

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.

Tuesday night, March 1, between 11 o'clock and midnight, a nation preparing for slumber heard to its consternation that the infant son of Charles A. Lindbergh and Anne Morrow Lindbergh had been kidnapped.

By means of radio, newspaper extras and word of mouth, the news, tragic and seemingly unbelievable, spread within the short space of an hour and a half. It had been only at 10 o'clock that the baby's nurse, Betty Gow, had visited the nursery on the second floor of the secluded estate at Hopewell, N. J.

It had taken less time than that, however, to galvanize into action the police systems of four States and of scores of communities within their borders. Scarcity of Clues.

The first police officer to reach the scene was Police Chief Charles Williamson of Hopewell, that isolated community in the heart of the Sourland Mountain section of New Jersey. He had been called by Colonel Lindbergh himself.

There were muddy footprints on the floor of the nursery, the window was open. Below the nursery window were marks where a ladder had stood, and also footprints. They told little, as the kidnappers if kidnapers if more than one had come to the house itself, had apparently worn moccasins or socks.

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 kidnapping could not have been found. The Lindbergh home was built especially for seclusion, so that its two famous cupolas were not seen from the highway.

the greatest collection of detectives, amateur and professional, that any one crime has ever brought together. These were supplemented by countless State and local constabulary.

At first anger at 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.

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.

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 Mrs. Lindbergh's composure, was to be broadcast the news that the baby had been ill when it was taken.

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.

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 are interested in the lives of our children, we will also follow any other method suggested by the kidnappers that we can be sure will bring the return of our child.

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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 of the abduction shortly took place to mass attack. 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.

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.

Johnson Retraced Movements. Johnson, after prolonged questioning by the Hartford police, was taken quietly Saturday night to Englewood, N. J., in his own automobile and was required to trace his every move that Tuesday night that the kidnapping took place.

This belief was strengthened by several other developments, including Governor Moore's announcement that police supervision over the Lindbergh mail had been ended and his promise that the army of investigators would be withdrawn from the Lindbergh estate if the parents of the stolen child desired.

Taken in conjunction with an appeal by the State police which was broadcast through Police Departments throughout the country in the name of the Lindberghs, the information about the baby confidentially, regardless of its source, it seemed that the authorities had gone to the length of releasing the names of the kidnappers to return the baby upon payment of the ransom they had demanded.

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 doubted for by persons in high position, including United States Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma, interviewed a prisoner in the Tombs and then visited the Lindbergh home.

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

"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.

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

identify themselves as the ones who had carried off the baby," the flier said.

The agent—"Jafsie"—was Dr. John R. Condon, who was the principal, who announced his willingness to be a go-between on March 8. The ransom was paid over to the men the alleged kidnappers conducted negotiations by mail and telephone, once they were located in Woodlawn Cemetery, where he was told the baby was on a boat six hours distant from New York.

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NORFOLK MEN LOATH TO BELIEVE TRAGEDY

Skinner 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. Convolvio, skipper of the Consolvo yacht 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 his body has been identified as the child of the Lindbergh family, and his death is a tragedy of the highest order."

"With the consent of its owner, Captain Charles H. Convolvio, I placed the yacht 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 were given every possible assurance by the Norfolk negotiators that the child was alive and well, upon a ship at sea. "We were given every possible assurance by the Norfolk negotiators that the child 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 believed, knowing what he did of the case, that the baby found near Hopewell was the Lindbergh baby, and she held her breath, hoping that it was not the body of her son.

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

Detroit Priest Calls the Death Challenge to Wipe Out Gangster

By The Associated Press.

DETROIT, May 12.—The Rev. Father Charles E. Coughlin, who made a weekly sermon over a nation-wide radio hookup during the Winter months, tonight called the death of the kidnapped Lindbergh baby a challenge "to eradicate the gangster and hoodlum from our country."

"My deepest sympathy goes out to Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh. May their sorrow be an incentive to every American to make this a better country for the children of the growing generation."

"And yet my felicitations are extended to the Lindbergh family, for their child is not dead but merely waiting for them in the land of eternity."

A few days after the child was kidnapped Father Coughlin broadcast an appeal to the abductors to leave the child with any Catholic priest or at any Catholic institution.

body had been found near the Lindbergh home in New Jersey. Rear Admiral Guy H. Burrage, who has served as spokesman for the trio, said he did not plan to make any comment or to give any information concerning details of the two months of negotiations undertaken by the three men.

About three weeks ago Mr. Curtis began making frequent cruises to sea in an effort to make a contact off the Virginia coast. Apparently well-founded reports, which neither of the intermediaries has would confirm tonight, said that Colonel Lindbergh himself took part in the negotiations here while Mr. Curtis was seeking contact with the kidnappers off the Virginia Capes.

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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. Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh, president of Smith College, said the Morrrows left by train.

exercises of the Brooklyn Hospital School of Nursing in the Brooklyn Academy of Music, told the guests: "The entire country will be shocked at the news of the death of the baby and order in the history of the nation. No one can ably describe the horror of such an atrocity. Lindbergh is more than just a name to Americans, and that such a thing could happen to an innocent child is a tragedy of the greatest crimes against civilization that ever occurred in the history of America."

Called the deed "one of the most brutal and fiendish crimes in history," an American Federationist declared: "Only the prompt apprehension of the cowardly perpetrators and the swift infliction of the law's severest penalty will assure in some small measure the heart-breaking sorrow of Mr. and Mrs. Lindbergh."

Mayer Walker interrupted a radio address he was making over Station WOR at 6:45 o'clock last evening to make the following statement: "It has already been announced over this station that the Lindbergh baby has been found. It is now given to me to announce again and with my statement go the feelings of deep sympathy of this city. The city is in mourning that the Lindbergh baby was found dead and Colonel Lindbergh and his wife have found sympathy of New York.

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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.

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 on duty in the area.

"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 paved highway, which is also the main street of Hopewell. The road is about a mile and a half long, and it is virtually untraveled."

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

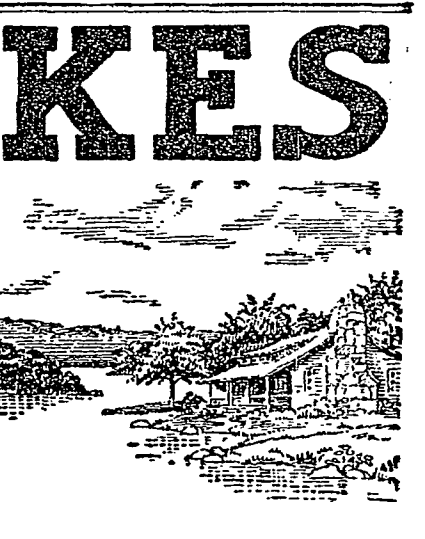
The road to Princeton turns off Hopewell's main thoroughfare on a block from the postoffice and center of the town. Along that road, within the city limits, the kidnappers would have had to pass several blocks of residences.

The fact that the body was found about 100 yards off the Princeton road, about a mile away from Hopewell, indicated that the child was driven directly through Hopewell.

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 home for boys and girls, but it was generally referred to, however, as a part of the "old Van Dyke place."

Within two hours after the discovery of the body was made known last night the scene was flooded with news that four miles away in a road and several hundreds of persons, at least, made an attempt to civilization through the underbrush to the spot.

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