

Halloween poisoning charged against dad

PASADENA, Tex. (AP)—A man whom neighbors say was active in his church and extremely protective toward his family was charged Tuesday with murdering his son by placing cyanide in the boy's Halloween treats.

Ronald Clark O'Bryan, 30, an optician, was charged with the cyanide poisoning of his son, Timothy O'Bryan, 8, who died Thursday night after eating Halloween trick-or-treat candy.

Bond was set at \$100,000. A source in the investigation said the charge was filed against O'Bryan after he took a polygraph lie detector test Monday and officers discovered he had recently taken out a \$38,000 life insurance policy on his son.

In a massive investigation, Pasadena police had found five of the powdered Pixie Stix containers containing cyanide. The containers had been collected by the dead youth, his sister Elizabeth and other children who accompanied them trick-or-treating.

The elder O'Bryan said he took the children trick-or-treating on two streets in a Pasadena subdivision not far from their home in Deer Park, another Houston Ship Channel industrial city.

The incident had set off calls by mayors in the area to end the practice of giving treats to children at Halloween. Residents in the area had started a reward fund and had raised over \$1,800 when the arrest was announced.

Neighbors said the O'Bryan family was active in their church and that O'Bryan closely supervised his son's activities.

Capt. R. E. Rhodes, who heads the Pasadena detective division, said he could not say where O'Bryan

was arrested nor give any details of the case.

"At this time, we cannot comment as to any other aspect of this case or any statements made by any of the parties involved due to the legal aspects involved," he said.

The Pasadena Police Department would like to praise the conscientious cooperation of the citizens of the neighborhood where the investigation was conducted and the many offers of assistance from citizens.

"We must not comment further for fear of jeopardizing the case," Rhodes continued.

"Obviously, we and the district attorney felt there is sufficient evidence for a charge to be filed. We are wrapping up some loose ends of the investigation."

O'Bryan, holding back tears, told reporters Friday how he held his son in his arms after the boy became ill. He said then he did not realize his son had been poisoned until he was told by police.

Before his arrest, the father said in an interview that Timothy once

had "witnessed Christ" before his first grade school class.

"He stood up in front of all the children, and the teacher said that it was so wonderful, she didn't have the heart to stop him," said O'Bryan.

Along the street where Timothy went trick-or-treating, one resident, C. E. Melvin, said, "We knew our neighbors. And we knew there was no way that one of our neighbors had poisoned that boy."

Other residents of the area said they were relieved that the hint of suspicion which had shrouded the area since the death had been lifted.

The O'Bryan family was active in the Second Baptist Church in Pasadena. The Rev. Jimmie Jones, pastor, said they had been members for several years and attended regularly.

Jones said he had visited Tuesday with Mrs. O'Bryan and she was "holding up well. She has a lot of faith."

5 year old taken; \$10,000 demanded

IRVING (AP)—A 5-year-old boy, abducted while walking his dog and held for \$10,000 ransom, has been found wrapped in a blanket and hidden in a garage attic, police said today.

A 15-year-old boy was arrested in the abduction after police used electronic equipment to trace ransom phone calls made to Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Lacy, the young boy's parents.

When found, Robert David Lacy was wearing only undershorts and "the child was scared and so was the kidnapper when we got both of them," said Lt. G. B. Minor of the Irving police.

The arrested boy was held by Irving police pending proceedings in juvenile court.

Lacy said his son took his dog for a walk about 2 p.m. Monday, but the

dog returned home alone about 30 minutes later.

A search of the neighborhood failed to reveal the boy. At 5 p.m. Lacy said he received a telephone call, threatening the boy's life if the ransom was not paid.

The caller phoned several more times, Lacy said, and at one point demanded \$10,000 ransom.

"The suspect was on the telephone almost continually and that's how we traced the call," Minor said.

After his recovery, the child told police he had been abducted by a man riding a motorcycle.

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Dissertation: EVALUATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCOME AND UNCERTAINTY FOR A TEXAS RANCH ORGANIZATION
Time: November 19, 1974 at 8:15 a.m.
Place: Room 310 in the Ag. Bldg.
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Dean of the Graduate College

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A make-up examination, for all Juniors and Seniors, of the College of Science who have not taken the English Proficiency Examination, will be given Thursday, November 14, 1974 at 7:00 p.m.
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MATH Department Curricula—Room 208 4630
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