

## FORMER INMATE CHARGES GRAFT AT PENAL FARM

Guards Steal Food, While Prisoners Get Watered Milk, He Says.

(Continued From Page One)

much as we never have had a surplus of this particular item . . .," defends Wissel in another paragraph.

In turn, Noblet charges that food was hidden in the refrigerator of the creamery by guards and that "smoking" was given to the prisoners for hiding meat or other food there.

Noblet's affidavit says, "

Guard . . . would hide meat, ham sometimes, one-half side of bacon, cheese, lard, and sometimes fresh meat in the refrigerator of the creamery until they got off. Then, early in the morning, when we got up to milk, they would come and get it. The butcher, an inmate, told me they got the meat from him. They would give us smoking for hiding it in there."

Claims Supplies Sold

Wissel says supplies were sold to officers of the farm, "such sales always being made on orders issued from the office, however, and no deliveries being made from the store-room, creamery or any other department without a proper order and sales ticket from the office."

"The man in charge of the commissary . . . discharged now would leave the milk at the dairy instead of getting it for the mess-hall and sometimes it would sour, but they'd serve it anyway. I have eaten sour milk on oatmeal," vouches Noblet in his sworn statement.

"The creamery is not sanitary," Noblet charges in his notarized statement.

"The basin for washing cans and strainers was filthy. No disinfectant or chlorine to wash strainers or cans with. Creamery still has torn screens. I've skinned flies off milk and sent it to inmates . . . would tell me to do this. I have picked flies out of butter after it was churned."

### No Test Given

"You are given no test. Wasser-man or otherwise, for work in the dairy," Noblet charges in his affidavit.

"Creamery is full of roaches," he declares.

The farm's acting superintendent, Wissel, avers that Noblet's charges of insanitary conditions is untrue. He says, "A careful inspection of the dairy never has shown the slightest contamination in any way."

"I saw," continues Noblet's affidavit, "on one of my visits to the farm, hit a boy with a cane who was trying to feed a calf and the boy couldn't get the calf to drink milk. It was the calf's first feeding. This boy was Lester Hughes of New Albany."

"The inmates get meat once a day. The farm sells its good cattle and buys canners and culs for butchering for the men," declares Noblet in his affidavit.

### Backs Up Milk Charge

Rex Smart, former inmate of Morrow, Ind., backs up Noblet's statement regarding "watered milk" in another sworn statement.

He says, "I have helped put fifteen gallons of water in fifteen gallons of skimmed milk for the men to drink. The officers got the cream."

Wissel, in commenting on Smart's statement, declares, "We do not think that milk in the prisoners' kitchen ever has been diluted 50 per cent, as stated. Water occasionally is added to the milk . . . to serve all the men . . ."

"Spars were flew around the kitchen where I was first put to work. Bread was dropped on the floor and put on the plates for men to eat," says Smart's affidavit.

### Worms in Beans

"I have seen worms in the beans served to the men. The fellows in the kitchen wouldn't eat the beans that went to the mess hall. You never saw butter, sugar, or pepper in the kitchen. On Sundays, sometimes, they'd serve butter to the men," declares Smart under oath.

But Wissel declares that store-room records show that 5,800 pounds of butter were served in the prisoners' dining room during the last year.

City caterers point out that 5,800 pounds of butter easily would feed 290,000 persons in one year, or an average of 1,000 daily for 29 days. Fifty-two Sundays in the year of serving butter, according to Smart's sworn statement, would be equal to but 1,040 pounds of butter served at the ratio of fifty persons or inmates to the pound. The farm had 950 inmates on May 31, 1933.

Absence of butter, sugar or pepper in the dining room is explained by Wissel by the fact "that these items are used in cooking and are not directly served on the table."

### Chicory Served, He Says

"No coffee, some fake stuff called chicory, was substituted for breakfast," asserts the affidavit of William Lemon, a former inmate.

"They have real coffee on Sunday morning, but on other mornings they don't," says the sworn statement of Thomas Bland, Negro, another former inmate.

But the menu at the farm for the week ended July 8, 1933, shows coffee on Sunday morning and Postum listed for serving on other mornings of the week.

Yet a check of retail groceries of Indianapolis shows that Postum costs between 4 and 6 cents a pound more than the cheapest coffee. It is sold at from 23 to 25 cents for an eighteen-ounce package.

### Bought at Lower Cost

One former inmate, who worked in the farm's office, says the so-called Postum is a by-product of the regular cereal beverage sold at groceries and is not the regulation Postum. He says it is purchased at a price much below the cost of coffee, from the Postum company, although it is advertised in the farm menu as being Postum.

The farm, with the exception of staple products, produces its own garden truck, canned goods, and, unlike the state prison at Michigan

## Mexican Bandit Swoops From Mountain Refuge and Harries Big Bend Settlers

Former Aid of Villa Swears Vengeance on Texas Rancher.

This is the third of five stories on the Big Bend country of Texas, America's last frontier, by Harry McCormick, special correspondent for NEA Service and The Times.

BY HARRY MCGOWICK  
NEA Service Writer

At the foot of the Del Carmen mountains nestles the little town of Bouquillas, Coahuila, Mexico. It is a sleepy, sun-baked hamlet of a dozen adobe houses on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, and just across the river from the Big Bend country of Texas, the nation's last frontier.

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Patterns After Villa

Idolizing Villa, Candalario had attempted to pattern his course after him and set himself up as somewhat of a Mexican Robin Hood by taking from the rich and giving to the poor.

He and his band would thunder role by, Candalario and his band have ridden forth from their mountain fastness to raid again and sometimes they have crossed the border into the Big Bend country.

Bolder now, since United States troops have been withdrawn from the army post at Marfa, Tex., as evidenced by his recent kidnapping of two American ranchers—he is expected to make new forays into the Big Bend, and ranchers are on the alert.

In Thick of Raids

Under Villa's leadership Candalario was in the thick of caravans across the border in 1914-16, which finally led to General Pershing's expedition into Mexico in quest of the bandit chief.

In one raid, it is interesting to note, a Mexican bandit named Lina Baiza was killed. Whether he was related to the aspiring Candalario Baiza never may be known, but there is a significant similarity in the names and in the brutalities of the two insurrectos.

The raid of May 5, 1916, at Glenn Springs, Tex., in the Big Bend country, is history. A large band of Mexican outlaws divided at San

Marfa. Mexican outlaws have become more daring.

In one of the raids, which Candalario may or may not have led, a quantity of stock was stolen. Later a Mexican, arrested on the American side of the river, was charged with the theft and convicted.

He was sentenced to the Texas penitentiary and now is serving his time.

It was largely through the testimony of Art Hannold, a rancher at San Vicente, that this Mexican was convicted. And it happened that the convicted prisoner was a brother of Jesus Hortega, a lieutenant in Candalario's band.

Rumors that trickled into the Big Bend country from the Palomas mountains say that Hortega and his chief, Candalario, swore to get revenge on Hannold.

Nearly twenty persons were killed before the bandits were repulsed by cavalry from Marfa, Texas, who came clattering through the mountain passes from their post more than 100 miles away.

For years the old Sixth cavalry, the "Fighting Eighth," and the Fourteenth held the situation along the border well in hand. They dealt stern but impartial justice to outlaws from both sides of the river and established a policy of "an eye for an eye" which eventually brought about raids.

Now, however, the troops have withdrawn from Marfa.

"That policy of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is the only policy that will check and subdue these outlaws," says Uncle Tom Miller, veteran rancher of the San Vicente neighborhood. "It is a policy we ranchers must entertain. If we are strong enough to maintain it without the aid of troops, we will bring peace not only to the American side of the border, but to the Mexican side as well."

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