

LIFE ON THE LAM

An article in *Time* magazine told the story of Katherine Power, who – as a young woman – found herself on the FBI’s list of Ten Most Wanted Fugitives.



A student at Brandeis University in Boston, Power became a leader of the radical National Student Strike Force in 1970. She and several others planned to raise money to buy arms for the Black Panthers by robbing a bank. She and fellow student and accomplice Susan Edith Saxe participated in robberies at a Massachusetts National Guard armory and a bank in Brighton, Mass.

In the incident at the bank, Power drove the getaway car. The robbery, however, had gone terribly awry. A silent alarm was quickly answered by patrolman Walter Schroeder. Shots were fired by one of Power’s accomplices, and Schroeder was killed.

That night, Power began what would be 23 years of life on the lam, listed by the FBI as armed and “very dangerous.”

In the late 1970s, Power moved to Oregon. There, she assumed the name Alice Metzinger, settled down, and started a new life in the restaurant business. She bought a house, gave birth to her son, and married. She was an active part of the community and, seemingly, had every reason to be at peace.

But at age 44, Power was desperately tired, tormented by guilt, and chronically depressed. Finally, she did the only thing she felt could end her agony. In September 1993, she turned herself in to Boston police.

Power explained why this was so important: “I am now learning to live with openness and truth, rather than shame and hiddenness.”

Shame and guilt are feelings from which you cannot run and cannot hide. Freedom comes only by facing up to the truth – with people and with God.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

– Beecher Hunter