

BR family

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church and the man went back later to speak to their minister, saying he had a master's in social work from Ithaca College and was interested in doing volunteer work here.

The preacher had the man speak to congregation members who taught social work at LSU and they later told the minister the man was an obvious phony, Parks said.

The preacher then called a TWA ticket agent in New Orleans and inquired about Abagnale, Parks said.

"They knew him right quick," Parks said.

Acting on what he learned from the agent, the minister called police, Parks said.

The minister later told Parks that Abagnale had been jailed, he said.

Parks said he then checked his bank account and learned of the forgery.

Last week, Abagnale told a Tulane University audience that at 19 he passed the state bar without a legal education and conned his way into a job as an assistant attorney general here. The claim is disputed by former Attorney General Jack Grumillion and others in the office then. The state Bar Association also says it can find no records to support the story.