

Kidnapping of the Lindbergh Baby 72 Days Ago Shocked the Entire World

KIDNAPPERS LEFT FEW CLUES AT SCENE

Police, Galvanized Into Action at Midnight, Found Little on Which to Base Search.

CRIME STARTLED WORLD

News Spread Quickly and the Largest Detective Force in History Was Mobilized.

TIPS HARASSED TROOPERS

Lindberghs Showed Great Fortitude — Put Hope in Efforts of Go-Betweens to Pay Ransom.

The greatest collection of detectives, amateur and professional, that any one crime has ever brought together. These were supplemented by countless State and local constabularies became evident in the short space of a day that the mass formation of the law-enforcement agencies of every State stopped for miles around the vicinity of Hopewell, while it remained the centre of interest and activity of the nation. They were to seek the criminals and the child.

Meanwhile the whole nation and the world were anxiously waiting for the catching stations stayed on the air all night, ready to flash to the region who waited the latest news. In the homes, in the subways and the commuter trains, world news, the depression and unemployment dropped, and the subject of the Lindbergh baby remained the first and only topic of discussion.

As the search for the unparalleled audacity of the criminals prevailed. As the days passed this gave way to grave concern and finally to sympathy for the parents made the suggestion of immunity to the criminals, if the child were only returned safely to his parents. It was feared by the fact that clues after clue, each at first followed with high hopes by the world, failed.

Deluge of "Crank" Notes.

It became almost impossible to separate the "crank" notes that came in hundreds to the Lindberghs, to the police and to the newspapers from those that might be important. The first of the widest publicity was addressed to Charles Lindbergh, Princeton, New Jersey, "I crudely printed in pencil on an ordinary piece of paper, 'Baby safe. Instructions later. Act accordingly.'" It was mailed from Newark, but a house-to-house search, conducted by the police, failed to locate it.

Mobilization of police forces continued. Newspaper men, at first receiving every facility for the getting and the spreading of news, were urged to leave the Lindbergh estate and set up headquarters a mile or two away. At the same time a bureau was established in the office of Governor A. Harry Moore of New Jersey, in Trenton.

Fortitude of Lindberghs.

Meanwhile Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh showed the greatest fortitude. They seemed to realize that all of their coolness, their self-possession, everything that was so necessary to maintain the confidence of the public, was to be broadcast the news that the baby had been ill when it was taken, and that the parents were unable to furnish the details of the diet were given publicly on the first pages of the newspapers.

Search still yielding nothing tangible, a more dramatic step was taken by Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh. Over their own signatures they issued a public appeal to the kidnappers, pledging their honor not to try and injure the persons who had taken the child if they returned unharmed. The Lindberghs were ready to pay a ransom for the return of the child, but in the way lay the difficulty of making it impossible for the criminals communicating with them and establishing a rendezvous in the face of the army of police ready to follow to wherever the next clue appeared.

Arrest of Sailor.

Friday night, three days following the kidnapping, after the nation had heard of the questioning and release of hundreds of suspects all over the East, police in Hartford, Conn., took into custody, for prolonged questioning, Henry Johnson, a sailor and admitted friend of Betty Gow. It seemed to be the first break.

In his car, it was reported, a milk bottle was found, with the cap bearing the date of Wednesday. He explained that the bottle was in the car on the night when the baby disappeared, and that his brother had been to Hartford, where he had been arrested, in connection with the stories told about his movements the night of the crime, however. This was not admitted to the newspapers until it was surrounded exactly by the State's Attorney Hugh M. Alcorn.

It was reported also that a note signed by the Lindberghs was found in the Hartford postoffice. It might have been the work of a crank, as happened in the case of the original card, but it was printed in the newspapers and the crude printing could easily have been copied out by the authorities.

His record was searched and yielded nothing discreditable. He had been employed, and was being employed again shortly, on the yacht of Thomas W. Lamont, partner in J. P. Morgan & Co. Even the yacht was searched and the Lindberghs were unable to find any trace of the missing infant.

Appeal to Kidnappers.

Then on Saturday night an appeal was sent out over the radio to the kidnappers. The appeal was from Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh, and it read:

"If the kidnappers of our child should be known to the Lindberghs, the Lindberghs are ready to pay a ransom for the return of the child. We will also follow any other method suggested by the kidnappers that we can be sure will bring the return of our child. Spitalo and Bitz were names known to the New York police. They were the names of the abductors of the Diamond, murdered gangster, and the names who later were bitter enemies of Diamond.

The reason for the announcement was twofold. By some it was taken to mean that the kidnappers had at last got word through to the parents and that the Lindberghs were ready to pay the ransom. It was, however, by the care with which the job had apparently been planned. It had not been the intention of the Lindberghs to spend the money there. Previously they had spent only week-ends there during the winter and it was only in the spring that they chose as their means of escape. They seemed familiar, also, with the habits of the household, the putting of the baby to sleep at the night, and the visit of inspection by Miss Gow an hour later, and then the interval of an hour and a half before another visit to the Lindberghs. The tender puppy that had the freedom of the house did not bark. It was for some time that the Lindberghs were able to cooperate on the part of one "on the inside." But the three employees of the Lindbergh household, contacted for by the investigators, appeared to come through the ordeal of questioning cleared by their inquisitors.

Form for Mass Action.

Their records of previous employment, their family connections and their own stories stood up under searching examination. With clues falling, and searches of the near-by woods and countryside yielding nothing, deduction and the police shortly got the place to mass-action.

There was gathered around the Lindbergh homestead at Hopewell

A Review of the Lindbergh Kidnapping and Hunt; World Followed Case With Unparalleled Concern.

Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr., 20-month-old son of Colonel Lindbergh and the former Anne Morrow, was kidnapped from the isolated Lindbergh home on Sourland Mountain, near Hopewell, N. J., between 8:30 and 10 o'clock on the evening of Tuesday, March 1. In the days and hours which elapsed before the solution of the mystery virtually the entire civilized world followed every development with unparalleled concern.

While the search was spreading throughout North America and then to Europe and South America, with ships being searched on both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the child's body was lying within five miles of his crib.

The discovery that the baby was missing was made by Miss Betty Gow, 26-year-old Scottish nurse, who had put the child to sleep in his crib at 8 o'clock. The youngster was sleeping soundly when she looked in at 8:30 o'clock, but the crib was empty when she returned at 10. Muddy footprints were visible on the floor between the crib and a window, the shutter of which could not be fastened because it was warped.

In the nursery, on a cedar chest, just beneath the window, the kidnappers left a note, the exact contents of which had been kept carefully secret. It had been reported and not denied, however, that the missive promised the child would be cared for and demanded a ransom of \$50,000.

While the entire nation, from President Hoover down, was shocked by the crime and assurances of coordinated vigilance came from every branch of Federal, State and local law-enforcing agencies, the first few days of the anguished hunt brought forth nothing but a flood of wild rumors, false leads and crank letters.

On April 2 Colonel Lindbergh paid \$50,000 in small notes in a lonely spot in the Bronx to a man who had convinced him he was in touch with the kidnappers. Dr. J. F. Condon, Fordham lecturer, was the intermediary; and this series of negotiations proved fruitless.

Meanwhile, John Hughes Curtis, a Norfolk boatbuilder, convinced that he had made contact with the kidnappers, told his story to Rear Admiral Guy H. Burrage, retired, and the Rev. H. Dobson Peacock of Norfolk. For weeks Mr. Curtis has been making mysterious trips to sea and overland by plane in a fruitless effort to complete his negotiations.

On negotiations with an emissary they believed to represent the kidnappers. They were John Hughes Curtis, shipbuilder; Rear Admiral Guy Burrage, retired; a personal acquaintance of Colonel Lindbergh's, and the Rev. H. Dobson Peacock, an Episcopal clergyman.

The contact with the kidnappers was established through a visit to Mr. Curtis of a former customer of his, reputedly a runner, it was reported. Mr. Curtis said that his visitor actually represented the kidnappers, who were said to be anxious to know if the baby if they could do so safely.

It was explained that the kidnappers feared to attempt to get in touch with the army of police directly, and Mr. Curtis undertook to act as an intermediary. For two days it was reported, he tried to communicate with Colonel Lindbergh, but his efforts were balked by the heavy police guard at the Lindbergh home.

Mr. Curtis then enlisted the aid of Admiral Burrage and the Rev. Mr. Peacock, whom he convinced of the wisdom of his information. They agreed to cooperate with the Lindberghs, but on their visit to Hopewell to discuss their activities became public.

The New Jersey State Police maintained that neither they nor Colonel Lindbergh had been consulted in the development of any importance, after the Rev. Mr. Peacock had risked his life flying through a storm to get to the Lindberghs.

The Rev. Peacock said, however, that Colonel Lindbergh authorized the trio to continue their efforts, and avowed his own belief that the kidnappers had succeeded in reaching the "semi-final" stage.

In this angle of the case holding the public interest, the New Jersey police revived hope that they might yet regain the stolen child, with the aid of the kidnappers, if they were still at work on "definite" clues, the nature of which, however, they declined to divulge.

Meanwhile the disclaimed any connection with the offer of the Lindberghs to communicate with the kidnappers through Spitalo and Bitz, and maintained that the kidnappers were still at work on "definite" clues, the nature of which, however, they declined to divulge.

A new figure entered the case in the person of Morris Rosner, known as a "smart fixer," who was out on bail in New York City in connection with the Lindbergh case. Rosner, whose trustworthiness was attested for by persons in high position, including United States Senator Elmer F. Taylor, Oklahoma, interviewed the kidnappers in the Tombs and then visited the Lindbergh home.

Speaking mysteriously of "sensitive information," that was to be done of "that family," which had kidnapped the child, Rosner told an interviewer that he had definite knowledge that the baby was looking for a return to his parents. After several days of mysterious flight it was reported that the baby was fading into the background, as had Spitalo and Bitz.

Interest in Johnson, who had been advised of any connection with the kidnappers by the New York detectives who examined him, suddenly came to life again on March 18, when he was interviewed by the New York police, on the Sourland Mountain home, at the personal request, it was reported, of the famous aviator.

He explained the next day, however, that his visit there had failed to yield any information, although the State police declared that he had been "completely" exonerated of any connection with the case. He was returned to his home in New York, where the Federal immigration authorities, who learned that he was in this country illegally.

"Known Kidnappers" Sought.

The police definitely turned their efforts to running down "all known kidnappers" and concentrated for some time on Abe Wagner and Harry Fleisher. Wagner was known as a gangster from the east side of New York and Fleisher as a member of the once-dominant Purple gang of Brooklyn. He had been in New York City and elsewhere were unsuccessful.

But this time the search for the child had become international. Reports that he was at such distant points as an island off the coast of Spain, and other places, were checked up and exploded, while the police of ports in England, France, Germany, and even Algiers searched for him, arriving from this country, but in vain.

Daily there were tens and scores of reports that the babies resembling Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. had been found. Each was checked, sometimes by telephone and sometimes by a direct flight to the Hopewell headquarters. All failed.

Once more, after the middle of March, the search again took up the identification of the kidnappers used in the kidnapping. Its wood was traced to ships, to carpenters and to an old man not far from the Lindbergh home.

Fresh hope for the baby's return came at a time when the search seemed at a standstill by the disclosure that three well-known residents of Norfolk, Va., were carrying

NORFOLK MEN LOATH TO BELIEVE TRAGEDY

Skipper of Yacht Was Sure Curtis Had Made Contact With Kidnappers.

WANTS HOAXERS PUNISHED

Admiral Burrage and the Rev. H. D. Peacock Refuse to Make Any Comment.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NORFOLK, Va., May 12.—Captain F. Consovo yatch Marcon, skipper of the yatch Marcon, said tonight he was deeply shocked at the news that the Lindbergh baby had been found dead near Hopewell, N. J.

Captain Lackmann piloted the Marcon on eight trips to sea, carrying Colonel Lindbergh, John Hughes Curtis, chief of the Norfolk negotiators, seeking the return of the baby, and his associates in search of a boat from which they had been promised the child would be delivered to them.

Following the news that the baby had been found dead near Hopewell, Captain Lackmann issued the following formal statement:

"I am deeply shocked by the news of the discovery of the Lindbergh baby. Apparently the baby's body has been identified as that of the child kidnapped on the night of the kidnaping or thereafter.

"With the consent of its owner, Charles H. Consovo, I placed the yatch Marcon at the disposal of the Norfolk negotiators in the sincere belief that we were being of some assistance in the recovery of the child.

"We did this after we had been given every possible evidence that the Norfolk negotiators were convinced that the baby was alive, and well, upon a ship at sea.

"We were given every possible assurance that the baby was alive, and well, upon a ship at sea.

"I am deeply shocked by the news of the discovery of the Lindbergh baby. Apparently the baby's body has been identified as that of the child kidnapped on the night of the kidnaping or thereafter.

"With the consent of its owner, Charles H. Consovo, I placed the yatch Marcon at the disposal of the Norfolk negotiators in the sincere belief that we were being of some assistance in the recovery of the child.

"We did this after we had been given every possible evidence that the Norfolk negotiators were convinced that the baby was alive, and well, upon a ship at sea.

"We were given every possible assurance that the baby was alive, and well, upon a ship at sea.

GRANDMOTHER IS SILENT

Flier's Mother Told by Telephone of Discovery of Body.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, Mich., May 12.—Mrs. Evangeline L. Lindbergh, mother of Colonel Charles Lindbergh, was informed by long-distance telephone of the finding of the body of her grandson upon her return from the Cass Technical School, where she is a teacher.

When reporters hurried to her home, on Lake Pointe Avenue, her mother-in-law said she had been at the door and told them that Mrs. Lindbergh had nothing to say.

Not since the day of the kidnaping of the baby has she been seen in public, and she has been reported to have been at the school mentioned the baby's name in a letter to her mother at the time of the kidnaping in any way.

Two Decline to Comment.

NORFOLK, Va., May 12 (AP).—With their associate, John Hughes Curtis, absent, the two other Norfolk intermediaries refrained from comment on news that the child's

SYMPATHY POURS IN FROM MANY LANDS

Continued from Page One.

she had been hoping against hope that the baby might still be recovered.

Ortiz Rubio Sends Message.

Similarly was the report received in official circles in Mexico City, where the Lindbergh romance began and where the kidnapping and the Lindbergh engagement of the aviator and Anne Morrow was announced.

Immediately upon being informed, President Ortiz Rubio of Mexico issued a statement in which he said he was "deeply impressed by the news of the death of the aviator's son," and that he "shared the grief and sympathy of all the people of Mexico."

"I have sent my sincerest condolences to the relatives and the American people," said Ortiz Rubio, "and I have a great affection for the famous flier and has not forgotten former Ambassador Dwight Morrow, who did so much to bring about the peace of an era of cordiality in its relations with the United States."

In telegrams that he dispatched to the parents, President Ortiz Rubio said:

"My wife and I send our deepest sympathy to you in the loss of your baby."

Señora Ortiz Rubio told THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondents in Mexico City:

"The death of the Lindbergh baby goes to the hearts of all the mothers of the world. Speaking as a mother, I feel that the child was a precious one, and I am full of grief for Mrs. Lindbergh, who weeps inconsolably for the loss of her little one. In the name of all the mothers and children of Mexico I send my sincerest condolences to her in the grief she is presently suffering. Her grief must be terrible."

Dr. Manuel Tellez, Mexican Foreign Minister, refused at first to be interviewed, but later was prevailed upon to be interviewed by Ambassador Clark, and said he was still hopeful "for the love we have for the family and for the sympathy that the whole world is extending to the child who was found alive. Later he declared, "To conceive of cruelty being refined higher than this is impossible to me. It cannot be understood by the civilized world."

"What an infamous crime!" formed the sentiment of many other world leaders upon receipt of the news. "The death of the Lindbergh baby truly causes me profound grief. I have only the warmest sympathy for the Colonel and his wife."

Ambassador Clark said that Mrs. Clark, the whole embassy staff and the American legation were "in sympathy with the Lindberghs." "Our deepest sympathy goes to Colonel Lindbergh and his wife in this great sorrow which the whole world is sharing."

Governor A. Harry Moore of New Jersey, who had placed all peace officers and facilities of his State at the disposal of the Lindberghs upon the first crime had been committed, added after announcing the discovery of the body that the "gratuitous whole country."

A number of telephone calls were

MOUNT ROSE LIES IN ISOLATED AREA

Lindbergh House, Four Miles Away, Is Visible From the Hamlet on Clear Days.

COLONEL ONCE LIVED THERE

Made It His Temporary Quarters While Sourland Mountain Home Was Being Built.

Mount Rose, near which the body of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh's son was found, is a hamlet of about a dozen houses and a general store, on the road connecting Princeton with Hopewell and about a mile and a half from the latter. During part of the time that his Sourland Mountain home was under construction Colonel Lindbergh lived in a house in the hamlet.

The place where the body was found is a mile and one-eighth from Hopewell and on the right side as one travels into Mount Rose. At that point thick woods come within ten to fifteen yards of the road, and in the midst of this wood, about seventy feet wide, the body was found. It lay in a natural depression, apparently the work of eroding elements, between a large oak tree and a rotted stump. The place was immediately put under the guard of five New Jersey State troopers, who last night were again in the area away. Between the guarded spot and the road runs a little brook which crosses the highway some distance back from the road. The troopers have crossed the brook when the body was deposited where it was found.

Persons living in the vicinity said that State troopers had searched the neighborhood within a day or so after the kidnaping, but had not located the body.

"The village of Hopewell lies between the Lindbergh home and the scene where the body was found. The road leading to the town but crosses the main street of Hopewell, which is also the main street of the town but about eight forty blocks from the centre of habitation. This road leads into Mount Rose, but it is virtually impassable.

Coming from the Lindbergh home, the kidnapers could have gone into Mount Rose along that road, turning right at the first fork and crossing an asphalt road leading back into Hopewell. The only other manner in which they could have reached Hopewell would have been to take home, without taking the circuitous route through Stoutsburg and doubling on their tracks for the greater part of a mile, was to pass through Hopewell.

The road to Princeton turns off Hopewell's main thoroughfare and blocks from the postoffice and centre of the town. Along that road, within the city limits, the kidnapers would have had to pass several blocks of residences.

The fact that the body was found about 100 yards off the Princeton road, about between Mount Rose and Hopewell, indicated that the child was driven directly through Hopewell.

Mount Rose lies near the top of a long, sloping hill, from which, in clear weather, Colonel Lindbergh's home may be seen for miles away. Along parts of this route, which is a part of the "old Van Dyke highway," the state of wilderness was indicated by the fact that small animals, such as foxes and skunks, were seen from time to time crossing the highway at night at that point.

The owner of the property could not be definitely located. Some of the neighbors said that it belonged to St. Michael's Orphanage, a Catholic school four miles away from Hopewell, and was generally referred to, however, as a part of the "old Van Dyke highway."

Within two hours after the discovery of the body was made known last night the scene was flooded with news of the kidnaping, and after a few hours the news had been spread to all the towns. Automobiles lined the road and several hundreds of persons, at least, made an attempt to reach the scene through the underbrush to the spot.

LEAVE FOR MORROW HOME.

Mrs. Lindbergh's Brother and Sister Depart From Northampton.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., May 12 (AP).—Constance Morrow and Dwight Morrow, Jr., sister and brother of Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh, shocked by the news of the finding of the missing Lindbergh baby, left Northampton tonight for the Morrow home in Englewood, N. J.

Miss Morrow is a student at Smith College and her brother at Amherst College. Both came here immediately after receiving word of the finding of the baby's body.

Oliver J. Gillin, president of Smith College, said the Mornings left by train.

Spot Ideal for Kidnapping.

It seemed to those who rushed to Hopewell, both for news and in the interests of the law, that a better spot for a successful kidnaping could not have been found. The Lindbergh home was built especially for seclusion, so that its two famous occupants were never troubled away from the prying eyes that the world turns on celebrities.

The house is so isolated that the perpetrators of a crime could come and go unnoticed, have been able to watch, day in and day out, for the chance that came that Tuesday afternoon when the baby disappeared. The main highways that a speeding car could have carried the kidnapers and the child many miles away, to comparative safety, before the crime was discovered.

The kidnappers had a maximum of time at 8:30 that the nurse saw the child sleeping peacefully in its crib, and they had a half hour to get away. They needed that, and more, it seemed at the time, to make their getaway. They more than made up for the time of the search, however, by the care with which the job had apparently been planned. It had not been the intention of the Lindberghs to spend the money there. Previously they had spent only week-ends there during the winter and it was only in the spring that they chose as their means of escape. They seemed familiar, also, with the habits of the household, the putting of the baby to sleep at the night, and the visit of inspection by Miss Gow an hour later, and then the interval of an hour and a half before another visit to the Lindberghs. The tender puppy that had the freedom of the house did not bark. It was for some time that the Lindberghs were able to cooperate on the part of one "on the inside." But the three employees of the Lindbergh household, contacted for by the investigators, appeared to come through the ordeal of questioning cleared by their inquisitors.

Form for Mass Action.

Their records of previous employment, their family connections and their own stories stood up under searching examination. With clues falling, and searches of the near-by woods and countryside yielding nothing, deduction and the police shortly got the place to mass-action.

There was gathered around the Lindbergh homestead at Hopewell

FOR SALE OR RENT

2 homes on private natural lake, also a few cabin sites. Two hours drive straight North, near Westchester line.

NEAR OFFERED UNTIL THIS YEAR. Twenty homes—large and small—have been built and offered by owners in this private preserve of 200 acres containing two private lakes, 1,000 ft. above sea level. Every modern improvement in the heart of wooded hills. You may join or not, as you may wish.

A completely equipped golf and country club adjoining this property. "Seclusion" there is no other mountain or lake property near New York or New Jersey. For years the former owner improved and beautified this estate. Prices and terms are astonishingly low to Americans who appreciate the beauty and surroundings. Descriptive circular will be mailed on request. Please reply on your business stationery to SURVEYOR, P. O. Box 38, Carmel, N. Y.

ANNUAL CRUISE to All Europe

MEDITERRANEAN AND NORWAY.

The economical way to Europe this summer. Low rates covers shore excursions, guides, hotels, World famous Cunard service and cuisine.

12 countries 54 days

S. S. LANCASTRIA JULY 2nd

One ship throughout, New York to New York

\$495

CUNARD DEFERRED (In Cooperation with Morris Plan)

AVAILABLE FOR THIS CRUISE

Your Local Agent or

CUNARD LINE FRANK TOURIST CO.

25 Broadway, N. Y. C. BO. Gr. 9-5300

