

Convict Stabs Prison Guards In Escape Try

2 Dead, 2 Injured At San Quentin

SAN QUENTIN, Cal.—(AP)—The accomplice of an enraged convict who stabbed two prison guards to death and injured two others admitted Tuesday the dual killings were the result of an attempted prison break.

Prison authorities, however, were not discounting the theory that Eugene Burwell, 24-year-old Negro serving a five-year sentence for burglary, harbored a simmering grudge for alleged discrimination.

District Attorney Richard M. Sims of Marin County, said that under questioning, Burwell's accomplice, James A. Rodgers, 22, admitted the incident was the result of a futile prison break.

Dead were Guards Charles E. Wiget, 31, and Vern A. Mackin, 38. Two other guards suffered fractured skulls, and Burwell was treated for stab wounds received in a struggle with Wiget.

According to Sims, Rodgers said the two convicts were planning to slip over a shadowed part of the prison wall when Wiget entered the library and discovered them.

They were holding another convict, Joseph E. Wolfe, 22, bound in the library while they made their plans.

When Wiget entered, Rodgers rolled on the table and said he was sick. As Wiget came over, Rodgers said he grabbed the guard's legs and Burwell stabbed him with the half section of a 12-inch pair of shears.

A few moments later, Guards Virgil F. Stewart, 43, and Ralph E. Dascomber, 36, entered the library and were struck down by Burwell with the flat side of a hatchet.

The convicts then ran to the mess hall, where a basketball game was in progress, and asked Mackin to go with them to get some records from the projection booth overlooking the mess hall.

In the mess hall, Mackin was killed by a combination of blows with the hatchet and stab wounds with the shears' blade.

Other officers caught the pair in the projection room and they were captured without a fight.

Newly-appointed Warden Harley O. Teets said he believed Burwell held a grudge against Wiget for alleged racial discrimination. He said the men had "had words" about a week ago.

Soldiers Sing Church Songs

FORT MONMOUTH, N.J.—(AP)—"Stand up; stand up for Jesus!" The words of the militant Christians' old song rang out from hundreds of soldiers' throats here Monday night and reverberated among the steel girders.

A choir, seated in the bleachers of the big fieldhouse, joined in. And thus began a five-day series of religious services—one of the first moves in a major drive to bolster the servicemen's spiritual defense.

It is a campaign—sponsored by the General Commission on Chaplains and the National Council of Churches—to convince him that "Christ is the answer," theme of the preaching mission.

Civilian teams of Protestant ministers are carrying the Gospel to guardhouse and to hospital counseling and preaching. Some 120 Navy and Army installations will be reached in the two-month crusade.



WIFE AND CHILDREN DIE — Grief-stricken Henry E. Statner watches as firemen use an inhalator attempting to revive his wife, Ida, asphyxiated with their two sons by gas fumes. Oakland (Calif.) firemen blamed a faulty gas heater installation for the tragedy.

Planes Seek Clues To Missing Vessel

SEATTLE—(AP)—Nineteen planes took off Tuesday in the biggest air search in the history of North Pacific shipping.

They sought clues to the missing freighter Pennsylvania and the 45- or 46-man crew that abandoned her—or tried to—in stormy seas last Wednesday.

The early morning search was reported to be 600 to 1000 feet in the area, more than 700 miles northwest of Seattle, where thousands of square miles were charted for scanning.

Violent Blast Kills 19 Miners

STELLARTON, N.S.—(AP)—Rescue workers wearing gas masks came out of the McGregor Coal Mine Tuesday with the burned body of the 19th and final victim of a violent underground explosion.

Harold Gordon, general manager of Dominion Coal and Steel Co., which owns the McGregor Mines, said only three of 22 miners working in the pit Monday survived the blast.

Mine Ordered Closed

Gordon stayed below with the crew until the last body was recovered. Then the mine was ordered closed for at least one week to permit accumulated gases to be blown out.

Two of the three men who crawled to safety from the 1,400-foot level where the blast occurred were hospitalized at New Glasgow. The third was unhurt.

6 Rescue Teams

The rescue squads were divided into six teams of five men each which entered the mine at two-hour intervals. Swirling smoke over the 150-foot area where the bodies had been scattered made operations difficult.

At one time the rescue workers were warned of the possibility of a second explosion, but they refused to return to the surface until the task of recovering the bodies had been completed.

LAW BACKFIRES

MUNCIE, Ind.—(AP)—Patrolmen William Moler and James Peters put their autos in metered parking spaces when they appeared as witnesses in a city court trial. The trial lasted longer than they had expected and they got tickets for overtime parking.

Churchill Notes West's Strength

May Bring Safety To Troubled World

OTTAWA—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill declared Monday night that, even though no one can predict what will happen, the West has "the life strength and guiding light" needed to bring a tormented world to safety.

"We have surmounted all the perils and endured all the agonies of the past," he reminded the Free World.

'Seek No Sordid Gain'

"We shall provide against—and thus shall overcome—the dangers and problems of the future, without any sacrifice, grudge or toll; seek no sordid gain, fear no foe. All will be well."

The 77-year-old British statesman called the 12-nation North Atlantic Pact the "surest guarantee, not only of the prevention of war, but of victory, should our hopes be blasted."

He frankly acknowledged in a prepared address, delivered at a formal dinner given in his honor by the Canadian government.

'Strange Clouds Gather'

"No one can predict with certainty what will happen. All can see for themselves the strange clouds that move and gather on the horizons. But this time, at any rate, we are all united from the beginning."

Churchill said that his four-day conference with President Truman last week had convinced him the North Atlantic treaty is now more than a defense alliance.

It is broadening out, he said, into a North Atlantic community of free nations, "acting together, not only for defense but for the welfare and happiness and progress of all the peoples of the free world."

Speaking directly to Canadians, Churchill confidently predicted "a magnificent future" for the Dominion "if only we can all get through the present hideous world muddle."

Back European Army

The British government, he declared, will "do all in our power" to promote a united Europe with an All-European Army, including German units.

Churchill's speech came as responsible informants disclosed the British leader has decided to make another effort in Washington to block American plans to get an American admiral named over-all commander of Atlantic Pact naval forces.

He is to leave by Royal Canadian Air Force plane Tuesday morning to return to Washington. His main purpose is to speak before a joint session of Congress Thursday.

Davidson Files for Post With Democrat Session

PORTLAND — (AP)—C. Girard Davidson, Portland attorney, filed Monday for delegate-at-large for the Democratic national convention.

A former assistant secretary of the interior, Davidson is the second candidate to file. Monroe Sweetland, Oregon national committee man, filed earlier. The state is allowed four delegates-at-large and eight district delegates.

Pin Curlers Win Battle

ANTIOCH, Calif.—(AP)—Pin curlers apparently became an accepted item of dress at Antioch High School Monday.

Last March Principal John Allen ruled that anyone wearing pin curlers was in a state of undress. And he sent 15-year-old Theola Barton home to get dressed.

Mama and papa Barton refused to send her back.

The feud smoldered until last Friday. Then Mr. and Mrs. Amos Barton were haled into justice court. Judge Yates F. Hamm fined each \$10 for keeping Theola out of school.

Theola went back to school Monday. Her hair was done up in pin curlers. Nothing happened.

"Let's forget the whole thing," said Principal Allen.

Information Due On 'Spy' Camps

WASHINGTON — (AP)—Justice Department officials said Tuesday that the "confidential" stamp would be removed from information on five camps that are being prepared to house subversives who would be picked up in event of a national security emergency.

Federal Prison Bureau officials had been unable to say much about the purpose of the camps because of the classification stamped on the subject, although House appropriations subcommittee hearing records of last year told the whole story.

When questioned about the situation, Justice Department officials agreed that there was no good reason why they should not discuss the proposed use of the camps.

Clive W. Palmer, a top aide of the deputy attorney general, said that steps were being taken immediately to declassify the information. It was expected this would be accomplished sometime this week.

The security classification was stamped on the subject in 1948 at a time such camps were considered only as part of planning for anything which might happen in the future.

Since then the McCarran Internal Security Act has become law. It provides for just such camps to house potential saboteurs and spies who would be rounded up in event of trouble—possibly as many as 15,000.

Palmer said that the classification of the information was not imposed under President Truman's new security regulations on government information.

The camps being rehabilitated by federal prisoners under guard and supervisory details are at Tule Lake, Calif.; Avon Park, Fla.; El Reno, Okla., and Florence and Wickenburg, Ariz. In event they went into use for the housing of seized subversives, the prisoner crews would be returned to regular federal prisons.

Under the McCarran Act, subversives would be rounded up after declaration of a national security emergency by the President.

Cold, Misery, Songs, Laughter

At Stranded Streamliner

(Editors Note: Roy Clayton, a emergency worker for the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., at Alta, Calif., was with the first group that reached the stranded City of San Francisco. This is the story of conditions at the scene).

By ROY CLAYTON
As Told to United Press

RAINBOW LODGE, Calif.—(AP)—I have just returned from the snowbound streamliner, the City of San Francisco, and I found everything from cold and misery to songs and laughter.

We arrived at the train at about 10:30 p.m. Monday night, but were unable to take our weasel all the way. I would estimate the snow at the train to be about 14 feet deep and we had to stop about a quarter of a mile away.

The conductor and some other railroad men who seemed to be in charge got 35 Mexican laborers who were at the train to help us carry the food and medical supplies up there.

I walked through the train and there was no heat and lights. Everybody was bundled up in coats and blankets. I saw several women and children.

I was told that several children were sick and six persons had suffered heart attacks, but I didn't see them. Someone said there was a doctor aboard, but I didn't see him either.

Younger Set Singing

They weren't completely out of food when we arrived, and we replenished their supply with milk, canned food and bread. In some parts of the train railroad lamps were burning.

Nobody said anything as I walked through the train. Most of the older people were bundled up, but the younger folks were in the club car taking it more or less like a lark. They were singing when I went back there.

Highway Blocked

I offered to take anyone out in the Weasel if they required medical attention, but the conductor

No Heat or Lights

I went into the engine room and noticed that some of the lights seemed to be burning. However, there was no heat. The train is about one-half mile from the tracks. I think the snow is too deep for the passengers to walk out the upper part.

I could see something on the tracks down ahead and it was a rotary snow plow which had been turned over by an avalanche. I was about to go down the track, but I didn't see any sign of them in the snow.

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