
sons involved.

Sumner County Sheriff Jerry
Wiley said four persons were
being held for federal authori-
ties at the county jail in Well-
ington.

He identified them as: Ber-
nice Lamonte, 21, and Kenneth
Demaris, 22, both of Pine
Ridge; Lou Ann Eagle Horse,

18, of Rosebud, and Jack One
Feather of Rosebud.

A fifth person, Robert La-
monte, 24, husband of Bernice
Lamonte, was in satisfactory
condition with burns to his eyes
at an Arkansas City hospital.
The Nichols woman, who origi-
nally identified herself as Clar-
ice Backe, 20, was in satisfac-
tory condition at a Wellington
hospital with a cut right arm
and was expected to be re-
leased soon.

Also in the car were a 16-
year-old juvenile and the 1-
year-old daughter of Darlene
Nichols, who was released to
the custody of an aunt Wednes-
day night.

Turnpike authorities said the
car had no tail pipe and appar-
ently overheated, setting off the
fire. Occupants of the car aban-
doned it in the southbound lane
of the turnpike, where it burned
for some time with small ex-
plosions from ammunition be-
fore the gasoline tank ignited
and blew open the top and sides
of the car.



U.S. MARSHALLS—escort Indians from the Sumner County
Courthouse late this afternoon for arraignment in Wichita. Six
were taken from the jail today and one juvenile remained for
the Pine Ridge, S.D., authorities to pick up later. Pictured
above on the right is Darlene Pearl Nichols, 21, Pine Ridge,
S.D., the wife of AIM leader fugitive Dennis Bank. The car that
exploded on the Kansas Turnpike north of Wellington was
carrying grenades, rifles, pistols and ammunition and was
believed destined for Shawnee, Okla. (Photo by Ken Adams)



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