

Condemned Man Flees Death Cell; Returns Meekly

Quebec City — (U.P.) — Condemned murderer Wilbert Coffin fled to freedom from his death cell early today by threatening his guards with a "gun" made of soap but returned meekly less than two hours later on the advice of his lawyer.

The 44-year-old prospector, scheduled to be hanged at Montreal, Sept. 23 for slaying one of three Americans whose bodies were found in the wilds of Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula, locked three guards in his cell after luring them there and walked out shortly after 1 a.m. (EDT).

He returned before 3 a.m., still carrying a bundle of clothing he grabbed hurriedly from a cell locker after menacing two guards and the sergeant of the guard with a piece of soap cunningly carved and blackened to resemble a pistol.

Coffin's lawyer, Raymond Maher, was not available for comment early today.

Embarrassed Quebec Provincial Police, responsible for Coffin's security while he awaited transfer to Montreal's Bordeaux jail, had refused comment early today other than to confirm that he had escaped and returned.

Denies Crime
Coffin is scheduled to be hanged at the Montreal jail, where all Quebec executions take place, for the robbery-slaying in July, 1953, of Richard Lindsey, 17, of Hollidaysburg, Pa.

The mutilated bodies of young Lindsey, his father, Eugene, 43, and friend, Fred Clair, 19, of East Freedom, Pa., were found in the wilderness of the Gaspé Peninsula where they had gone to hunt bear. Coffin, who denied committing the crime, was charged on the single count of killing Richard Lindsey.



THANKING PRESIDENT EISENHOWER for wedding gifts sent to daughter Ella (right), Soviet Marshal Georgi Zhukov sends President family picture. From left: Ella, a daughter; behind her is her husband, Jouri Alexandrovich Vasilievsky; Zhukov's wife, Alexandra Dievna; Sasha, daughter of Ella; Marshal Zhukov and Ella. President and Zhukov were World War II friends and renewed acquaintance at Big Four conference. (International)

Back Stairs: Ike Enjoying Vacation

By WARREN DUFFEE
United Press Correspondent
Denver — (U.P.) — Backstairs at the Summer White House: President Eisenhower apparently is enjoying every minute of his work-and-play Colorado vacation. But he's constantly torn between two favorite sports — golf and fishing.

The golf appears to be winning so far.

When the President is here, he can golf daily at Cherry Hills Country club his favorite course. But he's 47 miles from the nearest of his two pet fishing spots.

When Mr. Eisenhower goes to Fraser or Pine, Colo., for his trout-fishing forays, he also enjoys himself completely. But there isn't a golf course for miles and miles. On his last stay at Fraser, 70 miles away, he dug out his clubs and practiced chip shots in a meadow in front of his vacation guest cottage.

Much as he enjoys his dry-fly angling for trout, the President apparently is even more enthusiastic about his golf this time. His game is reportedly better than usual on the difficult Cherry Hills layout, and he seems reluctant to upset his streak of good form.

He'll still spend plenty of time in the trout streams before he returns to Washington.

But on the whole, it looks like a little more golf and a little less fishing this trip.

You have to look hard to find the television aerial on the home of Mrs. John S. Doud, Mrs. Eisenhower's mother, where the presidential couple stay in Denver, but it's there.

The Eisenhowers spend most of their evenings at home visiting with Mrs. Doud, but aides

say "they probably watch a few programs."

Mrs. Doud herself reportedly has several favorite programs. Sometimes Mrs. Eisenhower watches them with her when the President is away or turns in early.

The President's latest transportation acquisition — a 15-foot rowboat made in his birthplace of Denison, Tex., and named the "Bluebonnet" — threatens to spawn a joking "jurisdictional fight" among White House officials.

The denizens of Denison gave Mr. Eisenhower the crate for shipping it to the White House in Washington. But the land-bound presidential mansion has no place for a rowboat.

Although the maid does most of the routine shopping while the Eisenhowers are at the Doud home, Mrs. Doud herself usually makes a weekly trip to a nearby supermarket.

With keen eyes for a bargain, Mrs. Doud and her daughter also usually make at least one shopping trip to downtown Denver during the presidential visits. For Mrs. Eisenhower, it's often to look for dresses.

Japanese Sect Sells Atomic War Survival

Tokyo — (U.P.) — Police in atom-jittery Japan investigated today an alleged racket run by a newly organized religious sect which guarantees its followers survival in an atomic war by selling them "world bank notes."

Police said the sect's leaders tell converts the 100,000 yen notes (about \$280) protect their holders from harm in nuclear warfare and will be the only currency in circulation after the world is destroyed.

Water Eventually May Furnish Man With Better Fuel Than Any Yet Put To Use

Boston — (U.P.) — Water eventually may furnish a man with a super-fuel "better than any of those of which men have dreamed," a distinguished atomic scientist said today.

George Russell Harrison, dean of the school of science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said this might occur "if the speed, instead of merely the extent, of a thermonuclear reaction can ever be controlled."

Harrison, author of "Atoms in Action," discussed this possibility in an article titled "The Control of Energy," in the September Atlantic Monthly.

Control Basic To Progress
Asserting that one pound of uranium carries more releasable energy than 1500 tons of coal, and that the solar energy that reaches the earth each day equals that released by 2,000,000 Hiroshima A-bombs, he said better control of these and other forms of energy is basic to man's progress.

"Inventors who have tried to develop pills that would make water burn were on the wrong track, for water is already ashes of hydrogen," said Harrison.

"When hydrogen is burned with oxygen their molecules combine to produce water, and release much chemical energy in the flame. The water remains after the energy is dissipated, and the new energy must be used to 'unburn' the water as plants do in photosynthesis . . ."

Near Universal Supply
But, he said, if protons are collected from the hydrogen in water and then assembled with the neutrons to produce helium nu-

clei, a vastly greater release of energy results — energy from nearer the base of the universal supply.

"At present no one appears to know how to control this reaction beyond setting it off with an atomic bomb as a primer, thus raising nuclear temperatures to those needed to start a fusion reaction."

If this process could be slowed down and controlled, the

Six Out of Every 10 Are Church Members

New York — (U.P.) — Six out of every 10 Americans are church members today, compared to less than two out of 10 a century ago when the United States supposedly was at its peak of Victorian devoutness.

These statistics are drawn from the wealth of data on church membership in the continental United States compiled by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and soon to be published in its annual church yearbook for 1956.

The yearbook's figures are drawn from the official reports of more than 250 religious bodies including Protestant, Roman and Old Catholic, Jewish, Eastern Orthodox and Buddhist congregations. They cover, in most cases, the year 1954 and even greater totals exist at the present time.

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