

# Alcatraz Has Long History of Frustrated Escape Attempts

San Francisco — Tourists on the waterfront can pay a dime and peer at Alcatraz Island in the middle of the San Francisco harbor.

"But it's so close," they often say.

Close it is, but the mile and a quarter of hill, fast-moving water that separates it from the mainland has been enough to stifle every escape attempt in the 28 years the island has

been a federal civilian prison. Before Tuesday, no one had ever successfully pulled off an escape from the "Rock" — as far as is known.

What was probably the bloodiest attempt at break-out began May 2, 1946, and lasted three days. It took U. S. Marines to stop the attempted escape.

Bernard Coy and Paul Cretzer, who had successfully chal-

lenged seven other prisons before they were transferred to Alcatraz, fashioned a wrench from toilet fixtures to spread the bars in their cell.

**Kill Guard**

They slugged a guard in the main cell block and, taking his keys, climbed to the barred cage that protected an armed guard. They used their wrench to get into the guard tower and overpower the

guard, taking his gun. Then they liberated about 30 prisoners.

The first officer who was a slugged was later killed for refusing to tell the whereabouts of the keys to the main cell block. He had tossed them into an empty cell when the riot began.

Marines stormed ashore, while Coast Guard patrol boats blockaded the island. The Marines dropped tear gas shells through a hole in the roof of cell block D and, after a gun battle, the riot was over.

Coy, Cretzer and a third inmate were found dead. Two guards were killed and two other inmates, who were in on the plot, were later executed.

## Can't Sit on Boss's Lap

### Electronic Computers Hasten Man's Decline; May Replace Secretaries

Washington — Hardly a week goes by any more that some company doesn't contribute to man's decline by bringing out a new type of electronic computer.

In fact, these so-called "memory" devices are coming on the market so fast it takes a computer to keep track of the names and numbers of the other computers.

This week's model, which went on display here today, is called "Cris." A product of the Information Retrieval Corp., it is billed as being "desk-sized."

It stores more than half a million pages of microfilmed data in a box no bigger than a loaf of bread. I assume that in emergencies it could even be used as a bread box.

The desk-size computer comes on the heels of a computing machine called the "automated realty services plan." Its purpose is to replace landlords, which in some ways could be a blessing.

It supposedly performs all of the functions that a landlord performs, like notifying you that the rent is overdue.

The literature I have doesn't make clear, however, whether it puts poor widows out into the street on snowy nights.

The electronic landlord apparently has one major advantage over the human variety. When you complain that your apartment isn't getting enough heat, it merely ignores your protest without giving you a lot of lip.

Another new type of computer, fortunately still in the

experimental stage, may eventually replace the office secretary.

If it pans out, it will take dictation, translate the phonetic sounds into writing and type out the words without so much as a misplaced comma.

The only drawback is, it can't sit on the boss' lap.

In view of the havoc that computers are creating, you might be interested in knowing who started it all.

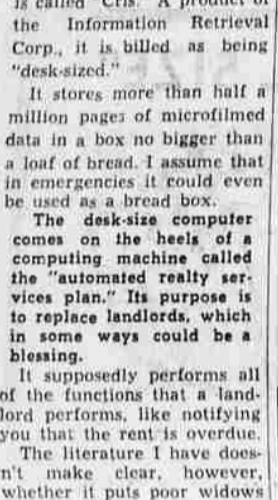
According to the Smithsonian Institution, which recently did some research on the subject, the culprit is a certain Charles Babbage, a professor at Cam-

bridge university in England during the middle of the last century.

Babbage drew up a design for a computing device which was too complex for the technical skills of that day. Only part of the machine was built, but it was responsible for much that came later.

Any way you look at it, Babbage was a busy little man. In addition to designing the first computer, he is the genius who invented the cow-catcher for locomotives.

He likewise left his imprint on history as the first man to cross a railroad viaduct in a handcar.



**BUY BONDS**—The savings bonds poster that Walter M. Schirra, Jr., one of the seven Mercury 7 astronauts, is observing says: Underwrite Your Country's Might—Buy United States Savings Bonds. "This is good advice," Walter says, "and the 1962 Freedom Bond drive is an opportunity for every American to become a partner of his government in the important tasks that confront us. Exploring space is one of them, and savings bond dollars will help. Defending American freedom against the challenges of the cold war is an even greater one. We invest in freedom when we invest in savings bonds."



**SPECIAL STAMPS** — Three special stamps of the Olympics series will be put on sale for one month beginning June 23 in Tokyo. The denomination of each stamp is 5 yen, but is surcharged with additional 5 yen to be donated to the 1964 Tokyo Olympic fund.

Their designs, from left to right: Judo, printed in dark red; Waterpolo, dark green; and Beam, dark brownish purple. All are 33 by 33 mm size, printed in the Monocolor Intaglio process. (UPI)

**COMPLETE TRAINING**

Robert W. Warne and John L. Newman, both privates in the United States Marine Corps, have completed recruit training at the Marine Corps

Recruit depot in San Diego, Calif. Warne is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Warne, route 1, Eagle Point, and Newman's parents are Mr. and

Mrs. Earl W. Storey, route 1, Talent. The new marines will next report to Camp Pendleton, Calif., for individual combat training.

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## Boys Staters Elect All City Officials

City elections have been held at the 1962 session of Beaver Boys' State at Oregon State university. Chosen from this area were Jack Saher, Rogue River, councilman in City of Astor; Mike Stinson, Medford, marshal, and Richard Bell, Medford, councilman. City of Whitman; Dwayne Chapman, Prospect, marshal. City of Clark; Rich Brenner, Grants Pass; treasurer. City of McLoughlin; and Paul Callan, Medford, councilman. City of Miller.

Named to the state police force for the session were Rick Pierce, Ashland; Jim Pippin, Grants Pass; and Bob Hoag, Medford.

## Billie Sol Estes Faces Grand Jury

Franklin, Tex. — Billie Sol Estes went before a Texas grand jury Wednesday to tell them what he knows about the mysterious death of an Agriculture department official.

Estes went before the grand jury after his lawyer, John Cofer, agreed to withhold pressing a petition for a writ

## Two Believed Drowned

Two kidnapers—Ralph Roe and Jimmy Cole—came close enough to require an official asterisk in the list of escape attempts.

On a December night in 1937 they cut the bars in the prison shop and slipped into the fog-blanketed bay and were never seen again. Prison officials said they were presumed to have drowned, their bodies swept to sea. But no one knows for sure.

A year later, three bank robbers beat a guard to death, but guards killed one inmate and captured the other two.

## An Ingenious Try

John K. Giles, 50, made one of the most ingenious tries. He acquired an Army staff sergeant's uniform in 1945, complete to the dog tags.

Dressed in his uniform, he calmly boarded an Army launch as it pulled away from the prison headed for Angel Island. But a head count at Alcatraz disclosed one missing man, and another count on the launch showed one soldier too many; Giles was greeted by guards at Angel Island.

The most recent major outbreak occurred Sept. 29, 1958, when Aaron W. Burgett and Clyde M. Johnson overpowered a guard and tried to swim for it. Johnson was found hiding on the island and Burgett's body was discovered two weeks later, floating in the bay.

The island took its name from the pelicans that once inhabited it—Alcatraz means pelicans in Spanish.

But it's a tougher bird that makes his home there now—and one convict spoke for them all when he commented: "The trip to Alcatraz is the fastest boat ride in the world—10 minutes to get there and 20 years to get back."

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**H.** Sportshirts by Arrow... luxurious pima cotton with the look of elegance. What gift could be more perfect? **5.00**

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