

Gunshot wounds kill kidnapped food baron

United Press International
CLEVELAND — Food chain tycoon Julius Kravitz, who along with his wife was kidnapped and shot in a successful \$1.5 million ransom plot, died Wednesday as law enforcement authorities searched the Cleveland area for the two kidnapers.

Kravitz, 67, chairman of the board of First National Supermarkets Inc., and his wife, Georgina, 56, were abducted Tuesday morning from their apartment in the fashionable Fairmount Circle section of Shaker Square.

Police said the kidnapers were disguised as police officers. Kravitz was shot three times in the chest and once in the back. He underwent surgery Tuesday but

died early Wednesday morning. Mrs. Kravitz was shot in both arms and was in satisfactory condition at Hillcrest Hospital.

"They were dressed like police officers," said Police Lt. Joseph Gardner. "They forced their way into the home and demanded ransom money."

The kidnapers took the couple from their home and drove in Kravitz's car to a Howard Johnson's motel in suburban North Randall, Gardner said.

During the time at Kravitz's apartment and at the motel, the kidnapers allowed the businessman to make several telephone calls in an unsuccessful attempt to arrange for payment of the ransom, police said.

Later, they left the motel and drove around. "For no apparent reason, one of them turned and shot Mr. Kravitz," Gardner said. Mrs. Kravitz also was shot.

"At that time, she jumped out of the car and they (the kidnapers) kept on going," Gardner said.

Mrs. Kravitz was found along a road in suburban Gates Mills. She made the first report to police of the kidnapping.

Kravitz was found in the parking lot of an appliance store across from the sprawling Randall Park Mall in North Randall. His car was found in a field near the appliance store's parking lot.

Kravitz' First National Supermarkets operates 287 supermarkets in Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. It employs 20,000 people and has annual sales of \$965.9 million.

After the death of his father, Kravitz, then 11, worked in neighborhood grocery stores after school and on Saturdays. In 1932, when he was 20, he had saved \$400 and used it to open his first store in Cleveland, Julie's Grocery.

A longtime leader of Cleveland's Jewish community, Kravitz has been very active in organizing fundraising efforts for Israel. He is a close personal friend of U.S. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio.

Survivor imagines rescuers

United Press International
GALVESTON — Numb, in shock and hallucinating, a 14-year-old boy had been clinging to an overturned boat for two days saw a rescuer in the distance. But he was never seen and no one saved him — so he went to sleep.

Ronald Price Jr., wrinkled and virtually unconscious, woke up Tuesday when his rescuer blasted a siren and air horn and told the teen-ager's ordeal was over. Shrimper Wayne Kowis said Price was so weak he could hardly move and was unable to even taste food or water.

Young Price was one of five members of a Pasadena, Texas, family who went boating in a 16-foot outboard motorboat that flooded and returned in a thunderstorm Sunday.

Coast Guardsmen, using two helicopters and a small boat to search the shallow, lightly traveled West Bay northwest of Galveston, pulled two bodies from the water late Tuesday and early Wednesday.

Galveston County Medical Examiner William Korndorfer identified the bodies as young Price's stepbrother, Janice Radcliff, 10, and his stepbrother, Norman Radcliff, 7.

The search continued for the missing parents, Ronald Price Sr., 36, and his wife, Mary, 27.

Price was pulled aboard Kowis' little David III about 9 a.m. Tuesday, weak from two days without food and water. The teen-ager was hospitalized in fair condition suffering from exposure and told officials he had clung to the boat because of a flashing safety message he had seen on a television.

A spokeswoman at Galveston's John Sealy hospital said Price was sedated and could not talk. She said, however, he heard a news report Tuesday night that his stepbrother's body apparently had been recovered.

"He was upset," the spokeswoman said. "He heard on the news about the other body being found."

Kowis said Price was clinging to his family's capsized pleasure craft and was barely visible.

"His skin was all wrinkled up," Kowis said. "He told me he had been here since Sunday about noon. I asked him why he didn't wave at us if he was in trouble. I almost left him because I didn't really know it was a man on a boat. I made a second pass."

"He told me his eyes had been playing tricks on him. He didn't think my boat was really there. He told me there were four other people. He was telling me about his little brother and sister and daddy saving a life jacket. And then he started talking about his mother and she broke to pieces because he said he didn't have anything to keep her afloat."

"He was numb all over. We gave him water and sandwiches and he said he couldn't even taste it. I don't know anything about shock, but I would imagine he was in it."

Kowis said he found the youth asleep but Price awakened when the siren boat's air horn sounded.

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