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Dramatic moves in train raid search

YARD HUNT CAR RACING DRIVER

By TOM TULLETT and HOWARD JOHNSON

SCOTLAND YARD detectives went to the Goodwood car-racing track yesterday—looking for a driver who they think can help their investigations into the Great Train Robbery.

The detectives took along a photograph of the driver — London silversmith Roy John James, 28, said to be nicknamed "The Weasel."

James, whose last known address was at Harrow, Middlesex, was entered for today's racing at the Goodwood track, in Sussex.

Speed

On Thursday, he was practising there in his blue-and-white 1098c.c. Brabham Ford car. He made one of the fastest times—equal to a speed of 95.79 m.p.h.

James had entered for today's British Automobile Racing Club's formula junior championship. The prizes are a trophy and £50.

Yesterday officials of the British Automobile Racing Club at Goodwood were shown the Yard picture of James.

The detectives hoped to see him arrive for more practice. But he did not turn up.

Goodwood track superintendent Robin Mackay said last night: "Mr. James came into formula racing only this year.

"But he already had several records on other tracks."

Mother

"Weasel" James and his mother moved into a flat above a shopping parade at Alexandra-road, Harrow, two and a half years ago.

And last night Mr. Joseph Harvey said James rented a garage from him in Spicer-road, Battersea.

Mr. Harvey, who lives in Spicer-road, said he saw James in the garage on Thursday night and joked with him about the train robbery.

At the time James and a friend were working on the Brabham Ford, and were still working on it early yesterday morning.

Mr. Harvey said James paid the garage rent on August 19 with four £5 notes.

Yard men yesterday made sixty-one raids on houses, factories and warehouses in London.

Most of the swoops followed "tips" about some of the £2,631,784 loot from the rail ambush at Sears Crossing.

Detained

In the Aylesbury, Bucks, headquarters of the police hunt a man arrested at Leicester was still being detained last night for questioning.

Meantime the hunt was still going on for two men the Yard had earlier said they wished to interview—Bruce Richard Reynolds, 41, car-and-antique dealer, and James White, 43, cafe proprietor.

When White was last seen, he was with a blonde woman, a six-month-old child and a white poodle dog called Gigi.

LOOK OUT FOR 'THE WEASEL'

THIS is racing car driver Roy John James, 28—named yesterday by Scotland Yard as a man the police think may be able to help them in their inquiries about the train robbery.

James is nick-named "The Weasel."

The Yard description says that he is 5ft. 4in. tall. He has light brown hair and hazel eyes.

Gambling

He is said to be fond of gambling—and dog-tracks.

The Yard also said: "He may seek accommodation in hotels or boarding-houses.

"If you see him, or know anything of his recent whereabouts, please get in touch with the police."

Police call on blonde Margaret

By PHIL TIBENHAM

BLONDE Margaret Perkins sat in a downstairs room at her suburban home yesterday . . . near to tears. Upstairs, police were searching her belongings.

It all because of the meeting that 19-year-old Margaret spent with a man who has now been arrested by detectives investigating the Great Train Robbery.

"He seemed perfectly genuine. I had been introduced to him by one of my relatives when I was a model in London," Margaret said yesterday at home in Manor-road Extension, Leicester.

Hotel

"We went out together five or six times.

"Then in Leicester, I had a phone call asking me to meet him for a drink."

On Thursday night, Margaret met her friend—in the cocktail bar of the five-star Grand Hotel, Leicester. He told me his car had broken down on the M1," Margaret said. "He said he had to come the rest of the way by hire-car. He asked me if I could lend him money.

"I gave him a fiver. It was part of a £25 prize I won in a Manchester beauty contest on Wednesday — my beauty prize was a mink-covered couch worth £2,100."

Checked

"The detectives called at the Grand Hotel. They noted the name and address registered by Margaret's friend. London police checked on the address.

"Afterwards, a passkey turned in the lock of the Grand Hotel's room 202. The pyjama-clad guest inside was taken to Leicester's police HQ for questioning.

Margaret Perkins . . . on the £2,100 mink-covered couch she won as a beauty prize.

Trapped men sing for joy

From JOHN EDWARDS
New York, Friday

FIVE words gave the dramatic news today that an escape hole has been drilled through to two men trapped for ten days 331 ft. down a coal mine.

The words—"I can see the drill"—were spoken by David Fellin, 58, entombed with Henry Throne, 28, in the mine at Hazelton, Pennsylvania, since the cave-in on Tuesday of last week.

Talked

Mr. Fellin talked to rescuers through a radio telephone dropped down a 6-inch "lifeline" hole.

Then the two trapped men sang for joy—a chorus of the "Pennsylvania Polka."

The escape hatch, twelve inches across, had to be drilled half an inch at a time so that it would not cause another cave-in.

Now the hatch must be widened to at least 17in. Then an attempt will be made to get the miners out in steel capsules.

But there is still a danger that this operation will cause a further cave-in. And tonight timbers were being sent down the hatch so that the miners can seal the hole and keep the debris out.

If all goes well, the men will be up by tomorrow afternoon.

Dinners

Just before today's vital breakthrough the miners asked for two dinners to be sent down the six-inch hole—roast beef and veg.

A third miner, Louis Bova, 48, is still in a section of the mine sealed off by a 25ft. wall of debris.

It is feared he is dead.

The last tapping signal from him was heard on Tuesday.

Tullett, Tom, and Howard Johnson. "Yard Hunt Car Racing Driver." Daily Mirror, 24 Aug. 1963, p. [1]. Mirror Historical Archive, 1903-2000, link.gale.com/apps/doc/MRLBOI151990496/DSLAB?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DSLAB. Accessed 19 Sept. 2023.