

Forged Papers Fail to Free Bank Robber From Alcatraz

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Alcatraz Warden Olin Blackwell, who uncovered a plot to free a notorious bank robber with forged documents, said Wednesday night it's possible a convict could be freed by such papers "but it's highly unlikely."

"We double check all such orders. It was last week when we got this court order setting aside a term for Roy Drake. The reference numbers to his commitment papers didn't jibe."

"So, I sent the papers back, suggesting maybe there was an error, perhaps a typographical error. But even beyond that we would have double checked had everything appeared OK."

In Washington, the Justice Department said it is conducting an investigation of the plot but declined to comment on its scope.

The Indianapolis Star said

the forgery of papers to set in New Orleans following a pair of Indianapolis bank holdups that netted \$82,500. Prior to that he broke out of California's San Quentin prison twice and once escaped a Missouri prison.

The court order setting aside the 15-year term bore the rubber-stamped signature of federal judge Cale J. Holder of Indianapolis.

Also termed forgeries were a cover letter to Drake explaining the order, a similar letter to Blackwell and a memorandum entry, all bearing the forged signatures of court clerk Robert G. Newbold. Newbold said a preliminary investigation had cleared members of his staff.

Had the order gone through, Drake would not have been freed but would have been made eligible for immediate parole.

"With the forgers we have nowadays," Blackwell said, "it's conceivable papers like these could be made good enough to stand up. But we check so carefully I doubt it would work."

"I don't know Drake's role in this. I do know whoever handled the paper work knew an awful lot about Drake and about his case. Everything got here almost letter perfect — through the regular mail."

Drake led a wild career of crime before he was captured

in August of a self-taught prison lawyer, Charles Benton Russell of Fresno, Calif., successfully challenged a firearms law conviction under which he was sent to Alcatraz following his escape from a Reno, Nev., jail. He was freed by court order.

On Dec. 16, two more bank robbers broke out. One of them, John Paul Scott, 35, of Leitchfield, Ky., became the first escapee known to have reached the mainland. He was found naked ashore more dead than alive. His partner, Earl Dee Parker, 31, of Canton, Ohio, was picked shivering off a rock 100 yards from the prison island.



Model Mess

This \$50,000 model home built for the Air Force plopped to the middle of a street in Nashville Wednesday when it snagged on a railroad underpass. An official said National Homes Corp., had been assured the model would clear all underpasses in the city. A crane finally removed it. The model was on its way to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to undergo Air Force tests, which planned to use the houses at temporary bases and tow them away when the bases are moved.

(AP Wirephoto)

Witness Repeats Slaying Confession

MOUNTAIN HOME, Idaho (AP) — A chaplain who was with Airman 1/C Gerald M. Anderson during the six days he was interrogated by the Air Force last April was to take the stand Thursday at a hearing into murder charges against the young airman.

The hearing was reopened Wednesday so a key witness in the case, Theodore Thomas Dickie, could testify. Dickie repeated statements that it was he who killed a young Mountain Home mother and her son, not Anderson.

Dickie refused to testify during sessions of the hearing last December. His earlier statements resulted in civil authorities clearing the 25-year-old Anderson of a murder charge in November.

After Anderson was freed by civil authorities, the Air Force promptly arrested the young airman from San Diego, Calif., and is conducting the present hearing to determine whether it will court martial him on charges of murder.

Dickie testified Wednesday he didn't know why he killed Nancy Joy Johnson, 22, and her 2-year-old son, Danny, last April 9. He said he didn't even know why he went to the Johnson house that night.

"I wasn't curious or anything else," he said. "I just went

there. I don't know why..." Wednesday's hearing opened at Mountain Home. However, it was moved to nearby Boise for Dickie's testimony. The 22-year-old itinerant laborer is being held by Idaho authorities in the rape-slaying of a 10-year-old girl, a crime which he has said he committed.

The Air Force has not accepted Dickie's confession.

Anderson once told authorities he murdered Mrs. Johnson. That was after a six-day period of interrogation by the Air Force in April. He later repudiated the confession, saying it was obtained under duress.

Ex-Clerk Admits Embezzlement

PORTLAND (AP) — Frank H. Yoast, 30, former chief clerk at the Lake Oswego branch of the Citizens Bank of Oregon, pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges of embezzling \$5,501.

He is accused of taking the money from the bank over a three-month period. The shortage was discovered Dec. 10.

Federal Judge John F. Kilkeny, after ordering a pre-sentence investigation, said Yoast will be sentenced Jan. 30.

Buildings Purchased

PORTLAND (AP) — Melvin Mark Properties, the largest holder of downtown property, announced Wednesday it has purchased two more buildings. The price was reported at more than \$2 million. The firm purchased the 12-story Failing Building and the six-story Park Building.

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