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# Suspects' neighbors shocked by shooting

MICHAEL CARRIER  
and DAN CHRISTENSEN

*Miami News Reporters*

To their friends and neighbors, William R. Matix and his family-man buddy Michael Lee Platt were simply hard-working friends who ran a small landscaping business that had provided them both good homes and hopes for the future.

Yesterday, after Matix and Platt were shot dead in a gun-battle on Southwest 22nd Avenue in which two FBI agents died and five more agents were wounded, a side to their lives that the two men had kept hidden began to unravel.

"I'm devastated," said one woman who lives in the same quiet cul-de-sac in

the Hammocks subdivision where Platt lived with his wife and their four children for the past year. "Their poor little kids. That's who I'm hurting for." The FBI says Matix and Platt actually were a ruthless team of armed robbers and killers, suspects in a violent string of armored car and bank holdups, most of them in Kendall. They also are believed to have been the gunmen in two killings at a West Dade rock pit where police say they apparently liked to fire off bursts of gunfire from automatic weapons.

Platt, 32, lived at 15031 S.W. 88th Lane, police say. Matix, 35, lived at 15615 S.W. 85th Ave. in a subdivision called Southwood. Both men's homes were within a dozen miles of the street corner where they died and the Barnett

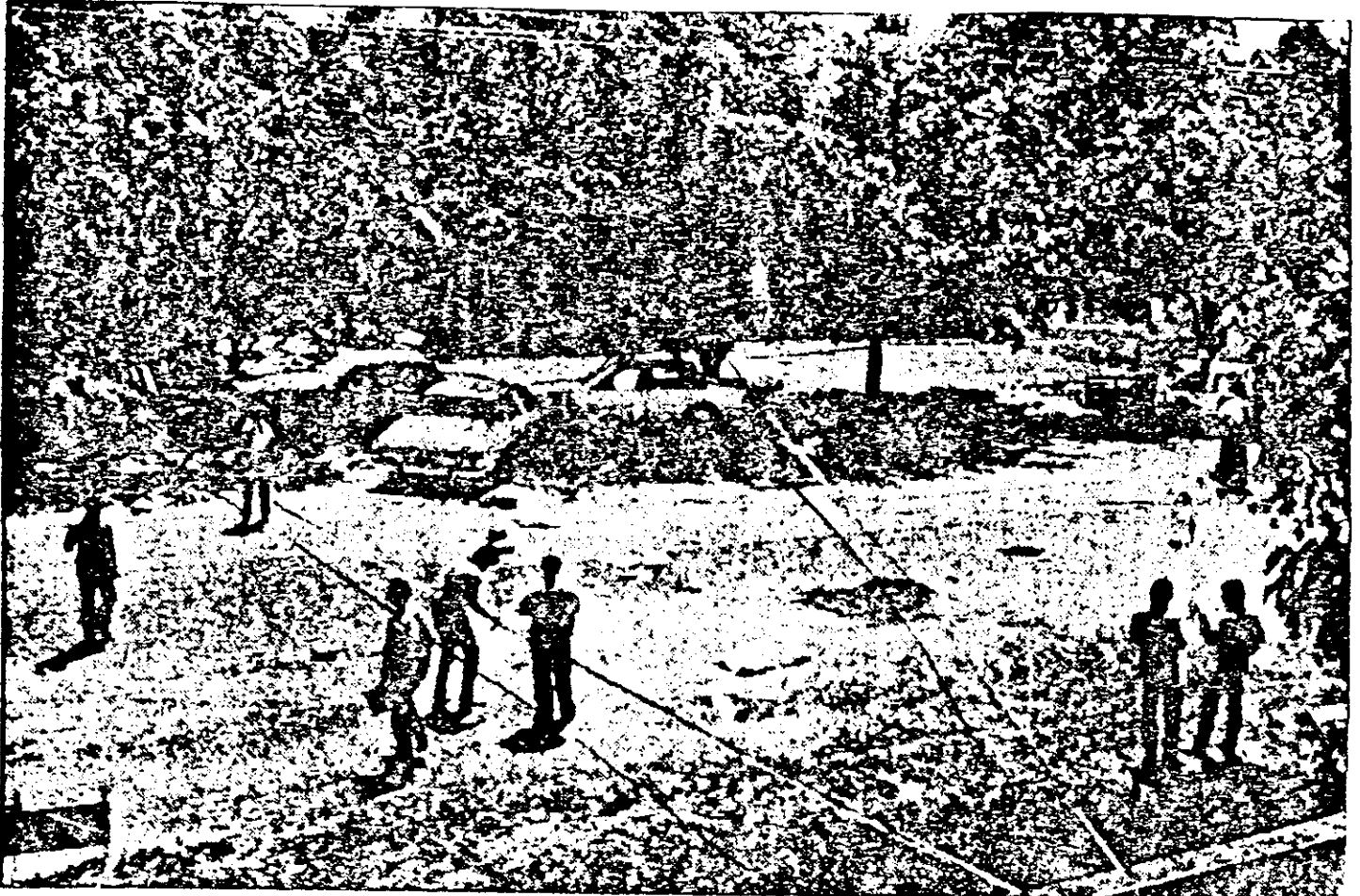
Bank on U.S. 1, at Southwest 136th Street, which police say the men robbed twice.

Platt and his wife, Brenda, had lived in their rented, two-story house less than a year, according to neighbors. Police briefly sealed off an area around the home after the shooting and searched the residence, which has a for-sale sign in the front yard.

Police said Matix was engaged to be married.

Both men, who worked with Platt's brother, Tim, in a lawn-mowing and tree-trimming company called Broad Cutters, had no criminal record either locally or nationally, police said.

Please see SHOOT-OUT, 13A



Investigators check the scene where shoot-out took place

The Miami News - MURRY BILL

# SHOOT-OUT, from 1A

Investigators continue to look for a white Ford pickup belonging to Matix that detectives believe may contain evidence that the pair committed other crimes. Police believe the truck was used in earlier robbery getaways.

While there initially was nothing to indicate the two men were related to any revolutionary or terrorist group, the FBI's director, William H. Webster, said in Washington, "We are looking into that aspect very carefully."

Law enforcement officials were puzzled by the men's outward appearances as average suburbanites.

"What they did is completely out of character and abnormal to the type of lives they were leading," said Metro police robbery Sgt. Tony Monheim. "Obviously, these guys were very strange people, but their home life was normal. I don't understand it."

A Platt neighbor said he talked to Platt's 17-year-old stepson after the shooting, but the boy did not want to discuss the incident.

"They were just a nice family, that's why I'm really in shock," said the man who asked not to be named.

Also killed in the 10-minute gun battle, which witness said began near 134th Street and Southwest 82nd Avenue, were FBI special agents Benjamin T. Grogan, 53, and Jerry Dove, 30. Grogan was a 28-year FBI veteran. Dove had been an FBI agent since 1982.

Grogan, a native of Brunswick, Ga., was a "very quiet, caring person — a mother-hen type person with his friends," according to Mary Jellison, the wife of David Jellison, an FBI agent who worked with Grogan.

"Grogan was a friend forever," David Jellison said. "Mr. Dove was in good company."

Helen Bergert, who met Grogan in the 1960s when she worked with the FBI as a civilian, described him as a mild-mannered man with a pleasant, easy-going style. She last saw him on Good Friday when he brought his mother's poodle puppy to her grooming parlor, Bergert said.

Grogan and his wife attended Visitation Catholic Church, 19100 N. Miami Ave. A funeral Mass said by Archbishop Edward McCarthy of Miami will be held there at 1 p.m. Monday.

Five other FBI agents were wounded:

✓ Gordon McNeill, 43, a 19-year FBI veteran and supervisory agent, who was listed in serious but stable condition in Baptist Hospital with gunshot wounds to the chest and hand.

✓ John Hanlon, 48, a 22-year veteran special agent, listed in serious but stable condition in Baptist Hospital with gunshot wounds to the hand and thigh.

✓ Edmundo Mireles, 33, a six-year veteran special agent, listed in stable condition in South Miami Hospital after being shot in the arm.

✓ Richard A. Manauzzi, 43, a 15-year veteran special agent, treated for superficial wounds at Jackson Memorial Hospital and released.

✓ Gilbert Orrantia, 27, a four-year veteran special agent, treated for superficial wounds at Jackson Memorial Hospital and released.

FBI officials in Miami and Washington D.C., including FBI director Webster, called the shootout the bloodiest day in the bureau's history.

"It is difficult to recall so many agents killed and injured in a single incident," Webster said in a press statement from Washington D.C.

Some agents openly displayed their grief and anger as they milled about the shooting scene still strewn with bodies four hours after the shooting ended. One resident said he saw officers repeatedly kick the body of one the slain suspects.

FBI Special Agent In-Charge Joseph Cortese said the two suspects, known to officers to be extremely dangerous, may have been the same pair who turned a rock quarry south of Tamiami Trail at 157th Avenue into a automatic weapon shooting gallery earlier this year.

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# Cops: 8 cases linked to pair in FBI shoot-out

**JON O'NEILL**  
*Miami News Reporter*

Metro robbery detectives, working with the FBI, say they hope to close as many as eight unsolved cases with the deaths of two suspects killed during Friday's shoot-out with FBI agents.

The gun battle left two agents, Benjamin Grogan and Gerald Dove, dead on a South Dade street. Five other agents were wounded.

Metro Sgt. Sandy Guttman, who is working on the unsolved cases, said Grogan had made a prophetic remark to Metro detectives while they worked on the robbery cases:

"He said, 'Whoever comes across these guys first will really have their hands full.'

"Of all the people it could have happened to, it is unbelievable it was him," a saddened Guttman said today. "We knew these guys were dangerous and ruthless."

Police suspect the dead men, Michael Lee Platt, 32, and William Matix, 34, were involved in at least four robberies in Dade County since October 1985, including a shooting at a South Dade rock pit. Guttman said police are waiting for results of

Please see FBI, 4A

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fingerprint and ballistics tests that they hope will see the books on those cases.

FBI agents are working on closing several other cases in which Platt and Matix were suspects, Guttman said. He ran down a list of eight cases that he said Metro and the FBI have reason to believe were connected to Platt and Matix.

Guttman said Platt has been identified by Jose Collazo as the man who robbed him March 12 at a South Dade rock pit. Collazo, 29, said he was target shooting at the rock pit near Southwest 18th Street and 157th Avenue when two men shot him, tossed him into the pit and drove off in his black Chevrolet Monte Carlo. Collazo said he had played dead and then walked three miles to call for help. Collazo's Monte Carlo was used during the March 19 robbery of a Barnett Bank at 13595 S. Dixie Highway, Guttman said. It also was the car Platt and Matix were driving when FBI agents spotted them Friday.

Metro police believe the two also were involved in a robbery at the Steak and Ale restaurant, 9090 W. 97th Ave., on Oct. 10, 1985. Shell casings from a .223-caliber automatic weapon were found at the scene, Guttman said. Those slugs may be from the same gun used to kill Grogan and Dove on Friday, Guttman said.

Police also think Platt and Matix were involved in a failed robbery of a Loomis armored car at Dalt's restaurant in Kendall on Oct. 17, 1985. The guard of the armored car thwarted the robbery attempt by firing at the two men.

Meanwhile, police are looking for a white Ford 150 pickup with an orange stripe down the side, license tag 538 CUW. Guttman said the truck belonged to Matix, and police believe it was used as a getaway car after Platt and Matix committed a robbery in a stolen vehicle.

Guttman said he suspects that the truck may be parked near the



The Miami News-MURRY SILL

### FBI chief Webster arrives at South Miami Hospital

Dixie Belle Shopping Center. Friday's shooting occurred in a residential neighborhood behind the mall. Anyone who finds the truck should not touch it and should call Metro robbery detectives at 547-7452.

Last night, as investigators worked to wrap up cases that may have involved the two men, friends of Grogan, 53, gathered at the Bennett & Sons Funeral Home in North Dade to pay their respects.

Police estimate that nearly 300 people, at least half of them police from throughout South Florida, turned out. Most also attended the

rosary service in Grogan's honor at Visitation Catholic Church in North Miami.

Jim Downing, a former Miami FBI agent who worked with Grogan for 12 years, drove 200 miles from his home in Rockledge to attend the services.

"We stayed close even after I retired," Downing said. "He was an excellent agent, outstanding in every way. What more could I do for a good friend?"

Others had different reasons for attending the viewing and rosary service. Anthony and Mae Yannellos never knew Grogan personally. But they said they knew the pain that his wife was feeling. The

Yannellos' son, Tony, an officer with the Broward Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed 18 months ago this week while trying to end a domestic dispute.

"We know how much that report means," Anthony Yannellos said. "It meant a lot to us and we wanted to stop by and pay our respects."

FBI Director William Webster visited the wounded agents on Friday and was to attend Grogan's funeral later this afternoon. Webster first visited agent Ed Mireles, who is in fair condition at South Miami Hospital. He spent five minutes with Mireles, then flew by helicopter to Baptist Hospital to visit wounded agents Gordon Mireles and John Hanlon, who were in good condition. Two other agents who were wounded in the melee were treated at local hospitals and released Friday.

A funeral Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Edward McCarrick in Miami was scheduled for tomorrow at Visitation Church. Grogan will be buried tomorrow in Brunswick, Ga. Dove, 30, will be buried tomorrow in Charleston, W.V.

U.S. Attorney General Meese made a special visit to Miami yesterday to meet with the wounded agents and to pay their work.

"I just told them how proud we were for their actions," Meese said after visiting Baptist Hospital. "I do know that this was an excellent job of locating two very dangerous bank robbers."

Meese said that the agents were appropriately during the gunfight. "This is the kind of thing that can happen," Meese said. "I'm just glad these two men were stopped."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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# Killers' secret lives stun their families

By **MARC FISHER**  
Herald Staff Writer

Friday afternoon in New Madison, Ohio, Judy Matix saw the TV news about the shootings in Miami. So did her mother. On Monday, Matix recalled that she and her mother spoke that afternoon and "my mother said, 'Isn't that something about what happened in Miami?'"

They went to sleep. At 3 a.m., the phone rang. It was a relative with the rest of the news.

William Matix, Yvonne Emerick's third child, had shot several FBI agents and had been killed in the Kendall melee.

"You don't know the mental strain it

puts on the family," said Judy Matix, the dead man's oldest sister. "The way people look at you. I can't picture my brother doing this kind of thing. He was soft-spoken. He'd help anybody."

In Ohio and South Dade Monday, the families of the two men who killed two FBI agents and wounded five others last week read the news accounts and wondered how they could have been ignorant of secret lives.

Tim Platt, the brother of Michael Lee Platt, the other killer in the most devastating day in FBI history, said: "None of it

Please turn to FAMILY/16A

# Secret lives a big shock to families

## It doesn't make sense, say alleged robbers' kin

FAMILY / from 1A

clicks. None of it makes any sense at all. I would like to believe Mikey had nothing to do with any of this. But it seems to be cut and dried."

Tim Platt, who runs a landscaping and tree-trimming business called Blade Cutters, worked with his younger brother and Matix until 16 months ago, when Michael and Matix split off to form their own company, The Yankee Clipper.

It was just the two of them, Michael Platt and Matix, operating out of Matix's Kendall home. They did quite well, and members of both families say they had no money problems. Still, Tim Platt said, the two broke away from his company because "they wanted to make more money.

"We come from a hardworking family," Platt said. "God only gave us one thing and that was strong backs. We thought that in Florida you could make a lot of money in this business. There is money to be made in Florida. It's just too bad they chose to do it that way."

That choice was apparently a decision to build up their riches through a series of bank and armored-car robberies. Metro police widened their investigation Monday, looking into connections between Matix and Platt and at least four South Dade robberies that occurred since last fall.

That kind of life — men living on the edge, packing automatic weapons, prepared for the ultimate confrontation — contrasts sharply with the pictures family members paint of Michael Platt and Bill Matix. There are calm, even pastoral portraits, filled with references to happy, smiling boys

### Hidden subtext

Throughout both their lives, however, there is a secret subtext, one driven home by such details as these:

• Judy Matix, Bill's oldest sister, said she did not know until this week that her brother's second wife had been pregnant when the marriage broke up one month after the couple eloped. Judy said Bill, who had visited his family in November, never told anyone there was a child.

• Despite his father's alcoholism and disputes between father and son, Bill Matix was devastated when his father died. He attended the funeral in Cincinnati, then went to the reading of his father's will, only to discover that his dad

There is money to be made in Florida. It's just too bad they chose to do it that way.

Tim Platt, brother of killer

had left everything to Bill's stepmother. Bill Matix never again spoke to his stepmother.

• Matix, who met Platt when they were military policemen in Korea, came to Florida after Platt offered him a job with the landscaping company. Matix's family says Platt, who lived in South Florida for five years, lured Bill here shortly after Matix's first wife was murdered in the most celebrated homicide in the history of Columbus, Ohio.

"He talked Bill into moving to Florida and none of us wanted him to go there," Judy Matix said. "Then this happens. All these things they say on TV. It can't be. Losing his wife and everything was hard. But he was going to church and it seemed OK."

### 'Smiling, happy guy'

The Matixes blame Platt for leading Bill to a life of crime. Tim Platt says that doesn't make sense: "My brother didn't own any guns, to my knowledge. He was a smiling, happy guy — no drinking, no drugs, no smoking. He was not your typical criminal."

Platt, who came from a military family, was born in Bloomington, Ind., and grew up on naval bases around the country. He was, his brother said, "the best brother, the best friend."

It was Matix who owned guns, always had. Matix, who joined the Marines right out of high school, served three tours in the military. Then he went to meat-cutting school, then learned to be a chef. He was an excellent wood carver. He owned a pistol and a rifle when he lived in Columbus.

The turning point in Matix's life came when his wife Patricia and another woman were murdered on Dec. 30, 1983, in the Columbus hospital where she worked as a research assistant.

To this day, the case is a sore spot for the Columbus police. Until this weekend, there were few leads.

Now police say they have re-opened the files. Monday afternoon, they called Metro-Dade police to ask for the latest on William Matix.

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## **Setting the Record Straight**

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An article in Monday's Herald on church services at Riverside Baptist Church did not fully report the actions of a Channel 4 television crew. The crew had asked for

and received permission from church officials to film in the lobby of the church, but left when Dr. Emit Ray, the minister, objected to the camera.



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# Cops see 8 cases

## tied to men in FBI shootout

JON O'NEILL

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The gun battle left two agents, Benjamin Grogan and Gerald Dove, dead on a South Dade street. Five other agents were wounded in the melee.

FBI Director William Webster planned to visit the wounded agents today, hospital officials said. Webster also was to attend today's funeral services for Grogan.

Metro Sgt. Sandy Guttman, who now is working on the unsolved cases, said Grogan had made a pro-

phetic remark to Metro detectives while they worked on the robbery cases:

"He said, 'Whoever comes across these guys first will really have their hands full.'"

"Of all the people it could have happened to, it is unbelievable it was him," a saddened Guttman said early today. "We knew these guys were dangerous and ruthless."

Police suspect the dead men, Michael Lee Platt, 32, and William Matix, 34, were involved in at least four robberies in Dade County since October 1985, including a shooting at a South Dade rock pit. Guttman said police are waiting for results of fingerprint and ballistic tests that they hope will close the books on those cases.

FBI agents are working on closing several other

cases in which Platt and Matix were suspects, Guttman said. He said he didn't have details on those cases.

Guttman said Platt has been identified by Jose Collazo as the man who robbed him March 12 at a South Dade rock pit. Collazo, 29, said he was target shooting at the rock pit near Southwest 16th Street and 157th Avenue when two men shot him, tossed him into the pit and drove off in his black Chevrolet Monte Carlo. Collazo said he had played dead and then walked three miles to call for help.

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## FBI, from 1A

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Associated Press

**Edwin Meese, right, leaves Baptist Hospital yesterday with Miami FBI special agent Joseph Corless**

friends of Grogan, 53, gathered at the Bennett & Sons Funeral Home in North Dade to pay their respects.

Police estimate that nearly 300 people, at least half of them police officers representing departments throughout South Florida, turned out. Most also attended the rosary service in Grogan's honor at Visitation Catholic Church in North Miami.

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Others had different reasons for attending the viewing and rosary service. Anthony and Mae Yannello never knew Grogan personally. But they said they knew the pain that his wife was feeling. The Yannellos' son, Tony, an officer with the Broward Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed 18 months ago this week while trying to settle a

domestic dispute.

"We know how much the support means," Anthony Yannello said. "It meant a lot to us and we wanted to stop by and pay our respects."

A funeral Mass to be said by Archbishop Edward McCarthy of Miami was scheduled for 1 p.m. today at Visitation Church. Grogan will be buried tomorrow in Brunswick, Ga. Dove, 30, will be buried tomorrow in Charleston, W.Va.

Two wounded agents, Gordon McNeill, 43, and John Hanlon, 48, were in good condition early today at Baptist Hospital, a spokeswoman said. A third agent, Ed Mireles, remained in fair condition today at South Miami Hospital. Two others were treated at local hospitals and released Friday.

U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese made a special visit to Miami yesterday to meet with the wounded agents and to praise their work.

"I just told them how grateful we were for their actions," Meese said after visiting Baptist Hospital. "I do know that this was an excellent job of locating two very dangerous bank robbers."

Meese said that the agents acted appropriately during the shootout.

"This is the kind of thing that can happen," Meese said. "We're just glad these two men were stopped."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

# Killers' link to rock pit crimes probed

By MARC FISHER  
And BRIAN DUFFY  
~~Special Staff Writers~~

As relatives buried the second FBI agent slain in last week's suburban shoot-out, detectives Tuesday investigated connections between killers William Matix and Michael Platt and South Dade's Rock Pit robbery gang.

At a West Dade rock pit on March 12, two men shot and wounded Jose Collazo and robbed him of his gun, money and Chevrolet Monte Carlo — the very same car Matix and Platt used in Friday's Kendall shoot-out. During the gunfight agents Benjamin Grogan and Gerald Dove were killed and five others were wounded. Matix and Platt also were killed.

One of the rock pit robbers carried a Ruger Mini-14 semiautomatic rifle, the same type of weapon Matix used against FBI agents on Friday.

The March 12 robbery took place at 10 a.m. Four and a half hours later, Matix sat in a well-furnished Coral Gables law office, responding to queries about his divorce, court records show.

Court files show that Matix's second wife, Christy Horne Matix, asked a Dade court to dissolve her marriage last October. She said she had lived with Matix for less than two months and that the marriage was "irretrievably broken."

Christy Matix insisted early this year that unless her husband agreed to pay her \$500 a month in child support, she would "simply let the husband forget the boy ever existed."

The disintegrating home life of Matix, the born-again Christian who would go on to become the main marksman in the bloodiest event in FBI history, was one of several developments Tuesday:

● In South Charleston, W. Va., 400 local, state and federal law enforcement officers, including FBI Director William Webster, attended a private funeral service for Special Agent Dove. His partner, Grogan, will be buried today in Brunswick, Ga.

"We expect a great deal from our agents," said Webster, who delivered the eulogy. "Jerry Dove gave all he can. He served his country well."

● Detectives investigating the case Tuesday finished interviewing witnesses and prepared to brief FBI supervisors on their findings Thursday. State Attorney

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Janet Reno will then decide whether to conduct an inquest into the deaths.

• Metro police looked anew at the death of Michael Platt's wife, Regina, who died on Christmas Eve, 1984. Metro homicide investigators said statistics cast doubt on the initial ruling of suicide. She was said to have fired a shotgun into her head, a method of suicide rarely used by women.

• The Dade medical examiner's office completed autopsies on the four victims of the Friday shoot-out. But a spokesman for the office refused to divulge the results, referring questions to Metro police.

• FBI agents around the nation began efforts to reconstruct their lives, looking into the two men's childhoods, education, military service, employment and family relations.

• FBI psychologists arrived in Miami to counsel the injured agents and at least two backup agents who arrived at the Kendall shoot-out after the violence and now feel guilty that they couldn't do more to save their fellow FBI men.

Matix's divorce case, which files indicate had not been settled by Friday, sheds little light on the dissolution of a marriage that lasted only long enough for the husband to find out that his wife was pregnant.

In a November response to his wife's petition, Matix agreed the marriage was hopeless. But the couple could not agree on how to split.

Christy Matix wanted custody of their child, a boy born this January. So did her husband. Christy Matix wanted alimony and child support. Bill Matix wanted her to pay him alimony and support.

Finally, in January, the attorney for Christy Matix rejected a settlement offer under which the husband would pay \$50 a week in child support and be allowed to visit the boy one weekend a month. The wife wanted to restrict Matix to daytime visits until their boy was 4 years old. Only then would an overnight stay be permitted.

And Christy Matix insisted that her husband's monetary offer was "completely unacceptable as it is far beneath the husband's economic ability," according to a letter from her lawyer, John Thomson.

Matix "is not willing to

assume the burden of a parent, then he should not be the recipient of any of its benefits," Thomson wrote.

At Dove's funeral in West Virginia, Special Agent Bob Ross, who was with Dove when he died, praised his partner of the past nine months.

"We were as close as any two agents ever were," Ross said. "At the end, Jerry was up front where he always wanted to be. He was a front-line guy all the way."

Ross said neither Dove nor Grogan suffered when they died on a Kendall street.

"It was very quick," he said.

Ross, an agent for 15 years, called Dove a "throwback" to what law enforcement officers used to be.

"He had enthusiasm, desire and dedication in plenty," Ross said. "His sense of humor was unique. He loved people and he believed in what he was doing. He was a beautiful person."

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# Cops' theory on killers: Each slew the other's wife

By **MARTIN MERZER**  
*Herald Senior Writer*

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Five days after William Matix and Michael Platt killed two FBI agents in a gunfight on a Kendall street, detectives are pursuing a bizarre theory of spousal homicide — that each man murdered the other's wife.

Columbus Police Capt. Antone Lanata said Tuesday that Platt is a suspect in the murder of Patricia Matix.

In South Florida, investigators want to know where Matix was when Platt's wife died of a shotgun blast, believed suicide at the time.

"The two men were super-tight," said Metro-Dade robbery Sgt. Tony Monheim. "They went everywhere together. I mean it was ridiculous. I think they might have even had some kind of pact together to kill their wives." So

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# Pair killed wives, police suspect

## After his spouse was slain, Matix collected insurance

**MATIX / from 1A**

far, the detectives have little evidence. But they think that, at least in the murder of Matix's wife, they may well have a motive: money.

Matix, who along with Platt died in the gun battle, collected more than \$350,000 from insurance policies on his wife, murdered in a hospital Dec. 30, 1983. He also filed a \$3 million lawsuit against the hospital, The Miami Herald has learned.

Capt. Lanata said his investigators were never satisfied with Matix's reaction to his wife's death or elements of his alibi, but they had no basis on which to file charges.

The crazed shoot-out last Friday revealed a dark side of the secret lives of the two, both seemingly law-abiding family men.

"What happened last week in Miami raises a whole new dimension in this case," Lanata said. "It reopens Matix (as a suspect) and it opens Platt — where was he?"

Matix, police feel, was a man of greed who had something less than the ideal marriage that he later portrayed.



Lanata

Antone said investigators are trying to determine if Matix and Platt joined in a pact to kill their wives as a prelude to their life of crime.

Matix and Platt are suspected in a number of violent bank and armored car robberies in South Florida.

Platt's first wife, Regina, died from a shotgun blast to the head in December 1984, almost exactly a year after the violent death of Matix's wife. Regina Platt's death was ruled a suicide, but investigators say they'll reopen that case.

In the Ohio hospital crime, someone stabbed to death both Patricia Matix, 30, and Joyce McFadden, 33. Both worked as laboratory technicians at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus.

Police have been stumped by the case. They questioned Matix, but they could find no motive and only relatively minor inconsistencies in his alibi. They also have another suspect, an unidentified construction worker who was in the area at the time. Indictments were never sought against either.

The Columbus Dispatch reported Tuesday that Matix and his infant daughter relocated to Florida with more than \$375,000 several months after the crime.

Quoting sources, the newspaper said Matix collected a double death benefit totaling about \$350,000 from a hospital insurance policy. In addition, he was the beneficiary of a \$10,000 insurance policy on his wife, earned about

\$10,000 on the sale of his home, and collected other funds from the sale of personal items.

A spokeswoman said the hospital's insurance policy did not include a double-indemnity provision and the \$350,000 figure was "too high." She confirmed, however, that Matix received a six-figure insurance payment.

Lanata, the police captain, said Tuesday that the newspaper account was "essentially accurate." He also said he believed Matix received a \$50,000 payment from a state compensation program for crime victims.

The newspaper also quoted a family friend as saying that Matix "definitely had a problem with money" and that he and his wife had briefly separated before the birth of their child.

In the \$3 million lawsuit, Matix sued the hospital and two "John Does" — the unknown construction worker identified as a suspect, and the firm for which he worked, also unknown.

The suit, filed in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, charges the hospital with negligence for allegedly providing inadequate security. It charges both John Does with wrongful death.

The case was filed on Dec. 30, 1985, the final day before the statute of limitations for such a lawsuit would have expired.

Matix's Columbus lawyer, Craig Treneff, said his client seemed eager to take legal action. Treneff said he accepted the case after another attorney refused, saying it was too flimsy.

"Bill [Matix] came to me very interested in seeing what rights he had to recover what he could, and he expressed an interest in the

financial interests of his daughter," Treneff said. "He didn't have to be coaxed."

Treneff said Matix related the story of his wife's death and his own alibi several times. Treneff said he found no major inconsistencies.

Matix told investigators and others that he was home with the baby at the time of the murders. Lanata said Tuesday that Matix was never able to provide definitive corroborating evidence, but investigators were equally unable to collect enough evidence against him.

Lanata said he'll send some investigators to South Florida to pursue leads. One thing they want to do is track Platt's movements at the time Matix's wife was killed.

Despite Patricia Matix' death, the lawsuit — technically filed on behalf of her estate — could proceed, according to Treneff and attorneys for the hospital.

But Treneff said he expected it to be dropped eventually, and, in any event, he was preparing to withdraw from the case.

It seems that Treneff was among the many people who thought he knew William Matix, but did not.

"I had no idea he was apparently involved in the degree of criminal activity he was involved in in Miami," Treneff said. "So, given the fact that I had a relationship with a person in which I failed to discern his true characteristics, I'm not comfortable with the case.

"I'm not saying I doubt anything he told me about his wife's murder, but ..."

Treneff did not finish the sentence.



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**THE MIAMI HERALD**  
Miami, Florida

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Indexing

# Death bathed sunny day in horror

## FBI's plan of attack blew up in tragedy

By **BRIAN DUFFY**  
*Herald Staff Writer*

It was a bright clear morning, just after 9 o'clock, and the poky traffic was up to its usual tricks on South Dixie: stop, start, stop, start. A typical mess. It had been this way for several Fridays now. The FBI agents in their big, comfortable cars. Fighting the traffic. Watching, waiting and making small talk on the car radios.

There had been nothing.

No sign of the bank robbers whose peculiar brand of gratuitous violence prompted the FBI and Metro-Dade police to flood the Suniland area of South Dixie Highway with agents from a high-priority task force. Fridays are payday; Fridays are best for robbing banks.

### The FBI Shoot-Out

Second in a series

"Attention all units," the FBI car radios crackled. "We're behind a black vehicle, two-door, Florida license NPJ-891. We're headed south on South Dixie, no, north on South Dixie."

It was Grogan. Every agent in South Florida knew his bark, the precise, gravelly voice clipping each word. Special Agent Benjamin P. Grogan was something of a legend in the FBI's Miami field office. He had been with the bureau 25 years, and he had done it all.

Now he was behind a dark Monte Carlo moving up the highway in the lousy traffic.

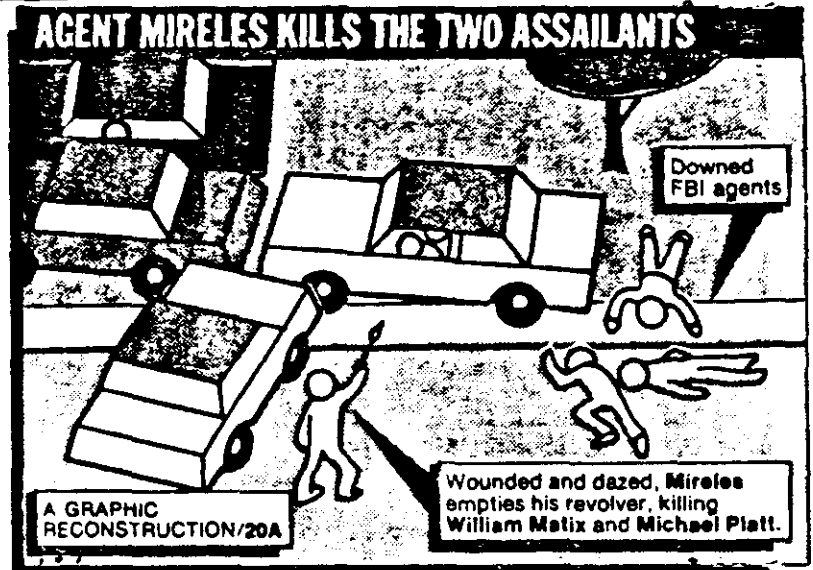
The date: April 11, 1986. The time: 9:17 a.m.  
"North on South Dixie," Grogan repeated.  
"124th Street. A black Monte Carlo. Two males in it. NPJ-891."

Twelve agents were waiting in cars nearby. Every one of them knew the tag number. It belonged to a man named Jose Collazo.

Almost a month ago, on March 12, two men shot Collazo four times and left him for dead in a West Dade rock pit.

"Rednecks," he called them when he regained consciousness. They took his money, his gun and his Monte Carlo. FBI agents think

Please turn to SHOOT-OUT / 20A



# The FBI Shoot-Out: A Reconstruction

## Primed to do battle, lawmen knew they could die

### SHOOT-OUT / from 20A

bled to a phone and dialed 911. The first time he got it wrong.

Matix was crouching between the right front corner of the Cutlass and the left front of a gold Camaro, which belonged to another resident. He began firing. At the same time, Agent Manauzzi was scrambling out of his gray Buick. Platt, still in the driver's seat of the Monte Carlo, fired the shotgun at Manauzzi. Buckshot grazed him across the back.

Manauzzi was the first agent down. He crawled to cover.

Seconds later, Grogan and Dove pulled up, right behind Manauzzi's car. They saw Platt with the shotgun. They slid hurriedly out the driver's-side door, knelt in sparse grass behind the left rear of their Buick and began firing. Both had 9mm semi-automatic pistols, but they couldn't get a clear shot at Platt. Apparently, they didn't even see Matix, ducked down between the Cutlass and the Camaro.

Special Agent Gordon McNeill, supervisor of the bank robbery surveillance, came tearing south down 82nd Avenue in a creamy yellow 1985 Buick LeSabre. He jerked the car to a halt, the front end perpendicular to the back of Manauzzi's car and the front of Grogan's.

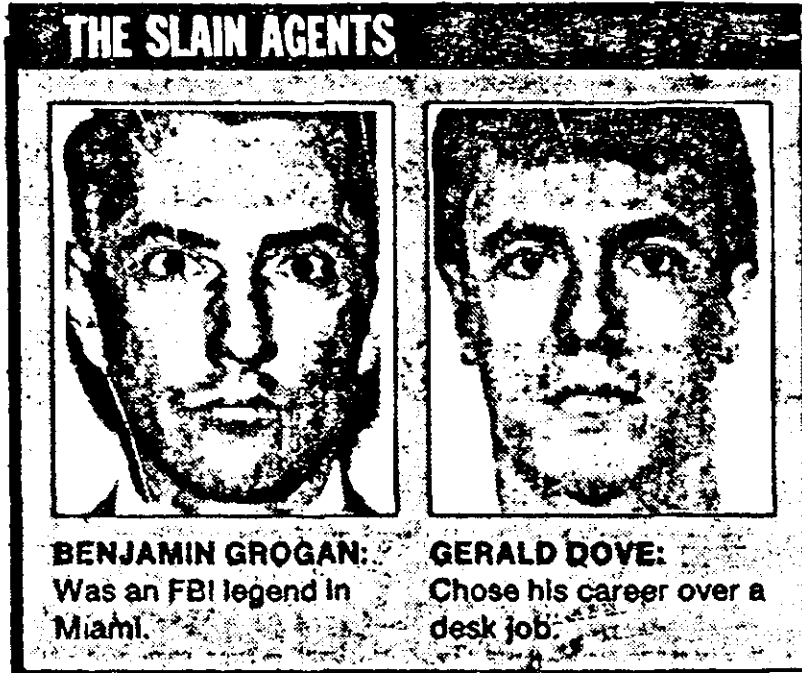
### 'It wasn't doom'

Before McNeill left for work that morning, his wife, Elaine, had a nagging fear about the surveillance. "It wasn't doom," she said. "It was just realizing that if and when they did catch up with these two, that probably something would happen."

Elaine McNeill had been a secretary in the FBI office for eight years. She didn't say anything to her husband, but somehow she may have communicated her fears. McNeill was the only agent wearing a bulletproof vest during the shoot-out.

Unfortunately, it didn't help much.

McNeill is a big blond guy, and when he jumped from his car he made an easy target. Somehow,



Matix missed him. McNeill dove behind the trunk of his car.

Other agents were joining the battle.

Agent Hanlon ran from his gold Chrysler after crashing into the FPL wall. Someone had written on the wall: "Psychotropic Drugs Kill." Mireles, Hanlon's partner, dove alongside McNeill behind the LeSabre. He had a shotgun.

A shot hit McNeill in the hand, but he kept firing his six-shot Smith & Wesson. As he turned to reload, Matix hit him in the back with the Ruger Mini-14.

The weapon fires slugs at 3,200 feet a second. It is designed so that the .223-caliber slugs spin out of the barrel, tumbling almost. When they strike the human body, they shred internal organs.

### Shot in the back

The slug struck McNeill in the back just outside the bulletproof vest. As the bullet ripped into his chest cavity, McNeill stumbled six yards into the middle of 82nd Avenue and fell. Two agents were down.

Roughly 30 seconds had elapsed since the Monte Carlo crashed.

Agents Grogan, Dove, and Hanlon were still trying to get a clear shot at Platt. He was hiding between the Monte Carlo and Manauzzi's car. Dove and Grogan were using the 9mms. Hanlon had a five-shot Smith & Wesson he pulled from an ankle holster. He was hit once in the hand but kept firing.

Behind the LeSabre, Mireles was trying to get a clear shot at Matix, who was about 30 yards away, still between the Cutlass and the Camaro.

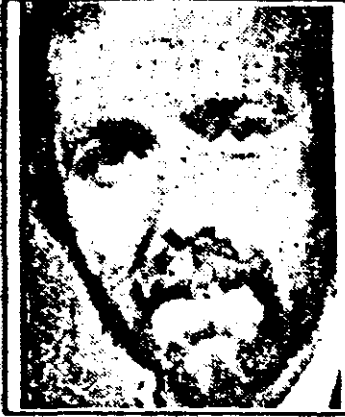
It was Matix who got a clear shot at Mireles. The projectile caught him in the left forearm, severing the bone in one place and splintering it in others.

Mireles plumped to the ground in his red Windbreaker. Three agents down.

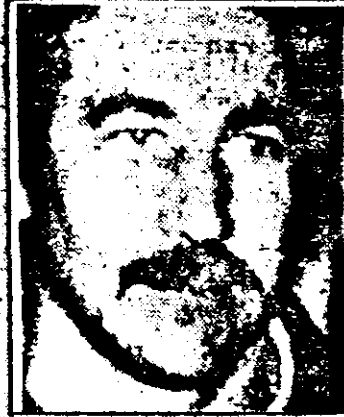
Special Agents Ronald Reisner and Gilbert Orrantia were braking to a halt as Mireles fell. They stopped about 40 yards north of McNeill's car on the west side of the road.

Reisner is a SWAT team agent, and he had his 9mm with him. He saw Matix crouching near the Cutlass and opened up. Matix returned the fire. He hit Orrantia.

## THE KILLERS



**WILLIAM MATIX:**  
Kissed his daughter  
goodbye.



**MICHAEL PLATT:**  
Was driver of the Monte  
Carlo.

Four agents down.  
The time: 9:21.

### Returning fire

Matix kept bobbing up and down beside the Cutlass like a carnival target — only he was returning fire. Reisner concentrated on Matix. One slug ricocheted off the roof of the Cutlass and lodged in a trim board on the roof of the duplex. Another struck the Camaro, tearing a strip of paint from the front hood. That bullet, too, bounced off and lodged in the roof.

Finally, Reisner hit his mark.

He got Matix in the left forearm, and the slug ruptured an artery. A coroner would later describe this as a "spurting wound." It sprayed blood in a narrow jet, all over the ground and the side of the car.

What it failed to do was stop Matix.

The gunman crept away from Reisner toward the trunk of the Cutlass — and toward agents Grogan, Dove and Hanlon. Reisner no longer had a clear shot.

He screamed at Grogan, Dove and Hanlon.

"He's coming around! He's com-

ing around!"

The three agents, still crouched behind the trunk of Grogan's lemon-yellow Buick, were concentrating on Platt. They didn't hear Reisner. And they didn't see Matix — until it was too late.

Suddenly he was leaning over the trunk of Grogan's Buick. He was aiming the Ruger.

### Last words

"Oh, my God!" Grogan gasped.

It was the last thing he said. Matix shot Grogan once in the chest, severing the aorta. The agent died instantly.

Matix then shot Dove four times, twice in the head. He too died instantly. Hanlon, without ammunition, lay on the ground. Matix shot him in the groin, and Hanlon passed out.

Seven agents down.

Matix stepped over the two dead agents. He saw Mireles in the red windbreaker, sitting in the road behind the trunk of McNeill's LeSabre. The agent was dazed and bleeding.

Matix fired and missed.

Blood spurting from his arm, Matix collapsed into Agent Grogan's car and pulled himself to the

passenger side.

Platt made his way around the front of Grogan's car and started toward the driver's seat.

They were trying to get away.

Mireles, 33, a huge, muscular man of 250 pounds, was still on the ground. But he levered the shotgun up with his good right arm and fired.

The blast struck Platt in the foot. He leaped into the car. Mireles fired at least two other times, the pellets ripping into the engine of the car.

The car wouldn't start. When Platt turned the ignition, the starter whined.

### No one can say

No one, not even Mireles, can say precisely what happened next.

Police sirens screamed in the distance, closer and closer. Agents lay dead and wounded around him, and Mireles had emptied the shotgun's five rounds. The shell casings lay on the ground beside him.

Agent Reisner was running toward Grogan's car and the two gunmen. Even now, Reisner doesn't remember whether he put his bulletproof vest on or held it in front of him like a shield. The few eyewitnesses said he held it in front.

Somehow, Mireles got to his feet.

There were almost seven yards between him and Grogan's car. Walking slowly, losing blood and barely conscious, Mireles walked the distance, emptying his Smith & Wesson revolver at the two men in the car.

He shot Platt in the spine. He hit Matix in the face. Then he shot Matix in the spine. Both men were paralyzed.

Moments later, they were dead.

Incredibly, Mireles was still on his feet when he reached the car. Agent Reisner ran up behind him. He looked once at Platt and Matix in the front seat. Then he eased Mireles to the bloodied grass.

The time: 9:22. It was still a bright, clear morning.

MONDAY: A changed neighborhood.

# The FBI Shoot-Out: A Reconstruction

# Death bathed

# sunny day in horror

## SHOOT-OUT / from 1A

the car had been used in several bank robberies after it had been stolen. They wanted it badly.

"We're looking good." It was Grogan again. "NPJ-891."

In the car with him, Grogan's partner was ready. This was what it was all about, for Special Agent Gerald Dove. He had a law degree and could have had an easy job behind a desk. But he was always telling friends how much he loved his work as a field agent.

Grogan and Dove both loved the tumult of the streets. But in some ways they were different, emblems almost, one of the old FBI, the other of the new FBI.

On this Friday morning, Grogan wore a light blue button-down shirt and dark tie. He favored the kind of heavy brogues that used to be made with crepe and gum-rubber soles, the kind that gave old-time lawmen the nickname "gumshoes."

Before he'd left home, Grogan had done his usual 50 push-ups. He was a marathon runner who ran on his lunch hour every day at Miami's Moore Park, 765 NW 36th St. He worked hard at staying in shape, but he had to. After all, he was 53, a year from retirement.

With his shaggy brown hair, Dove looked almost like a college

## 'Felony car stop,' agent Grogan ordered. 'Let's do it.'

kid. He was 30. On this Friday, he was wearing his usual surveillance outfit: faded jeans, trendy tennis shirt and running shoes.

## Good marksmen

Both agents were trained in SWAT team tactics. They were good marksmen, in great shape.

Before Dove left home Friday, he listened absently to the morning news as he shaved. There seemed to be lots of talk of terror this morning: Terror in the Middle East, in Europe. Terror in the skies.

As Grogan and Dove followed the dark Monte Carlo, they couldn't know that the terror was about to hit home.

The Monte Carlo made a right turn on Southwest 117th Street. The driver was Michael Platt, 32, a peculiar man who mowed lawns for a living. He had spotted Grogan's car. It was a hard car to miss, a big lemon-yellow Buick Century, 1985 model. It had a brown roof.

The time: 9:18.

Earlier that morning, Michael Platt had picked up his best friend, William Matix, 34, a violence-prone born-again Christian. Matix wore work pants, blue pullover and heavy boots. Earlier he had kissed his 2-year-old daughter, Melissa, and said goodbye to the housekeeper. She said later she never saw the .357 Magnum tucked into the leather shoulder holster.

Platt was dressed almost exactly like Matix, except for a bulky vest that concealed his shoulder holster. It held a much fancier gun, a .357 Dan Wesson revolver loaded with .38-caliber rounds. Gun shops often sell the Dan Wesson in an oak case with two to four interchangeable barrels. Depending on the number of barrels, the gun goes for anywhere from \$400 to \$800.

## 40 rounds a minute

In the Monte Carlo, Matix and Platt had two other weapons on the seat. Platt liked the short Smith & Wesson 12-gauge shotgun, fitted with a pistol grip. The gun has no stock and measures about three feet. Matix had a Ruger Mini-14 semi-automatic assault rifle. It has a folding stock and a 30 shot-clip. It can fire 40 rounds a minute.

Grogan and Dove didn't know exactly what was in the Monte Carlo as they trailed it through the quiet neighborhood.

"Southwest 81st Road, heading south again," Grogan said calmly into the car radio. Other agents were moving in fast.

"Right behind ya, babe, give me a cross street."

It was Special Agent John Hanlon. He was in a gold Chrysler, 1983 model. Special Agent Edmundo Mireles was in the seat beside him.

The Monte Carlo turned right on 120th Street, then a quick left onto 82nd Avenue. Special Agent Richard A. Manauzzi, in a gray Buick, fell in behind the gold Chrysler.

That made four cars in a row: The suspects in the Monte Carlo, Grogan and Dove in the yellow Buick, Hanlon and Mireles in the gold Chrysler and Manauzzi in the gray Buick.

They were doing about 35 miles an hour as they passed Dr. H.R. Frick's Animal Orthopedic Hospital and the rear of a Farm Store, where deliverymen were unloading boxes.

"Ben, we're right behind ya, Ben," Hanlon radioed. "Do you want to do it? Let's do it."

"Let's get some marked units, let's get some," Grogan said.

## Happened too fast

They didn't. Everything happened too fast.

"I just looked at them and there are guys holding up something in the car," Grogan said. Matix and Platt were grabbing their guns.

The time: 9:19. Grogan made a decision.

"Felony car stop," he ordered. "Let's do it."

At the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., every agent is taught how to make a felony car stop. The procedure is diagrammed, executed and reviewed as carefully as a military landing or a football play. Other law enforcement agencies teach modified versions of the felony car stop procedure. In every case, the object is to stop a fleeing vehicle while enabling police to control the vehicle's movement and maintain cover from any gunfire.

This time, it didn't work.

Grogan accelerated around the Monte Carlo, almost certainly on the driver's side, according to crime-scene technicians who measured tire tracks afterward. Han-

lon, in the gold Chrysler, gunned the engine and tried to pull up on the right side of the Monte Carlo, as Manauzzi moved up behind it.

Platt swerved the Monte Carlo to the right, bashing Hanlon's gold Chrysler on the left front quarter panel and driver's door. Both cars rebounded and spun out of control.

The Chrysler knocked down a three-foot post, took out a spindly melaleuca tree and slammed into the wall of a Florida Power & Light substation.

The Monte Carlo shot up onto the grass in the same direction and uprooted another melaleuca. Platt yanked the wheel in a sharp left

turn and accelerated, trying to complete a U-turn. His car hit another thick, three-foot post.

Green radiator fluid spewed wildly. The Monte Carlo stalled. As Platt tried to get it started, Grogan made a U-turn about 30 yards down the road. Manauzzi did the same in the driveway of

the FPL station, just north of the Monte Carlo.

Platt got the car going again, completed the U-turn and bolted north. The stall gave Manauzzi just enough time to complete his U-turn. As the Monte Carlo rocketed north up the street, Manauzzi rammed it hard on the driver's side.

The two cars careened up and over the sidewalk and slammed into a 20-year-old bottlebrush tree. They had traveled maybe 30 yards, locked together. Startled neighbors peered from windows. The time: 9:20.

The bloodiest shoot-out in FBI history began seconds later.

Matix clambered out the Monte Carlo's passenger-side window. He couldn't get his door open because it was wedged tightly against a car already parked in the driveway, a shiny black Cutlass. It belonged to Cory Sukert, 21, a University of Miami senior. He was in the house, looking out.

He saw Matix, clenching the Mini-14 assault rifle, slither across the Cutlass' hood. Sukert thought first of his car polish, then he hit the floor. Frantically, he scram-

Please turn to SHOOT-OUT / 21A



## HOW RECONSTRUCTION WAS ACCOMPLISHED

This account was drawn from information provided confidentially by FBI agents who arrived on the scene of the shooting, other agents familiar with the events and Metro-Dade homicide detectives investigating the tragedy.

A tape-recording of the agents' conversations before and during the shoot-out was obtained from an independent source by The Miami Herald.

There is still a question not totally resolved: Which of the two FBI killers used which weapon.

FBI agents who participated

in the shoot-out identified the gunman with the semi-automatic Ruger Mini-14 assault rifle as William Matix. Ballistics, serology and other physical tests, which may confirm that identification, are still unfinished.

Conceivably, the tests could indicate that Michael Platt used the Mini-14 assault rifle. For the purposes of this reconstruction, The Herald is relying on the identifications made by FBI agents in the shoot-out, and other eyewitnesses.

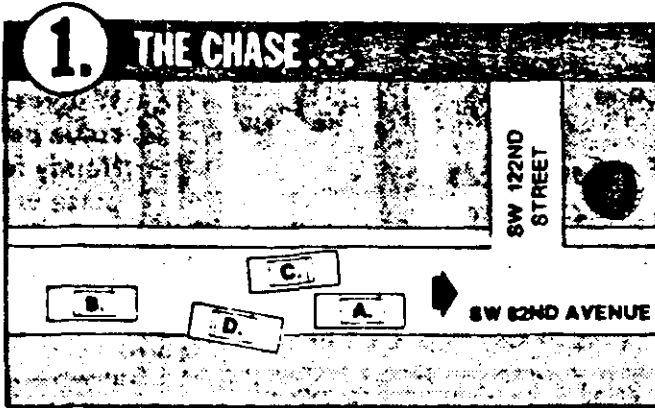
The identifications remain in doubt because events happened so quickly and Platt

and Matix were dressed in almost identical clothing. Also, one investigator, who arrived on the scene shortly after the shooting, removed the gunmen's weapons from the car where they were shot and laid them on the ground. That made it difficult to positively identify the respective weapons by location.

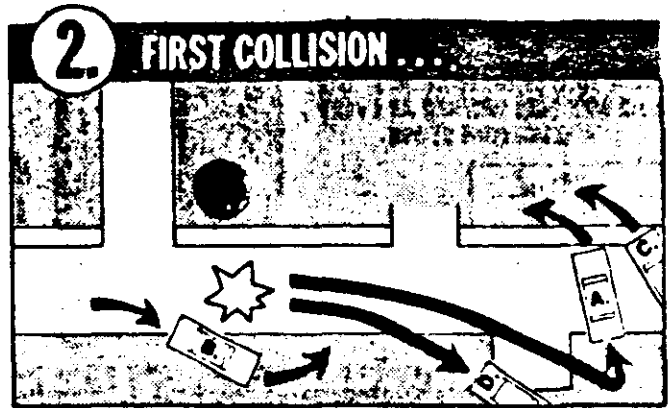
This, and the fact some projectiles were never recovered, may prevent investigators from ever making a full and complete reconstruction.

# A RECONSTRUCTION: THE BLOODIEST DAY IN FBI HISTORY

These sequences show the final minutes of the FBI car chase that began on South Dixie Highway and ended with the shoot-out on SW

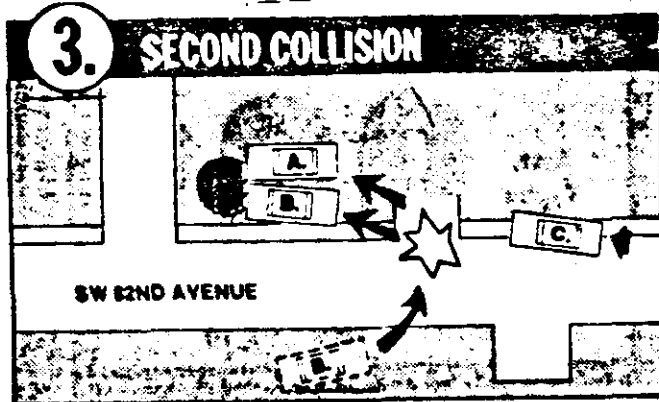


FBI agents prepare to stop suspects in Car A. Agents Dove and Grogan pass on left in Car C. Agents Hanlon and Mireles, in Car D, attempt to pull alongside Car A on passenger side. Agent Manauzzi, in Car B, follows.

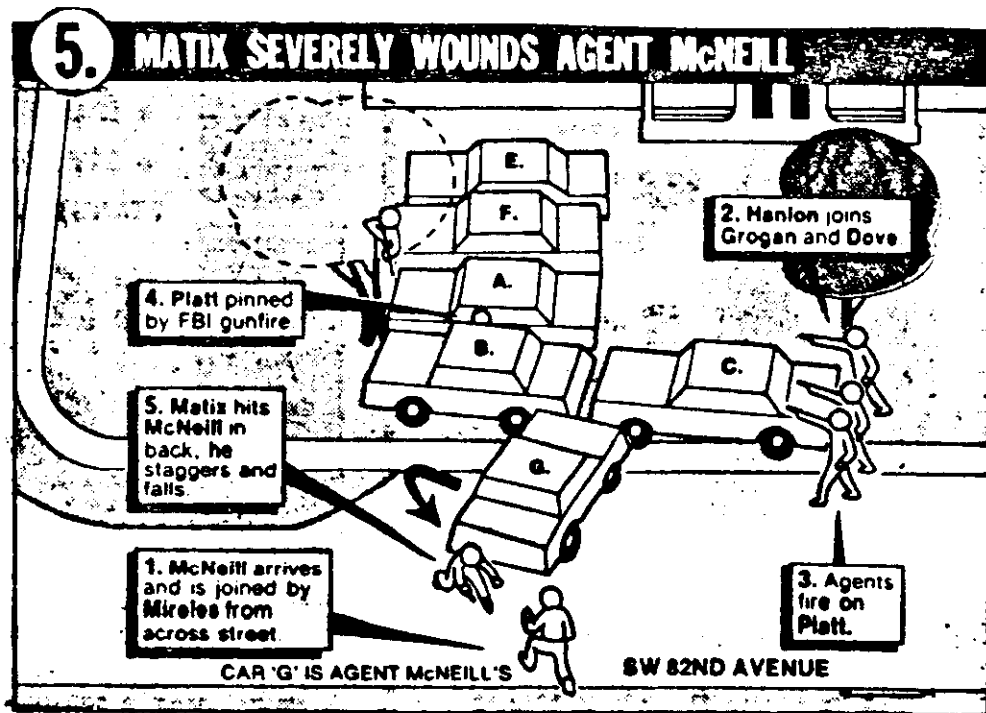
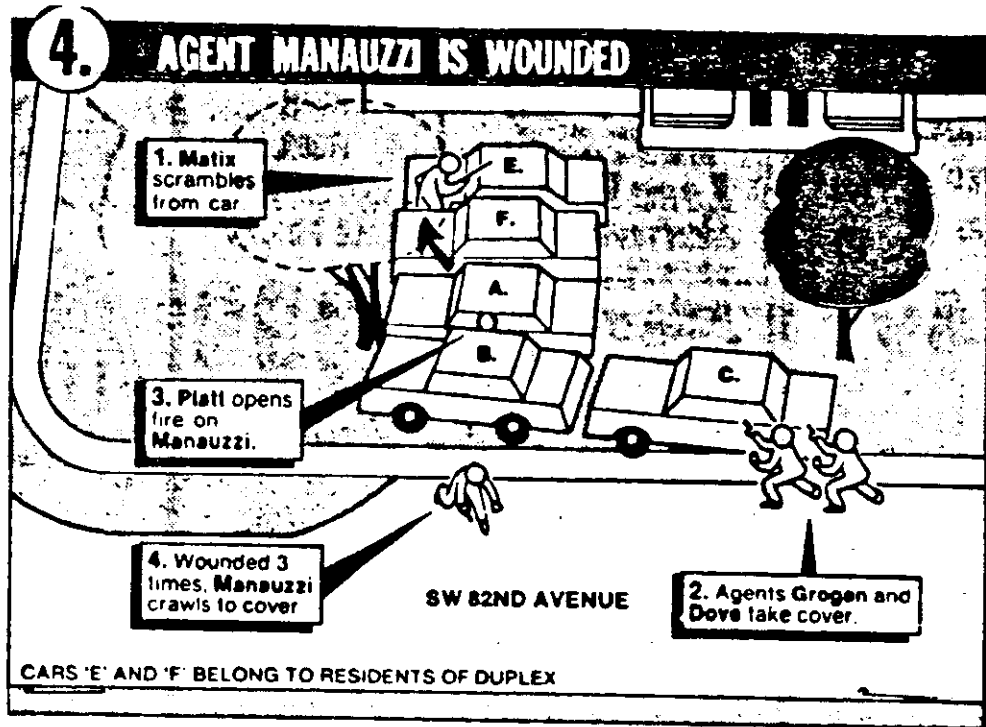


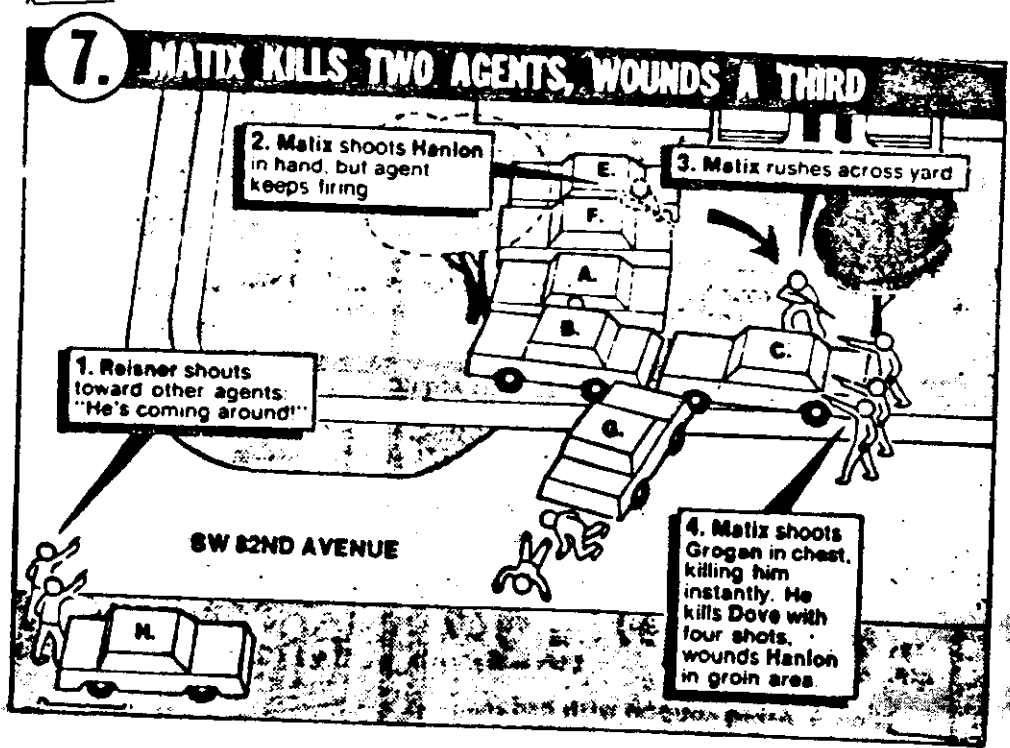
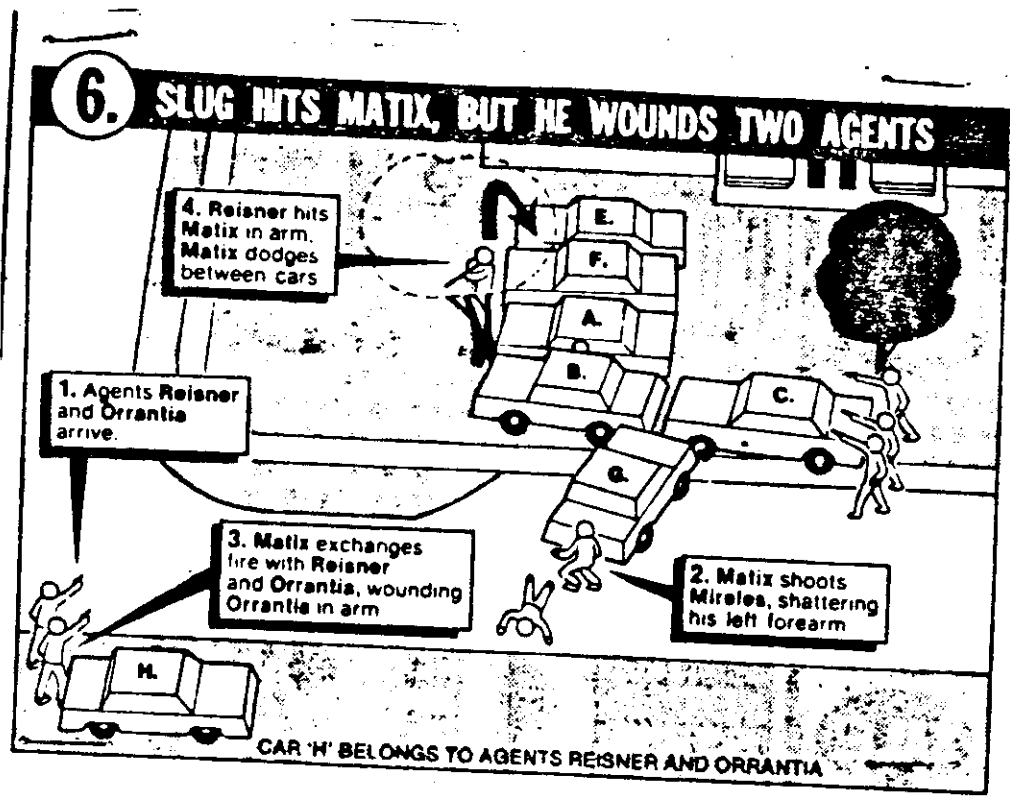
Suspects, in Car A, smash into Hanlon and Mireles in Car D, forcing it off road into wall not shown. Suspects begin U-turn in Car A. Agent Manauzzi, in Car B, and Agents Dove and Grogan, in Car C, also make U-turns.

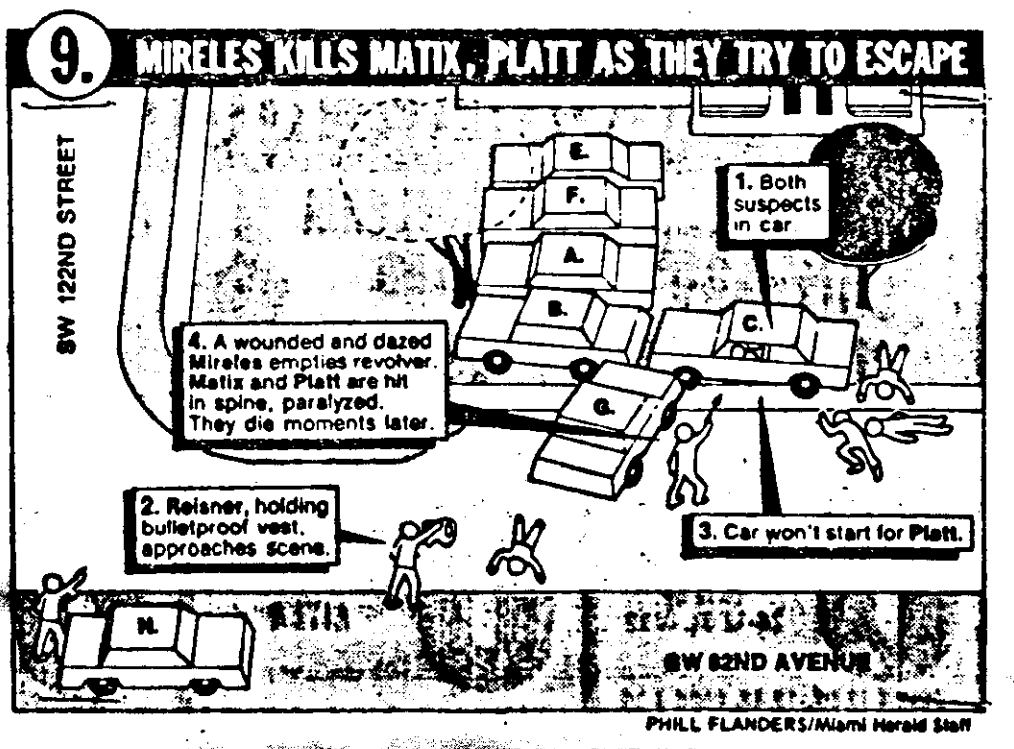
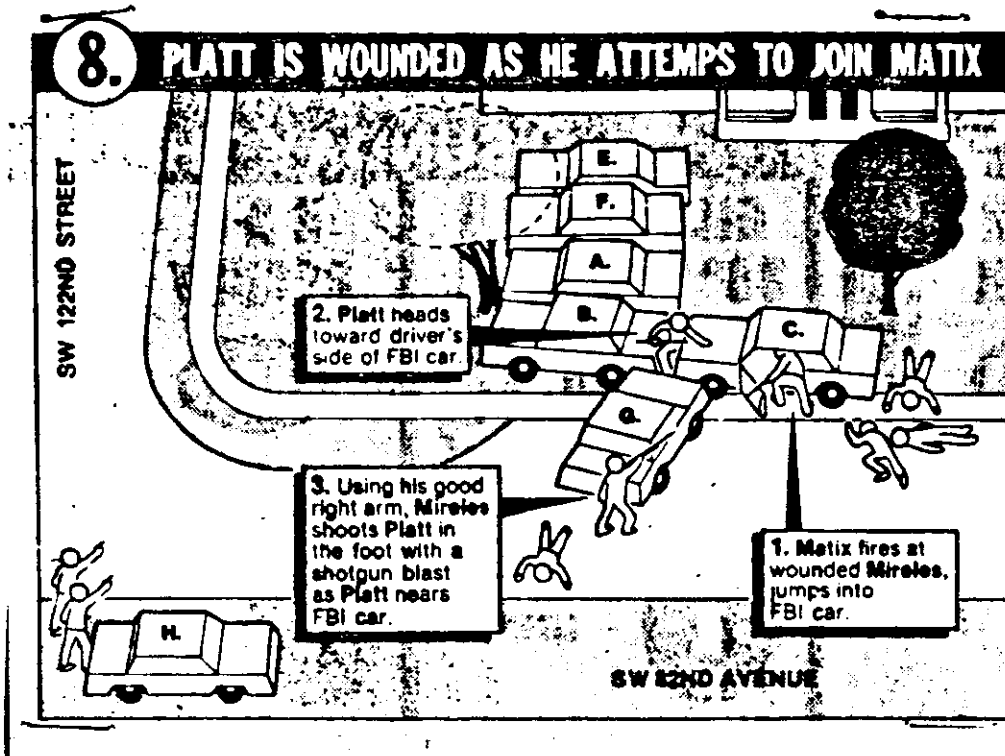
82nd Avenue. In the shoot-out, the worst in FBI history, two agents were killed and five wounded. The two assailants were also killed.



Agent Manauzzi, in Car B, rams suspects in Car A. Both cars hit tree in front yard of duplex. Agents Dove and Grogan, in Car C, pull in behind Car B.







(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE EVENING SUN

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# 4 killed in Fla. in FBI-gang gunfight

## Two agents die, five wounded

MIAMI (AP)—FBI agents battled armed robbery suspects today in a furious gunfight that ended with four people dead, including two agents, and five agents wounded, authorities said.

One of the wounded agents was in critical condition, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Dozens of agents and police swarmed into the middle-class Kendall neighborhood of shops and duplex homes after the gunbattle at a busy intersection shortly after 9:30 a.m.

The shootout started after agents spotted a vehicle with license plates matching those of a vehicle used in a series of bank and armored car robberies, said Joseph V. Corless, special agent in charge of the FBI's Miami office.

"They called for backups. [When the backups arrived] an attempt was made to pull over the vehicle, a confrontation ensued, and shots were fired," Corless said.

He identified the dead as two agents and two armed robbery suspects.

Corless declined to answer any questions. The agents' identities were being withheld pending notification of relatives.

One wounded agent was in critical condition at Baptist Hospital, hospital spokeswoman Barbara Moore said. She said another agent was also brought to the hospital, but she had no further information.

Tom Jones, spokesman for South Miami al, said a 32-year-old agent brought agent was undergoing surgery for a broken

## 4 killed, 5 wounded in gunfight

### SHOOTOUT, From A1

arm. He said the agent also had some shotgun pellets in his head, but those wounds weren't serious. The agent was in fair condition, Jones said.

The other two agents' wounds were superficial, Corless said.

Two cars at the scene had crashed and a third was riddled with bullet holes. As agents and police gathered, some onlookers crowded onto a roof of a nearby building and others milled around the cordoned-off area.

Witnesses said they heard up to 100 rounds fired as the gunfight erupted about 9:35 a.m. One man said the gunbattle lasted 10 minutes.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

April 17, 1984

# Both FBI agents were slain by same gunman, tests show

By **BRIAN DUFFY**  
Herald Staff Writer

The two FBI agents killed in last week's gunfight in Kendall were SWAT team members who carried 9mm semi-automatic pistols that could have cut down their attackers had they been able to get a clear shot.

Special Agents Gerald Dove and Benjamin P. Grogan were among three agents carrying the 9mm weapons during the shoot-out, investigators and FBI agents said Wednesday. But they proved no match for William Matix, who used a more powerful Ruger Mini-14 assault rifle.

Ballistics tests and autopsy reports, which have not been made public, show that it was Matix who killed Dove and Grogan and the three most seriously wounded agents. Michael Platt, Matix's partner in the shoot-out, was wounded at least one agent with a 7-gauge shotgun, ballistics and other tests show.

Special Agent Edmundo Mireles was badly wounded in the left arm by Matix, but he finally killed both Matix and Platt. This information, the first specific accounts of the worst shoot-out in the history of the FBI, will be presented today by Metro-Dade detectives in a briefing with FBI agents and supervisors. In related developments Wednesday:

● An anonymous caller tipped police and FBI agents to the location of a white 1984 Ford pickup, license F38-CUW, owned by Matix. The truck is believed to have been used in the March 12

shooting and robbery of Jose Collazo in a West Dade rock pit.

Collazo was shot and left for dead by two men who stole his gun and Chevrolet Monte Carlo. The FBI found the truck parked Wednesday at SW 104th Street and South Dixie Highway, less than 20 blocks from the shooting scene.

## Haul at Matix's

● FBI agents filed court papers saying they seized Collazo's .38-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver from Matix's home when they showed up there with a search warrant Friday night. The agents also seized a fully loaded .357 Magnum revolver, a 12-gauge Savage shotgun with a sawed-off barrel, a Glenfield Model 60 Marlin .22-caliber rifle, two Realistic walkie-talkies, ammunition, gun-cleaning equipment, a canvas bag containing a small machete and clothing that could have been used in bank robberies. Some materials had eyeholes cut out.

● The FBI also seized four weapons from Platt's house, but their makes and model numbers were not made public. Since the shooting Friday, Metro-Dade detectives and FBI investigators have concentrated their efforts on debriefing witnesses and collecting physical evidence while Assistant Dade Medical Examiner Jay Barnhardt conducted the autopsies.

● Detectives from Columbus, Ohio, flew to Miami to begin inquiries into the murder of Matix's wife, Patricia, who was fatally stabbed at a Columbus hospital in December 1983. The detectives say Matix, and possibly Platt, are suspects.

● Doctors said the three seriously wounded agents were improving after surgery and other treatment Tuesday. They were listed in fair but stable condition. In Brunswick, Ga., friends and family buried the body of Grogan in a simple ceremony. Dove was buried in South Charleston, W. Va., on Tuesday.

Detectives have gone to exceptional lengths to document what happened at the shooting scene. In one instance, Metro-Dade detective John Parmenter arranged to move all the cars involved in the chase and shoot-out to an empty hangar at Opa-locka Airport.

There, Parmenter and other investigators reassembled the crime scene exactly as it was so they could reconstruct the events of the shooting.

## Shot in foot

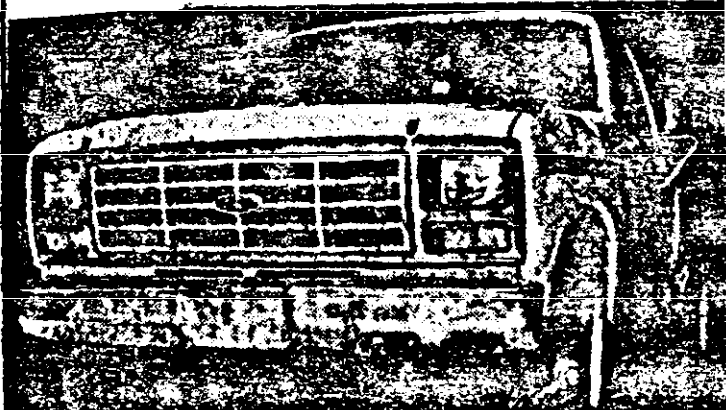
According to sources familiar with autopsies performed by the Dade Medical Examiner's Office, Mireles shot Platt in the foot with a shotgun. Then, badly wounded and unable to reload the rifle, Mireles charged the two men.

The autopsies showed each was hit in the spine, almost certainly with slugs from Mireles' six-shot Smith & Wesson revolver, the sources said.

Both Matix and Platt were paralyzed instantly from the neck down. Matix also was hit in the face at least once by a slug from Mireles' handgun, the sources said.

The autopsy showed that the facial wound was not immediately fatal, but Matix would have drowned several minutes later in his own blood.

MIAMI



MARY LOU FOY / Miami Herald

White Ford pickup suspected to be connected with the FBI shoot-out in Kendall.

Doctors said the three agents wounded seriously in the shoot-out were improving after surgery and other treatment Tuesday.

SECTION B

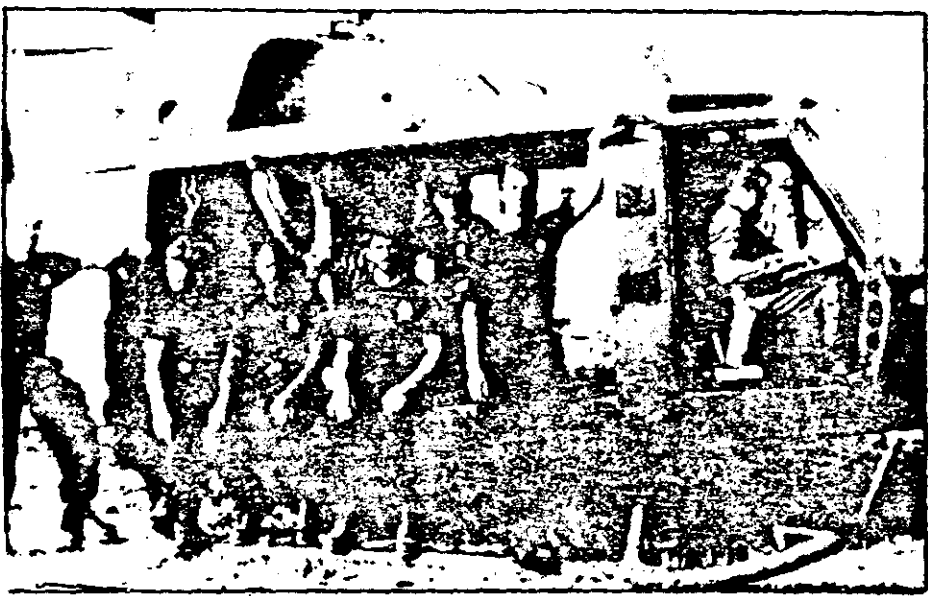
THE VICTIMS. . . . SA BEN GROGAN - SA JERRY DOVE



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gunshots Shatter Lifelong Dream

**JERRY DOVE REMEMBERED** — Jerry Dove, standing in center of photo at right, realized a lifelong dream when he joined the FBI in 1982. He was trained as a member of the FBI S.W.A.T. team that protected athletes during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Below, family pictures show Dove as a grade-school student, dressed in his football uniform during his junior year at Dunbar High School, at his graduation from WVU Law School and in a portrait taken two years ago.



(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"Charleston Daily Mail"  
Charleston, W. Virgin.

Date: April 15, 1984

Edition: Evening Edition

Title: "Friends Remembered  
FBI Agent"

Character:  
or  
Classification: 8-113-  
Submitting Office: Miami

Indexing



## Friends Remember Dedicated FBI Agent

By SARA CRICKENBERGER  
of The Daily Mail Staff

Gunshots rang out on a quiet Miami street. Soon the air was filled with the sounds of bullets piercing metal and shattering glass.

When the quiet descended again last Friday morning, four men were dead — two robbery suspects, a 25-year veteran FBI agent and 30-year-old Jerry Dove.

In places like the quiet Dunbar neighborhood where Dove grew up, scenes like that have never been real; they don't happen except on television.

But perhaps as much as any of the events in the days since Dove was killed, a two-page telegram from "Miami Vice" television series actor Don Johnson expressing his sympathy to Dove's mother drives home the fact that life is not like television. When the scene is over the players don't get up and go home.

Law enforcement is dangerous, not glamorous. Jerry Dove knew that it was the only thing he ever wanted to do.

"He always wanted to be in the FBI," said Dove's mother, Bobbie. "That's why he went to law school, to meet some of the FBI's requirements."

"He was always interested in law enforcement and the FBI is the life line in law enforcement. That was what he wanted."

FBI Director William Webster was expected to attend 10 a.m. service today for Dove, who was killed along with his partner, Benjamin Grogan, as they tried to arrest two robbery suspects.

After graduation from Dunbar High School, Dove attended Concord College, then Marshall University, where he graduated with honors. He gra

(Turn to Pg. 9A, )

# FRIENDS REMEMBER

(Continued from Page 1)

ed from West Virginia University Law School, then worked in the attorney general's office until he was accepted into the FBI Academy in 1982.

He accepted his FBI commission in Pittsburgh and worked there and in Charleston and Huntington before moving to San Diego, then to Miami.

Long-time friend Larry Hatcher said Dove was goal oriented. And before he set the FBI as his goal, he had already decided to meet a more challenging one.

"He wanted to make a difference in life, to do something important before he died," Larry said. "He knew that long before he thought about the FBI.

"Jerry had a real strong sense of what was right and what was wrong. He believed in making whatever sacrifices he had to do the right thing."

And although Dove knew the risks of being an FBI agent, he didn't talk much about them, Hatcher said.

"I never had any fear that he would be killed," he said. "I think that's in part because he downplayed that side of it to me."

Dove, who was more conservative than his counterparts growing up in the '60s and '70s, was nonetheless popular among his peers, Hatcher said.

"His idea of a good time was to get together at a pizza place and just talk," Hatcher said. "He was always concerned about our personal lives, who we were dating. And he gave lots of advice, whether we wanted it or not."

His memory was astounding and his sense of humor was one of his best traits, his friends said. After seeing a

movie once, Dove could recite lines and jokes from it and do impressions of the actors. Clint Eastwood movies were among his favorites.

"I'll never forget, one evening we had made plans to go to the drive-in movies to see a double feature of Clint Eastwood," Hatcher said. "I was talking to my girlfriend's parents and Jerry drives up wearing a poncho and a cap gun with a stogy in his mouth. He walked bowlegged up to the porch like Clint Eastwood in one of his movies."

Mrs. Dove also remembers a few pranks from Dove's youth.

"One Christmas, he and some friends dressed up as Wise Men and went door-to-door through the snow in their bathrobes, barefooted and wearing paper beards they had made," she said.

## Law Officers Honor Slain Federal Agent

MIAMI (AP) — Hundreds of law officers, their badges banded in black, filled a small church as the FBI eulogized one of its own slain in the bureau's bloodiest day.

FBI Director William Webster, who flew by helicopter to visit two hospitals where wounded agents are recovering, joined about 1,500 others for the funeral of Benjamin J. Grogan, 53.

Webster, who met privately with Grogan's widow after the Roman Catholic service, vowed an intensive investigation of the two suspects, William Martin, 31, and Michael Platt, 32.

"We have not yet connected them to anyone else," Webster said. "Before we're through, we going to know everything about them from the time they were born to the time they died."

The two men opened fire with high-powered automatic rifles, killing two agents and wounding the others during a traffic surveillance assignment. It was the most FBI casualties in one incident in the bureau's 78 years.

Local authorities have tentatively linked the suspects to eight armed robberies in the past year, plus three robberies and shootings at an isolated rock quarry in western Dade County frequented by target-shooting enthusiasts.

Authorities haven't ruled out the possibility that more people were involved in the ring.

In his spare time growing up, Dove wrote song lyrics and planned to someday publish them, Mrs. Dove said. But singing wasn't one of his strong points so he kept the tunes rolling around in his head instead of off his tongue.

"Maybe he sang them to himself, but not out loud," Mrs. Dove said.

Dove loved to travel and once spent 40 days with friends traveling more than 11,000 miles across the United States and Canada, Mrs. Dove said.

Australia was to be his next destination, said his friend and neighbor Kent Legg, with whom he drove cross-country on another occasion. And he often spoke of trying to get an FBI transfer to Alaska, where he could spend more time outdoors camping, hiking and playing sports.

Mrs. Dove said her son was athletic, but never a star. He worked summers as a lifeguard and could often be found spending his free time playing football, basketball, hiking or boxing.

"He loved to box and I was the only one he could get to box with him," Hatcher said. "He'd beat me to just short of the point I would want to quit. And he'd let me get in a few punches so I would feel better."

"He would never hit me to the point he would knock me out and I could rest. He'd just tag me."

But even more often, his toughest competition was himself, Legg said.

"Jerry would pick a hill and say, 'when I'm in good enough shape, I'm going to run up that hill.' Then he would run and he would train and he would beat that hill," Legg said.

The physical aspects of law enforcement were part of its appeal to Dove, his friends and family said. A tough day of S.W.A.T. training was exhilarating.

"He'd call me up and say I had such a great day. We did drills. I can't believe they pay people to do this," Legg said.

Hatcher said, "He was very proud of the fact that he was 30 and in the best physical condition of his life."

Dove found the legal system frustrating at times because he saw a lot of guilty people go unpunished, his friends said. But he loved his work because he could set goals and often saw the results.

"He was about running out of goals. He was living in an ocean-front condo in Miami Beach, driving a sports car and working at a job he loved," Hatcher said. "Who could ask for more than that?"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Newspaper, city and state.)

THE MIAMI NEWS Miami, F

Page 5A

Date:

Edition:

METRO

April 16, 1986

Title:

Character:

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Classification:

Submitting Office: MIAMI

Indexing:

### FBI agent saluted at funeral

FBI Director William Webster, delivering a eulogy in St. Albans, W.Va., yesterday at the funeral of Jerry Dove, one of two agents killed in a Kendall shoot-out last Friday, called his killers "brutal, ruthless people." Webster pledged an intensive investigation into the backgrounds of William Matix and Michael Platt, the two who killed Dove and fellow agent Benjamin Grogan. Webster called Dove "one who lived to see his childhood dreams come true."

SECTION C  
THE WOUNDED

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page name of newspaper, city, and state)  
**THE MIAMI HERALD**  
Miami, Florida  
Page 1D

Date  
Edition  
April 22, 1986

Title

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or  
Classification  
Submitting Office  
**MIAMI**

Indexing



JIM DI MODICA

PETER TRITLEY

Ed Mireles, above, the wounded FBI special agent credited with killing two heavily armed gunmen in a Kendall shoot-out, is to be released Wednesday from South Miami Hospital, according to FBI spokesman Paul Miller. Mireles is recovering from a gunshot blast to his left arm. Left, agents John Hanlon and Gordon McNeill, who have adjoining rooms in Baptist Hospital, also are recuperating from gunshot wounds suffered in the April 11 incident in which two suspects and two FBI agents were killed. Hanlon is to be released today.

●  
**Agents on the mend**



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Going home

Special Agent John Hanlon, right, wounded in the FBI shootout with two bank robbery suspects two weeks ago, was released Tuesday from Baptist Hospital. Agent Gordon McNeill, left, also wounded in the Kendall gunfight, came downstairs to say goodbye to Hanlon. McNeill will probably be released later this week. Hanlon was with agents Benjamin Grogan and Gerald Dove when they were killed by William Matix. Hanlon told reporters Tuesday that Matix, who was also killed in the shootout, "looked like an old-time, grade-B, spaghetti Western bad man." He said he looked directly at Matix when the FBI agents were trying to get Matix and his partner Michael Platt to pull off the road during a chase. "He just looked very, very determined. He wasn't scared. He was like a man on a mission."

C.W. GRIFFIN / Miami Herald Staff

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state )  
**THE MIAMI HERALD**  
Miami, Florida  
Page 2B  
Date April 23, 1986  
Edition \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Character \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
Classification \_\_\_\_\_  
Submitting Office **MIAMI**  
Indexing \_\_\_\_\_





(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Shoot-out a success, says agent who was hit

By Buddy Nevins  
Miami Bureau Chief

MIAMI — An FBI agent shot in a bloody gunbattle 12 days ago said the shoot-out was a success, despite the deaths of two agents and two suspected bank robbers and the wounding of four other agents.

The battle prevented two men linked to murders and bank robberies from driving onto crowded U.S. 1, where many bystanders could have been hurt, Special Agent John Hanlon told the media Tuesday.

Hanlon described for the first time what it was like to be caught in the gunfight.

"I got shot in the hand first, my hand exploded and blood came out," recalled Hanlon, who was released from the hospital Tuesday.

"I flopped over on my back and I looked to the left and saw the guy standing by the car," he said. "He came around and shot me on the ground in the groin."

Hanlon spoke to reporters after leaving Miami's Baptist Hospital, where he was treated for his wounds.

The gunplay erupted when Hanlon and other agents attempted to arrest two men thought to have been responsible for a half dozen armored car and bank robberies and three murders in a year. The two suspects, Michael Platt and William Matix, were slain as they attempted to escape FBI agents in a hail of bullets.

FBI investigators have determined that Matix, 34, shot Hanlon using a semi-automatic assault rifle.

As Hanlon's unmarked FBI car pulled alongside Platt, 32, and Matix's car, the agent said he "looked right at him. He just looked very, very determined. He wasn't scared. He was like a man on a mission."

The 48-year-old agent, who has been with the FBI for 23 years and who holds a law degree, said he thought about his wife and three children as he lay on the ground, praying he would get a chance to see them again.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SUN SENTINEL  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Date Page 1A

Edition:

N. Broward  
April 23, 1986

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The FBI said after the April 11 shoot-out that more than 100 shots were fired in the suburban south-Dade County neighborhood, one block from U.S. 1.

Hanlon recounted the deaths of Special Agents Benjamin Grogan and Gerald Dove, cut down by Matix.

"I heard Ben go, 'Oh, my God,'" Hanlon said.

Those were Grogan's last words, as he fell mortally wounded from a bullet to the chest, Hanlon said.

"Then Jerry Dove fell right next to me, his head face down," Hanlon said. "His eyes were closed, he raised his head. The guy I think who shot me shot Jerry in the back of the head, executed him."

Also at the conference was Special Agent Gordon McNeill, 43, who was shot in the back during the gunfight. He will remain at Baptist Hospital a few more days.

Special Agent Ed Mireles, 33, wounded in the right arm during the fight, should be released this week, too.



United Press Intern

## A heartfelt 'goodbye'

MI Special Agent John Hanlon, right, who was released from Miami's Baptist Hospital on Tuesday, says goodbye to fellow

agent Gordon McNeill. Both agents were shot in the recent bloody gunbattle with two suspected bank robbers. Story

Date: April 23, 1986

Title:

Character:  
or  
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Submitting Office: MIAMI

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Saw Matix execute 1, agent says

● A threat in Nebraska, SA

KATHRYN LORUSSO  
and JOHN FERNANDEZ

Miami News Reporters

FBI agent John Hanlon, speaking publicly for the first time since being wounded in the April 11 shootout that claimed the lives of two other agents, said he saw one of the killers "execute" agent Gerald Dove.

The bloody Kendall gun battle left Dove, agent Benjamin Grogan and robbery suspects William Matix and Michael Platt dead. Hanlon and four other FBI agents were wounded.

Hanlon, who was shot in his left hand, thigh and abdomen during the firefight, was released yesterday from Baptist Hospital. He spoke to reporters outside the hospital along with agent Gordon McNeil, who was wounded in the neck and hands.

Hanlon recalled being shot by Matix in the hand and thigh, then falling to the ground.

"At first ... I told (Grogan) I was shot, and then I heard him say, 'Oh my God.' I didn't feel him fall down. But then Gerry Dove fell right next to me, with his head face down. He raised his head. His eyes were glazed ... And the guy I think shot me shot Gerry in the back of the head — executed him.

"I was lying on the ground," Hanlon said, "and the only thing I could think of was my wife and three children and I was hoping he (Matix) wouldn't put his gun against me."

Both Hanlon and McNeil said they were wounded by Matix.

Please see FBI 6A

## FBI, from 1A

who jumped from a car wielding a semi-automatic rifle.

McNeill said he saw in advance that one of the suspects, apparently Matix, was ready for a firefight and radioed a warning to other agents.

"I said, 'The passenger is crouched down on the passenger side; he's loading up a long-barreled weapon; this guy's getting ready to go; he's going to shoot it out,'" McNeill said.

Hanlon then described what he saw as he attempted to pull over the suspect's car.

"When I pulled around them and slammed into them on the side, we were parallel," Hanlon said, referring to Matix. "I looked right at him. He just looked very, very determined. He wasn't scared. He was like a man on a mission."

Both agents said they felt "fortunate" to have taken part in the gun battle that stopped the two dangerous bank robbery suspects on a residential street one block off South Dixie



McNeill



Hanlon

Highway in Sunland. The agents had spent months trying to track down the two suspects by the time they spotted the pair driving in a stolen car.

"The bottom line ... is that we didn't want (Matix and Platt) to get back on South Dixie Highway," Hanlon said.

McNeill, who was in charge of the investigation, talked about the dedication of his "extremely close comrades."

"I'm glad they (Matix and Platt) were not able to go on and hurt anybody else," said

McNeill, who still has a bullet lodged in an area just above his colon. "I'm glad we were able to help the public."

Hanlon described Matix in the gun battle as a "grade B, spaghetti Western bad man."

Ed Mireles, the FBI agent who charged back to slay the two killers after being wounded, was to be released from South Miami Hospital today or tomorrow, said a hospital spokesman.

"We won't know when he will be released until his physician gives the OK," Tom Jones said. "He took a pretty powerful hit."

Jones said Mireles planned to make a public statement upon his release. The agent was shot once in his left arm in the gunfight and has undergone several reconstructive surgeries, including a skin graft, Jones said.

Two other agents, Richard A. Manauzzi and Gilbert Orrantia, were treated for superficial wounds at Jackson Memorial Hospital and released.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)  
**THE MIAMI HERALD**  
Miami, Florida

Date Page 2c  
Edition April 25, 1986

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or  
Classification

Submitting Office

MIAMI

# Agent checks out to hero's welcome

By RICHARD WALLACE  
Herald Staff Writer

Edmundo Mireles, FBI special agent, was very special indeed Thursday.

Mireles, whose courage under fire ended the FBI's costliest shoot-out on April 11, went home from the hospital at midday. He could have basked in a community's gratitude to a wounded hero.

Instead, it was Mireles — his bullet-shattered left arm cradled in a blue sling — who gave thanks.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made it possible for me to be here today," Mireles, 33, said as he paused in a wheelchair on a driveway near the emergency room at South Miami Hospital.

Smiling and with his voice holding firm and warm, the big, broad-shouldered agent spoke a scant 150 words as more than 30 reporters, photographers and broadcasters thrust microphones, pointed cameras and pressed close to him.

"I want to thank all the members of my squad, the C-1 bank robbery squad, and the rest of the FBI field office," said Mireles, who was among five agents wounded in the ferocious Southwest Dade firefight in which Special Agents Benjamin Grogan and Gerald Dove were killed.

Despite his maimed left arm and a wound from a bullet fragment to his forehead, Mireles had wielded his service revolver in his good right hand to fire the final barrage

of the battle. His shots cut short the escape attempt of robbers William Matix and Michael Platt, killing them both.

But on Thursday, Mireles did not dwell on those terrible moments of violence on a sunny morning nearly two weeks earlier.

"I want to thank all local law enforcement officers who responded to the scene to assist us in our time of need," Mireles said under a cloud-puffed blue sky.

"I also want to thank all the fire rescue personnel that went out to the scene after the shooting to help us. I want to thank all the EMTs [emergency medical technicians] for their fine work, all the helicopter crews that responded and risked their lives to help us," he said.

"I want to thank the doctors, the nurses and the staff of South Miami Hospital," he continued. "They're tremendous people. They did a tremendous job, literally putting my arm back together. I can't thank them enough. They'll always have a place in my heart."

Smiles on the faces of the hospital personnel who stood nearby silently returned Mireles' compliment.

"I also want to thank the public," the agent continued. "The public has been tremendous. I have received hundreds of letters from people and schoolchildren with their support and their prayers and their well wishes.

"And I really — personally and for the

FBI — appreciate the support that the public has given us. Thank you." And then the big man — dressed in slacks, a brown and blue-striped knit shirt and loafers — left. There was nothing more he needed to say.

He was still smiling as he stood to enter a white, unmarked bureau vehicle, a Jeep Wagoneer with the look of bulletproof glass and armor.

As the vehicle pulled out, two other agents were inside. One was Mireles' wife, Liz.

Another FBI car accompanied Mireles' departure. So did a ripple of applause.

One of Mireles' doctors, surgeon Gustavo Plasencia, said the day marked the beginning of a new phase of the agent's life, "a few months of really hard work."

The high-velocity rifle bullet that fractured Mireles' arm passed completely through it, Plasencia said.

"The entrance was very small and the exit was very big," the surgeon said.

In the months ahead, it will be known if Mireles will need a tendon transplant to aid in restoring mobility to his hand.

"He will have some problems, but we believe that he will have fairly good function," Plasencia said.

Mireles' rehabilitation and chances for returning to active duty will be aided, the doctor said, by the agent's strong, positive personality.



BRIAN SMITH / Miami Herald Staff

Leaving the hospital, FBI agent Edmundo Mireles says he appreciates everyone's help following the shooting.



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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**SUN SENTINEL**  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.Date: Page B7Edition: BROWARD

April 25, 1986

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MIAMI

Indexing

# FBI agent credited with killing two suspects leaves hospital

Associated Press

**SOUTH MIAMI** — An FBI agent, who despite head and arm wounds killed two suspects in a bloody gun battle that left six other agents dead or wounded, was released from the hospital Thursday.

Cheering nurses and lab technicians at South Miami hospital watched as Special Agent Edmundo Mireles, 34, was helped into a vehicle alongside his wife, Elizabeth, also an agent, and driven away by another FBI agent.

A South Miami motorcycle cop escorted them home.

Mireles was the fourth of five agents wounded in the shootout two weeks ago to be released from the hospital. Two other agents were killed in what has been called the FBI's bloodiest day.

Mireles, whose arm was shattered by a shotgun blast and who suffered a slashed artery in his forehead, spoke briefly to reporters before leaving. He expressed his thanks to colleagues, doctors, nurses, paramedics and the helicopter crew that airlifted him from the scene of the April 11 shoot-out.

The six-year FBI veteran refused, however, to an-

swer any questions about the gun battle he is credited with ending despite his wounds.

"I want to thank all the members of my squad . . . and the rest of [the] FBI field office," said a pale Mireles, his left arm encased in a cast and sling. "I also want to thank the public. I've received hundreds of letters from people and school children with their support and prayers."

During his 13-day hospital stay, Mireles underwent 4½ hours of surgery in two operations to remove bullet fragments from his forehead and repair the damage done to his arm, said his surgeon, Dr. Gustavo Plasencia.

FBI spokesman Paul Miller said Mireles will return to duty, but did not know when. Plasencia said it will likely be months.

"He's got the determination to get back on the job," Miller said.

A quiet and reluctant hero, Mireles is credited with killing robbery suspects William Matix, 34, and Michael Platt, 32.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



C.W. GRIFFIN / Miami Herald Staff

## Thumbs up

FBI Special Agent Gordon McNeill, wounded in the shoot-out with bank robbery suspects two weeks ago, gives the thumbs-up sign Friday as he is released from Baptist Hospital. Nurse Viki Karousatos smiled as McNeill made a brief statement to reporters. McNeill is the last of five wounded agents to be released after hospitalization.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**THE MIAMI HERALD**

**Miami, Florida**

**Page 2B**

Date

Edition

**BROWARD**

**April 26, 1986**

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**MIAMI**

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CALLER APR 17 1986

# Agent's mother is proud of son

By Ben Goodwin  
STAFF WRITER

BEEVILLE - Like many events of its kind, the Miami shootout that took the lives of two FBI agents last Friday has rippled throughout the nation. It carried special meaning to this South Texas town.

The mother of FBI special agent Ed Mireles, wounded in the shootout and credited with killing two bank robbery suspects, is on her way to her son's bedside in Miami.

Mireles, according to eyewitness accounts, was seriously wounded by gunfire, but retrieved his weapon and fatally shot two men who earlier had killed two FBI agents.

"Yes, I am proud of him, but I didn't want this to happen," Mrs. E.M. Mireles said of her 33-year-old son, a native of

Alice who graduated from high school in Beeville.

Mrs. Mireles said her son had surgery Tuesday, but was due for more. She said physicians will transplant skin from his legs to a badly wounded left arm.

Mireles' condition is listed as fair at a Miami hospital.

"I am flying from Corpus Christi at 6:45 a.m. Thursday to be with him and his wife, Liz," said Mrs. Mireles.

Mrs. Mireles said it has been hard to concentrate since the FBI notified her last Friday of the shootout and the wounding of her son.

"I haven't been able to think of anything else since I received the telephone call," she said. "My mind has been on Miami."

Mireles graduated in 1972 from A.C. Jones High School, where he played football and basketball.

Following high school, Mireles served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including embassy duty in Sophia, Bulgaria. He was a top-ranked sharpshooter in the Marines.

After he was discharged, she said, Mireles entered and graduated from the University of Maryland.

"He applied for the FBI and was accepted" in 1979, Mrs. Mireles said.

Mireles served at the FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., before transferring to Miami about a year ago. His wife also is an FBI agent. They have been married slightly more than a year, Mrs. Mireles said.

# S. Texan was hero in shootout

FBI agent's mother, a Beeville resident, is proud of son's heroism./16A

Knight-Ridder News Service

MIAMI - As his fellow FBI agents lay bleeding and dying around him and two suspected bank robbers tried to get away in a government car, Special Agent and former South Texan Ed Mireles, wounded badly in the left arm, crawled about seven yards to the driver's side door, stood up, steadied himself and emptied his revolver through the open window.

As the two men in the car lay dying, Mireles sank to the ground, bleeding. Police sirens screamed in the distance. The worst massacre in the history of the FBI was over.

"The bad guys thought all the agents were down, and they were getting ready to leave," said an investigator charged with recreating the scene. "Somehow, Mireles got to the car. I don't know how. He killed them both with his revolver."

The agent's heroism was one of the few bright spots in a tragedy a week ago that left Agent Gerald Dove and Special Agent Benjamin Grogan dead and Mireles and four other agents wounded on a quiet, tree-lined Kendall Street.

No passers-by were wounded in the shooting, largely because the FBI agents waited to make the arrest until they were on a side street and held their fire when motorists got in the way.

Metro detectives say the men who shot the agents, William R. Matix and Michael Lee Platt, were suspects in more than a half-dozen robberies of armored cars and banks, the killing of one bank guard and the wounding of two others. They're also suspected of shooting at least three other people at a West Dade rock pit frequented by target shooters, but police say neither man had a criminal record.

Agents, investigators and witnesses

Please see Hero/16A

## Hero

FROM PAGE 1A

gave this account of the events that led up to Mireles' lone, desperate assault on the attackers' car.

After a wild chase up South Dixie Highway, Platt and Matix smashed their car into a tree. Almost before the car came to a stop, the men began firing at the agents.

Matix, an ex-Marine, opened up with a lethal Ruger Mini-14; Platt cut loose with a 12-gauge shotgun.

Most of the agents weren't wearing bulletproof vests, but some held them in front of them like shields, for protection.

The agents fought back with standard six-shot .38-caliber Smith & Wesson revolvers, but they had little chance. Grogan and Dove were cut down soon after they

jumped from their car. Everyone else was wounded or taking cover from the Ruger, .223-caliber semiautomatic with a 30-shot clip.

As Dove and Grogan lay dying, some of the wounded agents kept firing.

Mireles, the only agent who had a shotgun, was hit and hurt badly but kept shooting. At one point, he was about five to seven yards away from Matix and Platt, trying to fire the gun from behind the trunk of a government car. With his bad left arm, however, he couldn't aim straight or reload.

Mireles fired once, but it went wide to the left. Buckshot tore into the car's left front quarter panel, as Matix and Platt tried furiously to get into the car. Mireles

dropped the shotgun and got down behind the car.

It's not known if one or the other was wounded during the earlier shooting, but both were well enough to climb into the government car. With Mireles down, they apparently thought they had killed and wounded everyone; they tried starting the car.

In a panic, Mireles scuttled forward with his hands and knees. As the men in the car concentrated on getting it going, Mireles, bleeding, stood up. He squeezed the trigger six times.

When paramedics got there a few minutes later, they pulled Platt and Matix from the car. They were already dead.

SECTION D

THE SUBJECTS. . . . . WILLIAM RUSSEL MATIX - MICHAEL PLATT

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state )  
**THE MIAMI HERALD**  
Miami, Florida

Date **Page 1A**  
Edition April 24, 1986

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**MIAMI**

Indexing

# Killer kept his dark side hidden

By SYDNEY P. FREEDBERG

Herald Staff Writer

Michael Lee Platt, a hazel-eyed fanatic no one knew, was a crack commando with a doomsday vision, schooled in the evil art of mayhem.

In high school, he wanted to be an FBI agent.

For Michael Platt, 32, doomsday arrived 13 days ago on a suburban Miami street, when, finally, he was shot to death like a mad dog. He was trying to steal the car of two murdered FBI agents.

Federal investigators have not established that Platt or his slain partner, William Matix, 34, belonged to any extremist survivalist group, but they do not

## The FBI Shoot-out

Last in a series

discount it. They are not yet sure what happened to the urban arsenal they stockpiled, apparently financed from bank hold-ups.

What is emerging slowly is the strange dark life of Platt. His second wife was terrified of him. The day before she supposedly shot herself with a shotgun, she told a friend, "He's going to kill me."

Michael Platt compelled his wife, against

her will, to have an affair with his trusted buddy, Matix, her divorce lawyer says. Platt was fiercely anti-Catholic, a man reared as a military brat, a specialist in military survival, and a man who lied about dying. He said he had cancer. He did not.

When Mary Stutts, a family friend, first heard about the bloody shootout that took the lives of Platt, Matix and the two FBI agents and wounded five other agents, she

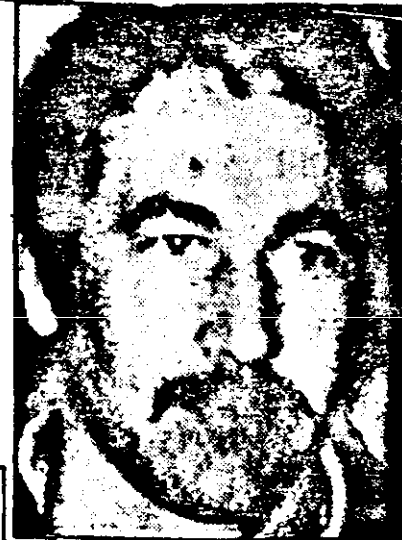
said, "I thought Mike would be the FBI agent, not the villain."

"What went wrong? Mike aspired to be a CIA or an FBI agent. He was almost fanatical about his body. He never smoked, drank or took drugs. He always had such high aspirations."

Platt, born in San Diego on Feb. 3, 1954, grew up strictly Navy, marching with his moody chief petty officer father from military base to military base.

As a boy, Mike admired Dallas Cowboy wide-receiver Lance Rentzel. He told people he used to play football with him.

Platt's father, Marion, believed in strict



Michael Platt: He seemed to change in the military.

Please turn to PLATT / 18A

# Behind tranquillity, there was a killer

PLATT / from 1A

discipline for his three boys: short hair, restriction or physical punishment for disobeying orders. The father gave his sons the same middle name, Lee. Mike was the oldest, quietest and seemingly saddest. Tim was the youngest, friendliest and happiest. Dave was in between. Mike protected the other two from what an old neighbor called a "a bad home situation."

"I hope Marion isn't blaming himself," said Bl Myers, an old family friend. "He may be thinking that he didn't bring him up right."

Mike Platt, with his best buddy, Larry Stutts, worked part time at a Sam's Roast Beef and went to high school in Yuma, Ariz., a dusty desert town sitting on an earthquake fault, 20 miles north of Mexico. The family home, with pool and carport, was landscaped by cactus.

Nearby is a Marine training base for chopper pilots and a million-acre testing ground where the Army rehearsed its 1980 Iranian rescue attempt.

Platt, a boy with few close friends, took up bow-and-arrow hunting and learned to shoot a .22-caliber rifle. He showed little interest in girls. "He was always real pessimistic," said Larry Stutts.

Competitive, anxious to live up to his father's expectations, Platt graduated in the top 10 percent of his class. He was a jock, one of "two big starters" on Kofa High's basketball team, the yearbook declared. He was great in tight games, sometimes scoring 20 points. "He could think ahead to avoid situations going wrong," said coach John McKinley. "He wasn't one to get rattled easily."

Platt was always a bit of a rebel. "He was reluctant to be regimented," said Dr. Lewis Shoop, the school counselor.

To protest what he believed to be a coach's favoritism, Platt refused a varsity letter. "He was opinionated for right and wrong. He had a great disdain for injustice," Stutts said.

Stutts remembers one night in Yuma when Platt accidentally ran over a small mutt. He slammed on the brakes, jumped out of the car and held the dead animal in his arms. He was overcome with grief.

Other acquaintances in Yuma recall a very determined teenager with pent-up fury. Shortly after Platt bought a blue Chevy Malibu with work savings, he failed to come home one night. His father accused the Stuttses of stealing his son. The father also claimed the Malibu belonged to him and said he was going to call police and have Mike arrested for theft.

That's what happened, the Stuttses said. "Marion left him in Juvenile Hall for the weekend to teach him a lesson," Myers added.

In 1972, after graduation, Michael Platt left home. He married for a brief time. Investigators don't know who his first wife was or what became of her. That year, Platt enlisted in the Army.

"Why in the hell are you doing that?" Stutts asked then.

"You have to learn to protect yourself," Platt replied.

★ ★ ★

On leave, Platt stayed away from Yuma. He wrote sometimes.

Stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., Company B, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, he took a desert biology course and eventually made the Army Rangers, the elite first-strike commando unit that stakes out territory for more heavily armed units.

Platt, a 6-foot, muscular man with penetrating hazel eyes and wavy brown hair, wanted to be somebody.

He had his head shaved, wore jungle fatigues and learned self-preservation. He marched through the swamps. He made it on two hours of sleep a night and limited rations. He trained in the desert.

Platt made staff sergeant. He earned a Good Conduct Medal and qualified as an expert in the M-16 rifle. In Korea in 1977-78, he trained for close-in, intensive combat. Up in a tree, Platt would watch the border of a divided Korea. He thought Korea's partition was "stupid."

"He said it would have been so easy for someone to pick him off," Mary Stutts said.

In Platt's conversations and letters, he denounced smokers, drinkers, the Catholic Church and

bureaucrats who favored a divided Korea. "Mike was very much the American. If he felt our country was being raped or molested, he would rise up and do something about it."

In the military, Michael Platt seemed to change from a quiet, withdrawn youth into an aloof, angry critic.

It was there, the FBI believed, that he met William Matix, a fanatic very much like him.

If Platt or Matix associated with right-wing survivalists known to thrive in the world of ex-soldiers, particularly around Fort Campbell, investigators have yet to establish it. The opportunity was there.

Some investigators are skeptical.

"Someone living in a \$100,000 home in the suburbs and driving a Jaguar doesn't sound like a survivalist to me," one federal agent said of Platt. "I'd say they were more capitalistic. They would do anything for money, including killing people."

Upon discharge, Michael Platt returned to Yuma in 1979. On the visit, he exchanged "war stories" with Mary Stutts' husband, an ex-Marine with four combat tours in Vietnam.

Platt quizzed him on survival: "What did you do when you were dropped out of C-130s in the jungle? How did you catch animals for food? What evasive actions did you use to avoid the enemy?"

★ ★ ★

When Michael Platt moved to Miami, he brought with him a new wife and his old Army fatigues. He wore them around the neighborhood, a secluded South Dade street four blocks from where he would die.

Regina Lyles was a tiny, plain-looking woman with sandy blond hair, glasses and a well-to-do father. Everyone liked her. "Do you love her or do you love her money?" a friend once asked him. "I love her," Platt answered. "The money isn't important."

Outwardly, Mike and Regina lived a humdrum life in suburbia, in a typical Dade County home with burglar bars. The Platts had three children, Ryan, now 8, Becky, 5, and Kyle, 3. Daddy pushed the stroller through the neighborhood.

Platt studied at Miami-Dade Community College, enrolling in business courses first, then switching to landscaping in the fall of 1983. He had a 3.22 grade point average and 76 credits, enough for an associate's degree, which he never bothered to pick up.

He started a landscape business with his brother, Tim, and seemingly worked hard.

"How are you doing today?" the neighbors would ask him.

"As well as can be expected," Platt would answer, his eyes fixed on the ground.

Behind the tranquillity was mystery. The Platts built a six-foot mound outside the house. It looked like a bunker.

When neighbors asked about it, Platt would sometimes say he was building a slide for his children. Other times, he would say the dirt was for a cesspool. He promised to get rid of it.

A few months before his death, neighbors noticed the mound had disappeared. Survivalists commonly build such bunkers for food and weapon storage.

★ ★ ★

Sometime between 1979 and Christmastime 1983, the FBI now believes, Platt went to Ohio. There he sought out Matix, his old Army buddy.

On Dec. 30, 1983, someone stabbed to death Matix's wife, Patricia, in a Columbus hospital where she worked.

At the funeral, Patricia's mother remembers an introduction to a man called Michael.

These days, Columbus Police

Capt. Antone Lanata is trying to find out Michael Platt's whereabouts on the day of the murder. Platt is suspected.

"I'm not just going to clear a case off one of them because they're dead," the captain said. "But both men have proven themselves to be murderers."

In the spring of 1984, Bill Matix came to Florida and joined Platt's landscaping business.

They became inseparable. They went on out-of-state hunting expeditions and deep-sea fishing trips. Platt caught a 98-inch sailfish. Matix caught and mounted a five-foot hammerhead shark.

After Matix's arrival, the marriage of Mike and Reggie Platt deteriorated. He had affairs, a neighbor said. Regina seemed desperate to save her marriage. She was devastated when she found love notes to Mike from another woman. She was devastated when her husband, who had a vasectomy, asked her: "Why did we have all these children anyway?"

Eventually, Regina went to see a lawyer about her marriage, her fears and her life. She told attorney Daniel A. Wick that her husband demanded that she have an affair with Matix. "The only reason I did it," she told the lawyer, "is because I love my

husband and I wanted to save my marriage."

A neighbor also detected trouble. "She was afraid of him. She didn't like his guns. She didn't like Matix." She even thought that he had shot to death the couple's terrier and another dog. He said he had given them away.

Regina told the lawyer that her husband was playing around with guns and that he and Matix were going out of state on weekends. "She thought they were doing something illegal," the lawyer said.

Regina also told the lawyer of a threat she received from one of her husband's girlfriends. "This female told her three things: One was that her husband was going to get a divorce. Two was that Michael and this woman were deeply in love. And three was that, 'You'll be gone by Christmas-time.'"

Attorney Wick hired a private investigator to trace the movements of Platt and Matix. "They had some sort of warehouse in the north end of town. They'd apparently pick up their work orders and go to work."

Wick said he did not know what was inside the warehouse. Crying, Regina told another friend: "My husband keeps threatening to kill me."

On Nov. 13, 1984, Regina Platt was treated at Baptist Hospital's emergency room. Allegedly, it was a suicide attempt with 14 anti-depressant pills. The hospital confirmed a computer entry, but no specifics. There was no police report.

Attorney Wick says Regina told him she once took "an overdose of pills."

On Dec. 20, 1984, Regina ran into a friend at a shopping mall. "She said, 'He is going to kill me, he's going to kill me.' She was crying."

At 8 a.m., Dec. 21, 1984, Regina Platt, 32, died of a shotgun blast to the mouth. She was nude in her bed. Her husband said he was asleep in the Florida room when the blast awoke him. He said he rushed to the other side of the house and found his wife dead.

She was five foot three. She weighed 80 pounds. The 12-gauge shotgun, from trigger to muzzle, was 25 inches long. The gun had a trigger pull of 8 1/4 pounds.

The trigger "was well within her reach," said detective Daniel Borrego, assigned to re-examine the case this month. In 1984, authorities had ruled the death a suicide.



Police say they found pellets lodged in a bookshelf behind the bed. Police found powder burns on the dead woman. Suspicious, police also said they tested Platt. He tested negative. "I always suspected Platt, and that's as much as I'll say," said police Officer Mark Huetter. "What you feel and what you can prove are two different things." At the time, Platt told police of his wife's brief affair with Matix. Platt didn't seem upset by it, police said.

"Based on everything I've seen, it's not a suicide," the lawyer said. "I think he [Platt] hired someone to do it."

Exactly where William Matix was that morning is unresolved.

Matix paid a condolence call at the wake. He wasn't upset, a neighbor recalled. Neither was Platt.

"I'm sure he was not saddened too much by her death," Borrego said. "He was thinking about divorcing. He may not have been too distraught over it."

Regina was buried a Roman Catholic. Platt, born a Catholic, resented the church. "He thought it was hypocritical and stupid," said Mary Stutts.

★ ★ ★

A few days after Regina Platt's death, Michael Platt took the kids to Disney World and Sanibel. In the next few weeks he acquired a third wife and moved to 15031 SW 88th Lane on a cul-de-sac in a very quiet, upper middle class development called the Hammocks.

Platt's new wife was an attractive, blond woman in her mid-30s with a teen-age son. Her name was Brenda. They rented. Platt quit the landscaping business.

His young son, Ryan, told a neighbor after his mother's death: "Daddy has a lot of money now ... he's gonna buy me a three-wheel motorcycle." Ryan's sister Becky echoed her brother. "We have new money."

Police now believe Platt was living well beyond his means, supplementing his income by robbing banks with Matix.

The Platts had a television with a "gigantic screen," a \$2,500 robot for the children and two all-terrain vehicles. Among other vehicles registered to Platt were a chocolate-brown Jaguar, a brown Jeep and a white Chevy Blazer. Sometimes he drove a motorcycle.

Platt and his buddy, Matix, talked to Clare Mitchell about buying her 40-foot charter boat, the Lady Mitchell out of North Carolina. "They told me cash was no object," Mitchell said. "They wanted me to take \$25,000 for the boat. They wanted it real bad, not to run drugs, I'm sure."

Brenda, the new wife, told people that her husband had quit the landscaping business because he had circulatory cancer in his knee. The yard chemicals, she claimed, would aggravate the cancer. Doctors, she said, had even considered amputating his foot.

Platt even wore a leg brace sometimes. An autopsy indicated no evidence of cancer.

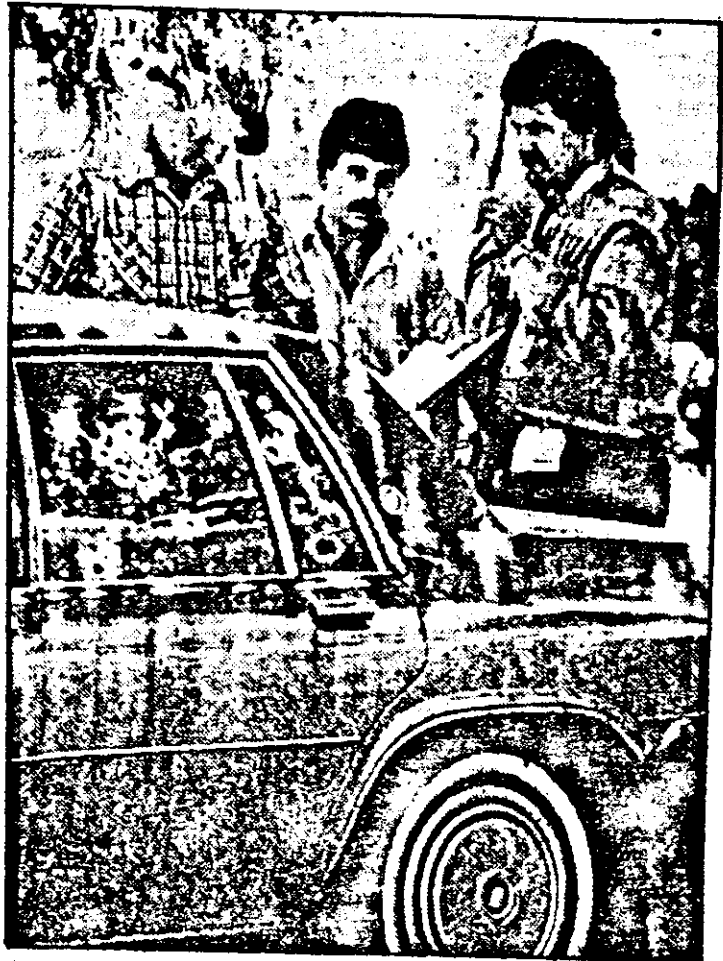
The new wife explained other things to another neighbor. "Mike had an insurance policy that would pay off because he was totally disabled. Mike said he was more lucrative because he had left the landscaping business."

On the last day of his life, April 11, 1986, Michael Lee Platt was out of the house at 7:55 a.m. He drove his new stepson to high school, along with a friend, Allan Koolmeyer. On the car radio, they listened to Y100. "Mike seemed fine," Koolmeyer said. On the radio, there was talk of terrorism. Libyan terrorism.

Casually, Koolmeyer spoke of his research paper. Flatly, almost sarcastically, Platt responded: "If I were you, I wouldn't worry about the paper. The way things are going in Libya, you might be gone pretty soon."

Not two hours later, Michael Lee Platt was dead.

## The FBI Shoot-out



Michael Platt — remembered as very determined with pent-up fury — was a high school basketball star in 1973. 'He could think ahead to avoid situations going wrong. He wasn't one to get rattled easily,' said his coach. That characteristic remained . . . even to the very end 13 years later in a shoot-out with the FBI. At right, detectives look over an FBI vehicle car riddled with bullets shot by Platt and his partner.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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# FBI will scrutinize lives of Matix and his partner

By Harry Franken  
*Dispatch Staff Reporter*

MIAMI — The violent deaths of William R. Matix and Michael Lee Platt left many questions, but the FBI will investigate their lives "from the cradle to the grave" to try to answer them, FBI Director William Webster said yesterday.

Webster, attending the funeral of one of two FBI agents killed by Matix, 34, and Platt, 32, promised the FBI won't rest until it learns everything there is to know about the two killers.

Some of that information might shed light on the murder of Matix's wife, Patricia, on Dec. 30, 1983, in Riverside Hospital in Columbus. She and a fellow research assistant, Joyce McFadden, were stabbed to death.

After his wife's death, Matix came here with his young daughter, Melissa. He went into the landscaping business

with Platt, an old service buddy, and took part in church as a born-again Christian.

Dr. Emit Ray, pastor of the Riverside Baptist Church in suburban Kendall, where Matix lived in a comfortable home, said yesterday he cannot unravel the mystery of the man.

"One of my deacons suggested that instead of wondering how a born-again Christian could be a cold-blooded murderer, that we look at his training in the Army where he was trained to be a professional in this sort of thing and wonder that he turned that training against agents of his own country."

Ray said some church members considered themselves friends of Matix and others were friends of the agents who were killed and wounded in the shoot-out last Friday.

"We have a lot of law enforcement people in our group," Ray said. "There are

two highway patrolmen and members of the municipal and Dade County departments, two drug enforcement agents and two FBI agents. Our FBI members were backup for the ones who were killed, and it could just as easily have been them as anybody else at the shooting."

Looking back on when Matix joined his church in August 1984, Ray said, "He was lonely and distraught, and he was much concerned about his little girl. He was active in our group of single people, and he dated several of our girls. He even asked three of them to marry him. One of them said to me yesterday, 'I almost did marry that guy!'"

Ray said Matix played on the church softball team and was a tough competitor. He said Matix and Platt had done some work on the lawn and trees at the church and "they did a good job at a reasonable price."

Tim Platt, a brother of Michael Platt, told a Miami newspaper that his brother, too, never gave any hint that he was leading a life of crime.

"My brother didn't own any guns, to my knowledge. He was a smiling, happy guy, no drinking, no drugs, no smoking. He was not your typical criminal."

Ray said he taped Matix's testimony of his beliefs. "He was distraught over the death of his wife, but it did not reveal any deeper psychological problems," he said. "Was he really a phony? I don't know that I will ever know. I do believe the church must retain its vulnerability. If we become too careful and questioning, we may lose our compassion."

"That is not the spirit of Christ, who was also taken in by some phonies. I think we must take people at face value and love everybody who comes down the pike."

Ray recalled that when Matix spoke in church about the death of his wife, he ended the talk by pinching out the flame of a candle as an example of the brevity of life and "how you'd better get ready for death."

The Dade County medical examiner yesterday released the body of Matix to a funeral director, who prepared it for shipment by air to Ohio.

Meanwhile, Webster joined more than 800 people packed into Visitation Roman Catholic Church yesterday for the funeral of slain agent Benjamin Grogan, a member.

Webster said he would attend services today in Charleston, W.Va., for Gerald Dove, the other slain agent.

Webster also visited three agents hospitalized after being wounded in the shoot-out.

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# Matix's private eye still trying to solve Riverside murders

By Michael J. Berens and Mary Yost  
*Dispatch Staff Reporters*

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Despite William R. Matix's death in an FBI shoot-out, a private investigator hired by his attorneys is still trying to solve the murders of Matix's wife and a co-worker at Riverside Hospital.

Matix filed a \$3 million wrongful death suit against Riverside on Dec. 30, 1985. The suit said Matix "suffered severe mental anguish" after Patricia Matix's murder in a research laboratory two years earlier, on Dec. 30, 1983. The suit says the hospital did not provide adequate security.

Mr. Matix's attorney, Craig Treneff, said the suit is based on a theory that an unidentified construction worker bound, gagged and repeatedly stabbed Mrs. Matix, 30, and Joyce McFadden, 33, whose bodies were found in a hospital laboratory.

Treneff said the private investigator is seeking the construction worker's name and will try to build a case showing that the worker is responsible for the murders. Columbus police have questioned a construction worker in the slayings.

Police Capt. Antone Lanata said "new avenues" were opened in the case after Mr. Matix, a suspected bank robber, was killed Friday near Miami in a shoot-out with FBI agents. Michael Lee Platt, Mr. Matix's business partner and his suspected partner in the robberies, and two FBI agents were killed as well. Five agents were injured.

LANATA SAID police will be looking for evidence in Miami that could link either Mr. Matix, 34, or Platt, 32, to the Riverside murders. *The Dispatch* reported yesterday that Mr. Matix left Delaware County for Florida with more than \$375,000, most of it from life insurance policies on his wife.

Treneff said he is waiting for one of Mr. Matix's heirs to notify him whether to continue with the civil suit against the hospital. Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Tommy Thompson placed the suit on inactive status Friday until an executor is named for Matix's estate.

The suit says the cancer research laboratory where Mrs. Matix and McFadden worked as research assistants contained drugs in cabinets that were "highly visible" and that the hospital did not supply the area with a camera or security guards.

Based on search warrants and accounts from police and other sources, the following is known:

• On Dec. 30, 1983, at 5:05 p.m. the bodies of Mrs. Matix and McFadden were found by their supervisor. The supervisor, who was on vacation, told police he went to the lab to pick up his mail. The time of death was between 4 and 5 p.m.

• McFadden's body was lying face down in a pool of blood. Her throat was cut, and she had been stabbed 19 times. Her wedding rings, with diamonds totaling 0.6 carats and valued at about \$2,000, were missing. Less than \$20 was missing from her purse. Bloody boot prints were found on the floor.

• Mrs. Matix's body was found in a 4-by-6-foot tissue culture lab, or cold room, in the lab. Her throat was cut, and she had been stabbed 16 times. Her diamond wedding ring also was missing. Police have not determined the value of the ring. Police found 150 fingerprints in the lab.

• The same weapon was used on both women. It is described as a utility or folding knife with a 1-inch-wide blade. Both women were gagged with tape. A roll of tape was found. Fiber evidence suggests the assailant wore cloth gloves.

POLICE BELIEVE their biggest break came in August 1984, when they matched the bloody boot print to a JCPenney boot. After sifting through 20,000 credit card receipts, they identified a construction worker who worked at the hospital the day of the murders. He owned a pair of boots that matched the prints found in the research lab.

The worker told police he was assigned to work in a stairwell next to the research lab. His account of the day differed "greatly" from his co-worker's account, police said.

The man told police he left the lab area about 3:45 p.m. In a second interview, he changed the time to 4:30 p.m. Police said they believe the first woman was assaulted about 4:30 p.m.

In an addendum to a search warrant, police said the man may have kept the murder weapon.

Police searched the man's home and several cars Aug. 24, 1984. No evidence was found to link the man to the murders, they said.

Mr. Matix's body has been flown from Miami to a Dayton funeral home. Funeral home officials said no arrangements have been made.

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# Police say Matix nixed lie test after murders

By Michael J. Berens

Dispatch Police Reporter

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William R. Matix, killed Friday in an FBI shoot-out in Miami, refused to take a lie detector test after his wife's murder in 1983 here, Columbus police sources said yesterday.

Sources said he was uncooperative with investigators.

Matix's attorney, Craig Treneff, said yesterday Matix once told him that he "felt pressured by police" to take the test.

"Bill was incensed because he felt the police had told the media that he was going to take the test," Treneff said. "He felt cornered."

Police sources said John McFadden, husband of Joyce McFadden, 33, who was murdered at the same time as Mrs. Matix, passed a lie detector test. Mr. McFadden was cooperative and tried to find his wife's killer, sources said.

THE TWO WOMEN were bound, gagged and repeatedly stabbed in a research laboratory at Riverside Hospital. The case is unsolved.

Two homicide investigators, Michael Elkins and David Morris, left Columbus yesterday for Miami, where police hope they can link Matix or his business partner, Michael Lee Platt, to the double slaying in the Columbus hospital on Dec. 3, 1983.

Mr. Matix and Platt were killed last week during a 5-minute gun battle with FBI agents. Two agents were killed, and five others were injured.

Columbus Police Capt. Antone Lanata said there is no direct evidence to link either Mr. Matix or Platt to the Columbus murders.

Treneff said a private investigator hired to find Mrs. Matix's killer is trying to prove an unidentified construction worker committed the murders. He refused to identify the investigator.

A POLICE SOURCE said police believe the murders could have been premeditated. Police have publicly said a robber could have panicked and killed the women. Wedding ring sets and other jewelry taken from the women's bodies are missing.

The source said a roll of tape found in the lab, used to bind the women, apparently belonged to the killer. The hospital never bought that brand of tape.

A fingerprint found in the lab belonged to Mr. Matix, who said he had visited his wife two days earlier, the source said. Police believe the killer wore cloth gloves, the source said.

Police also believe Mrs. Matix was the first victim, the source said, because her body appeared to be hidden in a tissue culture lab, similar to a refrigerated closet. Mrs. McFadden may have been killed after she surprised the killer. The killer appeared to be "more in a rush" when killing Mrs. McFadden, the source said.

In a Jan. 2, 1984, interview, Mr. Matix said his wife had been concerned about a lack of security. Mr. Matix said his wife felt like a "trapped rat" while in the lab.

THE DISPATCH reported yesterday that Mr. Matix filed a \$3 million wrongful death suit against Riverside Hospital on Dec. 30, 1985.

A federal investigator said Matix might have been in money trouble early in 1985. Earlier, Mr. Matix and Platt formed a landscaping business.

A brother, Paul Matix, said earlier this week that William Matix did not seem to have money problems because he took two weeks off in late 1985 so they could "have a good time together" in Miami.

Funeral arrangements for Matix should be complete today, a spokesman for a Dayton funeral home said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gun links Matix, Platt to rock pit shooting

**MICHAEL CARRIER**

*Miami News Reporter*

FBI agents reconstructing the lives of two men gunned down in last week's South Dade shoot-out have discovered eight weapons and ammunition at the men's homes, including a revolver linked to an attempted murder at a West Dade rock pit.

Agents looking for evidence that could tie William R. Matix and Michael Lee Platt to a string of violent crimes found inside Matix's home a .38-caliber pistol belonging to Jose Collazo, said FBI spokesman Alina Martinez.

Collazo was shot four times March 12 by two men who ordered him into a canal at a rock pit south of the Tamiami Trail and 157th Avenue. Collazo, who frequented the rock pit for target shooting, was left for dead as he lay bleeding and motionless at the water's edge. After the two men left, taking with them his black, late-model Chevrolet Monte Carlo, Collazo, 30, crawled out of the quarry and stumbled for miles to a phone.

Matix, 35, and Platt, 32, were driving the stolen car when FBI agents cornered them behind the Dixie Belle Shopping Center in Sunland last Friday. The vicious gun battle that followed left the suspects and agents Jerry Dove and Benjamin Grogan dead. Five other agents were wounded.

Martinez said the pistol found at Matix's home was in Collazo's possession when he was shot.

"(The gun) really ties these guys to that incident," Martinez said.

Martinez said agents also discovered a .22-caliber rifle, two other weapons, significant amounts of ammunition, two walkie-talkies and clothing "that could have been used as disguises," when they combed Matix's home at 15615 S.W. 85th Ave.

Matix's estranged wife, Christy Matix, said the agents seized the evidence last Friday when they conducted the search.

At Platt's home at 15031 S.W. 88th Lane, four other weapons were found, Martinez said. No description of those weapons was released.

The FBI spokesman said the agents will continue to delve into the bizarre backgrounds of the two men whose automatic weapon fire and shotgun blasts marked the bloodiest day in FBI history.

The two are suspects in at least six armored car and bank holdups in Dade, plus at least two possible murders and shootings at the rock pit.

Partly because of their cool, deadly attack on the agents trying to question them, officials initially speculated that the pair might have been linked to terrorists. Martinez said agents continue to check that possibility, but that no longer appears to be the case.

In a new development in the case, the FBI, led by an anonymous tip, yesterday recovered a white pickup truck owned by Matix and believed to have been used in the Collazo shooting. The truck was in the parking of an apartment complex at Southwest 104th Street and 79th Avenue, said Metro police spokesman William Johnson.

Paul Miller, Miami FBI spokesman, said the same vehicle could also be linked to the Jan. 10 Brinks armored car robbery at Barnett Bank, 13595 S. Dixie Highway. During that robbery, Brinks employee Ernesto Marange, 29, was critically wounded.

Miller said the assailants used a gold Monte Carlo to leave the scene of the bank robbery. A witness who followed that car saw the assailants get into a white pickup, Miller said.

The Monte Carlo was traced to Emilio Briel, who has been missing since October when he left his home to go target shooting at the same abandoned rock pit as Collazo. Police said they believed Briel was murdered and his car stolen.

In Brunswick, Ga., 53-year-old FBI agent Grogan was buried yesterday. FBI Director William Webster and hundreds of federal and local law enforcement officers attended funeral services for him Monday in Miami. Webster also attended the funeral Tuesday of slain agent Dove in Charleston, W. Va.

Miami News Reporter Denise L. Stinson and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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**THE MIAMI HERALD**  
Miami, Florida  
Page 6C  
Date Edition BROWARD  
April 18, 1986

# Neighbors say Platt, wife argued

## FBI slaying suspect probed in her death

By BRIAN DUFFY  
And SYDNEY P. FREEDBERG  
*Herald Staff Writer*

Neighbors of Michael Platt, one of two men involved in the Kendall shootout that killed two FBI agents, say they felt sorry for Platt's first wife, Regina, because the two had a rocky marriage.

Details of Michael and Regina Platt's marriage have become important because investigators have reopened the case of her December 1984 death, initially ruled a suicide.

Meanwhile, on Thursday senior FBI agents got their most detailed account of the worst shooting in the bureau's history. Two agents were killed and five more wounded by suspected bank robbers Platt and his partner William Matix.

Matix's first wife, Patricia, was murdered in Columbus, Ohio. In light of last week's violence, some detectives now say they believe Matix and Platt, who were best friends, may have had a pact to murder their wives.

On Thursday, the Dade Medical Examiner's Office and the Dade State Attorney's Office refused to provide The Miami Herald a copy of the two-year-old death report for Regina Platt. The report is a public record, but prosecutors said Thursday the report was sealed because of the new investigation.

Detectives from Columbus were in Miami Thursday to interview friends of Matix and Platt, in search of clues in the Patricia Matix slaying.

Neighbors of Michael and Regina Platt said Thursday the couple's marriage began to deteriorate in the fall of 1984, several months before Regina Platt died from a shotgun blast to the head in their South Dade home.

Neighbors said they could hear the couple arguing at the three-bedroom tan stucco house on Southwest 81st Avenue. They said Platt had asked her for a divorce shortly before she died.

Three weeks after Regina's death, Platt remarried.

In the briefing with the FBI, homicide detectives confirmed that Special Agent Edmundo Mireles was the one who killed Platt and Matix. Both were hit in the spine by .38-caliber slugs, almost certainly from Mireles' revolver. Mireles is recuperating in South Miami hospital with a compound fracture to the left forearm. Special agents John Hanlon and Gordon McNeill were recuperating Thursday in a large private room in Baptist Hospital.

They were listed in fair but stable condition.

Metro-Dade homicide and robbery detectives say they may eventually have enough information to link Platt and Matix to as many as four shootings and eight robberies of armored trucks and banks in South Dade. Police are flummoxed, however, because nei-



**Michael Platt: Suspected in wife's death.**

ther man had a criminal record and their were few obvious signs of their predilection for violence and crime.

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## 'FBI did me favor,' wife of killer says

● FBI finds gun linking pair to rock pit shooting. 3A

DAN CHRISTENSEN

Miami News Reporter

Christy Lou Matix does not weep for her dead husband. She says her tears for him were spent months ago amid the pain of a broken marriage.

"I don't grieve for Bill. In fact, I guess the FBI did me a favor by taking him out," she said. "I grieve for the families of the agents who were killed."

William Matix and Michael Platt, the man police have said was his close friend, died together Friday in a bloody South Dade shoot-out that also claimed the lives of two FBI agents. Five other agents were also wounded in the gun battle that began after the lawmen tried to stop Matix and Platt to question them about a series of armed robberies and murders.

Mrs. Matix, speaking publicly on the tragedy for the first time yesterday, said Easter was the last time she saw her estranged husband.

She said, "I went to show him our baby. He didn't want anything to do with that baby. He said, 'Get out of my life. I don't ever want to see you again.'"

The Matix's son had been born

— Please see MATIX. 9A



## MATIX, from 1A

Dec. 27. His father had never seen him, Mrs. Matix said.

Mrs. Matix said that while she was aware that her husband had worked with Platt in the landscaping business, she had only met Platt once. She said that as far as she knew, Platt and her husband were not particularly close friends.

"I don't know much about that," she said.

"We, the family, are as baffled as the rest of the world about what happened. We thought the life Bill was portraying was real and those of us who had daily contact with him didn't know this other side. We are all the victims, the agents and his family," she said.

"Today I just feel that Bill is putting us through something we shouldn't have to go through. We are having to answer questions that we don't have answers for."

Christy Horne, a devout Christian, and Bill Matix had eloped to the west coast of Florida May 17 following a short courtship, she said. The couple had met while playing in a church-sponsored volleyball game the previous March.

"He had an open personality. He was very honest. We shared the same goals," Mrs. Matix, 29, recalled. "He seemed like Pastor (Emit) Ray at Riverside (Baptist Church) had said, that he was a Christian person who wanted to do God's will. But Satan can even get into a Christian's life. It's a daily struggle to keep him out."

Christy and Bill Matix lived together at 15031 S.W. 88th Lane with Melissa, Matix's young daughter from a previous marriage.

Mrs. Matix says she saw nothing unusual about her husband during that time. She said he liked to collect antiques, go deep sea fishing and work with wood.

"He enjoyed making wooden toys — airplanes, tractors, ducks. He had a bandsaw and fine tools and what he turned out was very beautiful. He made them for kids and he made them child-proof, so they couldn't hurt themselves. I keep asking myself how could anyone that makes a little wooden train for a child have ended up like this?"

The marriage came to an end as suddenly as it began. Mrs. Matix discovered she was pregnant. The news did not sit well with her husband.

"I really believe Bill just flipped out, whatever you want to call it, a year ago," she said.

Mrs. Matix, who left her husband after he announced his displeasure at her pregnancy, said she filed for divorce last fall at Matix's request. Her attempts to save the marriage failed, she said.

"I went through my grief back then," said Mrs. Matix, who in March was laid off from her job as a telephone service representative.

The divorce was still pending when an unsuspecting Mrs. Matix drove past the police cars that cordoned off the spot where her hus-

band lay dead. On the car radio she heard about what had happened, but the names of the dead were yet to be made public.

"I had the same reaction everyone did," she said.

That evening, she said, a relative called to say that a man named Bill Matix had been killed by the FBI and asked her if it was her husband. "I said, 'Ob, no. It can't be.' But I made a note to watch the 10 o'clock news and when I heard both Bill and Michael's names I knew it just had to be. I was stunned. I thought I was dreaming."

Despite an exhaustive police investigation that includes FBI attempts to develop psychological profiles of both Matix and Platt, Mrs. Matix doubts there will ever be any answers.

"The only two who know were Mike and Bill," she said. "All I know is that I made a mistake. Even we Christians aren't infallible. God protects people even through our mistakes. I'll go on from here and I'll trust in Him."

Still, Mrs. Matix says, she dreads that future moment when she will have to tell her son about the day his father died.

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# Matix's mother baffled by it all

By Michael J. Berens

*Dispatch Police Reporter*

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NEW MADISON, Ohio — The FBI called William R. Matix a cold-blooded killer, but Matix treasured a stuffed toy elephant from his childhood and kept it on his bed until the day he died.

The William Matix who was killed Friday in a Miami shootout with eight FBI agents was a person who laughed while his mother spanked him then ran to the barn to weep.

Columbus police say Matix is a suspect in the 1983 murder of his wife.

In an interview yesterday, Yvonne Emerick, 60, Matix's mother, said, "I swear to God, if he dropped me dead on this spot, that I had no idea that Bill was like that.

"If I had known, I'd have gone to the police myself."

Emerick and her husband, Ray Emerick, sat in their small farm house here, about 30 miles west of Dayton, and talked, cried and sometimes laughed while recalling their son.

Mr. Emerick had open-heart surgery several years ago. He sat in a living room chair where tears gave way to words. Mrs. Emerick, a victim of six strokes and one heart attack, sat at a kitchen table.

Mrs. Emerick wept the most when she talked about the two FBI agents gunned down by her son and his business partner, Michael Lee Platt.

"I know what their wives must be going through. It's a terrible thing," she said.

And, deep in her heart, she wonders how her son, a man who wrote poems of love to his family, became such a stranger.

"My only feeling is somewhere down the line, and it hasn't been too far, something snapped. It had to," she said.

Matix was born in 1951 in Lewisburg, Ohio, near Dayton. By age 12, his father and mother were divorced. His mother remarried, and he, his brother and two sisters moved to New Madison.

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"Things were tight. I mean very tight. We didn't have money," Mrs. Emerick said. "We don't have anything."

William was a shy boy who stuttered, she said.

Classmates often taunted him, but he found a way to make it an advantage. He became the class comedian, his mother said.

"He could make anyone laugh at the drop of a hat," she said.

By the time he was 10, Matix was working in hayfields for 75 cents a day to help support the family. During school months he worked until 1 a.m. on a chicken farm, she said.

Although William made fun of his own speech problem, he was too embarrassed to try out for the high school basketball team because of it, his mother said. Before graduation he enlisted in the Marines without telling his family.

"He said, 'I love my country.' He said, 'Mother, don't try to stop me,'" she said.

Visions of glory turned sour when he became a cook in the Marines, Mrs. Emerick said.

After he left the Marines, he worked in a manufacturing plant in Troy, Ohio, for a year before joining the Army where he became a military policeman, she said. While attending a speech school in Washington, D.C., he met his first wife, Patricia.

Matix's mother said he left the Army,

went to a cooking school in New York and a meat-cutting school in Toledo. In 1976, he married Patricia. He moved to Columbus later, after landing a job as a grocery store meat cutter. Later, the couple moved to Delaware.

Christmas 1983 was filled with joy, Mrs. Emerick said. William and Patricia spent the holiday in New Madison. Five days later Patricia and a co-worker were bound, gagged and stabbed to death at Riverside Hospital.

Patricia was buried in a pants suit, her Christmas gift from William.

William moved to Florida because he wanted to get rid of the pressure, his mother said. Also, Michael Lee Platt had offered him a job, she said.

Mrs. Emerick admits there is a side of her son she never saw. He remarried in Florida without first telling his family. Not until the day after his death did Mrs. Emerick learn he had an infant son.

She may never know what changed her son, she said. Her only hope now is that people will forget and forgive.

There will not be a funeral service for Mr. Matix, his mother said.

The funeral home was told to bury the body and notify the family later.

Matix now lies in an unmarked grave in New Madison, still close to his mother's heart.

## Second wife says she doesn't grieve

MIAMI (AP) — The estranged wife of William R. Matix said she does not grieve for her husband and thinks the "FBI did me a favor by taking him out."

Christy Lou Matix, 29, said she had no idea her husband may have been involved in six bank and armored car robberies.

"I have the exact same questions everyone else had," she said Wednesday. "How could it be? Why didn't anyone know? He

was a master of deceit and disguise."

Matix, 34, was known as a born-again Christian who liked making wooden toys. He married Cristy Horne in May. Within two months, Mrs. Matix, then pregnant, moved out.

"I didn't understand why I left," she said. "I went against everything I believe in about family and children. Now I know. The Lord took me out of there."



Yvonne Emerick, at times tearful, talks about her son, William R. Matix



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# In-laws saw evil in killer's eyes

Title

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**MIAMI**

First of a series  
By **MARTIN MERZER**  
Herald Senior Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — George Buchanich saw something in William Matix's eyes, something he still can't define, something evil. He saw this at the worst possible moment: when his daughter, Patricia, introduced Matix as the man she soon would marry.

Buchanich shivered, and when Patricia and William left for a walk in the park, Buchanich turned to his wife, and his voice trembled.

"Somebody follow them," Buchanich said. "He's going to hurt our Patty."

Eight years later, Patricia, 30, was dead. Her throat had been cut. She had been stabbed 16 times. Her body was stuffed in a refrigerated room at the Columbus hospital in which she worked. A co-worker also was slain.

And now, William Matix is dead, riddled by bullets in a savage Miami gunfight with FBI agents April 11. Two agents were killed and five others wounded. Also killed was Michael Lee Platt, Matix's partner in crime.

Matix, 34, and Platt, 32, are suspected in a series



**WILLIAM MATIX** scared his fiancée's father. 'He's going to hurt our Patty,' her dad said. Later, Patty was murdered.

of South Florida bank and armored car robberies. They also might have conspired to kill each other's wife, police say.

Buchanich, it seems, had sensed what others are only now learning: William Matix was not the well-balanced, passive man he appeared to be.

There was another side to Matix, perhaps a side that was just germinating at the time Buchanich met

him, that later was to flower in brutal violence on a quiet Kendall street — and, possibly, in a Columbus hospital laboratory.

Police questioned William Matix after his wife died. They were not completely satisfied with his alibi or his attitude or his refusal to take a lie-detector test.

But they did not charge him. No hard evidence, they said. No definitive proof he was anything but a peaceful family man.

Now, as friends and relatives in his home state search their minds for explanations, a vastly different picture of William Matix is beginning to emerge.

It is a picture that, like a mosaic, must be pieced together. No one, even those closest to him, knew very much about Matix.

But interviews with friends, neighbors and relatives reveal these broad outlines:

● He was unusually shy and withdrawn, uncommonly secretive. He never told his family of a son

Please turn to MATIX / 22A

# Killer's eyes betrayed evil, in-laws recall

**MADISON**/from 1A

from a brief second marriage.

● He was restless and could not retain a job. He worked briefly as a chef and a meat cutter. He took a vocational course to become a helicopter mechanic.

Primarily, he lived off his wife's earnings and frequent handouts from his in-laws.

Neighbors say Patricia did not want to work after their child, Melissa, was born in October 1983. But she had no choice, and she was murdered her first week back at work.

● He grew up modestly, but he developed a taste for money. After Patricia's death, he collected as much as \$350,000 in life insurance, and he began spending it.

He bought a used 1982 Oldsmobile 98 to replace his aging Pontiac and his dead wife's broken-down Ford Pinto. He bought a big, black Yamaha motorcycle. He built a garage next to his home in Delaware, Ohio, about 20 miles north of Columbus.

He dressed better and lived like he wanted to enjoy life.

● At the same time, he seemed prepared for his own end.

When his wife died, Matix paid \$200 for a double plot at nearby Chesire cemetery. He bought a double, marble headstone.

At the top is the name Matix. At the right, it says: Patricia M., 1953-1983. At the left, it says: William R., 1951. The rest is blank, ready for the end of his story.

## Not buried there

Now, both are dead, but no one is buried there. William will be buried near his family's home in New Madison, Ohio.

Patricia's body was removed last August at the request of her parents and reburied near their home in Russellton, Pa.

Matix agreed to the move, but made one stipulation: Patricia was not to be buried in a cemetery affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. He hated the Catholic church.

As a teen-ager, he suffered from a serious stutter and was mercilessly ridiculed. He never fought back. Sometimes he made fun of himself, adopting the role of class clown.

He kept within himself any anger and frustration he might have felt.

And then, near the end, he embarked on a life of violent crime, a secret life that was hidden from everyone but Michael Platt — and George Buchanich, who somehow sensed the evil possibilities lurking within William Matix.

Most people called him Bill, although his oldest friends in New Madison had another nickname for him.

"We called him Willie because he stuttered a lot in school and it was like a joke," said Doriel Studebaker, his best friend in New Madison. "You know, Wah-wah-wah-willie."

Matix lived in a small, rented farmhouse on the outskirts of town. His mother moved there after divorcing his alcoholic father and remarrying.

Otherwise, everything seemed pretty normal. Matix earned pocket money by collecting eggs at a nearby chicken farm; he drove around with the guys; they took in a movie when they could afford it.

But he left town as soon as possible, joining the Marines right after high school graduation.

He served seven years in the Marines and Army. He cured his stutter, met his future wife, and met Michael Platt.

Patricia's parents felt very uneasy about Matix, but they agreed to the marriage.

"She seemed to love him very much," said Anna Buchanich, Patricia's mother. "What could we do? She was our baby."

tricia's mother. "What could we do? She was our baby."

## Farming town

After the marriage in 1976, the couple moved to Columbus and then Delaware, a farm-oriented community of about 19,000 people. They and a large, black, mixed-breed dog named Ben lived in a modest house on a wooded one-acre lot.

Patricia's parents gave them the \$4,000 down payment and bought them furniture and a new heater and other things.

But the couple still had money woes. Matix, trained as a cook and butcher in the service, meandered from job to job.

"He seemed restless," said Rev. David Culver, the couple's pastor at the Calvary Baptist Church in Delaware. "He was the kind of guy who couldn't stay settled in one vocation."

Patricia's parents helped, giving her hundreds of dollars.

Eventually, she took a job as a lab assistant at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

She liked her work, but Patricia's friends also have been quoted as saying that Matix developed an insatiable appetite for money, and that the couple fought — and briefly separated — over financial disagreements.

Sandy Leake, a next-door neighbor in Delaware, said the Matixes kept to themselves. But she remembered one casual conversation in which Matix said he and Patricia were having problems and were being helped by the church.

Culver, the Baptist pastor, said the Matixes never sought professional counseling but might have received solace through their increasingly active role in church affairs. He said William Matix had helped the congregation build a new church.

He said Patricia Matix, raised as a Catholic, had "accepted Christ." She eventually brought into the fold her husband.

Neither Culver nor anyone else can explain Matix's enmity for the Catholic church. Culver theorizes that Matix, with the passion of the newly converted, adopted and exaggerated some of the historical conflicts between the two groups.

## Back to work

When the baby came, Matix was studying to be a helicopter mechanic. Without other reliable means of support, Patricia reluctantly returned to work six weeks after giving birth.

At the end of the first week, on Friday, Dec. 30, 1983, she was brutally murdered. Also killed in the laboratory was Joyce McFadden, 33, a co-worker.

The murders occurred between 4:35 p.m., when the women were last seen alive, and 5:03 p.m., when the crime scene was discovered by their boss.

Police believe that Patricia was killed first, because her body was hidden in a refrigerated room. McFadden's body was found on the floor of the lab, and police say she may have been killed after she surprised the murderer.

Columbus police Capt. Antone Lanata said one of the two women struggled briefly — he won't say which — but the other did not, suggesting that this victim knew her killer.

William Matix claimed he was home with Melissa during the crucial 28 minutes between 4:35 p.m. and 5:03 p.m. He said he spoke with Patricia by phone at about 4:10 p.m., and police said telephone records substantiate the five-minute call.

Nevertheless, Lanata said, Matix easily could have left home after the call, driven to the hospital and then killed the women — all before 5:03 p.m.

Matix also said a friend called



BRIAN SMITH / Miami Herald Staff  
Matix's home on Winter Road in Delaware, Ohio.



him just after 6:00 p.m. to relate a news report about murders at the hospital. This also was confirmed by police, but under their scenario, Matix could have returned to his home by then.

Matix said he began calling Patricia's lab after hearing of the murders, but there was no answer. Lanata said his men were there in force, and there was no such call.

### Found fingerprint

Police also reportedly found a William Matix fingerprint in the lab. He said he visited Patricia there two days earlier.

When police focused on motives, the spotlight fell on the victims' husbands.

Lawrence McFadden, an executive for a computer company, cooperated entirely, Lanata said. McFadden took and passed a lie-detector test.

Matix refused to take the test,

saying he was concerned about the test's accuracy.

Lanata said police also seized on inconsistencies in Matix's alibi, including some confused accounts of his movements.

He said detectives also didn't like Matix's reaction to the death of his wife.

"The level of concern, the level of willingness to help, some of those type of things, some of the things he said," Lanata said.

Neighbors, friends and others, said Matix seemed shattered.

They believe that Patricia's death, rather than being the first episode of Matix's crime spree, triggered a deep emotional response that developed more fully later.

### Found it in Miami

"I was with him the day after the murder, and the man was broken," said Culver, the pastor.

"No way could he have done it. Whatever he got into, he got into in Miami."

Police said they investigated Matix completely, then focused on another suspect — an unidentified construction worker in the area at the time. The worker owned a pair of J.C. Penney boots that matched a bloody footprint found on the scene.

Although police claim their investigation was the most thorough in city history, neighbors on either side of Matix's home told The Herald police never questioned them, never asked if they saw Matix leave his home during those crucial 28 minutes. Neither saw him leave.

After hearing reports of Matix's close friendship with Platt, Lanata dispatched detectives to South Florida last week to see if Platt was linked to the murders in Columbus. Anna Buchanich said she was introduced at her daugh-

ter's funeral to a man called Michael, said to be Matix's old military buddy and whose description generally matches that of Platt.

After his wife's death and before moving to Florida six months later, Matix began a spending spree.

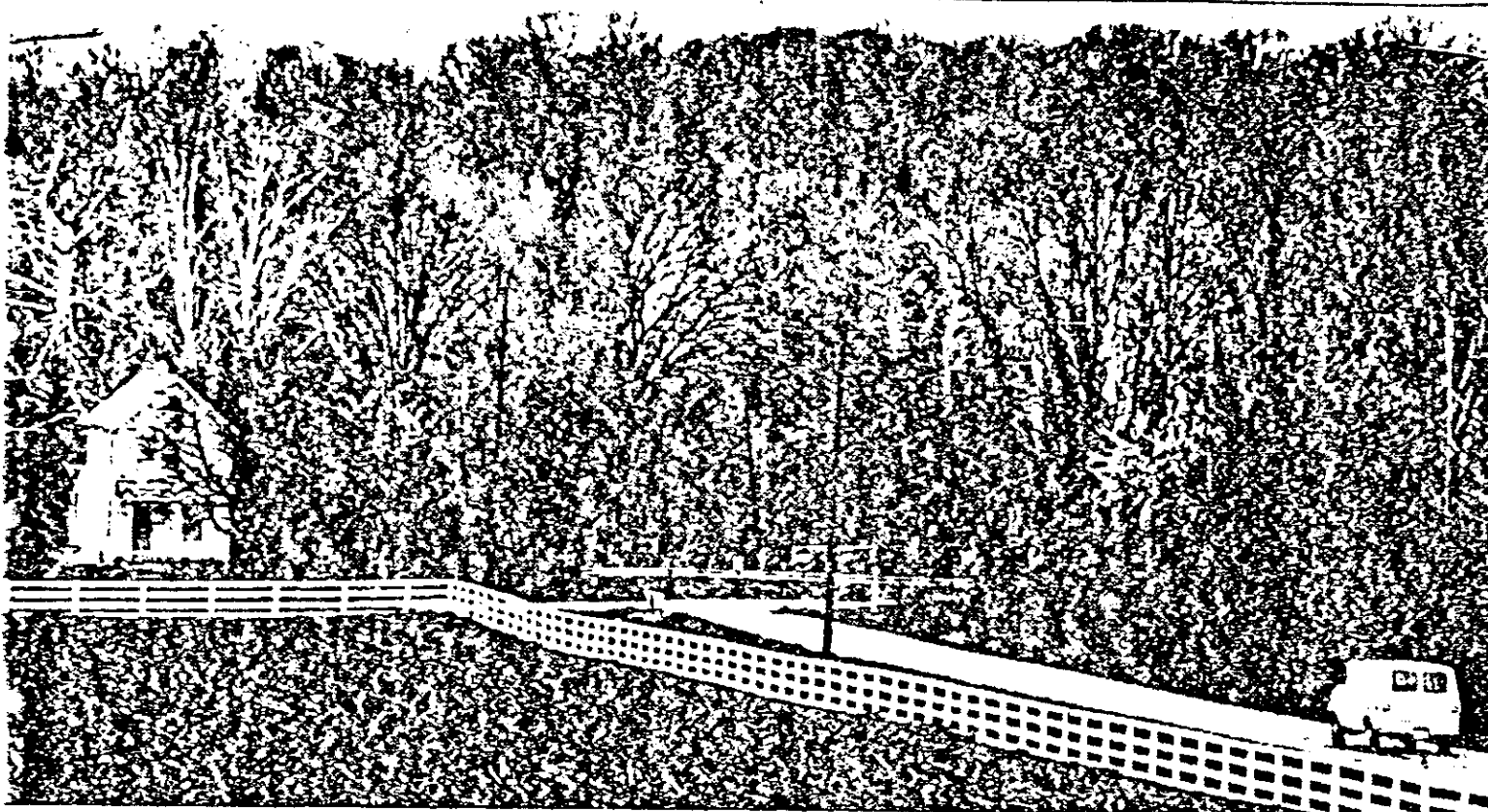
"Patty had to live on a meager amount, and he went and splurged like a millionaire after her death," said Anna Buchanich.

She said she and her husband believe what has happened since then confirms their initial fears of William Matix.

"I suspected he had something to do with Patty's death from the beginning," she said. "I don't know exactly why, but I did."

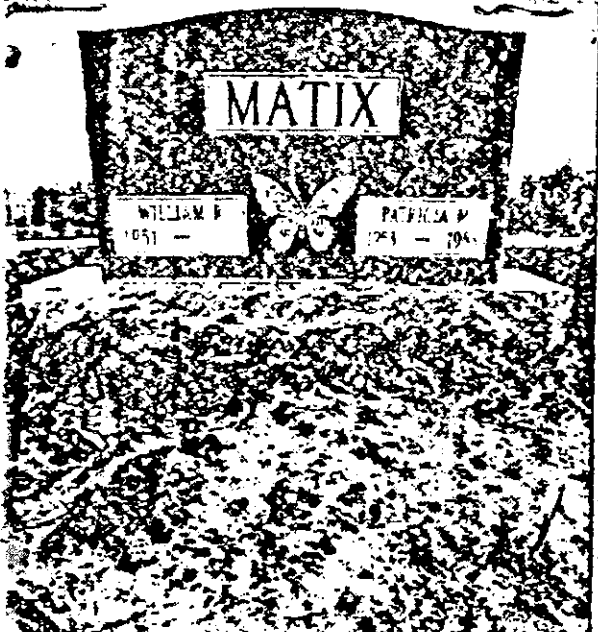
"We knew something was wrong with him from the first day we met him," she said. "Just by looking at him."

Sunday: A reconstruction of the Kendall shoot-out.



BRIAN SMITH / Miami Herald

The Matix case has caused a stir in sleepy Berlin Township, Delaware, Ohio, left. The publicity troubles Matix's sister Judy, below.



BRIAN SMITH / Miami Herald Staff

The Matixes were to be buried side by side. But neither rests at this Berlin Township, Ohio, grave site.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI tries to make sense of dual lives of killers

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Most everybody in America knew about John Dillinger, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, "Baby Face" Nelson and the other daring bank robbers who warred with federal G-men in the 1930s.

Hardly anyone had heard of the two men who made April 11, 1986, the bloodiest day in FBI history.

And the people who thought they knew William Matix, 34, and Michael Platt, 32, were wrong.

"It just doesn't make any sense," said Metro-Dade Police Maj. John Farrell, head of detectives. "People don't just turn up all of the sudden and start murdering and robbing."

Friends, neighbors and relatives described Platt and Matix as buddies from Korean military duty who ran a lawn care business and lived quiet, suburban family lives. Matix had been profiled recently in a church magazine that described how his born-again Christian faith helped him deal with the brutal slaying of his first wife.

Ohio detectives are taking a new look at the Dec. 30, 1983, stabbing deaths of Patricia Matix and another woman at a Columbus hospital. They now think Platt may have done it. Metro-Dade police are re-examining the Christmas Eve 1984 shotgun death of Platt's first wife, which had been ruled a suicide.

FBI agent Gordon McNeill is recovering from chest and hand wounds from the rapid-firing Ruger M-14 automatic rifle Matix wielded during the furious shoot-out that killed two FBI agents, wounded five others and, finally, ended the lives of Platt and Matix.

And began the mystery

Now we're looking at their lives and trying to find out. Were the indicators there?" Farrell asked. "Were there people who knew them who should have been aware of what they were doing? Were there law enforcement officers who missed something they shouldn't have?"

Authorities here think it was Matix and Platt who surprised Jose Collazo, 30, on March 12 at an isolated rock pit near the Everglades frequented by target shooters. The killers ordered him into a canal, shot him four times and left him for dead, taking Collazo's revolver, rifle and black Monte Carlo.

Collazo dragged himself three miles for help.

Police say Matix and Platt may be linked to the disappearance of a 25-year-old man last seen when he left home Oct. 5 to go target-shooting, to a skeleton in the rock pit area, and to seven or more armored car and bank robberies since last October.

The common threads in those cases are two well-armed masked men, sometimes dressed in combat fatigues, stolen getaway cars, commando-type efficiency and "cold-blooded shooting without provocation," Farrell said.

Metro-Dade Detective Sgt. Tony Monheim, investigating the "rock pit gang," had figured he was looking for "neo-Nazis, survivalists, extremists." They were "really vicious... wild guys."

(Indic. page, name of newspaper, city and state)

SUN SENTINEL  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

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To learn otherwise, he said last week, was shocking.

FBI agents on surveillance, one of several they had done in the southwest neighborhood where the men usually struck, saw Collazo's Monte Carlo about 9:30 a.m. April 11.

They forced the car into a tree. The men inside fired through the windows, then jumped out.

After 10 minutes of furious fire, there was silence. People began creeping out of their houses to get a ~~clear~~ look at what had happened.

They saw agents lying in the street. Then, a quick burst of fire.

Agent Ed Mireles, his clothes coated in crimson, his forearm fractured by the M-14, had crept up to the car of slain agents Benjamin Grogan and Gerald Dove. Platt, wounded in the foot, was intently trying to get it started.

Mireles, too hurt to use his shotgun anymore, poked his six-shot revolver into the car and emptied it into the two.

"Not the same William Matix," Doris Miller said the next morning. "It can't be."

She had met the "sincere and very religious" man at Riverside Baptist Church and wrote an uplifting story about him for the March issue of *Home Life* magazine. It was titled "Victory Out of Tragedy."

Christy Matix heard the news about the man she had met at another Baptist Church, married two months later, then split with two months later.

"I have the same exact questions everyone else had," she said. "How could it be? Why didn't anyone know?"

Two Columbus detectives are here on the 1983 hospital slayings. FBI agents around the nation are carrying out Director William Webster's order for "a cradle-to-grave investigation of these men," FBI spokesman Paul Miller said.

In the days since the shoot-out, a lot more is being learned.

Matix's neighbors in rural Delaware, Ohio, said he liked to shoot guns in his back yard.

Columbus detectives remember that Matix reacted strangely when Patricia was slain.

"It's hard to put a finger on," Police Capt. Antone Lanata said, but it wasn't the likely reaction of a family man to news that his wife and mother of his infant had been bound, gagged, stabbed 16 times and had her ring finger cut off.

Matix collected up to \$350,000 in life insurance, *The Columbus Dispatch* reported last week. Last December he filed a \$3 million wrongful death suit against the hospital where his wife worked.

Christy Matix recalled that he flew into a rage when she took their baby boy he had abandoned to Matix's house on Easter. Her divorce lawyer, John Thomson, said Matix behaved so irrationally during a March 12 deposition that he had prepared a request for a psychiatric examination of Matix.

Miller's profile said Matix had an alcoholic, divorced father, that he joined the Marines out of high school, then the Army three years later. He had a severe stuttering problem until recent years.

Platt's suburban neighbors said last week he had argued loudly with Regina in the weeks before her death from a .12-gauge shotgun blast on Christmas Eve 1984. Platt was at home. He said his wife was despondent over their marital problems.

Platt remarried several weeks later.

Platt, one of three sons of a career Navy officer, had grown up in different parts of the country, graduated from high school in Yuma, Ariz., and earned a two-year associate degree from a Miami community college after Army duty.

The landscapers had comfortable homes.

Neither drank nor smoked. Neighbors didn't recall any guns. Christy Matix didn't remember any.

The FBI late April 11 seized four weapons from Platt's home. They didn't release details. From Matix's home, records say, they seized Collazo's .38-caliber revolver, a .357-Magnum, a sawed-off shotgun, a .22-caliber rifle, a small machete, two walkie-talkies and what appeared to be disguises.

But what made two suburbanites so brutal?

"We're taking our time now, we're getting very in depth. But I don't know," Farrell said. "We're looking for rational answers about two psychopathic killers. There may not be any."

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# Wanton killers?

## Facts may tell a different story

By GARY WEBB

PD BUREAU

COLUMBUS — The story has been a reporter's dream.

After a furious five-minute gun battle April 11 in suburban Miami, two FBI agents were shot dead and five others were wounded in the single bloodiest incident in FBI history. The bullet-riddled bodies of the gunmen, who have been identified as suspects in a number of violent robberies in southern Florida, were slumped in the front seat of a car.

Since then, newspapers nationwide have been full of stories about the shoot-out, most of them focusing on the alleged perpetrators of the massacre, Army buddies William R. Matix, 35, and Michael Lee Platt, 32.

The picture that has been emerging of Matix, a former central Ohio resident, and Platt isn't pretty. How much of it is true is another matter.

"I think if Mr. Matix were still alive, I'd be down talking to the (Columbus) Dispatch right now," said Matix's former lawyer, Craig Treneff of Columbus.

But, as dead men tell no tales, neither do they file libel suits.

If you believe what you read, Matix and Platt were neo-Nazi survivalists who probably killed each others' wives in a bizarre blood pact, and then terrorized banks and armored cars in southern Dade County in Florida, killing at least two people. They may have killed others at an old West Dade rock quarry, in order to have untraceable cars to use in their robberies.

Reporters have not come up with a motive for the 1984 death of Platt's wife, which was officially ruled a suicide, but the Dispatch and the Miami Herald have implied that Matix, described as a greedy spendthrift, dumped his wife off in 1983 for more than \$350,000 in insurance money, and later got \$50,000 more from the state's Crime Victims Compensation program.

Facts are still hard to come by, but those that are out there tell a different story.

While there appeared to be little doubt that Matix and Platt were involved in some sort of criminal activity in Florida — primarily the founding of a man at a rock quarry, whose car they were driving the day of the FBI shoot-out and whose gun was found in Matix's home — neither the FBI nor the Metro-Dade police are doing much talking about what led them to label the men as suspects in the robberies.

In fact, Metro-Dade robbery Detective Sgt. Tony Monheim said in a telephone interview that his agency didn't have much to link the two to the robberies, which were carried out by ski-masked bandits. He said he didn't know exactly what evidence the FBI had linking them to the bank robberies, other than that they were driving a car that was supposed to have been used in one. FBI officials declined comment.

"A lot of this stuff, we're just assuming," Monheim said. "There's a lot of legwork that's got to be done." He said solving the crimes would be "a lot harder" now that Matix and Platt were dead.

That hasn't prevented newspapers, including the prestigious New York Times, from labeling Matix and Platt as "bank robbers," "cold-blooded killers" and "armored car robbers" and referring to Matix's "life of crime," even though Matix, described by friends and relatives as a shy, soft-spoken and devoutly religious family man, has no criminal record.

The biggest "ah-ha" story so far was printed Tuesday in the Columbus Dispatch. In a copyrighted story headlined "Matix left Ohio with \$375,000," the Dispatch quoted unnamed sources as saying Matix cashed in on the brutal murder of his wife, Patricia, who was found in December 1983 at Riverside Hospital here with a co-worker bound, gagged and repeatedly stabbed.

The sources said Matix, 34, collected a double death benefit totaling about \$350,000 from a Riverside Hospital policy, the paper said, a figure both the Miami Herald and the New York Times later repeated.

The Herald, in a story Wednesday headlined "FBI agents' killer collected on wife's death," noted the size

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of the insurance policies as "a possible motive" in the still-unsolved murders and termed Matix "a leading suspect."

The Herald quoted a Columbus police detective as saying he believed Matix collected an additional \$50,000 from the state's Crime Victims Compensation program and one story noted that Matix "also tried to capitalize" on his wife's death by filing a negligence suit against Riverside Hospitals. The suit was filed last December.

But public records at the Ohio Court of Claims show Matix received nowhere near that amount, either from insurance companies or the crime victims program.

All told, Matix received \$159,859 from three separate insurance policies, none of which contained a double indemnity clause. One policy, which paid \$33,500, is provided to all employees of Riverside Hospital. The largest policy, an accidental death policy that paid \$101,000, was offered by the hospital as optional coverage and was paid for by Mrs. Matix through payroll deduction.

Matix was awarded \$446 a month from Social Security and \$248 a week from the Ohio workers' compensation program, a benefit that ceased when Matix remarried last June.

And despite characterizations of Matix as greedy with "an insatiable appetite for money," records show the state of Ohio is still holding more than \$4,000 he never bothered to collect.

The Crime Victims program awarded Matix \$1,250 to reimburse him for part of his wife's funeral expenses. There was a notation in the file that Matix would not get more money, largely because of the size of the insurance he received.

The Crime Victims program awarded his infant daughter a little more than \$4,000, for which Matix needed to file guardianship papers in order to collect.

Records show the state wrote Matix in Miami as recently as two months ago to remind him it was still holding the money, and urged him to complete the "fairly easy procedure" that would enable him to receive the money. Matix never replied to two such letters.

Also contained in that file is an October 1984 letter to the crime victims program from Columbus Police Deputy Chief C.N. Spiert, saying that "after careful investigation of the victims' husbands . . . we have not established any facts that would indicate either is responsible for these crimes."

Detective chief Capt. Antone Lanata said his department had developed nothing since that time to change his mind.

"You know, I could pin this on him very easily if I wanted to, just to clear the case," Lanata said. "But I want to be comfortable with the case before I do that, and it's going to take a whole lot more than what I've got now."

Lanata said Matix was never seriously considered as a suspect in the killings and said police kept him under surveillance for a time. Lanata was later quoted as saying Platt was a suspect in the Riverside killings, but Lanata told The Plain Dealer that Columbus police had no evidence Platt was even in Ohio at the time of the slayings.

As far as the suspicion that Matix and Platt had a pact to kill each other's wives, the Miami detective quoted in the Herald as saying that later denied making any such comment.

"I never said they had a pact," Monheim said. "The reporter suggested they might have and I told him that it was strange that both their wives met untimely deaths. Anyone with any intelligence would think it was strange, but as to whether they had a pact or something . . ."

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# Killings haunt community

"It will never be the same in the neighborhood. They had all the world to do it in and they did it here."

— Ethel Knapp

By ANDRES VIGLUCCI  
Herald Staff Writer

The rain started falling late that Saturday night. By daybreak it had washed away the bloodstains on the corner of Ethel Knapp's street.

"I woke up at 4 a.m. and heard the rain on the roof and thought, 'Thank God,'" she said.

Two Fridays ago, the intersection of Southwest 82nd Avenue and 122nd Street was the scene of the most calamitous shoot-out in FBI history. Two agents and two men wanted for bank robbery and murder died in a tree-shaded driveway after a

## The FBI Shoot-out

Third in a series

chase through suburban Miami streets. Five other agents were wounded, three of them seriously.

Miraculously, no residents were hurt.

Physical traces of the gun battle have all but disappeared. Investigators cleaned up debris and picked up more than 100 spent shells and bullets. Knapp's neighbors, the Sukerts, replaced their duplex's shot-out window panes and patched up

Please turn to FBI/5A



Ethel Knapp: FBI agents' killers were her gardeners.