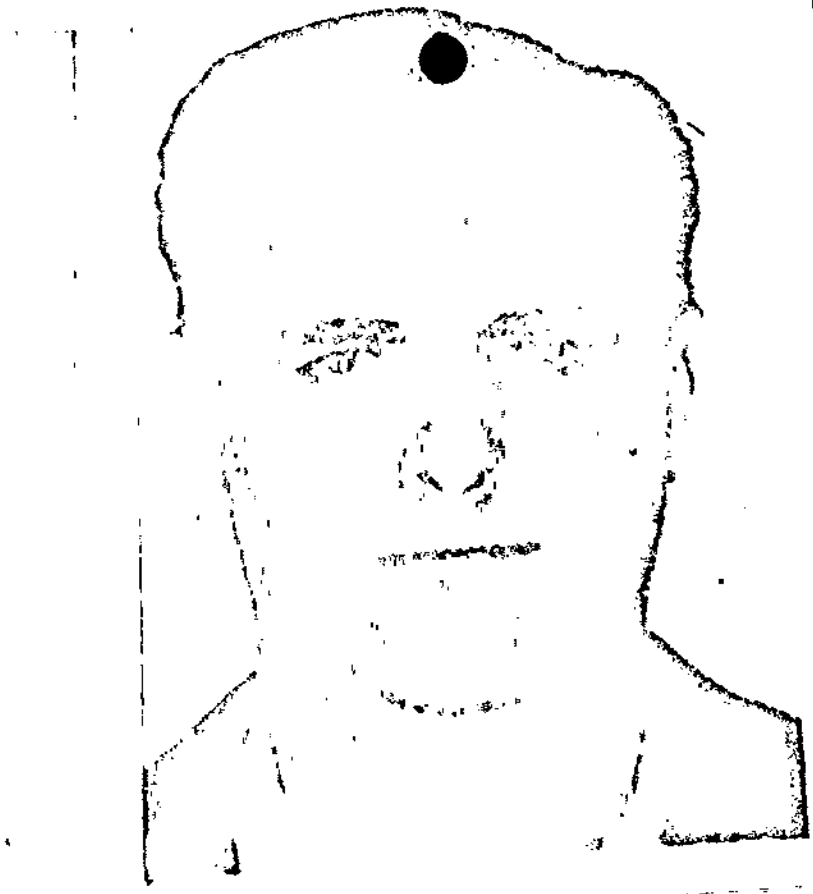
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ERVIL M. LEBARON

b6
b7C

Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

THE DAILY TRIBUNE

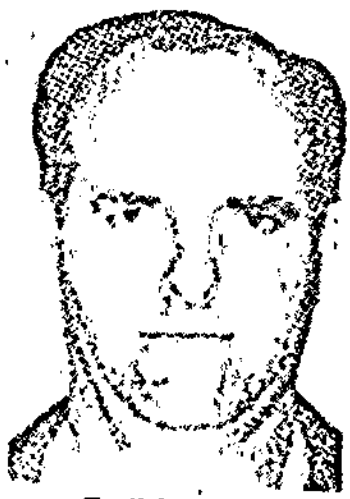
SERVING THE SOUTH WOOD COUNTY AREA OF WISCONSIN

Tuesday, March 13, 1979 Page 3

FBI seeks help in search for man on murder charge

An agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation today told the Daily Tribune the agency has reason to believe a man sought on a charge of murdering a rival cult leader could be in the Wisconsin Rapids area.

The agent said Ervil Le Baron, 54, a white male with blue eyes, brown hair, 6 feet-4 inches tall and weighing 230 pounds, and other members of a polygamist sect have associated with persons in the La Crosse and Madison areas.



Ervil Le Baron

Persons having information that might assist in locating Le Baron are asked to notify the FBI, Washington, D.C. 20535, or U.S. Courthouse Building, 317 1st St., Wausau 54401 (telephone 715 842-2666) or any law enforcement agency.

The agent warned that Le Baron "should be considered armed and dangerous" and that "extreme caution" should be used in dealing with him.

According to the FBI:

"On May 10, 1977 in Murray, Utah, two persons walked into the office of Dr. Rulon C. Allred. One of the assailants fired seven times with a .25 caliber automatic pistol, striking Dr. Allred six times and fatally wounding him.

"Two additional shots fired in the office were from a .38 caliber weapon. All subjects have been directly connected to the homicide and/or conspiracy to commit murder of Dr. Allred.

"This group of people, allegedly led by Ervil Le Baron, terrorized members of opposing polygamist sects throughout the western United States and Mexico over the last seven years. It is believed as a result of this investigation, this cult may be responsible for as many as seven other homicides."

88-6976-810

SEARCHED / INDEXED

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MAY 4 1979

CITY

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) A-1
DESERET NEWS
SLC, UT.
Date: 6-1-79
Edition: PM
Title: LE BARON
Character:
or
Classification: 88-697
Submitting Office: SU

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
JUN 06 1979
FBI

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Cult leader LeBaron arrested by the FBI

LAREDO, Texas — The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service confirmed Friday afternoon that Ervil LeBaron, wanted on a charge of murder in Utah, has been arrested in Laredo.

An INS official said, "He came through here. We did not arrest him. The FBI took possession of him."

FBI officials in Salt Lake City scheduled a news conference later Friday on the case.

The arrest was also confirmed by Laredo FBI agent J.W. Smith, who said he could not comment on the details of the arrest.

LeBaron was turned over to federal officials by Mexican authories at 12:30 p.m. Friday MDT.

A description of him on the arrest sheet at the Webb County Jail in Laredo said he is wearing a beard, 54 years old, 6-feet, 4-inches tall and weighs 200 pounds.

He was arrested on a fugitive warrant on a charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

Sgt. Byron Branes of the Murray City police, who has been involved in the LeBaron case as one of the investigating officers, said Murray has been actively seeking to arrest LeBaron since August 1977.

He said LeBaron is wanted in both Utah and California and that both states would probably seek extradiction from Texas.

LeBaron is wanted in Utah in connection with the murder of Rulon Allred, leader of a polygamist group who was gunned down in his office May 10, 1977.

Vonda Evelyn White, one of LeBaron's alleged 13 wives was convicted about two weeks ago of murdering a man who wanted to leave the LeBaron cult.

The fatal shooting of Dean Grover Vest in 1975 was allegedly ordered by LeBaron. LeBaron has been charged with murdering Vest.

In Utah, the latest court action in connection with the cult, the "Church of the Lamb of God" came in April, when a 3rd District Court jury found three LeBaron followers innocent of 2nd degree murder in the Allred case.



Ervil LeBaron faces [illegible] in Utah and Califor[illegible]

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) B-1
SALT LAKE TRIBUNE
SLC, UT.
Date: 6-4-79
Edition: AM

Title: LE BARON

Character:
or
Classification: 88-6976
Submitting Office: SU

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Officials Believe LeBaron May Waive Extradition

Special to The Tribune

LAREDO, Texas — Polygamist cult leader Ervil Morel LeBaron, arrested near here Friday by FBI agents, has contacted an attorney, and officials speculate he may be contemplating waiving extradition to Utah where he faces murder charges.



Ervil LeBaron

Murray City Police Detective Gary Pedersen said Sunday that LeBaron contacted Denver, Colo., attorney Floyd Marks Saturday by telephone, and it is believed the attorney told the 54-year-old LeBaron to waive his right to a removal hearing before a U.S. magistrate.

"We suspect the attorney told him (LeBaron) to waive the hearing, as the others have in the past," he said. The "others" are Mark and Rena Chynoweth, members of LeBaron's Church of the Lamb of God, arrested last year.

If LeBaron does waive the hearing, he could be returned to Utah as early as Monday, officials said.

But Detective Pedersen, who was sent to Laredo to testify at the removal hearing, said there was no immediate word on whether LeBaron plans to follow his lawyer's advice.

Wanted in California

LeBaron was arrested Friday by FBI agents on a charge of unlawful flight and is being held in the Webb County jail in lieu of $100,000 bail. He reportedly was turned over to FBI agents by Mexican officials on the International Bridge at the Texas-Mexico border.

LeBaron, leader of the fundamentalist Church of the Lamb of God, is wanted on murder charges in Utah and California. He is accused of first-degree murder in connection with the May, 1977, slaying of rival polygamist Dr. Rulon Allred, a Murray naturopath. He is also charged with conspiracy to commit murder in the same case.

Other Utah charges against LeBaron are conspiracy to commit murder in alleged death plot against his brother, Verlan LeBaron, and one charge of attempted murder of his brother.

He is also wanted in California in connection with the 1977 murder of Dean Grover Yost, who was attempting to leave the LeBaron cult. Vonda Evelyn White, one of LeBaron's dozen or so wives, was convicted of that murder two weeks ago in San Diego.

Return to Utah?

Detective Pedersen said LeBaron is expected to appear before a U.S. Magistrate sometime this week, possibly on Monday. If, during that appearance LeBaron waives his right to a removal hearing, the magistrate could immediately authorize U.S. Marshals to return him to Utah.

There has been some question as to whether LeBaron would be turned over to Utah or California first, but assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen W. Snarr said in Salt Lake City that because the federal warrant for LeBaron was issued in Utah, that's where he would be sent.

"It's our warrant ... he's coming our way," Mr. Snarr said.

88-6976-827

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JUN 06 1979

FBI/DOJ

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) B-1

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE
SLC, UT.

Date: 6-2-79
Edition: AM

Title: LE BARON

Character:
or
Classification: 88-6976
Submitting Office: SU

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ervil LeBaron Arrested by FBI in Texas

By Jon Ure
Tribune Staff Writer

Polygamist cult leader Ervil Morel LeBaron, wanted in Utah for the murder of Dr. Rulon Allred, was turned over to U.S. authorities in Laredo, Texas, Friday afternoon and held there on a federal charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.



Ervil LeBaron

In Salt Lake City, Deputy Salt Lake County Attorney David E. Yocom vowed to "fully prosecute him on a first-degree murder count", although his alleged co-conspirators were set free by a jury in 3rd District Court last March.

Mr. Yocom, who announced recently that he is quitting the prosecutor's office to go into private practice, said Friday he would gladly accept a position as a special prosecutor on the LeBaron case.

Marched Across Border

Asked about the outcome of prosecuting LeBaron — the 54-year-old patriarch of the fundamentalist Church of the Lamb of God — Mr. Yocom said: "We'd have a different jury . . . we would hope the outcome would be better."

According to U.S. Attorney Ronald Rencher in Salt Lake City, LeBaron was "marched across the border by Mexican authorities" at Laredo, where FBI agents arrested him on the International Bridge.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Emilio Davila Jr. said in Laredo that LeBaron refused to waive a removal hearing on the fugitive charge, desired an attorney and wanted a removal hearing.

No Details on Arrest

The hearing would most likely be early next week, Mr. Davila said. He said that he would ask that LeBaron be held on a $100,000 cash bond.

FBI spokesmen declined to divulge details of LeBaron's arrest. He had been hiding in Mexico for two years.

Utahns Off to Laredo

Mr. Yocom said LeBaron was arrested several months ago by Mexican authorities but managed to bribe his way to freedom. Lawmen have said they believed he was still bribing authorities in order to stay in hiding here, but that with funds dwindling was unable to make the payments.

Asked if he felt LeBaron's inability to bribe officials to stay in Mexico was reason for his capture, Mr. Yocom said,

Continued From Page One

"Bribery or other means. I don't know."

Mr. Yocom said he received word Thursday that the Mexican authorities would be surrendering LeBaron Friday. Salt Lake County Attorney Investigator Richard Forbes and Murray City Detective Gary Pedersen were sent to Laredo Friday morning to testify in the removal hearing.

Also at the border was one of LeBaron's plural wives, Lorna Chynoweth.

LeBaron is also wanted in San Diego as a defendant in the murder case of Dean Vest, former military leader of LeBaron's church. Another of LeBaron's wives, Vonda White, was convicted of first-degree murder in that case several weeks ago and is to be sentenced June 11.

Utah filed fugitive warrants against LeBaron before California and that usually takes precedence. LeBaron will probably be brought here first, Mr. Yocom said.

LeBaron is charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit the murder of Dr. Allred, a rival polygamist leader who was gunned down in his Murray naturopathic office May 11, 1977.

According to lawmen, that murder was a ploy to lure Ervil's brother, Verlan, also a polygamist leader, into the open to kill him, too.

But, when LeBaron followers Donald Eugene Sullivan, Edward Marston and Jack Strothman, laden with automatic weapons, arrived at the funeral service, they scrapped the plan because of numerous lawmen and news reporters there, according to Sullivan, a state's witness.

But, when Marston, Rena Lee Chynoweth and her brothers, Mark and Victor, were tried on similar charges that LeBaron faces, a jury apparently didn't believe Sullivan's story and opted for defense arguments that Sullivan fabricated their involvement in order to avoid prosecution.

88-6976-828

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JUN 6 1979

FBI/DOJ

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) D-1
DESERET NEWS
SLC, UT.
Date: 6-4-79
Edition: PM

Title: LE BARON

88-6976-830

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___

Character: 88-6976
Classification:
Submitting Office: SU

JUN 06 1979

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LeBaron still undecided

Deseret News special

LAREDO, Texas — U.S. Magistrate Tom Goodwin plans to find out soon if Ervil LeBaron will waive a hearing on a warrant seeking his extradition on a murder charge.

But a question that is still up in the air, at least in Laredo, is where LeBaron would be going if he is extradited.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven W. Snarr in Salt Lake City said LeBaron would be going to Utah to stand trial for the murder of Dr. Rulon Allred, because he was arrested on the warrant issued by Snarr.

But Floyd Marks, a lawyer in Denver contacted by LeBaron over the weekend, said that is not certain.

"The information we have from the jail (the Webb County Jail in Laredo, where LeBaron is being held) is they're holding him for extradition to San Diego," Marks said.

LeBaron is wanted in San Diego, Calif., on another murder charge.

Marks denied published reports that he had advised LeBaron to waive a removal hearing.

"The only thing I've told him is to (A) listen to his Miranda rights (the right to remain silent) and not say anything; (B) contact the public defender in Laredo and (C) find out where he's being extradited to," Marks said.

On Friday, the day LeBaron was handed over to federal officials by Mexican authorities on the bridge across the two countries' boundary, LeBaron asked Goodwin for time to contact an attorney before deciding whether to waive extradition.

"Either today or tomorrow I'll call him in and see where we are," Goodwin said Monday.

LeBaron would communicate with him through the U.S. marshal service, Goodwin said.

However, one of the officers in the marshal service in Laredo said, "We haven't heard anything" — meaning LeBaron has not sent any messages through the service to the magistrate.

The U.S. attorney's office in Laredo said, "I guess it's Utah" where LeBaron would be sent.



Handcuffed Ervil LeBaron leaves Laredo federal building after being arraigned.

FBI/DOJ

FD-350 (Rev. 11-11-75)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dismissal called ploy to 'buy time'

By Dale Van Atta
Deseret News staff writer

MURRAY — The conspiracy charge against Nancy Chynoweth, 28, Littleton, Colo., in the shooting death of a Utah polygamist leader was dismissed Tuesday afternoon.

Although Mrs. Chynoweth is the only defendant charged in the May 10 slaying of Dr. Rulon C. Allred, 71, the action Tuesday was described by two sources as an "attempt to buy time."

The dismissal came after Murray City Judge L.H. Griffiths turned down Deputy Salt Lake County Atty. David Yocom's request for a delay of the preliminary hearing.

Yocum argued that disclosure of evidence at this time would jeopardize investigation into the slaying of Allred, a naturopathic physician gunned down in his office by two youths who appeared to be women.

Griffiths said the defendant was entitled to an early trial setting, and he upheld a motion by defense attorney Robert Van Sciver to dismiss the charge.

He told the defendant, however, that she should be aware the county attorney could refile the charge at any future time.

See CHYNOWETH on B-2

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P. B-1
Deseret News
SLC, Ut.

Date: 8-3-77
Edition: p m
Author:
Editor:
Title: Dismissal Called ploy to 'buy time'
Character:
or
Classification: 62-2880
Submitting Office: SL

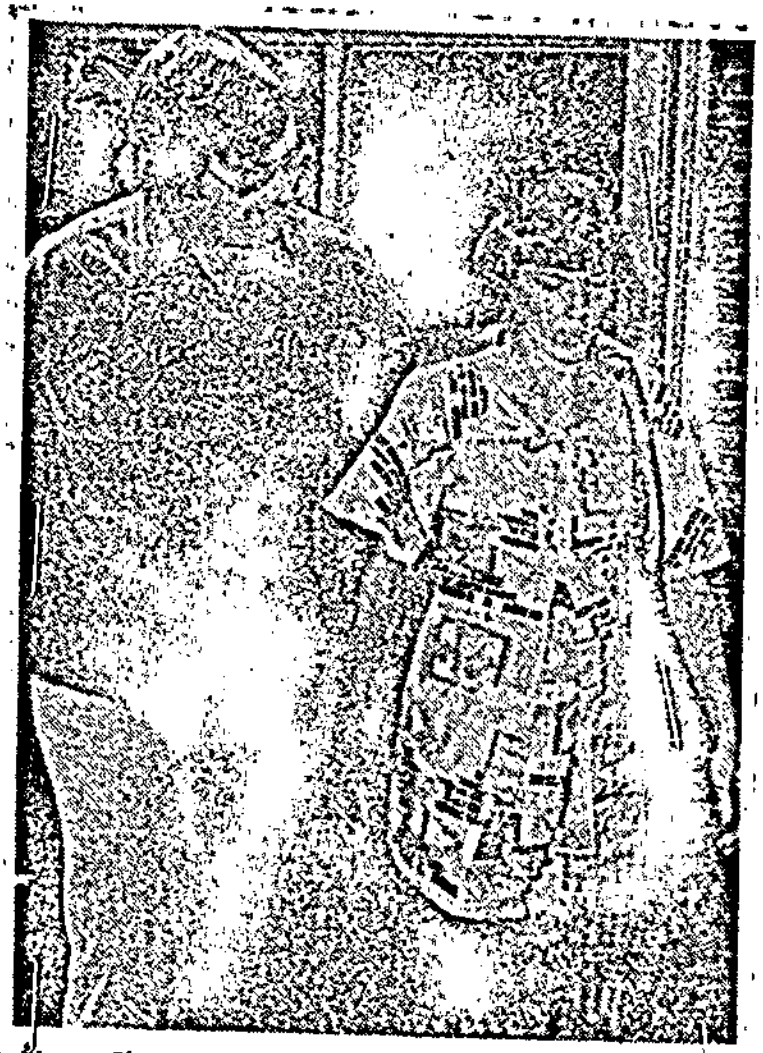
☐ Being Investigated

62-2880-19

SERIALIZED ✓ FILED ✓
AUG 5 1977
FBI—SALT LAKE CITY

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88-6976-853



Nancy Chynoweth and husband, Victor, leave Murray Courthouse after dismissal of charge.

Chynoweth

Continued from B-1

Throughout the brief court procedure that began shortly after 2 p.m., Mrs. Chynoweth acted calm. The diminutive defendant had arrived from her Colorado home with husband Victor Chynoweth.

Yocom, appearing surprisingly confident, agreed in a statement after the hearing that "the defendant's entitled to a speedy preliminary hearing as well as a speedy trial.

"We've had a substantial delay so far, and a further delay would do her harm, keeping her under the gun under the charges. Of course, it doesn't prevent us from refiling these charges," he said.

Responding to a question about future arrests in the Allred case, Yocom said, "I'm certain with the investigation, the way it's going, we'll have complaints and arrests at some future date. I can't tell you exactly when."

The motions and outcome of the hearing had been discussed in Judge Griffiths' chamber before the hearing began, sources said. C

Two sources reported that Van Sciver had advised his client to accept the continuance request, but she chose to have the charge dropped. Police investigators said their greatest concern about the hearing was that they'd have to parade evidence before the court which would involve other future defendants.

When Mrs. Chynoweth was first arrested May 22 in Carrolton, Tex., an "affidavit of probable cause" was drawn up which the Deseret News obtained minutes before it was sealed by the court.

Signed by Murray Sgt. Paul W. Forbes, the affidavit stated that the two persons who shot Allred each used a pistol, one a .38 caliber revolver which was fired twice.

"On the 12th of May," the affidavit said, "a paper sack was located several miles from the homicide in a garbage dumpster."

The sack contained a gun box for a .38 caliber revolver, "two expended .38 caliber cartridges, three live .38 caliber cartridges, one blue ski parka and several hand drawn maps of an area of Salt Lake County where the deceased worked and conducted religious meetings. Witnesses to the homicide have identified the blue ski parka as the one worn by the female assailant who shot Rulon Allred."

The affidavit said a woman purchased a .38 caliber revolver May 7, three days before the Allred murder, at a Denver, Colo., gun shop. The revolver had the same serial number as was imprinted on the gun box found in Utah.

FD-350 (Rev. 11-11-75)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Four Seized in Slaying Of Polygamist Leader

By George A. Sorensen
Tribune Suburban Editor

MURRAY — Four persons were arrested in Denver, Colo., and Dallas, Tex., Friday in connection with the murder of Dr. Rulon Clark Allred, a polygamist leader, who was gunned down in his Murray office on May 10.

A fifth man wanted in the murder of another polygamist leader in Mexico was also arrested as Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, Murray Police and local law enforcement agents struck in the two cities.

Authorities are looking for six other persons who have been indicted and are being sought in the Allred murder.

Arrested on warrants issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Utah charging the parties with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution were Mark Earl Chynoweth, 25, Dallas, Tex., seized in Dallas; and Victor Lee Chynoweth, 30, Sedalia, Colo; Lloyd Vernal Sullivan, 50, and Ramona Marston, 18, both of Denver, seized in Denver.

Clark F. Brown, special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City FBI office, which coordinated the arrests, said Daniel Ben Jordan, 37, was also arrested in Denver. He is identified as Marston's husband. He was taken into custody on 18-year-old charges of draft evasion.

Jordan is wanted in Mexico in the assassination of Joel LeBaron, another polygamist leader. Agent Brown said Jordan was indicted by a federal grand jury in Portland, Ore., on Nov. 17, 1959, for Selective Service violations.

Dr. Allred, a naturopathic physician and leader of an estimated 1,500 polygamists, was shot by two young women in his office. Several persons were in the office at the time of the late-afternoon slaying.

Chief Criminal Deputy County Attorney William R. Hyde, who reported six others are still being sought, said the four wanted in Utah were charged with unlawful flight so the U.S. marshal can return them without extradition hearings. He indicated they will be returned soon.

The four have been charged with criminal homicide and/or conspiracy to commit homicide in connection with the

See Page B-8, Column 5

Continued from Page B-1

death of Dr. Allred. The complaints were filed in Salt Lake City Court on Aug. 15 and were sealed on the recommendation of Deputy County Attorney David Yocom.

Complaints Sealed

The request for sealing the complaints was "because the notoriety of the case would have made it difficult to make the arrests and probably dangerous for the officers making the arrests," Mr. Yocom said.

The four were arraigned before U.S. magistrates in Denver and Dallas for removal hearings before their return to face the local charges in Utah. Asst. U.S. Attorney Brent Ward recommended $100,000 cash bond for Marston and Mark Chynoweth, and $50,000 on Victor Chynoweth and Sullivan.

Victor Chynoweth is the husband of Nancy Chynoweth, 28, who was arrested in Carrollton, Tex., May 22 on conspiracy charges in connection with the death of Dr. Allred. However, the charges were dropped upon the state's request on July 2 during a preliminary hearing.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P. B-1
Salt Lake Tribune
SLC, Ut.

Date: 9-24-77
Edition: PM
Author:
Editor:
Title: Four Seized in Slaying of Polygamist Leader
Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated

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SEP 26 1977
FBI — SALT LAKE CITY

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88-6976-862



Victor Lee Chynoweth, shown with wife Nancy in earlier court appearance for her, was arrested due to murder probe.

To Surrender Suspect

Friday afternoon, attorney Robert Van Sciver, who defended Nancy, said he would surrender her next week. She is one of the six others sought.

Victor and Nancy Chynoweth admitted they are "philosopical followers" of the Church of the Lamb of God, a sect led by Ervil LeBaron, but denied any participation in the Allred killing.

This sect has a history of violent religious conflict with other groups.

Ervil's brother Joel was killed after the two had a disagreement over theology and the handling of church property.

Attack in Mexico

Joel's followers, members of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times, were attacked in Los Molinos, Mexico, in 1974 by a band of persons who opened fire with rifles and flung firebombs. Two persons were killed and a dozen more injured.

After this raid, the Mexican authorities began looking for Jordan.

Murray Police said the murder of Dr. Allred was linked to the feud of the polygamist groups. The feud has been linked to the disappearance or slaying of six other polygamists in Utah, California and Mexico in the past few years.

It was not until his funeral that Dr Allred was acknowledged as a "fundamentalist" church leader. His followers are in Utah, Montana and other Western states.

Murray detectives have ranged over a wide area of the Western United States in pursuing the investigation. Making the arrest in Dallas were Sgt. Paul Forbes and Det. Gary Pedersen. In Denver were Dee Rowland and Byron Vranes.

Coordinating the investigation has been Richard Forbes, special investigator for the Salt Lake County Attorney's Office.

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 5-1
Salt Lake Tribune
SLC, Ut
Date: 6.12.79
Edition: AM

Title: Le Baron

Character:
or
Classification: 88-6976
Submitting Office: SL



Ervil LeBaron is booked into Salt Lake City-County Jail.

Guards Bring LeBaron To S.L. Jail

Polygamist cult leader Ervil LeBaron, 54, who evaded lawmen in two countries for several years, arrived Monday in Salt Lake City under heavy guard and was booked into Salt Lake City-County Jail.

LeBaron, self-proclaimed head of the Church of the Lamb of God — a polygamist group with about 100 members in the United States and Mexico — will face charges of attempted criminal homicide, conspiracy to commit criminal homicide and first-degree criminal homicide.

LeBaron was flown by chartered aircraft from Laredo, Texas, to Salt Lake City, with an armed escort of federal marshals. His plane landed shortly before 6 p.m.

Guards Jail Perimeter

Salt Lake County Sheriff Pete Hayward said a force of 10 deputies was guarding the perimeter of the jail as the prisoner was driven into the holding area. In addition, there were several federal marshals and Murray Police officers.

LeBaron was hustled by his escort officers from a car to the jail and wasn't allowed to speak with reporters. He appeared tired and haggard, but a smirk crossed his face as newspaper photographers and television cameramen focused on him.

Capture Near Border

LeBaron was turned over to the FBI June 1 at the Mexican border by Mexican authorities. Sheriff Hayward said details of the capture are still unknown.

Deputy Salt Lake County Attorney David Yocum, who will prosecute LeBaron, said he would probably be arraigned in 5th Circuit Court Tuesday morning.

LeBaron is charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the May 1977 shooting death of rival polygamist leader Rulon Allred in Murray.

88-6976-869

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
JUN 13 1979
FBI - SALT LAKE CITY
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FBI/DOJ

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) D-1 Deseret News SLC, Ut
Date: 6.12.79
Edition: pm
Title: Le Baron
Character:
or
Classification: 88-6976
Submitting Office: SL

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Deseret News photo by Howard C. Moore

LeBaron arrives at jail

Polygamist leader Ervil LeBaron, 54, was booked into Salt Lake County Jail facing murder and conspiracy charges Monday in the death of Dr. Rulon Allred, a Murray naturopath who was slain in his office in August 1977. At his arraignment Tuesday before 5th Circuit Judge Floyd H. Gowans, LeBaron named Denver attorney Floyd Marks as his attorney. Gowans set a preliminary hearing for July 12 and 13. Prosecuting attorney David Yocom said two days would be needed. LeBaron, sought for two years in connection with the Allred slaying, was turned over by Mexican authorities to U.S. officials in Laredo, Texas, last week. He was brought by chartered plane to Salt Lake City Monday night. He is being held without bail.

88-6976-873

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JUN 1 0 1979

FBI - SALT LAKE CITY

FBI/DOJ

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Deseret News
SLC, Ut
Date: 6-18-79
Edition: PM
Title: LeBaron
Character:
or
Classification: 88-6976
Submitting Office: SL

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Preliminary hearing Aug. 16 for LeBaron

Preliminary hearing for polygamist cult leader Ervil LeBaron was continued to Aug. 16 and 17 by 5th Circuit Judge Floyd H. Gowans Monday. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. Aug. 16 and is expected to take two days.

LeBaron told the court his personal assets are tied up in Mexico, and Gowans appointed public defenders to represent him.

F. John Hill, director of the Legal Defender's Association, told the judge he and association attorneys Fred Metos and Bruce Lubeck will work on the case.



Ervil LeBaron

Salt Lake lawyer John O'Connell represented LeBaron at the Monday hearing and the legal defenders said they will include him in the case on a consulting basis.

LeBaron said, "I would like to get my own attorney, but I cannot at the present time. However, I will try to retain my own attorney at a later date." He said that attorney would be O'Connell.

The defendant is charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the May, 1977 slaying of Murray naturopath Rulon Allred.

O'Connell successfully defended LeBaron's polygamous wife, Rena Chynoweth, in a recent murder and conspiracy trial in which all four defendants were acquitted.

88-6976-877

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SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
FBI - SALT LAKE CITY
WFR

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1384796-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 7
Page 2 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 4 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 7 ~ Duplicate;
Page 11 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 12 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 14 ~ Duplicate;
Page 16 ~ Duplicate;

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X Deleted Page(s) X
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FD-340 REV. (10-1-76)

File No. 88-14706-118

Date Received _____

From _____

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

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(CITY AND STATE)

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(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☒ Yes ☐ No

Description:

Photos:

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FB-14706-1A3

88-4706-113

FD-340 REV. (10-1-76)

File No. 88-14706-1A14

Date Received _____

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(CITY AND STATE)

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(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

Copies of Wanted Poster re Le Baron printed in Spanish

ICC 2V+5A 10/25/81
gmm

FD-340 REV. (6-14-77)

Field File No. 88-14706-1A 16

00 and File No.

Date Received 8/14/78

From Salt Lake City
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☒ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

Photos

b6
b7C

FD-340 REV. (6-14-77)

Field File No. 88-14,706-1A20

00 and File No. _____

Date Received _____

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

J.D. Flyer - Spanish + English

88-14786-1A 20

88.14706.1A 20

The FBI Wants You to Help Find This Man

Ervil LeBaron now is being sought by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on a charge of murdering a rival cult leader — and the FBI is asking that you, our readers, help find him.

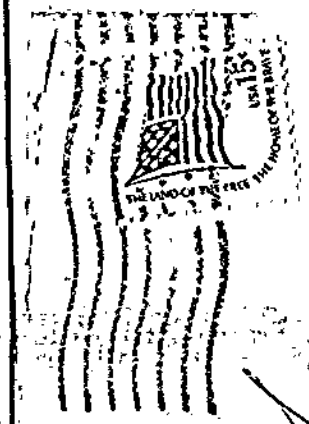
Said an FBI spokesman:

"Any ENQUIRER reader having information which might assist in locating Ervil LeBaron is requested to notify immediately the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C. 20535 — or the special agent in charge of the nearest FBI field office."

The spokesman warned that LeBaron "should be considered armed and dangerous," and that "extreme caution" should be used in dealing with him.



ERVIL LeBARON: Early photo of the man sought by the FBI.





Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Bldg
Pittsburgh Pa

Assumed Name

Known

Located:

Wisconsin, Rapids

Wisc.

destroyed

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1384796-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 23
Page 19 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 39 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 40 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 41 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 42 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 43 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 44 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 46 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 48 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 52 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 53 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 54 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 55 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 58 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 59 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 65 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 66 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 70 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 71 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 73 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 74 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 76 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 77 ~ b6; b7C;

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X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
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1	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF MARK EARL CHYNOWETH-5/20/77
2	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO BELIEVED TO BE CHYNOWETH
3	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF MARK EARL CHYNOWETH-6/20/77
4	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF MARK EARL CHYNOWETH-6/20/77
5	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF MARK EARL CHYNOWETH & [redacted] b6
6	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF (POSSIBLY) [redacted] b7C
7	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF LILLIAN CHYNOWETH
8	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF LILLIAN CHYNOWETH
9	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF L. CHYNOWETH & MARK CHYNOWETH
10	7/5/77	FO	PHOTOGRAPH OF [redacted]
11	7/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF [redacted] 1/27/73
12	7/5/77	FO	UTAH D.L. [redacted] ISSUED TO [redacted]
13	7/23/77	FO	COMPOSITE DRAWING OF THE MURDERS OF DR. ALLRED
14	7/23/77	FO	NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS RE: LEBARON
15	7/23/77	FO	FAMILY GENEOLOGY-ERVIL LEBARON
16	7/23/77	FO	INTERVIEW (TAPE) OF [redacted]
17	10/7/77	FO	ORIG. SUBPEONA TO [redacted]
18	10/7/77	FO	ORIGINAL SUBPEONA
19	11/16/77	FO	(2) PHOTOS OF SUSPECT W/?
20	11/22/77	FO	PHOTOS OF [redacted] b3 b6
21	11/22/77	FO	PHOTOS OF SUBJECT ERVIL MORRELL LEBARON b7C
22	11/22/77	FO	"COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE FOR THE MURDERS OF JOEL F. LEBARON, RULOR C. ALLRED, ETC."
23	12/5/77	FO	PHOTO OF [redacted]
24	12/7/77	FO	[redacted]
25	12/7/77	FO	
26	12/7/77	FO	
27	12/7/77	FO	
28	12/7/77	FO	
29	12/17/77	FO	
30	12/17/77	FO	PHOTO OF [redacted]
31	1/14/78	FO	1 CASSETTE TAPE FROM [redacted]
32	1/19/78	FO	PHOTO OF [redacted]
33	1/20/78	FO	[redacted]
34	1/20/78	FO	
35	2/3/78	FO	LETTER DATED 10/19/76 TO "CITIZENS OF AMERICAN PATRIOTS"
36	10/24/79	FO	1 COPY OF EACH [redacted] DRIVERS LIC. & DRIVERS CITITION HISTORY

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED F FILED F
DEC 30 1980
FBI — SALT LAKE CITY
FO

88-6976-1A

FD-340 REV. (6-24.65)

File No. 62-2880-Sub A 1

Date Received 7/5/77

From OC w/5 ltr 9

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

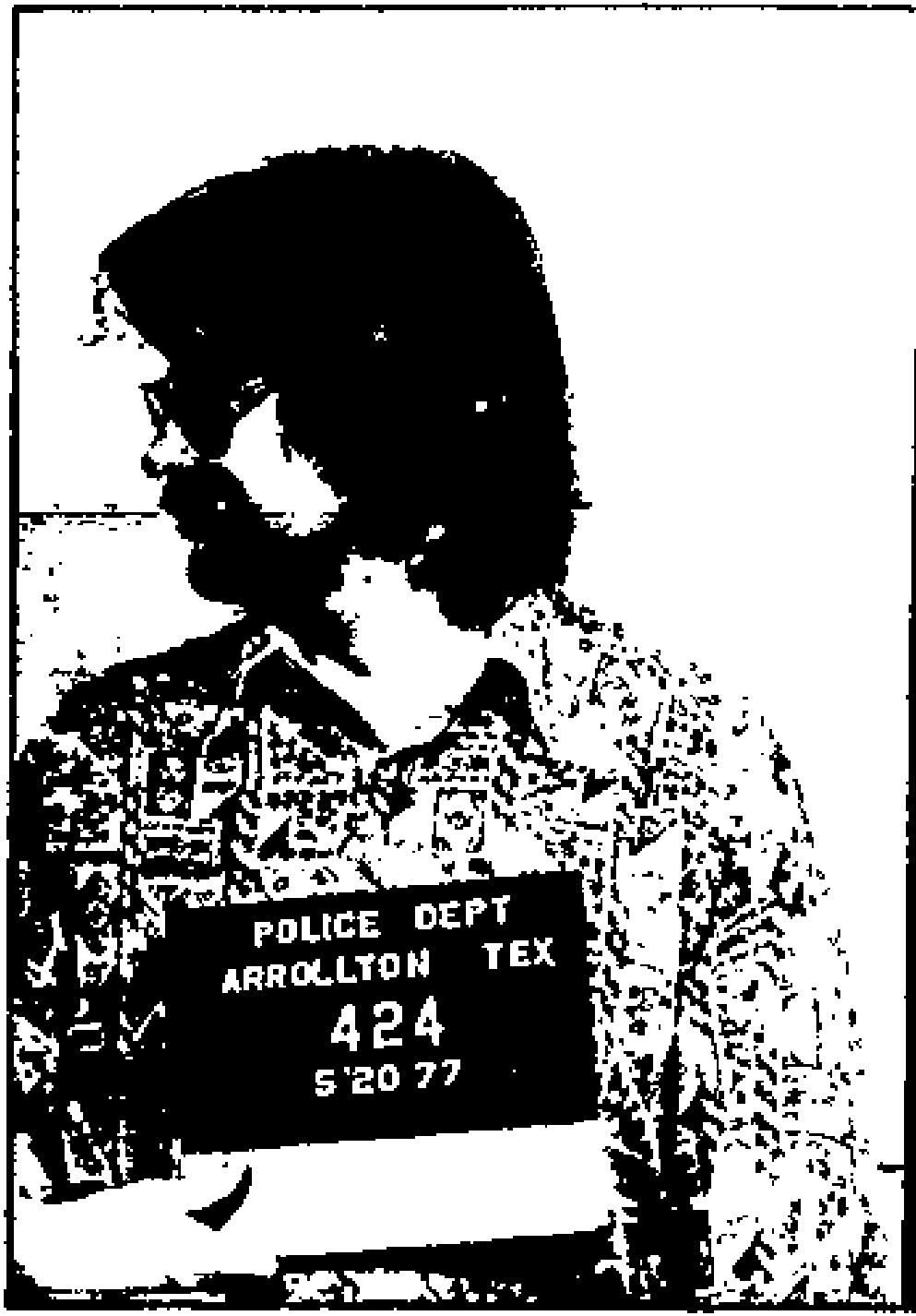
(CITY AND STATE)

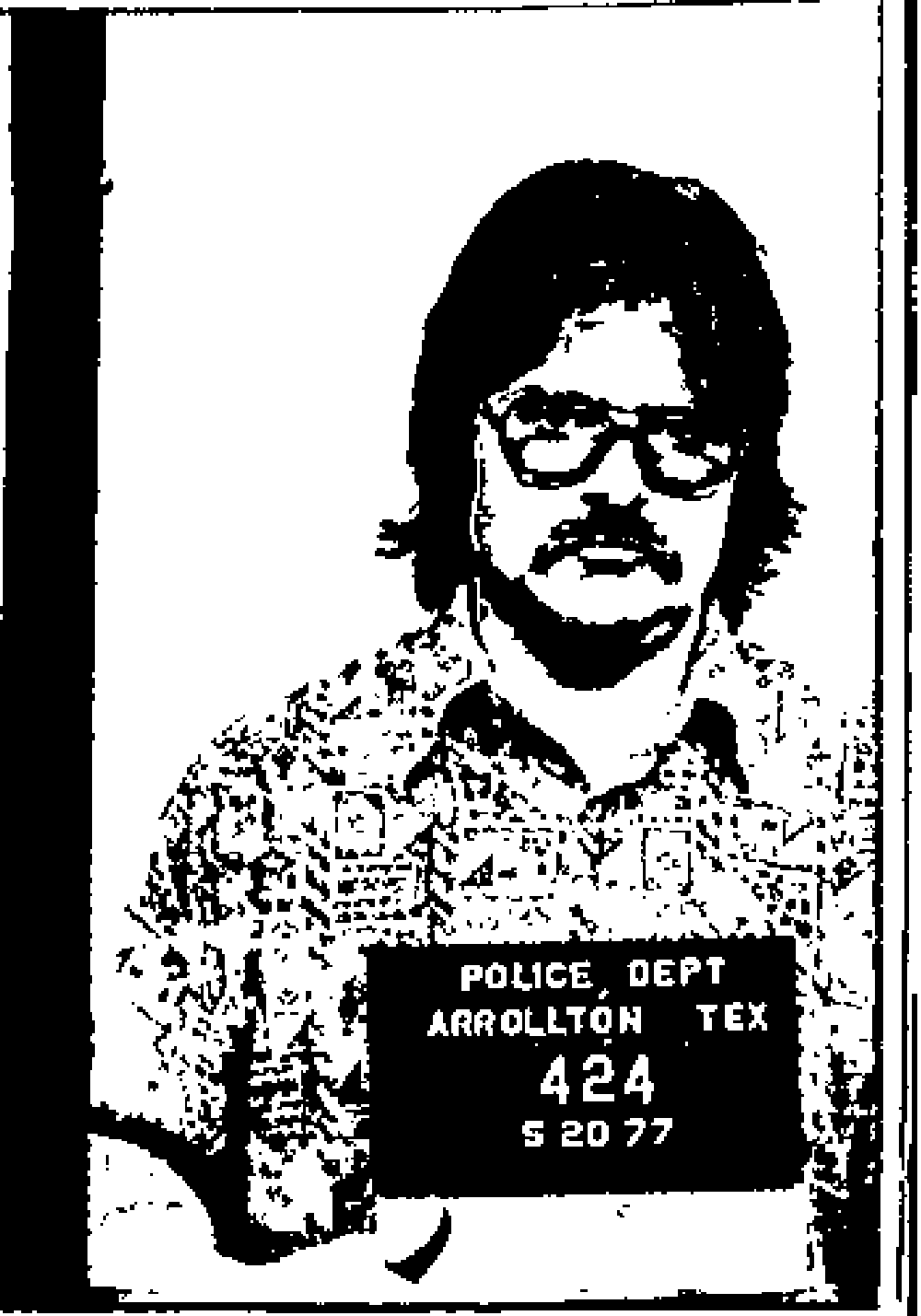
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No **Receipt Given** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

Photo of
Mark Earl Clymowell
5/20/77


POLICE DEPT
ARROLLTON TEX
424
5'20 77


POLICE DEPT
ARROLLTON TEX
424
5 20 77

Dallas File 62-7090

Winokur P.D.

Park Earl Chynoweth

w/m Brn Hazel 6, 175

SS# 529-86-2359 (?)

62-2880 - Sub A

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 62-2288-Sub 12

Date Received 7/5/77

From DLW/sf

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

15 color photos re
person believed to be
[redacted]
and
William Clymowski

b6
b7C

FD-340 REV. (6.24.65)

File No. 62-2480-Sub 43

Date Received 7/5/77

From DL w/s #9
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

4x5 photo
Mark Earl Clymowetl
6/20/77



Dallas File 62-4890 6-20-77 taken at Budget Appliance 2655 Perth St., Dallas, Texas; MARK EARL CHYNOWETH, w/m, Brn, Hazel, 6, 175, 4-29-52, SS# 529-86-2359(?)

(#1)

62-2980 - ~~143~~ Sub A3

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 62-2880-Sub A 4

Date Received 7/5/77

From DL WFO #9
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

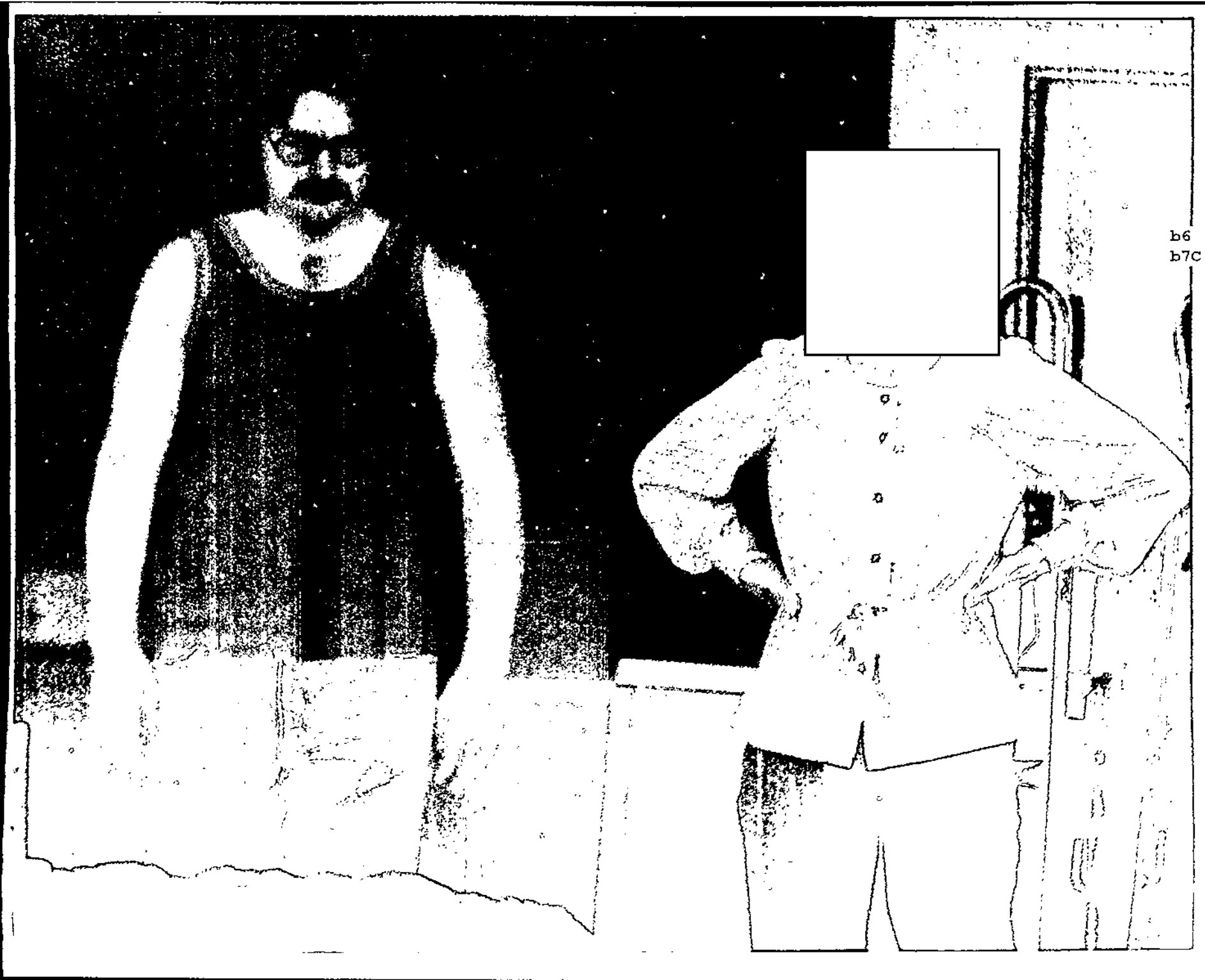
(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

8x10 photo of
Mark Earl Clymowetz
6/20/77.



b6
b7C

Dallas file 62-4890 6-20-77 taken at Budget Appliance 2655 Perth St., Dallas, Texas

MARK EARL CHYNOWETH, w/m, Brn, Hazel, 6, 175, 4-29-52 SS# 529-86-2359 (?)

probable true name [redacted]

b6
b7C

#2

62-2880-~~Test~~ Sub A4

FD-340 REV. (6-24.65)

File No. 62-2880-Sub A 5

Date Received 7/5/77

From DLW/S #9
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

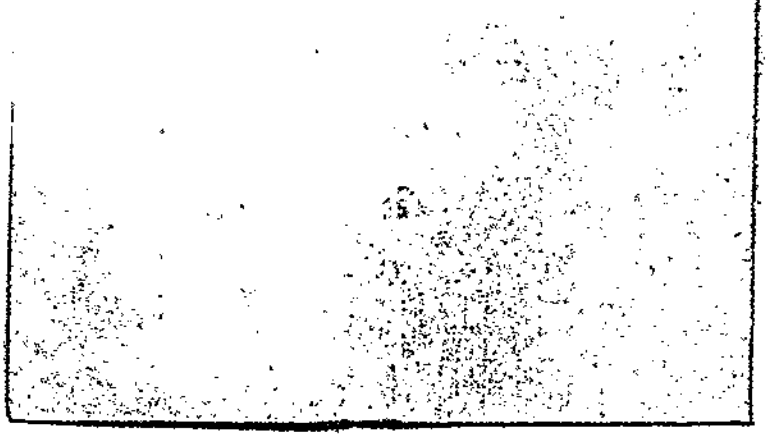
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

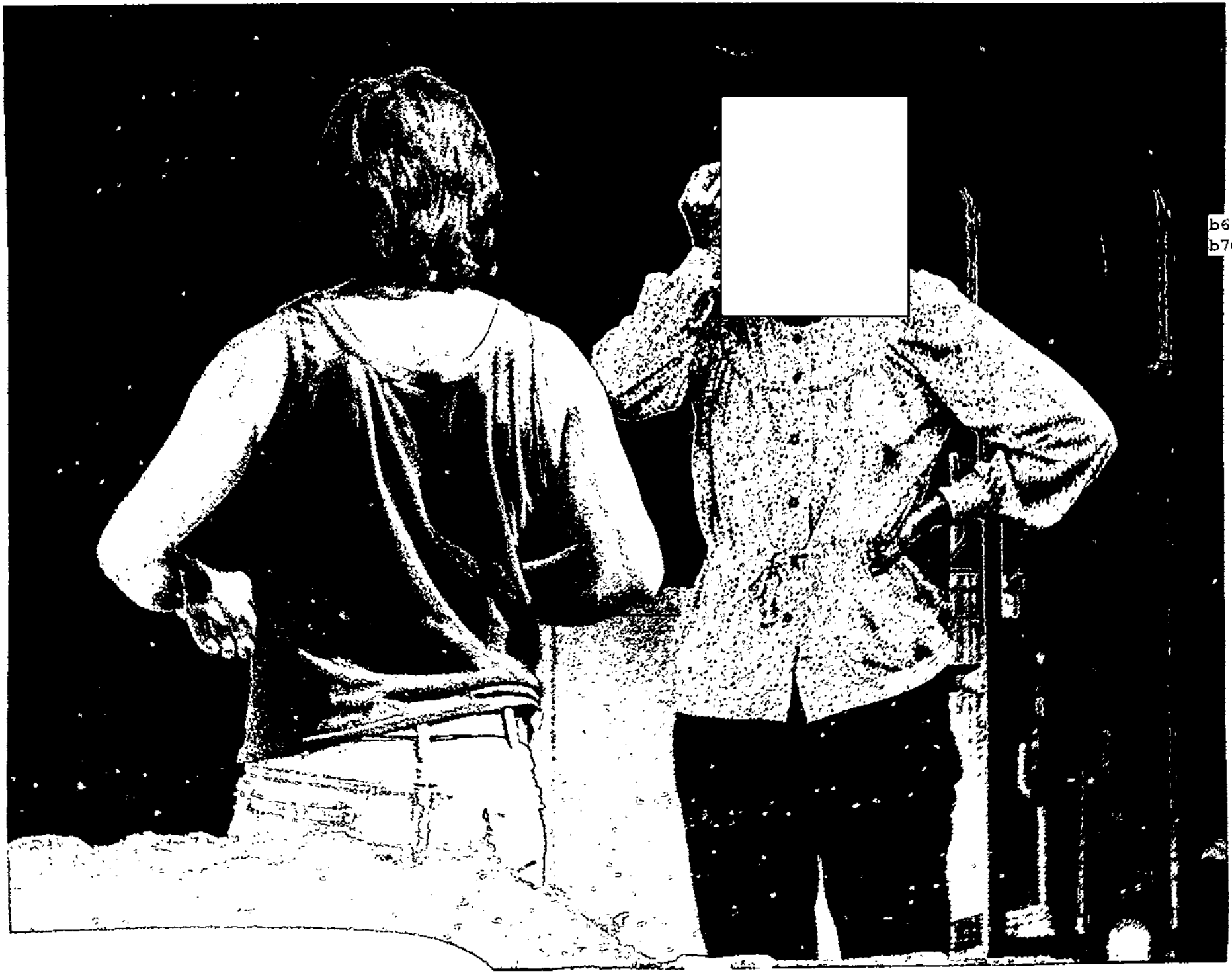
To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

8X10 photo of
Mark Earl Clymowetk
and [redacted]

b6
b7C





b6
b7C

Dallas File 62-4890 6-20-77 taken at Budget Applianee, 2655 Perth St, Dallas, Texas

MARK EARL CHYNOWETH, w/m, Brn, Hazel, 6, 175, 4-29-52, SS# 529-86-2359 (?)

probable true name [redacted]

b6
b7C

#3

62-2880- ~~1165~~ Sub A 5

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 62-2880-Sub A6

Date Received 7/5/77

From DL wfo #9
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

8 x 10 photo

possibly [redacted]

b6
b7C

Dallas File 62-4890 6-20-77

Budget Appliance, 2655 Perth St.
Dallas, Texas (Taken at)

b6
b7C

#4

62-2880-~~#6~~ Sub #6

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 62-2880-Sub A7

Date Received 2/5/77

From DL 4/3 #9

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

8X10 photo Lillian Clymowetz



Dallas File 62-4890 6-20-77 probable true name
LILLIAN CHYNOWETH, Taken at
Budget Appliance, 2655 Petkh St.
Dallas, Texas

(#3)

62-2880-~~[illegible]~~ sub 47



Dallas File 62-4890 6-20-77 probable true name LILLIAN CHYNOWETH
Taken at Budget Appliance, 2655 Perth St.
Dallas, Texas

(#6)

62-2880-~~to~~ 7 Sub A 7



Dallas File 62-4890 6-20-77 probable true name LILLIAN CHYNOWETH
taken at Budget Appliance 2655 Perth St., Dallas, Texas

(#5)

62-2880-~~[illegible]~~ Sub A 7

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 62-28870-5468

Date Received 7/5/77

From DL 4/5 #9
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

8X10 photo of Lillian Clymorth



Dallas File 62-~~8~~ 4890 6-20-77 probable true name LILLIAN CHYNOWETH
taken at Budget Appliance 2655 Perth St., Dallas, Texas

~~#5~~ #7

62-2880- ~~[illegible]~~ sub 8

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 62-2880-Sub AF

Date Received 6 7/5/22

From OC WFO #9
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

8x10 photo of
Lillian Clynoweth
and Mark Clynoweth



Dallas File 62-4890 6-20-77-taken at Budget Appliance, 2655 Perth St., Dallas, Texas

MARK EARL CHYNOWETH, w/m, Brn, Hazel, 6, 175, 4-29-52, SS# 529-86-2359 (?)

probable true name LILLIAN CHYNOWETH, w/f

~~#9~~ #8

62-2880-149

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

88-6976

File No. 62-2880-Sub A 10

Date Received 7/7/77

From Murray PD
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

[redacted]
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

b6
b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

Photograph of [redacted]

1 copy of photo sent to DL, via airtel, 7/8/77.
-tlw

80

62-2880-Sub A 10

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

88-6974

File No. 62-2880 - Sub A 11

Date Received 7/2/77

From Murray PD
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

b6
b7C

Description:

photo
dated 1/27/73

1

1 copy of photo sent DL, via airtel, 7/6/77.
tlm

62-2990-SUBA-1

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

88-6976-

File No. 62-2880 - Sub A 13

Date Received 6/27/77

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

[redacted]
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

b6
b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

Compact showing of the minutes of De. Allied

62-2880-Sub 1-13

U.S. agents, police hunt cultist

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(Editor's note: The following story and chronology were gathered after interviewing more than 50 officials, police and polygamists in five states and Mexico. Hundreds of pages of Mexican and American documents were read to glean further information. Much of the following, including the accompanying pictures, is being published exclusively in America for the first time.)

By Dale Van Atta
Deseret News staff writer

No new clue has been uncovered to reveal the whereabouts of an elusive 52-year-old polygamist cult leader whose sect has been linked to violent conflicts with other polygamist groups.

Police in at least three states and Secret Service agents across the country are looking for Ervil M. LeBaron, described on a 1972 Mexican wanted poster as green-eyed, brown-haired, weighing 224 pounds, standing 6 foot 4 inches and using the alias "Morrel McDonald." He was to be considered "armed and dangerous."

Murray police say they are trying to locate him for questioning about the May 10 murder by two women of Utah polygamist leader Dr. Rulon C. Allred.

Police in Denver and Dallas are keeping close watch on his associates in the Church of the Lamb of God that he runs, in hopes of catching him.

A Secret Service agent in Texas said the agency had been trying to locate LeBaron for many months because of threats he and his associates have made against Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. A federal agent interrogated Nancy Chynoweth last Sunday while she was in the Dallas County jail on the charge of criminal conspiracy in connection with the Allred murder.

The Secret Service, the Salt Lake County Sheriff's office and the San Diego Police Department have compiled extensive files on LeBaron as they've conducted investigations over the past five years.

Victor Chynoweth, Littleton, Colo., said he talked to LeBaron 30 days ago but didn't know where he was calling from. "It's too bad he doesn't come out and talk," Chynoweth said, adding that he probably feared police after being in a Mexican jail almost two years.

The events that brought LeBaron under American and Mexican police scrutiny first flared up in 1972. The following is an up-to-date chronology of those incidents:

June 6, 1972 — Ervil first published "Priesthood Revealed" after months of arguing with his brother, Joel, about how the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times should be run.

Ervil announced in this 82-page legal-sized document co-authored by Daniel B. Jordan that as church Patriarch he Ervil had more authority than Joel, who was church president.

Aug. 10, 1972 — Ervil published another yellow-covered essay with Jordan, this time a 128-page "Message To A Covenant People."

The essay was an attack on Joel charging him with more "crimes" which, among others, included "consistently demonstrat(ing) great emotional love for the brethren."

In the foreword the Jordan-LeBaron duo said that "God, in the fierceness of His anger, will cause His hand to be felt upon transgressors and rebels, who from this time forth, presumptuously violate holy covenants."

Later in the text, Ervil wrote that

economic plans for the community, Ervil had gained title to thousands of acres of sandy land north of the community, near San Telmo.

Under the provisions of the ejido plan, which was a national agricultural project, Ervil would lose 1,000 acres to the communal effort.

Aug. 20 — Shortly after noon, Joel F. LeBaron was beaten with a chair, shot and killed in an Ensenada home.

Police began a manhunt for seven suspects, including Ervil LeBaron, Daniel Jordan and Mark Chynoweth. The wanted poster (photographed here) offered a $25,000 reward for "information leading to the capture and prosecution" of the suspects, who were "considered armed and dangerous."

Dec. 13 — LeBaron turned himself into Ensenada authorities and was jailed.

With the help of Deseret News sports writer Jerry Johnston, who is fluent in Spanish, it was learned that Ensenada Judge Antonio Salas Carillo took depositions and testimonies from more than 30 witnesses while LeBaron was in jail. He found LeBaron guilty of being the "intellectual author" of Joel's death.

Ensenada Jailer Ricardo Verdugo said that LeBaron appealed to a Mexican tribunal which overturned the guilty [illegible] eight days after LeBaron had begun serving a 12-year sentence.

May 1974 — After issuing several threats against Joel's church members, and others, sources say, he published the notebook-sized 87-page "Hour of Crisis — Day of Vengeance."

The essay (pictured here) had a blue-and-white cover with the title and a gleaming hand-held emblazoned in red ink. LeBaron was sole author and used a Colton, Calif., box number for correspondence to the Church of the Lamb of God.

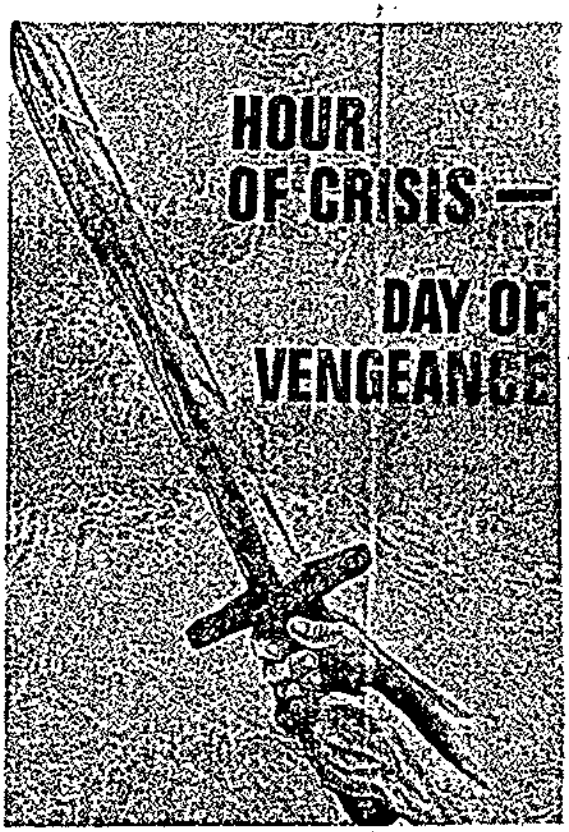
"The sword of vengeance would hang over the heads of all those who should fail to hear the word of the Lord," LeBaron wrote. "Willful failure to comply with its minimum requirements constitutes the crime of rebellion against God, which is punishable by death in this world."

He listed in this same book who were the most "rebellious" offenders:

"The one single violation of the law which God hates more than any other is the crime of ecclesiastical treason among His own people . . . This monstrous crime is presently being openly and flagrantly committed by almost all the different sects and churches of Mormondom."

October 1974 — The boldest of all LeBaron's writings, the 151-page "Contest at Law," was published. The spiral-ring green and yellow notebook, again co-authored with Daniel Jordan, had three "The Great Whore — The Persecutor of the Church — Summoned to Mount Carmel."

The essay, extensively quoted earlier in the Deseret News, stated that Joel LeBaron's murder was the first of God's judgments, that other "religious imposters" were dubbed for execution. It warned the people of Los Molinos that they'd suffer destruction if they didn't repent and



LeBaron's 1974 booklet warns that the sword of vengeance will hang over heads of unbelievers.

pects police sought for the raid, but he was not arrested until early 1976. About this time, sources say, Daniel Jordan disappeared. Three sources said that he had been shot while trying to escape from Mexican police.

April 6 and 7, 1975 — Several hundred red-and-white 18-page pamphlets "from the Church of the Lamb of God to it's (sic) attackers" were passed to polygamists living in Salt Lake City. Some of the pamphlets, titled, "Response To An Act of War," had on the back unsigned handwritten meassages and were dropped off at the homes of specific persons.

One message addressed to Dr. Rulon Allred, the polygamist leader murdered in 1977, said: "Repent & live the constitution of the political kingdom of God lest the sword of the Lord fall upon you. Then how hardly shall you escape the wrath & indignation of an almighty God? The day is at hand. Repent ye therefore or suffer destruction at the hand of God! There shall be left neither root nor branch. Repent immediately!"

Sources said Ervil LeBaron had confronted Dr. Allred face to face several times. He had often demanded that Allred's followers "pay tithing to him Ervil " and accept LeBaron as their leader.

One of the Lamb of God threats was droped off at a private Allred polygamist school: "You are all commanded to repent & commence livin the constitution of the political Kingdom of God or suffer the wrath to shortly follow."

Another threat to an 80-year-old woman ordered her to live the above "constitution," which LeBaron had already declared he resided over, or "God shall not suffer you to continue to live."

Another said simply, "Repent! live the laws of God or be destroyed."

June 1, 1975 — Dean Grover Vest, 36, was shot three times (and killed at 3 p.m. at a National City residence, close to SAN Diego. Several sources including Victor Chynoweth, said that Vest was formerly a LeBaron follower.

Police arrested a 35-year-old woman, but she was later released. The case has never been solved.

March 6, 1976 — Almost a year after the Vest murder, Ervil LeBaron was arrested and transferred to Ensenada authorities at the Chihuahua airport. (A picture taken that day is printed here.)

LeBaron was charged with being the "intellectual author" of the 1974 Los Molinos raid and killings. Second District Judge Gustavo Reynosos Moreno told the Deseret News by telephone that he dismissed the case for "insufficient evidence." LeBaron was set free on Nov. 11, 1976, after being in jail another eight months for a total of 22 months on the two charges.

Ensenada Sgt. Claudio Polentin disagreed with the latter judge and said LeBaron was found guilty in both cases and that he was paroled after paying a fine of 30,000 to 50,000 pesos (approximately $4,000) in each case.

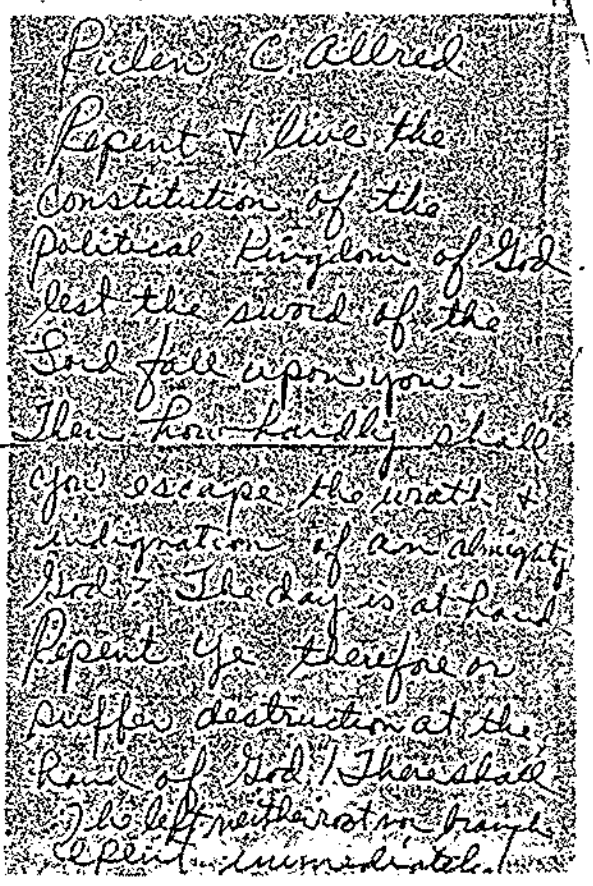
He said that the law of "fianza" or bail only required the convicted criminal return every Monday to sign a piece of paper at any Mexican police station. No one has checked if LeBaron has been signing, he said.

Jailer Verdugo also added that LeBaron was wanted "on another charge," but Mexican police offered conflicting information about the outstanding charges.

Sources said few people saw Ervil after the November release.

May 10, 1977 — After a number of unidentified verbal threats and more written threats, two women walked into Dr. Allred's Murray office at 4 p.m. and shot him several times, killing him.

May 22 — Nancy Chynoweth was arrested and charged with "criminal conspiracy" to murder Dr. Allred. She has been released on bail.


Rulon C. Allred
Repent & live the
Constitution of the
Political Kingdom of God
lest the sword of the
Lord fall upon you
Then how hardly shall
you escape the wrath &
indignation of an almighty
God? The day is at hand
Repent ye therefore or
suffer destruction at the
hand of God! There shall
be left neither root nor branch
Repent immediately!

of those incidents:

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Ervil announced in this 82-page legal-sized document co-authored by Daniel B. Jordan that as church Patriarch he Ervil had more authority than Joel, who was church president.

Aug. 10, 1972 — Ervil published another yellow-covered essay with Jordan, this time a 128-page "Message To A Covenant People."

The essay was an attack on Joel charging him with more "crimes" which, among others, included "consistently demonstrat(ing) great emotional love for the brethren."

In the foreword the Jordan-LeBaron duo said that "God, in the fierceness of His anger, will cause His hand to be felt upon transgressors and rebels, who from this time forth, presumptuously violate holy covenants."

Later in the text, Ervil wrote that for Joel "to disregard and walk over this (Ervil's patriarchal) authority is an act of treason against heaven that carries the penalty of death in this world."

Aug. 18, — A Mexican government notice directed that anyone with claims to the land of a projected Los Molinos "ejido" show their titles.

Many sources said Joel and Ervil had a number of arguments over requirements constitutes the crime of rebellion against God, which is punishable by death in this world."

He listed in this same book who were the most "rebellious" offenders:

"The one single violation of the law which God hates more than any other is the crime of ecclesiastical treason among His own people . . . This monstrous crime is presently being openly and flagrantly committed by almost all the different sects and churches of Mormondom.'"

October 1974 — The boldest of all LeBaron's writings, the 151-rage "Contest at Law," was published. The spiral-ring green and yellow notebook, again co-authored with Daniel Jordan, had three "The Great Whore — The Persecutor of the Church — Summoned to Mount Carmel."

The essay, extensively quoted earlier in the Deseret News, stated that Joel LeBaron's murder was the first of God's judgments, that other "religious imposters" were dubbed for execution. It warned the people of Los Molinos that they'd suffer destruction if they didn't repent and follow Ervil.

Dec. 26, 1974 — The day after Christmas, the community of Los Molinos (not Colonia LeBaron) was raided by nearly a dozen attackers who fired guns at residents and threw firebombs into their homes. One man burned to death while another died of gunshot wounds. A dozen were injured, and most of the community was destroyed.

LeBaron was among several suskingdom of God lest the sword of the Lord fall upon you. Then how hardly shall you escape the wrath & indignation of an almighty God? The day is at hand. Repent ye therefore or suffer destruction at the hand of God! There shall be left neither root nor branch. Repent immediately!"

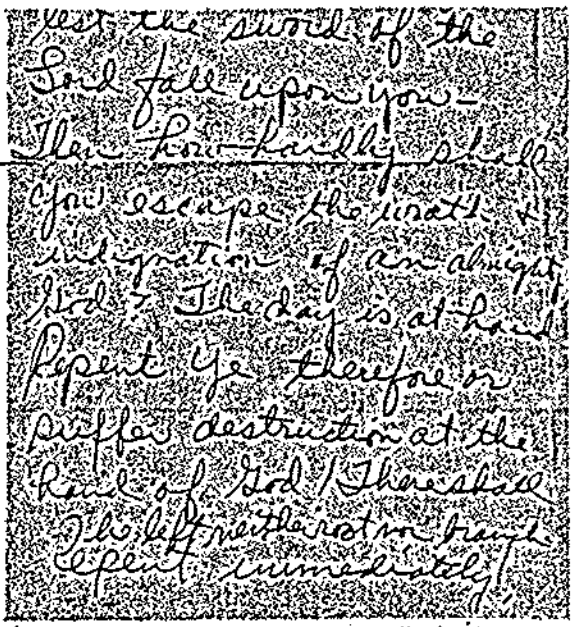
Sources said Ervil LeBaron had confronted Dr. Allred face to face several times. He had often demanded that Allred's followers "pay tithing to him Ervil " and accept LeBaron as their leader.

One of the Lamb of God threats was droped off at a private Allred polygamist school: "You are all commanded to repent & commence livin the constitution of the political Kingdom of God or suffer the wrath to shortly follow."

Another threat to an 80-year-old woman ordered her to live the above "constitution," which LeBaron had already declared he resided over, or "God shall not suffer you to continue to live."

Another said simply, "Repent! live the laws of God or be destroyed."

April 23, 1975 — Utah polygamist Robert Hunt Simons, 48, was listed as missing in the Grantsville area. Police reports and sources noted that he was last seen with an Ervil LeBaron follower, and was to be led to a place where "there were Indians who wanted to follow Simons if he was to be their leader." He has never been found.


lest the sword of the
Lord fall upon you—
Then how hardly shall
you escape the wrath &
indignation of an almighty
God? The day is at hand
Repent ye therefore or
suffer destruction at the
hand of God! There shall
be left neither root nor branch
Repent immediately!

Handwritten note received by Dr. Rulon Allred on April 7, 1975, was the first of several threats.



On March 6, 1976, Ervil LeBaron was arrested in Chihuahua, Mexico, and transferred to Ensenada where he was acquitted in his brother's death.



A 1972 wanted poster offers $25,000 for LeBaron and 6 others.

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

88-6976
File No. 62-2880 - Sub A 15

Date Received 6/22/77

From [redacted]
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

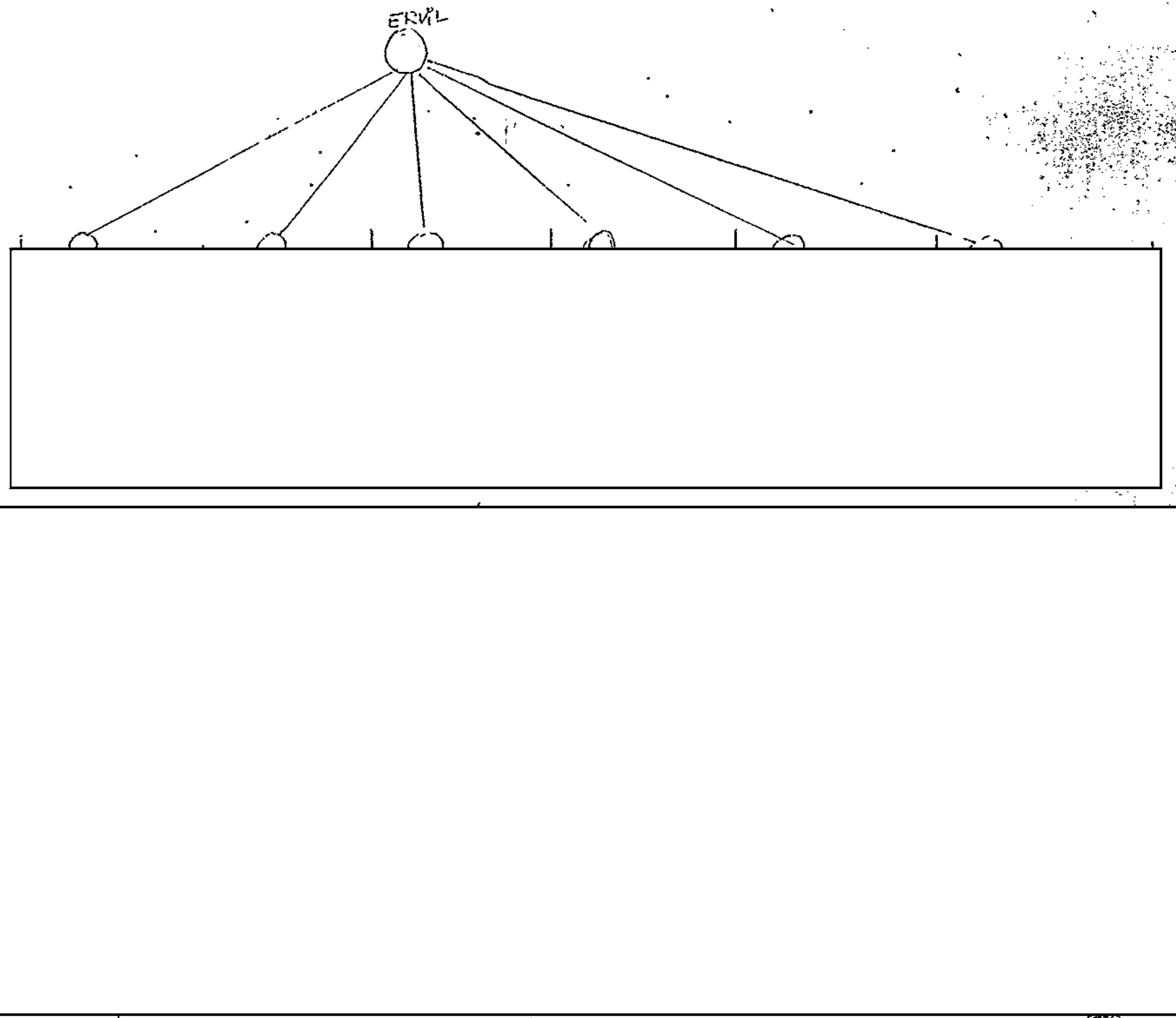
b6
b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

Family Genealogy - Civil
F Baron


ERVIL
b6
b7C
b6
b7C

88-6976-1A 20

~~88-6976-505 A~~ 4

W/S 175

TO: SALT LAKE CITY (88-6976)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (88-8262) (P)

ERVIL LE BARON - FUGITIVE(A)
ET AL.;
UFAP - FIRST DEGREE MURDER;
CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY; ATTEMPTED CRIMINAL HOMICIDE
OO: SALT LAKE CITY

ENCLOSED FOR SALT LAKE CITY ARE TWO PHOTOS OF [redacted]

b6
b7C

FD-340 REV. (10-1-76:

Civil Morrell LeBaron - FUG
UFAP; 1st Degree Murder;
Criminal Conspiracy; Attempted
Criminal Homicide
SL 88-6976-Sub A 21

File No. SD 88-8169

Date Received W/S 176

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(CITY AND STATE)

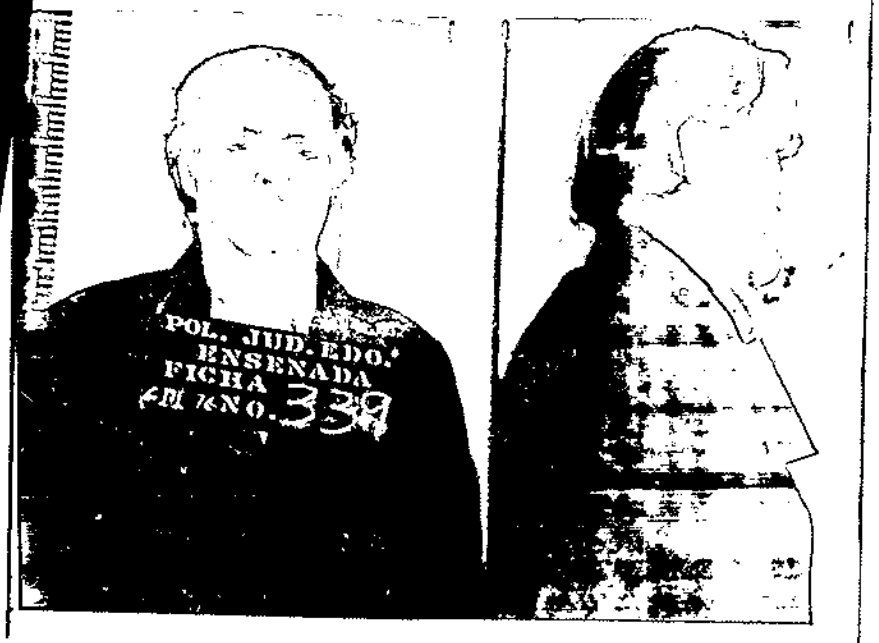
_____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

2 photos of subject Civil Morrell LeBaron.

80


POL. JUD. EDO.
ENSENADA
FICHA
FM 76 NO. 339

FD-340 REV. (10-1-76:

SU 88-6976-1A (23)

File No. IP 88-12181

Date Received 11/11/77

F

SA

b6
b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Description:

One photo

Transmitted to SU, 12/1/77, sec

FD-340 REV. (10-1-76:

Ervil Monell LeBaron - AVG (A) ETAL UFAP - 1st Degree Murder; Criminal Conspiracy; Attempted Homicide 88-6976 - 1A30

File No. ~~[redacted]~~ Sub-A (14)

Date Received 1/12/78

From 50 WLS 238
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

b6
b7C

SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Description:

One photo

of [redacted]

b6
b7C

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 88-6976-1A 0032

Date Received 1/11/78

From Gold Beach Oregon 50
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

[redacted] b6 b7C
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

one photograph.

[redacted] b6 b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1384796-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 10
Page 4 ~ Duplicate;
Page 7 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 8 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 9 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 11 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 12 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 14 ~ Duplicate;
Page 17 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 18 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 19 ~ Duplicate;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

File No. 88-9694-1A1

Date Received _____

From SL
(Name of contributor)

_____
(Address of contributor)

By [redacted]

b6
b7C

To Be Returned (Special Agent)
Yes ( )
No (✓)

Description:

3. Murray, Utah P.D
wanted flyers re:
Subject

City of Murray

Police Department

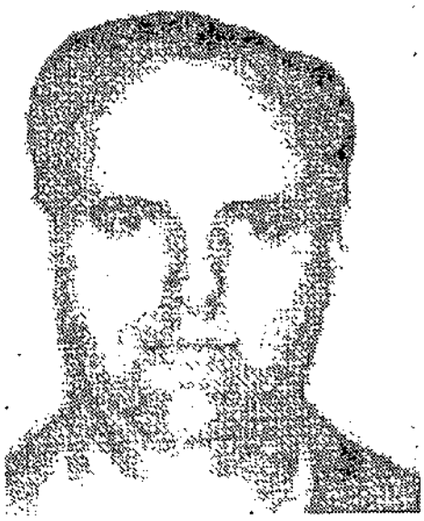
5461 SOUTH STATE STREET, MURRAY, UTAH 84107 PHONE 262 2421, 268 2566

C G GILLEN
Chief of Police

Mayor
V C SOFFE
Public Safety Commissioner

WANTED

The following individuals are wanted in connection with the Criminal Homicide and/or Conspiracy to Commit Homicide of Rulon Clark Allred on May 10, 1977 in Murray, Utah. Complaints and warrants of arrest were issued by the United States District Court of Utah September 15, 1977, charging ten defendants with the Federal Offense of Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution. Four of those defendants were apprehended September 23, 1977. Still being sought are:



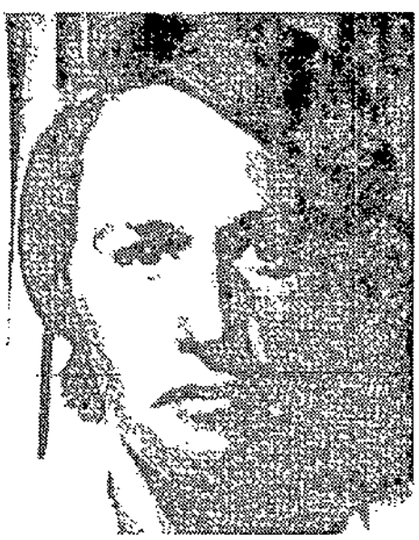
ERVIL MOREL LEBARON
DOB: 2/22/25
MW, 6'4" 230 lbs.
Blue Eyes, Brn Hair
Aka: Tio, Ray Johnson, Robert Stillson, Andrew McDonald.



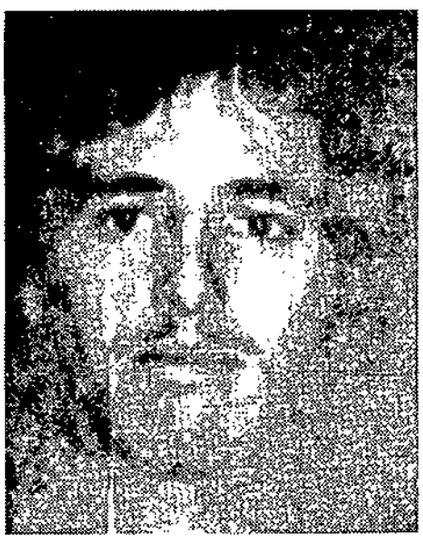
RENA LEI CHYNOWETH
DOB: 4/10/58
FW, 5'6" 130 lbs.
Blue Eyes, Brn Hair
Aka: Patty Brown, Patty Grant, Patty Sanders.



DONALD EUGENE SULLIVAN
DOB: 8/6/52
MW, 5'10" 150 lbs.
Brn Eyes, Blonde Hair
Aka: James R. Horne, Jr.



EDWARD "EDDIE" THOMAS MARSTON
DOB: 3/5/55
MW, 6'0" 160 lbs.
Brn Eyes, Brn Hair



ARTURO MOREL LEBARON
DOB: 3/5/56
MW, 6'3" 170 lbs.
Brn Eyes, Brn Hair
Aka: Brian Shutter

NO ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND SHOULD BE MADE AS ALL ARE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. NOTIFY LOCAL OFFICE OF F.B.I. OR LT. KEN KILLIAN OR SGT. PAUL FORBES, MURRAY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

SB-9694-1a2

12/3/77

10 copies of
Murray P.D. Wanted
poster in Spanish

FD-340 REV. (6-14-77)

Field File No. HOUSTON 88-9694-1A4

00 and File No. SU 88-6976

Date Received _____

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

_____
(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No **Receipt Given** ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

Photograph of subject

b6
b7C

SU airtel to Dallas, 7/20/79.

FD-340 REV. (6-14-77)

Field File No. 88-9694-1A5

00 and File No. SL 88-6976

Date Received

From [redacted]

SLC - Division

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

b6
b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

b+w Photo of

[redacted]

FD-340 REV. (6-14-77)

Field File No. 88-9694-1A6

00 and File No. SL 88-6975

Date Received

From SLC Bur
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Description:

Wanted Poster Flyers

on LeBaron's,

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6
b7C

FD-340a (Rev. 3-1-67)

Received from Denver

(Title)

(File No.)

Date Filed		Disposition
12/8/77	(1) [redacted]	Sent 00 12/16/77
	(2) Order of Night [redacted]	"
	(3) Order of Night [redacted]	"
	(4) Letter [redacted]	"
10/7/77	(5) Order & Interrogatories [redacted]	"
10/12/77	(6) Order of Night & Order [redacted]	"
	(7) Order of Night [redacted]	"
12/8/77	(8) 10 Copies of Spanish Language [redacted]	Wanted Order
11/14/78	(9) Unexecuted FD-395 of Jordan	
"	(10) Receipt for personal Possessions of Jordan	
3/24/78	(11) Metro Bank Cashiers Check etc. F 9477.	Ltd 3/30/78
"	(12) Receipt for room rental etc.	
"	(13) Receipt for funds given to Source	
"	(14) " " " " " "	
"	(15) " " " " " "	
5-22-78	(16) [redacted]	
1/24/80	(17) ORIGINAL NOTES from [redacted]	Retained

b6
b7C

b3
b6
b7C

88A-16276

88-110

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ... SERIALIZED ... FILED ...

FBI - DENVER

File No. 88-11078-1a 8

Date Received 12/2/77

From FBI
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

SA
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

Mail
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

10 copies of
Spanish language
wanted poster.

FD-36 (Rev. 3-24-77)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- XX Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ E F T O
- ☐ CLEAR

Date 10/3/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (88-76850) (ATTN: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DIVISION)

FROM: SAC, SALT LAKE CITY (88-6976) (P)

SUBJECT: ERVIL MORRELL LE BARON, aka -
FUGITIVE (A);
ET AL;
UFAP - FIRST DEGREE MURDER;
CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY;
ATTEMPTED CRIMINAL HOMICIDE.
(OO: SU)

Re Bureau teletype to Salt Lake City, 9/23/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one Murray Police Department wanted poster. Also enclosed is one photograph each of ERVIL MOREL LE BARON, [redacted] and MARK EARL CHYNOWETH. b6 b7C

Request of the Bureau

Bureau is requested to make up one wanted poster similar to Murray Police Department poster consisting of all five subjects. Number requested 500.

ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

Enclosed photos supplied to Mail Printing for ENCLOSURE

SZ REC-60 88-76850-147

16 OCT 6 1978

[redacted]

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 6)
2 - Salt Lake City
RHG:tmd
(4)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____ FBI/DOJ

62 NOV 29 1978

FD-340a (Rev. 3-12-74)

(Title) _____

(File No.) _____

Item	Date Filed	ENCLOSURES FOR THE BUREAU FROM SALT LAKE CITY	Disposition
		RE: ERVIL MORREL LE BARON, aka -	
		FUGITIVE (A)	
		ET AL;	
		UFAP - FIRST DEGREE MURDER:	
		CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY;	
		ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE	
		(OO:SU)	
		Enclosed for the Bureau is one Murray Police	
		Department wanted poster. Also enclosed is	
		one photograph each of ERVIL MOREL LE BARON,	
		[redacted] b6 b7C	
		[redacted] and MARK EARL CHYNOWETH.	
		Bufile: 88-76850	
		SUfile 88-6976	
		Dated 10/3/78	

88-76850-147

ENCLOSURE

City of Murray

Police Department

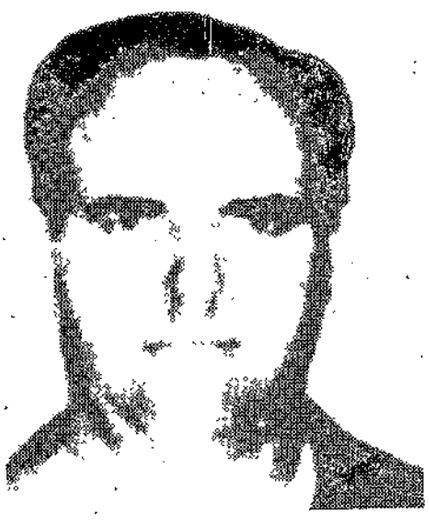
5461 SOUTH STATE STREET, MURRAY, UTAH 84107 PHONE 262 2421, 268 2566

C G GILLEN
Chief of Police

Mayor
V C SOFFE
Public Safety Commissioner

WANTED

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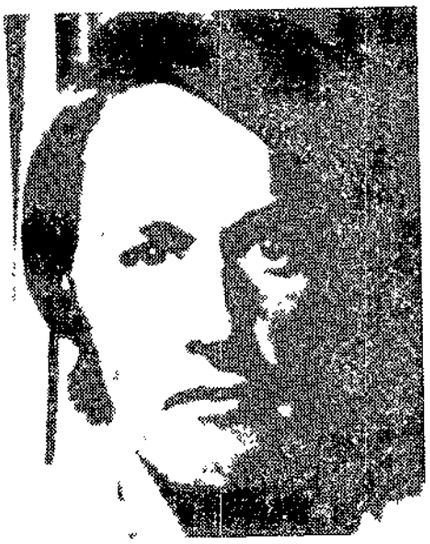
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DOB: 2/22/25
MW, 6'4" 230 lbs.
Blue Eyes, Brn Hair
Aka: Tio, Ray Johnson, Robert Stillson, Andrew McDonald.



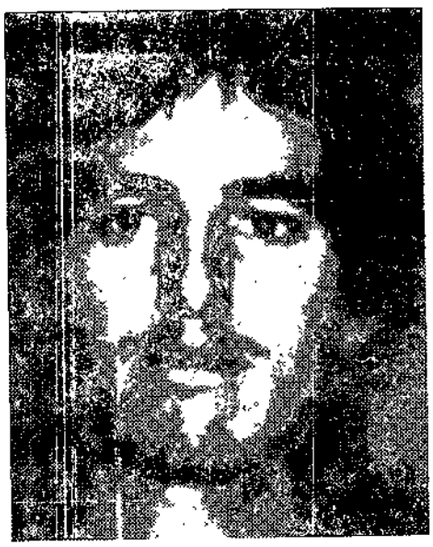
RENA LEI CHYNOWETH
DOB: 4/10/58
FW, 5'6" 130 lbs.
Blue Eyes, Brn Hair
Aka: Patty Brown, Patty Grant, Patty Sanders.



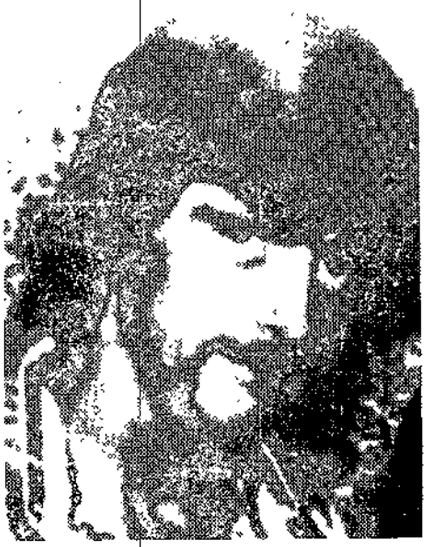
DONALD EUGENE SULLIVAN
DOB: 8/6/52
MW, 5'10" 150 lbs.
Brn Eyes, Blonde Hair
Aka: James R. Horne, Jr.



EDWARD "EDDIE" THOMAS MARSTON
DOB: 3/3/55
MW, 6'0" 160 lbs.
Brn Eyes, Brn Hair



ARTURO MOREL LEBARON
DOB: 4/23/50
MW, 6'3" 170 lbs.
Brn Eyes, Brn Hair
Aka: Brian Shutter



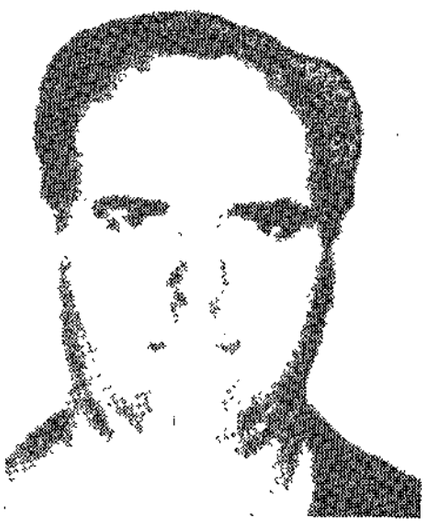
JOHN LYNN SULLIVAN
DOB: 11/1/52
MW, 5'11" 180 lbs
Blue Eyes
Aka: Jack Sullivan
Tattoo: "Danger" Forearm
Tattoo: "John" Forearm

NO ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND SHOULD BE MADE AS ALL ARE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. NOTIFY LOCAL OFFICE OF F.B.I OR LT. KEN KILLIAN OR SGT. PAUL FORBES, MURRAY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

RECOMPENSA

30,000 PESOS

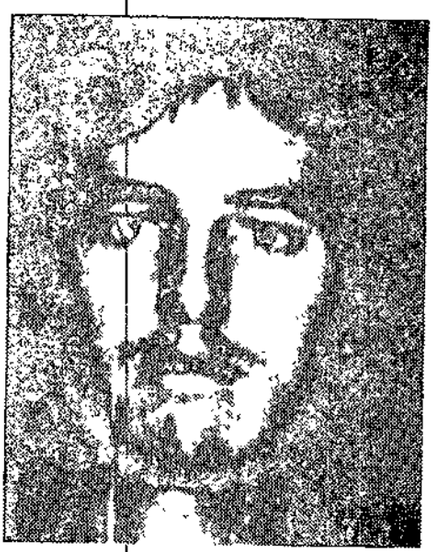
A quien aporte información precisa que lleve a la captura y el proceso de las siguientes personas implicadas en el asesinato de RULON ALLRED.



ERVIL MOREL LEBARON
(a) Ray Johnson, Robert Stillson, Andrew McDonald
Blanco, masculino
Edad: 52 años
Estatura: 1.93
Peso: 100 kg.
Cabello castaño
Ojos azules



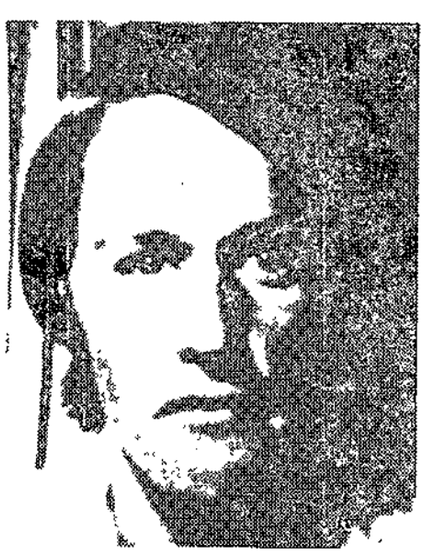
RENA LEI CHYNOWETH
(a) Patty Brown, Patty Grant, Patty Sanders
Blanca, sexo feminino
Edad: 19 años
Estatura: 1.68
Peso: 59 kg.
Cabello castaño
Ojos azules



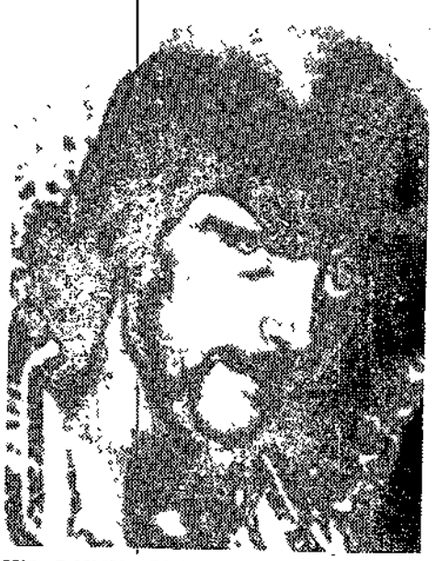
ARTURO MOREL LEBARON
(a) Brian Shutter
Edad: 21 años
Estatura: 1.90
Peso: 77 kg.
Cabello castaño
Ojos cafés



DONALD EUGENE SULLIVAN
(a) James R. Horne, Jr.
Blanco, masculino
Edad: 25 años
Estatura; 1.78
Peso; 68 kg.
Cabello rubio
Ojos cafés



EDWARD "EDDIE" THOMAS MARSTON
Blanco masculino
Edad:22 años
Estatura: 1.83
Peso: 63 kg.
Cabello castaño
Ojos cafés



JOHN LYNN SULLIVAN
(a) Jack Sullivan
Blanco masculino
Edad: 25 años
Estatura: 1.75
Peso: 72 kg.
Cabello: Rojo
Señales particulars: En un brazo, hay un tatuaje en forma de cuchillo. En el otro brazo, hay un tatuaje del nombre "Juan".

ESTAS PERSONAS SE ENCUENTRAN ARMADAS Y SE LES CONSIDERA MUY PELIGROSAS. CUALQUIER INFORMACION DEBE SER COMUNICADA A:

MURRAY CITY POLICE
5461 South State Street
Murray, Utah 84107 U.S.A.
Telefono: (801) 262-2421 0 268-2566

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Adm. Serv. _____
Crim. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

TO : [redacted]

FROM : [redacted]

DATE: 10/13/78

1 - [redacted]
1 -
1 -

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: ERVIL MORRELL LE BARON, aka -
FUGITIVE (A);
ET AL
UFAP-FIRST DEGREE MURDER;
CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY;
ATTEMPTED CRIMINAL HOMICIDE
OO: SALT LAKE CITY

PURPOSE: To request a fugitive circular concerning the captioned subject and his criminal associates, who are also FBI fugitives, be prepared and forwarded to the Salt Lake City Division.

SYNOPSIS/DETAILS: Ervil [redacted], along with Mark Earl Chynoweth, [redacted] along with others who are presently in custody, have been terrorizing opposing Mormon polygamous sects throughout the Western United States and Mexico over the last seven years. It is believed they are responsible for at least eight homicides including the murder of Dr. Rulen C. Allred on 5/10/77 resulting in their being charged in the State of Utah with criminal homicide, murder in the first degree, criminal conspiracy and attempted criminal homicide. The subjects are presently believed to be traveling between the United States and Mexico and on September 23, 1977, Federal arrest warrants were issued for them in the District of Utah based on the Fugitive Felon Act. Mexican officials have agreed to extradite the subjects should they be located in Mexico and are actively aiding the attempts to locate them. The Salt Lake City Division has requested 4,000 circulars, 2,000 each in Spanish and English. The circulars should be captioned: "Wanted by the FBI" followed by the photographs and descriptions of the five individuals. In the interest of brevity, photographs and descriptive data will be furnished separately. Below the photographs the following information should be included: "The five individuals pictured and described above are being sought for Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for Murder and related charges. If you have any knowledge of their present whereabouts, immediately notify the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Make no attempt to approach these individuals, as they are considered to be armed and extremely dangerous."

8 ENCLOSURES

TWM:vpw (5)

CONTINUED - OVER

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

62 DEC 6 1978

Memo to [redacted]
Re: Ervil Morrell LeBaron, aka -

b6
b7C

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) That approval be granted for the printing of the above-described circular and, if approval is granted, its production be coordinated between Supervisor [redacted] Fugitive Unit, and [redacted] of the Printing Unit.

APPROVED: [redacted]

b6
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(2) If approval for printing is granted, the Printing Unit furnish a rough draft copy of the circular to the Translation Unit for translation into Spanish.

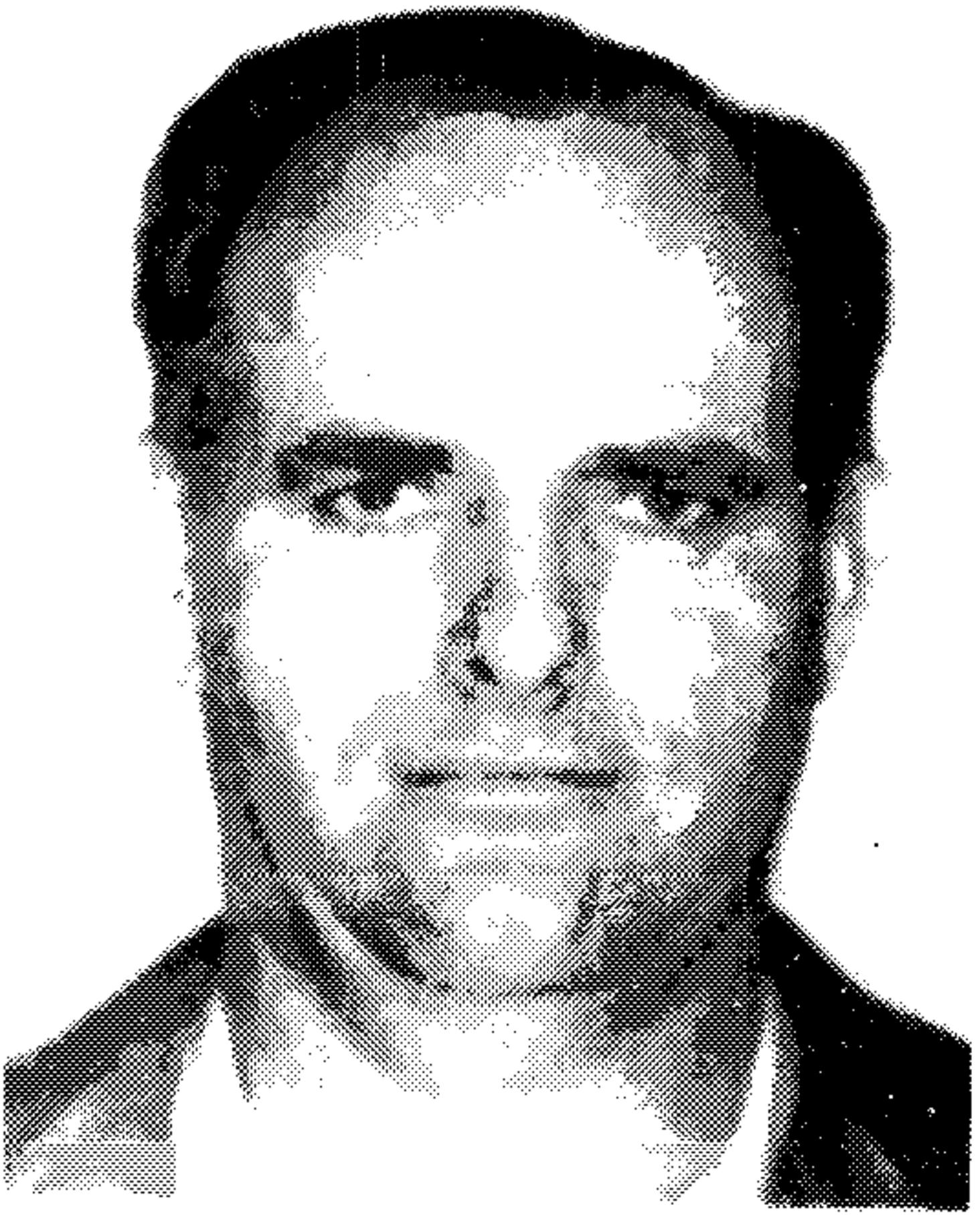
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ENCLOSURE



Wife

DOB: 2/22/75

5'4"

230 lbs

Blue eyes

Brown hair

Left Foot

Big Johnson

Little Willie

Custom Pit Bikes

Rm. 3176

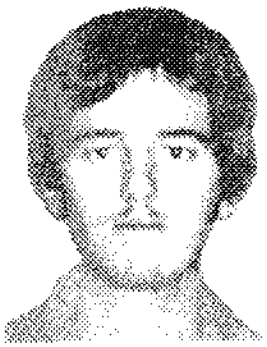
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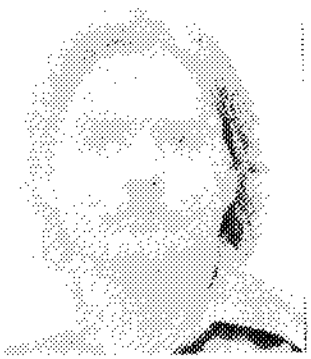
ERVIL MORRELL LE BARON

EDAD: 53 años, nacido el 22 de febrero de 1925
ESTATURA: 6'4", o sea, entre 193 y 194 cm.
PESO: 230 lbs., o sea, 104.50 kilos
OJOS: Azules
PELO: Castaño
ALIASES: Tío, Ray Johnson, Robert Stilson, Andrew McDonald



ARTURO MORRELL LE BARON

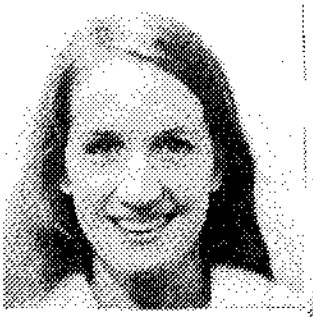
EDAD: 28 años, nacido el 23 de abril de 1950
ESTATURA: 6'3", o sea, entre 190 y 191 cm.
PESO: 170 lbs., o sea, 77.25 kilos
OJOS: Café
PELO: Castaño
ALIASES: Brian Lee Shutter





MARK EARL CHYNOWETH

EDAD: 26 años, nacido el 29 de abril de 1952
ESTATURA: 6'0", o sea, 183 cm.
PESO: 175 lbs., o sea, 79.50 kilos
OJOS: Verdes
PELO: Castaño





RAMONA MARSTON

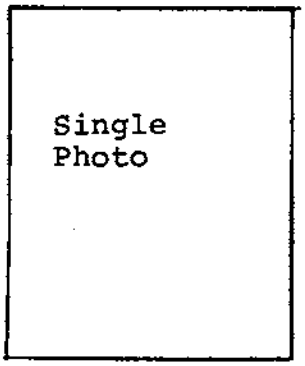
EDAD: 21 años, nacida el 23 de marzo de 1957
ESTATURA: 5'5", o sea, entre 165 y 166 cm.
PESO: 130 lbs., o sea, 59 kilos
OJOS: Café
PELO: Castaño
CICATRICES: Brazo izquierdo

Se busca a los cinco individuos cuyas fotografías aparecen arriba por fuga para evitar enjuiciamiento por asesinato y acusaciones relacionadas. Si se tienen informaciones sobre su paradero, sírvase ponerse inmediatamente en contacto con la oficina local del FBI. No se debe acercarse a esos individuos porque se les considera armados y sumamente peligrosos.

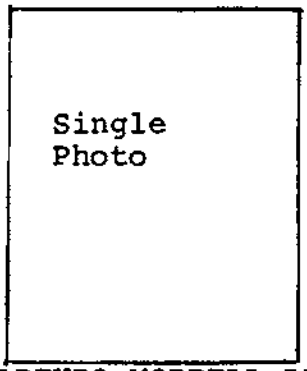
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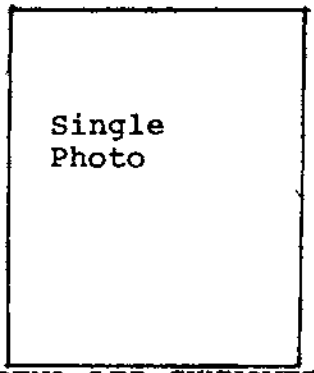
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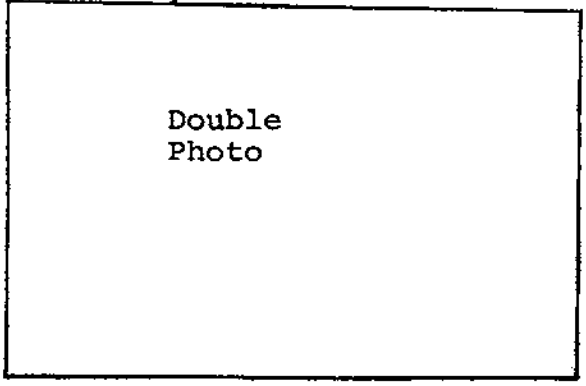
ERVIL MORRELL LE BARON
Born: February 22, 1925
Height: 6'4"
Weight: 230 lbs.
Eyes: Blue Hair: Brown
Also known as: Tio, Ray Johnson, Robert Stillson, Andrew McDonald



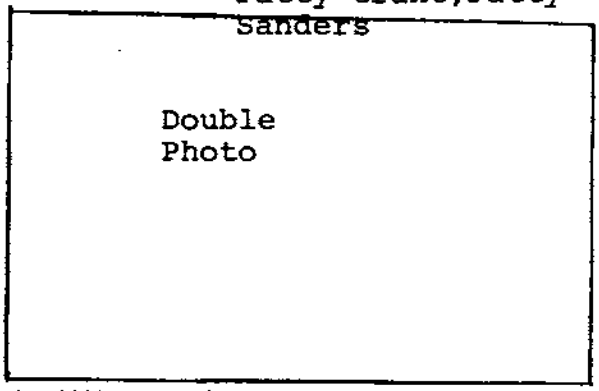
ARTURO MORRELL LE BARON
Born: April 23, 1950
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 170 lbs.
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown Also known as: Brian Lee Shutter



RENA LEI CHYNOWETH
Born: April 10, 1958
Height: 5'6"
Weight: 130 lbs.
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown Also known as: Patty Brown, Patty Grant, Patty Sanders



MARK EARL CHYNOWETH
Born: April 29, 1952
Height: 6'0" Weight 175 lbs.
Eyes: Hazel Hair: Brown

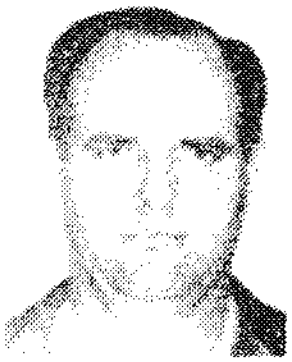


RAMONA MARSTON
Born: March 23, 1957
Height: 5'5" Weight: 130 lbs.
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown
Scar: Left arm

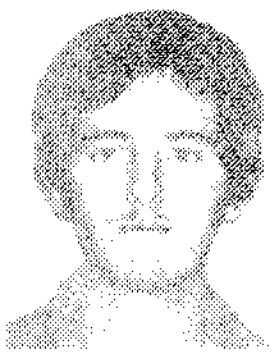
The five individuals pictured and described above are being sought for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for murder and related charges. If you have any knowledge of their present whereabouts, immediately notify the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Make no attempt to approach these individuals, as they are considered to be armed and extremely dangerous.

(11-78)

WANTED BY FBI



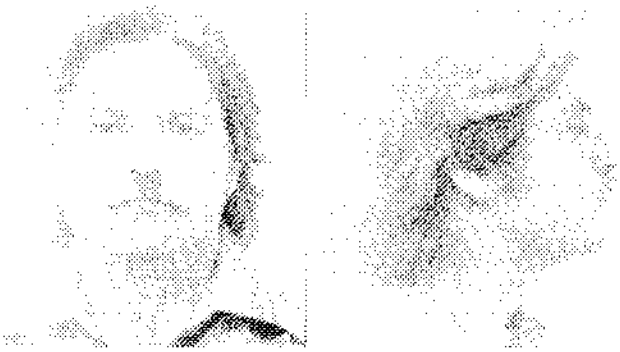
ERVIL MORRELL LE BARON
Born: February 22, 1925
Height: 6'4"
Weight: 230 lbs.
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown
Also known as: Tio, Ray Johnson, Robert Stillson, Andrew McDonald



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Weight: 170 lbs.
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Also known as: Brian Lee Shutter



RENA LEI CHYNOWETH
Born: April 10, 1958
Height: 5'6"
Weight: 130 lbs.
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown
Also known as: Patty Brown, Patty Grant, Patty Sanders



MARK EARL CHYNOWETH
Born: April 29, 1952
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 175 lbs.
Eyes: Hazel
Hair: Brown



RAMONA MARSTON
Born: March 23, 1957
Height: 5'5"
Weight: 130 lbs.
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Scar: Left arm

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Please notify a return



JACK ANDERSON

WITH LES WHITTEN

20 slayings attributed to fanatic polygamist

WASHINGTON — A religious fanatic, who has trained women to murder for him, is spreading terror in the West. He has sent women on murder missions more bizarre than the crimes of the notorious Charles Manson family.

Ervil LeBaron, who believes he is God's executioner, is responsible for at least 20 murders. This is the conservative estimate of investigators who have been following his trail. On one occasion, he sent a band of women to bushwack a Mexican community, Wild West style, because its residents had rejected him.

Yet neither federal nor local authorities have been able to find the elusive LeBaron, whose trail invariably disappears into the desert. He maintains hideouts in the same rugged terrain where the legendary outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid once eluded the law.



Ervil LeBaron

We began investigating the LeBaron cult a year ago, lured by rumors of religious executions and mysterious disappearances. We visited LeBaron's desolate habitat; we spoke to confidential sources who are in contact with the cult; we have also had access to government investigative files.

By all accounts, Ervil LeBaron is a bulldozer of a man, with a temperament as volatile as nitroglycerin. According to the wanted posters, he is six-foot-two and weighs 220 pounds. He is darkly handsome, with strong features and deep-set, blazing black eyes. He is given to Vesuvian outbursts when things don't go his way.

LeBaron believes in the vengeful God of the Old Testament and claims the authority to carry out God's wrath. He can quote scriptures and order executions in the same breath. He refers to the latter as "military orders" from God.

Yet those who know the bloodthirsty LeBaron describe him as extremely intelligent, with charismatic powers. His fanatical followers are ready to kill at his command.

they can handle weapons. One child told our sources that he had lain awake at nights thinking how he could murder for [redacted]. And a woman told us that her own sister had warned she would kill her if Ervil decreed it.

The cult practices polygamy, and rebellious wives have been known to vanish. One of Ervil's wives, Montsie, became disenchanted in 1974. That's the last her relatives have heard of her. Ervil's first wife, Delphina, used to correspond with her relatives regularly. They are now worried; they haven't heard from her for six months.

Sources with pipelines into the cult also report that Naomi Zarate, one of the wives of a loyal disciple, was murdered along with her 14-year-old son. Their bodies allegedly were dumped into the Gulf of Mexico.

Here are other murder stories from government files:

— Ervil quarreled with his elder brother, Joel, over the leadership of the cult. On August 20, 1972, Joel was brutally beaten with a chair and then shot to death in Ensenada, Mexico. Mexican authorities named Ervil as the "intellectual author" of his brother's murder. But according to our sources, he bribed his way out of prison after serving only a year. He reportedly paid $80,000.



Joel LeBaron

— Ervil called upon the followers of his slain brother to "repent" and accept his leadership. Those who refused lived in the tiny Mexican town of Los Molinos. Ervil dispatched a band of women, led by one man, to shoot up the place. From ambush, they burned down the town with firebombs and shot haphazardly at the panicky people. Miraculously, only two died in the gunfire and flames.

— A LeBaron defector, named Dean Vest, was gunned down on June 16, 1975, at a house near San Diego. Our sources say LeBaron ordered two women from his flock to commit the murder. Police picked them up but couldn't get a word out of them. The murder weapon, meanwhile, had been wiped clean of fingerprints. So the women were released for lack of evidence.

— A polygamist leader, Dr. Rulon Allred, received several threats from the LeBaron cult. On May 10, 1977, two women walked into his office outside Salt Lake City and fired six bullets into his body, killing him instantly. A LeBaron disciple, Nancy Chynoweth, has been arrested and charged with the murder.

There have been a number of strange disappearances. For example, a Utah polygamist named Robert Simons vanished on April 23, 1975. He was last seen south of Salt Lake City with some LeBaron associates.

Investigators claim that LeBaron's hard-core followers number at least 40, most of them women, all of them fanatics. But a wavering member of the sect told us that no more than half-a-dozen men and two dozen women could be classified as fanatical followers.

LeBaron was last seen, according to reliable sources, about 75 miles south of Mexico City. But he has also been reported in the vicinity of Phoenix, Ariz. Both reports could be true, since he keeps on the move.

Footnote: We have sent word to LeBaron through our contacts that we are eager to hear his side of the story. At this writing, we have received no response.

LeBarons like the Brady and Wild Bunch combined



Early 1970s pictures of Ervil, left, and Joel, right. Ervil was jailed for Joel's 1972 killing, and is being sought by police for a recent Utah murder.

By Dale Van Atta
Deseret News staff writer
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1st of two articles

COLONIA LeBARON, Mexico — Members of the Alma Dayer LeBaron family, who founded this 500-acre town, are the first to admit they're a cross between the Brady Bunch and the Wild Bunch.

Among the nine children now living, one is a concert pianist, five head their own churches, two are in mental hospitals and one is being hunted by police in connection with the recent murder of a Utah polygamist leader.

The family's father, Alma Dayer LeBaron (known as A.D. or Dayer), was a painter and prophet.

Soon after his birth in 1886 in Tempe, Ariz., his family moved to Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua, to live with other polygamous Mormon families who were crossing the border fleeing from federal persecution.

He married Barbara Bailey in about 1904 and had one son, Adrian. After a divorce a short time later, Dayer married Maud Lucinda McDonald. The couple crossed the border together before the Mexican revolutions of 1911-12 forced most Mormons to leave Mexico.

During the next years, he and Maud had 13 children. The children's birthplaces and a brief capsule of each provides some insight into the family's movements and history:

—Irene, 65, is the oldest of Dayer's children. She was born in Pima, Ariz., married an Arizona man and is still living in that state. She is the only LeBaron who never joined the LeBaron churches, but is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon).

—Benjamin Teasdale, 64, was also born in Mesa. He married in 1943 in Pocatello, Idaho, but was later divorced. During the last 20 years, he has been committed in several mental hospitals. The family does not know where he is now.

—Ross Wesley, 62, was born in Overton, Nev. He married in Phoenix in 1935 but was later divorced. Ross was one of the three founders of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times (Firstborn Church). Within a month, he left that church and formed his own called, simply, the Church of the Firstborn. He has lived in Salt Lake City off and on for the last 20 years, has no followers except goats and once spent his time making flying saucers.

—Lucinda, 60, was born in Tucson, Ariz., and married in Salt Lake City in 1940. She had frequent bouts of insanity and is now confined in an Arizona rest home.

—Alma, Jr., 59, was also born in Tucson. He is the presiding bishop of the Firstborn Church and lives between San Diego, Colonia LeBaron and another Mexican community.

—Jennie was born in Mesa, Ariz., in 1919, but died at the age of six.

—Esther, 55, is now living in Colonia Juarez, the widow of Floyd Spencer. She divides her busy life between writing the family's history and giving piano concerts in places like San Diego, Las Vegas and parts of Mexico. She was born in Pacheco, Mexico.

One son said that at the time of Esther's 1921 birth, Dayer was "considered a wealthy person. He had $20,000 and that was a lot of money back then." But Dayer sold his land and stock at a loss in the early 1920s when he "felt inspired to go back to Utah."

Despite the 1890 Mormon manifesto that abolished polygamy, Dayer clung to a belief in plural marriage as a religious principle, though he had not up to this point practiced it.

Dayer also maintained that he received an all-encompassing blessing from his maternal grandfather, Benjamin Johnson, that gave him higher authority than Mormon leaders. He claimed that Johnson had gotten his authority, or patriarchal lineage, from his close friend, the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith. Even though Johnson himself only mentioned in his published autobiography that he had a "special mission," Dayer's children continue to say they have what they often call the "mantle of Joseph Smith."

It was while living in LaVerkin, Utah, in 1923 that Dayer's claims and beliefs became more widely

known — especially when he took his first plural wife, Onie Jones.

Alma said the town became incensed at his father's second marriage and "raised up a mob to kill him." He said that a local Mormon bishop helped the family escape to Mexico.

Two events which further shaped the family's history occurred in LaVerkin. One was the February 1924 excommunication of Dayer and his wives from the Mormon church for "violative conduct." The other was the birth of a fourth son.

—Joel was born July 9, 1923. He married several wives. He was the founder-leader-prophet of the Firstborn Church and continued as its head until he was shot in what police termed a "religious assassination" on Aug. 20, 1972. He was 49.

—Ervil Morrell, 52, was the first child born in the LeBaron family's new residence at Colonia Juarez. Sources said he has married at least 10 wives. Until the late 1960s, he was Joel's right-hand man in the Firstborn Church. But his economic and doctrinal projects conflicted with Joel's. He was arrested for Joel's 1972 murder and acquitted by a Mexican Tribunal after a lower court had convicted him. Police are still hunting Ervil and his followers, sometimes called the Church of the Lamb of God, in connection with the May 10 murder by two women of Dr. Rulon C. Allred, a leader of more than 1,000 polygamists.

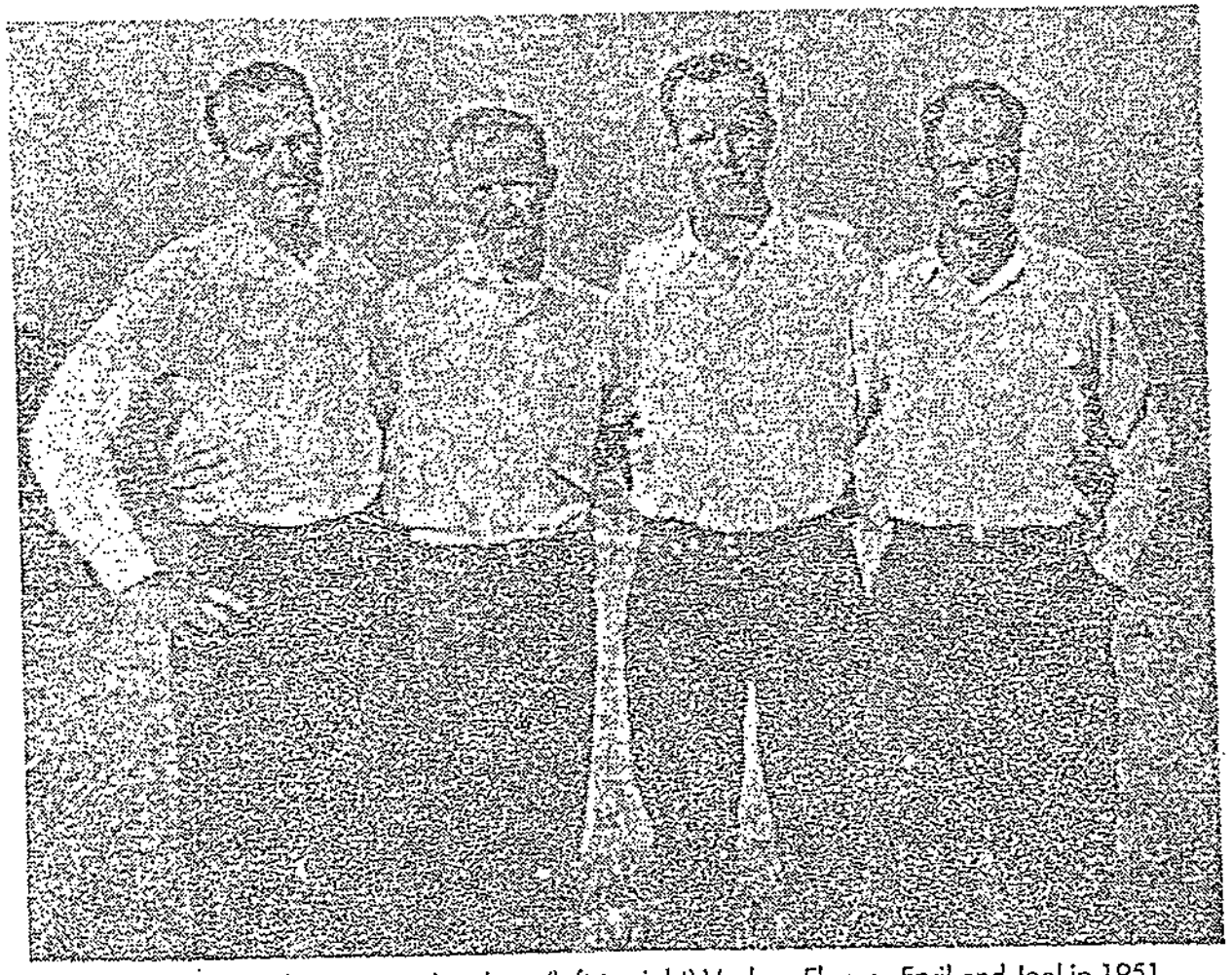
—Floren McDonald, 50, was also born in Colonia Juarez. He is an Elder in the Firstborn Church presently trying to build a community in Nicaragua. One brother charged Floren was "starting his own movement."

[illegible]lan, 47, the youngest living of Dayer's sons, became head of the Firstborn Church after Joel was killed. Born at Colonia Juarez, the softspoken leader usually lives at nearby Colonia LeBaron from where he directs the church's approximately 800 members.

—Mary and David were twins who died one day after their 1932 births in Colonia Juarez.

Several sources have described the near-poverty conditions in which the LeBaron family lived for several years. But Esther, who would have been a small child then, said that "we had so much stuff we had to give it away. We always had everything we wanted."

Dayer planted an orchard and worked at odd jobs, primarily as a house painter. He taught his sons to be hard-working, and instilled in them the story of the "mantle of Joseph Smith" which he would one day pass on to the most worthy of his seven sons.



Happier times with the LeBaron brothers (left to right) Verlan, Floren, Ervil and Joel in 1951. Joel has been killed, while Ervil has threatened the lives of brothers Floren and Verlan, Firstborn Church head.

Ben, Ross, Alma, Joel and Ervil were all excommunicated from the Mormon church between April and June 1944. (Joel later rejoined but was again excommunicated in 1957.

Prior to Dayer's death in February 19, 1951, both Ross and Joel said their father had given them "laying on of the hands" blessings, the nature of which are in dispute.

Ross said that on March 8 and in May 1950, Dayer gave him the "mantle" and all the "keys that he had been given as an heir to Joseph Smith." He said that two brothers witnessed the ordinations.

In a letter Ross wrote to their mother, Maud, he said: "I am probably the only one on earth who has a clear knowledge of what is going on, and I am helpless to prove becaus (sic) my brothers are against me like they were Joseph of Egypt."

Most of the family agree that Joel received the "mantle" because, as Dayer was quoted as saying, "there is no one else qualified. I have tried to qualify your older brothers, but have only met with rebellion and opposition."

Ervil, who wrote the official account, stated that he and his mother personally witnessed this ordination. Maud, who is a partial invalid nearly 85, still holds to the account. So do brothers Alma, Floren, 50, and Verlan, 47 and sister Esther, 55.

Alma said Joel was deeply concerned about the mantle and decided, when in Salt Lake County in 1951, to go to a nearby canyon and pray without eating or shaving until he got a heavenly confirmation.

Alma said Joel returned a day later and said 19 men who had held the "Right of the Firstborn" high office before Joel, taught Joel in their angelic forms. Those resurrected beings reportedly included Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith.

Even though he had received this visitation which Joel said confirmed he was the highest authority on earth, he and several brothers joined the Fundamentalists and were active off and on from 1951 to 1955. At one time, Joel was even appointed to head a local "United Order" or communal living situation.

It wasn't until Sept. 21, 1955, that Joel left that group officially and answered his "higher calling" through the Utah incorporation of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fulness of Times (Firstborn Church).

Ross said it was his idea to incorporate and Joel had agreed that he (Ross) would lead it "until the coming of the One Mighty and Strong. About a few weeks after the church was set up and we'd done some advertising, Joel claimed HE was the One Mighty and Strong and our agreement was now broke."

Ross stayed in Salt Lake to head his own Church of the Firstborn which he said recently has "no true followers."

He often speaks in superlatives, saying that he holds keys that make him the most important man on earth, that he was once "the world's greatest polygamist" and that "the greatest contest on earth today exists between me and (a Fundamentalist leader)."

Ross used to make model flying saucers because he believes Adam came to earth in a flying saucer, that four flying saucers perpetrated the Old Testament miracles and that "the second coming of Christ" will be in a saucer that will land about where the Hotel Utah stands.

Meanwhile, Ross lives on a small, ramshackle farm in the Redwood area, awaiting the day when the world will follow him. His love for animals has led him to herd 60 goats, some of them purebred, and allow three mice the run of the kitchen.

When Ross split with the Firstborn Church, Joel designated Ervil, now 52, as Ross' replacement. Only two years apart, Joel and Ervil were inseparable and had "a deep love for one another," sources said.

The church included only LeBarons until a neighbor was baptized a full year after incorporation. Membership received two boosts in 1958, the first from a number of southern Mexicans converted by Ervil, who promised idyllic conditions at Colonia LeBaron.

The second boost came from a group of "French missionaries" whose activities have become more legend than fact among the Mormon church members.

Research indicates that the group was led by an LDS missionary, William P. Tucker, who began to believe in polygamy and other doctrines not espoused by modern Mormon leaders.

A group of a dozen fellow missionaries serving in France began to collect for small meetings to discuss Fundamentalism, but no "convert" was actively sought.

LDS mission leaders, when they learned of the meetings, held several interviews and excommunicated Tucker and eight others. Three more left the mission voluntarily. About this time, a missionary who had been among the group but had gone home earlier sent a copy of Ervil LeBaron's "Priesthood Expounded" to his friends.

Most decided to talk to Ervil at Colonia LeBaron since the families of some of them disagreed so strongly with their children's thoughts and dishonorable mission release.

The majority stayed and joined the Firstborn Church, and two of the group's lady missionaries later married two of the male missionaries. Firstborn Church leaders report that none of the so-called "French missionaries" are with them any longer.

Much of the Firstborn Church's growth was caused by Joel's personal influence. Sources, including members who have since left that church, said he was a "very kind, a very Christ-like person who wouldn't harm anyone for the world."

Sister Esther is even more ecstatic. "Anybody that's ever known him thinks he's absolutely the most perfect character that ever lived."

Still, Ervil was the unofficial church spokesman, often described as "brilliant and very determined." He wrote many of the church's treatises, sometimes injecting his own thoughts rather than Firstborn Church dogma.

Some say it took a while before Joel "realized that Ervil was playing Judas to him," as one close source said. Ervil had begun claiming that his authority was higher than Joel's, and insisted on development plans for the Baja peninsula community of Los Molinos.

In the later 1960s, Ervil threatened Joel's life through friends and in print. Such action led Joel to throw Ervil out of the church and Ervil, in turn, said he stripped Firstborn Church leaders of their authority.

In August 1972, Joel was shot and killed. Ross said that his death, a 1974 raid on Los Molinos that killed two and made national headlines and several other polygamist deaths "boil down to a fight over the birthright, just like in the Bible."

Most family members have characterized Ervil as the "black sheep." Sources and literature report that he and his followers, sometimes called the Church of the Lamb of God, have issued serious threats against his mother, Floren, Ross, Alma and, particularly, Verlan.

One of Verlan's wives said that her husband has probably "been saved so far because he travels a lot." Only a few relatives and the Deseret News knew he and two other Firstborn Church leaders were in Salt Lake City for the recent funeral of his uncle-in-law, Dr. Rulon C. Allred.

Dr. Allred, a Utah polygamist leader, was shot by two women on May 10. Ervil and his followers are being sought for questioning on the murder.

Verlan himself said his associates are often surprised at how calm he is about the threats. "I don't have great fear," he said, "but I'm also not looking him up. If the law can't do something about Ervil and his people, they'll go on."

None of Ervil's relatives, including almost 100 of Maud's grandchildren, has seen him since he was released from an Ensenada, Mexico, jail last November.

One relative who "still loves him" said Ervil "truly believes he's serving God in everything he's done. He and his followers think they've got the political power over life and death. People need to understand the seriousness of this thing. So do the police."

LeBaron chronicle echoes biblical stories

By Dale Van Atta
Deseret News staff writer
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Last of two parts.

COLONIA LeBARON, Mexico — The seven sons of Alma Dayer LeBaron are as different as the prophet Jacob's twelve, and a chronicle of their lives reads remarkably like a rewrite of the Old Testament.

Three of the LeBarons have claimed they are prophets as great as Moses, and have started their own churches.

The character of one of them was often compared to the purity and kindness of Jesus Christ, while a cousin's cultist practices have been likened to the biblical account of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Following in-family doctrinal and economic disputes, one LeBaron was shot and killed — martyred — "just like the Cain and Abel story," one brother said.

Another son has proclaimed his right to bring down the wrath of God, including execution, on anyone whose teachings he disagrees with.

And all of these have occured in the name of a birthright which the family's father, known by his middle name Dayer, claimed his maternal grandfather received from the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith.

As soon as the LeBaron boys "could understand things," Dayer began to tell them how his grandfather, Benjamin Johnson, had been given all the priesthood and religious authority that the grandfather's friend, Joseph Smith, had.

He told them that while in a Salt Lake City home in the 1920s, the angelic form of the deceased Benjamin Johnson told him what his mission was to be.

Dayer promised he would one day pass his "authority" or the "mantle of Joseph Smith" on to the most worthy of his seven sons.

It was the oldest son, Benjamin, who first claimed his father had given him the "mantle" in 1933, after which he announced he was a prophet of God. Within two years, he claimed he was the "One Mighty and Strong."

That title refers to a great prophet whom Fundamentalists, or polygamists, believe will one day come and "set the house of God in order." Among other mighty deeds, he will reportedly reconcile The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) with these excommunicated polygamists.

Ben's strongest supporters were his younger brothers, Ervil and Alma. The latter brother, now 59, said that Ben for a while "taught pretty close to the truth on things. My father said he had more of the earmarks of a true prophet than others he had known."

Over a ten-year period, Ben would often come to Salt Lake City to try to convert Fundamentalists to his claims. They report that he would often become "irrational," doing things like roaring to prove he was the "Lion of Israel."

Several sources told of a more humorous incident in which Ben started shouting in a Salt Lake County courtroom that he was the One Mighty and Strong. A huge man, he yanked a policeman out to the middle of the intersection at 33rd So. and State streets where he held up traffic for half an hour while he did 200 pushups (the figure varies). "See," he said, "nobody else can do that many. That proves I'm the One Mighty and Strong."

"He done all kinds of funny things back then to steal the scene," said his brother Ross.

By the time Ben was committed to the Utah State Hospital in 1953, his only real follower was a second cousin who claimed an angel had appointed him to be Ben's successor.

While the cousin (whose name is withheld on the request of his descendants) resided at the LeBaron ranch, which had been renamed Colonia LeBaron, he "began getting revelations as fast as you could talk . . . and taught all kinds of corrupt sex stuff," Alma said.

He said the cousin and his wives and children "started running around all the time in the nude yelling and shouting. They were waiting for a flying saucer from God to take them away."

When the cousin's wives complained about the unorthodox practices, the LeBarons called mental health authorities to commit the cousin. While waiting for them to arrive, they chained him to a cottonwood pole in a goat shed for restraint. He pulled the pole up and dragged it nearly a mile to a neighbor's house where the chain was sawed off.

Finally, Alma, Ervil and another brother, Joel, held a private hearing for the cousin and ordered him to leave the ranch, when authorities would not take him away.

The LeBarons feared if he wasn't sent away that he'd let his children wander out into the desert and starve. He'd already neglected them to the point that they chewed charcoal until their teeth were black. The cousin was last reported traveling with Ben from one mental institution to another.

In the 1940s, the LeBaron boys all "tried" Mormonism. Encouraged by local leaders, several became elders in the Mormon priesthood. Joel and Ervil even went on a Mexican mission together, but were dishonorably released for supporting their father's polygamy beliefs.

9 children of 13 survive

Alma Dayer LeBaron and his second wife, Maud, had 13 children. A girl, Jennie, died at the age of six while twins Mary and David died shortly after birth.

One son, Joel, most known for heading the self-started Church of the Firstborn of the Fulness of Times (Firstborn Church), was shot to death Aug. 20, 1972, at the age of 49. The children now living are:

Irene, 65, living in Arizona, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon);

Benjamin, 64, in an unknown mental institution;

Ross, 62, a Salt Lake County resident who heads a church with no followers;

Lucinda, 60, confined to an Arizona [illegible] home;

Alma, Jr., 59, lives between San Diego and the Mexican communities of Colonia LeBaron and Los Molinos, Presiding Bishop of Firstborn Church;

Esther, 55, concert pianist and family historian living in Colonia Juarez, Mexico;

Ervil, 52, head of cult, Church of the Lamb of God, being hunted by police for questioning on murder of Utah polygamist leader Dr. Rulon C. Allred last May 10;

Floren, 50, building a community for the Firstborn Church in Nicaragua;

Verlan, 47, head of Firstborn Church living in Colonia LeBaron but frequently travels.

At some points in his life, Dayer professed to be a Fundamentalist, or one of several thousand excommunicated Mormons who practiced polygamy and believed differently than the main body of the Mormon church.

In 1947-48, two prominent Fundamentalist leaders, Dr. Rulon C. Allred and his brother Owen, spent nine months on the LeBaron ranch near Galeana working and planning projects together with the LeBarons.

But disagreements cropped up. "A.D. LeBaron did not uphold any of the leaders among the Fundamentalists, except in the hopes that they might uphold him in return," wrote Owen Allred. "When they did not, or would not, then he had no use for them." Alma said Dayer continued to house Fundamentalists who asked for help.

About a dozen sources attribute LeBaron character traits and independence to a several-year ostracism by their neighbors. Local Mormon leaders, exasperated by Dayer's constant preaching on polygamy, told church members they could only visit Dayer's home for business reasons.

Several of Dayer's children, including Alma, said the social isolation "has been exaggerated. A ruling was made, but we were not forbidden to go to anyone else's parties."

Esther said she remembered only one birthday party in the LeBaron home when Joel turned 12. "I do remember when I was 6 years old, we had to have the birthday party at a home across town," Verlan recalled.

Ross felt that the non-social period had a great effect on the younger LeBaron children.

"It's a fact that the LeBarons have a tendency to be high-strung," he said. "We're highly sensitive, highly nervous and prone to crack up because of some family problems."

He said he's rehabilitated himself by going to many skating rinks where "you learn how to mix with other people without ever having to say anything to them."

Whatever the cause, Lucinda became ill during the early Colonia Juarez days and appeared to suffer a nervous breakdown. Dayer, who had been excommunicated, asked Mormon elders to come and heal her. One source said he begged permission to be in the room and knelt at her feet during the blessing.

"She first became ill when I was a little boy," said Verlan, "and after that it was off and on over the years."

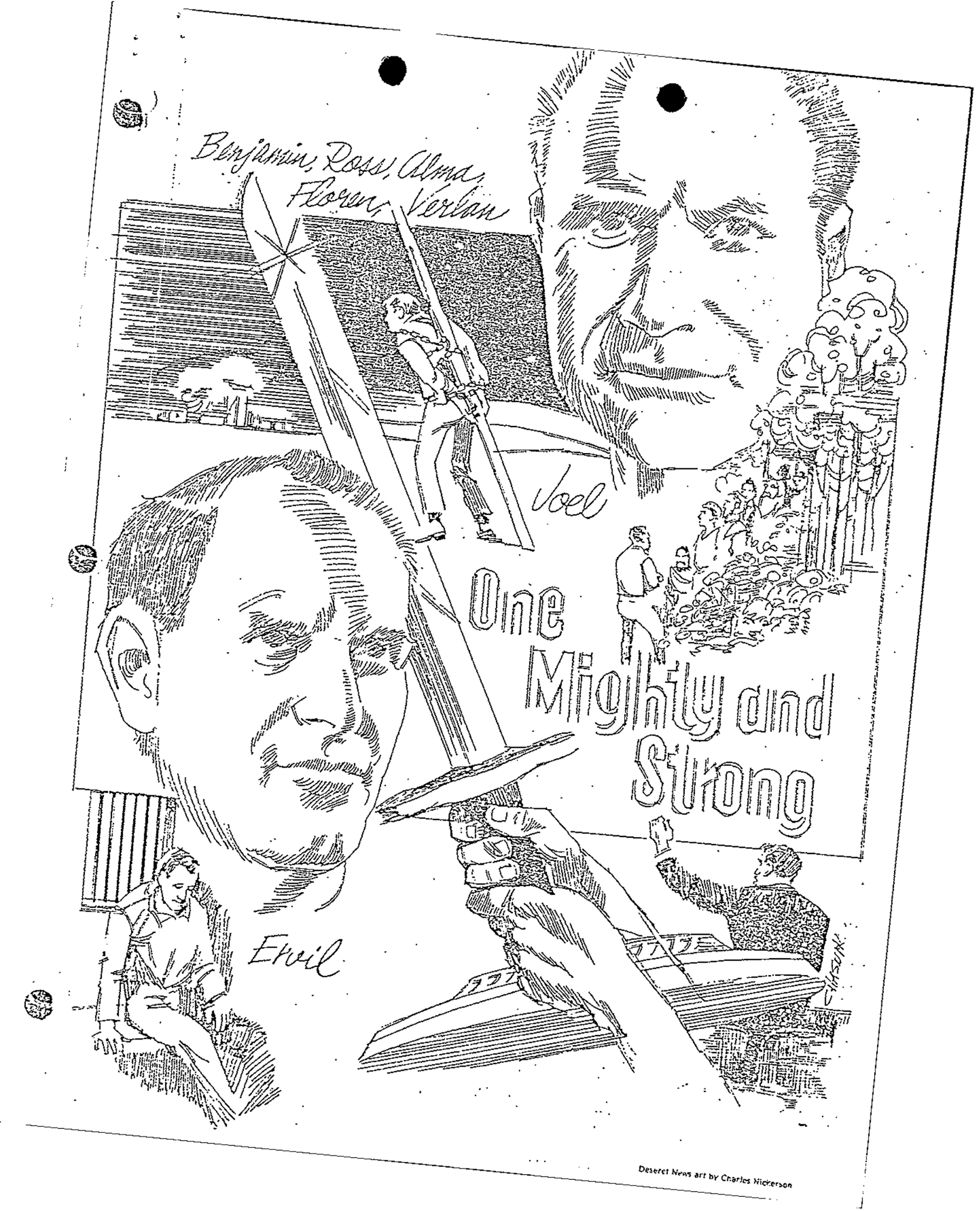
Within a decade, her older brother, Benjamin, was committed to the Utah State Hospital. He was the first of several LeBarons who announced he was a prophet of God.

"I think we are a most unusual family," said Esther, who began writing the family's history when she was jailed during the 1953 Short Creek raid on polygamous families living on the Utah-Arizona border, even though her husband was monogomous.

"There's no use any of us lying about the family," she added. "Facts are facts and truth is truth."



Ross is a former flying saucer maker who heads a Salt Lake church. He keeps a herd of nearly 60 pureblood goats.



Deseret News art by Charles Hickerson



JACK ANDERSON

WITH LES WHITTEN

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20 slayings attributed to fanatic polygamist

WASHINGTON — A religious fanatic, who has trained women to murder for him, is spreading terror in the West. He has sent women on murder missions more bizarre than the crimes of the notorious Charles Manson family.

Ervil LeBaron, who believes he is God's executioner, is responsible for at least 20 murders. This is the conservative estimate of investigators who have been following his trail. On one occasion, he sent a band of women to bushwack a Mexican community, Wild West style, because its residents had rejected him.

Yet neither federal nor local authorities have been able to find the elusive LeBaron, whose trail invariably disappears into the desert. He maintains hideouts in the same rugged terrain where the legendary outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid once eluded the law.



Ervil LeBaron

We began investigating the LeBaron cult a year ago, lured by rumors of religious executions and mysterious disappearances. We visited LeBaron's desolate habitat; we spoke to confidential sources who are in contact with the cult; we have also had access to government investigative files.

By all accounts, Ervil LeBaron is a bulldozer of a man, with a temperament as volatile as nitroglycerin. According to the wanted posters, he is six-foot-two and weighs 220 pounds. He is darkly handsome, with strong features and deep-set, blazing black eyes. He is given to Vesuvian outbursts when things don't go his way.

LeBaron believes in the vengeful God of the Old Testament and claims the authority to carry out God's wrath. He can quote scriptures and order executions in the same breath. He refers to the latter as "military orders" from God.

Yet those who know the bloodthirsty LeBaron describe him as extremely intelligent, with charismatic powers. His fanatical followers are ready to kill at his command.

they can handle weapons. One child told our sources that he had lain awake at nights thinking how he could murder for E[illegible]. And a woman told us that her own sister had warned she would kill her if Ervil decreed it.

The cult practices polygamy, and rebellious wives have been known to vanish. One of Ervil's wives, Montsie, became disenchanted in 1974. That's the last her relatives have heard of her. Ervil's first wife, Delphina, used to correspond with her relatives regularly. They are now worried; they haven't heard from her for six months.

Sources with pipelines into the cult also report that Naomi Zarate, one of the wives of a loyal disciple, was murdered along with her 14-year-old son. Their bodies allegedly were dumped into the Gulf of Mexico.

Here are other murder stories from government files:

— Ervil quarreled with his elder brother, Joel, over the leadership of the cult. On August 20, 1972, Joel was brutally beaten with a chair and then shot to death in Ensenada, Mexico. Mexican authorities named Ervil as the "intellectual author" of his brother's murder. But according to our sources, he bribed his way out of prison after serving only a year. He reportedly paid $80,000.



Joel LeBaron

— Ervil called upon the followers of his slain brother to "repent" and accept his leadership. Those who refused lived in the tiny Mexican town of Los Molinos. Ervil dispatched a band of women, led by one man, to shoot up the place. From ambush, they burned down the town with firebombs and shot haphazardly at the panicky people. Miraculously, only two died in the gunfire and flames.

— A LeBaron defector, named Dean Vest, was gunned down on June 16, 1975, at a house near San Diego. Our sources say LeBaron ordered two women from his flock to commit the murder. Police picked them up but couldn't get a word out of them. The murder weapon, meanwhile, had been wiped clean of fingerprints. So the women were released for lack of evidence.

— A polygamist leader, Dr. Rulon Allred, received several threats from the LeBaron cult. On May 10, 1977, two women walked into his office outside Salt Lake City and fired six bullets into his body, killing him instantly. A LeBaron disciple, Nancy Chynoweth, has been arrested and charged with the murder.

There have been a number of strange disappearances. For example, a Utah polygamist named Robert Simons vanished on April 23, 1975. He was last seen south of Salt Lake City with some LeBaron associates.

Investigators claim that LeBaron's hard-core followers number at least 40, most of them women, all of them fanatics. But a wavering member of the sect told us that no more than half-a-dozen men and two dozen women could be classified as fanatical followers.

LeBaron was last seen, according to reliable sources, about 75 miles south of Mexico City. But he has also been reported in the vicinity of Phoenix, Ariz. Both reports could be true, since he keeps on the move.

Footnote: We have sent word to LeBaron through our contacts that we are eager to hear his side of the story. At this writing, we have received no response.

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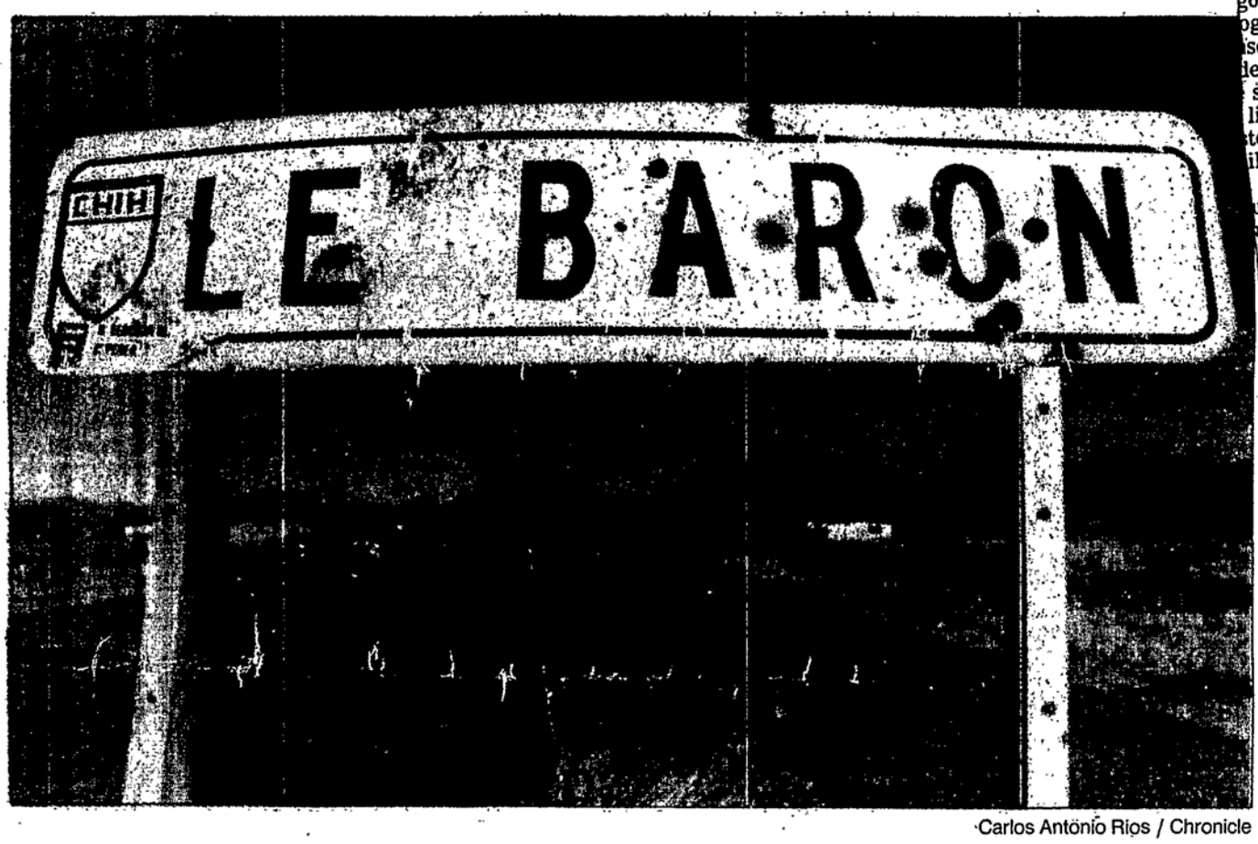
Sunday
Jan. 31, 1988

Houston C

Houston's Family News

Vol. 87 No. 110 One Dollar Houston, Texas 77002

A heritage of 'hot lead and cold steel'



Carlos Antonio Rios / Chronicle

A bullet-riddled sign marks the outskirts of LeBaron, the village in Mexico where Ervil LeBaron began his cult.

Cult of terror

Polygamist keeps grip on followers, even from grave

By EVAN MOORE
Houston Chronicle

HE WAS a genius and a fiend, a husband to 13 wives and father to 57 children, a religious zealot with the power to make others murder and a fanatic whose hand still reaches out to kill from a Houston grave.

It's a remarkably misleading grave site, resting beneath a pine tree in Resthaven Cemetery in north Houston, surrounded by other, single burial plots and inscribed with the simple memorial:

BELOVED FATHER
ERVIL M. LeBARON
Born Feb. 22, 1925
Died Aug. 15, 1981

But beneath that unassuming inscription, below the modest headstone, the clipped grass and the occasional flowers that grace the site are the remains of a man who directed the murders of eight people, including his brother and pregnant daughter, a man who hatched aborted plans for numerous other killings and whose followers are believed to have committed at least 12 slayings since his death.

Police fear the killings will continue, that the most recent one — the slaying of Daniel Ben Jordan in Utah in October — will soon be followed by another and that the next on the list to die could be a Houston man.

And, so far, the sons of Ervil LeBaron have eluded dozens of police agencies, investigators for the state of Utah and the FBI.





Two faces of Ervil LeBaron: at left as a young Mormon missionary, and at right as he appeared when arrested in Ensenada, Mexico, for the murder of his brother.

Those who have followed the LeBaron story — a strange tale of a talented, driven man, plagued by a gene of madness — say the saga can only be understood through the history of the LeBaron family, the Mormon Church and polygamy and the doctrine of "blood atonement."

It began with Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. From the day Smith founded his church in 1830, the Mormons had a hard road. Smith started a settlement he called *Nauvoo* (Hebrew for "beautiful") in Illinois, only to be killed by a mob there in 1844, prompting his second in command, Brigham Young, to lead the Saints to Utah.

Before Smith's death, his companion, bodyguard and brother of two of Smith's wives was Benjamin F. Johnson. Mormon legends hold that Smith passed a mantle of authority to Johnson and that mantle was passed to Johnson's grandson, Alma

See MORMON on Page 16.

Mormon spinoff teaches religion of terror, death

Continued from Page 1.

Dayer LeBaron.

In 1890, when Alma Dayer LeBaron was only 4 years old, the Mormon Church issued a manifesto decrying polygamy and officially abandoned the practice. The manifesto made the church acceptable to the U.S. government, and Utah was allowed to enter the union. Plural marriage was deeply rooted in the faith, however, and many fundamentalist Mormon men continued to take multiple wives.

One of those was Alma LeBaron, who found himself run out of La Verkin, Utah, in 1920 because he was openly married to and living with two women. Like many other polygamists, the LeBaron family members found their way to Mexico, where there was no law against polygamy and where their lifestyle was tolerated.

Alma LeBaron, his wives — Maud and Onie — and children crossed into the state of Chihuahua and traveled south to Colonia Juarez, a small town about 20 miles south of El Paso, in an area where Mennonites, Amish and polygamous Mormons had settled. Onie soon left, having become disenchanted with plural marriage, but Alma's first wife, Maud, remained and had nine children — two daughters and seven sons.

On the outside, Alma Dayer LeBaron was a somewhat eccentric house painter who would speak the praises of polygamy at the slightest provocation. Inside, he was a visionary. His childhood had been steeped in fundamentalist Mormon tradition, and he saw himself as the recipient of the mantle of his grandfather, Benjamin Johnson. In 1944, when Ervil LeBaron was 19, his father bought 200 acres about 20 miles south of Colonia Juarez and started a colony based on his faith.

There, on the ranch that was to become known as Colonia LeBaron, Ervil grew to adulthood along with his brothers, Joel, Verlan, Ben, Ross Wesley, Floren and Alma.

The LeBaron boys were noted as athletic, intelligent, handsome young men, but, in three of them, there was a seed of darkness. It grew first in Ben, who began to hear voices telling him he was the one chosen prophet of God. He started to roar periodically like a lion to show the power within him and once pulled a policeman into an intersection in a small Mexican village and proceeded to do 200 push-ups to prove that he was blessed with divine revelations.

While Ben spent his life in and out of mental institutions up until his death in 1978, his brother Wesley was busy trying to start his own church in Salt Lake City. Wesley's prophecies that God will come to earth in a flying saucer attracted no followers, and his only forum has proved to be radio talk shows that he calls nightly. During the day, he tends a herd of goats and makes models of the flying saucer he so earnestly expects to see.

But it was in Ervil that the seed grew most darkly. It made him a murderer and brought death to his brother Joel and many others.

Like Cain and Abel, Ervil and Joel Fulness of Time and began a ministry in Colonia LeBaron with Ervil as "patriarch," or second in command. The church, though not recognized by the Latter-day Saints in Utah, was fundamentally Mormon, polygamous, communal and based largely on the tenets of Alma Dayer LeBaron.

For more than a decade, Joel and Ervil struggled along with their little congregation of about 200. Both married several wives. Colonia LeBaron slowly grew more prosperous, and Joel founded a second colony, Los Molinos, on the west coast of Mexico.

Ervil, however, was restless. Over the years, he had developed a taste for finer things than could be found in Colonia LeBaron and began taking trips and spending church funds. He wanted to convert the land in Los Molinos, along Mexico's Baja Peninsula, to a resort. He wanted the power to invoke what he termed "civil law," his interpretation of religious rules that governed the lives of church members, and he began talking about "blood atonement."

• • •

There are sins that men commit for which they cannot receive forgiveness . . . and if they had their eyes open to see their true condition, they would be perfectly willing to have their blood spilt upon the ground . . . (to do so) is to save them, not destroy them.

• • •

Those words, uttered by Brigham Young in an 1856 sermon on blood atonement, had a special meaning for Ervil. They gave him the excuse to do what he wanted, to apply a policy he called "hot lead and cold steel."

"There is a lot of conjecture as to why these people are being assassinated, but the folklore is that they were unfaithful and are systematically being eliminated."

— Utah police Detective Paul Forbes

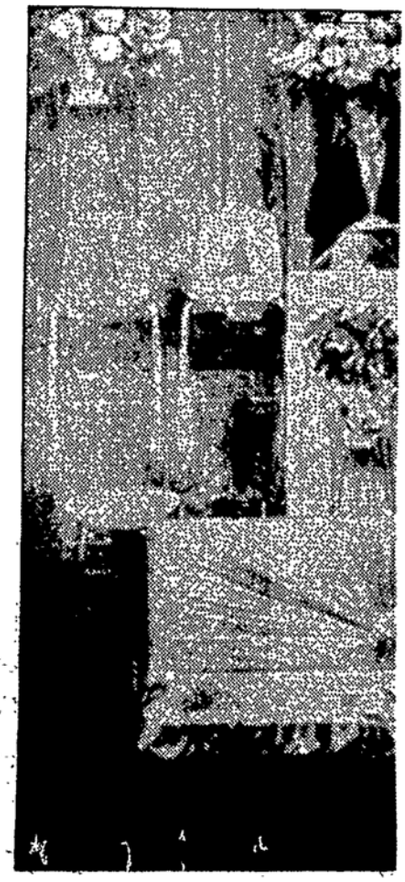
By 1970, Joel and Ervil were at odds. Ervil repeatedly and adamantly advocated the use of force to govern church members, while Joel disagreed.

"I know as sure as I know that God lives that my program is the only one that will establish the kingdom," Ervil once told his brother and a group of church members.

"I know that there are men in high positions who disagree. It will either be them or me!

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Finally, Joel lost all faith in his brother. Ervil's continued violation of church doctrines, his attempts to seduce other men's wives and his dogmatic recital of "civil law" had finally disgusted his more temperate brother, and Joel cast Ervil out of



Followers of Ervil LeBaron killed polygamist, hoping to draw brot funeral, so that cultists could kill h

Jordan and Rios fled with Joel LeBaron's blood on their shoes, and Ervil, as court testimony later showed, waited to ascend to the head of the Church of the First-Born.

But he didn't. Church leaders chose his brother Verlan instead, and Ervil began plotting to kill again.

"There were so many attempts on Verlan's life," said Charlotte LeBaron, one of Verlan's widows who continues to live in the colonia.

"He had to stay armed, and that didn't settle well with him. . . . he was a gentle man. He had to be constantly on the move. We watched every car that came near this colonia.

"We lived in fear."

So did those in Los Molinos. Although Ervil was running from a murder charge stemming from Joel's death, he was far from inactive. Shortly after Joel was killed, Ervil and his patriarch, Dan Jordan, appeared in the Baja village, armed, and Ervil declared himself the "One Mighty and Strong." Standing in front of the church Joel had founded, with a .45-caliber revolver thrust in his belt, Ervil demanded that the people of the colonia tithe to him and give him 10 percent of all they owned.

The people refused and, two days after Christmas in 1974, two truckloads of *Ervilistas* arrived in the night in Los Molinos.

"They were after me and Verlan," said Spencer Jones, one of the leaders of the colony. "What they didn't know was that we weren't even in town that night.

"It didn't matter. They killed anyway."

Ervil's followers began tossing homemade firebombs into houses, shooting into windows and setting fires throughout the village. When they were through, two men were dead, 19 other people were critically injured, and every building in the town had been bombed or burned.

In Colonia LeBaron, Joel's followers began arming themselves, expecting a similar attack that never came.

Investigators say that may have been because of dissent among some [illegible] followers, who investiga-

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But it was in Ervil that the seed grew most darkly. It made him a murderer and brought death to his brother Joel and many others.

Like Cain and Abel, Ervil and Joel LeBaron grew to manhood together. Ervil, standing 6-feet-4 and weighing 220 pounds, was, by far, the more commanding of the two. He could quote Scripture for hours and often overwhelmed those around him with long, extemporaneous sermons. He was charismatic, seductive and articulate, and he seemed to hold a strange power over some people.

But those who knew Joel LeBaron were more awed by him. He was described as a quiet, reserved, unpretentious man who, nonetheless, had a saintlike quality. Like his brothers Ben and Wesley, he felt a call to prophecy. Unlike them, he showed no signs of madness.

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Ervil responded by taking a group of about 50 of his own followers with him. Surrounded by the Jordan, Chynoweth, Sullivan and Rios families, he declared himself "the One Mighty and Strong" prophet, founded the Church of the Lamb of God and set up his headquarters in an area near Sonora, Mexico.

Then, on a hot day in August 1972, Joel LeBaron was sitting in his kitchen when two of Ervil's followers, Daniel Ben Jordan and Gamaliel Rios, arrived. Witnesses said the three spoke quietly for a few minutes, then Rios and Jordan began savagely beating Joel with a wrench and a chair and, when he was unconscious, shot him in the head.

Shortly after Joel was killed, Ervil and his patriarch, Dan Jordan, appeared in the Baja village, armed, and Ervil declared himself the "One Mighty and Strong." Standing in front of the church Joel had founded, with a .45-caliber revolver thrust in his belt, Ervil demanded that the people of the colonia tithe to him and give him 10 percent of all they owned.

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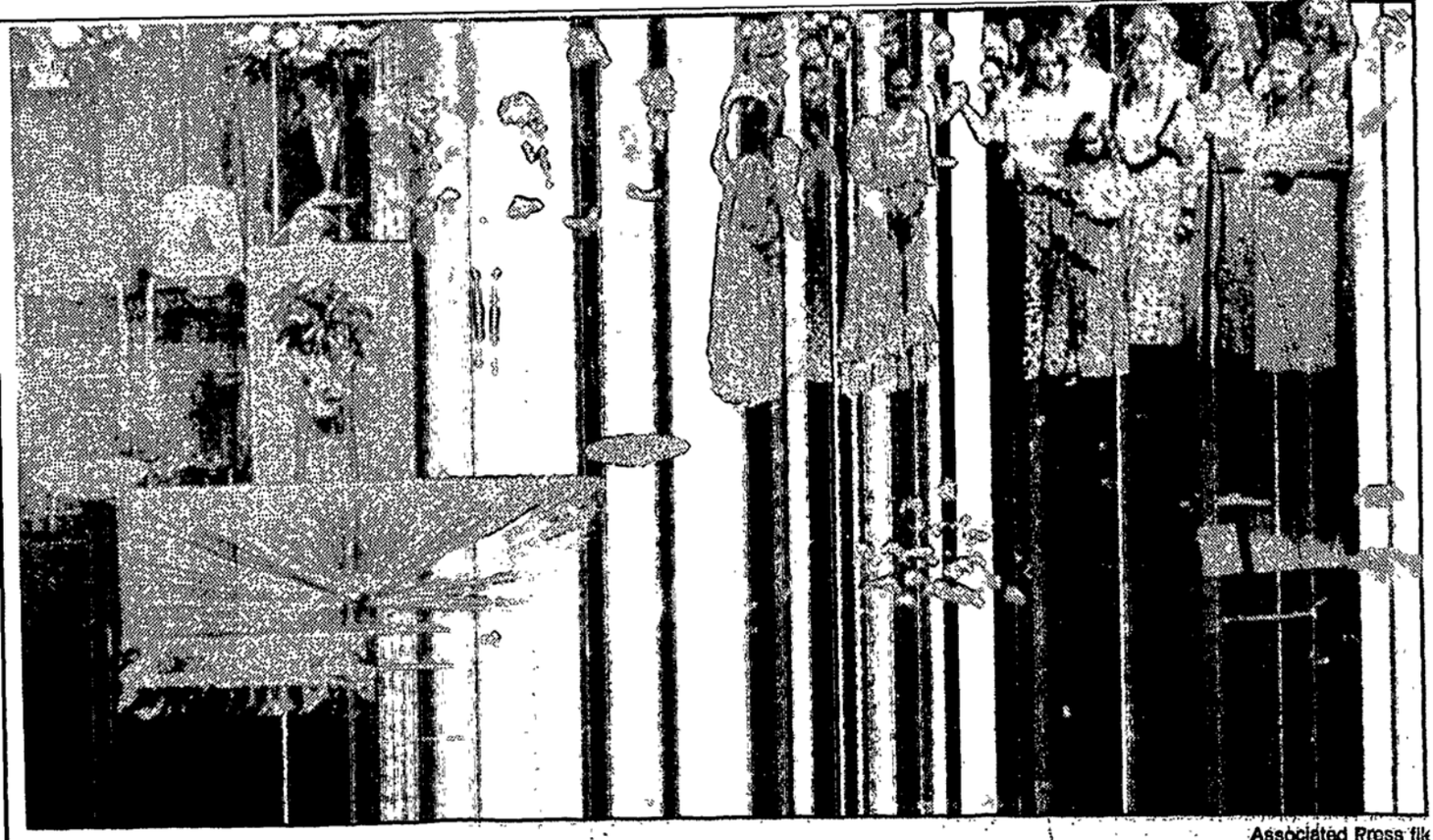
Investigators say that may have been because of dissent among some of Ervil's followers, who investigators had begun calling "Lambs." Ervil's hard-core cadre, Dan Jordan, the Chynoweths and Marstons, the Sullivans and the Rios family, were unwavering, but others were questioning Ervil's prophecies.

Ervil prophesied the coming of the end of the world, he promised the coming of great riches for the Lambs, he had constant "revelations" from God, and he vowed that he would one day rule as His greatest prophet.

That none of this seemed to come true began to bother some of the Lambs, and one of these was Naomi Zarate, the wife of one of Ervil's followers. Zarate later disappeared, and group members say she was



Here, in this 1974 snapshot, two survivors of the Los Molinos raid stand amid the rubble created when *Ervilistas* firebombed the town. Two people were killed and 19 were critically injured.



Associated Press file

*llowers of Ervil LeBaron killed Dr. Rulon C. Allred, a famous lygamist, hoping to draw brother Verlan LeBaron to Allred's eral, so that cultists could kill him, too. Media and police atten-*tion was so heavy, however, at the funeral in May of 1977 that th plot had to be aborted. Shown at right are Allred's 20 daughters who sang at the rite. Allred's casket lies at bottom of photo.

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stigators say that may have ecause of dissent among some il's followers, who investiga-ad begun calling "Lambs." hard-core cadre, Dan Jordan, moreths and Marstons the driven into the desert near Sonora and shot to death by Vonda White, one of Ervil's more loyal wives.

The next to die was Robert Simons, an eccentric polygamist in Grantsville, Utah, who believed he was a prophet and had a special message for the Indians. Ervil repeatedly attempted to convert Simons to his camp but failed.

"What Ervil really wanted was one of Simons' wives," said an investigator who has asked to remain anonymous. "When Simons wouldn't give her up, Ervil sent the Sullivans after him."

Lloyd Sullivan, one of Ervil's more devoted converts, approached Simons in April 1975 as a believer in Simons' ministry and then duped him into a trip to the desert to meet Indians Sullivan said were anxious to know the self-styled prophet.

Once there, Sullivan later testified, Eddie Marston and Mark Chynoweth stepped from behind the brush and Marston fired a shotgun into Simons' head. Simons was left in a shallow grave, only to be exhumed years later by police, led there by Sullivan.

Then came Dean Vest. Vest, a giant of a man who stood 7 feet tall, had been Ervil's military leader, teaching others how to make the bombs used in Los Molinos, how to saw the barrels on shotguns and how to convert semi-automatic weapons to automatics.

But Vest was going to defect. His favorite wife had decided Ervil's prophesies were lies and left. Vest had decided to join her. He made the mistake of confiding that to other Lambs, and Ervil called for "blood atonement."

One day in June 1975 in National City in San Diego County, Calif., Vonda White asked Vest to fix a broken washing machine. Vest did, and, as he was washing the grease from his hands in White's sink, she approached from behind and shot him in the head.

White was later convicted of murder in the death and is serving a life term in the California Institute for Women.

• • •

In March 1976, Ervil was finally arrested for Joel's murder. He was tried and convicted in Ensenada but spent less than eight months in jail before a higher Mexican court (reportedly helped along by a $5,000 bribe) overturned his conviction and freed him.

And Ervil put his jail time to use. He found an ardent new convert in drug smuggler Leo Evoniuk, directed his group from within his cell and spent much of his time compos-

See DEFECTORS on Page 17



Five of the LeBaron brothers, in 1965, are Ervil (left), Joel, Verlan, Alma and Floren.

KEY CHARACTERS

- **Maud LeBaron,** matriarch of the LeBarons and mother of nine.
- **Alma Dayer LeBaron,** father.
- **Ervil Morrel LeBaron,** fanatical leader of the Church of The Lamb of God.
- **Daniel Ben Jordan,** Ervil's right-hand man who was later killed by Ervil's sons.
- **Leo Evoniuk,** one of Ervil's converts who has also been slain.
- **Arturo LeBaron,** a favorite son of Ervil, now dead.
- **Joel LeBaron,** founder of the Church of the First



Maud LeBaron



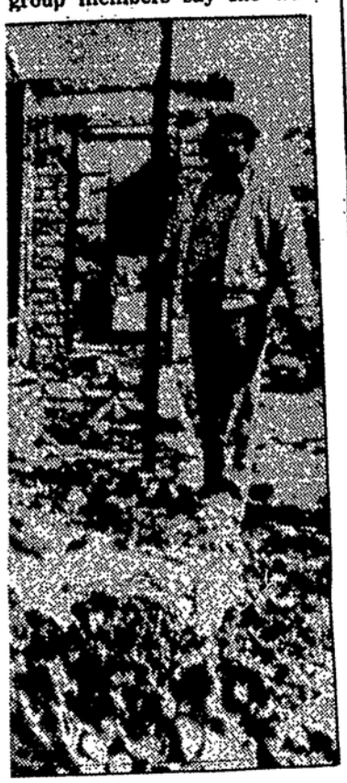
Alma Dayer LeBaron

and Strong." Standing in the church Joel had founded, 45-caliber revolver thrust in , Ervil demanded that the of the colonia tithe to him and m 10 percent of all they

eople refused and, two days hristmas in 1974, two truck- of *Ervilistas* arrived in the Los Molinos.
were after me and Verlan," encer Jones, one of the lead- he colony. "What they didn't vas that we weren't even in at night.
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at none of this seemed to come began to bother some of the bs, and one of these was Naomi te, the wife of one of Ervil's wers. Zarate later disappeared, group members say she was



bombed the town. Two people were critically injured.



Five of the LeBaron brothers, in 1965, are Ervil (left), Joel, Verlan, Alma and Floren.

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- **Arturo LeBaron,** a favorite son of Ervil, now dead.
- **Joel LeBaron,** founder of the Church of the First-Born of the Fulness of Time and the brother who Ervil had murdered.
- **Adrian LeBaron,** a son of Joel LeBaron.
- **Verlan LeBaron,** the brother who succeeded Joel in the church and the object of repeated assassination attempts by Ervil.
- **Charlotte LeBaron,** Verlan's widow.
- Other LeBaron brothers: **Ben, Ross Wesley, Alma, Floren.**
- **Vonda White,** one of Ervil's wives who willingly killed for him.
- **The Chynoweths: Victor, Mark,** their sister, **Rena,** who was one of Ervil's wives.
- **The Sullivans: Lloyd,** his son, **Don,** and nephew, **John.**
- **Anna Mae Marston,** one of Ervil's favorite wives.
- **Eddie Marston,** son of Anna Mae, charged but never convicted as a killer for Ervil.
- **Ramona Marston,** Eddie Marston's sister, charged as a killer for Ervil, but never convicted.
- **Spencer Jones,** survivor of the Los Molinos raid.
- **Ogden Kraut,** well-known polygamist and, once, a target for death by Ervil.
- **John L. Stewart,** professor, historical student of polygamy and another target for Ervil.
- **Brigham Young,** Mormon leader, whose "doctrine of blood atonement" gave Ervil an excuse to kill.



Maud LeBaron



Alma Dayer LeBaron



Adrian LeBaron



Charlotte LeBaron







The Chynoweths: Victor (left), Mark, Rena







The Sullivans: Lloyd (left), Don, John

The slain:

- **Joel LeBaron,** shot to death in August 1972 in Colonia LeBaron.
- **Edmundo Aguilar** and **Moroni Mendez,** killed in the Los Molinos raid in Dec. 1974.
- **Naomi Zarate,** shot to death in January of 1975 in Mexico.
- **Bob Simons,** shot to death in a Utah desert, April of 1975.
- **Dean Vest,** shot to death in California, June of 1975.
- **Rebecca Chynoweth,** pregnant daughter of Ervil and plural wife of Victor Chynoweth, strangled in Dallas in April of 1977.
- **Rulon Allred,** shot dead in Murray, Utah, May of 1977.
- **Brenda Lafferty** and her 15-month-old daughter, slashed to death in Utah in July of 1984.
- **Leo Evoniuk,** believed shot to death in Santa Cruz County, Calif. on May 21, 1987.
- **Daniel Ben Jordan,** shot to death in the Manti-LaSal National Forest, Utah, Oct. 16, 1987.
- **Arturo LeBaron,** believed killed by Leo Evoniuk in Sonora, Mexico, sometime in 1987.

Also believed to have been slain in Mexico:

- **Heber LeBaron**
- **Yolanda Rios**
- **Jorge LeBaron**
- **Gamaliel Rios**
- **Theresa Rios**
- **Raul Rios**
- **Lorna Chynoweth**

on still are hunted, police believe



Carlos Antonio Rios / Chronicle

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the killings continue. The FBI, joined the investigation in r, will issue no statements on ıse, but other investigators aid a group of five to 10 of Ervil LeBaron's sons are apparently carrying out execution orders from their dead father and are operating from Rancho Lajoya, near Sonora, Mexico.

"There is a lot of conjecture as to why these people are being assassinated, but the folklore — if you can call it that — is that they were unfaithful and are systematically being eliminated," said Murray, Utah, Detective Lt. Paul Forbes.

"Somebody has just picked up the sword and is off and running again."

The result is at least three known deaths in the last year and seven others that are suspected.

One of those was Leo Evoniuk, Ervil's faithful convert from the Ensenada jail. Evoniuk, who had started his own group, the Millennial Church of Jesus Christ, after Ervil's death, vanished in Santa Cruz County, Calif., last spring. All that was found were blood stains and bullet holes in his pickup, his dentures and several 9mm shell casings.

"We know why they did it," said the investigator. "Evoniuk killed Ervil's son, Arturo, in Mexico, so they hunted him down in California.

"There are rumors he faked his own death, but we're convinced he's dead."

So is Daniel Ben Jordan, Ervil's former second in command. Investigators say Jordan and Ervil fell out over Jordan's refusal to care for Ervil's wives while Ervil was in prison and Jordan took his own nine wives and left the group.

On Oct. 16, Jordan's bullet-riddled body was found near a remote campsite in Utah's Manti-LaSal National Forest.

Jordan, 53, had been on a deer hunt with his family when he was ambushed. Again, the weapon was a 9mm. Aaron LeBaron, one of Ervil's sons, has been arrested in the case and is being held in Utah, but investigators say at least four other LeBaron sons are involved.

Less is known about the other killings, all of which are said to have been the result of in-fighting in the group in Mexico, but investigators are convinced they occurred.

Those said to have been slain include:

- Heber LeBaron, a son of Ervil, known to have disappeared near Sonora.
- Jorge LeBaron, another son, also said to have been killed in the same area.
- Gamaliel Rios, one of Joel LeBaron's killers.
- Raul Rios, a fanatical follower who once attempted a shotgun killing for Ervil in broad daylight at a Laredo intersection.
- Yolanda and Theresa Rios, two of Raul Rios' sisters.
- Lorna Chynoweth, one of Ervil's wives who reportedly wanted to leave the group.

"Just who's next is anybody's guess," said one policeman. "But there are some educated guesses as to who they want."

One of those is Mark Chynoweth, a man who once proselytized for Ervil, supported him and was indicted but not convicted as a murderer for him. Chynoweth, who married Ervil's daughter, Lillian, moved to Houston shortly before Ervil's Utah trial and investigators say Ervil's body was brought here to be close to that daughter.

There are others. Mark Chynoweth's sister and Ervil's former wife, Rena Chynoweth, indicted but never convicted as one of Ervil's assassins, is known to have been in Houston in recent years, though she is now said to be in Denver. She was considered a traitor when she left Ervil for another man. Eddie Marston, his mother (and Ervil's third wife) Anon Mae Marston and other former Lambs all came here after Ervil's arrest.

And all committed the sin of defa tion.

"It's pretty simple," said the inve tigator. "Houston was a boom tow then and they weren't wanted known around there, so they j settled in. Most of them split aw from Ervil eventually.

"He'd had them brainwashed once they got away from him and in the real world, they began to s that he never was a prophet anything. The only ones who've st with him are the ones in Mexico."

Like so many others, Chynow apparently lost faith in his prop and told others he wanted no more do with the "One Mighty Strong."

Chynoweth has declined in views, saying only that to talk wo put him in jeopardy, but police he has sought protection and app afraid.

"Anybody would be afraid of t people," said the investigator. "I will never stop until we've gotten last one of them."

lygamists very religious, non-violent



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In Colonia LeBaron, the small,

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"The fact is, they won't," said Kraut. "I'm ready to go to court over it because I think the law is unconstitutional."

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Chynoweth has declined interviews, saying only that to talk would put him in jeopardy, but police say he has sought protection and appears afraid.

"Anybody would be afraid of these people," said the investigator. "This will never stop until we've gotten the last one of them."

olygamists very religious, non-violent



Carlos Antonio Rios / Chronicle

is children — Dan LeBaron z — is a son of slain church Adrian LeBaron is a polyga-ildren.

lost evidence would bear that . The larger polygamous groups the United Apostolic Brethren, nded by Rulon Allred and now by his brother, Owen; the Davis nty Co-op, which combines po-amy and communal business in-ests; the Church of the First-n of the Fulness of Time, nded by Ervil LeBaron's brother, Joel; and followers of the late LeRoy Johnson who inhabit adjacent towns on the Utah-Arizona border — are all known as benign, law-abiding people.

In Colonia LeBaron, the small, dusty village founded by Alma Dayer LeBaron (father of Ervil and Joel) 220 miles south of Juarez, about 1,500 people live in a polygamous, communal atmosphere.

Residents say there is almost no crime in the colonia, child abuse is all but unheard of and, they say, there is no adultery.

"Sure, they're polygamists here," said Daniel LeBaron, *presidente* of Galeana, the province in which the colonia lies. "But it's not like it used to be. There are less and less with each generation.

"It's really a religious thing and the younger people I don't think are into it," said the 30-year-old *presidente*, a descendant of the colonia's founder.

"Like myself, I'm more into politics than religion."

His cousin, Adrian LeBaron, a son of Joel LeBaron, the prophet of the Church of the First-Born of the Fulness of Time, differs. Adrian, 28, has three wives, three houses and nine children.

"No one else was like Ervil," he said. "My father (Joel) was the most gentle, kind man I ever knew and he taught that you should never seek revenge or resort to violence.

"As for polygamy, I think it could settle a lot of the world's problems, like prostitution and widows who have children and have a hard time financially," he said.

"I know some people consider me an immoral man, but I don't consider myself so. I would never sleep with a woman outside my family.

"Of course there are problems with polygamy, but they're problems that make you grow. It's hard to love three women, but once you learn to do it, what can you not do?"

It can also be financially inconvenient. Some polygamists say they have chosen to live in Mexico not only because they're tolerated there, but because they couldn't afford their lifestyle elsewhere.

One who didn't move there is Ogden Kraut, a Salt Lake City photographer who has five wives and who has openly dared the state of Utah to prosecute him.

"The fact is, they won't," said Kraut. "I'm ready to go to court over it because I think the law is unconstitutional."

It was once enforced rigidly in Utah, Arizona and other Western states, where polygamy remains a felony. But prosecution of polygamists has virtually ceased since the 1960s. Utah prosecutors say the law simply is no longer enforceable.

"It's kind of ludicrous to enforce that when you have people living together without matrimony," said U.S. Attorney Brent Ward in Salt Lake City.

And, like other polygamists, Kraut, 60, maintains his plural marriages are the result of religious conviction and not the product of lust. His five wives are *wives*, not concubines or girlfriends, he says. They share equal status and they make all the demands of monogamous wives.

"I didn't just jump into this," he said. "I was born in Montana, not even raised in the Mormon religion, but I finally read some fundamentalist material and got interested.

"I took my second wife 17 years ago, when I was 43. The others I've married two or three years apart.

"And it's not an easy life. All my wives live in separate houses. I pay a little over $1,500 a month in rent and this isn't an expensive area. I've got a lot of children — 13 — and they all start school at the same time every year and they all need new clothes.

"There are medical bills, food bills, you name it. It's economically rough.

"It has to be something you genuinely believe in as a religious principle or you wouldn't do it."

College professor Stewart, not a polygamist himself, agrees.

"It's truly a religious thing with most of them," he said. "I think it's more of a religious move on the part of the women than the men, but, then, I believe women are more inclined to believe something on a religious basis than men are anyway.

"Obviously, there are a lot more women than men converted to it.

"The basis of their belief is a challenge to overcome jealousy, sort of a test of their mettle.

"And they try to love each other. I remember at Dr. Rulon Allred's funeral I met a number of his wives and one of them told me, 'We're supposed to love each other as sisters. Fortunately, in Dr. Allred's family, we all like each other.' "

That, however, is not always the case. In the colonia, Adrian LeBaron readily admits that his Mexican wife, Anna, who was brought up a Roman Catholic, is not entirely pleased with the situation.

"Neither is her mother," he said. "She says she's my mother-in-law and she loves me and respects me, but she doesn't want to talk to me about my other wives."

Polygamists also face other problems, such as social ostracism, excommunication from the Mormon Church and job discrimination.

"They gave me trouble about it at work once," said Kraut. "They were going to fire me. But I just threatened to tell what I knew about all the married men who had girlfriends and they let it drop pretty quick.

"The main thing is the (Mormon) church and excommunication. I can't identify my wives because one has already been excommunicated over it and I'm sure the others would be if the church knew they were married to me.

"And they consider themselves deeply, fundamentally Mormon and it would hurt them greatly."

Stewart and others agree that the modern practice of polygamy by some groups has strayed from the ideal espoused by early Mormon leaders.

In some instances, sect leaders dole out wives based on payment of tithes, a favorite ploy of Ervil LeBaron. Marriage in some groups also may depend on whether young men turn over their paychecks to the church for a two-year period, a variation of the Mormon practice of sending young men on two-year proselytizing missions.

"Of course, there are temptations you have to avoid," said Adrian LeBaron. "Avoiding those temptations makes you stronger."

And, in the words of Brigham Young, polygamy is a practice "that will damn more men than it will save."

Defectors in Houston still are

Continued from Page 16.

ing threatening letters to those he considered his enemies.

They were letters of veiled intent. Ervil addressed them from a fictitious group he called "The Society of American Patriots," and made them purposely vague and filled with biblical rhetoric, but no less menacing to those who understood them.

Two men who received identical missives from Ervil were Dr. Rulon C. Allred, leader of a large fundamentalist order, and Ogden Kraut, a Salt Lake City polygamist.

"Your group is on record as one that has willfully engaged in carrying on psychological warfare against one of the foremost champions of liberty of all time," Ervil wrote to Kraut.

"You are charged with criminally disregarding and disobeying the minimum law . . . of God's government.

"We have very impressive methods of causing the rights of honorable men to be recognized, respected and upheld."

Both Kraut and Allred ignored the letters, which were intended as demands that they tithe to Ervil. Kraut lived, but Allred would later be killed by two Lambs.

"I knew he wanted to kill me," said Kraut, who had openly shunned Ervil and scoffed at his claims of being the "One Mighty and Strong."

"Rulon and I both knew, but we didn't know how serious he was."

Ervil was serious, but he had more pressing matters to deal with when he was released from jail. By that time, Ervil's followers had been separated into several groups, some in Mexico, others in Denver and still others in Dallas, where they operated a used washing machine business.

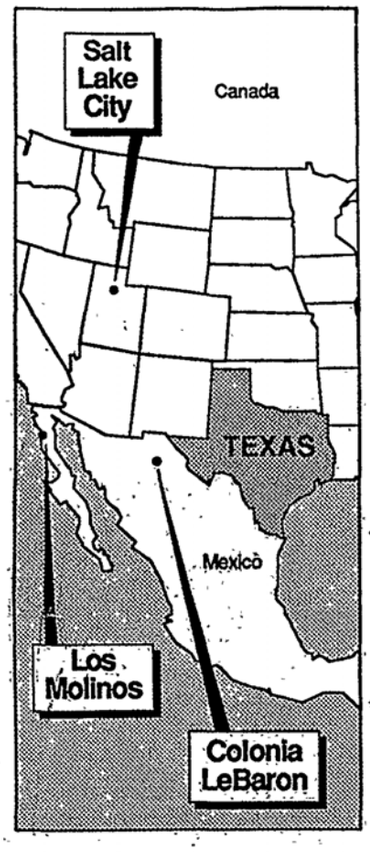
And among the Dallas group was Ervil's daughter, Rebecca, who had been given in plural marriage to Victor Chynoweth and was pregnant. Rebecca was unhappy. She disliked the cloistered, furtive life of a Lamb and wanted desperately to leave.

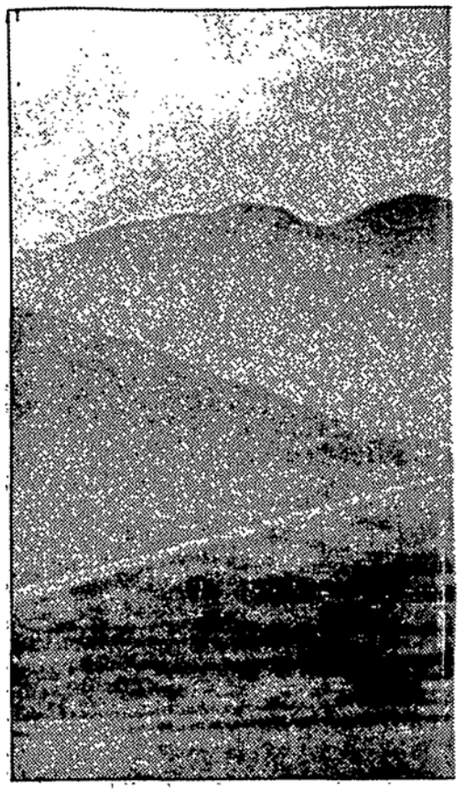
Once again, Ervil was faced with a sin beyond forgiveness. Testimony from the Sullivans later bore out that, in April 1977, Eddie Marston, at Ervil's direction, strangled the young woman. Rebecca is said to have been buried somewhere in Oklahoma, but her body has never been found.

Marston told others his wrists and forearms were sore for days from the force he used to strangle her.

While his daughter was being strangled, Ervil was planning another killing, that of Allred. Allred, a naturopathic physician in Murray, Utah, was famous among polygamists. He had several wives of his own and was physician to many people from the polygamous community of Colorado City and elsewhere.

Ervil reasoned that, if Allred were killed, fundamentalists from all over the continent would attend his funeral and they would include Ervil's brother, Verlan. If Verlan arrived, Ervil planned to have him killed.





Nestled in this valley is Colonia LeBaron

In May 1977 two young women — later identified as one of Ervil's wives and a stepdaughter — walked into Allred's waiting room. When Allred stepped out from a back room, the pair opened fire with pistols and, as he fell, one stepped over him and delivered a death shot into his ear.

Their mission successful, the women returned to Dallas and waited while another group prepared to kill Verlan at Allred's funeral.

Don Sullivan later testified that Verlan was saved by the large number of television cameramen and police at the Allred funeral, although Sullivan and two others drove past the procession (and Verlan) with automatic weapons.

Allred's murder would be the last that Ervil would see before his own death, but, by far, not the last he would cause.

For the next two years, Ervil and a number of his Lambs hid in Mexico, but, in May 1979, he was found near Mexico City and Mexican police arrested him.

"They beat the hell out of him and drove him to the bridge at Laredo where they kicked him out half way across," said one investigator. "The FBI was waiting and grabbed him there."

Ervil was tried and convicted of conspiracy to commit murder in the Allred case and of attempted murder in the unsuccessful effort to kill his brother Verlan. Others, including Mark Chynoweth, Eddie Marston, and Rena Chynoweth LeBaron, were also charged, but never convicted.

By 1980, Ervil and his wife Vonda White were the only two Lambs sentenced in any of the killings.

And Ervil would serve little of his life sentence. On Aug. 15, 1981, at the age of 56, he was found dead in his cell under circumstances as strange as his life. At first, prison officials thought he had committed suicide. He had written a note, a letter of sorts to White, in which he said his "days on this earth are numbered" and promised to join her in heaven. An autopsy, however, showed he had died of natural causes, a heart attack.

In dying, Ervil LeBaron had finally made one prophecy come true.

And, within two days after Ervil's death, Verlan, the brother Ervil had sought so long to kill, died in an automobile accident in Mexico.

Today, though Ervil is dead, his legacy of violence lives on. In July 1984, Brenda Lafferty and her 15-month-old child, Erica, were found dead, their bodies and throats slashed, at their American Fork, Utah, home. Brenda's brothers-in-law, Daniel and Ronald Lafferty, both believers in the LeBaron-espoused doctrine of blood atonement, were arrested and convicted.

They had killed because Brenda opposed polygamy.

And the killings continue. The FBI, which joined the investigation in October, will issue no statements on the case, but other investigators have said a group of five to 10 of

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Scholars say most polygamists

By EVAN MOORE
Houston Chronicle

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By EVAN MOORE
Houston Chronicle

Some call it "The Principle," a practice Brigham Young said would set Mormons apart as a "peculiar people," exalted by God. Others call it a crime, a sin and a perversion, but, whatever the case, polygamy still raises its head in fundamentalist Mormon sects.

No one knows how many polygamists are spread between Utah and Mexico, the two strongholds of plural marriage on this continent. Estimates range between 10,000 and 30,000, though the latter figure is thought to be high and may include the children of polygamous marriages along with the adults.

Whatever their number, the more violent ones have made bizarre headlines and frustrated police for years. In Marion, Utah, Addam Swapp, the leader of the John Singer clan, maintained a 13-day standoff with police that ended Thursday with one policeman killed and Swapp critically wounded. Swapp and 14 others had been barricaded in a house since the Jan. 16 bombing of a Mormon chapel and were awaiting the resurrection of Singer, who was slain in another shoot-out with police in 1979.

In Salt Lake City, Alex Joseph, a man with 15 wives, heads the Church of Jesus Christ in Solemn Assembly, a sect with the avowed aim of ridding the world of the wicked. Joseph has denied any penchant for violence, but reportedly carries a pistol with the inscription "For God's Sake" on the grip.

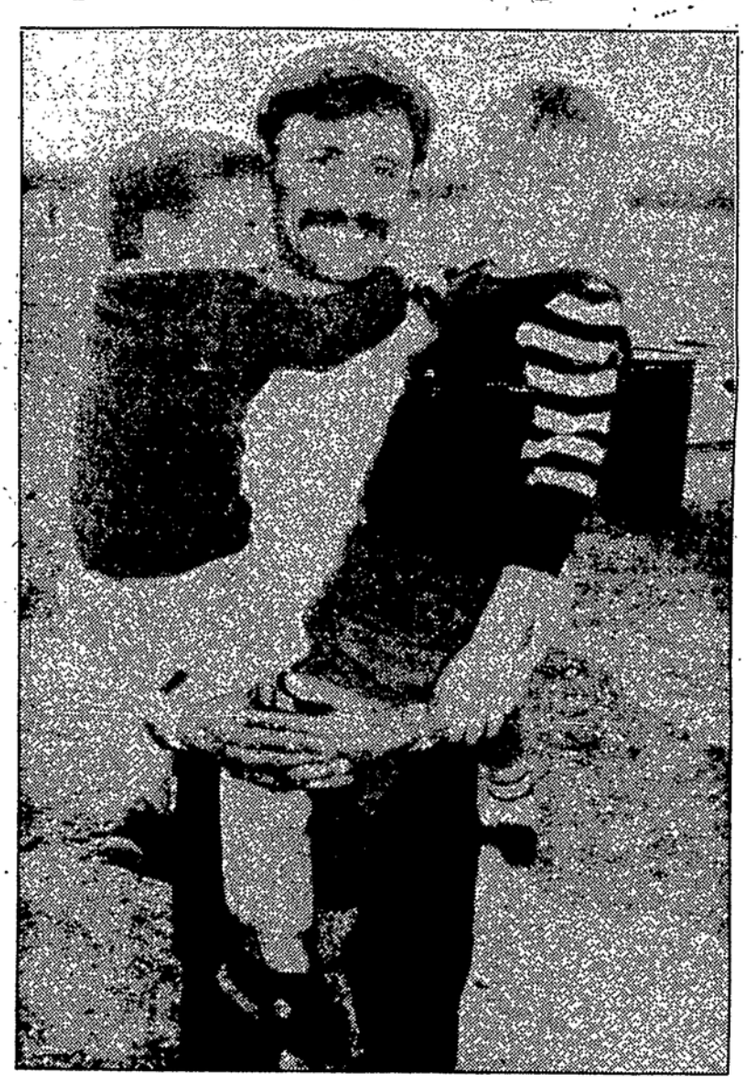
And the most violent, Ervil LeBaron's Church of the Lamb of God, considered responsible for at least 20 killings, has made headlines for years and continues to elude state and local police and the FBI.

But other polygamists and those who know them say the more violent, aberrant groups have given a false impression of polygamy and those who live it. Most polygamists, they say, base their beliefs on the Old Testament and the prophets therein, many of whom had multiple wives.

"These people (the violent cults) really aren't representative of most polygamists," said John L. Stewart, a professor at the University of Utah in Logan who has made a 30-year study of fundamentalists.

"These splinter groups keep resplintering and a lot of them have little LDS (Mormon) background. The vast majority of polygamists are thoroughly non-violent, religious people who enter into it with a deep-seated belief."

Most evidence would bear that out. The larger polygamous groups — the United Apostolic Brethren, founded by Rulon Allred and now led by his brother, Owen; the Davis County Co-op, which combines polygamy and communal business interests; the Church of the First-Born of the Fulness of Time, founded by Ervil LeBaron's



Carlos Antonio Rios / Chronicle

Adrian LeBaron, shown with two of his children — Dan LeBaron Munoz, left, and Anna LeBaron Munoz — is a son of slain church leader Joel LeBaron. Like his father, Adrian LeBaron is a polygamist. He has three wives and nine children.

FD-340 (Rev. 4-2-85)

Field File No. 70A-2838-1431

Serial # of Originating Document _____

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 8/3/88, 8/4/88.

From Surveillance Log -
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To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: Moody
Daniel Ben Jordan - Victim
CGR - Murder -
OO: SA

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

Moody Surveillance Logs -

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FD-340 (Rev. 4-2-85)

Field File No. 166C-SU-30977-1A (97)

Serial # of Originating Document

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To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: _____

ET AL
MAR-Murder
00-54

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

Photo of crime scene

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[redacted]

[redacted] Can Have them,
These are our only Copies,
We'll keep the negatives.

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166C-54-30977-
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FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ervil's followers murder routinely

In 20 years, 18 ex-associates have been slain or reported missing

By Lee Davidson
Deseret News staff writer

Murder is nothing new to one-time followers of the late polygamist and self-proclaimed prophet Ervil LeBaron — a man who routinely used murder as a tool of religious persuasion.

Counting the four murders in Texas on Monday of people whose families had once been intimately tied to LeBaron, at least 18 one-time followers of LeBaron have been killed or have mysteriously disappeared in the past 20 years.

LeBaron's followers have been blamed for the murder of at least five additional outsiders, including three self-proclaimed prophets who were rivals of LeBaron.

Lawmen say they expect even more killing in the future. To understand why, the following is a list of murders and disappearances of LeBaron followers:

MAURO GUTTIEREZ, Jan. 1, 1966 — The first case of violence befalling an associate of LeBaron occurred when Guttierez, a missionary for a church then headed by Joel LeBaron with assistance by his brother Ervil, was shot 15 times by ambushers outside a bar in Babicora, Mexico.

Time magazine reported that residents said the shooting likely resulted from local contempt of Guttierez's polygamist lifestyle.

However, Bill Tucker, an official at that time of the LeBarons' Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times, was quoted as saying hired assassins shot Guttierez because he was too successful in converting local residents to the LeBarons' church.

JOHN BUTCHEREIT, October 1966 — The 60-year-old member of the LeBarons' church was shot to death at his shack on the outskirts of Colonia LeBaron, Mexico. He had openly criticized both Joel and Ervil LeBaron and had reportedly been contemptuous of native Mexicans in the area.

The murder was never officially solved, and several theories surfaced about it at the time. One was that the fiance of a Mexican secretary that Butchereit had just hired had become jealous and shot him. Others say the fiance shot him out of spite after Butchereit refused to let him borrow his car.

JOEL LEBARON, Aug. 20, 1972 — After a bitter religious split with his brother Ervil, Joel was shot to death in Ensenada, Mexico. His then-14-year-old son Ivan later testified that he saw Daniel Ben Jordan and Gamaliel Rios, followers of Ervil, flee from the house after the shooting.

Ivan said he was outside and heard someone yell, "Kill him!" Two shots were fired, one hitting Joel in the throat and the other in the brain. The two assailants then ran from the house, but Jordan slowed down when he saw a crowd gathering and coolly strode to his nearby station wagon and drove away, according to the book "Prophet of Blood," by Ben Bradlee Jr. and Dale Van Atta.

Jordan was eventually extradited from the United States to Mexico for the crime. But he was released without standing trial because of reluctance of some witnesses to testify against him.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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MORONE MENDEZ & EDMUNDO AGUILAR, Dec. 26, 1974 — The two, ages 16 and 24, were killed in a raid on Los Molinos, Mexico, by followers of Ervil LeBaron. Los Molinos residents had refused the leadership of Ervil and instead followed his brother Verlan, who had taken over the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times after Joel LeBaron's death.

The attackers threw fire bombs at homes in the town, and shot residents as they fled or tried to fight the flames. Thirteen others were wounded.

After Mendez was shot in the legs and cried for an aunt, one of the attackers came up and shot him point blank with a shotgun. Aguilar was awakened when a fire bomb landed on his bed. When he stood up, he was shot by a shotgun blast through the window. Both lived for a day or so. Residents said small earthquakes hit when each of them died.

The main purpose of the attack was supposedly to murder Verlan LeBaron, who was out of town. Ervil LeBaron was put on trial for the raid, but a Mexican judge dismissed his case for lack of evidence.

When 16 witnesses to the raid gathered outside a courthouse in Ensenada a month after the raid, they were approached by Raul Rios, a follower of Ervil. He had a shotgun, but as he went to fire it, he tripped. The shot went into the sidewalk with some pellets ricocheting into the crowd.

A second attempt to shoot the gun failed and Rios threw it to the ground and ran, chased by one of the witnesses. Rios pulled a handgun but ran into a telephone pole just as he tried to shoot while running backward. Police finally caught up with him, and he served five months in jail.

70A-2838-115

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FBI — SALT LAKE CITY

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NAOMI ZARATE CHYNOWETH, January 1975 — About the same time the Los Molinos witnesses were being shot at, Chynoweth — a one-time follower who had vocally opposed Ervil LeBaron's leadership and threatened to turn him over to police — was driven into the Mexican desert by one of Ervil's wives, Vonda White, and was never seen again.

According to "Prophet of Blood" by Bradlee and Van Atta, White told a friend that she shot Chynoweth several times near Ensenada on orders from Ervil. She supposedly put the body in her car trunk and buried it in a nearby hill.

Ervil supposedly told White, "You don't know how pleased the Lord is that that traitor is dead." The book said an unnamed plural wife of Dan Jordan also disappeared about the same time, and was supposedly kidnapped by two of Ervil's wives.

ROBERT H. SIMONS, April 25, 1975 — Simons, a polygamist who lived in Grantsville, Tooele County, claimed to be a prophet and openly challenged the power and authority of Ervil LeBaron.

The day of his death, he was led by an incognito follower of Ervil LeBaron into the desert near Price where he was told an Indian chief wanted to hear his message.

But two other followers of Ervil — the same Eddie Marston and Mark Chenowyth who were killed in Texas on Monday — were waiting, according to Bradlee and Van Atta.

They shot him to death and buried him nearby. The body was found years later during the investigation into the murder of Rulon Allred. The man who led Simons to his death took police to the site.

DEAN VEST, June 16, 1975 — The 6-foot-8, 260-pound Vest was once a bodyguard of Ervil LeBaron. But at the time of his death, Vest was thinking of leaving the group and was considered a traitor by LeBaron.

He was shot three times in the head by Vonda White at her home near San Diego, supposedly on orders from Ervil. One shot to the head after Vest was already dead may have been a ritualistic coup de grace for a "blood atonement," a murder to pay for someone's sins.

Ervil supposedly told White again that she "was an elected" lady after she committed the murder.

REBECCA LEBARON CHYNOWETH, April 1977 — She was a daughter of Ervil LeBaron and was three months pregnant at the time she was supposedly strangled near Dallas on her father's orders, according to "Prophet of Blood."

Ervil supposedly ordered her murder because "she hollered a lot," complained too much and had threatened to inform police about the group unless she was reunited with a son, whom the group had left in Denver. She was supposedly buried in a remote area, and her body was not recovered.

RULON ALLRED, May 10, 1977 — Allred, a polygamist and leader of the Apostolic United Brethren, was a rival of Ervil LeBaron. Allred, a naturopathic doctor, was shot seven times by two women at his Murray office.

Ervil LeBaron was convicted of ordering the murder and was sent to the Utah State Prison, where he died in 1981.

Ramona Marston, one of Dan Jordan's wives, was charged with being one of the shooters — but she jumped bail and was never tried on the charges, although she later pleaded guilty to bail-jumping charges.

One of the main purposes of Allred's murder was supposedly to allow three of Ervil's followers — including the same Eddie Marston who was killed Monday — to gun down Verlan LeBaron, Ervil's brother and rival, when he attended the funeral. Ervil's followers backed out of that murder attempt when they saw heavy police protection at the funeral.

Ironically, Verlan LeBaron — who had escaped at least three murder attempts by Ervil's followers — was involved in a head-on car crash near Mexico City on the same day in 1981 that Ervil died in prison. Verlan died a few days later from injuries.

NUMEROUS DISAPPEARANCES, after 1981 — Although they cannot provide many details or dates, local law officials said at least five former followers of Ervil LeBaron — not counting three others to be discussed below — have disappeared since Ervil LeBaron died in prison.

Gamaliel Rios, the man who supposedly helped Dan Jordan murder Joel LeBaron, was supposedly killed in a gunbattle in Mexico, as was **Raul Rios** — the man who supposedly shot at witnesses to the Los Molinos raid. Local law officials said they have been told two Rios women have also apparently disappeared mysteriously, as has **Lorna Chynoweth LeBaron**, one of Ervil LeBaron's wives.

ARTURO LEBARON, Dec. 17, 1983 — A son of Ervil LeBaron, Arturo supposedly became the "One Mighty and Strong" at his father's death. Mormon splinter groups often teach that a man with that title will someday come to reform the mainstream LDS Church.

Ervil had supposedly given joint control of his church to Arturo and Leo P. Evoniuk, who had met Ervil and was converted by him when they were both in jail in Mexico.

Followers claim that after a religious dispute, Evoniuk or his followers murdered Arturo on a remote ranch near Caborca, Sonora, Mexico. Utah law officials have said that Mexican authorities treated the death as if it had resulted from a duel for honor, and did not investigate or confirm it.

However, local officials such as Dick Forbes, investigator for the Salt Lake County attorney's office, said they have talked to enough people who have details about the shooting that they believe he is dead.

Evoniuk, in interviews with the Deseret News, said he had nothing to do with Arturo LeBaron's disappearance. He claimed enemies were trying to set him up and make it appear as though he and his followers had killed him.

FBI/DOJ

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LEO P. EVONIUK, May 27, 1987 — Evoniuk, who once followed Ervil LeBaron but started his own church sometime after Ervil's death, went to a business meeting near Santa Cruz, Calif., and never returned.

At the meeting site, police found a large amount of blood, a partial denture and numerous 9mm gun shell casings. Police were unable to verify whether the blood and denture belonged to Evoniuk because they could not find dental or blood-type records for him.

Former Santa Cruz Sheriff's Detective Lloyd Gray said Evoniuk is either dead or used an elaborate scheme to fake his death. One of Evoniuk's one-time religious associates, Dan Jordan, once faked his death in such a manner in Mexico. The FBI believed he was dead until he was found in a raid to arrest other suspects in the murder of Rulon Allred.

DANIEL BEN JORDAN, Oct. 19, 1987 — He was shot several times at close range while camping in Sanpete County. One shot to the head may have again been ritualistic symbolizing he was killed in a "blood atonement."

After his funeral in Colorado the following week, Aaron LeBaron — one of Ervil's sons — was arrested for "menacing" Jordan's family after he allegedly brandished weapons and claimed revelations granting him life-and-death authority over the family. The charges were later dropped.

Aaron had moved in with the Jordan family two months prior to Jordan's death claiming he was afraid of other siblings. He was in the campground near Manti when Jordan was shot.

The FBI, Utah Organized Crime and Criminal Investigation Bureau and the Sanpete County Sheriff's Office, are also looking for two more of Ervil's sons for questioning about Jordan's death.

WILL MORE KILLING OCCUR? — Four did Monday. And investigators have said privately that history suggests that more murder attempts will likely be made and say odds are that most violence will be confined to one-time followers of Ervil LeBaron.

Officials say the people most at risk from murderers still at large are those who lead churches of their own but have some claim of religious authority with roots reaching back to Ervil LeBaron or his father, Dayer LeBaron.

Lawmen have said in the past that they were looking for two of Ervil's sons, Heber and Andrew, for questioning in the Jordan murder — and had said they heard they were holed up somewhere in Texas. After the murders Monday, lawmen likely want to talk to them even more.

Tom Green, an independent polygamist and a historian of polygamy, said a list of such people would include Ross Wesley LeBaron, a brother of Ervil who lives in West Valley City, and another brother, Alma LeBaron, who lives in Mexico.

Others would include Sigfried Widmar, who apparently took over leadership of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times after Verlan LeBaron's death and lives in Colonia LeBaron, Mexico; and Joel LeBaron Jr., who has some followers of his own also in Colonia LeBaron.

Also, Green said such a list may include Fernando Castro, a pastor in Los Molinos, Mexico, and Ossmen Jones, another polygamist leader.

Of note, polygamists in Colonia LeBaron, Mexico, say they have been told of a "hit list" in the past month with three names — Ross Wesley LeBaron, Alma LeBaron and Fred Collier, who apparently makes his priesthood claims based on LeBaron authority. Ironically, they say the name of the Chenowyths and Marston who were killed Monday were not on that list.



Police say slayings on behalf of polygamist leader Ervil LeBaron, who died in prison in 1981, will likely continue.

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

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Rulon Allred



Daniel Jordan



Leo Evoniuk



Arturo LeBaron



Joel LeBaron



Robert Simons

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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PAGE 1 AND 6
SECTION "A"
HOUSTON CHRONICLE
HOUSTON, TEXAS
JUNE 28, 1988
TUESDAY

Four killings tied to LeBaron cultists

Character or Classification: 70A-2126
Submitting Office: HOUSTON

By ERIC HANSON
and JENNIFER LIEBRUM
Houston Chronicle

A polygamist cult's threat of "blood atonement" against estranged members apparently led to the execution-style slaying Monday of four people — a 10-year-old girl, her father and uncle here and a man in the Dallas area.

In three precisely coordinated actions about 4 p.m., the girl and her father were gunned down in their truck as they tried to deliver a washing machine to an empty house. The man's brother was fatally shot in the family's appliance store. And in Irving, the third estranged cult member was gunned down as he stood next to his truck in the driveway of a vacant house.

■ The hand of a dead man, Ervil LeBaron, reaches out to inspire more mayhem: Page 11.
■ Neighbors describe family as reserved, religious: Page 11.

No arrests had been made, and police had no suspects.

The U.S. Border Patrol issued a bulletin to stop any black Silverado pickup truck carrying two male passengers heading toward Mexico. The killers of the girl and her father were driving such a truck.

All the adults were former followers of the late Ervil LeBaron, a polygamous cult leader whose current followers operate from Mexico. The LeBaron group, known as the Church of the Lamb of God, is believed to be responsible for about 25 killings.

All of those killed — with the exception of the 10-year-old girl — are believed to have been killed because they had defected from the cult and abandoned the violent teachings of its leader.

Duane Chynoweth, 31, and his daughter Jennifer, 10, were shot just after 4 p.m. in the driveway of a vacant home at 6010 Rena in northwest Houston. Both were dead at the scene.

Only a few minutes before they were killed, the body of Chynoweth's brother, Mark, 36, was found in the office of the appliance business he owned at 2102 Blalock a few miles away.

And in Irving, Eddie Marston, 32 — a former LeBaron follower and one of Ervil's stepsons who has been linked to at least three killings at the behest of Ervil LeBaron — was gunned down at almost the same moment, shortly after 4 p.m.

Mark Chynoweth had been shot several times in the head and face with a .45-caliber pistol, said HPD homicide Detective H.L. Mayer.

Mayer said it appears Mark Chynoweth was sitting in a chair when he was shot. The body was discovered by a customer who came into the store. Mayer said it was not known how much time had passed between the moment Chynoweth was shot and the time he was found.

Employees in a building behind the store did not hear any gunshots.

Although the shootings occurred minutes apart, police did not connect the killings for at least an hour.

Duane Chynoweth's pickup truck had a new washing machine in the bed and, when police realized he worked for an appliance company, they contacted detectives at the Blalock scene.

After talking to relatives they realized other former cult members also live in Houston and feared there might be more killings planned. Several patrol cars were dispatched to the homes of the families.

Police spokesman Dan Turner said about 10 people were taken to police headquarters.

"There was a concern that they could be next. They are cooperating with us," Turner said.

Turner said the unusual nature of the killings made it hard for detectives to sort out various details of the case.

He said police are still trying to piece together the events that led to the shootings.

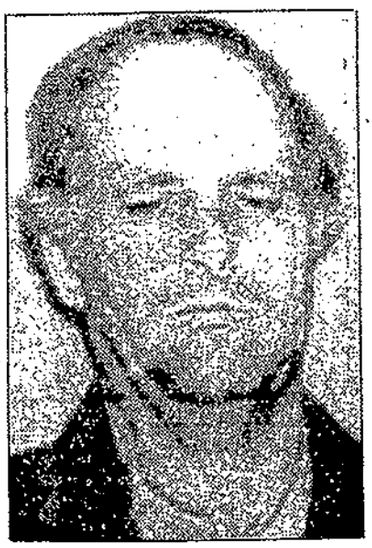
No arrests have been made in any of the attacks although a black Chevrolet pickup truck with two men in it was seen speeding from the scene of the double shooting on Rena.

Turner said police believe it is possible that both Houston shootings were committed by the same people. Turner said residents on Rena told police the pickup truck was seen in the area a few minutes before the killings. Several residents heard the shots and rushed outside to see the pickup leaving.

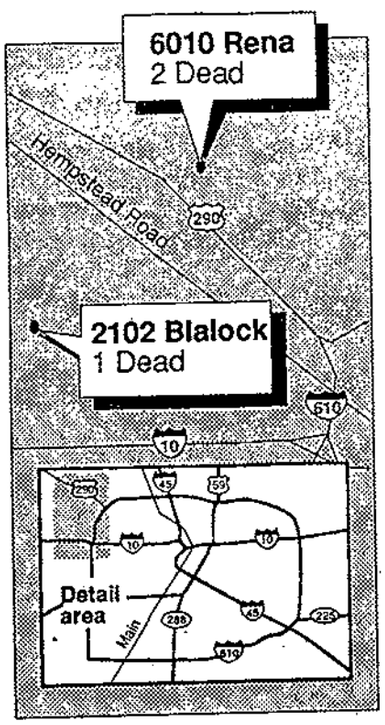
A witness told police that after Duane and his daughter pulled into the driveway the black pickup truck pulled up and stopped in front of them. The passenger got out, walked up to Duane — who was standing with his door open — and opened fire with a large-caliber handgun.

Duane was struck several times in the head and fell to the driveway. The gunman also fired at the girl who was sitting in the front seat, shooting her in the head, Turner said.

A neighbor who heard shots said he



The late Ervil LeBaron was a polygamous cult leader whose current followers operate from Mexico. The LeBaron group is believed to be responsible for about 25 killings.



was working in his garage when the gunfire startled him.

"I came out and looked and saw a man running away. He ran into the truck, and they took off. I tried to get the license number but I couldn't. I then walked up and saw the baby in the front seat," he said.

Police believe that whoever is responsible for the killings called the appliance shop and ordered a washing machine to be delivered to the home, which had been vacant several months.

The killing of the girl stunned police on the scene, and some were visibly shaken.

"It's pretty bad when you see a child killed. There is just no reason in the world for it," said crime scene unit investigator L.L. Dawson.

"It's always hard when you see a kid killed. The other things you get used to. But something like this is really rough. What kind of person would do something like this?" asked an investigator who did not want to be identified.

Shortly after being told by police of the death of her husband Mark, Lillian Chynoweth explained the reason for the crime to a neighbor.

"Apparently, Lillian told my wife they tried to break away from a cult, and there was a death list," said a man who lives near the Chynoweth family at 2606 Talina Way. "They had received death threats.

"They said they had gone to police, and there was little they could do," said the neighbor, who did not want to be identified.

Also at the scene of the killing on Blalock a man standing across the street from the business said a man in a car told him there would be more killings.

David Starnes said a man in a "beat-up silver car" told him, "This is a professional killing. He's just the first of several going down today."

In Irving, Robert Breckenridge of the Dallas County medical examiners office, said Marston died of multiple gunshot wounds at Dallas' Parkland Memorial Hospital at 6:18 p.m.

Irving police Officer Richard Gilmette said Marston was found, shot in the head and upper body shortly after 4 p.m.

He was on the ground next to his pickup in the driveway of a vacant home in an upper-middle-class neighborhood, located in the 1000 block of Shere Lane in southwest Irving.

Gilmette said there were no witnesses to the shooting, though two people saw a white male in a dark, late-model pickup leaving the scene right after the shooting.

Gilmette said the man in the truck was described as being in his 30s and having short, dark hair.

Gilmette said police would have to await the results of today's autopsy before determining what kind of gun was used in the shooting.

Gilmette said Irving police had no home address for Marston, but listed his business address as 1118 Shady Grove in Irving. The name of the business is Ed's Appliances.

Chronicle staffers Alan Bernstein, Evan Moore and Clay Ward also contributed to this report.



Paul S. Howell /

The body of Mark Chynoweth, 36, is removed from the office of the appliance business he owned at 2102 Blalock.

PAGE 1 AND 7
SECTION "A"
THE HOUSTON POST
HOUSTON, TEXAS
JUNE 29, 1988
WEDNESDAY

Title

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HOUSTON

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Fear stalks relatives in cult feud

Police afraid killing not over

By Mary Flood
and Jack Douglas
OF THE HOUSTON POST

Houston police and relatives of three of four people killed in an apparent religious feud expressed fear Tuesday the killers may strike again.

A member of the family in Houston told a reporter that they are "terrified" and don't know what they will do or where they will go to protect themselves after the execution-style slayings of Mark and Duane Chynoweth, 8-year-old Jennifer Chynoweth and a man in Irving formerly associated with the religious cult.

Authorities said the Chynoweth brothers and Edward T. Marston of Irving apparently were slain because they broke from the violence-prone Church of the Lamb of God.

As Houston police expressed doubts about long-term protection for the family, a brother of

☐ Legacy of blood/page 7A

Mark Chynoweth said the killings were not unexpected.

"My brother Mark said if you quit the Church of the Lamb of God you are a dead man," said Glen Chynoweth by telephone from Utah.

He said he agrees with authorities who suspect the slayings were the work of followers, probably sons, of the late polygamist cult leader Ervil LeBaron. LeBaron, whose father left the Mormon Church when it outlawed polygamy, founded the Church of the Lamb of God.

Oddly, Monday was the 144th anniversary of the death of Mormon Church founder John Smith, who was killed by a mob that stormed his Illinois jail cell about the same time of day the three Houston killings and a related Dallas-area slaying took place.

Mark Chynoweth, 35, was found shot dead in his appliance store in the 2100 block of Blalock and his brother Duane, 31, and niece Jennifer were found fatally shot on Rena Street in a nearby neighborhood where they were delivering an appliance. The two men were former followers of LeBaron who left the fold.

Police said the Houston killings took place around 4 p.m., roughly the same time Marston, 32, was fatally shot in a Dallas suburb.

Marston also was a former member of LeBaron's cult. Authorities said Mark Chynoweth and Marston were charged with participating in LeBaron-ordered killings. Both were acquitted, however.

LeBaron, who died in prison serving a life sentence for murder, had more than a dozen wives and is credited by authorities with arranging more than a dozen murders of relatives and rivals who refused to follow his religious orders. He is said to have left a hit list before he died in 1981.

"I know of no physical hit list," said Lt. Richard Holland of the Houston Police Department's homicide division.

But Holland said, "It is our concern there may be some individuals in danger in the future." There are "less than a dozen" in jeopardy in Houston but "they are all related to the same group of people," he said.

Holland refused to say whether police protection is continuing for those considered in danger, but it was known that the victims' homes and business were under police surveillance until early afternoon Tuesday.

There was "very little" Houston police could do on a "long-term basis" to ensure no further attacks here, Holland said.

Houston police acknowledged that in March they investigated a threat against Mark Chynoweth.

It was not until after the slayings, however, that the Houston police Criminal Intelligence Division learned of the radical polygamist group known as the Church of the Lamb of God or its founder.

"I don't know how we're going to end this. These (killers) are the offspring of someone who did terrible things. And I suppose these people have offspring. I would like to see this chain stopped," Glen Chynoweth said.

Lt. Paul Forbes, a Utah policeman who has followed the trail of blood left by LeBaron, said the Texas killings were shocking but not surprising given the violent history of the renegade cult.

"They (cult members) just take up the sword," Forbes said. "If one drops it, another takes it up and away they go. Someone has convinced these people that it is an act of divine guidance and, therefore, above the law."

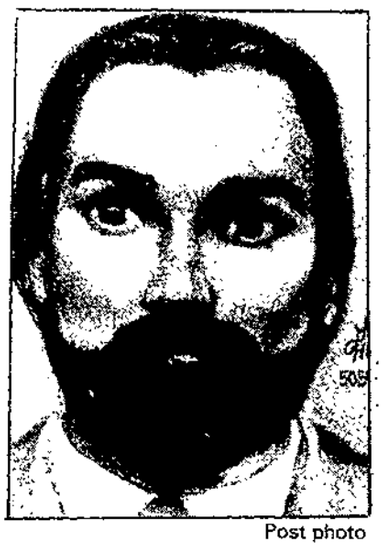
He and other Utah experts said the cult members believe in "blood atonement," or that they aid sinners by spilling their blood, which pleases God and helps the slain in the afterlife.

It was unknown whether Mark Chynoweth, his brother and the girl were killed by the same assailants. But it was "physically possible" to have committed murder at the appliance shop and then made it to the home on Rena (Street) in time to confront the other victims, Holland said.

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FBI — SALT LAKE CITY

Irving police Lt. K.L. Rowe said "these deaths were carefully planned right down to the minute. Everybody was killed between 4 and 4:05 p.m. . . There's no doubt there's a connection."

Glen Chynoweth said he was especially surprised his niece was executed. "It's a real shocker. I hope the Texas police do a better job of getting them than the Colorado or Utah police did," he said referring to past killings blamed on cult members but resulting in few or no convictions.



Post photo

Police released this composite photo of the gunman in the slayings of Duane and Jennifer Chynoweth

No one has been charged in the late 1987 slaying of Colorado polygamist leader Daniel Ben Jordan, who, like some slain Monday, was said to have been a militant soldier for LeBaron.

FBI spokesman Johnie Joyce said the Texas killings have prompted the FBI to reactivate its investigation into the case of Jordan, who was shot while on a Utah hunting trip with family members.

He said some of the "numerous" suspects in Jordan's death are also suspected in the Texas killings. Police verified that the suspects include three LeBaron sons, Aaron, Andrew and Heber, who is a fugitive on a Texas bank robbery warrant.

"There is no sense to (these killings). I don't know the reason. Either there really is a hit list or there is the blanket rule that if you quit the organization you will be killed," said Glen Chynoweth.

He said though his family in Houston is concerned for its safety, cult members generally target only men for extermination. He said the women who've been murdered were witnesses to slayings like his niece or were trying to protect someone else.

Polygamist leader Alex Joseph said Tuesday that though he is believed to be on a "hit list" LeBaron wrote as a "divine inspiration" in prison, he is not frightened.

"The two men who threatened to harm me died Monday," said Joseph, in a telephone interview from the Utah town where he is mayor. "It was Mark Chynoweth and Eddie Marston who threatened me."

Joseph said the killings attributed to this cult don't give polygamy a bad name, "they give murder a bad name."

"I don't view them as polygamists, I view them as hoodlums," he said, accusing members of LeBaron's cult with drug running.

Joseph, who has nine wives and 20 children, said he thinks the slayings LeBaron ordered have more to do with extortion than religion. He said LeBaron engineered the 1977 murder of Dr. Rulon Allred and the deaths of other rival polygamists because they would not pledge their financial support to LeBaron's church.

John Stewart, a Utah State University professor who has studied polygamists, said LeBaron and his brothers, including one LeBaron allegedly had killed by Jordan, were all "in that fringe area between genius and insanity."

Forbes said that when LeBaron was arrested for Allred's murder he was unusually talkative for a suspect and he seemed to be using his considerable persuasive powers to try to convert the detectives.

"He was an egomaniac with unbelievable influence over his wives and deluded followers who on his command would practice blood atonement and kill," said Stewart, who met LeBaron and many of his relatives.

One LeBaron brother, Ross, is a frequent caller to Salt Lake City talk shows. He speaks on religion and talks about Adam coming to Earth on a flying saucer and women's subservient role to men.

He has also told one single female talk show host that he has "sealed her to him" or told God she's his wife, so she can go to heaven.

THE SONS OF ERVIL LeBARON



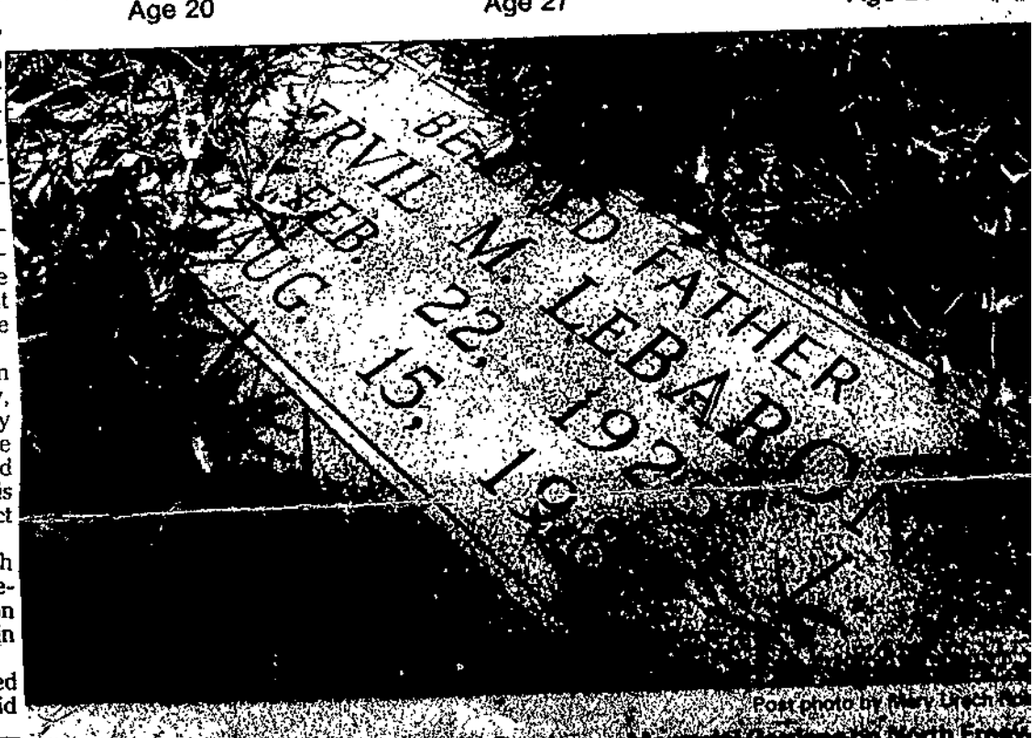
AARON LeBARON
Age 20



HEBER LeBARON
Age 27



ANDREW LeBARON
Age 28



Post photo by Mary Urech

Grave of cult patriarch Ervil LeBaron in Resthaven Memorial Gardens on North Freew

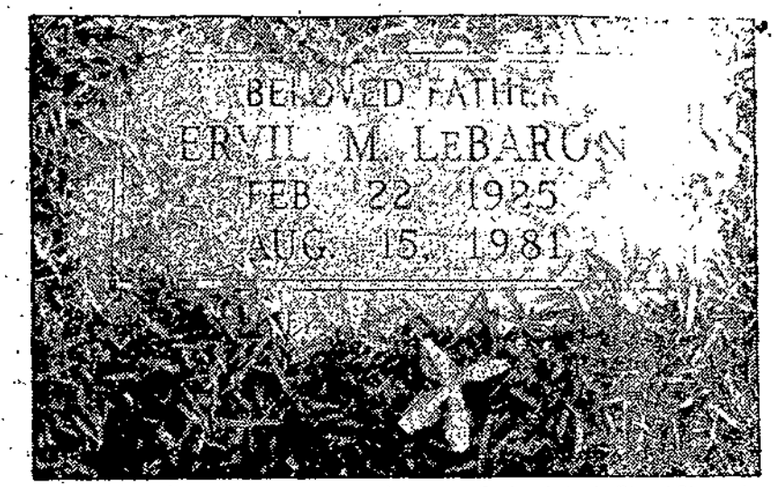
'These deaths were carefully planned right down to the minute.'

K.L. ROWE
Irving police lieutenant



Buster Dean / Chronicle

t. Richard Holland displays a Houston Police Department sketch uesday of a suspect in the shooting of Duane Chynoweth and his laughter, Jennifer — part of what appeared to be a series of ssassinations carried out by a polygamist cult.



Carlos Antonio Rios / Chronicle

Ervil LeBaron is buried in Houston's Resthaven Cemetery.

The Chynoweths and Marston had been followers of LeBaron but had broken from the religious zealot after his conviction on a conspiracy to commit murder charge in 1980. Marston was a stepson, and Ervil had been married to the Chynoweths' sister, Rena.

Investigators Tuesday released a composite drawing of a man believed to have been responsible for the murders of Duane and Jennifer Chynoweth, shot in the driveway of a vacant home in northwest Houston.

Holland described the gunman as a white male in his late 20s or early 30s, 6 feet 1 inches tall, weighing 185 to 190 pounds with reddish brown hair and beard.

The FBI is assisting in the investigation, Holland said. Investigators said they also have contacted Irving and Salt Lake City authorities and made "necessary inquiries" in the area around the Mexican border.

Holland said it is unlikely the suspects are still in Houston. However, he said, "We haven't ruled that out."

He said he couldn't confirm how many members of the family live in Houston and that it was virtually impossible to provide protection for them on a long-term basis.

Holland said police have received information about the phone call that lured Duane Chynoweth, an appliance salesman, to the vacant house to deliver a washing machine. He declined to say who made the call or what time it was made.

Investigators have determined that Duane and Jennifer Chynoweth were killed about 4:05 p.m. and that Mark Chynoweth between 3:45 and 4.

"I can't say whether the same suspect killed all three people here," Holland said, adding that a large-caliber handgun was used to kill all three victims.

"It is a possibility that one suspect killed all three. And it's also a possibility that we have two persons involved. I suppose it was physically possible for the suspects to leave one place and drive to another, but the time would have been a little tight."

Police were searching for a black 1985 Chevrolet Silverado pickup with rally wheel and whitewall tires. The killers of Duane and Jennifer Chynoweth were driving such a truck.

The truck is said to have a radio antenna on its roof and a double exhaust pipe protruding from beneath the driver's side.

LeBaron's sons also are being sought for questioning in the Utah slaying last October of polygamist leader Daniel Ben Jordan.

Jordan, who had been leading a group in Bennett, Colo., was LeBaron's right-hand man for decades. He was charged with, but never tried for, the death of LeBaron's brother Joel, who rivaled Ervil LeBaron's leadership.

Aaron LeBaron was charged in that killing, but the charges were later dropped for lack of evidence.

Chronicle reporter Evan Moore contributed to this story.

Legacy of murder stretches back for years

6-29-88

By Mary Flood
OF THE HOUSTON POST

The shots that rang out on the streets of Houston Monday apparently stemmed from a polygamist cult's complex trail of blood and religion that led from Utah to Mexico and on to Houston.

The victims were former followers of Ervil LeBaron, a religious zealot who left a legacy of murder and fanaticism to his followers.

Suspects in the Houston deaths and one in Irving include three sons of LeBaron, police confirmed Monday.

LeBaron's group is a militant offshoot of the Mormon Church, which banned plural marriage in 1890.

Several polygamist groups splintered from the church at that time and LeBaron's father became a leader of one.

LeBaron, though, wound up breaking away from his own brother and founded the Church of the Lamb of God with headquarters in Mexico. LeBaron later was accused of having his brother killed.

Buried in Houston, LeBaron died in a Utah prison in 1981 while serving a life sentence for masterminding the 1977 murder of rival polygamist leader Dr. Rulon Allred.

His cult has a convoluted cast. Many of the main players in its gory history are related, since most of the men have several wives and dozens of children.

Mark Chynoweth, found dead Monday in his Houston appliance store, allegedly was a top aide to LeBaron who fell from grace with the group. He was married to one of LeBaron's daughters and his sister was one of LeBaron's wives.



AP file photo

E. LeBARON: Founder



Salt Lake Tribune photo

M. CHYNOWETH: Slain Monday

Chynoweth had been charged in connection with Allred's death, with authorities claiming he may have dressed as a woman and actually been one of the triggermen. He was acquitted of the charge, however.

Another cult associate charged was Chynoweth's sister, Rena, one of LeBaron's wives.

Police believe the assassins who acted Monday had arranged to have two of the victims deliver an appliance to a false address that happened to be on Rena, a road with the name of Chynoweth's sister.

"That's just like this group," said one observer of the group's activities in Utah. They believe in "blood atonement" or the killing of members who have left the ranks, authorities said.

"Authorities have connected at least 12 murders — that's the ones documented — to the cult in the last two decades," according to a Salt Lake City reporter who has followed the group.

Last October, Colorado polygamist leader Daniel Ben Jordan, 53, of Bennett, Colo., was shot in the head and chest while on a hunting trip with family members near Manti, Utah.

A similar leader, Leo P. Evoniuk, never returned from a business meeting on May 27, 1987, near Santa Cruz, Calif. Foul play is suspected in his disappearance.

At the time Jordan died, Lillian Chynoweth, 33, a wife of Mark, told reporters her husband also was marked for death since he was a former lieutenant of LeBaron who had defected from the sect.

Investigators said that, shortly before Jordan was killed, Jordan and Mark Chynoweth had told authorities two of LeBaron's sons were making death threats.

LeBaron's son, Aaron LeBaron, 19, was charged last fall with threatening other family members.

Authorities on polygamy say many of the LeBaron cult members live in the Houston and Dallas areas.

Ervil LeBaron left a "Book of New Covenants," written while in prison, which may be providing a blueprint for revenge, some relatives say.

Those writings include "a list of people my father thought needed to be killed ... He left a list of traitors to his and God's causes," LeBaron daughter Lillian Chynoweth has told reporters.

Lillian Chynoweth has said some of LeBaron's sons, teen-agers when he died, have abandoned their families and have gone underground.

She has said her father "felt himself losing everything, so in a last big attempt to turn things around, he tried to convince everybody that it is a special family ... a godly family with a mission."

LeBaron and some of his ex-followers were said to have each claimed to be the "One Mighty and Strong," a man many polygamist groups believe will someday come to reform The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly referred to as the Mormon Church.

> **'Authorities have connected at least 12 murders ... to the cult in the last two decades.'**
>
> SALT LAKE CITY REPORTER

Ervil was said to have passed the title to his son Arturo.

Arturo disappeared and may have been murdered in a raid on the clan's ranch near Sonora, Mexico, in 1983.

Arturo had been charged along with his father in the Allred slaying, but charges against him were dropped for lack of evidence.

Some of the younger brothers, Lillian Chynoweth has said, have carried the battle back north across the border.

Jordan, she said, was murdered because he split from the church after Ervil LeBaron went to prison.

Chuck Ramsey, sheriff of Sanpete County in Utah, investigated the murder of Jordan, and Ramsey said Monday he suspects Ervil's son Aaron of killing Jordan but the murder officially remains unsolved.

"We've got an unsolved murder here, and I want to see if there is a connection" with the murders in Houston, Ramsey said.

Others who may have been marked to die include at least one of LeBaron's 14 former wives. Authorities in the city where she lives have been notified of her possible danger, Forbes has said.

Post wire service reports were used in compiling this story.

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Post photo by Jerry Click

Houston police officers investigate scene Monday at the slaying of Duane Chynoweth and his 8-year-old daughter, Jennifer.

THE CULT

The Church of the Lamb of God originated in Mexico, founded in 1971 by Ervil LeBaron during a power struggle with his brother Joel for control of a polygamist sect founded by their father. Members of the cult eventually lived in Mexico, Texas and possibly Arizona as they searched for jobs and as a result of splintering in the group following LeBaron's death. Some members left the cult, but others remained faithful to LeBaron's teachings, which included the doctrine of "blood atonement" that is believed to be the rationale in more than 20 killings by members of the cult. Principal among the remaining followers of LeBaron are three of his sons, all wanted for questioning in Monday's killings as well as the death last year of a rival polygamist leader vacationing in Utah.

■ **Ervil LeBaron**—He was accused of having his brother Joel killed after he was tossed out of the polygamist sect founded by their father. He was convicted of masterminding the 1977 murder of a rival polygamist leader and imprisoned in Utah. One of his daughters said her father tried to convince his followers that his family was special, "a godly family with a mission." Before he died of a heart attack in prison in 1981, his relatives say, LeBaron penned a blueprint for revenge, a list of people he believed should be killed because they were "traitors to his and God's causes."

■ **Aaron LeBaron**—Investigators have been told Aaron, 20, considers himself the newest "One Mighty and Strong" of the Church of the Lamb of God. The title is a revered position his father once claimed and refers to the person many polygamist groups believe will someday reform the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon Church.

■ **Heber LeBaron**—Some authorities consider Heber, 27, the cult's new leader, despite Aaron's claims. Federal authorities have a warrant out for Heber on charges that he jumped bail to escape prosecution for a Richardson bank robbery in November 1986.

■ **Andrew LeBaron**—Little information is available on this 28-year-old son of LeBaron, but police — acting on information from other family members — want to question him in Monday's killings.

THE SLAIN

More than 20 people with ties to LeBaron and his cult have been slain over the past two decades. Five people — four of them former cult members — have been killed since October. Four of the victims were killed in near simultaneous attacks Monday. Ironically, three of the victims were one-time suspects in previous cult killings.

■ **Mark Chynoweth**—Chynoweth's tie to LeBaron was two-fold. He was the brother of Rena Chynoweth, one of LeBaron's wives, and he married one of the man's daughters. He once was LeBaron's top aide and was charged — but later acquitted — in the killing of a Rulon Allred, a rival polygamist leader. LeBaron was imprisoned for masterminding the killing of Allred. After Chynoweth split with LeBaron, he received death threats. He was gunned down in his appliance store Monday.

■ **Duane Chynoweth**—Mark Chynoweth's brother was shot to death Monday afternoon when he delivered a washing machine to a vacant house on a street which bore the name of his sister — LeBaron's wife Rena.

■ **Jennifer Chynoweth**—Duane Chynoweth's 8-year-old daughter was killed with her father Monday afternoon. Police said she apparently was killed only because she witnessed the attack on her father.

■ **Edward Marston**—One of Ervil LeBaron's stepsons, Marston was once charged in two slayings of rival polygamists. He was aquitted both times. Marston was shot to death at a vacant Irving home about the same time the Chynoweths were killed in Houston.

■ **Daniel Ben Jordan**—A Colorado polygamist leader, Jordan had been Ervil LeBaron's lieutenant until he formed his own church. He was the suspected killer of Joel LeBaron. Jordan was killed in October while on a hunting trip with his family near Manti, Utah. Also on the trip, police said, was Aaron LeBaron — the only member of the hunting party who could not account for his whereabouts when Jordan was slain.

Warnings of impending assassination came too late for Irving victim

By Jeff South
OF THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

IRVING — Former members of a polygamous group tried to warn Eddie Marston Monday of an impending assassination, and Houston police alerted Irving lawmen that a killing might be planned there.

But the phone calls were too late. Marston, a former member of Ervil LeBaron's cult, was already dead. Indeed, he was killed about 4 p.m., at almost the same time as two other former cult members and a child in Houston.

"These deaths were carefully planned, right down to the minute," said Irving police investigator Lt. K.L. Rowe.

On Monday afternoon, as Houston police investigated the killings of Mark Chynoweth, his brother Duane Chynoweth and Duane's 8-year-old daughter, Jennifer, they learned that Marston might be a target. At 6:05 p.m., Houston authorities alerted the Irving Police Department, Rowe said.

"By then, it was too late."

About the same time, after coming home from work, Marston's girlfriend also received a call, from some former cult members in Houston.

"They were calling to tell Ed that somebody had been shot," said the woman, who declined to give her name.

About half an hour later, Irving police officers came by to say that Marston was dead.

Marston was gunned down when he answered a call to pick up a washer and dryer at a house that turned out to be vacant, the same type of ruse used to lure Duane Chynoweth to his death.

Marston's girlfriend said Marston, who lived in the back of his used appliance store in the 1100 block of East Shady Grove Lane in Irving, had not felt he was in danger.

"He has a couple of guns, and they're still sitting here," the girlfriend said. If he was suspicious or threatened, she said, "he would have taken them."

The woman said Marston received a call Monday morning from a man offering a washer and dryer.

Marston went to the house in West Irving about 1 p.m., but no one showed up, the woman said. She said she believes that this was the originally scheduled time for the Houston and Irving killings.

"Something must have screwed up" in Houston, forcing a delay, the girlfriend said.

In mid-afternoon, Marston got another call and returned to the house, the woman said. He was shot once in the chest and once in the head. Although no one saw the killing, witnesses saw a man get into a black or blue pickup and drive away, police said.

Marston, LeBaron's stepson, moved from Houston to Irving about four years ago. His girlfriend said Marston spoke little about his life in the cult. "He didn't want me to know," she said. "He had been out of it long before I met him."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Room 3203
125 South State Street
Salt Lake city, Utah 84138
September 14, 1988

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES,

Enclosed is a flier entitled "BULLETIN - LEBARON CRIME FAMILY," which contains information about members of the Ervil LeBaron family that are suspected of serious crimes, including murder.

Since 1972, certain members of this family are believed to have been responsible for at least 22 murders in the western United States and northern Mexico. Five of these murders were committed within the past eleven months. One victim included an innocent eight-year-old who was apparently shot and killed because she was a witness to one of the murders.

A task force has been established in Utah to coordinate the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for these crimes. It is made up of one representative each from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Salt Lake County Attorney's Office, and the Utah State Department of Investigations. Names and telephone numbers of the task force members are found in the attached bulletin.

We are requesting that your department run the names (true names and aliases) of the LeBarons found in the bulletin through your records bureau. If any hits or other information pertaining to these individuals are located, please contact anyone of the task force members listed in the bulletin. We also hope that you will make this information available to your detectives and patrol personnel inasmuch as several of the Lebarons are fugitives and are being agressively sought throughout the western United States.

Thank you for any help you may be able to render in this important case.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Bryant

Robert M. Bryant
Special Agent in Charge
Salt Lake City FBI

BULLETIN

LeBARON CRIME FAMILY

**SERIAL MURDERS--CULT EXECUTIONS--DOMESTIC TERRORISM--
BANK ROBBERY--AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT--INCEST--AUTO AND
TRUCK THEFT--INTERSTATE (AND INTERNATIONAL) TRANSPORTATION
OF STOLEN PROPERTY--WEAPONS VIOLATIONS--DRUG SMUGGLING--
RACKETEERING AND ILLEGAL ENTERPRISES--FORGERY AND FRAUDULENT
DOCUMENTS--FALSE INFORMATION--ILLEGAL ALIENS**

LEBARON CRIME FAMILY

FBI Special Agent [redacted] day and night number), Salt Lake County Attorney Investigator [redacted] and Utah Division of Investigation Agent [redacted], are seeking information and evidence regarding crimes committed by the LEBARON CRIME FAMILY. IF CONTACT IS MADE WITH CRIME FAMILY MEMBER, PLEASE CALL ONE OF US IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU HAVE A MEMBER AS A SUSPECT IN A CRIME OR IF YOU HAVE HAD PAST CONTACT WITH MEMBERS (OR SUSPECTED MEMBERS), PLEASE CALL.

b6
b7C

Currently five members of this group are in custody in Arizona (two may soon be extradited to Texas). Other members are at large and believed to be still active in criminal enterprises.

At Large Suspects and Warrants

[redacted]

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b7C

CONSIDER ALL SUSPECTS ARMED AND DANGEROUS

b6
b7C

LINDA RAE JOHNSON
FW 10-6-42 5'4" 225#
(may have lost much weight)
Brown hair Blue eyes
aka's:
Mary June Whitt 9-8-40*
or Witt or DeWitt
Mary Jane Whitt
Katherine Elisabeth Miller
Lynn R. Anderson



*On NCIC, no bail, FTA,
theft--Maricopa Co., AZ.
Forgery, theft, fraud suspect.
Photo 1987

b6
b7C

CONSIDER ALL SUSPECTS ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Suspects have in the past dyed hair different colors, grown beards or mustaches, and even worn colored contacts, to disguise their appearances.

LeBaron Family members currently in custody are: [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] Names and dob's on all members are not positive; no birth records on most subjects.

Crimes and MO's

MURDER. The fifteen crime family members discussed in this bulletin are suspects or accessories (before and after) in one murder in Utah (October 1987) and four murders in Texas (June 1988). In addition, the group is believed to be involved in 17 additional known execution murders in the USA and Mexico in the past sixteen years. Principal method is shooting (once in chest and once in head) with handgun. Some victims have been strangled.

VEHICLE THEFT. The five persons now in jail were arrested by MESA PD and PHOENIX PD in July 1988 on auto theft and illegal enterprise charges. The entire group is believed responsible for over 100 car and truck thefts in the Mesa-Phoenix area since January 1988. The usual method of theft is for a woman member to take a test drive of a vehicle (from a private owner or sales lot), make a copy of the key, and return later and steal the car or truck. Some vehicles have been simply stolen during the test drive. Another frequent method is to punch out the ignition and install a new one.

The group seems to favor pickup trucks with tinted windows; and trucks tend to be darker colors. Vehicles to steal are located by the group through for-sale ad in papers or by for-sale signs in vehicles parked on street.

Once stolen, vehicles may be stored in a local garage, taken to a family-run chop shop and ID exchanged from a previously purchased wrecked vehicle, taken across border to Mexico and stored or sold, or used by family for awhile and abandoned (watch motel parking lots for suspect vehicles).

The group needs money to live on and to bail members out of jail. They will be active in crimes--probably truck theft, because money can be quickly made.

BANK ROBBERY AND WEAPONS VIOLATIONS. [redacted] (now in custody) robbed a RICHARDSON, TEXAS bank in November 1986 with a 9mm handgun. During the chase after the robbery, he tried to shoot a police officer, but the gun misfired. [redacted] was apprehended and later released when $50,000 cash bail was posted for him. Bank robbery has not been the usual crime for this group. b6 b7C

Many firearms have been purchased by family members using phoney ID. Any weapons found with group should be seized pending investigation of how they were obtained and from whom and also to test against bullets now in evidence on murder cases. Of

particular interest are 9mm and 45 calibre handguns. Please confiscate all weapons.

Phoney Identification

Group members will have phoney ID papers when stopped by police. They seem to like NEW MEXICO drivers licenses. Licenses are usually new, and all members licenses will have been issued within a few days of each other. Last ones found were all issued 4-18-88 or 4-19-88.

Other suspicious ID will be multiple birth certificates (often for names other than anyone in the group); Mexican papers and ID including border passes and business cards of Mexican lawyers; and notarized documents (Linda Johnson has a stolen notary stamp).

These suspects will be clean cut, well mannered, nicely dressed, they will have vitamins (usually Sunrider brand) and religious materials (books, tapes, pamphlets, bibles). They may also have guns, holsters, marine and CB radios (they travel together with several vehicles), maps, and newspaper articles about their crimes. They may have long list of for-sale vehicles.

Crime Target Areas and Escape Routes

The LeBaron Crime Family is in constant travel status and could be anywhere. Look for crime patterns in UTAH, CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, COLORADO, TEXAS, AND NEVADA. Possible specific target areas may be SAN DIEGO, SAN ANTONIO, EL PASO, LAS VEGAS, DENVER, and SALT LAKE CITY. Phoenix, Houston, and Dallas areas are possibilities.

The group has a safe ranch, [redacted] about 80 miles south of Caborca in Sonora, Mexico. Ranch is near the Gulf of California. Some vehicles will be taken across the US-MEXICO border and stored and altered at the ranch. Border crossings that have been used in the past are: SAN DIEGO/TIJUANA, TECATE, MEXICALI, WHY (AZ)/SONOTA, TUCSON/NOGALES, NACO (AZ), DOUGLAS (AZ), DEMING (NM), and EL PASO. They tend to favor less busy crossings like DEMING. b6 b7C

Threat to Officer Safety

Persons mentioned in this bulletin are known TO CARRY MANY WEAPONS including HANDGUNS, AUTOMATIC PISTOLS, and RIFLES. During the arrest of one subject in this bulletin, the subject pointed a 9mm pistol at an officer. The gun misfired. The past pattern of this group has been to not fire at law enforcement officers. But, the savage killing of an eight-year old witness indicates the crime pattern and escape methods may be changing. BE VERY CAREFUL--CONSIDER ALL SUSPECTS WELL ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

Confidential Distribution of Bulletin

Information in this bulletin is confidential and should be released ONLY to law enforcement personnel. Please keep bulletin in a secure area. When you are finished with bulletin, completely destroy it.

This bulletin is being distributed throughout the western states to local, state, and federal law enforcement officers. It is anticipated that future bulletins will be issued on the LEBARON CRIME FAMILY. If you are interested in directly receiving future bulletins on the LeBarons, send to the Utah Division of Investigation five stamped, self-addressed (include your name), legal-sized envelopes.

Summary-Watch For

--Newer model pickups, darkish, with tinted windows.
--Marine or CB radios and antennaes.
--Clean cut, [redacted] year olds in groups.
--New New Mexico licenses, multiple birth certificates.
--Mexican papers, border passes, business cards, ID's.
--Sunrider vitamins and religious materials.
--Newspaper articles about crimes.
--Several vehicles stolen by women during test drives.
--Check AKA LIST on last page of this Bulletin.
--Be careful.
--Contact:

FBI Special Agent [redacted] or,
Salt Lake County Attorney Investigator [redacted]; or,
Utah Division of Investigation Agent [redacted]
at [redacted]

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b7C

Subjects Currently in Custody

For Intelligence purposes, photos of the five persons now in custody are included in this bulletin. You may want to check past vehicle thefts and other cases if you have had suspects of similar descriptions.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP--BE CAREFUL!!

PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF LEBARON CRIME FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN CUSTODY

b6
b7C

IN CUSTODY LIST CONTINUED:

[redacted]

[redacted]

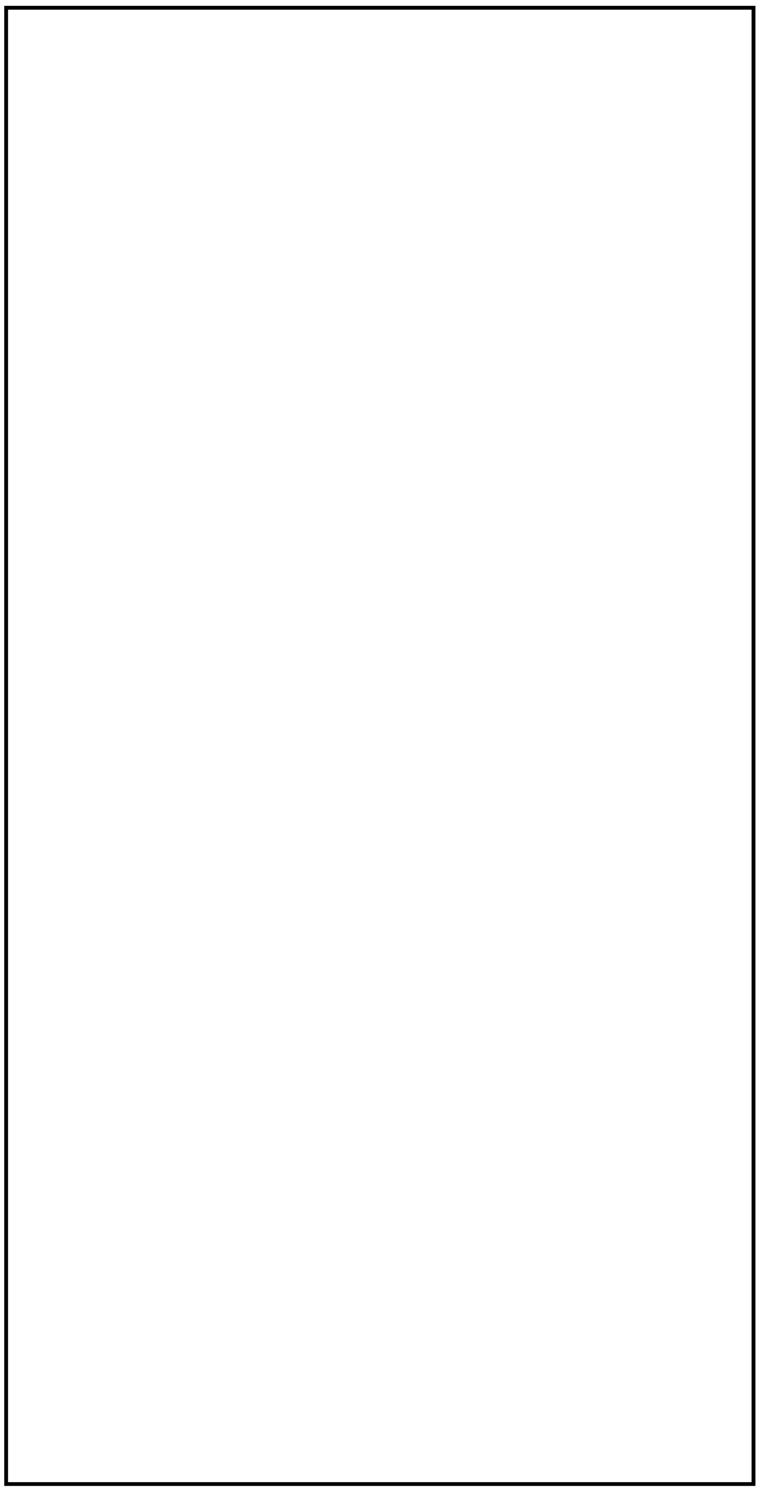
b6
b7C

AKA'S USED BY LEBARON CRIME FAMILY*

[redacted]

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ADDITIONAL ALIASES USED BY THE LEBARONS



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CONSIDER ALL SUSPECTS ARMED AND DANGEROUS