

Convicted Killer Chooses Possible Execution Instead of Spending Life in Insane Hospital

By PETER J. HAYES
Vacaville, Calif. — UPI — Suppose you had this choice: Be confined for the rest of your life in a state institution as insane. Or, be sent to San Quentin's death row where you would face execution unless you could win a commutation to life imprisonment with possible parole in 30 years. Which would you choose? Erwin M. (Machinegun) Walker, 42, a graying, quiet-spoken ex-Army officer who has been under sentence of death longer than the late Caryl Chessman, chose the second course.

The former Signal Corps second lieutenant was sentenced to death June 19, 1947, for the murder of California highway patrolman Loren Roosevelt during a year-long crime spree in the Los Angeles area. He also admitted shooting two policemen and when captured had an arsenal of six machine guns, eight .45 caliber automatics and 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

Prisoner Blames Nerves
Blaming his crimes on "war nerves," Walker pleaded innocent by reason of insanity, but was convicted of murder in a non-jury trial. The judge who condemned him called him "a menace to society beyond the possibility of rehabilitation."

Walker was ordered to die in the San Quentin gas chamber on Good Friday, April 5, 1949. But two days before that date he tried to strangle himself with a radio earphone cord.

He was examined by psychiatrists just 90 minutes before he was to be executed and they found that he did not know the difference between right and wrong. A superior court jury subsequently ruled that Walker was legally insane. He could not be executed unless he regained his sanity.

Confined as Insane
Since then Walker has been confined as criminally insane. But recently he was examined again by psychiatrists at the California medical facility here and this week was found to be sane. A full sanity hearing in a Marin county court in the next few weeks will determine whether he must be returned to San Quentin's death row.

Dr. William C. Keating Jr., head of the medical facility, indicated that Walker might have feigned insanity in the recent examinations if he had so desired.

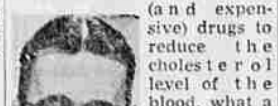
Keating said the sandy-haired inmate realizes he is taking "a calculated risk" of being executed in exchange for possible eventual freedom "in the twilight of his life."

He is pinning his hopes on commutation to life imprisonment by Gov. Edmund G. Brown, who is on record as opposed to capital punishment. Then, with good behavior, he might gain parole in 30 years or less. He could not seek commutation while still adjudged insane.

Despite the advance of mechanization, more than 80 per cent of the world food supply is still produced chiefly by human or animal labor.

Use of Aspirin May Reduce Cholesterol Level of Blood

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor
New York — UPI — With pharmaceutical chemists busily tailoring more complicated (and expensive) drugs to reduce the cholesterol level of the blood, what a joke it would be should it turn out that simple (and cheap) aspirin does it best of all!



Delos Smith

In the blood of patients who had had or might have heart attacks because of hardened arteries, rather than the cholesterol levels.

Can Cause Gout
The latter were quite high, to be sure, and he wanted to get them down but he figured that if you lowered uric acid levels the cholesterol levels would come down with them. Uric acid is the end product of purine metabolism. Like cholesterol it is a normal blood constituent but too much of it causes gout.

Now, cholesterol is a product of the body's metabolism of fats and it is not unreasonable to believe that fats and purine metabolism is interconnected in a number of ways. And it is also known that aspirin influences purine metabolism.

Eidlitz tried his ideas on 10 patients with abnormally high levels of cholesterol in their blood. Some had rather high uric acid levels. Each one was required to take one and a half grains of aspirin daily. A common aspirin tablet contains five grains.

Reduces Blood Levels
At the end of two weeks the cholesterol blood levels of all ten were reduced although the uric acid levels of some were not affected and in one case was even increased. At the end of one month, cholesterol levels were normal in six and were still below what they had been in the others.

By this time the uric acid levels also were down in all 10. Eidlitz then took his six men and four women off of aspirin and the cholesterol levels of four of them immediately bounced up to near what they had been. Eidlitz practices in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel. It was his formal conclusion that aspirin definitely worked on the cholesterol but he was unable to explain the why or how of it.

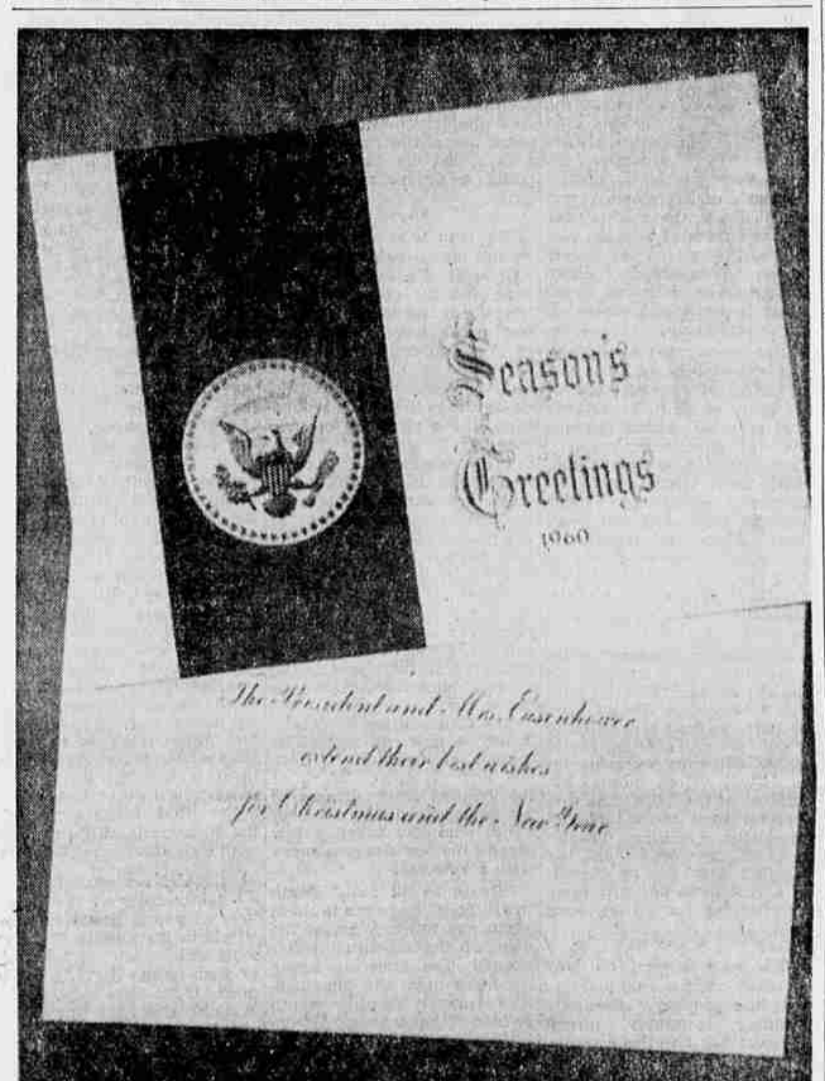
Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
Washington — An air safety expert commenting on the theory that a transistor radio may have caused a jet airliner to stray off course and collide with another plane: "The United pilot sure didn't fly off course on purpose."

New York — Skin diver Marie Prendergast, on why she believes more and more women will take up the under water sport: "It'll be just like the women took up bowling. They'll wise up to where the men are."

Washington — A delighted 5-year-old Coleen Brashear, a cerebral palsy victim, on seeing Santa Claus at the annual Christmas concert for retarded children: "Santa wears glasses just like me!"

New York — Fire Commissioner Edward Cavanaugh, commenting on the scaffolding inside the fire ravaged carrier Constellation: "I never saw so much wood in a steel vessel in my life."



GREETING CARD—This is a copy of President and Mrs. Eisenhower's season's greetings card for 1960. The eagle and lettering on the front cover are embossed in gold, and a red band runs down the side of the cover. UPI Telephoto)

Deputies To Return Suspect in Killing

Eugene — UPI — Deputies left Monday for Delano, Calif., to get Donald Orrie Northey, 35, for questioning in the August slaying of Alice Louise Lee, 7, Dexter.

Northey was being held at Delano on other charges and has denied the slaying. He has waived extradition.

The girl apparently was strangled after disappearing Aug. 29 from a bean field near Dexter.

Newfoundland, like Ireland, is free of snakes.

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