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Ill. Rt. 148
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Marion

Map shows: 1. tower; 2. terminal; 3. main runway, plane's location

Hijacker forces jetliner down at Marion airport

Hijacked airliner, with hostages aboard, sits on main runway at the Williamson County airport

Photo by ED GREER

Security tightens at trial in Benton

By Shirley Johnson
Of The Southern Illinoisan

Courtroom doors were locked at 10:45 a.m. today and the public was told to leave as security was tightened in the trial of two prison inmates accused of attempting to escape from prison.

Judge Harold Baker told the courtroom, "Security forces have advised me of an incident and I have excluded all members of the public with the exception of members of the press with credentials."

The judge said he would sequester the jury during the remaining proceedings to insure they did not hear of the hijacking of an airplane in Williamson County.

As closing arguments began this morning, U.S. marshals appeared ready to move at the slightest indication something was wrong. Several marshals were standing inside the court, not sitting as in earlier days.

Baker also instructed the prosecution not to refer in any way to the security problem.

Defendant Garrett Brock Trappell, acting as his own attorney, moved for a continuance, saying, "As a result of this type of security measure, I am not in an emotional state to address the jury."

The motion was denied.

The jury entered the courtroom at 11:15 a.m. and prosecution attorney Clifford J. Proud began his summation by detailing the events leading up to the hijacking of a jet-ranger helicopter and kidnapping of pilot Alan Barklage May 24. Trappell and co-defendant Martin J. McNally are accused of four counts involving complicity in a kidnapping-hijacking scheme to escape from prison.

Proud said Trappell's signature and fingerprints were found on letters and a map of the federal penitentiary. He mentioned numerous letters addressed to a Suzanne Cousin in Canada from Trappell in which "Trappell asked for his clothing." Proud said the jury will notice in the date gets later Trappell indicates an urgency in his letters to Ms. Cousin by "certain underlining."

The prosecution took 45 minutes and the two defendants were given 30 minutes each for closing arguments. The jury was then given its instructions and sent out to examine the evidence and reach a conclusion.

In testimony Thursday, fellow inmates said Trappell lived for more than a year in the penitentiary knowing that someone wanted him dead, because

Trappell had been fingered as a government informant.

Trappell had been labeled a "a stool pigeon," an informer, as far back as October, said Marion Federal penitentiary inmate Horace "Bitch" Grady.

"There was a contract out on your life," Grady said. Trappell was trying to prove his life was in danger and in duress when he tried to escape from prison.

During that escape attempt, Barbara Oswald of St. Louis was shot and killed in a helicopter near the prison May 21 after pilot Barklage wrested a gun away from her.

Grady said he learned that prison employees fingered Trappell for death because he continually filed complaints about conditions in the prison.

"If someone wants to kill you, you will get killed," said Grady.

Despite testimony by inmates that someone wanted Trappell dead, Judge Baker rejected the duress plea.

Baker released jurors early Wednesday while he reviewed Trappell's defense plea.

"I've heard a lot of rumors and hearsay and it has painted a violent and distasteful picture," Baker said, but added that the plea failed to meet legal requirements. Baker said Trappell failed to produce evidence showing he was specifically and imminently threatened with harm, that prison authorities were made of the threat and failed to take action, that an escape from prison was made without violence and proof that Trappell immediately would have contacted authorities once he had escaped.

Baker said testimony that Mrs. Oswald hid guns and clothes for use in the get-away would "make one conclude you had absolutely no intention of reporting to the authorities."

Earlier Baker told Trappell he would listen to evidence on the threat against Trappell's life in order to preserve Trappell's rights in any appeal.

Inmate John Greacher, who said he gained a reputation for filing "contracts" on fellow inmates during his imprisonment in Minnesota, said he was offered the contract to kill Trappell. He said he refused it because prison officials "put the jacket on Trappell."

A contract, Greacher explained, could mean beating or robbing another inmate. But, he added, the contract out on Trappell was for his death.

By Staff Writers
Of The Southern Illinoisan
and The Associated Press

A woman hijacker commandeered a TWA jetliner near Kansas City today, ordered it down to the Williamson County Airport and demanded the release of Marion Federal Prison inmate Garrett Trappell, on trial in Benton for an escape attempt last May 24.

Authorities said the woman claimed to have three sticks of dynamite attached to her body.

The DC-9 jet was carrying 83 passengers and five or six crew members, all of whom were still in the plane at noon, officials said. The airport was cordoned off.

The plane landed at the airport at 10:48 a.m. today.

The federal courthouse in Benton was locked and all those inside were under heavy security, a Southern Illinoisan reporter covering the trial there said.

Trappell, the penitentiary inmate, was being tried for an escape attempt in May in which a St. Louis helicopter was hijacked and flown to the prison. The pilot shot and killed the woman helicopter hijacker over the prison.

FBI agents at the airport at noon said they were trying to negotiate by radio with the unidentified woman on the jet.

Flight 341 from Louisville to Kansas City was hijacked on its approach to Kansas City International Airport shortly after a scheduled stop in St. Louis, Joe Frets, an FAA spokesman in Kansas City, said.

U.S. Marshal Albert Hinds at the federal courthouse in Benton was on special alert as Trappell was due to argue on his own behalf before a U.S. District Court jury.

"They're doing what the hijacker is telling them to do," said John Leyden, an FAA spokesman in Washington.

Frets said the jetliner "pulled up, squawked the proper ID for a hijacking and asked for clearance to Carbondale."

Frets said he did not know whether more than one person was involved.

General Telephone Co. workers shortly after noon were stringing wire to establish telephone contact with the aircraft.

A state police officer in the airport's restaurant said the FBI had established radio contact with the airplane, which was sitting on the north end of the runway.

Sightseers gathered on Illinois 13 and on a dirt road off Illinois 148.

More than half of the Williamson County sheriff's deputies were at the airport, as well as airport and state police and FBI agents.

Southern Illinois Airport control tower operator Doug Klapp said no communications were coming from the Williamson County Airport's control tower.

George Acree, assistant manager of Southern Illinois Airport near Carbondale, said they received an FAA report

of a hijacking in progress about 9:50 a.m.

"I think all the airports in the area were put on alert," he said.

An FAA spokesman in Kansas City said the aircraft first requested clearance to fly to Carbondale.

Acree said FBI agents, Jackson County Sheriff's deputies and Murphysboro firemen were dispatched to Southern Illinois airport.

Federal penitentiary officials at Marion said they learned of the hijacking over the radio.

Asked whether they had any reason to believe the hijacking might be connected with any inmates at the prison, Charles Buckholz, public information officer, said, "At this time I don't know. We haven't been told a thing."

Buckholz described operations at the prison as "business as usual. If they have doubled security, they haven't told me about it."

Warden George Wilkinson late this morning called a special meeting with prison staff because of the hijacking.

Garrett Trappell is serving a life sentence at the Marion penitentiary for hijacking a TWA plane in 1972 and for conspiracy to kidnap a foreign official.

Trappell, two other inmates and a woman from Norman, Okla., Beth Meadows, originally were charged in connection with the May 24 helicopter escape attempt from the Marion prison.

Last week, Miss Meadows pleaded guilty to conspiracy in return for having other charges related to the escape attempt dropped. Federal Judge Harold Baker is reserving a ruling on the plea agreement until after pre-sentencing reports are made.

Meanwhile, Miss Meadows has been released on her own recognizance, according to St. Clair County officials.

The red and white TWA plane came in for its landing at Marion over Illinois 13 and taxied in front of the airport to the northwest corner. The jetliner is facing south positioned near a long runway.

Woman demands release of Marion prison inmate on trial

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Guerrilla fire kills Israeli

Tel Aviv, Israel (AP)

Guerrillas in southern Lebanon fired a volley of Katyusha rockets into the Israeli frontier town of Kiryat Shmona today, killing one man and wounding seven others in a swirling eye-for-an-eye fight between the Palestinians and Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organization in Beirut said the town was rocketed in retaliation for Israeli air strikes on Palestinian camps some 12 hours earlier.

After the four or five rockets slammed into Kiryat Shmona, in the northern Galilee panhandle, Israeli artillery opened fire on Palestinian positions across the border, the military command said in Tel Aviv.

The army said five children in Kiryat Shmona were treated for shock after being evacuated from a building hit by one of the Soviet-designed rockets.

The military said the rocket attack was the first across the Lebanese border since last June, when Israel withdrew an invasion force from southern Lebanon after a 48-day sweep to drive Palestinian guerrillas away from the frontier.

Palestinian sources in Beirut said the Israeli air attack at sundown Wednesday killed or wounded as many as 27 persons. Israeli military officials said the raid was ordered in reprisal for a string of Palestinian bombings in Israel that have killed four civilians and wounded 70 since Nov. 1.

The Israelis also reported three persons slightly hurt in a grenade attack in the Old City of Jerusalem after midnight Wednesday. It was the second bombing of the day in the Holy City. An earlier blast in the doorway of an Old City restaurant slightly wounded six persons.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry denounced the Israeli attacks as "a threat to the current (Egyptian-Israeli) peace process." But Cairo went ahead with plans to send Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil to Brussels to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance this weekend for another attempt to get the stalled peace negotiations going again.

PLO headquarters in Beirut said eight Israeli jets rocketed, strafed and bombed two Palestinian refugee camps and a civilian village along the coastal highway in southern Lebanon, 20 to 30 miles north of the Israeli-Lebanese border.

The Israeli military command said the targets—Bourj el Shimali and Qasim on the outskirts of Tyre, and Dahr el Bourj about 12 miles farther north—were training bases and staging areas for guerrilla attacks on Israel.

7 others wounded in frontier town

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Good Evening

Weather

The National Weather Service forecasts fair and cold weather tonight, low in the mid 20s. Partly sunny and warmer Friday, high in the 40s.

Area

GOV. JAMES THOMPSON, in Washington for a conference with President Carter, says he fears plans for a coal gasification plant in Perry County will fall through, but Rep. Paul Simon, D-Carbondale, says the decision has not been made and the area still has a chance. Page 3.

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