Benson Leads Prison Guards Over Escape Trail; Tells of Sleeping Near Prison Annex

By Lester F. Cour Staff Writer The Statesman

Haggard and dejected after a rutile, three-month flight from police, Convict William P. Benson led prison officials and newmen he declared. over the wooded escape trail taken by himself and John O. Pinson May 30 in a desperate break from the Oregon state prison.

The 44-year-old desperado, handcuffed and led on a chain, un-folded an amazing story as he retraced the route leading from the the prison to Turner, 6 miles southeast of Salem.

southeast of Salem. Benson, serving five years for armed robbery in Portland, re-vealed that he and Pinson un-knowingly rested within sight of the prison annex a short time afthe prison annex a short time af- der wound. ter their early-morning escape. Says Pinson Died The same day, he said, they slept

one mile south of the prison farm. bout two weeks after the break. Story Changed But the voluble convict with a and bandages. The second time But the voluble convert whith and bandages. The second didn't re-story concerning the pair's flight to Portland and steadfastly main-to Portland and steadfastly maintained that Pinson, convicted mur- with a shovel I stole from a mill

derer serving life is buried near Kellogg, Idaho., dead from gun-shot wounds incurred in the es-by bus and f Ohio, September 5 after attempting suicide by swallowing poison, he stated. "They just asked me was unable to lead officers to where I was going just like every-Pinson's grave early this week on body else." the return trip to the Oregon pri- Refuses to Answer Warden George Alexander and other prison officials indicated Thursday they believe Pinson is still alive.

Talks Freely

Benson talked freely Thursday. telling how he and Pinson sawed their way out of the "bullpen" about 1 a.m., May 30, scaling the 25-foot east wall in a hail of gun fire from a guard tower. He contends Pinson incurred the fa-

tal shoulder wound in the flight. I jumped from the wall," Benson countermanded a navy court's decontinued, "and from then on they mand that Air Secretary Symingpractically killed me." Both men ton appear in person to tell what were barefooted.

Benson led Guard Captain Ells- "smear" campaign. worth Herder, Guard Don Johnson Matthews stepped into the row and newsmen from the peniten- after Symington gave a fast brush tiary south through the state for- off to the request of a three-man estry buildings. He said they stop- board of admirals that he appear ped momentarily in Mill creek be- before the court. tween the buildings and South 25th street to the west side of the to make "no further effort" to get Salem airport. Lay Near Annex

Here, the men headed east to- 20 MEXICANS ARRESTED ward Turner on roads near the PORTLAND, Sept. 22+(P)-The Southern Pacific railroad track immigration service today deportuntil reaching a hill in back of the ed 20 Mexicans, who were arrestprison annex, four miles south- ed recently while working on raileast of Salem. Weary and foot- road and logging jobs in Klamath sore, the fugitives lay near the annex for an hour before hobbling along the right-of-way to a small mill about six miles west of Tur-

"There was a beehive near the mill", Benson told reporters, "and that caused me a lot more trouble. I got stung in about 20 places trying to get some honey. We Look and Learn-Feature page.

"We got off the bus then," he within a few feet of prison con-victs cutting wood on a tract about logg, Idaho, and I think it was a-I went into town twice for food

Benson said he then traveled by bus and freight trains to the east. He told of taking two trips Benson, captured in Columbus, to Canada from Detroit, Mich. The customs officers "were nice to me,"

He refused to answer questions

Order Backs

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22-(AP)-"I hurt both of my feet when Navy Secretary Matthews tonight he knows of the B-36 bomber

Matthews directed the admirals

Symington to testify.

county. They were charged with illegal residence in this country.

Look and Learn By A. C. Gordon

1. What is the world's

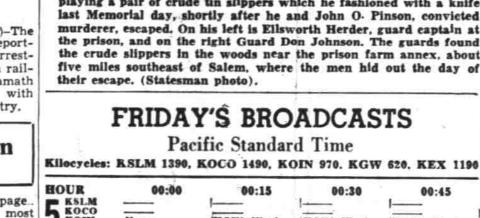
Pinson are suspected in Boise, Id-aho. He said he had never been there during his wanderings. Po-lice believe differently.

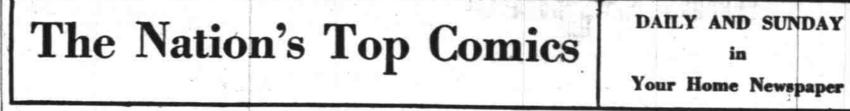
From guards, asking where he and Pinson obtained money to travel by bus, "When you start asking Weary Thursday afternoon af-

by bus. "When you start asking that you're talking trouble for me," Prison officials didn't share his optimism. And they indicated the questioning would continue until Benson denied any complicity in they extract the truth from Ben-armed robberies for which he and son.



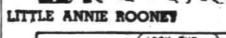
playing a pair of crude tin slippers which he fashioned with a knife last Memorial day, shortly after he and John O. Pinson, convicted murderer, escaped. On his left is Ellsworth Herder, guard captain at the prison, and on the right Guard Don Johnson. The guards found the crude slippers in the woods near the prison farm annex, about five miles southeast of Salem, where the men hid out the day of their escape. (Statesman photo).











and setting the set in the same

MY BUS

BLONDI





LIKE SPRING

14

UNDER THAT

OUR PICK OF

PERSONNEL

NAME, WE GET

SOUNDS LIKE A

BUREAUCRACY-

SHORT.

THE 'OUNO' FOR



IMAGINE THET CRITTER

JOE IS VERY GOOD WITH ALL THE CHILDREN.

AND VALERIE IS REALLY A VERY SWEET CHILD.

BUT THOUGH I TRY AND TRY I CAN'T

IN THAT CASE, WE WILL PUT THEM AT DISCORGING WASTEBASKETS.

TRANSPARENTIZING WINDOWS,

AND ERASING FLOORS.

SNEEZIN' IN HERE! WHY ...

THET'S PLUMB UNSANITARY!

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SEEM TO WIN HER

AFFECTIONS!

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Desidered by King Perturn Sedia

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1942, Walt Dinney Producted

SPOTLIGH

were awful hungry. Benson showed how he and Pin- valuable autograph?

few hundred feet from the mill state capital cities in the U. S.? ers from a strip of tin with a in the world? knife in an attempt to alleviate their cut and aching feet

Herder found the tin slippers and asked Benson why they hadn't worn them. "They just wouldn't work; they were worse than nothing," the convict replied. Walked to Turner

The barefooted pair walked to Turner Monday night securing bandages for Pinson's wounds, clothes for both and shoes for Pinson from the Turner sawmill, according to Benson. They slept near the mill pond Monday night and in a field east of Turner Tuesday.

At this point Benson's story changed radically from the one given prison officials on his arrival in Salem Tuesday. The convict told Warden Alexander he and ROTH

volvers and a pair of shoes from a cabin near Albany during their ALBIN

ously," Benson told the reporters, City View cemetery. "so we moved out fast."

The escape trail, according to Benson, then led to Seattle, Ellen-

treat

vour

amily



a cabin near Albany during their stay. Benson said he and Pinson stay-ed in Portland three days, two at a hotel and one in a rooming house on East Burnside street. "The Japanese owner of the room-ing house got eyeing us suspici-ously," Benson told the reporters,

Breithaupts

Salem's Oldest Name

in Flowers

Paul Beath

Helen Breithaupt Heath

GLED SPEARMINT

ZURLINDEN ZURLINDEN Steve William Zurlinden, at the fam-ily residence at 2214 N. 4th st., Septem-ber 22, at the age of 23 years. Surviv-ing are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Zurlinden, Salem; a brother, George Zurlinden, jr., Salem; and two sisters. Mrs Ruth Moore and Mrs. Dorothy DuBoise, both of Salem. Mem-ber of Salem lodge 336, BPOE, and a corporal in the marine corps reserve

train officiating.

447 Court St.

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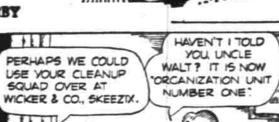














GASOLINE ALLEY











BARNEY GOOGLE