

EX-SCHOOL AIDE HELD IN ATTACKS AT HOMES

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, October 20, 1982

Author: BRIAN FLANIGAN and CASSANDRA SPRATLING , e Press Staff Writers

A fired Detroit school psychologist and supervisor, who had vowed to get revenge on officials who fired him, has been arrested for shooting into the homes of two school principals and then firebombing one of the homes, police said Tuesday.

Although he has not yet been formally charged, **Dr. Ottowai Hamme**, 35, of Rosemont, is a police prisoner being held for observation at Detroit Receiving Hospital's Crisis Center, police say.

POLICE SAY **Hamme** went on a rampage in south Rosedale Park early Monday because he was upset over his firing.

Hamme's wife, Starleen, said her husband "became very violent on the night of Oct. 17 . . . and started shooting," said Wayne County Probate Judge Willis Ward, who signed a commitment order for **Hamme** Monday after his wife requested that **Hamme** be put under medical observation. Mrs. **Hamme** also said her husband vowed "to get revenge on everyone who caused him to lose his job," Ward said.

Mrs. **Hamme** , a psychologist at Pershing High School, was unavailable to reporters for comment.

SINCE BEING arrested about 6 p.m. Monday, **Hamme** has been "temporarily committed" to the Receiving Hospital Crisis Center, said police Inspector Donald Pohl. "We're in the process of . . . seeking a warrant," he said.

According to Board of Education records, **Hamme** was hired in 1966 as a psychologist. In 1969, he was in charge of a Head Start program and also worked as a special education teacher before becoming a teacher-counselor at Northern High School in 1972. Two years later, he was promoted to a department head in Region 5 and worked as a psychologist specializing in testing.

On Nov. 13, 1980, according to the records, **Hamme** was fired by the school system. At the time of his dismissal, he was the supervisor of psychology, in charge of about 15 psychologists in Region 5. School officials said neither of the principals whose homes were attacked was involved in **Hamme's** firing.

"I don't want to get into specifics, because I don't know if he's the person (who attacked the homes)," said Eugene Gilmer, personnel director for the Detroit schools. "Let's just say he was terminated for just cause."

Gilmer, who has worked in the Detroit system for 30 years, said, "This is the first incident of its kind I'm aware of."

Gilmer said the school board has taken "some security measures" since the incident, but he declined to elaborate. Frank Blount, the schools' security director, was unavailable for comment.

AT 12:09 A.M. Monday, police said, **Hamme** left his home and walked down the street to the home of E. Harden Graves, 46, principal of Fox Primary School and Bow Elementary School. Police say **Hamme** fired five shots from a 30.06 rifle into Graves' home, then walked to the side of the house and tossed a Molotov cocktail through a window

The firebomb damaged a laundry room in Graves' home, but no one was injured, police said.

"I prefer not to discuss it," said Graves, when asked about the incident.

LEAVING GRAVES' home, police say, **Hamme** walked around the corner to a home in the 14300 block of Penrod to the home of Mount Allen, principal of Schulze Elementary School. According to police, **Hamme** fired three rifle slugs into the home and then tossed a Molotov cocktail through a window, but the device failed to ignite. Investigators said the rifle slugs did little damage in both instances, and no one was injured.

Allen, who was attending his wife's funeral Tuesday, was unavailable for comment.

After the incidents at the two homes, police say, **Hamme** returned to his home.

"But his wife was concerned, since she'd seen him leave and then heard shots, so she called the police," said a police official.

At 5 a.m. Monday, police say, officers from the 16th (Northwest) Precinct went to the **Hamme** home, confiscated a rifle and a clip for the weapon and left. Still concerned about her welfare, police say, **Hamme's** wife went to court later Monday, seeking the commitment papers.

Caption: Pix

Memo: SEE ALSO METRO FINAL EDITION

Edition: STATE EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 1A

Index Terms: FIREBOMBING ; REVENGE

Record Number: 8301160446

Copyright (c) 1982 Detroit Free Press