

Five Michigan Cons Flee With Women Hostages

6 of 13 Escapees At Large

JACKSON, Mich. (AP) — Five desperate convicts grabbed a 28-year-old housewife and a 31-year-old nurse as hostages Saturday night in a wild flight following their escape from a Michigan prison.

Thirteen escaped and all terrorized one household, stealing a gun and an automobile, before breaking up. Five were caught within three hours as State Police pumped bullets into their careening stolen car and it went into a ditch.

A sixth was found in the wreck age vicinity an hour afterward, and still later a seventh was picked up in downtown Jackson. The sixth still missing was believed holed up here.

Escape was through a prison sewer in which the band of convicted murderers, robbers, burglars and kidnapers used a makeshift acetylene torch to cut barred steel gratings.

Other Uprisings
They left from the same yard that was the scene of two bloody and costly convict uprisings in 1932 at Southern Michigan, the world's largest walled penitentiary. It has a population of approximately 3,000.

Mrs. Mary Lou Watts and Miss Helen Gilbert were grabbed as hostages by the five who invaded the Watts' Jackson home. They had a gun taken from the home invaded by all 13 a mile from the prison.

Joe Watts, the hostage's husband and a Jackson service station owner, was at home, but powerless to intervene against the five and their gun. The home was ransacked for civilian clothing and valuables before the desperadoes fled in Watts' 1952 beige-colored Cadillac.

Phone Call Awaited
Obviously as they left the convicts told Watts the women would be released unharmed "if nothing happens to us." The women promised to telephone the minute of their release, but two hours after they had been snatched Watts' telephone still was silent.

The felons first fell upon the home of Glenn Milliman, a 28-year-old automobile salesman and one-time guard at the prison. Brandishing crude, prison-made knives they forced their way into terrorizing Milliman and his wife and ransacking the house.

Took Gun, Clothes
They found a .32 calibre pistol and at least four outfits they themselves before tying up the Millimans and all 13 driving off in his automobile.

Finding 12 too many for one car seven got out in Jackson. It was five of the latter group that abducted the women.

Milliman's car was jumped by sheriff's deputies on M50 near Napoleon, 12 miles southeast of Jackson. Two state troopers to the west quickly turned their car across the road, using it as a blockade.

Ignored Signals
The careening car of convicts refused to heed light signals it stop and the troopers started firing. The car swerved into a ditch in an attempt to avoid that of the troopers. Two bullets had pierced its windows, but none was in the car.

Four were seized immediately, scrambling out of the wreckage of Milliman's car. A fifth was caught in a chase. These five insisted they were alone, but a sixth was picked up within an hour in the same vicinity.

It was more than an hour after the shot-punctuated capture that Watts' frantic alarm was sounded. The hunt for the women and their captors quickly turned toward Indiana. The Cadillac was seen heading out on M60, Indiana and Ohio police were alerted.

Michigan state troopers from six of the lower Peninsula's seven districts were sent speeding toward the scene in 52 siren-screaming cars and at least 64 local law enforcement officers were enlisted in a widespread blockade. Others cruised highway and byways.

A deputy sheriff at Moscow, Mich., 20 miles southwest of Jackson, reported he spotted a beige Cadillac with five men and two women headed west on M112, a Detroit-Chicago trunkline, but had been unable to overtake it.

Prison authorities were making a routine check for 10 men they couldn't account for after a 6:30 p. m. check-up, when State Police advised them of Milliman's terrorizing report.

An armed guard quickly was thrown up outside the walls, the check of the cavernous cell blocks speeded. Quickly an outside guard spotted the sewer opening ajar outside the walls.

Reds to Resume Talks With PWs

PANMUNJOM (AP) — The Indian Command Sunday announced that the long-stalled Communist explanations to Korean War prisoners would resume Monday. But Allied efforts to make "come home" talks to 22 Americans, 1 Briton and 77 South Koreans still were stalled.

Apparently the Indian Command talked the prisoners into accepting explanations to half the inmates of a compound in a single day. Previously the prisoners had refused to permit part of a compound to go out for interviews.

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

103RD YEAR 3 SECTIONS—36 PAGES The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Sunday, December 20, 1953 PRICE 10c No. 785

Young Life Group Brings Spirit of Christmas



Members of Salem Young Life Club turn out in force to redecorate the home of a workless chimney sweep and his 11 children as a Christmas goodwill project. Cleaning ceilings at the Carnett Home (upper left) prior to applying a coat of paint are Ruth Nalley, 795 N. Winter St., with broom and Joan Maguren, 525 Locust St. Sharon Beard, 798 S. Liberty St., Nancy Willard, 481 Cascade Dr., and Diane Ferguson, 1145 Columbia St. (upper center, left to right) thread a spring on new kitchen curtains. At upper right (left to right) Larry Newson, 1453 Narcissus St., Neal Scheidel, 1035 Fairview Ave., and Ken Rawlings, 810 Ratcliff Dr., find that brooms fit their hands as well as footballs and basketballs. Tommy Carnett, nearly 3, (below) admires his "new" suit in his bedroom, newly painted and carpeted by Young Life members. Two sisters, Betty, 8 and Lule, 5, look on. (Statesman Photos.)

Youthful 'Invasion' Leaves Family of 13 With Newly Redecorated House

By THOMAS G. WRIGHT JR. Staff Writer, The Statesman
Young Life put some new life into an old house Saturday and gave a family of 13 a promise of a merrier, brighter Christmas.

Scores of Salem High School students, members of the Young Life Club of Salem, swarmed over the old house at 1211 S. Liberty St., now the home of the C. W. Carnetts, with brooms and paint brushes and when they were through little Mrs. Carnett had a completely redecorated house.

Rare Snowfall Blankets City Of Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Israel Sector (AP) — A rare December snow blanketed the Holy City Saturday night. After a day-long snowfall covered the city's seven hills and new and old buildings, a bright full moon broke through the clouds to reveal the white-mantled scene often pictured on Christmas cards but seldom seen in fact.

French Recess From Balloting For President

VERSAILLES, France (AP) — The unprecedented deadlock in the French Parliament over election of a new president of the republic held through the sixth ballot Saturday night. The weary parliamentarians then put off the next rollcall until Sunday.

City Mail Delivery Scheduled Today

Salem postmen will make regular deliveries of incoming mail today, according to Postmaster Albert C. Gragg, but no delivery will be made on rural routes. The main post office general delivery window will also be open from 3 to 5 p. m., he said, so packages can be claimed by persons who were not at home when carriers called.

Elizabeth Sits Cross-Legged Eating Pig With Tonga Queen

MUKUALOFA, Tonga Islands (AP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth sat cross-legged Saturday in the palace of her friend, Queen Salote on Tonga, and ate roast-suckling pig with her fingers.

Boehnke Seeks GOP Chairmanship

PORTLAND (AP) — Ed Boehnke, Eugene, said Saturday he will be a candidate to succeed Robert A. Elliott, Medford, as state Republican chairman.

Bars Asked to Close On Christmas Eve

PORTLAND (AP) — Taverns and cocktail lounges Saturday were asked by the executive board of the Oregon Licensed Beverage Association to close Christmas Eve at 7 p. m.



IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The first article in the November Reader's Digest, by Lester Velie, is headed "Our Shabby Welcome to Foreigners." From his account it is worse than shabby.—It's deplorable. "Incredible acts of bureaucratic bungling by our consulate abroad and by officials at our port of entry" are giving the USA a plenty bad name among travelers.

Much of the complaint which Velie reports arises from treatment not of visitors to the United States but of those touching our soil en route by air or otherwise to a foreign destination. He relates how an Italian businessman for lack of a transit visa when he stopped at LaGuardia Field en route from Portugal to Mexico was held overnight under guard and then shipped back to Portugal. Two days later he returned with his proper visa; but the immigration officials demanded a surety bond to guarantee his departure on schedule. It wouldn't take currency, insisting on a surety bond or U.S. treasury bond which he could not furnish on short notice. So he was locked up at Ellis Island over night. Other instances of very callous treatment are cited.

Part of the trouble may be attributed to plain stupidity on the part of officials, part to the stringent text of the laws, and part to the spasms of fear which have enveloped all officialdom in the present climate of fear. Whether the McCarran act is directly responsible or not I do not know; but it certainly (Continued on Editorial page, 4.)

Gales Slow Arctic Search

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Icy gales swept mile-high Myrdalsjokull Glacier Saturday night, handicapping efforts to rescue three reported survivors of the crash of a U.S. Navy Neptune bomber on its snowy wastes.

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