

Racial Terrorist's Story Rivals Jekyll-Hyde Feats

MERIDIAN, Miss. — Pretty young Kathy Ainsworth, a soft-spoken teacher with an excellent record, turned out to be a terrorist in a story that rivals that of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Since her death in a gun battle with police in a bombing attempt, the FBI has linked her to Ku Klux Klan records and files of violence and bombing.

Many of her friends in Meridian and Jackson, Miss., find it impossible to believe she is the same person who was revered as a cheerful churchgoer who loved children and was worshipped by them.

The documents were found by Mrs. Ainsworth's husband, Ralph and turned over to the FBI. Neither Ainsworth nor any of his relatives shared his wife's fanatical beliefs.

Mrs. Ainsworth, 26, and Thomas Albert Tarrant III, 21, were shot by Meridian police in a wild exchange of gunfire when officers caught them as they allegedly were trying to dynamite the home of a Jewish businessman here, Tarrant, who emptied a submachine gun in the battle, critically injuring a policeman and a bystander, was seriously wounded.

THEY WERE a strange pair — Kathy, adored by her students and their parents, who had no idea of her role as a terrorist, and Tarrant, a tough-talking hoodlum who exhibited hatred for Jews and Negroes and a fondness for firearms even at age 13.

No one who knew Tarrant was surprised at his Ku Klux Klan activities, but all who knew Kathy, except for her associates in the Klan, were shocked to learn of her double role. Friends in Jackson, where she attended college and taught a fifth-grade class, found it incredible that she could be involved in hate actions.

"It was a Jekyll and Hyde case," says her father-in-law, Richard Ainsworth, a car dealer and retired army colonel. "Kathy was the sweetest person you would ever meet anywhere, but she just got brainwashed by her mother and other people. Her mother is anti-Negro and anti-Semite — just the worst you ever saw."

The mother, Mrs. Margaret Capomacchia of Miami, a native of Hungary, is an outspoken anti-Semite who had told acquaintances her daughter died fighting for what she believed in. "She was just as satisfied as I was that she had died in the middle of church," Ainsworth said.

Kathy had friends who range from Alton Tate, the highly respected religion editor of the Miami Herald, to Sam H. Bow-

IN 1963, when Murphy High School was desegregated, Tarrant led a violent demonstration of 300 of the school's 2,000 students. The students ran wild, racing around police lines, tearing down fences and yelling, "two-four-six-eight, hell no, we won't integrate." Tarrant was one of 54 students arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Tarrant came under the influence of extremists in Mobile and Mississippi. On June 11, 1964, at the age of 17, he was arrested in the company of Robert M. Smith, then 39, Mobile leader of the National States Rights party, and charged with

possessing an illegal weapon — a sawed-off shotgun. Tarrant pleaded guilty to the weapons charge in federal court in Mobile. On Dec. 21, 1967, Tarrant and Klan Wizard Sam Bowers, 43, were arrested in Collins, Miss., in a car which had been stolen in Memphis. A submachine gun was found on the seat.

The FBI traced the weapon, and found it had been stolen in 1958 from a National Guard Armory in Mobile. (The FBI has information that gun raids on a number of guard armories in the south have been the work of Klan groups.) Kathy and Tarrant had been close associates long before the

Meridian violence. When Tarrant's picture appeared in a Jackson newspaper, Kathy's husband remembered that he had met the youth several months earlier while visiting with his wife in the Mobile home of Sidney Crockett Barnes, a house painter known to police as an extreme anti-Semite.

Barnes, 63, and his wife had strong ties with both Kathy and Tarrant. The couple moved to Mobile in 1964 from Miami, where they were close friends of Kathy's mother. Barnes told Ainsworth that Tarrant "is like a son to me." When the Ainsworths married, Barnes

gave Kathy away. AFTER VISITING Barnes last summer, shortly before her marriage, Kathy told a friend she had come to believe as he did, that an internal Jewish Communist conspiracy threatened the country.

Mrs. Capomacchia and Tarrant's father have been bitter about what happened at Meridian. "No one can tell me the truth about how my daughter died but her and she's dead," she told a reporter. She refused to say anything else, but Adon Tate of Miami said she told him "Kathy stuck her neck out and if more people stuck their necks out this country wouldn't be in the mess it's in."



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