TRAIN CASE LAWYER 'WENT PALE' COURT TOLD

John Wheater yesterday

By HOWARD JOHNSON

SOLICITOR John Wheater, 42, "went pale" when confronted at Scotland Yard with a man detained in connection with the Great Train Robbery, a court was told yesterday.

The encounter between Wheater and the other man—Leonard Field, 31—was described at Aylesbury, Bucks.

Wheater, who practises in London, was one of eighteen people—fourteen men and four women—before the court on charges arising from the mail robbery on August 8.

Mr. Howard Sabin, prosecuting, referred to negotiations for the purchase of Leatherslade Farm, Oakley, Bucks—said to have been the hideout of the train robbery gang.

He alleged that the man who paid a 10 per cent. deposit—£555—on Leatherslade Farm was Leonard Field and that the solicitor who acted for him was Wheater.

A month after the train robbery, said Mr. Sabin, Field was taken to Scotland Yard—where he asked for Wheater to be called.

When Wheater arrived, he was told that the police believed Field was the man who paid a deposit on Leatherslade Farm.

Awkward

Mr. Sabin said that Wheater, confronted with Field, loosened his collar, went pale and said: "This puts me in a very awkward position. Do you think I should act for him?"

Then Field, added Mr. Sabin, said to the solicitor: "I never purchased any farm, did I, Mr. Wheater?"

Mr. Sabin alleged that Wheater later told the police: "I'm confused. I'm confused. I thought he was the man at first. Now I am not so certain. I only saw him twice. There is a startling resemblance. In fact he is the spitten image of the man who paid the deposit."

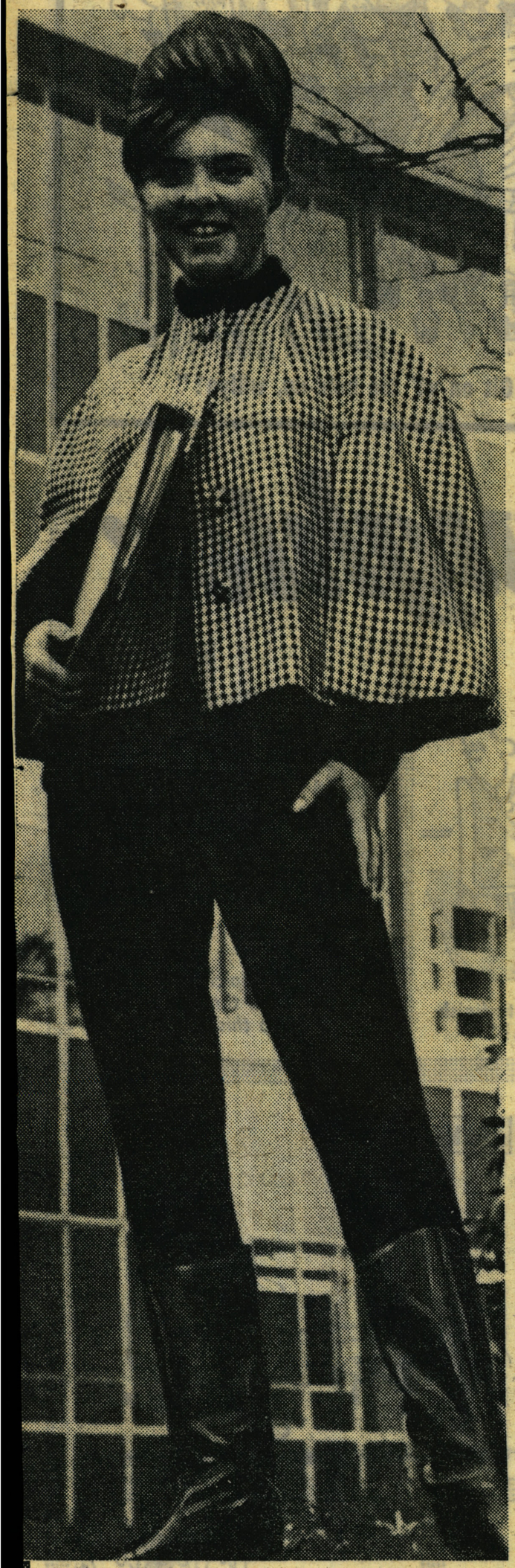
Mr. Sabin added: "The prosecution say Wheater knew perfectly well who Field was."

The hearing goes on today.

THE COBBLERS' SWAN SONG

A warning that the wear-and-throw-away shoe is coming to Britain from America was given to shoe repairers at their international congress at Blackpool yesterday.

An American expert, Mr. Everett E. Diez, said the reasons for the trend were longer lasting materials



College bans Katie's outfit

WHEN 16-year-old Katie Allinson arrived at college wearing this outfit, all the boy students gave her top marks as the smartest girl in class.

Then Katie learned that her clothes were not in fashion with the college authorities.

A teacher told her that her outfit was banned in the school.

Boots

This is what Katie was wearing:

A black sweater with a red knitted waistcoat, a pair of black stretch jeans, black calf-length boots and a check cloak.

Katie, a first-year commercial student, has to travel fifteen miles from her home at Newgate, Barnard Castle, Durham, to Darlington College of Further Education. Yesterday she said:

"I thought the outfit was just the thing to beat the cold. Everyone looked at me when I arrived. But nothing was said until I was leaving.

"Then I was told not to come in the clothes again. A teacher told me that all girl students must wear skirts. She said the headmaster was backing her in the decision.

"I was surprised. I wore it the night before for a beatnik ball."

Darlington's education officer, Mr. David Peters, said: "The decision about clothes is left to individual headmasters. But we expect pupils and their parents to adopt a reasonable attitude to the clothes they wear."

Johnson, Howard. "Train Case Lawyer 'Went Pale'." Daily Mirror, 25 Oct. 1963, p. 13. Mirror Historical Archive, 1903-2000, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CWEAOG962915128/DSLAB?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DSLAB. Accessed 19 Sept. 2023.