

# PRISON 'LAWYER' OBTAINS RELEASE FOR 66 INMATES

Jefferson City, Mo. — (U.P.) — While 66 ex-convicts enjoy their legally won freedom, Clyde Meeks, whose amateur law practice showed them the way, still sits behind the walls of the Missouri State Penitentiary seeking the legal loophole that will set him free.

The stooped, balding Meeks has spent 18 of his 40 years behind bars, with two years of freedom out of the last 20. Now serving a sentence for forgery, he was previously imprisoned on charges of burglary and highway robbery.

Meeks' legal lore was acquired through a brief correspondence course in one of the "learn-law-by-mail" schools. While he skillfully avoids being charged with practicing law without a license, he has let it be noised

around that he is available for pertinent conversations.

**No Fees, but 'Gifts'**

Despite his statement that he "had no desire to burden the courts with useless litigation," the petitions flowing from Meeks' ready fingers have averaged 15 to 20 a month. He said at least 66 former inmates have been freed because of his legal efforts since 1940.

Meeks said he charges no fee — because he has no law license — but accepts "gifts" from grateful clients. It is estimated that he receives about \$10 from each "client" for his services. Those who have read briefs prepared by the convict-lawyer say they are wordy, correct in detail, legally styled, and expertly typed.

Meeks' legal career got off to a bad start. In 1939, during a parole from a 15-year term for robbery, Meeks was charged with forging a check in his home town, Springfield, Mo. He was convicted and sentenced to five years. Fresh from the final lesson in the mall order law school, he demanded and got a new trial on the grounds that the man whose name was alleged to have been forged was not in court.

He was convicted again and this time sentenced to seven years instead of the original five. He acted as his own lawyer at both trials.

**Rule Change Frees 50**

Back at the penitentiary in November, 1939, Meeks began serving the seven-year sentence with the prospect of serving the 35 months remaining from the 15-year sentence too. Ordinarily the service of the incomplete sentence would begin at the end of the new sentence.

Through petitions which Meeks said he prepared the Supreme Court invalidated the pri-

son policy. The new rule was that prisoners must serve out their original sentence under the parole revocation, then serve the new sentence.

The new regulations freed 50 convicts who had served their second sentences and were finishing their first. The releases did not apply to Meeks, because he was still serving the forgery sentence and hadn't started on the incomplete portion of the other.

Again, Meeks' love of the legal left him in a spot. If he had waited to file the petition after completing the term for forgery, he would have gone free with the rest.

Meeks is now employed in the prison auditor's office as a bookkeeper and typist. His primary object is to get his own release from prison; then he wants a war job — not a legal career.

## SPEECH TROUBLES TO BE DISCUSSED

Dr. Leon Lassers, speech specialist from the state department of education, arrived in Medford Monday and will hold a meeting for Medford school pupils who have stuttering or other speech difficulties and their parents and teachers at the court house auditorium tomorrow from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.

All Medford parents and children interested in speech problems are invited to attend, E. H. Hedrick declared today. Dr. Lassers' work is a new service offered by the state department, Hedrick said. Locally it is under the direction of Louise Basford, elementary supervisor of special education in Medford schools.

Dr. Lassers has been meeting with teachers during the week and will continue such conferences through Friday when he returns to Salem.

**Livestock**

Portland, Ore., Feb. 14 — (UP) — Livestock: Cattle 300, calves 50. Active, steady. Quality rather poor. Few common steers 11.00-12.50; sizeable lot medium heifers 13.00. Canner-cutter cows 8.50-9.00. Fat dairy type cows to 10.50. Medium-good bulls 10.00-12.25.

## Guerrilla Fighter and His 'Fort'



Using a fire hydrant as his protective "fort," this barefoot Filipino Guerrilla fighter sets up his antiquated machine gun on a Manila street and fights with the Yanks as they press on to clean the city of remaining Japs. Photo by Stanley Troutman, NEA-Acme photographer for War Picture Pool.



WHEN SUMMER COMES starlet Lynn Baggett will be ready to get an almost even suntan in this brief two-piece bathing suit brightly splashed with flowers. For protection from sharp shells on the beach she wears black non-ratoned playshoes.

## PFC. M. WICKMAN KILLED IN ACTION

Pfc. Maurice W. Wickman, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wickman, 16 South Newtown street, was killed in action January 24 in the Philippine Islands. Word of the death of their son was received by the Wickmans from Gordon Lee Hayes, Medford, a former classmate of Pfc. Wickman at Medford high school and in the same overseas unit with young Wickman.

Hayes wrote that he was with Pfc. Wickman at the time of his death and that the soldier had been buried in a military cemetery in the islands Jan. 25.

Pfc. Wickman graduated with the class of 1943 and had been with an infantry division since November of that year. He is survived by his parents and a younger brother, Robert Wickman.

## Hunter Bags First Deer In 13 Years

Cabot, Ark., (U.P.) — After hunting deer for 13 consecutive years without scoring a single kill, Clem Poole, rural mail carrier of Austin, Ark., has finally hit pay dirt.

For 13 straight years Poole kept going on deer hunts with the "bunch." And for 13 straight years he returned home with nothing to show for his efforts but a frost-bitten nose. In fact, Poole — in all those years of hunting — didn't even get a glimpse of a live deer.

So this year when the "gang" came around, Poole gave out a couple of bucks to help defray camp expenses and decided to try again.

He steered his car out to a road near here, parked it on a dry spot and started walking to a blind. And — believe it or not — along came a real deer.

Poole pointed his rifle at the animal pulled the trigger — and the deer fell dead.

## Wall Street

New York, Feb. 14 — (U.P.) — Wall Street turned bullish today and bid stocks up fractions to more than a point to a further new high for more than seven years. Trading was at the most active early clip since January 15.

Bullishness was prompted by the statement of Undersecretary of War Patterson that competent military men can foresee no immediate end to the war in Europe and by the assertion of Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau that he favors post-war tax cuts to aid expansion of business.

## Portland Produce

Portland, Feb. 14 — (UP) — Wholesale produce markets: Cauliflower—No. 1, Roseburg, 2.25-2.50 crate. Onions—Green, 75-85c doz. bunches.

## Chicago Wheat

Chicago, Feb. 14 — (UP) — Close  
 May 1.02 1/2 1.02 1/2 1.02 1/2 1.02 1/2  
 July 1.04 1/2 1.04 1/2 1.04 1/2 1.04 1/2  
 Sept. 1.05 1/2 1.05 1/2 1.05 1/2 1.05 1/2  
 Dec. 1.06 1/2 1.06 1/2 1.06 1/2 1.06 1/2

**S. F. DAIRY PRICES**  
 San Francisco, Feb. 14 — (U.P.) — Dairy market:  
 Butter: 93 score 43, 91 score 42 1/2, 90 score 42 1/4, 89 score 41 3/4.  
 Cheese: Wholesale prices  
 loafs 27.9, triplets 27.2.  
 Eggs: Large grade A 43 1/2, medium grade A 40 1/2, small grade A 37 1/2; large grade B 40 1/2.

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 Regular \$9.95  
**\$8.88**  
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**Combination Stroller and Walker**  
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**'SMALL-TOWN' GOVERNOR**  
 Indianapolis, (U.P.)—Ralph F. Gates, newly-inaugurated Governor, stepped across a street against the traffic light. Stopped by a policeman, the flustered Hoosier chief executive explained he was "from a small town" where the pedestrians were not required to obey traffic lights. The "alibi" worked.

**BILLIONTH LOAF OF BREAD**  
 Boston, (U.P.)—Hathaway Bakeries, Inc., recently baked their 1,000,000,000th loaf of bread.

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