

world

Unlikely spy makes unusual escape

United Press International LOMPOC, Calif. — Christopher John Boyce was the most unlikely of spies and has now become one of the most unusual escaped convicts ever hunted by local and federal authorities.

FBI agent, Boyce and accomplice Andrew Daulton Lee, 28, were convicted in 1977 of selling top-secret intelligence information to the Soviet Union.

Sentenced to 40 years in prison for espionage, Boyce was missing last Monday when guards at the Lompoc

Federal Correction Institution made their 10 p.m. bedcheck.

Authorities later discovered a wooden ladder, apparently made in a prison workshop, and a pair of metal-cutting shears near two 10-foot fences that Boyce must have scaled to make his escape.

Lee, meanwhile, is serving a life sentence at the same federal prison.

Boyce and Lee, who authorities said passed some of the most sensitive of America's secrets to the Russians, shattered the stereotypical image of spies — especially Boyce who joked with his cohort that he could use the code name "Falcon" because of his love of falconry.

The son of a devoutly religious

mother, Boyce was once an altar boy. He was sometimes a straight — A student and he had an IQ of 145. He was a student of history and philosophy and in 1976 voted for Gerald Ford.

But like many young men his age, Boyce became troubled by the war and Vietnam and the Watergate scandal. When that disillusionment took hold, he was a 21-year-old college dropout making \$145-a-week at TRW Inc. in Redondo Beach, Calif., where he held a Top Secret clearance from the Department of Defense.

Boyce admitted to the FBI that he photographed thousands of documents at TRW, primarily regarding a

proposed top-secret spy-satellite project, and passed them to Lee for delivery to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City.

During interviews following his trial Boyce said at TRW he learned of the CIA's activities in other nations, adding that he was particularly offended to discover the CIA's intervention in Australia's domestic affairs.

Lee was a convicted drug dealer who sold the secrets to the Russians out of pure greed, Boyce said, insisting that his participation was an act of political conscience.

"If I had to do it all over again I would have quit my job rather than release the information," Boyce told

The New York Times' Robert Lindsey who later wrote a book about the case "The Falcon and the Snowman."

Nearly 50 FBI agents, U.S. Marshal's deputies and local officers joined the search for Boyce in the rugged terrain surrounding the federal facility at Lompoc, 170 miles of Los Angeles.

FBI spokesman, Tom Sheil, did not give any credence to speculation that foreign agents may have been waiting outside the prison to help Boyce make his getaway.

"We have no reason to believe anybody scooped him up with a helicopter," Sheil said. "I don't believe at the present time that would be the

case." Boyce's attorney during the trial, William Dougherty, said that Boyce cooperated fully during the CIA debriefing of him after his conviction. But he added:

"It doesn't take fantasizing to realize what would happen if the Russians did get their hands on him. They would use hypnosis drugs and anything else to get out of him information he may not have told the CIA because he just didn't remember."

However, the U.S. Marshal's office, which is in charge of the case, said it has instituted measures to prevent Boyce from leaving the country by normal means while continuing the manhunt.

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Gold price drops, market tightens

United Press International NEW YORK — Gold plummeted \$250 last week as trading on world markets ground to a virtual halt after U.S. commodities exchanges took action to dampen speculation.

Gold hit a record \$850 an ounce in Europe Monday the culmination of hectic, panicky buying that took it from \$500 the day after Christmas.

The reason for the unprecedented rise is generally accepted: demand

for physical gold was greater than the supply available for sale.

Historically gold has been a refuge in times of world anxiety and by any standard the turmoil in Iran, the holding of American hostages, the Russian incursion into Afghanistan and the illness of President Tito of Yugoslavia have created that anxiety.

Also historically, people of means in the area of turmoil see that their wealth is protected. This time those

people are among the wealthiest in the world — the oil-rich Arabs. And they were buying gold in huge amounts.

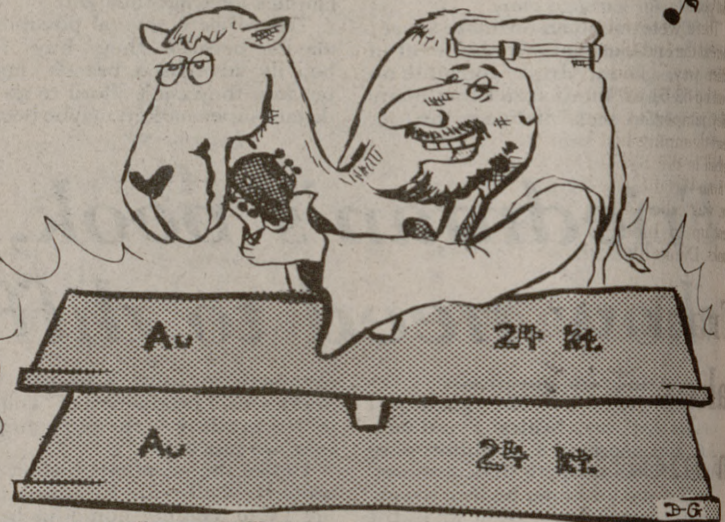
David Mizrahi, editor of the New York-based Middle East Report, said he estimates, based on information from Middle Eastern sources in Zurich, that Arab gold holdings amount to around 250 million ounces.

This figure, if accurate, means that private gold holdings by Arabs almost equal the U.S. gold reserves of 262.6 million ounces.

"The Arabs didn't sell their gold in any amount the past week," Mizrahi said. "They don't care if the price falls — the bought gold to protect their assets and as they see it that protection still is necessary."

New York bullion trader James Sinclair agrees. "There was some selling by the public in Europe but the big purchasers of physical gold are not selling."

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McCartney returns home

United Press International LONDON — Blaming his deportation from Japan on his "American attitude" toward drugs Paul McCartney flew home Saturday after 10 days in a Tokyo jail for possession of about a half-pound of marijuana, which he said he bought in New York.

McCartney, his wife Linda and their four children, landed unannounced at Lydd airport in Kent and immediately drove off into "quiet seclusion," a spokesman for the former Beatle said.

"It has been a terrible shock," the 37-year-old musician said on the flight from Tokyo to Amsterdam where he changed planes.

"I flew into Japan before America and I still had the American attitude that marijuana isn't that bad. I know it sounds daft but that's the truth — that's why I stupidly brought the stuff with me."

McCartney was held at Narita airport on January 16 after he arrived for an 11-concert sellout tour of Japan with his band Wings which was canceled after his arrest. Customs officers said he was carrying nearly half a pound of marijuana in his suitcase.



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