

Trip to Bank Turns Into Two-Day Ordeal

Young Woman Abducted Here, Escapes in Florida

By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

An 18-year-old clerk-tyrist for the U.S. Attorney's Office here was abducted at gunpoint near the federal courthouse shortly before noon Monday but escaped unharmed from her captor yesterday after a two-day forced drive to Florida, according to the FBI.

The kidnaping victim was identified as Deborah Jean Cornog of Forestville, Md., who has been working in the civil division of the federal prosecutor's office for about a year.

The FBI said Cornog escaped from her captor while they were stopped at a rest area alongside a Florida highway. She then drove for about 45 minutes in panic before stopping to call her parents from a telephone booth in a Vero Beach, Fla., shopping center to tell them she was all right, the FBI said.

Cornog described her kidnaper to the FBI as a 25-year-old male with shoulder-length blond hair, and said he forced his way into her car near a bank at 7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. with the words, "Drive me to Florida."

Cornog had left her office in the courthouse at 3d Street and Constitution Avenue N.W. at about 11:30 a.m. Monday, telling a coworker she would be

back in time for lunch after transferring her bank account from a Maryland bank to a downtown bank.

When she did not return, her coworker waited several hours before reporting Cornog's absence to her superiors, reportedly believing that she may have gone shopping and had forgotten about the lunch appointment.

Although the police were originally skeptical about the young woman's disappearance, they said their skepticism faded after hearing several of Cornog's coworkers describe her as a religious person who was happy in her work and in her personal life.

FBI officials said yesterday they also have definite additional reasons since Cornog's call to her home for believing her abduction story. They refused to provide details.

Cornog's parents, her boyfriend, and a sister learned of her ordeal while they were being interviewed by a WMAL television news reporter who was checking into her disappearance. Cornog called the family before calling the police, and WMAL reporter Greg Risch said station employees used their mobile radio equipment to notify the police that Cornog had been located so the family could keep her on the telephone.

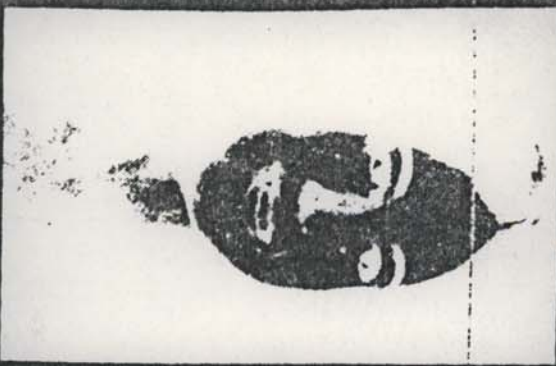
See ABDUCT, B12, Col. 1

date. But during his hour of wooing students and faculty in the cafeteria, Lechner demonstrated what his supporters say is perhaps his major asset in his race for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor—his brain.

Lechner, political observers agree, is smart. He's a good debater and has a command of statistics and information that reflects a grasp of a wide range of issues. But whether this will be enough to compensate for a lack of name recognition or money and a liberal image, will be decided only in the June 14 primary.

Lechner is opposed by Charles S. (Chuck) Robb, who has the advantage of a \$300,000 treasury and a campaigning mother-in-law, Lady Bird Johnson. Richard S. (Major) Reynolds III also is seeking the nomination. He plans to spend \$250,000 and has a name previously successful in Virginia.

See LECHNER, B6, Col. 3



DEBORAH CORNOG
fleets away at rest stop

Virginia Considering Free Parkland Offer

By Wilson Morris
Washington Post Staff Writer

Don Bolen, Virginia's director of parks for 17 years, tramped through the wild hills, bays and poison ivy that now flourish on the island Robert E. Lee's grandfather's home, looking the proverbial gift-horse in the mouth.

The Lee land, jutting into the Potomac River to form Preston Point in eastern Prince William County, has been offered for sale to the state and Bolen will play a key role in deciding whether it will become a park.

The owners of the 308-acre tract—the American-Hawaiian Steamship Corp.—have told

Bolen they will sell the land to Virginia at half its appraised value, although no recent appraisal has been made. Bolen rejected the offer when it was first made earlier this year by American Hawaiian's lawyer, George Hartzog, former director of the National Park Service.

"We haven't had any money in Virginia to acquire parkland," Bolen said, "and there's not much use in shopping if you can't buy."

But under the urging of Hartzog, Prince William environmentalists and the Society of the Lees of Virginia, Bolen is now reconsidering. "Though Virginia has no money to buy land,

the gift of half the value can have double value for the state. If Virginia decides—after a long review process—to accept the land, it can claim the gift as its part in a matching fund formula under which the federal government would pay 50 per cent of the property's value. That money would go to American-Hawaiian and Virginia would get the land at no cost to the state.

The land was appraised at \$2.6 million by Prince William in 1974 so the gift would be worth a minimum of \$1.3 million. A new appraisal would set the value for the actual sale to the state.

American-Hawaiian, owned by Daniel K. Ludwig, one of America's richest men,

would get the cash from selling the land and could also deduct the gift to Virginia from its net income before taxes.

American-Hawaiian bought the land in 1961 for \$138,838 and the balance due on two trusts and now pays \$38,542 a year in property taxes.

Hartzog, who tried as National Park Service director to develop the Potomac shore as parkland, said this tract is "the last big undeveloped piece of property on the Potomac near Washington." "I concluded this was prime parkland a long time ago."

If it does not become a park, he said, the land probably will be sold to land developers. See LAND, B10, Col. 1

Virginia Is Considering Offer of Free Parkland

LAND, From B1

As Bolen toured the tract, Don Curtis, vice president of the Prince William County Historical Society, pointed out the location of the Lee home, the lies that had spread from the Lee gardens and the cemetery where many Lees are buried.

"Come see what the ghouls have been doing. They stole all the stones from the Lee graveyard," Curtis said. "I heard a rumble down there. Didn't know who it was," said Bolen, peering at the mossy ground.

Asked how the park would be developed, Lewis King, state park commission planning chief, said he wouldn't know until studies were completed. Bolen interrupted. "Don't lie to the press, Lewis. We'll put in massage parlors and make lots of money."

The proposed park is part of an original tract of 3,000 acres that came to the Lees through a marriage in 1675. The Lees farmed "Leesylvania," as the land is called, but none lived there until 1747 when Henry Lee III, Robert E. Lee's grandfather, moved there, according to a history of the

Lee family by Eleanor Lee Templeman, Lee Society historian.

Henry's eight sons included Light-horse Harry, a Revolutionary War hero, Virginia governor and father of Robert, and Charles, an attorney general of the United States, who inherited the property.

Charles' son sold the estate to the Fairfax family in 1825. The Fairfax home lasted until 1910 when it burned. The Lee mansion had burned in 1790.

Freestone Point, which ends in a high cliff overlooking the Potomac, was used by a Confederate artillery battery in the early years of the Civil War.

Freestone gathered a bit of infamy in the late 1950s when a gambling boat was operated there. The river belongs to Maryland up to the high water line so Virginia's strict antigambling laws did not apply on board.

Leesylvania has remained undeveloped in part because of a sewer moratorium. The area surrounding it, a 45-minute drive from Washington, is now being rapidly developed.

Bolen's staff will now draft a study of Leesylvania's soil type, accessibility, historical value and potential for park development. If the study results are favorable, a recommendation will then then be made to a 12-member board appointed by the governor.

The next step would be action by the Virginia Commission on Outdoor Recreation, which in turn would present a plan to the U.S. Interior Department. At some point in the process, the Virginia General Assembly would be asked for \$50,000 a year to maintain the site prior to its development.

With favorable action on all these levels the land could be taken by the state and eventually turned into a park.

Bolen said it was too early to pre-



Bill Perkins—The Washington Post

The X at top locates area of tract. Hatched area below is proposed park.

dict what the state might do on Leesylvania. But as Bolen left the estate, he said, "Leesylvania is unique in that you don't find that much available land on the river that close to populous areas. Usually land is offered in far-away places where developers aren't doing as well."

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