

PRE-INAUGURAL REPEAT

Gwen Cafritz Robbed Again

Four days after the 1965 presidential inaugural, Washington socialite Gwen Cafritz was beaten by four bandits and robbed of more than \$250,000 in jewelry that she had taken from a bank vault for the festivities.

Last night, five days before this year's inaugural, four bandits again invaded her palatial

Foxhall Road home, beat her and escaped with money, furs and jewelry worth "in excess" of \$75,000, leaving seven people, including Mrs. Cafritz, bound with tape, police reported.

During last night's robbery, one shot was fired, apparently accidentally, as one of the bandits was ripping a telephone cord loose. No one was hurt.

Police said the value of the loot could increase substantially after an inventory. None of the jewelry taken in 195 has been recovered, police said, although the FBI widely distributed circulars.

One major difference in the bizarre coincidence of the two robberies was that in 1965, Mrs. Cafritz, widow of builder Morris Cafritz, described the four bandits as Negroes. Last night's quartet, police said, was white.

The bandits spent over three hours in the Cafritz home at 2301 Foxhall Road NW, first capturing and tying up a security man who had been hired after the last robbery. Then they waited

for Mrs. Cafritz and her escort, retired Air Force Col. Eugene E. Myers, to return after an evening out.

Police gave this report of the holdup:

Between 6:30 and 7:30 last night, George Curtain, a chauffeur for a rental car firm, drove his blue station wagon to the Cafritz home, switched to the Cafritz limousine there, and picked up Mrs. Cafritz and Myers, dean of the Corcoran Gallery art school, and left the home.

Around 7:15, David C. Hanson, 30, the household security man, walked out a side door of the 58-room mansion to change a lightbulb at the garage.

As he turned a corner, he was confronted by two masked gunmen. Startled, Hanson made a movement with his hands and one of the gunmen slugged him in the face with his weapon.

Only the butler, Michael Dowling, 65, was in the house. The gunmen forced the guard into

CAFRITZ

1968 Jan 16



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the house and went to the butler's room.

A tough-talking bandit ordered the butler to get on his feet and the two captives were led to an upstairs hallway, where they were joined by two other bandits, also masked.

Asked About Alarm

At Mrs. Cafritz' seven-room master bedroom suite, the two captives were asked if they knew how to turn off the alarm system. They said they did not, and the bandits tied, bound them both with tape.

The butler was put in the library and the guard in a nearby dining room. One of the bandits stood guard over the pair.

About 9:15 p.m., Josephine Forero, 43, the housekeeper, and Encernation Chanchez, 36, a personal maid, returned from shopping.

As they entered, they were accosted by one of the gunmen, a short man wearing a green turtleneck sweater. They were forced upstairs and into a guest-room.

Diamond Ring Taken

A diamond ring and \$30 was taken from the housekeeper and both were tied up. One of the women asked not to be tied so tightly and a bandit replied, "Don't worry, you'll only be tied up until Gwen comes in."

About 10 p.m., Curtain drove Mrs. Cafritz and Myers, 54, to the front door and let them out.

Myers told police that they entered and were confronted by the bandits. He was forced into the dining room, pushed to the floor and bound hand and foot with tape.

One of the bandits then asked Mrs. Cafritz for the combination to the safe. She said it was written in Hungarian and she would have to open it herself.

Mrs. Cafritz, police said, then was beaten in the face and body and knocked to the floor. She was dragged upstairs and forced to open the safe. The bandits then bound her.

Parked Limousine

Curtain, meanwhile, parked the limousine and was standing by the side door when it was opened and he was jerked inside by a gunman. The chauffeur also was tied.

About 20 minutes later, the bandits took the keys to Curtain's station wagon, asked him how to start it, and left. The car had not been recovered this morning.

Myers was relieved of a gold wrist watch and a money clip containing \$170 by the gunmen.

About half an hour later, Mrs. Cafritz managed to free one hand, secured a knife and cut her bonds, and freed the six other victims.

One neighborhood resident, Edward W. Russell, whose wife is vice president of the Foxhall Road Citizens Association, said the association held a meeting after the 1965 Cafritz housebreaking and devised a system of crime wardens which is still operating.

No Meetings, No Dues

"We don't hold any meetings, and there aren't any dues," Russell, who lives at 2601 Foxhall Road, said. "The system is really quite simple: Each person watches out for his neighbor on either side. According to (police) Chief (John B.) Layton, it has cut crime here convincingly."

Russell said the association was about to hold another meeting to consider other crime-preventive measures, which he refused to expand on.

The latest Cafritz housebreaking, he said, "won't make people any less eager" to hold the meeting.

The "crime warden" system was not very helpful to Mrs. Cafritz, mainly because there aren't any neighbors to check on her home. One side of her property is a classroom annex of the Mount Vernon School; the nearest residence on the other side is about a quarter of a mile away.

