

Bobby Driscoll, Friend Deny Narcotics Charge

Say Bag That Police Found Allegedly Containing Marijuana Is Mystery to Them

Actor Bobby Driscoll, 19, and his friend, Lester A. Ferguson, 20, held a press conference yesterday in the office of their attorney, Harrison W. Hertzberg, to begin their fight against felony narcotics charges brought against them Tuesday.

The two young men were booked at West Los Angeles Jail Tuesday night after Det. Sgts. G. D. Woodard and M. J. Reagan reported that Ferguson allegedly threw a cellophane bag containing marijuana from his car at Sunset Blvd. and Haverford St.

Both emphatically denied any knowledge of the cellophane bag or its contents.

Gives His Version

Ferguson, a service station attendant who lives at 10330 1/2 Santa Monica Blvd., detailed his version of events leading to his arrest. He said he left the service station at Sunset Blvd. and Monument St., Pacific Palisades, early in the afternoon for a brief lunch period.

He related that he stopped at a bank, then went to Driscoll's home at 16524 Chattanooga Place. Ferguson told how Driscoll interrupted painting a room to spend a few minutes eating lunch

with him at a nearby hot-dog stand.

The actor's long-time friend said that following their short snack he returned Driscoll to his home and was on his way back to the gasoline station when the two plain-clothes detectives stopped him.

Slipped From Sight

Ferguson told newsmen that as Woodard talked to him, Reagan slipped from sight, only to return shortly carrying a broken liquor bottle and a bag.

The service station attendant said the two officers told him, "much to my amazement, 'Now that we have the marijuana, let's go.'"

He said they never showed him what they had in the bag, "they just drove me to the police station."

Driscoll said the marijuana was a big mystery to him.

"After Les returned me home, I started in painting again. Later Sgt. Reagan came to the door, saw me through an open window, and said, 'Hi, Bob!'"

Driscoll said he replied, "Hi!"

Then Reagan said, "You're

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her lying on the roadside after she had gone to check the family dogs in the trailer. He has since admitted to officers that she was struck by the left wheel of the trailer but has offered no other details.

Filing of formal charges by the District Attorney is awaiting completion of the investigation, officers said.

The Smiddys were on a vacation trip and were just a few miles west of Santa Paul when the fatal accident occurred.

Burglars Get \$12,000 Furs on Wilshire

Burglars who used a large rock to smash a Wilshire Blvd. fur shop window early yesterday escaped with 12 fur stoles valued at \$12,000, police said.

The stoles, 10 mink and two white fox, were taken from display racks near the shattered window of A. Stern & Sons, 5379 Wilshire Blvd.

A passerby, Andrew J. Purser of 647 Florence Ave., told police he heard the window smash, then heard a car driving away. He called police.

Officers said the burglars followed the same pattern as looters used during a series of Wilshire Blvd. fur burglaries during the winter of 1953.



DENY DOPE CHARGE—Actor Bobby Driscoll, 19, left, and his friend, Lester A. Ferguson, appear with Atty. Harrison W. Hertzberg, center, to begin fight against narcotics charges. Police reported a cellophane bag containing marijuana was thrown from a car being driven by Ferguson. Driscoll was a passenger in car.

Times photo