

National

Falcon fugitive depressed about being back in jail, threatens hunger strike

United Press International
SEATTLE — Christopher Boyce, the fugitive spy with a fascination for falcons, is depressed about being back in jail, won't eat and refused to appear before reporters in handcuffs because it would have been like "tethered flight," his attorneys said.

Boyce, 28, the subject of the best-selling book, "The Falcon and the Snowman," faced a federal magistrate Monday to hear the

Dougherty of Tustin, Calif. "Drop the whole thing."

Boyce, convicted in 1977 of selling vital satellite secrets to the Soviet Union, was only a week away from getting a pilot's license and flying away from his remote hideout on Washington's Olympic Peninsula when he was caught by federal agents at a drive-in restaurant Friday night in Port Angeles.

Dougherty and Chelius, the two attorneys who defended Boyce at his spy trial, had differing opinions as to their client's mood.

"He's jovial — the same Chris we knew before," Chelius said. "But he seems to be much more serious than before."

"He's depressed," Dougherty said. "Surprised and depressed."

The New York Times, in Tuesday's editions, said prison officials reported Boyce had refused to eat since his arrest and indicated he intended to commit suicide by starving himself. The officials said, if necessary, they would obtain a court order for him to be fed intravenously.

Boyce was not too depressed to give his attorneys a wry account of his capture, however.

"He said he was sitting in his car eating a hamburger and reading a flight manual," Dougherty said. "Two marshals came up on either side of the car with pistols drawn. One marshal said: 'Drop that hamburger.'"

His arrest ended a global manhunt that began when Boyce escaped from Lompoc using a technique taken from a Clint Eastwood movie. He hid in the prison yard during a work detail and an accomplice put a papier mache dummy in his bunk, giving Boyce time to go over the wall.

He showed up later on the Olympic Peninsula where he

worked as a logger and a fisherman and eventually bought part-interest in a fishing boat, possibly using loot from a series of robberies in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana — an angle that FBI agents are investigating.

Boyce allegedly told a fellow convict before his escape he had buried classified CIA documents in Arizona, the Times said, but federal officials refused to comment on reports they were investigating the possibility he had sold some of the buried documents to the Soviets since his escape.

During Boyce's brief court appearance Monday, U.S. Magistrate Philip Sweigert set a Sept. 3 hearing date at which prosecutors must prove he is the escaped spy. If convicted, Boyce faces the possibility of an additional five years being tacked on to his 40-year sentence.

As a formality, Sweigert established a \$500,000 bail for Boyce, but, even if it were raised, the

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captured fugitive would merely be transferred from custody of federal marshals to the Bureau of Prisons.

Boyce was transferred late Monday from the U.S. Courthouse in Seattle to the Snohomish County Jail in Everett, 30 miles north of Seattle, for security reasons.

'I'm not going to stand before God and the world in chains' — Christopher Boyce.

charges against him for escaping 19 months ago from a federal prison at Lompoc, Calif., where he was serving a 40-year sentence for espionage.

The convicted spy balked from attending a press conference later in the day, however, when federal marshals attempted to handcuff him before bringing him into a room to deliver his statement.

"It goes back to his falconry, being free as a bird," attorney George L. Chelius, Newport Beach, Calif., said. "It's like a tethered flight. It's almost unbearable to, if you want to say, a free spirit."

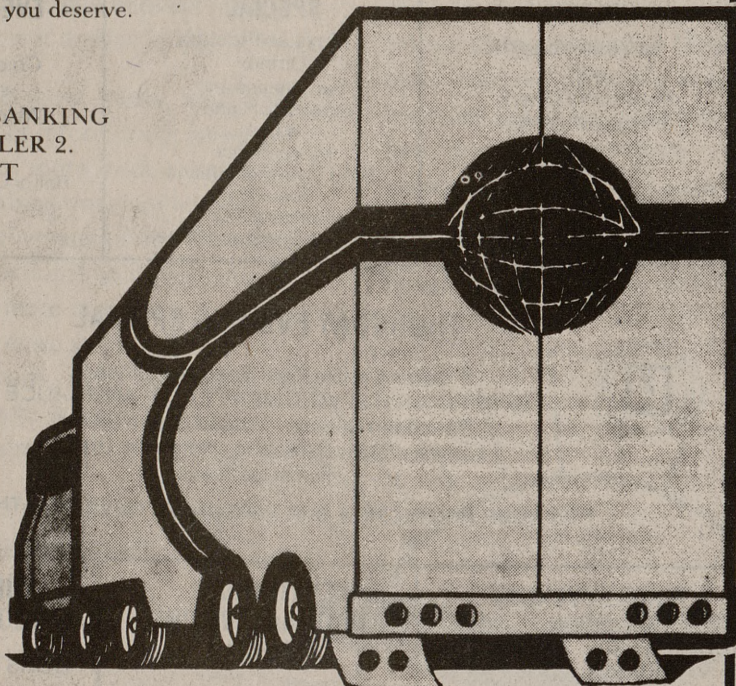
Boyce's attorneys attempted to persuade him to reconsider and deliver his statement, which was described as "philosophical" in nature. But the son of an ex-FBI agent exercised his prerogative not to talk.

"I'm not going to stand before God and the world in chains," Boyce told attorney William

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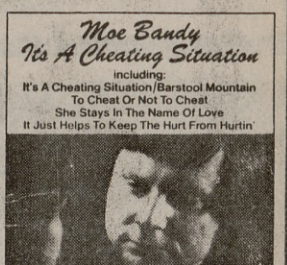
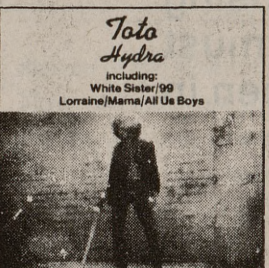
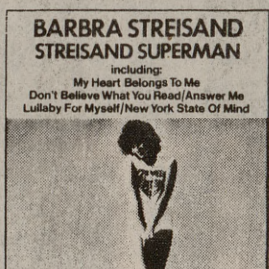
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