

Pratt arraigns 2 Hyde suspects

By DAN AMON
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SOUTH GLENS FALLS — Brian Michael McDevitt and Michael B. Morey, arrested earlier this week in connection with an alleged plot to steal priceless art works from The Hyde Collection, are scheduled to reappear in South Glens Falls Village Court at 6 p.m. Friday.

What one official called the most important local police case since the 1973 Robert Garrow and 1974 Cabaret multiple-murder cases apparently was foiled Monday night when holiday traffic prevented two suspects from reaching the Warren Street museum in time.

McDevitt, of Swampscott, Mass., and Morey, of Queensbury, were charged with kidnapping the driver of a Federal Express truck. They allegedly planned to use the vehicle to carry objects taken from the museum.

The pair was arraigned by South Glens Falls Justice Edward Pratt, since the kidnapping allegedly took place in the village.

Morey, who police identified as assistant manager of the Queensbury Hotel and a one-time Warrensburg resident, has been released on \$10,000 bail.

McDevitt remained in the

Saratoga County Jail Friday in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Both men have retained attorneys. Morey is represented by Glens Falls attorney William V. Canale and McDevitt by Terrence Shanley of Troy.

Unspecified charges contained in a 24-page document were read in an appearance before Judge Pratt. South Glens Falls Police Chief Richard Noonan, the arresting officer, was on vacation Friday and unavailable for comment on the charges.

An interesting aspect of the case was McDevitt's passing himself off as Paul Vanderbilt of the wealthy Vanderbilt family. That pose was blown apart by inquiries to Saratoga Springs and New York City. McDevitt still had not committed a crime, but he remained under surveillance.

He allegedly made certain representations to Hyde officials, who became unsuspecting and notified various police agencies which had been watching McDevitt since last spring.

A still-unresolved question was where McDevitt got the funds to present a lifestyle worthy of a Vanderbilt.

McDevitt reportedly asked for plans to the Hyde building, claiming he had a large sum of money to donate if he could be sure of the museum's security.