

MISMANAGEMENT, REIGN OF CRUELTY AND TERROR LAID TO PENAL FARM OFFICIALS

Former Choir Singer Paints Appalling Picture of Life at Putnamville Institution for Petty Offenders.

This is the tenth of a series on conditions at the Indiana penal farm.

By ARCH STEINEL
Times Staff Writer

The church organ plays softly. Voices hum out of the multi-colored stained windows. One baritone voice rubs like a smooth chamois on the restful windows.

The windows change. They are barred. The scene is the Indiana state penal farm.

The baritone who sang for churches, took leads in cantatas, taught voice, changes to the crescendo of life. Violence!

He, Maurice Lucas, once a singer of "Lead, Kindly Light" in the churches of Connersville, marches with other men into the state farm mess hall.

A matter of some checks issued against his bank account when no money was there changed the windows from the stained glass, with inscriptions of donors "In Memory of My Mother," to bars.

Behind those bars the choir singer saw, according to his affidavit to The Times, an old man stagger in the line entering the farm's mess hall.

"Old Man Struck" He Says

"One of the guards saw him. He grabbed hold of his arm, jerked him out of line, cursed him. 'I'll teach you how to march straight!'

The old man shuddered. A fist lashed out. The old man was spun against a brick wall.

"I turned to see what happened and the guard told me to go on and attend to my business, or the same thing would happen to me," relates Lucas, the baritone, in his affidavit to The Times.

The old man went out to the penal yard, without his dinner.

Tells of Violence

The choir singer forgot the glass-stained windows.

But in an affidavit to The Times, Lucas, the former choir leader, tells of bickerings and quarrels between officials of the farm, tells of the farm's violent life.

Sentenced to the state farm from Richmond, Ind., on a charge of issuing a check without funds, Lucas learned before his release that the very crime he was charged with could be committed by the state of Indiana without fear of punishment or retribution, he says.

"On one occasion I heard Arment talking to Wissel. They were talking about a bridge that was being built on the place and Arment wanted another fifty bags of cement. Wissel said to him, 'This is the sixth time you've been after fifty bags of cement for this bridge and the original requisition called for only fifty bags. That's 300 bags you've gotten so far,'" relates Lucas in his sworn statement.

Lucas in his affidavit says Arment replied, "By God, we're using it down there."

Barred From Library

"The wife of Mr. Arment used to purchase her groceries in Putnamville and the bills were sent to the farm for payment. Many times this included green vegetables that were already available on the farm," asserts Lucas in his sworn statement.

Lucas in his affidavit says Arment has a library, but that prisoners can't use it.

"Sometimes Christian Science practitioners would tell prisoners they could get 'Science and Health' in the library and when the prisoner would go to the library they'd laugh at him. The prisoner could not get a book out of the library. Guards use it for a loafing room," declares Lucas under oath.

Sent to State Prison

"The wife of Mr. Arment used to purchase her groceries in Putnamville and the bills were sent to the farm for payment. Many times this included green vegetables that were already available on the farm," asserts Lucas in his sworn statement.

"Finally they let me go to the hospital. Both _____ and Gilespie (the farm's doctor) were gone and so an inmate waited on me for three days. They said an outside doctor came through, but he didn't come up to the sun parlor." Lucas says under oath.

Clubs and Oaths

"The sanitary conditions were not good in the kitchen. Half of the time men handling the food had dirty hands. Plenty of flies and roaches in the kitchen. The milk looked like blue water," his affidavit says.

"I got sick from eating some of the meat — beef. I got ptomaine poisoning. I tried to get a runner to take me to the hospital, but the guard _____ said, 'I haven't got time.'

"Finally they let me go to the hospital. Both _____ and Gilespie (the farm's doctor) were gone and so an inmate waited on me for three days. They said an outside doctor came through, but he didn't come up to the sun parlor." Lucas says under oath.

One of the farm's rules is that prisoners and officers shall not curse.

Lucas declares in his affidavit that the "spoiled beef" that sickened him was reported to have been from a cow that became sick and that was ordered killed by a veterinarian.

"After we got sick, they said it wasn't that cow and that it was another cow that broke its leg. Lucas charges in his affidavit.

Craig Is Defended

Clifford Craig, superintendent of the farm at the time Lucas was an inmate, is defended by him against brutality charges.

"I saw a man knocked down in the fishroom one Sunday by a guard and the guard had a blackjack in his hand. Craig, the superintendent, took it away from him," relates Lucas in his affidavit.

He says, in his notarized statement, that Craig told the guard, "I don't want any more of that going on around here."

Placed in the office of Harry H. Wissel, acting superintendent of the farm, as a clerk, the choir singer overheard quarrels between officials of the farm.

Heard Bitter Arguments

"The office of Arment, captain in charge of discipline, was just across the hall from Wissel's office. I have heard cursing and loud noises in his office (Arment's office)," declares Lucas in his affidavit.

"I have heard Arment, standing at the window in Wissel's office, recite an order to do something from Craig, and I have seen him tear the paper up and throw it away, saying, 'Hell, he doesn't know anything about a place like this!' asserts Lucas in his affidavit.

"I have been in Wissel's office," he continues, "and the man from the storeroom, an inmate, would report to Wissel that hams were missing and there was no order for them. Wissel would say, 'I told every one to get an order.' A guard was over the inmate at the storeroom." Lucas charges in his sworn statement.

Brile Charges Made

In other affidavits to The Times, charges have been made by former prisoners that guards bribed inmates to slip them meat and provisions that they could take home.

Subsistence is furnished to the superintendent, assistant superintendent and chief clerk, according to Wissel.

Wissel denies any improper issuance of food.

"I have heard inmates say that



Here are three of the girls for whom a glowing future in the movies is predicted. Left is Frances Dee; above, Constance Cummings, and below, Ginger Rogers.

The Nation's New Code

Highlights of the voluntary agreement to which all employers are asked to subscribe in the nation's recovery drive:

1. The agreement would become effective Aug. 1.

2. Child labor is banned, with certain exceptions.

3. Clerical or "white collar" workers will be limited to a 40-hour week, with a minimum pay of \$15 in cities of 500,000 or more; \$14.50 in cities of between 250,000 and 500,000 population; \$14 in cities between 2,500 and 250,000, and 20 per cent wage increases in towns of less than 2,500, provided this does not require more than \$12 a week.

4. Factory or mechanical workers limited to 35 hours a week until Dec. 31, with the right to work 40 hours a week for any six weeks within this period. No worker shall be employed more than eight hours in any one day. Forty cents an hour shall be the minimum wage, unless a scale lower than that was in effect July 15, 1929, and in no case shall less than 30 cents an hour be paid.

5. Prices must not be increased over the July 1 price except where made necessary by increased costs or taxes.

6. Flexibility is provided to avoid working hardships in particular cases where limitation on hours of skilled labor would reduce production, but time and one-third must be paid for all work in excess of the maximum hours.

7. The voluntary agreement will cease to apply to any industry upon the approval by the President of its code of fair competition.

8. Sept. 1 is fixed as deadline for submission of codes. The President otherwise will fix dates for hearings arbitrarily.

'Goodbye,' Wails Suicide Note; Wife Is Skeptical

TWO street car conductors returning from work Friday found a bottle of poison and a note threatening suicide on the guard rail of the Illinois street bridge over Fall creek.

Police said the note was addressed to Mrs. Alice Foreman, 713 North Noble street. It read:

"To whoever finds this hat send it to above address and tell Alice I said goodbye. Hope she will be happy. (Signed) W. R. F."

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DISCOVER NEW INDIAN VILLAGES IN ALABAMA

Forty Sites Are Found by Party of Museum Scientists.

By Science Service

UNIVERSITY, Ala., July 22.—Forty heretofore unknown sites where Indians once had their homes and villages have been discovered in this state by a party of scientists headed by Dr. Walter B. Jones, director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History and state geologist.

Admitting that the note was written by her husband, Walter Ray Foreman, 25, who recently lost his job in a cleaning establishment, she said that he had written several other notes threatening suicide.

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