

# PRISON CAMP 'SWEAT BOX' KILLING OF YOUTH REVEALS GUARDS' FIENDISH TORTURE

Grand Jury Indicts Two After Disclosure of Practices Turning Back to Days of Spanish Inquisition.

## NECK CHAINED; FEET PUT IN STOCKS

One Inmate Ruptured by Kick; Another Is Made Deaf by Sapling Clubbing on Head, Probers Told.

*By United Press*  
JACKSONVILLE, Fla., July 11.—Prison camp torture, rivaling the inquisition of the Spaniards who settled this country, has been revealed in charges that a 19-year-old New Jersey boy was strangled to death in a state prison "sweat box."

Two men face trial in the fall on first-degree murder charges as result of the revelations and the indictments which followed. They are Captain George Courson and Solomon Higginbotham of the Bayard (Fla.) camp.

The victim, Arthur Mailefert of Westfield, N. J., was found dead in the "sweat box," a chain around his neck, his feet in stocks.

He had been without food for two days, a beating had preceded his entry into the "sweat box."

And the day before his death, he had been marched around the camp dressed only in a barrel with a hole large enough to admit his head. Bloodhounds had trailed the youth after he escaped from his barrel garb. As soon as Mailefert was returned to camp, he was flogged, then placed in the torture box, too weak to stand alone, witnesses told the grand jury.

### TORTURES ARE LISTED

The witnesses and the grand jury report described these alleged torture practices.

Prisoners' heads were placed in stocks, racks and barrels.

Prisoners were forced to wear heavy barrels around their necks.

Picks were attached to prisoners' ankles as hobbies.

Some prisoners were given pint doses of castor oil as punishment for minor rule violations.

Convicts were maltreated by guards and captains for making statements to inspectors which they thought were made in confidence.

Prisoners placed in the "sweat box" were given one ounce of bread and water once daily.

Fifteen or twenty prisoners severely had been flogged.

One guard flogged a prisoner with a sapling, and the blow on the side of the head caused collapse of the ear drum, and resulting deafness.

One prisoner was kicked by a guard, a severe rupture resulting.

### GUARDS FREE ON BOND

The sweat box was a square, box-shaped inclosure within a small six-foot square building with a tar roof, sweltering under the hot Florida sun.

The "box" was three feet square and about six feet high. A prisoner could stand up in it, but could not sit down unless he was short, in which case he could sit cramped with his knees at his head.

Mailefert, defense witness said, killed himself.

He had charged guards with being "yellow," because they did not kill him, they said.

He had been unruly, he had escaped twice, he had said he would "die in hell" before serving the remainder of his nine-year sentence for robbery and larceny.

The two indicted guards are free on \$5,000 bond.

### FIVE PERSONS HURT IN VARIETY OF ACCIDENTS

*By United Press*  
Woman Suffers Broken Leg When Porch Swing Falls.

Five persons were injured in a variety of accidents Saturday and Sunday.

Broken leg was incurred by Mrs. Daisy Dunkerson, 34, when a porch swing fell at her home, 539 North Keystone avenue.

Francis Jordan, 7, of 910 North Tuxedo street, suffered a broken right arm while playing on a slide at Brookside park.

Gash on the head and sprained right arm were suffered by Willis Tate, 17, of 645 Birch avenue, when he fell on a diving board at the Rhodium park swimming pool.

Jesse Handlon, 8, of 516 West Merrill street, suffered a fracture of his right arm and a deep cut on the forehead when struck by a falling door at the Old Trails Truck Company garage, 618 West Merrill street.

Cut in the right arm was suffered by Ray Toten, 31, 1260 West Raymond street, when glass in a door broke.

### GAS CROOKS SET FIRE

Thieves Blamed for Burning of Garage; Loss Is \$5,000.

Persons who stole gasoline are believed responsible for a fire Saturday night which destroyed a garage with a loss of \$5,000. The garage, located at Forty-sixth street and the Lafayette road, was owned by S. W. McCready. Firemen fought the flames nearly two hours.

Four automobiles were burned in the garage. Although hampered by a small supply of water, firemen prevented spread of the flames to a barn nearby.

### CLARA BOW BACK AGAIN

*By United Press*

HOLLYWOOD, July 11.—Clara Bow was back in Hollywood today eighteen pounds lighter, and with plans to direct her husband, Rex Bell, in a motion picture in addition to her own appearance in another.

Miss Bow reduced by diet and massage.

She has been on her California-Nevada ranch for several months.

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

### CLAIRE WEDS NO. 5 No. 2? Now Just Who Was He?



Claire Ray and Al Kerwin

BY JAMES CANNON  
Times Staff Writer

NEW YORK, July 11.—Claire Ray was as baffled as a mystery play detective at the end of the first act.

She couldn't remember the name of her second husband.

"Oh, he was a tenor singer in a road show," pouted the platinum haired dancer, who is spending her fifth honeymoon learning hot steps for a new show.

"I married J. Kelly, a Seattle banker, when I was 16. We split up after two weeks. But I was only a child then, you see. My third was Monty Banks, the movie comedian. We were together a whole year.

"Then I married Charles Carnavale. His allowance was cut off two months after we were married. So I left him," she declared.

The muffled splashing of running water interrupted "Miss" Ray's breathless saga of matrimony.

"I married a Dominator."

"That's my latest darling. He's a honey. He's taking a shower. I'm so sorry you can't meet him," she giggled by way of introducing her remote control Al Kerwin, Jamaican real estate man, whom she married 4/4, after a month's romance.

"Al dominates me. That's why I like him. I love a man to dominate me. You respect him more. Oh, of course, Al doesn't make me jump through hoops. No man could," she said defiantly.

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