



The FBI Oral History Project

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**Interview of Former Special Agent of the FBI
William F. Beane (1951 – 1978)
Interviewed by John Baber
On January 24, 2005**

Edited for repetitions, spelling, etc. by Sandra Robinette on June 9, 2005. Edited for Mr. Beane's corrections by Sandra Robinette on September 9, 2005, continued on February 17, 2006 and February 20, 2006.

John Baber: This is John R. Baber. I am interviewing William F. Beane for the Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Oral History Program. Today is January 24, 2005. This interview is taking place in his home in Inverness, Illinois.

Bill, we have discussed the intellectual agreement and I'll read it to you again for the record. "We, the undersigned, convey the rights to the intellectual content of our interview on this date, January 24, 2005, to the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. This transfer is in exchange for the Society's efforts to preserve the historical legacy of the FBI and its members.

We understand that portions of this interview may be deleted for security purposes, unless otherwise restricted. We agree that acceptable sections can be published on the worldwide web and the recordings transferred to an established repository for preservation and research."

You have signed it and I have signed it and I have entered your date of birth, year of birth and the dates of service.

Why don't we start then by talking, Bill, about where you were born and the reason why you started to work for the FBI.

Beane: Yes, John, I was born in the nation's capital in Washington, D.C. and my family, mom and dad and their parents, as well, were all natives of the nation's capital. Back before Lincoln's time, so we were true natives of the nation's capital going back to before the Civil War.

I was 7 years of age when Lindbergh's child was kidnapped. I have vivid recollections of that case which I, as a boy, read and saw that ladder up to the boy's window where he was abducted down through there and it made a lasting impression on me. At the time I followed the trial very carefully, you know, as a child. There was wide publicity given to it.

Beane: Mr. Hoover was very much involved in that and, of course, Mr. Hoover was a native Washingtonian, as I was. And, his home was just a half mile from my home.

He was kind of a hero and I admired him greatly in those years in the city where I grew up. In 1943, I joined the Marine Corps. I went to the South Pacific and fought in three combat campaigns, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa and I came home. I had matured greatly as I was sort of scatterbrained before I left. But those experiences of war tend to add years to your experience and your life.

I studied to be a Catholic priest for 5 years. I had to go back to high school when I got home because I left from high school to join the Marine Corps.

Baber: And you went to what college?

Beane: I went to St. Francis College first, in Pennsylvania, in Loretto, Pennsylvania. To get into the major seminary in those days, we were required to have four years of Latin and one year of Greek. I went to St. Francis and got those credits. I had already had 3 years of Latin before I went in the Marine Corps. So I had the basic requirements to get in St. Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore, Maryland.

And I went in there in '49 and spent two years. I was four years from ordination to the priesthood when I decided to leave. I just felt it was no longer my calling. When I left, I wasn't lured out by any females or anything like that, I just left. And within 2 months I had filed an application with the Bureau and was accepted.

It was suggested to me, and you won't believe this, by Vice President of the U.S., Alben Barkley. I was running the elevators in the U.S. Senate, and the Vice President got on my elevator regularly and asked me what I was doing. I told him I was in the seminary. When I decided to leave the seminary in 1951, he asked, "What are you going to do?" I told him I wasn't sure.

Well, I had no experience of any kind, other than combat experience. So he said, "Why don't you go to the FBI? They're hiring a lot of people because of the Atomic Energy program, the AEC cases. The "116" cases, you may remember, John.

Beane: And so, indeed, I did. I went over to the FBI and talked to some people and they told me to go over to Baltimore since I was still in school there. I took the FBI examination over there in the Baltimore Office, applied to the FBI and was accepted in July 1951.

After I got my appointment to go to Quantico, it was my intention to join originally to get some experience in the world, other than military. I intended to stay three or four years and leave. I didn't know what I was going to do after I left, maybe teach or something. But I loved it and I stayed on.

Baber: That was in 1951.

Beane: In 1951, I was in that class. It was a very proud day for me. I enjoyed it. A little interesting anecdote, my home was about 3 miles from the Old Post Office Building where we reported for duty. I was the only guy on that summer's day that showed up late (chuckle). I remember that Mr. Glavin, I think, Assistant Director Glavin, was talking to the young crop of New Agents and I walked in and he said, "Mr. Beane, you're late and you're the only native Washingtonian in the class."

So I said, well I'm sorry, the trolley car broke down and that was my excuse. But that was the beginning and I loved it.

Baber: So, which office did you go to first?

Beane: Chicago.

Baber: You went to Chicago?

Beane: Yeah. Came in as a rookie Agent in October of 1951. As you know, Mr. Hoover sent us after one year's experience to a large office. And it almost goes without saying, a lot of New Agents came to Chicago in those days. I think there were about 20 of us here when I was a New Agent here .

We were almost automatically sent to New York from here. And I went to New York then in September of '52.

Baber: You went to a lot of different offices, right?

Beane: Well, I did indeed, yeah, I did indeed. I went to New York and I did a number of years in New York City and I loved that as well. It was very challenging. New York is an exciting place and I love it to this day. I go back every chance I get.

Beane: And from New York, because of my language background and all the Latin I had and the Greek, they were looking for people to go to language schools. And I said, well that would be a ticket out of New York. I'd spent 10 years there. It was time to get out. I volunteered to go to Spanish language class and I took the test and that was not a problem for me. Went to language school and I was transferred to Miami from language school.

That was the FBI Language School in Washington, D.C. I didn't go to Monterey. The day after that I went down to Miami. There I worked primarily jewel thief cases. That's what I was working in New York. In New York we installed a lot of technical surveillances and we locked up a lot of these guys. And the same jewel thieves went from New York to Miami in the wintertime. The same people. The same cast of characters.

Baber: Oh, that's right. So they would travel back and forth.

Beane: Oh, yeah, they would follow the jewels. And they went down there. And when I got there, I was sure that the SAC was going to assign me to cases involving use of my Spanish speaking ability and it wasn't so. He assigned me to jewel theft cases because he said they had that program and it wasn't going anywhere. So I was made the coordinator of that program, so I continued the same thing I was doing in New York effectively.

Occasionally had some Spanish interviews. I just didn't use my language enough to maintain the vocabulary. Miami was going to form a new criminal squad. We had a lot of success in Miami with the jewel theft cases, as well as New York.

I was not interested in becoming a Supervisor. I wasn't even a Relief Supervisor. I was enjoying so much taking cases to court and working cases on the street. And so, I didn't want a desk job. And we knew, the word got around, they were going to open this new criminal desk and I didn't put a pitch in. I just remained silent.

And the SAC called me in one day and said we're forming a new criminal desk and you're gonna be the Supervisor. And I knew several other guys had put in memos asking for the desk.

I told the SAC, "I'm not even a Relief Supervisor." "I'm making you a Relief Supervisor today." So, at any rate, that's how I got the criminal desk there.

Baber: Where did you go from Miami?

Beane: From Miami I was transferred back to Headquarters. After the Mackle case, as a matter of fact. We'll get to that later. But after the Mackle case, Rex Schroeder, Criminal Division Section Chief, called and said I'd like you to come up and take over the Kidnapping Desk in the Criminal Division, which I did. And eventually that was in, I think it was in February or March 1969. One of the Mackle kidnapers had not yet been caught. She was the first woman ever to go on the Top Ten fugitive list. Ruth Eisemann-Schier, one of the kidnapers of Barbara Mackle.

Baber: And how long were you at the Bureau?

Beane: I was there about 18 months. And then I went off to Counsel a class of New Agents. I worked the Kidnapping Desk for a year. I went on the Inspection staff and that was cut kind of short for me. I think I did 9 months on the staff and then they sent me out as an ASAC to Houston.

I served in Houston for 2 years. After two years in Houston, I got a call from Jim Adams, the head of the Administrative Division, and he says, "Bill, we're transferring you to Newark, New Jersey, as the ASAC." I was very disturbed about that because I had served my whole career in large field offices.

He said, "We want to put you in another big office." (That was the policy at the time.) You were in Houston, big office, big city. Newark, and then you had to go there. And I said, "Well how about the guys serving in Norfolk and El Paso and the field offices who never get into a big office. Why don't you send them to get some experience?" He said, "It's none of your business."

You've always worked in New York and Chicago and Houston, so you're a big office person, that's what he's telling me. I was angry. So anyway, I went. And I was there in Newark for like, I think it was 4 months. Got a call from the Director, himself, giving me a battlefield commission as SAC to San Juan. So I packed up the kids, we barely emptied all the boxes in Newark and went down to Puerto Rico for a couple of years. Now, John, you recall I had five small kids at this time. Uprooting these kids was difficult.

You sign a contract, you know, in San Juan, I think for three years or something.

Beane: After almost two years in San Juan, I got a call from the Director again and he says, we have an opening in New York for which you're ideally suited and we want you to return as the SAC of the Criminal Division in New York. So, I went back to the New York area for the third time in my career. And, I enjoyed it, because as I said earlier, I loved New York.

Baber: And you were taking five kids with you?

Beane: Five kids. Well our sixth kid is the one who was born in Puerto Rico. So now I've got six kids, back to New York and then, of course, when Mr. Callahan left the Bureau service. My wife was the former secretary in the Chicago Division when I married her. She bounced all around the country with me through these transfers and wanted to go home.

When Mr. Callahan resigned from the Bureau, Clarence Kelley called in Dick Held, to be his principal assistant. And Held at that time was the SAC here in Chicago. And my wife said, "This is a golden opportunity. Go down and ask the Director for Chicago and you can take me back home. I'd like to be home near my family for awhile."

I went down to see Clarence that very day, after Callahan had left. We saw it on late news that night.

I went down to FBIHQ the next day to ask Directory Kelley to consider me for SAC Chicago. I told him I've been everywhere you've asked. And I never asked anything. I never fought you on any of these transfers. So he did, indeed, give me Chicago. And, of course, I retired there.

Baber: And you retired in 1978.

Beane: '78. And I think it was February or March.

Baber: And after that you went to work?

Beane: I went to Baxter Labs.

Baber: Baxter Labs?

Beane: Baxter Labs for a couple of years as the worldwide security director. I traveled extensively with them. I was in a lot of cities. Europe and Ireland and the Far East and I still had a young family. I was not completely happy with the arrangement. Job was nice, the company was very good to me.

Beane: But then, a headhunter out of New York called me one day and wanted to talk to me about a position in Chicago, which he billed as a fine position that I'd like. So I talked to him about the job. . .he didn't tell me who the job was with, but it turned out later, I took the exam that they gave me and I got through the whole thing. He said, "OK, the position is with United Airlines, worldwide security director."

And we set up interviews with you with the President and the Chairman of the company. So I went in there, had the interviews and then the headhunter called me and said I'm confident they are going to make the offer to you. And they did, it was much to my liking. The airlines were very close to the Bureau's work with the hijackings and the like.

That was in 1980, early 1980. So I had worked two years with Baxter.

Baber: And you stayed with United Airlines how long?

Beane: I went to United Airlines and then I stayed until my wife passed away. My first wife, former secretary in the Chicago Division, passed away of a brain tumor in 1990, and I still had a 15 year old at home. I said, this is it, I'm gonna leave because I've got responsibility to this child, and the other kids still at home. So I left there and I joined Intertel after awhile, part-time. I was the Vice President of Intertel, a private investigative firm. Many Agents worked there over the years.

Baber: So it's pretty obvious that the end of the FBI is not the end of an interesting life.

Beane: No, it's not. But I enjoyed all my jobs. I'm one of these guys, John, that, I never felt bad about getting up and going to work.

I heard it said just recently by a guy, a motivational speaker was saying, trying to encourage kids to get jobs that they love. "Love it, and if you don't love it, for God sakes do something else. And there is one good thing about it, when you love your job, if you really love what you're doing, you'll never have to work a day in your life." It's a good point.

Baber: You mentioned one thing earlier, when we were first beginning, that when you went to work with the FBI, you had not really considered making it a career. That you thought maybe you would just be in the FBI for a period of time.

Beane: Right.

Baber: What changed your mind?

Beane: Well, I loved the job. I went through training school and I went out there, and like all of us, I was 27 years of age when I joined the Bureau, 26 or 7. I loved the fact that I was working with all guys my own age, most of them were veterans of the war.

Baber: And now, Bill, I want to talk about the Barbara Mackle kidnapping case that you had some experience in. If you would, tell us where you were and how that began? I'd enjoy hearing that.

Beane: The kidnapping of Barbara Mackle in December 1968 was the subject of an interesting case (I.C.) write-up written at FBI Headquarters I.C. #7-12496. (Attached as Addendum B, A Summary Report.)

It characterized this case as perhaps the most bizarre of all kidnappings because it had some very bizarre wrinkles. This young coed, see her photograph here, and I can share these photographs with if you wish. (See Addendum B, #1, An FBI Interlude by William F. Beane.)

Baber: Oh yes, we would appreciate that.

Beane: She was a student at Emory University in Atlanta. Her dad was a very wealthy land developer in Florida.

Her father was the largest land developer in Florida and he developed Marco Island, he developed Key Biscayne, he sold a good bit of the land I understand to Disney when they created Disney World back in the early '60s. So she was the target.

So let me begin with how this thing started. I could do a chrono, but that gets into too much detail. I want to share what my role was in the case. When this case occurred, in December of 1968, this case began. There was a ransom note found at Mr. Mackle's home in Coral Gables, Florida.

The kidnapers had planned it extensively in advance, as most kidnapers do. They wrote the ransom note, which is a 4 page typewritten note, which is a long note. (See Addendum B, #3, Ransom Note.)

I'll share parts of it with you later. He wrote that note, curled it up in a glass tube and went to the Mackle residence in Coral Gables, Florida, one night, quite late at night. This would have been in mid-December, put it under a rock in the garden, where it would be safe.

Beane: Then he commenced to drive up to Atlanta, Georgia, carrying in his vehicle, a Volvo wagon, a coffin-like box that he had built. And he's gonna take this girl, abduct her and bury her in this box underground. Now were you familiar with any of that? Did you see any of that? Those pictures at all?

Baber: No, I didn't, Bill.

Beane: Well, let me share with you, because it's so interesting. These are photographs of the box. Gary Krist. We didn't know who he was at the time. This was the burial site. This is the University of Miami Marine Science Lab where he worked at the time, and he made this box in this trailer on campus. These are FBI pictures taken after FBI agents in Atlanta liberated Barbara from her burial site.

Baber: And you're going to give these pictures?

Beane: Well, I can share some pictures with you, yes.

Baber: And we'll get it back to you, of course.

Beane: Yeah. This coffin-like box was very unique, John. It contained, as you can see, ventilations for her to get air, these hoses came up for air.

He had a sump pump in there, should there be a torrential rain, the sump pump would evacuate the water from the box. It's underground now. The top of the box is about 20 inches under soil. He dug the hole. Put the box in there before he kidnapped Barbara. And the contents of the box are the most intriguing part.

The power was driven by an auto battery. He hooked this all up himself. This was the ventilator and he had a light in the box so that the girl could read. He had written instructions in the box for her. Gary Krist had even tested some of these things. His associate in this kidnapping, Ruth Eisemann-Schier, was a young woman who had graduated with a degree in chemistry from the University of Mexico. She was originally from Tegucigalpa in Honduras and she worked with him. He was living with her at the Marine Institute, she was a student there as he was. They lived together.

Beane: This is a toilet that he had prepared with chemicals, much the same that are used in an aircraft to reduce the odors and so forth. She couldn't sit on this toilet, obviously, but there she had toilet tissue and she had other facilities where she could defecate and drop the fecal matter into this thing, put the lid on and it would kill the odor.

The food stuffs were very carefully selected for their nutritional value and energy levels. He provided her with Kotex sanitary pads.

Baber: He went to that extent?

Beane: Everything, everything. He had this container which was filled with water and he knew that she would go into shock, as anyone would in this environment in the box. This water had a tranquilizer in it, so when you get panicky and you want a drink, your mouth gets dry, she takes a sip of water, not realizing that there is a tranquilizer in the water. It didn't knock her out, but it relaxed her. Recall that his partner was a pharmacist. There's no way a football player could have gotten out of this box. It was bolted down with screws this long, about 30 of them around the compartment where she was locked in.

Baber: I'll be darned.

Beane: And so, he took every precaution. This was a long, flexible plastic straw put in the box so she could drink the water. And she had a pad on which she could lay. In other pictures, you can see that pad. But this is the thing that made this thing so very bizarre and I've got many other pictures of that thing.

But let me share with you, John, part of this ransom note that is just, will blow your mind. It's long. I don't think I'll read the whole thing, but it shows you the detail. I'll give you a copy of this. (See Addendum B, #3.)

Baber: OK.

Beane: This ransom note, incidentally, was plagiarized almost verbatim in the Bronfman kidnapping. The kidnapping of 21 year old Samuel Bronfman II took place in New York City in August 1975, seven years after Barbara Mackle's kidnapping. The Bronfman kidnapper admitted to plagiarizing the Mackle ransom note having found it in a Pulitzer Prize winning book about the Mackle Case by Gene Miller (titled *83 Hours Till Dawn*, published by Doubleday in 1971). Gene passed away recently.

Baber: Oh, it was?

Beane: Gary Krist wrote his own book when he was in prison in Georgia following his conviction for the crime. It was titled, *Life*, published by Olympia Press, 1972. Krist's book is an autobiography.

Baber: Oh!

Beane: He did talk about the trial and so forth at some length. There have been two television motion pictures done. Krist boasted that he made the box so that it would sustain life for at least 7 days, after which the battery would expire. And so, what he did was, he put the ransom note as I said earlier under the rock once he had abducted the girl. I'll tell you how he got her. That's an interesting part of this story. How did the abduction occur? (See Addendum B, #2, Chronological Timetable.)

Barbara was abducted by Krist and Ruth Eisemann-Schier from the Rodeway Motel in Atlanta, George, and taken to the wooded area where the grave had been prepared for her burial. The kidnappers then immediately drove 650 miles back to Miami where they negotiated the \$500,000 ransom payoff. Thereafter, most of the investigation centered in Miami.

Baber: At some point I'd like to place where you first got this case

Beane: OK, let me tell you that. Let me tell you the story. OK. When the case came into the office it went to the ASAC Squad. The ASAC had some very experienced agents on the squad, major criminal cases were handled there. I was on a lesser criminal desk, but, Joe St. Pierre was the case agent. Very experienced agent. Did a marvelous job on the case.

And Joe St. Pierre was using the guys on the ASAC squad primarily. They were on the street most of the time covering the various leads that came up and this went on, I think, for the first four or five very long days.

So the case was first brought to the attention of the FBI after the abduction in Atlanta by the Atlanta police and by Barbara's dad, Robert Mackle, a long time personal acquaintance of Director Hoover.

When Atlanta Agents recovered the girl, it was Mr. Hoover, himself, who went to Barbara's dad, Bob Mackle, and told him we have your daughter back.

And so I just said that as an aside, but while this whole thing was going down, FBIHQ decided to send to Miami, Inspector Rex Schroeder, who was the Chief of the Criminal Division at FBIHQ.

Beane: The Director sent him to Florida immediately to go down there and live with Mr. Mackle. It was Schroeder who was now in charge of the investigation at the Mackle residence. Mackle's a mega, mega millionaire. And Joe St. Pierre was running leads on the street and really coordinating the early days, writing the teletypes. The Bureau wanted daily teletypes, had to get them to Director Hoover.

Baber: So you were in a position at the office as ASAC, when the first word came in of the kidnapping?

Beane: No, I was a Criminal Squad supervisor. But I knew what was going on in the first few days, even though it was an ASAC Squad operation.

Let me fill you in on the time leading up to my more heavy involvement in the investigation.

Barbara was abducted from the Rodeway Motel in Atlanta at about 4. a.m. on December 17, 1968. Gary Krist was captured in a swamp on Hog Island, Florida, at 12:10 a.m., December 22, 1968. A period of only five days had elapsed from kidnapping to capture of the principal kidnapper. His associate, Ruth Eisemann-Schier, the first woman ever placed on the FBI's Top Ten fugitive list, was still at large.

SA Joe St. Pierre and the ASAC's squad had worked almost around the clock during this period. On or about December 18th, I was assigned to supervise a night shift of agents from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., to cover leads that arose, to give some limited relief to the ASAC's squad. SA Joe St. Pierre and his agents covered the high priority leads such as those related to the two ransom payoffs. The first of which, on December 18th, resulted in the abandonment of the \$500,000 ransom money by Krist after the Miami Police were watching an illegally parked Volvo station wagon on Biscayne Bay.

The police, who knew nothing of the payoff attempt, saw a man about 5 p.m., carrying a large suitcase walking toward the Volvo. When this man spotted the officers, he dropped the suitcase and ran. The officers pursued him but Krist escaped. The suitcase containing all the ransom money was turned over to FBI Agents. More importantly, the Volvo was Krist's car and contained a mother load of incriminating evidence against both kidnappers, (more about this later). The second payoff at about 11:30 p.m. on December 19, 1968, which was not covered by Bureau Agents at Mr. Mackle's request, successfully delivered the money to Krist.

Beane: I just want to show you some of that activity. These things were toward the end of the investigation. So here's what happened. As I said, the ransom note was placed under the rock and Krist, after he abducted the girl, buried her in the ground. He telephoned from Georgia, to the Mackle residence.

He had all the phone numbers. He had the phone numbers of the residence. He had the phone numbers of the parish priest. He knew who the parish priest was. Some of the calls were made to him. We only had phone taps on Mackle's phone, but the calls from the kidnapper sometimes didn't go right to Mackle, they went elsewhere.

Baber: So, obviously Krist had researched the family habits thoroughly.

Beane: He'd done a lot of research. And he selected a girl who he thought was mature enough to sustain this ordeal and come out of it in one piece, which she did. She was a rich kid and her father gave her expensive cars. She wouldn't take those to school. She wanted to be low key at Emory University, which is a rich kid's school.

So at any rate, let's go back, Krist plants the note, he goes up to Atlanta, now he's got to find the girl. He goes up and he finds out at Emory University, where her dorm is but she wasn't in her dorm. And they couldn't find Barbara. So he began inquiring everywhere among Deans and faculty people, anybody you could ask. Where is Barbara Mackle? It's important I find her.

Krist was wearing a full beard when he was making those inquiries at Emory.

Baber: Yeah, that's the picture of Krist that you have that's the night before driving to Atlanta? December 12, December 12, 1968.

Beane: He had a heavy beard. He's 24 years old, huge man, 6-2, 235 pounds and his helper, Ruth Eisemann-Schier, (we thought she was a boy at first), she's 5-1, about 100 pounds, if that. She's a pharmacologist, with a degree in Chemistry, we learned later, from the University of Mexico.

Baber: Uh, huh.

Beane: When he was at Emory University, he searching around to find out where the girl was. And finally he discovered that she's ill. It was exam week and she's staying at the Rodeway Motel with her mother.

Beane: Her mother came up from Florida to stay with her and nurse her and she would drive her over to the class for exams and bring her back to the Motel. She had the flu or something. So Krist finds out she's at the Rodeway Motel. And he says, how are we going to get her out of the Motel.

So he began thinking about that and he verified she was at the Rodeway. So about midnight he goes to the coffee shop to get a bite to eat, full beard and all. Many people remembered him at the University and remembered his Volvo car and all of that. He noticed there was a police officer sitting at the counter who had put his police hat on the hook near the door, so on the way out of the door, Krist picked the cap right off of the hook and walked out with it.

The cop had his back to the door. Krist told his partner (Eisemann-Schier) that we're gonna make the move and grab the girl now. And he had buried the coffin. They'd worked all day, the day before, burying the coffin. It was all buried and camouflaged. Up in a very remote area. It took Atlanta Agents three hours of searching to find it, even after Krist had given them directions to where it was.

Baber: Those were the agents out of Atlanta?

Beane: Yes, Atlanta.

Baber: While you were in Miami?

Beane: We were in Miami. All the ransom negotiations were done in Miami and the Bureau designated Miami as the Office of Origin because that's where the pursuit of the fugitive's was, that's where the ransom was being paid, that's where the victim's parents lived, so we were made origin, very unusual situation.

Just before the abduction, Krist decides to shave his beard since he was going to wear his newly acquired Policeman's hat to impersonate a police officer in order to get into Barbara's room. He told Ruth Eisemann-Schier that policemen don't wear beards. About 4 a.m., December 17, 1968, Krist and Ruth go to the Rodeway Motel. Ruth has a hypodermic needle with tranquilizer in it. And he's got a cloth filled with chloroform, which she had prepared for him. He knew Barbara was in there with her mother. He knocked on the door. Barbara and her mother were both in bed.

Mrs. Mackle got up and said, "Who, who is it?" "It's police officers ma'am."

Beane: "Your daughter's boyfriend has been in a serious accident." His name was Woodward. And Krist knew this. (I think it was Steve Woodward or something like that.) And Barbara said, "Don't open the door." He knows your boyfriend's name, said he's been injured in an automobile accident and they wanted you . . . she said, "Well open the door."

They opened the door, he's carrying a carbine. He bursts into the door, the girl behind him. Threw the mother on the couch and told her be quiet. And he puts the chloroform on her and says just be quiet, no one's going to get hurt. He chloroformed the mother and tied her up with Venetian blinds cord he brought with him.

Barbara's in her nightgown. It's cold. They took Barbara, walked her out of the place, out of the motel, left her mother there, who is really feigning unconsciousness, but she was really OK, a little groggy. While on the way to the burial site, Eisemann-Schier injected Barbara with the tranquilizer.

So, now we're at the point where Barbara has been buried. They told her when they left her in the hole, not to struggle to get out of this box. "You'll never get out. You'll never get out."

Prior to leaving the burial site, Krist took some Polaroid photos of Barbara lying on the ground in her nightgown. He insisted that she smile for her father as this photo would be sent to Mr. Mackle.

And we verified that when we got the coffin-like box back to the FBI Laboratory. A 300 pound football player couldn't have gotten out of that box with all the screws on it. It was really tight.

Baber: Amazing they did all that.

Beane: Yeah, so don't struggle, they told her. Said we're going to be watching you. When we watch you, we check on you every couple of hours. It's got air, you got light in here, you got written instructions on how the box works; don't use the lights too much because it will weaken the battery. You've got plenty of air coming in, the rain, got a sump pump in there and all those things. Every precaution to keep her alive.

But he didn't watch her at all. He got in his car, this is the Volvo, that he drove up to Atlanta with the box sticking out of the tail end. Drove it up and buried it that day before the abduction and when he was driving around the University, it wasn't visible because they'd already buried it.

Baber: Yeah.

Beane: And ready to seize their victim. So what did they do after they buried her? They got in his car and they headed south to Miami, drove all night – 650 miles! All we had was a vague description of this car. We didn't have a license plate number or anything, but it was a wagon like this with a man and a young boy (the witnesses thought at the time).

Baber: And where did that description come from, Bill, do you remember?

Beane: Well, some of it came from Mrs. Mackle. She got a glancing view of the kidnapers. They thought it was a little boy because Ruth Schier was a tiny little bit of a girl. Five feet and weighed 100 pounds or less. And so, that's what we were looking for.

They put an APB out, up and down the Florida turnpike and when Krist heard that on the radio, he had her get in the back seat and crawl down so there'd be only one person in the car. He put a blanket over her and he was never stopped.

Baber: He had a police radio in his car?

Beane: No, no, just a radio. This kidnapping was all over the news media by now. Remember, Barbara was the daughter of the largest land developer in Florida.

Baber: I see.

Beane: Because of Mackle's prominence in the community, he was Mr. Florida. He's dead now, but he was a kingpin. And, at any rate, he just heard it on the regular radio. He didn't have a police radio at the time. So, they get to the car and after the abduction they come to Florida and then they went through the usual things. They called the Mackle home and said. "Did you get my note?" The ransom note.

"Yes, they got the note." And Mackle said, "Please don't hurt my daughter."

The four typewritten page ransom note is perhaps the most bizarre aspect of this case. It was so very terrifying in its specificity about burying Barbara alive in a coffin-like box with a ventilating system powered by a battery that would expire in seven days. If the \$500,000 ransom is not paid within the life of the battery, Barbara would surely die.

Beane: I suggest that anyone studying this case should positively read the entire ransom note, which is attached. It is also important because the ransom note used in the Bronfman kidnapping case in New York City in 1975 was almost a carbon copy.

Baber: Can I interrupt you Bill?

Beane: Yes.

Baber: Because we will have a copy of the ransom note, I'm wondering if we can get to when it was received.

Beane: The ransom note was buried in Mackle's garden prior to the kidnapping by the kidnapper. Following Barbara's abduction and burial in the early a.m. hours of December 17, Krist called the Mackle resident and gave instructions as to the location of the ransom note. Special Agent Joe St. Pierre located the note in Mackle's garden.

The note was just incredible. So we didn't believe it. So then now comes the night of the first payoff, they had arranged. The payoff call to the Mackle residence. They told Mr. Mackle. And Rex Schroeder was there at the house with him now. They're monitoring and they're taking these calls. They said, "We want you to get in your car and go to the Fair Isle Bridge. And I'll show you a picture of the Fair Isle Bridge so you get a picture of what it looks like. Mackle never heard of the Fair Isle Bridge, but it's a tiny pedestrian bridge near Biscayne Bay. It looks like this. (See photo Addendum B, #1.)

Baber: So when did he call the FBI?

Beane: Mrs. Mackle notified the Atlanta Police and called her husband, Bob Mackle, in Coral Gables (part of greater Miami) and he called the FBI in Miami. Bob was personally acquainted with Director Hoover.

Baber: I would imagine his wife called him? He was in Miami, wasn't he?

Beane: Yeah. The police got involved up there in Atlanta. She finally got loose and went down and leaned on the car horn of a car until somebody came out to help her. She was gagged and bound and they untied her and she said, you know, get the police.

And the police up in Georgia came and then, because of Mackle's acquaintance with Hoover, the FBI got involved early on.

Baber: So she had to notify the authorities. There wasn't a question about that, notifying the FBI?

Beane: No, the Miami police weren't aware of this however, but the Atlanta police were.

There's a low wall near the beginning of the Fair Isle Pedestrian Bridge to prevent vehicular. Mr. Mackle got instructions that were pretty clear and what he said was 'go to the Fair Isle Bridge and go to that wall. At that wall, you'll see a blinking light and then you will see a box beside the wall. Drop the suitcase in the box and leave.' Krist was down below in a boat, down below the bridge, and had a rope tied to the box so he could pull the box into the boat and escape by water. His plan failed because the blinking light malfunctioned.

Baber: Oh, I see.

Beane: He had stolen that boat over at Rickenbacker Causeway. And he rowed over under the Fair Isle Bridge but the light failed. Mackle couldn't see the light. But then he put the suitcase over the wall anyway. The suitcase full of money.

Mackle returned home. And Krist called him again. Said look, 'I didn't get the money, where are you?' 'I couldn't find you. I didn't see any blinking lights? And you know, I put the money over there anyhow.' So Krist went back and got the money, the suitcase containing \$500,000.

So the Miami police, who were totally unaware of the ransom payoff, were down in a park right near the Fair Isle Bridge and saw this car parked illegally and the park had closed at 10 o'clock at night. Now it is in the early morning hours of December 19th.

What's this Volvo station wagon doing here? Shouldn't be here. And they investigated, they looked at it and they see a lot of personal effects in there and it had a Massachusetts plate on it.

Another wrinkle is, Krist was so brilliant. He had a job we confirmed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as a research analyst. They said he's available for rehire since he was an outstanding employee. Twenty-four years old. Never graduated from high school. This Volvo had Massachusetts plates, registered to George Deacon in Massachusetts.

Beane: So pretty soon they see a person coming up, carrying a heavy suitcase, over the lawn, now in the early a.m. And the cops said 'hey.' They said, "Hold it, freeze there." Krist had a carbine with him. He didn't fire it, but he dropped the suitcase and started running.

Baber: He dropped the suitcase with the money?

Beane: Yeah. And started running. Big as he was, he was fast and the cops pursued and there were some shots fired. I don't think the cops were fired upon, but they fired at him. He's getting away and they didn't know what the suitcase was. They called for backup and the cops came and put that suitcase on top of his car just 'til everything settled down. And there was an embankment going down to the roadway, not a major roadway, and it had a barbed wire over the top of the fence. Krist, on the dead run, jumped over the top of the fence beside the road. He failed to clear that fence. It caught him in his crotch, tore his trousers and ripped his scrotum but he kept running.

We immediately put agents at every hospital in the area. In the emergency rooms. If the guy was shot, the cops thought he hit him. And we said, "Stake it out and see if this guy shows up." I think three hospitals were involved. He has no car now. He's on foot.

Baber: And you still don't know who he is?

Beane: We had no idea who he was.

He had shaved his beard off completely. Now he's clean-shaven, so he doesn't look like he did at Emory. See. Now, if he comes in the hospital, we don't have any pictures of him. In these pictures we found in this van, he wore a full beard.

Baber: Oh, I see.

Beane: A wealth of incriminating evidence was found in the Volvo by search warrant. Copies of the kidnap victim photographs at the burial site were found in the van. Polaroid cameras in the van, the getaway airplane tickets are in the van. A copy of the ransom note was also found in the Volvo.

Baber: So you learned more at that point than anywhere?

Beane: Oh, when we got a search warrant for his car, it was a mother load of incriminating evidence. After injuring himself, he did go to a hospital but not for a gunshot wound. He's clean-shaven and we were looking for a bearded guy, because that's what all the witnesses up in Atlanta said, he had a full beard.

He walked in and the doctor and he said, "Hey I had an accident. I cut my scrotum." The doctor put six stitches in it and said, "OK, yeah, you're fortunate. You're bleeding a lot." Then he said, "OK, what are you going to do now?" "Well, I'm traveling, so I've got to get out of town."

And so, he said, "Well you have to come back in four days to get the stitches removed." "No," Krist said, "give me a suture removal kit, I can remove them." And, so he did. And Krist took off. And we confirmed that later. But we didn't know at the time. The agents were there in the emergency room and he walked in and out and got his scrotum sewed up and then took off.

Baber: Yeah, yeah.

Beane: And he was looking then for Ruth at the pre-arranged site for their rendezvous. At the Fair Isle Bridge, she was instructed, she had a handie talkie radio back there. She was instructed to radio Krist from her lookout position and tell him when Mr. Mackle arrived. And, of course, she never saw him, but she heard the shots. She was in a nearby yard where she had a view of the Fair Isle Bridge.

She had a handie talkie. After running from her lookout post, Ruth threw her handie talkie into a nearby field. We had recovered Krist's companion handie talkie radio along the way. So we asked the local Miami papers to run a photo of it and solicit the public's in help finding Ruth's radio. A local parent called to advise that his child found it in a field on the way to school and turned it over to us. No prints were found on the case but Krist's partial print was on a battery inside!

When Ruth heard the shooting, she took off. She got scared and she ran down and showed up at the library in Miami which we found out later. Then she got on a Greyhound bus and went off to Houston. More later about Ruth in Houston.

Baber: Don't you consider it strange that with all the elaborate planning that he did that he would park his car in that spot?

Beane: Yeah. It was dumb. It was dumb. There was a gate on the park. It said 'this park is closed at 10 pm.'

Beane: So it worked out well, the cops happened there by happenstance. And so at any rate, now our real problem was to re-establish contact with the kidnapers. It was decided to contact him again via the newspaper. There were several newspaper ads put in, by the kidnapper and by Mackle for previous contacts. An ad was placed to the effect: "Please contact me again. I had nothing to do with the police finding your car there. It was a sheer accident. I had nothing to do with it." Signed: Robert Mackle.

Baber: So that was published in the newspaper?

Beane: Oh, yeah. Yeah, and Krist saw it and responded by phone to Mackle's parish priest and a second payoff was arranged. Ruth Eisemann-Schier is long gone now. He had no one helping him now.

A confidante of the Mackle family assisted Mr. Mackle with the second payment arranged through the priest.

The second payoff was late at night on December 19 on a dark dirt road just two miles off the Tamiami Trail, which connects Miami to Naples on Florida's West Coast. The ransom money was dropped off as instructed by Krist at about 11:45 p.m. on December 19.

And, whether or not an FBI agent was there or not, I really can't testify, but the FBI didn't make any moves during the second payoff. Mackle didn't want us to get involved. He said, "This guy's going to get the money and I feel he's gonna come through." So at any rate, the money is paid.

Baber: Was it \$500,000 this time?

Beane: 500 grand. 500 grand. Meanwhile, when Krist jumped that fence and got cut up and got his stitches and stuff, he went out to the Miami Airport by taxi. He tried twice to find Ruth, but couldn't find her. She wasn't at the prearranged rendezvous place. He just left his abandoned boat that he stole, he left that there and we found his handy talkie in that boat. So then, what did he do then?

Beane: He went to the airport and got a refund for his airline ticket to Chicago. He had earlier bought airline tickets to Chicago, but they were in the Volvo. They had planned to get on the plane that night and he had to change plans because she's gone and they were gonna get out of town that night or when they got the money. It didn't work.

So we found their original tickets in the Volvo. So, Krist rented a car. A little green Ford and he drove up to Palm Beach, with the ransom money, it's all marked, of course. He goes to Palm Beach where he goes to a marina early in the afternoon of the next day, December 20, to buy a small motor boat.

John, let me digress here to fill you in on what was going on up in Atlanta simultaneous to Krist's arrival in Palm Beach. Then, we'll return to the boar purchase by Krist.

About 1 p.m., December 20, 1968, Krist made an anonymous phone call from a public phone in Palm Beach to the FBI Atlanta Office. The switchboard operator answered. Her name was Thelma Poindexter. I never forgot her name. She was an elderly woman. I mean only 55 or so. Wasn't a girl. And he got on the phone and said, "This is Barbara Mackle's kidnapper and I'm going to give you directions to where the girl is buried."

And Thelma got panicky. She said, "I'll get you an agent." "No, no don't give me an agent. I'm going to hang up if you give me an agent. I'm only going to say it one time. You listen to me carefully. Forget all your other calls. Listen to me. Write it down." This was an anonymous caller who gave this Atlanta FBI switchboard operator the location where he and Ruth buried the "capsule," as he called it, containing Barbara Mackle. The directions he gave were not perfect but as precise as he could recall. It was in the Narcross, Georgia area. Thelma did a great job considering the stress she was under.

A large contingent of Bureau Agents hurried to the scene. And everybody's excited. Get up there and search these woods. They searched for hours. Couldn't see much as it was so densely wooded. Finally, one Georgia-bred Agent, who probably spent time in the woods, was walking through, late, it was dark now, he saw some red clay on top of the foliage. The camouflage, if you will. There's something wrong here. This is freshly dug soil right here, that's right. And it was getting dark.

Beane: He hollered to the guys, 'get over here, get over here.' And they pulled the brush back down and they could clearly see there was a lot of red soil on there and it had recently been dug and all the brush there was camouflage. They saw the hoses coming out of the box and they began calling her name out. Loud, shouting, "We're the FBI! Barbara! Barbara!" And they heard from down in the ground, a banging sound, that she made hitting the top of the box. The Agents had no shovels.

Baber: Well, you wouldn't have any.

Beane: No, at any rate, they were digging with tire irons and hands. Figure the dirt was all loose because it hadn't settled. So they were digging with their hands, sticks and anything they could find and tire irons to pry the board off. They pry open the battery compartment first. They didn't know which compartment she was buried in.

See this is the compartment there where air hoses are, but that's not where she's buried in there. That's the sleeping compartment there and they opened this one. Then they had to open the other one. And they opened that one and she was in there. She said, "I've never been so happy to see you guys as anyone in my life." She was very frail. They picked her up and took her to an agent's home nearby.

Got a doctor there immediately from the University or somewhere. He examined her and she told the agents that she sang every hymn she ever knew. All the hymns in church. But it was really, that part of it was just so terribly exciting to get her out of that hole. I wasn't up there when they got her out.

Baber: Oh, you were at Atlanta then?

Beane: No, no. I didn't go to Atlanta. The Atlanta Office was doing that. This office, we were handling everything with reference to the ransom payoff. And the search now for Ruth Eisemann-Schier began a long drawn out investigation, and basically we struck out. We did find that she was at the Miami library and we did find that she got on a Greyhound bus out of town.

Let's return now to Krist at the Palm Beach Marina where he is purchasing a boat.

Baber: OK.

Beane: During this time, December 17 to 20, the Mackle case is getting massive publicity in newspapers and on TV. An alert boat salesman at the Palm Beach Marina called the Palm Beach FBI Office and advised that a man using the name of Horowitz, who generally met the description of Krist, purchased a small power boat from him earlier in the day (12/20) for \$2,239 and paid cash for it in twenty dollar bills. The Bureau Agents asked if the boat had been delivered and were told delivery had been made in early afternoon that day. The cash paid was examined and confirmed on the spot as part of the ransom money.

The boat salesman positively identified a photo of Krist as the purchaser. Also, a nearby hotel clerk advised that a man fitting Krist's description but using the name of Art Horowitz had checked in at 9:30 a.m. and was driving a late model green Ford. He paid \$6 rent for one day in advance.

The boat salesman said Krist purchased marine charts for the Bahamian Islands and asked directions to the nearest outlet to the Atlantic Ocean. Krist was last seen by the salesman about 2:30 p.m. driving his new boat north bound on the Intercoastal Waterway out of Palm Beach.

Krist asked for the nearest inlet to go out to the Atlantic. Would it be the Palm Beach inlet or the Fort Lauderdale inlet? Outside the intercoastal waterway. And so, we put planes up but couldn't find him anywhere on the waterway or out in the ocean. Took two airplanes up searching and at nightfall we called the aerial search off until daybreak on December 21.

So Schroeder, I guess, speculated that Krist took those papers for the Bahamas but he's not gonna go to the Bahamas. That's just to throw us off. I'm gonna suggest he went the other way, toward the west coast of Florida, via the Okeechobee Waterway Canal and Lake Okeechobee which terminates at Cape Coral on Florida's West Coast..

Baber: Makes sense.

Beane: And we didn't have any photos of the boat. So I told our guys to go to that boat dealer tonight and get color photographs of that boat. They'll be in the catalog.

Get them tonight. The Palm Beach Agent learned the boat dealer was closed. I instructed the Agents to get the dealer out of bed and get those pictures. Bring the boat photos down here immediately and make about 40 copies of them. Color picture of that boat so we'll know what we're looking for in the morning.

Beane: And they did. They got the guy out of bed. He was very angry but he complied. Now the other guy was just a salesman. So at any rate, they got the pictures and we took the planes up the next morning at daybreak. Agents who worked Palm Beach, Johnny Atwater and those guys, they knew the Okeechobee waterway had locks. The locks close down at 9 o'clock at night.

Baber: Oh, yeah.

Beane: And so he's trapped. And so the Palm Beach Agents drove to Lake Okeechobee, which is right in the center of Florida. They looked at the locks around there and asked, "Have you seen anything like this guy?" Yeah, they said he tried to get out of here last night but he was trapped.

When he got through one lock to get in Okeechobee into the lake, but the lock on the other side was closed. So he just sat there. In his boat all night. The morning came and he's gone again. And so we knew, and we showed witnesses pictures of the boat, 'yeah, that's the guy and his boat. One guy all by himself. Had a big duffel bag in there.'

At this point, Schroeder called me and says, "Get a fixed wing aircraft from Coast Guard, right away. I'm leaving and I'm coming to the airport and you and I are going to get in that plane and going to fly over there." And we did. I went over with Schroeder. And there were a lot of Agents over there. I mean they had guys coming from as far away as Jacksonville. Krist had been put on the FBI's Top Ten fugitive list on December 20, 1968.

And we saw this guy take that boat, I didn't personally because I wasn't there at the time, but the guys ahead of us, who were in contact with the agents who were in the other plane. SAC Joe Santoiana was out there, with all his guys. Krist rammed his boat aground at high speed into what he thought was land mass. He grabbed a mess of money from the duffel bag and stuffed it in his shirt and waded ashore.

He didn't know it was Hog Island. Hog Island from the air is clearly an island and it's a swampy place, full of snakes and gators. I said, "No way he's gonna get out of there." I was in the plane and Rex said, "Jeez." And Rex wired down, "Get some state police cars and put them on the landside because, if he got all the way through that swamp, it was about 100 yards of additional water, deep water to the shore and he'd be free.

Beane: State Police put a couple of cop cars there. And the cop cars stayed there most of the night. And then they got local police involved, who were familiar with the alligators and that sort of thing. Krist's boat, with the motor running, it was idling, with \$479,000 in it. And he only had \$20,000 or something in his pocket. And we accounted for every penny of the ransom money including the purchase price of the boat for \$2,300. Ultimately, Mr. Mackle gave the boat to the sheriff's department over there in Port Charlotte.

When Rex Schroeder and I arrived by plane in the Hog Island area, it was early or mid-afternoon on December 21. Each of us had two-way portable radios. Rex radioed to Agents on the ground to pick him up when we landed. He instructed me to remain in the plane and circle Hog Island until Krist was taken into custody. I did so and returned to Miami with the pilot at about 11:30 p.m. I stayed in contact with Rex by radio.

We tried to get airboats onto Hog Island but the swamp was too dense so we couldn't use airboats in there.

And so a lot of agents made claims for their clothing and there was always the loss and everything, but the Bureau, you know, refunded the losses to them. There was no problem.

But the guys who actually caught Krist were a couple of local sheriffs. They got in the water also. They were very clever since they used to hunt gators. They were poachers.

Baber: Sure.

Beane: And they knew that if Krist was in the water up to his chest, some of the agents were in deep water also.

Baber: Wow.

Beane: Going through the swamp, the Agents kept themselves afloat by using little shrubs and trees. The Sheriff said, "If you flash a light at a gator in the dark of night, they'll turn around and go the other way." They tried this technique on Krist using big flashlights. And they put guys over on the other side.

And they flashed their lights and they never saw Krist half underwater and probably hiding in some bushes in the swamp, but Krist did turn around and walk right into the arms of the deputies who were right behind him.

Beane: So as these lights were coming toward him, he turned around, walked right into the guys who grabbed him. And they hollered out in the middle of the night that 'we got him, we got him.' Then Schroeder got in the act and said, "You've got him for now, but we're taking him." And they did take him and they locked him up, and he was absolutely fatigued. He was just drained of energy, almost in a state of collapse.

Baber: What happened to Krist's accomplice?

Beane: As I mentioned earlier, Ruth was a lookout at the scene of the first payoff attempt, which was thwarted by the Miami Police during which the police fired a few shots at Krist as he fled. Ruth heard the shots, dropped her handie talkie, became frightened and fled the scene herself. She also was now a Top Ten fugitive (the first ever female on the list).

Much of what follows was obtained by me in a two-day interview of her in Oklahoma following her arrest there by Bureau Agents. This interview resulted in a 26-page signed statement in English and in Spanish (her mother tongue). We learned before her arrest that she hurriedly left Miami by Greyhound Bus but did not know her destination.

She told us this after we caught her, that the bus taking her to Houston had a very sick person on it. It was traveling due west from Florida and they had to stop the bus on the highway and transfer a passenger to the ambulance. And when Schier woke up, they were stopping the bus to get the sick person off and she feared the police were stopping it to arrest her.

Baber: Oh.

Beane: But she got back on the bus and went on and we didn't hear much from her then at all. But her passport, all her IDs and everything were in the Volvo van now in the hands of FBI Miami. She didn't have any ID at all.

Baber: In the Volvo?

Beane: But she went to Houston and she became a housekeeper. She conned herself into a job as a housemaid and a nanny, if you will. And she worked there for a couple of months. She didn't want to get any job where she had to submit to fingerprinting because she said that would blow her cover.

Baber: Yeah.

Beane: And she was a, I'll show you the IO's here, John. She was the first woman ever to be put on the Top Ten. They were both Top Ten fugitives.

Baber: Ruth Eisemann-Schier? Yes.

Beane: And they printed the wanted flyers and the IO's in English and Spanish. This is in Spanish. These are early pictures that I found in a little camera left in the Volvo. I had them developed. That's a great picture of her.

We placed it on the IOs. We used this recent picture of her taken aboard an exploratory vessel of the Miami Marine Institute where she and Krist worked just prior to the kidnapping. Krist most probably took the photo as they were lovers and he was working on the cruise with her.

Baber: Yeah. Did you ever interview Krist?

Beane: No. I interviewed the girl.

Baber: You interviewed the girl.

Beane: Ruth's employer in Houston asked Ruth, after she had worked for him during January and February 1960, to get a driver's license so she could take his children to and from school. She knew application for such a license in Texas required finger printing. She knew this jeopardized her anonymity and balked at the idea. She explained she would consider it after returning from a weekend trip to San Antonio to visit friends. She left the next day with no intention of returning and took a bus to Norman, Oklahoma in late February 1969.

The girl eventually, John, the girl - she had some background. She was a pharmacist with a degree in chemistry. So she applied for a job at Norman, Oklahoma, for a job in the pharmacy department at a state hospital. This is three months later now, this is like in March, I think. They said, "Well you've gotta submit to fingerprints."

Well, it was too late to turn back. She couldn't turn back then. And so she went ahead and got fingerprinted. And a cop in Oklahoma, just routinely, anytime they ran fingerprints like this, he would check them against the Top Ten fugitives. And he checked it and said, "That girl is Ruth Eisemann-Schier."

Baber: What name was she using, do you know?

Beane: She was using the name Donna Wills.

It's all in this thing here. There was big excitement at FBI Headquarters. When I got to FBI Headquarters to take the kidnapping desk, I had written a 600-page report. The prosecutive summary. It was this thick, John. And I signed it out of Miami.

When I got to the Bureau in February, Rex Schroeder took me back to my desk and said, "Bill this is your desk and that's that masterpiece you sent up here that no one's gonna read, so you can sign that into the Bureau." (chuckle)

Baber: Well, you said that you interviewed Ruth? Under what conditions. How did you get to interview her?

Beane: Well let me tell you. That's an interesting story. I'm there and we got the word very quickly, when Ruth was caught. It was in all the newspapers and you'd see it everywhere. On the radio. "Call Oklahoma City." John Byrnes was the SAC up there and he called in and Rosen or DeLoach or somebody called him.

That's how high this thing was at the Bureau, because Hoover's personally acquainted with Robert Mackle and wanted to advise him that Ruth had been arrested.

And Rosen knew I was there in the Headquarters. And they said, "Well John Byrnes called and said he doesn't have anything in his files on the Mackle case."

And so, when I ran into Schroeder, I said, "For God sakes, let me go out there. I'll get on a plane right now. Get me to the airport and I'll go now and interview the girl." Oh, yeah you should go but Rosen says. . . I went in to see Rosen and Rosen says, 'Bill, why don't you call John Byrnes and tell her some questions to ask her?'"

"Mr. Rosen, this is a terribly complicated case. I mean I wrote a 600-page report. I could give her a thorough review, an interview if I go out there. She spoke Spanish. I spoke Spanish, enough to get by. But she spoke English as well." So, oh he was so adamant and about that time DeLoach barged right through the door. This is like 5 o'clock.

Beane: "Al, the Director wants to know who you're sending to Oklahoma City?"
"We were just talking about that now. Bill was on the case in Miami and he's the best expert we have here. Get on the airplane, get on the airplane. So Bill, don't go home, don't go home. Get on the airplane tonight and buy anything you need out in Oklahoma City when you get there and it'll all be reimbursed. I'll have a Washington Field car come over and pick you up."

Well in 15 minutes the car was downstairs. And I get in the car, took me to Dulles and I was on my way. And then we interviewed the girl, we were there at the hearing, and Gene Miller and all the press from Miami was out there. Gene, my good friend who wrote this book on the Mackle case, he was out there. And there was a tremendous amount of press in the courtroom. This arrest got big press in the papers in Oklahoma City.

Baber: What I'm interested in, Bill, is what it was like to interview her?

Beane: Well, she was very, I thought, remorseful. She was very remorseful.

Baber: Did she explain how she got into this thing?

Beane: She was shackled up with him on the boat. They went, the two of them went on a marine excursion for the Marine Institute of Miami University. They were enrolled in oceanographic school there in Miami. And Krist came down from MIT, takes a job as an analyst at the Marine Institute. She also was there as a student.

And she went on this cruise, out in this boat up to Bermuda with Krist. And they became very friendly. He told her that he was planning a kidnapping and he's looking for the right victim and she was intrigued by it and he says I think I have the girl in mind.

And she was there when he was making this box. Took him about four weeks to make the box. She got in the box and laid in it one night for several hours to test it. Ruth did.

Baber: And she had never been involved in any criminal activity at all?

Beane: No, no, no, no. She's a young, naïve girl, and he was only 24. But that's the way that thing wrapped up. And I interviewed her and I remember talking to the Judge. She had a lawyer there. He said, "I'm representing this girl and we don't want her interviewed by anyone without my being present."

Beane: And the Judge kind of looked and stared. I said, "You know, if I may, we will give her the Miranda warning. And it's her option. She can speak if she wishes. I mean we're under no guarantee that she will talk without her lawyer there." And the Judge went along with that and said, "Well that's right. She'll be properly warned and, if she wishes to talk that's her option, not yours counselor." And so that's how we got the interview.

John Byrnes was with me and he didn't know a damn thing about the case. So I had Jimmy Cloos, who is fluent in Spanish, an agent out there and I took the statement. It was about 26 pages. She gave me every detail of it and I wrote it out in English and she read it and I said, "Now do you understand every word of this, Ruth?" "Yeah, I think so."

"Well, I tell you what I'm gonna do. I'm going to translate it into Spanish." And Jimmy came in and we were there late at night and he translated every word into Spanish, because she's from Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

There she has the Spanish version and the English version and she signed all the waivers and her lawyer, meanwhile, was screaming too high heaven. She wanted to get it over with.

Baber: Yeah. She wasn't the criminal really?

Beane: Well, she was there. She went with him. She helped him lower the girl into the grave.

Baber: Yeah, but I mean, she just got wrapped up in this thing.

Beane: Krist by contrast had a long criminal record. This guy escaped from two prisons in California.

Baber: Oh, my.

Beane: He was raised in Sitka, Alaska. And his mother and father were commercial fishermen. They went out fishing one time when he was like 13 years old. And we knew, we found it out anyway from the police up there. He was hungry, family was at sea fishing and he wanted to get something to eat, so he went to this like 7-Eleven store or grocery store and asked the guy to give him some food and put it on the family tab.

The storekeeper said, "Your mom and dad are overextended by \$300, there's no more credit here." Well, he said, "I'm pretty hungry." He wouldn't give him anything.

Beane: He went back the next day and burned the store right to the ground. Gasoline all over and burned it right to the ground. And he ended up convicted of arson and was put in the penitentiary and later in Tracy, California, for some other thing. He escaped.

Baber: But you said he worked at MIT?

Beane: MIT. He went up and applied for a job as a research analyst before moving to Miami and he was hired. And when we went up to confirm it, the head of his department, faculty member, said, "I'd hire him again tomorrow. The guy is absolutely brilliant."

Now, that having been said, let me show you something that's even more startling than that ransom note. And that is, I've got the thing here, that is the psychiatrist's report, prepared by the Court. Here it is.

The Court ordered a psychiatrist to interview him. The psychiatrist said Krist was a genius. He's just, beyond genius. It's the most extraordinary person I've ever interviewed. This guy never finished high school. He says, for example, he's questioning him about some things. He said, "I would base his IQ to be at the genius level or certainly well above genius category."

"Mr. Krist seems quite well aware of his mental capabilities stating, 'I am a superior human being.' Krist said he never found anyone who could match me in my field at my level. It's due to genetics. It's an offshoot of biologic sports." And then the psychiatrist says, "I found Mr. Krist to be conversant and expert in such areas as physics, crystal growth, diffractions, thermodynamics, electronics, some aspects of biochemistry and history."

The psychiatrist said that Krist could speak authoritatively on physical concepts of absolute temperature and when I asked him to define absolute temperature he gave the figure 273.1642 degrees below centigrade. I was not able to test the correctness, to the exact 4 point decimal, but the encyclopedia has it as 273.15, which is exactly on the money. And he went into all sorts of other things about Plato and Aristotle.

What's the speed of light, the speed of sound, and he just ticked them off one after another. And the psychiatrist said, "I've never encountered a person like this."

Baber: And when did he do all of that? In high school or college?

Beane: Prolific reader. Let me tell you. I'll finish it with this. The story has a bizarre aspect. This thing, the ransom note, the way he was caught, the way he did all these things. At trial, he gave up on the insanity plea. He didn't like his lawyer. Said he'd get another lawyer. I did everything conceivable to keep that girl alive. Everything.

Baber: Which he apparently did.

Beane: And that's what he did. And he kept her alive. He said, "I had no intention of letting her die there. If the old man wouldn't give the money, I'd have gone back and let her out myself." That's hypocritical, but he said, "I went to great lengths and that box worked perfectly." The Lab tested the box and the sump pump and everything they said, was beautifully put together.

A week before his trial, Krist withdrew his plea of insanity and entered a plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity." In May 1969, a jury in DeKalb County, Georgia, found Krist guilty of kidnapping but recommended mercy thereby avoiding the death penalty. He was sentenced to life in prison. Incredibly, Krist was paroled on May 4, 1979 from the Georgia State Prison in Reidsville as a "rehabilitated citizen" and he returned to his parents' home in Alaska. He served only ten years of a life sentence.

Krist tried to escape when he was in prison in Georgia when he jumped in a garbage pile and tried to escape but was caught. Threw him back in the can again. Recall he escaped from prison twice before, escaped twice.

You may recall when President Reagan invaded Grenada. Remember there was a medical school down there: Krist was a highly rated student in that school.

Baber: Yeah.

Beane: They were teaching medicine. Krist was in that school.

Baber: He was?

Beane: He was a medical student. Never had a baccalaureate degree. I don't believe he graduated from high school. He was an excellent student. But they closed the school out and the students came back to the States. Ultimately, Krist completed Medical School in Dominica, passed the State Board exams in Indiana and is practicing medicine in Chrisney, Indiana, about 20 miles east of Evansville. (See Addendum #5 Newspaper story.)

Baber: Is that right?

Beane: You talk about wrinkles. Now, isn't this incredible?

Baber: Yes, it is. Amazing.

Beane: I would love to go see the guy. The people in Chrisney where he's attending patients, said, "We know about his background. He's an outstanding doctor. We love him."

Baber: What happened to Ruth Eisemann-Schier?

Beane: After her arrest in Norman, Oklahoma, she was ordered by the court to be removed to DeKalb, Georgia to stand trial. Before leaving Oklahoma, she furnished a signed statement, on March 21, admitting her involvement in the kidnapping. She initially pleaded "not guilty of kidnapping for ransom." When she appeared in court on March 29, she pleaded "guilty to a reduced charge of kidnapping." She was immediately sentenced to seven years in a Georgia Prison and to be deported to her native Honduras upon completion of her prison term.

When her mother, a dentist in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, was murdered in a robbery of her office in 1974, she had no other living relatives but Ruth. Ruth appealed to the mercy of the court to release her early and deport her at once to Honduras. The court honored her appeal.

**Interview of Former Special Agent of the FBI
William F. Beane
Interviewed by John Baber
On January 27, 2005**

Edited for repetitions, spelling, etc. by Sandra Robinette on June 10, 2005. Final edit with Mr. Beane's corrections completed by Sandra Robinette on February 17, 2006 and February 20, 2006.

**Page 1 of January 27, 2005 Interview
Page 35 of all interviews with Mr. Beane**

Baber: Good morning, Bill. This is John Baber and I'm back in your home in Inverness, Illinois and continuing the oral interview with you that we had on January 24th, 2005, when we talked about the Mackle kidnapping case. You, at that time, signed the intellectual content agreement, as did I, and we will continue under the same guidelines of the interview. And today we would like to talk about the Bronfman kidnapping case and your part in that case and, with that, I'll just let you start talking.

Beane: Well, thank you, John, and good morning to you, as well. John, this Bronfman case was significant for a number of reasons. Let me just say, at the time of this investigation, the time frame was in August of 1975, that, of course, would be 30 years ago. I was assigned as Special Agent in Charge of the Criminal Division in New York City.

There were four divisions in the New York Office, but kidnapping cases, of course, fell within the purview of the Criminal Division. As you know, most kidnapping cases, wherever they occur, the office breaks out all the personnel. There's no holds barred. They bring in RAs and get contiguous field divisions involved. We didn't need to do that in New York because of the large complement of employees there.

But, the way this case began. First, Edgar Bronfman was the son of Samuel. There's this photograph here of this 21-year-old lad. Sam Bronfman II. He was the eldest of 5 children of Edgar Bronfman. Edgar Bronfman is a multi-multi-millionaire. He is the principal stockholder in the Seagram's liquor fortunes. (See Addendum C.)

Seagram's, as you know, manufactures more than Seagram's brands. They manufacture many other brands. Prominent brands of liquor. So that was the source of his money.

Beane: Samuel Bronfman, Edgar's father and his grandfather perhaps, had been in the liquor business since Prohibition years, they were Canadians. And that's where their interest in liquor began. And that's a little background on the Bronfman family.

At 1:45 a.m. on Saturday, August 9, 1975, Samuel Bronfman II, aged 21, who was the oldest of five children of Edgar, he was abducted in front of his home by unknown subjects and was taken away. His home is in Purchase, New York. Purchase, New York, if you're unfamiliar with it, is an extremely affluent community in Westchester County, New York. All Westchester is affluent and Purchase is at the top of the heap. Very well-to-do people.

So he's kidnapped and his father, Edgar, who lived in Yorktown Heights, also in Westchester not far from Purchase, received a telephone call from his son indicating that he had been kidnapped and that the kidnappers would be contacting him later with a ransom demand.

Edgar then called the FBI and involved us very early in the game. I sent the kidnapping supervisor and a number of his people out to explore the immediate leads to determine whether or not this was a bona fide thing or was it a runaway kid trying to extort money from his father.

Well they did the initial investigation and about 4 or 5 hours on a Saturday morning early. And they determined that it was, indeed, a bona fide kidnapping. At that point, I, on Saturday, returned to the office like immediately that morning, as did large numbers of other personnel. We involved the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office and began setting up command posts.

Baber: Bill, may I ask you, what is it like when you're in charge of an office or in that Division in New York at that time, how does the word get to you as the person in charge when a kidnapping occurs?

Beane: Well, generally, in New York we have a full-time supervisor on duty around the clock. In the New York Office at that time we had over 1200 agents. Roughly one-fifth of the whole FBI was assigned to New York. Probably still is today. The United Nations was one thing that required a lot of personnel in those days.

Beane: So the word gets to me from my supervisors. When Mr. Bronfman called the FBI to involve them in this thing, he did not call the resident agency in White Plains, he called the general Headquarters number, which is down in the city. His office was in the city on Park Avenue, so I'm sure that he knew some FBI people. But he didn't ask for a person.

He got the office and told them what had happened. And he felt that they should be involved. To my knowledge, he did not inform the local police immediately. And, I think, later they may have become involved to some extent.

Baber: So, at that time, when the supervisor received the phone call he would have informed you?

Beane: He called me and I, in turn, called my supervisor of kidnappings. I had the Kidnapping Desk. I had, I think, 15 supervisors in New York. And he was the kidnapping guy. And I told him what had happened. Bronfman is a very prominent person in New York, he is a Jewish fellow and he gives enormous sums of money to Israel and Israeli interests.

So a very prominent citizen. And, so I said, "Let's get some people up there, talk to him and be sure that we're not going to go up there and discover it's a hoax." And they did that. And they did it well. And he called me again at 5 in the morning and said this is a legitimate thing in his judgment and I respected his judgment. So I told him, I'm going to the office immediately and I told him to break out his entire squad and when I get to the office I'll get other people as required.

And, as the day wore on, although we did not yet have a ransom note, we wanted to set up to be sure we could intercept the ransom demand. His son said the ransom demand is forthcoming. And we didn't know how it would come. So that first day we put wires on Edgar's home.

I went up and moved in with Edgar and I stayed there throughout. It was the same job as Rex Schroeder you may recall had in the Mackle case. Rex Schroeder came down from FBI Headquarters and lived with Bob Mackle in Coral Gables, Florida.

Baber: So that enabled you to know what's happening immediately and to assign people.

Beane: That's right. Right on the scene and, of course, we had four other SACs in New York. Organized Crime Division, Tom Emery. Tom went up and assumed my desk and assumed control in the office while I was up there. Wally LaPrade was overseeing the whole thing from upstairs and before it was over we had all four SACs were involved. And I went up there and we began setting up electronic equipment in Edgar's home in Yorktown Heights.

The kidnap squad had done neighborhood investigations up in Purchase from which he was abducted, his own home, in Purchase, New York. And we then began to set up electronics in Edgar's office, that's on Park Avenue, very luxurious office. It's in the Seagram's Building, a name they selected at random for that building. And right in the heart of the affluent section of Park Avenue.

And we set up telephones taps. Edgar had an apartment in New York City overlooking Central Park. It was a 26-room apartment. And it was on about the 8th floor and ultimately, as you'll see in this narrative, we had to move our primary command post from Yorktown Heights down to the city at Edgar's home. The city apartment. All these people in New York have a city home and then they have a home up in the country.

So at any rate, that's how I got the word. And we were setting up, with Edgar's permission, we were setting up the mail intercepts from the Post Office, we set up intercepts for all the mail going to the Seagram's Building, all the mail going to Edgar's apartment, all the mail going to his home in Yorktown Heights. We were intercepting that mail. And the telephone calls.

So, we're all set to get this ransom demand. I was at Edgar's home that night when the note was received at Edgar's office. The ransom note was received early Monday morning.

Edgar's city residence was the top floor of a luxury apartment in the upper 70's on the east side of 5th Avenue, almost a block long. It was a block long. At any rate, the note was received and Tom Emery had it in the office in New York. They got it right up to him. He called Yorktown Heights to read it. We had an open phone line between the FBI Office in New York, which we installed, and Bronfman's home up in Yorktown Heights.

So he read the note. And as soon as he read the note, (I have it here), after the first paragraph, it dawned on me as I was listening on another phone, it was a replica of the Mackle kidnap ransom note.

Beane: Almost verbatim in many paragraphs. If you compared this and the other one, well they made some minor changes, but the dimensions of the suitcase the money should be put in, the bills, all of that stuff was in there. (See Addendum C, *New York Times* Newspaper Coverage of Bronfman Kidnapping.)

The Bronfman ransom note told how they buried the victim alive and all that stuff. And where they got that, they got it out of the book that Gene Miller wrote on the Mackle case, *83 Hours Til Dawn*. The note was published broadly in newspapers. And so later the kidnapers said that they had read the book and they had seen the movie on the Barbara Mackle kidnapping. And so they plagiarized it.

And so, I told SAC Tom Emery that the ransom note was a carbon copy of the Mackle note. So for God sakes, call Atlanta and find out where the two subjects are at the moment. They were finishing their jail terms, or whatever. I think that the Mackle kidnapper was getting out of jail at about that time. But they found that he was still in jail. He hadn't been released yet. Gary Krist, the Mackle kidnapper, was not paroled from prison until May 1979. And the Mackle co-kidnapper was still in prison.

So it wasn't them, but we have a copycat here. And interestingly, the note demanded the largest ransom in the history of U.S. kidnappings. The ransom demand was for 4.6 million dollars in cash, the largest ever ransom demand in U.S. history at that time. After the note was read, I said to Edgar, "Is there going to be any problem with raising that kind of money?" "No, no," he says, "I can have that together in an hour."

So he called the Manufacturer's Hanover Bank which was one of the major banks in New York City. He called the bank's Chairman, now this was on the weekend. And Edgar authorized the release of four million dollars to the FBI Agents.

"I want to send some FBI people over to see you," Bronfman said to the Bank Chairman. "We need a lot of cash and we need it quickly." And the guy said, "Oh, no problem, no problem." We took the entire accounting squad from the New York Office and went down to the bank to count the money.

And Edgar had written him a little slip of paper, like a Post-It-Note. And he addressed the Chairman's name. He said cooperate with these people. Edgar. Whatever they want.

Beane: And the Bank Chairman got that, and the accounting supervisor said to the Bank Chairman, he says, "Is this a good withdrawal slip?" He said, "It's the best withdrawal slip I could ever have.

Don't need any more than this. Don't have to fill out the forms at the desk you know, this is as good as gold. So they put the money together.

Baber: Did they record the serial numbers?

Beane: Oh, yes, oh, yes. NCIC was alive and well then and they did record the money. Here's a little statement about the ransom currency prepared in compliance with the demand. It consisted of 95,000 bills. That's different denominations. Hundreds, fiftys, twentys, not in sequence. 95,000 bills. They got the package together and it weighed 300 pounds.

It's interesting about the weight, because later we were negotiating with the kidnapper when he began calling Yorktown Heights. And we never let Edgar talk to him. Jonathan Rhinehart was the public relations guy at Seagram's and Rhinehart came up there. It was he who took the phone and he says, "I'm a representative of Mr. Bronfman, who's sitting right here beside me. But I've got to get to him and get approval for everything we negotiate."

And he told the kidnapers at one time, "You know we have the money ready, but I hope you're going to bring some kind of a crane or something to move it from one car to another because it weighs 300 pounds."

"If you're asking Edgar to come alone with the money, Edgar can't lift 300 pounds out of this car in one bundle." From 95,000 bills, they cut the ransom in half. Immediately.

They cut it down to 2.3 million, which was ultimately delivered to them. So at any rate, the payoff instructions, I got a little ahead of my story, the payoff instructions were communicated telephonically to Bronfman, to his apartment now, up in New York.

Now bear in mind, when this development occurred, when the ransom note was delivered he says, "We're gonna contact you with instructions how to pay this off. And we're gonna telephone those instructions to you at your apartment in New York."

Beane: We had to move the whole damn command post from Yorktown Heights downtown. Edgar had a helicopter which we used generously. He had a helicopter pad right on his property and we took the helicopter down to the city within less than a mile from his place on Fifth Avenue.

We landed on the East River helipad there, the police used to use. So we took it down and some of our electronic equipment and we set up that new command post. That's when they had the conversation with him about the ransom demand and it was going to be too heavy and he couldn't handle it.

Baber: Where was Bronfman during this time? Was he at his office or was he at his home?

Beane: Oh, I was with him at his home.

Baber: At his home.

Beane: At his home. For a short time at Yorktown Heights and then down in the city at that apartment he had there.

So, at any rate, the payoff instructions indicated that Edgar would receive a telephone call at a particular telephone at JFK Airport. They told him exactly where the telephone was. I won't bore you with any details, but it was in the TWA terminal area and it was a certain phone number.

That's where it's gonna be. You go there and you stay there and you get there around 10 or 11 at night. I will tell you where to go from there. And they usually bounce you around to be sure you're not followed.

Anyway, he was instructed to put the money in his station wagon, his Buick station wagon. The kidnapers knew he had such a car.

And Edgar told me, he said, "Bill, I'm gonna drive this car over to JFK. I haven't been behind the wheel of a car in 20 years. I don't even know if I can drive, I guess I can. But do you know how to get to JFK?" Yes, so I got the map out and told him go down here, and you go the VanWyck Expressway and you get over there and when he got there he told him to park in a certain parking lot.

Baber: Well, how did that message come through?

Beane: Well, this is all in the same call.

Baber: Oh, OK.

Beane: He's instructing now how to deliver the money. So he parked the car in this particular parking lot, A or B or C, whichever one it was, and then you walk into the terminal and you wait at that telephone for further instructions. We had the telephone covered. We didn't have to do it on the site. We had the phone company people with us all the time and they did it. In their junction centers. They looped that telephone. So we had all that conversation.

And, at any rate, what they did was, on the occasion of that call, that's when they indicated we've reduced the amount of the ransom now because it's such a large package to have. 2.3 million dollars. So they put it in two garbage bags. Black garbage bags. So they're 75 pounds a piece and you could handle that. At any rate, that parking lot, John, was, we had the local police involved at Kennedy now. We involved them.

The Port Authority police, not the city police, but the Port Authority police. And the police, because you know, that's a dangerous parking lot. We have got a lot of burglaries down in that parking lot. I mean they occur, not in the others so much as that one. They're hit a lot. And so we had to put up surveillances on that car. When he put the car in there, he got up and he was so nervous, he got up and he left the car, didn't even lock it.

And he had 2.3 million dollars in the back and he was wired, of course. So we said, "Edgar, lock the car." "Oh, jeez, OK." So he went back and locked the car because of the burglary thing, but we had that car under constant surveillance so if anyone went up to it, the police would make a move on them.

The first payoff was aborted. Kidnappers got nervous or something and I said, here in my notes, the kidnappers called Edgar Bronfman, their message was so cryptic and unclear that the first payoff attempt was just aborted. And so Edgar went, got in the car and drove home. OK.

The victim's father returned to Kennedy Airport as instructed on Friday evening, 8:15, and received an instructional call to proceed to the next contact site, which was in Nassau County. If you're not so familiar with New York, Kennedy Airport is almost on the borderline between Queens County, while Kennedy is in Queens or Brooklyn, and you can go a short drive and you'll be in Nassau County.

Beane: So he had to go to Nassau County on Long Island and we were feeding him how to get to these locations because he had no idea. The next location was a gasoline station in Nassau County. And they told him where it was, but he didn't know what the hell they were talking about. I mean his chauffeur did all that. We whispered in his ear after he got in there, he says, give me a little time. I'll have to figure it out, how to get there and all that. We told him how to get there.

So he got there and the surveillance continued. So again the victim's father was contacted telephonically and instructed to proceed back to Queens. Now there was a telephone, obviously, at the gas station. So he got a phone call at the gas station and said OK now go back to Queens County. Back across the County line, into New York and go to a hamburger stand on Queens Boulevard.

OK, he found that one. Same thing. We told him where it was, he went there and he was still wired. We put a transmitter under his jacket and I'll tell you a funny story later about wiring him up. We wired him up in the Plaza Hotel in New York. Then several hours at the hamburger stand, the agents came and went unnoticed. We had agents, and women, secretaries, going in and out.

It was a very well conceived thing. We had UPS trucks out there and we had mail trucks and all those sorts of things. It was very well conceived. We had the time to do that. Ultimately, the instructions received by Bronfman to proceed to a dark isolated street in Queens to wait for additional instructions. Now this was really a dark area.

So, he told them, he says, "I'll get there, but it will just take me time because I'm not familiar with these things and I haven't driven a car for years and you're putting some demands on me." Well, of course, our agents immediately proceeded to the dark area. And they were lying in the bushes and one of them laid under a parked car a long time to watch precisely what was going to go on.

And as luck would have it, the superb coverage is extremely difficult by Bureau personnel but they actually observed the payoff. They watched the payoff of Edgar and this subject. Moving that money from one car to another in two bags, black garbage bags.

Baber: So at that point, Edgar was actually helping the pickup guy move that money?

Beane: Yeah, yeah. They moved it from one car now to another. The agent lying under the car got the license number of the car. It was really lucky. And clearly that was the kidnapper. This wasn't a taxi driver, who was assigned to pick up a package for somebody. This was one of the kidnappers. I'm getting ahead of my story.

So we checked the plate and it was registered to L. Patrick Lynch, who was a New York City fireman, who has an address in Brooklyn. So we and the local police had this place staked out and even when he drove back in there about 5:30 in the morning, the man was burned. He left the money in the car. And then later he moved out.

We didn't know where he was going. We didn't know what was going on. But, I think that guy, John, on second thought, we didn't surveil him when he left there. Because we had the license plate, right. So we didn't want to interrupt the thing right now because we didn't know where the boy was, if he was going to release him.

So what happened was, he must have dropped that money off somewhere. We had no idea where that was.

Baber: So Edgar was comfortable and probably you had agreed that this money was gone, if he lost it.

Beane: Yeah, yeah, the money was so inconsequential to him. Most people would be worried, you know.

L. Patrick Lynch was a New York City fireman. And he was placed under surveillance, at approximately 5 a.m. Saturday, the 16th, the subject's car was observed returning to the area and the driver, later to be determined to be one of the kidnappers, was observed returning to the area of his residence.

The following morning, Sunday, August 15, 1975, Wally LaPrade and myself and a gang of about 10 agents went over there and we had the place under surveillance with the police. And we told the police that we were going to make a move on this thing. So about 5 a.m. Sunday morning. . .

I hadn't been home for three days, because I'd been living with Edgar here and there. Edgar fortunately had toothbrushes and spare underwear and everything for me when I was up there.

Beane: So, a search warrant was obtained. And so we went into the apartment then. We had more than probable cause to go in this building. So we knocked on the door. No answer.

And finally we kicked the door in, rushed in there and we found the victim on the couch, lying there. He was all taped and bound. Bound very loosely, we thought. But, I mean, he was bound and on the couch. Together with this guy, L. Patrick Lynch, the fireman, there was another guy named Dominic Byrne, was there. Dominic Byrne was a New York limo driver.

Lynch and Byrne insisted they weren't the kidnapers and just the errand boys who picked up the money. To make a long story short here, they were the kidnapers. They gave us a song and dance, but someone prevailed on them to hold the kid and they weren't really doing any of this and all that, but finally they came around later on Sunday, that day, under a lot of questioning and interrogation, they said, "OK, we did it."

I said, "If we don't find this money, you're going to take the full hit for it and go away for a very long time. We have every reason to believe that you're responsible for it."

Baber: Can I ask you to get back just a little bit there. Maybe I lost track, but how did you know it was the apartment that you originally went to was where they actually had the victim?

Beane: The apartment we went to was the apartment where the car was registered.

Baber: But that wasn't where the apartment where the kid was being kept.

Beane: That was the apartment where he was being kept.

Baber: Ok, it's the same one.

Beane: Yeah. That was the apartment.

Baber: So, what initiated your decision to move in?

Beane: Well, I'm trying to think back now, John. We had the place under surveillance. We never, never saw this guy there. We were fearful of doing something that would make the kidnapers make a dumb move. We did not yet have the boy. They had the money. We were waiting for contact and we waited through the night and part of the morning and never heard and so, I think at that time we said, "Well let's make a move on the apartment."

We're not going to sit here. We've got this guy at the scene in this car and that car came right to the residence to which it was registered. He went in there. Now we didn't follow him from the payoff scene because we didn't again want to jeopardize Sam's position.

And so he must have dropped the money off somewhere in Brooklyn. It was in Brooklyn ultimately.

Then we talked to the U.S. Attorney and everything. Let's go kick the door in and see what happens.

Baber: And that would have been a decision that you would have made, the FBI would have made without agreement from Edgar?

Beane: No, we told him what we were going to do.

I was telling Edgar what we were going to do. Here's the evidence we have, we got the license plate of the car, we saw him transfer the money, he went over here, we got this guy, L. Patrick Lynch, a New York City fireman, and he drives up within hours, within 5 hours of the drop off, he's back in his house, in that same car and he goes inside and we said, you know, something is very screwy here.

We had probable cause to go in and kick this door in.

Baber: Sure, no question.

Beane: And, so we did. And we found the boy in there. And then, of course, this was a fait accompli and the first thing I do when we got there, I was the guy that took the tape off of his mouth and he had the tape. I have the tapes here, I'm not going to play them for you.

Beane: The victim, while communicating with his father while he was hostage, was very critical of the Bureau. "Get that fuckin' FBI off of my back. Get them away, Dad. They're gonna compromise my situation and I'm gonna be history. Cops and the FBI, get 'em away. Don't have them there. They're so dumb anyway". He made all of these derogatory remarks, you know, about the Bureau people.

And so I took that thing off and he said, "Jeez, you know I'm sorry I made all those statements about you guys, but I'm very happy to see you." You know we took the things off and he was teary eyed. I took him in the other room and I called Edgar.

I got Edgar on the phone at his unpublished number at the Fifth Avenue apartment. I called him and I said, "Edgar, I've got someone here who wants to talk to you." And it was Sam. And it was a very, you know, emotional moment, I'm sure, for both of them.

So at any rate, we left several agents there to search that apartment and collect other evidence and took these guys into custody and told the U.S. Attorney we had them in custody.

And we got a lot of great press. Even the *New York Times* praised it. It came off so well. And so at any rate, that was really the end of it. And then we took, very early the next morning, we took him and I remember it was just getting to be dark and we took him from Brooklyn up to his father's apartment in the city.

We called Edgar as soon as we found his son safe and told him we would bring him to his father's Fifth Avenue apartment in New York City. We got him back to Edgar and his brother early in the a.m. We debriefed somewhat that day and, in the days following, took a long statement from the son concerning his ordeal.

Since the victim was never moved out of New York State we had no kidnapping violation. All we had was an extortion charge. The U.S. Attorney then yielded the prosecution to local authorities who charged the two kidnapers with kidnapping for the first degree, one count of grand larceny first degree and one count of criminal possession of a firearm. Since I was transferred to Chicago as SAC a couple of weeks after the U.S. Attorney declined prosecution in favor of local prosecution, I didn't follow the local case in court.

Baber: Did you recover all the ransom money, Bill?

Beane: Good point, John. Yes, we did recover all the ransom money. Recall that the original amount of the ransom demand was 4.6 million dollars. This amount was cut in half by the kidnappers themselves when they learned that the 4.6 million weighed more than 300 pounds. We then placed the other 2.3 million in the FBI gun vault in the New York Office for safekeeping.

On a final note, it's interesting that one of the victim's brothers is now the Chairman of the Board of Time Warner, Bronfman purchased Time Warner, the communications company, lock, stock and barrel.

Back to the ransom money. During vigorous questioning, Dominic Byrne told us where he put the 2.3 million dollars in ransom money, still in the black garbage bags. He said a friend of his in Brooklyn, she was totally innocent. She didn't know what's in the bag or anything about the kidnapping. "There's a small bedroom in the back of the apartment and the bag, both the bags, black bags were shoved under a cot there." And \$2.3 million was in the bags.

And so we went over there and when we got there, there was a cop car around the area outside and there was a press car and we just walked right by them. We went along, right by them. Knocked on the door. Had a search warrant. Knocked on the door and a woman came to the door and said, "OK, come in."

We got all the agents in there. "Do you know anything about a package brought in here?" "No, no, I didn't. I just got back. I worked all night." She was telling the truth. She didn't know. But this guy lent her the key to that apartment. She wasn't a relative or anything. Just a friend.

So we went and we found the money. We opened the bag up and I saw the money was in there. So with that, a crowd was really gathering outside there because we had parked about four Bureau cars out there. We're talking about 2½ million dollars in cash here. So, I said, "Look, we're not going to take this money out that front door. There are cops out there and there's press all over the place." And to this day I have no idea what they were doing there. Perhaps, it was an unrelated issue.

I looked out the window in the back bathroom and there was a window opening out onto the alley. So I told one of the guys, "Go out and get in the car and pretend you're just leaving the area. Go around a couple of blocks, come back to the alley. We're gonna hand this money out the window to you. And stick it in the trunk quickly and take off and we'll be following you in the other cars. One lead car and one behind you."

Beane: So we put the money in the car and when we came out the front door everyone was following us to see what was going on.

We got in the car and said, "Goodbye." Out of here, and zoom we took off with the money. So that was a good caper.

Baber: Interesting.

Beane: There was a lot of good work done on that case.

Baber: That's neat to be able to listen to the story from you being there and how it happened because a lot of things go on during the process of receiving that phone call.

Beane: A lot of surprises. As you know, John, there are surprises in all these things. This was about the fifth kidnapping that I was personally involved in a big way. And every one of them, every one of them was different.

Did I tell you about the one in Puerto Rico?

Baber: No, you didn't.

Beane: Well, this is just a parenthetical add on. There was a guy in Puerto Rico that kidnapped two children at a fiesta. You're probably not familiar with Puerto Rico.

Baber: No.

Beane: It was at a big public beach out there. It was out that way and they had a little tiny town, they had a fiesta. They frequently do in the Spanish culture. And all the kids were running around and playing games and all that. And two of the children, a boy and a girl, they were age like 8 and 10, were abducted – or they disappeared.

And there was no ransom demand or anything, but they disappeared. And we didn't know what was going on. So at any rate, we figured child molestation or kidnapping. Even though we didn't have a ransom note. We developed a suspect.

His name was Rodriguez. This thing required about three weeks of work and we finally came up empty. He passed the polygraph. The suspect did.

About six months later, after I left Puerto Rico and went to New York. I was assigned to New York now. I was SAC in Puerto Rico then. Went

back to New York and I get a message from the Bureau office in San Juan that says, Bill, you're not gonna believe it, but we received a note that was found on a dead body at Hialeah, Florida, right near the racetrack.

And it was our suspect. It was Rodriguez. And the message said, "He couldn't live with himself anymore, that he took these children. He knew them well, but they knew him, as well, so he couldn't afford to let them live." He took them up in the mountains to a 6000-foot high mountain in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

And he took them up to where there was a lot of wildlife and he threw the kids down in the ravine and they perished there. And they found some remnants of them, I think, the authorities did. But he sent the note to the Bureau and he said, "I did this. I can't live with myself."

Baber: So did, was there ever a ransom note or anything?

Beane: No.

Baber: Never?

Beane: No. Mysterious disappearance, but the kids were so young and tender and this guy had a record of molesting kids and he was a friend of the family, so they knew him. He molested these kids. But it was another thing that just was sad, very sad.

Baber: Now, Bill, let's turn to the much-publicized heist of the "Star of India" and other museum quality gemstones by "Murph the Surf" and his friends.

Beane: Ok, John. You are referring to the Burglary of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, more specifically to the J.P. Morgan Hall of Gems on the fourth floor of that museum. The Morgan Gem Collection contained a quantity of unique museum quality gems foremost among which were "The Star of India," one of the largest (563 carats) star sapphires in the world, and the Edith Hagin "DeLong Star Ruby," perhaps the largest (100 carats) star rubies in the world and the "Midnight Star Ruby," unique because of its deep purplish color. Note, John, that their clearly defined "stars" characterize all three of these gems. If such star gems should be cut, they would lose their star quality and be almost worthless.

Beane: Unlike large diamonds, which are frequently cut up and retain most of their value. Such is most probably the case with the 15.37 carat Eagle Diamond Crystal also stolen in this burglary. It was one of the largest glacial diamonds found in this country, near Eagle, Wisconsin in 1876. The gem was sold to Tiffany Jewelers and kept uncut by Tiffany until World War I, when J.P. Morgan purchased it from Tiffany and donated it to the American Museum of Natural History from which it was stolen by Murphy in its still uncut condition. It has never been recovered and possibly was cut into smaller diamonds. The curator of the museum stated, "The loss of the Eagle Diamond is the single most dramatic event in the Museum's history."

Baber: Fascinating. Can you summarize how the burglary was pulled off?

Beane: Sure. Let me give you a quick synopsis of the score itself. Then we can get into the detail. This is kind of a synopsis like we used to put at the beginning of a Bureau report.

On the evening of October 29, 1964, Jack "Murph the Surf" Murphy and his gang set out to rob one of the world's most precious and valuable gem collections. Famous among the Miami crowd for his surfing, diving and extravagant partying, Murph was the personification of beach boy-burglar. But even by the extraordinary standards of Murph the Surf, this was the ultimate heist.

Murphy and his accomplices, Alan Kuhn, the ringleader, and Robert Clark, a hanger-on from New York City, parked their Cadillac near the museum. Clark stayed in the car with a pair of binoculars and walkie-talkie to alert the other two if the police arrived.

Beane: Murphy and Kuhn walked a couple of blocks to the museum parking lot and easily climbed the outer fence. They then scaled a 10-foot high fence that had iron spikes on the top, by looping a length of rope over a crossbar, creating a foothold on either side of the wall. After carefully negotiating their way over the spikes, they descended into one of the inner courtyards of the museum.

Murphy and Kuhn made their way through the canyon-like alleyways of the museum wings until they came to the one that housed the J.P. Morgan Hall of Gems. Forcing open a courtyard door, they scrambled up a fire escape to the fifth floor and crept out onto a thin stone ledge. They inched around the corner of the building, hugging the wall, until they were above the room containing the gems.

Beane: Securing ropes to the fifth-floor window, Murphy and Kuhn silently lowered themselves into the Morgan room. The thieves noticed that this window was left slightly open and unlocked by the museum to allow air to circulate. Going in through the window, they waited for the alarm to go off, but nothing happened. Astonishingly, the alarm system had been switched off to save electricity.

Murphy and Kuhn went to work on the glass cases protecting the gems. They taped the glass to stop it from shattering when they cut large circles into it with their glasscutters, and then dislodged the circles with a sharp knock from the butt of a squeegee. The pair only realized that the case surrounding the “Star of India” was alarmed when they began to cut through it, but luckily for them, again, the battery was dead. We, the FBI, recovered the glasscutters from Murphy.

Murphy and Kuhn had only opened three of the display cases when they were spooked by a sound out in the corridor. Figuring they’d had their fair share of luck already, they decided to call it a day and escape – after all, they’d pocketed 24 of the most valuable gems in the room. They slipped back out of the window, clamored up the ropes, retracing their steps to the getaway car. They had stolen \$410,000 worth of gems, including the “Star of India” sapphire (563 carats), the “DeLong” ruby (100 carats) and the “Eagle Diamond” (14 carats), and the “Midnight Star” sapphire, the largest black sapphire in the world.

Twelve hours after the raid, Murphy and Kuhn were on a plane to Miami with the gems in a briefcase unwittingly carried by Kuhn’s girlfriend. Within 24 hours, Murphy, Kuhn and Clark were in police custody, thanks to a tip from a bellhop who was suspicious of the crew’s sudden extravagant lifestyle. The “DeLong” ruby was recovered after being offered for ransom. Many of the gems have never been recovered, including the “Eagle diamond, which was probably cut into smaller stones.

Baber: Since this was a local burglary in New York City, how did the FBI get into this case so early on?

Beane: Good question, John. Let me give you a little background. Alan Dale Kuhn, age 29, was a competent jewel thief. He was the leader, the brains if you will, in the caper. Jack Roland “Murph the Surf” Murphy was a few years younger but a very colorful guy and because of his past, more later, got all the press.

Beane: Both Murphy and Kuhn were Miami residents known to the FBI Jewel Theft Squad in Miami. Following his arrest a few days after the burglary, Murphy mentioned to the press and to me that he and Kuhn had repeatedly watched a movie call *Topkapi*, released in the summer of 1964. It starred Peter Ustinov. It was the story of three jewel thieves who planned and executed the burglary of a Turkish museum, which contained a priceless jewel-encrusted dagger. This film inspired Kuhn and Murphy to pull a similar heist of a US Museum containing unique gemstones. Kuhn was familiar with the J.P. Morgan Jewel Collection in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. They got into Kuhn's white Cadillac and drove from Miami to New York City to case the museum and plan the score. There are many similarities between the heist in the *Topkapi* film and the burglary we are discussing here.

Now about FBI jurisdiction. Roger Clark was a New York friend of Murphy's. He was also known to the NYC PD as a petty thief. Clark, in his early 20s, sat in Kuhn's white Cadillac with a handie-talkie radio as a lookout to alert Kuhn and Murphy to any police activity in the vicinity of the museum during the burglary. There was none observed.

The morning following the burglary, NYC PD detectives began checking their informants in the area and someone told them that Clark was all of sudden driving around in a relatively new white Caddy with a Florida license plate. The NYC police quickly found the Caddy and Clark was in it. Clark denied any knowledge of the burglary. When the license plate checked out to Alan Kuhn in Miami, they called the Miami PD who in turn called the FBI who knew Kuhn well and the Miami FBI office began an all-court press on Kuhn and Murphy.

The NYC police pressed Clark for more information telling Clark that Kuhn and Murphy stole the jewels and ran to Miami, thereby cutting Clark out of his end of the score. Clark began to cooperate.

FBI jurisdiction was established under the ITSP and related statues.

Baber: How did the NYC police know that Kuhn and Murphy had gone to Miami on the morning after the burglary?

Beane: They didn't know at that time. All they knew was that Clark was driving around New York City in a white Cadillac bearing a Florida license plate, which checked out to Alan Kuhn at a valid address in Miami. Kuhn was known to the Miami police as a suspected thief who lived n a luxury apartment house but was unemployed as far as they knew. Murphy's name had not even come up yet.

Beane: The NYC police needed some leverage to make Clark talk so they asked what he was doing driving around in Alan Kuhn's car in New York City. This revelation startles him so the police suggest to Clark that Kuhn "and others" got away with the jewels and are going to cut Clark out of his end of the score. With this, Clark opened up and told everything he knew including the name of Jack "Murph the Surf" Murphy. Clark probably thought Kuhn and Murphy had double-crossed him.

OK, John, this case received broad national publicity and international publicity as well, because the American Museum of Natural History, which is at 79th Street and Central Park West in New York City, is world famous for its gem collection. They have gems, they don't have the Hope Diamond, but they have a lot of the other real museum pieces that no private collector would have. These things are priceless.

The museum was burglarized by three jewel thieves from Miami. They are long-time jewel thieves. They'd been around for a number of years. We had them in our top jewel thief program. They were Alan Kuhn, Alan Kuhn, Jack Murphy, known as "Murph the Surf," and a sidekick whose name was Roger Clark. Roger Clark was kind of a flunky of the group who lived in New York City.

He would be the lookout or the guy that went and got sandwiches for the guys. But these were the guys who were the brains, especially Kuhn.

Now Murphy got all the publicity in this thing because he was a charismatic guy and, in many ways, he was colorful. He was an expert swimmer and diver, he appeared in aquatic shows around the country as a clown diver. It required a lot of precision and he's not a bad looking guy, but he was more flamboyant.

Alan Kuhn was very quiet and possibly he was a homosexual; very, very quiet, soft-spoken, but he was really the brains. And he decided with Murphy one time they should go up instead of burglarizing these homes where they only had maybe 50, 100,000 dollars worth of gemstones, let's go up and get involved in the really good stuff, the museum pieces, and steal some of them.

Kuhn says, I think we can go in and burglarize the American Museum of Natural History. So they got in their car in Miami, in Kuhn's white Cadillac, and they drove to New York. And, it's unclear whether Roger Clark was with them or they met him in New York. Clark was a New York person, but he liked to fraternize with people like Murphy, but he was pretty much of a flunky.

Beane: Now, they went up to New York, to make a long story short, cased the place. The Museum of Natural History is open to the public. And they went up and they went through the different rooms and they have a lot of other things, other than gemstones. They had all sorts of museum pieces of other categories.

But they went up and found on the 4th floor, the gem room, the J.P. Morgan Hall of Gems of this museum, which was filled with showcases of precious jewelry donated by New York millionaire J.P. Morgan and other affluent New Yorkers. And some museum pieces they collected from around the world to put on exhibit because these things are priceless.

I'll get into the theft and how it occurred in a moment, but first I want to say that when they went up to New York City, they didn't have a target identified.

But once they got to New York, they decided on the American Museum of Natural History. While casing the burglary, they found a window in that 4th floor room. They distracted the guard on duty there and unlocked that window and raised it a little and they found that they could access the building that way, by lowering themselves down on a rope from the fifth floor and raising the window.

That's the room they wanted to get into, they did not want to get on the 5th floor. But at any rate, they had no target. But they did get in there, nonetheless. They had glasscutters and the showcases weren't real thick glass, but they had these glasscutters and duct tape. You put the duct tape across the top of the glass case wherein these gems were stored.

They were reasonably confident that they weren't alarmed. They were experts with alarms and they didn't see any evidence that they were alarmed. They checked the table legs to be sure the wires didn't come down out of that case and alarm the case. There were no vibrating detectors on the glass. They established this before they went in.

So they put the masking tape over the top of the case and they drew a circle big enough to introduce your hand through there. And they would go half-way around in a semi-circle around this duct tape and then they would move the tape from that part that had been cut and they would do the other part of the circle and then they would tap on it lightly and when it finally broke, the glass wouldn't fall down to the gemstones and make a lot of racket because they didn't know where the guards were.

Beane: And so it worked successfully. They cut three holes in these cabinets that displayed these jewels. I'm not going to read a list of all the jewels that's here. But what was taken in that burglary that probably lasted an hour and a half. The only people entering the museum were Alan Kuhn and Jack Murphy.

Roger Clark was outside in the car and, supposedly as a lookout, to see any extraordinary activity among the police. But he saw none.

Kuhn had a radio, of course, and he didn't communicate that with Clark. But there's a list I'm going to get to, John, of 20 items of jewelry, of varying values. (See Addendum D, #1, List of Gems.) The primary pieces of these 20 were two; this is the "Star of India," 563.35 carats from Ceylon. Anyone who knows museum pieces around the world knows what the "Star of India" is. It was a unique piece of gemstone and it's not set in anything. It's larger than a golf ball and Star Sapphires only three and four carats, are very expensive.

The other piece of note is the Star Ruby, the "DeLong Star Ruby." It's a blood red Star Ruby weighing 132 carats, easily, the largest Star Ruby in the world. Those were the 2 pieces. And there were a lot of other lesser pieces, which I won't bother you with. But when the museum wanted to get them back, they were willing to pay anything and, even give up some of the smaller pieces, just to get those two pieces back.

So that was the focus of the press and the focus of the press was on Jack Murphy, who was not the ringleader, it was Alan Kuhn. But, that's how the burglary occurred. I previously covered how they got into the building

I mentioned briefly how they got into the building and Murphy got banged up on his elbow, lowering himself on the rope and he banged into the building and he got some debris in his arm. I'll get into the arrest later.

I wanted to draw pretty much on the efforts to fence these jewels. The biggest jewel fence in America, bar none, was in Miami. His name was Hyman Gordon, known as Hy Gordon. Hy Gordon. We also put him in prison for a major theft of international gemstones and a gem encrusted chalice we found in his apartment. And sent him to Atlanta penitentiary for 10 years. He was 57 years old. He ultimately died in prison.

Beane: But anytime a good jewel thief, or anyone in the United States made a score, they would go to Gordon, because he never betrayed them. He didn't pay them well. As a matter of fact he was shot in the head one time and lost the sight of an eye because he shortchanged the guy who he bought jewelry from. But Gordon was good at what he did. I knew Gordon personally, very well myself. I saw him frequently and talked to him often in Miami Beach.

Baber: When you were assigned in Miami?

Beane: It was when I was assigned to Miami. Now, of course, this burglary occurred in New York City. I was assigned to Miami at the time.

But I had been in Miami since 1962 and I was the coordinator of the top jewel thief program in New York for about 6 years, before I left New York. That would be from '56 until '61. I left there and served in Miami from 1962 to '69.

The New York crowd goes down to Miami and the jewels go with them and so these same jewel thieves went back and forth. And so I knew most of them and most of them knew me. So, I'm getting a little ahead of the story.

So, after the guys got these gems, Alan Kuhn had a girlfriend, Janet Florkiewicz, age 19, who lived in New York and she thought Alan Kuhn was the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Kuhn asked her, the night before the jewel burglary of the American Museum of Natural History, would you like to go to Miami with me, tomorrow? She said, "Yeah. I thought that'd be nice." She would go along anywhere he went. And she admitted to us, when we talked to her, she had had sexual relations with him. She was only 19 or 20.

So, the reason is obvious now when you think back on it and the way it really happened. So they got the gems in their pocket. The burglary is over now. They have the gemstones. New York's got a major crime on their hands and they're working this thing, don't know how these guys got into the museum with all the security they have there. The Star of India particularly had a weight sensitive alarm under it.

And when Murphy picked it up from the showcase, he noticed that there was a little wire under it, picked it up, but it didn't sound. And the police found out that the batteries had expired. And so, that's the problem for the museum to handle. But the thing did not go off.

Beane: So they got all the jewels and they were so pleased with themselves. They got these great gem pieces, you know, nothing like them, unique pieces. They got a hold of Janet the next morning and fly to Miami. Alan had a cosmetic case with him that he carried his, I guess his toiletries when he traveled. And he gave it to Janet and he says, Janet, I want you to carry this on the plane. And she did anything that he told her to do.

“Carry this on the plane. Don’t sit with us on the airplane, and when we leave the aircraft in Miami, you go off by yourself. I will meet you at the Hertz Rent-a-car counter downstairs.” And, so she did. And we’re confident that the gems were in that cosmetic case. But Kuhn didn’t admit to that.

But isn’t it interesting that Murphy got all the publicity here, but Alan’s got the gems. And Murphy, as I said, is colorful guy, a nice guy. But Kuhn’s the guy that really ran this burglary. And we knew that all along because he’s got a colorful past, as well. And he’s very quiet, retiring, you’d never know that he was a jewel thief.

Murphy’d go in and grab a few beers and drinks and pat some girls on the backside and that was his style, but not Alan’s. So, at any rate, when they got to Miami, Alan Kuhn had a very nice apartment in the Brickle townhouse apartments. He’s up on the 12th floor or something like that and the Brickle townhouse is, still is to this day, a very nice place overlooking Biscayne Bay on the Miami side. It wasn’t on the beach side, it’s on the Miami side.

So, we began to get rumbles about this thing and when the New York detectives told us they knew that we had a lot of jewel thieves. We knew what they were doing.

And so Kuhn and Murphy now have the gems, they got the gemstones, they’re gonna screw Roger Clark, they’re going to go down to Miami and then Roger knew what they were doing. And he thought he’d end up with a piece of the action. But the cops then took a license plate of that car and it checked out to Alan Kuhn. So it’s his white Cadillac that they drove from Miami up to New York in.

And, then NYC PD found Roger in the car the day after the burglary. They questioned him. And he blew the whistle on the whole thing. As I said, he’s a flunky. He, oh, man, I didn’t do anything. Oh, I’m just a lookout, you know. And he just bared his soul and, of course, Murphy said he’d kill him if he found out, but then, of course, he never did.

Beane: So that's how we kind of got a lead on them. We got leads from New York right away that these guys are probably going back to Miami. They all used fictitious names on the airplane. I think Janet used the name of, it's in here, I think it was Mabel Moss, or something like that.

Baber: We don't need to go through that.

Beane: No, they're all fictitious names. So at any rate, they got to Miami and we knew that they would go right to Hy Gordon. So we put a tail on Hy Gordon. And we found Hy over at the Brickle townhouse early Sunday morning. In one of his cars. He had a little Avanti and then he had a Cadillac. He showed up over there and the doorman told us. We showed him Hy's picture. This guy here? He was here this morning, 8 o'clock. I know, I parked his car right over there. It's a little red Avanti. That's right, that's Hy.

So we confronted Hy and he said he wasn't anywhere near the building. Other people in the building saw him. So we decided to make a move on the apartment. We had some problems with policy. Just, I forget what day of the week this was, but I think it was also the weekend, and we said hey, get a search warrant and go and kick that door in and arrest these guys.

And I led that charge. And I should put a note in here, we're talking about the arrest of them. I was there and Bill Kelly, and I could name all the guys who were there, but, it says Kuhn and Murphy were arrested in Kuhn's apartment by FBI agents at 11:45 a.m. on October 31st. Now this is 2 days after the burglary. Two days after the burglary. Well, we kicked the door in, we went up there and we found Janet in the bedroom, fully clothed. And talked to her and she says, "Well no, I wasn't aware of anything."

And she's kind of dumb, but we don't think that she was a conspirator in that she knew the burglary went down and she was carrying the jewelry. She said, "Mr. Kuhn, Alan, told me to carry this on the airplane for him, this suitcase. And it had a combination lock on it, I couldn't get in it if I tried." And then, well, what did you do with it? "Well, we rented a car and we came down here and here we are and I don't know what was in it." And we didn't know whether to believe her, so finally she persuaded us, that Alan was using her as just a vehicle.

Baber: So she had given that over to Alan then.

Beane: Oh, yeah, and they got the gems back and then, of course, we searched but didn't find the gems. I looked in the air conditioner vents, you know, the return things on ceiling of the vents, the grillwork. Yeah, we searched everywhere. We couldn't find them. They weren't there.

And so we speculated that Hy Gordon was there earlier that morning and Hy took them. We finally interviewed Gordon about them, he says, "No I didn't take them. He says I wasn't even at the apartment." We said, "You're lying to us. There were witnesses who saw you at the apartment in your Avanti. Got there about 8:20 a.m. The doorman had to let you in. And he didn't announce you. You coned him out of announcing you. You went up." "Well, maybe I went up."

And then, he didn't know. And so you really had to be hardnosed with these guys, especially with Gordon because he's a very polished guy. Then he told us, he said, Bill, this is later I think, maybe a day or two after the arrest. He says, "I told these guys they were stupid. They went in that museum, and I've been in that museum many times."

"J.P. Morgan has this whole collection there, a beautiful collection. We could have sold that for big bucks, big bucks. They come home and give me a golf ball size "Star of India"? Everybody in the world knows it's a museum piece. Where am I gonna sell that thing?" He says, "What does he want me to do, take it in my bedroom and go in the closet and look at it and play with myself."

So he says, it was foolish. It was a dumb move. So he says, "I got approached by the New York people." The New York police department had approached Hy Gordon to help them get it back. And Gordon was working with Detective Moline and other people in the New York City Police Department down here. So they came to him. He didn't go to them.

Of course, they had no jurisdiction in Florida. I knew Moline and two or three detectives that came down that I used to know when I worked in New York. I said, "What the hell are you doing down here? You don't have any jurisdiction down here." "Well, you know, Bill. . ." they tried to explain.

"You're working with Hy Gordon aren't you?" "Well, who's he?" "Oh, come on and don't lie to me, come on." So at any rate, it turns out Gordon was instrumental in getting the "Star of India" back.

Beane: They worked all night long, going from one place to another, to another and Hy said, "At one point I got out of my car. I was told to get out of my car. And I was walking around, having a cigarette and pretty soon, I was told to get back in the car."

And when Gordon got back in the car, they went to the Greyhound bus terminal and the Trailways bus terminal. And this was all a charade, of course. Some of them had the gems, but they weren't going to admit it. And they got back in the car. The only thing I saw was a key to a lock box, a locker, a public locker. Well that's it. The "Star of India" was in the locker.

So Gordon went and found the locker and opened the locker and, I don't know, someone must have opened it and found a bag in there, a velvet bag. They brought it back to the car and then the police came and took it away from them and that was it. But Gordon was very instrumental in doing that. Because he wanted to get the heat off and he says, "These assholes, I would never again take anything from them because they're so dumb."

Why would they steal things like that? So other gemstones, but not all, were returned. The "DeLong Ruby" wasn't there. I said, "Hy, did you keep that little bauble maybe for yourself and your own gratification?" Ah, no, no, that's again, it's a museum piece for God sakes. No jeweler in his right mind would touch that thing.

So at any rate, that basically is a brief synopsis of how this thing went down. Kuhn and Murphy cut a deal with Najari, who was the New York prosecutor of this burglary case. And agreed that he would give them a light sentence if they could negotiate and then cop a plea to the burglary if they would participate in the recovery of these gemstones. And they did.

The New York prosecutor and New York detectives were very much involved. We brought Kuhn and Murphy down from New York because they'd been taken back to New York after we arrested them. And brought them back to Florida and they were running around in a charade and just playing footsie with us.

In the middle of the night, because somehow they get these jewels and gave them to Hy Gordon, and Hy Gordon was going to turn them over to Najari who came down here with the detectives.

Beane: And the New York prosecutor got the gems back and he says, "The Ruby's not here." And the two guys says, "Jeez I don't know." "Well, screw you then. We're going to lay a heavy penalty on you." But truly they didn't know where the ruby was. They didn't know what happened.

Dickie Pearson, a Palm Beach yacht broker, had these gems for a short time and he owed a lot of money to some bookmakers. He's a gambler. He couldn't pay them. Pearson is a polished guy. Much more polished than these two. They say he was selling yachts to the Firestone family and others in Palm Beach.

John, I asked you earlier if you had seen the award winning movie, *Casino*, which was based on a true story.

Baber: Yeah, I saw it.

Beane: Well, this film was about "Lefty" Rosenthal, a bookmaker and sports handicapper in the mold of Jimmy the Greek, and Lefty's strong-arm sidekick, Tony Spilotro. Robert DiNiro played Lefty and Joe Pesci played Spilotro. Both Rosenthal and Spilotro were Miami residents in the 1960's. Both of them were mixing with the criminal element there, especially jewel thieves. Lefty was not a thief but a gambler and a sports "handicapper" and Spilotro was a strong-arm thief.

In the 1970's, Lefty was selected by organized crime figures to take over management of a large casino in Las Vegas. Soon thereafter, he was joined by Spilotro as Lefty's strong arm. As the film *Casino* depicted, the mob which owned the casino in Las Vegas tired of Spilotro's outrageous behavior which was bringing heat on their casino and ordered Spilotro's murder by mob hit men. He was lured to an Indiana cornfield and beaten to death with baseball bats and buried.

Prior to moving from Miami to Las Vegas, Lefty became involved in the FBI's investigation to recover the "DeLong Star Ruby," which still had not been recovered. Lefty was well-acquainted with Dick Pearson, whom we suspected had the "DeLong Ruby" at one time. Hy Gordon, the notorious jewel fence, also suspected the same but never shared his reasons with us. Some reliable informants shared with us that Dick Pearson owed a substantial gambling debt, between six and then thousand dollars and Lefty was putting pressure on Pearson (probably through Spilotro) to pay up or else. The FBI speculated that Pearson, to take the heat off, gave the ruby to Lefty as collateral until such time as he could raise the money to pay Lefty off.

Beane: As time will tell, John, our suspicion was well founded but we were never able to pin anything on either Lefty or Spilotro.

Before recovering the ruby, I interviewed Lefty one night for a couple of hours and asked him outright if Pearson had given him the ruby as collateral. I really didn't expect an answer from him but suggested he could surrender it anonymously to avoid getting caught up in the thing and possibly serve some time. He laughed and said, "What in hell have you been smoking, Beane?"

Kuhn and Murphy were returned to New York and pleaded guilty, together with Clark, to the Burglary. They were each sentenced to serve three one-year sentences to be served consecutively. Leniency was shown to them for assistance in recovering the "Star of India" and of the other lesser valued gems.

They couldn't help in the recovery of the "DeLong Ruby." I suspect it went to Hy Gordon for appraisal and, when the heat became too intense, he may have given it to Pearson. This is only speculation.

I was confident that Pearson got the Ruby and we could get it back through him one way or another because he did it. I knew Dick as well as any of all these other guys because I talked to them all the time. So that really concludes where this thing happened, where this guy Murphy got all this publicity, you know, for nothing because he's a big shot.

Baber: Bill, tell me about your arrest of "Murph the Surf."

Beane: When we arrested Murphy, John, he had a bandage on his elbow. This is a bandage around this arm. He had on a short sleeved shirt. But not on this side. It's all bandaged up.

That's from falling, cracking into the building and getting some of that debris off that old building in his arm. So, I said, "What happened to your elbow Jack?"

Finally he said he fell down the stairs. Don't believe it. You can do better than that. You can do better than that. I said something happened up at the museum didn't it? That's how you hurt yourself. Because he was always stumbling around and hurting himself and he did it. I'll show you another picture of him. Murphy, he was always involved getting his body beat up.

Beane: And one time he got beat up, well I don't have it right here, John, but there's a picture of him and all his face is all banged up. So I said, "We're going to take you by a doctor because our responsibility is treat this and look at it because we don't want to be accused of hurting you and taking you in with an infected arm." He says, "OK, OK." So we took him to this doctor friend and the Bureau picked up the bill. I told the doctor that this guy has injuries to his arm and we'll wait for him since he's under arrest.

I want you to take any debris that you find in that wound out and put it on a sterile gauze and we're gonna protect it, because that would put him at a crime scene. Well, sure you can do it. You're a doctor. You're gonna fulfill your responsibility to relieve this man of pain. You're not gonna throw the debris away, I want the debris. OK, you treat him. Take the debris. And we did pick up the debris. The debris matched the scrapings taken off the museum wall up on the 4th floor and put him at the crime scene. We never used this evidence because there was no trial.

So when he was going down banging that window trying to get in there. And we put it together and Murphy found that out later. He was upset with us for getting debris from his arm. I want to share with you about this star ruby. A book was written about this case.

Baber: What's the name of that book?

Beane: *Ransom and Gems* by Francis P. Antel, published in 1969 by Literary Investment Guild, Ltd, Palm Beach FL. This is the "DeLong Ruby" story.

I worked with Francis for months and we made records and recordings of all this stuff. I won't bore you with this whole book, but, it's a very interesting story. Almost as interesting as the Murphy thing. We got the ruby back. With the help of \$25,000 ransom money put up by Palm Beach, FL multimillionaire philanthropist, John B. McArthur.

Baber: Where'd you get it from?

Beane: Oh, I'll tell you how we got it. I won't do this whole book. You know Frank Hogan, the famous DA in New York?

Baber: Um hum.

Beane: He was very much involved in this thing.

Beane: As I said, John, toward the end there, I was intent on getting that ruby back. For the reasons I told you, I had suspicions that Lefty Rosenthal, who later became a kingpin of the mob out in Las Vegas with Tony Spilotro. You remember Tony and his brother were murdered in a cornfield down here in Indiana by organized crime hit men. His murder is depicted in the movie, *Casino*.

I was convinced that Lefty had the ruby at one point. He had underwritten some gambling wagers by Dick Pearson. Dick didn't have much money in these days, see. He was scraping for money. And we felt that the money, yeah, well this was just a deep suspicion we had of him in that debt thing. That he probably either told Lefty that he had this gemstone and he'd give it to him as collateral until he could get the money and I think that he did give it to him. But he never admitted to it.

Pearson never admitted to it. So at any rate, when Francis Antel came along, and he says you know I used to be a partner, I worked for Dick Pearson. This is when informants come in.

I didn't know this guy from Adam. He called me at home one night at 10 o'clock and said, "I want to see you right away." I said, "Who are you?" "Francis Antel." Didn't mean anything to me.

Says, "I'll meet you at so and so bar. All right?" I said, "I don't want to go to that bar. I'll meet you at the Miami Shores Country Club. I'm a member there." And it was only a stones throw from my house and I knew the bar and the people. "I'll see you there. Is that all right?" "Yeah. How am I going to get in there?" "Go in there and tell them you're a guest of Bill Beane. I'll be there by the time you get there anyway." So I did.

And he came in and he said, "You know, I've been following the newspaper on this Murph the Surf thing and all these things, and the ruby's still missing and I used to work for Dick Pearson. Said he was a yacht broker in Palm Beach. I was one of his employees. I would line up wealthy people to buy yachts from him." He sold yachts for a quarter of a million dollars or more to people up there.

And so he said to me, he knows the players in Palm Beach. I think Dick Pearson has got control of the Ruby. He never told me. Now, I think this is a way to get it back. "All right, well that's interesting, let's work that out." And so I began taking the man over to my house. It's one o'clock in the morning, I'm making tape recordings of what he was saying.

Beane: I said, "Now you can't retreat from these statements. You're not gonna get away with that. You better be damn sure you're telling the truth." And he said, "Okay, Bill, I think I can help you." If you're not gonna help me and I'm not gonna help you. All right, we worked that out. So then I said, "How are we gonna do this?" "OK," he says, "I've got a friend in Palm Beach, who I think will put up the money to ransom this thing back. In other words, we'd buy it back. I got a guy out there who is a civic-minded guy, he's a billionaire and his name is John McArthur. John B. McArthur. Ever hear of him?"

Baber: No.

Beane: You see a lot of TV shows on Channel 11, funded by the John McArthur Foundation.

Baber: Oh, yeah.

Beane: He's a billionaire.

Baber: I did know of it. OK.

Beane: Married to the sister of Helen Hayes, the famous actress. He personally funded the moving of the headquarters of the Professional Golfers Association, the PGA, from Tampa to Palm Beach. And he did.

He offered millions of dollars and he moved the thing. That's the kind of power he had. He also owned the Colonnades Hotel, which is right on Palm Beach and the ocean. And he was going to put a second deck on it. And I think he did, ultimately. But a very interesting guy. Francis said I'm going there and I think he'll come up with the money.

I said, "Pay \$25,000 and get Dickie Pearson off the hook. He can pay his gambling debt and we'll somehow get that thing back." I said, "Did you know anybody who you think has got the stones right now? Do you know Lefty Rosenthal?" No, who's that?" Big gambler, he's a handicapper. He fixes basketball games, World Series games, that's what he does. He fixes things."

Then he says, "No, I don't know him, Bill." "If his name comes up, make a note of it. I think he's got the stones. Somebody close to Dick's got them. I know Dickie Pearson doesn't have them, but somebody close to him does."

Beane: "Then his girlfriend, who he's gone to bed with a playboy bunny named Mary Denison," I said, "Maybe Mary's got it. Maybe he gave it to her. But she's kind of an airhead. I don't think he'd have done that. Dick's smarter than that. An airhead, now, she's likely to go up and take it to a local jewelry store and try to sell it to them." He said OK, he'd keep that in mind.

To make a long story short, he went to McArthur and as God is my judge, McArthur said, yeah, OK, it sounds like a worthy, civic minded thing to do. You know \$25,000 to John McArthur is like I could buy a hamburger. It didn't mean a damn thing to him.

And Francis was a good con man. He said, "I won't be careless with this money. Let me get the ruby back."

He really didn't think anything of giving the money to Francis. And when this thing was over, I talked to McArthur and he was a delightful man. So, then a lot of people got involved. I mean, Francis began talking to Pearson at length.

Said, "Dickie if you've got this stone, we can get you off the hook. I mean you're in so much hot water with so many people you're gonna gamble too much. If you're caught with this ruby, your name is going to be mud. You're going to go to prison for a long time. So I want to help get it off your back. You and I have always gotten along well. I've got McArthur involved now, he's going to come up with 25 grand; wouldn't that do it?"

And I think, truth be known, I think Francis skimmed off five for himself. I never told him that. But I think he took five for himself and he probably gave Dick enough to liquidate his gambling debt and get Lefty off his back.

And in return for that, Lefty gave the gemstone back. But we never knew who gave it to him. But here's the way it worked out. Bill Federici, a Pulitzer Prize winning writer for the New York Daily News, came to Florida and he began to get in this act. He says, you know, I was talking to Hy Gordon and Hy said he didn't have any idea, but Hy thought that Pearson may have it, too. That's the first time I heard that. Hy would have told me that.

Beane: But I deducted that. Federici began getting involved. I was staying on the sidelines because I said, hey, we'll have people there watching what's going on. I said, "Here's what we'll do. We'll provide the gemologists to authenticate this stone. We don't want a piece of glass for 25K." I'm talking here about a Star Ruby. I've got a qualified gemologist who used to work at the Smithsonian and he is the guy who will authenticate this.

I went over and introduced him to McArthur. I said, "This is the guy, unless you have another one Mr. McArthur, a gemologist. Please be my guest and bring him on." "Oh, no," he said, he would accept this guy, he had good credentials. And so he's standing up and ready. What's his name got the money and he gave the money to, who the hell did he give the money to? He didn't tell us who he gave the money to. He gave it to some intermediary, is what he told me.

Francis, he wouldn't tell me, if he gave it to Dickie or not. The money was recorded. After two or three dry runs they found out, OK the gemstone can be found in a public phone booth on the Florida Turnpike at the Palm Beach rest area. There's a big interchange there. And there is a rest stop there. Big phone booth. Had a dropped ceiling on it, as most of those phone booths did. You don't see them around anymore.

But reach up in the ceiling, push that little piece of plastic up on the dropped ceiling of that phone booth that protects the light above and you'll find it up there in a handkerchief. And, Francis went out there. At least that's what he told us. I have no reason to doubt that. It's all in the book there. But he says, "OK, we got the stone back." He took it over to John McArthur and the gemologist authenticated it

So we got the gemstone back and Dickie said, "Well, you know, I didn't get any money for that." "You didn't?" "No and the guy never gave me any money for that. Mr. Antel said the money was given to this third party because Dick didn't want to even be associated with it. If I'm associated with taking the money for the ruby and I've had it and I can understand that.

Pearson denied everything. I decided that I was going to the U.S. Attorney and I was gonna get Dickie Pearson. And I'm gonna try him for what the law says is constructive possession. You don't have actual possession during this period, you have constructive possession. You can have it delivered at your command, but you don't have it in your pocket or in your home or in your car. That's constructive possession under the law.

Beane: Now I'm no lawyer, but I went over this with the U.S. Attorney, Bob Josephburg. He says, "You're right. Constructive possession, that's right. We could get him for that." I've done a lot of other cases with Josephburg and Bill Meadows, who was the U.S. Attorney down there in Florida. I had a reputation in this courthouse and I'm telling you I believed this with all my heart. That this is the way it happened. "And so, you're gonna roll the dice with me because I'm telling you this is my best judgment."

And so they started the case. And it got huge publicity. This is the last missing gem, you know, bottom line, he was guilty. But we engineered this with the prosecutors and there was some hitches in the thing. Here he got 10 years for it. Dickie Pearson got 10 years for it. Polished guy. But to say he had constructive possession of it. There was one lawyer, Harvey St. Jean. He was a big time criminal lawyer in Miami. Big, big name. He used to go to Houston back and forth on big trials and I knew Harvey so well.

Harvey, he was getting on my case, too, and he asked my while I was testifying if I tried to make an informant out of Pearson. "Didn't you try to make an informant out of Pearson one time?" "No, but I'd like too."

But Harvey asked me, "Who was your star witness in this, is it Antel?" Huh. "Harvey, you can't tell who the star's going, until the game's over. The game's not over yet. You may be surprised who the star is. It won't be me, because I don't think I'm going to testify. I don't know anything."

So, what happened was, it went to trial. To make a long story short, there's a whole mess of clippings here on that trial because it was in the paper just everyday. It was headlines like this here.

Baber: Yeah. Huge headlines. In the *Miami News*.

Beane: Yeah. The *Miami News*. It was in the New York papers too. This was a huge thing. My guys in the office were saying, "Hey Bill, what are you trying to do here?" I said, "I'm gonna get this guy, Pearson. I know I'm gonna get him."

Beane: And, of course, we did get him. And, the next thing you know, Dick denied vociferously that he got any of that money. But, the next thing you know, Dickie Pearson gets in a car and starts driving up here to Chicago – after we got the ruby back but before we arrested Pearson. And he gets to Macon, Georgia, and he decides he will stay overnight. He goes up to Macon, Georgia, on the way to Chicago. I don't know why he was coming to Chicago. But he saw a Mickey Mouse jewelry store in the little town of Macon, Georgia and he told his buddy he says, I forget the guy's name who was with him, but he had another guy with him.

Pearson didn't even know this guy well and suggests to him, "Let's take this jewelry store down while we're here. There are no cops in this town. There's a millinery shop right next door. It sells ladies hats. Let's bust in the back door of the millinery shop. That won't be any problem. There'll never be alarms on that. The jeweler's probably got alarms on his door, but we can bust in the millinery shop and I got the equipment in the car. We can drill a hole here through the common wall and go in here and clean this jewelry store out. This is a great idea." So he got his drills out and got through the millinery shop. They drilled a hole in there, they crawled in there and they began emptying the showcases; a lot of the jewelry is not put in safes or anything, but they probably scored maybe 100, 150 thousand dollars worth.

The Macon cops got onto them. The cops weren't that dumb. They went by and they saw some flashlights on in the jewelry store in the middle of the night and they saw an unusual car parked out back. They looked in the car and a lot of heavy equipment and drills in there. And so, they went into the millinery shop. "Come out of there, come out."

And Dickie comes out. He's all dirty and sweaty. He was a mess. He had \$1100 in his pocket. Marked money from the ransom of the ruby. And I, you know, I couldn't wait for him to get back to Miami so I could talk to him.

I said, "Dick you know, it's not right to lie to the FBI and I talked to you two days ago and you said you didn't have a dime of that money and you lied to me, that's a Federal crime. You can't lie to me." "Well, I didn't, that was money that the guy had who was with me, I didn't know." "You had the money. Did Lefty give you that? Did Lefty Rosenthal deliver the ruby when you paid your gambling debt?" And he never answered me.

Beane: So at any rate, the marked money was right in his pocket and he was really pissed. And so, there he is, sad as he could be. This is an aftermath from “Murph the Surf.” This guy’s much brighter than “Murph the Surf.” But, to show you how dumb all of them are, they go in a small jewelry store in Macon, Georgia, and get burned. And was dumb enough to be carrying \$1,100 dollars of marked ransom money. This money was devastating evidence at Pearson’s federal trial.

Baber: They hadn’t even cased it?

Beane: That’s right.

Baber: So, that’s about it then for “Murph the Surf” and his crowd as well as the recovery of the “DeLong Ruby?”

Beane: Does that satisfy you needs on this case?

Baber: Yes, yes indeed.

Note:

Research Resources on “Murph the Surf:”

A check of the internet via Google or Yahoo from “Murph the Surf” results in many references including the movie, “Murph the Surf,” also known by other titles, “Live a Little, Steal a Lot” and “You Can’t Steal Love.” The movie stars Robert Conrad as Alan Kuhn and Don Stroud as Murphy. It was low budget and had poor reviews as the story of the “Star of India” burglary. Jack Murphy didn’t like the film. Said it was inaccurate and that the producer turned it into a comedy without his knowledge. There are many other sites about Murphy’s life, especially relating to his life since leaving prison in 1986 after serving twenty years for murder, as a born again Christian, and his visits to prisons all over the U.S. to spread the word of God and Christianity. (See Addendum D, #3, “Murph the Surf,” a Postscript Biography).

A book, *Ransom and Gems, the DeLong Ruby Story*, by Francis P. Antel, was written about the recovery (ransom) of the “DeLong Ruby” in which the Bureau was very much involved. Richard Pearson was convicted of possession of the ruby in Federal Court at Miami and sentenced to ten years in Federal Prison. The book also includes the story of the burglary of the “Star of India” by “Murph the Surf” et al since the “DeLong Ruby” was stolen in the same heist.

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