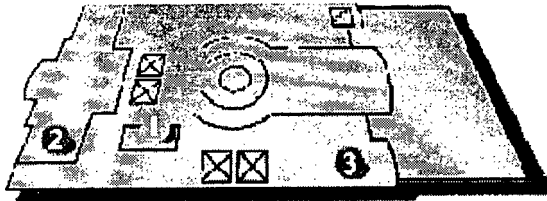


on-line tour

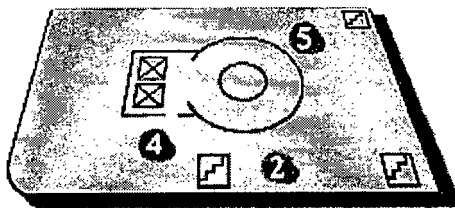
The Museum of Tolerance is a high tech, hands-on experiential museum that focuses on two themes through unique interactive exhibits: the dynamics of racism and prejudice in America and the history of the Holocaust - the ultimate example of man's inhumanity to man.

Click on any number below to start your on-line tour!



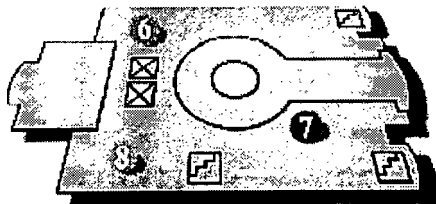
Lobby Level

- 1 Admission and Information
- 2 Theater
- 3 Museum Bookstore



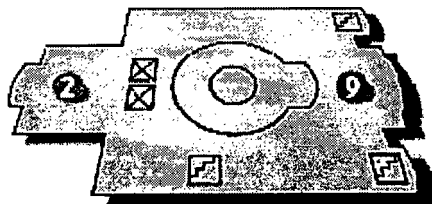
Museum Level

- 2 Theater
- 4 Tolerancenter
- 5 The Holocaust Section



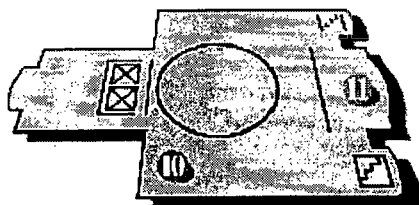
Second Level

- 6 Artifacts & Documents of the Holocaust
- 7 Multimedia Work Stations
Workstations are located throughout the Second Level
- 8 Research Room



Third Level

- 2 Auditorium
- 9 Special Exhibition Gallery
Gallery area located throughout the Third Level



- 10 Gift Galleria
- 11 Cafeteria
- 12 Elevators
- 13 Stairs

Fourth Level

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Agence France Presse
Agence France Presse

August 12, 1999 17:55 GMT

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 359 words

HEADLINE: LA shooting suspect charged with premeditated murder

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES, Aug 12

BODY:

Buford Furrow, chief suspect in the shooting spree at a Jewish community center near here, was charged with a variety of federal and state crimes that could make him eligible for the death penalty, officials announced Thursday.

Los Angeles said Furrow, 37, was charged with first-degree murder for the killing of a postal worker shortly after the rampage at the North Valley Jewish Community Center.

State authorities also lodged five counts of attempted first degree murder for the shooting at the community center Tuesday. Five people were wounded in that shooting, including three young children.

The state murder charges in the death of Joseph Ilete, an Asian-American US postal worker, could lead to the death penalty, said Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti.

"We believe this was a hate crime," Garcetti said of the murder, adding that under California law, that "would make (Furrow) eligible for the death penalty."

US Attorney Alejandro Mayorkas said Furrow would also face federal charges for the killing of the mailman and for illegal possession of a firearm.

Mayorkas said federal officials were still weighing evidence before deciding whether to charge Furrow with a federal hate crime.

"If that evidence so warrants, we will file federal civil rights charges," he told reporters here.

Mayorkas said Furrow acknowledged to investigators that he shot the mailman and targeted him because he was not white.

"He stated that the postal worker was a good target of opportunity because he was 'nonwhite' and worked for the federal government," the federal prosecutor said.

Furrow indicated that Ilete appeared to be Hispanic or Asian-American.

In his statement to authorities, Furrow said he asked the mailman to accept a

Agence France Presse, August 12, 1999

letter, and when the postman agreed, Furrow pulled out an Austrian-made Glock pistol and shot him twice. He shot him several times more as he was attempting to flee.

Furrow escaped a police dragnet by taking two cabs for an 800-dollar, 440-kilometer (275-mile) ride east from California to Las Vegas, Nevada, and surrendered shortly before 8:55 a.m. (1555 GMT) Wednesday.

jls/bok/rl

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Agence France Presse
Agence France Presse

August 12, 1999 16:49 GMT

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 718 words

HEADLINE: Authorities weigh charges against LA shooting suspect

BYLINE: Jean-Loup Sense

DATELINE: = (PICTURES)

BODY:

=

LOS ANGELES, Aug 12 (AFP) - Authorities were weighing a variety of state and federal charges Thursday against the suspect who stands accused of wounding five at a Jewish community center and then killing a US postal worker.

Buford Furrow, 37, was returned to Los Angeles late Wednesday from Las Vegas, Nevada, where he had turned himself in to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

His return came at the request of California authorities, who had issued a warrant charging Furrow with five counts of attempted murder in the shooting rampage at the North Valley Jewish Community Center, where five people including three small children were wounded.

Federal authorities said they planned to charge Furrow also with the murder of Joseph Iletto, an Asian-American US postal worker who apparently crossed his path about one hour after the shooting rampage.

Furrow escaped a police dragnet by taking two cabs for an 800-dollar, 440-kilometer (275-mile) ride east from California and surrendered shortly before 8:55 a.m. (1555 GMT) Wednesday, the FBI said.

Of the injured, a six-year-old boy who underwent hours of abdominal surgery on Tuesday was listed in critical but stable condition. Three others were listed in fair or good condition early Thursday and a 68-year-old receptionist, was sent home from the hospital.

Court records from Washington state show Furrow was arrested in October 1998 after he tried to have himself committed at a psychiatric hospital in Kirkland, near Seattle, and pulled a knife on staff members.

According to the records, he told staff he had experienced urges to shoot people and was feeling suicidal. While being interviewed he asked for his car keys to be given back to him and had his request denied.

The court documents say he then pointed a knife at a female staff member he

Agence France Presse, August 12, 1999

said "Give me the ... keys ... or I will cut you up."

An affidavit filed in Washington state following the incident quotes Furrow telling authorities "Sometimes I feel like I could just lose it and kill people."

Furrow's history of neo-Nazi links included working for the Idaho-based Aryan Nations group as a security guard, according to organizations that monitor so-called hate groups.

Earlier this year, Furrow paid a visit to the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, where officials say they suspect he was testing their security.

According to Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in Montgomery, Alabama, which maintains a database on white supremacists, Furrow had longstanding links with racist and anti-Semitic groups.

The SPLC has a photo of him in a Nazi-like uniform taken in 1995 when he was a "first lieutenant" in an Idaho-based group, Potok said.

Police said they found anti-Semitic literature along with boxes containing more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition, a camouflage-style bulletproof vest and three smoke grenades in his red Chevrolet van after the shooting.

One of the books, "War Cycles, Peace Cycles" propounds what it and many adherents call "Christian Identity" theology, holding that Jews are the "biological children of Satan" and non-whites are "mud people," Potok said.

The book was written by anti-Semitic author Richard Kelly Hoskins, who also wrote "Vigilantes of Christendom" advocating the killing of minorities, including Jews and gays.

The shooting at the Jewish Community Center was only the latest of three high-profile attacks against Jews in the United States in the last six weeks, all believed by authorities to have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

Six Orthodox Jews were shot July 2 with automatic firearms as they returned from prayers at a Chicago neighborhood synagogue, in four separate incidents within two blocks of each other. All were injured, but none died.

Two weeks earlier, on June 18, three synagogues were fire-bombed in predawn attacks just minutes apart in Sacramento, California. No one was hurt. Fliers left at the scene accused "The International Jewsmedia" of evil conspiracies.

Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan expressed relief after Furrow's surrender: "Our community can rest assured that he will not bring any more harm to our children and to other innocent Angelenos." He added "Let us not let this incident cause us to lead our lives in terror."

jls-bok/

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 U.P.I.
United Press International

August 12, 1999, Thursday, BC cycle -14:52 Eastern Time

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 1779 words

HEADLINE: UPI Focus) Supremacist admits killing mailman

BYLINE: BY TERRI VERMEULEN

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES, Aug. 12

BODY:

Federal prosecutors say the white supremacist charged with spraying a Jewish community center in Los Angeles with bullets and wounding five people, including three young boys, told FBI agents he gunned down a mailman minutes later because he was ''non-white'' and worked for the federal government. U.S. Attorney Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters today that 37-year-old Buford O. Furrow Jr. admitted to using a 9mm pistol to shoot U.S. Postal Service letter carrier Joseph Ileteo 10 times on Tuesday and said the Philippine-born man was a good ''target of opportunity to kill'' because he appeared to be Hispanic or Asian. The prosecutor says Furrow told investigators he asked the mailman to mail a letter for him and pulled a 9mm Glock pistol out of his pocket when the mailman agreed. He said Furrow admitted shooting Ileteo twice and then firing into his back as he tried to run away. Mayorkas refused to confirm reports that Furrow has also confessed to the shootings at the North Valley Jewish Community Center, which wounded five people, four of whom remained hospitalized today. Furrow is also accused of carjacking a Toyota from a woman driver during the one-hour crime spree in the San Fernando Valley. Los Angeles County prosecutors have charged Furrow with one count of murder with the special circumstances allegations that the killing was a hate crime and occurred while he was fleeing from a robbery, as well as five counts of attempted murder and one count of carjacking. Federal prosecutors have charged him with one count of murder for killing a federal employee in the line of duty and being a felon in possession of a gun. Furrow could face the death penalty in both cases. Mayorkas and Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti have formed a joint task force to prosecute Furrow, who surrendered at the FBI's headquarters in Las Vegas after taking two taxi cabs there from Los Angeles while police were in the midst of a nationwide manhunt for him. Furrow was photographed smirking as he was led from a Las Vegas courthouse and while he was being driven to jail after being flown by military helicopter back to Los Angeles. Authorities say Furrow allegedly carjacked the Toyota after abandoning the red van he apparently drove from Washington state, which was found to contain a cache of weapons, ammunition and survivalist literature. Mayorkas says several firearms, including a 9mm handgun, were found in the Toyota, which was abandoned in the parking lot of a hotel in the Chatsworth area. Furrow has long-time links to such white supremacist, anti-government groups as the Aryan Nation and The Order, whose members assassinated a Jewish radio talk show host in Denver several years ago. The Washington state man pleaded guilty to second-degree assault after being

United Press International, August 12, 1999

charged last November and was sentenced to five months in jail, but was released on probation. Mayorkas says ''the crimes that were committed Tuesday appear to be targeted to members of particular minority groups,'' and investigators are gathering more evidence to determine if Furrow should also face federal civil rights charges. Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles says a docent is ''absolutely certain'' that she saw Furrow at the center's Museum of Tolerance several months ago and that his behavior was ''very erratic.'' The docent called security officers, but he was gone by the time they arrived. ---

Copyright 1999 by United Press International. All rights reserved.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Associated Press
AP Online

August 12, 1999; Thursday 14:49 Eastern Time

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 960 words

HEADLINE: L.A. Suspect Charged With Murder

BYLINE: DARA AKIKO WILLIAMS

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

A white supremacist told the FBI that he killed a Filipino-American postal worker because he was nonwhite and worked for the federal government, authorities said today as more charges were filed in that killing and a bloody attack on a Jewish center.

U.S. Attorney Alejandro Mayorkas revealed a detailed account of the murder of postal worker Joseph Santos Ilete shortly after county prosecutors filed new state charges against Buford O. Furrow Jr., 37.

The new charges include first-degree murder and five counts of attempted murder all alleged as hate crimes based on race, nationality or religion.

According to the prosecutor, Furrow confessed to killing Ilete shortly after the shootings that wounded five at the North Valley Jewish Community Center a few miles away.

Mayorkas said Furrow saw Ilete as a "target of opportunity."

Furrow told authorities he saw the postal worker standing next to his van and asked if Ilete would mail a letter for him. When he agreed, Furrow pulled out a gun and shot him 10 times. Ilete tried to run away, but Furrow shot him again and watched him fall to the ground face down. He then fled in a stolen Toyota.

He told investigators that he thought Ilete was Hispanic or Asian.

Ilete's relatives at his mother's home in Monterey Park, a city near Los Angeles, could not bear to watch the prosecutors' televised news conference. "It's hard for us to hear," cousin Thomas Tiangco said, his eyes filling with tears. "It hurts."

As for the shooting at the Jewish center, Mayorkas said additional evidence was being gathered and "we will file federal civil rights charges if the evidence so warrants."

Furrow, shackled and handcuffed, was led into a courtroom late this morning for arraignment on the federal charges. Looking around at the standing-room only

AP Online, August 12, 1999

crowd of mostly reporters he smiled and said to his public defender, ''They all like me.''

Chief Magistrate Judge Carolyn Turchin refused bail.

The district attorney's state complaint alleged that Ileta ''was intentionally killed because of his race or nationality.'' The so-called ''enhancement'' to the murder count the allegation of a hate crime could make Furrow eligible for the death penalty.

Furrow was charged with the attempted murders of Isabelle Shalometh, 68, a receptionist at the center; counselor Mindy Finkelstein, 16; and three little boys, Benjamin Kadish, Joshua Stepakoff and James Zidell. Benjamin was the most seriously wounded and remained in critical condition today.

County prosecutors alleged that Furrow committed the crimes ''because of the victims' religion or ancestry or perceived religion or ancestry.''

Furrow was also charged with carjacking.

Furrow, who surrendered to the FBI in Las Vegas, was brought back to Los Angeles Wednesday night aboard a U.S. Customs helicopter after waiving extradition.

Authorities said Furrow fled to Las Vegas by taxi a 275-mile trip that involved two cabs after Tuesday's shootings. He spent the night at a hotel, then walked into an FBI office and confessed to both the center shooting and the slaying of the mailman, authorities said.

''You're looking for me I killed the kids in Los Angeles,'' an FBI source quoted Furrow as saying. The source said Furrow assumed he had killed some children.

He also told investigators ''he wanted this to be a wake-up call to America to kill Jews,'' an FBI source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At his federal court appearance, Furrow sat expressionless as the charges were read, said his attorney, Art Allen. Asked if he understood the charges, he answered: ''Yes, I do.''

Shackled at the feet and cuffed at the wrists, Furrow then walked down the steps of the courthouse to the jeers of a bystander who rushed up and shouted: ''You're a coward! You are a coward!''

Furrow looked at him and smiled, and was then hustled away.

Last fall, Furrow tried to commit himself at the Fairfax Psychiatric Hospital in the Seattle suburbs, but got in trouble when he pulled a knife on a nurse. He pleaded guilty to second-degree assault, served about five months in jail and was released on May 21.

The balding suspect also belonged to the Aryan Nations group in 1995, said Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which maintains a database of white supremacists.

AP Online, August 12, 1999

After the center shooting, police said, Furrow abandoned a van full of ammunition, survival paraphernalia and a book linked to white supremacist thought.

'He certainly had the wherewithal to create a greater tragedy than the one we had,' Police Chief Bernard Parks said.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said Furrow's comments upon surrendering proved the attack was a hate crime.

'To these kinds of demented and warped minds, having a few hours under the sun where the whole world is paying attention to you is really tantalizing,' Hier said.

Furrow lived at times in Metaline Falls, Wash., once a haven for the supremacist group The Order and had a relationship with Debbie Mathews, widow of Order founder Robert J. Mathews. Mathews was killed in 1984 when his hideout caught fire during a shootout with federal agents on Whidbey Island in Washington state.

The community center in suburban Granada Hills, a leafy middle-class neighborhood, remained closed today, guarded by police and security officers. It was expected to reopen Monday.

Instead, the children assembled next door in St. Andrews and St. Charles Episcopal Church, which shares its space with Temple Beth Torah a refuge for children the day of the rampage.

'Nobody's going to scare us away,' J. Eliad, the father of a 4-year-old girl, said Wednesday. 'We're going to be here for good.'

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

9TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Content and programming copyright 1999 Cable News Network
Transcribed under license by Federal Document Clearing
House, Inc. Formatting copyright 1999 Federal Document
Clearing House, Inc. All rights reserved. No quotes from the
materials contained herein may be used in any media without
attribution to Cable News Network. This transcript may not
be copied or resold in any media.

CNN

SHOW: CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL 13:00 pm ET

August 12, 1999; Thursday 1:00 pm Eastern Time

Transcript # 99081202V54

SHOW-TYPE: LIVE EVENT

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 4880 words

HEADLINE: Furrow Charges: 1 Count Murder, 5 Counts Attempted Murder

BYLINE: Lou Waters, Jim Hill, Greta Van Susteren

HIGHLIGHT: In Los Angeles, federal and state prosecutors hold a news briefing outlining the charges facing Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr. The state is filing charges of one count of murder, dealing with the postal worker; five counts of attempted murder, dealing with the wounded people from the Jewish community center; as well as, one count of carjacking, when Furrow allegedly left his van and carjacked another vehicle as part of his alleged get away. On the federal side, Furrow faces two counts of felon in possession of a firearm; the second count, murder of a federal worker.

BODY:

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

LOU WATERS, CNN ANCHOR: We're awaiting the start of a news conference in Los Angeles, where federal and state prosecutors are expected to outline the charges facing Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr. Furrow sits in L.A.'s Federal Detention Center after waiving extradition from Las Vegas, the site of his abrupt surrender yesterday. The self-described white separatist is suspected of shooting up a Jewish community center in Los Angeles, wounding three children, a teenager and an elderly woman. Allegedly, Furrow shot and killed a letter-carrier, just a short time later.

We have extensive coverage, beginning now with CNN's Jim Hill, who joins us from Los Angeles. Jim?

JIM HILL, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Lou, we have some late breaking news on this subject. We've learned that new charges have, in fact, been filed against

CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL, August 12, 1999

Buford Furrow. Those being state charges filed by the county district county attorney here in Los Angeles. They are one count of murder, dealing with the postal worker; five counts of attempted murder, dealing with, of course the wounded people from the Jewish community center; as well as, one count of carjacking, when Furrow allegedly left his van and carjacked another vehicle as part of his alleged get away.

Now we do expect at the news conference any time now to learn more about these charges, but CNN has been able to confirm that these charges were filed by the county district attorney here in Los Angeles.

Now, on the federal side, this man faces two counts of, one, felon in possession of a firearm; the second count, murder of a federal worker. And this worker was a U.S. Postal carrier named Joseph Iletto. He was shot and killed by numerous gunshot wounds to the body and to the head, we understand, while working his mail route, about eight miles from where the wounded people were shot at the Jewish community center.

Now, federal authorities have charged him with that crime, and members of his family are reacting to this whole situation. They are calling a -- recalling, really, this man Joseph Iletto, a Philippine born postal carrier here in the U.S., as a kind and gentle man. And they also lament the fact that on the route where he was killed, it was a route he normally didn't even work.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) DEENA ILETO, VICTIM'S SISTER-IN-LAW: He wasn't even scheduled to work that day.

CARMINA ILETO, VICTIM'S SISTER: It was a different route and they say that no one routinely covers that, anybody -- it's just random.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HILL: Now we continue to learn more information about Furrow, himself. He's a man with a very troubled past. A man with alleged links to white supremacist groups, in particular the Aryan Nations group, which is headquartered in the northern part of Idaho. And Furrow, himself, having lived, at last report, in the Olympia, Washington area.

We also have some information on a court appearance he made in 1998, in Kings County Superior Court, that would be Seattle, Washington, when he was charged with assault. He allegedly made a statement in court, and I can quote now: "Sometimes I feel like I could just lose it and kill people." That a quote from 1998, when Buford Furrow was in court in Seattle area.

He pled guilty to assault charges, served some jail time, five months I believe, and was then placed on probation, and was in fact on probation at the time he allegedly committed the crimes here in Los Angeles.

We're awaiting the news conference. I'm Jim Hill reporting live from Los Angeles.

WATERS: Jim, the issue of hate crimes, we heard Janet Reno just a moment ago say that it appeared these shootings were motivated by heat -- by hate, excuse me. Have you heard anything about federal authorities planning any hate crimes

charges in this case?

HILL: Lou, no I have not. As a matter of fact, both the federal and the local officials, the last couple of days, have stayed well aware from declaring this a hate crime. Now, Janet Reno saying that there are aspects of this that make it appear to have been motivated by hate. That's the closest we've heard any official come to declaring this a hate crime, but even in that statement, Janet Reno appears to stop just short of actually calling it a hate crime under the federal statutes.

So, at this news conference that we are awaiting, it'll be interesting to see whether there's is a contemplation of actually filing the charges under a hate crime.

WATERS: All right, Jim, we are going to the news conference, which is now getting under way at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles.

(JOINED IN PROGRESS)

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS, U.S. ATTORNEY: ... filed a criminal complaint charging Buford Furrow with the murder of a federal employee, while that federal employee was engaged in the performance of his official duties and with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

There is evidence that the murder was racially motivated. We are gathering additional evidence of the motive of the shootings at the Jewish community center. We will file federal civil rights charges if the evidence so warrants.

Before I describe the charges that we have filed and the evidence in support of those charges, I want to express a sentiment on behalf of all federal, state and local law enforcement. Along with the representatives that are here with me today: our district attorney, Gil Garcetti; Commander Peggy York (ph) of the Los Angeles Police Department; John Sheman, the acting director in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; John Freeman, the special agent in charge of the United States Postal Inspection Service; and Richard Kurd (ph), the special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

I want to say that our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers go to the family of Joseph Santos Ileto, the mail carrier who was murdered and shot to death on Tuesday, and to the children and to the other victims of Tuesday's tragic events.

We are horrified by the events. You have our commitment, as the work of law enforcement over the past 48 hours clearly demonstrates, that we will do everything in our power to bring justice to this situation.

Late yesterday afternoon, this United States attorney's office filed a criminal complaint charging Buford O. Furrow with the murder of Joseph Santos Ileto. The criminal complaint specifically charges that, on August 10th, 1999, defendant Buford Furrow willfully, deliberately, maliciously and with premeditation and malice aforethought killed Joseph Santos Ileto, a United States Postal Service carrier who was engaged in the performance of his official duties.

CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL, August 12, 1999

The criminal complaint further charges that law enforcement officers involved in the investigation collected the following evidence. Mr. Iletto was dressed in his full postal uniform when he was found lying murdered in a driveway in Chatsworth, California. In the street and in the dirt near his postal vehicle, bullet shell casings were recovered. There were nine shell casings, all .9-

millimeter recovered from the scene. Mr. Iletto was shot in the chest area and in the back of his head.

Several firearms were recovered from a 1999 Toyota Camry that was located in the parking lot of the 7-Star Suite Hotel in Chatsworth, which is located directly across the street from the postal facility where Mr. Iletto worked.

One of those firearms was a Glock model 26 .9-millimeter handgun. That handgun had one bullet in the chamber and none in the magazine. The nine shell casings found at the crime scene were consistent with the ammunition that would be used in the Glock handgun that was found in the Toyota Camry.

At approximately 8:55 yesterday morning, Buford Furrow turned himself into the FBI office in Las Vegas. He made the following statements, among others: that on August 10th, 1999, he shot a postal carrier in Los Angeles, California 10 times. That he was driving a new Toyota and happened to see a United States postal carrier standing on the street near a postal van.

He stated that the postal worker was a good, quote, unquote, "target of opportunity" to kill because he was, quote, unquote, "non-white and worked for the federal government." According to Furrow, the mail carrier appeared to be Hispanic or Asian.

Furrow further stated that he exited his car and approached the mail carrier. He was carrying a loaded Glock model 26 in his back pocket. He asked if the mail carrier could mail a letter for him. When the mail carrier agreed, Furrow pulled out the Glock and shot the mail carrier two times.

The mail carrier bent over and attempted to run away. Furrow stated that he then shot the mail carrier a few times in the back until he saw the mail carrier fall to the ground faced down. At that point, Furrow got back into the Toyota and drove away. He stated that he had the Glock with him. He parked the Toyota at a hotel in the Los Angeles area, abandoning some of his possessions in the car and then leaving on foot.

That is the substance of the evidence that we have included in the charge of murder filed against Buford Furrow. The charge carries with it a maximum penalty of death.

Buford Furrow was arraigned yesterday in federal court in Las Vegas. He waived his right to an identity hearing -- an identity hearing and to contest his removal to Los Angeles. He has been transported to Los Angeles and is currently in federal custody here.

Before I turn the microphone over to Mr. Garcetti, I want to express to all of you and to the public a message that must resonate throughout our communities and our nation. The crimes that were committed Tuesday appear to be targeted at members of particular minority groups. It is not, however, only the members

CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL, August 12, 1999

of those groups that are the victims of these crimes. It is all of us. Crimes with racial motives tear at the heart of our nation and are an assault against our foundation of liberty and equality for all.

The federal government is committed to protecting and vindicating the civil rights of all our citizens. The federal government is equally committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of it's employees. Mr. Iletto's family should know that we will do everything in our power to bring his killer to justice.

On behalf of the United States Department of Justice, I want to commend the Los Angeles Police Department under the direction of Chief Bernard Parks and all federal, state and local law enforcement for their outstanding work. This office is working very closely with Mr. Garcetti and his office together to ensure that the full strength of law enforcement is brought to bear so that justice is done in this case.

I would like to now introduce our district attorney, Gil Garcetti, who will speak of our collaboration and the work of his office. Thank you.

GIL GARCETTI, LOS ANGELES CO. DISTRICT ATTY.: Good morning -- excuse me. Good morning.

Today, we announce that the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Los Angeles Office have formed a joint task force to prosecute Mr. Buford Furrow for the acts committed on August the 10th. To that end, my office, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, has filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court criminal charges against Mr. Furrow.

Mr. Furrow is charged with one count of murder with two special circumstance allegations: hate motivation and fleeing from a crime. This makes Mr. Furrow eligible under California law for the death penalty.

Mr. Furrow is also charged with five counts of attempted murder with the special allegation of the use of a gun resulting with great bodily injury and hate crime allegations. Each of these charges carries a maximum penalty of a life sentence.

Finally, Mr. Furrow is charged with one count of carjacking with a special allegation of the use of a gun.

Prosecutors from the Major Crimes Division and our Hate Crimes Suppression Unit have been working closely with their counterparts in the United States Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles Police Department, the FBI and the Postal Authorities, the ATF and other federal law enforcement agencies.

As we go forward with these prosecutions, I want to emphasize that we intend to continue working together to ensure that justice is served. As the investigation continues, we will jointly determine the best venue or venues and the appropriate timing for the prosecution of each of the crimes that we have charged.

I express my appreciation for the work of the Los Angeles Police Department, the various federal law enforcement agencies, the swift and coordinated response

of law enforcement agencies, the Los Angeles Fire Department and hospital personnel, and to this horrible tragedy in fact saved lives.

I conclude by joining my colleague, the United States attorney, Mr. Mayorkas, in expressing my sympathies to the families of our victims. We are all victims; everyone in Los Angeles County, everyone in this country is a victim. Hate crimes is something that my office has been working hard on to try and eradicate for years. This has to double our efforts. We have to understand that the pain this brings and the lasting pain that it brings. We will ensure justice in this case, but let's work to prevent further actions.

MAYORKAS: Thank you, Mr. Garcetti.

I think at this time Commander York of the Los Angeles Police Department would like to address you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Good morning.

The Los Angeles Police Department will be working very closely with both the U.S. Attorney's Office and the District Attorney's Office during the prosecution of these cases.

From the perspective of the Los Angeles Police Department, this has been an outstanding example of federal and local authorities working together to resolve very quickly this heinous crime, or these heinous crimes. We believe that the coordinated response of not only the Los Angeles Police Department, which -- and the Los Angeles Fire Department, which can be credited, I believe, with saving the life of one young victim, is really demonstrates that this city will not tolerate these kinds of crimes and that these crimes will be investigated in this manner in the future. It is our intent that we forge a cooperative effort in cases to come in the future. Thank you.

Thank you, commander.

I think now John Freeman, the special agent in charge of the United States Postal Inspection Service, will address you briefly -- John.

MAYORKAS: Thank you. Good morning, everyone.

JOHN FREEMAN, POSTAL INSPECTOR: First of all, I want to reiterate our thanks in terms of the cooperation that we received from every single agency, state, federal and local. This was swiftly brought to justice because of everybody's cooperation.

We feel a deep loss with the death of this letter carrier. We have 800,000 employees, and we take it very seriously when we lose one of them. Within a very short period of time during the investigation we knew just about everything about him, and he was truly an outstanding individual.

Not only do we feel the loss within the Postal Service, the community also feels the loss, because basically the letter carrier touches every person's lives in the United States by delivering them their mail. Most of the time it's done safely.

CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL, August 12, 1999

In honor of the letter carrier, the post master general this morning has ordered that all flags in Southern California will be flown at half mast in honor of the death of this carrier.

Again, with my colleagues, I greatly appreciate the cooperation, and justice will be done. Thank you very much.

MAYORKAS: Thank you, John. We will now open it up to questions. I should say, as many of you understand that the investigation is ongoing, and there are many questions regarding the quantity and quality of the evidence that has been obtained that we will not be able to address at this time.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: In which court will this case proceed first?

MAYORKAS: Mr. Garcetti and I are working together on that. Our offices are trying to decide that. We will make the decision that is best for law enforcement and that brings the full force of law enforcement to bear on this case. We are analyzing the statutes, the respective penalties, the quantity and quality of the evidence, and we will make our decision based upon those factors, and those factors alone.

QUESTION: When can we expect an arraignment in superior court?

GARCETTI: I would expect Mr. Furrow would be arraigned in superior court within the next few days. He's in federal custody, but we're working with the federal authorities to bring him into superior court, and he will be arraigned there within a few days.

QUESTION: Since he confessed, is there any indication of...

QUESTION: Mr. Garcetti, could you tell us in your charging of the murder, on the two specials: One is that he was fleeing after the carjacking; that's robbery. The second one: Could you elaborate on that?

GARCETTI: A hate motivation. We believe this was a hate crime, and as such, that is one of the special circumstance allegations that, if we're able to prove, would make him eligible for the death penalty.

QUESTION: Since he confessed, is there any indication of...

QUESTION: Are you going to be looking into his mental history at all in the past, and have you found anything to indicate that he had any kind of contact with the mental health facilities?

MAYORKAS: At this juncture, we're not in a position to comment. I should say, also, that we are trying to determine when exactly the arraignment here in Los Angeles will occur. We believe, now, that it is at the 2:00 calendar. However, there is a possibility that, given the swiftness of our action, he may be arraigned at 10:30, and I will advise you as soon as I, myself, know.

Yes, sir?

CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL, August 12, 1999

QUESTION: Sir, is there any legal impediment to murder charges proceeding at the same time for the same murder in state and federal court?

MAYORKAS: No.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Has Mr. Furrow made statements or have you collected any evidence suggesting that he had assistance with any other individuals who were involved in the planning or preparation?

MAYORKAS: The investigation is ongoing and we cannot comment on that.

QUESTION: Is he being kept in an sort of special isolation, suicide block, anything like that in terms of his containment here?

MAYORKAS: I do not know. He was flown to Los Angeles yesterday evening and I do not know the nature of his custodial status. I will say that the Bureau of Prisons is taking all the appropriate cautions as they always do.

Yes.

QUESTION: Hi, you mentioned the things that he told the FBI regarding the shooting of the postal worker. Did he also give extensive information about the shooting at the Jewish community center.

MAYORKAS: The statements that he made to law enforcement that we can share with you are those that I have addressed today.

QUESTION: Did he have an attorney?

QUESTION: Did he give any indication why he chose...

MAYORKAS: He did have an attorney in Las Vegas. He has not yet made his initial appearance in this district, and we do not know the status of his representation.

QUESTION: Do we have any idea why he picked Los Angeles?

MAYORKAS: We cannot comment on that at this time.

QUESTION: Do you know how he got the guns?

MAYORKAS: Similarly the investigation is ongoing. We are not in a position to comment any further.

QUESTION: Can you tell us more about the Uzi?

QUESTION: Would you elaborate one more time here on the situation why there are not civil rights violations in the hate crimes filed?

MAYORKAS: In the federal jurisdiction, we are analyzing the evidence. Additional evidence is being gathered. If that evidence so warrants, we will file federal criminal civil rights charges. We are contemplating which statutes would apply, and we are working with Mr. Garcetti to determine which

jurisdiction best and most vigorously addresses the conduct charged.

I should say, if I may, that the initial appearance is, indeed, at 10:30 this morning.

QUESTION: Do you know why he picked this Jewish community center here?

MAYORKAS: As I previously mentioned, we cannot comment on that at this time.

QUESTION: Mr. Mayorkas, you went to great pains to give us sort of a play by play, if you will, for lack of a better phrase, of how Mr. Furrow allegedly

murdered this postal worker. How would you characterize someone who committed a crime in that very deliberate way?

MAYORKAS: I have described the criminal conduct as heinous, and its results as tragic. It is not for me to comment on Mr. Furrow individually.

QUESTION: Are you saying he targeted the postal worker because he's a federal employee and because of his race?

MAYORKAS: According to the statements that Mr. Furrow made, that would be correct.

QUESTION: Where's the 10:30 arraignment?

MAYORKAS: That would be in the courtroom of Magistrate Judge Carolyn Turchin (ph) in Roybal (ph), the -- our new federal courthouse, relatively new.

QUESTION: Is there any indication he's going to fight the charges?

MAYORKAS: Excuse me, sir.

QUESTION: Can you describe or characterize in any way Mr. Furrow's demeanor after he turned himself in? Was he distraught or was he relaxed? What was his?

MAYORKAS: It wouldn't not be appropriate at this time to comment on that.

I'm sorry, sir.

QUESTION: Is there any indication he'll fight the charges since he has confessed to this?

MAYORKAS: We do not know.

QUESTION: Did he say why he choose to turn himself in?

MAYORKAS: We will not comment on any statements other than those which I have described.

One last question, I believe.

QUESTION: So his arraignment will be in federal court today and possibly superior court...

GARCETTI: Within a couple days, yes.

MAYORKAS: And we are coordinating that now, and the federal courthouse is, as all of you know, across the street.

And we thank you very much. One last question.

QUESTION: Can't you say why he choose the Jewish center? Did he give you the same details on the Jewish center as he did about the postal worker?

MAYORKAS: I'm sorry, as I've indicated before, I cannot comment on his post-arrest statements, other than -- as I already have done so.

We thank you very much.

WATERS: All right. Alejandro Mayorkas, who is the U.S. district attorney in Los Angeles, going over federal charges. Gil Garcetti, the Los Angeles County DA, going over state charges against Buford Furrow Jr., the man suspected of shooting up the North Valley Jewish Community Center on Tuesday.

Rather than going into detail on all these charges, let's call upon CNN legal analyst Greta Van Susteren in Washington.

Characterize these charges for us, Greta. I understand the state and federal charges are identical, with a couple of exceptions on the part of the state.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN, CNN LEGAL ANALYST: Well they are a little bit different because, of course, the federal government charged the first-degree murder of the postal officer. And what's interesting, Lou, is that the U.S. attorney basically repeated what was said in an affidavit filed in court. And what's so important what the U.S. attorney said is that the man who was shot and killed was in uniform, to show that this was a federal crime, a federal officer.

Of course, the other charges are state charges, and that has to do with both the attempted murder, also murder in the postal worker and the carjacking. What's also interesting is both the federal government and the state government of California are seeking the death penalty. And under the federal statute, when you kill a federal officer, you are eligible for the death penalty in the state of California, when you commit murder and you have special circumstances.

Here, what they say are the special circumstances are either hate and/or the fact that it was done during the course of a fleeing from -- and a carjacking. So those are the special circumstances to make him eligible for the death penalty in a state court.

Now, they have formed a joint task force, and why this is important is because both the U.S. attorney and the district attorney will sit down and see who has the stronger case in terms of proof. And you can expect that will be the case that will first proceed to trial if the man elects to go to trial instead of enter into a plea agreement.

WATER: So, the close cooperation that we hear both sides talking about centers on the fact that the U.S. attorney is saying that he's getting together with the L.A. County DA and they're working to bring the full force of the law

to bear on this case?

VAN SUSTEREN: Right, it's not a political decision, it's a practical decision. Look: He's charged with -- or he's going to be charged in California with different charges than the federal charges, and there are different elements of each charge. And if the evidence is particularly strong and easy to prove, for instance, under the state charges, then it would be more practical to go forward with the state charges.

They're both seeking, essentially, to have this man executed for the crimes for which we're expecting him to be charged. So, who's got the more -- who's got the stronger case? That's the practical decision, and you would expect that would be, ultimately, what the two -- what the joint task force decides to do.

WATERS: There is no particular significance, then, that Furrow is in federal custody?

VAN SUSTEREN: Well, he surrendered himself to the FBI field office in Las Vegas. That's why he's in federal custody. If he had turned himself into a district attorney in Sacramento, then he would be in state custody and you would expect Gil Garcetti would have physical custody of him. He just happened to turn himself into the feds, so they got him first. But I would expect that if the feds decide it's a stronger state case, the murder case is stronger, for whatever reason, because there's specific elements of each offense charged, I would expect him to be transferred to the state custody and he'd be tried there first.

WATERS: You know more about this than I do, but I was rather shocked at the amount of evidence being divulged by the U.S. attorney, including a statement in regard to the apparent murder of the postal worker, and yet the U.S. attorney would not comment on any statements that Furrow may have made about the Jewish community center shooting.

VAN SUSTEREN: Well, actually, I was surprised how little he said, except that I really don't expect prosecutors to show their hand, so to speak. But what the U.S. attorney did tell us about is just the information that's in this document, which is an affidavit that was filed in federal court in Las Vegas.

What the federal government had to do was they had to assert enough facts to a magistrate to detain this man. They had to say to the magistrate, this is the evidence we have: We have the evidence he's made a statement that he shot this man, that he was in full uniform, meaning that he was a federal police officer, and he laid out enough information for the magistrate to find probable cause to detain him on this federal murder charge. They don't want to tell any more information, and they don't have to, and they didn't.

You know, we have no idea whether or not this man also confessed to the activity in the Jewish community center, and that's because the prosecutor, both federal and state, have no interest in disclosing it. They only told us what's already filed in open court in Las Vegas.

WATERS: Clear up this hate business. Attorney General Janet Reno said these shootings appear to be motivated by hate, yet U.S. attorney says they need to collect further evidence in order to determine any federal civil rights laws have been broken, yet L.A. County D.A. says they're filing murder charges with

hate circumstances. Are the criteria different here?

VAN SUSTEREN: Well, not exactly. The reason that the D.A. in California does that is because that's what makes him eligible for the death penalty. You don't have to show the hate under the federal statute to get the death penalty; you just have to show that it was a federal officer.

Now, look, if the federal prosecutor decides to add the hate element to this prosecution, he really doesn't gain much. He can still get death penalty just by killing someone who's a federal officer, and if you add hate to the formula for the federal prosecution, then you're required to prove it, you're making your burden bigger, and why would you do that.

WATERS: All right, Greta Van Susteren in Washington. And we understand U.S. Attorney Mayorkas said that Furrow would be arraigned in the new federal courthouse about this time. Any development on that matter, we will check in with Jim Hill, who's on the job in Los Angeles, after we take a short break.

TO ORDER A VIDEO OF THIS TRANSCRIPT, PLEASE CALL 800-CNN-NEWS OR USE OUR SECURE ONLINE ORDER FORM LOCATED AT www.fdch.com

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

10TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Associated Press
AP Online

August 12, 1999; Thursday 12:48 Eastern Time

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 839 words

HEADLINE: Charges Filed Against L.A. Gunman

BYLINE: DARA AKIKO WILLIAMS

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

With a suspect jailed in the attack at a Jewish community center, authorities and a violence-weary public were left with a question: Why would a white supremacist allegedly travel the length of the West Coast to a quiet neighborhood to deliver 'a wake-up call to America to kill Jews?'

'We've just been asking ourselves trying to figure this out, and we can't,' said 17-year-old Maritza Tobo, who lives with her mother near the center where three children were among the wounded. 'Innocent kids? They don't do anything to anybody.'

Police say they don't know why Los Angeles was a target, but they are no longer searching for the suspect.

Buford O. Furrow Jr., 37, was brought back to Los Angeles on Wednesday night aboard a U.S. Customs helicopter after waiving extradition in Las Vegas. Hours earlier, he was charged by federal prosecutors with killing a postal worker an hour after the assault at the community center.

He faces five charges of attempted murder in that attack: three boys, a teen-age counselor and a 68-year-old receptionist were shot. The most seriously wounded, a 5-year-old boy shot twice, remained in critical condition after doctors inserted four pins in his left leg.

Authorities said Furrow fled to Las Vegas by taxi a 275-mile trip that involved two cabs after Tuesday's shootings. He spent the night at a hotel, then walked into an FBI office and confessed, authorities said.

'You're looking for me I killed the kids in Los Angeles,' an FBI source quoted Furrow as saying. The source said Furrow assumed he had killed some children.

He also told investigators 'he wanted this to be a wake-up call to America to kill Jews,' an FBI source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Furrow was charged with murder and illegal possession of a firearm in the slaying of Joseph Ito, 39, the postal worker killed after the center

AP Online, August 12, 1999

shootings. Prosecutors could seek the death penalty.

Furrow has also admitted to shooting Iletto, Postal Inspector Pamela Prince said.

At his federal court appearance, Furrow sat expressionless as the charges were read, said his attorney, Art Allen. Asked if he understood the charges, he answered: ''Yes, I do.''

Shackled at the feet and cuffed at the wrists, Furrow then walked down the steps of the courthouse to the jeers of a bystander who rushed up and shouted: ''You're a coward! You are a coward!'

Furrow looked at him and smiled, and was then hustled away.

Late last year, Furrow tried to commit himself at the Fairfax Psychiatric Hospital in the Seattle suburbs, but got in trouble when he pulled a knife on a nurse. He pleaded guilty to second-degree assault, served about five months in jail and was released on May 21.

The balding suspect also belonged to the Aryan Nations group in 1995, said Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which maintains a database of white supremacists.

''I have a picture of him, Furrow, in a Nazi outfit,''' Potok said.

After the center shooting, police said, Furrow abandoned a van full of ammunition, survival paraphernalia and a book linked to white supremacist thought.

''He certainly had the wherewithal to create a greater tragedy than the one we had,''' Police Chief Bernard Parks said.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said Furrow's comments upon surrendering proved the attack was a hate crime, though it was not immediately clear whether federal civil rights charges will be filed against the suspect.

''To these kinds of demented and warped minds, having a few hours under the sun where the whole world is paying attention to you is really tantalizing,''' Hier said.

Furrow lived at times in Metaline Falls, Wash., once a haven for the supremacist group The Order and had a relationship with Debbie Mathews, widow of Order founder Robert J. Mathews. Mathews was killed in 1984 when his hideout caught fire during a shootout with federal agents on Whidbey Island in Washington state.

But most are at a loss to explain why the North Valley Jewish Community Center was targeted for an attack in which 70 shots were sprayed around the lobby.

''The randomness is the reason it's so dangerous,''' Hier said.

Furrow may have visited the Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance two or

AP Online, August 12, 1999

three months ago, Hier said. Staff members recall him entering the museum with a tour group but later wandering off by himself, ignoring exhibits that focus on the Holocaust.

Security was alerted, but the man had disappeared by the time guards went to look for him.

The community center in suburban Granada Hills, a leafy middle-class neighborhood, remained closed today, guarded by police and security officers.

Instead, the children assembled next door in St. Andrews and St. Charles Episcopal Church, which shares its space with Temple Beth Torah a refuge for children the day of the rampage.

'Nobody's going to scare us away,' J. Eliad, the father of a 4-year-old girl, said Wednesday. 'We're going to be here for good.'

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

11TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur
Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 12, 1999, Thursday, BC Cycle
18:47 Central European Time

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 799 words

HEADLINE: ROUNDUP: White supremacist gunman charged in Los Angeles

DATELINE: Los Angeles

BODY:

The white supremacist who attacked a Jewish community center and admitted to murdering a postal worker was charged Thursday with one count of murder and five counts of attempted murder for the shooting rampage.

Buford O. Furrow was transferred by military helicopter from Las Vegas to Los Angeles where prosecutors brought the charges against him. Officials said he would be eligible for the death penalty based on the state and federal charges.

U.S. District Attorney Alejandro Mayorkas said the charges included one count of murder, with the accompanying allegation of hate motivation and fleeing from the crime, and five counts of attempted murder also motivated by hate.

"The charges carry a maximum penalty of death," Mayorkas said. According to legal experts the inclusion of the hate motivation was significant because it indicated the intention of prosecutors to seek the death penalty for the suspect.

The announcement of the charges at a morning press conference in Los Angeles marked the first time details were made available of the murder of the postal worker, which followed the shooting attack on the Jewish center in which five people including three boys under the age of eight, were injured. One boy remains in critical condition.

Mayorkas said that Furrow had confessed fully to the murder of Joseph Iteito, a 39-year-old Filipino-American postal worker.

"He said that he was a good target of opportunity because he was non-white and worked for the federal government," Mayorkas said referring to Furrow's confession.

"He asked him to mail a letter and when he agreed he shot him twice. When Iteito tried to run away Furrow said that he shot him a few times in the back."

Furrow was a member of the extremist group Aryan Nation and had been well known to watchdog groups who follow violent racist organisations. Despite his allegiance to the extremist organisation police believe he acted alone.

Deutsche Presse-Agentur, August 12, 1999

Earlier, Furrow reportedly told the FBI that he wanted to issue a "wake-up call to America to kill Jews".

Furrow gave himself up to FBI agents in the organisation's field office in Las Vegas Wednesday morning as the police dragnet for him widened.

Furrow's surrender came less than 24 hours after a gunman burst in to the community centre in Granada Hills north of Los Angeles and indiscriminately fired off up to 50 rounds from a weapon believed to be an Uzi submachine gun.

Five people - a receptionist, a 16-year-old teaching assistant, and three children ages six to eight were injured in the attack.

Dozens of other children were led to safety by police as crowds of distraught parents rushed to the scene to find out if their children had been injured.

Furrow was also charged with illegal possession of a firearm in the killing of postal worker Iletto. He was gunned down about an hour after the shootings at the North Valley day-care centre in Granada Hills.

Security at Jewish facilities across the United States was heightened Thursday in the wake of the shooting and a series of attacks on synagogues in California in recent weeks.

Despite mounting evidence that Furrow had links to white supremacist groups, police believe the gunman was acting on his own.

After the shooting police recovered hand grenades, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and a book about white supremacists.

Furrow is also reported to have recently served a jail term for assaulting employees of a psychiatric centre and as a result was barred by federal law from possessing guns.

According to court records, he told police last year that he feared he would go on a shooting rampage. People who know Furrow described him as having an "explosive temperament" and a long history of psychological problems.

Furrow had been convicted of a felony assault and released on probation after pulling a knife on staffers at a psychiatric hospital in Washington state in November last year, according to the Seattle Times.

The paper said he had once lived in rural Washington with the widow of Robert Mathews, founder of the neo-Nazi group The Order. The Order claimed responsibility for the 1983 murder of Alan Berg, the Jewish host of a Denver radio talk show.

President Bill Clinton said the motives of the gunman for the Los Angeles shootings appeared to be deeply disturbing.

"I can only hope that this latest incident will intensify our resolve to make America a safer place, a place of healing across the lines that divide us," the president said.

Deutsche Presse-Agentur, August 12, 1999

First Lady Hillary Clinton said the incident had shocked the "core of the nation".

She told a news conference in Los Angeles: "I hope our outrage will strengthen our resolve to address the scourges of gun violence and hate crime in America today." dpa mb ag ps

EDITOR-NOTE:

Eds: adds quotes, details

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

13TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Agence France Presse
Agence France Presse

August 12, 1999 08:42 GMT

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 748 words

HEADLINE: LA shooting suspect surrenders -- neo-Nazi links seen

DATELINE: = (PICTURES)

BODY:

= By Jean-Loup Sense

LOS ANGELES, Aug 12 (AFP) - A man suspected of shooting five people at a Jewish community center near Los Angeles surrendered to police, amid reports that he was an anti-Semite with a history of mental problems who had ties with neo-Nazi groups.

The suspect, Buford Furrow, fled Los Angeles after the Tuesday shooting, and surrendered to Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) agents in Las Vegas the following day.

Furrow escaped a police dragnet by taking two cabs for an 800-dollar, 440-kilometer (273-mile) ride east from California, the FBI said. He surrendered shortly before 8:55 a.m. (1555 GMT) Wednesday.

Furrow reportedly told FBI agents that he was sending "a wake-up call to America to kill Jews" when he allegedly entered the North Valley Jewish Community Center armed with a 9mm Uzi and sprayed the lobby with more than 70 bullets.

One of his victims, a five-year-old boy, was reported in critical but stable condition early Thursday after being hit in the abdomen and the leg, and losing 30 percent of his blood.

Two other boys, aged six and eight, and a girl, 16, were listed in stable condition, while the center's receptionist, 68, left hospital Tuesday.

Federal agents quickly charged Furrow, 37, with murdering Joseph Iletto, 39, a US postal worker who apparently crossed his path about one hour after the shooting rampage.

"So far he's been very cooperative," Los Angeles Police Sergeant John Pasquariello told reporters outside the FBI's offices in Las Vegas, adding that he had "no idea" why Furrow had travelled there.

Late Wednesday Furrow was returned to Los Angeles on a helicopter, where he faces five counts of attempted murder. Authorities are likely to formally press charges on Thursday.

Agence France Presse, August 12, 1999

"Our community can rest assured that he will not bring any more harm to our children and to other innocent Angelenos," Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan told city residents after Furrow's arrest.

"Let us not let this incident cause us to lead our lives in terror," he added.

Furrow, who has a history of mental illness, had longstanding links with racist and anti-Semitic groups, said Mark Potok of Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, which maintains a database of white supremacists.

The SPLC has a photo of Furrow in a Nazi-like uniform taken in 1995, when he was a "first lieutenant" in the Idaho-based group, said Potok.

Police said they found anti-Semitic literature, along with boxes containing more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition, a camouflage-style bullet-proof vest and three smoke grenades, in his red Chevrolet van after the shooting.

One of the books, "War Cycles, Peace Cycles," propounds a "Christian Identity" theology, a "belligerent religion" which holds that Jews are the "biological children of Satan" and that non-whites are "mud people," Potok said.

"They believe that in order for Christ to return to Earth, they must sweep the Earth of Satanic forces," he said.

An official with the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles said Furrow visited the site a month ago, and his odd behavior caught the attention of guards.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, a director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center that manages the museum, told AFP that Furrow came with a group but did not look at the exhibits or seem interested in the museum, which is devoted to the history of racism and intolerance in the United States and the Holocaust in Europe.

The guards recognized Furrow in pictures broadcast on television after the shooting, Cooper said. On Wednesday, the museum boosted its security with both electronic surveillance and additional guards.

"What we have heard about the suspect and his motives is deeply disturbing. Nothing could be further from the values we honor," President Bill Clinton said Wednesday.

Nevertheless authorities still refused to say whether the shooting was a hate crime, targetting Jews.

"That area is something we can't ignore," said LA police chief Bernard Parks said.

Furrow was apparently aware of his mental problems: late last year he tried to commit himself at a local psychiatric hospital in his home state of Washington, and at one point he pulled a knife on several staff members.

Furrow was charged with felony assault on November 2, 1998, three days after the hospital had obtained a restraining order against him. He pleaded guilty to

Agence France Presse, August 12, 1999

second-degree assault, was sentenced to five months in jail and was released on probation.

jls-bur-ch/ri

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

17TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

August 12, 1999, Thursday, CONSTITUTION EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 862 words

SERIES: Metro

HEADLINE: Killing worsens L.A. toll;
Supremacist held in Jewish center spree also may have shot postal worker.

BYLINE: Robert Macy, Associated Press

SOURCE: Las Vegas

BODY:

The white supremacist wanted in the shootings of five people at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles fled to Las Vegas in taxis, walked into an FBI office and surrendered Wednesday. He said he wanted his act to be "a wake-up call to America to kill Jews," authorities said.

Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr., 37, also will be charged with killing a postal worker who was shot Tuesday near the community center, authorities said.

Los Angeles police and federal agents poured into Las Vegas to question Furrow. He has ties to hate groups in the Northwest and had tried to commit himself to a psychiatric hospital last year.

"He certainly had the wherewithal to create a greater tragedy than the one we had," Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks said.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said Furrow's comments when he surrendered proved that the attack was a hate crime.

"To these kinds of demented and warped minds, having a few hours under the sun where the whole world is paying attention to you is really tantalizing," he said.

Furrow told authorities he took two cabs for the 275-mile trip from Los Angeles to Las Vegas --- one to the California-Nevada line, the other the rest of the way. FBI officials said Furrow walked unarmed into the office and said, "You're looking for me. I killed the kids in Los Angeles," assuming he had killed some of the children.

Los Angeles County prosecutor Craig Hum said he would file a warrant charging Furrow with five counts of attempted murder, which would allow authorities in Las Vegas to hold him for extradition. Authorities planned to take Furrow to Los Angeles aboard a U.S. Customs Black Hawk helicopter, but it was unclear when.

The Atlanta Journal, August 12, 1999

Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles, said it was uncertain whether federal civil rights charges also might be brought against Furrow. Federal civil rights statutes are so narrowly defined that the shootings might not be considered a hate crime.

President Clinton said Wednesday in Washington, "What we have heard about the suspect and his motives is deeply disturbing. I can only hope that this latest incident will intensify our resolve to make America a safer place, a place of healing across the lines that divide us."

Mrozek said federal prosecutors also would file charges against Furrow in the slaying of Joseph Iletto, 39, a postal worker who was killed about an hour after the community center shootings Tuesday.

Iletto, of Filipino descent, had just delivered mail to a home and was returning to his truck when he was shot several times.

Early indications are that the gunman acted alone, the Los Angeles police chief said, although investigators are looking into possible links to groups or individuals.

The attacker strode into the Jewish community center's lobby and opened fire with a semiautomatic weapon, peppering the building with 70 shots.

The gunman evaded police, who arrived at the center within four minutes of the shootings.

Furrow allegedly hijacked a Toyota at gunpoint about 20 minutes later --- leaving behind a van full of ammunition, survival paraphernalia and a book linked to white supremacist thought --- then dumped the car at a motel and disappeared.

He left Los Angeles on Tuesday evening, spending the night at a Las Vegas hotel, police Sgt. John Pasquariello said. Meanwhile, the hunt for Furrow had spread across the West.

Furrow was a member of the Aryan Nations in 1995, said Mark Potok, a researcher with the Southern Poverty Law Center, which maintains a database of white supremacists.

"I have a picture of him, Furrow, in a Nazi outfit," Potok said Wednesday.

Furrow lived at times in Metaline Falls, Wash., once a haven for the supremacist group The Order. He had a relationship with Debbie Mathews, widow of Order founder Robert Mathews, who was killed in 1984 when his hideout caught fire during a shootout with federal agents on Whidbey Island.

Late last year, Furrow tried to commit himself to the Fairfax Psychiatric Hospital in the Seattle suburbs, but he was arrested when he pulled a knife on a nurse. He eventually pleaded guilty to second-degree assault, served about five months in jail and was released May 21.

The most severely wounded victim at the Los Angeles community center was a 5-year-old boy who was shot in the abdomen and leg. He was in critical condition

The Atlanta Journal, August 12, 1999

Wednesday after undergoing six hours of surgery. Doctors gave him a fair chance of recovery.

The boy, whose name has not been released, had lost 30 percent of his blood. He faces countless more hours in the operating room.

Also hospitalized were the center's receptionist, Isabelle Shalometh, 68, two 6-year-old boys and a 16-year-old camp counselor. The counselor and one of the boys were in good condition Wednesday, and the other boy was in fair condition. Shalometh was released Tuesday night.

At the community center Wednesday, staff members, parents and children trickled back to summer programs under the watch of armed security guards.

J. Eliad, who was bringing his 4-year-old daughter back, said, "Nobody's going to scare us away."

GRAPHIC: Photo

Buford O. Furrow Jr. is shown in an undated Los Angeles police mug shot. / Associated Press

Photo

Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr. (right) is shown working as a guard at an Aryan Nations meeting in Hayden Lake, Idaho, in 1995. / SANDRA BANCROFT-BILLINGS / Associated Press

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

20TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

August 12, 1999, Thursday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 1; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 1699 words

HEADLINE: COMMUNITY CENTER SHOOTINGS;
VALLEY SHOOTING SUSPECT SURRENDERS, CONFESSES;
CRIME: OFFICIALS SAY STATEMENTS AND EVIDENCE TIE BUFORD FURROW, WHO TURNED
HIMSELF IN IN LAS VEGAS, TO JEWISH CENTER ATTACK AND LETTER CARRIER'S SLAYING.

BYLINE: MATT LAIT and NORA ZAMICHOW, TIMES STAFF WRITERS

DATELINE: LAS VEGAS

BODY:

A white supremacist turned himself in to federal authorities Wednesday and confessed to carrying out the bloody assault on a Jewish community center in Granada Hills and then killing a mail carrier in a hate-fueled rampage he described as a "wake-up call" to kill American Jews, police officials and sources said.

Buford Oneal Furrow, a 37-year-old mechanic from Washington state who told authorities last year that he fantasized about killing people, eluded a massive police manhunt Tuesday afternoon by hailing a taxicab in the San Fernando Valley and taking it to Las Vegas, where he checked into a hotel. Shortly before 9 a.m., Furrow walked unarmed into the FBI offices and surrendered--about 22 hours after the community center shooting.

"You're looking for me," a federal law enforcement source quoted Furrow as saying to FBI investigators. "I killed the kids in Los Angeles."

Furrow apparently thought the explosive barrage of assault rifle gunfire he allegedly unleashed at the community center left some youngsters dead. An adult, a teenager and three young children were wounded during the shooting, none fatally. All of their conditions improved Wednesday, and one of the victims was released from the hospital.

U.S. postal worker Joseph Ileteo, a 39-year-old Filipino American, did not survive his encounter with the gunman. He was fatally shot six times Tuesday afternoon after the assault on the community center while walking his mail route.

Although police said there were no witnesses to Ileteo's shooting, Furrow's

Los Angeles Times August 12, 1999, Thursday,

alleged statements and ballistic evidence tie him to that crime.

Late Wednesday, in a closed-door hearing in federal court, Furrow waived extradition. He was flown by helicopter to Los Angeles later in the evening.

Authorities said he will be arraigned on charges of killing a federal employee and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Furrow could face the death penalty, they said. He also is expected to face additional charges, possibly in state court, in connection with the attack on the community center and a carjacking.

Police said Furrow has been very cooperative and agreed to be interviewed by investigators without an attorney.

"He's a regular chatterbox," said one law enforcement source.

Even before Furrow surrendered, a more complete portrait of him was emerging as a man with a violent criminal past who played an active role in training other white supremacists in hand-to-hand combat.

Furrow, an avowed racist who described himself to authorities in Washington as homicidal and suicidal, once lived with Debbie Mathews, the widow of Robert Mathews, founder of a violent neo-Nazi group, the Order. Last year, Furrow tried to commit himself to the Fairfax Psychiatric Hospital in Kirkland, a suburb of Seattle. There, he was arrested for pulling a knife on several staff members.

"Sometimes I feel like I could just lose it," Furrow told police after his arrest at the hospital. He was convicted of second-degree felony assault and served 165 days in jail.

Furrow's surrender brought a sense of relief and a relatively quick resolution to a horrific crime that captured national attention with televised images of young children being carried on gurneys and escorted from their day camp under police guard.

"Our community can rest assured that he will not bring any more harm to our children and other innocent Angelenos," Mayor Richard Riordan said at a hastily convened news conference at police headquarters Wednesday morning. "Let us not let this incident cause us to lead our lives in terror. . . . We will get beyond this dark moment."

In Washington, President Clinton, who is renewing calls for gun control legislation in the wake of the attack, said reports about Furrow's racist and troubled background were "deeply disturbing."

For many, the fear engendered by the shooting was hard to shake. Some nervous parents kept their children home from Jewish summer camps and day-care centers around the region Wednesday, and those who did drop off their sons and daughters expressed relief for the heightened security at many sites. Many parents said they were anxious about leaving their children, and tried to reassure themselves that Tuesday's shooting spree was an isolated incident.

The North Valley Jewish Community Center, where the shooting occurred, held its camp and day-care program at a nearby temple, with about two-thirds of the children attending. A small group of parents showed up at the Granada Hills

Los Angeles Times August 12, 1999, Thursday,

center early, saying the violence would not keep them away.

"I told my children that they have to be aware that there are people out there who have those kinds of bigoted feelings," said Jonathan Dreyfuss as he escorted his daughter, Abby, 10, into a church adjacent to the community center. "It comes with the entire package of being a Jew in America."

Still Questions to Be Answered

Despite relief that Furrow was in custody, police said many questions still remain. Perhaps the most bewildering one is why he allegedly chose to attack people in that particular facility.

"Did he know what he was targeting or did he just wander around?" Riordan mused before the news conference. Investigators speculate that one reason the center was attacked was because it was a so-called soft target, with relatively little security.

Jeff Rouss, executive vice president of the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Los Angeles, the parent organization of the Granada Hills center, said he was unaware of any connection between the alleged gunman and the center.

"I don't have a clue," he said. "The center is off the beaten path. I haven't the foggiest notion of why us."

According to police, Furrow bought a used van in Tacoma, Wash., on Saturday, loaded it up with boxes of ammunition, survivalist gear and white supremacist literature and headed for Los Angeles. Police said they were unaware of any connections Furrow has in Los Angeles, but they said his intent in the city was made clear by the firepower he brought with him.

"He certainly had the wherewithal to create a greater tragedy than the one we had," Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard C. Parks said.

Furrow, police alleged, walked calmly into the community center's lobby at 10:49 a.m. Tuesday and opened fire with a semiautomatic weapon, unleashing about 70 shots in the building and striking five people: the center's receptionist, 68-year-old Isabelle Shalometh; a 5-year-old boy; two 6-year-old boys; and a 16-year-old counselor at the center's summer camp.

The 5-year-old, who was struck in the abdomen and leg, was in critical condition Wednesday after undergoing six hours of surgery and was given a fair chance of recovery. The counselor and one of the boys were in good condition Wednesday, and the other boy was in fair condition; Shalometh was released from the hospital Tuesday night.

A Trail of Terror

Police arrived at the center within four minutes of the shootings, but the gunman was already gone. As a massive LAPD manhunt was gearing up, police believe Furrow ditched his van and hijacked a Toyota from a 23-year-old sandwich shop employee, Jenny Younsun Choi, at gunpoint.

Police suspect Furrow killed the postal worker in nearby Chatsworth about an

Los Angeles Times August 12, 1999, Thursday,

hour after the assault on the community center. They are not certain whether Iletto's shooting was random or served another purpose. Iletto, a Chino Hills resident, had just delivered mail to a home and was returning to his truck when he was shot six times. There was no evidence of a theft.

"All of the postal employees, including the family of the victim, are relieved that a suspect has confessed to this shooting," said Postal Inspector Pamela L. Prince.

"In talking to his co-workers, we found that this man was so well-loved," Prince said. "He had no enemies. Only friends. It is such a tragedy."

At the Chatsworth post office, where Iletto worked, employees reported to duty as usual, but the mood was grim.

"This is really very difficult for all of us," said Ramona Franco, the postmaster for Chatsworth.

Wednesday evening, many of the families whose children attend the North Valley Jewish Community Center's summer day camp gathered at a neighboring Episcopal church to share their experience and to question authorities.

About 300 people attended, and asked police and center officials about security precautions and what steps they were taking to prevent another shooting.

Rouss said that as a result of the meeting, a security committee had been formed and 15 to 20 parents had signed up.

Checking Out Acquaintances

Several hours after the rampage, the Toyota was found by patrol officers in the parking lot of the 7-Star Suites Hotel. SWAT officers spent hours methodically searching the hotel, unaware that Furrow already was in a cab headed for Las Vegas.

Early indications are that the gunman acted alone, Parks said, although investigators are looking into possible links to any groups or other individuals.

FBI spokesman Tron W. Brekke said agents also are looking at any possible associates of Furrow's who may have aided the suspect. The possibility of a conspiracy "is always something you look at," he said.

"There is no way one guy pulled this off," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Cooper and other leaders in the Jewish community said the reports about Furrow confirmed some of their deepest fears about the incident being a hate crime.

For anti-Semites, Cooper said, "if you make a statement and Jews are the ultimate enemy, the way you strike terror is kill kids." He noted that some hate-mongers already are reveling in Tuesday's events, saying that one computer

Los Angeles Times August 12, 1999, Thursday,

Web site has posted derogatory messages supporting the gunman's actions.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said Furrow's comments upon surrendering proved that the attack was a hate crime.

But "the people who outlived Adolf Hitler," Hier said, "will surely outlive Buford Furrow."

*

News updates, video and previous Times stories related to the Valley shooting are available online at: <http://www.latimes.com/shooting>

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

22ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

August 12, 1999, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 1; Column 2; National Desk

LENGTH: 1262 words

HEADLINE: SHOOTINGS IN LOS ANGELES: THE OVERVIEW;
Man With a Past of Racial Hate Surrenders in Day Camp Attack

BYLINE: By JAMES STERNOLD

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES, Aug. 11

BODY:

Buford O. Furrow Jr., a white supremacist suspected in the shooting of five people at a Jewish community center here, turned himself in to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Nevada this morning, saying he wanted the attack to send a message to the nation, law-enforcement officials said.

Law-enforcement officials also said Mr. Furrow admitted to fatally shooting a letter carrier, Joseph Iletto, shortly after the attack at the center. Conviction in the death of Mr. Iletto could carry a death penalty, since he was shot while on duty for the Government.

Mr. Furrow, 37, surprised officials by showing up at the F.B.I. office in Las Vegas, Nev., at 8:55 A.M., after eluding a police dragnet by taking a taxi 275 miles across the desert and paying an \$800 fare, then spending the night in or near the city, officials said.

When Mr. Furrow appeared at the F.B.I. office, he was unarmed, said Sgt. John Pasquariello of the Los Angeles police.

Mr. Furrow told a law-enforcement official that he fired at the day center in the Granada Hills neighborhood because "he was concerned about the decline of the white race and he wanted to send a message to America by killing Jews," the authorities said.

After a day of uncertainty about when and where he would face charges, Mr. Furrow appeared late today before a Federal magistrate in Las Vegas and was charged with the murder of a Federal employee in the course of his duties and of being a felon illegally in possession of a firearm.

He was then taken to the airport in Las Vegas and returned to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles was a city of anger, fear and relief today, with security tightened at many Jewish organizations.

Mayor Richard J. Riordan sought to ease the shock by insisting people should not allow fear to change their lives.

The New York Times, August 12, 1999

"Let us not let this incident cause us to lead our lives in terror," he said. "Our city is made up of people who care for each other, who respect each other and who want our children to live their lives without fear."

The police said Mr. Furrow had been "very cooperative." throughout a day of interrogation.

Mr. Furrow's surrender initially touched off a fierce behind-the-scenes struggle over who would try him first.

Los Angeles officials want to prosecute the man they say is responsible for a crime that shocked their city, and Federal officials are eager to try him on charges that could lead to his execution.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office here said they would hold a joint news conference on Thursday morning to announce details of the charges.

Mr. Furrow, who lived in Washington State, had belonged to white supremacist groups in the Pacific Northwest for several years.

After his arrest on assault charges last year, he told officials that he had fantasized about committing a mass killing.

The police said he came to Los Angeles with a daunting arsenal, including an Uzi submachine gun, a high-powered rifle and grenades.

The Uzi submachine gun was believed to have been used in the attack. The police said they did not know where he had got the gun.

The police would not detail what Mr. Furrow had told the phalanx of investigators in Las Vegas but said he had acted alone in the attacks.

Three of the five people shot at the Jewish community center in Granada Hills two children at a day camp there and a teen-age volunteer, are in stable condition and recovering. A fourth person, a receptionist, was treated and released.

But a 5-year-old boy shot in the leg and the abdomen remained in critical condition after more than six hours of surgery.

The police said they still did not know why Mr. Furrow chose that particular center as a target.

A law-enforcement official said Mr. Furrow's confession to the shooting of Mr. Iletto, 39, was a major break because there were no witnesses to the killing, which took place on a leafy street of ranch-style houses and horse corrals, and there was no other direct evidence linking Mr. Furrow to it.

He apparently came upon Mr. Iletto by chance on a street a few miles from the community center about an hour after the shooting.

Yesterday, police had been baffled by the seemingly random slaying of Mr.

The New York Times, August 12, 1999

Ileto and specifically denied that they knew of any connection between it and the community center shootings. They had suspected Mr. Furrow purely because of the timing of the shooting and its location. Mr. Ileto, who is a part-time Postal Service employee, was not on his regular route, said Pamela Prince, a Postal Service spokeswoman.

Ms. Prince said Mr. Ileto, who was not married and had no children, had been a letter carrier for just two years but had received several commendations. She added that he was particularly well-liked and that the senseless slaying had stunned the other letter carriers.

Police in Los Angeles today sounded relieved that Mr. Furrow had not shot more people, given the preparations he had made.

"It appears to be an arsenal with someone who had an intent to create a significantly larger tragedy in the city," said Bernard Parks, chief of the Los Angeles Police Department.

The North Valley Jewish Community Center was heavily guarded this morning, and some of the parents insisted that, while they were frightened, they wanted to attempt to return to normal as soon as possible. Many parents and some officials struck a note of defiance, taking pains to say that such attacks would not force them to alter their lives.

Sue Bendavid-Arbiv, the mother of 5- and 7-year-old girls, brought her children back to the day camp today, but admitted that her children had been afraid. "That's why we're here, to see that their friends are still here and their counselors are still here," said Ms. Bendavid-Arbiv.

Jeffrey Rouss, executive vice president of the community center, said, "We want to show that an act of terrorism will not stop the Jewish community in the North Valley."

Still, there were concerns at how Mr. Furrow amassed such an arsenal, transported them here and then vanished in spite of the intensive manhunt thrown up almost immediately after the first shootings.

The spree began shortly after 10:45 A.M., the police said, when Mr. Furrow strode into the North Valley Jewish Community Center on Rinaldi Street, which is next to an Episcopalian church in a quiet, middle-class neighborhood, and shot first the 68-year-old receptionist, and then four other people, a 16-year-old woman who worked as a camp counselor, a 5-year-old boy and two 6-year-olds. Police said he fired more than 70 rounds in just a few minutes, then raced out.

The police said he escaped in a red van that he had bought on Saturday in Washington and used to transport his arsenal.

About 20 minutes later he abandoned the van near the Van Nuys airport and carjacked a Toyota Corolla. About 40 minutes later Mr. Ileto, the postal worker, was shot in the head, chest and shoulder and killed. There were no witnesses, but neighbors in Chatsworth, heard the shots and called police.

The police and SWAT teams conducted a door-to-door search for the suspect, with dogs, around the community center, but found nothing. The stolen Toyota was

The New York Times, August 12, 1999

found in the parking lot of a hotel in the same vicinity about 4 P.M. The police cleared the area and surrounded the hotel, but Mr. Furrow was gone.

Mr. Furrow told the F.B.I., that he then paid \$800 to take a taxi to Las Vegas, law-enforcement officials said.

In an interview, the cab driver said Mr. Furrow told him he wanted to go to Las Vegas to surrender.

GRAPHIC: Chart/Map: "OVERVIEW -- A Trail of Blood and Questions"

Police officials describe the following chain of events.

1: SATURDAY -- Buford O. Furrow Jr., 37, purchases a red van in Tacoma, Wash.

2: TUESDAY -- 10:49 A.M. 1,000 miles away in Granada Hills, a Los Angeles neigh-borhood, Mr. Furrow walks into the North Valley Jewish Community Center and fires more than 70 rounds. Three young boys, a 16-year-old girl and a 68-year-old woman are wounded. He escapes in the red van.

3: ABOUT 20 MINUTES LATER -- He carjacks a Toyota Corolla. The van is found filled with ammunition.

4: 11:50 A.M. -- Mr. Furrow kills Joseph Iletto, 39, a letter carrier, in Chatsworth.

5: ABOUT 4 P.M. -- The Toyota is found.

6: Mr. Furrow spends \$800 to travel by cab to Las Vegas, 275 miles away.

7: YESTERDAY 8:55 A.M. -- F.B.I. officials in Las Vegas are surprised when Mr. Furrow turns himself in.

(pg. A16)

Map of Los Angeles shows location of Granada Hills. (pg. A16)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

27TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 The Chronicle Publishing Co.
The San Francisco Chronicle

AUGUST 12, 1999, THURSDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 1646 words

HEADLINE: L.A. Suspect Dreamed of Killing;

History of erratic behavior, ties to neo-Nazi group

BYLINE: Jaxon Van Derbeken, Bill Wallace, Stacy Finz, Chronicle Staff Writers

DATELINE: STATEWIDE

BODY:

The man who surrendered as the gunman in Tuesday's bloody Jewish community center shooting in Los Angeles is a member of a neo-Nazi organization and has a long history of mental illness and erratic behavior.

Buford O. Furrow Jr., suspected of killing a mail carrier and wounding five people, once told police that he often fantasized about suicide and "sometimes I feel like I could just lose it and kill people."

An intense search for Furrow, 37, ended yesterday when he walked into the FBI office in Las Vegas and confessed, saying he wanted his act to be "a wake-up call to America to kill Jews," authorities said.

According to associates, neighbors and court records:

Furrow is a deeply disturbed individual who flirted with white supremacist religion and paramilitary activity, dominated and abused his wife and once daydreamed about shooting people at random in a shopping mall near Seattle.

He is a gun fancier and survivalist who stockpiled weapons and ammunition and belongs to the Aryan Nations church, a neo-Nazi organization with headquarters in Hayden Lake, Idaho. Aryan Nations followers admire Adolf Hitler, consider the white race superior to all others and believe that Jews and other minority group members are "mud people" and the spawn of Satan.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, an organization that monitors racial extremists, Furrow was not only a member of Aryan Nations but also served as an officer in its internal security force.

"He was a first lieutenant," said Mark Potok, who works in the Law Center's Intelligence Project. "I have seen a picture of him wearing one of their uniforms that was taken in July 1995."

The San Francisco Chronicle AUGUST 12, 1999, THURSDAY,

While a member of Aryan Nations and living in the Metaline Falls area of eastern Washington state in the early 1990s, Furrow met and wooed Debbie Mathews, the 46-year-old widow of Robert Jay Mathews.

The match brought Furrow status in the perverse world of racial extremists: Robert Mathews had been a leader in Aryan Nations and had founded a violent right-wing splinter group called "The Order" that engaged in a multistate rampage of murder and mayhem patterned loosely on a right-wing fantasy novel, "The Turner Diaries."

Mathews won martyr status among extremists when he was killed during a dramatic shootout with federal agents in December 1984. Mathews became venerated as a race hero by his fellow extremists, who believe he died battling the forces of the "Zionist Occupation Government."

According to Meda Van Dyke, a neighbor who knew the couple well, Furrow and Debbie Mathews were wed during an "Identity Church" ceremony at Hayden Lake, Idaho. The wedding was presided over by the Rev. Richard Girnt Butler, Robert Mathews' mentor and the founder and head of Aryan Nations church.

For three years, Furrow and Debbie Mathews lived together as husband and wife. The relationship was not always smooth, Van Dyke said.

"She really wanted this marriage to work," Van Dyke said. "But when they got back (from their honeymoon in Las Vegas and California) he became the master, telling her when she could stand and when she could sit. He wanted her completely submissive."

When Mathews rebelled, Furrow would send her to her room for hours, Van Dyke said.

"He wanted to control all the money and the home, he wanted to sell her property and move to the Washington coast, and he wanted to take her son's college money and keep it for himself," Van Dyke recalled. "His temper tantrums were so violent that they made him physically ill."

Van Dyke said the couple repeatedly broke up and reconciled, but their relationship steadily soured. "Some of us knew he had an uncontrollable temper and that his wife wanted him to get help," she said.

"I think she was afraid of him."

Mathews tried to get her spouse to commit himself to a mental hospital near Seattle, but the attempt ended in disaster. According to court records, Furrow arrived at the hospital drunk and told staff members he was thinking about committing suicide and shooting people at a nearby shopping mall.

At one point hospital employees persuaded him to surrender his keys. Later, Furrows angrily demanded the keys' return and threatened two nurses with a knife.

"He was about two feet away," said Kirsten Brown, one of his victims. "I was afraid he was going to stab me. He said, Give me the f-- keys . . . or I will

The San Francisco Chronicle AUGUST 12, 1999, THURSDAY,

cut you up."

Eventually, a King County sheriff's deputy persuaded Furrow to surrender. While in custody, he told a sheriff's deputy, "Sometimes I feel like I could just lose it and kill people."

He was charged with first-degree assault and spent nearly six months in jail awaiting trial. Last April, he agreed to plead guilty to second-degree assault and received an eight-month jail sentence -- roughly the time he had already served while awaiting trial.

In pleading guilty, Furrow acknowledged having long-standing fantasies about killing himself and others. "The defendant (Furrow) also detailed how he has cut himself numerous times with knives, some of the cuts requiring multiple stitches to close the wound," said one court document filed in the case.

"The defendant stated that he wanted to kill his ex-wife and some of her friends. The defendant also admitted to wanting to do something such as robbing a bank so that the police would be forced to kill him."

Most of the people who knew Furrow well were aware of his racist views and violent nature.

"He let it be known that if you were Jewish or black or anything else, you weren't high on his list," said Don Dashiell, a salesman with LaDuke and Fogle Equipment, a farm implement dealership in Colville, Wash.

Furrow worked as an assistant in the farm equipment company's hydraulics shop from September 1994 to December 1995, Dashiell said. "During his spare time, he went to white supremacist meetings."

To others who knew him, Furrow was a cipher.

In the Kern County town of Rosamond, where Furrow lived briefly in 1993, few could even remember the heavyset, balding man. Those who did recalled a nondescript loner who wasn't very friendly.

"He used to come in a long time ago," said Chad Freeman, who works at Karl's Hardware in Rosamond. "He had no character."

Now Furrow faces state charges for firing indiscriminately at children, staff and visitors at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills, and wounding a receptionist, a teenage counselor and three boys who were attending day camp at the center.

He was formally charged yesterday in federal court with murdering Joseph Ilete, 39, a postal employee who died of multiple gunshots to the head, chest and shoulder a short time after the community center carnage. Ilete was a Filipino immigrant assigned as a fill-in carrier that day.

The federal charge could carry the death penalty, said Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles.

Three of those injured have been treated and released, but two boys remain

hospitalized. The most seriously injured, a 5-year-old, remained in critical condition last night after hours of surgery for wounds to his abdomen and leg. The other boy, age 6, was in good condition and was scheduled to be released today.

Furrow told FBI agents he slipped away from Los Angeles after the shootings and took two taxis to Las Vegas.

Investigators reported seizing an AR-15 rifle, the civilian version of the Army's M-16 assault weapon, and a couple of pistols from Furrow. It was not disclosed last night which weapons were used to kill the mail carrier and injure those at the community center.

Despite his history of racism, mental illness and violence, some of Furrow's family members were baffled by the violence.

"None of our family has ever been involved in something like this," said an uncle of Furrow's, Bill Wells, of Columbia, S.C. "We've never condoned racism. We're Christians and patriotic Americans.

"I was just shocked when I turned on the TV this morning and saw him. It didn't even look like him."

Wells said Furrow's father served in the Air Force when his nephew was a boy, so the family moved around a lot. They finally settled in Washington.

"My nephew was a nice, normal little boy," said Wells, who has not seen Furrow since 1963. "The last we were together, he was just a little tyke. We took a summer vacation together in Montana to fish."

Wells said he has not been able to reach his sister, Furrow's mother, since his nephew was arrested.

Furrow's parents live in a modest modular home in a rural area outside Olympia, Wash. Their yard boasts a small and tidy truck garden, and a small front-end loader is parked in front of their aluminum sided home.

Nobody would answer the door at the Furrow home yesterday. Clint Merrill, a neighbor who stopped in to comfort the couple yesterday, told reporters when he emerged, "They're hurting right now."

Furrow's surrender left his victims trying to recover from his spree of senseless violence.

At the Chatsworth Postal Station, grief-stricken colleagues of Iletto said they could not understand how he had become a target for Furrow's rage. Iletto, a bachelor with a pleasant demeanor who lived in Chino Hills with relatives, had been with the postal service for two years.

"Everybody liked him," postal inspector Judge Luther said. "He was a friendly guy."

At the North Valley Jewish Community Center, where Tuesday's shooting began, a handwritten poster, which appeared to have been written by a child, was

The San Francisco Chronicle AUGUST 12, 1999, THURSDAY,

fastened to the gate with the message: "Our (heart symbol)'s with you."

This article was reported by Jaxon Van Derbeken in Los Angeles and Stacy Finz and Bill Wallace in San Francisco. Chronicle staff writers Jonathan Curiel, in Washington state, and Manny Fernandez, in Kern County, contributed to this report. Chronicle wire services also contributed.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO (4), (1) Buford O. Furrow Jr. was led from a court appearance yesterday., / Reuters, (2) Buford O. Furrow Jr. (right) was a security officer in the Aryan Nation church in Hayden, Idaho. He surrendered to FBI agents in Las Vegas yesterday. / Associated Press 1995, (3) Mindy Finkelstein was one of five people injured in a shooting at a Los Angeles Jewish community center., (4) Joseph Iletto, shown in an undated driver's license photo, was killed while delivering mail Tuesday.

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

30TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Sun-Sentinel Company
Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

August 12, 1999, Thursday, Broward Metro EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL, Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 939 words

HEADLINE: L.A. GUNMAN SURRENDERS;
SUPREMACIST CONFESSES TO SHOOTINGS IN JEWISH CENTER

BYLINE: MATT LAIT and NORA ZAMICHOW ; Los Angeles Times

DATELINE: LAS VEGAS

BODY:

A white supremacist turned himself into federal authorities Wednesday and confessed to carrying out the assault on a Jewish community center and then killing a mail carrier in a rampage he described as a "wake-up call" to kill American Jews, police officials and sources said.

Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr., a 37, a mechanic from Washington state, who told authorities last year that he fantasized about killing people, eluded a massive police manhunt Tuesday afternoon by hailing a taxicab in the San Fernando Valley and taking it to Las Vegas.

Shortly before 9:00 a.m., Furrow walked unarmed into FBI offices and surrendered -- about 22 hours after the shooting at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in the Granada Hills area of Los Angeles.

"You're looking for me," a federal law enforcement source quoted Furrow as saying to FBI investigators. "I killed the kids in Los Angeles."

Furrow assumed he had killed some children, according to the source.

An adult, a teen-ager and three young children were wounded during the shooting, none fatally.

All of their conditions improved Wednesday and one of the victims was released from the hospital.

U.S. Postal Service worker Joe Iletto, 39, a Filipino-American, was not as lucky.

He was killed after being shot six times Tuesday afternoon while walking his mail route. Police said there were no witnesses to Iletto's shooting, but Furrow's statements and ballistic evidence tie him to that crime.

Federal and state prosecutors said they would announce charges against Furrow today and whether he will be tried in state or federal court.

Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale), August 12, 1999

Federal and state authorities can claim jurisdiction in the slaying of the postal worker -- federal authorities on the grounds that he was a U.S. government employee doing his job.

State prosecutors have jurisdiction to prosecute Furrow for the assaults at the Jewish community center, but federal prosecutors were trying to determine whether to prosecute him for committing federal hate crimes.

Police said Furrow has been cooperative and agreed to be interviewed by investigators without an attorney.

"He's a regular chatterbox," said one law enforcement source. Los Angeles Police Department officials said they planned to fly Furrow back to Los Angeles.

Before Furrow surrendered, a fuller portrait of him was emerging as a man with a violent criminal past who played an active role in training other white supremacists in hand-to-hand combat.

Furrow, an avowed racist, who described himself to authorities in Washington as homicidal and suicidal, once lived with the widow of Robert Mathews, the founder of a violent neo-Nazi group, The Order. Last year, Furrow tried to commit himself to the Fairfax Psychiatric Hospital in Kirkland, a suburb of Seattle. There, he was arrested for pulling a knife on several staff members.

"Sometimes I feel like I could just lose it," Furrow told police after his arrest at the hospital. He was convicted of second-degree felony assault and served 165 days in jail.

According to police, Furrow bought a used van in Tacoma, Wash., on Saturday, loaded it up with boxes of ammunition, survivalist gear and white supremacist literature and headed for Los Angeles.

Police said they were unaware of any connections Furrow has in Los Angeles, but they said his intent in the city was clear by the firepower he brought with him.

"He certainly had the wherewithal to create a greater tragedy than the one we had," Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks said.

Police said Furrow walked calmly into the community center's lobby on Tuesday and opened fire with a semiautomatic gun, firing 70 shots in the building, and striking five people: the center's receptionist, Isabelle Shalometh, 68; a 5-year-old boy; two 6-year-old boys and a 16-year-old counselor at the center's summer camp.

The 5-year-old, who was struck in the abdomen and leg, was in critical condition Wednesday after undergoing six hours of surgery and was given a fair chance of recovery. The counselor and one of the boys were in good condition and the other boy was in fair condition; Shalometh was released from the hospital Tuesday night.

Police arrived at the center within four minutes of the shootings, but the gunman already was gone. Minutes after leaving the community center, police suspect Furrow killed the postal worker, but they are not certain of the motive for the shooting. Ito had just delivered mail to a home and was returning to

Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale), August 12, 1999

his truck when he was shot six times. There was no evidence of a theft.

"All of the postal employees, including the family of the victim, are relieved that a suspect has confessed to this shooting," said Postal Inspector Pamela L. Prince.

"In talking to his co-workers, we found that this man was so well loved," Prince said. "He had no enemies. Only friends. It is such a tragedy."

After shooting Iletto, police think Furrow ditched his van and hijacked a Toyota from a woman at gunpoint. By that time an intensive manhunt was in full swing.

Several hours later, the Toyota was found by patrol officers parked in the parking lot of the nearby 7-Star Suites Hotel.

SWAT officers spent hours searching the hotel, unaware that Furrow was in a cab headed for Las Vegas.

Early indications are that the gunman acted alone, Parks said, although investigators are looking into possible links to any groups or other individuals.

FBI spokesman Tron W. Brekke said agents also are looking at any possible associates of Furrow's who may have aided the suspect. The possibility of a conspiracy "is always something you look at," he said.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS 2, (color) Furrow AFP photo/Hector Mata; Activities resume: North Valley Jewish Community Center counselors carry children's bags in Granada Hills, Calif., on Wednesday.

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

31ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

August 12, 1999 Thursday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 1062 words

HEADLINE: L.A. SUSPECT SURRENDERS, SPOUTS HATE

BYLINE: By V. Dion Haynes, Tribune Staff Writer. Tribune staff writer Michael Berens contributed to this report.

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

A self-described white separatist with a history of violence and neo-Nazi sympathies turned himself in to the FBI in Las Vegas on Wednesday after eluding an intense 24-hour state and federal manhunt for the gunman who wounded five people at a Jewish community center and later killed a Filipino-American postal worker.

Buford O. Furrow, 37, an emotionally troubled man allegedly moved by a hatred for Jews and blacks, is suspected of peppering the lobby of the community center with gunfire, wounding three children, a teenage counselor and a receptionist.

Furrow told authorities he left the shooting scene Tuesday and took two taxis from California's San Fernando Valley for an \$800, 275-mile trip across the Nevada border to Las Vegas.

After surrendering, he told investigators "he wanted this to be a wake-up call to America to kill Jews," an FBI source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another law-enforcement source said Furrow attacked the day-care center because "he was concerned about the decline of the white race and he wanted to send a message to America by killing Jews."

President Clinton on Wednesday said, "What we have heard about the suspect and his motives is deeply disturbing.

"I can only hope that this latest incident will intensify our resolve to make America a safer place, a place of healing across the lines that divide us."

Authorities said federal murder charges were filed against Furrow in the slaying of Joseph Iletto, 39, a postal worker who was killed about an hour after the community center shootings Tuesday.

Los Angeles County prosecutors said they would file a warrant charging Furrow with five counts of attempted murder.

Chicago Tribune, August 12, 1999

A 5-year-old boy who was shot in the abdomen and leg remained in critical condition Wednesday after undergoing six hours of surgery. The teen, a 16-year-old girl, and two 6-year-old boys were in stable condition, and the receptionist, 68, was released from the hospital.

Neighbors from his youth described Furrow as a lonely, bespectacled, overweight boy. The picture of his life as an adult emerges as troubled and often suicidal.

Late last year Furrow tried to commit himself at Fairfax Psychiatric Hospital in the Seattle suburbs, but was arrested after he pulled a knife on a nurse. He pleaded guilty to second-degree assault, served about five months in jail and was released on May 21.

Furrow also was linked to white supremacy groups and was on the security force of the Aryan Nations in 1995, said Mark Potok, editor of the Intelligence Report, a publication of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a Montgomery, Ala.-based organization that monitors hate groups.

"We've got a photograph of him wearing his uniform with a headset and walkie-talkie," Potok said. "To be an officer of the Aryan Nations is a fairly big deal."

While in that position, the hate-group monitors say, Furrow had a long relationship with Debbie Mathews, widow of Robert Mathews, the leader of a militant group called The Order. The Order had claimed responsibility for armored car robberies and the murder of a Jewish talk show host in Denver.

Mathews was killed in 1984 when his hideout caught fire during a shootout with federal agents on Whidbey Island in Washington state.

Furrow and Mathews were married in 1995 or 1996 in a ceremony performed by Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler, according to a neighbor of the couple. Furrow moved into Mathews' trailer in Metaline Falls, a logging and farming community in northeast Washington.

"Debbie is an Aryan and I know Neal (short for O'Neal, Furrow's middle name) held those views . . .," said Meda Van Dyke, 82, the couple's neighbor.

Van Dyke described a volatile relationship in which the two often separated and reunited, then separated for good last summer.

"Debbie told me they separated because he had a bad temper," she said. "He wanted to be in complete control; she had to be completely submissive."

Van Dyke said Furrow worked on and off, often quitting jobs or being fired because he couldn't get along with bosses. He worked briefly as a mechanic for a truck company before being laid off.

King County, Wash., court records portray Furrow as a mentally unstable man.

According to one document, in October 1998 Furrow checked himself into a psychiatric hospital in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland, telling staff he was thinking about suicide and shooting people at a shopping mall.

Chicago Tribune, August 12, 1999

While being interviewed by the staff, according to the report, Furrow demanded his car keys. When he was denied his keys, according to the woman who interviewed him, Furrow pulled out a knife holding it "18 inches from my face, moving it around. . . ."

He then pointed the knife at another woman, who said in the report: "He was about 2 feet away. I was afraid he was going to stab me. He said, 'Give me the . . . keys . . . or I will cut you up.' "

The women called 911. When a sheriff's deputy arrived, Furrow pointed the knife at him, the report said. Furrow was arrested and in a search of his car police found a 9 mm handgun, ammunition and four knives.

In a statement to police then, Furrow wrote: "I'm a white separatist. I've been having suicidal and homicidal thoughts for some time now. Yesterday I had thoughts that I would kill my ex-wife and some of her friends then maybe I would drive to Canada and rob a bank. I wanted the police to shoot me. . . ."

Joanne Elledge, a spokeswoman for the King County Sheriff's office, said Furrow was arrested in the October 1998 incident and charged with second-degree assault with a deadly weapon. Furrow, she said, was convicted and in May sentenced to 8 months in prison.

Because Furrow already had served 5 1/2 months, the judge released him early for good behavior.

Normally, Elledge said, inmates such as Furrow would receive treatment for their mental problems and would not be released until they pass an evaluation. She could not determine whether Furrow had been treated.

Bill Wells, brother-in-law of Furrow's father, Buford Furrow Sr., said he was surprised and shocked to hear Furrow's name on television in connection with the Los Angeles shootings.

"I had no inkling that Neal was like this. It was a total surprise," Wells said.

"The family is good people. They're nothing like that. They're all retired military, patriotic and religious. They're God-fearing people."

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS 2 GRAPHICPHOTO (color): Sharon Salzberg walks Wednesday from the North Valley Jewish Community Center with her daughter Tal, 8, who was at the center during Tuesday's shooting. The suspect is a self-proclaimed white separatist. AP photo by Damian Dovarganes.; PHOTO: A man brings flowers Wednesday to the Jewish center where a gunman wounded five on Tuesday. Reuters photo.; GRAPHIC: Manhunt ends; Sequence of events according to police.; Source: Police reports.; Chicago Tribune.; - See microfilm for complete graphic.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 1999

158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000

established themselves in Hollywood. They were products of one of the critical intellectual problems that assailed late 19th century British society, which was finding a continuing justification for imperialism.

One solution was to appropriate the new biology of Charles Darwin and give it a political cast. Britons, this argument went, simply were the product of better "natural selection" than the "lesser" races they were fated to rule by evolutionary determinism.

Another, far less-known rationale was pseudo-theological and was called Anglo-Israelism. It held that Anglo-Saxons were descendants of the lost tribes of Israel and the only survivors of the group described in the first books of the Bible as Jews, who were in fact a "Nordic race." The people known as Jews in the contemporary world, Anglo-Israelites claimed, were descendants of depending on who was doing the telling of an unholy relationship between Satan and Eve or Satan and the daughters of Cain.

People of color were not human at all, but had been created by the devil out of mud and, like animals, had no souls. Jesus, the believers held, was killed by the "satanic" Jews because he was of pure Nordic blood.

At some point in the 1940s, Hollywood's "Anglo-Saxon Christian Congregation" found a new American pastor, Wesley Swift, a West Coast organizer for the anti-Semitic American Populist, Gerald L.K. Smith. "All Jews must be destroyed," Swift wrote in the early 1950s.

Two of Swift's early converts were retired U.S. Army Col. William Potter Gale and Butler. Gale, a guerrilla warfare expert in the South Pacific during World War II, was an early leader of the extremist Posse Comitatus, a precursor of the contemporary militia movement.

Another leading Christian Identity ideologue is a virulently anti-Semitic former securities dealer named Richard Kelly Hoskins, whose ideas have been invoked by terrorists linked to bank robberies and attacks on abortion clinics. A copy of Hoskins' book, "War Cycles, Peace Cycles," was found in Furrow's van.

Butler, often referred to as "the elder statesman of American hate," moved to Hayden Lake in 1973 after he quit his job at the Lockheed Corp. in Palmdale, Calif., where he coordinated the final assembly of L-1011 passenger jets.

When Wesley Smith died in 1970, Butler proclaimed his Church of Jesus Christ Christian to be the successor to Swift's congregation.

Butler, who may be in failing health, has willed his Idaho property to his two grown daughters, neither of whom are Aryan Nations adherents, according to Sue Stengel, western states counsel of the Anti-Defamation League. Stengel said that Butler's children may not want the property to continue as an Aryan compound, which could prompt the group to move its base to Southern California, Britton's home.

Britton, however, said he has reservations about basing the group in such a racially-mixed area.

An avuncular man who sprinkles his conversations with biblical references and claims of Jewish conspiracies, Britton denies knowing Furrow, and condemned the attack because its victims were children.

Receiving a reporter at his Escondido home, where he also holds Aryan Nations suppers, Britton is surrounded by signs of how tough it is to be a white supremacist in California.

Several mixed-race children frolic in Britton's back yard, clients of his daughter's home day care business. "I don't like it, but it's the law" he said, explaining that his daughter is forbidden from practicing racial discrimination in her business.

California's large minority population, he said, would get in the way of Aryan Nations activities.

California may never again be a desirable headquarters for the Aryan Nations, but Los Angeles holds an important place in the terrorist imagination. The Turner Diaries, an apocalyptic novel whose readers include Oklahoma City federal building bomber Timothy McVeigh, depicts a massacre in Los Angeles.

Furrow's estranged wife is the widow of Robert Mathews, a founder of The Order, a terrorist group that took its name from the Turner Diaries.

Furrow Randomly Found Jewish Center, Source Says By Evelyn Larrubia, Ted Rohrlich and Andrew Blankstein Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES Accused hate-slayer Buford O. Furrow Jr. told authorities that, while looking for places to kill Jews, he grew discouraged by tight security at three prominent institutions the Museum of Tolerance, the Skirball Cultural Center and the University of Judaism but pulled off a freeway to get gas and

stumbled upon an unguarded target, the lesser known North Valley Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills.

According to a law enforcement source familiar with Furrow's interrogation, the burly white supremacist from Washington state told investigators that he came to Los Angeles with mayhem on his mind, but no intention to shoot small children.

Three five- and six-year olds were wounded in the attack at the Jewish center. But Furrow said his targets were an elderly receptionist and a teen-age counselor who also were hit. "The kids got in the way," the source said Furrow explained.

Furrow also admitted shooting to death 39-year-old postal worker Joseph Ito, a Filipino-American making his rounds in nearby Chatsworth. Furrow explained that he noticed Ito while he drove by in the aftermath of the center shootings and targeted him as a nonwhite who was also a government employee, according to an affidavit filed by a government agent in federal court.

Furrow was ordered held without bail Thursday on a federal murder charge of killing a federal worker who was doing his job a possible death penalty offense.

Meanwhile, additional details emerged about his activities in recent weeks, and his flight from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, where he surrendered to the FBI a day after the crime spree that began Tuesday morning at the Jewish center, continued with a carjacking and ended with the postal worker's slaying an hour later.

Furrow paid \$800 cash for a cab ride to Las Vegas, according to the taxi driver who said he drove him there.

Furrow had been in the Los Angeles area for two nights before the crime spree, according to a police source familiar with the account the suspect gave law enforcement.

After Furrow allegedly abandoned his carjacked Toyota Camry in a hotel parking lot in Chatsworth, the police source said, he got a haircut and bought a new shirt, then took a taxi to Hollywood, where he searched unsuccessfully for a prostitute and had seven or eight beers in a bar before flagging down cab driver Hovik Garibyan in a 7-Eleven parking lot at 8 p.m. more than two hours before police announced they were seeking Furrow for the shootings.

At first, Garibyan recalled, his passenger asked to be taken to Los Angeles International Airport.

Then, Garibyan said, the passenger changed his mind, saying: "Can you take me to Las Vegas? I don't like to fly in airplanes."

"I was just thinking: 'Who is this person, my passenger?'"

Garibyan recalled, saying that he noticed the man, who paid him in cash, seemed to be concealing something under his arm.

Shortly afterward, Garibyan said, Furrow fell asleep and stayed that way for most of their four-hour trip through the Mojave desert.

He did not awaken until Garibyan stopped for gas 70 miles from Las Vegas.

Furrow told Garibyan to drop him off on the strip outside the New York, New York Casino.

"I stopped under the Statue of Liberty," Garibyan said. "We said good luck to each other" and Furrow walked down the strip and into the night.

Garibyan then went into New York, New York, sat down at a poker table and lost most of what he had just earned. By 5 a.m. he said he was down \$600 and was on his way home.

When he got back, Garibyan told the colleague who leased him the cab, Boris Krasnov that he had driven a fare to Las Vegas and back and was going home to sleep.

Krasnov suspected that Garibyan's fare may have been Furrow.

"I start thinking it's not the usual trip, not everyday that you go to Las Vegas," said Krasnov. He later called Garibyan and told him to watch the next television news broadcast to see whether the photograph of the fugitive was also that of his passenger.

"I just turned on the television and I saw that it was (Furrow)," said Garibyan. "I felt lucky to be alive."

By then Furrow had turned himself in.

He had stayed at the Barbary Coast Hotel in Las Vegas and gambled a little, according to a police source familiar with his statements.

In the morning, when he turned on the television and saw his own face as a wanted man on channel after channel, he decided "I made my point," the source said.

He still had about \$2,000 in cash when he took a cab to the FBI office and turned himself in, saying, "You're looking for me. I killed the kids in Los Angeles."

Furrow, a mechanic by trade with a long history of involvement with the Aryan Nations, a group that believes Jews descend from Satan and should be killed, may have been contemplating an assault on Jewish institution in Los Angeles for weeks.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said that a tour guide identified Furrow from a newspaper photograph as a man who paid a brief and strange visit to the center's Museum of Tolerance some weeks ago.

The man arrived alone and kept to himself, a docent told Hier. He paid no attention to exhibits as the tour group he joined walked around the museum and instead stared at the ceiling the entire time. He left after about 20 minutes, Hier said.

Because the man's behavior was so bizarre, the docent remembered him vividly, Hier said.

Furrow also told authorities that he had targeted a gay bar in San Francisco, according to the source familiar with his interrogation. But no additional details on those plans were available.

Thirty FBI agents fanned out all over Washington state Wednesday and Thursday, interviewing acquaintances of Furrow a man almost universally described as a loner to try to build a more comprehensive portrait of his recent activities and explore possible ties to hate groups more recent than his activities with the Aryan Nations.

"We have come up with addresses for him all over the state. ... He has been sort of a transient," said Michael Sanders, an FBI spokesman in Seattle. He said agents on Thursday searched a storage locker that Furrow rented Saturday, before heading for Los Angeles. But he would not say what they found.

During a brief appearance in Los Angeles federal court Thursday, a heavily shackled Furrow answered a series of routine questions from a federal magistrate before being escorted back to the Metropolitan Detention Center, where he has been in custody since Wednesday night.

Some news reporters in the courtroom said they thought they heard Furrow remark with a smirk: "They all like me."

In an unusual twist, law enforcement authorities announced that the case against Furrow may unfold on two tracks.

Prosecutors with the Los Angeles County district attorney's office filed their own murder and attempted murder charges against Furrow Thursday in San Fernando Municipal Court, while declaring that they will work cooperatively with federal prosecutors and decide later who will try Furrow for which crimes.

Like the federal charge of murdering a federal employee on duty, the state murder count, which carries a special allegation that Furrow killed the letter carrier because of his ethnicity, is a possible death penalty offense.

State authorities also charged Furrow Thursday with five attempted murders that could each bring him life terms for shootings that left the three small children, the teen-ager and the grandmother wounded at the Jewish community center.

Federal authorities, who have no jurisdiction to prosecute attempted slayings, said they may yet charge the community center shootings offenses as federal hate crimes.

State authorities also charged Furrow with carjacking for stealing the Toyota at gunpoint from a 23-year-old woman, and federal prosecutors weighed in with an additional criminal count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

In Washington state, interviews with Furrow's former co-workers continued to fill in the picture of a hate-fueled man with a short fuse.

"Little things would set him off," said a woman who worked with Furrow at LaDuke and Fogle, a farm equipment company near the Canadian border, about 40 miles from Metaline Falls, where Furrow lived for a time with the former wife of a white supremacist leader.

The victims Furrow allegedly injured were in various stages of recovery Thursday.

The most seriously injured, a five-year-old boy who was shot in the abdomen and leg, was reported still in critical condition and on a respirator at Children's Hospital. But he has improved from the day before, when he had orthopedic surgery on his broken leg, a hospital spokeswoman said.

A 6-year-old boy also shot in the leg was reported in good condition at the same hospital and will likely be released Friday, the spokesman said.

Another six-year-old, James Zidell, treated for a bullet wound in his left foot, hoped to go home from the hospital Thursday.

Mindy Finkelstein, the 16-year-old counselor, left the hospital where she had been treated for a gunshot wound to the leg.

The center's 68-year-old receptionist, Isabel Shalometh, who was treated for gunshot wounds to the back and arm, was released from a hospital Wednesday.

Los Angeles Times

Negligence by a big rig driver and improper markings on his truck's trailers were to blame for the traffic collision that killed 13 Mexican farm workers in California's Central Valley this week, a lawsuit filed in Fresno Superior Court Thursday charges.

The action against the driver and two trucking companies attempts to shift the focus of the devastating accident near rural Five Points away from the unlicensed driver of the farm worker's van and on to the truck that blocked its path before dawn Monday.

The lawsuit came as authorities released the names of the nine men and four women killed in the crash and as the Mexican consulate in Fresno, Calif., said it was prepared to begin Friday to ship some of the victims to Mexico for burial.

The lawsuit charges that driver Adrian Medjivar Erazo, 44, negligently cut in front of the van that was carrying 14 workers and a driver home after an overnight shift harvesting tomatoes.

Lawyers for the farm workers said marks at the scene of the accident indicate that the truck may have become stuck in mud or otherwise stopped as it attempted a U-turn on the two-lane road.

California Highway Patrol investigators said, however, that their preliminary conclusion is that mud at the side of remote the road was not a factor in the crash.

Erazo has said that he never saw the heavily loaded van because the vehicle had its lights off. Most of the van's occupants died instantly, thrown off homemade wooden benches with no seatbelts.

A California Highway Patrol official said, if the lights in the farm workers' van were off, it is unlikely that Erazo will be charged with any wrongdoing.

Initial accounts of the crash had focused on the behavior of the driver of the van, Elias Duran Martinez, who was unlicensed and previously had been cited for driving under the influence.

The name of the 26-year-old van driver was one of the 13 released Thursday by the Fresno County Coroner's office. The medical examiner was delayed in publicizing the names because the identification documents on many of the victims were so confused.

The ages of some of the dead are still not known. All were Mexican citizens, living in Fresno: Epifania Andres Velasquez; Juan Avila Garcia, 54; Alejandro Francisco Norberto; Angelica Arellano Nararete, 35; Carlos Baltazar Florentino, 33; Gerardo Mateos Agustin; Magdalena Baltazar; Gregorio Bravo Ramirez, 48; Gregorio Crecencio Mateos-Martinez, 40; Juan Ramirez, 17; Serafin Hernandez Hernandez, 22; Alvira Perez Ponce, and the driver, Martinez, 26.

Racism in the Workplace Puts Airline on Trial By Henry Weinstein

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES Just short of turning 58, Charles L. Walker is old enough to have painful memories of segregated bathrooms and whites-only water fountains he encountered as a youth in his native West Virginia.

But the View Park resident said the racism he encountered during the last few years as a mechanic for American Airlines at Los Angeles International Airport is "the worst thing that ever happened to me."

When he entered a restroom at American's maintenance facility at the airport one day in 1996, Walker was greeted by a handwritten sign proclaiming "All Blacks Must Die."

Later in the same restroom, which is also used by supervisors, he found his name scrawled on the wall next to a Nazi swastika and discovered a cartoon depiction of himself with the words "N-----, N-----, N-----" written under his head. And he encountered a hangman's noose a symbol of lynchings dangling in the main walkway leading to the nerve center of American's servicing and repair facility.

In August 1997, after Walker filed a formal complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, American launched a formal investigation. Richard J. Troy, the manager of American's Los Angeles airport maintenance facility, issued a memo declaring that "rope nooses" displayed in visible areas violated company rules. Supervisors held meetings with employees on the issue and American launched a "graffiti patrol."

But company officials said they were unable to find out who was responsible for the graffiti or the nooses, and no one was disciplined.

Whether that response was forceful enough, and came early enough, is one of the key issues in a \$10.5 million suit by Walker that is expected to come to trial in Los Angeles Superior Court this month.

Suit Claims Rig Driver Negligent in Crash Killing 13 Farm Workers By James Rainey

Week 2
13 July 1998
su to sun

The case could set a precedent in California for how proactive large companies must be in responding to racially discriminatory actions by their employees.

The trial of Walker's case comes at a time when racial harassment claims are on the rise around the United States. In 1998, 9,908 such claims were filed with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and similar state agencies, compared to 4,910 in 1991.

American spokesman Mark Slitt maintains that the company has a good race relations record, a formal anti-discrimination policy and an affirmative action program. He said that the percentage of minority employees at the Los Angeles maintenance facility was higher than in the company at large.

American does not challenge the allegations that there were racist graffiti and other symbols of hate in its workplace.

"Not everyone in the company is an angel," Slitt said, referring to the Dallas-based airline's 100,000 employees.

But the company insists that it should not be held responsible for the actions of racist employees because it has a clear written policy against harassment and responded swiftly when informed of problems.

Walker, who was the only black crew chief at the maintenance facility, left American at the end of 1998. His attorneys, Ronald N. Wilson and Maurice Chenier, have raised several claims against the company, including charges that supervisors harassed Walker in various ways, including using a racial slur when addressing him. They argue that American should be held liable because the company failed for years to take sufficient action to curb racial harassment.

Numerous current and former employees have provided sworn statements describing other incidents involving hangman's nooses and racist graffiti, sometimes staying up for months, at the maintenance facility going back as far as 1989.

In late July, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Dzintra Janavs rejected American's bid to dismiss the case, saying, "I don't think there is any question that there were awful racial things going on."

"I have a real problem with no one having done something, whatever they did, if anything, before '97," the judge added.

Walker's experiences are a stark reminder that graphic racist sentiments can still be found even in the workplaces of large, sophisticated corporations.

The case also illustrates the issues large corporations face in deciding how to deal with racial harassment allegations a subject on which the law remains in flux.

Current standards have evolved primarily from cases involving sexual harassment.

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that in sexual harassment cases, employers can be compelled to pay damages to workers who are harassed by a low-level supervisor, even if the company did not know about the harassment and the employee failed to complain immediately.

At the same time, the justices said employers may be able to escape liability if they have "effective" anti-harassment policies. A company's defense is stronger, the court said, in cases in which an employee fails to use available means to inform management of his or her concerns.

In the last year, five lower federal courts have ruled that the same new principles apply in racial harassment cases. But that issue has not been considered by the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is not easy for a plaintiff to win a racial harassment case. Many suits are thrown out before they get to a jury.

In one recent racial harassment decision, a federal appeals court said a company is not obliged to discharge "all Archie Bunkers in its employ." Courts have, however, at times held companies accountable for the racist utterances and actions of their employees.

In the current Los Angeles case, American's representatives argue that Walker, who joined the company in 1989 after working for several other large corporations and three years as a Los Angeles County deputy sheriff, should have informed them much earlier of the problems he was encountering, either in writing, via a company hot line or through his union. When the company was informed, officials acted promptly and responsibly, the nooses disappeared and the graffiti abated, American's lawyer, Garry G. Mathiason said.

Walker's attorneys say the company did not do nearly enough. The problems were so blatant that the company had an obligation to take notice of them and act even without a formal complaint from an employee, they argue.

They have submitted sworn declarations from current and former employees stating that the racial graffiti in places where it would have been clearly visible to American supervisors often stayed up for weeks, sometimes even months. And in one court declaration,

union steward Ronald V. Bolton noted that one hangman's noose he saw near the production control office, which is frequented by supervisors, was hung from a bar 14 feet high, requiring a ladder to put it up. "Someone should have seen it"

New Law Has Texas Town Conducting Business in Spanish By Claudia Kolker Los Angeles Times

EL CENIZO, Texas As ceiling fans puffed at the big American flag on the community center wall, the dozen residents at the city council meeting here Thursday poised hands over hearts for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then they commenced their town's modestly historic council meeting, possibly the first in the United States to be conducted by city ordinance in Spanish.

Far-flung, sun-battered and mostly poor, this former "colonia" of trailers and frail bungalows found itself in the middle of a political vortex two weeks after enacting a pair of surprising new laws.

Under one ordinance, all city government business must take place in Spanish. And under the second, city employees all six of them are forbidden to assist the U.S. Border Patrol catch undocumented immigrants, or risk being fired.

"About 75 percent of the people at meetings here only speak Spanish," said Mayor Rafael Rodriguez. "The other 25 always had to translate ... If you talk only English and they don't speak enough English to understand the meetings, people got mad."

In a town of 7,500 where virtually every resident is an immigrant, married to an immigrant, or the child of immigrants, the laws reflect not so much a rejection of American culture but acknowledgment of a border culture dominated by the Spanish language and haunted by Border Patrol search vehicles.

Far from springing from any broad ideology, in fact, the motivation for the two laws was utterly local, said Rodriguez. Political rivals of city council members had accused them of turning in undocumented residents to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the new law will help dispel such accusations, he said.

In addition, residents had complained bitterly of Border Patrol vehicles stopping local buses taking residents to welfare offices and health facilities in order to run residency checks.

The Spanish language law, Rodriguez added, stemmed from a petition of local community members and common sense.

So far, residents of this depressed town of laborers and factory workers 10 miles down the Rio Grande from Laredo have praised the two ordinances.

"I'm for it," said Lupe Rojas, squinting in the sunlight alongside her 10-year-old-son. "Because in English, well no! We don't understand it."

But while several Latino advocacy groups praised the language ordinance's effect of tailoring city services to constituents, the law drew ire from immigration-reform activists.

"This is not a good idea," said Tim Schultze, spokesman for U.S. English in Washington, a group devoted to making English the official language of the United States. "We have long predicted that this sort of thing would happen in our country. And our opponents have said, 'You're insane. You're exaggerating. It will never happen.'"

But Lydia Camarillo, executive director of the San Antonio-based Southwest Voter Education Registration Project, called the statute sensible. "It appears that these folks clearly understand these communities do not speak English and this is a way of providing a service," she said.

She knew of no other community having enacted such an ordinance, and added that there was little chance that El Cenizo's action would be widely imitated, or would prevent immigrants from wanting to learn English.

Mayor Rodriguez, a 20-year U.S. resident and naturalized citizen said the ordinance "could" distract residents from picking up English. On the other hand, it will enable residents to make the first steps toward civic participation, and "whenever you learn something, it makes you want to learn more," he said.

Under the ordinance, city council sessions and other official business will be conducted in Spanish, and English translations will be made available upon request within 48 hours.

While the language ordinance provokes strong debate, the city's so-called "safe haven" rule apparently violates federal law, according to the INS. Safe haven ordinances in cities across the country have attempted to keep municipal employees from acting as immigration enforcers, but such measures, unlike the one here, typically include the proviso that they be enforced within the limits of law.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said that a tour guide identified Furrow from a newspaper photograph as a man who paid a brief and strange visit to the center's Museum of Tolerance some weeks ago.

The man arrived alone and kept to himself, a docent told Hier. He paid no attention to exhibits as the tour group he joined walked around the museum and instead stared at the ceiling the entire time. He left after about 20 minutes, Hier said.

Because the man's behavior was so bizarre, the docent remembered him vividly, Hier said.

Furrow also told authorities that he had targeted a gay bar in San Francisco, according to the source familiar with his interrogation. But no additional details on those plans were available.

Thirty FBI agents fanned out all over Washington state Wednesday and Thursday, interviewing acquaintances of Furrow a man almost universally described as a loner to try to build a more comprehensive portrait of his recent activities and explore possible ties to hate groups more recent than his activities with the Aryan Nations.

"We have come up with addresses for him all over the state. ... He has been sort of a transient," said Michael Sanders, an FBI spokesman in Seattle. He said agents on Thursday searched a storage locker that Furrow rented Saturday, before heading for Los Angeles. But he would not say what they found.

During a brief appearance in Los Angeles federal court Thursday, a heavily shackled Furrow answered a series of routine questions from a federal magistrate before being escorted back to the Metropolitan Detention Center, where he has been in custody since Wednesday night.

Some news reporters in the courtroom said they thought they heard Furrow remark with a smirk: "They all like me."

In an unusual twist, law enforcement authorities announced that the case against Furrow may unfold on two tracks.

Prosecutors with the Los Angeles County district attorney's office filed their own murder and attempted murder charges against Furrow Thursday in San Fernando Municipal Court, while declaring that they will work cooperatively with federal prosecutors and decide later who will try Furrow for which crimes.

Like the federal charge of murdering a federal employee on duty, the state murder count, which carries a special allegation that Furrow killed the letter carrier because of his ethnicity, is a possible death penalty offense.

State authorities also charged Furrow Thursday with five attempted murders that could each bring him life terms for shootings that left the three small children, the teen-ager and the grandmother wounded at the Jewish community center.

Federal authorities, who have no jurisdiction to prosecute attempted slayings, said they may yet charge the community center shootings offenses as federal hate crimes.

State authorities also charged Furrow with carjacking for stealing the Toyota at gunpoint from a 23-year-old woman, and federal prosecutors weighed in with an additional criminal count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

In Washington state, interviews with Furrow's former co-workers continued to fill in the picture of a hate-filed man with a short fuse.

"Little things would set him off," said a woman who worked with Furrow at LaDuke and Fogle, a farm equipment company near the Canadian border, about 40 miles from Metaline Falls, where Furrow lived for a time with the former wife of a white supremacist leader.

The victims Furrow allegedly injured were in various stages of recovery Thursday.

The most seriously injured, a five-year-old boy who was shot in the abdomen and leg, was reported still in critical condition and on a respirator at Children's Hospital. But he has improved from the day before, when he had orthopedic surgery on his broken leg, a hospital spokeswoman said.

A 6-year-old boy also shot in the leg was reported in good condition at the same hospital and will likely be released Friday, the spokesman said.

Another six-year-old, James Zidell, treated for a bullet wound in his left foot, hoped to go home from the hospital Thursday.

Mindy Finkelstein, the 16-year-old counselor, left the hospital where she had been treated for a gunshot wound to the leg.

The center's 68-year-old receptionist, Isabel Shalometh, who was treated for gunshot wounds to the back and arm, was released from a hospital Wednesday.

Los Angeles Times

Negligence by a big rig driver and improper markings on his truck's trailers were to blame for the traffic collision that killed 13 Mexican farm workers in California's Central Valley this week, a lawsuit filed in Fresno Superior Court Thursday charges.

The action against the driver and two trucking companies attempts to shift the focus of the devastating accident near rural Five Points away from the unlicensed driver of the farm worker's van and on to the truck that blocked its path before dawn Monday.

The lawsuit came as authorities released the names of the nine men and four women killed in the crash and as the Mexican consulate in Fresno, Calif., said it was prepared to begin Friday to ship some of the victims to Mexico for burial.

The lawsuit charges that driver Adrian Medjivar Erazo, 44, negligently cut in front of the van that was carrying 14 workers and a driver home after an overnight shift harvesting tomatoes.

Lawyers for the farm workers said marks at the scene of the accident indicate that the truck may have become stuck in mud or otherwise stopped as it attempted a U-turn on the two-lane road.

California Highway Patrol investigators said, however, that their preliminary conclusion is that mud at the side of remote the road was not a factor in the crash.

Erazo has said that he never saw the heavily loaded van because the vehicle had its lights off. Most of the van's occupants died instantly, thrown off homemade wooden benches with no seatbelts.

A California Highway Patrol official said, if the lights in the farm workers' van were off, it is unlikely that Erazo will be charged with any wrongdoing.

Initial accounts of the crash had focused on the behavior of the driver of the van, Elias Duran Martinez, who was unlicensed and previously had been cited for driving under the influence.

The name of the 26-year-old van driver was one of the 13 released Thursday by the Fresno County Coroner's office. The medical examiner was delayed in publicizing the names because the identification documents on many of the victims were so confused.

The ages of some of the dead are still not known. All were Mexican citizens, living in Fresno: Epifania Andres Velasquez; Juan Avila Garcia, 54; Alejandro Francisco Norberto; Angelica Arellano Nararete, 35; Carlos Baltazar Florentino, 33; Gerardo Mateos Agustin; Magdalena Baltazar; Gregorio Bravo Ramirez, 48; Gregorio Crecencio Mateos-Martinez, 40; Juan Ramirez, 17; Serafin Hernandez Hernandez, 22; Alvira Perez Ponce, and the driver, Martinez, 26.

Racism in the Workplace Puts Airline on Trial

By Henry Weinstein

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES Just short of turning 58, Charles L. Walker is old enough to have painful memories of segregated bathrooms and whites-only water fountains he encountered as a youth in his native West Virginia.

But the View Park resident said the racism he encountered during the last few years as a mechanic for American Airlines at Los Angeles International Airport is "the worst thing that ever happened to me."

When he entered a restroom at American's maintenance facility at the airport one day in 1996, Walker was greeted by a handwritten sign proclaiming "All Blacks Must Die."

Later in the same restroom, which is also used by supervisors, he found his name scrawled on the wall next to a Nazi swastika and discovered a cartoon depiction of himself with the words "N-----, N-----, N-----" written under his head. And he encountered a hangman's noose a symbol of lynchings dangling in the main walkway leading to the nerve center of American's servicing and repair facility.

In August 1997, after Walker filed a formal complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, American launched a formal investigation. Richard J. Troy, the manager of American's Los Angeles airport maintenance facility, issued a memo declaring that "rope nooses" displayed in visible areas violated company rules. Supervisors held meetings with employees on the issue and American launched a "graffiti patrol."

But company officials said they were unable to find out who was responsible for the graffiti or the nooses, and no one was disciplined.

Whether that response was forceful enough, and came early enough, is one of the key issues in a \$10.5 million suit by Walker that is expected to come to trial in Los Angeles Superior Court this month.

Suit Claims Rig Driver Negligent in Crash Killing 13 Farm Workers

By James Rainey

L.A. Shooting Suspect A Faces State, U.S. Charges

Mailman Was 'Target of Opportunity'

By RENE SANCHEZ
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 12—Federal and state authorities have charged white supremacist Buford O. Furrow with attempting to murder five people at a Jewish community center's summer camp Tuesday and then killing a postal worker because he was a minority and a federal employee.

U.S. Attorney Alejandro Mayorkas said today that Furrow, who surrendered early Wednesday in Las Vegas and has been extradited to Los Angeles, has given authorities detailed statements about how he committed the crimes.

In a chilling account of the slaying of letter carrier Joseph Iletto, a Filipino American who was making his daily rounds at the time, Mayorkas said that Furrow has told investigators he decided to kill the man on a whim after spotting him standing next to a postal van and concluding that he was either Hispanic or Asian. "He stated that the postal worker was a good 'target of opportunity,'" Mayorkas said.

The shooting occurred about an hour after the attack on the Jewish community center and only a few miles away. Furrow approached Iletto, who was on that route by chance, with a 9mm semiautomatic pistol tucked in his back pocket, Mayorkas said. He asked if he could give him a letter to mail. When Iletto agreed, Furrow instead brandished the pistol, shot him twice, then continued firing as the carrier staggered to escape, Mayorkas said. Iletto was struck several times in the back and the head and collapsed as Furrow drove away in a Toyota Camry he had just carjacked.

Furrow, 37, a burly and balding man from Washington state, has a history of ties to hate groups in the Northwest. He has been a member of a neo-Nazi group known as Aryan Nations, and investigators have found materials linking him to a movement known as Christian Identity, which considers Jews subhuman.

In all, Furrow has been charged by state authorities with five counts of attempted murder, one count of murder and one count of carjacking. Federal prosecutors charged him with killing a federal employee and illegally possessing a firearm while on probation for an assault conviction last year in Washington state. Furrow served five months in jail near Seattle for threatening staff members at a psychiatric hospital there with a knife shortly after he tried to admit himself, claiming he felt homicidal.

The most serious charges against Furrow are being classified as hate crimes, which under California law bring more severe punishment. If convicted of the shooting attacks, he could face the death penalty.

"We are horrified by these events," Mayorkas said. "Crimes with racial mo-

tives tear at the heart of our nation."

At his arraignment in a packed federal courtroom here this morning, Furrow looked briefly at the crowd and smiled as he told a public defender, "They all like me." A judge ordered him to be held without bail.

In the criminal complaint filed against Furrow for the attack on the Jewish center, which is in the San Fernando Valley on the northern edge of Los Angeles, authorities said he used an Uzi submachine gun. About 70 shots were fired into the center's front lobby, police said, at a time when most of the several hundred children and teenagers who spend summer days there had just left in buses for a field trip.

Three young children, a teenage camp counselor and an elderly receptionist were struck by the torrent of gunfire. Four of them remained hospitalized today in stable condition; one has been released.

Authorities said they are still investigating why Furrow allegedly targeted the center, but they believe he drove to Southern California in a van he purchased last weekend in Washington state.

Police say the van, which was found abandoned in a parking lot not far from the shooting site, was filled with a half-dozen other assault weapons, cases of ammunition, smoke bombs, survivalist gear and propaganda materials from several racist groups.

Furrow turned himself in at an FBI office in Las Vegas after taking a 270-mile, \$800 cab ride there. Law enforcement sources say he told them he had carried out the attack to promote hatred toward Jews.

Across Southern California today, as the investigation of Furrow continued, flags at post offices were ordered flown at half-staff in honor of the slain postal worker. Iletto, 37, had been a part-time letter carrier for two years. U.S. Postal Service officials said he was among a group of carriers who have no set mail routes but fill in where they are needed. Friends of Iletto left flowers and candles at the site of the slaying.

"We feel a deep loss," said John Freeman, a special agent for the Postal Service.

In Washington, meanwhile, Attorney General Janet Reno said the shooting rampage highlighted the need for tougher gun control measures, and she chastised Congress for not taking steps to enact them.

"We must decide now, as a nation, whether we are going to allow our culture of violence to continue into the next millennium or whether we are going to start into the new era with a commitment to tolerance and to peaceful resolution of our disputes and our disagreements," Reno said at her weekly news conference.

Staff writers Barbara Vobejda and Edward Walsh in Washington and special correspondent Cassandra Stern in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1999

Suspect in Los Angeles Shootings Confesses to a Killing

U.S. and California File Murder Charges

By JAMES STERNGOLD

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 12 — In chilling detail, Buford O. Furrow Jr., the man held in a shooting on Tuesday at a Jewish community center here, has confessed that he shot a Filipino-American letter carrier because he was a nonwhite "target of opportunity."

Mr. Furrow told investigators that he was driving down a quiet residential street in a Toyota he had carjacked when he spotted the letter carrier, 39-year-old Joseph Santos Ito, in his uniform, stuffing letters in a mailbox next to a mail truck.

Mr. Furrow said he thought Mr. Ito was Hispanic or Asian, and he told investigators that he stopped his car and asked Mr. Ito if he would mail a letter. Mr. Ito agreed. Mr. Furrow said he then pulled a Glock Model 26 pistol from his back pocket and shot Mr. Ito twice. But that was not the end, he said.

"He stated that the mail carrier bent over and attempted to run away," said a criminal complaint filed on Wednesday but unsealed this morning. "He then shot the mail carrier a few times in the back until he saw the mail carrier fall to the ground face down."

Mr. Ito was shot at close range nine times.

The complaint added that five of the nine shots that hit Mr. Ito were considered fatal by the coroner. Both the Federal and state authorities filed murder charges today in that killing. Either could bring the death penalty.

At a news conference this morning the District Attorney, Gil Garcetti, said he separately filed a seven-count complaint against Mr. Furrow, 37, including the hate-motivated murder of Mr. Ito, the attempted murder of the five people at the Jewish center and carjacking.

Mr. Furrow made an initial appearance before a Federal magistrate on the murder charge and on another felony count, illegal possession of a firearm. He was denied bail. But the relaxed, heavyset man in prison blues, handcuffs and shackles stood in stunning contrast to the cold-blooded, racist murderer described by the United States Attorney and the Los Angeles District Attorney.

Mr. Furrow, about 5 feet 8 inches tall, with close-cropped hair, a mustache and wire-rimmed, aviator-style glasses sliding down his nose, shuffled into the courtroom so quietly at 11 A.M. that few of the several dozen reporters present seemed to notice him initially.

He tersely answered a few procedural questions posed by the Federal magistrate, Carolyn Turchin, and spoke up only once in the seven-minute hearing, to correct her when she read his name, adding "Junior" after she said Buford O. Furrow.

In trying to fill in details of Mr. Furrow's rampage here on Tuesday,

the authorities only added to the questions about how Mr. Furrow, a well-known member of white supremacist groups and a convicted felon, could amass the money he used to pay for his expedition to Los Angeles from his home in Washington State and the huge arsenal of weapons he brought with him.

He was believed to be unemployed with a history of losing jobs, but he used at least \$4,000 to buy a van last Saturday. He then spent \$800 on a taxi ride to Las Vegas, Nev. Law-enforcement officials would not comment on whether they have evidence that he received financial or other kinds of assistance.

The shootings began about 10:49 A.M. on Tuesday, when he entered the North Valley Jewish Community Center in the Granada Hills section

of Los Angeles and squeezed off at least 70 shots with an Uzi submachine gun, hitting five people, including three children at a day camp.

All five are now recovering, although one 5-year-old boy was still listed in critical condition today. He then fled in his van, parked it then carjacked the Toyota, the police said.

"There is evidence that the murder was racially motivated," said Alejandro N. Mayorkas, the United States Attorney here.

Another puzzling element was added today when the taxi company that transported Mr. Furrow to Las Vegas after the shootings said that he had hailed the taxi near the heart of Hollywood, about 20 miles from where he had abandoned the Toyota after shooting Mr. Ito. Somehow he covered that distance in spite of a police dragnet in the vicinity of the crimes.

Alexander Konopov of the Independent Taxi Company said a driver, Hovik Garibyan, had picked up Mr. Furrow near Sunset Boulevard and Cherokee Street between 5 P.M. and 6 P.M. Mr. Furrow initially asked to be taken to the airport, then said he was afraid of flying and asked to be taken to Las Vegas, Mr. Konopov said.

A price of \$800 was negotiated, Mr. Furrow paid with \$100 and \$50 bills, and then he slept most of the way.

In addition to raising serious concerns about a conspiracy, the shootings also intensified the debate over gun control. Mr. Furrow had such a

large arsenal, including handguns, an assault rifle, hand grenades and thousands of rounds of ammunition, that the police had said earlier they felt lucky more people had not been hurt.

President Clinton commented on the shootings today, calling them "another compelling argument for the passage of hate crimes legislation and the common-sense gun legislation." Law-enforcement officials have not yet said how they believe Mr. Furrow obtained the weapons or the results of any tracing they have done of the origins of the guns.

The Federal complaint unsealed today listed two charges, the premeditated murder of a Federal employee in the performance of his duties, and the illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Mr. Furrow was convicted of attempted assault in Washington State last year. Mr. Mayorkas said Mr. Furrow could face other Federal charges. His next hearing on the Federal charges will be on Aug. 24.

Law-enforcement officials did their best to present a unified front, since there had been a behind-the-scenes struggle between the United States Attorney's office and the District Attorney over who would charge and try Mr. Furrow first. Those issues remained unresolved today, but at the news conference Mr. Garcetti said they had formed a joint task force to continue the investigation and to determine when and where Mr. Furrow would ultimately be tried.

"We intend to continue working together to insure that justice is served," said Mr. Garcetti, who added that he expected Mr. Furrow to be arraigned on the state charges within a few days.

The New York Times

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1999