

# *The Columbus Dispatch*

February 28, 1997 Pg. 1-C

Some of the evidence seized from the Suburban has been shared with law enforcement investigators from Arkansas and the Spokane, Wash., area, who are investigating the Kehoes' potential links to other crimes.

Chevie Kehoe is sought for questioning in the slayings of Tilly, Ark., gun dealer David Mueller, 52, his wife, Nancy, 28, and her daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Powell, 8. The three disappeared in January 1996. Their decomposed bodies were dredged from the Illinois Bayou near Russellville, Ark., on June 28.

Chevie Kehoe, who made his living trading and selling guns at shows, was indicted on Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Spokane on three firearms violations. He is accused of possessing a pistol stolen from Mueller in October 1995 and a .223-caliber rifle taken from Mueller when the gun dealer disappeared in 1996.

"At this point our concern with Chevie Kehoe is how he came into possession of those guns," said Pope County, Ark., Sheriff Jay Winters, who is leading the murder investigation.

The bodies of the three victims were bound with duct tape. A roll of duct tape was found in the Suburban.

When asked if he was interested in duct tape found in the Suburban, Winters replied: "You're going to hang me up here again."

The FBI has "absolutely no comment" on the items seized in the search warrant, said Steve Kosky, a Cincinnati-based FBI spokesman.

Born said that finding three bulletproof vests and a piece of body armor in the Suburban lends credence to a theory that Cheyne Kehoe put on a vest prior to exchanging gunfire with a trooper and deputy during the first confrontation in Wilmington.

Clinton County Sheriff Ralph Fizer said he believes an FBI enhanced video of the first shootout shows that Cheyne Kehoe, firing a .45-caliber handgun, appears to flinch. Fizer said no blood was found at the scene on Rt. 73.

Chevie Kehoe is believed to have used a .223-caliber rifle when he fired 26 shots during the second shootout with two Wilmington police officers at the Clinton Electrical & Plumbing Supply Inc., 1450 W. Main St.

After Chevie Kehoe fled, the officers found a loaded M-16 rifle in the the Suburban.

#### VEHICLE SEIZED

Here is a list of some items seized from a 1977 Chevrolet Suburban (shown below) that was involved in shootout with a State Highway Patrol trooper, Clinton County deputy sheriff and Wilmington police enforcement officers on Feb. 15:



#### ■ Ammunition

Clips and bags of more than 4,000 rounds of ammunition, various calibers.

#### ■ Weapons\*

.308-caliber, bolt-action rifle with scope; .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol; SKS military assault rifle; 9mm semiautomatic Glock pistol; .22-caliber Ruger rifle.

*\*Fugitive Chevie Kehoe is believed to have fired a semiautomatic .223-caliber rifle. A fully loaded M-16 rifle was recovered from the front seat by Wilmington police after the shootings.*

#### ■ Miscellaneous

Three bulletproof vests and one body armor plate; two FBI logo baseball caps; two U.S. marshal badges; three raid jackets with federal and police logos; handcuffs; portable scanner radio; gas grenade; pepper spray; portable stretcher and body bag; latex gloves; duct tape; \$800; three gas masks; camouflage clothing; survival gear; face covers.

Source: Clinton County Municipal Court Records

Dispatch graphic

## SEARCH WARRANT UNSEALED

# Guns, ammo found in shootout vehicle

By Jim Woods  
Dispatch Staff Reporter

WILMINGTON, Ohio — Six guns, more than 4,000 rounds of ammunition, bulletproof vests and a large quantity of military-type gear were found in a 1977 Chevrolet Suburban abandoned by two brothers after shootouts with law enforcement officers on Feb. 15, a search warrant revealed.

Chevie O'Brien Kehoe, 24, and Cheyne C. Kehoe, 20, both of Colville, Wash., also had hats and jackets with FBI and police logos, and two U.S. marshal badges, according to a search warrant inventory unsealed yesterday.

Sgt. John Born of the State

Highway Patrol characterized the seized items as a "substantial amount of evidence."

When asked what use the fugitive brothers would have had for the military-style cache, Born replied: "That's one of the questions we'd like to ask them. Our focus is on trying to locate them."

A nationwide manhunt is under way for the Kehoes, who face a 16-count indictment for shooting at a patrol trooper, a Clinton County deputy sheriff and two Wilmington police officers after a traffic stop. Born said the patrol has assigned five investigators to the case which, he said, "is unique."

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