

I went back and I was on the Hauptmann case all through, because then it really began to boil over every day. I covered the trial and the execution.

There was another trial in there, but it's too long to go into. That was the John Hughes Curtiss trial. You remember, he was a Norfolk shipbuilder who said he was in contact with the kidnappers, and they put him on trial and gave him a suspended sentence. Then old Gaston B. Means got in the act. He got a large sum from Evelyn Walsh McLean. He had some high inside stuff. They finally put him back into the penitentiary, where he died. There were all sorts of ramifications of that sort in the meantime, but from then on it was the preparation of the trial -- who was going to prosecute, the witnesses, and so forth.

The actual trial started January 2, 1935, on the ^{very} coldest day I've ever seen. 400 reporters, photographers, and everybody ^{other} else converged on Flemington, which was the county seat. You can imagine the shambles and the ^{struggle} job for a room. You ~~slept 4 in a room, and it was cold.~~ The trial ran from January 2 to February 16, when the jury brought in its verdict.

Q: And when was the execution?

DELONG: The execution was delayed several times by Governor ^{Harold} Hoffman, who claimed that he had additional evidence that there might have been somebody else in ^{other} there.

I might ~~xxxxxx~~ read just one thing. A year after the trial, the Jersey Journal wrote the different newspapermen and women who covered the trial, asking them to state the most memorable thing. The thing I recalled best was the night the verdict was brought in. "That was 10.36 p.m., February 13, and the jurors entered solemnly. The courtroom was hushed. They came in a single line through the same doorway through which Hauptmann had just been led. They passed near him on their way to the jury box but not one of the 12 glanced in his direction. If Hauptmann had studied their faces he would have known their verdict. Instead, he chose not to look. He stared straight ahead, seeing a procession of figures, men and women & who for him had no faces. Mrs. Hauptmann, who was there ~~xx~~ every day, searched the faces for a ray of hope and then lowered her eyes. She knew the verdict. Everybody knew, and the courtroom seemed to grow increasingly stifling. Vapor formed on the windowpanes, and trickled ~~xxxx~~ in little rivulets down to the sills. All awaited the entrance of Justice ^{Thomas W.} Trenchard (N), who came with slow steps, a very tired man."

Q: Thank you. That's beautifully written.

Edmond DeLong
Interview No. 3

by Frank Bounds, Jr
March 2, 1962

BOUNDS: I am about to read several drafts of rough notes of Edmond DeLong. There are four documents. The first three represent rough notes which Mr. DeLong, as the special correspondent of the NEW YORK SUN sent back to his managing editor in New York, Keats ~~XXXX~~ Speed -- a very appropriate name. These notes were sent back from Princeton to New York and were marked confidential and not for publication. It will be up to Mr. DeLong, at the conclusion of this oral history interview, to decide whether he wants the notes to be made public at this time or at some future time.

The three memos in question are dated 1932, in the month of June, soon after the body of the Lindbergh baby was found. The first is dated Saturday, June 4th, and reads as follows:

"I had my first informal, off-the-record, chat with Schwartzkopf, having caught him alone in his office at the Trenton headquarters. The following may be of interest.

"The identifying marks on the baby's thumb were two callouses, one below the first knuckle on each thumb. When he sucked his thumbs he bit into them until the callous was formed.

"The only other mark was the two little toes which were bent in and improperly formed.

"To keep the baby from sucking his thumbs, guards were placed on them. One of these guards was later found by the police and indicated definitely which route the kidnappers took.

"Schwartzkopf also told me definitely that they used

a car in making their getaway, although the car was parked quite a distance.

"He disclosed also that the ladder was badly broken (here at this point he tried to draw a diagram of the ladder but was unable to do so). He said the ladder was broken badly about 7 feet from the ground, and that although it was not collapsed the kidnapper must have taken a bad fall. Apparently there were marks on the ground.

"Only two sections of the ladder were used -- the two good sections.

"Although I could not get it ~~w~~ out of him in so many words, I am sure Schwartzkopf believed that the baby was injured in the fall. He stated definitely 'We have reason to believe the man had a bad tumble, although the ladder ~~did~~ not collapse.'

"The police made several duplicate ladders, and in reconstructing the crime, these ladders split in the same way under a certain amount of pressure.

"There are no good finger-prints on the ladder.

"Schwartzkopf said he was convinced Condon had no connection with the kidnappers, and that he did not expect him to be of much help -- 20.

"They are taking him ~~ak~~ around but consider it hopeless.

"The taxicab driver is absolutely hopeless. He was willing, but when they got him in a rogues' gallery one picture looked just like the next to him. They had to give him up.

"The police now are concentrating most of their efforts on locating the ransom notes.

"The analysis of the soil around the spot where the child was found proved that the child had been there since the first day. Also it proved that the child had been buried -- not just covered with leaves -- and that the rain and snow had washed away the dirt. They also found the other foot in this dirt.

"Schwartzkopf also told me the reason for Major Schoeffell's trip to Europe. He said the authorities ~~xxx~~ agreed that the note left in the nursery and the ransom notes were written by the same person. They consulted the three highest handwriting authorities in this country -- but were not content.

"Schoeffell took photostatic copies to experts at Scotland Yard and in Vienna who also agreed. They said the man who wrote the notes was above normal intelligence -- they gathered this from the phrasing -- and said that the notes indicated he had attempted to disguise his handwriting. Later, when he wrote more hastily and more carelessly, his handwriting, in their opinion, was more normal.

"Schwartzkopf said the sections of the letter made public were sections of the latter part of the notes given to Condon and were believed to be the undisguised handwriting. He said both extracts appearing in the fliers were written by the same man.

"The receipt for room rent which I enclose might be of interest to Mulrooney because of the address. You will note the
(New York Police Commissioner)

spelling of the word 'hous,' -- spelled as it was in the flier, if I recall x correctly."

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The following is the confidential office memo written by Mr. DeLong on Monday, June 6th, as follows:

"I discussed various phases of the Lindbergh case today for an hour with Schwartzkopf. Major Schoeffell was there part of the time, and afterwards I talked at greater length with him. No one else was present. The interview brought out these facts:

"Only one note was left in the nursery. It was addressed simply to Charles Lindbergh, Hopewell, New Jersey. It was on cheap, ten-cent store paper. The envelope was sealed, and the seal had to be broken.

"The note was left on the windowsill, and the window was pulled down so as to hold it. It was not pinned.

"There were two sets of tracks leading from the small clump of scrub oaks about 40 feet from the house. A size 10 shoe would fit into one set of tracks and a size 8 shoe into the other. Both men had made two trips from the scrub oaks to the house. One apparently wore overshoes. The smaller man left heel prints.

"About 30 feet from the house another set of tracks, more difficult to trace, were found. The person who made these apparently walked back and forth within a five-foot radius. The police believe he was the look-out, and that three men worked the job.

"Many other tracks were found leading from the house down toward the entrance gates. Some of these were older -- two and three days old. The police believe that these were made during early reconnoitering expeditions -- that the kidnapping had been carefully planned and that the kidnappers had been on the premises for several previous nights getting the lay of the land.

"An old wagon road is the most direct route from the house to the entrance gates, about 1 mile distant. The driveway takes a more circuitous route. The night of the crime the kidnappers apparently started through the brush, found the wagon road, then cut over to the driveway and later, for some strange reason, returned to the wagon road and followed it down to the entrance gate. It is barely possible Colonel Lindbergh (who was away from home that night) may have returned and headed his car up the driveway at the very time they were on it. The drive winds considerably so his lights would not have caught them. This is the only logical explanation for their going to the driveway and then taking the time and trouble to return to the wagon road.

"One of the child's thumb guards was found about 20 feet from the drive entrance. This provided final proof as to the direction the kidnappers took. The police believe they had a car parked somewhere near the main highway leading towards Hopewell. There are several places where a car could have been concealed.

"Schwartzkopf said he was convinced from the outset

they did not take the rough road leading into the Sourland Mountains to the rear as progress would have been slow and the few roads leading from the woods could easily have been blocked. In other words, the kidnappers would have gambled at shorter odds on making a getaway.

"Although the baby wore a guard on each thumb, one guard has never been found. Neither has his ~~diaper~~ diaper. He was buried wearing only an undershirt. The nightgown, diaper, and thumb guard were removed.

"These thumb guards were carefully tied on with ribbons which were wound about his wrists. To remove the night dress one would have to remove the ribbons and thumb guards.

"Schwartzkopf and Schoeffell believe the baby was dead 10 minutes after he was kidnapped and the kidnappers, looking toward the ransom, removed the nightdress for ransom purposes and in their hurry lost one of the thumb guards.

"The Lindbergh home, as you know, is white. Against the wall, about 7 feet up, is a place where something apparently had crashed against it. In reconstructing the scene of the crime the police made several duplicate ladders and had men of different weights ascend and descend them. Eventually, under a certain weight, the duplicate ladders split, as I described yesterday in my report, and the ladders buckled in against the wall. They did not collapse and fall, but they threw the man on them heavily against the wall. The police believe that this may have occurred as the baby was being carried down the ladder and that the ~~baby's~~ baby's head may have struck the wall with such force as to fracture his skull, or otherwise

seriously injure him.

"They also believe that the dress returned by the party who negotiated with Condon was the x baby's dress. It was of the same size, and otherwise fitted the description furnished by Mrs. Lindbergh as to material, etc.

"The dress, however, had been carefully washed and ironed. Another evidence of the kidnapper's intelligence is the fact that it had been washed in cold water. According to Schwartzkopf, after cold water has been used it is difficult to determine blood from urine or perspiration. The dress was sent to the Squibb laboratories and the analysis showed there were stains.

"It could not be determined, however, whether the stains were blood.

"Across the windowsill was a long smudge of dirt. The police believe the man who entered the nursery backed up to the sill and hoisted himself on it backwards. He then wormed his way around until he was facing inside, and in so doing he must have noticed a suitcase which was placed against the wall directly beneath the window. A piece of board about 6 inches long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick was on top of the suitcase.

"If the man had stepped carelessly over the sill into the sill he undoubtedly would have knocked over the suitcase and the board. Instead he apparently balanced himself on his hands and let himself onto the floor with both feet at once.

"There were only two mud prints on the floor where he had landed. The police believe he may have worn overshoes or galoshes which he removed. It may be that he removed his shoes while crossing the room to the crib. At all odds there were only the two prints.

"In descending the ladder a clod of mud dropped onto the top of the shutter to Lindbergh's study directly below. There was a perfect heel mark on this clod, and it is the best print obtained.

"I did not ask Schwartzkopf to show me the note left in the nursery as I thought he had opened up pretty well for one day. He explained that they were still getting reports from persons who claimed to know the kidnappers, and that the things I have described in these reports were valuable to them in discrediting such persons. Therefore he did not want the information made public. Later I believe I can swing him around into letting us release some of it.

"Schoeffell said they had information that Condon had been tried by the Board of Education 20 or so years ago on charges preferred by a small girl, and that they were trying to verify this, although they weren't getting very far. (You recall that ^{first} Jackowitz ^(School Page Editor of the Sun) said it was a boy.) Schoeffell also expressed the belief privately that Condon knew the persons ~~with~~ to whom he gave the ransom money, and expressed regret that Condon was not 20 years younger so "we could go to work on him."

"Schwartzkopf, however, said he thought Condon was simply a little off and was entirely innocent. Both officials emphasized the fact that they were simply expressing opinions based on nothing tangible.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "Schwartzkopf said he understood the defense ~~xxxxxx~~ of John Hughes Curtis would be that, although he perpetrated a hoax, he did so in the belief that the kidnappers were members of a ring and that if he could get sufficient publicity for his negotiations the ring might be willing to deal to him.

"I forgot to mention that one of the three experts who examined the note left in the home was Osborne of the New York Department. Another was ~~xxxx~~ Faurot or Farrar of the United States Mint. I didn't wish to question them too closely about this because I thought you might wish to discuss the note with these men and possibly get the text.

"Schwartzkopf said his men had questioned Charles Schittell, had searched the land for footprints leading to the scene where the body was found, without xx success, and had compared samples of his handwriting. The fingerprints on the ladder were vague and are virtually useless. The police, according to Schwartzkopf, have not enough against Schittell to warrant an arrest, but are still watching him. They know about the auto.

"I still think the Schittell angle is good, although he is a difficult man to deal with. He's eccentric, but Schoeffell, who questioned him, said he was smart. Both officials agree that

for a time they were convinced he was their man. They haven't by any means given him up.

"The only other activity of the police, as far as I could gather, is confined to a careful lookout for ransom bank notes. They have checked two or three with storekeepers, but have lost the trail there. This is one phase of the work they will not discuss and will give no information about. I cannot blame them. Schoeffelll XXXEX admitted it was about the last hope."

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This is the third memorandum, the rough notes which I have ~~xxx~~ referred to previously, written by DeLong in Princeton and sent to his managing editor on the New York Sun in New York. This confidential note, again marked "Not for Publication" is dated June 7, 1932, and reads as follows:

"I talked with Schwartzkopf again today in his office from ~~XXEX~~ 2.15 until 4.30 o'clock. When I apologized for talking so much and taking so much of his time he said he was glad of an opportunity to get some outside reaction to the investigation as conducted by his men. He talked freely, but stressed it was off the record. The substance of it follows:

"As the police reconstruct the crime, they believe it was planned nearly a year. I stated in yesterday's report that tracks ~~xxxx~~ were found indicating men had been on the premises for

several previous nights. Schwartzkopf believes they awaited an opportunity when Lindbergh was away, when the night was dark, etc.

"He has definite information (never published) that a high-powered car ~~x~~ was used. One witness, believed to be accurate and reliable, saw such a car. The description fit that of a car described by the man with whom Condon negotiated.

"The kidnapers took the most direct route from the estate in their anxiety to get away from the scene as quickly as possible. The car was parked not far from the entrance gate, and they followed the main road. There are only two or three houses from which someone might have observed them until they turned into Hopewell.

"They apparently passed through the outskirts of Hopewell and struck the main highway leading toward Montrose and ~~Hinton~~ ^{Frederick} (2). Further along this highway they could branch in either the direction of New York or Philadelphia.

"The spot where the body was found is the only one in that vicinity where the woods come down to the road. It also is one of the few places where a car might be concealed off the road without attracting attention. A white post fence runs along the highway for some miles, but breaks for a few hundred yards at that point.

"Schwartzkopf believes the distance the men penetrated

the woods may have been deceiving -- that they may have thought they had penetrated further than they did because of the darkness and undergrowth. This accounts for their penetrating only 40 yards (or 40 feet, or whatever it was, I don't recall the exact distance).

"He reiterated this belief that the child was dead within 10 minutes of the time it was kidnapped and again said it was killed accidentally, in his opinion. He believes the kidnappers intended to hold it for the ransom.

"There was no bullet wound in the skull as some reports have said. After the body was found a stick was accidentally shoved into the skull while the troopers were removing it. Decomposition had set in, of course, and the stick penetrated the skull. There was nothing to indicate ~~xxxxxx~~ there had been a blow of a hammer. The police are definitely certain of the manner in which the baby died, but Schwartzkopf declined to go further than this. As I reported yesterday the ladder collapsed, and the child may have been crushed against the wall.

"When the body was found only the skull was showing. There was a small depression in the land about 3 x 1 feet and dirt had been shovelled onto the body apparently with a stick or foot. The rain had washed away some of the dirt until the head was exposed.

"I asked Schwartzkopf whether Hawks might not have been attracted to the scene, but he said they had figured on that and that Hawks had no sense of smell. They have keen eyesight, but ~~xxxx~~ probably would not have been attracted by the small section

of the skull exposed.

"In addition to the original note to Lindbergh, nine other notes in the same handwriting are in the possession of the police. All the others were in reference to the Condon negotiations and all but one were addressed to Lindbergh. That one was addressed to Breckinridge.

"Schwartzkopf said he had the original note, had kept it in his pocket most of the time, and if anyone but the handwriting experts claimed to have seen it or have photostated copies of it (the Journal and News have claimed this) they were simply lying. It has been carefully guarded from everyone.

"There were, as you recall, some reports that Morris Rosner had seen the notes and shown them around. Schwartzkopf said the contents of one note -- not the original -- were given ~~XXXXXX~~ Rosner, and that was all. He never even saw the others, or was told of their contents.

"Rosner was recommended to ~~XXXXXX~~ Breckinridge by Mrs. Ruth Pratt, who telephoned him from Washington. She told him to get in touch with Bill Donovan for further references, and Donovan told Breckinridge that Rosner had given valuable aid to certain parties in Washington upon occasion. Eventually these parties were identified as Senator Capper of Kansas and a Senator from Oklahoma whose name Schwartzkopf could not recall. They recommended Rosner, explaining that he had served them faithfully and well. Upon their