

Patrolmen's Killer Named By FBI; Search Continues

Man Escaped From Mental Hospital

Frank Edward Wetzel, the man the FBI says murdered Highway Patrolmen Reece and Brown, remains at large today. He is the subject of a nationwide manhunt.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover announced yesterday that Wetzel's fingerprints were found on articles in the black Oldsmobile which the man abandoned in Chattanooga last week.

In Mississippi National Guardsmen were ordered to the penitentiary where Wetzel's brother awaits electrocution for stabbing to death a fellow convict in a "gangland revenge" killing in 1933. Wetzel told persons at Willard, N. Y. State Mental Hospital last month that he was going to escape and go to Mississippi to free his brother.

Warrants were drawn for Frank Wetzel charging here and in Sanford charging the man with the slaying of Patrolmen W. Reece and J. T. Brown. In Buckingham to charge Wetzel with murder was Highway Pa-

trol Captain Arthur Welch who took out the warrant before Clerk of Court Tom Covington about noon.

Identification of the slayer will help considerably in his capture, it is believed. With nationwide distribution of his photograph, it is hoped that someone will recognize him and call authorities.

The F. B. I. Director said latent fingerprints lifted from a dashboard attachment for operating an electric shaver and from a stolen license plate on the car were identified as Wetzel's.

The F. B. I. said Wetzel has an arrest record dating back to 1933 and including such offenses as assault, burglary, and grand larceny.

He is currently wanted at Geneva, New York, for violation of a five-year probationary sentence following his release from Attica prison, New York, in December, 1934.

Wetzel escaped from the Willard Hospital October 21st. New York authorities sent him there for observation.

Hooper urged anyone having information concerning Wetzel's whereabouts to contact the nearest F. B. I. office. He warned that Wetzel may be armed and should be considered extremely dangerous.

Wetzel is described as 5 feet

10 inches tall, weighs 160 pounds, has blue eyes, brown hair, and a scar on the right side of his upper lip.

Good News to Raleigh.

At Raleigh, Colonel J. R. Smith commander of the North Carolina Highway Patrol said the FBI identification of the fugitive being sought was good news and "it ought to be a big help" in catching him.

When Wetzell was picked up September 26th, police said they found two shotguns, two revolvers and 20 boxes of ammunition in his automobile. He was charged then with patrol violation and was committed to Willard for examination on October 7th.

He reportedly told other persons in the hospital that he was going to escape and go South to help his brother, William, 34, now in the death house at Parchman Penitentiary in Mississippi.

Details of Frank's escape from Willard were not made known. But he is believed to have stolen a car nearby. The car was found later in Buffalo.

GILBERT WITH WETZEL?

Though unconfirmed by the FBI, it is reported that a man by the name of James Gilbert is supposed to be with Wetzel.

Gilbert is described as white, 23 years old, dark brown hair with long sideburns. He prefers to wear cow-boy clothing.

This information is being broadcast to North Carolina State Highway Patrolmen from their central office.

Both men are believed to be armed and are considered dangerous, it is reported.

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Wetzel Escapes

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