CARL HANRATTY



- 0. CARL HANRATTY Story Preface
- 1. THE FIRST CON
- 2. CONSEQUENCES
- 3. A TEEN RUNAWAY
- 4. WHO IS FRANK ABAGNALE?
- 5. CARL HANRATTY
- 6. CAUGHT TEMPORARILY
- 7. PERPIGNAN
- 8. IMPRISONED IN PERPIGNAN
- 9. SWEDISH PRISONS
- 10. A DARING ESCAPE
- 11. CAUGHT
- 12. FRANK TODAY



The actual FBI agent who arrested Frank Abagnale, Jr. was Joe Shea. He is pictured here, in a cropped photo, later in life. Shea talked about Abagnale's life-as-a-thief at the time the film was released. Click on the image for a clearer view.

The FBI, of course, was on Frank's trail. It's just that he was always <u>a step ahead</u> of the police. Eventually wanted by all fifty states, plus numerous countries throughout the world, Abagnale's days as a freewheeling scam artist were numbered.

In his book, Catch Me If You Can (which was actually written by Stan Redding), Abagnale refers to the lead FBI agent assigned to his case as Sean O'Riley. That's a fictitious name. So is the name of Tom Hank's composite FBI character—Carl Hanratty—in the movie version of Frank's life.

The real FBI agent who first caught Abagnale was <u>Joe Shea</u>. Without identifying him, Abagnale <u>tells</u> a Blackstone Audio interviewer (near the end of the link):

In my book I called him Agent O'Riley, but that's not his real name. He is in his 80s and has been retired from the FBI for many years. We have a <u>wonderful relationship</u> and I correspond and speak with him often.

Shea (then the FBI's lead agent in <u>Marietta</u>, Georgia), caught Abagnale at a motel in <u>Smyrna</u>, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta. Although he spent very little time in the now-expanded <u>Cobb</u> County <u>jail</u>, Abagnale escaped during a work detail.

Eighty-three years old at the time of the movie's release, Shea told the Marietta Daily Journal:

He was not a violent type of criminal - no guns, no knives, never hurt anybody. That wasn't his style. He used his brains and his bravado to pass himself off as what he was impersonating.

Although Frank slipped through the FBI's control in Georgia, he was less fortunate with the French authorities. It was there—where prisons are more like 17th-century nightmares than 20th-century rehabilitation houses—that Abagnale began his course correction.

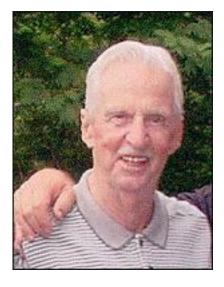
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CARL-HANRATTY-Catch-Me-If-You-Can

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CARL-HANRATTY-Catch-Me-If-You-Can

Media Stream



<u>Joe Shea</u>
Image online, courtesy chasingthefrog.com website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Joe-Shea



Abagnale with FBI Agents
Image online, courtesy trutv.com website.
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Abagnale-with-FBI-Agents



<u>Marietta, Georgia - Map Locator</u> Image online, courtesy <u>epodunk.com</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Marietta-Georgia-Map-Locator</u>



Map Depicting Smyrna, Georgia Image online, courtesy google.com website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Smyrna-Georgia