

'A GIRL BEHIND EVERY MURDER' SAYS SING SING

26 Men, Most of Them
Youngsters, Sit in
Death House.

With the exception of one short period when administrative delays were responsible for conditions, the Sing Sing death house today contains the largest number of criminals awaiting execution in its history. The United Press, seeing at least a partial record of the unusually number of capital convictions, has obtained the following explanatory article, the first of a series of three.

BY SIDNEY B. WHIPPLE

United Press Staff Correspondent

OSSINING, N. Y., July 23.—

Twenty-six men, the youngest 18

and the oldest 44, sit in condemned cells at Sing Sing's death house awaiting, in the formal words of

the prison records, "discharged by execution."

The population of America's most noted death house is at the high mark for all times, save for one period several years ago when delays in executions because of a changing administration resulted in an accumulation of condemned prisoners which actually taxed the facilities of the isolated stone structure.

Of the twenty-six who sit and wait for death, two are 18, four are 19, three are 20, eight are less than 25. A majority are first offenders and their first conviction was for murder done "to make some girl happy."

Blame it on Girls

In the immaturity of these youths in their scholastic records, and in the similarity of the crimes they committed, can be read the story of the times. To such men as Donald E. Parsons, chief clerk of Sing Sing, who not only reads from the records but who reads from the life stories of the men themselves—and the confidences they give him—these figures speak volumes.

"Back of nearly every case," says Parsons speaking, "is a girl. A girl who wants a party life, who demands entertainment, clothes, jewelry and night life. A young man's salary, if he happens to be working, will not stand the strain. Then come holdups, amateurish holdups in which some one is killed. The records speak for themselves."

Perhaps Francis (Two-Gun) Crowley, maintaining his bravado as he tramps the exercise pen in the deathhouse, is typical of this new criminal youth. He dare not weaken, because he is a poseur. He established for himself a character, a "role," and he will act it out, Parsons believes, to the end.

Average Age Dropping

"The average age of our prison population is dropping," Warden Lewis E. Lawes says, "and with it the character of crime is changing rapidly. Robbery by violence has increased to such an extent that out of the entire 2,600 inmates—the figure is approximately 41 per cent of them are in for robbery."

"Convictions for all crimes are increasing, too. Last year we received 1,088 new prisoners. In the last twelve months we have taken in 1,393, an increase of nearly 33 per cent."

"There is no doubt that unemployment is contributing a vast number of weaklings to crime. You can't swing night club parties and buy liquor for your girl on a small salary, and you can't buy her new dresses if you aren't working."

The next article of this series will deal with the influence of gangs upon today's prison population.

FIRE RUINS ART WORKS

Treasured Books Also Destroyed in \$200,000 Apartment Blaze.

By United Press

NEW YORK, July 23.—Books and art treasures valued at more than \$200,000 were destroyed when fire ruined the luxurious twenty-three-room Fifth avenue apartment of Cornelius F. Kelley, president of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company.

Kelly and his family are said to be in Butte, Mont. Firemen found the collection of morocco-bound books in the library, many works of art, and costly furniture had been reduced to ashes.

Death Calls Publisher



John Jay Curtis, book publisher, who died here Wednesday

PINCH HUNGER STRIKERS

Five Are Arrested Storming Grocery in Demand for Food.

By United Press

OKLAHOMA CITY, July 23.—An

attempt by thirty-five men to du-

plicate the feat of 150 others who

staged a hunger strike at Henry-

etta, demanded food of merchants,

and got it, resulted in five of them

being under arrest today.

Encouraged by the success of the

hunger march at Henryetta, an oil

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

BOBBS-MERRILL PRESIDENT DIES OF PNEUMONIA

John Jay Curtis Succumbs
in Hospital Here; Ill
Several Weeks.

John Jay Curtis, 74, nationally
known book publisher and president
of Bobbs-Merrill Company, died
Wednesday night in Methodist Hos-
pital following several weeks' ill-
ness.

Mr. Curtis arrived in Indianapolis
June 29 on his semi-annual visit to
the home office here, when he
caught a heavy cold, which developed
into pneumonia. He had taken
a trip up the Pacific coast, visiting
publishers, this spring, which weakened
him. He made his home in Hollywood,
to take care of the motion picture
interests of the firm.

One of the outstanding book
publishers of the country, Mr. Curtis
introduced many new features
into the business.

He entered the business at 16, in
the Bowen-Stewart bookstore, which
combined with Merrill-Mels Company
in 1885, becoming the Bowen-Merrill
Company. Mr. Curtis was elected
secretary when Silas Bowen retired,
and it became the Bobbs-Merrill Company
in 1895. He was in charge of a New York

office from the opening in 1900 until
1920, when he went to Hollywood.
When W. C. Bobbs died in 1926, Mr.
Curtis was elected president.

He introduced the method of nation-
wide advertising for one book
instead of book lists. The first
novel with which this was done was
Charles Major's "When Knighthood
Was in Flower."

Other books he made famous are
"Alice of Old Vincennes," by Maurie
Thompson; "Lazarre," by Mary
H. Catherwood, and "Mississippi
Bubble," by Emerson Hough.

Booster for Riley

Mr. Curtis also did more than any
other person to popularize books of
James Whitcomb Riley, who was a
close friend. Other friends were
such prominent writers as Meredith
Nicholson, Mary Roberts Rinehart,
Harold MacGrath and Irving Bach-
eller.

"Mr. Curtis was born in Johnson
county Jan. 21, 1857. He was gradu-
ated from Northwestern Christian
university, now Butler, in 1885, and
was married in 1903 to Bertha Justine
Looper of Indianapolis, who survived him.

He was one of the first members
of Indianapolis Scottish Rite, a life
member of Lodge No. 13, B. P. O. E.,
and served with Company H, Tent
86, Civil war veterans, who suc-
cumbed to an apoplectic stroke at
his home, 2138 Barth, avenue, late
Wednesday.

Complications following an oper-
ation for appendicitis were fatal
Wednesday to Robert Buckham
Wilson, 58, of 1648 Park avenue, a
charter member of the Indianapolis
Real Estate Board. He had lived
here twenty years.

Funeral services will be held in
Crown Hill cemetery, for Mrs. George M.
Miller, 62, who died Wednesday at
her home, 120 Cottage avenue, after
illness of four years. She had lived
here thirty-one years.

Mr. Gertude Ford, 51, a life-

long resident of the city and daughter
of Cornelius Kelly, prominent in
politics three and four decades ago,
died at her home, 3540 North Cap-
itol avenue, Wednesday. Funeral
services will be held at 9 Saturday
morning in St. Peter and Paul

cathedral.

Marion F. Abel, 76, died at his
home at 1115 Hoyt avenue, Wednes-
day after three weeks' illness. Funeral
services will be held at 3 Friday after-
noon at the home.

ROBERT WILSON, VETERAN CITY REALTOR, DEAD

John Irish, Who Served in
Civil War, Also Passes
Away at Home.

Deaths in the city Wednesday de-
creased the Civil war veterans' roster
by one and took one of the char-
ters members of the Indianapolis
Real Estate Board.

Funeral services will be held at



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