

Turkish Heroin Seized in Arrest

By Tom Renner

Three men, including an alleged Suffolk narcotics peddler, were charged yesterday with trying to sell almost nine pounds of now-rare Turkish-origin heroin to federal undercover agents. Federal officials said that the heroin had a street value of \$4,000,000.

The arrest of Joseph Colombo crime family associate Thomas Mattio, 33, of 31 Milford St., Central Islip, and two associates was considered particularly significant to federal narcotics agents. John Fallon, regional director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, said that the type of heroin seized has been in "extremely short supply" since 1972 because of a U.S.-Turkish agreement that stopped the growth of Turkish poppies. The drug was linked to Turkey by its light color, often called white European heroin. Fallon predicted that as a result of a recent Turkish decision to resume poppy planting, heroin processed from Turkish opium will begin to flow in larger amounts in the New York area.

Nine-Month Investigation

Following a nine-month investigation, Mattio was arrested early yesterday morning along with John (Mike Rocco) LaMaffa, 58, of the Bronx, and Michael McCormack, 33, formerly of Central Islip and now of Flushing. Both LaMaffa and McCormack have been convicted on narcotics charges.

Fallon said that an undercover agent seized four kilos (8.8 pounds) of heroin outside the Holiday Inn at LaGuardia Airport when he displayed \$112,000 in marked money to make the purchase. Other agents then closed in to make the arrest.

Mattio, who was freed in \$75,000 bail following his federal conviction last month for selling narcotics, was described by police as an associate member of the Colombo crime family. He was previously tried and acquitted with former Colombo underboss John (Sonny) Franzese for the murder of Ernie (the Hawk) Rupolo.

In September, 1972, Mattio was

found shot five times at the East Northport home of Charles Indiviglio, brother of Benny (the Cringe) Indiviglio, a member of the Vito Genovese crime family, who was murdered. Charles Indiviglio is reportedly wanted by federal authorities in a drug case. Law-enforcement sources said that when Mattio was shot, Suffolk police found more than \$350,000 in cash in a suitcase near him, apparently the proceeds of a narcotics sale at Indiviglio's home. The money is still being held by Suffolk authorities. Suffolk narcotics agents had been investigating Mattio and Indiviglio prior to that shooting.

Federal sources said that Mattio was either working for or had bought his heroin supply from a high-ranking organized-crime figure. Because of the short supply of Turkish-based heroin, Fallon said that only high-ranking members of the mob have access to large amounts of heroin. He said that yesterday's seizure was only the third of the "European [Turkish] variety" of heroin since 1972. Fallon said he believed that there has been stockpiling of heroin in Turkey in anticipation of the resumption of poppy planting. He said Mattio's heroin supply apparently came from that reserve and indicates that more Turkish heroin will begin turning up.

Federal sources said that the heroin seized from Mattio was 17 to 20 per cent pure, indicating it had been cut several times from its original 80-per-cent-pure base. They said that the dockside price of 80-per-cent-pure Turkish heroin two years ago sold for \$12,000 a kilo (2.2 pounds) and now sells for \$17,000 to \$23,000 a kilo. By the time a kilo of heroin has been cut and recut and finally reaches street addicts, the value has skyrocketed to more than \$1,300,000 for the kilo.

Mattio, who is awaiting sentencing on his previous narcotics conviction, was held with LaMaffa in \$150,000 bail by U.S. Magistrate Max Schiffman in Brooklyn federal court. McCormack was held in \$25,000 bail. Agents said that when they arrested McCormack he was wearing a belt that concealed a steel dagger.



Newsday Photo by Joe Dombroski

Fire on Expressway

Plainview firemen spray chemicals on a car that caught fire in the west-bound lane of the Long Island Expressway during last night's rush hour. No injuries were reported.

Kidnaping Defense Is Ignorance

By A. J. Carter

Newsday Staff Correspondent

Newark—Defense attorneys called the kidnaping of 8-year-old John Calzadilla "heinous," "terrible," "despicable" and "sordid" yesterday, but they also said that their clients either did not know what had been going on or were stupid and had been duped.

In one statement, attorney Peter Willis was describing the charges against his client, Norberto Fernandez, 17. He asked Fernandez to stand and told the jury: "The indictment doesn't charge that he's dumb. I'm sorry, Norberto, but you're dumb . . . Maybe he really didn't understand what went on because of his age."

In U.S. District Court yesterday, the defense attorneys presented their summations in the trial of five of the seven persons charged with kidnaping and conspiracy as a result of the March 6 abduction.

Young Calzadilla, of 4 Village Hill Dr., Dix Hills, was kidnaped as he was walking home from the Rolling Hills Elementary School, where he was a third-grade student. He was released unharmed about 30 hours later after his father had dropped off \$50,000 in ransom, which reportedly was never found by his abductors.

Three of the five persons on trial are teenagers,

and their youth and lack of education was a point driven home by each of their attorneys. For example, Steven Greenberg, attorney for Jose A. Hernandez, 17, said his client had been put in the middle of the situation because of his association with other defendants. Greenberg denied that Hernandez had participated in the kidnaping.

Hernandez is accused of serving as a lookout during the kidnaping and of having joined his brothers-in-law, Roberto Martinez, 38, and Jorge Martinez, 27, in fleeing New Jersey after the kidnaping. Greenberg said Hernandez was merely accepting an offer of a free trip to visit one of the Martinez brothers' relatives. "The ticket was paid for," Greenberg said. "What 17-year-old wouldn't go?"

The attorney for Wilfredo Alvarez, 18, who is accused of driving the kidnap car but claimed he thought he was merely doing a favor for a friend, said his client was a "simple stooge" of the alleged masterminds, the Martinez brothers. William Verdon said Alvarez was chosen merely because he had a car, putting him "in the same category as an inanimate object—the apartment house" where John Calzadilla was held.

Roberto Martinez' attorney blamed the entire plot on Jorge Martinez. Richard Levin cited Roberto Martinez' testimony that "to me they said nothing, absolutely nothing," and said that all discussions of

the plot when Roberto Martinez was present were conducted either in English, which Roberto says he does not understand, or in hushed tones with a radio on so Roberto would not hear. Levin told the jury to "keep Jorge's actions from tarring Roberto."

A common thread in all the summations was an attack on the testimony of Maria Merida, 17, an admitted participant who has pleaded guilty to reduced charges and is awaiting sentencing. In characterizing Miss Merida, Willis read the jury the Aesop fable about the wolf in sheep's clothing. Others pointed out contradictions in her testimony or instances where they said her statements were self-serving. Verdon said she testified that on the kidnap day one of the two cars used by the conspirators to drive to Dix Hills stopped for gas—and it had an odd-numbered license plate. On that day, he said, New Jersey's odd-even gas rationing program was in effect, so that was not possible.

Jorge Martinez claimed he is innocent by reason of insanity. Under a ruling by Judge Herbert J. Stern, if the jury finds Jorge Martinez guilty, a separate hearing will be held with the same jury immediately after the verdict to determine his sanity.

The prosecution was to present its summation today, after which the jury was expected to begin its deliberations. The trial has lasted two and a half weeks.