

Convicted Slayer Dies Before Guns Of Firing Squad

Point of the Mountain, Utah—(U.P.)—Protesting his innocence to the last, Don Jesse Neal was shot to death here today for the 1951 murder of a Salt Lake City policeman.

"I am innocent," the former housepainter told Sheriff George Beckstead, who served as executioner.

"But I have no malice toward anyone," he added seconds before the four slugs from five 30-30 caliber rifles ripped through the black shaped heart which served as a target for the five marksmen hidden behind a canvas drop only 20 feet from where he was strapped to a wooden chair.

The signal for the execution was given at 5:02 a.m. (MST). He was pronounced dead a couple of minutes later. Witnesses to the execution were not admitted until 60 seconds before the rifles barked their death signal at sunrise.

The peaked, black hood already had been placed over Neal's head and face. He was nervously clenching and unclenching his fists as he spoke his last words to Sheriff Beckstead and the prison chaplain, the Rev. Robert Pollock of the Salt Lake Catholic Church.

Newsmen did not see the signal which set the executioners' rifles ablaze.

The prison physician set the stethoscope to Neal's chest almost as soon as the five rifles loosed their slug.

Warden Marcell Graham said Neal had been given a sedative before he began the walk from his death cell to the especially-constructed execution site at the south side of the prison.

Neal, 35-year-old native of Nashville, Tenn., who painted houses in San Francisco between terms in California's San Quentin prison, lost his last chances for life yesterday. The U.S. Supreme Court and two Salt Lake City judges turned down his pleas for a stay.

"What can I do now?" he asked. "The courts are all closed."

But somehow, he said he felt something would save him from execution, as it had four times before. For that reason, he said, he made no last-minute requests.

Neal chose to die by a firing squad. A condemned killer in Utah may take his choice of that or the noose.

Neal was convicted for murdering Police Sgt. Owen T. Farley on a downtown Salt Lake City street in 1951. Farley had tried to take Neal into custody for investigation of car theft and robbery.

Wilma Tully, Neal's girl friend, testified at his trial that he pulled a hidden gun from between the seat cushions of the stolen car, and with his hands shackled behind him, twisted around and shot Farley to death.

Neal claimed Mrs. Tully was the one who fired the shot, but nobody believed his story.

Railroad Tunnel Fire Near Eureka Disrupts Service

Fort Seward, Calif. — (U.P.) — A stubborn fire in a Northwestern Pacific Railroad tunnel was expected today to disrupt rail service for 10 days.

The fire was discovered early yesterday in the 452-foot tunnel about 75 miles south of Eureka. Damage may run as high as \$250,000.

Barred by smoke and heat from entering the tunnel, railroad crews decided early today to attack the fire from above. They brought a dozen bulldozers, moved them on to a hillside 15 feet above the roof of the tunnel and prepared to dig a hole through the top.

Water was poured into the tunnel from the west end and it was hoped that this would quench the flames sufficiently to enable fire fighters to spray liquid cement to shore up the damaged timbers.

More than 70 men were fighting the blaze.

Northwestern Pacific was carrying passengers around the scene by bus.

At least 250 carloads of redwood lumber were held up. They will be shipped to San Francisco by truck.

BPA Gives Awards To 118 Employees

Portland — (U.P.) — Bonneville Power Administration yesterday gave away \$11,000 to 118 employees who had demonstrated superior or outstanding performance records and for suggestion box ideas.

The presentation was one of the largest in the federal service since the Eisenhower administration instituted the bonus incentive program as a morale factor. Bonus payments ranging from \$10 to \$200 were presented by Administrator William A. Pearl and Division Chiefs Eugene Starr, N. H. Callard and Earl D. Ostrander.

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Saturday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES MAR. 21-20	1 Affairs	31 Pleasure	61 Or
APR. 21-20	2 You	32 Today	62 Attention
MAY 21-20	3 You	33 Mailman	63 Make
JUN. 21-20	4 Take	34 Sudden	64 Settle
JULY 21-20	5 Keep	35 Giving	65 Some
AUG. 21-20	6 Can	36 The	66 Offense
SEPT. 21-20	7 Yourself	37 Anything	67 Receive
OCT. 21-20	8 Of	38 Keeps	68 New
NOV. 21-20	9 You	39 You	69 Through
DEC. 21-20	10 Be	40 Give	70 Desired
JAN. 21-20	11 A	41 Situations	71 Bose
FEB. 21-20	12 Worry	42 Need	72 A
MAR. 21-20	13 May	43 Other	73 Of
APR. 21-20	14 Lesson	44 May	74 Move
MAY 21-20	15 Of	45 Today	75 Operations
JUN 21-20	16 Don't	46 Recure	76 New
JULY 21-20	17 From	47 Bring	77 Should
AUG. 21-20	18 Sense	48 The	78 Changes
SEPT. 21-20	19 Gain	49 Stick	79 You
OCT. 21-20	20 Clear	50 Decisions	80 In
NOV. 21-20	21 Of	51 Your	81 Fellow
DEC. 21-20	22 Aid	52 Close	82 Negative
JAN. 21-20	23 Freedom	53 To	83 Nice
FEB. 21-20	24 Or	54 Or	84 To
MAR. 21-20	25 Of	55 Your	85 Released
APR. 21-20	26 And	56 Day	86 Action
MAY 21-20	27 More	57 To	87 Now
JUN 21-20	28 Complicated	58 You	88 Gift
JULY 21-20	29 Needed	59 Some	89 Attitudes
AUG. 21-20	30 Make	60 To	90 Arrangements
SEPT. 21-20	Good	Adverse	Neutral

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Director Cecil B. DeMille is parting the water of the Red Sea for "the most spectacular scene in movie history" — but the spectacle turned out to be mostly camera magic.

As film fans couldn't have escaped knowing by now, the 73-year-old DeMille is making what is billed as his greatest epic, "The Ten Commandments."

The grand old man of movie spectacles still can out-spectacular any director in town. So in his \$8,000,000 film he has included "the most powerful scene ever filmed," according to his publicity office.

This will show the Hebrews escaping through the Red Sea. According to the script taken from the Bible, God parts the waters and the Hebrews—thousands of extras in dark pancake makeup—cross on dry land.

The villains, the Pharaoh's soldiers in horse-drawn chariots, gallop in hot pursuit. But the waters close and crash upon them.

Nearly the entire Paramount studio is being used for the gigantic film and I finally found the stage where the Red Sea scenes were being shot. But the only sight was a bearded Charlton Heston who plays Moses and 150 extras standing on a plaster hill. They looked over the hill in terror while DeMille barked orders and played sound effects of thunder just to get them in a frightened mood.

Most of the sequence, DeMille's assistants explained, will be made via trick photography and special effects that will take a year's work in the laboratory. DeMille calls the scene "as complicated as making an atom bomb," and he's also trying to keep it as secretive.

DeMille first photographed thousands of extras tramping over the sands of Egypt last October.

The swirling wall of water, the clouds and a pillar of fire will be photographed separately and superimposed on the original film.

The water scenes are so complicated Paramount had to move next door to RKO for more room. The walls between the two were torn down so Paramount could build a tank holding 30,000 gallons of water that will pour out in a fast two minutes.

This staggering scene involves three years of work and preparation and a cost of a million dol-

ars. Yet it will only last 10 minutes on the screen.

"When DeMille first made 'The Ten Commandments' in 1923, the water from the Red Sea scenes flooded Sunset Boulevard and the police arrived," one of his assistants said.

"This time we figured a way to divert the water back into the tank."

DeMille spent only \$100,000 to part the Red Sea 32 years ago, but in those days that was a super-colossal budget for one scene.

Release of Three Turncoats Awaits Final Arguments

Tokyo — (U.P.) — Communist China today reported that three turncoat American soldiers would be released as soon as the Indian Red Cross completed its arrangements for their departure in "the near future."

Peiping Radio said that Chinese Red Cross official reviewed the "situation" of the three Americans and two Belgians who deserted to the Communists and then changed their minds about being returned to the free world.

Knocked Americans

In a badly garbled broadcast, a Chinese Red Cross official knocked the Americans who turned their back once on their homeland.

He said that the former U.N. soldiers were brought to Peiping June 7.

"Some of them," he chided, "were found staying out into the night and indulging in drinking."

"For their security," he said, "the Red Cross Society of China had advised them to return to their lodgings before midnight."

"They hatefully refused to accept this sincere advice."

Won't Guarantee Safety

The official said that because of the men's conduct "The Red Cross Society of China would be unable to continue being responsible for their safety."

He said that Otho G. Bell, "admitted that he pretended to be committing suicide by slashing his skin with a small knife . . ."

He took pictures of his cuts and said that after his departure from China, he would use them as evidence of maltreatment."

Detroit — The annual snowfall in some areas south of Lakes Ontario and Erie averages more than 150 inches a year, the weather report charts indicate.

New Appeal Filed by Chessman Attorneys

San Quentin, Calif. — (U.P.) — The attorneys for author-convict Cheryl Chessman have filed a new appeal in an attempt to save him from execution in the San Quentin Prison gas chamber July 15.

The attorneys, Berwyn A. Rice and Jerome Duffy, said they are asking for a stay of execution and a writ of certiorari, claiming an appellate court never has reviewed any of Chessman's six appeals.

They said that Chessman has only recently earned the money to obtain depositions and legal counsel.

The court is in recess until October. Duffy said Chessman "believes he should be alive at the time the court acts on his petition."

Even as the appeal was being filed, federal judges of the Ninth Circuit went on record as favoring a move to outlaw repeated federal court reviews of death sentences such as those filed by Chessman.

The proposed legislation endorsed by the judges of seven Western states yesterday would forbid state felons from petitioning for writs of habeas corpus in lower federal courts except in special cases involving a substantial federal question not previously raised.

Chief Justice William Denman of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals said the legislation, now before Congress, is designed to put an end to cases such as that of Chessman. He said that case was a "national scandal."

Chessman was convicted in Los Angeles in 1948 on multiple

counts of robbery, rape and kidnapping. He has managed to avoid execution for seven years by filing a series of legal petitions, many in federal court. He is the author of "Cell 2455, Death Row," and "Trial by Ordeal."

Justice Denman, who granted Chessman's most recent review, said the purpose of the bill "is to distinguish state felonies from federal felonies and to get away from the ridiculous situation we had in Chessman, who year after year kept himself in litigation to get himself out of the gas house."

Meanwhile, prison authorities were busy comparing the advance copy of Chessman's new book, "Trial by Ordeal," with the manuscript they confiscated from him last March.

Chessman said earlier this week that he managed to smuggle a carbon copy of the manuscript out of the prison and to have it mailed to his publishers, Prentice-Hall. Prison officials still doubted this story.

Warden Harley O. Teets said he intends to compare the book "very carefully" with the manuscript. The manuscript was confiscated in accordance with a state regulation prohibiting condemned men from publishing their writings.

Meanwhile, Chessman's literary agent, Joseph Longstreth, denied in New York that Chessman's book was "ghost written."

"I certainly will welcome the opportunity to compare my manuscript word for word, line for line and error for error and in type style with the original copy Warden Teets holds," he said.

Friday, July 1, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—SEVEN

Man Imprisoned 23 Years Gets Chance To Prove Innocence

Jackson, Mich. — (U.P.) — Frank Moriconi, 59, who has served 23 years in Southern Michigan Prison for a murder he claims he did not commit, was called out of his cell for a lie detector test today.

The test was arranged by Stephen Schutt, lie detector expert for the Keeler Laboratory of Chicago. He said he would administer the test to Moriconi, who had professed his innocence during his long years behind bars.

No Direct Evidence

Paul Thurlow, Moriconi's attorney who accompanied Schutt here, said the state's case against Moriconi was "strictly circumstantial with no direct evidence."

Moriconi was convicted in Detroit in 1922 for murdering Fred Viola, his 7-year-old common-law stepson.

The state charged that Moriconi struck the boy and held his head over a gas stove to collect \$2,000 insurance. The defense

contended the boy climbed onto the stove and accidentally turned on the gas when he fell and struck his head.

Failed to Prove Presence

Thurlow said the state based its case on the fact Moriconi was on relief and needed the insurance money. The lawyer, who also is a Presbyterian minister, said the state failed to prove Moriconi even was home when the death occurred.

A coroner's report, according to Thurlow, also failed to establish whether the boy died of asphyxiation or a blow on the head. He said Moriconi spoke little English at the time and perhaps was unable to cooperate with his attorney.

In addition, Thurlow said, Moriconi may have been inadequately represented," which would involve a violation of constitutional rights.

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